

Interactive comment on “Floods in the Niger basin – analysis and attribution” by V. Aich et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The paper addresses a very challenging issue about the recent evolution of flood risk in the Niger basin. The authors attempt to provide a comprehensive overview of flood risk by documenting damages, hydrological hazard and to attribute it to land use and rainfall changes. Other aspects as climatic attribution are also considered.

The authors made a serious effort to gather and confront different available databases (damages, rainfall, discharge) in a region where data access is notably difficult. The paper provides some original elements that contribute to the documentation of trends in hydrological variables in West Africa- for instance by studying series of annual maximum discharges. However the subject treated here is too broad and too complex to be addressed completely in one general paper. Moreover, I am really not convinced by some of the results. In particular, several major statements made by the authors about hydrological attribution are not supported by the data analysis and the methodology.

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I provide in the attached pdf the main reasons for my position and detailed comments to add to the interactive discussion.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:
<http://www.nat-hazards-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/2/C2150/2014/nhessd-2-C2150-2014-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 2, 5171, 2014.

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