



Early meteorological observations in western Africa, 1687-1793

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The meteorological observations made during the early instrumental period allow us to extend climate data records prior to the industrial revolution at local and regional scales. In addition, they are useful to understand rare and extreme events. So, the early instrumental observations have received much attention, with a large number of series being retrieved over the last decades over the world. In this work early instrumental data taken in Western Africa during the 17th and 18th centuries are presented. Information comes from regular reporting stations established by colonial governments, or non-governmental observations, usually made at mission stations, explorer's camps, or ships logbooks. Data correspond to various localities in the area: Saint Louis and Gorée (Senegal), Bulama Island (Guinea-Bissau), Freetown (Sierra Leona), Cape Coast and Accra (Ghana). This information is accompanied by qualitative statements on the local climate events contained in local chronicles, reports of journeys, etc. Although the information is very dispersed and fragmentary, with large temporal gaps, a preliminary analysis allows establish the reliability of these series and their potential utility for historical climatology studies in western Africa.