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Interactive comment on “Gender and climate change in the Indian Hindu-Kush Himalayas: global threats, local vulnerabilities” by M. V. Ogra and R. Badola

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This is a very useful paper that frames the debate well and provides evidence to show the importance of understanding the highly gender differentiated effects of climate change. The authors’ objectives of complementing model-based approaches with qualitative discussion of the evidence of the effects of climate change on women is an important attempt to try to build a more articulated understanding linking macro-level change to micro-level effects. The examples drawn on by the authors clearly illustrate the highly gendered and class-based effects of climate change. The authors demonstrate persuasively the importance of understanding the micro-scale factors that

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determine the experience of climate change for the individual. The paper raises some important questions for further research.

The paper focuses on livelihood diversification as one response to trying to reduce climate vulnerability and uses as an example ecotourism as one form of livelihood diversification, although the authors admit this may not deliver the expected benefits. It would have been good to have seen a discussion of the other pathways that local people take to reduce their levels of livelihood insecurity, as I was left wanting to know far more than just about eco-tourism. The role of migration and the positive as well as negative effects could have been usefully discussed or referenced. For example the work of researchers in Nepal on migration effects on social mobility of poor dalits shows some of the positive effects of migration. Dalits through their purchase of land from remittances are improving their levels of livelihood security leading to a degree of social change in land tenure that is unprecedented. The highly dynamic nature of livelihood change needs to be captured by climate modelers, as well as policy-makers. The authors raise important questions about the nature of climate modeling and rightly call for frameworks that include gender-differentiated vulnerabilities. I would add to this the need to model the different livelihood choices that are being made by local people and the drivers that underlie these changes as a basis from which to look at the socially differentiated outcomes of these choices and the quality of their adaptive capacity.

Overall the paper is well written, structured and referenced. The abstract reflect the content of the paper and provide a clear and complete summary. The title does not fully reflect the content of the paper – I would suggest the authors consider changing it to: Gender and Climate Change in the Indian Hindu-Kush Himalayas: global threats, local vulnerabilities and livelihood adaptation. I suggest the last addition as quite a significant part of the paper looks at livelihood diversification as an adaptation strategy.

There are just a few minor typographical errors:

line7 we seek to help readers better understand

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line 15 sentence is unclear (...more than...?)

line 22 rural communities of the global South

p.1503 line 31 observed in villages

p.1506 line 17 However the involvement of women in ecotourism activities has broadenedand

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Dynam. Discuss., 5, 1491, 2014.

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