

Modelling Sand and Dust Storms

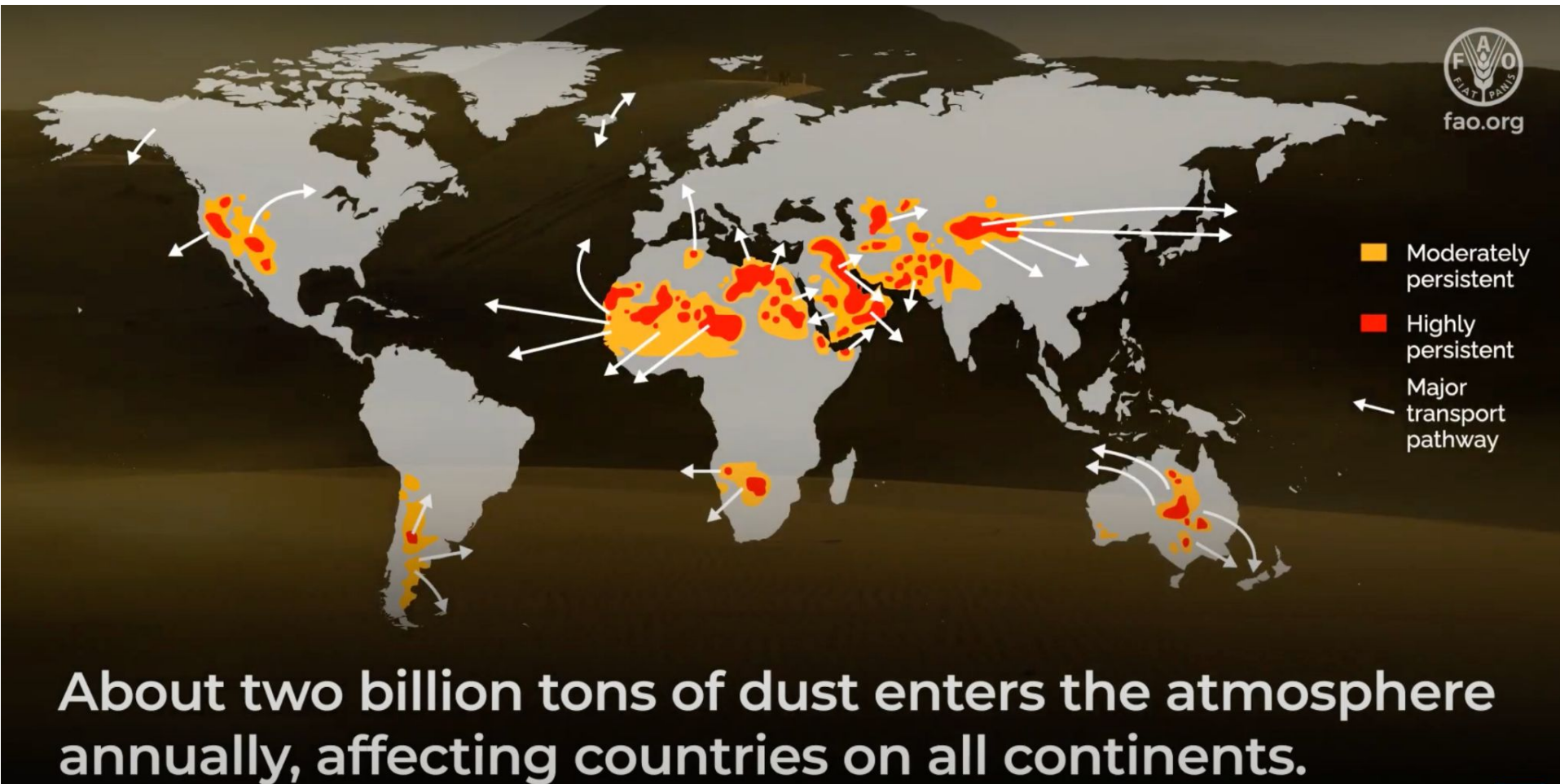


Sara Basart
sbasart@wmo.int

WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

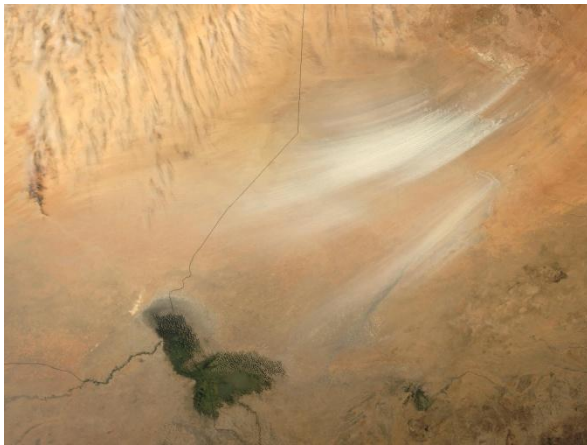
Dust cycle and associated processes



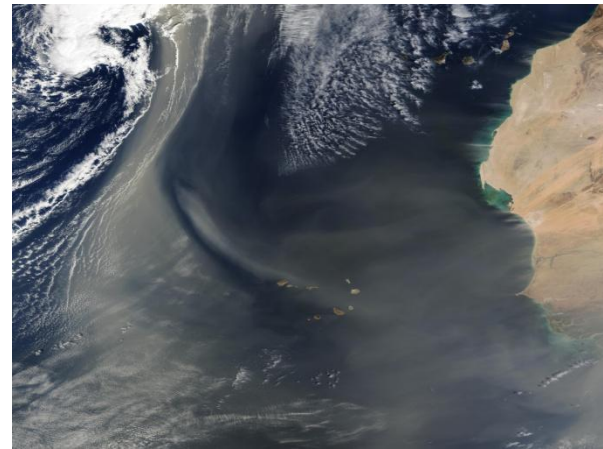
FAO Sand and dust storms (SDS): A transboundary issue of growing concern, watch the video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS_oJcqN1vo

Dust cycle and associated processes

Dust transport is a global phenomenon. However, dust emission is a threshold phenomenon, sporadic and spatially heterogeneous, that is locally controlled on small spatial and temporal scales.



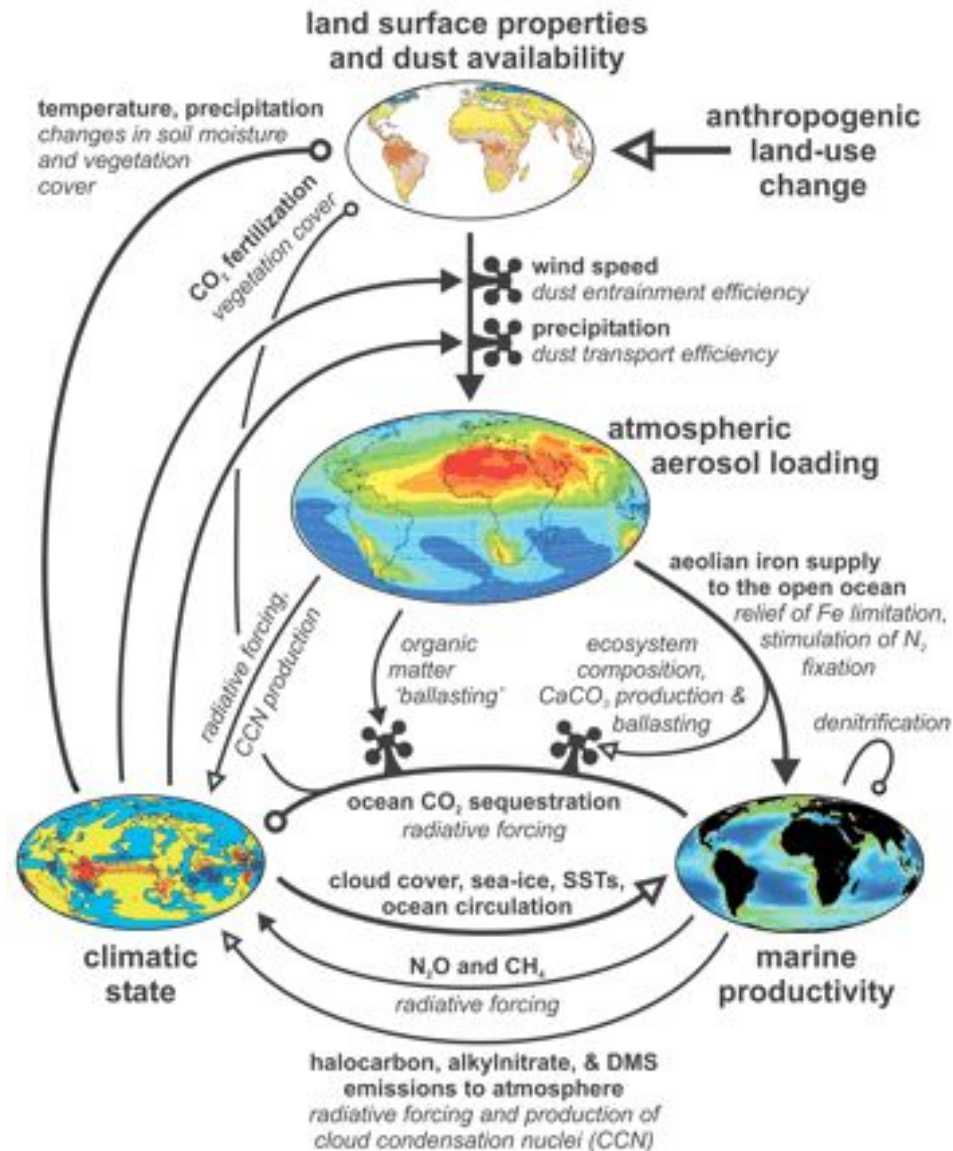
MODIS true colour composite image for March 2005 depicting a dust storm initiated at the Bodélé Depression (Chad Basin)



MODIS True color Western Africa – Atlantic Ocean

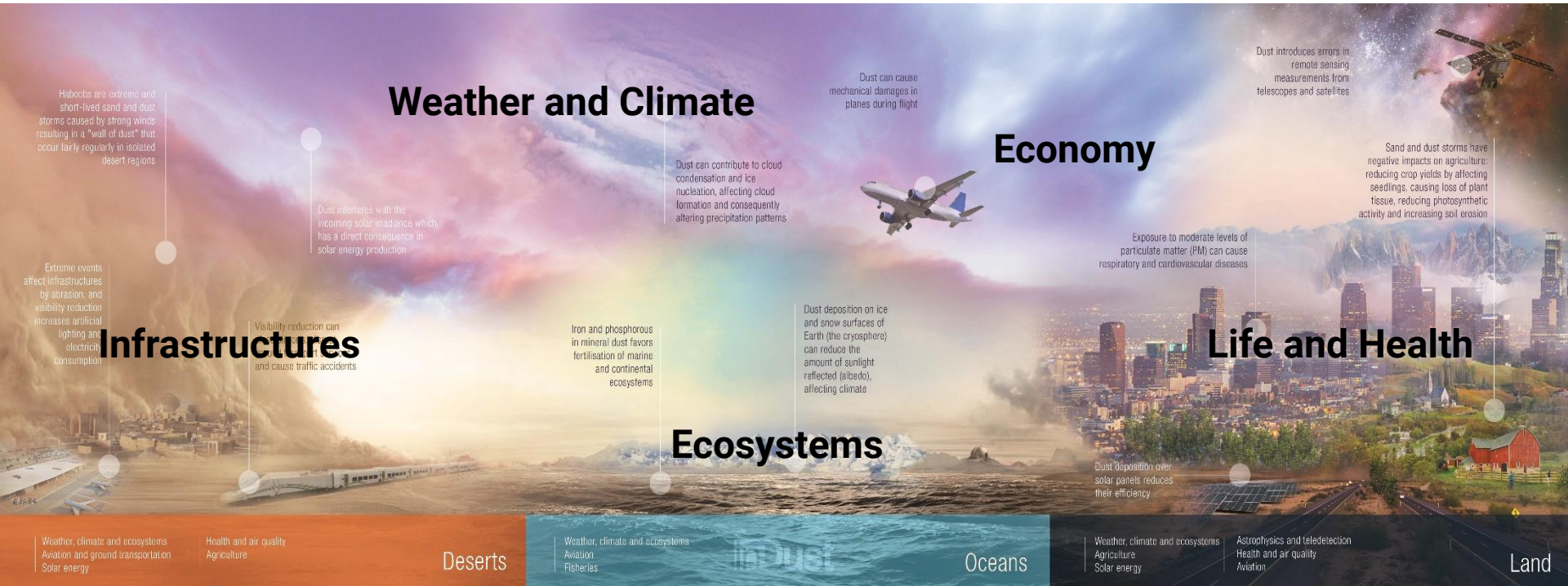
Dust emission, transport and deposition are sensitive to **surface wind speed** and precipitation, among other factors.

Sand and Dust Storm Impacts



(Jickells et al., 2005)

Sand and Dust Storms Impacts



inDust Leaflet available in www.cost-indust.eu/media-room

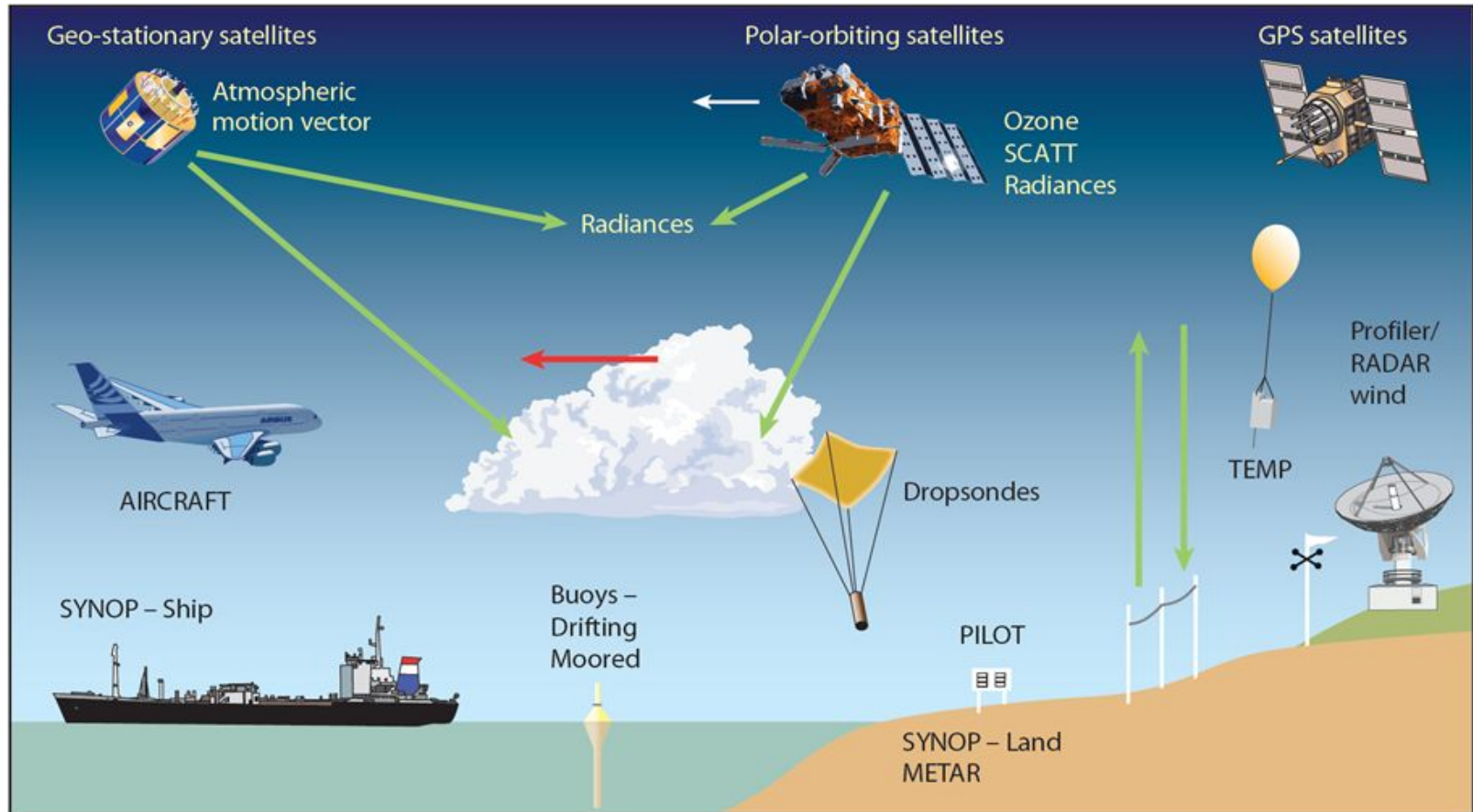
Sand and dust storms research

- Late **80's**:
 - First demonstration that SDS dynamic simulations are possible
- **90's**:
 - First satellite products capable to detect SDS
 - First successful daily SDS forecast test
 - First long-term daily SDS forecasts
- **2000's**:
 - Fast growth in dust observations and forecasting models
- **2010's**:
 - Fast growth in user-oriented applications



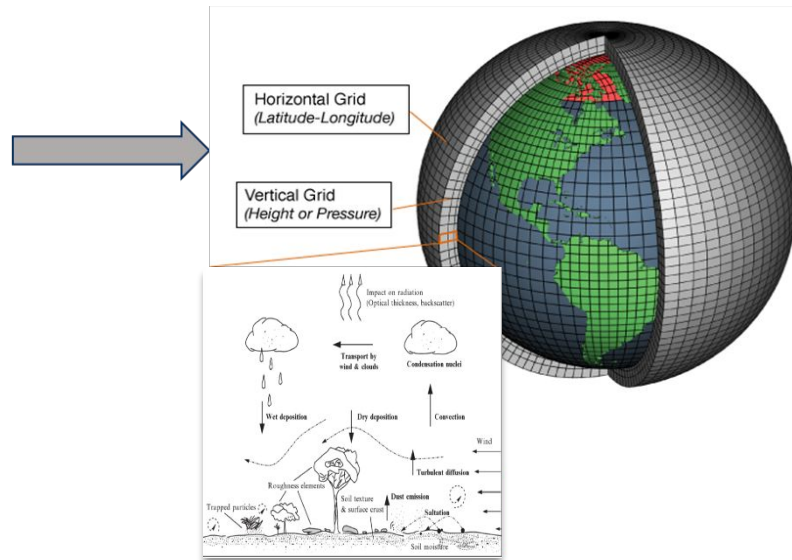
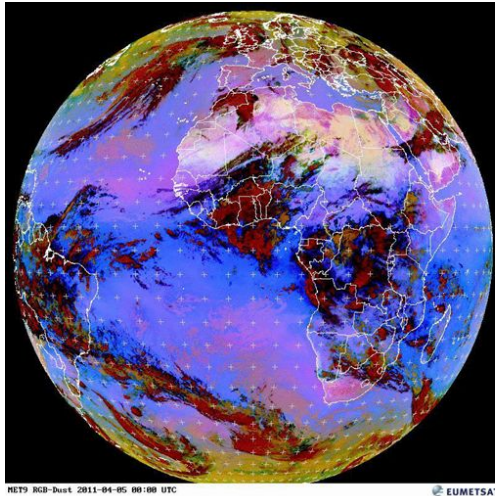
WE ARE **NOW** READY
TO PROVIDE
ADDED-VALUE
DUST **INFORMATION !**

Observations



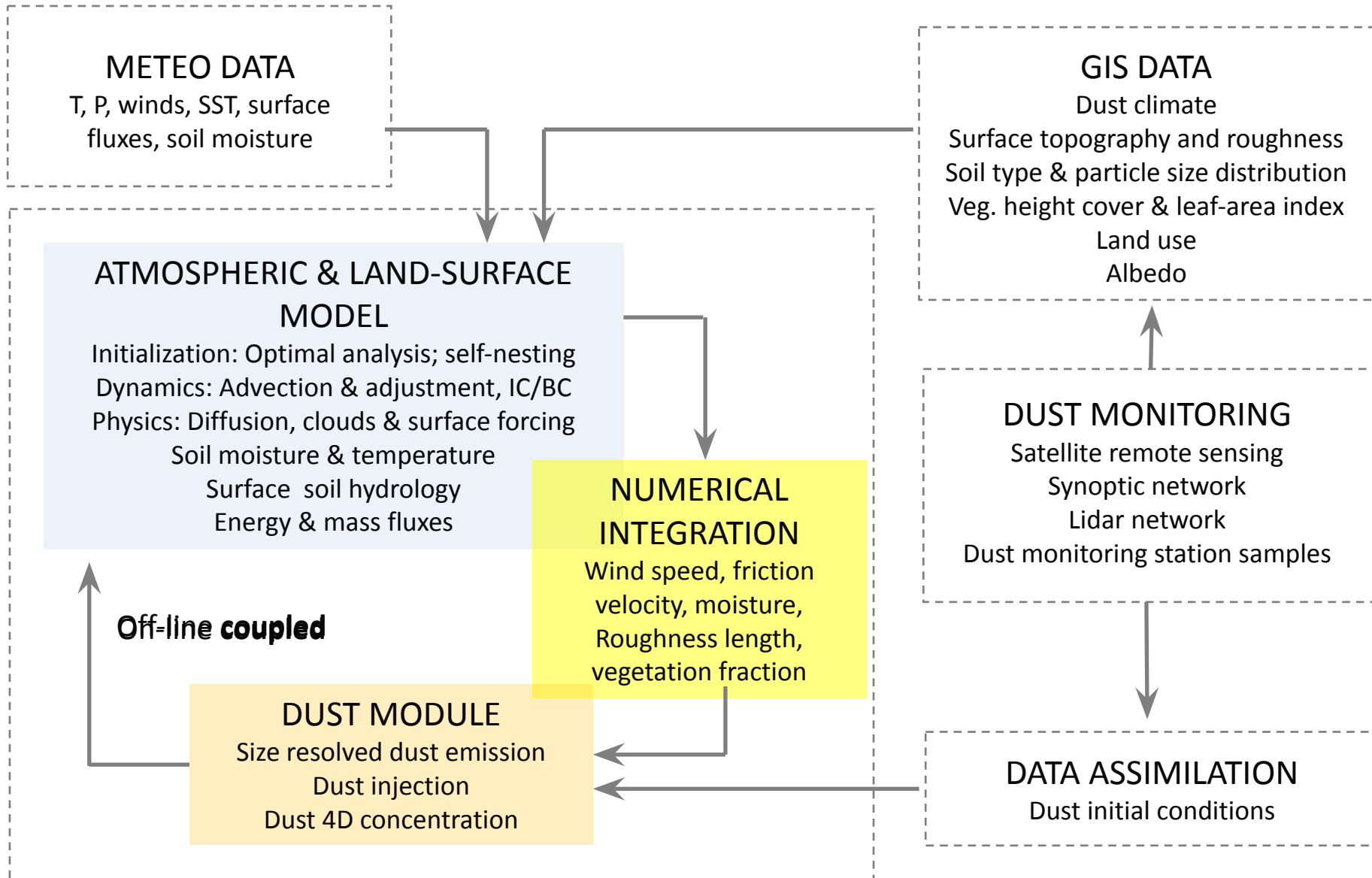
Desert dust models

Desert dust models are a **mathematical representation** of atmospheric dust cycle.



- ✓ To complement dust-related observations, filling the temporal and spatial gaps of the measurements.
- ✓ To help us to understand the dust processes and their interaction with climate and ecosystems.
- ✓ To predict the impact of dust used as **short-term forecasting tools** (3-5 days ahead) or **climate projections**.

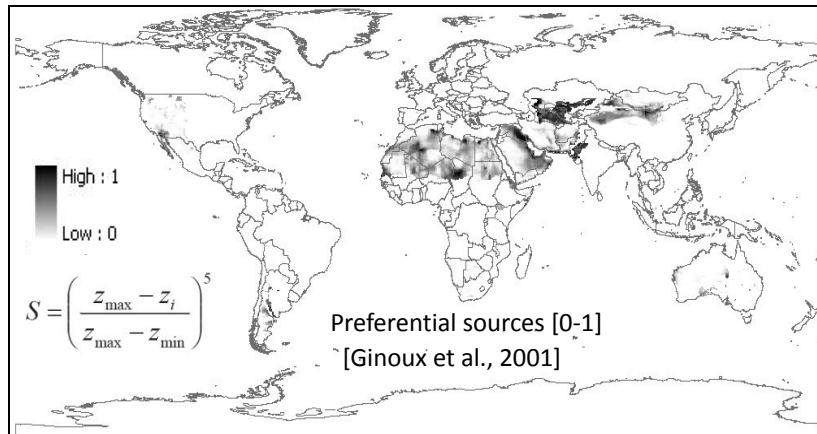
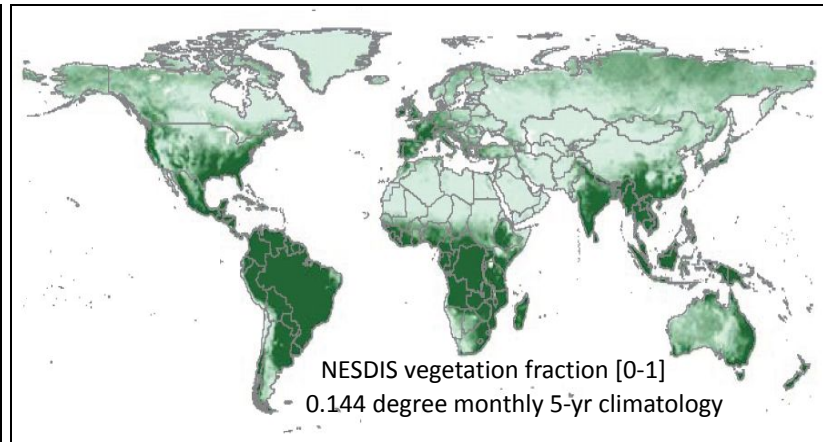
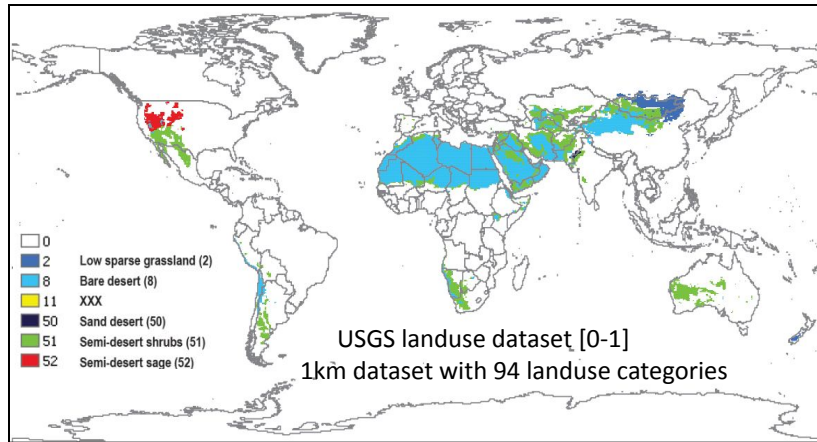
Desert dust models



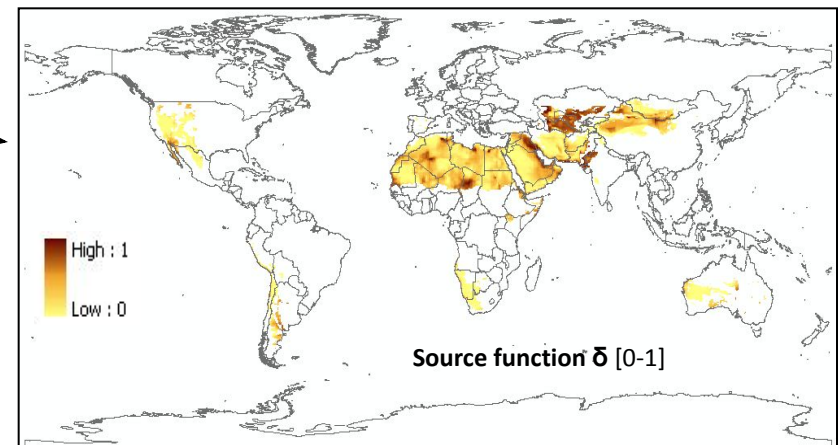
Desert dust model

Desert dust source map

Example dust source function: MONARCH

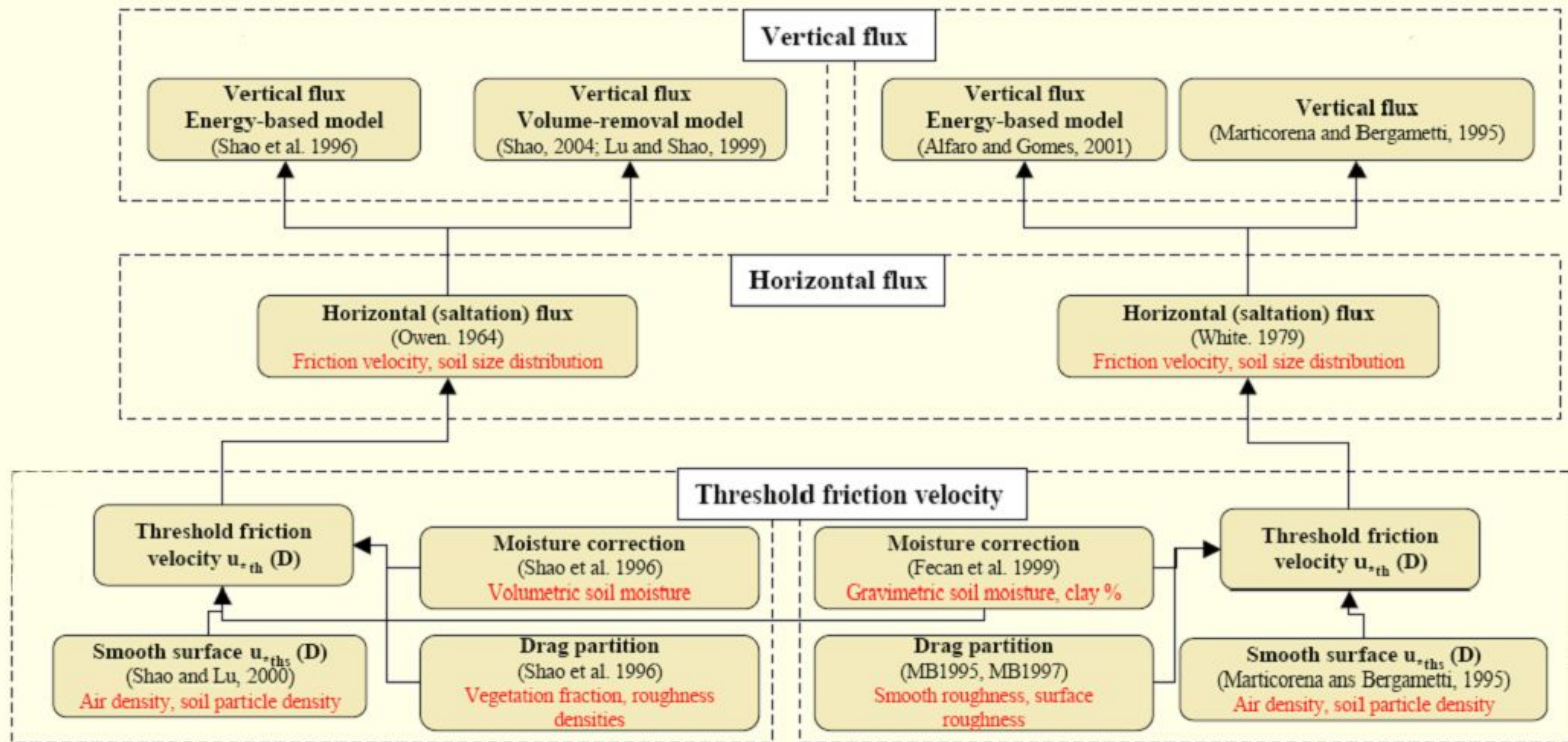


$$\delta = USGS \cdot PREF \cdot (1 - VEGFRAC) \cdot (1 - SnowCover)$$



Desert dust model

Dust emission schemes



Adapted from Darmanova et al, 2009

Dust emission schemes employ different parameterizations of the related physical processes, and require different input data.

Desert dust models

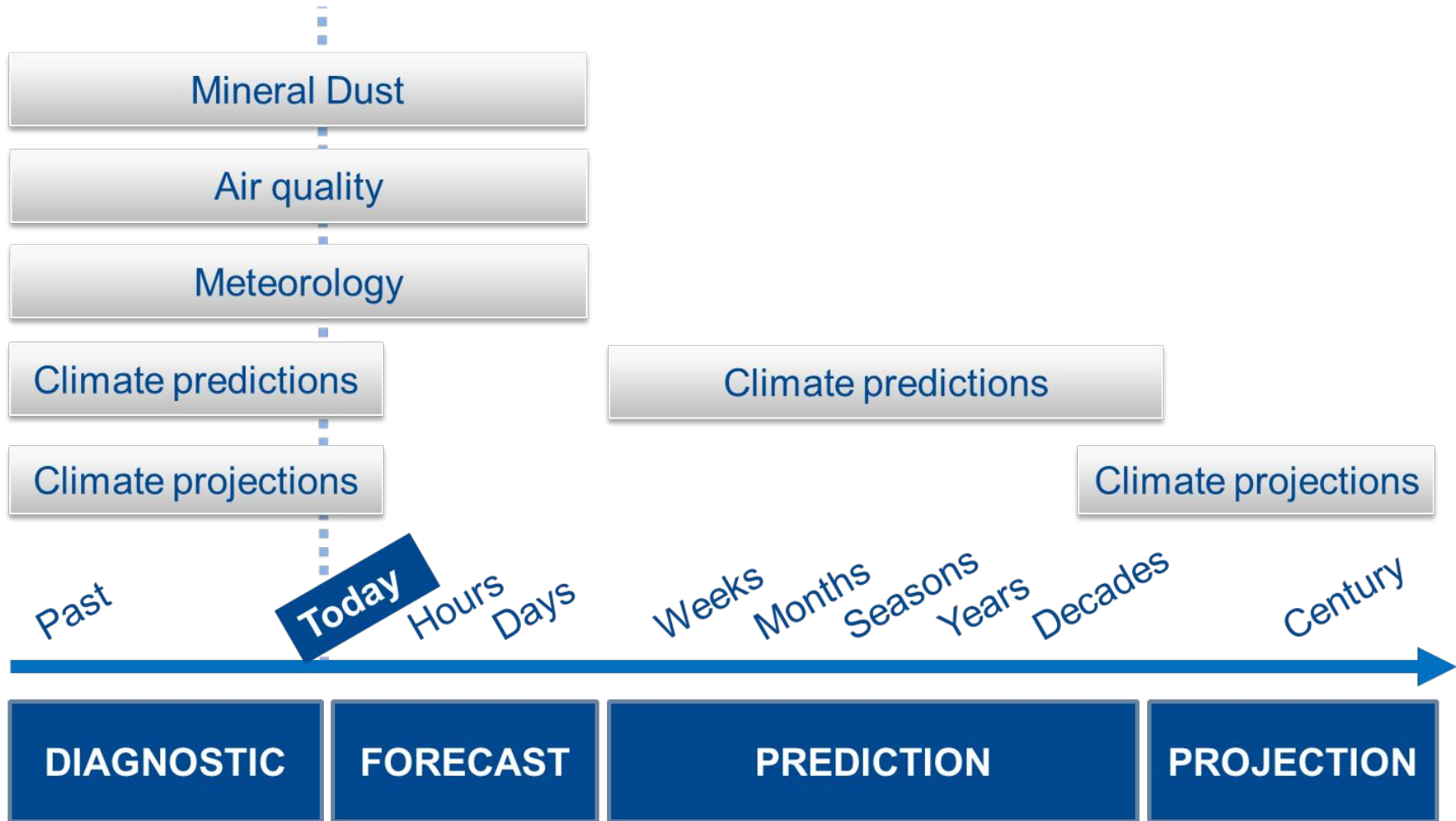
Desert dust do **not** take account dust **resuspension** and other mineral dust emissions connected with human activities



Kathmandu, Nepal, March 2017

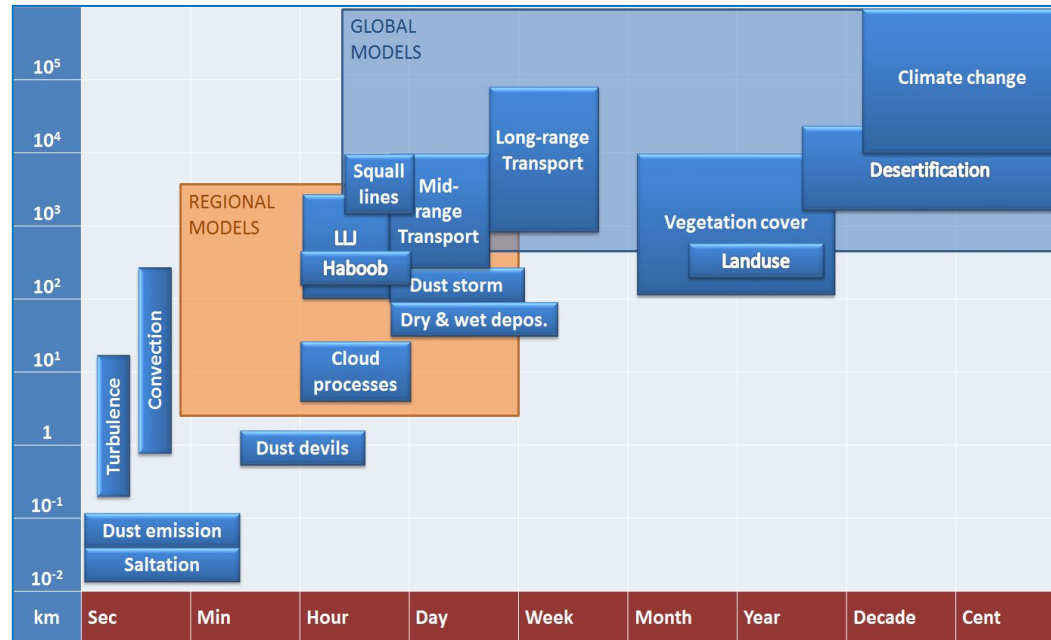
Desert dust models

Modelling scales



Courtesy Albert Soret, BSC

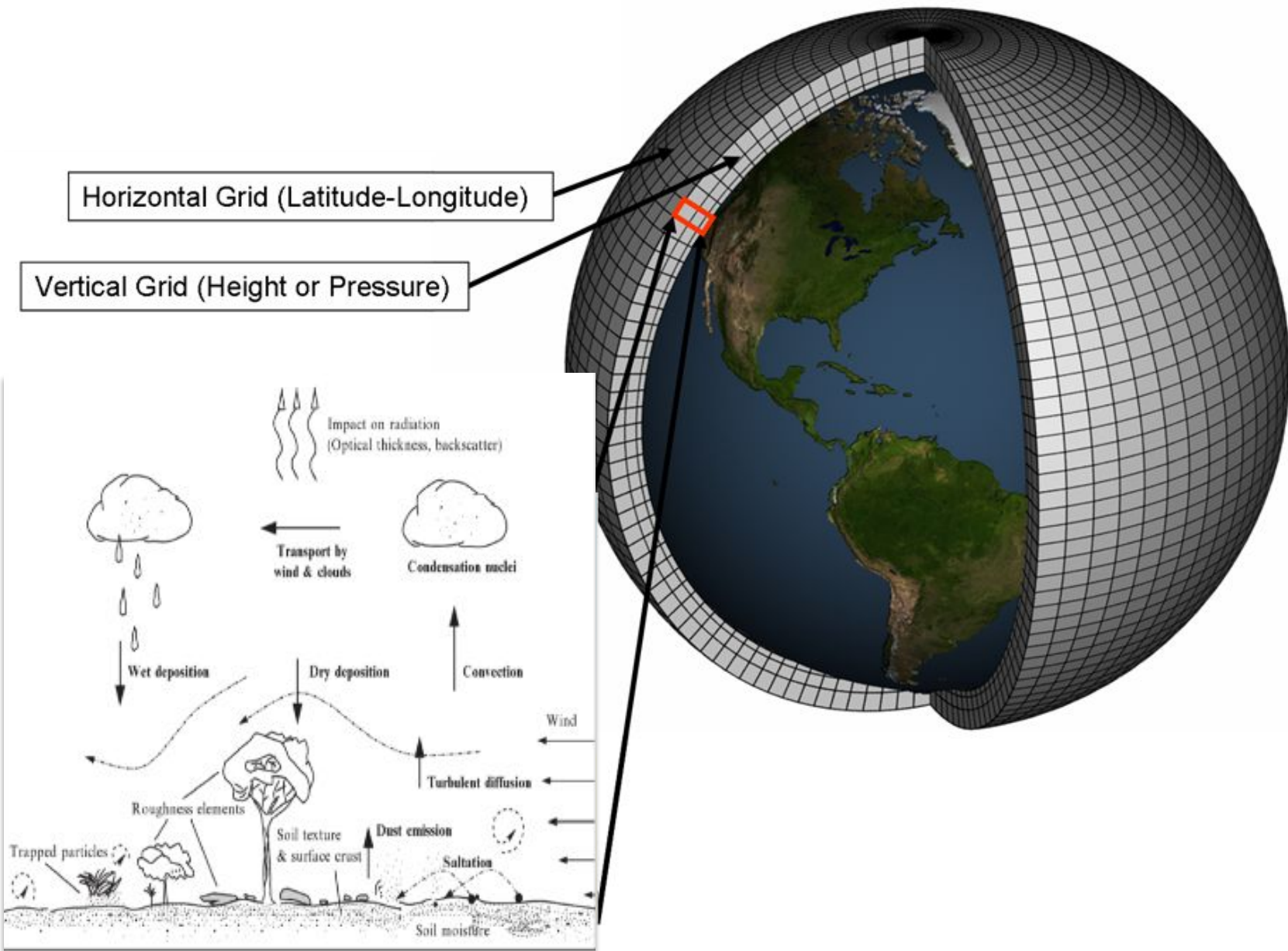
Desert dust models



- Dust processes span over five orders of magnitude in space and time. **Dust transport** is a global phenomenon. However, **dust emission** is a threshold phenomenon, sporadic and spatially heterogeneous, that is locally controlled on small spatial and temporal scales.
- To correctly describe and quantify the dust cycle, one needs to understand equally well local-scale processes such as saltation and entrainment of individual dust particles as well as large-scale phenomena such as mid- and long-range transport.

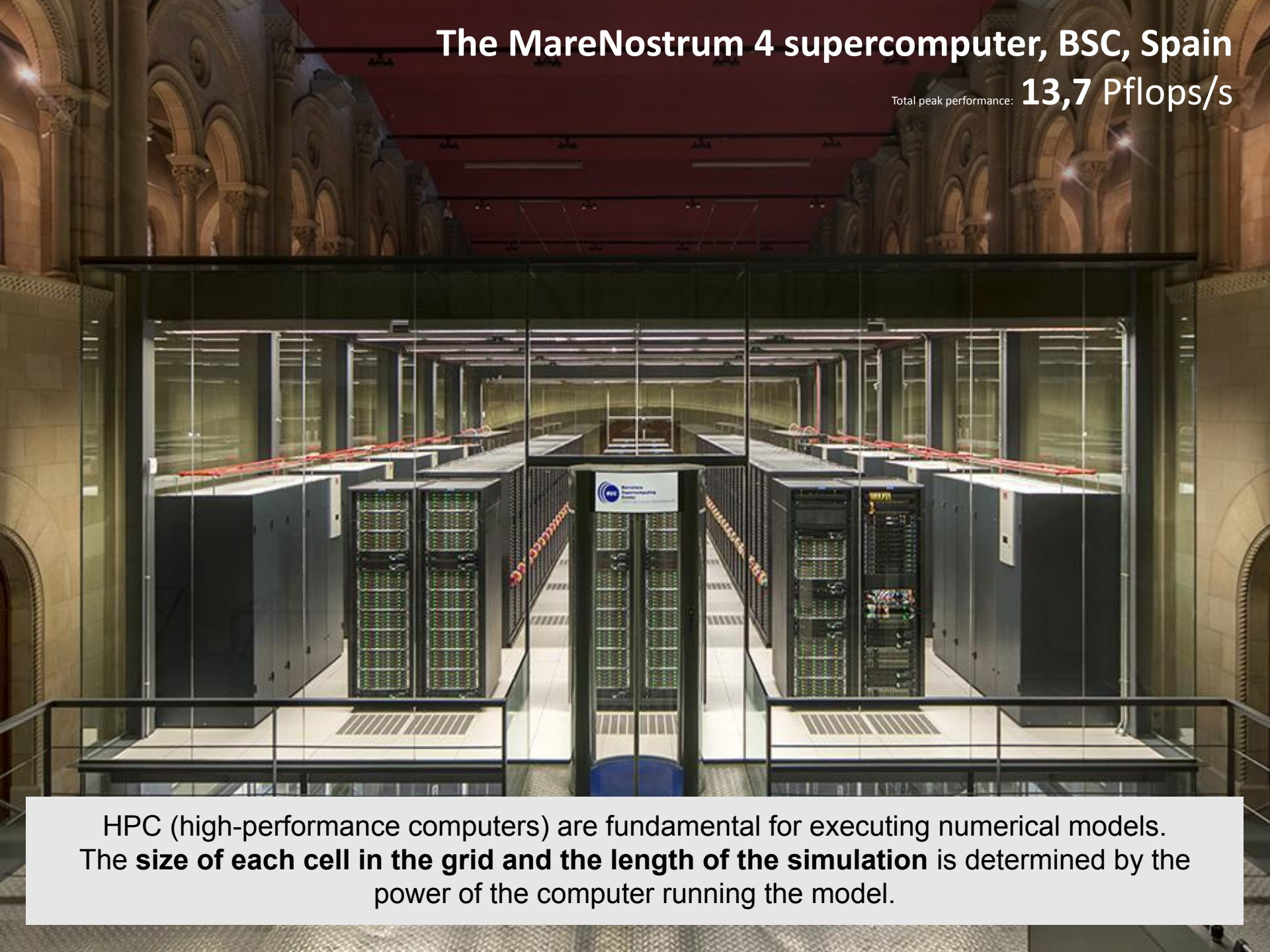
Accurate representation of dust sources and sinks is critical for providing realistic magnitudes and patterns of atmospheric dust fields.

Desert dust models



The MareNostrum 4 supercomputer, BSC, Spain

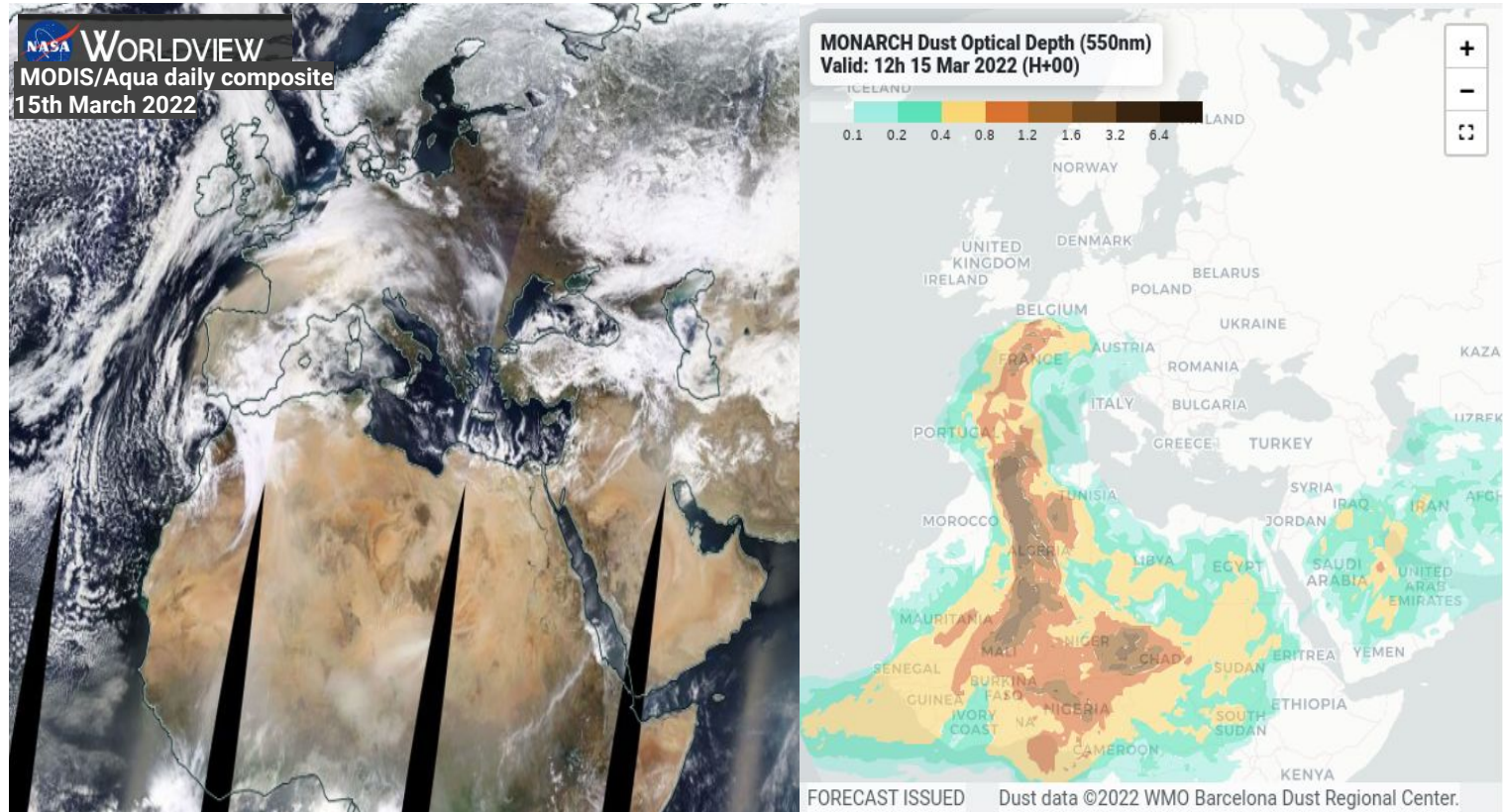
Total peak performance: **13,7 Pflops/s**



HPC (high-performance computers) are fundamental for executing numerical models. The **size of each cell in the grid and the length of the simulation** is determined by the power of the computer running the model.

Modelling and Observations

Model Evaluation and Data Assimilation



Assessing the model uncertainty and identifying missing processes thanks to model **evaluation**

Improved dust and aerosol forecasting products through the **assimilation** of satellite retrievals

Desert dust models

Atmos. Chem. Phys., 14, 11753–11773, 2014
www.atmos-chem-phys.net/14/11753/2014/
doi:10.5194/acp-14-11753-2014
© Author(s) 2014. CC Attribution 3.0 License.



Atmospheric
Chemistry
and Physics
Open Access

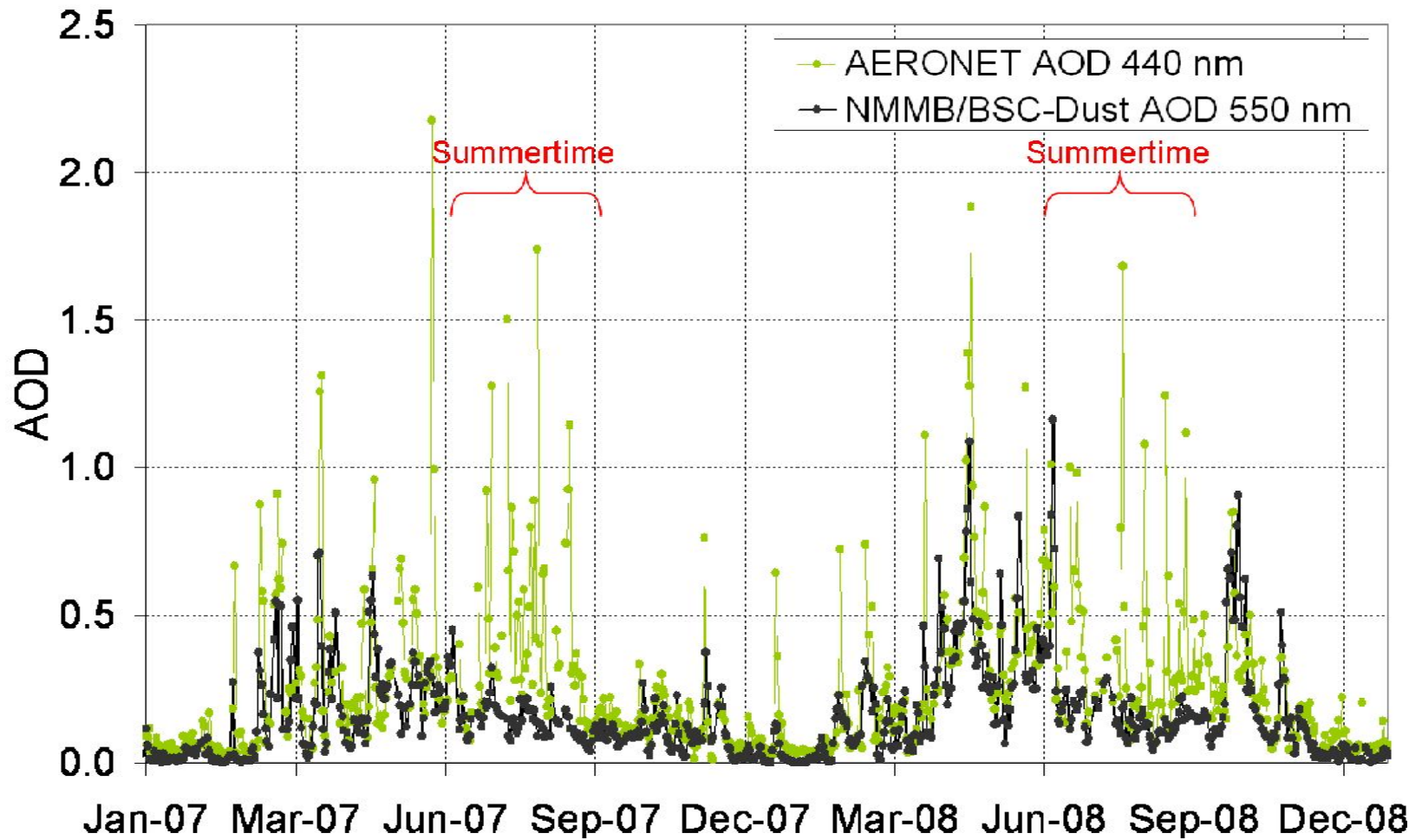
Aerosol characterization at the Saharan AERONET site Tamanrasset

C. Guirado^{1,2}, E. Cuevas², V. E. Cachorro¹, C. Toledano¹, S. Alonso-Pérez^{2,3,4}, J. J. Bustos², S. Basart³,
P. M. Romero³, C. Camino², M. Mimouni⁶, L. Zeudmi⁶, P. Goloub⁷, J. M. Baldasano^{5,8}, and A. M. de Frutos¹



<http://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

Desert dust models

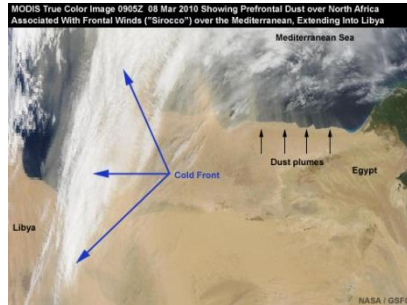


Extracted from Guirado et al. (2014, ACP)

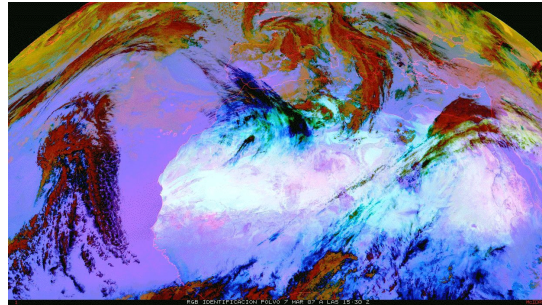
Dust cycle and associated processes

Sand and Dust Storms typologies

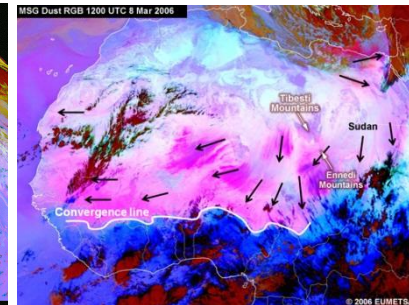
Synoptic dust storms (large scale weather systems)



Pre-frontal winds

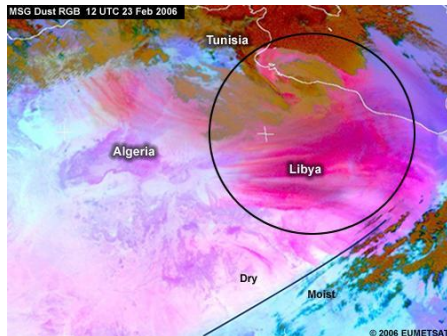


Post-frontal winds

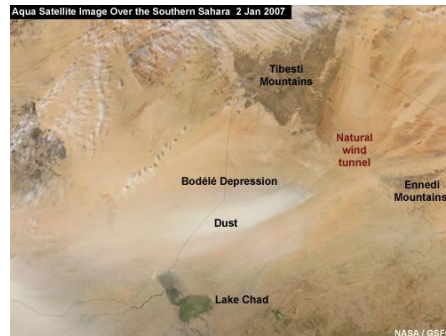


Large-scale trade winds

Mesoscale dust storms



Downslope winds



Gap flow



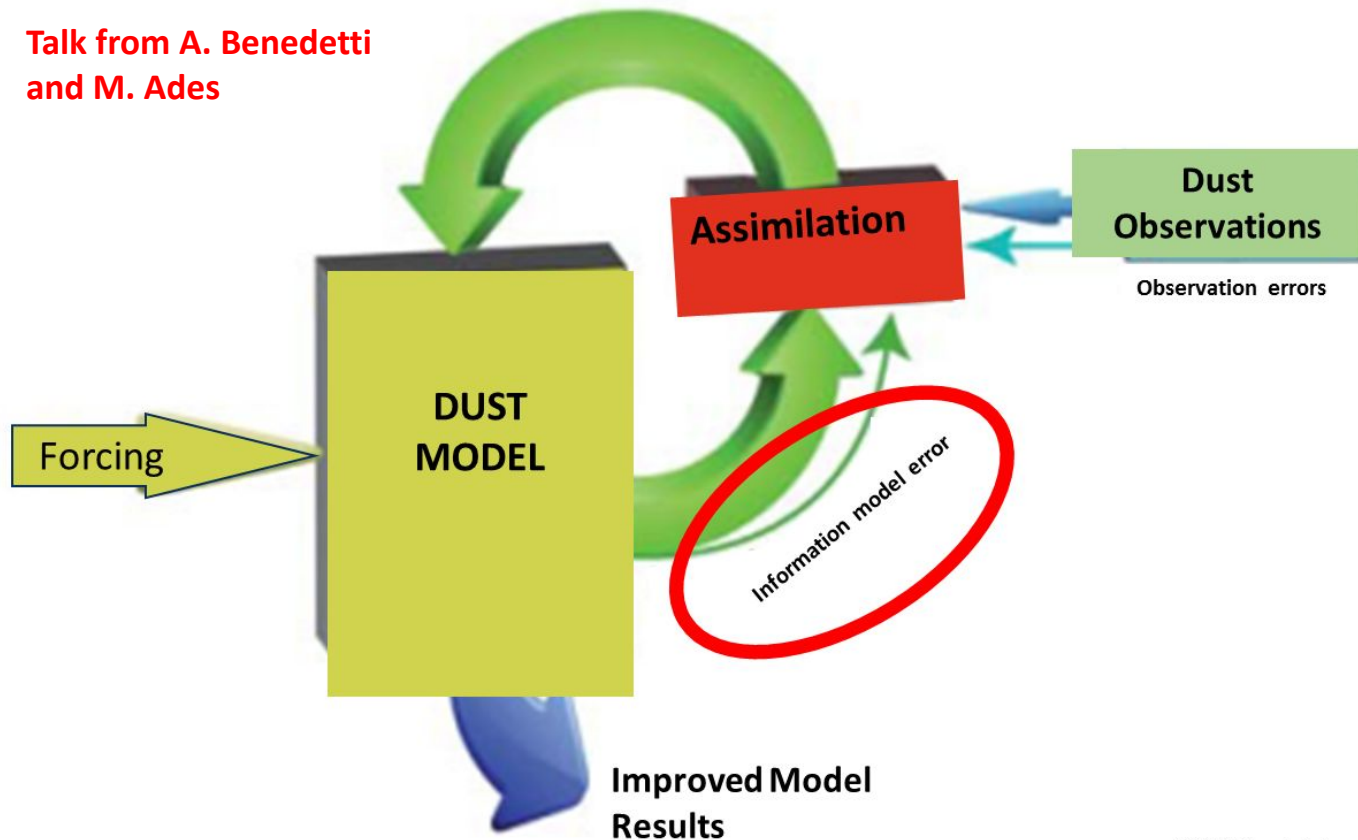
Dust devils



Haboobs

Data assimilation

Talk from A. Benedetti
and M. Ades



(COSYNA website)

- Obtaining the "best" estimate of current atmospheric dust conditions (**analysis**)
- Creation of data sets describing the recent history of dust in the atmosphere (**reanalysis**)

Desert dust models

Main differences between dust models

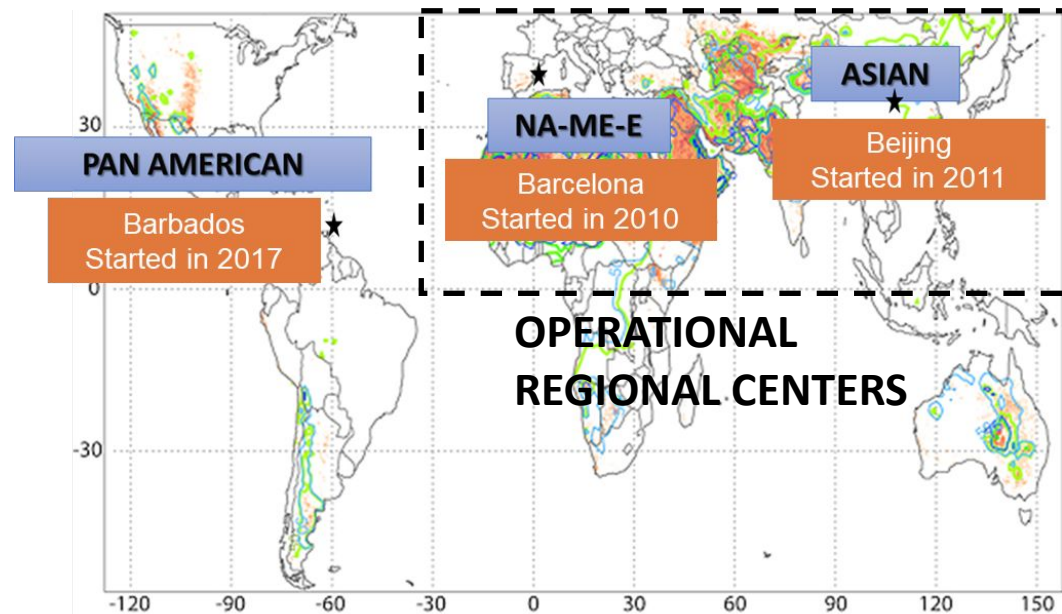
1. *Meteorological driver*
2. *Meteorological input files IBC*
3. *Emission scheme*
4. *Geographic-information database (source mask)*
5. *Land-surface scheme*
6. *Dry deposition scheme*
7. *Wet depositioon scheme*
8. *Spatio-temporal resolution*
9. *Data assimilation*
10.

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

Objectives:

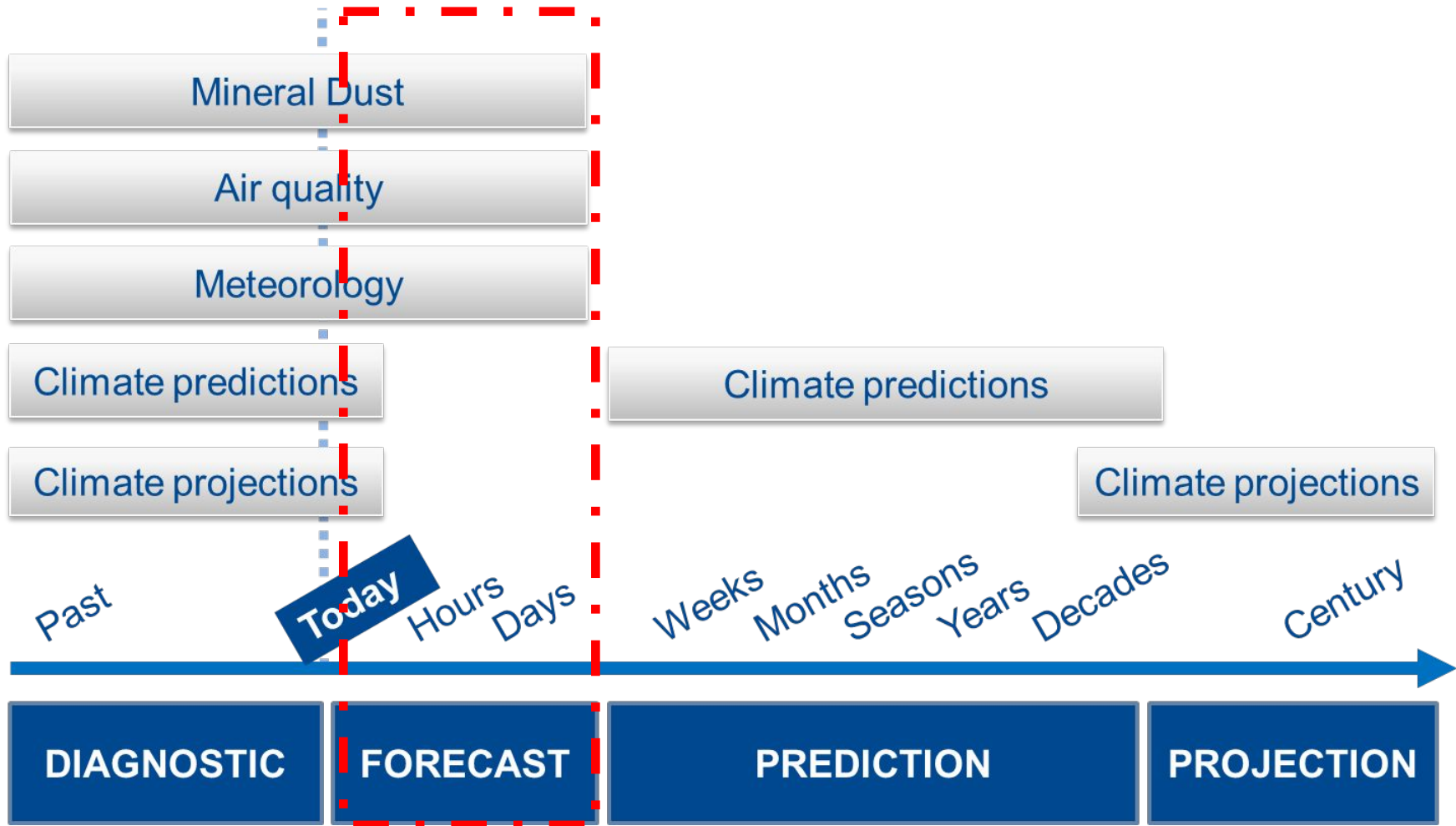
- Identify and improve **products to monitor and predict** dust by working with research and operational organizations, as well as with users.
- Facilitate **user access** to information.
- **Strengthen the capacity** of countries to use the observations, analysis and predictions provided by the WMO SDS-WAS.

Regional Nodes and Centers



Recently approved a GCC Node and under discussion WASia Node

Modelling scales

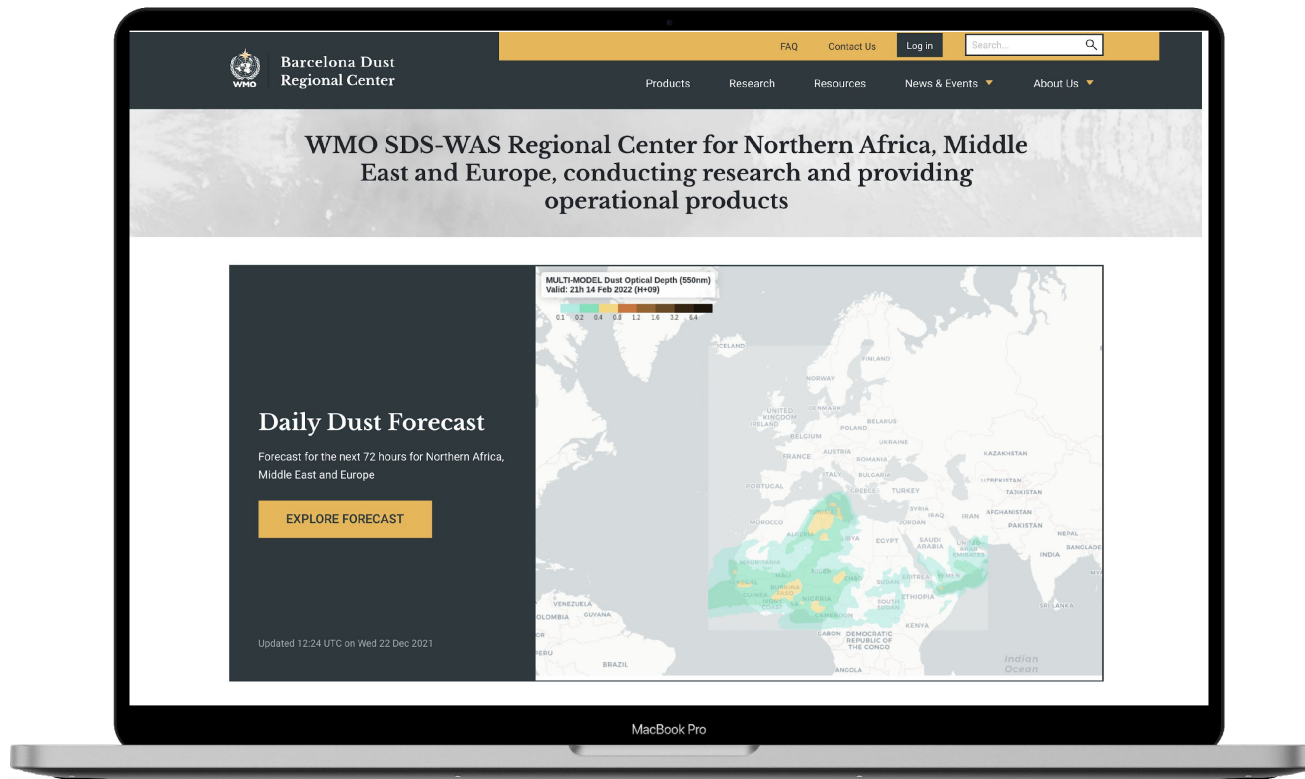


Short-term forecast

Courtesy Albert Soret, BSC

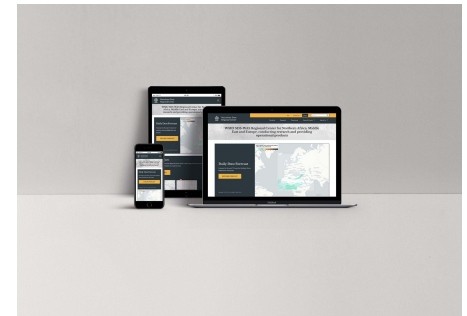
WMO Barcelona Dust Regional Center is coordinating the activities Northern Africa, the Middle East and Europe

New website launched in January 2022



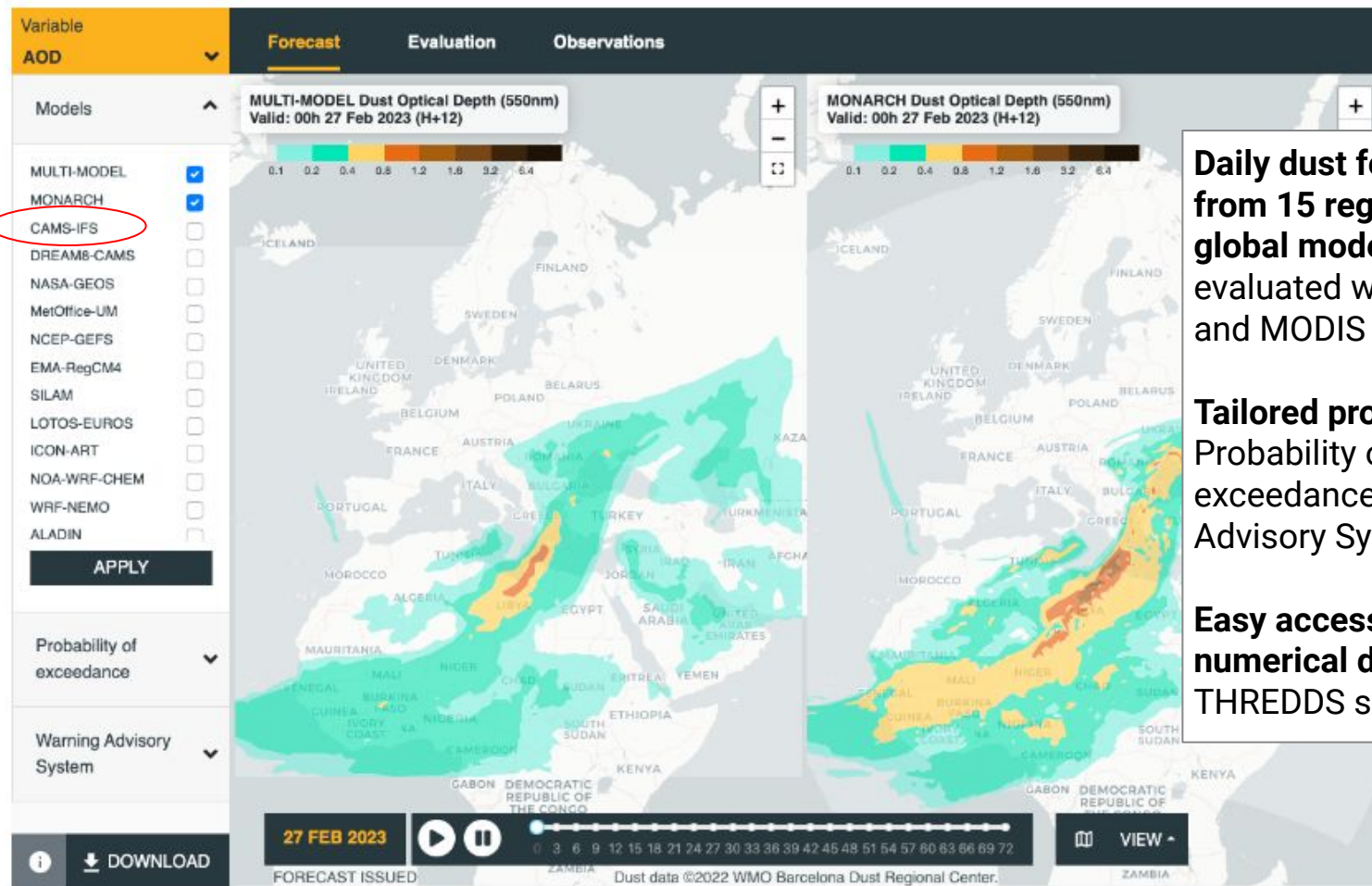
<https://dust.aemet.es/>
[@Dust_Barcelona](#)

**Adapted for different
devices**



NOTE: <https://sds-was.aemet.es/> will decommissioned in next weeks

Daily Dust Products



Daily dust forecasts from 15 regional and global models that are evaluated with AERONET and MODIS

Tailored products:
Probability of exceedance and Warning Advisory System

Easy access to numerical data through a THREDDS system

<https://dust.aemet.es/products/daily-dust-products>

Talk from E. Werner

CAMS daily forecasts



Atmosphere
Monitoring

Copernicus overview



Copernicus is the European Union's Earth observation programme, looking at our planet and its environment to benefit all European citizens.

It offers information services that draw from satellite Earth Observation and in-situ (non-space) data *as well as modelling products*.

CAMS daily forecasts



CAMS Products

Atmosphere
Monitoring

Today's air quality forecasts



Europe



Worldwide

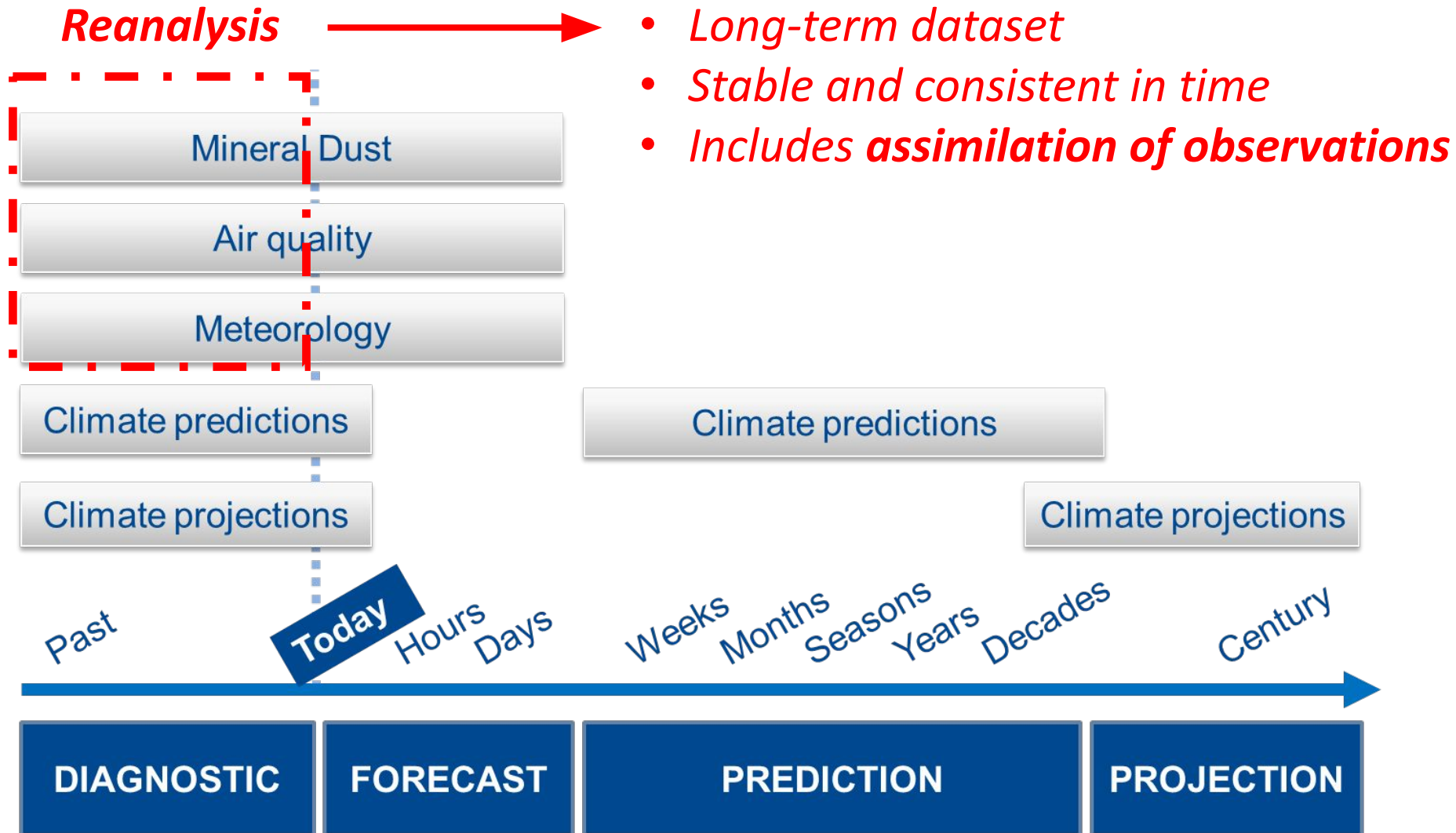
Catalogue of products:

<https://atmosphere.copernicus.eu/catalogue#/>

Talk from M. Ades

- The **global products** are provided by the ECMWF Integrated Forecast System (C-IFS).
- The services consist of
 - **Daily real-time analyses and forecasts**
 - Every day, CAMS provides five-day forecasts
 - **Reanalysis**, currently for the period 2003 - 2020.
 - It is updated every year.
- CAMS provides aerosols, atmospheric pollutants, greenhouse gases (CO₂ and methane), stratospheric ozone and the UV-Index.
 - The global products cover both the troposphere and stratosphere
- CAMS global products are used
 - AQ daily forecasts (see Windy or Breezometer apps)
 - Initial and boundary conditions for operational regional AQ systems around the world
 - Impact assessment studies

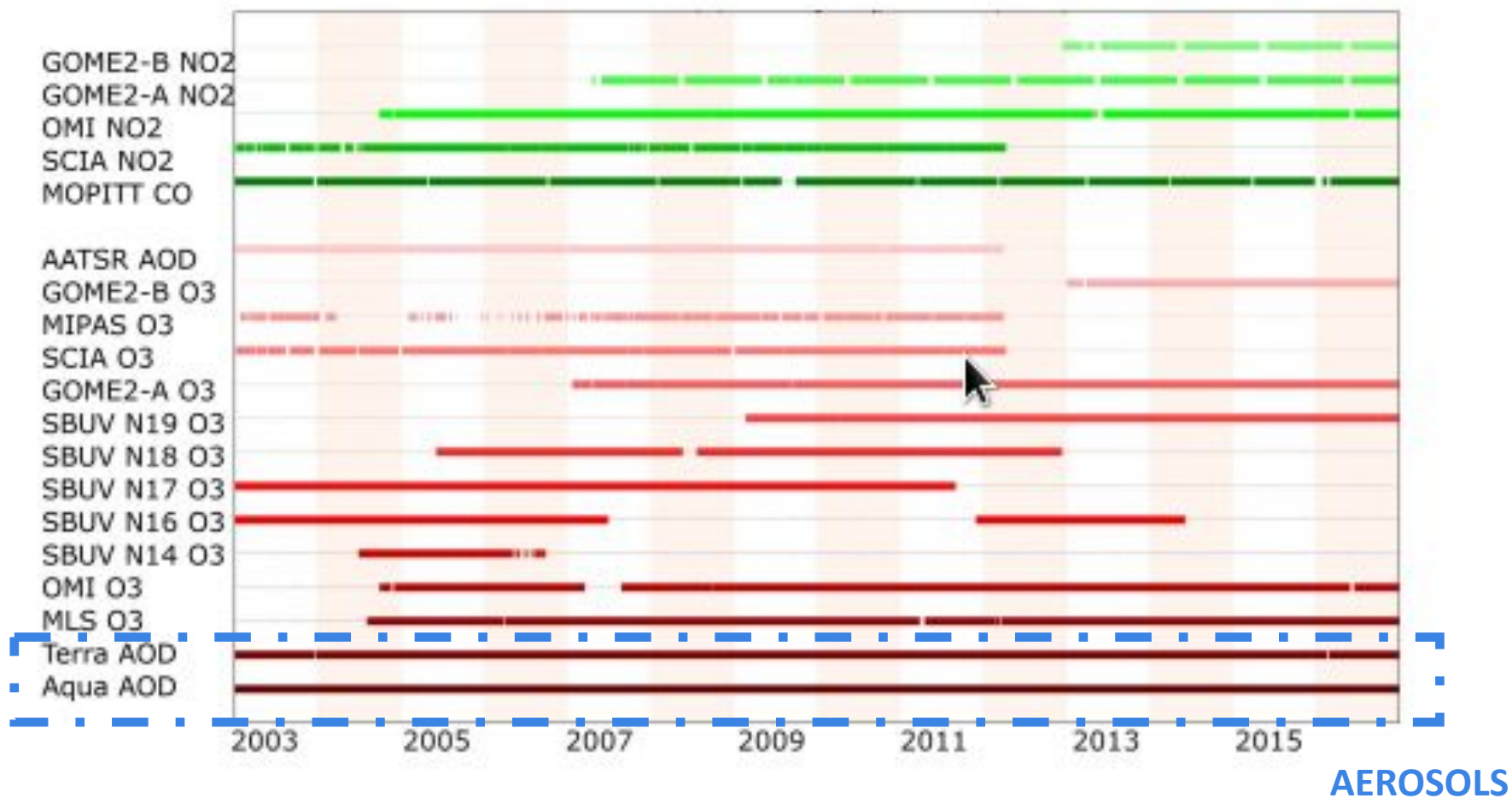
Modelling scales



Courtesy Albert Soret, BSC,

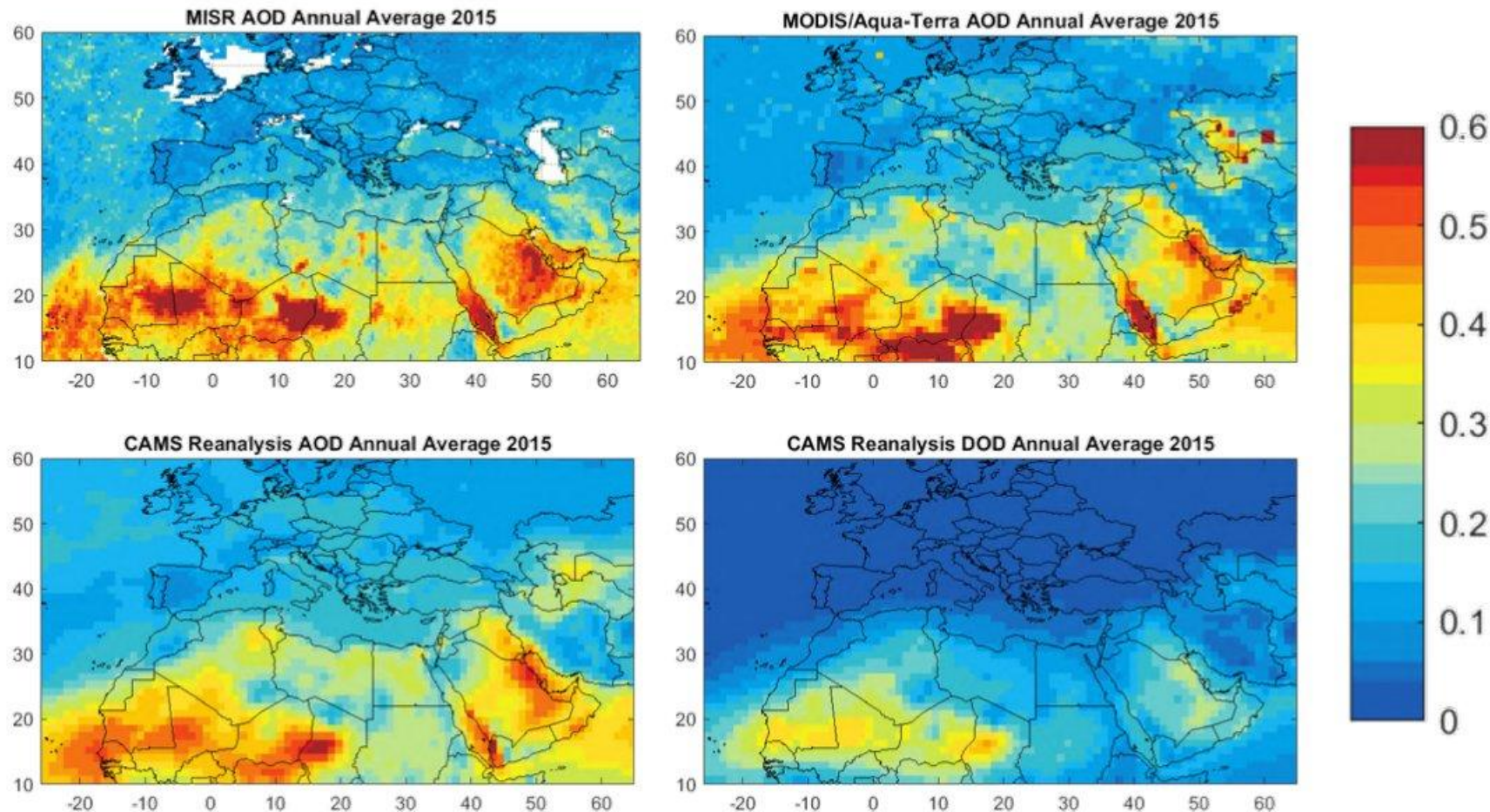
Global aerosol reanalysis: CAMS

Talk from M. Ades



Global aerosol reanalysis: CAMS

Talk from M. Ades



Dust Storms Assessment for the development of user-oriented **C**limate Services in Northern Africa, Middle East and Europe

- SDS is a serious hazard for life, health, environment and economy
- Lack of dust observations (past trends and current conditions)



GOAL: Develop **dust-related services** to specific socio-economic sectors based on an advanced **dust reanalysis** for the NAMEE region

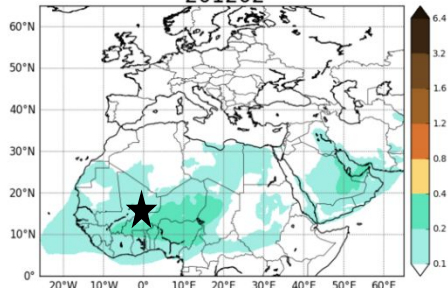
OBSERVATIONS: Our simulations, predictions and services are enhanced by/verified with an intensive use of in-situ and satellite **filtered-dust** observations

REANALISYS: Climatology (2007-2016) of sand and dust storms (SDS) in high spatial-temporal detail (10km, 3-hourly)

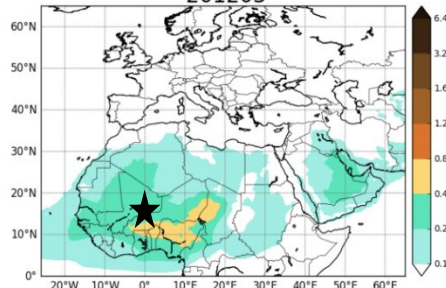
Dust-related Climate Services



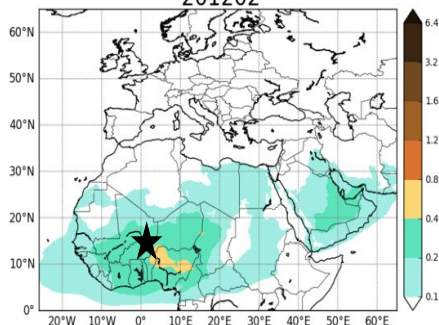
Dust AOD (550nm), ctl_forecast
201202



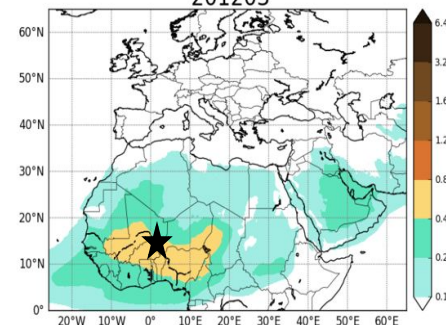
Dust AOD (550nm), ctl_forecast
201203



Dust AOD (550nm), ens_analysis
201202



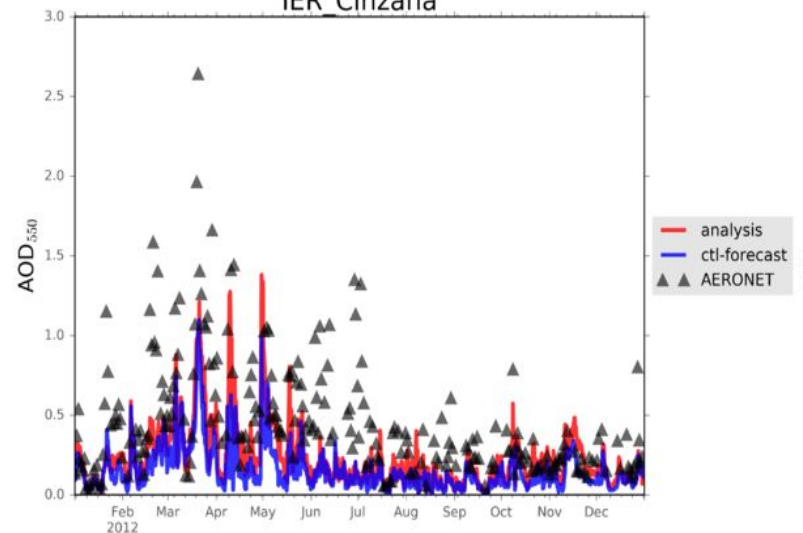
Dust AOD (550nm), ens_analysis
201203



Assimilating MODIS DOD Land product (Courtesy P. Ginoux, NOAA)

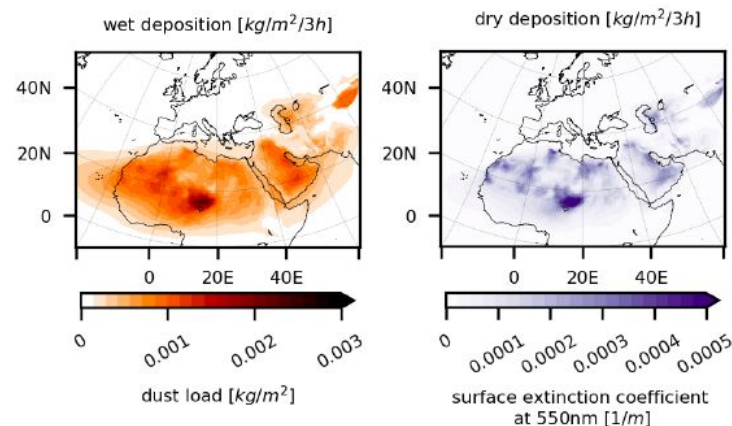
2012

IER Cinzana

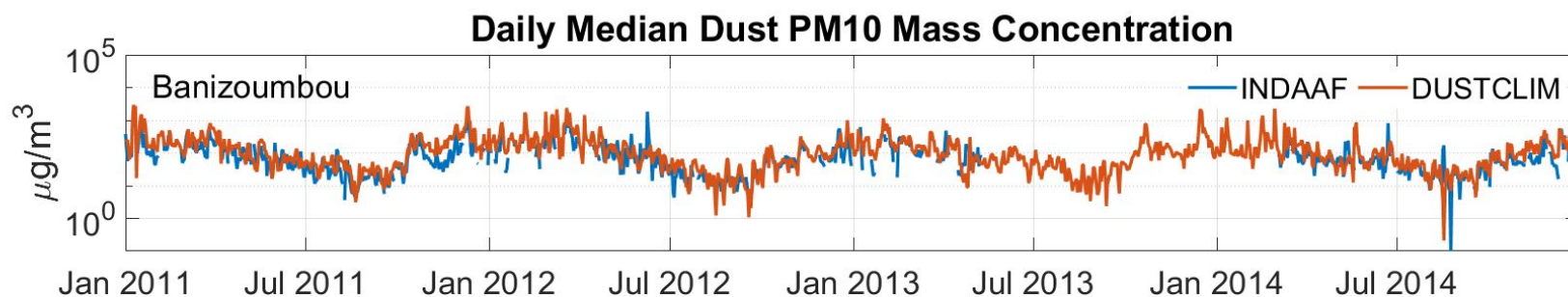


(Di Tomaso et al., 2022, ESSD)

Climatology (2007-2016) of sand and dust storms (SDS) in high spatial-temporal detail (10km, 3-hourly) based on an advance dust regional reanalysis using the **MONARCH** model



Detailed evaluation of key parameters: surface concentration, dust optical depth (total and coarse fractions), extinction, PM10, size distribution and deposition



Evaluation results will help us to define the uncertainty of the reanalysis for a particular parameter. This is a fundamental step for the construction of the **SERVICES.**

TAILORING PRODUCTS

WHAT: Identification of **impacts** and in ideas for **risk mitigation** for a particular sector. This means that we need to understand their needs.

AIR QUALITY: *Design of AQ Early warning systems,
How much people is exposed to dust?*

AVIATION: *How much dust is needed to significantly
damage gas turbine engines? Or to disturb operations?*

SOLAR: *How much dust is needed to
significantly reduce solar production?*

HOW: Literature review and User engagement



Aviation portfolio

DUST IMPACTS

Tenerife Norte, 22 Feb 2020



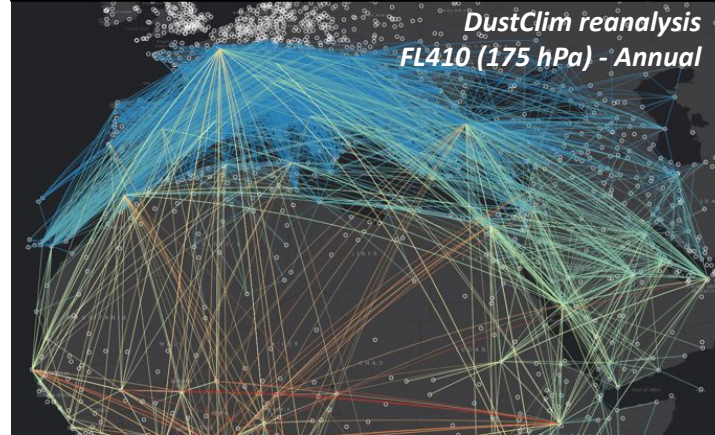
Mechanical problems

- Ice nucleation
- Dust melting in turbines
- Turbine abrasion

Reduction of visibility

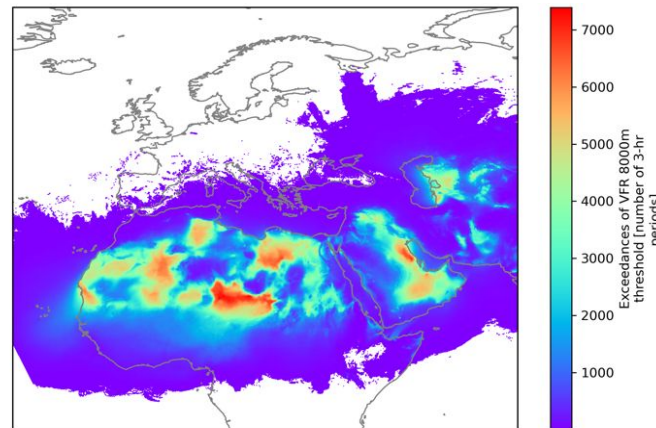
- Closing airports / Traffic management
→ Rerouting and cancellations
- Disturbances in airport operations

AIRCRAFT SAFETY



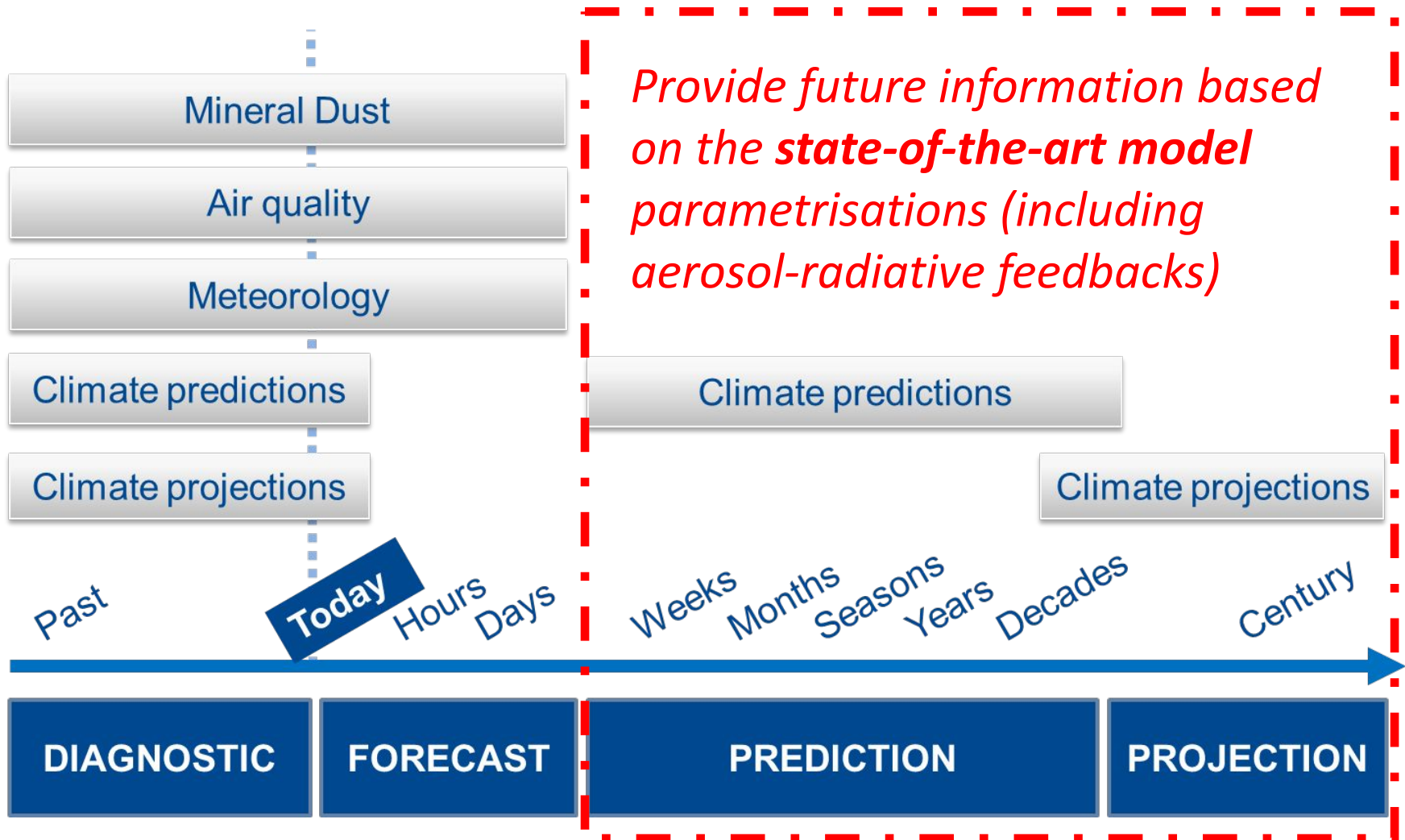
Aircraft Dust Exposure at Cruise level
Annual average (2007-2016)

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT



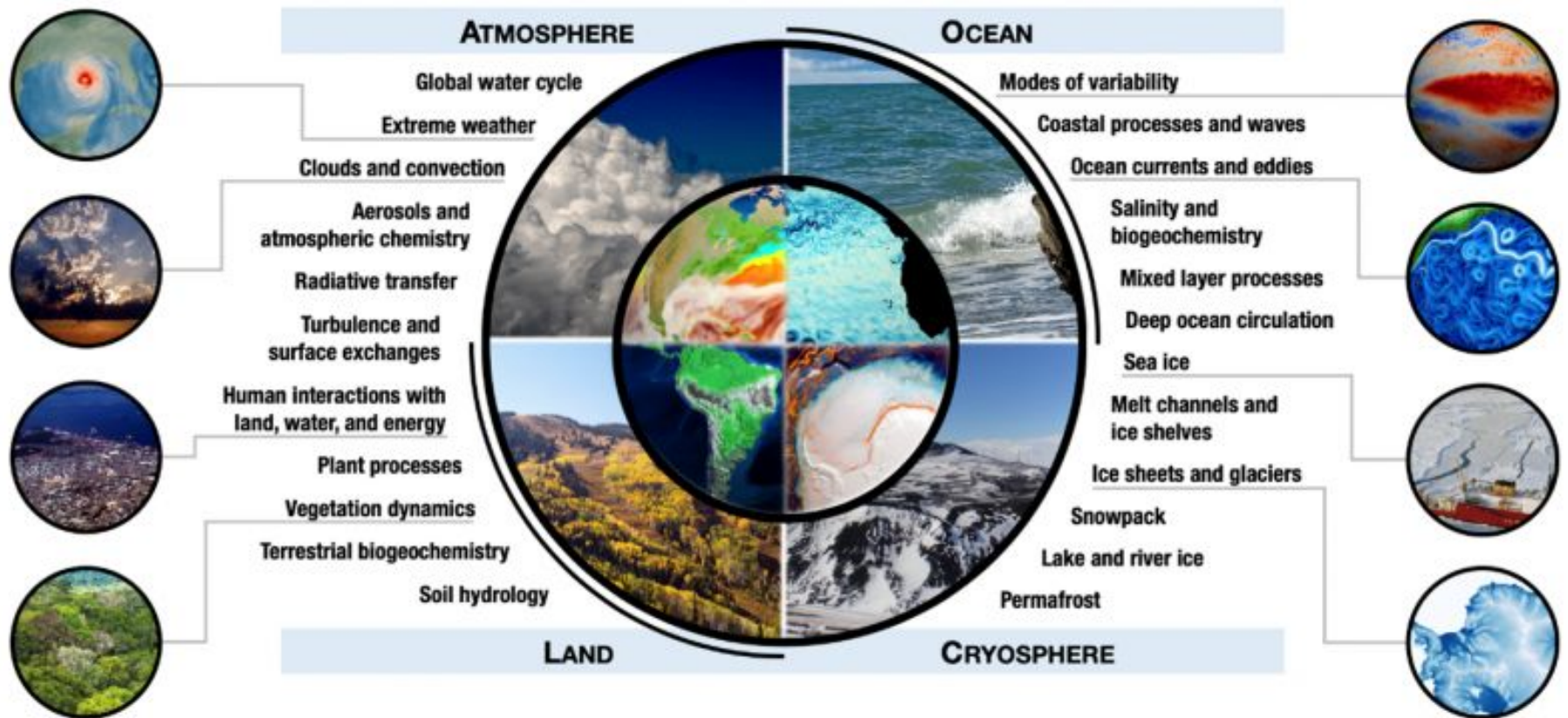
Probability of exceedance of Visual Flight rules (> 8km)
Annual probability (2007-2016)

Modelling scales



Courtesy Albert Soret, BSC,

Climate models vs Earth Systems

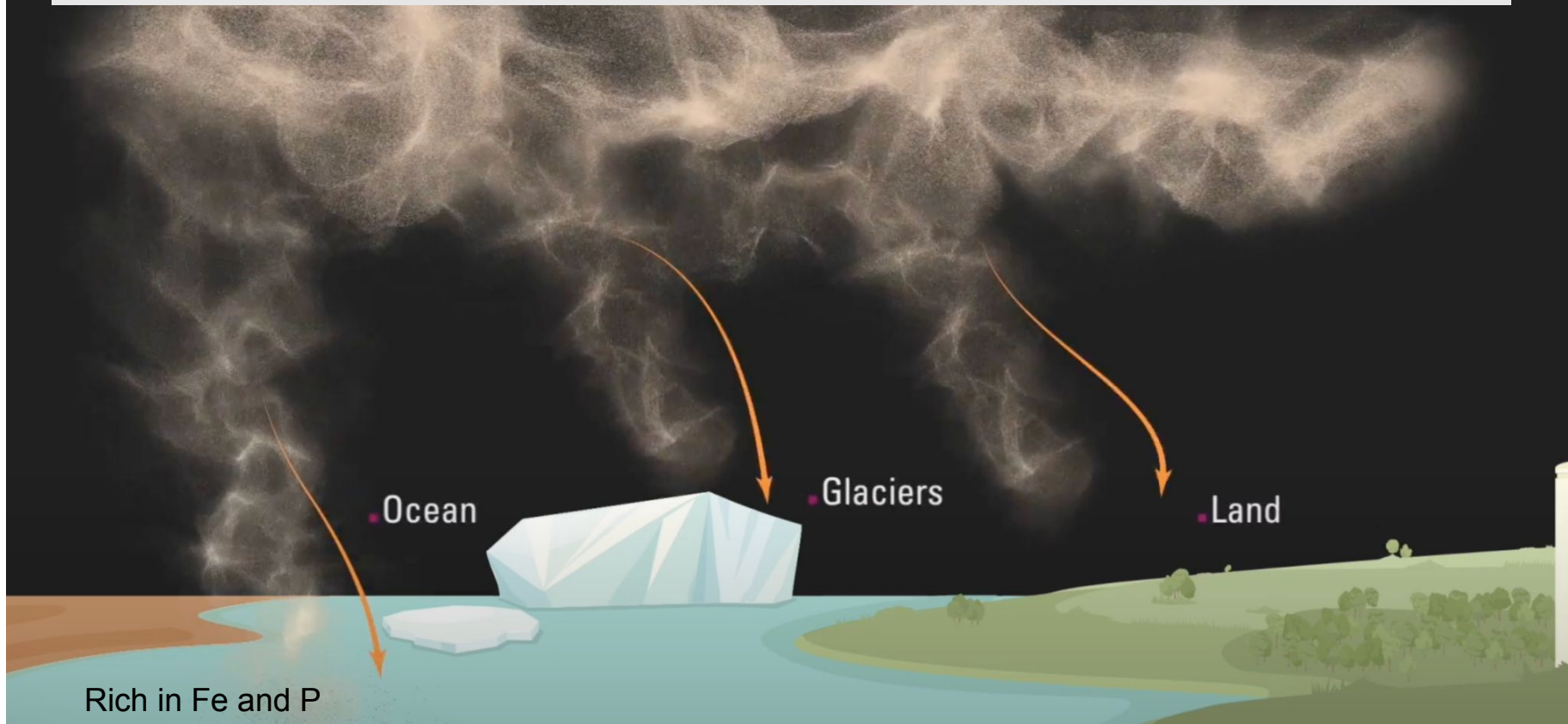


<https://www.energy.gov/science/doe-explainearth-system-and-climate-models>

Climate is the long-term pattern of weather variables. Meanwhile, **Earth system models** include all the factors in climate models, but also can include the effect of human decisions, they are useful tools for planning things like infrastructure, energy production and use, and landscape use.

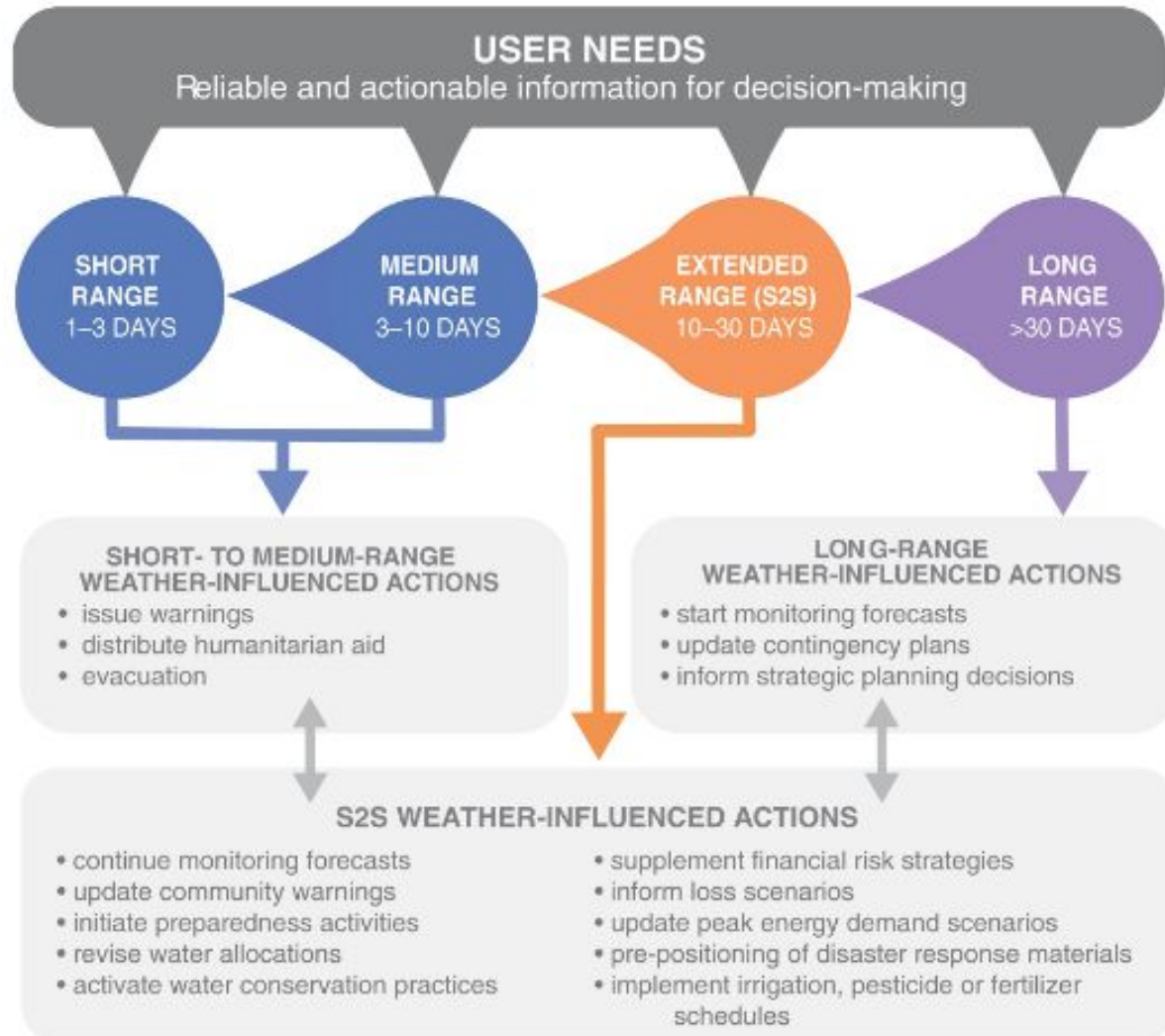
DOMOS

The **Dust-Ocean Modelling & Observing Study (DOMOS)** will advance the understanding of dust and ocean interactions in a changing climate through an innovative use of model and observations.



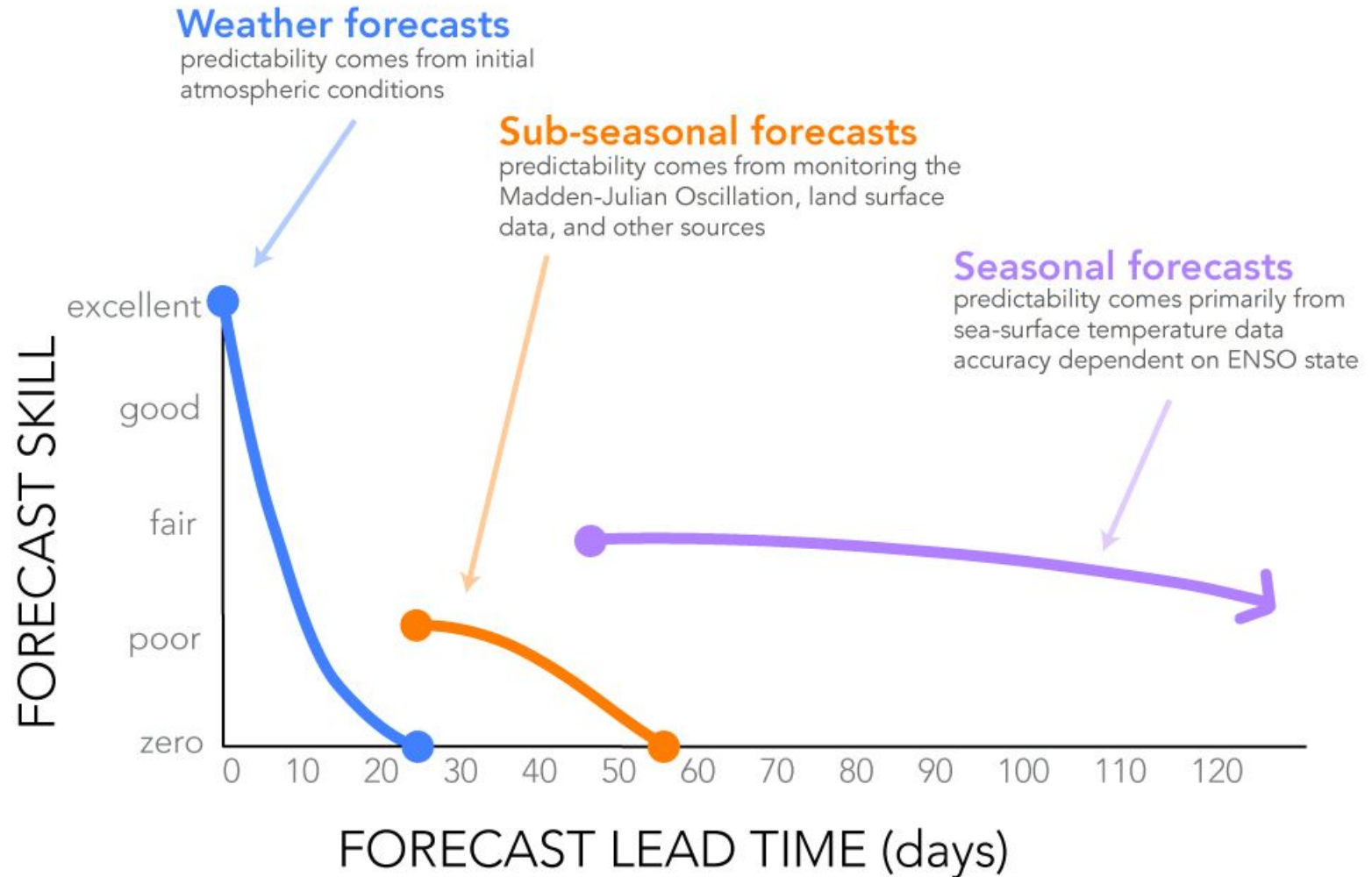
Next: Sub-seasonal to Seasonal (S2S)

Research on adding aerosols!!



Next: Sub-seasonal to Seasonal (S2S)

Research on adding aerosols!!



Final remarks

- Desert dust models are fundamental tool
 - To complement dust-related observations, filling the temporal and spatial gaps of the measurements.
 - To help us to understand the dust processes and their interaction with climate and ecosystems.
 - To develop tailored products and services for users
- There are a variety of model run types that focus in different purposes
 - It's important to define the time and spatial scales of your studies

Thank you

*Acknowledge to BSC and AEMET colleagues as well as Copernicus, NASA, MSG Eumetsat and EOSDIS World Viewer principal investigators and scientists for establishing and maintaining data used in the present contribution.
Also special thank to all researchers, data providers and collaborators of the WMO SDS-WAS Regional Nodes and UN agencies contributing to the UN coalition for combating SDS.*

*InDust (COST Action CA16202, www.cost-indust.eu) and ERA4CS are gratefully acknowledged.
The source of some of the movies and information in this presentation is the COMET® Website at <http://meted.ucar.edu/> of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), sponsored in part through cooperative agreement(s) with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) © 2007-2011 University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. All Rights Reserved.*



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Sara Basart
sbasart@wmo.int