

### **Point-to-point replies to the review report**

We would like to thank the editorial team and the referees for the attention given to our manuscript and for providing an evaluation of our work. Our responses to their comments are provided below.

For clarity, Referee's comments are shown in bold font and the authors' replies in *italic*.

**Referee's comments:** *Our reply*

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#### **Referee #1:**

**The authors have constructed a much-needed data set on the surface water storage and its changes over the Congo River Basin. Their data set can now be used as a baseline for future related data sets, and importantly, in water balance modeling efforts. I look forward to the authors or perhaps other researchers using this data set in comparisons with forthcoming SWOT measurements. Such comparisons will be rather important for the SWOT mission calibrations and validations. Please note that the authors of this manuscript are well-known and deeply respected for their research in the Congo and in surface water dynamics.**

**The manuscript proceeds in a seamless, logical fashion; nothing is missing nor does anything need to be added. Other referees might find important details that need clarification. I support publication of the manuscript.**

*Our Reply: We appreciate your very positive feedback on our work. We are glad that you have highlighted the fact that this dataset can now be used as baseline for future research in the Congo basin, to support modeling efforts and will be useful for related datasets, particularly the forthcoming SWOT measurements. Thank you to support the publication of this manuscript.*