

## ***Interactive comment on “The seven rules for hydrologists and other researchers wanting to contribute to the water management practice” by E. Mostert and G. T. Raadgever***

### **Anonymous Referee #5**

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This is an interesting attempt towards publishing key aspects for consideration in research. A lot of references have been cited. It should, however, be acknowledged that each research is different and a researcher may be confronted with issues which are not necessary included in this paper or, if so, may not follow any order as presented in the paper. This paper can also be viewed as a general guideline applicable to any research as acknowledged on page 858 (second paragraph) hence the word ‘hydrologists’; is misleading in the title especially given that there is hardly any mention of hydrology and water management in the rest of the paper. Sections 2-8 can fall under one section with one heading e.g. ‘Important considerations for successful research’. Points 2-8 are not rules as such but are

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guidelines which could be considered in any research although, practically, circumstances on the ground may determine whether these could be considered implicitly. Section 2 dwells a lot on who is &#8220;expert&#8221; and who is not. It is not so much about who deserves to be called one or the other as long as, at the end of the day, there is contribution towards new knowledge. This section could have touched more on various types of research i.e. research driven by e.g. donors, society, stakeholders or even realisation of existence of knowledge gaps which, as a result of research outcomes, culminate in improved situations including policy shifts. References should be sited in consistent chronological order e.g. page 845 line 22, page 849 line 24, page 853 line 7, page 854 line 25, page 855 line 6. Page 844, 2nd paragraph under introduction&#8230;.. text implies policy is related to politics which is not entirely true as institutions can also have their own policies with no political links. Page 848 last paragraph &#8211; it should be acknowledged that the later is more common i.e. identification of stakeholders common to an issue. Page 850 line 2 insert commas between &#8220;can&#8221; and &#8220;extent&#8221; Page 853: line 21 &#8220;loosing&#8221; should read &#8220;losing&#8221;.. Page 857: line 6 &#8220;cases&#8221; should read &#8220;case&#8221;

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