

Interactive comment on “Should seasonal rainfall forecasts be used for flood preparedness?” by Erin Coughlan de Perez et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The topic of the paper is important for practical applications. The research presented is of high quality, the paper is well written, and the methodology used is sound. I have only a few comments. (1) I have problems with some of the terms used in the paper, such as drivers of flooding, flood-generating processes and etc. The paper is not identifying the drivers or processes, but rather identifying proxies or indicators of floodiness through correlation analyses. (2) While there are a few comments in the paper on the skill (or lack of skill) of seasonal GCMs in forecasting the proxies (indicators), they are dispersed in discussion and conclusions. I would like to see a more focused discussion on this, including implications, given the already low correlation between proxies and floodiness. (3) I don't seem to be able to work out from the paper the source of the soil moisture data. (4) Given many seasonal GCMs also produce surface runoff, I wonder whether the authors would like to comment on the value of using surface runoff

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forecasts from the GCMs. (5) Seasonal GCMs generally do a good job in forecasting large climate patterns (such as represented by SST based climate indices). It will be of value to add climate indices as predictors in analyses. It may well be that these will give the best correlations, especially when it is factored that GCMs are generally of low skill in forecasting climate variables directly.

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