

***Interactive comment on “HESS Opinions  
“Urgent water challenges are not sufficiently  
researched”” by P. van der Zaag et al.***

**P. van der Zaag et al.**

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We thank Larry Swatuk for reviewing our paper and for his valuable suggestions. Here we respond to all specific issues raised. In a separate response we try to give a more coherent response addressing the major comments of all referees, taking advantage of observations made by other contributors, and drawing some conclusions.

- We will improve the abstract, which we agree does not adequately summarise the findings.

- Methodology: We have, in the mean time, complemented our ISI search with similar searches within Scopus (Gupta and Van der Zaag 2009). The findings are mostly very similar. We are now working towards a more comprehensive assessment of the issue,

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by conducting a thorough and comparative analysis of ISI, Scopus and Google Scholar. See also our discussion in our general response (see separate document).

- About the possible research activities by governments and private consultants that are not published: this is an interesting possibility. But there is a fundamental issue related to grey literature that is difficult to access and that has not gone through a transparent peer review system. This we have elaborated in our general response (see separate document).

- That there might be a relationship between the speed of change in a disciplinary field and the number of publications in that field is an interesting hypothesis, but falls beyond the scope of this comment.

- We fully agree that the use of the verb “prove” in our article (p.1414, 6) was inappropriate. We will replace it by the verb “illustrate”.

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 6, 1411, 2009.

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