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Earth System Dynamics
Discussions

Interactive comment on "Framing hydropower as green energy: assessing drivers, risks and tensions in the Eastern Himalayas" *by* R. Ahlers et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The paper brings to light the need to critically question the link between climate change, clean development mechanisms and hydropower development in the Himalayan region. The paper analysis can be improved by providing more elaborate evidence and explanation on why the authors think it is important to contest this linkage, and how the paper key findings and messages could then contribute to the wider debate on climate change, CDM and hydropower development.

As it stands now, the paper discusses and analyzes the gaps in the linkage, but without providing sufficient information on each topic. The paper's analysis and presentation can be improved if the authors provide a more elaborate discussion on respectively climate change, CDM, and hydropower development, how these contextualize in the

region, and how they become interlinked. The latter is particularly important to enrich the paper's analysis and identify key stakeholders and their role in shaping the current positioning of hydropower as 'renewable' energy options in relation to climate change mitigation. What are the drivers behind the establishment of such linkage, who are pushing it, based on what interests, and what are its (policy) implications?

For example, the authors can highlight the notion of uncertainty in climate change discourse, how this affects the shaping of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans, and to what extent this uncertainty has been used as entry point to relate and to a certain extent 'justify' the positioning of hydropower development as part of CDM, and vice versa. Similarly, the authors can bring to light the discussion on corporate social responsibility within the context of hydropower development, how various actors use it as a means to legitimize hydropower developments, and its actual significance in relation to environmental impacts and people's livelihoods.

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Dynam. Discuss., 5, 1521, 2014.