Reviewer’s report

Title: Characterization of Non-Tuberculous Mycobacterium from Humans and Water in an Agro pastoral area in Zambia

Version: 1 Date: 02 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Victoria Birlutiu

Reviewer’s report:

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Dear authors,

First of all, it was a pleasure for me to read your article. A well designed and written manuscript. An article that has a real impact on the spread of NTM in the area, and has a major involvement in the pathology by the new species. After reading the manuscript the following issues raised my concern or represent a suggestion to add to the manuscript:

- Background: Mycobacterium laprae - please correct the spelling

- Line 28-29- People living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) - please rephrase the structure as it has the same meaning

- Line 58 HIV and AIDS the same

- Discussion: Line 7- shanghai China, please correct the spelling

- It would be also interesting to know the immune status of patients where NTM was isolated.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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