



1 Highlights on aerosol properties and distribution in western Africa based on observations conducted during the special observation periods of AMMA

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Aerosols from wind erosion, biomass and domestic burning, and biogenic emissions are abundant in western Africa, where they impair the air quality and visibility and affect the regional radiation budget.

Started in 2005, the AMMA project offers the opportunity to perform extensive ground-based and airborne observations of the aerosol load and properties at the regional scale and as a function of season.

This talk presents some of the first highlights on the aerosol properties and spatial distribution obtained from those observations. Emphasis is given to the results from dry and wet season intensive campaigns (special observation periods 0, 1, 2 – SOP0, SOP1, SOP2) conducted in Niger, Benin and Senegal during 2006.