

ESD-2016-59: EDITOR DECISION

Vienna, March 31st, 2017

Dear Authors,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful responses to reviewer and community remarks raised during the open discussion stage of the peer review process, and for having taken into consideration the editorial comments in the preliminary access review.

The discussion stage brought out a fertile and pertinent debate with respect and elevation among all intervening parties, which is very well appreciated. Insightful, constructive remarks have been formulated, and the authors aptly responded with thoughtful arguments and clear action towards further maturing the manuscript.

Overall, the manuscript is a very good work with relevance to Earth System Dynamics. Even so, it still holds potential to further excel through revision along the lines debated throughout the discussion stage. The authors are already undergoing significant and wise revision efforts, evident in their thorough final responses to the discussion stage.

All in all, by having carefully analysed the manuscript and the thorough discussion process, I warmly encourage the submission of a revised manuscript along the lines debated in the discussion stage and pledged in the final author responses.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With very best wishes,

The handling editor,

Rui Perdigão

P.S.: Specific technical comment:

Regarding the new images, which are well appreciated, I would like to comment on the Figure on Page 3 of the final author comments. This is a relevant addition to the manuscript and overall well presented. However, the arrows are difficult to see in the darker boxes, and along the 10°N parallel where the flux is predominantly zonal. Moreover, where the caption refers to "the future", I would recommend "the simulated future" or equivalent expression deemed suitable to express that this is not necessarily the future per se, but rather a simulated one.