

World Meteorological Organization

The Global Atmosphere Watch Programme: achievements and future plans Deon Terblanche For Oksana Tarasova, World Meteorological Organization

WMO: Research Department

Weather · Climate · Water

Major questions

What are the changes in the atmospheric composition and possible impacts?

What is the role of human activities in those changes? How can we identify and attribute those changes?



There are changes in e.g. level of greenhouse gases!





Consequences of the GHG level increase





Changes in deposition of different substances





Changes in air quality





Quality assured observations and data analysis can help us detect these changes



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(courtesy of S.Gilge)

Global Atmosphere Watch Programme



- GAW made it possible to compare observations made by different Members, to develop global products and to improve understanding of the changes in the composition of the global atmosphere
- GAW is a partnership involving contributors from 100 countries.
- GAW implements end-to-end approach (from observations through research to delivered products and services)
- Observations of atmospheric chemical composition and related physical parameters constitute important part of the programme
- GAW observations can be used for different applications, including climate studies, air quality forecasting, NWP etc.



GAW focal areas



- Stratospheric Ozone and vertical ozone distribution
- Greenhouse Gases (CO_2 and its isotopes, CH_4 and its isotopes, N_2/O_2 ratio, N_2O , SF_6 , CFCs and substitutes)
- Reactive Gases (O_3 , CO, VOCs, NO_x , SO₂)
- Precipitation Chemistry
- Aerosols (*chemical and physical properties, AOD*)
- UV Radiation

Variables important for climate studies: GHG, aerosols, ozone



GAW structure







Observations in GAW



GAW *strives* to implement "integrated" observing system including ground-based observations and satellite remote sensing integrated through models

Surface-based *in situ* and remote sensing observations are the backbone of the GAW network.

There are Global and Regional GAW stations and stations working within contributing networks.

Currently GAW coordinates activities and data from 30 Global stations, about 400 Regional stations, and 100 Contributing stations (http://gaw.empa.ch/gawsis/)



GAW Station Information System (GAWSIS)







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Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera

Confederaziun svizra

Home Affairs FDHA Federal Office of Meteorolog

and Climatology Mete



Need for quality control



- Detect small trends
- •Detect small spatial gradients
- •Ensure long-term stability of observations
- •Data comparability (on the same scale)



QMF principles



- ✓ Full support of the GCOS Climate Monitoring Principles
- \checkmark Network-wide use of only one reference standard or scale (primary standard). In consequence, there is only one institution that is responsible for this standard.
- ✓ Full traceability to the primary standard of all measurements made by Global, Regional and Contributing GAW stations.
- ✓ The definition of data quality objectives (DQOs).
- ✓ Establishment of guidelines on how to meet these quality targets, i.e., harmonized measurement techniques based on Measurement Guidelines (MGs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- ✓ Establishment of MGs or SOPs for these measurements.
- ✓ Use of detailed log books for each parameter containing comprehensive meta information related to the measurements, maintenance, and 'internal' calibrations.
- ✓ Regular independent assessments (system and performance audits).
- ✓ Timely submission of data and associated metadata to the responsible World Data Centre as a means of permitting independent review of data by a wider community.



Heterogeneity of GAW observational network





It is a challenge to establish the observational network with uniform "true" global coverage for all variables





- Increasing CO₂ emissions
- Deforestation
- Forest Fires
- Natural methane emissions
- Increasing urbanization

Observations of atmospheric composition are essential to understand these issues





In-situ observations of Methane around the Indian





The use of atmospheric observations: Inverse modeling









Inverse modeling estimated CH_4 fluxes



Instead of conclusions



- Network around the Indian Ocean is not dense enough to address the environmental issues in the regions
- The experience in the region does exist and it should be utilized by the other countries
- Twinning and partnership with other regions can be considered as an opportunity for network development in the region





Thank you for your attention!



