

Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., referee comment RC1  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2020-417-RC1>, 2021  
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## **Comment on nhess-2020-417**

Anonymous Referee #1

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Referee comment on "Improving flood damage assessments in data-scarce areas by retrieval of building characteristics through UAV image segmentation and machine learning – a case study of the 2019 floods in southern Malawi" by Lucas Wouters et al., Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2020-417-RC1>, 2021

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To begin with, I have a remote sensing background and I'm not too familiar with assessing flood damage in practice. Please consider the comments with this regard. I have to admit that I was on the verge of rejecting the paper, due to methodological weaknesses. Working in a data-poor region can be somewhat challenging, but this argument cannot justify methods and results in conflict with scientific standards. However, I'd like to see if the manuscript can be improved after major revisions to meet the scientific standards of the journal. In the supplement doc you will find general and technical comments.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://nhess.copernicus.org/preprints/nhess-2020-417/nhess-2020-417-RC1-supplement.pdf>