Ms. Ref. No.: ECOLIND-20200  
Title: LPDynR: a new tool to calculate the Land Productivity Dynamics indicator  
Ecological Indicators  
  
Dear Mr. Michael Cherlet,  
  
Reviewers have now commented on your paper. You will see that they are advising that you revise your manuscript. If you are prepared to undertake the work required, I would be pleased to reconsider the revised paper for publication.  
  
For your guidance, reviewers' comments are appended below.  
  
If you decide to revise the work, please submit a list of changes or a rebuttal against each point raised by the reviewers when you submit the revised manuscript. We would like to receive your revision by Oct 29, 2021.  
  
To submit a revision, please go to https://www.editorialmanager.com/ecolind/ and login as an Author. On your Main Menu you will see a folder entitled "Submissions Needing Revision". You will find your submission record there.  
  
Please note that this journal offers a new, free service called AudioSlides: brief, webcast-style presentations that are shown next to published articles on ScienceDirect (see also http://www.elsevier.com/audioslides). If your paper is accepted for publication, you will automatically receive an invitation to create an AudioSlides presentation.  
  
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Please upload the revised manuscript with tracked changes as "Revision, changes marked" file and the clean version with all changes accepted as "Manuscript" file.  
  
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Highlights (mandatory)  
  
Highlights consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and should be submitted in a separate file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point). See the following website for more information  
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Ecological Indicators features the Interactive Plot Viewer, see: http://www.elsevier.com/interactiveplots. Interactive Plots provide easy access to the data behind plots. To include one with your article, please prepare a .csv file with your plot data and test it online at http://authortools.elsevier.com/interactiveplots/verification before submission as supplementary material.  
  
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Yours sincerely,  
  
Arturas Kaklauskas, Prof, DrSc, PhD  
Associate Editor  
Ecological Indicators  
  
Reviewers' comments:  
  
  
  
Reviewer #1: Ecol Ind 20200  
  
The submission presents an R-based tool designed to calculate a vegetation-o-centric time series indicator, with inputs derived from remote sensing. The indicator is relatively intuitive and rather elegant. The ultimate result is a map using binned categories and a large-scale and useful case study is included.  
  
This manuscript is particularly well-written and logically-presented but strongly methodologically oriented. There is not a lot of context provided. The submission eschews the more typical Intro-Methods-Results-Discussion format for what is akin to a cookbook approach. The manuscript might not be a good fit for many journals, but it is perhaps an excellent fit for Ecological Indicators. I think that the work could prove to be a much-used reference for other practitioners in this area but it may, conversely, have little appeal for generalist readers in ecology and the environmental sciences. \*The concluding sentence of the conclusions\* captures the primacy of methodology over context: "The package, once installed, includes several examples and a small data set for testing the functionalities and the different parameters to tune them." This is not a bad thing, just a departure from the norm for papers in this field.  
  
Small points:  
  
Highlights: I think that abbreviations make a paper more difficult to read in general, and there is little benefit to using them. In particular, abbreviations should be avoided in the Highlights.  
  
L 139 Along those same lines . . .  
"Above ground vegetation productivity (from now on, SB)  
Above ground season vegetation productivity (from now on, CF)  
Start of vegetation growing season (from now on, SBD)  
End of vegetation growing season (from now on, SED)  
Vegetation growing season length (from now on, SL)"  
  
These are a lot of abbreviations for the reader to track, particularly because they are not at all intuitive, at least in English. Your paper will be more accessible if you minimize abbreviations (formulae, etc. are of course exceptions).  
  
Table 1 Something seems to be off to me. Are the descriptions for Steadiness1 and 2 reversed?  
  
I think that it would be valuable to include additional context that relates the work to complex indicator development. Doing so would increase reader interest without detracting from the (valuable) how-to nature of the manuscript.  
  
  
  
Reviewer #3: The manuscript entitled "LPDynR: a new tool to calculate the Land Productivity Dynamics indicator" focused on the evaluation of the ecosystem dynamics and change via land productivity indicator based on vegetation-related indices (phenology and productivity). This study can further improve the credibility of land assessment. However, there are several problems that need to be corrected before the manuscript is published  
  
Main comments:  
1. Abstract is very simple and difficult to reflect the research focus, authors should add some relevant results to show research findings.  
2. The Introduction and Abstract are highly repetitive and needs to be refined.  
3. I suggest that the analysis of long-term change should add analysis charts under different time scales, otherwise it is very difficult to understand.  
4. The overall structure of the article is slightly scattered, so it is recommended to adjust (4, 5 and 6).  
5. The applicability of this method remains to be verified, and a single case is far from enough to prove it.  
  
  
  
Reviewer #4: This article presented the application of the R-based tool LPDynR to calculate the Land Productivity Dynamics indicator in detail. It provides a methodological reference for the study of land productivity dynamic. Moreover, I have some suggestions with the analysis as performed now.  
1. The tables and figures need to be further adjustment and clearly explained.  
2. The innovation and significance of the article can be explained in the Abstract or Conclusion.  
3. Please consider whether you can add more discussion.