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Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Environment & Ecology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJEE_42471
Title of the Manuscript:	Firewood Utilization and Its Impacts on Vegetation and Land Degradation Around Mopipi Village in Central District of Botswana
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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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	- It is necessary to start the introduction with generalities (at regional or international level) before addressing the situation in Botswana. - Lines 75,76,77 should not be in the introduction but rather in the justification of the choice of the study area. - The methodology is laconic and not convincing - The study is conducted in a single village and biomass data are collected within a radius of 14 km. Is it the only village that removes wood energy from this space? How can the author demonstrate it? Sampling should be representative of all villages that harvest wood energy in the area. There is therefore a problem of representativeness of the sample as regards the persons surveyed. - The author collected data along a 14km transect to determine the pressure of fuelwood exploitation on species. This poses a methodological problem. First of all, apart from the exploitation of wood energy, there are several other activities that take place on these plots and it is difficult to quantify separately the impact of woodfuel exploitation if appropriate methods are not used. In addition, the presence of species depends on their ecology and it is possible not to find certain species in all the plots to the extent that the author has not demonstrated the homogeneity of the ecosystem on the studied space. For example, in Table 1, Combretum apiculatum occurs only in plots 10 and 12 km from the village. This does not necessarily mean that it was wood energy that led to its disappearance in the 4, 6 and 8 km radius. The author does not even say what is his comparison reference or the witness. In the literature, there are methods that the author could use to achieve the objective pursued. - The author says nothing about the types of data collected during the surveys. - There are methods to quantify the consumption of wood energy in households including the weighing method and the conversion of expenditure. The method appropriate to the context of this study is that of weighing since almost all households source wood energy by self-production. The author has not used any scientific method but has just made an estimate without any scientific basis. This poses a problem of validation and acceptance of these results in the scientific point of view. - Moreover, the link between the objectives pursued and the results obtained is not clearly understood. - The chapter on references is very poorly structured and does not allow the reader to follow. In conclusion, there are big issues of methodology in this paper. I advise the author to read the check and read the following for methodology: "Fontodji K.J., Atsri H., Adjonou K., Radji A.R., Kokutse A.D., Kokou K., 2011. Impact of charcoal production on biodiversity in Togo (West Africa). In Pujol J.L. <i>The importance of biological Interactions in the sturdy of Biodiversity</i>, 12: 215-230."	- OK - Ok - Has been rephrased Not easy to sample all villages in the area because of scatterdiness of the villages and their sizes (inhabitants). Some villages are small and the impact of firewood utilization is not of worry. Has been attended - Ok
Minor REVISION comments		



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<u>Optional/General</u> comments		
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