

## MODELING THE EVOLUTION IN THE CONCENTRATION OF SOLIDS BASED ON TIME OF THE MEWOU RIVER IN THE MIFI BASIN

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**ABSTRACT:** *The objective of this study is to evaluate and model the evolution of the concentration of solids, as a function of the time of the Mewou river, in the Mifi watershed. We have determined from the samples taken from this watercourse and from the specialized laboratories the concentrations of soil exported. The MATLAB software allowed us to simulate the evolution of the concentration of solids, according to the time of this stream. This evolution is characterized by the polynomial model equation of degree nine with a correlation coefficient of 0.5702 and a coefficient of determination of 0.325:  $C_s = a * t^9 + b * t^8 + c * t^7 + d * t^6 + e * t^5 + f * t^4 + g * t^3 + h * t^2 + i * t + j$*

**KEYWORDS:** Solids Concentration, Time, Model, Function, Simulate.

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## INTRODUCTION

Rainwater, charged with carbon dioxide and other elements through the atmosphere and the surface of the soil, dissolves part of their minerals and triggers a series of chemical reactions, causing the chemical weathering of rocks (Fournier, 1969). As such, the dry rocky elements are fragmented, reduced to the size of sand, silt or clay. Erosion is a process that tends to reduce the surface of continents the thickness of soil and rock, by physically pulling the solid particles that are exported suspended by surface runoff into rivers to reach the oceans and intra continental basins (Probst, 1992). Several authors see water erosion in the tropics from two angles: geological or normal erosion and accelerated erosion ((El-Swaify et al., 1982). As a general point of view, human activities are the main causes of erosion, just as much as deforestation, agriculture, livestock and urbanization. This is the origin of the presence of solid particles in streams creating solid flow.

This study is the quantitative assessment and modeling of the concentration of solids, based on the time of rivers.

## LITERATURE/THEORETICAL UNDERPINNING

Mathematical models generally consist of a set of variables chosen to represent the object studied and a set of mathematical relationships between these variables chosen to represent its function (Zug and Vazquez, 2010). The conceptual validity of an instrument is its capacity to produce a measure, which must agree with the theoretical links between the measured concepts (Martel et al., 2009). In other words, it is to collaborate the conceptual or theoretical significance of the measure. The conceptual validity of the models is done by calculating the correlation between the data obtained from the measurements and the model. Each author characterizes the region or watershed studied, using the most representative and reliable model (Bouanani, 2005), that is, having a good correlation coefficient between the data collected and the model, taking into account errors in measurements, and any inaccuracies caused during the experiment or other conditions related to the phenomena studied, such as coherence between soil transport and precipitation, soil transport and erosion.

Quantitative assessment of the disaggregation of soils in watersheds can be carried out using two approaches. The first approach is to quantify erosion through models, involving morphological, climatic and hydrological parameters. The second approach is to estimate the quantities of suspended matter discharged by the watercourses at the outlet of the basin studied. Most erosion quantification measures are done on standard size plots (Wischmeier et al., 1971, Roose, 1967, Roose et al., 1998). Meanwhile, the study of suspended transfers at the watershed scale proves to be an effective tool for understanding and quantifying soil erosion processes.

Several models have been presented by different researchers, based on representative physical parameters (Albergel et al., 2001, 2003). Below are some of his models:

□ The annual flow of suspended solids exported from a watershed of Wood (1977) and Williams (1989), given by the formula  $A_s = \sum_j^N (t_{j+1} - t_j) Q_j C_j$ . The terms  $C_j$ ,  $Q_j$ ,  $N$  and  $(t_{j+1} - t_j)$  respectively correspond to the concentration measured at instant  $t_j$ , to the liquid flow rate at instant  $t_j$ , to the number of samples taken over the year in question, and to the time separating two consecutive levies.

□ The calculation of the suspended solid flow is based on the measurement of the liquid flow rate of the flow. The average solid flow of suspended sediment passing through an average flow section is calculated by the product of the average concentration of suspended sediment  $C_s$  by the average liquid flow rate  $Q_1$  for a given period of time. This method was used in this work.

The concentration of suspended sediment  $C_s$  and the liquid flow rate ( $Q_1$ ) generally evolve according to a power model (Etchanchu and Probst 1986, Walling and Webb 1981, Walling 1984, Wood 1977, Tavares 2010) Expressed with coefficients  $a$  and  $b$  by  $C_s = a * Q_1^{b-1}$ . Another empirical relationship, called the solid transport curve (Cambell and Bauder, 1940, Crawford, 1991) links the solid flow to the liquid flow along  $Q_s = a * Q_1^b$ .

The parameters  $a$  and  $b$  are generally estimated, by linear regression of the variables, transformed into Log:

$$\text{Log}Q_s = \text{Log}a + b * \text{Log}Q_1. \quad \text{“1”}$$

□ Modeling the evolution in the concentration of solids based on liquid flow rates of the mewou river in the mifi basin:

$$C_s = a * Q_1^2 + b * Q_1 + c \quad (\text{Gouafo C. et al., 2017}) \quad \text{“2”}$$

□ Modeling the evolution of sediment discharge based on liquid flow rates of the mewou rier in the mifi basin:

$$Q_s = a * Ql^9 + b * Ql^8 + c * Ql^7 + d * Ql^6 + e * Ql^5 + f * Ql^4 + g * Ql^3 + h * Ql^2 + i * Ql + j$$

(Gouafo C. et al., 2017) "3"

The catchment area of the South Mifi, covering an area of 1640 km<sup>2</sup>, is drained by four large rivers; We can distinguish the Mape to the north, a tributary of the Mbam; the Nkam to the south-west which, under the name of Wouri, flows into the sea at Douala and drains the south-western edge of the Bamileke plateau and the locality of Dschang; the Ndé in the south-east, a tributary of the Noun, which drains much of the mountainous region of western Cameroon, after having taken its source in Mount Oku (3070 m).

Geological studies show that the locality essentially comprises the formations of the basement, and the volcanic formations; covering most of the highlands of western Cameroon (Olivry, 1976). The formations of the base are mainly composed of calco-alkaline embedded gneisses. The basin of the South Mifi (study site) is composed of 77% of "basalt plateau", 20% of basement formations and 3% of alluvial and basanitoid trachytes. The soils of the western region come from the alteration of these rocks and are mainly red ferralitic soils, on basement materials or basalts of the plateau, or humifers on trachytes and mountain basalts. Several types of hydromorphic soils are observed, as well as poorly evolved soils, pyroclastic or ash-derived basalts.

## METHODOLOGY

### Field site and Sampling

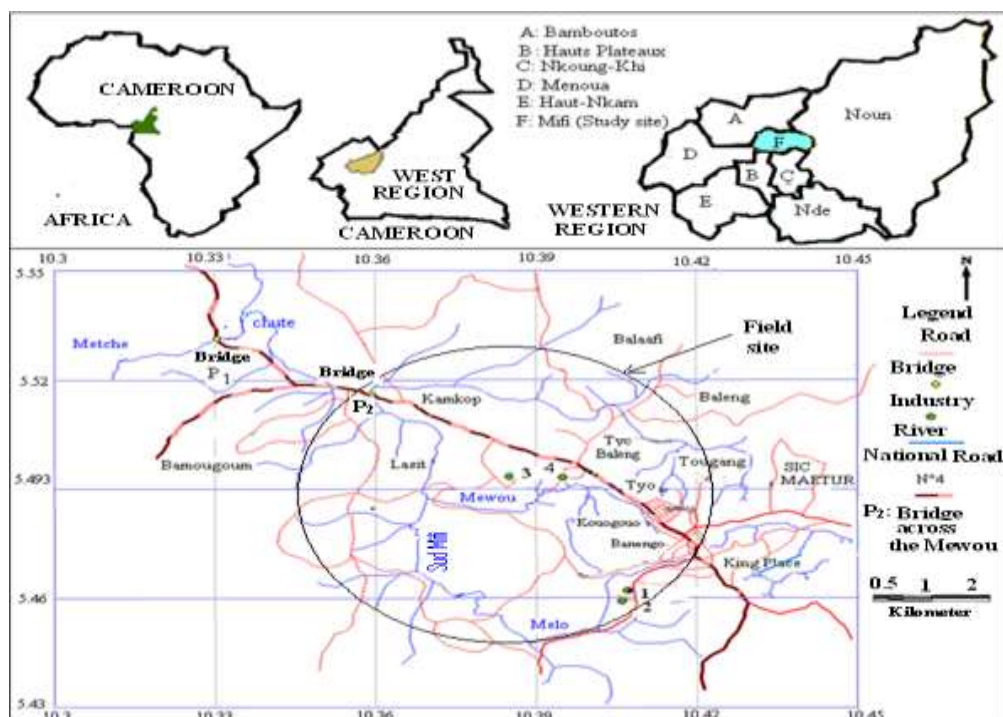


Figure 1: Part of the hydrographic of southern Mifi showing the location of the bridge P2 Mewou

Source: Made using, a GPS, from a background map of the region (2012)

The station selected to determine the quantities of soil exported by the Mewou river (found in the South Mifi) is located at coordinates 5 ° 30'8 "N; 10 ° 22'7" E, Alt. 1279 m, on national road number 04 (Figure 1), designated P<sub>2</sub> in Figure 1.

According to Rodier *et al.*, (2009) and MINEDD (2006), in order to have a representative sample of sediment concentration, the material must be buried in water so that the sample is not surfaced precisely in a place where water is not calm.

The samples were taken, once a week, over a 19 months of study period. A total of 76 samples were considered to determine the quantities of soil exported, in addition to 76 measurements of the flow of the Mewou river. The determination of the quantity of exported soil, was done in the Laboratory of Industrial and Environmental Engineering Systems (LISIE) of the University of Dschang.

### Climate of the region

The climate in the studied area was relatively stable over the years. From the ombrothermal diagram according to Gaussen and Bagnouls (1952) (Figure 2), the studied area have two seasons: the rainy season from 15 March to 15 November and the dry season from 16 November to 14 March. The meteorological conditions of the region are represented by meteorological data from the weather station at Bafoussam-Bamougoum Airport (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2). This station is located close to the studied area, and in the recruitment area (catchment area) of the waters of the Mewou river, which is one of the watercourses of the Mifi Sud catchment area. It is located between 5 ° 32'13 "N and 10 ° 21 '16" E at altitude 1325 m.

The annual rainfall over the past 12 years (2002 to 2013, see Appendix 1) varied from a minimum of 1410.1 mm in 2011 to a maximum of 2026.2 mm in 2013. The maximum rainfall was 477.9 mm in July 2013 and the minimum rainfall was 0.0 mm in January 2007, 2010, February 2004, February 2007, 2008 and December 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

From this meteorological data, the mean temperature in the dry season is 23.2 ° C. It was greater than the average temperature in the rainy season 21.86.

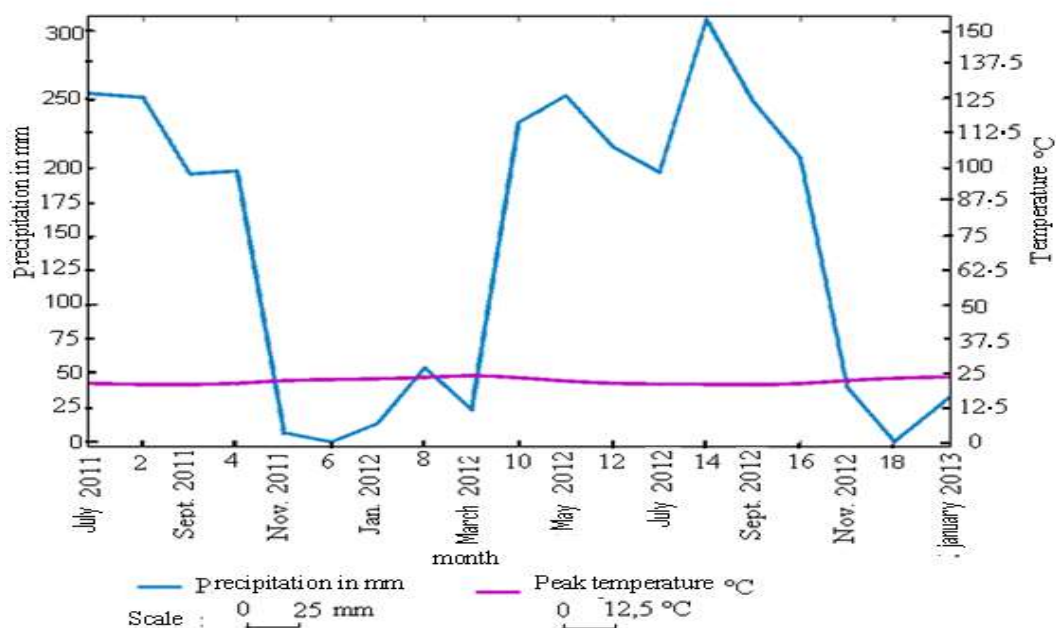


Figure 2: Ombrothermic diagram according Gaussen and Bagnouls (1952), of Bafoussam and surroundings

## Methods of experimentation

### □ Assessment of water flow and exported soil

The flow rate  $Q_1$  in  $m^3/s$  was determined using a gauging float (Rodier et al. 2009, Bernard 1994) following the formula:

$$Q_1 = 0.8 * L * H * V \quad \text{“4”}$$

Where  $L$  = useful width (flowable) in m,  $H$  = average water depth in m and  $V$  = maximum velocity (flow rate) of the water surface in m/s.

The amount of exported soil concentration ( $C_s$ ), of the Mewou watercourse expressed in kg/l was determined by oven drying of the water samples collected from the Mewou River at 105 °C. The amount of soil exported ( $Q_s$ ) by water in g/s or in kg/s was determined from the water flow rate ( $Q_1$ ) following the expression:  $Q_s = Q_1 * C_s$

Where  $C_s$  is the weight of soil per liter of water exported (in g/l;  $g/m^3$  or in  $Kg/m^3$ ). For a period of time  $T$ , we had a soil loss ( $Q_T$ ) from the expression:

$$Q_T = Q_s * T. \quad \text{“5”}$$

## RESULTS/FINDINGS

| Year | Month   | Duration of the month in days | Liquid flow rate in (l/s) | exported soil (g/l) | exported soil (kg/s) |
|------|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2011 | July    | 31                            | 8 900                     | 0.29                | 2.581                |
|      | August  | 31                            | 32 711                    | 0.26                | 2.079                |
|      | Sept.   | 30                            | 8 350                     | 0.1                 | 0.752                |
|      | October | 31                            | 11 474                    | 0.16                | 1.858                |
|      | Nov.    | 30                            | 10 311                    | 0.22                | 2.331                |
|      | Dec.    | 31                            | 6 363                     | 0.27                | 1.657                |
| 2012 | Jan.    | 31                            | 3 727                     | 0.11                | 0.374                |
|      | Fév.    | 29                            | 2 373                     | 0.15                | 0.377                |
|      | March   | 31                            | 2 151                     | 0.1                 | 0.208                |
|      | Apr.    | 30                            | 5 372                     | 0.98                | 7.746                |
|      | May     | 31                            | 5 513                     | 0.23                | 1.317                |
|      | Jun     | 30                            | 9 037                     | 0.26                | 2.796                |
|      | July    | 31                            | 11 630                    | 0.26                | 3.018                |
|      | August  | 31                            | 12 786                    | 0.3                 | 2.928                |
|      | Sept.   | 30                            | 13 831                    | 0.23                | 3.158                |
|      | Oct.    | 31                            | 16 326                    | 0.332               | 5.407                |
|      | Nov.    | 30                            | 12 598                    | 0.14                | 1.764                |
|      | Dec.    | 31                            | 7 543                     | 0.09                | 0.679                |
| 2013 | Jan.    | 31                            | 5 953                     | 0.3                 | 1.786                |

In the present study, the Pearson coefficient of correlation  $R$  and the determination coefficient  $R^2$  were determined using Microsoft Office Excel (Microsoft, 2010) and the MATLAB software (Jerome, 2009). This software allowed us to develop a new-order polynomial model



that better accounts for the relationship between the evolutions of solid flows as a function of time according to the equation of the form:

$$C_s = a * t^9 + b * t^8 + c * t^7 + d * t^6 + e * t^5 + f * t^4 + g * t^3 + h * t^2 + i * t + j \text{“6”}$$

Where  $C_s$  represent the concentration of solids,  $t$  is the time, and the coefficients  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $d$ ,  $e$ ,  $f$ ,  $g$ ,  $h$ ,  $i$  and  $j$  vary, depending on the  $C_s$  values obtained during the study.

The data in Table 1 made it possible to construct the curves of variation of the solids concentrations of the Mewou stream as a function of time according to the polynomial model.

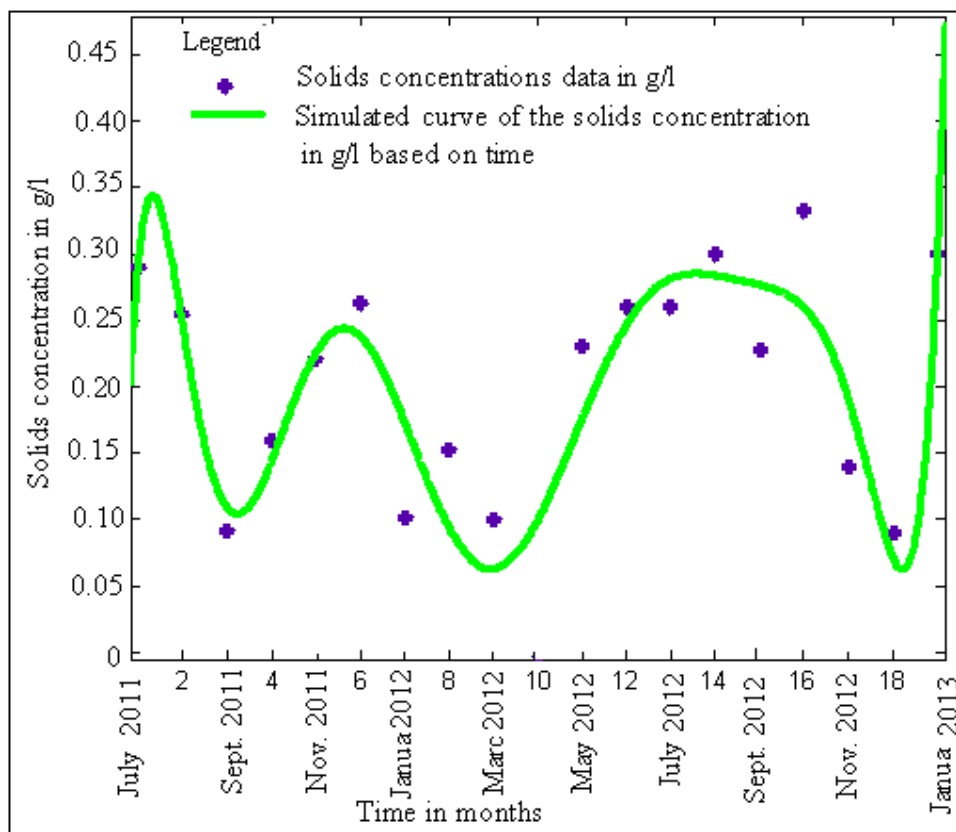


Figure 3: Variation of the solids concentration in g/l of the Mewou stream based on time in months

The model of the evolution of the Mewou stream concentration as a function of time is represented by the curve of Figure. 3, with a correlation coefficient of 0.5702 and a determination coefficient of 0.325. This model is polynomial of degree nine:

$$C_s = 0.00000003381 * t^9 - 0.000003084 * t^8 + 0.0001191 * t^7 - 0.002531 * t^6 + 0.03222 * t^5 - 0.2503 * t^4 + 1.159 * t^3 - 2.988 * t^2 + 3.707 * t - 1.366 \text{“7”}$$

Where:  $C_s$ : Concentration in solids in g / l and  $t$ : Time in months.

The correlation coefficient of 0.5702 indicates a moderate correlation (Legates and McCabe, 1999, Donner and Eliasziw, 1987). This model is validated in this range of the correlation coefficient.

This model indicates that the concentrations of suspended solids increase or decrease in perfect synchronization with the liquid flow rate. Indeed, during the dry season at the moment when the liquid flows decrease, this concentration engages a downward slope (decrease from November 2011) and the minimum concentration is obtained in March 2012, that is to say at the end of The dry season when the flow of water is low. The curve becomes ascending from the month of April 2012 period of the beginning of the rains. Thus the cycle is renewed. Wood (1977) found the same phenomenon: the growth of sediment input during flood periods and the decrease during low water periods. Thus, in flood climates, the concentrations may be higher because there is a lot of material available, whereas in the fall, the materials are less frequent and the concentrations are lower for the same flow rate.

Transported sediments originate from bed and bank by erosion or slippage, and tributary tributaries (Williams, 1989). The material of the bed transported in suspension at the measuring station may be influenced by the volumes, height, power of previous floods, the power of the current to pass any obstacle and by the vegetation cover which can retain or release the sediments. Sediment from the slopes can come from the land by runoff. In some places, man plays an important role in sediment production through cultivation practices, as stirring the soil encourages sediment transport and even reduces water infiltration due to reduced vegetation cover (Tavares, 2010). The basin which has as an outlet the Mewou stream is located in an agricultural area. This river has tributary tributaries that cross the town of Bafoussam where some spaces lack vegetal cover.

### IMPLICATION OF THE MODEL TO RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

- This study may allow process station managers to know the time of year or the transport of sediments is very important;
- It allows to predict the periods of high siltation of the dams of water retention;
- The study determines the amount of sediment transported as a function of time

### CONCLUSION

The evolution of the concentration of solids in suspensions in water, as a function of the time of the stream Mewou, to model, the polynomial model of degree nine. Based on the data from this study, the equation is as follows:

$$C_s = 0.00000003381*t^9 - 0.000003084*t^8 + 0.0001191*t^7 - 0.002531*t^6 + 0.03222*t^5 - 0.2503*t^4 + 1.159*t^3 - 2.988*t^2 + 3.707*t - 1.366$$

Where :

Cs: The solid concentration in g/l and t: The time in months

This equation is of the form:

$$C_s = a*t^9 + b*t^8 + c*t^7 + d*t^6 + e*t^5 + f*t^4 + g*t^3 + h*t^2 + i*t + j$$

Where: Cs represents the solid concentration, t is the time in months and the coefficients a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i and j vary with the Cs values obtained during the study. The above equation

can be used to predict the solid concentration as a function of time of this stream in future years.

## FUTURE RESEARCH

- Modeling the concentration of solids according to rainfall;
- Modeling the amount of solids depending on rainfall
- Modeling of water flow depending on rainfall

### Appendix 1: Rainfall (mm / month) in Bafoussam-Bamougoum from January

| Month | 2002 to December 2013 |      |       |       |      |      |      |        |       |      |      |      |       |
|-------|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|--------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
|       | Jan.                  | Feb. | March | April | May  | June | July | August | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Total |
| years |                       |      |       |       |      |      |      |        |       |      |      |      |       |
| 2002  | 4.0                   | 16.  | 123.1 | 147   | 128. | 280. | 315. | 253.   | 254.  | 247. |      | 18.  | 1588  |
| 2003  | 1.1                   |      | 39.2  | 128   | 123. | 232. | 222. | 276.   | 234.  | 267. |      |      | 1580  |
| 2004  | 1.2                   |      | 40.3  | 266   |      | 256. | 287. | 244.   | 195.  | 323. | 141. | 17.  | 1867  |
| 2005  | 52.9                  | 83.  | 76.7  |       | 238. | 177. | 175. | 309.   | 299.  | 230. |      |      | 1760  |
| 2006  | 8.1                   | 75.  | 149.5 |       | 298. | 209. | 246. | 310.   | 254.  | 153. |      |      | 1836  |
| 2007  | 0.0                   |      | 29.6  | 262   | 176. | 221. | 273. | 236.   | 194.  | 280. | 143. |      | 1817  |
| 2008  | 5.6                   |      | 106.5 | 207   | 171. | 201. | 179. | 239.   | 290.  | 152. |      |      | 1561  |
| 2009  | 2.7                   | 14.  | 42.2  |       | 201. | 170. | 268. | 383.   | 223.  | 260. |      |      | 1665  |
| 2010  | 0.0                   | 48.  | 87.2  |       | 215. | 249. | 161. |        | 302.  | 228. |      |      | 1555  |
| 2011  | 9.8                   | 32.  | 80.9  | 105   | 197. |      | 253. | 251.   | 195.  | 197. |      |      | 1410  |
| 2012  | 13.7                  | 54.  | 23.6  | 233   | 252. | 215. | 196. | 308.   | 247.  | 207. |      |      | 1791  |
| 2013  | 27.9                  | 15.  | 119.7 | 181   | 187. | 176. | 477. | 210.   | 279.  | 236. |      | 15.  | 2026  |

Source: Weather Station Bafoussam-Bamougoum Airport (5°32'13"N, 10° 21' 16" E, Alt. 1325

### Appendix 2: average monthly temperature of daily temperature of the station

Meteorological from the airport Bafoussam-Bamougoum period 2002-2013 in ° C

| Mont<br>Years | Jan. | Feb. | March | April | May  | June | July | August | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|---------------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|--------|-------|------|------|------|
| 2002          | 23.  | 24.  | 24.8  | 24.2  | 23.9 | 22.7 | 22.  | 21.3   | 21.4  | 21.  | 23.0 | 22.9 |
| 2003          | 23.  | 24.  | 24.9  | 23.1  | 22.7 | 21.0 | 20.  | 21.0   | 20.7  | 21.  | 22.3 | 22.7 |
| 2004          | 23.  | 24.  | 24.7  | 22.7  | 23.3 | 21.5 | 20.  | 22.7   | 21.1  | 21.  | 22.2 | 22.5 |
| 2005          | 22.  | 24.  | 23.9  | 24.0  | 21.6 | 21.4 | 20.  | 20.6   | 21.0  | 21.  | 21.0 | 21.3 |
| 2006          | 22.  | 23.  | 23.1  | 22.7  | 22.0 | 19.4 | 21.  | 20.9   | 20.9  | 21.  | 22.2 | 22.1 |
| 2007          | 22.  | 24.  | 24.7  | 25.6  | 22.3 | 21.5 | 20.  | 20.6   | 20.9  | 21.  | 21.7 | 22.2 |
| 2008          | 22.  | 23.  | 23.5  | 20.1  | 22.0 | 21.3 | 20.  | 20.7   | 20.2  | 21.  | 22.9 | 22.5 |
| 2009          | 23.  | 24.  | 24.8  | 22.9  | 22.3 | 21.6 | 21.  | 20.8   | 21.0  | 21.  | 22.3 | 23.0 |



|      |     |     |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |     |      |      |
|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|
| 2010 | 23. | 23. | 24.4 | 23.9 | 23.2 | 21.8 | 21. | 21.1 | 20.2 | 21. | 22.5 | 23.0 |
| 2011 | 22. | 23. | 24.1 | 23.6 | 22.8 | 21.8 | 21. | 21.0 | 21.1 | 21. | 22.7 | 22.7 |
| 2012 | 23. | 23. | 24.6 | 23.4 | 22.2 | 21.4 | 21. | 21.2 | 20.9 | 21. | 22.6 | 23.3 |
| 2013 | 23. | 24. | 23.5 | 23.3 | 23.2 | 22.5 | 21. | 21.4 | 21.4 | 21. | 22.1 | 21.8 |

Source: Weather Station Bafoussam-Bamougoum Airport ( $5^{\circ}32'13''N$ ,  $10^{\circ} 21' 16'' E$ ,

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