

1 **Reviews and responses compiled**

2 **General response to Anonymous referee #1**

3 We want to thank the reviewer for this constructive feedback that will help improve the manuscript.
4 The reviewer makes an excellent point. The climate modulation of the frequency-magnitude
5 scalings of “extreme” weather events, the cumulative effects of which ultimately control the net
6 ratio of water and sediment flux, might determine if the system undergoes net incision or
7 aggradation—the latter resulting in the construction of alluvial deposits. In this case, the
8 fundamental mechanism of valley aggregation is similar (i.e., changes in the ratio of water to
9 sediment discharge). In the case study of the Klados catchment, the rockfall event has the impact
10 of making the sediment discharge term more sensitive to external forcing through newly available,
11 highly erodible landslide material. This is somewhat different from the interpretation of alluvial
12 bodies interpreted to have been generated by a change in climate, and we agree that this is a topic
13 that deserves discussion in the manuscript. During the revision process, we will include an
14 expanded discussion of this excellent point and how it relates to the Klados catchment, specifically,
15 and the island of Crete, more generally.

16 We also thank the reviewer for their detailed line-by-line comments. These are insightful and will
17 be incorporated into the manuscript during the revision process.

18 On behalf of my co-authors,

19 Elena Bruni

20

21 **Line by line responses to Anonymous referee # 1**

22 This is a very timely contribution when we are slowly moving away from rather simple-minded
23 interpretations of alluvial stratigraphy to take extreme events more into account. That said, my
24 only criticism of the paper is that the theoretical component is not as strong as it should be. Bodies
25 of alluvium that are interpreted to be a result of a change of climate for example may be the sum
26 total of extreme events, the frequency and magnitude of which are modulated by the ambient
27 climate. So, there may not be a substantive difference between the traditional interpretation and
28 what the authors of this paper claim to be stochastic events. I would like to see an **additional**
29 **paragraph** that sets out the authors' views on this issue.

30 We thank the reviewer for this constructive feedback. We have added to the discussion section of
31 the revised manuscript (sect. 5.4).

32

33 My other comments are more minor, as follows:

34 1. Line 22 what is meant by 'intermediate fan'? Clarify.

35 The term “intermediate fan” refers to its location between the top and bottom alluvial deposits.
36 However, to clarify, we renamed the fan in question “lower fan”, as has been done already for the
37 radiocarbon dating report. We have tried to clarify this statement and quote from the revised
38 abstract: “We show that the > 20 m thick lower fan unit, previously thought to be late Pleistocene
39 in age, unconformably buries a paleoshoreline uplifted in the first centuries AD, placing the
40 depositional age of this unit firmly into the Late Holocene.” (line 22-24)

41

42 2. Lines 62 and following. The absence of reference to the role of land use in the alluvial
43 stratigraphy of the Mediterranean is puzzling. See the early work of Claudio Vita-Finzi for
44 example. Please include some reference to this phenomenon.

45 While we acknowledge that hominids have directly and indirectly modified alluvial deposits
46 around the Mediterranean for hundreds of thousands of years through fire, forest clearing,
47 agriculture, animal husbandry, etc., such activity is minimal in our study basin. Native forests were
48 cleared from much of Crete for shipbuilding, agriculture, and olive cultivation, however, the
49 location of Klados catchment on the steep, rocky and hard-to-access southern coast of Crete means
50 that this basin likely experienced very little long-term human alteration of the landscape. With the
51 exception of browsing by wild goats, there was no terracing of hillslopes for agriculture, no
52 planting of olive trees or other wide-spread soil disturbance in the catchment that would manifest
53 itself as part of the alluvial record.

54 We have added the following sentences to the revised manuscript: “Also, human land use and
55 vegetation cover have been shown to influence sediment dynamics and alluviation patterns, and
56 the Eastern Mediterranean has been central to the investigation of the interplay between climate
57 fluctuations, long-term tectonics, and anthropogenic disturbances (Atherden and Hall, 1999;
58 Benito et al., 2015; Duser et al., 2011; Thorndycraft and Benito, 2006; Vita-Finzi, 1969).” (line
59 66-70), and “[...] and is surrounded by steep, 2 km high mountains, which has kept human
60 influence minimal.” (line 90)

61

62 3. Line 80 please explain why this catchment is anomalous

63 We have revised this sentence for clarification and added a photograph of a neighbouring river
64 outlet for comparison (Fig. 1c). We quote from the revised text: “However, the thick sequence of
65 several > 20 m thick alluvial fan and terrace deposits preserved in the Klados catchment are
66 anomalous compared to nearby catchments with larger drainage areas (i.e., Samaria) that preserve
67 only minor alluvial deposits.” (line 86-88)

68

69 4. Line 108-109 what is the evidence for this statement?

70 We have revised this statement and quote from the new version: “The volumes of these deposits
71 are substantially larger compared to alluvial deposits in larger neighboring catchments and
72 therefore require an unusually high sediment supply input.” (line 112-113)

73

74 5. Line 165 and following. While there is discussion later on about the accuracy of these C-14
75 dates from bulk organic matter, please provide a brief preparation here for that later discussion.

76 We extended this section to include a short discussion on our choice of radiocarbon dating, and
77 the reader is referred to the relevant part in the discussion.

78 We quote from the revised section: “To constrain the timing of aggradation and incision of the
79 deposits, we radiocarbon-dated bulk organic matter collected from six fine-grained lenses within
80 the deposits. While bulk radiocarbon dating of alluvial sediments will result in larger uncertainties,
81 in this case, it is the only available geochronometric technique given the mineralogy of the
82 sediments and lack of macro-organic material for traditional AMS radiocarbon dating.
83 Additionally, despite uncertainties associated with bulk radiocarbon dating, it is appropriate for
84 discriminating whether or not the sediments are late Pleistocene or Holocene, one of the
85 hypotheses tested with this study. We decided against using luminescence dating because of the
86 sparsity of quartz and feldspar in the local carbonate bedrock and the turbulent mode and the short
87 transport distance that likely result in incomplete bleaching, especially of feldspar grains (Rhodes,
88 2011). A detailed discussion of uncertainties associated with this method is provided in section
89 5.1.” (line 195-204)

90

91 6. Line 228 (and 253) I am unconvinced that these deposits are from sheet flows. I would not
92 expect the shear stresses needed to move the gravel particles can be achieved by sheet flow.
93 Please provide evidence of your claim or perhaps suggest that the deposits are a result of flow
94 in shallow channels.

95 We agree with the reviewer and change the terminology accordingly. We quote from the revised
96 text: “The upper portions of the alluvial fill units are always layered and fluvially reworked,
97 resembling the planar beds typical of flow in shallow channels (Fig. 4d, e; Blair and McPherson,
98 2015)” (line 303-305)

99

100 7. Line 322 reference here to slackwater deposits may be inappropriate. This term is now used
101 for paleoflood deposits. I suggest that you find an alternative or, if they really are slackwater
102 deposits, please provide more information.

103 Indeed, slackwater deposits consist of sand and silt, which are deposited when flow velocities are
104 locally reduced during large flood events (Saynor and Erskine, 1993). Descriptions in literature
105 include tributary mouths, widening channels and locations of bedrock or talus obstructions, and
106 overbank deposits on high river terraces (Kochel and Baker, 1988; Pickup et al., 1988; Saynor and

107 Erskine, 1993). In our field area, the deposit in question lies at a tributary mouth, whose outflow
108 was obstructed by one of the valley infills. Consequently, the use of slackwater deposit appears to
109 fit the situation. However, due to this ambiguity, we refrain from categorizing the deposit as
110 slackwater deposit but call them with the more descriptive term of “tributary deposit”.

111

112 8. Lines 346 and 347. The negative exponents need to be changed.

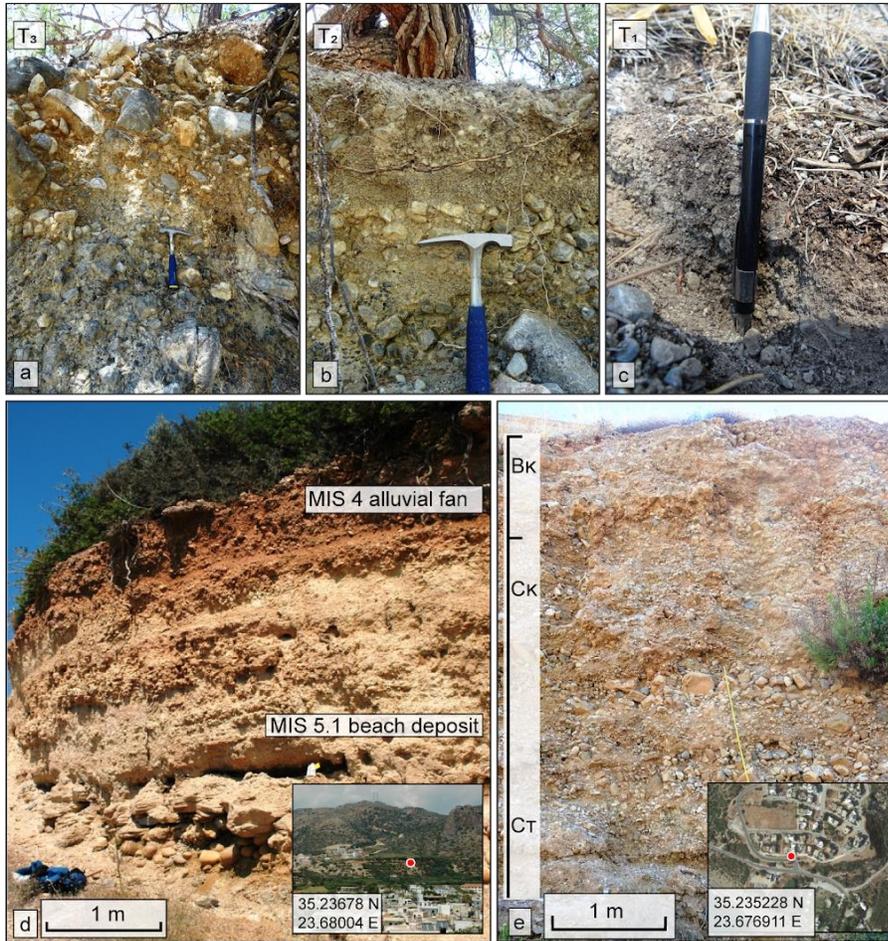
113 We thank the reviewer for this remark and have revised the exponents.

114

115 9. Line 377 here and elsewhere you refer to immature soil development but I cannot find an
116 argument for their immaturity. This needs to be rectified.

117 Based on sedimentological investigation, topographic surveys, soil redness indices, and
118 chronometric dating, Pope et al. (2008) interpret the sediment in the Sfakia piedmont 25 km to the
119 east of Klados as deposited during cold stages of the major glacial cycles. In close comparison
120 with photographs of these sites, and a preliminary soil classification during field work, we find
121 that the soils in the Klados catchment are immature throughout the mapping area (IUSS Working
122 Group WRB, 2015). The main evidence comes from soil redness, depth, density, and the extent of
123 the vegetation cover, as we state in section 4.1. We quote from the revised section: “Soils are
124 weakly developed on all three alluvial fill units as is derived from soil redness, depth, density, and
125 vegetation cover (Fig. S5). Moreover, there are no discernable secondary carbonates or other
126 mineral diagnostic horizons related to migration processes, and clay formation is insignificant. The
127 terraces lack fluvic properties and are well-drained, which is why the best categorisation appears
128 to be a calcaric, skeletal Regosol (IUSS Working Group WRB, 2015).” (line 305-309)

129 To further illustrate this point we added a new supplemental figure S5:



130
 131 **Figure S5:** Minor soil development on T₃ (a), T₂ (b), and T₁ (c) results in low soil maturity. Typically, a surface
 132 horizon of non-degraded organic matter such as pine needles overlies the original alluvial deposits. Soil formation
 133 may be accelerated in close proximity to larger plants such as pine trees, but we find no sign of wide-spread
 134 pedogenesis. (d) Outcrop “Alta Paleohora” (20 km W of Klados, exact location noted) showing dated MIS 4 alluvial
 135 fan material over MIS 5.1 beach deposits (Pope et al., 2008). (e) Outcrop in Paleohora (exact location noted),
 136 carbonaceous terrace of MIS 2. B = top soil, C = source rock, K= secondary carbonates, T = clay-enriched (IUSS
 137 Working Group WRB, 2015).

138
 139 10. Line 503 you claim that this catchment is unique but do not explain why. Also see my comment
 140 #3 above.

141 We have modified the section to improve clarity. We quote: “The alluvial deposits in the Klados
 142 catchment are volumetrically oversized and immature in soil development compared to other
 143 catchments in southern Crete. We have demonstrated that the deposits preserved in the valley are
 144 Holocene in age and that following a massive landslide event, the catchment dynamics are best
 145 described by rapid and dramatic alternations between valley-wide aggradation and incision. These
 146 findings show that the emplacement of the landslide deposit altered catchment dynamics, making

147 Klados more sensitive to external forcing. This change in sensitivity to external forcing makes the
148 Klados fans distinct among the well-studied Pleistocene fans in Crete.” (line 596-602)

149

150 11. Line 507 please explain why the landslide deposit made this catchment ultra-sensitive to
151 external forcing.

152 We refer the reader to section 5.4. in our revised manuscript, where we discuss the ultrasensitivity
153 in terms of sediment and water discharge rates. We quote from this revision: “While in each case
154 sediment transport events are likely associated with high-intensity rainstorms, as indicated by the
155 high-energy depositional environments inferred from fan stratigraphy in Klados and Pleistocene
156 fans elsewhere on Crete, the threshold magnitude for a sediment-generating event, whether a
157 rainstorm or seismically-driven ground shaking, in Klados is likely much smaller relative to those
158 that produced the Pleistocene fans. This difference in sensitivity to external forcing makes the
159 Klados fans unique in the context of Pleistocene fans of Crete” (line 602-607)

160

161 12. Line 547 this is not a recurrence interval but a frequency. Please change.

162 This is a good point by the reviewer, which we changed in the revised manuscript.

163

164 -----

165

166 **General responses to Anonymous Referee #2**

167 We thank the Anonymous Reviewer#2 for their insightful feedback, which will be used to improve
168 the manuscript’s contents. The reviewer makes a good point about comparisons with other alluvial
169 fans in Crete. In the revision, we will add some text to the discussion regarding similarities and
170 differences between the Holocene fans in Klados and the Pleistocene fans commonly observed
171 lining the Cretan coastline.

172 We would also like to thank the reviewer for the comments on the modelling section, we will use
173 them to improve the manuscript to reach a better flow.

174 We also thank the reviewer for their insightful line-by-line comments. These will be incorporated
175 into the manuscript during the revision process.

176 On behalf of all co-authors

177 Elena Bruni

178

179 1. Orienting the reader to keep track of all the methodological moving parts is a significant
180 challenge. The manuscript could be **substantially strengthened by (1) further explaining**

181 **some of the key observations, and (2) reorganizing the text to more consistently separate**
182 **the results from the discussion.**

183 If comment (2) refers to the modelling, we see it as a point of discussion. We put the landslide
184 modeling component in the discussion because it is an interpretation of the more substantiated
185 results we obtained from mapping and geochronology. We use this modelling to reinforce the
186 argument of the catastrophic sedimentary input and do not consider it a primary result but
187 supplementary to our interpretation. Because it is an interpretation, positioning it earlier on in the
188 manuscript might be perceived as inappropriate and out of place. However, we understand the
189 reviewer's concern and have worked to streamline the presentation to ease readability.

190 2. Regarding #1, The Introduction situates the work in the context of strath and fill terraces and
191 alluvial fans. However, the largest geomorphic feature in this study sits squarely on a shoreline,
192 and likely better described as a fluvial fan delta (see Sun et al. (2002), *WRR*, doi:
193 10.1029/2001WR000284). **How, if at all, does this distinct geomorphic context affect how**
194 **the present results are related to previous studies for river terraces and alluvial fans in**
195 **non-coastal settings?** The line-by-line comments below also note several places where the
196 **stratigraphic observations could be more fully explained** (see comments for L220, L238,
197 L311, and L412).

198 The reviewer brings up a good point about precise terminology and we have revised the manuscript
199 accordingly to describe the coastal fans as "alluvial fan deltas". We used "alluvial fan" in the
200 original submission for consistency with other studies conducted on coastal alluvial fans in Crete
201 and the fact that the stratigraphy preserved in the deposit is not deltaic in nature (e.g. no forests or
202 bottom sets were observed). For clarification, we have also added stratigraphic sections to the
203 manuscript (Fig. 6).

204 We do not think that the geomorphic context near a coastline affects how our findings relate to
205 previous studies in non-coastal settings. Beyond coastal erosion, the deposits do not bear evidence
206 of strong interactions with sea level or coastal waters (e.g. no topset-foreset pairs). Moreover, the
207 clear continuity between the individual fans and terraces indicates a regular deposition process.
208 This suggests our observations are upstream of significant sea level influence and, therefore, would
209 be largely comparable with alluvial fan and terrace deposits observed in other settings.

210

211 3. Regarding #2, I found the text regarding the landslide modeling difficult to follow (see
212 comments for L178, L186, L463, and L454). The **model description appears abruptly in the**
213 **Introduction**, and could use further description there. Then the **model results are shown in**
214 **the Discussion** (section 5) rather than the main results section (section 4). As a result, the
215 landslide modeling feels pasted on, rather than integrated with the rest of the work. I think it is
216 an impressive part of the paper, and worthy of inclusion in the formal results.

217 Indeed, as even a short introduction to the modelling methodology requires a lot of specifics, we
218 decided to include a detailed description in the supplementary section of the manuscript. However,

219 the comment on a more in-depth description of the model in the Introduction is noted, and will be
220 implemented into the revised manuscript. Specifically, we have worked to streamline the writing
221 to improve readability and flow.

222 As noted above, the modelling is used to reinforce the hypothesis that a landslide caused the
223 aggradation and incision cycles which are at odds with the deposits in the nearby valleys. We
224 arrive at this hypothesis based on our primary field observations and data; it is, therefore, regarded
225 as an interpretation of the result. For this reason, we think it is more appropriate to place all
226 discussion of the landslide modeling in the discussion section of the manuscript. But we are
227 thankful for the comment, and will have to discuss the implications of including it as a formal
228 result.

229

230 **Line by line responses to Anonymous referee # 2**

231 1. L137: “tidal notch” – consider providing a concise definition (and perhaps a citation) for this
232 geomorphic indicator, which seems to be important for this study. Also, it could be helpful to
233 briefly describe how this feature will be “used as a relative age marker” at this point in the text.

234 This is an excellent point. We have revised the text to: “These paleoshorelines delineate the
235 temporal position of sea level through tidal or bioerosional notches, cemented beachrock,
236 topographic benches, and shore platforms (Chappell, 2009). The uplift of a Holocene
237 paleoshoreline by as much as 9 m a.s.l. on the southwestern coast of Crete is often attributed to an
238 unusually large earthquake (MW 8.3–8.5) in AD 365 (Mouslopoulou et al., 2015a; Shaw et al.,
239 2008), but a more recent study suggests that uplift occurred through a series of earthquakes with
240 Mw < 7.9 in the first centuries AD (Ott et al., 2021). Regardless of conflicting interpretations, this
241 prominent paleoshoreline is observable along > 200 km of coastline in western Crete and provides
242 a robust Late Holocene time marker. Following Ott et al. (2021), we refer to this Late Holocene
243 coastal feature as the Krios paleoshoreline, based on its maximum elevation at Cape Krios in
244 southwestern Crete.” (line 150-158)

245

246 2. L164: “Bulk sediment measurements” seems to be a vague title for this subsection, which
247 focuses on radiocarbon dating. Suggest renaming to emphasize dating.

248 We agree and have clarified this term as “bulk sediment dating”.

249

250 3. L178: The landslide model appears rather abruptly, and the specific objectives of the modeling
251 are not stated until the end of this section (L196-200). For clarity, consider moving these
252 objects to the start of the section. More explanation is also needed for these rheology models
253 (e.g., Voellmy – not familiar with this model).

254 We agree with the reviewer and will introduce the aims of the modelling and the rheology models
255 more clearly, possibly along the following lines: “To test the feasibility of the hypothesis that a
256 rockfall turned landslide provided the necessary material to form the large sedimentary deposits
257 throughout the valley, we utilised [...]” (213-214).

258 “Several studies report successful model results for landslides when a Voellmy or frictional
259 rheology is used as the basal rheology, and several back-analysed historical events are available
260 using these rheologies (Aaron and Hungr, 2016; Grämiger et al., 2016; Hungr, 1995; Nagelisen
261 et al., 2015). Adding to the basic frictional rheology equation, Voellmy rheology includes a
262 “turbulent term” which is dependent on flow velocity and the density of the material and
263 summarises the velocity-dependent factors of flow resistance (Hungr and Evans, 1996).” (line 216-
264 220)

265

266 4. L186 “pre-landslide topography” – clarify whether you reconstructed the pre-failure surface
267 for the landslides source area.

268 We revised the text here for clarity as suggested. We also point the reader to section 4.6. Volumes
269 of rockfall and valley infill (line 411-417).

270 We quote from the revised text: “We produced a DEM of the modern landscape without the
271 Holocene deposits mapped in this study as the pre-landslide topography (DEM_{pre}). For this, the
272 thicknesses of all deposits were subtracted from the present-day topography (Fig. S2). The pre-
273 failure surface for the source area was reconstructed using the thicknesses of the reconstructed
274 rockfall wedges creating a rough minimum estimate of the mountain face’s bedrock topography
275 before the landslide event.” (line 226-230)

276

277 5. L211: Figure 3: for clarity, assign the sketch in the upper left as a formal subfigure (subfigure
278 (“a”). Suggest also adding a word or two to describe each of T1, T2, T3, and L1. Nice use of
279 human for scale!

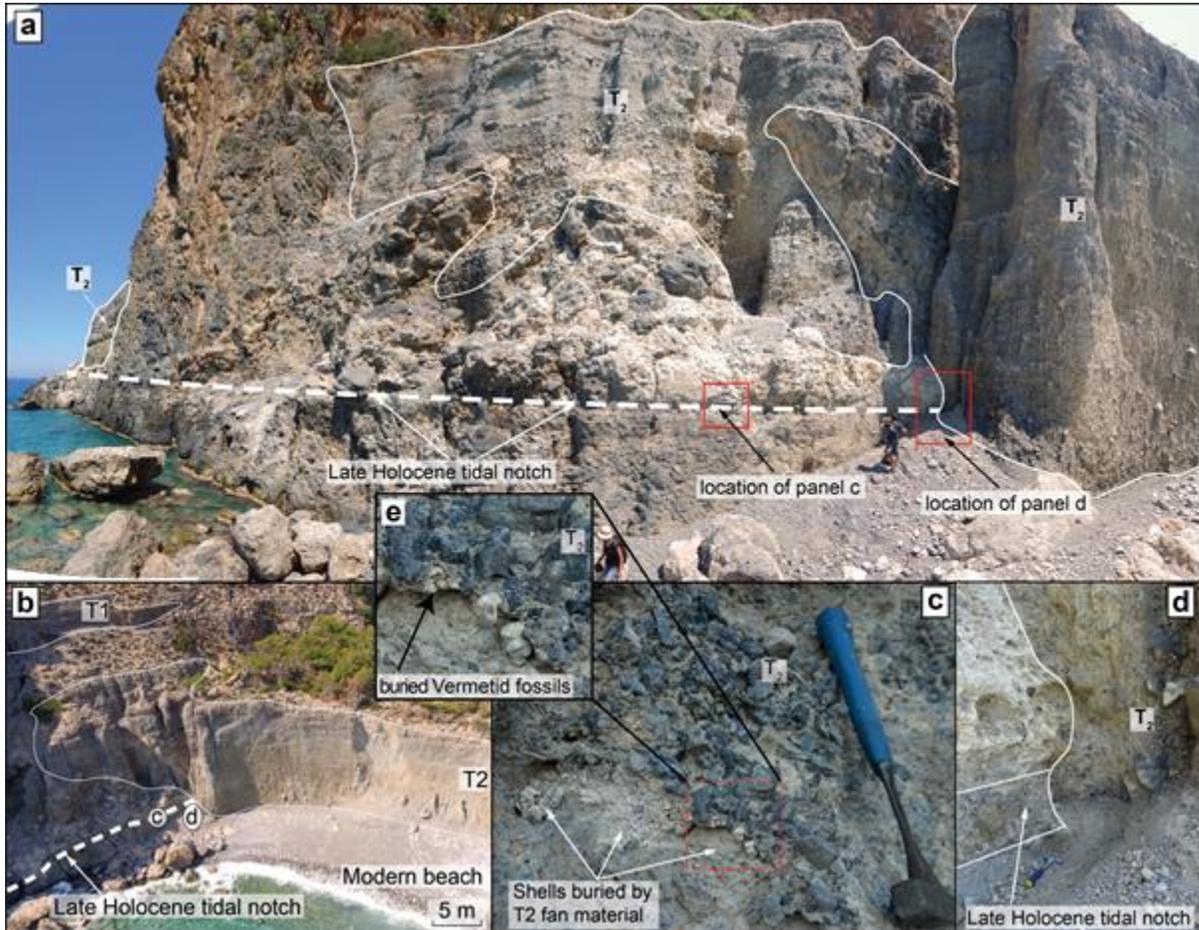
280 Good point. We have revised the figure accordingly.

281

282 6. L220: “that T2 unconformably overlies a paleo-beach deposit” – this seems like one of the key
283 observations to establish a new chronology for this landscape (and is highlighted in the
284 abstract). Yet the observation goes by quickly and is tucked away (Fig. 4e) in part of a very
285 busy figure. I suggest expanding this description, particularly to build the case that this is a
286 paleo-beach deposit. Some of the related text comes in L263-264, but presenting all of the
287 observations together would make it easier to follow.

288 This is a good point. We wanted to separate the results and interpretation strongly in the original
289 submission, but recognize that this is a critical observation. We have therefore revised the text to
290 add more discussion of this key finding here.

291 We have also added a new figure highlighting this key observation.



292 **Figure 5:** The contacts between the tidal notch, T₂, and the paleobeach are illustrated by photographs from the west
293 side of the study area. (a) Overview showing the unconformable relationship of the Late Holocene tidal notch and the
294 T₂ fan highlighting the location of figures in other panels. (b) Oblique aerial perspective view of the outcrop with the
295 major features highlighted. (c) Detail of the Vermetid extraction site shows how gravels of T₂ overlie a Vermetid shell
296 pocket in the tidal notch. (d) Detail of the contact zone between the carbonaceous bedrock, T₂, and the tidal notch
297 (partly buried by colluvium). (e) The Vermetid fossil pocket is covered by T₂ fan material (detail of (c)).

299
300 7. L238: the subfigures in Figure 4 are discussed out of sequence, which makes the argument
301 more difficult to follow.

302 We thank the reviewer for this comment. We corrected the sequence to follow the appearance in
303 text in the revised manuscript.

304

305 8. Throughout: “Aeolian” → “aeolian” or “eolian”
306 We use “eolian” in the revised manuscript.
307

308 9. L296: “river attempted to adjust its slope” – be careful about anthropomorphizing (a river
309 cannot attempt to do anything).
310 Fair point. We revised this sentence.
311

312 10. L297-298: “deposits change vertically from unsorted debris flows at the bottom to layered
313 sheet flows” – correct usage is “debris flow deposits” and “sheet flow deposits.”
314 We made this change.
315

316 11. L311-312: The observed radiocarbon ages from the shells – 800 to 1000 years older than the
317 inferred age of the uplift that raised the notch above sea-level – seems to pose a significant
318 complication for the proposed timeline of events. For this scenario to hold, the shells would
319 have needed to have been preserved for 800 years after the organisms’ death. Is that plausible?
320 This issue goes beyond my expertise, but I am curious. Perhaps an additional sentence or two,
321 or a related example from the literature, could flesh out this point.

322 Firstly, the reported radiocarbon ages cannot be directly compared with calendar years, as they
323 have not been calibrated. We adjusted the manuscript to include calibrated calendar years of the
324 fossil dates to ease comparison, which reduces the discrepancy. Secondly, there are three options
325 to explain the old ages. Either (1) the paleoshoreline (tidal notch) was not uplifted in one single
326 event as proposed in previous literature (Pirazzoli et al., 1982, 1996; Shaw et al., 2008; Stiros,
327 2001), but is the result of gradual uplift (Ott et al., 2021), or (2) the organisms were killed and
328 preserved by intermittent burial by older T₁ deposits, or (3) the organisms have really been
329 preserved for this amount of time. We lack data to distinguish between these possibilities but none
330 of these options has any effect on our primary conclusions.
331

332 12. L356: In Table 2, it is unclear why there are 4 numbers listed under “Intermediate.” The text
333 mentions 6 wedges, is that related?

334 Thank you for the comment, we will clarify in the text that of the 6 wedges, 2 relate to the
335 maximum and minimum values and only 4 to the intermediate-sized wedges. It is worth
336 highlighting that the maximum value is oversized and was not used in any of the subsequent
337 analyses.
338

339 13. L412-413: The comparison of the radiocarbon dates with the existing IRSL dates is a critical
340 point in this paper. I suggest going a bit further to explain why you think the IRSL dates could
341 be biased, particularly in a way that is accessible to those outside the geochronology
342 community. You think the IRSL samples included “of a mix of bleached and unbleached grains
343 resulting in late Pleistocene ages” – can you expand on this point using more accessible
344 language?

345 We thank the reviewer for this comment. We revised the text to provide a more detailed description
346 of the biases that the previously published IRSL samples might suffer from. We quote from the
347 revised text: “Luminescence burial dating of deposits exploits the assumption that charge is
348 gradually built up in feldspar or quartz grains due to radiation from radiogenic decay of radioactive
349 elements and cosmic rays. To relate the amount of charge a grain releases as luminescence signal
350 to the duration of sediment burial (depositional time of unit), all charge within the crystal lattice
351 needs to be fully released by sun bleaching before deposition; a process that requires seconds of
352 full sun exposure for quartz and minutes for feldspar (Rhodes, 2011). Alluvial fans, especially in
353 small catchments with short transport and a significant portion of debris flow deposits, are
354 therefore prone to biases in luminescence measurements because the short transport in sediment-
355 rich flows usually does not allow for a complete bleaching of the mineral grains, and especially
356 not feldspar (Rhodes, 2011). This effect is enhanced because minerals freshly released from the
357 bedrock have worse luminescence characteristics and take longer to bleach (Rhodes, 2011).

358
359 The anomalously old luminescence ages reported by Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) are likely biased
360 due to incomplete bleaching caused by the turbulent mode of transport (Rhodes, 2011). The broad
361 positively skewed age distributions of measured equivalent dose measurements (the amount of
362 charge released from the grains) in Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) from feldspar IRSL indicate a mix
363 of bleached and unbleached grains resulting in late Pleistocene ages for both fan units. The mixture
364 of bleached and unbleached grains is especially evident because Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) also
365 measured the quartz OSL signal, and found the same positively skewed age distributions but with
366 younger ages. The discrepancy between the younger quartz OSL and older feldspar IRSL
367 measurements can be explained by the more rapid bleaching of quartz grains; however, these
368 authors discarded and did not report the OSL ages choosing instead to construct their interpretation
369 on the IRSL measurements alone.” (line 478-498)

370

371 14. L463-464: How was the “best fit” model determined?

372 We added some text to this point in the revision. In short, we largely relied on runout distance,
373 speed and model thickness to define the best-fitting model. For example, we discarded models
374 with maximum slide velocities of sound speed or larger, and travel times of less than 1 minute (see
375 Table 3). The best-fit model reproduces our field observations of deposits up to 100 m above the
376 modern stream channel, and reports the most realistic natural outflow, but of course still contains
377 a lot of assumptions.

378 15. L454-501: Section 5 is the Discussion, but these lines present a lot of additional results.
379 Consider moving this material earlier in the manuscript.

380 The reviewer raises an important point that we discussed during the process of writing this
381 manuscript. Though the landslide modelling does show important additional results that are
382 presented in the discussion, the whole idea of doing a landslide runout model hinges on the
383 interpretation of the alluvial deposits. To generate a logical flow and now jump ahead with
384 interpretations in the result section, we chose to present these results in the discussion section of
385 the manuscript.

386

387 16. L511-536: Can you tie this sequence to Figure 8 using specific references to each of the
388 subfigures?

389 Yes, we can (Sect. 5.5; Fig. 10).

390

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392 **General responses to J. Begg, V. Mouslopoulou, D. Moraetis**

393

394 **COMMENTS ON Bruni et al. 2021**

395 J. Begg, V. Mouslopoulou, D. Moraetis

396 6 April 2021

397 We are the principal authors of Mouslopoulou et al. (2017), the conclusions of which are
398 challenged by this submission.

399 The Domata/Klados River area is a beautiful and under-appreciated area of Crete and this
400 manuscript by Bruni et al. discusses the relationship between a large landslide event and
401 deposition within a confined catchment on the southern side of the island. We believe that while
402 the significance of the landslide event in the headwaters of the Klados River is credible, as are
403 some of the deductions that they have made regarding its impact on deposition through the
404 catchment, there are important elements within this manuscript that are not as straightforward as
405 the authors have presented. We will explore some of these issues in the comments below.

406 We thank the authors of Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) for taking the time to read and provide
407 comments on our study. As detailed below, the comments are helpful in improving and clarifying
408 the presentation of our existing observations and data. These suggestions have been, therefore,
409 helpful in better supporting the interpretations presented in the original submission.

410 1. The authors claim that the alluvial deposits beneath the surface T2 post-date a regional-scale
411 earthquake in AD365 that uplifted the coastline at Klados by c. 6 m. If this is true, most of the
412 conclusions of this work are correct. If not, however, many of their conclusions are demonstrably

413 wrong. Thus, the authors, in our view, should have taken special care to demonstrate solidly this
414 relationship. Below we show that they have not.

415 We thank the reviewers for this comment. As pointed out in a [reply](#) to Mouslopoulou et al. (2017)
416 by two of the authors of this manuscript (Gallen and Wegmann), what we call the T₂ fan forms a
417 buttress unconformity with the late Holocene erosional notch. This was clearly shown in figures
418 in that 2017-comment and is shown again in this manuscript, along with additional supporting
419 information. This observation demands that deposition of the T₂ fan post-dates uplift of the late
420 Holocene notch. This primary observation of a simple cross-cutting relationship is not in question
421 and is definitive evidence that the T₂ fan is late Holocene in age. This relationship is even shown
422 in Figure 6b of Mouslopoulou et al. (2017).

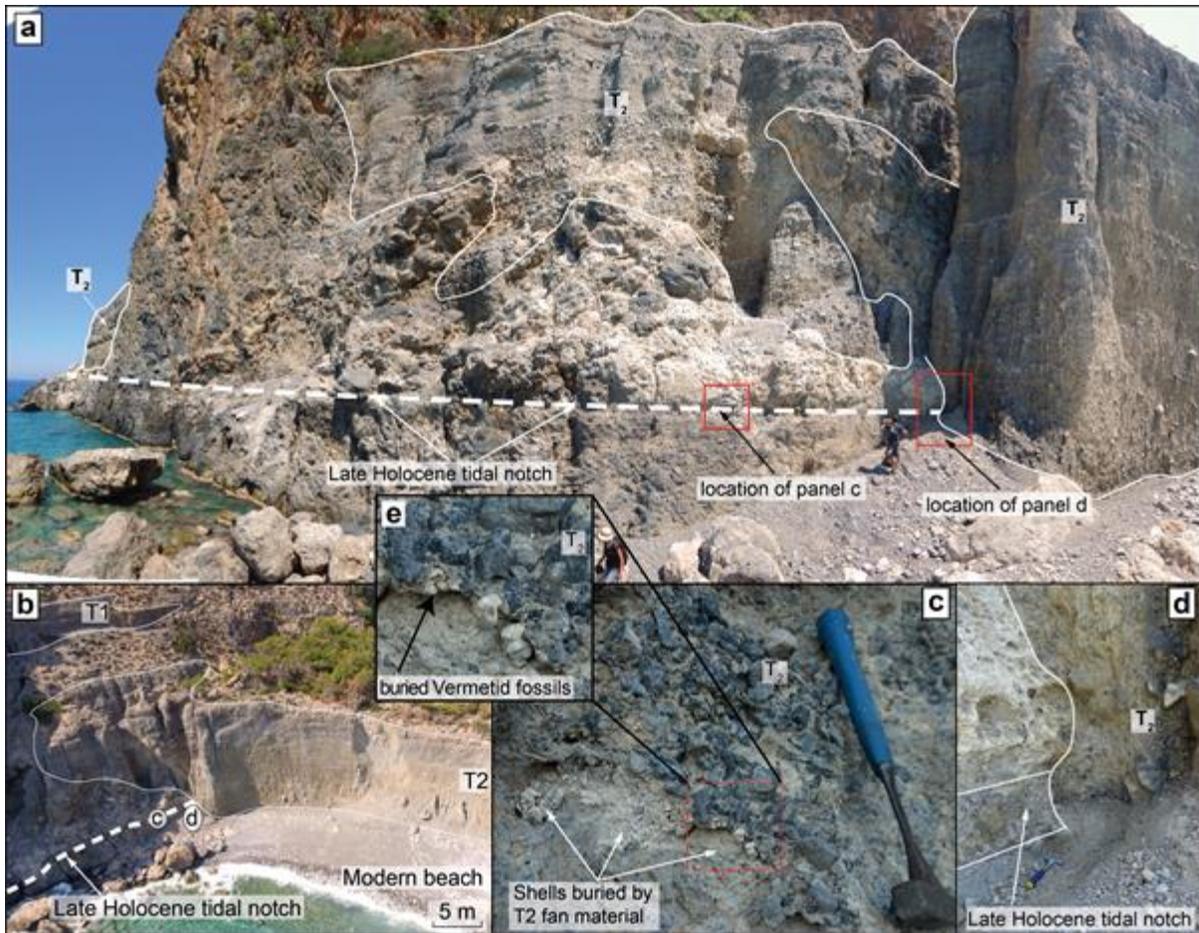
423 We added new photos and enlarged photos to more clearly show the cross-cutting relationship to
424 the revised manuscript. We thank the reviewer for this request as it strengthens the presentation
425 of our study.

426 The relationship between the alluvial deposits underlying surface T₂ and the AD365 “tidal notch”
427 is not clearly presented. The authors in lines 233-234, 289-290 (and elsewhere) repeatedly claim
428 that the AD365 “tidal notch” is overlain by alluvial deposits underlying terrace T₂. However,
429 neither Figure 4h nor 4i show this. Instead, these figures show the 365 AD tidal notch preserved
430 on limestone bedrock (Fig. 4h) but missing from nearby gravels (Fig. 4h and 4i).

431 As noted above, we have revised the presentation of the basic field observations (see Fig. 5).
432 However, the reviewers make a confusing comment here about the notch missing from the
433 gravels. Yes, the notch is in the limestone bedrock and continues behind the T₂ alluvial gravels
434 (this is a buttress unconformity); this is the entire point of showing the figure.

435 We cannot be certain, but the reviewers seem to imply that the lack of preservation of a tidal
436 erosion notch in the fan is somehow damaging to our arguments, which is entirely wrong. The
437 notch is not observed in the gravels because the fan is younger than the notch. Also, the fan is
438 highly erodible and unlikely to preserve a notch even if it did exist. Hence our confusion.

439 Alternatively, perhaps what the reviewers meant by this comment was that the notch formed at
440 the front of the fan deposits coeval with its formation across the limestone headlands on either
441 side of the Klados Gorge, and now is eroded away due to back-wasting of the T₂ alluvial gravel
442 deposits by wave and gravitational action. This is a possible scenario if T₂ fan formation was
443 Pleistocene; however, we show through stratigraphic observations (e.g., the existence of a buttress
444 unconformity between the limestone headland that includes the late Holocene notch with
445 Vermetid gastropod encrustations) and the existence of a late Holocene paleo beach deposit that
446 is buried by the younger T₂ alluvial deposits, that this hypothesis is not supported by available
447 stratigraphic information. We have included a new figure that clearly shows these observations.



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Figure 5: The contacts between the tidal notch, T_2 , and the paleobeach are illustrated by photographs from the west side of the study area. (a) Overview showing the unconformable relationship of the Late Holocene tidal notch and the T_2 fan highlighting the location of figures in other panels. (b) Oblique aerial perspective view of the outcrop with the major features highlighted. (c) Detail of the Vermetid extraction site shows how gravels of T_2 overlie a Vermetid shell pocket in the tidal notch. (d) Detail of the contact zone between the carbonaceous bedrock, T_2 , and the tidal notch (partly buried by colluvium). (e) The Vermetid fossil pocket is covered by T_2 fan material (detail of (c)).

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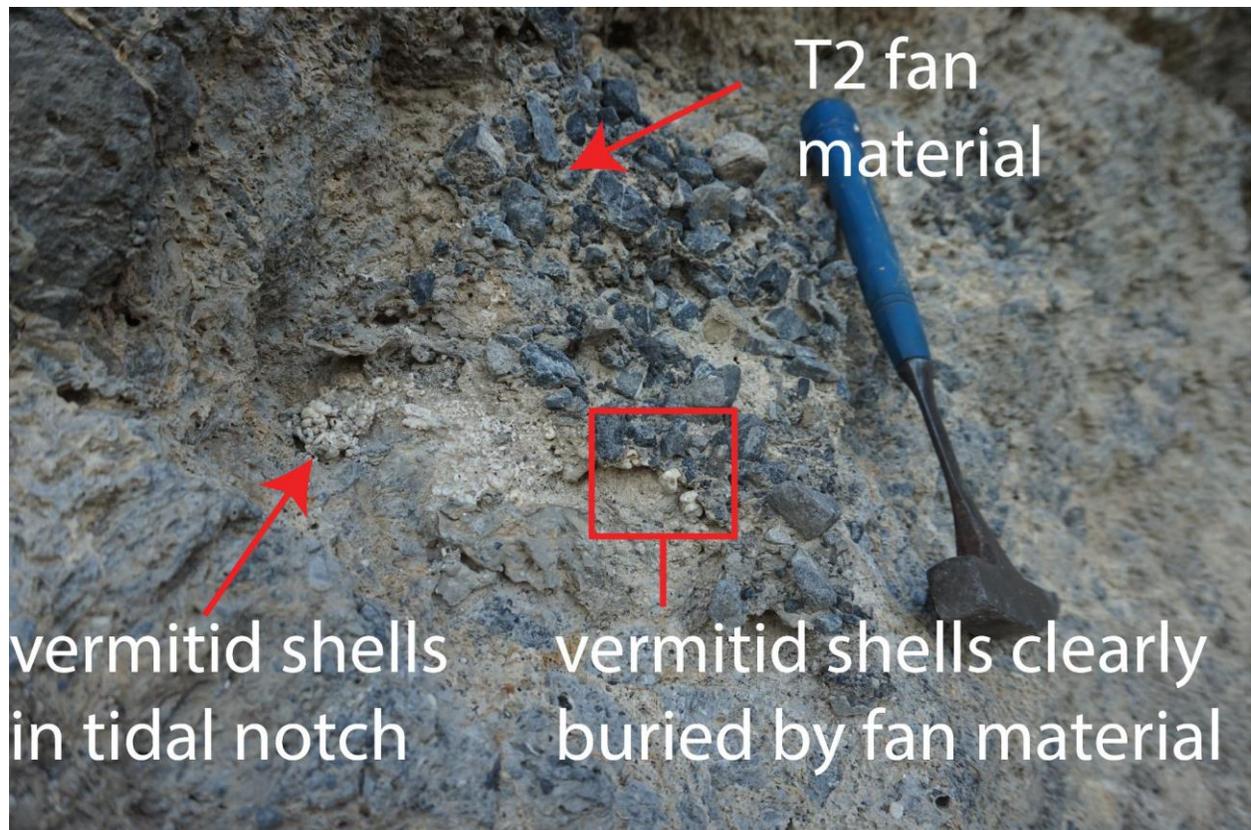
The “tidal notch” is not a deposit, it is a geomorphological feature, the result of local modification of the bedrock, here limestone, by marginal marine processes. The limestone is well lithified while the alluvial gravels are “unconsolidated” (see Section 4.3) and both lie at the inland extent of today’s active beach. There is no discussion of the potential for these active marginal marine processes to erode these two lithologies differently. Would the AD365 “tidal notch”, even if it had been present on the alluvial gravels (should they really be older), have been preserved? Why do they authors fail to consider this alternative scenario? The images presented do not identify the contact between limestone bedrock and “ T_2 deposits” (and therefore the relationship). Further, the cliff on the right-hand side of Fig. 4i comprises T_2 alluvial materials and doesn’t show the “tidal notch”, but that does not mean that it wasn’t once there before erosion by active marginal marine processes. This point is critical to the arguments that “ T_2 infill deposits” (all 20 m of them) post-date the AD365 uplift event that is asserted in the rest of the paper.

467 We are aware that the notch is not a depositional feature and we do not state otherwise in the
468 manuscript. We also recognize that the erodibility of the bedrock limestone and fan deposits are
469 different. However, the fact that the T₂ fan covers the notch indicates that the T₂ deposit is younger
470 than the notch. This is a basic cross-cutting relationship regardless of differences in erodibility
471 and “marine trimming”. We note that we are not the first scientists to make this basic observation.
472 Booth (2010) conducted a detailed study of several coastal catchments in southern Crete with a
473 particular emphasis on the Klados catchment. In this study, they independently report the same
474 observation; the T₂ fan covers the notch, thus this buttress unconformity demands that the
475 deposition of the T₂ fan postdates the late Holocene uplift of this paleoshoreline.

476 As noted above, we made revisions to the presentation of the figures to better illustrate this cross-
477 cutting relationship.



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481 Further, if the authors' interpretation above is correct: 1) the deposition of the "T2 infill deposits",
482 2) erosion of the lower coastal cliff and 3) incision by the Klados River below the T2 surface is
483 required to have occurred after the AD365 earthquake. In such a scenario, the speed of deposition
484 of the "T2 infill deposits" and their incision (by sea and river) to their present day configurations
485 must have been exceptionally fast, with only 1600 years available to complete. Given the small
486 catchment area and limited water flow, these events are less likely.

487 Yes, this is the entire point of the study and why it is so interesting. Considering the observation
488 of the valley filling landslide deposit that is highly erodible (a critical observation missed in
489 (Mouslopoulou et al., 2017), this scenario is credible, likely and indeed demanded by basic cross-
490 cutting stratigraphic field relationships. It shows how such a small catchment in the aftermath of
491 a large sediment pulse can become ultra-sensitive to external perturbations, e.g. storms and
492 earthquake sediment mobilization that rapidly aggrade and incise the deposits. **The significance
493 of this study is to show that thick sequences of alluvial deposits can form in a very limited
494 time in the aftermath of a sediment pulse, contrary to the traditional interpretation of
495 tectonic and climatic forcing.**

496 It is worth highlighting that there is a growing body of literature that shows these "stochastic"
497 events and associated rapid development of thick alluvial deposits are more common than
498 previously recognized and have often been inappropriately interpreted as the result of long-term

499 climate change. We invite the comment authors to read Scherler et al. (2016), which shows how
500 a sequence of river terraces traditionally assumed to be linked to the early to mid-Pleistocene
501 variations in climate, turned out to be due to a Holocene landslide. The study shows aggradation
502 and incision of a similar number of terraces with similar terrace thicknesses within the Holocene
503 in the semi-arid landscape of California. We also point the reviewers to the excellent work of
504 Schwanghart et al. (2016) and Stolle et al. (2017) that show large alluvial infill deposits in the
505 Central Himalaya in Nepal are Holocene in age and related to large-scale landslides up-valley.

506 **2.** The unexplored problems associated with the “tidal notch” and deposition of the “T2 infill
507 deposits” discussed above, are compounded by using their interpreted relationship to assume that
508 the “paleobeach” deposit underlying “T2 infill deposits” must represent the AD365 shoreline.
509 This is unproven. Instead, this correlation is based on the relationship that we questioned in (1)
510 and on the elevation of each of the features. We argue that in our model (see Mouslopoulou et al.,
511 2017) we would expect a “paleobeach” deposit seaward of the base of the marine cliff that
512 truncates T1 – thus, this observation does not contradict an older age of the alluvial fans.

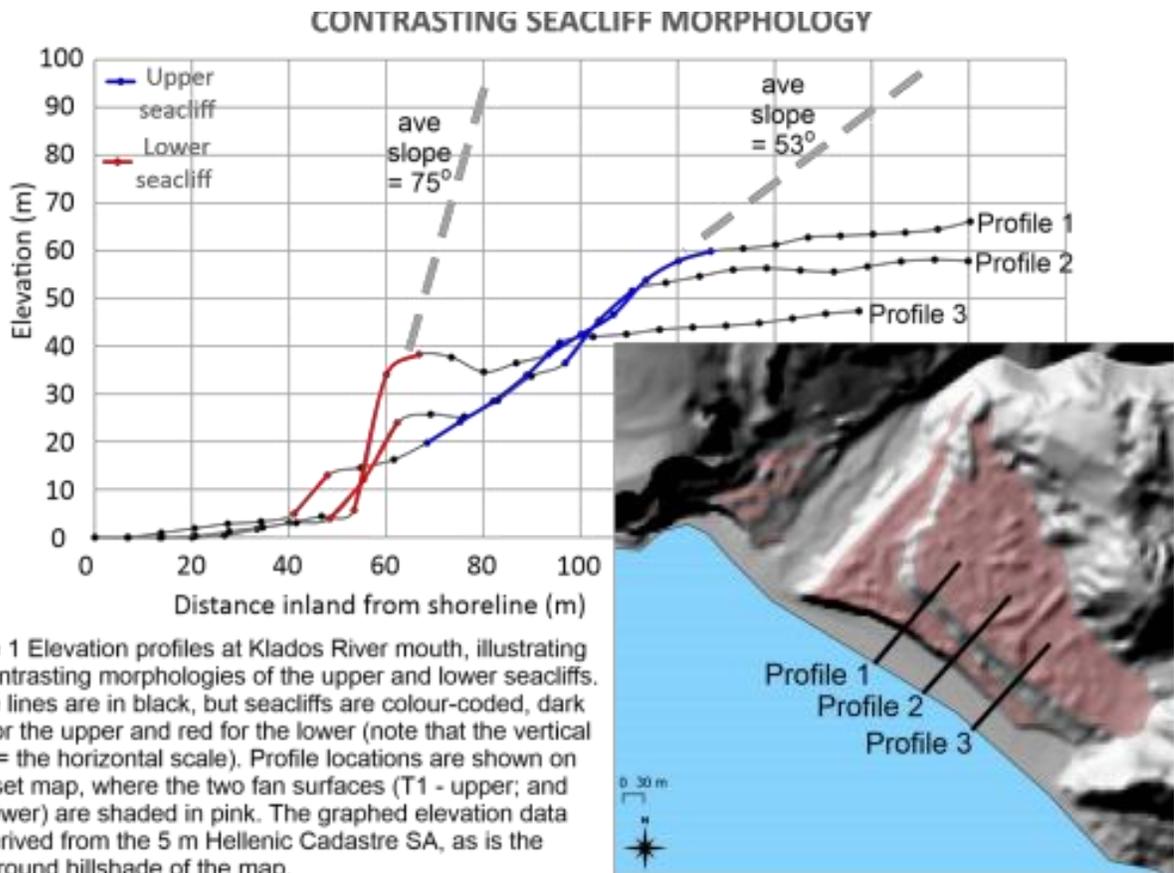
513 This comment is moot based on the cross-cutting relationships observed between the T₂ fan and
514 notch described in detail above, so we have not made any revisions to address it. Nonetheless, we
515 use this as an opportunity to highlight issues with the interpretations presented in Mouslopoulou
516 et al. (2017) and detail why our inference that this paleobeach represents the 365 AD shoreline is
517 more reasonable given the data.

518 The stratigraphic observation of the T₂ terrace overlying a paleobeach deposit was missed in the
519 original submission by Mouslopoulou et al. (2017), but highlighted in the [comment](#) by Gallen and
520 Wegmann (2017). In revision of their manuscript, Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) included mention
521 of this paleobeach and suggested that it is Pleistocene in age. However, the authors did not
522 consider the fact that the paleobeach deposit is found at the same elevation as the erosional notch,
523 which would be a remarkable coincidence if it were Pleistocene. If this paleobeach were
524 Pleistocene, the traces of the late Holocene shoreline that is found on both sides of the modern
525 Domata beach would have been completely eroded away in the center of the modern bay with
526 erosion revealing an older Pleistocene paleobeach that is found at the exact same height as the
527 Late Holocene one. Additionally, considering that the T₂ fan covers (buries) both the notch and
528 the beach, it is reasonable and more parsimonious to assume that the notch and paleobeach indeed
529 represent the same paleoshoreline.

530 During field work we have taken a luminescence sample from the paleobeach. In contrast, to the
531 fan deposits luminescence dating of beach deposits is more promising, because the constant swash
532 of beach material provides better conditions for grain bleaching. However, given the clear field
533 relationship, and the negligible quartz and feldspar content of local rocks, we decided there is no
534 benefit nor need to date this sample. If the reviewers still have any doubt about the Holocene age
535 of this paleobeach after our presentation of additional field pictures with clear cross-cutting
536 relationships, they are welcome to process this sample.

537 **3.** Reference is made by the authors to the “crisp” similarity in morphology of the two marine

538 cliffs at Klados mouth. More careful examination of this statement shows that this is not true.
 539 The 5 m topo DEM that the authors used to derive their data is entirely adequate to contradict this
 540 assertion. See below profiles 1 to 3 across the Klados beach that illustrate that the lower sea-cliff
 541 is significantly steeper than the upper sea-cliff (75° vs. 53° average slopes). In addition, the
 542 base/crest of the lower-cliff is much sharper than those of the upper-cliff. The morphological
 543 differences between the two sea-cliffs are indicative of an age difference substantially more than
 544 1600 years. These observations undermine the authors' assertion that the morphologies are
 545 equally immature and therefore both of late Holocene age and provide critical corroborative
 546 evidence that the upper sea-cliff is substantially older than the lower sea-cliff.



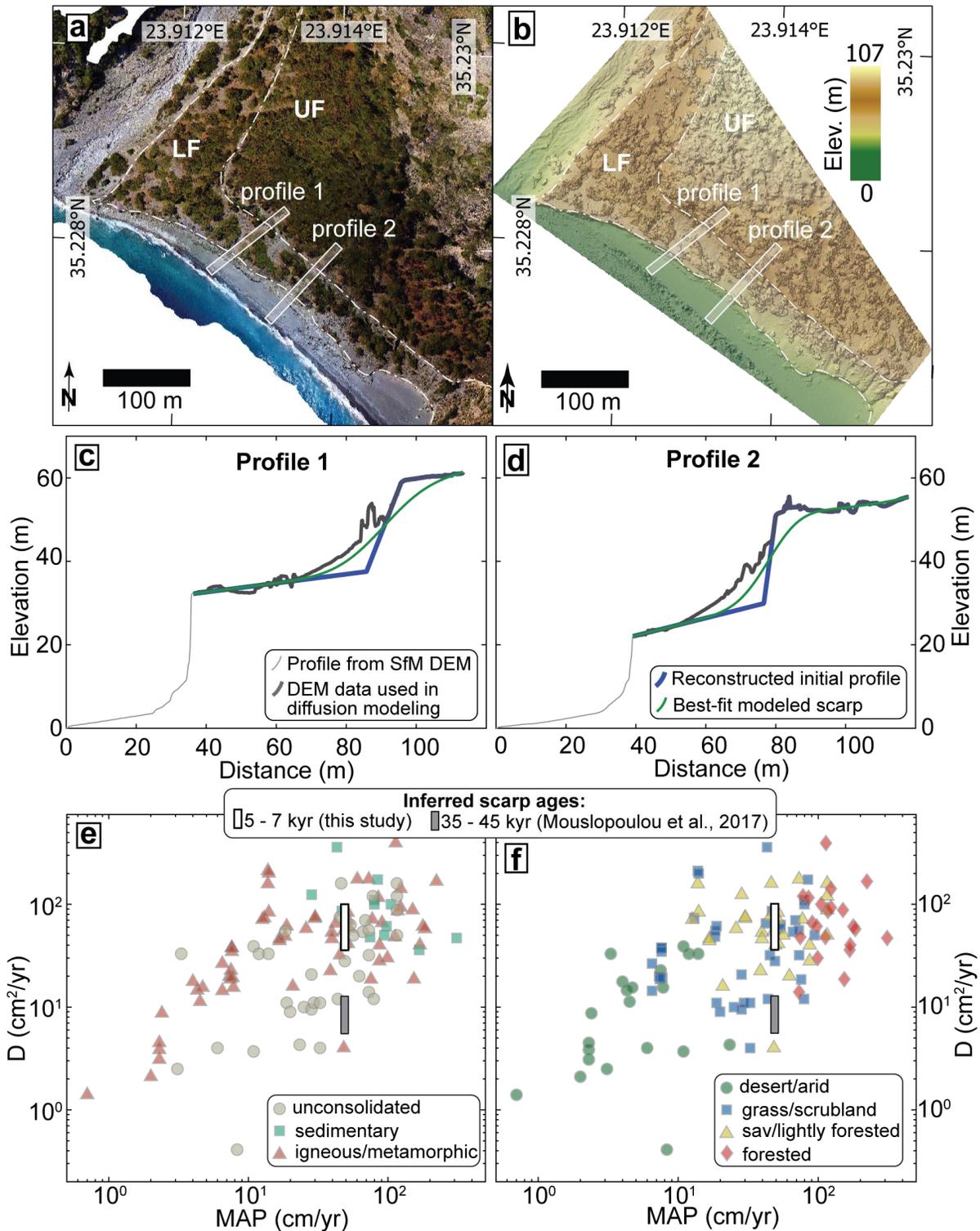
547
 548 This is an intriguing comment that is very similar to a comment made by [Gallen and Wegmann](#)
 549 [\(2017\)](#) regarding issues of the interpretations presented in Mouslopoulou et al. (2017). We thank
 550 the reviewers for producing this figure, which provides an opportunity to highlight why our
 551 interpretations are more favorable than those presented in Mouslopoulou et al. (2017).

552 First, the figure above selectively chooses the steepest profile of T₂ (in red above, profile 3) to
 553 argue that the T₂ sea cliff is steeper. The active sea cliff for T₂ Profiles 1 and 2 have slopes of
 554 ~55-60 degree, which is remarkably similar to the slope of the T₁ paleo-sea cliff, supporting our
 555 statements in the manuscript that these erosional cliffs are “similarly crisp”. Also see the detailed
 556 topographic profile in Figure 5a in Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) for evidence of the similar
 557 morphology of these two sea cliffs.

558 Second, the T₂ sea cliff is actively eroding by wave action during winter storms. As such, we
559 expect that some portions will be oversteepened (profile 3), so this observation is not damaging
560 to our interpretations.

561 Third, as pointed out in Gallen and Wegmann's (2017) comment, the similar sharpness of the T₁
562 and T₂ sea cliffs as shown in the figure above is very problematic for the interpretations presented
563 in Mouslopoulou et al. (2017). Both terraces consist of largely uncemented and unconsolidated
564 granular material. In our interpretation, the T₁ sea cliff is only ~1600 years old, which explains
565 why it maintains a steep angle of 53 degrees, similar to the actively eroding T₂ sea cliff. The
566 interpretation of Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) suggests the T₁ sea cliff is >30 kyrs older than the
567 active T₂ sea cliff. Considering that these are unconsolidated granular deposits, how does T₁
568 maintain such sharpness over that duration of time? This presents a problem for the interpretations
569 presented in Mouslopoulou et al. (2017), but is easily explained by our preferred interpretation.

570 In response to this comment, we produce our own profiles to show the similar sharpness of the
571 sea cliff and elaborate on why this supports the interpretations that T₁ is young (e.g. Holocene).
572 We thank the reviewers for pushing us to more strongly support our interpretations with
573 quantitative analysis of the sea cliff morphology (see supplementary sect. 7, Fig. S6). We are
574 confident that this will be helpful in convincing the reader of their young age.



575

576 **Figure S6:** Structure from motion (SfM) photomosaic, digital surface model (DSM), and diffusion modelling results.

577 (a) and (b) show the SfM photomosaic and DSM result, respectively, along with the location of the two swath profiles

578 (LF – lower fan, UF – upper fan). (c) and (d) are the minimum elevations of the swath profile (grey lines), which are

579 assumed to approximate the vegetation-free fan morphology. Also shown on both plots is the initial (blue line) and

580 the final modelled (green line) topographic profiles for the upper fan. The bold grey line shows the data used in the

581 diffusion modelling. (e) and (f) show the best fit diffusion coefficient, D , results for the Holocene and Pleistocene age
582 models as the white and great vertical rectangles, respectively, plotted against mean annual precipitation (MAP). Also
583 shown is the global compilation of diffusion coefficients from Richardson et al. (2019) classified based on substrate (e)
584 and overlying vegetation (f).

585 Unit AD in the current manuscript comprises aeolian silty sand and includes terrestrial gastropod
586 shells. The authors argue that the deposition of this unit post-dated abandonment of the T1 surface
587 and this is entirely reasonable. But to assign a depositional age for this unit to the period of
588 incision of T1 gravels (lines 271-274), only because similar aeolian deposits are present around
589 Crete (unreferenced statement), and without proving that they were indeed deposited during this
590 incision phase and prior to deposition of the lower fan gravels, is inappropriate. So dating the
591 gastropod from these aeolian deposits proves little other than that some aeolian silty sand was
592 deposited locally in the late Holocene, necessarily after abandonment of the T1 surface.

593 This is a fair point and we have made revisions qualifying the results. However, we note that even
594 without this geochronology, the cross-cutting, stratigraphic and geomorphic observables support
595 our interpretation that the deposits in Klados are Holocene and not Pleistocene.

596 5. This brings us to the authors' preference, in this instance, to believe radiocarbon ages instead
597 of IRSL ages. The authors state that they collected most of the bulk sediment samples from close
598 to terrace surfaces where the materials were accessible. As acknowledged within the text, they all
599 have very low total organic carbon contents, but the origin of the carbon within the samples
600 receives little discussion (Section 4.4) regarding whether it is possible that there may have been
601 contamination from plants (living and dead, surface litter and root systems). These contaminants
602 arguably have the potential for minimizing resulting ages, and even making the ages irrelevant to
603 the timing of events they are designed to investigate. The question-marks regarding the
604 radiocarbon ages presented are at least as compelling as the arguments they use to dismiss the
605 validity of our substantially older IRSL ages. Interestingly, the authors do argue for younger
606 contaminants in their landslide deposits to explain their younger ages (lines 399-400).

607 The field relationships clearly show that the IRSL results of Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) are
608 unreliable. The T₂ fan forms a buttress unconformity with the Holocene notch, requiring its
609 deposition in the Late Holocene. The IRSL results of this Holocene deposit produce an apparent
610 age of ~40 kyr with significant scatter in the equivalent doses indicating the results are incorrect.
611 Furthermore, we remind the reviewers that their IRSL results are not stratigraphically consistent;
612 they suggest that the relatively younger T₂ fan was deposited BEFORE the older T₁ fan.

613 The unreliability of the IRSL-feldspar results is not surprising. The Klados catchment is small
614 and the deposits are high-energy and close to the source with a significant amount of debris flow
615 deposits. This is problematic for luminescence dating (and especially feldspar IRSL) because the
616 environmental conditions are poor and incomplete bleaching before deposition is likely. This was
617 a point raised by Gallen and Wegmann (2017) regarding the IRSL results present in
618 Mouslopoulou et al. (2017), which the authors never adequately addressed.

619 The distributions of paleodoses from IRSL measurements support the notion that the results suffer

620 from incomplete bleaching since equivalent doses are widely scattered and show a skew towards
621 younger ages. Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) acknowledge that their IRSL data suggest incomplete
622 bleaching (quote: “This can indicate insufficient exposure of the sediment to daylight during the
623 last sedimentation cycle.”). Perhaps most importantly, Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) state that they
624 generated optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) results for quartz grains. However, they do
625 not report these results, stating “In contrast, the investigated quartz from Domata showed poor
626 luminescence properties: the OSL signals were dim, dose recovery tests yielded unsatisfactory
627 results, the highly scattering palaeo-doses produced positively skewed broad distributions and the
628 resulting quartz ages showed no relationship with stratigraphy (underestimation of true age).”
629 Mouslopoulou et al., (2017) report the same behavior of broad and positively skewed equivalent
630 dose distributions for their OSL measurements as for IRSL measurements. However, they chose
631 to not publish the OSL results stating a “underestimation of true age”.

632 We emphasize that the arguments laid out in this quote used to rationalize not reporting the OSL
633 results can equally apply to Mouslopoulou et al.’s (2017) IRSL results. We note that quartz
634 bleaches faster than feldspar, and it is likely that the OSL results are better approximations of the
635 depositional age of these Klados fans and terraces. However, we emphasize that the wide
636 positively skewed scatter in OSL and IRSL measurements clearly points towards incomplete
637 bleaching, which is also acknowledged in Mouslopoulou et al. (2017). The combination of
638 younger OSL ages compared to IRSL, the broad skewed dose distributions for OSL and IRSL,
639 and the poorly suitable depositional environment for luminescence burial dating indicate that the
640 IRSL data reported by Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) are unreliable. We have added two paragraphs
641 to the revised manuscript that discuss the points mentioned above in detail.

642 We also invite the authors of Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) to read the EGU21 abstract from
643 Schwanghart et al. ([Abstract](#)). They perform luminescence dating on alluvial deposits in the
644 Himalaya that are also related to upstream mass movements. They find that despite a transport
645 distance significantly larger than in the Klados catchment, basically no bleaching of feldspar
646 grains occurred during transport in the sediment laden floods and/or debris flows. We assume that
647 the same applies to the feldspar grains measured by Mouslopoulou et al. (2017).

648 As noted in our manuscript, there is a great deal of uncertainty in our bulk radiocarbon ages.
649 However, they are indeed consistent with the field observations and cross-cutting relationships
650 that require most of the fan and terrace sequence to be Holocene. We consider this secondary
651 evidence in support of the primary stratigraphic and cross-cutting relationships.

652 The reviewer brings up a good point that we clarify in the revision; the samples collected from T₂
653 and T₁ were from recently cut exposures well below the depth of soil, leaf litter, and rooting
654 systems. So these sources of uncertainty for these deposits are small given our sampling approach.
655 The landslide deposit consists of extremely weak material and clean, recent exposures were
656 difficult to access. Because of this, we could not obtain samples from “ideal” locations, and we
657 sampled the best locations possible. As such, it is possible that the samples acquired from the
658 landslide deposit suffer from the sources of uncertainty mentioned above. We include a more

659 detailed discussion of these points in the revision.

660 We also want to use this as a chance to highlight that the absolute geochronology for deposits in
661 Klados is a challenge and merits future work. That said, T₂ post-dates the Holocene erosional
662 notch, so it is Holocene.

663 In lines 395-396 the authors state that “The deposition order obtained from the radiocarbon dating
664 agrees with the sequence of events established in the field.” This statement is demonstrably
665 incorrect, as further explored in their following sentences (396-404). Notably, the radiocarbon
666 age for L1 is younger than those for T1 and T2, but the authors claim stratigraphic evidence that
667 L1 pre-dates T1 and T2. By their own pen, the statement is clearly incorrect and should be
668 removed from the manuscript.

669 This is a good point and we will revise the statements accordingly. However, we do discuss in
670 detail on lines 397-400 of the original submission why these discrepancies likely exist.
671 Furthermore, this mismatch highlights the importance of the relative age control that we establish
672 and the cross-cutting relationships observed. These are the primary observations in the study and
673 support our interpretations, the geochronology is supplementary, but helpful. We also note the
674 geochronology of Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) is out of stratigraphic order, and the authors of that
675 study seem comfortable with that when publishing their work.

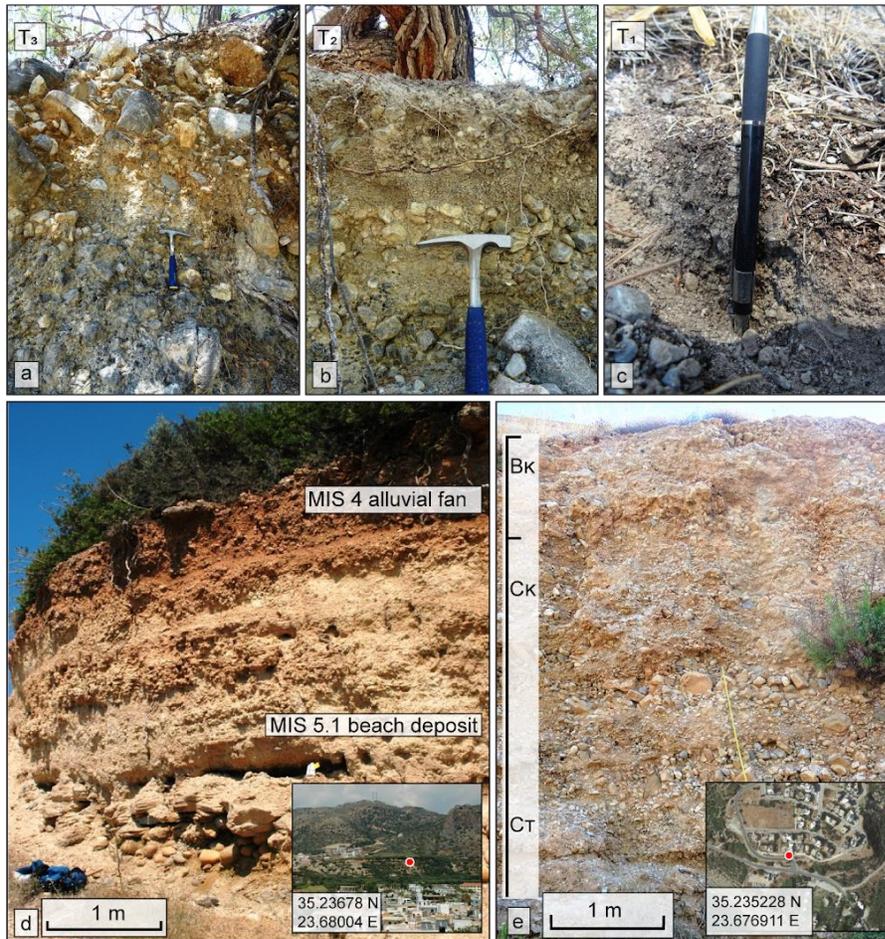
676 The modified sentence reads as follows: “Except for one outlier, the deposition order obtained
677 from the radiocarbon dating agrees with the sequence of events established in the field” (Table 1
678 and line 464-466).

679 **6.** Local soil development is highly variable and is influenced by a number of factors, including
680 climate, parent material (including chemistry) and topography (Lin 2011). Thus, comparing soil
681 development in Klados with areas such as Tsoutsouros in central southern Crete (130 km away)
682 is risky. The Bt and Bk horizons in Tsoutsouros alluvial fans (Gallen et al. 2014) are about 2 m
683 deep and similar horizons at Sfakia (20 km away) range from 5-16 cm (Pope et al. 2008; p 214,
684 Section 7). A B horizon is present on the T1 fan surface at Klados but is limited in depth
685 (Mouslopoulou et al. 2017).

686 Based on our own field observation, no B-horizon is present in the T₁ fan gravels. This was also
687 evident in photos present in figures 8b and c in Mouslopoulou et al. (2017). The photo is annotated
688 with “possible B horizon”, but there is no evidence of clay or calcium carbonate accumulation.
689 The soils, or more accurately, the lack of soil development in the Klados fan deposits supports a
690 young, likely Holocene age and the photos in Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) Figure 8 support the
691 notion that they are immature relative to those developed on Pleistocene fans studied elsewhere
692 on Crete.

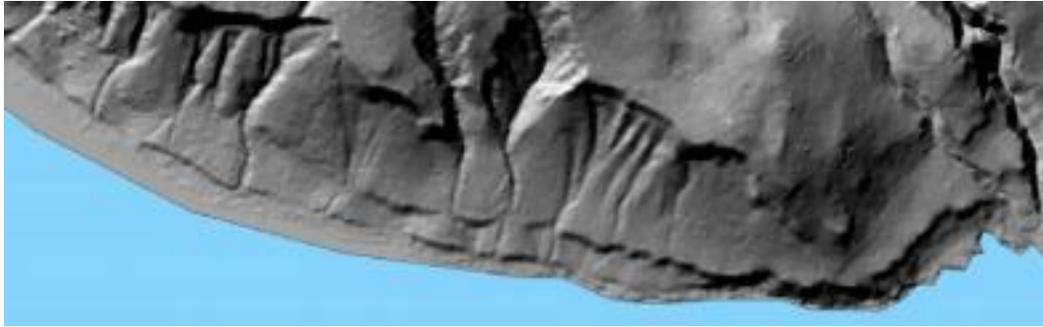
693 We are well aware of the state factors that affect soil development including parent material,
694 climate, topography, drainage, etc. The coastal climate of southern Crete is not substantially
695 different from location to location and the fans described by Pope et al. (2008) and Gallen et al.
696 (2014) are developed on similar alluvial fan material dominated by carbonate grains. However,

697 the soils are very different in these locations and support our interpretations. A key observation is
 698 that many (not all) Pleistocene fans composed of carbonate grains in Crete calcify quickly (see
 699 observations presented by the reviewers in the following comment). The Klados fans are almost
 700 entirely carbonate and are not cemented at all, in contrast to their Pleistocene counterparts. Indeed
 701 the images of the deposits in the following comment below show how different the Pleistocene-
 702 age deposits are near Aradena Gorge (~13 km east of Klados) relative to the Holocene features in
 703 Klados.



704 **Figure S5:** Minor soil development on T3 (a), T2 (b), and T1 (c) results in low soil maturity. Typically, a surface horizon of non-
 705 degraded organic matter such as pine needles overlies the original alluvial deposits. Soil formation may be accelerated in close
 706 proximity to larger plants such as pine trees, but we find no sign of wide-spread pedogenesis. (d) Outcrop “Alta Paleohora” (20 km
 707 W of Klados, exact location noted) showing dated MIS 4 alluvial fan material over MIS 5.1 beach deposits (Pope et al., 2008). (e)
 708 Outcrop in Paleohora (exact location noted), carbonaceous terrace of MIS 2. B = top soil, C = source rock, K= secondary carbonates,
 709 T = clay-enriched (IUSS Working Group WRB, 2015).
 710
 711

712 **7.** The manuscript interprets the presence of the double coastal sea cliff at Klados to result from
 713 deposition of a landslide and uplift associated with the AD365 earthquake. However, double (or
 714 even multiple) sea cliffs are present at different elevations in other coastal fan deposits along
 715 southern Crete that lack a landslide source for sediment supply. For example, west of Aradaina
 716 Gorge (Figure 2) these sea-trimmed fans are present along a 3 km length of the coastline.



717

718 Scale bar 3 km long

719 **Figure 2:** Double sea-trimmed fans between Agia Roumeli and Aradaina Gorge, southwest Crete.



730 Similar twin sea cliffs, but at a higher elevation, are present at the settlement of Agia Roumeli, at
731 the mouth of the Samaria Gorge (see Figure 3). Thus, the deposits/processes at Klados/Domata
732 may not be as unique for Crete as the authors present (lines 106, 426, 429 and 503).

733 The south coast of Crete comprises marine terrace sequences with numerous paleoshorelines (e.g.,
734 Mouslopoulou et al., 2015b; Ott et al., 2019). Sequences of sea cliffs are not unique to the Klados/
735 Domata area and are not presented as such in the manuscript. We therefore did not make any
736 modifications in response to this comment.

737 We also want to use this as an opportunity to highlight key observations that we made about the
738 uniqueness of the Klados alluvial deposits; although it was not raised by the reviewer. Upvalley
739 from Domata beach within the Klados catchment, the coastal fans are fluvial terraces (they are the
740 same deposits) and extend nearly to the headwaters of the catchment. It is highly unusual in Crete
741 or elsewhere to find an alluvial terrace in drainages this small, suggesting that the conditions in
742 Klados are different than elsewhere. We note that Mouslopoulou et al. (2017) did not report
743 observations of these terraces nor their upstream extent, but these deposits are essential to
744 understanding the origins, history, and deposition of the coastal fans in much the same way the

745 landslide deposit is critical to understand why this small catchment is capable of generating such
746 large alluvial deposits.

747 In summary, we are pleased that this paper provides new information on the likely presence of a
748 landslide in the upper Klados catchment. The presence of this landslide and its deposits certainly
749 raises the question whether stochastic events may account for geomorphology, erosion and
750 deposition. However, due to the ambiguities associated with inconclusive stratigraphic and
751 geochronological data identified above, this manuscript fails to prove its hypothesis that ‘the
752 entire fan and terrace sequence’ (lines 22-24) at Klados is late Holocene in age. Thus, in this
753 comment we question some of Bruni et al’s primary conclusions, despite the fact that they are
754 presented with such certainty.

755 We thank the reviewers for their time in helping clarify points made regarding the Holocene age
756 of the depositional feature in Klados. Their effort has strengthened our arguments. For that we
757 are appreciative.

758

759 *Mouslopoulou, V., Begg, J., Fülling, A., Moraetis, D., Partsinevelos, P., and Oncken, O., 2017.*
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