

Author Response to Reviewer #2:

We would like to thank the reviewer for providing detailed comments on our manuscript. Below, we have responded to each review comment (in blue font).

Although not ground breaking, this paper presents a solid co-analysis of available long time series of LAI and SPEI with reference to the Global Human Footprint index in East-Africa. What is disturbing though is that the abstract states: "Much-needed reference point for the disentanglement of historical climatic- and human-induced vegetation dynamics" while a p.14, L3 it is stated: "However, further analysis is required to disentangle human and climatic induced causes of these variations" More thorough discussion of the disentanglement of vegetation dynamics into a human-induced and climatic-induced contributions is necessary.

Response: The main focus of this study was the analysis of trends in vegetation based on LAI time series and the response to climate anomalies. Although our analysis did not address the disentanglement of vegetation dynamics into human-induced and climatic-induced contributions, this was identified as an area for future study. In the revision, a clear discussion was provided on the influence of the human footprint on the vegetation responses to climate anomalies.