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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53256 Date: 12-08-2025

Title: Distribution, abondance et principales menaces sur le Crocodile d' Afrique de l' ouest (Crocodyslus suchus), dans le Bassin actif du fleuve Niger

Recommendation:	Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Accept as it isYES	Originality			>	
Accept after minor revision	Techn. Quality			<	
Accept after major revision	Clarity		⋖		
Do not accept (Reasons below)	Significance			⋖	

Reviewer Name: Tahir Ahmad

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

Abstract Review:

The abstract presents a clear and well-structured summary of the study, highlighting both the objectives and the methodological approach. It establishes the problem — anthropogenic pressure leading to the decline in the West African crocodile's population and range — and outlines the scope of the study conducted from April to May 2025. The description of transect counts, both on foot and by non-motorized pirogue, provides a strong methodological foundation. The incorporation of both direct observation and ethno-zoological surveys adds depth to the research design. Quantitative results are clearly reported, specifying the total number of individuals observed and the geographic distribution of the highest concentrations. The identification of principal threats is well-documented with precise percentages, which strengthens the analytical rigor. The concluding statement effectively frames the conservation relevance of the study.

Introduction Review:

The introduction positions biodiversity as a form of natural capital essential for human well-being and societal organization. It underscores the importance of population monitoring and census activities as foundational steps toward effective biodiversity management. The statement that "monitoring is the key to conservation" provides a strong conceptual anchor for the study. The framing demonstrates a clear understanding of the link between scientific observation, management strategies, and conservation outcomes.

Overall Assessment:

The study provides a robust combination of field-based population surveys and community-level knowledge gathering to assess the status of the West African crocodile in the Niger River basin. It successfully integrates quantitative data with socio-environmental context, offering a comprehensive view of distribution, abundance, and threats. The clarity of numerical results and the explicit

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identification of high-concentration zones enhance the utility of the findings for conservation planning. The work addresses a critical gap in regional biodiversity knowledge and contributes meaningfully to the field of wildlife conservation and management.