

Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., referee comment RC2
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Comment on **essd-2022-117**

Anonymous Referee #2

Referee comment on "LUCAS cover photos 2006–2018 over the EU: 874□646 spatially distributed geo-tagged close-up photos with land cover and plant species label" by Raphaël d'Andrimont et al., Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2022-117-RC2>, 2022

Geo-located photos are increasingly used in the land cover mapping and biodiversity studies. This study presents a large collection containing 874k geo-referenced photos taken at during the period between 2006-2018. Being different from the previously published LUCAS survey photos, the Cover photo is taken at very close distance to the vegetation so that the leaves, structures of the plants can be clearly recorded. The dataset is undergone through an anonymization filtering and some simple statistics of the data are shown. The dataset is clearly described and the potential applications is discussed. The manuscript can be published after some issues to be addressed.

- The structure of how the photos is organized should be further explained. Currently using the link provided by the authors, under LUCAS_COVER, photos are organized by the years obtained. The subdirectory of the year is country, in the country folder, they are in folders named with three digits number, and in these folders, there are again folders named with three digits number. The file system structure and the meaning of these three digits numbers should be further explained.
- The quality of the photos varies greatly from site to site. The light condition, distance to the target varies greatly. For example, LUCAS2012_49204454_Cover.jpg show very dark color and is taken with an upward looking direction. Limited information can be extracted from this photo. Some of the photos are not taken in the field but with samples collected and photos are taken either in a car or a lab (photos in LUCAS2012/FI/492/044). The geo-location of these photos should be checked to make sure that they are correctly labeled.

Detailed comments:

L16, what is the difference between "points" and "locations"?

Figure3. are these cover photos? They are taken close enough to recognize the plant structure.

L86, what are the columns? Are they a from a table?

L112, maybe explain what does xxxx represent in the file name?

Figure4, it would be helpful to add the national boundaries as the background.

Figure5. is it possible to provide more specific classifications (species) of the woodland and shrubland?

Figure6. I do not see photos in categories such as G10, G21, F10, F20, is it because there are less than 300 photos for this class? I would suggest the authors show at least 1 for all classes.