Line 57: For the U.S. example, you may want to refer to the U.S. Drought Monitor, a specific product, rather to than the National Drought Mitigation Center, which has developed many products, including several that focus on detecting impacts independently of drought status (see droughtimpacts.unl.edu). However, impacts is one of many inputs to the U.S. Drought Monitor. You may want to add a clarifying statement explicitly stating that underlying vulnerabilities are not taken into account in most DEWS.

Later in discussion 4.4 you may want to add that while most DEWS don't take vulnerability into account, in contrast FEWS (Famine Early Warning System) does consider vulnerabilities. A DEWS is broad-spectrum and weather-driven, warning of drought and letting various sectors respond as they are able. This seems consistent with its conceptual origins, coming from a meteorological services perspective. The concept of "drought impacts" may be too broad to be fully accounted for in a DEWS. It takes a more purpose-built system to express the relationships between an impact, underlying vulnerabilities and physical drought. FEWS originates from a humanitarian perspective and has a more specific purpose, preventing or mitigating famine.

Lines 59 & 60: Can you reword to avoid referring to "aims" in two consecutive sentences, and instead make it clearer that the ideas in the second sentence flow from the first?

Line 81: Reword to "indices commonly used operationally to depict different types of drought"

Line 167: How about "larger than" rather than "superior to", more in keeping with statistical terminology

Line 449 – Can probably delete either "drivers" or "indices."

Under "limitations," you may also want to mention the possible disparity between topics of academic research and policy initiatives. Academic research may or may not align with "real-world" initiatives, such as efforts by agencies and organizations that are working toward Sustainable Development Goals.