

Interactive comment on “Brief communication “Loss and Damage from a catastrophic landslide in Nepal”” by Kees van der Geest and Markus Schindler

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Dear Ms Roberts,

Thank you very much for your valuable input.

In the brief communication, we refer to ‘poor’ households only in the abstract. In the actual body, we divide the sample into households in the ‘lower’ or ‘higher’ income group, based on the categories of annual income shown in figure 2. However, we recognize that these two different ways of describing households may be confusing, and will homogenize them for the final draft.

House adjustments are, very generally, modifications made to a house so that it is bet-

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ter equipped to withstand the impact of a potential landslide. This includes enhancing the physical prowess of the house, or moving it to a safer location. Land use adjustments, on the other hand, describe efforts to use the land in a way that avoids land degradation and the increase of landslide risk. Thank you for highlighting this, we will make sure to clarify the meaning of house adjustments in the revised text.

As you rightly point out, the landslide and its severity were caused by multiple factors. Heavy rainfall finally triggered the event to occur, but this would have been very difficult to predict before the landslide. Satellite images of the area show that signs of land degradation had already been appearing years before the landslide, but these signs tended to appear and disappear without any discernable pattern. Hence, predictability is a big issue that goes beyond our scope at the moment.

Finally, we would definitely like to include some policy recommendations. Initially, we assumed that the formal limitations of the brief communication format would prevent us from doing so, but we have since learned that we can expand the content a bit more once the review-round is concluded.

Thank you again for your comments and suggestions,
Kind regards, Markus Schindler & Kees van der Geest

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