

Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., referee comment RC2
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Comment on nhess-2021-291

Hamed Moftakhari (Referee)

Referee comment on "A global open-source database of flood-protection levees on river deltas (openDELvE)" by Jaap H. Nienhuis et al., Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2021-291-RC2>, 2022

Here the authors have developed and presented a very useful open-source global database that provides information on river delta levees and the area protected by them from flooding. While the database is interesting and the manuscript is well-written, I am afraid if I see any explicit research question to be explored by the authors. I mean, while the database can be beneficial for modeling and flood hazard assessment and would provide an excellent ingredient for research projects, in this submission the scientific contribution and novelty is missing.

So, my suggestion is that authors reconsider the outlet, and consider other venues/journals (i.e. Scientific Data <https://www.nature.com/sdata/>) that better suite the scope of this draft. However, I'd leave it to the editor and authors to decide.

Also, on a very minor suggestion, I encourage to enrich your discussion in "1.2. Why levees matter" to explain the concept of levee effect and how it has been contributed to the increased exposure to flooding in the past. See this for example (<https://www.pnas.org/content/103/40/14653>)