

Interactive comment on “Spatial indicators for desertification in south-east Vietnam” by Le Thi Thu Hien et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The manuscript describes the application of a set of combined spatial indicators (multi-factorial approach) to describe desertification status and future trends in selected vulnerable regions of Vietnam. The paper is in general well structured and written.

Few minor revisions as follows are suggested: -page 5 top: provide a reference for the applied Penman Monteith approach -page 5 top: i doubt that the climatic AI indicator alone does indicate desertification rather than the "risk of desertification", as used also for the other single indicators. Please modify it.

- page 5 ff: The scoring system of indicators remains unclear: explain for all individual indicators on which basis the scoring was defined. Is it artificial/subjective classification or was it calibrated? if yes, how it was done? is it based on other studies (provide references)?

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-page 7: provide more information of applied climate scenarios: e.g. RCP type, mean temperature change, time slice....

-page 8 top: which type of reference evapotranspiration? (provide reference, e.g. is it FAO grass reference?)

-Figure 2 and 4: is the ESAI and ESA the same as the RI (see page 7 top) ? This is unclear. Please explain the difference or harmonize the terms, otherwise it remains confusing.

-Discussion: Please add a short description of uncertainties and limitations of the study and research needs /gaps.

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