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The impact of Saharan dust on radiation and climate.

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It is important to understand the role of natural aerosol in affecting regional and global radiation budgets if we are to be able to assess the radiative forcing due to anthropogenic aerosols. Of particular importance is mineral dust. Dust radiative characteristics and amounts are highly variable both spatially and temporally, making estimation of their effects subject to large uncertainties. Recent measurements made during the project Dust Outflow and Deposition to the Ocean (DODO) encompassed air-craft led microphysics and radiative measurements from close to dust sources in western Africa and out over the Atlantic Ocean. The combination of aircraft data, longer term monitoring data such as AERONET and remote sensing developments suggests that advances in our estimation and understanding of the impacts of dust in this sensitive part of the world are timely. Preliminary results from the DODO project, and its links to work at the UK Met Office and elsewhere will be used to reveal the intricacies of Saharan dust and its impact on climate.