



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	British Journal of Applied Science & Technology
Manuscript Number:	2013_BJAST_5776
Title of the Manuscript:	Effects of water hyacinth (<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> [mart.] solms) compost on growth and yield parameters of maize (<i>Zea mays</i>) in the Lake Victoria Basin

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
1. List of abbreviation should be listed at the beginning of manuscript. 2. The following abbreviations should be added: WHE; WHC; WHM; DAR; DAE and RCD. 3. Biological characteristics for each compost are missing. 4. The increase of the clay percentage in the soil should be included in the discussion toward high holding capacity. 5. Soil and compost analysis: line 125; the authors wrote that “total nitrogen was determined by kjedahl method”; while total kjedahl nitrogen or TKN is the sum of organic nitrogen, ammonia (NH₃), and ammonium (NH₄⁺) only in the chemical analysis of soil, water or wastewater. But what about the other two forms: nitrate (NO₃⁻) and nitrite (NO₂⁻). 6. Discussion about the impact of pH on the soil should be more detailed. 7. The authors said “that the effects of water hyacinth compost on soil characteristics will be reported in an independent paper,” this statement should be mentioned at the end of manuscript.	1. The list has now been transferred to the beginning of the manuscript. 2. They have been added though we are not sure if DAR is part of the manuscript. 3. The research laid more emphasis on the physical and chemical characteristics hence the oversight on the biological characteristics but we would be pleased to look into that in the ongoing study and include it on the paper on composting. 4. It has now been included in lines 468 and 490. 5. Total nitrogen has now been change to TKN in line 148; Nitrites were oxidized to stable nitrates and determined using the colorimetric method. 6. The impact of pH on soil as reflected in the crop has now been enhanced (lines 482, 513, 518). 7. It has now been mentioned as part of the conclusion (line 551).