

Interactive comment on “Flooding dynamics in a large low-gradient alluvial fan, the Okavango Delta, Botswana, from analysis and interpretation of a30-year hydrometric record” by P. Wolski and M. Murray-Hudson

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The comments of reviewers of our paper were twofold: - general, i.e. pertaining to the contents of the paper - technical, i.e. pertaining to language and form of the paper.

Here we address the general comments only.

Reviewer #1 The main point made by reviewer #1 is that it is not clearly stated in the paper that the explanation of observed cyclic behaviour in water level and flows as caused by vegetation growth reacting to nutrient pulses is a hypothesis only. Indeed it is a hypothesis, and a rather crude one, with no verification whatsoever. Nonetheless, we felt that an explanation, even highly hypothetical, is needed for the presented

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behaviour. We are currently working on an ecological/hydrological model that would allow us for at least conceptual verification of it. The work is not, however, advanced enough to present the results in this paper. We will stress the hypothetical nature of the explanation of cyclicity in the revised version of the paper.

Reviewer #2

The general comments of reviewer #2 pertain mainly to the lack, or insufficient background information on hydrology of the system, that would help the reader understand dynamics of flooding in the analysed system. Indeed, the paper is scarce in the background information. But to defend ourselves a bit, we must say that our experience from publishing research results about the Okavango Delta is that reviewers usually complain about introduction and study site description parts being too long and containing too much information of local interest only. Considering the reviewer's comment and the fact that the electronic edition of HESSD and HESS does not put much limitation on paper size, we will expand the sections dealing with background hydrology of the Okavango Delta.

We would like to thank the reviewers for their comments.

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