

Interactive comment on “Examining the sustainability and development challenge in agricultural-forest frontiers of the Amazon Basin through the eyes of locals” by Irene Blanco-Gutiérrez et al.

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Peer Review Comments for Blanco-Gutiérrez et al. 2019

Journal: Natural Hazards Earth Systems Science; Special Issue: Remote sensing, modelling-based hazard and risk assessment, and management of agro-forested ecosystems

Title: Examining the sustainability and development challenge in agricultural-forest frontiers of the Amazon Basin through the eyes of locals Author(s): Irene Blanco-

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Gutiérrez et al.

COMMENTS

1. Initial paragraph or section evaluating the overall quality of the discussion paper ("general comments").

Scientific Significance: The manuscript represents a substantial contribution to the understanding of natural hazards and their consequences through the use of the network analysis called Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping.

Scientific Quality: The scientific and/or technical approaches and the applied methods are largely valid in my judgment, although I am not a network analyst. The authors seem to 'lump' two very different communities together for comparative purposes; would benefit from describing the cultural/ethnic/socioeconomic makeup of the focus groups sampled. In addition, the importance of linguistic and cultural variability in understanding of terms such as climate change should be clearly addressed.

Presentation Quality: The scientific data, results and conclusions are presented in a clear, concise, and well-structured way.

2. Individual scientific questions/issues ("specific comments").

P. 2 Lines 10-15. Consider updating this introduction with urgency of environmental degradation such as the recent megafires in Amazon.

P. 4 line 4, worth mentioning that Brazilian governance structure demonstrates the volatility of politics in Amazonian countries, and the relative disengagement of the larger global community. This could also be discussed briefly on p. 14, line 15-16.

P. 5 Line 10. What is the cultural background/ethnicity of these ribeirinhos? Seems that these communities in Bolivia and Brazil would likely have some important differences.

P. 12 Lines 10-15. With regard to climate change it's possible that there are cultural, linguistic, inter-group, or even individual differences in perceptions of the meaning of

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the term 'climate change'. Please address this.

P. 13-14. In discussion mentions unanticipated results for climate change which reinforces my comment above. In my experience conducting climate change oriented interviews with indigenous gardeners of the sub-tropics, interviewees stated clearly that climate change is not relevant because 'the weather is always changing'. Thus it's worth asking if concepts of climate change amongst Western scientists might not apply to traditional communities.

3. Compact listing of purely technical corrections at the very end ("technical corrections": typing errors, etc.). Not included.

Table 3 has misspelling 'focusses'

P. 14 Section heading: I think it should read "Effecting Change..."

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2019-144>, 2019.