

***Interactive comment on* “Brief Communication: Vehicles for development or disaster? The new Silk Route, landslides and geopolitics in Nepal” by Karen Sudmeier-Rieux et al.**

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The authors would like to thank the anonymous reviewer for their careful reading of our commentary, “Brief Communication: Vehicles for development or disaster? The new Silk Route, landslides and geopolitics in Nepal”. In light of the editor’s suggestion to refocus the paper, we will not respond to each reviewer point but rather provide an overall response. The main point made by both reviewers and the editor is that the commentary tried to answer too many questions in a short space, with several research papers condensed into one brief communication. This point is well taken and the authors have accepted to undertake a major rewrite. The new article is an opinion

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piece with the objective of highlighting key environmental and governance policy issues with regards to road construction in Nepal in light of several new drivers, in particular, the new decentralized Federal governance structure and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The authors respond specifically with regards to: Reviewer 2 comment "“High number of references are from online and popular media sources. Where is the data?”"

This comment is interesting, however as issues with regards to decentralization and the BRI are so recent, there are hardly any peer-reviewed publications on this topic, at least not according to our research, which is thus mainly based on "grey literature": government publications, white papers and newspaper articles.

Thus the novelty and importance to research and publish on this topic, which is what we are intending with the revised commentary. We hope the rewritten brief communication meets expectations. Thank you once again to NHESS for considering our revised manuscript for publication.

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