



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Journal of Geography, Environment and Earth Science International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JGEESI_49884
Title of the Manuscript:	An Analysis of Human Survival Strategies in Difficult Environments. A Case Study of the Kom Highlands in Cameroon
Type of the 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:

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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	As mentioned in <i>Data Collection and Analysis Section</i> , the authors have used 100 questionnaires, out of which only 59 were successfully completed and have accordingly been taken into consideration. For a more comprehensive overview on the profile of the subjects being interviewed, it would have been most appropriate if they had also provided a brief account on the demographic, educational, social etc. structure of the people of reference, namely what was their general percentage grouping according to their age, gender, educational and economic status etc.	
Minor REVISION comments	In case of future developments, I would strongly recommend that the authors insert some important but necessary statistical references regarding the values of the main human development indices of Cameroon or Kom people, as compared to other states' or national values, as provided by the UNHDR or the NHDR reports. For additional reference, please consult: http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/CMR	
Optional/General comments	<p>After thoroughly reading this article, which I liked very much, I had the helpless feeling that, no matter how decent, dignified and argumentative some harsh truths are being told, there will be no echo to them simply because the medium they propagate through is too dense to allow them to be far-reaching. And they lose momentum, turning into neutral statements adding to already existing piles of "the state of the world" facts, hence the term "state_ment". In this specific case, representing a highly valuable and original antropo-geographical study, mostly describing, yet still using some statistical means of correlation among some relevant artefacts, how people living in the harsh mountainous environments of the Kom Highlands in NW Cameroon have adapted to or are still striving to cope with more efficient survival strategies regarding their economic (agricultural techniques), social (housing and road-accessibility conditions) and cultural (connected to local traditions and customs of body protection against cold) environmental pressures. All aspects presented in the paper are extremely interesting and reflective of a much wider environmental and cultural perspective, providing a realistic and useful insight on specific adaptive practices. the authors' effort has to be accordingly appreciated, not only because they conveyed erratic and scattered information about various life aspects of the people living in those adverse environments into a well-structured body of anthropological surveys, but also because they used the most appropriate perspective, by also analyzing how several constraints, like poverty, ignorance and perception, limited resources and technology or cultural norms, are seriously affecting any long-term initiative or plan of development. Here, it is important to note that the message of the authors becomes even more pervasive as they have carefully used a very calm, clear and somehow distinguished language which gives their whole "story" an aura of mystery. The "mystery" of discovery! New territories, new places, new cultures...! And this is exactly the core requirement of any truthful geographical study.</p> <p>Now, as far as the main attributes of this study are concerned, I should highlight the following lines of defense, still strongly recommending the authors to take into consideration the two above-mentioned comments in a possible future improvement or expansion of their study:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The broader contextual background in which the present study integrates has clearly been defined by critical and selective references to major works and findings from the field of interest; 2. The research methodology has properly been managed; the main aspects of reference in the study area have clearly been mapped; the data sources and types and research methods have been well accounted for, in accordance with the objectives of the study; 3. The four indicated survival strategies (agricultural practices, housing and road 	



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	<p>construction techniques, body protection against cold) have been presented in a very systematic and argumentative manner, with a lot of fluid and comprehensive details, making the reading most enjoyable;</p> <p>4. The four identified constraints (poverty, ignorance and perception, resources and technology, cultural norms) to the effectiveness of the above-mentioned survival strategies are objectively assessed on statistical bases, by applying the chi square test, showing the difference between the observed and expected frequency of each pressure factor;</p> <p>5. The findings, discussions and conclusions being obtained are decently analyzed in the light of possible evolutions in a given, e.g. limited, set of options, without being too enthusiastic, yet keeping the dignified posture of respected viewpoints.</p> <p>Overall, the present study fully deserves being published, should authors have the kind consideration to add some extra useful methodology information, as pointed in the Compulsory Revision comments above.</p>	
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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(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)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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