

Reviewer 1's comments:

This manuscript deals with stringent problem in conflict prone Central Africa: Data scarceness, data gaps and sometimes erroneous recordings.

While the technical description of the recovery period and the trend analysis provide an excellent basis for future research, I miss a statement on possible reasons for differences in trends throughout the paper. At least one paragraph in the discussion (e.g. at the end of section 4.6) exploring possible drivers of the differences in trends would round up the manuscript. Is it just differences in manifestation of global circulation changes due to climate change? Or it could be due to differences in Land Use Change around the site or further away? May it be attributable to logging or agriculture, to mining or construction, etc. Emphasising such issues would greatly increase the possible audience and the impact of this important recovery mission.

Response:

We thank the reviewer for their time and valuable suggestions to improve the manuscript. We agree that the manuscript would benefit from a discussion of possible reasons for differences in trend magnitude and sign among stations. In the revised manuscript, we will expand the Discussion to mention possible contributors to station-level differences, including large-scale climate variability, local environmental conditions, local and remote land-use or land-cover change, and station-specific non-climatic effects (noting that while we performed quality control, we did not undertake a formal homogenization exercise). We will also clarify that this study does not perform a formal attribution analysis, and therefore we cannot quantify the relative contributions of these possible drivers to the observed trends. Below is what we would propose as an updated text in **Discussions Section 4.2**; **modified text** being in blue.

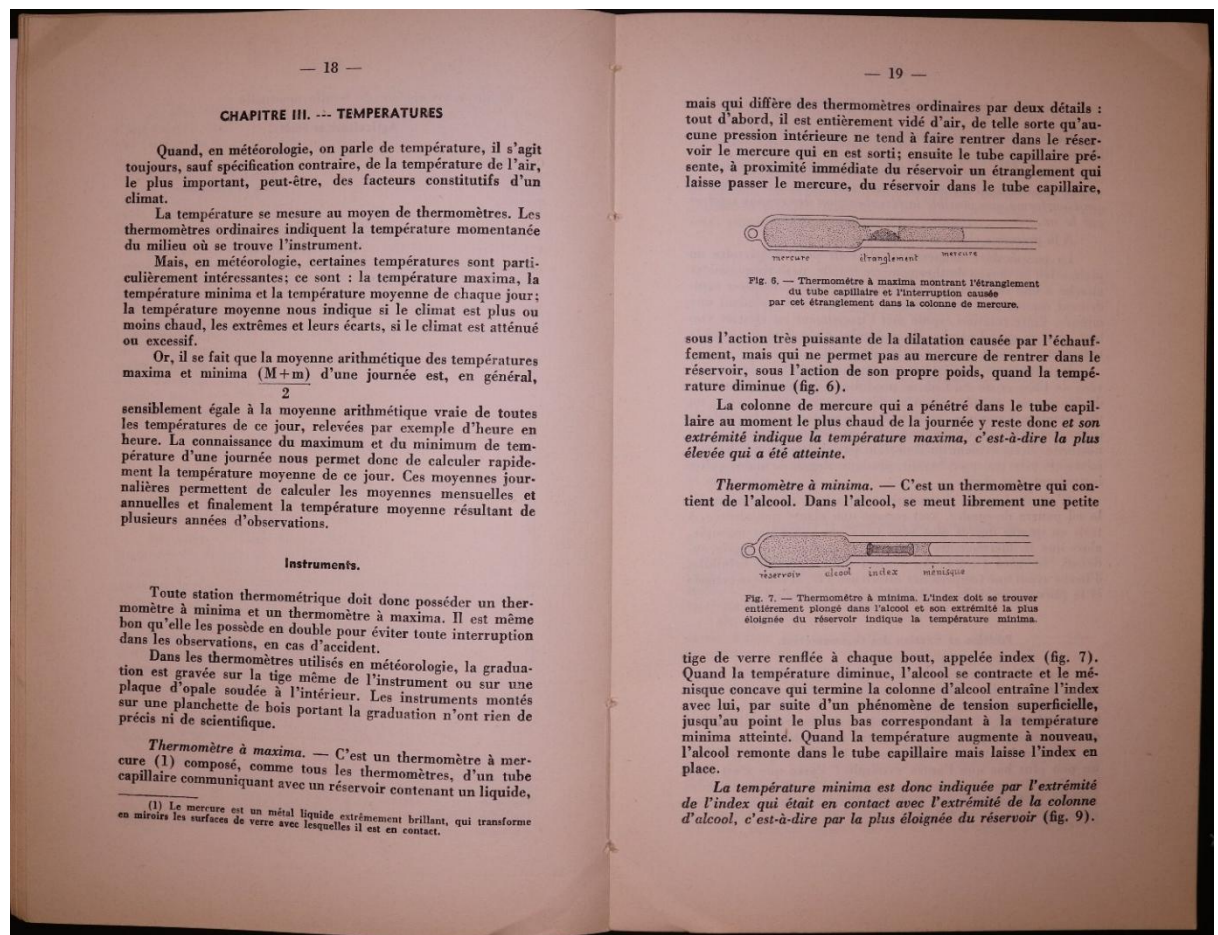
However, it is important to note that, while QA/QC checks were applied **to identify and correct transcription errors and physically inconsistent values**, homogenisation was not performed to detect and adjust for potential non-climatic inhomogeneities in the station records. Such inhomogeneities, **well-rehearsed throughout the literature**, may arise from changes in station location, instruments, **calibration procedures, measurement precision**, observation times **or practices**, and could introduce artificial (non-climatic) shifts in the temperature time series (Williams et al. 2012; Peterson et al., 1998). **While digitized records documenting the types of instruments used and some measurement procedures are available in the COBECORE records (Appendix Figures B4-B5 ; Jacobsen et al., 2018; Coppieters. G., 2013), the available metadata are not sufficiently complete to reconstruct station-specific histories of such changes throughout the full observational period.**

Possible physical contributors may also have influenced differences among the station records. These include differences in elevation (Hock et al. 2019), changes in the immediate station environment, proximity to forests or water bodies, and local and remote land-use or land-cover change (Zeppetello et al., 2020). For instance, Mangaza et al. (2026) report a loss of approximately 9.7% of tropical forest in the Tshopo province, where three stations in our dataset are located (Yangambi-Km.5, Yaekama, and Gazi; the former two analysed), over the period 1900-2023 due to deforestation for agriculture and settlement. **Within Yangambi alone, approximately 24 ha of primary forest was lost between 2002 and 2025, accounting for only about 2% of the total tree-cover loss in the area recorded over the same period (Global Nature Watch, 2026; Turubanova, S. et al. 2018; Hansen, M. C. et al. 2013). Between 2001 and 2025, permanent agriculture was associated with approximately 19% of the tree-cover loss in Yangambi (Global Nature Watch, 2026; Sims, M.J. et al. 2025; Hansen, M. C. et al. 2013). Such changes can lead to localised warming effects (Zeppetello et al., 2020).**

More generally, differences in trend magnitude and sign among stations may reflect a combination of large-scale climate variability, local environmental conditions, and station-

specific non-climatic effects. However, because this study did not perform a formal attribution analysis, we could not quantify the relative contributions of such possible drivers to the observed station-level trends. Therefore, part of the distribution changes may reflect these local physical and/or non-climatic influences from one or more stations, although the consistency with previous regional assessments suggests that the broad warming pattern is robust.

We will also add Appendix figures B4 and B5 below:



Appendix Figure B4: Example of COBECORE archive documents describing thermometers used to measure daily maximum and minimum temperatures and observation procedures used at INEAC/INERA stations. These documents provide useful contextual metadata and demonstrate that standardised instrumentation and observation procedures were prescribed across the INEAC/INERA observational network. However, they do not constitute complete station-specific histories of instrument changes, calibration procedures, relocations, or observing practices over the full observational period (Source: *Guide pratique à l'usage des observateurs – Réseau Météorologique du Congo Belge* available in the COBECORE records (Jacobsen et al., 2018; Coppieters. G., 2013).

1° Pluviomètre grand modèle, type du Ministère des Colonies (fig. 1).

C'est un appareil à double récipient, en zinc épais, garni de deux frettes en laiton, haut de 54,5 centimètres, muni d'une couronne en bronze, d'un diamètre intérieur de 225,7 millimètres (226 en chiffres ronds) qui limite une surface récep-

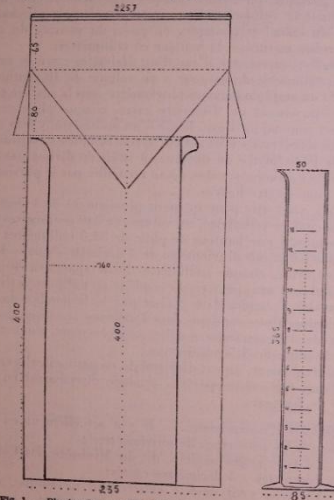


Fig. 1. — Pluviomètre grand modèle. Type du Ministère des Colonies. Surface réceptrice 4 décimètres carrés.

trice de quatre décimètres carrés, recueillant 40 centimètres cubes d'eau par millimètre de pluie tombée. Le récipient intérieur, d'une capacité de 8 litres, peut contenir toute l'eau d'une pluie de 200 millimètres. Le récipient extérieur a une contenance double.

A cet instrument, correspond une éprouvette grand modèle, haute d'environ 36 centimètres, portant une double graduation.

Celle de gauche, qui va de 1 à 13 millimètres, donne directement la hauteur d'eau en millimètres (grands traits avec chiffres) et dixièmes de millimètres (petits traits intermédiaires); celle de droite est graduée en centimètres cubes. On ne se servira, pour les observations pluviométriques, que de l'échelle de gauche. A défaut de cette éprouvette spéciale, on peut mesurer l'eau contenue dans le pluviomètre au moyen d'une éprouvette commerciale ordinaire, graduée en centimètres cubes, et diviser le total par 40.

2° Pluviomètre petit modèle, type entièrement métallique (fig. 2).

Haut de 32 centimètres, composé de deux parties métalliques; couronne en bronze d'un diamètre intérieur d'environ 112 millimètres limitant une surface réceptrice de un décimètre carré. Un millimètre de pluie y apporte 10 centimètres cubes d'eau. Cet instrument est accompagné d'une petite éprouvette spéciale haute de 19 centimètres, graduée de 1 à 25, chaque trait correspondant à un millimètre de pluie. Les dixièmes de millimètre doivent s'apprécier à la vue.

A défaut de l'éprouvette spéciale, prendre une éprouvette du commerce graduée en centimètres cubes et diviser par 10 le total de centimètres cubes mesuré.

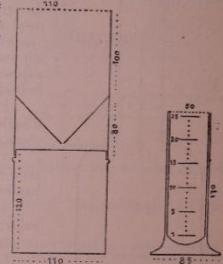


Fig. 2. — Pluviomètre petit modèle. Type entièrement métallique. Surface réceptrice 1 décimètre carré.

3° Pluviomètre petit modèle, type I. R. M. (Institut Royal Météorologique d'Uccle) (fig. 3).

Composé d'un flacon de verre à très large base, donc très stable, surmonté d'un entonnoir en zinc ayant, comme celui de l'instrument précédent, un décimètre carré de surface réceptrice.

Tout ce qui a été dit au sujet du pluviomètre de Lambrecht s'applique à celui-ci, notamment en ce qui concerne l'éprouvette. En cas de bris du récipient, toute bouteille peut être utilisée.

Appendix Figure B5: Example of COBECORE archive documents describing rain gauges used to measure daily precipitation and observation procedures used at INEAC/INERA stations. These documents provide useful contextual metadata and demonstrate that standardised instrumentation and observation procedures were prescribed across the INEAC/INERA observational network. However, they do not constitute complete station-specific histories of instrument changes, calibration procedures, relocations, or observing practices over the full observational period (Source: *Guide pratique à l'usage des observateurs – Réseau Météorologique du Congo Belge*; available in the COBECORE records (Jacobsen et al., 2018; Coppieters, G., 2013).