

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

Anonymous Referee #1

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Summary: Overall this manuscript is well written, provides interesting findings reviewing over a decade of landslide reports and adds value to this topic within the landslide community. With minor revisions, I recommend this manuscript for publication. I do not see any major weaknesses in the methodology or evaluation methods and appreciate the insight provided in the discussion section regarding the challenge with anthropogenic modification of hillslopes in causing landslide fatalities; however the authors state in several places that human disturbance may be more detrimental to future landslide incidences than climate. I think a more accurate statement is that it may be more detrimental to future fatal landslides incidences, as the understanding of how climate may modulate change in extreme rainfall and how that may impact landsliding has not, to my knowledge, been robustly addressed. Please see specific comments below.

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Line 106-7: How was the spatial precision determined? While this does not affect the analysis in the paper, it would be helpful to provide another sentence or a reference to how this precision was obtained for each report. Line 171: What precipitation data did you use in your analysis? Line 195: I believe there is a word missing from the sentence that starts with “The season is bimodal. . .” possibly “with peaks in rainfall on either side of a midsummer. . .” Lines 240, 244, 247, 251: Should be changed to Figure 6, not Figure 7 Line 261: What is meant by the term unsettled weather? Line 312: Suggest changing “which” to “that” and removing the comma Lines 439-441: Run on sentence, consider revising. Line 444: Consider adding “fatal” to the wording, “disturbance (land use change) may be more detrimental to future fatal landslides incidence. . .” Line 453-55: Suggest reworking sentence, it reads rather awkwardly Line 460-461: Sentence starting with “Several landslides were triggered. . .” is a repetitive sentence and is likely not needed here. Line 461: Suggest omitting the word “simple” as often effective communication of risk by the government is not that simple. Lines 471-476: Suggest reworking sentence, it reads rather awkwardly Line 479 and other references: is it necessary to write AD prior to the years 2004 to 2016? I suggest removing as I am confident readers will not confuse it with events 4000 years ago.

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