

Interactive comment on “Living with climate change: avoiding conflict through adaptation in Malawi” by H. Jørstad and C. Webersik

Anonymous Referee #2

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This paper mostly reviews work by other scholars. The title does not accurately capture the main contents. The abstract and introduction promises a lot but these are not consolidated in the results and discussions. In addition, the potential for conflicts arising from Environmental Changes has also not been adequately demonstrated and the authors even agree in their conclusion that this aspect that this aspect need further investigation. Only one adaptation strategy has been highlighted, fish processing and marketing by the Women Fish Processing Groups (WFPGs). The Fish is from the vulnerable Lake Chilwa itself but the study did not offer any other options in case of climatic shocks resulting in low fish stocks. A suitable title would be along the lines of "Climate change adaptation through supporting Women Fish processing groups". The background can be revised and be to the points relevant to the study.

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For a case study review, the paper is rich in adaptation works elsewhere and by other researchers (all of which is well credited). Some sub-sections (e.g last paragraphs of 1.0 & 2.1) need references. A novelty of the paper is the formation and the activities of the WFPGs although not much is discussed. A discussion of the just mentioned strengthening strategies that were employed could offer practical solutions to other vulnerable groups. Unfortunately, the paper does not present any scientific (both qualitative and quantitative) methods and approaches that were used. Tables 2 and 3 and Figures 1,3 and 4 nevertheless presents some of the results. The study could have been enriched with empirical evidence from weather stations in the Lake Chilwa Basin to compare with the peoples perceptions. Some vital literature eg Nicholson et al. (2014), McCusker et al. (2015) has not been reviewed.

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Dynam. Discuss., 6, 2417, 2015.

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