

We sincerely thank the handling editor for moderating the review process. Since the manuscript has been accepted as it by the reviewers, there is no further review comments to address. However, during the file validation process following our last revised manuscript submission, we received a notification suggesting modifications to the supplementary section and figures. Our responses to the suggestions are provided below. The comments are marked in bold blue font, and our responses are given in regular black font below each comment.

1. Coloured or marked text in *.pdf supplement file is not allowed. Please provide a clean version of the *.pdf supplement file (with black text) with the next revision. I would recommend you combine the coloured version of the supplement and the coloured version of the manuscript into one Author's tracked changes version of the files. This way you will be able to save data about changes both in the manuscript and in the supplement.

Complied with. The clean version of manuscript and supplementary section is uploaded now. Since, the manuscript is accepted as it is and there are no further changes made to manuscript, author's track change version is not required for this submission.

2. Regarding the figures 7 and 18: Please ensure that the colour schemes used in your maps and charts allow readers with colour vision deficiencies to correctly interpret your findings. Please check your figures using the Coblis – Color Blindness Simulator (<https://www.color-blindness.com/coblis-color-blindness-simulator/>) and revise the colour schemes accordingly.

Thank you for the suggestions. We have revised the colour schemes in Figure 7 in page no. 16. Instead of using different colours for each year, we now highlight the year 2020 using red-filled circles, while the years 2009 to 2019 are shown using black-filled circles. The figure caption has been updated accordingly and corresponding in text citation of the figure 7 have been modified at page no. 17 L442 and page no. 19 L481. A similar revision has been applied to Figure S6 in the supplementary section, as it followed the same colour scheme.

Regarding Figure 18, the colour scheme has been revised, and distinct markers are now used for each data type to ensure clarity and distinguishability for all readers. A similar update has also been made to Figure 13, which previously used almost the same colour scheme.