

## ***Interactive comment on “The challenge and future of rocky desertification control in Karst areas in Southwest China” by J. Y. Zhang et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #2**

Received and published: 8 December 2015

In karst areas in Southwest China, short-term intensive human activity is the main cause of rocky desertification compared with the natural evolution process. As a comment paper, the manuscript had a clear structure to analyze the first stage of rocky desertification control in China. Paying appropriate attention the natural environment context, the paper focused on the socio-economic mechanism of rocky desertification, which is the value of the paper. But some little weakness of expressions exists, which needs to be improved so as to achieve the requirements of publication. They are as follows:

(1) Line 1-2, Page 3, the authors showed a picture of typical rocky desertification (Fig. 1), but did not indicate the specific location. The same question existed in Fig. 2 on page 5.

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(2)Page3, the paper mentioned the major provinces and distribution of rocky desertification in Southwest China, but it did not provide the latitude or location map of these provinces in China, or they are linked or disperse, which are difficult for readers to understand,especially for foreign readers.

(3) Line 9, Page 4, the authors mentioned the concept of potential rocky desertification(PRD). What are the difference between potential rocky desertification and rocky desertification? Is there vegetation or soil on the surface? How is vegetation or soil coverage in potential rocky desertification? Please add the definition of potential rocky desertification.

(4) Line 11, Page 7, the authors mentioned "short compensation times". The expression is not accurate. Please give the exact time.

(5)There are some Chinese literatures in references, but the authors did not mark their language.

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Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., 7, 3271, 2015.

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