US Air Quality Contributions To GEOSS

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Outline

- GEOSS 101:
 Vision, Approach, Organization
- Two early deliverables:
 AIRNow-International & SERVIR-Air
- AQ Community Contributions:
 GEO Architecture Pilot AQ work
- Future EPA GEOSS AQ approach
- Two upcoming meetings:
 Santa Barbara (July),
 DC GEO Plenary (November)

GEOSS: Vision

GEOSS, the GLOBAL EARTH OBSERVATION SYSTEM OF SYSTEMS, is envisioned to realize a future where societal decisions and actions "are informed via coordinated, comprehensive, and sustained Earth observations and information."

GEOSS is to incorporate a wide array of data: *in-situ*, airborne, & space-based observations, with a global domain

GEOSS seeks to provide decision support for nine *Societal Benefit Areas:*

- Disasters - Health

- Energy - Climate

- Water - Weather

- Agriculture - Biodiversity

- Ecosystems



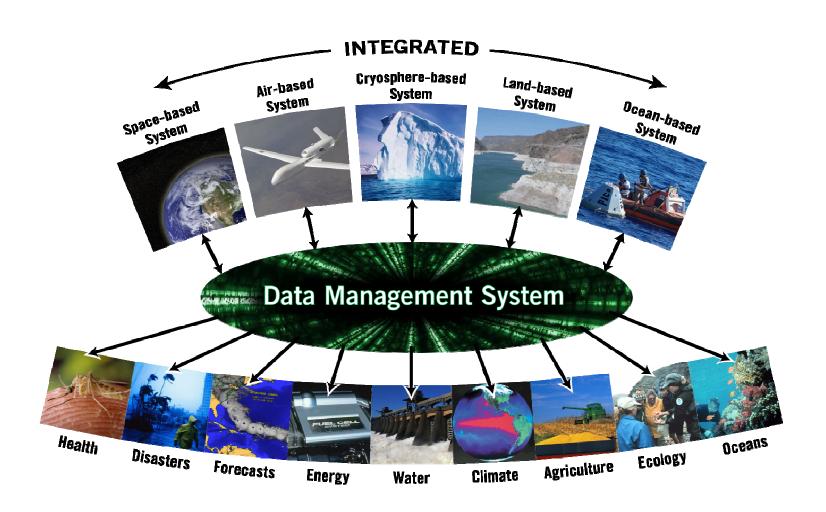
GEOSS: Vision

GEOSS seeks benefit from efficient, open approaches to data and architecture designed to maximize uses of observations:

- facilitate exchange of data at minimal cost
- promote standards
- service-oriented architecture
- address incorporation of observations of various types, models, etc.
- identify gaps, improve coordination

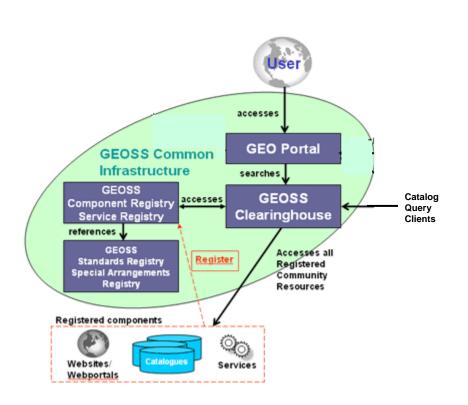


From Vision to Reality...



GEOSS: Technical Initiative

GEOSS is built around a minimal central clearinghouse and other components of a Common Infrastructure. This GCI is not to house data or tools for using data – it is used to enable users to find that data.



GEOSS registries are flexible enough to work with 'any' observation, so metadata will be less than needed for many users.

Community catalogs and portals are a response to this need for a richer access point, tuned for a particular user community.

GEOSS is about decision support. The GCI won't provide that. It is set up as a base for service oriented architecture which will in turn improve decision support.

GEOSS: Organization

International: (Group on Earth Observations)

77 member nations + EC; 56 observed int'l organizations Secretariat at WMO in Geneva; Co-chaired by US, EC, China, S. Africa

Four Permanent Committees:

Architecture & Data, Capacity Building, Science & Tech, User Interface

Coordinates / Oversees building of GEOSS:

- GEOSS Common Infrastructure
- GEOSS Work Plan: ~115 Tasks, including
 - Atmospheric Model Evaluation
 - Aerosol Impacts on Health & Environment
 - Air Quality Observations, Forecasting, & Public Information
 - Global Monitoring of Hg
 - Global Monitoring of POPs

GEOSS: Organization

International: (Group on Earth Observations)

National: USGE® subcommittee of CENR

- 15 agencies + 3 White House offices
- Coordinates USG response / contributions to GEO / GEOSS
- 5 Working Groups:
 - Architecture & Data Management
 - Strategic Assessment
 - Partnership, Outreach, & Communications
 - Earth Observations Policy & Planning
 - International
- 2005: US Strategic Plan
- 2006: Air Quality Near-Term-Opportunity Plan
 - Integrated Observed-Modeled Air Quality Fields
 - Systems for Utilizing Observations to Improve Air Quality Forecasts
 - Assessments of Key Air Quality Processes
 - Improved National Emissions Inventories
 - Improved International Transport Assessments

GEOSS: Organization

International: (Group on Earth Observations)

National: USGE® subcommittee of CENR

EPA: EPA GEO organized under EPA Science Council

- Chaired by ORD and OEI
- Focal Points from all Media Offices
- Representatives from Regional Offices

EPA's Response to GEOSS

Beginning in FY06, funding for GEOSS-related activities has been provided through the Advanced Monitoring Initiative (~\$5M/year, most of which has been allocated by EPA GEO)

FY 2006-2007: Focus on Pilot Projects

- 34 funded projects (17 air-related projects)
- Projects to facilitate data availability, fusion, and use for decision support
- Deliverables are just now becoming available

FY 2008-2009: Four Thematic Areas

- Air, Water, Integrated (Land Use), Information Technology
- Air Theme Focused on applications for:
 - Air Quality Forecasting & Public Information
 - Air Quality Model Evaluation
 - Emissions Inventory Development & Analysis

GEO Summit IV

- USGEO made a concerted effort to provide concrete deliverables to the 4th GEO Summit in Cape Town, November 2007
- Air quality was one of 5 themes highlighted by the U.S.
 - EPA: AIRNow-International
 - NASA: SERVIR-Air

AIRNow Overview

Inputs from Partners

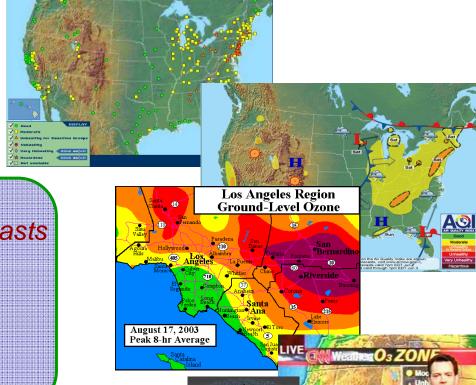
- Real-time, hourly concentrations for O₃, PM from **Ambient** Monitors
- Forecasts for 300 cities
- Daily National Outlooks



- Collects AQ data, forecasts (from 120+ partners)
- Checks data
- Converts data to AQI
- Maps data
- Distributes data



- Real-time Maps, Website
- Email, SMS alerts
- Target info / formats for media, health

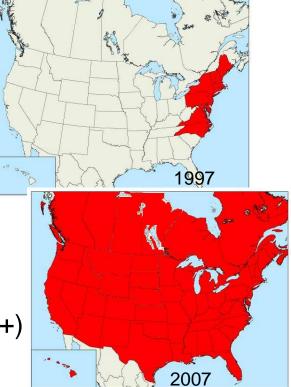


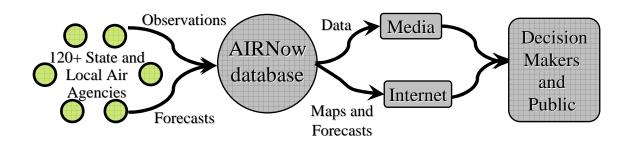
Health Advisory issued for July 22

Folsom, north to

AIRNow History & Approach

- Started in 1995 by Maryland
- Since 1997, funded by U.S. EPA, but stakeholder involvement is voluntary
- Broad, diverse stakeholder community
 - Federal, state, provincial, Tribal, and local air agencies (120+)
 - Scientific and health research organizations (15+)
 - Media and public outreach groups (30+)





AIRNow-International

Vision: Provide real-time air quality information, worldwide

Mission: Promote protection of air quality by leading & supporting a worldwide community of AQ data sharing

Approach:

- Produce AIRNow 2.0
 - improve software with a focus on standardization, interoperability
 - general goals: portable, inexpensive to use, open source
- Pilot implementation in Shanghai by Fall, 2009
- Planning to implement AIRNow with other partners after successful installation in Shanghai
- ♦ AIRNow-I is a prominent US deliverable for GEOSS
- ♠ A primary motivation for EPA is improving data availability in source regions

Co-Benefits from AIRNow-I

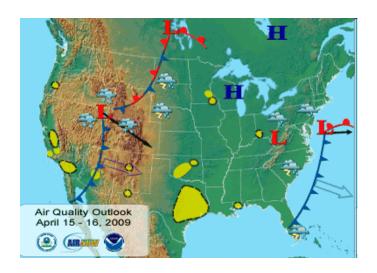
AIRNow 2.0 will benefit EPA's domestic program & others:

AIRNow 2.0 will be implemented in the US, improving

efficiency of AIRNow here

 Software components will be made available to other users:

- Data management software will be made available to local AQ agencies for monitoring network management



- Mapping and information management software (open-source) will be made available to public agencies to support analysis and public information about environmental conditions

Common software, inherent standards, promotion of AQI all will build a foundation for AQ data sharing

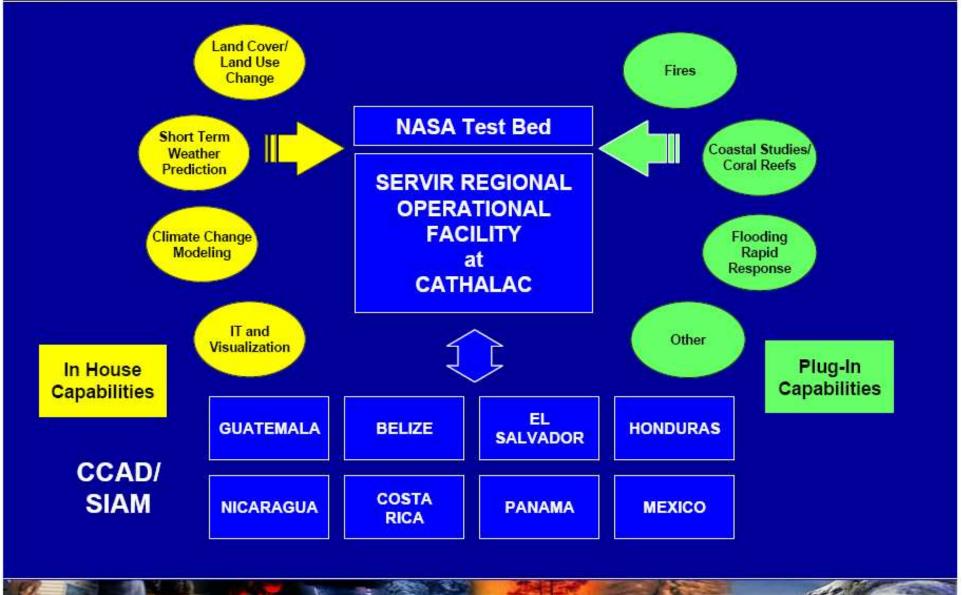
SERVIR: Bringing Satellite Data to Mesoamerica

www.SERVIR.net



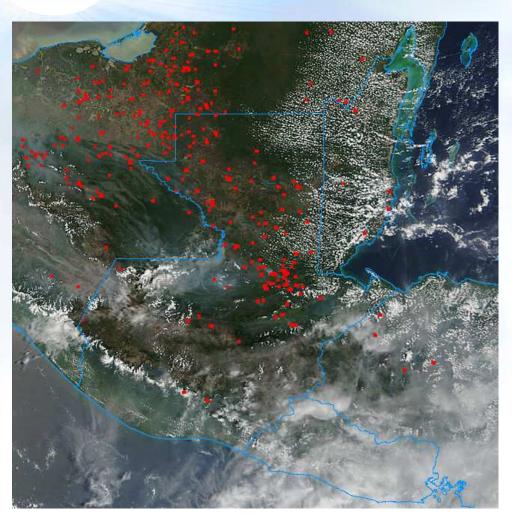


SERVIR Framework





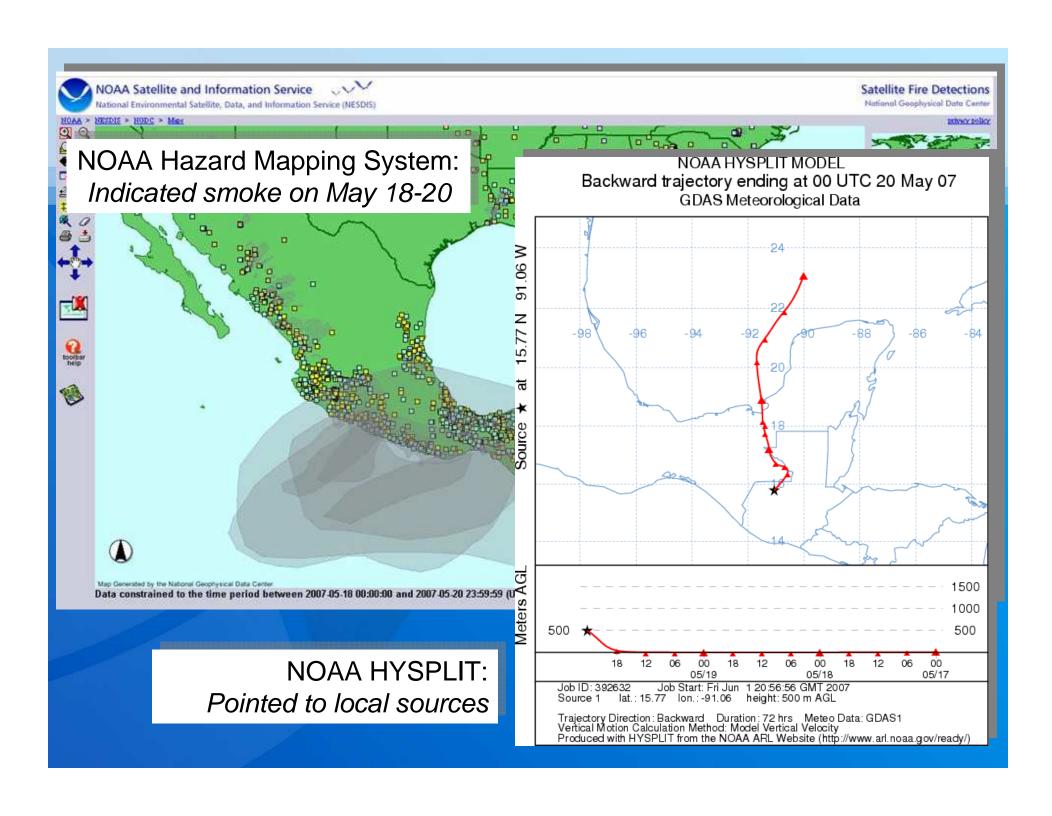
May 2007: Toxic Dust Cloud?



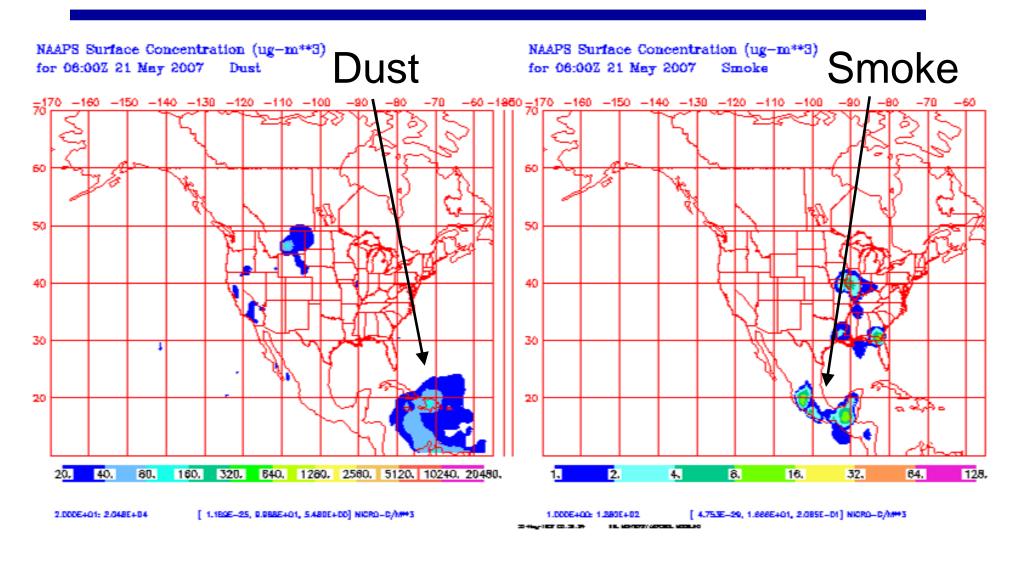
May 18, 2007: EPA's
Office of International
Affairs received an inquiry
from their Central
American colleagues about
a "cloud" of air pollution
over the region, particularly
Costa Rica, Nicaragua,
and Honduras.

The cloud was rumored to be contaminated sand & dust from the Sahara.

Could a SERVIR-Air approach help identify the source?



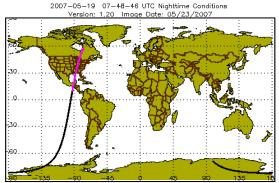
What about the rumors of Saharan dust?



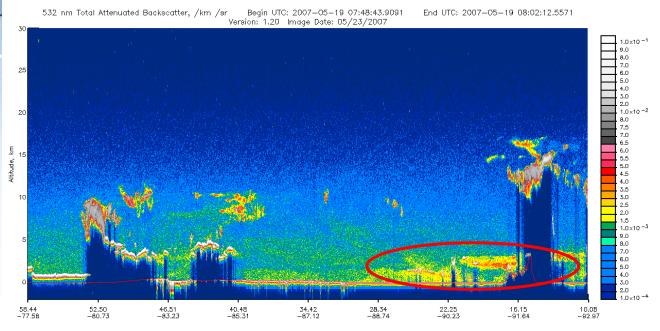
NRL model says there's smoke, and maybe dust to the east.



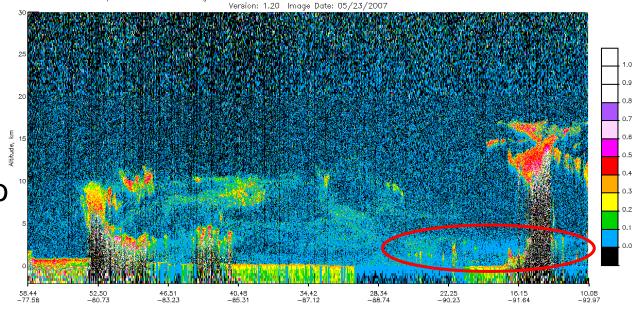
 CALIPSO images from May 18 over Costa Rica and Nicaragua



 Depolarization ratio supports case for smoke



End UTC: 2007-05-19 08:02:12.5571



Begin UTC: 2007-05-19 07:48:43.9091

Depolarization Ratio



Building Mesoamerican Capacity for Air Quality Monitoring

Steps in Developing and Air Quality Dimension to SERVIR

Establish Mesoamerican Air Quality Weblog

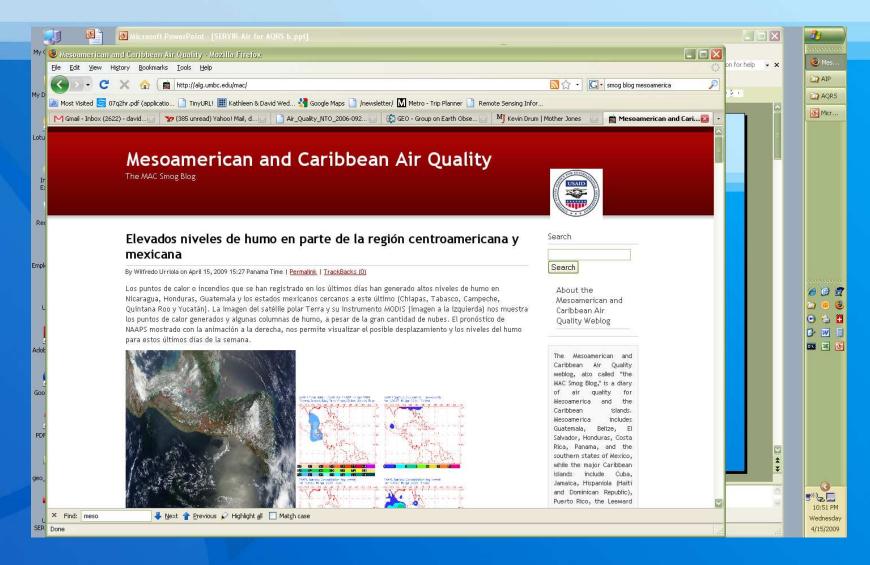
Conduct training in Central America with SERVIR Partners on Use of Earth Observations for Air Quality

Establish Regional Capacity to Produce and Disseminate Air Quality Products from Satellite Observations

Establish Local Air Quality Ground Monitors and Integrate with Satellite Observations



Mesoamerican SmogBlog



Community response to GEOSS: GEO Architecture Implementation Pilot

An open, best-effort collaboration to design and build GEOSS

- Air quality leadership
- Guided by a scenario describing the needed decision support, and the common upstream data they depend on
- Decisions need support from multiple types of data; no one type is adequate

Data Needs

Ambient Meteorology

Emissions Models

Satellite

Decision Makers

Policy maker assessing intercontinental transport

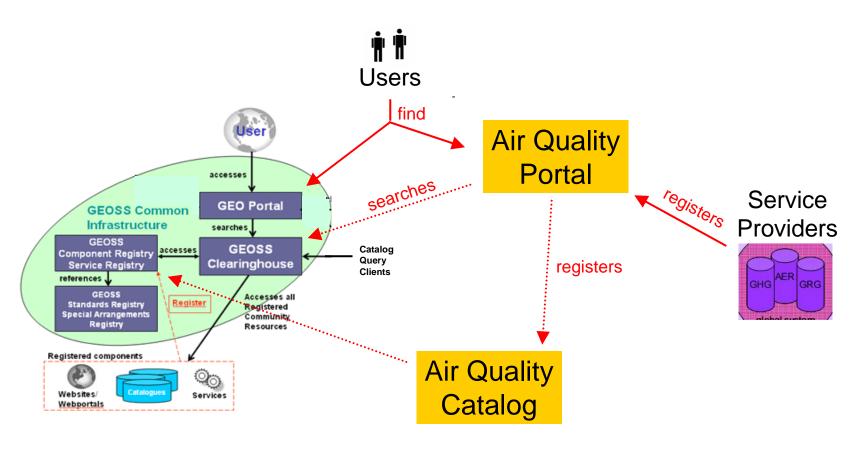
AQ manager assessing an exceptional event

Public planning activities today and tomorrow

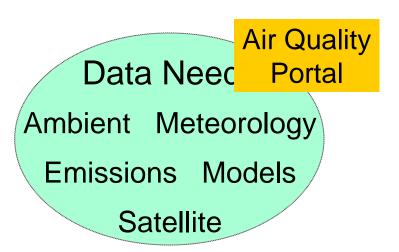
AIP Air Quality Output

AIP charge: produce 'persistent exemplars' to develop GEOSS

The AIP AQ work group is building an AQ community infrastructure to compliment the GCI



Where do we stand?



Decision Makers

Policy maker assessing intercontinental transport

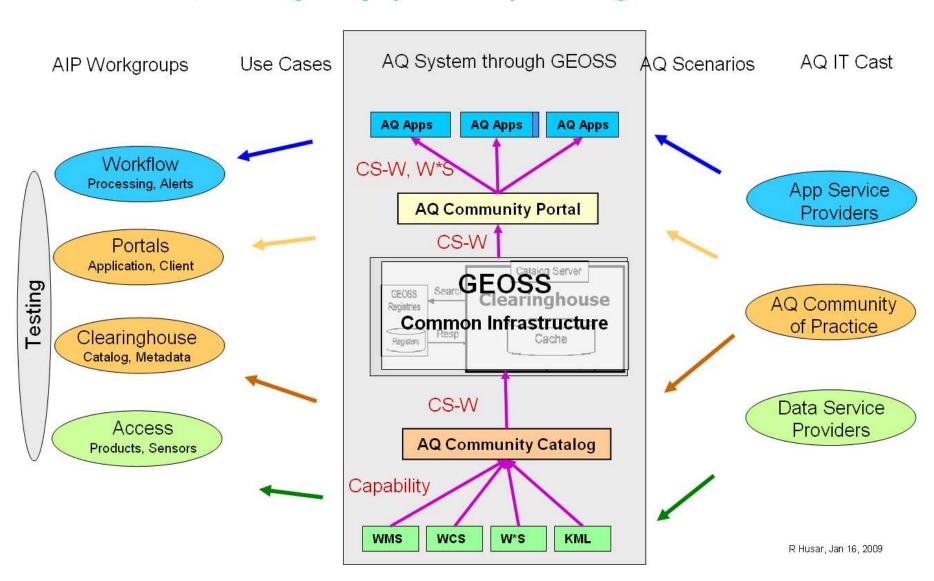
AQ manager assessing an exceptional event

Public planning activities today and tomorrow

♦ Clearly a large gap remains...



AQ Workgroup (Human) Linkages in AIP-2



Future for EPA GEO Air Theme: Developing an Air Quality Cyberinfrastructure "Consortium"

- Need a team capable of linking and extending the existing elements of the air quality information system to create a stable cyberinfrastructure (hardware, software, standards, organizations, ...).
- Expertise needed in
 - air quality forecasting and public information
 - air quality assessment or "re-analysis"
 - air quality model evaluation and intercomparison
 - emissions inventory development and evaluation
 - fire and smoke management
 - cyberinfrastructure development

Some Possible Tasks for the Consortium

Air Quality Information System Wiki

- Identify functions, strengths, weaknesses of, and relationships between existing air quality information systems
- Develop consensus guidelines

Air Quality Data Network Development

 Establish a community data and service catalogue specific for air quality information, establish exchange standards for creating connections between existing elements of the air quality information system of systems, and implement such connections.

Air Quality Assessment Tools

Processing, visualization, and analytical tools for air quality assessment, or "re-analysis," in which multiple types of observations and/or model estimates (drawn from across the air quality data network described above) are integrated to best describe the state of the atmosphere at a given point and time.

Air Quality Model Evaluation Tools

 Tools that will enable modelers to compare regional and global model outputs in standard formats to a variety of types of observational data (drawn from across the air quality data network) and to perform standard tests and diagnostics.

Emissions Information and Tools

Building upon NEISGEI, EMF, and related systems.

Outreach and Coordination

 Organize meetings and other outreach efforts to educate and communicate with the broader air quality management and research community

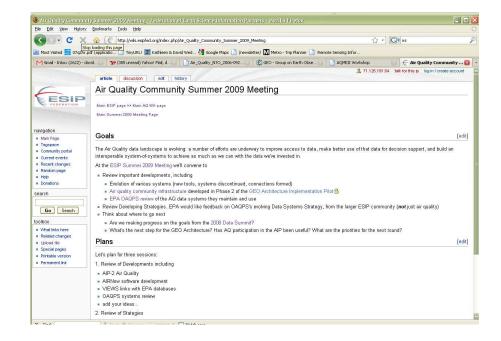
Air Quality Community Meeting, Santa Barbara, July 8 & 9 2009

Meeting at the ESIP summer meeting; we will have 1.5 days of air quality sessions to:

- Review infrastructure developments
- Review evolving designs OAQPS strategy, ...
- Next steps...

In part, a follow-up to 3/2008 OAQPS Data Summit

Please join us!



http://wiki.esipfed.org/index.php/Air_Quality_Community_Summer_2009_Meeting

GEO-VI Plenary, Washington DC, November 2009

The AQ Community is expected (and has planned) to demonstrate *significant tangible results* at a side event at the 2009 Plenary...

- ...including, but not limited to...
- AIRNow-International
- SERVIR-AIR
- AQ Community Infrastructure from AIP
- ♦ What else?
- ✦ How can we engage overseas (EU!!) colleagues?