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Comment on nhess-2021-176

Anonymous Referee #5

Referee comment on "Hydrological Drought across Peninsular Malaysia: Implication of drought index" by Hasrul Hazman Hasan et al., Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2021-176-RC5>, 2021

This paper attempts to deal with a very difficult issue which is drought monitoring. The authors used only one index [Streamflow Drought Index (SDI)] for monitoring drought across Peninsular Malaysia.

I have many concerns regarding the appropriateness of this manuscript for publication in this high-impact journal and especially in the special issue "Recent advances in drought and water scarcity monitoring, modeling, and forecasting". The specific manuscript was presented with no innovative point of view regarding the advantages in the topic of the SI. The contribution of this research in the literature is very weak and unclear. Specifically, the authors used the well-known SDI drought index and simply discussed the results. The paper seems to be more a technical report than a research paper and this can be obvious concerning the structure and the results of this work. Also, the proposed approach seems to have strong local applicability.

The authors should highlight the contribution of their work in regards to the previously published works. Also, the authors should mention extra information about the existence or not of drought early warning systems across Peninsular Malaysia. What about the flash drought monitoring processes in the study area?