

Interactive comment on “An overview of the SCOUT-AMMA stratospheric aircraft, balloons and sondes campaign in West Africa, August 2006: rationale, roadmap and highlights” by F. Cairo et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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The paper by Cairo et al. gives an overview of the airborne, balloon- and sonde-based measurements during the SCOUT-AMMA campaign. Thus individual chapters motivate the measurements in this particular environment, describe the meteorological situation as well as the scientific payload of the various platforms and provide a flight by flight description of the deployments. Last not least, a summary of research highlights obtained from the campaign is presented. Personally, I appreciate overview papers for special issues or large campaigns. They should provide background information on the campaign and most importantly should give guidance for the interested reader

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on further reading. Thus I appreciate the information presented in the manuscript on the campaign rationale, the meteorological overview and the scientific highlights. But reading through the chapters on payloads and flight descriptions gave me a hard time. I doubt that all this information is of value for the average reader. This sections should be significantly shortened, e.g. by the use of tables, before the paper is published on ACP.

Technical comments:

References for Tucker et al., 2005 and Prizon et al., 2004 cited in the figure caption of Fig. 1 are missing from the reference list.

Fig. 2: Neither the borders of the continent nor the scaling of the wind speed is clearly identifiable from the figure. I recommend to add lat/long to the axis and a colour bar to the wind scale.

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