Author's response to reviews

Title: Current status on health sciences research productivity pertaining to Angola up to 2014

Authors:

Maria R Sambo (rosariosambo@gmail.com)
Albano VL Ferreira (albanovlferreira@yahoo.com.br)

Version: 3
Date: 9 May 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
To the Editors of Health Research Policy and Systems

May 11th, 2015

Dear Sir(s),

Thank you for considering our paper. We are grateful for receiving the reviewer’s comments that helped us to improve our manuscript. We have included the major comments and contributions in the revised manuscript.

Below, we provide a point-by-point answer to the comments made by the two reviewers. All changes made in the manuscript are highlighted in the text: the new text is highlighted in yellow and the suppressed is strikethrough.

Sincerely,

Maria do Rosário Sambo
(Corresponding author)

Reviewer: Steve Makkar
We thank you for all the comments and contributions that doubtless improved the manuscript.

Major compulsory revisions

1) Page 2, background: This first sentence in the abstract is unclear. Are you saying that health research driven by the healthcare demands of the population can provide an informative evidence base to support decision-making processes? Also what decision making processes are you referring to? Decision making processes about health? Health policy? Practice decisions? Both?

We have included the following text:
Health research driven by the healthcare demands of the population can provide an informative evidence base to support decision-making processes on health policies, programmes, and practices.

2) Page 3, bottom paragraph: In this paragraph you need to cite evidence that demonstrates that the production of health or scientific research in general is particularly low in developing countries as opposed to developed countries. Cite this evidence after the first sentence “e.g., in

We have included the following reference [8] in the text:
Adam T, Ahmad S, Bigdeli M, Ghaffar A, Røttingen J-A. Trends in health policy and systems research over the past decade: still too little capacity in low-income
particular, evidence shows that the research output in developing countries is considerably less than in developed countries”. This provides the basis of your study, and a rationale as to why you are examining the level of research production in Angola. It also will provide a better lead into the next sentence where you say it is crucial to obtain an accurate picture of the landscape of research in developing countries.

3)Para 2 page 4: “The concern with the production of scientific knowledge in health care is universal, being documented with either bibliometric studies of research as a whole, in Africa and other continents and motivated studies of research chronological progression in Africa [9-17]” This sentence is unclear and needs to be rephrased. I believe what you’re trying to say here is that there is, in general, a concern about the (lack of? Or under?) production of scientific knowledge in health care. “There have been documented bibliometric studies of research production in Africa, as a whole, as well as in other continents. This then motivated studies of the chronological progression of research within individual African countries.”

4) I rephrased the sentence because you need to provide a rationale or reason as to why you are now focusing specifically on analysing the research output of one country (in your case, Angola). As how I’ve stated above, research has been done in Africa as a whole, but not individual countries.

5)This is an important point (para 2 page 4): You need a stronger rationale as to why you are focusing on the HEALTH research output of Angola. Are current health policy or decision making processes in Angola ineffective or not evidence based? Is the research that is currently available only relevant to developed countries and therefore cannot be applied to the Angolan context?

More context about the state of Angolan research production/research skills and current decision making needs to be provided to provide a firm rationale as to why you are documenting the research output of this country.

6) Also, You need to emphasise more the importance of potentially documenting the research output on Angola – do you hope this will stimulate more research in the country? Does this, in part, account for the inefficient decision making

| 3)Para 2 page 4: “The concern with the production of scientific knowledge in health care is universal, being documented with either bibliometric studies of research as a whole, in Africa and other continents and motivated studies of research chronological progression in Africa [9-17]” This sentence is unclear and needs to be rephrased. I believe what you’re trying to say here is that there is, in general, a concern about the (lack of? Or under?) production of scientific knowledge in health care. “There have been documented bibliometric studies of research production in Africa, as a whole, as well as in other continents. This then motivated studies of the chronological progression of research within individual African countries.” | We have modified the sentence, as suggested, according to the suggestion and included the references [10-18]:

There have been documented bibliometric studies of research production in Africa, as a whole, as well as in other continents. This then motivated studies of the chronological progression of research within individual African countries.

To address points 5) and 6) we have included the following text and reference in yellow:

Angola, a Portuguese-speaking country is independent since 1975 and spent 27 years in progressive socio-political instability, with the drawback of the civil war that ended 12 years ago. Nevertheless, Angola is making progress towards the achievement of the health Millennium Development Goals but is still far from achieving them [1]. The reconstruction of the national health system and policy will benefit from the knowledge of the factors influencing the success of certain interventions and the measure of their impact on populations. Therefore, health research will contribute to increase efficiency and effectiveness of health policy and decision making processes in Angola on programmes, and practices. Support for science in Angola is less
within the country. You do state this in the final paragraph of the introduction, but I think you need to provide more focus on why you are concentrating on Angola. The benefits you listed in the last paragraph could easily be applied to any country.

How will these findings be relevant and essential to improving Angolan health decision making in particular?

7) Page 5, top para: Although you have stated that this is NOT a systematic review, I think it is important to say why you used BVS to search for these publications?

Also why did you search PubMed and Medline after? You say so in the results, but may be better to say it here.

8) You need a stronger rationale as to why you have selected these databases because, as you have mentioned in the discussion, has clear implications on what you find – in particular, the under-reporting of publications produced by Angolan researchers. Why have you not chosen to look at other databases or even databases that utilise the OVID platform which Medline uses?

To address points 7) and 8) we have included the following text and reference in yellow:

The BVS was chosen because it is a platform that covers human health sciences issues, information sources published in countries of the Portuguese-speaking community and a set of international databases. Moreover, resource constraints did not allow access to other biomedical databases such as those using the OVID platform.

The BVS (http://bvsalud.org) is a platform that covers human health sciences issues. Although Pubmed also includes publications in Portuguese, for Portuguese-speaking community BVS gives an additional advantage because this platform includes information sources published in Portuguese that would be not found on Pubmed, such happens with Scielo.

9) Page 5: para 2 (exclusion criteria): A key methodological issue is how you have chosen to define HEALTH

Regarding your exclusion criteria about “Did not concern human health” – you need to provide more detail by what you are referring here as human health – how broad or how narrow? Physical and mental health? Anything related to health? How did you know or tell that a particular article was about health?

We have suppressed human and included physical and mental health

10) Page 6: para on publication rate: The use of the word “ancient” is not appropriate here. Publications cannot be considered ancient unless they were written in ancient times. Perhaps the use of the word “dated” is more appropriate and then to describe what you mean by this.

We have suppressed the word “ancient” and introduced dated

11) Page 7, para 2 “In the present study, we found in the same period five publications of Angolan institutions, but this did not change significantly the position of Angola in scientific production, in
the context of the African region. “Are you saying that you found five publications “produced” by Angolan institutions? Five publications including researchers that were affiliated with Angolan institutions?

Further, I would caution against using the word “significantly” in any part of the results section since you did not do any significance tests and your findings are primarily descriptive.

12) Page 8 – top para: “The number of patients with HIV infection was one of the variables that remained statistically associated with the scientific production, both in the multivariate and univariate analysis, and South Africa was the country with the largest number of publications.”

This sentence was referred to the paper concerning South Africa. However, since we have not done any analytical study to compare, we decided to exclude this paragraph.

13) Page 9 para 3: I am uncertain as to why you have included this sentence

“However, in MEDLINE/PubMed, we remark a study on 32 OECD countries from 1980-2010 suggesting that the GDP per capita growth rate, the Gini Index and health expenditure had a consistent significant relationship with the Health Index [27].”

How does it relate to the fact that Angolan publications were less about the social determinants of health, and health systems etc.? In fact, this paragraph is out of context and so we decided to exclude the sentence and the reference.

14) Page 10 para 3 first limitation: “The fact that Angola is a Portuguese speaking country and the majority of the journals indexed by MEDLINE/PubMed are in English may have introduced a selection bias, due to idiom barriers. Though MEDLINE/PubMed represented the vast majority of the publications of the study and the search began at BVS, which included papers published in journals indexed by Scielo, it does not embody all the scientific and biomedical journals.”

This limitation then goes back to my earlier question of why you restricted your search to BVS and then PUBMED/MEDLINE. Is BVS a meta search? What exactly is it? I have mentioned this earlier. Although the majority of publications may be in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As aforementioned, the text was modified:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The BVS was chosen because it is a platform that covers human health sciences issues, information sources published in countries of the Portuguese-speaking community and a set of international databases. Moreover, resource constraints did not allow access to other biomedical databases such as those using the OVID platform.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The BVS (http://bvsalud.org) is a platform that covers human health sciences issues. Although Pubmed also includes publications in Portuguese, for Portuguese-speaking community BVS gives an additional advantage because this platform includes information sources published in Portuguese that
English, does PUBMED actually limit displaying articles that are in English? If so, then yes, this would be a serious limitation and a publication selection bias would be operating. MEDLINE and PUBMED are also, separate databases. Why wouldn’t you have searched EMBASE or other databases that use the OVID platform? It has been suggested that the combination of EMBASE with MEDLINE offers quite a comprehensive search strategy. I know you have stated that you did not choose to do a systematic review, but given the urgency of this topic, it might be a better approach to do a more comprehensive search through both the published and grey literature, or at least, through as many databases of published research as is feasible (or a related meta search). Was your limitation to MEDLINE and PUBMED due to resource constraints? If this was, please mention it as this is an understandable explanation.

| 15) Page 11: conclusions (second para). “Overall, this work highlights the rapid increase of scientific publications related to Angola but also a need for reinforcing academy-driven research. “Again, as I stated earlier, your conclusion needs to strengthen the rationale as to why it is important to strengthen research capacity specifically within Angola. The WHO has called for stronger health research and policy links across all countries, so your conclusions need to focus on why this is essential within the Angolan context. This, however, needs to be strengthened and discussed more so in the introduction and summarized here. |
|---|---|
| In the introduction we have exposed the arguments about the need to strengthen health research in Angola and we finished the conclusions with the following sentence: |
| In summary, this work highlights the rapid increase of scientific publications related to Angola but also a need for reinforcing academy-driven research. |

**Minor essential revisions**

**ABSTRACT**

1) Results: Should be written as “fourfold” not four folds
2) Format statistics appropriately with n italics, n = 232.

| Done |

| RESULTS AND DISCUSSION |

8) Page 6 first paragraph of results: Why have you used the term life science here? Don’t you mean health? Please be consistent with your use of terms. Once you have provided a clearer definition of health (see my essential comment above) that includes life sciences then it is probably acceptable to use that term here.

<p>| Done. We have replaced the expression “life sciences” by the word health. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9) “Therefore, the research pursued exclusively on MEDLINE/PubMed keeping the keyword &quot;Angola&quot;.”</td>
<td>• This sentence is not clearly written. Rather, say that you undertook a further search for relevant Angolan publications in MEDLINE/PubMed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10) The sentence is unclear: “All other variables were taken into account using availability of abstract as a single filter which yielded 658 abstracts.”</td>
<td>• Rephrase to: All other variables were taken into account using the availability of abstract as main inclusion criteria, and this yielded 658 abstracts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11) Page 6: para on publication rate: “It is remarkable the increase in the 90s, though irregular, with a trend towards to be more sustained since 2004, peaking in 2013.”</td>
<td>• Please rephrase this to say that there has been a remarkable, albeit irregular, increase in the number of publications during the 1990s, with a more sustained increase from 2004 onwards, and a peak in 2013.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12) Page 7: “Palestine where a total of 770 publications were retrieved in the medical and biomedical field in ten years “</td>
<td>• Change to “medical and biomedical field across a ten-year period (01 January 2002 to 31 December 2011), averaging approximately 80 articles per year. Interestingly, the number of publications has also increased four-fold during this period 2002-2011, showing stabilization in the last three years of the study period.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13) Page 7: “A study published in 2007, that analyzed the geography of the PubMed biomedical “</td>
<td>• Remove the word “the”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14) Page 7 “concluded that, though the contribution of Africa was weak, it was evident a continuous increase during this period “</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Might be best not to say that the contribution of Africa to the publication pool was weak, but rather say that “the contribution of Africa was considerably less than other continents, in particular (e.g., North America, Europe, etc.), although it was evident that there was a continuous increase in publication output during this period in all African sub-regions, although Angola was located in the lowest quintile with less than two publications per year.”

Done

15) Page 7 “Tuberculosis occupied the 10th position with nine papers (Figure 2). As a whole, infectious diseases was a topic of 59% of the publications under analysis (n=178).”

• Change to tenth not 10th

Done

16) Page 7 “There is a clear disproportion between the volume of publications on HIV/AIDS infection and tuberculosis, which was not expected, given the frequent association of both morbidities.”

• It might be better to say that “Interestingly, there was a disproportionate volume of publications on HIV/AIDS relative to tuberculosis, which is unusual given the frequent association of both morbidities.”

Done

• Provide a reference that indicates that TB and HIV are commonly co-occurring

Done [16]

17) Page 8 – top: Slightly change the wording here from “trend to” to “trend towards”

Add the percentage of publications in which the first author came from an Angolan institutions.

Change the sentence to say “The primary affiliation of the first author...”

Done

Done

Done

18) Page 8: “A total of 150 institutions were listed as the first author primary affiliation revealing a high institutional dispersion and 65% of publications represented academic research conducted in universities and institutes or research centers, as shown in Figure 4.”

• Please break up this sentence, for example “...High institutional dispersion. Furthermore 65% of publications represented...”

Done
<p>| Page 8 | The majority of the research in academic institutions, as evaluated by first-author affiliations, were located in Portugal. Change this to “Majority of the research was located in Portugal.” “...although the number of institutions involved in any one of these countries was still quite modest.” Put a full stop after (Figure 5). |
| Page 8 | The majority of publications by first author affiliation country and the number of academic research institutions were located in Portugal, United States of America or Brazil. |
| Page 8 | “Nevertheless, this involvement is dispersed in many different institutions with low track record.” Change to: “Nevertheless, this involvement is dispersed across many different institutions, many of which having relatively low track records [in what?]” |
| Page 8 | Low track records in publications. |
| Page 8 | An Angolan researcher was the first author in fifty-eight abstracts (19%) and when the first author was affiliated to an Angolan institution the first author or co-author were in the vast majority Angolan researchers (Figure 6).” Break up this sentence so it is like below: “An Angolan researcher was the first author in fifty-eight abstracts (19%). Further, when the first author was affiliated to an Angolan institution, the first author or co-author were in the vast majority Angolan researchers (Figure 6).” Also, how were you able to tell that an author was Angolan? |
| Page 8 | Angolan authors and co-authors were identified by consulting their registration on the National Medical Council and in the Universities. |
| Page 9 | Change to “African first authors” instead of “first African authors.” |
| Page 9 | Done |
| Page 9 | Simplify “but in the context of the African region it is noteworthy the fact that one fifth of all publications had an Angolan as first author.” to “it is noteworthy that one fifth of all...” |
| Page 9 | Done |
| Page 9 | “Epidemiological research was by far the most significant (n=165) (Figure 7).” Don’t use the word significant if you haven’t done a statistical test. Use an alternative – “was by far the most common research area” |
| Page 9 | Done |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Modified Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25)</td>
<td>“However, the increasing frequency of non-communicable diseases in sub-Saharan Africa must be a matter of concern for research in Africa in coming years.” Say that “However, the increasing frequency of non-communicable diseases in sub-Saharan Africa is likely to be a matter of concern for research in Africa in coming years.” I think it is too strong to say that it MUST be a matter of concern unless you can provide evidence for this.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 26) | “On the other side, it is noteworthy the small number of publications on socioeconomic and professional research, that includes governance, health policies, health systems management and human resources.”
- You should state what exactly the number were here and/or include the percentages. | Done |
| 27) | Page 9 rephrase “Angola was a war zone during more than 50% of its existence as an independent state, we might have expected a larger number of research publications on relevant topics such as the socioeconomic determinants of health (e.g., unemployment, poverty, education, family dissolution and lifestyles) and the performance of health unities and health systems.”
- Say instead that “Angola was a war zone for more than 50 percent of its existence as an independent state, it could be expected a much relevance of studies evaluating the socioeconomic determinants of health, such as unemployment, poverty, scholarity, family dissolution and lifestyles and also studies on the performance of health unities and health systems.” | Done |
| 28) | “In fact, we recognize the possibility that studies concerning...” Change ‘in fact’ to ‘however’ | Done |
| 29) | Page 9 bottom
“We expect that the increasing number of health professional schools in Angola, particularly since 2009, including six new public medical schools,”
- Rephrase this to:
“We expect that the increasing number of health professional schools in Angola, including six new public medical schools, particularly since 2009, will raise interest in these topics, particularly if educational curricula at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels in Angola incorporates more programs focused on improving research skills and providing on-the-job training in epidemiology” | Done |
| 30) | Page 10, top: Change to “…PLoS ONE and Malaria Journal, both of which are free access” | Done |
| 31) Page 10: | “Additionally, Malaria Journal is the only journal that publishes exclusively articles on malaria and, as shown, this disease was the most published topic found out in the present study. Notwithstanding the debate around open access publishing, it brings to readers of less resourceful countries free access to a wide range of useful research and information [26-29].”
  
  • Rephrase this to “This finding is not unusual given that malaria was the most common research topic among Angolan publications observed in the present study. Notwithstanding the debate around open access publishing, the findings reinforce the importance of open access publishing in providing readers in financially disadvantaged countries with free access to a wide range of relevant research and information.” |
|---|---|
| 32) Page 10 bottom: | “Additionally, authors nationality miss-reporting was detected in a few papers and may have contributed to underestimation of Angolan authorship.”
  
  • Rephrase this sentence, saying that “In addition, the incorrect reporting of authors’ nationality and affiliation, as was observed in a few of the papers in the present study, may further contribute to underestimation of Angolan-authored publications.” |
| 33) Page 11: | “However, Portugal, United States of America and Brazil academic institutions contributed more than Angola universities and research institutes to research publication.”
  
  • Rephase to:
  “However, academic institutions in Portugal, the United States of America, and Brazil contributed more than universities and research centers in Angola to research publication.” |
| 34) The word exiguity is not very clear. Maybe better to say “and remarkably, a very small number of publications on economic and professional issues…” | Done |
Reviewer: Irene Akua Agyepong

We thank you for all the comments and contributions that doubtless improved the manuscript.

Major compulsory revisions

| Background | We have included the following text: Angola, a Portuguese-speaking country, as a country has only 39 years is independent since 1975 and 27 were spent 27 years in progressive socio-political instability, with the drawback of the civil war that ended 12 years ago. Nevertheless, Angola is making progress towards the achievement of the health Millennium Development Goals but is still far from achieving them [1]. The reconstruction of the national health system and policy will benefit from the knowledge of the factors influencing the success of certain interventions and the measure of their impact on populations. Therefore, health research will contribute to increase efficiency and effectiveness of policy and decision-making processes on health programmes, and practices in Angola. Support for science in Angola is less than 0.1% of its GDP, compared to a world average of 1.7% [20]. Consequently, a more serious commitment would be need to build local and national capacity to accelerate the improvement of human resources training for health research.

| We have broken up such as follows below and along the text: The concept of research for health, expressed on the World Health Report 2013, covers a broader range of investigations than health research. This wider view of research will become increasingly important in the transition from the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to a post-2015 sustainable development agenda [1]. In a more restricted concept, health research has the potential to contribute to the identification of social and economic determinants of health. In the context of implementation research, health research and it is a major basis for decision-making processes on health policies, programmes, and practices, especially when driven by the demand of the health problems of the population, in the context of implementation research [2,3]. |

Need to strengthen the way the background is written; the links between the ideas that are being used to justify the research; and how easy it is for a reader to quickly follow the arguments of the researchers. And also agree that they are convincing arguments.

Some of the sentences are long and introduce several ideas. It may make it easier for readers to follow if you break up some of the longer multiple idea sentences a bit e.g. the second paragraph under the background is a single sentence that introduces three different ideas

(1) health research has the potential to contribute to the identification of social and economic determinants of health

(2) health research is a major basis for decision making processes especially

a. when driven by the demand of the health problems of the population

b. in the context of implementation research it would be good to break it up into several simpler sentences that more clearly present each idea rather than keep it as a single complicated sentence. There are several other sentences like that.
On page 4, third paragraph the sentence “When searching the literature on health research in Angola………” is then followed by the sentence “The lack of studies on health research produced in Angola in the last 61 years motivated this work. I think I understand the kind of argument the researchers are trying to make, but the support for the argument could be stronger.

To ensure stronger arguments we have introduced a better characterization of Angola concerning the end of the war and its consequences on the national health system and policy. We also have strengthened the scarcity of support for science in Angola.

**Methods**

Provide some more background for readers on what BVS is why they was the appropriate database to use to compare with medline/pubmed (I assume to see if literature from Angola was well represented in medline /pubmed? It is left to the reader to deduce)

Paragraph 2 on page 5 under methods. “Publications with no abstract available were excluded from the dataset”. Which data set i.e. the BVS data set or the medline /pubmed data set.

We have included the following in the text:

The BVS was chosen because it is a platform that covers human health sciences issues, information sources published in countries of the Portuguese-speaking community and a set of international databases.

Paragraph 2 on page 5 under methods. “Publications with no abstract available were excluded from the dataset”. Which data set i.e. the BVS data set or the medline /pubmed data set.

We have included: ...from the MEDLINE/PubMed dataset

**Results and Discussion**

Page 6 – last sentence under the sub-heading publication rate on this page “This exponential trend was also observed in Palestine…….” Not very clear why the comparison starts with the Palestine specific work. Will be good to put it more in context e.g. perhaps you were interested in the specific comparison with Palestine because it is also Low and Middle income? it has also had problems with conflict? that is the only comparative data available?? some other reason….

Health Research topics: Perhaps the focus on Malaria, HIV/AIDS and TB is related to some extent to international research funding opportunities and funding flows. May be worth exploring a bit of that in the discussion.

The presentation on the authorship and affiliation needs to be easier to follow. I had to re read a couple of times and then re think. In the first place it looks to me like the description is about the country in which the institution of the author is based rather than the country of origin or even work of the author. If so that needs to be made clearer.

Then there is the issue of the type of institution.

We have introduced: This analysis also should consider the issue of the importance of research funding concerning infectious diseases.

We have mentioned Palestine because as Angola this country suffered a military conflict period. Additionally, we did not find publications that do a specific survey of health research in countries with war. We introduced Palestine, a war zone...

We have mentioned Palestine because as Angola this country suffered a military conflict period. Additionally, we did not find publications that do a specific survey of health research in countries with war. We introduced Palestine, a war zone...

**We have changed to:** country in which the primary institution of the first author affiliation was based.
Thus even the primary affiliation of the first author was in an Angolan institution; perhaps these Angolan institutions were not necessarily universities or academic research institution. This is because when you analyzed your data by type of institution and the country of location of particular types of institutions then you have Portugal, US and Brazil rather than Angola leading. Or I have not understood. Whatever it is, the presentation needs to be made clearer.

**In the sentence below, we added: namely hospitals and non-governmental organizations.**

Nevertheless, this involvement is dispersed across many different institutions, many of which having relatively low track records in publications, namely hospitals and non-governmental organizations.

**Limitation of the study**

I find it hard to comment without a better understanding of what BVS is, why you started with BVS and then moved on to Medline/Pubmed. Also how to interpret the fact that about ¾ of the papers you found in BVS were also in Medline/Pubmed

The BVS ([http://bvsalud.org](http://bvsalud.org)) is a platform that covers human health sciences issues. Although Pubmed also includes publications in Portuguese, for Portuguese-speaking community BVS gives an additional advantage because this platform includes information sources published in Portuguese that would be not found on Pubmed, such happens with Scielo. BVS includes a set of databases, namely LILACS, IBECs, MEDLINE, Cochrane Library and SciELO.

**Conclusions**

In the conclusions you mention having an Angolan as the first author. However in the presentation of the findings and discussions, I got the impression you were describing whether the institutes in which first authors were based were located in Angola or not; rather than the nationality of the first author. Clarity needs to be provided on exactly what is being presented to make understanding and interpretation easier

We revised the sentence to clarify this point:

Angola, as the country in which the primary institution of the first author affiliation was based, evidenced the largest number of major affiliations, and about 20% of the publications included an Angolan as the first author.

**Figures**

Please pay more attention to the labeling of the figures. Specifically in figure 1 how are we to read the X axis? The scale of the X axis needs to be consistent or else it needs to be better explained. After 1999, the scale is a single year. Before 1999 sometimes it is a single year, sometimes it is two years, sometimes it is even more. Also since 2014 data is only up to 8th June, this needs to be clearly explained in some way. It is explained in the text, but people may look at the graph in its own right before finding the part of the text where it is explained.

Figure 1 – 3 are all called figure 1 in the text below the graph

Figure 3 – is it “number of publications by country of the primary affiliation of the first author” or

| Done |
| Done |
| Done |
“number of publication by country of the primary affiliation of the institution of the first author” Please provide better clarity.

If figure 4 is to be a black and white figure in print you will need to look at patterning /shading that makes is easier to see the difference between the segments of the pie chart.

Figure 5 is not clearly labeled. Is it institution or nationality of first author? Is it type of institution or number of institutions or both?

| **Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published. | **We have introduced the correction along the text which are highlighted** |