

## ***Interactive comment on “Land classification based on hydrological landscape units” by S. Gharari et al.***

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**Reply to Comment by A. D. Nobre**

**Reply to brief history on development of HAND and A new landscape classification: the HAND Model**

We appreciate the information provided by the reviewer on the background of the development of HAND. Although several scientists implicitly have been using this concept for quite a long time (e.g., Uhlenbrook et al., 2002; McGuire et al., 2005), they did not formalize it, i.e. they did not develop a unique algorithm for calculating

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Height Above Nearest Drainage (HAND). The reviewer claimed to have developed HAND, but he did not mention how we could understand this from the published literature, including Rennó et al. (2008). Although the author mentioned that Rennó et al. (2008) aimed at the remote sensing community and Nobre et al. (2011) refers to the hydrological aspects, HAND was clearly introduced the first time by Rennó et al. (2008). If HAND was already introduced in any previous work, we would kindly ask the reviewer to inform us so that we can appropriately refer to it.

We also note that a published paper is not a patent, and everybody can make use of concepts and ideas present in any published work. Our intention has not been to claim ourselves as owners of the concept. We just picked it up to investigate hydrological implications. The way to prevent these things from happening is simply not to publish.

### **References**

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