

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 58635

Title: Analysis of the Legal and Institutional Framework of the Flood Management Sector in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Bishwajit Rout

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

(To be published with the manuscript in the journal)

The reviewer is requested to provide a brief comment (3-4 lines) highlighting the significance, strengths, or key insights of the manuscript. This comment will be Displayed in the journal publication alongside with the reviewers name.

- Significance:** This study significantly advances understanding of urban flood governance in West Africa by examining the interaction between legal frameworks, institutional structures, and operational realities in Ouagadougou. It demonstrates that institutional proliferation alone does not ensure resilience and highlights the importance of coordination, decentralization, and local capacity. The findings provide valuable evidence for policymakers designing disaster governance reforms in rapidly urbanizing African cities.
- Strength:** The manuscript's principal strength lies in its integration of documentary legal analysis with empirical interviews across multiple institutional levels. This mixed qualitative strategy enables a nuanced assessment of governance processes rather than a purely normative review. The detailed mapping of regional, municipal, and community stakeholders provides a comprehensive understanding of flood management responsibilities and reveals critical coordination weaknesses.
- Key Insight:** The central insight is that urban flood vulnerability in Ouagadougou stems less from the absence of laws or institutions than from a persistent mismatch between responsibilities, resources, and decision-making authority. Local actors bear substantial operational duties while financial and strategic control remains centralized. Bridging this governance gap through stronger territorial capacities and coordination mechanisms is essential for proactive and sustainable flood resilience.

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Reviewer's Comment / Report

The paper titled “*Analysis of the Legal and Institutional Framework of the Flood Management Sector in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.*” analyzes the legal and institutional framework for flood management in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Using documentary review and interviews, it finds a comprehensive institutional structure covering disaster management. However, a structural imbalance persists: operational duties rest with local and community levels, while funding and decision-making remain centralized. This mismatch hinders preventive policies and sustains reactive approaches. The paper argues that urban resilience depends more on aligning coordination, resources, and local capacities than on expanding institutions, advocating stronger territorial competencies in West African flood governance.

Suggestions for Improvement:

1. Introduce a concise conceptual definition of institutional effectiveness to guide readers through the subsequent analytical discussion.
2. Explain why Ouagadougou represents a critical case for broader West African flood governance debates and comparative urban resilience research.
3. Provide information on interview selection criteria, saturation assessment, consent procedures, and measures taken to ensure reliability.
4. Elaborate the theoretical framework linking institutional fragmentation, decentralization, coordination, and urban resilience to strengthen analytical coherence.
5. Improve readability of geographic and demographic descriptions.
6. Include a comparative table summarizing population growth, urban expansion, infrastructure capacity, and flood exposure indicators over time.
7. Reduce repetitive institutional descriptions across subsections.
8. Highlight empirical evidence supporting coordination failures.
9. Discuss enforcement mechanisms, sanctions, monitoring institutions, and practical obstacles affecting compliance with floodplain regulations.
10. Analyze power relations between central ministries and local authorities to demonstrate how decision-making authority remains centralized.
11. Explain how the Ouagadougou case contributes theoretically beyond confirming previously documented governance fragmentation patterns in African cities.

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The manuscript addresses a highly relevant topic and offers valuable empirical insights into flood governance in Ouagadougou through legal analysis and stakeholder interviews. Its major contribution is the identification of a structural mismatch between institutional responsibilities and operational capacities. However, publication should be considered only after major revisions. Methodological transparency, theoretical integration, comparative analysis, empirical substantiation, and language quality require substantial strengthening to meet international journal standards. Addressing the identified weaknesses will make it suitable for publication in IJAR.

I recommend this paper for publication after minor revision.