



Analyses Multidisciplinaires de la Mousson Africaine

**Ouagadougou, 16th of July 2009**

**The AMMA programme, African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analyses, organize the 3rd International conference in Burkina Faso from 20 to 24 of July 2009. AMMA achieve its first phase. The outcome of these results will define the research to lead on the African Monsoon variability and its mechanisms but also on the interdependences between society, environment, resources and climate variability in the framework of the global climate change. The AMMA community will take this opportunity to define the way to transfer these results to the civil society.**

We are pleased to welcome you to the **press conferences** that will present these results and prospects on **Wednesday 22nd of July at 10 am, in the Azalaï hotel in Ouagadougou** and on the beginning of September in Europe  
A press report detailing some results will be then distributed

Azalaï Hotel in Ouagadougou will welcome more than 300 scientists from all over the world, to present the results of their researches on the African Monsoon. At present, the challenge is to transform and deepen the knowledge acquired to pursue improvement of seasonal and intra-seasonal forecasts and climatic change scenarios for the coming years. The AMMA community, going on to deepen its knowledge of climate, has to provide the benefit of these scientific advances to all West African countries and their population. The understanding of the interactions of society, environment, resources and climate will contribute to this objective. After 8 years of activities, all these challenges will steer the building of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of AMMA programme.

West Africa experiences an intensive rainy period that bring in less than 3 months, most the annual precipitation, this is the African monsoon.

Three years ago, in July 2006, the main field campaign of the scientific programme AMMA started in Niamey, Niger. With more than 500 researchers positioned from the Guinean Gulf to the Sahara, the AMMA programme deployed hundred of instruments, on ground, ships, aircrafts and balloons. They monitored, simultaneously, the evolution of soils, cultures, vegetation, rivers, atmosphere and oceans before, during and after the monsoon. An unprecedented observation dataset has been collected, completed by data from new generation satellites. The experimental AMMA phase was a success thanks to an international cooperation, bringing together teams from more than 30 nations among them 14 West African countries.

The analysis of collected data allows to understand numerous mechanisms that regulate the monsoon and its societal impacts. Thanks to the AMMA programme, today we know better for instance, the determining role of cold water formation in the Guinean Gulf in the monsoon onset. We better apprehend the importance of the meteorological conditions in Mediterranean or above Indian ocean in the variability and the retreat of the monsoon. We also understand better the behaviour of soil moisture, river discharger and the level of ground water under the effect of previous precipitation and human activities. We also better understand the aerosol emissions, especially carbonate and pollution, and theirs impacts on health.

Based on a French initiative, AMMA was developed by an international scientific group and is currently funded by a large number of agencies, especially from France, the UK, the USA and Africa. It has been the beneficiary of a major financial contribution from the European Community's Sixth Framework Research Programme. More information on the scientific coordination and funding is available on the AMMA International web-site: [www.amma-international.org](http://www.amma-international.org)

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**Press release**