

Interactive comment on “The WASCAL high-resolution regional climate simulation ensemble for West Africa: concept, dissemination, assessment” by Dominikus Heinzeller et al.

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ESSD has accepted these model products and this descriptive manuscript for review. The journal does not seek nor generally accept outputs of regional or global climate models; a prior submission of results from a downscaled regional climate model highlighted some of the difficulties and challenges inherent in evaluating the quality and merit of such products.

Working with the authors and with the World Data Centre for Climate (WDCC), I as chief editor for ESSD have identified collaboration and technical features of this regional product for West Africa that seem to me to make it uniquely useful and relevant to

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a wide range of users. The collaboration features include partnership (including joint authorship) with researchers from West Africa and a positive response by WDCC to anonymous review requirements of the journal. The technical features include use of two separate in situ data sets for comparison and validation, forcing by a much-used (and much-referenced in ESSD) re-analysis product, detailed guidance to users to help them access permanently-identified (doi-labeled) product sets within the WDCC, and preparation and submission of a fully-open subset of the model outcomes (at daily and monthly time resolution) to a separate data archive outside of the usual exchange infrastructure for model products.

From a practical point of view, no existing journal handles submissions covering this range of model description, in situ validation data and environmental relevance. ESSD hopes to achieve a prompt high-quality review. Once we learn the outcome and impact we can talk to other Copernicus journals about alternatives and options.

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2017-93>, 2017.

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