



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	British Journal of Economics, Management & Trade
Manuscript Number:	Ms_BJEMT_19793
Title of the Manuscript:	Twenty Years of Implementation of District Assemblies' Common Fund in Ghana - (1994-2013) An Assessment of Disbursement
Type of the Article	RESEARCH ARTICLE

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
<p>I recommended the highlighting of two key aspects of the research paper that would help the author establish a fundamental link between questionable hierarchical management and the future of often marginalised or ignored local foundations of this country's feasible economic development. Unfortunately, he doesn't seem to have captured this constructive and complementary orientation:</p> <p>1) First, use a map to highlight the location of Ghana on the African continent and more specifically, establish its DACF geographical configuration in the study that focuses on its fiscal/development peculiarities. This paper can help establish an interdisciplinary basis on which other researchers, graduate/doctorate students, including professionals can examine and address governance concerns from local to global levels, both nationally and internationally. Whatever the discipline, a mapping of Ghana compared to other African countries will help illustrate the basis of its district configurations—a visual caption that will further highlight the necessary changes suggested in the author's main topic. This is fundamental, and is the basis on which I recommend that the author adds a short and concise paragraph after line 95, to introduce this mapping illustration prior to line 96; e.g., As we can observe in the following Map, "the country was [purposely] divided into three clusters ... and the Western Regions". The next paragraph, from "The objective of the clustering was to provide geographic homogeneity that is synonymous to the development requirements of the communities ... of the respective political regimes in the release of the funds".</p> <p>2) Secondly, in the conclusion, the author openly acknowledges the methodological limitations of the topic area, given that his study did not involve the local communities whose daily lives are directly impacted, from the decentralization perspective, by administrative policies. Nevertheless, these transparent admissions in the author's recommendations and conclusion create an opening for him to pursue further data-based analyses that will help him establish a continuity link between governance and its foundation on decentralization where future research will integrate various community-based points of view; examples include on-the-ground development issues whereby the local population, affected by development issues, is practically the "end-user" of allocated services, interlinking socio-territorial elements to economic ones that eventually increase fiscal and administrative concerns.</p> <p>I'm in favor of the article publishing agreement, and strongly recommend the integration of the two comments: the illustrative and contextualized mapping and the connection to a future local development tangent. For this reason, I strongly recommended that the author humbly points out (using footnotes) the methodological limits to opening this current paper to other relevant perspectives. A highlight included in the conclusion, using a very short paragraph, will reveal both his wisdom and the current publication space constraints. For instance, "The study was limited to the collection of institutional data, because the disbursement of the DACF is mainly through the state and its agencies". In spite of the conclusions reached, socio-community and territorial data will, in related future research, complement our actual findings.</p>	<p>I hereby appreciate the comments provided by the Reviewer and I am very grateful. Thank you very much.</p> <p>I have had several discussions with other senior colleagues at the Department of Political Science of the significance of integration of map into the manuscript. Their perspectives are that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ghana on Africa map is a global common knowledge.2. The study was not restricted to a secluded place in Ghana but the entire country consequently a map of Africa showing the location of Ghana does not contribute any knowledge to a manuscript on fiscal decentralization. I will therefore be very grateful if you could pardon me to resubmit without the map. <p>2. I have accepted the recommendations of the</p>



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	<p>reviewer to undertake a community-based study to integrate end user perspectives into the process to assess the actual impact of the DACF. I am very happy to do that indeed a study of second phase is in progress but that is beyond the remit of this manuscript. I will near future submit a manuscript for your consideration.</p>
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