

Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., referee comment RC2
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Comment on hess-2021-177

Anonymous Referee #2

Referee comment on "Using Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis for transdisciplinary co-design of the FANFAR flood forecasting and alert system in West Africa" by Judit Lienert et al., Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2021-177-RC2>, 2021

General comments:

While the paper does address relevant scientific questions within the scope of Hydrology and Earth System Sciences, it does not do so in a novel, innovative and comprehensible way. The manuscript in its current format seems to resemble a project report in memo style that describes what has been done in the FANFAR project. Already the very long abstract leaves readers confused about the actual research question, the target audience, the methodological innovation, the novel results and derived insights. Not much more clarity can be gained from reading the full lengthy report, which could not only be shortened and streamlined but also better structured and more clearly written (native speaker check needed; jargon and buzzword heavy) to qualify as a journal publication.

Specific comments:

I understand that the authors argue that their MCDA approach is more transdisciplinary in nature – emphasized by adding the buzzword co-design – than existing MCDA approaches. Reading the methods, results and discussion section I do, however, not see this claim substantiated. If the authors still see this as the USP of their contribution I suggest that their work must be better embedded in and contrasted with the existing MCDA literature. Maybe there really is a methodological innovation that has scientific and policy relevance – in the current manuscript this 'treasure' is very effectively hidden though (see general comments on the overall quality of this preprint above).