

Answer to comments Editor

The original comments of the editor are in black color and indicated by “R:”. Replies by the authors (“A”) are **colored in green**. Actions are introduced by “Action:”, changes done in the manuscript are in italics.

Comment:

Dear Authors,

I'm glad to inform you that the paper is accepted for publication in our special issue. The publication is subject to some minor technical corrections here listed:

- references in the abstract should be avoided. If their inclusion is needed for a better understanding of the text (as in your case), you should add the full reference (i.e. journal, number , pages) in addition to the authors and year (abstract should be readable as stand-alone text).
- please check the references to eqs. throughout the text. The order of the eqs. has been changed in the latest version, but some references seem to be still based on the old numbering.

--- Action:

Thank you for accepting our paper for publication.

As per your suggestion, we have added the full reference in the abstract
L11: *“The soil moisture deficit anomaly index, SMDAI, is based on the drought severity index, DSI (Cammalleri et al., 2016, Hydrol. Process., 30, 289–301), but is computed in a more straightforward way that does not require the definition of a mapping function.”*

Also, have checked for the references to eqs. and done the required changes.