

Review of: "A Review of the Drawdown Zone in African Reservoirs: Current Knowledge, Understudied Areas and Recommendations for Future Research"

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Beaven Utete's review on drawdown zones in African reservoirs offers a detailed and relevant analysis, yet some aspects could be improved to enhance its impact and relevance. Although the review methodology is rigorous, the review could benefit from increased transparency regarding the specific criteria for study selection and exclusion (sorting retained articles by theme and region/continent). This would allow for a better understanding of the review's scope and the generalizability of its conclusions. The review primarily focuses on synthesizing existing literature. Including a section on primary research or data collected directly by the author could add unique value, especially in areas where literature is limited. The author could expand the research to include a wider range of sources, including technical reports, theses, and grey literature, which could reveal valuable information not captured in traditional academic publications.

Given the impact of drawdown zones on various ecological, economic, and social aspects, a more interdisciplinary approach could enrich the analysis. This could include perspectives from environmental economics, sociology, or political science. Although the review offers recommendations for future research, it could be strengthened by more concrete suggestions for reservoir management and environmental policy, based on the review's conclusions. The synthesis and conclusion section could be enhanced to better highlight the main learning points, implications for water resource management, and priority areas for future research, making the conclusions more accessible and applicable. Figure A1 (Map showing a selection of large inland freshwater lakes, reservoirs, and rivers in Africa) could be more accurate with the addition of dams and artificial reservoirs that are now part of the African hydrological landscape.

By addressing these points, Beaven Utete's review could offer an even richer and more applicable perspective on the issues related to drawdown zones in African reservoirs, thus significantly contributing to the existing literature on the subject.