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The Tropical Eastern North Atlantic Time-Series Observatory at Cape Verde (TENATSO). Status and initial results from the ocean site.

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The tropical ocean and atmosphere play key roles for climate, atmospheric chemistry and ocean biogeochemistry but are logistically difficult to study and therefore remarkably data-poor. TENATSO (www.tenatso.com) is a new observatory designed to provide long-term data for physical, chemical and biological parameters from the tropical Atlantic's ocean and atmosphere. The Observatory comprises atmospheric and oceanic sites managed by Cape Verdean, German and UK investigators. The Observatory also supports shorter-term experiments including several activities planned for SOLAS (Surface Ocean Lower Atmosphere Study).
The ocean site (17.4˚N 24.5˚W) has water depth of 3600m, is removed from island influence, and located upwind of the atmospheric site (at Calhau on the Island of São Vicente, 16.85˚N, 24.87˚W). The ocean site comprises a long-term mooring, regular visits from the local research vessel Islandia as well as other visiting research vessels and a marine biogeochemistry laboratory. Initial deployments of a glider have also been made between São Vicente and the mooring site.

At the time of the conference, first results from the mooring, shipboard sampling and glider work should be available and will be placed in context of the questions that can be addressed with this unique site. Future plans within the context of OceanSITES and

EuroSITES as well as other global earth observation programmes will be presented.