

## ***Interactive comment on “Accounting for El Niño-Southern Oscillation influence becomes urgent for predicting future East African ecosystem responses” by Istem Fer et al.***

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I thank the reviewer for the encouraging comments and constructive suggestions.

I agree with the reviewer that the ENSO behaviour would be different under lower emission scenarios. We chose RCP8.5 only, because with a high emissions scenario such as the RCP8.5, we intend cover the broadest range of potential changes from present to future. Furthermore, current trajectory points beyond the RCP8.5 scenario as we briefly mention in the methods, which explains why some of the recent high-profile publications also only used the RCP8.5 scenario: Burrows et al. 2014; Yoon et al. 2015; Milly et al. 2016

C1

Following the reviewer's suggestion, we will add further discussion in the text and address the rest of the comments as soon as possible.

Papers cited above:

Burrows MT, Schoeman DS, Richardson AJ et al. (2014) Geographical limits to species-range shifts are suggested by climate velocity. *Nature*, 507, 492-495.

Milly PCD, Dunne KA (2016) Potential evapotranspiration and continental drying. *Nature Climate Change*, advance online publication.

Yoon JH, Wang SY, Gillies RR, Kravitz B, Hipps L, Rasch PJ (2015) Increasing water cycle extremes in California and in relation to ENSO cycle under global warming. *Nature Communications*, 6, 8657.

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C2