

RECOVERING ECO-CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA FROM BELGIAN COLONIAL ARCHIVES - HISTORICAL CONTEXT & PROTOCOLS.

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During the colonial era, Yangambi was famous due to the Institut national pour l' étude agronomique du Congo Belge (INEAC). The eco-climatology network of INEAC from 1885 to 1962, served to establish in a similar manner the different degrees manifested on a seasonal average by eco-climatic elements (e.g.: temperature and precipitation) in the various regions of the Congo Belge (the actual Democratic Republic of Congo), with a view to studying the influences these elements exert on humans and mainly on the crops. Yangambi stand for the INEAC principal station for eco-climatology observations. The COBECORE project aims to recover and valorize the INEAC archives by providing an open digital database to the scientific community.

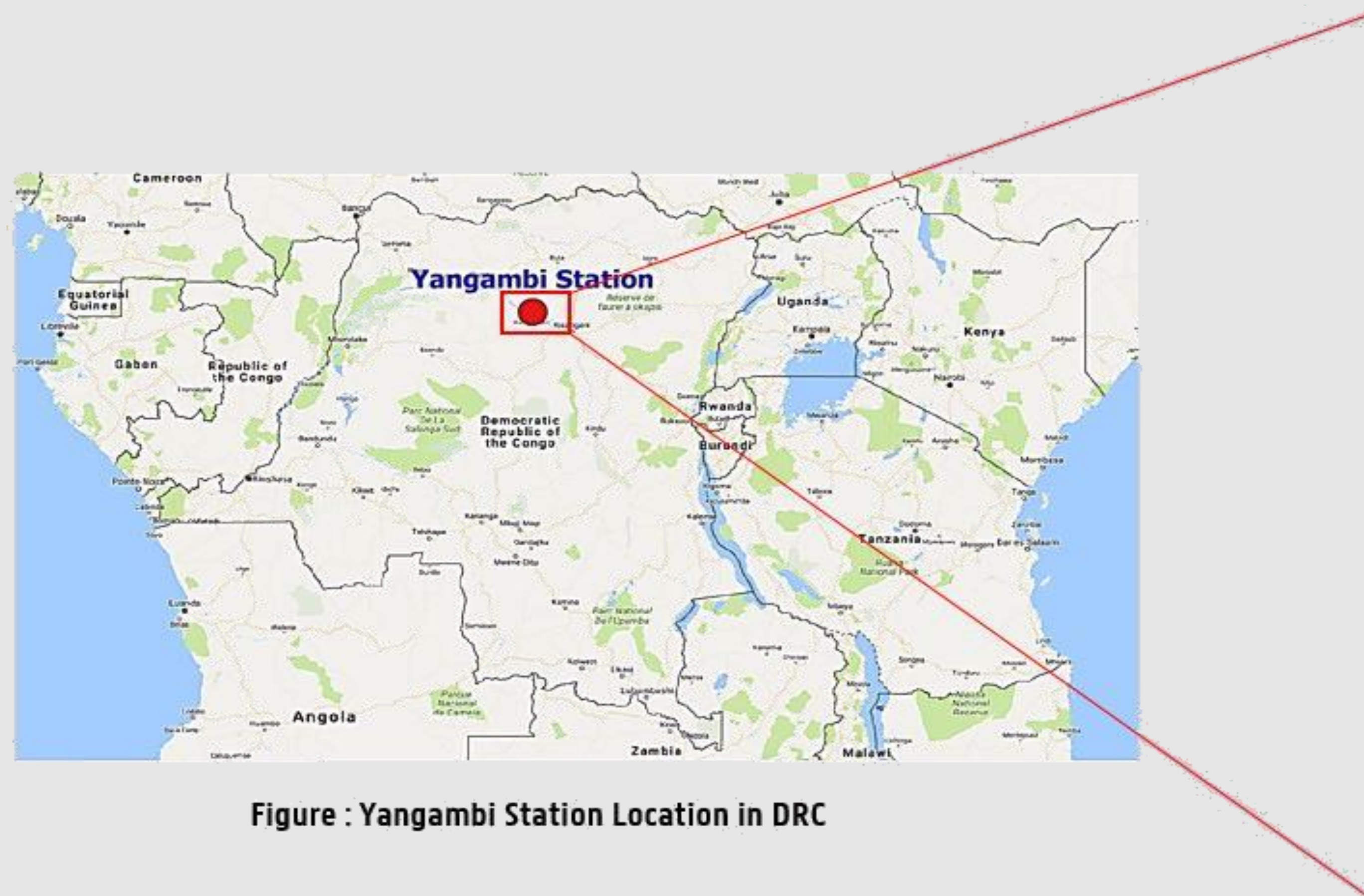


Figure : Yangambi Station Location in DRC

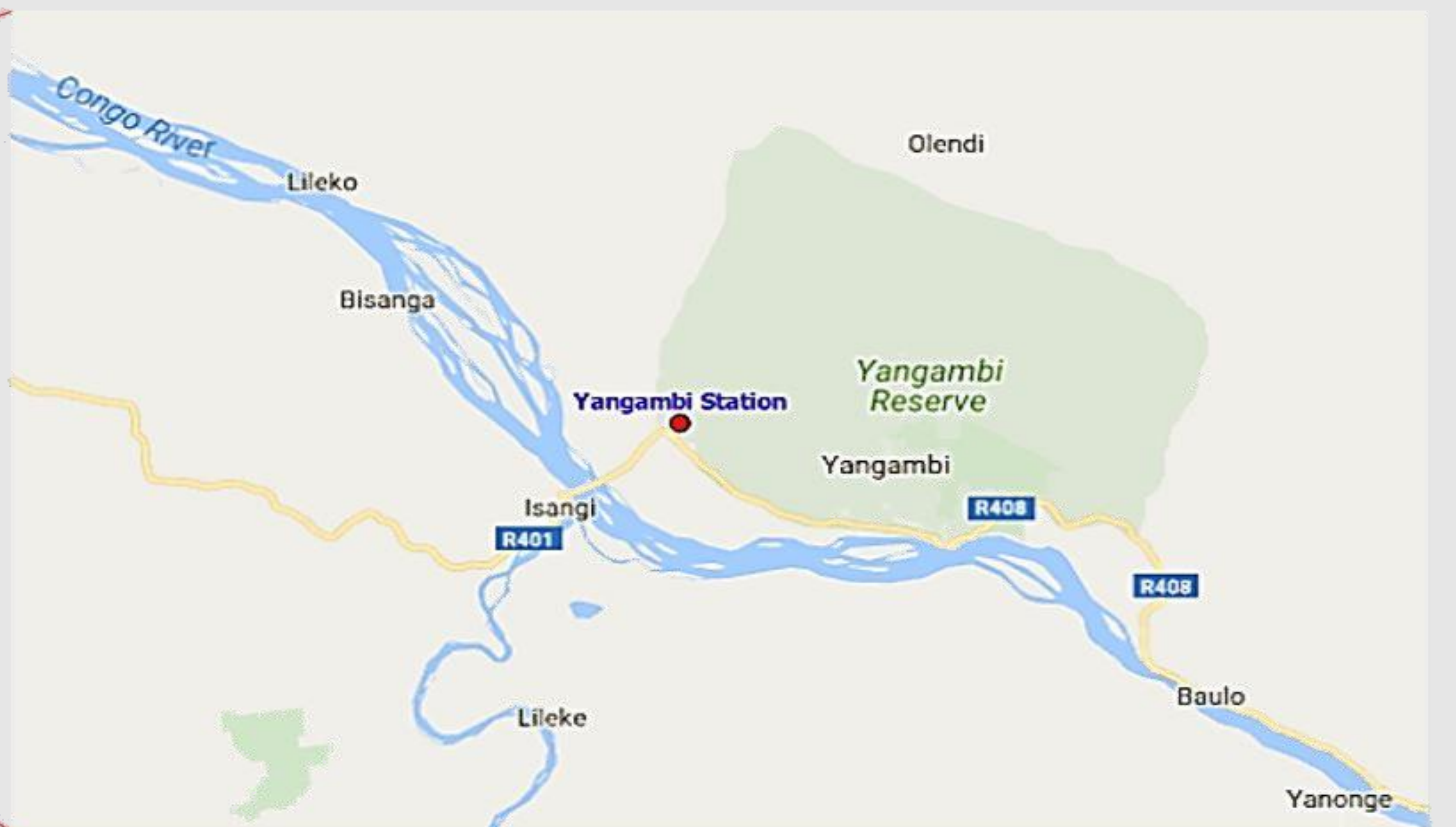


Figure: Yangambi Station Location by the North Side of the Congo River in the Yangambi Reserve

At the Yangambi station we have digitized:

- 2500 documents of temperature and precipitation
- high (hourly) data resolution

COBECORE will digitize > 12000 documents of temperature and precipitation measurements throughout the Congo Basin



Figure: Digitisation setup

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DU CONGO BELGE
RÉSEAU D'ÉCOCLIMATOLOGIE

No de la pentade	Date	HEURES D'ÉCLAIREMENT									
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
61	1	20,1	20,6	21,6	22,6	22,9	23,0	23,4	24,0	24,0	23,8
	2	20,0	20,0	19,6	18,8	18,7	19,4	20,7	20,6	21,2	22,0
	3	18,5	20,9	21,7	23,0	23,7	23,8	23,5	23,8	24,0	24,0
	4	20,2	21,6	22,6	22,1	22,5	23,4	23,8	22,6	19,3	
	5	19,4	19,5	19,6	20,3	21,2	21,9	22,1	22,3	21,6	21,9
	Tot.	98,2	102,6	105,1	106,8	109,0	110,6	113,1	114,5	113,4	111,0
	Moy.	19,6	20,5	21,0	21,4	21,8	22,1	22,6	22,9	22,7	22,2
62	6	20,2	20,0	19,7	20,7	21,1	21,2	22,3	22,6	22,7	22,4
	7	19,5	20,5	21,8	22,2	23,1	23,3	23,2	23,2	23,4	23,4
	8	19,8	21,3	22,4	22,8	23,7	23,8	24,4	24,6	24,1	24,6
	9	20,6	21,0	21,9	22,2	22,6	22,6	23,2	23,4	23,8	24,3
	10	19,2	19,6	20,0	20,5	21,7	22,4	23,4	23,6	23,7	24,2
	Tot.	99,3	102,4	105,8	106,4	112,2	113,3	116,5	117,4	117,7	118,9
	Moy.	19,9	20,5	21,2	21,7	22,4	22,7	23,3	23,5	23,5	23,8
63	11	19,3	21,8	22,7	23,4	23,6	24,0	24,1	24,2	23,9	24,3
	12	18,8	20,9	22,8	23,4	23,6	24,0	24,5	24,2	24,2	24,4
	13	19,5	21,8	23,1	23,2	23,5	24,2	24,4	24,5	24,3	24,7
	14	19,9	20,2	20,8	21,1	22,2	23,3	23,5	24,5	22,7	23,0
	15	21,1	21,4	21,3	20,6	21,2	21,3	21,5	21,9	21,9	21,9

Figure: Dense temperature data at the Yangambi research station

Yangambi fulfilled its mission as the principal station measuring various climatological elements like the temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, wind speed and direction. These measurements at the Yangambi station provide outstanding and detailed records of the local climate due to the detail and rigour of these measurements. For example, the hourly measurements of the temperature from year 1901 to 1958 testify the labor efforts and the value these data represented for the INEAC researchers at that period and the value they represent for us nowadays to understand the climate change.

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