

Interactive comment on “A revision of the Combined Drought Indicator (CDI) as part of the European Drought Observatory (EDO)” by Carmelo Cammalleri et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The article presents a modification in the way to compute the Combined Drought Index that serves to feed the European Drought Observatory. I will not enter into discussion about the CDI itself. I think it has some flaws in terms of flexibility to deal with environments of different characteristics that respond at different time scales to droughts, and I also prefer the inclusion of the evaporative demand into the computation of the climatic drought index. Said that I also see the value of this index and that is widely accepted, and used as reference for EDO. The proposed modification is rather logical and it implies an improvement in the capability of the index to deal with reversal conditions happening during the evolution of specific drought events. This is why I think that is good to publish the paper, in order to inform to potential users on the characteristics

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of the modified index. About the paper itself, I do not have much specific comments to provide, the objective is clear, and it is well structured and written. I would suggest a more critical introduction of the CDI compared to other drought index implemented in monitored systems at large scales, and I would also try to perform a more quantitative assessment of the improvement associated to the modified CDI index, in the current manuscript is merely descriptive (it is true that the case studies suggest a certain improvement compared to CDI-1). The Figures showing the area affected by drought under CDI1 and CDI2 should present labels in their axis to facilitate the reading.

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