

Dear Editor,

We thank you for the useful comments provided, that will strengthen this manuscript. We addressed all the points suggested and all corrections requested have been made (Please refer to the corrected version of the manuscript where the changes are highlighted with the track changes tool).

Regarding the analysis of PET, we agree with the editor that it is not strictly a drought indicator but we believe that including an analysis of some properties of PET can help the readers to the understand the behavior of the drought indicators as for example SPEI incorporate it.

However in the revised version we are not referring to PET as a drought indicator but to a key component of the water cycle and added an explanation of its relevance in the context of the present study. Moreover, we refer to the newly published paper (Trambauer et al., 2014) where an in depth analysis of different PET estimates were made for Africa.

Figures 4 and 6 were done using R scripting. Unfortunately with R it is not possible to apply any projection but the original x-y proportions were kept in all the maps.

Best regards,

Gustavo Naumann