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Interactive comment on “A climatology of dust emission events from northern Africa using long-term surface observations” by S. M. Cowie et al.

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This is a nice paper with a good approach that should be published.

I had just two comments on reading through it: “The normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI; Tucker et al., 2005) is a popular proxy for vegetation, especially in semi-arid areas such as the Sahel (Huber and Fensholt, 2011; Olsson et al., 2005) to which it is particularly well suited.” None of these papers argues that the NDVI is particularly well suited to low LAIs: in fact if you look closely at Zhu et al., 2013, it is clear that there is a lot of spread in the LAIs estimated from NDVI and from the data, and that

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there is a lot of bias in low LAIS (e.g. about 0.1 LAI overprediction, I think). I think it would be more fair to say that we use it because there is nothing else, but it does not do a good job in arid places. NDVI can only get greenness, so brown vegetation, which holds down soils isn't well captured.

Typo: Koch, J. and Renno, N. O.: should be Kok, J.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 14, 7425, 2014.

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