

Article

Change in Climate Extremes and Pan Evaporation Influencing Factors over Ouémé Delta in Bénin

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Abstract: This work focuses on trend analysis of rainfall, evaporation, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and sunshine duration over the Ouémé Delta in Bénin. Eight temperature based indices and fifteen rainfall based indices are computed from 1960 to 2016. Moreover, maximum 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10 days precipitation indices were computed at the monthly scale. Trends are detected at 0.05 confidence level, using a combination of Mann-Kendall and prewhitened Mann-Kendall test. Partial correlation and stepwise regression are used to detect the set of meteorological variables that influence pan evaporation in Ouémé Delta. Results showed intensification of heavy rainfall over Ouémé Delta. Moreover, a significant increasing trend is detected in temperature. As consequence, diurnal temperature significantly decreases as proof of the global warming. Average pan evaporation showed a significant slight increasing trend over the area. Change in pan evaporation can be explained by wind speed and sunshine duration that hold almost 50% of pan evaporation variance. As future temperature is going to be increasing, pan evaporation may increase considerably. So, adaptation measures have to be reinforced in the Ouémé Delta area where farmer are used to rainfed agriculture for food security. Moreover, Ouémé Delta plan have to be developed for it resources sustainability.

Keywords: Climate extremes; pan evaporation; trends; Ouémé Delta

1. Introduction

Quantifying impacts of changes in climatic patterns over natural resources in a given region is prominent at area level where micro climate is significant. This is important in the development of planning and management of water resources, to cater for everyday demand and supply of users, especially in developing countries where the economy is based on rainfed agriculture [1].

In Africa, a gradual return to wetter conditions is observed in Sahelian and Soudanian areas since the 1990s [2]. The same situation is reported since early 2000s across Algeria and Tunisia and from 2008 in Morocco by Nouaceur et al. [3]. There are contrasting trends throughout seasonal variations of rainfall. Nevertheless, extreme rainfall is declining in Cote d'Ivoire [4] and annual precipitation tend to reduce in Nigeria [5]. No significant trends were detected in Ghana [6].

In Bénin, annual total precipitation, annual number of wet days and maximum 30 days rainfall present a significant decreasing trend [7]. Interpolated change in heavy rainfall of different return periods revealed an east-west gradient from negative to positive along the lower Ouémé basin, whereas from the middle to the upper Ouémé, a decreasing tendency of heavy rainfall is dominant [8]. In the upper Ouémé basin, a recent work of Attogouinon et al. [9] shows the absence of clear cumulative

annual rainfall trend over the period 1951–2014. However, when considering the entire Ouémé Basin, N'Tcha M'Po et al. [10] reported significant declining in the number of heavy and very heavy rainfall days, heavy, and extremely heavy rainfall, consecutive wet days and annual wet-day rainfall total from 1950 to 2014, confirming that trend in rainfall depends on spatial scale as reported by Lawin et al. [11].

Extreme events, like flood, threaten Ouémé Delta area [12]. Climate change impacts on extremes precipitation and rise in sea level, makes coastal Deltas more vulnerable to flood either from ocean or land depending on their positions [13]. Actually, flood is found to be the third most common disaster in coastal regions of West Africa [14]. In 2010, flood disaster in Bénin affected more than 680,000 people, causing the death of 46 persons, with 55 out of 77 municipalities affected, given the overall damages and losses were estimated to more than 46,847,399 US dollars [15].

Thus, knowledge about hydro-climatologic trends of relatively small wet area, like Deltas, is of great interest, since Deltas are food basket of countries [16]. They are of extremely fertile soils for agriculture and provide easy access to fishery [12]. Even though Deltas were usually subjected to flood as humid area, extreme climatic risks are expected to increase because of nowadays erratic climate variability and changes [17]. Over West Africa, Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5) showed an increase in heavy rainfall by the end of 21st century [18]. Furthermore, regional climate models projected increasing number of extreme rainfall in period of May and July [19]. Observed minimum air temperature increased more rapidly than maximum temperatures [20]. This results in narrow difference between maxima and minima air temperature known as diurnal temperature over most parts of Africa [21]. Near surface temperature has increased by 0.5 °C or more during the last 50 to 100 years [22]. In West Africa, significant increase in temperature is also shown over the period 1961 to 2000 using indices that were developed by the Expert Team on Climate Change Detection and Indices (ETCCDI) [23].

Trends in other climatic patterns, like sunshine, wind speed, and relative humidity are less explored. However, a lot of works on trend in pan evaporation have been done in diverse climate regions. Results showed that both decreasing and increasing trends that are observed, coexist [24]. Decrease in pan evaporation under a warming climate is known as the pan evaporation paradox because of the contradiction to common expectation. This phenomenon can either be explained by an increase in cloudiness and aerosol concentrations, which results in a decrease in solar radiation received on Earth's surface; or, an increase in terrestrial evaporation that cools down the air over the pan and reduces the evaporation from that pan [25]. However, an increase in pan evaporation is mostly due to an increase in temperature. In Africa, such phenomenon has been less mentioned probably because of limited data according to Oguntunde et al. [25]. These authors showed that pan evaporation, sunshine, and wind speed decrease significantly highly ($p < 0.001$), whereas rainfall, minima temperature, and relative humidity showed insignificant increasing trends in Nigeria over the period 1973–2008. Recently, Djaman et al. [26] showed an increasing trend in pan evaporation at Lomé, Tabligbo, and Sokodé, but a decreasing trend at Atakpamé in Togo over the period 1976–2011.

Pan evaporation is basically used to measure evaporation from free water surface [27]. In Australia, it is shown that surface water losses of around 40% of their storage are due to evaporation [28]. In West Africa, river discharge is projected to decrease about 50% by the end of 21st century [29,30]. There is a consensus that climate change impacts are projected to hit more developing countries due to their fragility in terms of adaptation and mitigation capacity [31]. Consequently, primary sectors that are basis of these countries' economy are threatened. Water resources are key element for every development sector, but they are under pressure in Wetlands like Deltas [32]. Moreover, Deltas are likely to face extreme events due to population growth, anthropogenic activities, urbanization, and climate variability [12,13]. Therefore, there is a need to investigate pan evaporation change as well as its influencing factors in order to contribute to decision making in surface water management in areas, like Deltas.

Little research has been conducted on pan evaporation trend analysis in Delta around the world due to data unavailability. Moreover, fewer authors look at its relationship with temperature, relative

humidity, sunshine, and wind speed, as well as those that influence its variation. Nevertheless, it remains a prominent parameter where its trend has to be well known in water resource management, especially in a deltaic region [25]. In Ouémé Delta, little analysis focused on the main climatologic variables trend. Moreover, less discussed are the pan evaporation trend and its explanatory climatic partners. Thus, the present work focuses on change in rainfall and temperature extreme indices, as well as pan evaporation with its influencing factors over the Ouémé Delta. The aims of this work is (1) to analyze trend of extreme rainfall and temperature as well as pan evaporation, sunshine duration, relative humidity, and wind speed at 10 m altitude (2) to assess the impact of extreme rainfall during high water period and (3) to identify influencing climatic variables of pan evaporation.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study Area

The study area as shown on Figure 1 is the Ouémé Delta, that is located in the south eastern part of Bénin in West Africa. It is between 6.30° and 7° North and between 2.20° and 2.70° East. It is 25 km long in East-West direction and 90 km width from North to South [33,34]. Ouémé Delta covers the municipalities of Bonou, Adjohoun, Dangbo, Akpro-Misséréte, Abomey-Calavi, Aguégue, Porto Novo, Sémé Kpodji, and Cotonou. With a drainage basin of about 5000 km², it is a very rich area that offers home to large number of ecological species [33,34]. It is an area well suited not only for agriculture due to nutrients deposit but also for fishery and fluvial transactions. It also gives shelter to a considerable number of human beings who depend on these resources, especially those living on Nokoué Lake as well as those along Ouémé and Sô rivers in the Delta. Nokoué Lake, the biggest in Bénin, is the buffer zone of Ouémé Delta.

Nokoué Lake is positioned between 6.30° and 6.50° North and between 2.35° and 2.50° East. It is 20 km long in East-West direction and 11 km width from North to South [33–35]. It covers 150 km² in low water and it could increase over 450 km² in high water [33–35]. It is limited in the West by Abomey-Calavi's plateau, in the East by Porto Novo's Lagoon, in the North by the flood plain of Ouémé and So Rivers, and in the South by Cotonou city. Cotonou and Totchè channels connect it, respectively, to the Atlantic Ocean and to the Porto Novo's Lagoon [35].

Because of its geographical position and the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone circulation over Bénin, Ouémé Delta is under subequatorial climate with a bimodal rainfall regime [33,34]. This area is characterized by two rainy seasons (April to July and September to November) and two dry seasons (December to March and mid-July to mid-August) [33,34]. Over the period 1960–2016, the annual rainfall amount is between 719 mm and 2470 mm at station point.

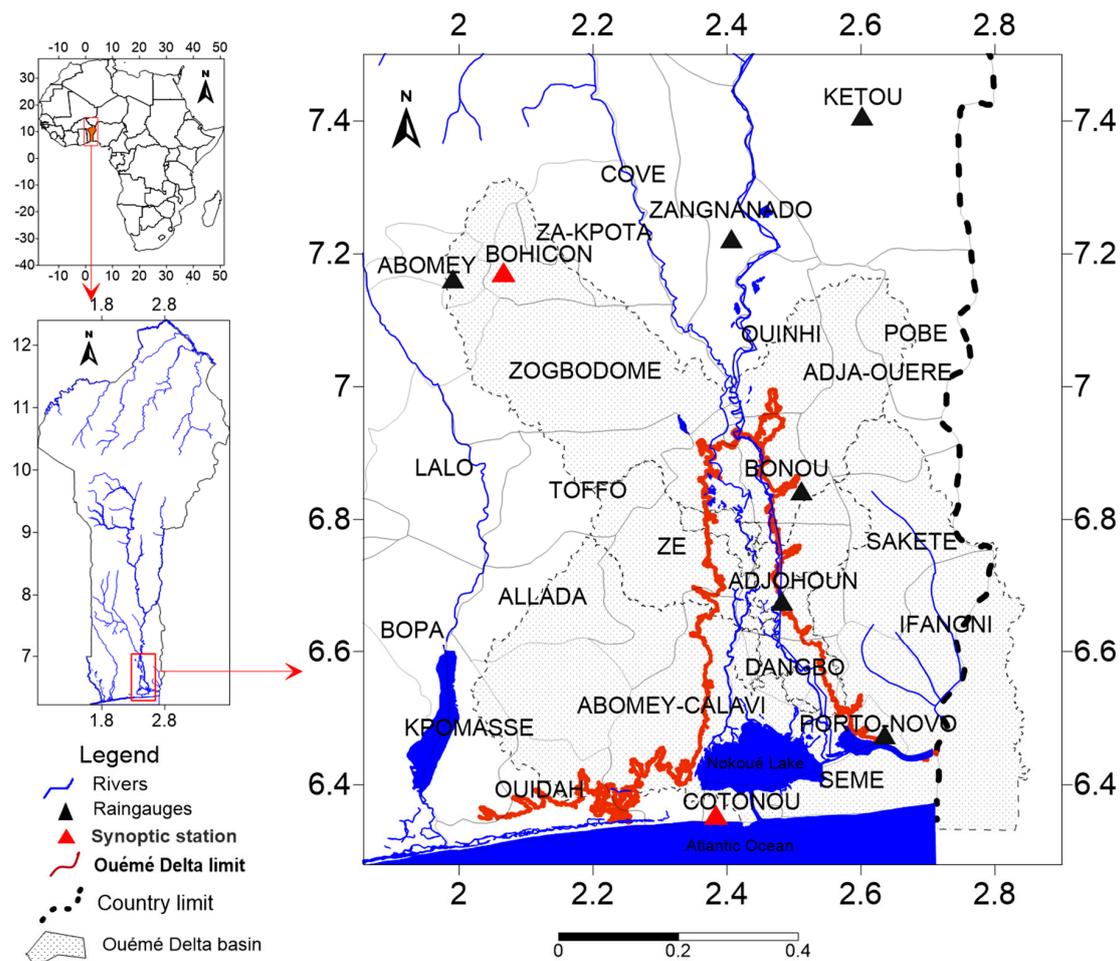


Figure 1. Ouémé Delta geographical position.

2.2. Data and Quality Control

Daily data are collected from six (6) rain gauges and two (2) synoptic stations shown by Figure 1 and detailed in Table 1, for the period 1960–2016 from the national meteorological agency. At synoptic stations, daily rainfall (PRCP), daily minimum (TMin), and maximum (TMax) temperature, minimum (Hmin) and maximum (Hmax) relative humidity, as well as daily wind speed (WIND), sunshine duration (SUND) and pan evaporation (EVA) data are collected. Data quality control is processed using RClimate tool [36]. Unreasonable values are highlighted and removed. These are daily maximum temperature less than daily minimum temperature and daily minimum temperature higher than daily maximum. Outliers in daily maximum and minimum temperature are also identified and removed. Missing data are identified and filled using the double mass cumulus method [37].

Table 1. Summary of available stations over Ouémé Delta with latitude and longitude.

Station Name	Acronyms	Longitude (Degree)	Latitude (Degree)
Abomey	ABO	1.98	7.18
Adjohoun	ADJ	2.48	6.70
Bohicon	BOH	2.07	7.17
Bonou	BON	2.50	6.93
Cotonou Airport	COT	2.38	6.35
Ketou	KET	2.61	7.36
Porto Novo	POR	2.62	6.48
Zagnanado	ZAG	2.33	7.25

2.3. Climatic Extremes Indices

In order to improve early warning system, risk management, and adaptation to both climate change and variability over large space and time scales, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), through the Commission for Climatology (CCI) Expert Team on Climate Risk and Sector-specific Indices (ET CRSCI), has recently defined, based on rainfall and temperature, 34 extreme indices with nine additional others, to achieve high level of climate knowledge. More detail is given at: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/ccl/opace/opace4/expertteam.php>. The analysis of these extreme indices facilitates access to information and products for decision making. In this work, eight temperature based indices and 15 rainfall based indices from WMO core set were computed. A summary of the chosen indices is found in Table 2. Threshold based indices are computed using the baseline period 1981–2010. User-friendly R-based software (ClimPACT) was used to compute the indices.

Table 2. Indices of Expert Team on Climate Risk and Sector-specific Indices (ET CRSCI) core indices where TN = minimum temperature and TX = maximum temperature, p = daily precipitation, and prcp = annual total precipitation [38].

ID	Indicator Name	Definitions	Units
TXx	Max TX	Monthly maximum value of daily TX	°C
TNn	Min TN	Monthly minimum value of daily TN	°C
TNx	Max Tmin	Monthly maximum value of daily min temperature	°C
TXn	Min Tmax	Monthly minimum value of daily max temperature	°C
WSDI2	Warm spell duration Indicator	Annual count of days with at least 2 consecutive days when TX > 90th percentile	Days
TX95t	Very warm day Threshold	Value of 95th percentile of TX	°C
TN95t	Very cold day Threshold	Value of 95th percentile of TN	°C
DTR	Diurnal Temperature range	Monthly mean difference between daily max and min temperature	°C
SDII	Simple daily intensity index	The ratio of annual total precipitation to the number of wet days (>1 mm)	mm/day
R10 mm	Number of heavy precipitation days	Annual count when precipitation > 10 mm	days
R20 mm	Number of very heavy precipitation days	Annual count of days when P ≥ 20 mm	days
CDD	Consecutive dry Days	Maximum number of consecutive days with P < 1 mm	days
CWD	Consecutive wet days	Maximum number of consecutive days when precipitation ≥ 1 mm	days
R95pTOT	Contribution from very wet days	Annual percentage of RR > 95th percentile/PRCPTOT	%
R99pTOT	Contribution from extremely wet days	Annual percentage of P > 99th percentile/PRCPTOT	%
R95p	Very wet days	Annual total precipitation from days > 95th percentile	mm
PRCPTOT	Annual total wet-day precipitation	PRCP from wet days (P ≥ 1 mm)	mm
R99p	Extremely wet days	Annual total precipitation from days > 99th percentile	mm
RX1day	Max 1-day precipitation amount	Monthly maximum 1-day precipitation	mm
RX2day	Max 2-day precipitation amount	Monthly maximum consecutive 2-day precipitation	mm
RX3day	Max 3-days precipitation amount	Monthly maximum consecutive 3-days precipitation	mm
RX5day	Max 5-day precipitation amount	Monthly maximum consecutive 5-day precipitation	mm
RX10day	Max 10-days precipitation amount	Monthly maximum consecutive 10 days precipitation	mm

2.4. Trends Analysis

Trend analysis is conducted at annual scale on each of the eight temperature based indices as well as the 15 rainfall based indices. In addition, trend in maximum consecutive 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10 days precipitation are computed at a monthly scale within the high water period in Ouémé Delta. We focused more on heavy rainfall during the high water period to assess its impacts on flood events. High water in the Delta area occurs essentially from September to November. This period represents

the second rainy season in that area. Trends are detected using Mann-Kendall, as shown by Mann [39] and Kendall [40], and a prewhitened Mann-Kendall test at the 0.05 confidence level by Brien [41], as shown on Figure 2.

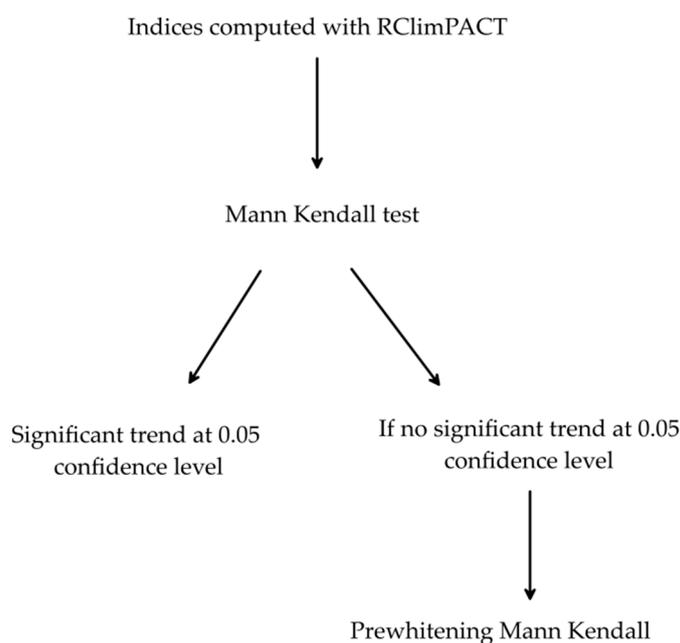


Figure 2. Trend analysis process sketch.

2.4.1. Mann-Kendall Test

The well-known Mann-Kendall test is a non-parametric test that is commonly employed for monotonic trend analysis in series of environmental data, climate data, or hydrological data. This test assesses the existence of a monotonic upward or downward trend of the variable of interest over time. A monotonic upward (downward) trend of a variable means its consistent increase (decrease) through time; however, the trend may or may not be linear. Thus, the Mann-Kendall test is preferably used instead of a parametric linear regression analysis, to enable the detection of a non-linear trend. This test does not require data to be normally distributed. Furthermore, it is not sensitive to abrupt breaks due to non homogeneous time series [42]. However, Thiel Sen's slope method that uses a linear model to estimate the slope of the trend and the variance of the residuals should be constant in time [43].

The null hypothesis of the Mann-Kendall test, H_0 , is that data come from a population with independent realizations with identical distribution. The alternative hypothesis, H_1 , is that data follows a monotonic trend. In this work, the trend was detected at the 0.05 confidence level using Mann-Kendall test package in R [41], where Tau is the correlation rank strength, Sen slope the magnitude, and p value the probability.

2.4.2. Prewhitened Mann-Kendall Test

In the case that the Mann-Kendall test detects no trend, a prewhitening Mann-Kendall test was used to detect a probable trend covered by internal serial correlation. In fact, prewhitening is processed to remove serial correlation in the data set following Yue et al. [44]. The presence of serial correlation in hydro meteorological time series often makes the detection of fake deterministic gradual or abrupt changes with tests such as Mann-Kendall (MK) [45]. Though, Mann Kendall test has shown a strong performance in trend detection, there are some limitation due to its own null hypothesis based on the assumption that data are independently and identically distributed [46]. Serial correlation increases the variance of the test statistic. As consequence, it increases the rejection rate of the null hypothesis.

Then, the prewhitening procedure decreases the inflation of the variance of the test statistic due to serial correlation and reduces the rate of rejection below the rate before prewhitening [47].

As result, it is important to prewritten when there is no trend. In fact, Yue et al. [48] stated that prewhitening is not suitable for eliminating the effect of serial correlation on the Mann-Kendall test when trend exists in a time series, because it removes a portion (equal to the lag-one autocorrelation coefficient) of trend and hence reduces the probability of rejecting the null hypothesis when it is false.

2.4.3. Relationship between Pan Evaporation and Other Meteorological Patterns in Ouémé Delta

In order to determine the main explanatory variables of pan evaporation, partial correlation and stepwise regression is used. Partial correlation is used in the case of one variable being partially correlated with some other independent ones. Thus, each partial correlation coefficient obtained represents the contribution of each independent variable to the dependent one. In fact, it is shown that pan evaporation is governed by three conditions: thermal, turbulent, and vapor conditions, each of which is influenced by group of pan evaporation explanatory variables, as shown by Liu et al. [49]. In addition, stepwise regression is used to quantify the relative weight of each variable to the dependent [24]. Thus, stepwise regression is used to further partial the correlation results. In this study, the correlation coefficient is determined daily between pan evaporation and each of the nine (9) following variables: Rainfall, minimum and maximum temperature, mean temperature, minimum and maximum relative humidity, mean relative humidity, wind speed, and sunshine. Stepwise regression is a variable selection procedure for selecting the fewest most useful independent variables that are believed to be the most essential in the final prediction equation, which is as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_n X_n \quad (1)$$

where Y is the dependent variable, $X_{1,\dots,n}$ the n independent explanatory variables, β_0 is the y -intercept, and $\beta_{1,\dots,n}$ are the estimate of model parameters relatively to each dependent variable. The selection consists in a series of step to find the most significant independent variable to be included in the final regression model based on a set criterion, which is here the t -statistic. At each step of the regression, the independent variable retained is the one with the highest absolute t -value with p value being considered at the α confidence level.

3. Results

Rainfall and temperature based indices, as well as maximum, minimum and mean of relative humidity, wind speed pan evaporation, and sunshine, are computed at the annual scale. In addition, maximum Xday precipitation amount indices are computed at monthly scale to further understand extreme events in the Delta area. Moreover, monthly sunshine and pan evaporation trend is detected to assess their impact on water resources.

3.1. Rainfall Indices

The trend analysis results of rainfall in the Ouémé Delta are summarized below with numbers in bold indicating significant trend at the 0.05 confidence level. Results show at an annual scale that the prewhitening process did not add value to the trend analysis in the Ouémé Delta.

3.1.1. Annual Based Rainfall Trends Analysis

Results of rainfall intensity indices such as annual precipitation amount (**PRCPTOT**), number of heavy and very heavy precipitation days (R10mm, R20mm) as well as consecutive wet days (CWD), with significant trend, at least in one station are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Significant trend results of annual rainfall intensity indices.

Stations	PRCPTOT			R10mm			R20mm			CWD		
	Tau	Sen Slope	<i>p</i> Value	Tau	Sen Slope	<i>p</i> Value	Tau	Sen Slope	<i>p</i> Value	Tau	Sen Slope	<i>p</i> Value
ABOMEY	−0.1	−1.8	0.6	−0.1	−0.1	0.4	−0.1	0.0	0.6	−0.218	0	0.048
ADJOHOUN	0.3	8.4	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.074	0.001	0.484
BOHICON	0.1	1.8	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	−0.26	−0.022	0.009
BONOU	0.3	13.3	0.0	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.0	−0.061	−0.012	0.63
COTONOU AIRPORT	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.8	−0.201	−0.034	0.037
KETOU	0.1	2.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.057	0	0.619
PORTO NOVO	−0.2	−6.7	0.1	−0.3	−0.3	0.0	−0.1	−0.1	0.4	−0.448	−0.083	0
ZAGNANADO	0.3	10.3	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.141	0.028	0.237

Rainfall intensity indices trend results showed in Table 3 are plotted on Figure 3.

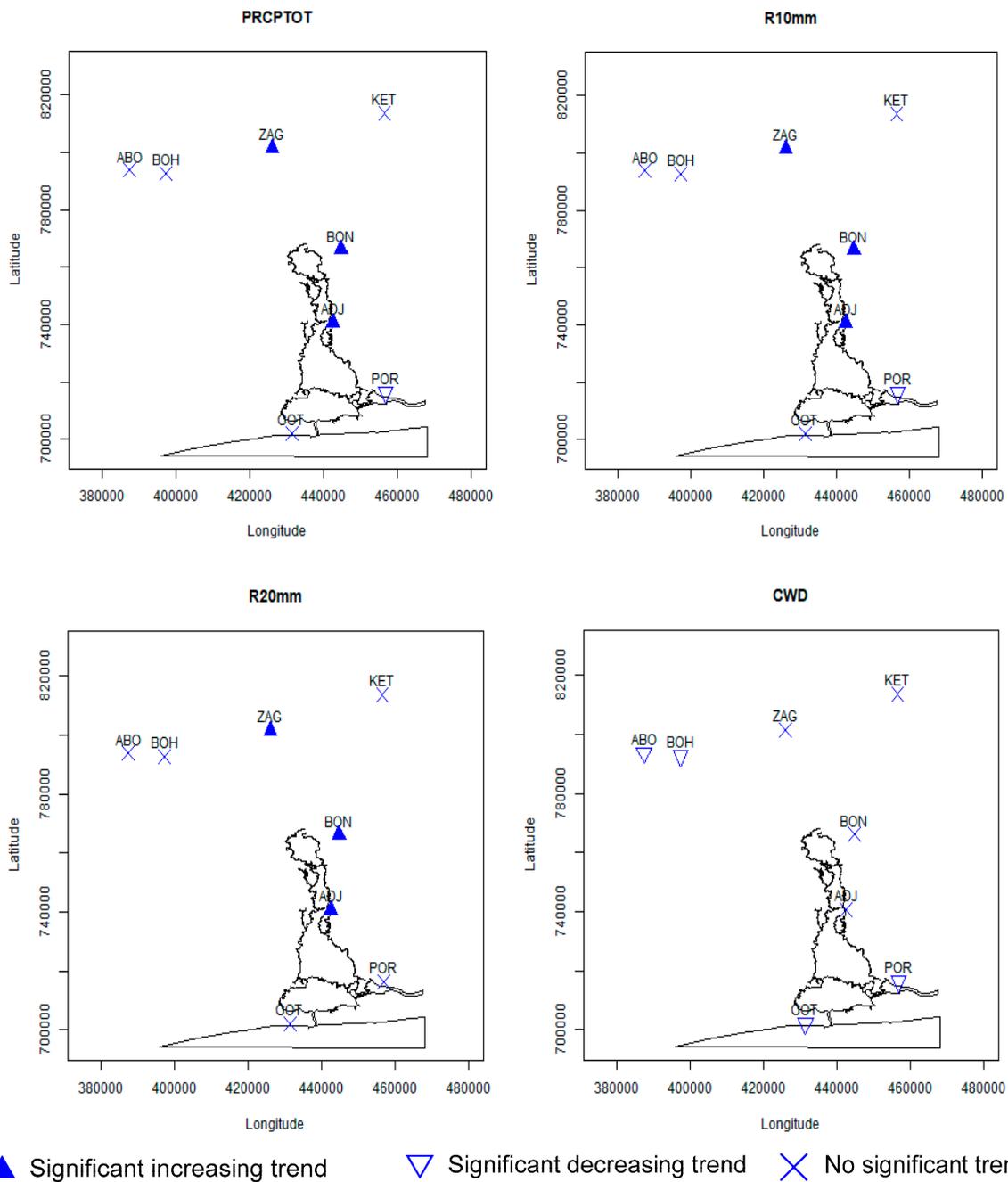


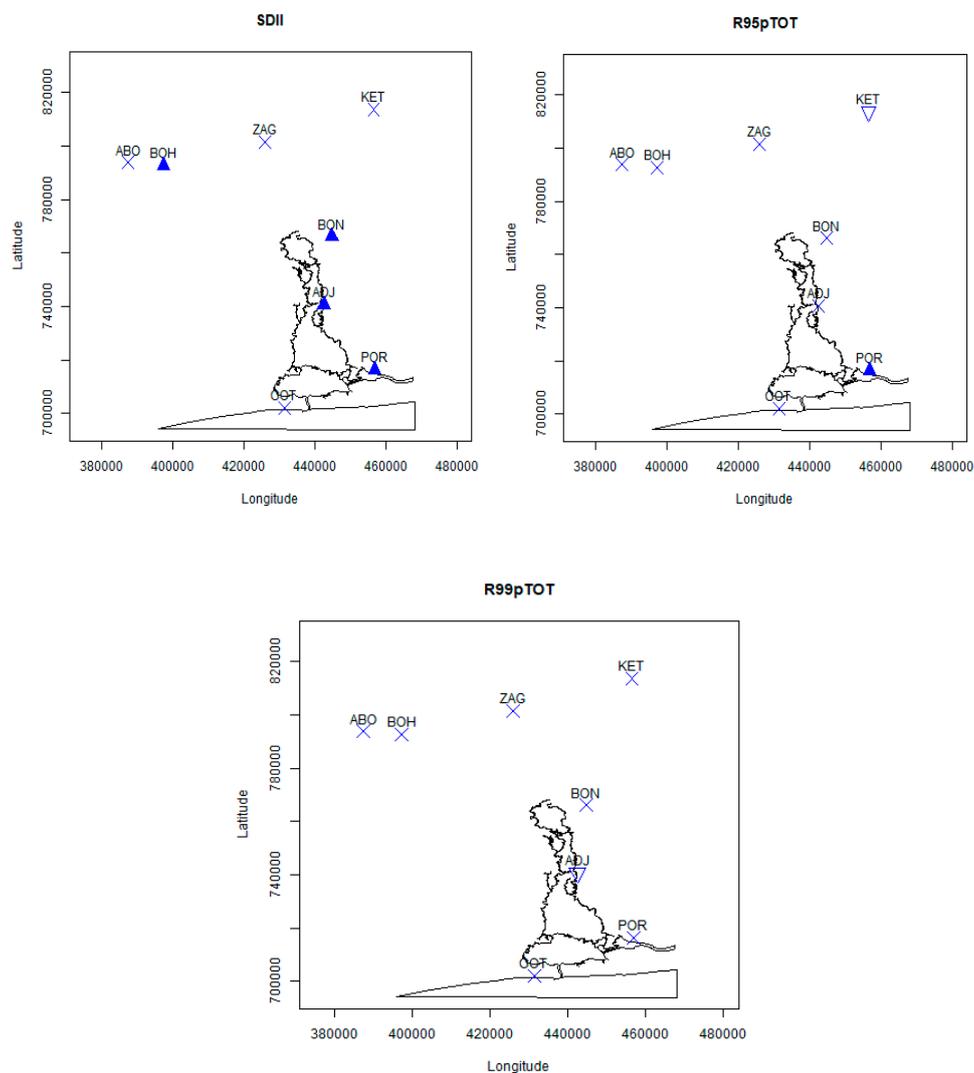
Figure 3. Plot of Annual total precipitation (PRCPTOT), R10mm, R20mm trend, and consecutive wet day (CWD) over Ouémé Delta.

Results of rainfall frequency indices like Simple daily intensity index (SDII), contribution from very wet days (R95pTOT) and contribution from extremely wet days (R99pTOT), with significant trend, at least in one station are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Significant trend results of annual rainfall frequency indices.

Stations	SDII			R95pTOT			R99pTOT		
	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value
ABOMEY	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.123	0.001	0.484	0.029	0	0.889
ADJOHOUN	0.2	0.1	0.0	−0.305	−0.005	0.064	−0.371	−0.003	0.02
BOHICON	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.163	0.002	0.212	0.076	0.001	0.568
BONOU	0.6	0.3	0.0	−0.278	−0.011	0.348	0.111	0.005	0.754
COTONOU AIRPORT	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.261	0.004	0.078	0.145	0.002	0.333
KETOU	0.0	0.0	0.9	−0.389	−0.005	0.018	−0.041	−0.001	0.834
PORTO NOVO	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.326	0.006	0.048	−0.24	−0.003	0.162
ZAGNANADO	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.121	0.004	0.631	0.152	0.001	0.537

Rainfall frequency indices trend results showed in Table 4 are plotted on Figure 4.



▲ Significant increasing trend ▼ Significant decreasing trend × No significant trend

Figure 4. Plot of Simple daily intensity index (SDII), very wet day (R95pTOT), and extremely wet days (R99pTOT) trend over Ouémé Delta.

Rainfall indices with no significant trend are summarized in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5. Annual rainfall intensity indices with no trend.

Stations	RX1day			RX2day			RX3day			RX5day		
	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value									
ABOMEY	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.8
ADJOHOUN	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.6
BOHICON	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.7
BONOU	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	-0.1	0.8	0.0	-0.2	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.6
COTONOU AIRPORT	-0.1	-0.4	0.3	-0.1	-0.4	0.2	-0.1	-0.5	0.3	-0.1	-0.8	0.2
KETOU	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.2
PORTO NOVO	-0.1	-0.2	0.4	-0.1	-0.3	0.4	0.0	-0.3	0.7	-0.1	-0.7	0.3
ZAGNANADO	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.8

Table 6. Annual consecutive dry day (CDD), very wet day (R95p), and extremely wet day (R99p) indices trend with no trend.

Stations	RX10day			R95p			R99p			CDD		
	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value
ABOMEY	-0.1	-0.2	0.6	0.1	1.3	0.3	0.1	0	0.6	0.014	0.043	0.895
ADJOHOUN	0.1	0.3	0.5	0	0.6	0.7	0	0	0.9	-0.11	-0.265	0.298
BOHICON	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	1.3	0.2	0	0	0.7	0.083	0.229	0.369
BONOU	0.1	1	0.4	0	-0.5	0.8	0	0	0.7	0.123	0.564	0.321
COTONOU AIRPORT	-0.1	-0.7	0.2	-0.1	-0.9	0.5	-0.1	0	0.5	0.081	0.141	0.381
KETOU	0	0.1	0.9	0	0	1	0	0	0.7	0.198	0.811	0.077
PORTO NOVO	-0.1	-0.5	0.5	-0.1	-1.4	0.5	-0.1	0	0.3	0.073	0.179	0.474
ZAGNANADO	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	2.4	0.4	0.1	0	0.4	0.146	0.668	0.222

At the annual scale, intensity indices, such as maximum consecutive 10-day precipitation amount (RX10day), annual total precipitation from very wet days (R95p), and annual total precipitation from extremely wet days (R99p) show no significant trend over the entire study area (Table 6). Similarly, no significant trend is detected for maximum one-day precipitation amount (RX1day) and maximum consecutive two-day precipitation amount (RX2day) over the entire study area as shown in Table 5. In addition, maximum consecutive three-day precipitation amount (RX3day) and maximum consecutive five-day precipitation amount (RX5day) also show no significant trend over the entire study area, as shown in Table 5. Annual total precipitation (PRCPTOT) shows a significant decreasing trend of about 6.7 mm/year at the southeast station Porto Novo, whereas from North to South Zagnanado, Bonou, and Adjohoun show significant increasing trends (Figure 3), respectively, with slopes of 10.3, 13.3, and 8.4 mm/year.

Consecutive dry day (CDD) shows no significant trend over the entire area of study, as shown on Table 6. However, consecutive wet day (CWD) is significantly slightly decreasing at Abomey, Bohicon, Porto Novo, and Cotonou Airport, as shown on Figure 3. The number of heavy and very heavy precipitation days (R10mm, R20mm) increases at Zagnanado, Bonou, and Adjohoun (Figure 3). However, the number of heavy precipitation days decreases at Porto-Novo. Contribution from very wet days (R95pTOT) shows an increasing trend only at Porto Novo (Figure 4), whereas contribution from extremely wet days (R99pTOT) decreases at Adjohoun (Figure 4). Simple daily intensity index (SDII) increases at Adjohoun, Bonou, and Porto Novo (Figure 4), respectively, with slope of 0.1, 0.3 and 0.1. Increase in annual total precipitation is due to more frequent heavy and very heavy rainfall event. This intensification in the frequency of extreme rainfall events will result in high peak flow and then more damageable flood events in the high water period. Moreover, the most impacted areas is going to be those closer to Ouémé Delta, since significant trends are detected at the closest stations.

3.1.2. Trend Analysis in Monthly Maximum Precipitation

In order to detect change in intense precipitation at short time scale, the monthly trend has been computed on maximum 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10 days precipitation at all stations. Results are shown below with numbers in bold showing significant trend at the 0.05 confidence level. Maximum 1 and 2 days precipitation results are shown in Table 7.

Maximum 3 and 5 days precipitation results are shown in Table 8.

Maximum 10 days precipitation results are shown in Table 9.

At the monthly scale, maximum consecutive 1, 2, and 3-day precipitation amount showed significant increasing trend in Adjohoun in February. In addition, maximum consecutive 10-day precipitation amount significantly decreased at Porto Novo in March. Maximum one-day precipitation increased significantly at Cotonou Airport in September. In October, maximum consecutive 10 days precipitation increased significantly at Cotonou Airport and Porto Novo. The trends listed above were detected only after prewhitening.

In April, Bonou showed a significant decreasing trend for maximum consecutive 2, 3, and 5-day precipitation amount. As consequence, water stress is going to impact on garden products yield in Bonou. In addition, maximum consecutive 5-day precipitation in Cotonou Airport decreased significantly for the same month. In contrary, Zagnanado showed significant increasing trend for maximum consecutive 2 and 3-day precipitation, whereas Adjohoun increased significantly only for maximum consecutive 3-day precipitation. In July, Bohicon and Zagnanado maximum 3 and 5-day increased significantly, while maximum consecutive 10-day significantly decreased at Porto Novo. It seems to be the most watered area during the first rainy season, which is from April to July. In August, maximum consecutive 2, 3, 5, and 10-day significantly increased only at Zagnanado. Thus, Agriculture at Zagnanado suffers less from water stress, but it is susceptible to flood event.

Table 7. Monthly trend analysis of one-day precipitation amount (RX1day) and two-day precipitation amount (RX2day) during high water.

Stations	RX1day									RX2day								
	SEP			OCT			NOV			SEP			OCT			NOV		
	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value
ABOMEY	0.0	0.1	0.7	−0.1	−0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.1	0.8	−0.1	−0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.9
ADJOHOUN	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.0
BOHICON	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
BONOU	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3
COTONOU AIRPORT	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.9
KETOU	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3
PORTO NOVO	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.8	−0.3	−0.4	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.8	−0.3	−0.4	0.0
ZAGNANADO	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.0

Table 8. Monthly trend analysis of three-day precipitation amount (RX3day) and five-day precipitation amount (RX5day) during high water.

Stations	RX3day									RX5day								
	SEP			OCT			NOV			SEP			OCT			NOV		
	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value
ABOMEY	0	0.1	0.7	−0.1	−0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.5	0	0	0.9	0	0	0.9
ADJOHOUN	0	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.6	0	0.3	0.6	0	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.4	1	0	0.4	0.9	0
BOHICON	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.6	0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2
BONOU	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9	0	0.2	0.5	0.1
COTONOU AIRPORT	0.2	0.5	0	0	0.1	0.8	0	0	0.9	0.2	0.6	0	0.1	0.4	0.2	0	0	0.9
KETOU	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.6	0	0.2	0.3	0.2
PORTO NOVO	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	−0.3	−0.4	0	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1	−0.2	−0.5	0
ZAGNANADO	0.2	0.8	0	0.1	0.3	0.4	0	0	1	0.3	1	0	0.2	0.7	0	0	0	0.8

Table 9. Monthly trend analysis of ten-day precipitation amount (RX10day) during high water.

Stations	SEP			OCT			NOV		
	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value
ABOMEY	0.1	0.5	0.3	0	0	0.9	0	0	0.9
ADJOHOUN	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.3	1.4	0	0.4	1.4	0
BOHICON	0.2	0.8	0	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.5
BONOU	0.2	1.2	0	0.3	1.1	0	0	0.1	0.8
COTONOU AIRPORT	0.2	0.8	0	0.2	0.7	0.1	0	0	0.9
KETOU	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1
PORTO NOVO	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.1	−0.3	−0.9	0
ZAGNANADO	0.3	1.8	0	0.2	0.7	0.2	0	0.1	0.8

In Ouémé Delta, high water period runs from September to November. In September, maximum consecutive 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10-days precipitation exhibits a significant increasing trend Cotonou Airport. Only Maximum consecutive 3, 5, and 10-days precipitation increased at Zagnanado. Maximum consecutive 5 and 10-days precipitation at Bohicon as well as maximum consecutive 10 days precipitation increased at Bonou. In October, maximum 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10-day precipitation increased significantly at Bonou. Maximum consecutive 1, 2, and 5-days precipitation increased significantly at Kétou. Maximum consecutive 2, 3 and 5 days precipitation increased significantly at Adjohoun. Only maximum consecutive five days precipitation increased significantly at Zagnanado. In November, maximum consecutive 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10-days precipitation increased significantly only at Adjohoun, but they all decreased significantly at Porto Novo.

In general, most of the stations showed increasing trend at least for one of the maximum 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10-days precipitation amount in the months of September, October, and November, except Porto Novo, which showed a decreasing trend for all of these indices in November.

With these findings, more attention and effort have to be made in early warning system development in the Delta area to decrease damages and losses in term of human resources as well as agricultural products.

3.2. Trend Analysis in Temperature, Relative Humidity, Pan Evaporation, Sunshine Duration and Wind Speed at 10 m Altitude

The trend of each climatic variable, such as temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed in this section was computed at the annual scale taking into account the mean, minimum, and maximum at two synoptic stations in the Delta area. Sunshine and pan evaporation were computed at annual as well as monthly scale. Table 10 shows results of temperature based indices trend.

Table 11 shows results of minimum, maximum and mean value at annual scale for maximal relative humidity as well as wind speed at 10 m altitude.

Monthly and annual significant trend results for sunshine and pan evaporation are shown in Table 12.

At annual scale, all temperature based indices considered show a significant increasing trend at the two synoptic stations except the diurnal temperature (DTR), very warm day (TX95t), and very cold day (TN95t) temperature thresholds that decreased, respectively, about 0.012 °C, 0.008 °C, and 0.006 °C in averages, as shown in Table 10. In fact, annual minimum (TXn) and annual maximum (TXx) of daily maximal temperature as well as annual minimum (TNn) and annual maximum (TNx) of daily minimal temperature showed significant increasing trends, respectively, of 0.032 °C, 0.018 °C, 0.027 °C, and 0.025 °C in averages, as shown in Table 10. In addition, two days warm spell duration (WSDI2) showed an increasing trend of 0.308 °C in average (Table 10). Annual mean of minimal relative humidity exhibits an increasing trend at Bohicon station, however annual minimum, maximum, and mean of relative humidity maxima show a decreasing trend running from 0.047 to 0.5% (Table 11). Annual wind speed at 10 m altitude showed a slight decreasing trend between 0.007 and 0.025 (Table 11).

Table 10. Temperature based indices trend.

Stations	TXn			TXx			TNn			TNx		
	Tau	SenSlope	p Value	Tau	SenSlope	pValue	Tau	SenSlope	p Value	Tau	SenSlope	p Value
BOHICON	0.223	0.027	0.014	0.223	0.015	0.014	0.198	0.036	0.029	0.409	0.024	0.000
COTONOU AIRPORT	0.403	0.037	0.000	0.219	0.020	0.016	0.067	0.013	0.459	0.394	0.025	0.000

Stations	DTR			WSDI2			TX95t			TN95t		
	Tau	SenSlope	p Value	Tau	SenSlope	p Value	Tau	SenSlope	pValue	Tau	SenSlope	pValue
BOHICON	−0.339	−0.011	0.000	0.255	0.240	0.005	−0.279	−0.010	0.000	−0.301	−0.005	0.000
COTONOU AIRPORT	−0.286	−0.012	0.001	0.297	0.375	0.001	−0.309	−0.006	0.000	−0.302	−0.006	0.000

Table 11. Maxima relative humidity and wind speed at 10 m altitude trend based on annual minimum, maximum, and mean.

Stations	Maximal Relative Humidity									Wind Speed at 10 m Altitude								
	Minimum			Maximum			Mean			Minimum			Maximum			Mean		
	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value	Tau	Sen Slope	p Value
BOHICON	−0.427	0.000	0.000	−0.299	−0.500	0.004	−0.343	−0.047	0.001	−0.316	−0.025	0.004	0.169	0.000	0.173	−0.261	−0.010	0.011
COTONOU AIRPORT	−0.285	0.000	0.017	−0.218	−0.118	0.038	−0.513	−0.060	0.000	−0.038	0.000	0.724	0.139	0.006	0.194	−0.223	−0.007	0.030

Table 12. Monthly and annual significant trend for sunshine and pan evaporation.

Stations	COTONOU AIRPORT						BOHICON					
	SUND			EVA			SUND			EVA		
	Tau	Sen Slope	<i>p</i> Value	Tau	Sen Slope	<i>p</i> Value	Tau	Sen Slope	<i>p</i> Value	Tau	Sen Slope	<i>p</i> Value
January	−0.329	−1.075	0.002	0.5	0.7	0.0	−0.19	−0.584	0.067	0.3	0.9	0.1
February	−0.269	−0.629	0.011	0.2	0.4	0.1	−0.116	−0.221	0.265	−0.3	−0.4	0.1
March	−0.178	−0.521	0.094	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.017	0.029	0.876	−0.1	−0.1	0.7
April	−0.28	−0.55	0.008	0.0	0.0	0.9	−0.02	−0.025	0.853	0.1	0.3	0.5
May	−0.274	−0.843	0.01	0.3	0.5	0.0	−0.04	−0.054	0.703	0.0	−0.1	0.9
June	−0.167	−0.56	0.116	0.3	0.6	0.0	−0.193	−0.407	0.063	0.0	−0.1	0.9
July	−0.132	−0.482	0.217	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.11	0.234	0.291	0.3	0.6	0.0
August	−0.028	−0.082	0.802	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.096	0.183	0.358	0.0	0.2	0.8
September	−0.03	−0.048	0.786	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.154	0.339	0.14	0.0	0.0	1.0
October	−0.214	−0.382	0.044	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.155	0.399	0.137	0.1	0.3	0.3
November	−0.102	−0.218	0.341	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.174	0.258	0.094	0.0	−0.2	0.8
December	0.073	0.181	0.496	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.293	0.677	0.005	0.3	1.0	0.0
Annual	−0.445	−5.278	0	0.3	4.4	0.0	0.131	1.169	0.207	0.1	3.4	0.4

At annual scale, Sunshine duration decreased significantly, whereas evaporation increased over Ouémé Delta (Table 12). At the monthly scale, sunshine decreases significantly in the month of January, February, April, May, and October in Cotonou. Pan evaporation increases significantly in the month of January, March, May, June, July, and September in Cotonou.

3.3. Ouémé Delta Climate Drivers

As shown in Table 13, the significant variables that positively influence pan evaporation are sunshine duration (SUND), precipitation (PRCP), wind speed (WIND), mean temperature (TMean), and maximum temperature (TMax), decreasingly based on the correlation coefficients. Relative humidity parameters (RH, Hmax, and Hmin) negatively influence pan evaporation in Ouémé Delta. Thus, an increase in relative humidity decrease pan evaporation and vice versa. Dominant climatic variables with more than 10% absolute value of correlation with pan evaporation are mean relative humidity (RH), maximum relative humidity (Hmax), mean temperature (Tmean), wind speed (WIND), precipitation (PRCP), and sunshine (SUND).

Table 13. Correlation coefficient of pan evaporation with mean relative humidity (RH), maximal relative humidity (Hmax), minimal relative humidity (Hmin), minimal temperature (Tmin), maximal temperature (Tmax), mean temperature (Tmean), wind speed at 10 m altitude (WIND), precipitation (PRCP), and sunshine duration (SUND).

Climate Variables	COTONOU AIRPORT		BOHICON	
	Coef	p Value	Coef	p Value
RH	−0.23	0.00	−0.24	0.00
Hmax	−0.12	0.00	−0.13	0.00
Hmin	−0.07	0.00	−0.04	0.00
TMin	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.12
TMax	0.04	0.00	0.12	0.00
Tmean	0.12	0.00	0.21	0.00
WIND	0.23	0.00	0.19	0.00
PRCP	0.25	0.00	0.24	0.00
SUND	0.47	0.00	0.25	0.00

Table 14 showed the relative importance of these dominant climatic variables in pan evaporation. By considering the regression coefficients, mean temperature, sunshine duration, and wind speed have high relationship with pan evaporation at both stations at 0.001 level of confidence.

Table 14. Stepwise regression coefficient of pan evaporation and relative humidity (RH), mean temperature (Tmean), wind speed at 10 m altitude (WIND), precipitation (PRCP), and sunshine duration (SUND).

Climate Variables	COTONOU AIRPORT				Climate Variables	BOHICON			
	Coef	Std. Error	t Value	Pr (> t)		Coef	Std. Error	t Value	Pr (> t)
WIND	0.24	0.01	28.41	0 ***	WIND	0.26	0.01	20.46	0 ***
SUND	0.22	0.00	68.16	0 ***	SUND	0.14	0.00	31.60	0 ***
Tmean	0.14	0.01	19.83	0 ***	Tmean	0.25	0.01	29.59	0 ***
PRCP	0.03	0.00	33.17	0 ***	PRCP	0.03	0.00	26.25	0 ***
RH	−0.05	0.00	−24.53	0 ***	RH	−0.04	0.00	−17.01	0 ***

*** Significant at 0.001 level of confidence.

At Cotonou Airport, mean temperature, sunshine duration, and wind speed, respectively, explained pan evaporation at 14, 22, and 24%, as shown on Figure 5. However, at Bohicon, sunshine duration, mean temperature, and wind speed explained pan evaporation, respectively, at 14, 25, and 26%.

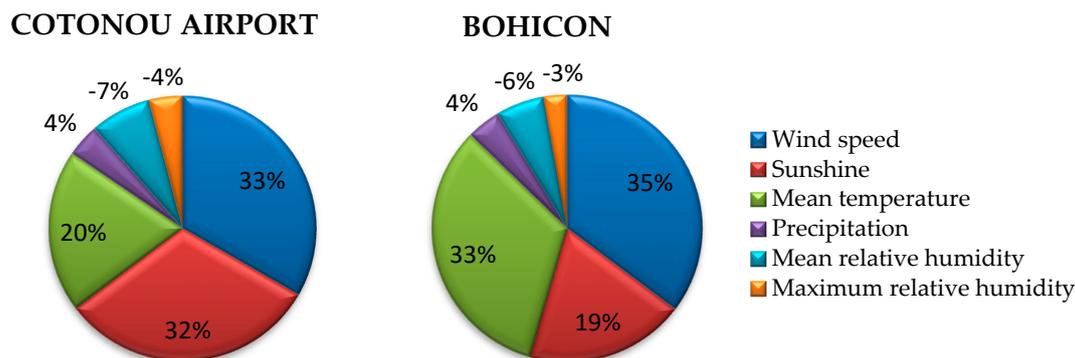


Figure 5. Plot of the percentage of pan evaporation variance hold in each of its explanatory variables.

4. Discussions

Heavy and very heavy rainfall extreme increasing trend results are in accordance with Hounkpè et al. [8], which noticed an East West gradient from negative to positive trend in interpolated change rainfall in lower Ouémé catchment. Moreover, annual rainfall trend reduction is also showed in Nigeria by Oguntunde et al. [25], Kabo-bah et al. [6] in Ghana hydropower dam, as well as in Ivory Coast by Soro et al. [4]. However, Simple daily intensity index (SDII) increased with 0.11 slope showing evidence of intensification of heavy rainfall, whereas the contribution from very wet day is almost constant. Even though, annual total precipitation decreased, the amount of rainfall recorded occurs in short period as found by Panthou et al. [2] for West Africa semi-arid regions. This is more visible when trend analysis is conducted at the monthly scale. Thus, the area is experiencing the erratic rainfall announced for the West African coastal area by the intergovernmental panel on climate change in the fifth report [50]. In September, November, and October, Maximum consecutive 10-days rainfall increased significantly, as evidence of rainfall intensification, especially in the high water period over the Delta, as shown by Hounkpè et al. [8] over Ouémé Basin. These change in rainfall extreme indices trends will impact extreme events like flood occurrence, as noticed by Nka et al. [51] and Guhathakurta et al. [52]. In addition, the increasing trend in air temperature as result of global warming experienced in Ouémé Delta was predicted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, with impacts on irrigated land and then reducing agricultural yield that is sensitive to water availability [20]. Though, the change in temperature noticed in this paper are slither, the overall country experienced an increase of 1.1 °C since 1960, as mentioned by Bodegom et al. [53]. Pan evaporation as key element in surface water resource management has been taken together with rainfall, sunshine duration, relative humidity, wind speed, as well as temperature to detect those to which it is sensitive. Results showed that most significant explainers of pan evaporation detected here are also found in Chinese Lower Yellow River Basin for the period 1961 to 2010 by Xing-Jie et al. [24]. In fact, combined effects of decrease in wind speed and sunshine duration with an increase in mean temperature are the main causes for decrease in pan evaporation in that area. Moreover, Sun radiation, wind speed, and vapor pressure deficit were found to be explanatory variables of pan evaporation in Ibadan in Nigeria over the period of 1973–2008 using principal component analysis for variable selection by Oguntunde et al. [25]. In fact, they showed that sun radiation, wind speed, and vapor pressure deficit, respectively, explained pan evaporation variance at 30, 15, and 6%. The main explanatory variables of pan evaporation found in this study are the same as those of Liu et al. [49]. In fact, they found daily temperature range, sunshine duration, and average wind speed to be the main influencing factors of pan evaporation, and even the determinative factors of its trend. However, air temperature and vapor pressure are the major factors impacting pan evaporation in Zoige Plateau alpine wetland of eastern Tibetan region Zhao et al. [54]. Thus, despite the difference in climate variables considered in searching for pan evaporation influencing factors, wind speed, sunshine duration, and temperature are found to be the main drivers of pan evaporation. An increase in temperature and pan evaporation combined with decrease in wind speed could increase heat

stress in plant, as shown by Hoffman et al. [55]. Consequently, such situation could favor livestock migration and then trigger conflict between farmers, as observed in West African regions and noticed by Touré et al. [20]. Furthermore, increase in temperature and flood event will also positively impact on the spread of infectious diseases, like malaria, which accounts for about 41% of all visits to health facilities in Bénin [56]. In fact, more standing water will increase the habitats for malaria vectors that are mosquito, whereas increased temperatures and prolonged dry seasons will have the potential to extend the vector's seasonal window, exposing human population at risk to this disease.

5. Conclusions

This work analyzed trends in rainfall and temperature extremes, as well as pan evaporation influencing factors over Ouémé Delta in Bénin. Fifteen rainfall based climate indices; eight temperature based indices as well as minimal relative humidity, maximal relative humidity, sunshine duration, wind speed at 10 m altitude, and pan evaporation at annual scale were computed at eight gauging stations (including two synoptic stations) from 1960 to 2016. Prewhitened Mann-Kendal method furthered trend detection over Ouémé Delta, especially at the monthly scale. Results showed intensification in heavy rainfall frequency with increase in monthly maximum precipitation in the months of September, October, and November, which constitute the high water period in Ouémé Delta. Furthermore, explanatory climatic variables that influence pan evaporation in this area are wind speed, mean temperature, and sunshine duration, with wind speed and sunshine explaining its variance at almost 50%. Some of the trends are now detected due to the prewhitened Mann-Kendall method that removed the internal serial correlation comparatively to previous work. As results showed a clear increase in extreme rainfall, especially heavy, very heavy rainfall, maximum consecutive 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10-day maximum, it will probably impact flood event in damages and losses in Ouémé Delta. Most impacted areas will be those with positive trends and are found to be the closest to Ouémé Delta. An increase in temperature as a consequence of global warming and a decrease in relative humidity is going to put stress on plants in terms of water availability. Water loss in rivers is basically measured using pan evaporation. In this work, pan evaporation showed a significant increasing trend given evidence of an increase in surface water loss over Ouémé Delta River and ponds. Consequently, water availability issue is going to be problematic with rise in conflicts between farmers because of livestock migrations that is already observed in West Africa. Furthermore, a decrease in surface water combined with increasing temperature will result in the loss in biodiversity and ecosystem production function in Nokoué Lake. With an increase in frequent extreme rainfall events, an early warning system has to be well set for Ouémé Delta, the food basket of Southern Bénin for damages and losses prevention. In addition, with an increase in surface water evaporation, actions have to be taken for efficient water usage. For instance, clipping dam in the upper stream of Ouémé Delta could help in overflow water storage for future use, like irrigation. In addition, health facilities should be developed and well equipped to cater for needs.

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