

Interactive comment on “Chemical composition and source apportionment of atmospheric aerosols on the Namibian coast” by Danitza Klopper et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 22 July 2020

The manuscript presents a long and detailed discussion of the results of a long campaign aimed at the PM characterization in a site on the Namibian coast. The data are new and sound and add a substantial piece of information on the area and, more in general, on the PM composition in that part of the world. The manuscript is clear and well written and I recommend the publication on ACP. I have included as comments in the text (see uploaded file) a series of minor corrections that should be implemented before the publication. In addition I have a more general comment: in my opinion the importance of the article is in the large and detailed set of data that have been collected. The PMF analysis does not add so-much (and I see that in the conclusions its results poorly commented) since the quantification of the impact (i.e.

C1

fraction of the PM mass) of each "source" (I do not like the term as it has been used in the text, see comments in the PDF) is not very firm due to the sea salt "contamination" basically in all the detected factors. I'd invite the Authors to add in the text some more comments on the significance of the PMF exercise.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/acp-2020-388/acp-2020-388-RC2-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-2020-388>, 2020.

C2