

Interactive comment on “A review of current and possible future human-water interactions in Myanmar’s river basins” by L. Taft and M. Evers

Anonymous Referee #2

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The paper describes human and water systems in Myanmar. The topic is relevant and, given the focus on a very dynamic system, I think that this paper has a great potential. Yet, while the title suggests a focus on human-water interactions, e.g. socio-hydrology, this review is mainly a description of either natural or social processes. Very little is said about the reciprocal effects, mutual interactions and feedback loops between nature and society. I would not recommend its publication on HESS because I see little value of the current manuscript from a scientific viewpoint. For instance, the authors often quote Sivapalan et al. (2014) and they also report their conceptual framework (Figure 1). In the paper, however, there is no real attempt to follow it and show it with reference to Myanmar. Section 2, 3 and 5 do follow the three elements of the feedback loop (with in between a “out-of-the-blue” section 4 about flora and fauna), but they do not describe how each element impacts or responds to changes of the

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other elements, i.e. human-water interactions. In other words, the arrows of Figure 1 (which are, in my opinion, the essence of the referred paper of Sivapalan et al., 2014) are not sufficiently reflected into the text. Addressing this point (i.e. describing the interplay of the three elements, rather than just the three elements) can be a way out to make this paper scientifically interesting and potentially publishable. More minor points: 1) Reference to recent literature about human-water interactions is also very limited, see e.g. 2015 WRR debate, tons of HESS papers on the subject and recent socio-hydrological studies about Bangladesh, a neighbouring country, China and Australia. 2) English should be improved, as there are numerous typos. 3) I have some more technical comments that might follow if major concern is addressed.

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