

Dear Editor and Referee# 2,

We would like to thank the valuable suggestions of the Editor and Referee #2. Based on the comments that were detailed by Referee #2 and summarized by the Editor, we have revised the paper substantially and answered the Editor's concern as follows:

- (i) Structure and clarity**
We changed the structure of the paper with more general methodological explanation before the case, even though we keep much of the detail in the sections after the case, as we think in this way we can better explain and illustrate the approach we developed. We also clarified the participation discussion and our position (see ii). Lastly, we clarified the paper's theme in relation to participation (for further answer to iii).
- (ii) Novel scales for rating participation**
We kept our previous scale for rating participation, since the rating itself is not our focus. Our paper does not intend to create a novel participation scale, but use an existing one to illustrate that stakeholder involvement/participation can be studied and needs to be understood, where surprises should be taken into account. Whatever (novel) scale is presented, we argue that local community participation in hydrological research do have certain motivation(s). However, when it comes to surprises, we will always have to deal (properly; being aware, research plan improvisation, etc.) with them.
- (iii) Section 2 “Human Agency and Hydrologic Research”**
We have included much more in terms of literature review relevant within our context – small hydrological research versus intervention - in the introduction. Next, we changed the above title to “Human actions as surprises in intervention development and hydrological research”. This section describes what to do with surprises – when shifting location of intervention occurs and measuring devices disappear – during the development of intervention and its associated hydrological research. We propose RAND for practical concern and budget scenarios for limited budget issue as the approach in hydrologic field research in small-scale intervention towards human actions. The application of scenarios, specifically on the Vietnam case, is presented in section 5 (Vietnam case).