

Interactive comment on “Key Landscapes for Conservation Land Cover and Change Monitoring Thematic and Validation Datasets for Sub-Saharan Africa” by Zoltan Szantoi et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The article is of a high quality and addresses a very important issue of data scarcity, and taking into account an immensely important component of sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The methodology provided looks very sound and easy to follow. The map validation and accuracy assessment process was robust resulting in very high accuracy, given the complex and heterogeneous nature of the landscape in the study areas.

The data is of good quality and easy to visualize at the Copernicus Hot-Spot website. However, in its present form the data is too large for download in countries with limited internet bandwidth. Although the Copernicus Hot-Spot website provides open access

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to all the data presented in the article, the value added could be enhanced, by ensuring the data is packaged in manageable form for download by resource managers and decision makers. Additionally, making the validation data set open and accessible will facilitate replication of the mapping process by technicians in the pilot countries

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