



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Environment & Ecology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJEE_33752
Title of the Manuscript:	Evaluation of Range Condition and Trend of Ikwe Game Reserve Ighor, Gwer-East Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.
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

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (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)
Compulsory REVISION comments	Abstract Line 6: Authors should rewrite the justification for the study to properly address study. Line 8: Ikwe Game Reserve Line 15: The relative density of general herbaceous species shows that <i>Ludwigia decurrens</i> was the highest (8.22%) whiles <i>Tephrosia bracteolata</i> was the lowest (1.27%). Line 16: Grass species shows that <i>Pennisetum pedicellatum</i> had the highest relative density at 17.58% (320 species) whiles <i>Mariscus alternifolius</i> had the lowest at 1.21% (22 species). Introduction This is an interesting study, however, the research questions have not been properly defined. Hence the importance for the study is flawed. Authors will need to clearly highlight the justification for the study. Line 49: enable Line 72: This paper reviews the range condition of Ikwe Game Reserve with the aim of ascertaining the possibility of range improvement or deterioration. Study Area Line 77: ...lies between latitudes 7°27' and 7°30'N and	Noted, Thank for your valuable time, it will be corrected and reviewed. The map of the reserve will be inserted. The 1000m reference baseline was used to establish transects and plots for the research.



SDI Review Form 1.6

	longitudes 8°37' and x° xx' E.... Please provide the coordinates of both limits of the reserve's longitudes. As it is presented, it seems the reserve is located on a point. Line 86: composed Data Collection Insert a map of the reserve with coordinates and sample plots/range sites to enhance reader understanding on data collection. Line 88: Although authors provide references for evaluating range condition, additional specific information should be provided on the actual methods used. Line 92: Additional information on the 'laid down divisions' of the reserve. What are the basis for those divisions? Line 94: litter Line 96: Method for surveying vegetation is not very clear. For instance, the relationship between the 1000m baseline and 18 x 20m plots is not clearly defined. Line 99: Is the 1m² quadrat frame the same as the 1 x 1m sub plot. This is not clear. Line 100: Authors suddenly talk about a transect. Is this transect the same as the 1000m baseline? Are the step counts taken at a distance range of 100m intervals? Please clarify.	1m² quadrat frame is not the same as the 1 x 1m sub plot. 1m² quadrat frame was used to determine the herbaceous cover of the site. Line transect is not the same as the 1000m baseline? Are the step counts taken at a distance range of 100m intervals? YES, along the established line transects.
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	Line 105: transects Line 110: Please provide information on the evaluation technique using leaf colour and plant appearance. For example what do you mean by plant colour or general plant appearance? Line 116: Please be specific on what parameters you considered to constitute water availability. For instance, is it rivers, streams, ponds, marshes, etc.? Data Analysis Line 119: Once again authors need to be specific on what variables the ANOVA was used to test. Results Line 126: Site C did not have the least number of species but had the least number of individuals. Line 130: Please specify the type of follow-up test. Discussion The discussion is short and lacks important information. I think the authors need to acknowledge the large number of studies on range condition evaluation and focus their arguments and research questions in context. At least a whole paragraph is needed mentioning what previous studies have found in the area. For example, although the authors seem to imply that the reserve is in a fair condition and may be deteriorating based on the proportion of less desirable and undesirable species, etc., there is no information from previous studies to compare with the present situation. Also different types of species have different effects. I really think that the discussion is currently weak and would benefit from a proper literature review.	The ANOVA was used to test significant difference in the herbaceous composition of the sites. The discussion will be improved upon too. The scientific names will be corrected as well.
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	Conclusion Line 203: Please recommend specific range manipulation and improvement practices that will be appropriate for the area. Line 204: What is meant by desirable plant species? Please state some examples of specific desirable plant species that can be used. <u>The following scientific names have been wrongly spelt.</u> <i>Tephrosia bracteolata</i> <i>Pennisetum pendicellatum</i> <i>Maricus alternifolius</i> <i>Seteria longista</i> <i>Ageratum coyzooides</i> <i>Nelsonia caneseens</i> <i>Mitracarpus villosus</i> <i>Gomphrena celosioides</i> <i>Oldelandia herbacea</i> <i>Stchytarpheta jamaicensis</i> <i>Ludwigia hyssopifolia</i> <i>Seteria longista</i> <i>Digitaria horizontalis</i> <i>Killingia erecta</i> <i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i> <i>Ischaemun rugosum</i>	
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments		
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		