



Supplement of

Seasonal forecasts of the Saharan heat low characteristics: a multi-model assessment

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1 Table

Table S1	• Correlation	between th	e HLW(HLE)	phases	in the	models	and	ERA5:	values	in	brackets/bold	indicate	the	correlation	using
respectively the corrected anomalies/ temperatures over the 2 boxes (East and West SHL).															

	ERA5(W)	ERA5 (E)
SEAS5(W,E)	0.29 (0.00)	0.12 (-0.09)
MF7(W,E)	0.30 (-0.03)	0.14 (-0.06)



Figure S1. Correlation analysis between the reanalyses ERA5 and MERRA from 1993-2016 during the JJAS period over : a) Central SHL and b) Sahara. Y-axis/X-axis indicate T850 in ERA5/MERRA.



Figure S2. Climatology of the SHL from 1993-2016 during the JJAS period : a) ERA5 , b) MERRA, c) SEAS5 and d) MF7 respectively. The boxes are the same as in Fig.2; the color bar indicates T850 in degree Kelvin. The computation was made using the ensemble mean for seasonal forecast models.



Figure S3. Differences between ERA5 and MERRA reanalyses over the period 1993-2016 during the season. The color bar indicates the bias value in Kelvin.Y-axis indicates latitudes and X-axis the longitudes of our domain.



Figure S4. Wavelet Analysis on the temperature signal over the central SHL box when the models have been launched in May respectively for: **a**) ERA5, **b**) SEAS5 and **c**) MF7 for the year 2016. The above plots represent the temperature time series and the bottom plots the corresponding wavelet decomposition. In the upper plots, the X-axis represents the time (days) and the Y-axis indicates the temperature in degree Kelvin. In wavelet decomposition, the X-axis indicates the time (days) and the Y-axis the frequency or period (days). The color bar represents the intensity of the wavelet, the values are normalized. The computation was realized using the unperturbed member for the ensemble forecast models.



Figure S5. Climatology of monthly bias temperature over the Sahara region during 1981-2016 between SEAS5 and ERA5. The bias is computed using diurnal cycle temperature (mean between temperature at 00:00 and 12:00 UTC). The computation was made using the ensemble mean member of the models. The color bar indicates the bias value in Kelvin.Y-axis indicates latitudes and X-axis the longitudes of our domain.



Figure S6. Analysis of the correlation between reanalysis ERA5 and seasonal forecast models during the JJAS period from 1993-2016 with an initialization of the models on the 1st of June over: **a**), **b**) central SHL box and **c**), **d**) Sahara. Red points and blue stars represent the corresponding forecast for a giving temperature in ERA5 respectively for SEAS5 and MF7. JJAS and JJAS_CDFT refer to the [June,July,August,September] period for SEAS5, MF7 raw and corrected forecasts respectively. The computation was made just using the unperturbed member of the ensemble forecast models.



Figure S7. Anomaly of temperature occurrence over JJAS period during 1993-2016 over: **a**) - **e**) central SHL box and **f**) - **j**) Sahara respectively. "ERA5", " $SEAS5_BRUT$ ", " $MF7_BRUT$ " here correspond to the anomaly of the SHL using reanalysis data, SEAS5 and MF7 raw climate forecasts respectively. " $SEAS5_CDFT$ ", " $MF7_CDFT$ " refer to the anomaly of the SHL using SEAS5 and MF7 corrected forecasts respectively. The computation was made using the ensemble member of the forecast models. The X-axis represents the temperature in degree Kelvin and Y-axis the time in year. The color bar indicates the anomaly of occurrence values (no unit).



Figure S8. Bias Correction evaluation using Cramer Von Mises score over JJAS period during 1993-2016 over the Sahara at different initialization months: *a*) - *c*) April, *d*) - *f*) May and *g*) - *i*) June respectively. "CORR_NO_MEAN", "CORR_MEAN" and "MEAN_CORR" methods are well described in section 3.4." S5_B", "S5_CD", "S5_QM" represent the Cramer score computed using respectively SEAS5 raw forecasts, SEAS5 corrected with CDF-t and QMAP methods. Idem for "MF7_B", "MF7_CD", "MF7_QM" with the MF7 model. Y-axis indicates the Cramer score and X-axis the different products used for the computation of Cramer score.



Figure S9. Distribution of yearly temperature over JJAS period during 1993-2016 respectively over: **a**) - **e**) central SHL and **f**) - **j**) Sahara. "ERA5", "SEAS5_CDFT", "MF7_CDFT" here correspond to the intensity of the SHL using respectively reanalysis data, SEAS5 and MF7 corrected forecasts with CDF-t method. "SEAS5_QMAP", "MF7_QMAP" refer to the intensity of the SHL using respectively SEAS5 and MF7 corrected forecasts with QMAP method. The computation was made using the ensemble member of the forecast models. Y-axis indicates time in year and X-axis respectively time in year and temperature in degree Kelvin. The color bar in each case indicates the probability of occurrence.



Figure S10. Evolution of the yearly mean temperature during the JJAS period for June lead time 0 (models initialization on June for the JJAS period). "MF7_CSHL", "SEAS5_CSHL", "ERA5_CSHL" and "MF7_S", "SEAS5_S", "ERA5_S" represent respectively the seasonal forecasts for MF7 and SEAS5, and the reanalyses ERA5 over central SHL box and the Sahara region. The computation was made using the raw forecasts and the ensemble members for MF7 and SEAS5. The X-axis represents the time in year and the Y-axis indicates the temperature in degree Kelvin.



Figure S11. Detection method of the East and West SHL components using the dipole approach for the year 2005 at June lead time 0 respectively for: *a*) ERA5, *b*) SEAS5, *c*) MF7. "ERA5_EAST", "SEAS5_EAST", "MF7_EAST" represent the HLE computed respectively from ERA5, SEAS5 and MF7. "ERA5_WEST", "SEAS5_WEST", "MF7_WEST" represent the HLW computed respectively from ERA5, SEAS5 and MF7. The gray line represents the dipole for each product ("W - E"). The bottom panel represents the evolution of the seasonal SHL location with respect to the barycenter (black line). The first and second Y-axis indicate respectively the temperature and the dipole values in degree Kelvin. X-axis indicates the time (days). The computation was made using the unperturbed member of the ensemble models.



Figure S12. Evaluation of the interannual variability of the SHL over JJAS period and separately on June, July, August, September during 1993-2016 using monthly mean T850 over the Sahara at different lead times: a) - e) April, f) - j) May and k) - o) June respectively. "S5_B", "SS5_C" represent respectively the CRPS score evaluated using raw SEAS5 forecasts and SEAS5 corrected forecasts with CDF-t method. Idem for "MF7_B", "MF7_C" with the MF7 model. "MS_C" represents the CRPS score evaluated on the multi-model formed by SEAS5 and MF7 corrected forecasts with the CDF-t method. The computation was made using the ensemble member both for corrected and raw forecasts. The Y-axis indicates the CRPS score values and X-axis, the data type used for the computation of the CRPS.



a)



Figure S13. Evaluation of the interannual variability of the SHL in seasonal forecast models (SEAS5, MF7) separately on June, July, August, September at lead time 0 during the period 1993-2016 using daily T850 over : a) Central SHL and b) Sahara. "S5_B" / "MF7_B" represent respectively the raw SEAS5/MF7 forecasts. The computation was made using the ensemble member for the seasonal models. The Y-axis indicates the CRPS score values and the X-axis, the time in days.



a)



Figure S14. Evaluation of the interannual variability of the SHL over the JJAS period and separately on June, July, August, September during 1993-2016 using daily T850 over : a) Central SHL and b) Sahara at different lead times: a) - e) April, f) - j) May and k) - o) June respectively. " $S5_B$ "/" $S5_C$ " represent respectively the RMSE metric evaluated using raw/corrected SEAS5 forecasts. Idem for " $MF7_B$ "," $MF7_C$ " with the MF7 model. The computation walf and using the unperturbed member both for the corrected and raw forecasts. The Y-axis indicates the RMSE metric values.

			a) CORREI						
	JU	NE	JU	ILY	AU	GU	SEPT		
	CSHL	SAH	CSHL	SAH	CSHL	SAH	CSHL	SAH	
SEAS5	0.5	0.30	0.31	0.33	0.4	0.42	0.5	0.48	
MF7	0.52	0.27	0.23	0.28	0.35	0.30	0.51	0.43	
		b)							
	JUNE		JL	JLY	AU	GU	SEPT		
	CSHL	SAH	CSHL	SAH	CSHL	SAH	CSHL	SAH	
SEAS5	0.61	0.39	0.25	0.44	0.18	0.50	0.43	0.55	
MF7	0.38	0.32	0.21	0.29	0.34	0.61	0.46	0.37	

Figure S15. Analysis of the correlation between the seasonal forecast models and ERA5 separately for June, July, August and September at lead time 0 using : a) daily T850 and b) mean monthly T850. "SEAS5" / "MF7" represent respectively the raw SEAS5/MF7 forecasts. The computation was made using the unperturbed member for the seasonal forecast models.



Figure S16. Distribution of the climatology over the period 20^{th} June -17^{th} September from 1993 to 2016 at June lead time 0 for: *a*) the dipole which represents the difference between heat low West and heat low East, *b*) Heat low East and *c*) Heat low West. MF7_B and SEAS5_B refer respectively to the MF7/SEAS5 raw forecasts. "ERA5_E", "MF7_B_E" and "SEAS5_B_E" refer respectively to the HLE in the reanalyses, MF7/SEAS5 raw forecasts. "ERA5_W", "MF7_B_W" and "SEAS5_B_W" refer respectively to the HLW in the reanalyses, MF7/SEAS5 raw forecasts. Y-axis indicates the probability of occurrence and X-axis the temperature in degree Kelvin. The vertical green bar represents the boundary between the HLE and HLW phases. The analysis was carried out using the unperturbed member.