

***Interactive comment on* “Spatial and temporal Trend Analysis of Long Term rainfall records in data-poor catchments with missing data, a case study of Lower Shire floodplain in Malawi for the Period 1953–2010” by Rabee Rustum et al.**

Anonymous Referee #1

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The article investigates trends in monthly rainfall in a basin in Malawi. The manuscript is well written and easy to read, and the study uses well documented statistical methods. Based on my review of the manuscript I only have a few minor remarks: 1. What is the motivation for choosing this basin in Malawi? Why do you make this study on this catchment, and why on this scale? Please develop the text about the geographic and climatologic settings further.

2. Figures 1,2,4 and 6: These maps are quite confusing. To improve comprehension, you might want to consider the following changes: a. Figure 1: Add a zoomed out

map which shows where in the world this place is located for reference. Also, consider highlighting the catchment more, so that it stands out from the rest of the map. Add gauging station numbers and table. b. Figure 2,4,6: Remove gauging station numbers from map and the tables, it is confusing with both station numbers and Z statistics in the same map. Maybe just have green dots indicating the gauging locations? Also, consider only showing the basin here (cut out the rest of Malawi), that would increase the scale of the map and improve legibility.

3. Page 6. Rows 21-23: This is a weird statement, consider re-writing it.

4. The stations are sorted differently in the Tables. Having them all sorted A-Z would make comparisons easier.

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Discussion paper

