

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.:IJAR-53895

Date: September 17, 2025

**Title: IMPACT OF MINING ACTIVITIES ON FOREST COVER LOSS IN THE CAVALLY RIVER WATERSHED**

### Recommendation:

Accept as it is .....

**Accept after minor revision**.....

Accept after major revision .....

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		X		
Techn. Quality			X	
Clarity		X		
Significance		X		

Reviewer Name: Dr Lakhdar Guerine

Date:

## Detailed Reviewer's Report

This study investigates the impact of mining activities on vegetation cover and land use changes in the Cavally River watershed between 1994 and 2024 using satellite imagery (LANDSAT, SENTINEL-2). Supervised classification with maximum likelihood revealed a decline of about 25% in vegetation, while agricultural land, built-up areas, and bare soils expanded. The classification accuracy was high (Kappa 0.81–0.94; overall 86–94.4%). Results highlight strong anthropogenic pressure linked to mining expansion and its ecological consequences. The paper concludes with recommendations for sustainable land management and ecological restoration.

### Points forts

1. Clear research objective addressing a relevant environmental issue in West Africa.
2. Solid methodological approach with remote sensing and GIS, supported by accuracy assessment.
3. Robust longitudinal dataset spanning 30 years with multiple satellite sources.
4. Practical recommendations for sustainable land management and ecological restoration.

### Points faibles

- a) Limited discussion of socio-economic drivers beyond mining and agriculture.
- b) The analysis lacks quantitative modelling of future scenarios or predictive outlooks.

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- c) The conclusion remains general and does not provide region-specific policy implications.
- d) Language and style require revision for clarity and conciseness to meet international publication standards.

### Recommendation

The paper presents valuable empirical findings and a rigorous geospatial methodology. However, it requires moderate revisions, particularly in strengthening the discussion, refining the conclusion, and improving language quality