



**SDI Review Form 1.6**

Journal Name:	<a href="#">International Journal of Plant &amp; Soil Science</a>
Manuscript Number:	2014_IJPSS_14136
Title of the Manuscript:	Investigating Heavy Metal Pollution in Soils at Tarkwa, Ghana
Type of the Article	Original research paper

**General guideline for Peer Review process:**

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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**PART 1: Review Comments**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's comment</b> <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments		
<b>Minor</b> REVISION comments	<p>I recommend to accept the manuscript with minor revisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revision of Figure 1 is needed. It seems to over-wide and not clear.</li> <li>2. The concentration of As at Old Town is twice of that of IAEA-soil-7. The centration of Ca at Akyempim is 50% higher than that of IAEA-soil-7. The centration of Hg at Mile 101/2 is slightly higher than IAEA-soil-7 criteria. The authors did not interpret the cause of the abnormal sites, but simply neglect them and conclude that the mining did not affect soil.</li> <li>3. I did not see the concentrations of heavy metal in background soil, i.e., soil outside the minning area.</li> <li>4. Three more references may be cited:</li> </ol> <p>Miao, Z., Marrs, R. 2000. Ecological restoration and land reclamation in open-pit mine of Shanxi Province, China. Journal of Environmental Management 59: 205–215.</p>	<p>Size of Fig 1 has been reduced and is now clear</p> <p>The high concentration was metals at Old Tafo, Akyempim were due to both geological and anthropogenic factors</p> <p>Akoon was the control side and constituted samples outside the mining area</p> <p>These reference were found on the internet but required that it must be paid for. We were not in the capacity to buy those books now and resorted on other references to enrich the paper.</p>



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	<p>Gao, L., Miao, Z., Bai, Z., Zhou, X., Zhao, J., Zhu, Y. 1998. A case study of ecological restoration at the Xiaoyi Bauxite Mine, Shanxi Province, China. <i>Ecological Engineering</i> 11: 221–229.</p> <p>Miao, Z., Bai, Z., Gao, L. 2000. Researches on ecological rebuilding and land reclamation in surface mines in Shanxi Province, China. <i>Journal of Environmental Sciences</i> 12 (4): 144–156.</p>	
<b><u>Optional/General</u></b> comments	<p>The paper is simple but important for environmental morning of African mining area.</p>	