

Interactive comment on “Global fatal landslide occurrence 2004 to 2016” by Melanie J. Froude and David N. Petley

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The authors agree that it is highly important for the observations and predictions of landslide scientists to be acted on by society. The article serves to highlight several contexts in which landslide mitigation can reduce harm to people.

The authors recognise that the proportion of fatal landslides that go unreported varies by country. Sepulveda and Petley (2015) demonstrated that 95% of fatal landslide reports in South and Central America were captured by the database using an English based language search, compared with using a Spanish and Portuguese based language search. It would be useful to repeat this exercise in the future for Asia.

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A valid point is made on line 454 that planning policies alone are not sufficient to control landslide risk in developed nations, as well as developing nations. The Litochovice landslide (Czech Republic, 2013) mentioned in the comment may have been preconditioned by road construction at the landslide toe and mining at the head of the landslide. Prior geomorphological mapping and slope assessment to identify potential slope instability is an important step in infrastructure development that can be guided by policy.

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C2