

Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., referee comment RC2
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Comment on nhess-2021-334

Anonymous Referee #2

Referee comment on "Terrain visibility impact on the preparation of landslide inventories: a practical example in Darjeeling district (India)" by Txomin Bornaetxea et al., Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2021-334-RC2>, 2022

General comments

In your work "Terrain visibility impact on the preparation of landslide inventories" your goal is to investigate "a possible relationship between the degree of visibility of the [landslide] territory from roads and the spatial distribution of information on landslides".

I fear I have to say I do not follow your research question. It is obvious that only visible landslides can be mapped during a field survey, certainly if you do your field survey from a distance. You also explain, and cite, this in your Introduction/Rationale in lines 89-93, even with a comparison to remote sensing products. And you even state you "expected" those results in line 270. As I see it, the present work is basically a validation of your method from a previous work to calculate visibility.

On Introduction/Rationale, in your case, I suggest to not separate Introduction and Rationale. The first part of your Rationale is basically a repetition of the introduction, and on the other hand, the introduction lacks information, for example on what you mean by "visibility". As stated below, the Rationale can be shortened (see the specific comments). Furthermore, the question of **completeness** takes a large part in your Rationale (L62-94), but it is not clear how you want to apply this in your work, and indeed you don't. You only state your goal very briefly in L112-114, this needs to be better connected to what you said before.

The following sections have a fair structure. However, it is often not clear to me, what purpose the content of these serve, i.e. , what is the relation of lithology to your research question? You only briefly state that lithology is homogeneous in your visibility classes in your discussion.

Specific comments

L44-47: This structural information is unnecessary, since it basically just states the headings of the following sections.

L49-52 : You shouldn't number your listing if you never refer to it again. Furthermore, as stated above, this is a repetition of the part in the introduction on why landslide inventories are important and for what they are used.

L95-111: I don't see how the meticulous listing of different methods on evaluating the completeness of landslide inventories is relevant for your work. Even more so, since you never bring it up again

L385: Here you generalize your findings to field surveys and even historical data as a whole, this does not follow, since you limited your investigation to field surveys "from roads".

Technical corrections

Bracketed citations should be at the end of a sentence not in the middle, if you need to refer to specific works within a sentence use in-text citation.