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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 56114

Title: The Role of Anthropogenic Activities on Water Quality and River Restoration. A case of Monik River, Arusha-Tanzania

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer Name: **ANAPANA GOPAL**

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

General Comments

The manuscript presents a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of anthropogenic activities on the physicochemical water quality of the Monik River, Arusha, Tanzania. The topic is timely and relevant, particularly in the context of increasing pressure on freshwater resources in East Africa and the linkage between water quality, ecosystem health, and sustainable river restoration. The study is data-rich, uses standard analytical methods, and integrates statistical and multivariate analyses to support its conclusions. However, the manuscript requires substantial improvements in language clarity, consistency in interpretation of results versus standards, and tightening of structure to enhance readability and scientific rigor.

Content and Originality

The study addresses an important local case study with broader regional relevance. While similar studies exist for other rivers in Tanzania and East Africa, the focus on the Monik River and its contribution to the Lake Natron Ramsar Site adds novelty and ecological significance. The integration of anthropogenic activity observations with physicochemical data and clustering analysis strengthens the originality. However, the conceptual linkage between water quality, peace, cooperation, and conflict prevention is not sufficiently developed and remains largely descriptive rather than analytical. Strengthening this dimension would enhance the manuscript's originality.

Technical Quality

The methodology is generally sound and follows standard protocols (APHA, WHO, TBS). Sampling design across upstream, midstream, and downstream sites and across seasons is appropriate. Statistical analyses, including t-tests and hierarchical cluster analysis, are correctly applied.

However, there are technical concerns that need attention:

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- Inconsistencies exist between reported results and interpretations, particularly regarding compliance with WHO and TBS standards (e.g., DO, pH, nitrate, phosphate, turbidity).
- Some conclusions contradict earlier results tables (e.g., claims of parameters being “beyond permissible limits” when tables show compliance).
- Units, symbols, and statistical values (t, p) require consistent formatting.
- The justification for using a “one-way t-test” for seasonal comparison should be clarified, as a paired or independent samples t-test may be more appropriate.

Language and Presentation

The manuscript requires minor language editing. There are frequent grammatical errors, awkward sentence constructions, repetition, and inconsistent tense usage. Some sections are overly verbose, while others lack clarity. Scientific terminology is sometimes used imprecisely, and typographical errors (spacing, symbols, subscripts) are common throughout the text. Professional English editing is strongly recommended before publication.

Structure and Organization

Overall structure follows a standard research article format, but improvements are needed:

- The Abstract is too long and contains excessive methodological detail better suited for the Methods section.
- The Results and Discussion sections are not clearly separated and frequently overlap.
- Some paragraphs repeat background information instead of focusing on interpretation.
- Figures and tables should be more clearly referenced and interpreted in the text.
- The Conclusion section contains inconsistencies with the Results and should be revised for accuracy and conciseness.

References and Citations

The reference list is extensive, current, and relevant to the topic. Citations are appropriate and generally well integrated into the discussion. However:

- Some references appear tangential or insufficiently linked to the argument.
- Formatting inconsistencies are present in author names, journal titles, and DOI presentation.
- A careful check for citation accuracy and consistency with journal guidelines is needed.

Overall Recommendation

The manuscript has **strong potential** due to its robust dataset, relevant case study, and application of multivariate analysis. However, significant revisions are required to address language issues, correct inconsistencies between results and interpretations, and strengthen the conceptual framing of river restoration and governance.

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Final Decision:

Minor Revision Required

The authors are encouraged to revise the manuscript thoroughly, particularly focusing on:

- Language and clarity,
- Consistency between data, standards, and conclusions,
- Strengthening the discussion and implications for river restoration and management.

With careful revision, the manuscript could make a valuable contribution to the literature on river water quality and restoration in East Africa.