Review Form 3

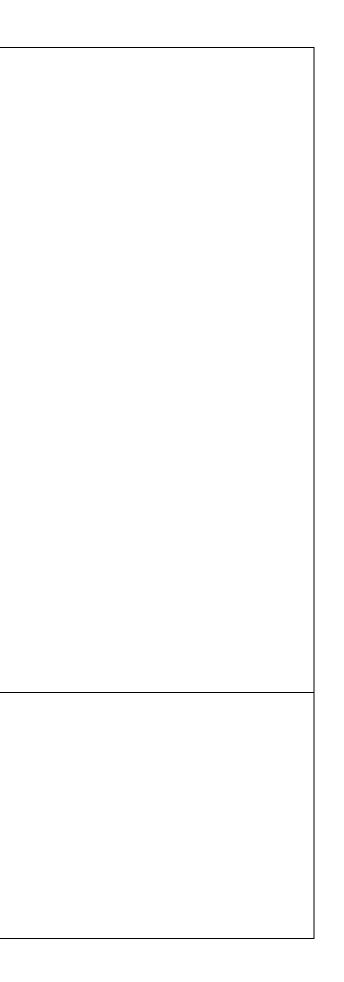|	
Journal Name:	**Asian Journal of Environment & Ecology**
Manuscript Number:	**Ms_AJEE_130279**
Title of the Manuscript:	**Impact of Deforestation on Traditional Medicinal Plants: A Study of Fakai Local Government Area, Kebbi State, Nigeria.**
Type of the Article	

<mark>PART 1:</mark> **Comments**

	Reviewer's comment	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.	This manuscript is important for the scientific community as it sheds light on the critical issue of deforestation and its impact on traditional medicinal plants. By focusing on a specific region in Nigeria, it provides valuable insights into how environmental degradation threatens both biodiversity and the traditional healthcare practices relied upon by many rural communities. The study emphasizes the urgency of addressing deforestation to preserve these vital plant species and supports the development of sustainable conservation strategies. Its findings contribute to ongoing discussions in environmental science, ethnobotany, and public health, highlighting the need for collaborative efforts to protect natural and cultural resources.	
Is the title of the article suitable? **(If not please suggest an alternative title)**	The title, "Impact of Deforestation on Traditional Medicinal Plants: A Study of Fakai Local Government Area, Kebbi State, Nigeria," is generally suitable as it provides a clear and concise summary of the study's main focus. However, there are some aspects that could be improved: Strengths: 1. Clarity: The title clearly indicates the subject (deforestation and medicinal plants), the scope (traditional medicinal plants), and the study area (Fakai Local Government Area, Kebbi State, Nigeria). 2. Specificity: It avoids vague terms and directly communicates the geographic and thematic focus of the research. Potential Improvements: 1. Engagement: The title could be more engaging by emphasizing the significance of the findings or the broader implications (e.g., the threat to healthcare systems or biodiversity). 2. Conciseness: The title is somewhat long. Simplifying it without losing essential details might make it more reader-friendly. Suggested Alternative Titles: 1. "Deforestation and Its Impact on Traditional Medicinal Plants in Fakai, Kebbi State, Nigeria" 2. "The Threat of Deforestation to Medicinal Plant Diversity: A Case Study from Kebbi State, Nigeria" 3. "Conserving Traditional Medicinal Plants Amidst Deforestation: Insights from Fakai, Nigeria" These alternatives maintain clarity while potentially drawing more attention to 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.	Review of the Abstract
	The abstract of the article provides a good overview of the study, including its objectives, methodology, findings, and recommendations. However, there are areas where it could be improved for better comprehensiveness and clarity.
	
	Strengths:
	1. Coverage: It covers key aspects of the study, such as the issue of deforestation, its impact on traditional medicinal plants, and the community's reliance on these plants.
	2. Structure: The abstract follows a logical flow, introducing the problem, summarizing the methods, presenting findings, and concluding with recommendations.
	
	Weaknesses and Suggestions:
	1. **Insufficient Quantitative Data:**
	   ○ The abstract lacks specific quantitative details from the findings, such as the percentage of respondents noting the decline in medicinal plant availability or the major causes of deforestation.
	   ○ Suggestion: Include a few key statistics or figures to provide a clearer sense of the study's outcomes (e.g., "79.3% of respondents reported a significant decline in medicinal plant availability due to deforestation").
	2. **Lack of Methodological Details:**
	   ○ The methodology section is vague, with no mention of the number of participants, sampling techniques, or tools used.
	   ○ Suggestion: Add brief details about the sample size (e.g., "100 respondents were surveyed using questionnaires and in-depth interviews") and the study area for better context.
	3. **Overly Generalized Statements:**
	   ○ Phrases like "deforestation poses a significant threat to biodiversity" are broad and could be tied more directly to the study's context.
	   ○ Suggestion: Focus on the specific biodiversity or medicinal plant species impacted in Fakai.
	4. **Recommendations Lacking Specificity:**
	   ○ While the abstract mentions recommendations, they are general and do not reflect the depth of suggestions found in the paper (e.g., community-based conservation or alternative energy sources).
	   ○ Suggestion: Highlight one or two actionable recommendations to make the abstract more impactful (e.g., "The study recommends implementing community-based conservation efforts and promoting alternative energy sources to curb deforestation").
	5. **Repetition:**
	   ○ Some sentences repeat ideas (e.g., the importance of medicinal plants and the threat posed by deforestation).
	   ○ Suggestion: Streamline the abstract by removing redundant phrases.	

Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.	**Scientific Issues and Suggestions for Improvement:**
	1. **Methodology Gaps:**
	   ○ **Sampling Method:** The study uses a purposive sampling method, but the lack of discussion on potential biases and representativeness weakens the reliability of the findings.
	      ▪ **Suggestion:** Include a justification for the sampling method and discuss its limitations in the context of generalizing the findings.
	   ○ **Data Analysis:** The analysis is descriptive, relying heavily on frequency counts and percentages without inferential statistics to test hypotheses or determine significance.
	      ▪ **Suggestion:** Employ statistical tests (e.g., chi-square tests) to strengthen the validity of conclusions and provide a deeper understanding of relationships between variables.
	2. **Causation vs. Correlation:**
	   ○ The manuscript links deforestation activities to the decline of medicinal plants but does not establish causation through quantitative or ecological data.
	      ▪ **Suggestion:** Incorporate data on the direct ecological impact of deforestation,	

such as land cover changes or species diversity loss, to strengthen causal inferences.

3. **Outdated References:**
   o The manuscript relies on older references (e.g., FAO 2005, WHO 2014), which may not reflect the current state of deforestation and conservation efforts.
     ▪ **Suggestion:** Integrate more recent studies or reports to provide an updated context and reinforce scientific credibility.
4. **Ethnobotanical Specificity:**
   o The study lists medicinal plants and their uses but does not explore the ecological or pharmacological significance of specific species that are most affected by deforestation.
     ▪ **Suggestion:** Include a discussion of the most endangered species, their ecological roles, and their medicinal importance.
5. **Insufficient Discussion of Climate Change:**
   o Climate change is mentioned briefly as a factor affecting plant availability but is not elaborated upon in the analysis.
     ▪ **Suggestion:** Expand on how climate change interacts with deforestation to exacerbate the decline of medicinal plants.
6. **Recommendations Lacking Feasibility Analysis:**
   o While the recommendations are actionable, their feasibility (e.g., costs, local acceptance, and government enforcement) is not analyzed.
     ▪ **Suggestion:** Provide a brief feasibility assessment of proposed strategies like community-based conservation or afforestation programs.

Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.	No	
Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	**References:** • Many cited works are outdated; this undermines the relevance of the literature review. Include more recent studies to reflect advancements in the field. • Some references lack direct relevance to the study's context (e.g., generic global data on deforestation without focusing on Nigeria or similar regions).	
Optional/General 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)*
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	*(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)*	

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