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| Book Name: | [**Geography, Earth Science and Environment: Research Highlights**](https://www.bookpi.org/bookstore/product/geography-earth-science-and-environment-research-highlights-vol-1/) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_BPR\_5095** |
| Title of the Manuscript:  | **Relationship between Forest Structure and Soil Properties in Bagale Forest Reserve in North Eastern Nigeria** |
| Type of the Article | **Book chapter** |

**Special note:**

**A research paper already published in a journal can be published as a Book Chapter in an expanded form with proper copyright approval.**

**Source Article:**

**This chapter is an extended version of the article published by the same author(s) in the following journal.**

**Journal of Environmental Issues and Agriculture in Developing Countries, 10(3): 157-167, 2018.**

**Available:** [**https://icidr.org.ng/index.php/jeiadc/article/view/308**](https://icidr.org.ng/index.php/jeiadc/article/view/308)

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| PART 1: Comments |
|  | Reviewer’s comment**Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | Author’s Feedback *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | The manuscript presents an important study on the relationship between forest structure and soil properties in Bagale Forest Reserve. The study employs Pearson’s correlation coefficient and comprehensive field and laboratory analyses to investigate the interactions between forest structure (DBH, height, crown area, etc.) and soil characteristics (pH, organic carbon, texture, etc.). The findings contribute to understanding forest-soil interactions and provide valuable insights for forest management in North East Nigeria. |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?****(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | Yes, the title is suitable according to the context of the manuscript. |  |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | * The abstract is fairly comprehensive, but it should be more concise.
* The mention of "five altitudes" should be clarified as "five elevation categories."
* The conclusion should be explicitly stated in a clear and direct sentence at the end of the abstract.
* Some technical terms, such as "salinization is not a significant pedogenic process," should be simplified for broader accessibility.
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| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.**  | * The study is scientifically robust, and the methodology is appropriate for the research objectives.
* The use of Pearson’s correlation is justified, but a brief discussion on the strength and significance of the relationships should be included.
* The discussion should better integrate findings from past research for stronger theoretical grounding.
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| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.****-** | * The references are generally sufficient, but some are outdated (e.g., citations from the 1990s). Consider incorporating more recent studies to strengthen the literature review.
* Ensure that all in-text citations match the reference list.
* Some references (e.g., "Opuwaribo and Odu 1978") lack full citation details and need to be properly formatted.
* Consider adding recent studies on soil-forest interactions for comparative analysis.
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| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | * The manuscript’s language is understandable but needs proofreading to improve fluency and readability.
* Some sentences are overly long and complex. Consider breaking them into simpler structures.
* There are typographical errors and inconsistent formatting (e.g., "pe”0.05").
* The results section should use clearer transitions to improve readability.
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| Optional/General comments | * Add few more paragraphs on introduction section highlighting global and local context on status of soil.
* Strengthen the discussion section by integrating findings from other recent studies.
* Improve figure and table captions for better readability.
* Ensure all abbreviations are defined upon first use.
* Add a brief note on the potential practical implications of the findings for forest conservation and management.
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| **PART 2:**  |
|  | Reviewer’s comment | Author’s comment *(if agreed with the reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?**  | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in detail)* |  |

**Reviewer details:**

**Jun Shapkota, Nepal**