

**A challenge for land and risk managers: how to manage in multi-risks and multi-vulnerabilities contexts where different actors are involved?**

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**Abstract** (500 words max):<sup>1</sup>

[In developing countries, the population of mountain territories are subject to multiple risks and vulnerabilities. These risks are managed by many different types of actors at various scales and levels (i.e. engineers, geologists, administrators, land use planners, merchants and local indigenous and non-indigenous people). In this situation, it must be asked: what are the right steps for effective management in a context that presents several risks and in which different actors are involved? This paper analyses a case study from San Cristobal Altaverapaz, Guatemala where a large landslide named “Los Chorros (6 millions cubic meters of rock) affects several communities and one of the country’s main west-east access highways. In this case, the “primary” hazard (the landslide) as evaluated by the authorities, was not perceived as such by the local community, who prioritized economic risks by creating their own road through the landslide area in defiance of authorities. Institutional actors, starting from their own assessment, decide to respond in a way that does not correspond to the interests of the population. These differing responses by official and non-official actors highlight the need to address other, non-physical vulnerabilities that increase the risk for populations. Situated at the cross section between political science, geography and disaster risk management, this paper addresses the social conflict and competition for priorities and solutions for risk management. It evaluates other modes of interpreting, shaping and managing risk that can help improve methods of institutional management. Indeed, dissecting this case, where various economic, ecological and political (or social) logics were present and articulated in order to produce a solution. It captures how this solution is indicative of a risk management strategy that gives weight to actors a priori not considered in decision making and management. For this reason, the study will focus, in particular, on the analysis of practices (practical science) implemented by all actors in San

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<sup>1</sup> Abstracts should be provided in Arial font size 11 point. The body of the text should be no more than 500 words, not including references.

Cristobal Altaverapaz. By studying the logic of action of actors who mobilize to establish a solution, it proposes an approach for policy experts, that finds compromise between different conceptions of risk and the appropriate responses in order to obtain a solution acceptable to all those involved. It further argues that experts must not persist in their own conception of the problem, but must work from a position of recognising the interests of others in order to produce such a solution. Such an integrative approach may require the abandonment of certain criteria and the incorporation of others in order to reach consensus. In this sense, the challenge for managers of natural hazards is to move from risk management in the strict sense, which focuses mainly on hazards only, to a broader risks management, taking into consideration what is important for society and for the functioning of systems. This balanced approach to risk management will engage all stakeholders to evaluate risk priorities and determine the contextually appropriate risk management strategy.]