

Interactive comment on “Implications of accounting for land use in simulations of ecosystem services and carbon cycling in Africa” by M. Lindeskog et al.

N. de Noblet (Editor)

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I have received 2 reviews and 1 comment on your paper. One review and the comment suggest Major Revision while the other ‘poor’ review recommends minor revision but did not find the paper overall interesting and therefore did not provide any constructive arguments (I therefore do not retain it as valuable).

Based on those and on my own reading of the paper I recommend major revisions and a change of your title as, indeed, you do not at all address the aspect of ecosystem services. Your paper is an evaluation of the improved version of your model. As such it does not yet shed any new light on scientific questions we may have about unknowns

C152

in the carbon budget in Africa, but this paper is a necessary step towards answering such questions in the future. To improve your manuscript I suggest you thoroughly follow the suggestions provided by reviewer 2 and the comment by Tom Osborne, such as: - improve the description of the use you made of the forcing datasets - show maps of land-use changes you took into account through time - better explain the biases between observations and modeled results - clarify the methodology and the with/without land-uses (which is rather comparing a version with dynamic land-cover and no specification of areas with crops nor pasture, with a version where observed land-use areas are accounted for . . . as far as I understood).

I hope those recommendations will help you provide an improved version of the manuscript that I may resubmit to at least one reviewer prior to acceptance.

Best regards - Nathalie

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Dynam. Discuss., 4, 235, 2013.