

## Reviewer 2

This is a welcome contribution to the literature on natural hazards in Central Asia.

We thank the reviewer for the positive feedback on our manuscript. Below, we are providing in blue our reply to each specific comment to indicate how these have been addressed in the revised version of the paper.

In the abstract, reference is made to the use of synthetic events. Elsewhere these are termed 'counterfactual' events. A counterfactual event is an alternative realisation of a historical event. Such events would be useful for scenario analysis. To avoid misunderstanding, the term 'synthetic' should be used consistently in the paper.

In the revised version of the manuscript, we have homogenized the term to synthetic events to avoid the possible misunderstanding pointed out by the reviewer.

My biggest concern over this paper is the treatment of human factors, specifically corruption and mismanagement. There is a significant correlation, first identified by Ambraseys and Bilham in 2011, between earthquake damage and corruption. On the Transparency International Corruption Index, the country rankings are: Kazakhstan 101, the Kyrgyz Republic 140, Tajikistan 150, Turkmenistan 167, and Uzbekistan 121.

These rankings are worse than in other countries which are used for loss cost comparisons.

The challenge of addressing Central Asian loss costs can only be fully met if the pervasive political and socio-economic factors are explicitly assessed. Otherwise, the results will be misleading to risk stakeholders.

We understand and to some point share the concern of the reviewer regarding the relevance of human factors in this field and are aware of the different publications about corruption and disaster/emergency management. However, this aspect is beyond the scope of the paper which main objective is to find a relationship between the direct losses and the total emergency costs.

In the discussion section of the revised version of the manuscript, we have added some text regarding this limitation, but indicating that it is a field on which not only past and recent research are available (adding representative references for this), and has relevance in the actual execution of the any plan during the emergency response.