

Date: 20 August 2026

Authors responses to the editor's comments:

1. Regarding Figure 3, inset A: the map from Burton et al. 2022 has to be shown entirely (eventually with an inset or a rectangle emphasizing the area considered) and permission granted for its use.

Editors comments: Actually, the paper <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11069-021-05095-9> has clearly stated on the front page © The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature B.V. 2022. They have, on the web version of the article, the images available for download, but there is no mention of a Creative Commons License. The other figure, from the article

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Authors response: Thank you for clarifying this copyright issue. We have revised the figure 3 using the social vulnerability information by Burton et al. (2022) with the flood exposure/frequency information from Matheswaran et al. (2019) into a single comprehensive map to show the areas characterised by both high social vulnerability and substantial flood exposure. This is much more beneficial to the paper's arguments and discussion, rather than presenting these dimensions in separate panels as in the previous figure version.

We have then superimposed the four categories of flood-vulnerability drivers identified through our literature screening: anthropogenic, climatic, governance, and infrastructure-related drivers. As mentioned previously, the coloured triangular symbols are intended to illustrate the spatial occurrence and co-existence of these reported drivers within the study region. We have clarified in both the revised figure caption and manuscript that their spatial representation is illustrative and diagnostic rather than predictive, exhaustive, or a quantitatively validated spatial assessment.

We have also revised the figure caption to clearly acknowledge the original sources and explain how the comprehensive map was developed. For transparency, we disclose that generative AI (ChatGPT, OpenAI) was used to assist with the graphical overlays and visual presentation of the revised map in figure 3. We emphasise that the resulting figure is a

synthesis for conceptual and diagnostic interpretation and should not be considered a reproduction of either original map.

These new revisions have now, we believe, made the purpose, data sources, interpretation, and limitations of Figure 3 substantially clearer.

2. Regarding Figure 4: please try to use a drawing framework that will make the lines used to connect the circles more geometric/smooth. Now the design is not proper for publication. The same applies to Figure 6.

Actually, I do not see a revision in Figures 4,5 and 6.

For example, in Figure 4, the lines for inclusion, interaction, and feedback are with different curvatures, and the labels are horizontal, while curving them might look better.

For example, in Figure 5, the blue lines do not appear to be horizontal, and the arrows are at different distances from the rectangle border.

For example, in Figure 6, in the lower part of the drawing, the black arrows are not the same width; in the upper part, the lines of feedback, interactions, and inclusion do not have the same curvature.

As an overall comment in this regard, I would say that you will need a diagram framework to position the graphic elements automatically, or you will need help from someone with a background in graphic design. This type of graphics needs to be visually appealing in a publication.

Authors' response: I have now revised and redraws Figures 4,5 and 6, in particularly those lines making them smooth and aligned to make more visually appropriate for the journal publications.

Notifications from the technical team:

3) Figure 2: Please directly include the source links of the maps in the figure caption. Please place affiliation 3 on the line below affiliation 2 in the title page of the manuscript.

Actually, you included references to the links. Please read this material again:

[https://www.natural-hazards-and-earth-system-](https://www.natural-hazards-and-earth-system-sciences.net/submission.html#manuscriptcomposition)

[sciences.net/submission.html#manuscriptcomposition](https://www.natural-hazards-and-earth-system-sciences.net/submission.html#manuscriptcomposition), where there are the details of manuscript preparation. You will see that there is no mention of using a section like your (Figures and news links:). So all the info from this section has to be moved to the figure captions.

Authors' response: Thank you for highlighting this. I have now added the sources of all news articles and images to the figure caption. However, this has made the caption considerably longer and more detailed and I hope this is aligned with journal requirement. And placed the affiliation 3 on the line below affiliation 2 in the title page of the manuscript.