To,

Editor-in-Chief

Water, MDPI

Sub: Request for discretionary Water journal APC waivers

Dear Editor,

I have submitted manuscript entitled “*Migratory birds monitoring of India’s largest shallow saline Ramsar site with big geospatial data using Google Earth Engine for restoration*” which we request you to consider for APC WAIVER for publication. As we are working on this research area without any financial support currently. Our research work has already been acknowledged by Ramsar Convention and published in its official website on the eve of its 50th anniversary. We had also submitted mega project on this burning issue on SERB, DST Govt. of India but due to COVID-19 the evaluation process is still pending. I hope you can easily understand the current pandemic situation and it will be very tough for me to arrange the APC charges but due to the applicability of this prestigious journal I want to publish my research in journal.

The current research assesses the trend of migratory birds and wetland status of world’s one of the important saline lake and India’s largest inland saline Ramsar site “Sambhar Salt Lake” using Google Earth Engine. This playa wetland lies in semi-arid climatic condition of India. It is the only site producing salt from lake surface and sub-surface brine. However, this lake is undergoing severe threat due to illegal saltpan encroachment and excess groundwater extraction. Due to this India is bearing the loss of 340.17 billion dollar in global salt market. This is ultimately reducing wintering of migratory birds and habitat loss. The loss of this site would mean loss of critical habitat for migratory birds, extremophiles like haloalkaliphiles and halophytes, crustaceans, fishes, modification in its ecological character, loss of teal carbon, loss of pharmaceutical and medicinal products and finally livelihood of 1024 villages. We have suggested restoration opportunities that could be practically implemented on ground.

The novelty of this research is practical approach of Google Earth Engine technique for saline wetland monitoring and migratory birds.

This manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal. We have approved the manuscript and agree with submission to Water.

We believe that the findings of this study are relevant to the scope of your journal and will be of interest to its readership.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

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