The WMO Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS)

A Global Consortium Helping Society Reduce Risk Through Research, Assessments and Forecasts

Carlos Pérez García-Pando¹, Leonard Barrie², Slobodan Nickovic², José María Baldasano³, Emilio Cuevas⁴, Michael Schulz⁵

¹ The Earth Institute at Columbia University, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies & International Research Institute for Climate and Society. New York, USA.
² Research Department, World Meteorological Organization. Geneva, Switzerland.
³ Barcelona Supercomputing Center. Barcelona, Spain.
⁴ AEMET, Spain.
⁵ Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et l’Environnement. France.
Sand and Dust Storm Impacts

**HUMAN HEALTH**
- Bronchial tubes
- Eye infections
- Asthma
- Heart stress

**CLIMATE AND METEOROLOGY**
- Dust causes large uncertainties in assessing climate forcing by atmospheric aerosols

**MINERAL DESERT DUST**

**IMPACTS**

**OZONE CHEMISTRY**

**OCEANIC AND TERRESTRIAL BIOCHEMICAL CYCLES**
- Iron deposition into the oceans, increasing nitrification processes

**LIFE AND PROPERTY**

**VISIBILITY**
- Severe reduction of visibility on road and airports affecting operations

**Infection of coral reefs**
SDS-WAS Mission

To enhance the ability of countries to deliver:

• timely and quality forecasts of sand and dust storms,
• observations and
• information and knowledge to users

through

• an international partnership of research and operational experts and users
SDS-WAS Forecast Centres

- UK MET OFFICE
- ECMWF
- U of Athens, Greece
- METU, Turkey
- MRI, Japan
- BSC-AEMET, Spain
- US Navy, USA
- Tel Aviv U, Israel
- KMA, S. Korea
- CMA, China
- Joint U of Arizona and U of Mexico, USA
Objectives

• Provide user communities access to forecasts, observations and information of the SDS through regional centres connected to the WMO Information System (WIS) and the World Wide Web.

• Identify and improve SDS products through consultation with the operational and user communities

• Enhance operational SDS forecasts through technology transfer from research

• Improve forecasting and observation technology through coordinated international research and assessment

• Build capacity of relevant countries to utilize SDS observations, forecasts and analysis products for meeting societal needs
A Federated System of Regional Nodes Bringing Modeling, Research, Observations and Users Together

Regional Center for Northern Africa, Middle East and Europe: AEMET and BSC-CNS (Spain)

Partners of the regional node (list not exhaustive):
Meteo-France, UK Met Office, ECMWF, LISA, LSCE, IFT, EUMETSAT, CNR, AERONET/PHOTONS, Tunisian Met Service, University of Athens, University of Tel Aviv, Egyptian Meteorological Agency, METU

Regional Center for Asia/Central-Pacific: China Meteorological Agency

Partners of the regional node:
Japan Meteorological Agency
Korea Meteorological Agency

http://www.bsc.es/sds-was/
http://www.sds.cma.gov.cn/
A Federated System of Regional Nodes Bringing Modeling, Research, Observations and Users Together

Flow of information between SDS-WAS system components for a regional node consisting of a consortium of partners supported by a Regional Steering Group and Regional Centre
What data or service does/will the Project produce?

- SDS forecasts and model climatologies
  ✓ Products: PM2.5, PM10, AOD, deposition, visibility
  ✓ Visual maps, gridded data, time series for selectable sites, vertical profiles

- Observations and near-real time verification
  ✓ qualitative and quantitative common verification system for all participating forecast models
  ✓ Verification data: Satellites, sun-photometer networks, synop and metar visibility, pm networks
  ✓ Linking to SDS relevant satellite data platforms (GIOVANNI, EUMETSAT,...)

- Off-line validation platform for model climatologies and experiments (AEROCOM)

- Other Services:
  – Capacity building for users
  – Connecting data providers with users. MERIT project (meningitis) is an example.
How does/will the Project deliver data / services?

- Web-based
- Fast and reliable real time or near real time data and imagery access;
- Historical data access;
- Data integration from multi-sensor, multi-satellite and modeling products;
- Analytical capabilities;
- Products targeting users at different levels;
How could the Project also deliver data / services?

**SDS WAS through EUMETCAST:**
- Near real time data archives and visual information
- Long term data base archive (value-added products)

[www.eumetsat.int/Home/Main/What_We_Do/EUMETCast/](http://www.eumetsat.int/Home/Main/What_We_Do/EUMETCast/)

**The WMO Information System (WIS)**

It is an overarching approach and a single coordinated global infrastructure for the collection, distribution, retrieval of, and access to data and information of all WMO and related programmes.


WIS relationship to WMO Programmes
Who are the Project's intended target audience / users?

- Air quality agencies (regional and local)
- National Meteorological Services
- Aviation and ground transportation authorities
- Decision makers (health, agriculture)
- Researchers (ocean community, health community, planning experimental campaigns)
What decision/action does/will the project support?
Example: respiratory health and transportation

**Kuwait Times - 22 June, 2008**
Sand storms in the northern Gulf have disrupted oil exports for several days from OPEC members Iraq and Kuwait. The storms had prevented seven of eight ships from docking there since Saturday.

**www.arabianbusiness.com – 20 June 2008**
More than 500 traffic accidents were reported in Kuwait in the space of just 48 hours on Thursday and Friday, while in Bahrain a further 20 accidents were reported, according to local media.

Hospitals in all three Gulf states reported large numbers of patients being admitted with respiratory problems. In Bahrain, more than 150 people required hospital treatment, Bahrain's Gulf Daily News reported.

The adverse weather conditions also caused some problems at airports around the region, with both Bahrain and Kuwait reporting minor disruption.
What decision/action does/will the project support?
Another example: Meningitis epidemics

MERIT project is a collaborative effort of the World Health Organization (WHO) and members of the environmental, public health and epidemiological communities. Other member organizations of MERIT: GEO, AEMET, HCF, IRI, WMO, MVP project, Ethiopian Climate and health Working Group, and other....

!!! Meningitis epidemics associated to dry and dusty weather in the Sahel during the dry season

Map of Epidemic Meningitis thresholds
One of the most feared epidemic diseases in Africa
High fatality rates; brain damage

CHALLENGE:
timely vaccination to optimize the control of the epidemics

SDS products together with other climate data to support decision making at WHO to optimize reactive vaccination campaigns at district level
What particular data sharing issues face the AQ community? Discussion

• SDS models current approach for data format is Netcdf CF convention with AEROCOM aerosol standards

• Grib2 may be used in the future but still needs standarization for aerosol.

• Data sharing rights is an issue for some data providers

• How to effectively link to GEOSS?
WMO contacts

• Len Barrie: LBarrie@wmo.int

• Slobodan Nickovic: SNickovic@wmo.int