

Interactive comment on “Spatial Relationship between Precipitation and Runoff in Africa” by Fidele Karamage et al.

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I will start by appreciating the amount of energy put in gathering, processing and analyzing the huge amount of hydrological data on Africa. However, in agreement with Referee #1, whose contributions are already posted, I noted a number of unfounded pronouncements. I will not repeat on issues already raised by Referee #1. My comments/remarks are summarized as follows:

- It is common knowledge that there are many factors with significant control on the hydrology of catchments/basins; therefore, it is always important for authors to justify their choice of factors to include/exclude in their study. The authors listed their choices on page 2, lines 24-26, without any attempt to explain why they considered them to be

C1

the more important ones.

- The choice of a country as the finest spatial scale in the study also required a base. It is not clear how the authors can justify their choice and how they treated the fact that many African countries drain into more than one river basin. This is important because it might affect the results shown in Figure 11.

- The results of the current study seem to confirm what is already known about the hydrology of Africa, which leaves one wondering whether the authors were able to articulate the objectives of the study. The discussion part of the paper did not help to put the study into proper context either.

- The immediate above remark, perhaps, explain the weak discussion and, especially, the conclusion of the paper. For example, the study has no basis for concluding that items enumerated on page 24, lines 11-12, are the solutions to address water scarcity in Africa.

My opinion is that, while a lot of effort was put in gathering, processing and analyzing the data, there was not much zeal in interpreting and interrogating the results leading to a weak discussion of the results and conclusions.

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C2