

## ***Interactive comment on “Environmental soil quality index and indicators for a coal mining soil” by R. E. Masto et al.***

### **Anonymous Referee #1**

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**General comments** The manuscript is well structured and written. The material and methods used are properly described and appropriate for the aim of the study.

#### **Specific comments**

**Introduction** The novelty of the work is not well emphasized at the end of the introduction. It should be mentioned not just that there are limited number of studies on soil quality indices involving soil contaminants, also limited about mine soils. In fact, it could be included a reference about a published study of a SQI in mine soils.

**Materials and methods** Information about the sampling sites is poor. First, it should be indicated the distance of the sampled sites to the mines. It is just said “near” to the mines (pag. 620, line 21). Second, it must be explained the soil use of the sampled

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points (forest, agricultural, no-specific use).

**Technical comments** Pag 619, line 25: put comma after “soil”. Pag 620, line 5: include some references about studies dealing with soil quality indexes for agricultural sites or microbiological. Page 121, line 18: avoid the use of the term “heavy metal”. The IUPAC recommends instead metals, trace metals, trace elements or just metals.

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Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., 7, 617, 2015.

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