

Interactive comment on “Use of an external organic carbon source in the removal of nitrates in Bio-sand filters (BSF)” by Crispen Mutsvangwa and Evans Matope

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General comments Good Abstract. Good discussion for each element. However, required extra discussion why C/N ratio 1.8 was better than C/N ratio 1.1. Good recommendation for future research (Line 275-278)

Scientific questions/issues Line 150: Define ‘raw surface water’. Line 179: How do you determine the duration for maturation period (3 weeks)? Line 346: Table 4: Need explanation why C/N ratio 1.8, no data for COD removal between 0 to 14 days.

Technical issues Line 39 & 49: Grammatical error. Change ‘in’ to ‘on’. Line 28-33;

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37-38; 40-42; 67-73; 87-89; 91-96; 98-100; 228-232: Include references. Line 55-57: Include references: Shaharudin, N., Suradi, N., & Kamil, N. A. F. M. (2017). Measurement of Water Quality Parameters for Before and After Maintenance Service in Water Filter System. In MATEC Web of Conferences (Vol. 103, p. 06006). EDP Sciences. This study use reverse osmosis to remove nitrogen Line 78: Grammatical error. Include 'the'. Under 'the' study. Line 91: Grammatical error. Include 'are'. Line 125: Include 'Figure 1 shows the schematic diagram of ...' Line 145: Table 1: Include references for 'Recommended Value' Line 146: Grammatical error. Change 'is' to 'was' Line 174: Include word 'process': biological process Line 306-311: The equation should include in Methodology, not in result section.

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