

Interactive comment on “Supraglacial debris cover assessment in the Caucasus Mountains, 1986-2000-2014” by Levan G. Tielidze et al.

RD Drews (Editor)

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Dear authors,

First of all I would like to apologize for comparatively long time of the refereeing/discussion phase. This was because one reviewer had understandable reasons for a delayed report, and I thank the authors for their patience.

Both referee reports and the interactive comment have pointed out significant problems in the methodology (and overall style of the manuscript), making it difficult to assess the principal results of the study. Although some of these concerns may be addresses in a substantial revision of the current paper, I am reluctant to advise you to do this in the framework of ESSD. ESSD's focus is the publication of comprehensive, high-

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quality datasets for further reuse in Earth system sciences, and any ambiguities in the methodology (or different interpretations thereof) are a major obstacle for peer-reviews publication. From my point of view, the criticism that was raised can be much better dealt with in a different journal that does not have this data focus (and hence offers more room for data interpretation linked to the applied methodology).

My remarks mentioned here do not preclude that you reply to the comments in full length and provide a revised version. If you do so, the paper will go to re-review. I only wanted to give you an early impression from my side, given that we already lost some time in a lengthy review process. I am sorry that I cannot be more positive at this stage.

Kind regards, Reinhard Drews

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