

Interactive comment on “Hydrometeorological Data from a Remotely Operated Multi- Parameter Station network in Central Asia” by Cornelia Zech et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

Received and published: 21 October 2020

The manuscript is well written and describes in solid technical detail the benefits and challenges of a remotely operated hydrometeorological observation network in a high altitude region with generally difficult climatic and accessibility conditions. The details of installed the systems and sensors, as well as some of the challenges faced to maintain the observations, are useful lessons. In addition, the access to the resultant data will be of great use to a range of climate researchers.

While recognizing the primary objective of the observing network is for international research purposes, the question arises with regards to its institutional ownership with the national operational agencies of the hosting countries. Are these observations in-

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tegrated into the existing observation networks, for example of the hydrometeorological agencies? Considering the international funding of the observing network, should the observations not be made publicly available in real- or near-real-time (and if appropriate submitted to the WMO GTS to provide global, regional and national benefits)? If the international funding terminates, will the countries be able to continue to operate and maintain the systems?

These are important open questions that arise when reading the manuscript, in terms of sustainability and long-term impact. However the lack of information on these issues does not significantly undermine the quality of the manuscript.

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2020-176>, 2020.

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