

Date: August 24, 2015

Handling Editor  
Earth System Dynamics (ESD)

Dear Dr. Anja Rammig,

**Submission of revised manuscript esd-2014-82**

Please find attached herewith our revised manuscript, entitled “*Inter-annual and seasonal trends of vegetation condition in the Upper Blue Nile (Abay) basin: Dual scale time series analysis*”. We have addressed comments made by the reviewers, as detailed below.

We appreciate the considerable time and effort made by the reviewers, whose inputs have substantially improved the manuscript. We would be happy to answer any further questions.

Yours truly

Ermias Teferi

Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Comment	Response
<p>From your analyses it seems that you are not able to attribute drivers for changes in greenness/NDVI. Therefore I would suggest to omit formulations e.g. in P20L24: "Some anthropogenic factors could also be attributed to the observed recent browning trend in the basin." If this has not been done in your study then please change to something like "Other studies attributed anthropogenic factors to the observed recent browning trend..." or similar. Also in other places like P22L17-19.</p>	<p>We have now corrected the statements in the respective places</p>
<p>I would suggest to considerably shorten the conclusions. They do not again need very detailed information on your findings but should summarize what you conclude from your findings. The statements in the final three bullet points are very weak.</p>	<p>We have now shortened the conclusion part in the revised manuscript</p>
<p>(1) How should vegetation activities be increased in the basin? (2) Why was it very useful to identify potentially masked changes in vegetation conditions and what do you conclude from these findings? (3) How did you link your trend analysis to human activities?</p>	<p>We have answered to these questions in the discussion section. We chose to remove the bullet points from the conclusion section as they are redundant.</p>