Editor's Comment on cp-2021-16
Martin Claussen (Editor)

Editor comment on "Mid-Pliocene West African Monsoon Rainfall as simulated in the PlioMIP2 ensemble" by Ellen Berntell et al., Clim. Past Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-2021-16-EC1, 2021

Dear Ellen, dear Qiong, and co-authors,

Two reviewers have commented on your manuscript. In principle, they find your ms publishable in Climate of the Past. Both reviewers raise, however, some concern regarding your conclusion that GHG forcing explains the increase in mid-Pliocene West African Monsoon (WAM). Both reviewers would like to see a more critical assessment on the role of vegetation in the mid-Pliocene WAM dynamics. I fully agree with the reviewers, of course. Regarding the role of direct and indirect CO2 effects (CO2 ‘fertilization’ and CO2-induced climate change) on Sahara/Sahel greening in a warmer climate, I would like to draw your attention on the paper by Bathiany et al, J. Climate, 2014 (doi:10.1175/JCLI-D-13-00528.1). Perhaps, you find this paper useful.

In summary, I will not prolong the discussion phase, and I am looking forward to reading your reply to the reviewers.

Best regards,

Martin