Interactive comment on “Towards a global database of rainfall-induced landslide inventories: first insights from past and new events” by Odin Marc et al.

D. Milledge (Referee)
d.g.milledge@durham.ac.uk

Received and published: 24 May 2018

Marc et al. provide full and useful responses to my initial comments including good suggestions on how they will modify the manuscript to address these comments. Thank you for posting these here before the end of the discussion period and giving me an opportunity to respond.

One comment in particular that you sought reviewers’ views on was the title of the paper so I will paste that discussion here.

R2 commented that: The title largely makes sense, although I find the last section
stating “first insights from past and new events” confusing since all datasets are within the past twenty years and the youngest event occurred in 2015, and I’m not sure what that phrase adds to the description of the research.

The authors responded that: We could indeed drop the second statement. An interesting alternative, slightly more descriptive could be "Towards a global database of rainfall-induced landslide inventories: first insights on landscape scale landsliding caused by rainfall event" This option includes somewhat the notion of global magnitude of landsliding (e.g., Fig 6,7) and spatial distribution within the landscape (e.g., Fig 5). I would welcome comments of Referees and AE on such a title, and if they oppose it, we could simply stop with "Towards a global database of rainfall-induced landslide inventories", although it does not leave a hint than the paper do not only report on collating data but also analyze and interpret them.

My view is that: I would prefer something that indicates your key findings, which to me are: the breakdown in local slope dependence and that landslide density depends on storm total rainfall. Perhaps: "Initial insights from a global database of rainfall-induced landslide inventories: the weak influence of slope and strong influence of total storm rainfall" These are fairly strong claims but I think they reflect your findings. Alternatively I am fine with: "Towards a global database of rainfall-induced landslide inventories: insights on landscape scale landsliding caused by rainfall events" I removed first because it is a little ambiguous whether you mean initial insights from these events (which would be fine) or the first ever insights on landscape scale landsliding (which would not).

David Milledge

Please also note the supplement to this comment:
