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Interactive comment on "Annual flood sensitivities to El Niño Southern Oscillation at the global scale" *by* P. J. Ward et al.

P. J. Ward et al.

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Dear Dr. Hidalgo,

Many thanks for taking the time to comment on our paper; we are pleased that it is of interest. Indeed, one of the problems in many regions is the scarcity of observed streamflow data (particularly daily data that are needed to examine extremes). We also encountered this problem when attempting to assess global relationships between Qmax and ENSO based on gauging stations in Ward et al. (2010), and this was one of the main motivations for the current study and paper. However, as you correctly point out, the more finer-scale patterns (such as those in regions with relatively small catchment size, such as in the Caribbean coast of Central America) will always be

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difficult, if not impossible, to capture with global scale models, which are better suited to analyses across larger basins and regions. We will also point out this limitation of the global approach in the limitations section of the revised manuscript.

We agree that our paper suggests the opportunity for similar studies at more local scales in those regions found to be ENSO-sensitive, and would welcome future collaborations on such issues with you, or indeed the rest of the scientific community.

Best regards Philip

Dr. Philip Ward Institute for Environmental Studies VU University Amsterdam

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