

A satellite image of the Earth, centered on the African continent. The image shows the blue oceans, white clouds, and green and brown landmasses. The title text is overlaid on the image.

# **Weather Research in Africa: Science for Society**

Arlene Laing and Mitch Moncrieff  
(NCAR/MMM)

# Motivation & Research Needs

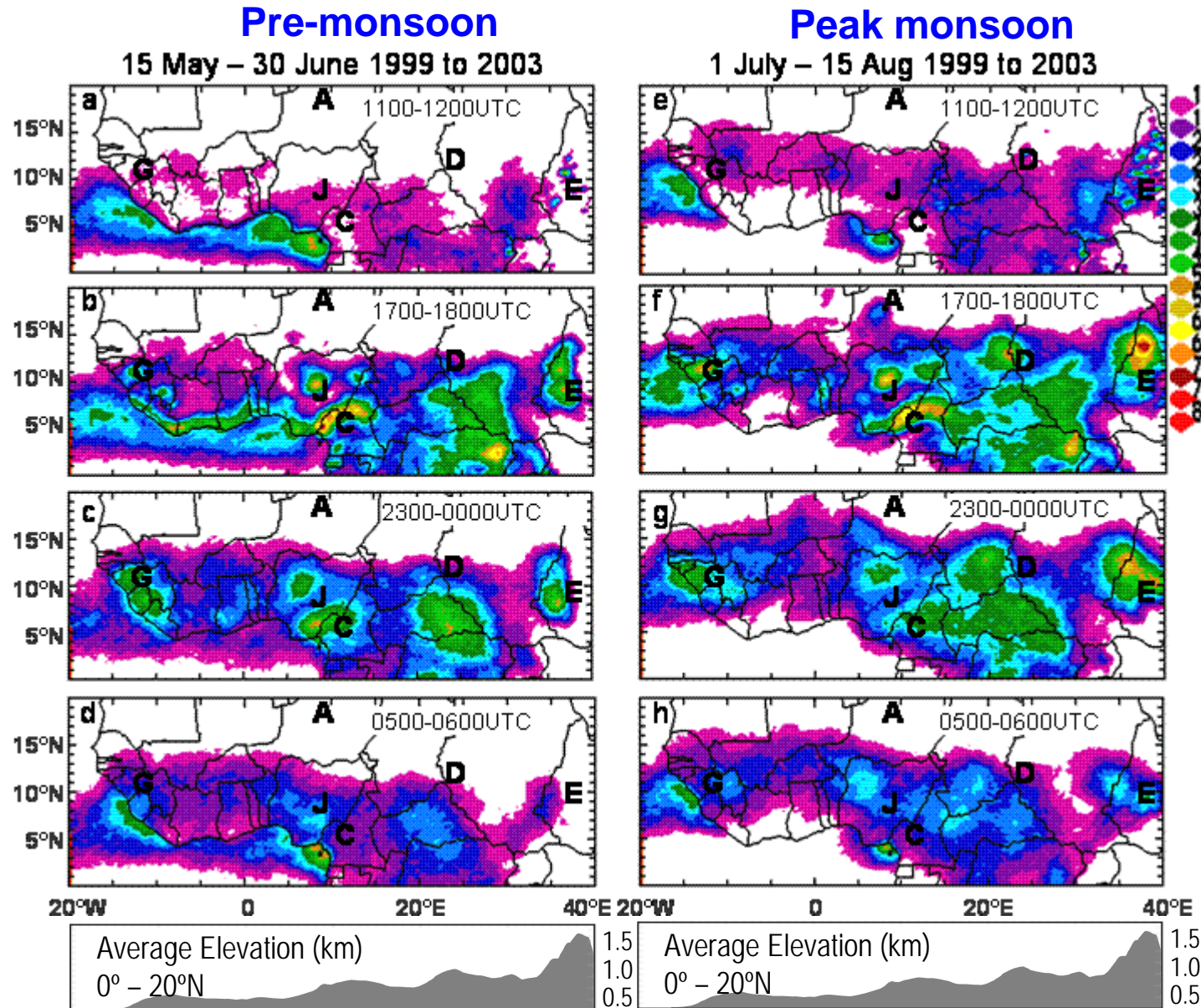
- African societies need better precipitation forecasts (for economy, health, water resource management, ...).
- Seasonal forecasts miss some critical information (e.g., onset and duration of dry periods and heavy precipitation events)
- **Dire need to quantify Africa's convective weather systems and precipitation regimes** (satellite, radar, field observations)
- **Conduct diagnostic studies of different types of extreme weather** (e.g., severe weather, flash floods, dust storms)
- **Improve representation of physical processes in numerical weather prediction models**

# Geographic Distribution & Diurnal Cycle

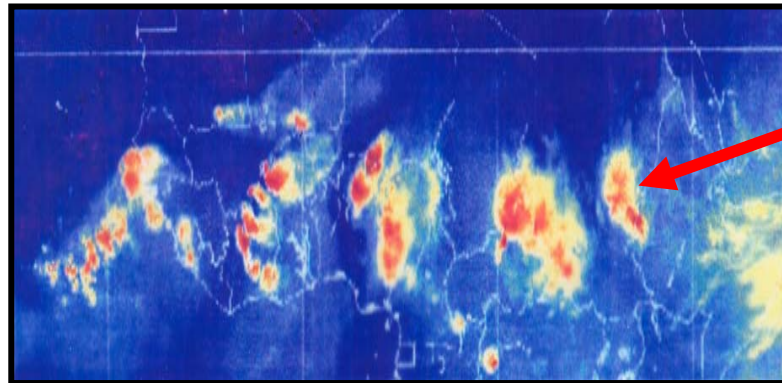
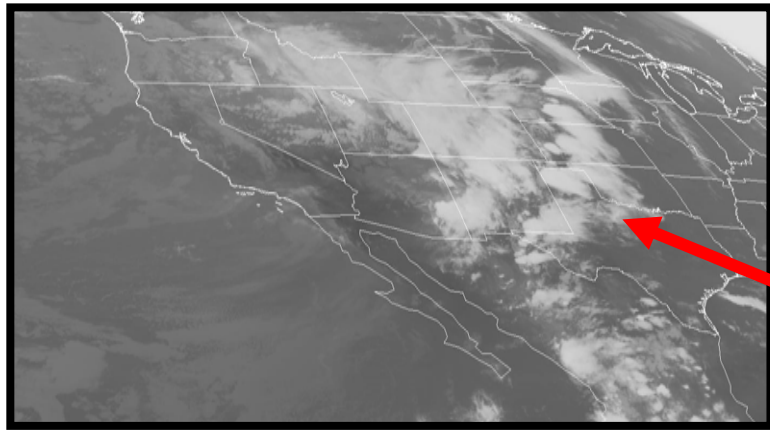
Precipitating convective systems identified by satellite IR

Convection triggered daily in lee of high terrain

Propagation to WSW => delay in time of daily max precipitation



# Patterns of convective precipitation over N. Africa resemble those in specific regions around the World



... specifically, environmental shear controls convective organization (c.f., US continent during summer - Moncrieff and Liu, 2006)

**What is best way to apply what has been learnt in the US to weather prediction in Africa?**