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**DAVID NELSON NKUUTU** <nelson.nkuutu.45725@studmc.kiu.ac.ug>

Tue, Apr 21, 2026 at 1:23 PM

To: [editorialoffice@rsis-international.org](mailto:editorialoffice@rsis-international.org)

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Dear Author, Thank you for submitting your manuscript to International Journal of Research and Innovation in Applied Science., The peer review process has now been completed. Please find below the detailed evaluation of your manuscript and the next steps required to proceed with publication., Journal International Journal of Research and Innovation in Applied Science, Manuscript Title Assessment of Microplastic Pollution: Morphological and Polymer Characterisation of Microplastics in the Lubigi Wetland Ecosystem, Uganda, Editorial Decision Accepted, Last Date for Final Submission 24 Apr 2026, Download Final Assessment Report: <https://rsisinternational.org/journals/common/author/review-result.php>, Originality, Good Presentation, Good Applicability, Good Overall Status, Good, ● Strengths:, The study demonstrates strong methodological rigor through systematic sampling across spatial, upstream, midstream, downstream, and vertical, surface, middle, bottom, sediment, gradients, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the wetland ecosystem. The integration of morphological classification with FTIR-based polymer identification enhances the reliability and scientific validity of results. Use of contamination control measures, statistical analyses, ANOVA, chi-square, and standardized quantification improves data accuracy and comparability. The study effectively links microplastic distribution to urban sources and hydrodynamic processes. Additionally, clear presentation of results through tables and interpretation aligned with global literature strengthens its academic quality and relevance for environmental monitoring and policy formulation., ● Weaknesses / Areas for Improvement:, Despite its strengths, the study has certain limitations. The FTIR analysis was conducted on only a subset, n=100, of particles, which may not fully represent the entire microplastic population. The absence of seasonal variation analysis limits understanding of temporal dynamics. Additionally, reliance on NaCl solution for density separation may underestimate high-density polymers such as PVC. The study lacks biological impact assessment on aquatic organisms, which is crucial for ecological interpretation. Some statistical results are presented without detailed explanation of ecological significance. Furthermore, limited discussion on uncertainty, detection limits, and potential laboratory contamination effects slightly reduces the robustness and transparency of the findings., ● Suggestions for Improvement:, Future studies should include seasonal sampling to capture temporal variations in microplastic distribution. Expanding FTIR or incorporating Raman spectroscopy for a larger sample size would improve polymer characterization accuracy. Use of higher-density separation solutions, e.g., ZnCl<sub>2</sub>, is recommended to recover heavier polymers. Integrating biological assessments, such as microplastic ingestion in aquatic fauna, would strengthen ecological relevance. Advanced statistical modeling and geospatial mapping could better explain distribution patterns. Standardization with global protocols will enhance comparability. Additionally, linking findings with policy frameworks, waste management strategies, and public awareness programs will increase the practical applicability of the research for environmental conservation and management., Your manuscript has been Accepted. 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