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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55655

Title: Bibliometric analysis of sustainable management strategies for coexistence between pastoralism and wildlife conservation in biosphere reserves,

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		Good		
Techn. Quality		Good		
Clarity		Good		
Significance		Good		

Reviewer Name: Dr Thirunahari Ugandhar

Detailed Reviewer's Report

General Assessment

The manuscript presents a **comprehensive and well-structured bibliometric review** of sustainable management strategies that promote coexistence between pastoral activities and wildlife conservation in biosphere reserves. By analysing a large corpus of 2,250 Scopus-indexed documents over six decades, the study provides valuable insights into the **temporal evolution, geographical distribution, collaborative networks, thematic structure, and conceptual transformation** of this interdisciplinary research field. The topic is **highly relevant**, particularly in the context of escalating human-wildlife conflicts, climate change pressures, and sustainability challenges in protected areas, especially in Africa and other pastoral landscapes. The methodological rigor, extensive dataset, and use of advanced bibliometric tools strengthen the scientific contribution of the study.

Overall, the manuscript is **original, timely, and suitable for publication**, subject to minor revisions.

Major Strengths

1. Strong conceptual relevance

Addresses a globally significant issue linking pastoralism, biodiversity conservation, and socio-ecological sustainability.

Aligns well with UNESCO MAB objectives and current conservation paradigms.

2. Robust methodology

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Appropriate use of the PICO framework adapted for environmental sciences.

Clear and reproducible Scopus search strategy with well-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Effective application of the *bibliometrix* R package for scientometric analysis.

3. Comprehensive dataset

Large temporal coverage (1966–2026) allowing historical and contemporary trend analysis.

Inclusion of multiple document types enhances depth of analysis.

4. Insightful results and discussion

Identification of four dominant conceptual clusters and emerging regenerative management paradigms is particularly valuable.

Clear demonstration of the shift from exclusionary conservation models to integrative coexistence approaches.

5. Clear policy and research relevance

Highlights geographical research imbalances and the need for transdisciplinary and community-based approaches.

Provides actionable insights for researchers, conservation managers, and policymakers.

Major Comments (Suggestions for Improvement)

1. Consistency in temporal scope

The dataset is described as covering 1966–2026, while some analyses and figures focus on 1996–2024.

► Please clarify the rationale for these different temporal windows and ensure consistency throughout the manuscript.

2. Clarification of growth rate indicator

In Table 1, the “annual growth rate %” is reported as 0, which appears inconsistent with the documented post-2000 publication increase.

► Recalculate or clarify how this metric was derived.

3. Africa-focused interpretation

While Africa is central to the discussion, the analysis is global.

► Consider clearly distinguishing **global trends** from **Africa-specific implications** to improve analytical balance.

4. Methodological limitations

The exclusive reliance on Scopus may introduce database bias.

► A short subsection acknowledging limitations (e.g., exclusion of Web of Science, regional journals, non-English literature) would strengthen transparency.

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Minor Comments

1. Language and formatting

Minor typographical issues (spacing, duplicated headings, figure captions) should be corrected.

Ensure uniform formatting of references (e.g., spacing in author names such as "Teague & Kreuter").

2. Figures and tables

Figures are informative, but captions could be more descriptive (e.g., briefly explaining analytical significance).

Ensure all figures are cited sequentially in the text.

3. Keywords

Consider adding "regenerative grazing" or "adaptive management" as keywords to enhance discoverability.

Originality and Contribution

The manuscript makes a **novel contribution** by combining bibliometric mapping with a strong interpretative discussion of **conceptual evolution** in human–wildlife–pastoralism research. The identification of **regenerative management approaches** as an emerging paradigm is particularly noteworthy and adds originality beyond descriptive bibliometric outputs.

Recommendation

Recommended for publication after minor revisions

The suggested revisions are mainly clarificatory and editorial and do not detract from the overall quality or scientific merit of the study.