

Interpreting the True Colour RGB



Product Benefits

- Similar to colour photography. Easy to interpret. UNderstandable by all.
- Useful for: geological and land-use analysis; green vegetation monitoring.
- Aerosols are easily seen. Aerosols and water/ice clouds are usually distinguishable due to their different colours and structures.
- Ash, smoke and dust may have different colour shades
- Helps fire detection and monitoring as smoke is visible on the RGB. It should be used together with other information, for example with the fire temperature RGBm Day/night microphysical RGBs and/or the 3.8 channel.
- Sediment or algae blooms are sometimes seen in water bodies
- Provides information on cloud optical thickness
- Thin low level clouds are easily seen over the oceans.



Product Limitations

- Works only during the day.
- No separation between clouds and snow.
- No separation of cloud types.
- No temperature information.
- No cloud height information.
- No microphysical information for clouds.
- Strong influence from sunglint.

Ref: <https://eumetrain.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/TrueColourRGB.pdf>



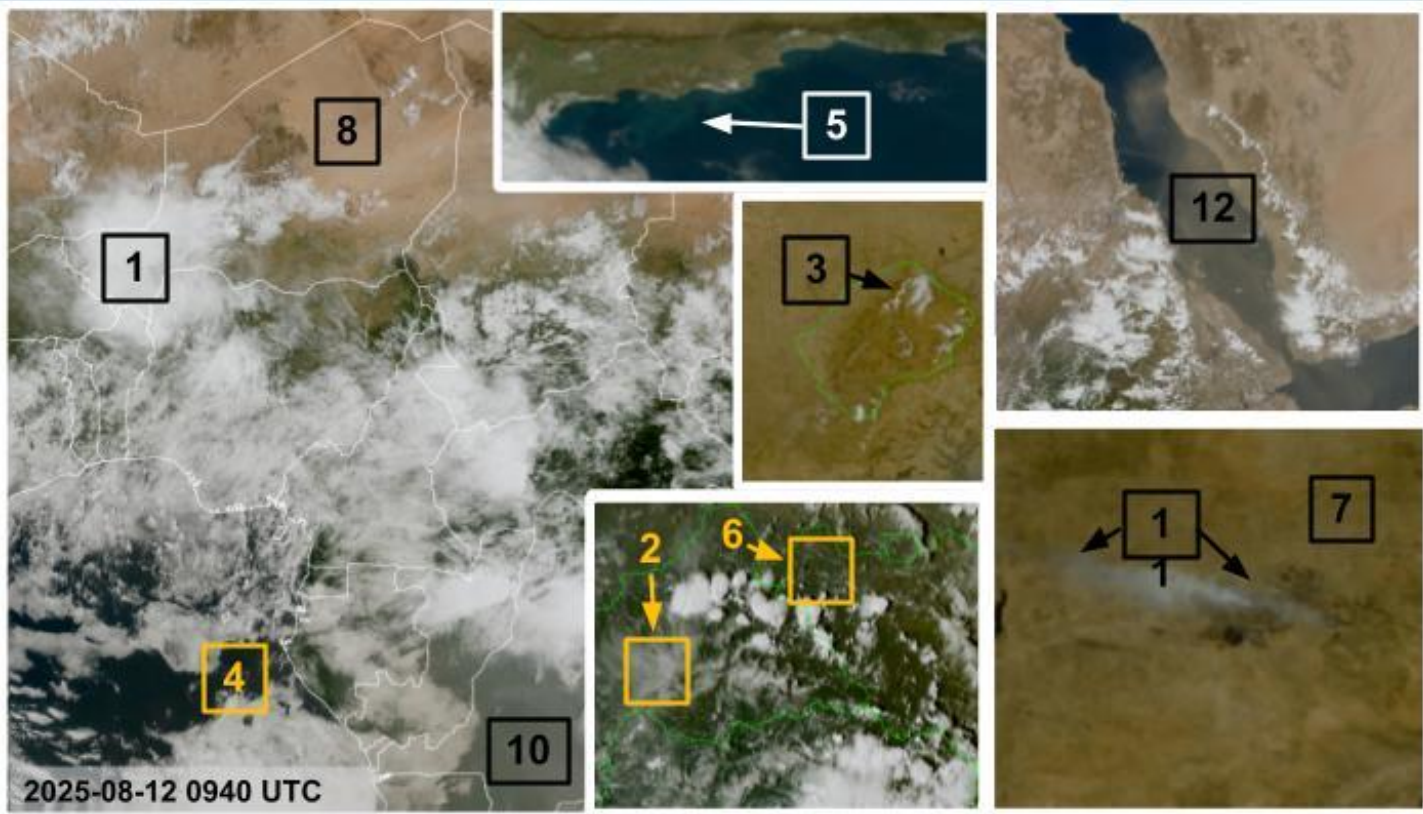
Quick Guide



True Colour RGB

Interpretation

- 1 Thick clouds
- 2 Thin clouds over ground/sea
- 3 Snow on ground or sea ice
- 4 Deep water not rich in suspended matter (dark blue, almost black)
- 5 Water rich in suspended matter (greenish or bluish cyan)
- 6 Land with lots of green vegetation
- 7 Land with little green vegetation
- 8 Desert
- 9 Volcanic ash (brown or brownish grey)
- 10 Smog, pollution, or haze (grey)
- 11 Smoke (grey with some bluish tone)
- 12 Dust (grey with some brownish tone)



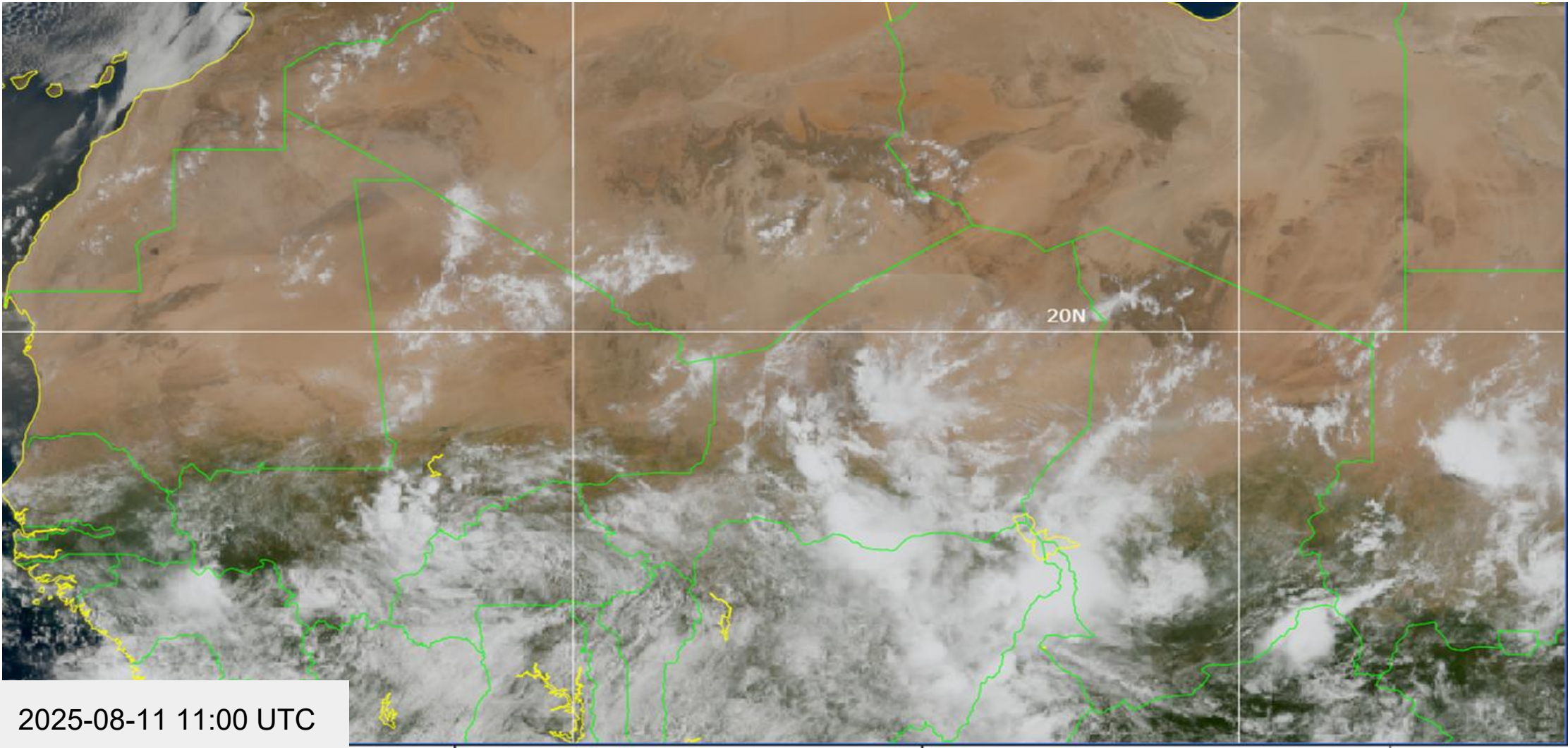
2025-08-12 0940 UTC

RGB = VIS 0.6; VIS 0.5; VIS 0.4





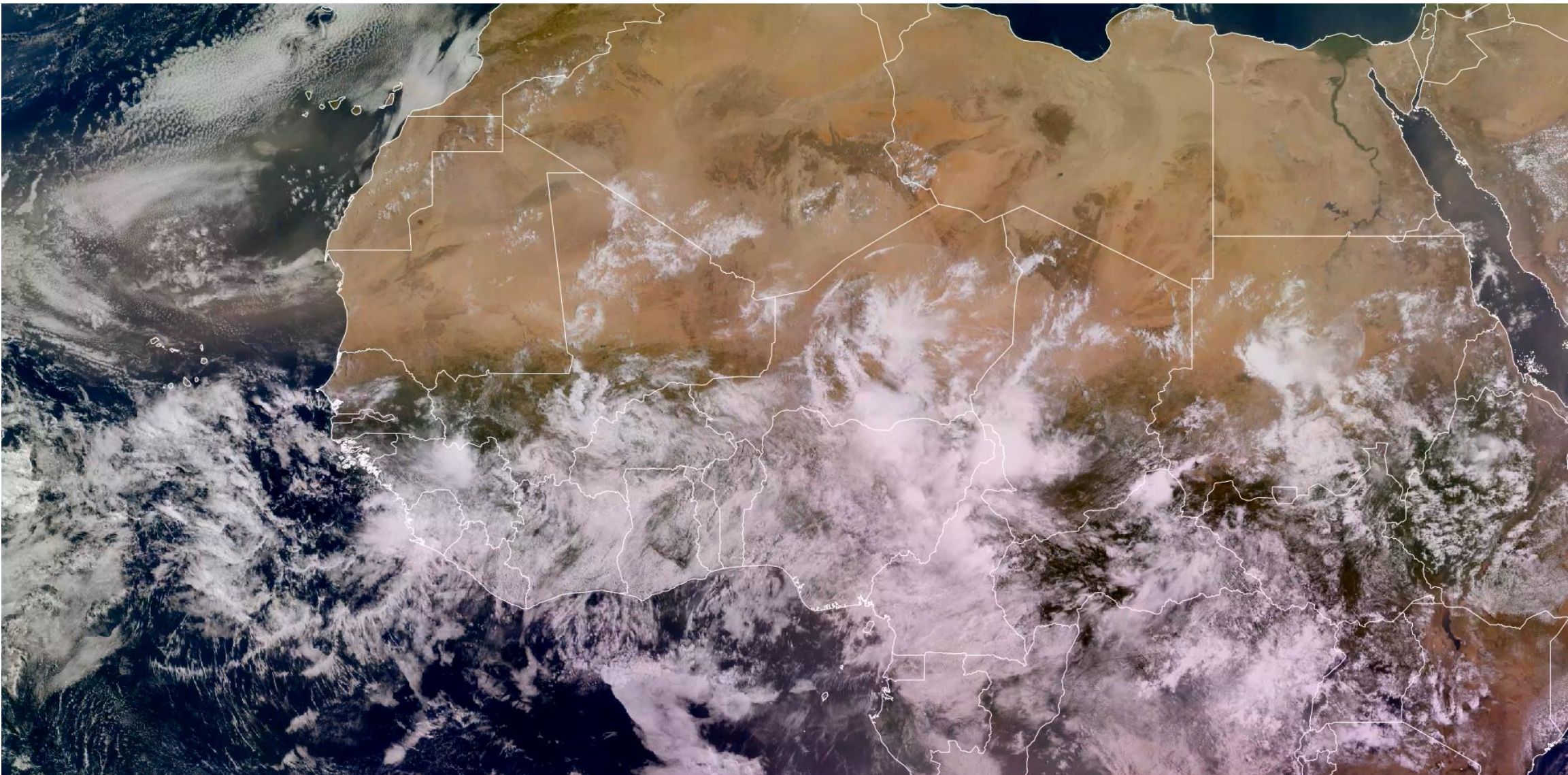
Analyse the image below and see if you can identify any suspended dust





Animation







The red curve indicates the leading edge of the suspended dust

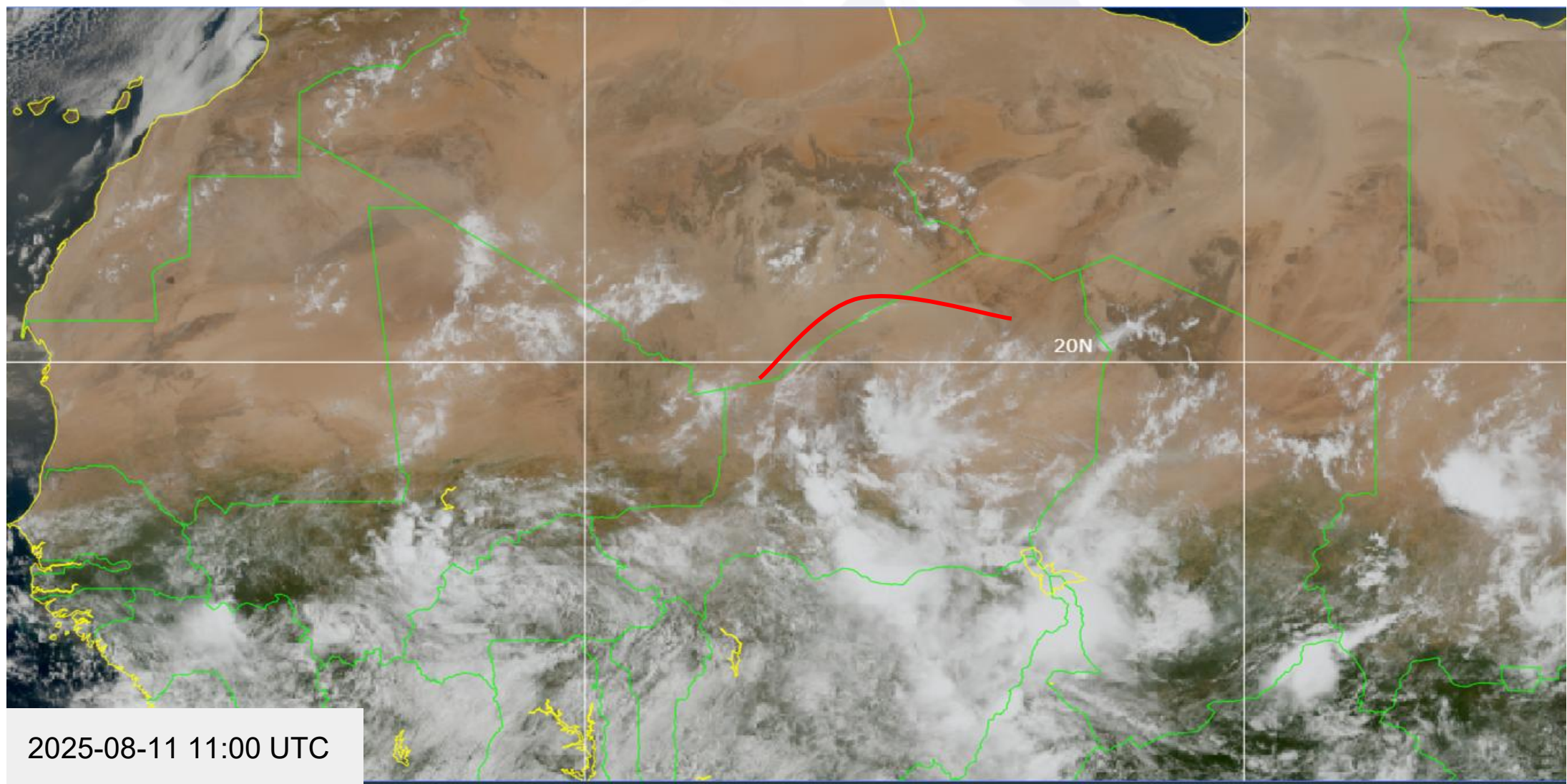
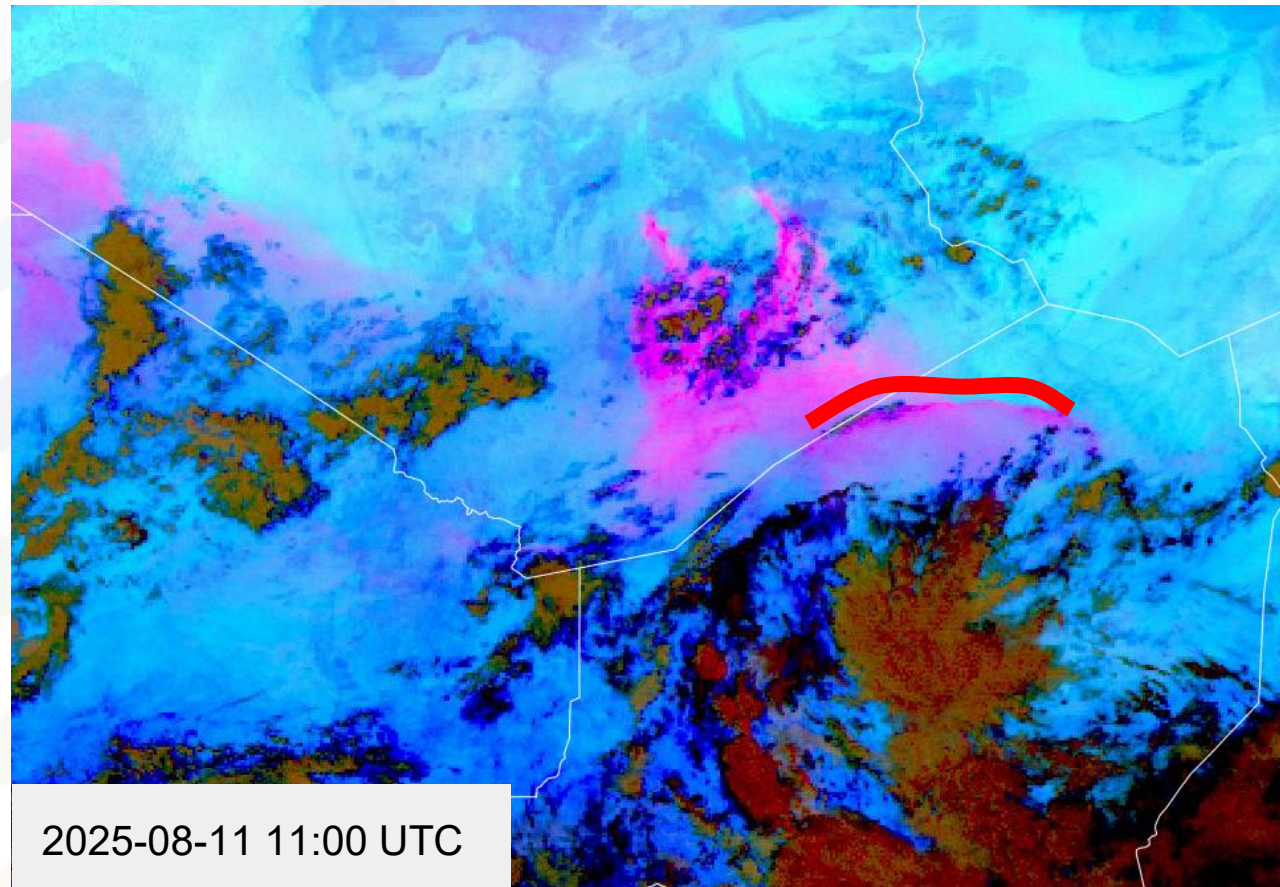
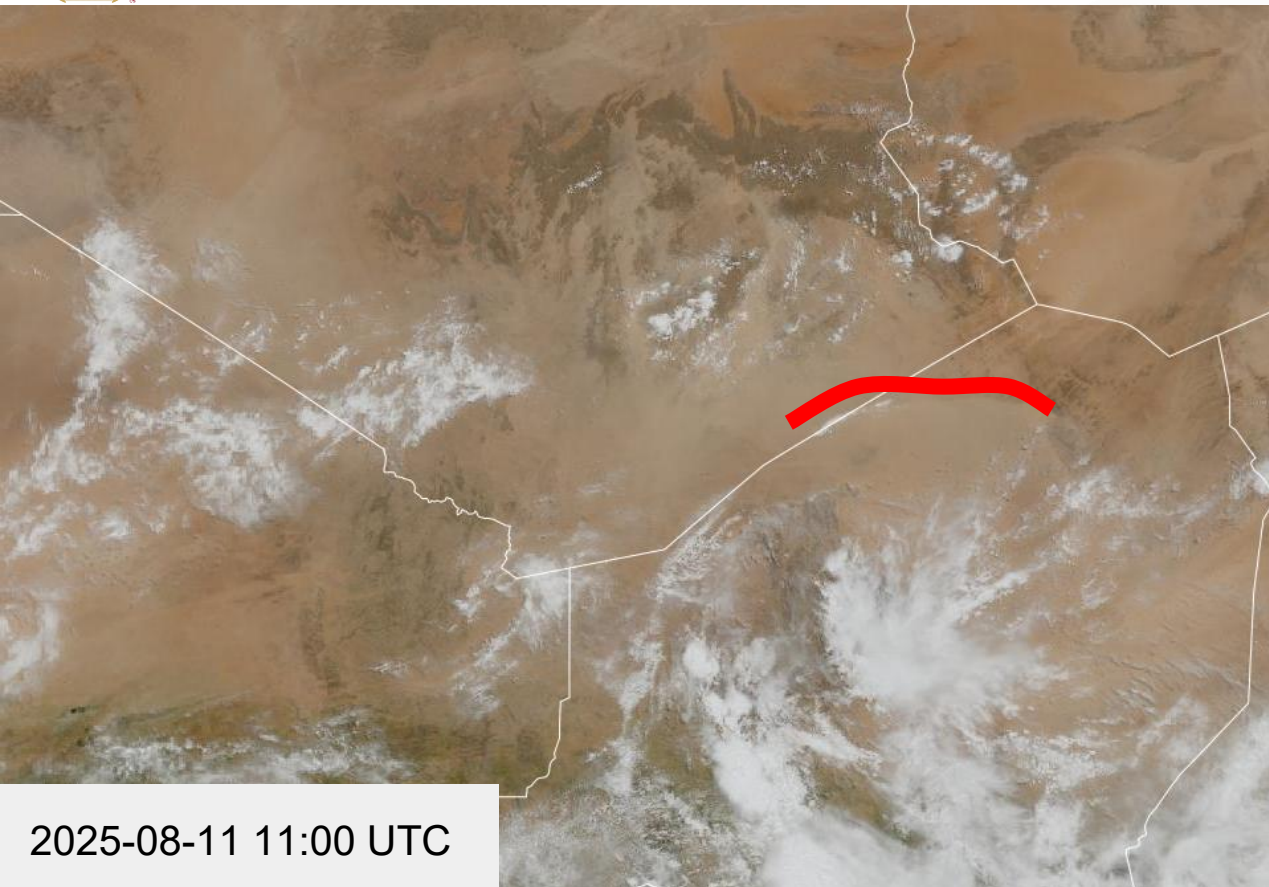


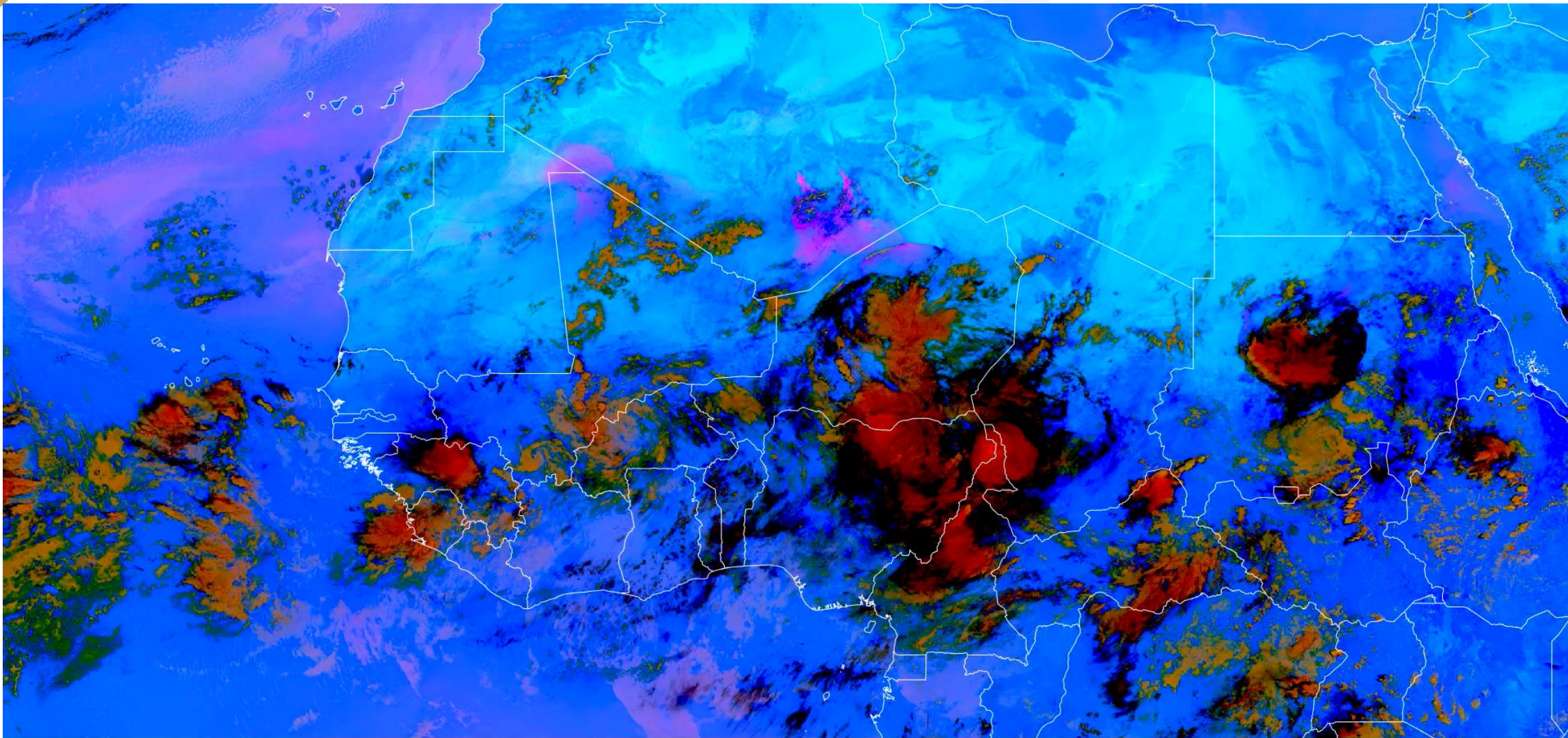


Image Comparison





Animation



 **EUMETSAT**

2025-08-13 10:00:00 UTC



TECNAVIA



**KENYA
METEOROLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT**





Practice applying your new knowledge by answering the questions on the Moodle page