

Response to S. Ommanney

(Original comments are in bold, our replies are in standard font.)

Is it Pokalde or Pokhalde? The latter appears to be that favoured by the Nepal Mountaineering Association and is also the form used in a previous paper by Byers (not cited).

Pokalde may be spelled with or without an h because this is the English transcription of a local Sherpa name. Actually, we chose to spell it as Pokalde like in the most commonly used maps of the region (Mount Everest Map, 1:25,000, Alpenvereinskarte, 1957; Mount Everest Map, 1:50,000, edited by National Geographic Magazine, Washington DC, 1988; and Khumbu Himal Map, 1:50,000, Arbeitsgemeinschaft für vergleichende Hochgebirgsforschung, 1965 and reedited in 1999, initially based on the field work conducted by E. Schneider (1955-63) as in Byers (2007)). The glacier we are referring to in our paper is located on the north-western flank of Pokalde peak (5794 and 5806 m a.s.l. on both Mount Everest maps and on Khumbu Himal map respectively), and is the only remaining glacier covering this peak (visible at the extreme South of the map shown on Fig 3b, of Bolch et al, *J Glaciol*, 54(187), 592-600, 2008). It is obviously not the same as the one reported by Byers (2007) who published 2 photographs (1956 and 2007; Fig 2), showing the complete disappearance of a small glacier in 2007, probably located in the vicinity but where? We preferred not to cite Byers (2007) in the revised version of our manuscript because Byers (2007) is not a peer-reviewed paper, and is lacking a map showing the location of his surveyed glaciers. Adding this reference would have been confusing for the reader.