







EARLY WARNING OF SYNOPTIC AIR QUALITY EVENTS TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELL BEING IN THE GREATER CARIBBEAN REGION

Pablo A. Mendez Lazaro (PI)

pablo.mendez l @upr.edu

Environmental Health Department

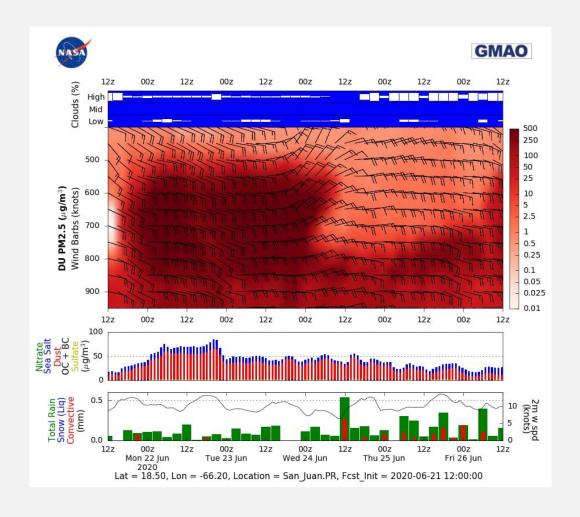
Graduate School of Public Health

University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus

September 21st, 2020

PROJECT SUMMARY

- We proposed to characterize the distribution pattern and variability of African Dust in annual events using synoptic Earth observations from satellites and ground stations, and quantify the impact on respiratory diseases using detailed time histories of medical records from Puerto Rico.
 - Working Group 1: Resilience, Public Health and Well Being.
 - Working Group 2: Atmospheric Forcing and Air Quality.
 - Working Group 3: Decision Support Tool: Computation and Visualization.
- This research will build a **Public Health Early Warning System** that integrates data from Earth observing satellites, in situ, and modeled weather information, and public health data.



CORE TEAM MEMBERS



Olga L. Mayol-Bracero, Ph.D.



Aluisio Pimenta, PhD, PE



Daniel Otis, PhD



Frank Muller-Karger, Ph.D



Cynthia M. Pérez-Cardona, Ph.D.



Digna Rueda-Roa, Ph.D.



Pablo A. Méndez-Lázaro, Ph.D.

PARTNERS AND END-USERS

Project Partners-End users-Stakeholders and Practitioners

Organization Type	Organizations	
State Agency-Decision Makers	6	
Federal Agency-Decision Makers	3	
Academia Research	4	
Private Health Clinics	4	





















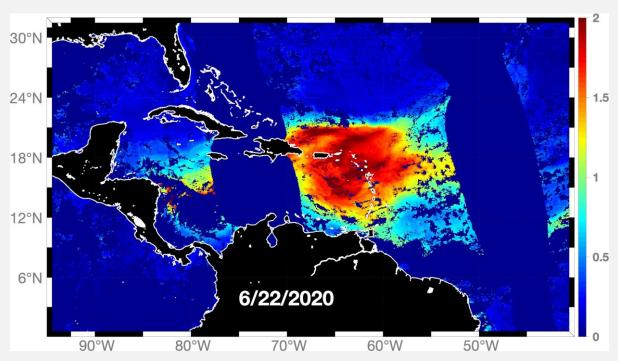


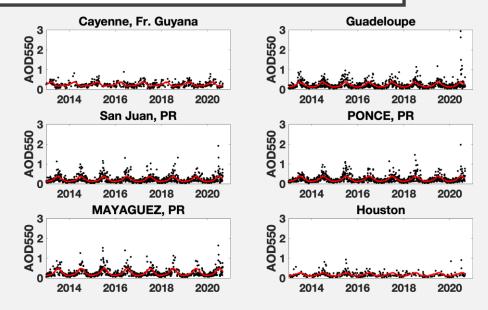






RESEARCH ACTIVITIES (REMOTE SENSING)





VIIRS Aerosol Optical Depth at 550nm - Red line represents climatology



Daily composites of aerosol data from the VIIRS sensor for the entire Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico (2012-2020)

- Seasonal trends in dust loading and particle size
- Dust event in 2020 is the largest in the satellite record

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES (SAHARAN DUST FIELD CAMPAIGN & LAB ACTIVITIES)



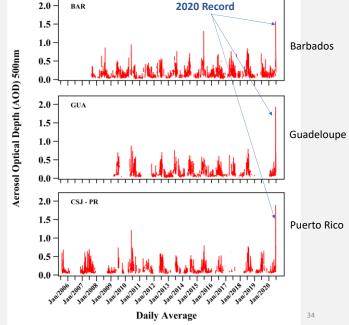
Ground-based Measurements				
Measurements	Countries (Institutions)			
Aerosol Mass Concentrations (TEOM, BAM,)	CSJ-PR (UPR), GUA (UAG), MAR (UAG), CAY (UAG), MEDA-MEX (UNAM), BAR (CIMH)			
AOD - NASA AERONET Sun photometer	CSJ-PR, GUA, BAR, MEDA-MEX, MIA-USA			
Aerosol vertical structure - LIDARs	MIA-USA (CAROb-Univ of Miami), BAR (MPIH), CSJ-PR (NASA MPL, UPR)			
O ₃ , NO ₂ , HCHO (NASA Pandora 60 Spectrometer)	CSJ-PR			
Aerosol Optical Properties (scattering, absorption) – Nephelometer, CLAP	CSJ-PR			
Dust concentrations	CSJ-PR, BAR, MIA-USA			
Aerosol chemical analyses	CSJ-PR, BAR, MIA-USA			
Satellite Observations				
VIIRS	USA - USF			
CALIOP, MODIS	NASA GSFC			
Dust Forecast Models				
GEOS-5 (global)	NASA GSFC			
WRF-CHEM (regional)	BAR - CIMH			



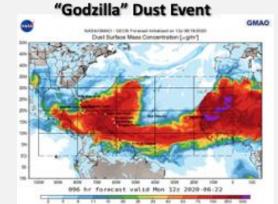


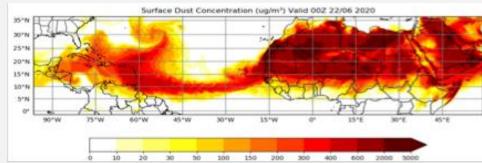
The event caused PM10 and PM2.5 exceedances in both the US EPA air quality standard and the WHO air quality guideline. BAR, MAR, GUA and CSJ-PR were for at least 4 days under "Unhealthy for sensitive groups" to "Hazardous" AQI conditions. Visibility went down to 3 miles.





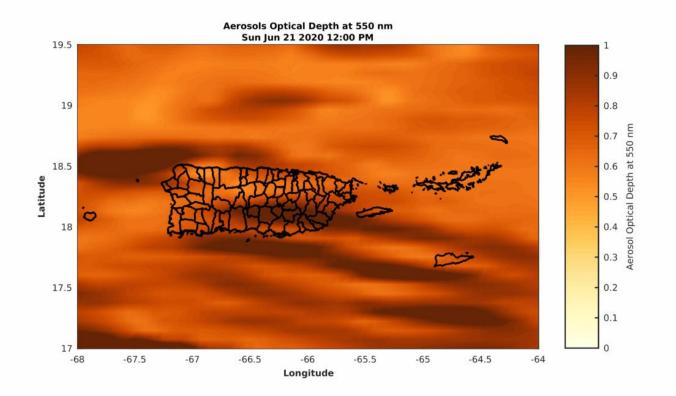
BAR, GUA and CSJ-PR have records for AOD. Lead by Dr. Olga Mayol





GEOS-5 (NASA GSFC) and WRF-CHEM (CIMH) forecast models were used to forecast the arrival of the event .

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES (SAHARAN DUST MODELLING & SIMULATIONS)





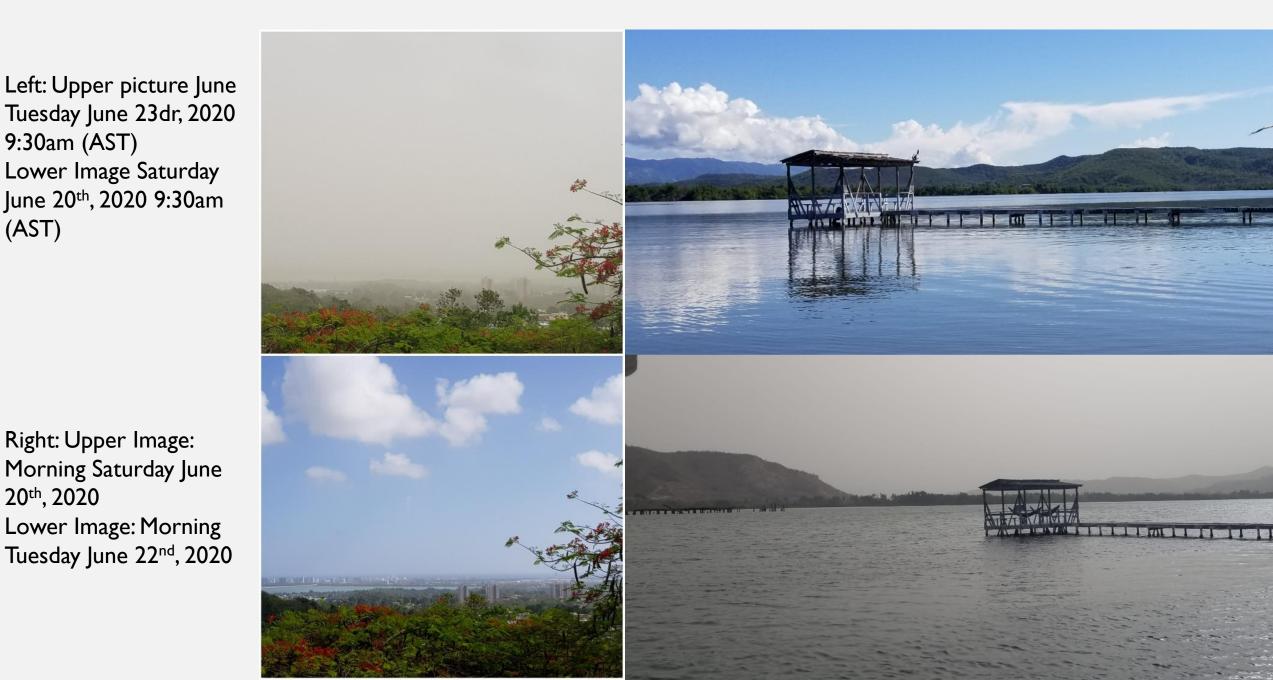
Patricia Chardón, Edgar Pérez, Pablo Méndez Lázaro





Left: Upper picture June Tuesday June 23dr, 2020 9:30am (AST) Lower Image Saturday June 20th, 2020 9:30am (AST)

Right: Upper Image: Morning Saturday June 20th, 2020 Lower Image: Morning



EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (ALERTS) OVER 59 INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGES DURING THE MEGA DUST EVENT IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION (JUNE 22-26, 2020)





Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosols Research

https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Educationa I-Research-Center/Atmospheric-Chemistry-and-Aerosols-Research-ACAR-281774431971492/



Puerto Rico Department of Health-Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response

https://www.facebook.com/pg/preparadosensaludpublica/posts/?ref=page_internal

June 21st, 2020

Over 59 International Media Coverages during the Mega Dust Event in the Caribbean Region (June 22-26, 2020): National Geographic, Washington Post, NY Times, WMO-WHO, The Atlantic, BBC-World, BBC London, etc. Alerta y Medidas de Prevención para la Salud Pública - Polvo del Sahara

Departamento de Salud de Puerto Rico Oficina de Preparación y Respuesta

En colaboración con

Universidad de Puerto Rico-Recinto de Ciencias Médicas Escuela Graduada de Salud Pública

Universidad de Puerto Rico-Recinto Río Piedras

Universidad del Sur de la Florida

y el proyecto financiado por NASA Health and Air Quality (HAQAST)--Early Warning of Synoptic Air Quality Events to Improve Health and Well Being in the Greater Caribbean Region (80NSSC19K0194)

CALIMA-PH: Caribbean Air-quality aLert Management Assistance System and Public
Health

Las pequeñas partículas sólidas y líquidas suspendidas en la atmósfera se denominan aerosoles. Los ejemplos de aerosoles incluyen polvo arrastrado por el viento, sales marinas, cenizas volcánicas, humo de incendios y contaminación de industrias. Estas partículas son importantes para los científicos porque podrían afectar el clima y la salud de las personas al respirar partículas contaminantes. Las partículas de polvo mineral que nos llegan a las Américas, provenientes del desierto del Sahara/Sahel, podrían contener minerales, materia orgánica, sales marinas, virus y bacterias. Las temporadas de mayor intensidad en Puerto Rico ocurren entre los meses de junio a agosto.

La evidencia científica sugiere que la exposición elevada a estos aerosoles puede causar asma, eventos cardiovasculares, y otros problemas graves de salud. Sin embargo, los científicos no entienden por completo el impacto directo e indirecto de los aerosoles en el medio ambiente y la salud humana (Fuente: NASA Earth Observations). Para evitar o minimizar el impacto de los aerosoles en la salud humana, se han desarrollado niveles de alerta.

- Los niveles leves son concentraciones de aerosoles inferiores a la mediana o al
 percentil 50 (es decir, los valores estaban por debajo de la mediana).
- Los niveles moderados son concentraciones de aerosoles que caen entre los percentiles 50 y 75.
- Los niveles altos son concentraciones de aerosoles entre los percentiles 75 y 90.
- Los niveles muy altos son aquellas concentraciones de aerosoles por encima del percentil 99.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

(DIESEL PARTICULATE MATTER FIELD CAMPAIGN & LAB ACTIVITIES)



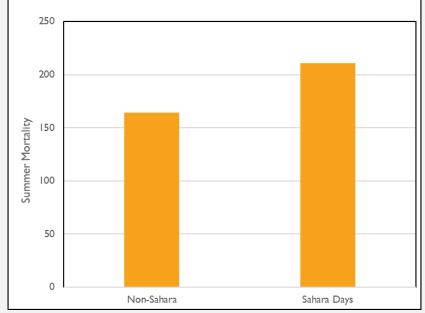
Due to Government
Restrictions sampling
activities were delayed
(originally schedule for spring
2020).

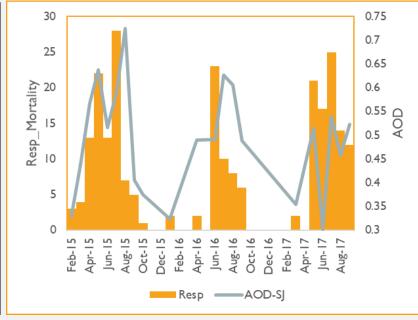
Sampling for particulate matter started in June of 2020, at the selected site adjacent to the Port of San Juan.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

(QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS, DATA INTEGRATION & STATISTICAL ANALYSIS)

- Key Informant Interviews (N=11):
 - 27% female and 73% male
- Focus Groups (FG) (N=24)
 - 15 (75%) Female & 5 (25%) Male
- Online Survey (N=1,504)
 - Females (82%)
- Total # of participants: 1,539





Resp_NoFlu_Mortality: Poisson Reg. Model

Sahara adjusted PM2.5_MeanConc_Fitted y Tmax (Summer) RR = 1.391222, Cl 95%: (1.116720, 1.733200)

Sahara adjusted PM2.5_MeanConc_Fitted y Tmax (Winter) **RR = 0.9338809**, CI 95%: (0.3833629, 2.2749555)

The next step is to assess how these variables are related with the mortality in Puerto Rico during the pandemia of COVID-19. **Generalized Additive Model (GAM)** will be used to model the seasonality of these variables and their relationship with the excess of mortality in Puerto Rico.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL















#104 participants Morning session

#33 participants Afternoon Session

#19 participant organizations (federal, state, academia)

OUTREACH AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS: (80,000 PARTICIPANTS; PEOPLE REACHED ON FB 439,814)



Edición Polvo del Sahara y Salud Pública

Ciencia Virtual

Sistemas de alertas temprana de polvo del Sahara para proteger la salud pública

Dr. Pablo Méndez Lázaro, Catedrático Asociado, UPR- RCM, Investigador Principal: NASA CALIMA-PH



lunes, 13 de julio de 2020 3:00 p.m. a 4:00 p.m. Registrate aquí:





VEBINARS

El polvo del Sahara visto

desde el espacio

Dra. Digna Rueda-Roa, Biólogo Marino,

USF College of Marine Science,

NASA CALIMA-PH

artes, 14 de julio de 2020

11:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m.

Registrate aqui:

13 al 17 de julio de 2020



Edición Polvo del Sahara

Ciencia Virtual

Pronóstico del tiempo:

Aerosoles y polvo del Sahara

en Puerto Rico

Ernesto Rodríguez, MS y Ernesto Morales,

MS del Servicio Nacional de Meteorología

de San Juan, NOAA

martes, 14 de julio de 2020

3:00 p.m. a 4:00 p.m.

Registrate aqui:

Capacidad: ZOOM 500 personas (3000 Illimit

y Salud Pública

WEBINARS 13 al 17 de julio de 2020

Edición Polvo del Sahara y Salud Pública

Ciencia Virtual

Taller: Cocinando en el EcoExploratorio

Chef Colo, Chef de Noticentro al amanecer, Chef de Actividades de la UAGM Menú: Pastelón de viandas relleno de carne molida v



ércoles, 15 de julio de 2020 🔳 🚮 🗉 10:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m. Registrate aqui:



Polvo del Sahara en **Puerto Rico:** ¿Qué es y cómo se mide? Dra. Olga Mayol Bracero, Catedrática,

ACAR, UPR- Río Piedras, Co-Investigadora Principal: NASA CALIMA-PH



liércoles, 15 de julio de 2020 🗉 麗国 3:00 p.m. a 4:00 p.m. Registrate aqui:





13 al 17 de julio de 2020

Edición Polvo del Sahara y Salud Pública

Ciencia Virtual

NASA GEOS Aerosol forecasting system and its application to Saharan dust transport

> Dr. Peter Colarco. NASA GSFC



viernes, 17 de julio de 2020 3:00 p.m. a 4:00 p.m. Registrate aqui:









Edición Polvo del Sahara y Salud Pública

13 al 17 de julio de 2020

www.ecoexploratorio.org/cienciavirtual



Edición Polvo del Sahara y Salud Pública Ciencia Virtual

Impacto del Polvo del Sahara en la Salud: Esfuerzos de investigación en Puerto Rico

Dra. Ana P. Ortiz, Profesora UPR- RCM, Comprehensive Cancer Center, NASA CALIMA-PH



jueves, 16 de julio de 2020 3:00 p.m. a 4:00 p.m. Registrate aqui:



Tema	Fecha	Partici pación total (Zoom + Fb) *	People Reache d (FB) *	Engage ment (FB) *
Sistemas de Alertas Temprana de Polvo del Sahara para proteger la Salud Pública	13 julio 3PM	10,887	84,954	1,319
El Polvo del Sahara visto desde el espacio	14 julio 11AM	9,000	50,575	1,182
Pronóstico del Tiempo: Aerosoles y Polvo del Sahara en Puerto Rico	14 julio 3PM	7,657	42,711	1,089
Taller: Cocinando en el EcoExploratorio	15 julio 10AM	6,040	30,839	836
Polvo del Sahara en Puerto Rico: ¿Qué es y cómo se mide?	15 julio 3PM	8,051	38,427	998
Impacto del Polvo del Sahara en la Salud: Esfuerzos de investigación en Puerto Rico	16 julio 3PM	19,704	88,803	1,663
NASA GEOS Aerosol Forecasting System and Its Application to Saharan Dust Transport	17 de julio	1,455	7,083	500
To Application to Sanaran Dust Hansport	Total	82,653	439,814	10,026

TRAINING AND GRAD STUDENTS (ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

- Edgar Perez
- Josele Rosas Navas
- Christian Aponte
- Roselyn Torres
- David Hernandez
- Evalerie Ortiz
- Yadira De Jesus
- Maite Morales
- Eduardo Llegus
- Gabriela Rosado Mattei
- Kenia Morales Campos
- Jean Carlos Coló López
- Laura Cabrera Rivera

Guillermo Bird-Rivera,

Eliezer Santos-León

Jaina Falcón-López,

Victor Cruz Barreto

Maite Morales Medina

Stephanie Rivera Rodríguez

Camila Elias

Katrina Weigand

Janet Forestier

Yoshimarie Méndez



NEXT STEPS

- We will evaluate the impact of published educational materials through mass media, as a test of broader intervention to reducing adverse health impacts.
- Develop a set of visualization techniques to communicate science at the intersection of many disciplines to stakeholders.
- Vulnerability Maps: develop products, and delivery of these products to public health practitioners.
- Continue an intensive outreach effort through collaboration with established air quality, climate and health education networks.

GRACIAS!



Pablo Méndez-Lázaro PhD

Environmental Health Department
Graduate School of Public Health
University of Puerto Rico
Medical Sciences Campus

pablo.mendez l @upr.edu