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## ***Interactive comment on “Perceptions, impacts and adaptation of tropical cyclones in the Southwest Pacific: an urban perspective from Fiji, Vanuatu and Tonga” by A. D. Magee et al.***

### **Anonymous Referee #1**

Received and published: 28 December 2015

General comments: The authors investigated the public perception of tropical cyclones (TCs), the impacts that these events produced and the adaptation strategies adopted in three nation islands in the Southwest Pacific. For the purpose, the authors conducted a one-on-one verbal survey across three island nations with 130 interviews using 8 questions for respondent. They discuss the results with three key objectives: (i) to understand the varying perceptions of TCs, (ii) to uncover processes of preparation and methods of adaptation, and (iii) discuss the potential of merging weather related traditional knowledge (TK) with non-traditional knowledge (NTK) of meteorology and climate science.

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The paper is well structured and written and the topics that the authors have investigated have a relevant role in improving social vulnerability and resilience from natural disasters. The title reflect the contents clearly and unambiguously and the abstract provide a concise, complete summary of the work. The knowledge of the public feelings and of the adaptation measures adopted by the population is fundamental in the wider context of the disaster risk reduction processes. Although a lot of work was done, the paper could be improved. It missed important issues that should be added to better explain the differences that emerged in the survey results. The results across the three islands could be related to the differences in the frequency and intensity of the TCs or in the differences of the social context of the island. Data related the occurrences of TCs and of the social vulnerability indices should be quantified to provide the readers useful information for understanding the context of the survey and to discuss the differences in the survey results. The respondent's answers on the impacts and on the damages cause by TCs, should be related with objective data, collected by governmental offices or by insurance companies, to give a measure of the truthfulness of the respondent's perception. Some references of previous studies in the use of public perception of natural hazards, should be added to highlight the importance of the survey.

Specific comments: The introduction should be improved. Figure 5: The percentage numbers are not very legible. Figure 8 and 9 are very interesting but the text inside the box could be difficult to read. Page 7144 line 4: based, please delete, it is double  
Page 7150 line 3: characteristics, please delete, it is double.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.nat-hazards-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/3/C2840/2015/nhessd-3-C2840-2015-supplement.pdf>

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