

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Review on the manuscript "A Review of the Drawdown Zone in African Reservoirs: Current Knowledge, Understudied Areas and Recommendations for Future Research" by Prof. Beaven Utete

I have very much enjoyed reading through this manuscript, which deals with an important issue, particularly in the frame of rapidly changing environmental conditions and increasing human pressure on aquatic resources.

The article is focused, well-structured, and clearly written. I have only minor comments, which I hope can help further refine it before publication.

Comments:

The quality of Figure 3 should be improved. Lines are blurred.

Punctuation should be improved: mostly, there are too many long sentences without commas at the right position.

Verb conjugation has to be checked. There are a few mistakes in sentences such as "a combination of factors *need(s)* to be investigated."

In general, the nutrient dynamics should be addressed a bit more specifically. For example, defining which is addressed? Organic or inorganic? If inorganic, which? This is relevant, since changing redox conditions during flooding or desiccation will likely affect particularly phosphorus speciation in sediment and thus its transport into the aqueous phase. This would help development of protocols for adequate sampling strategies.

Microtopography is correctly addressed as a key parameter for understanding macrophyte characteristics. In this context, stress is set on the correct delineation of e.g. littoral, overlap, and drawdown sectors. While this is certainly most appropriate, it would be helpful to provide information on the approximate extension (cross-section) of each of these sectors in some of the cited reservoirs, i.e., are we dealing with tens, hundreds, or thousands of meters, in each case? Otherwise, sentences like "In the overlap zone, a large spatially continuous habitat" somewhat lack support because of a missing spatial scale reference. In other words, how large is large?

In Table 1, in the areas of paucity, it may be convenient to include the topic sediment biogeochemistry and fluxes of nutrients from drawdown areas into the littoral zone.



Best regards,

Rubén