

# 1 **Modeling Haboob Dust Storms** 2 **in Large-Scale Weather and Climate Models**

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3 Key points:

4 A convection-permitting model run delivers the first annual cycle of haboobs over northern Africa

5 A simple parameterization succeeds in reproducing the results in convection-parameterized model  
6 runs

7 The parameterization has potential to solve a long-standing issue in simulating dust storms

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9 **Abstract.** Recent field campaigns have shown that haboob dust storms,  
10 formed by convective cold pool outflows, contribute a significant fraction of  
11 dust uplift over the Sahara and Sahel in summer. However, in-situ observa-  
12 tions are sparse and haboobs are frequently concealed by clouds in satellite  
13 imagery. Furthermore, most large-scale weather and climate models lack ha-  
14 boobs, because they do not explicitly represent convection. Here a one-year-  
15 long model run with explicit representation of convection delivers the first  
16 full seasonal cycle of haboobs over northern Africa. Using conservative es-  
17 timates, the model suggests that haboobs contribute one fifth of the annual  
18 dust-generating winds over northern Africa, one fourth between May and Oc-  
19 tober, and one third over the western Sahel during this season. A simple pa-  
20 rameterization of haboobs has recently been developed for models with pa-  
21 rameterized convection, based on the downdraft mass flux of convection schemes.

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22 It is applied here to two model runs with different horizontal resolutions, and  
23 assessed against the explicit run. The parameterization succeeds in captur-  
24 ing the geographical distribution of haboobs and their seasonal cycle over  
25 the Sahara and Sahel. It can be tuned to the different horizontal resolutions,  
26 and different formulations are discussed with respect to the frequency of ex-  
27 treme events. The results show that the parameterization is reliable and may  
28 solve a major and long-standing issue in simulating dust storms in large-scale  
29 weather and climate models.

## 1. Introduction

30 “Haboobs” [Sutton, 1925] are dust storms formed by the cold pool outflows from moist  
31 convective storms. Such storms vary in scale from hundreds of metres [Marsham *et al.*,  
32 2009] to hundreds of kilometres [Roberts and Knippertz, 2014]. They are observed over  
33 most arid areas around the world, and over the Sahel and Sahara in particular, which are  
34 the main sources of mineral dust worldwide [see Knippertz, 2014, for a review]. Recently,  
35 the first ever detailed in-situ observations of meteorology and dust over the central Sahara  
36 showed that haboobs contribute at least half of dust emissions in summer [Marsham *et al.*,  
37 2013a; Allen *et al.*, 2013, 2015]. Apart from this and earlier field campaigns over the  
38 fringes of the Sahara [Knippertz *et al.*, 2007; Flamant *et al.*, 2007; Bou Karam *et al.*, 2008;  
39 Marsham *et al.*, 2008; Marticorena *et al.*, 2010], detailed observations are rare in the region.  
40 Haboobs can hardly be distinguished in the sparse surface observations of meteorology  
41 and dust, and they are frequently concealed by clouds in satellite imagery [Heinold *et al.*,  
42 2013; Kocha *et al.*, 2013]. Numerical modeling is therefore crucial to better understand  
43 the role of haboobs over the Sahara and in the global dust cycle. However, large-scale  
44 weather and climate models often lack haboobs, because they rely on parameterization  
45 schemes for subgrid convection that do not represent the cold pools and their propagation  
46 [Marsham *et al.*, 2011; Garcia-Carreras *et al.*, 2013; Heinold *et al.*, 2013; Llargeron *et al.*,  
47 2015; Sodemann *et al.*, 2015]. Statistical parameterizations of subgrid winds can improve  
48 the modeling of dust emissions at coarse resolution, but they are not able to represent  
49 haboobs [Ridley *et al.*, 2013].

50 To correct this major and long-standing limitation of large-scale dust models, *Pantillon*  
51 *et al.* [2015, hereafter PKMB15] suggested a simple parameterization of haboobs based on  
52 the downdraft mass flux of convection schemes. The parameterization of haboobs requires  
53 a model run with explicit convection for calibration. The available model data limited the  
54 results of PKMB15 to the western Sahel and Sahara and to the June-July 2006 period.  
55 Here, an unprecedented model run with explicit convection over the whole of northern  
56 Africa and for the whole year 2006 extends the original work of PKMB15 and offers new  
57 perspectives. The new model run allows estimating the seasonal cycle of haboobs and  
58 thus testing the parameterization over the different parts of the Sahara, now including  
59 the eastern Sahel and Sahara as well as the Atlas Mountains. The parameterization  
60 is applied to two model runs with different horizontal resolutions, which further allows  
61 assessing its sensitivity. Different formulations of the parameterization are also discussed  
62 to better represent the intensity of haboobs.

63 Section 2 describes the configuration of the model runs, the estimate of dust-generating  
64 winds, the identification of haboobs, and the different formulations of the parameteriza-  
65 tion. Section 3 evaluates the representation of precipitation and dust-generating winds in  
66 the different runs, as compared to satellite and surface observations. Section 4 compares  
67 the distribution of explicit and parameterized haboobs in the different model runs and  
68 discusses the sensitivity to the model configuration as well as to the formulation of the  
69 parameterization. Finally, Section 5 gives the conclusions of the paper and guides the use  
70 of the parameterization in large-scale weather and climate models.

## 2. Data and Methods

## 2.1. Model Runs

### 71 2.1.1. Configuration

72 This paper is based on one-year-long runs using the model of the Consortium for  
73 Small-scale Modeling [COSMO, *Baldauf et al.*, 2011] in Climate Mode (COSMO-CLM).  
74 COSMO-CLM is the community model of the German regional climate research. It was  
75 run over Africa for the year 2006 using ERA-Interim reanalyses [*Dee et al.*, 2011] as initial  
76 and lateral boundary conditions with the different configurations summarized in Table 1.

77 Based on the configuration of the Coordinated Regional climate Downscaling Experi-  
78 ment [CORDEX; *Panitz et al.*, 2014], COSMO-CLM was run over the whole of Africa in a  
79 control run with parameterized convection (hereafter CTRL-P) with  $0.44^\circ$  (about 50 km)  
80 grid spacing and in a higher-resolution sensitivity run, also with parameterized convec-  
81 tion (hereafter HIRES-P), with  $0.22^\circ$  (about 25 km) grid spacing, both with 35 terrain-  
82 following vertical levels. Both runs used the *Tiedtke* [1989] parameterization scheme for  
83 moist convection, which is based on a grid-scale moisture convergence closure. The model  
84 configuration was identical to that detailed in *Panitz et al.* [2014], except for a shorter  
85 time period and for additional model outputs of convective diagnostics.

86 In an unprecedented computational effort, COSMO-CLM was also run with  $0.025^\circ$   
87 (about 2.8 km) grid spacing, which allows explicit representation of moist convection and  
88 thus of haboobs (hereafter EXPL). Following *Gantner and Kalthoff* [2010], the number  
89 of vertical levels was increased to 50 to better represent tropical deep convection. EXPL  
90 was run over a domain spanning almost all of Africa north of the equator (Figure 1).  
91 This domain was reduced compared to the other model runs due to high computational  
92 costs. Sensitivity runs with  $0.44^\circ$  grid spacing showed that increasing the domain size

93 from northern Africa to the whole of Africa improved the timing of monsoon but did not  
 94 significantly impact the results overall.

### 95 **2.1.2. Verification**

96 The Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) product 3B42 [*Huffman et al.*, 2007]  
 97 version 7, combining observations from several satellites and from rain gauges, is used to  
 98 assess the modeled precipitation. It provides 3-hourly, spatially homogeneous observations  
 99 on a  $0.25^\circ$  horizontal grid.

100 Surface observations from SYNOP stations are used to assess the modeled wind. They  
 101 provide 3-hourly observations of 10-m wind averaged over 10 min. Following *Cowie et al.*  
 102 [2014], reported observations of wind speed above 55 kt (about  $28 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) are considered  
 103 spurious and thus excluded. SYNOP stations are sparse over northern Africa, and over  
 104 arid zones in particular (see their geographical distribution in Figure 7a). Moreover,  
 105 the actual frequency of observations varies from region to region, e.g., with night-time  
 106 observations lacking over most of the Sahel [see *Cowie et al.*, 2014, for a critical discussion  
 107 of the quality of the SYNOP data over northern Africa]. The observations must therefore  
 108 be interpreted with caution.

### 109 **2.1.3. Estimate of Dust-Generating Winds**

110 Dust uplift depends on both atmospheric and soil controls. As the focus here is on  
 111 the model representation of haboobs and not of dust sources, dust-generating winds are  
 112 estimated with the dust uplift potential [DUP, *Marsham et al.*, 2011]:

$$113 \quad \text{DUP} = \nu U_{10}^3 \left(1 + \frac{U_t}{U_{10}}\right) \left(1 - \frac{U_t^2}{U_{10}^2}\right), \quad (1)$$

114 with  $\nu$  the fraction of bare soil,  $U_{10}$  the 10-m wind speed, and  $U_t$  the threshold for dust  
 115 uplift. DUP is based on the parameterization of *Marticorena and Bergametti* [1995] and

116 isolates the atmospheric control, thus dust uplift over a uniform surface is expected to  
117 depend on DUP only. A station- and season-dependent threshold  $U_t$  taken from *Cowie*  
118 *et al.* [2014] is used for the observed winds, while a space- and time-uniform threshold  
119  $U_t = 7 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  taken from *Marsham et al.* [2011] is used for the modeled winds in the  
120 absence of gridded values to use in the model. Although this gives a small mis-match in  
121 the thresholds between observations and model, *Cowie et al.* [2014] shows that it is the  
122 seasonal cycle in winds, not in thresholds, that determines the seasonal cycle in DUP.

#### 123 **2.1.4. Identification of Haboobs**

124 Haboobs are detected in EXPL to tune the parameterization of haboobs in the other  
125 runs. Following *Heinold et al.* [2013], the leading edge of cold pools is automatically  
126 identified by thresholds for rapid cooling and strong updrafts. As in PKMB15, these  
127 thresholds are defined as  $-1 \text{ K h}^{-1}$  on the anomaly in temperature tendency with respect  
128 to the mean diurnal cycle and  $0.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  on the vertical velocity, respectively. The temper-  
129 ature tendency is taken on the 925-hPa pressure level rather than at 2-m height, because  
130 the stable layer can prevent cold pools from reaching the surface at night [*Heinold et al.*,  
131 2013]. The vertical velocity is taken on the 850-hPa pressure level, which shows a strong  
132 signal of updraft during cold pool propagation [e.g., *Knippertz et al.*, 2009; *Roberts and*  
133 *Knippertz*, 2014]. The surface wind is then attributed to a convective storm within 40  
134 km of the identified leading edge of the cold pool. Although this automated identification  
135 largely matches a manual identification, it exhibits sensitivity to the chosen thresholds  
136 when the cold pools weakly contrast with their environment [*Heinold et al.*, 2013]. The  
137 chosen thresholds are rather conservative and the identification therefore misses some of

138 the haboobs. Sensitivity tests in PKMB15 suggests a relative uncertainty on the order of  
 139 30%.

## 2.2. Parameterization of Haboobs

### 140 2.2.1. Original Formulation

141 Haboobs are parameterized in the 0.44° and 0.22° runs following the conceptual model of  
 142 PKMB15. The conceptual model is illustrated in Figure 2 and briefly described here. The  
 143 downdraft mass flux from the convection scheme  $M_{dd}$  ( $\text{kg s}^{-1}$ ) spreads out in a cylindrical  
 144 cold pool that propagates radially with speed

$$145 \quad C = \frac{M_{dd}}{2\pi R h \rho} \quad (2)$$

146 with  $R$  the radius,  $h$  the height, and  $\rho$  the density of the cold pool. Within the cold pool,  
 147 the wind speed increases linearly with increasing radius up to the leading edge  $R$  (black  
 148 arrows in Figure 2), then decreases exponentially with radial length scale  $R_0$  beyond  $R$   
 149 (not shown). The wind speed also increases logarithmically with increasing height up to  
 150 the “nose” of the cold pool  $z_{max}$ , with a rate depending on the roughness length  $z_0$ , then  
 151 decreases linearly above  $z_{max}$  until it vanishes at height  $h$  (black arrows in Figure 2). The  
 152 cold pool is further steered with speed  $C_{st} = 0.65U_{env}$ , with  $U_{env}$  the environmental wind  
 153 at the height where  $M_{dd}$  originates from. Within the cold pool, the steering wind (gray  
 154 arrows in Figure 2) follows the vertical profile of the radial wind (black arrows). The  
 155 total wind is finally obtained as the vector addition of the radial and steering winds. For  
 156 the sake of simplicity, the cold pool is considered static between two time steps. Here the  
 157 parameterization of haboobs is applied offline to hourly model outputs, between which the  
 158 cold pool is considered static. The conceptual model is thoroughly described in PKMB15.

159 The parameters of the conceptual model are tuned for the DUP from parameterized  
 160 haboobs to match the DUP from haboobs identified in EXPL, on average over time and  
 161 space. Based on an example of a developing cold pool in PKMB15, the parameters are  
 162 set to  $h = R/10$ ,  $R_0 = R/3$ , and  $z_{max} = 100$  m. In the original formulation, the radius of  
 163 cold pools  $R$  is taken as constant, thus Equation 2 becomes

$$164 \quad C = \frac{5M_{dd}}{\pi R^2 \rho} \quad (3)$$

165 and  $R$  is the only free parameter. As in PKMB15,  $M_{dd}$  from the *Tiedtke* [1989] scheme is  
 166 further scaled with an arbitrary factor of 10 to reach realistic values.

### 167 **2.2.2. Alternative Formulation**

168 While the frequency of DUP from identified haboobs decreases quasi logarithmically  
 169 (blue curve in Figure 3), the frequency of DUP from parameterized haboobs is skewed,  
 170 with quicker decrease for low DUP and slower decrease for high DUP in CTRL-P and  
 171 HIRES-P (solid red and orange curves in Figure 3). In particular, the frequency of extreme  
 172 DUP is overestimated. To reduce the skew, the surface area of the cold pool  $\pi R^2$  is taken  
 173 as proportional to the downdraft mass flux  $M_{dd}$  and the vertical velocity of downdrafts  
 174  $w_{dd}$  is taken as constant, i.e.,

$$175 \quad M_{dd} = \pi R^2 \rho w_{dd}. \quad (4)$$

176 Equation 2 then becomes

$$177 \quad C = 5w_{dd}, \quad (5)$$

178 thus the propagation speed is constant and  $w_{dd}$  is the only free parameter. Note that  
 179  $M_{dd}$  still controls the integrated DUP through the surface area of the cold pool  $\pi R^2$  in  
 180 Equation 4. The constant propagation speed of cold pools in the alternative formulation

181 is typical of mesoscale convective systems [Houze, 2004], while the constant radius of cold  
 182 pools in the original formulation is typical of downbursts [Fujita and Byers, 1977], both  
 183 being observed sources of haboobs.

184 The alternative formulation successfully reduces the skew and the frequency of extreme  
 185 DUP in CTRL-P (dashed red curve in Figure 3). However, the alternative formulation  
 186 weakly impacts on the frequency of DUP in HIRES-P (dashed orange curve in Figure  
 187 3). Both formulations are therefore retained and compared in the rest of the paper. The  
 188 parameterized DUP is further limited to  $10^4 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-3}$  with both formulations to prevent  
 189 too extreme events linked to very intense  $M_{dd}$ .

### 190 2.2.3. Gust Formulation

191 Following Nakamura *et al.* [1996], the maximum possible 10-m wind speed from con-  
 192 vective gusts  $U_{10,conv}$  can be estimated from the downdraft convective available potential  
 193 energy (DCAPE) and the horizontal momentum carried by a convective downdraft:

$$194 \quad U_{10,conv} = \sqrt{\alpha \int_0^H 2g \frac{\theta_d - \theta}{\theta} dz + \beta U_H^2} \quad (6)$$

195 with  $H$  the height at which the downdraft starts,  $g$  the acceleration due to gravity,  $\theta_d$   
 196 and  $\theta$  the potential temperature of the downdraft and the environment, respectively,  $U_H$   
 197 the horizontal wind speed at height  $H$ , and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  two tuning parameters. Although  
 198 this formulation was originally suggested by Nakamura *et al.* [1996] for convective gusts  
 199 in the midlatitudes, a similar formulation was suggested by Grandpeix and Lafore [2010]  
 200 to parameterize the propagation speed of subgrid cold pools over Africa.

201 A parameterization of convective gusts using Equation 6 is integrated in the Tiedtke  
 202 [1989] scheme in COSMO, with the tuning parameter  $\alpha = 0.2$  [Schulz and Heise, 2003].  
 203 The transport of horizontal momentum is not accounted for (i.e.,  $\beta = 0$ ) to avoid unreal-

istic strong gusts in cases of weak convection below a strong jet, and a threshold of 0.015  
mm h<sup>-1</sup> in convective precipitation is required to avoid too frequent gusts in light rain  
[Heise, 2006]. Here,  $U_{10,conv}$  was output without any threshold in convective precipita-  
tion, because the precipitation can evaporate before reaching the ground in haboobs over  
the Sahara. DUP is computed from  $U_{10,conv}$  using Equation 1 and scaled to match the  
DUP from identified haboobs on average over time and space. The scaling parameter  $\sigma$   
represents the fractional surface of the grid cells over which convective gusts occur. The  
frequency of DUP with the gust formulation (dotted red and orange curves in Figure 3)  
matches that of identified dust storms at low DUP (blue curve in Figure 3) but drops at  
higher DUP and misses the tail of the distribution.

### 3. Evaluation of the Model Runs

The model runs are compared and assessed against available observations for precipita-  
tion and wind. The evaluation is focused on the arid and semi-arid regions where haboobs  
occur. Six areas covering the same number of grid cells are defined and discussed in vari-  
ous parts of the paper (Figure 1): 27.5°N-35°N and 15°W-10°E (hereafter the Atlas, which  
also includes northern Algeria) or 10°E-35°E (hereafter the Mediterranean), 20°N-27.5°N  
and 15°W-10°E (hereafter the Sahara West) or 10°E-35°E (hereafter the Sahara East),  
and 12.5°N-20°N and 15°W-10°E (hereafter the Sahel West) or 10°E-25°E (hereafter the  
Sahel East). Although haboobs also occur over the Arabian Peninsula, the evaluation is  
restricted to northern Africa.

### 3.1. Precipitation

223 The observations exhibit three distinct regimes of precipitation (Figure 4a). First, the  
224 tropical regime controlled by the monsoon over the Sahel West and East. Second, the  
225 subtropical regime over the Atlas and Mediterranean, with precipitation concentrating on  
226 the mountains and on the sea. Third, the dry regime with very weak precipitation over the  
227 Sahara West and East. These regimes show different seasonal cycles. The precipitation  
228 reaches a strong peak in August over the Sahel West and East (black curves in Figure  
229 5e,f) due to the maximal northward extension of the monsoon. The precipitation reaches  
230 a weaker peak in January over the Atlas and Mediterranean (black curves in Figure 5a,b)  
231 due to the maximal activity of midlatitude systems. The precipitation finally exhibits  
232 both peaks but with weaker amplitude over the Sahara West and East (black curves in  
233 Figure 5c,d).

234 The model runs differ in their representation of the monsoon. The EXPL run cap-  
235 tures the northward extension (Figure 4b), as well as the timing but underestimates the  
236 amplitude compared to the observations (blue curves in Figure 5e,f). The CTRL-P and  
237 HIRE-P runs also capture the northward extension of the monsoon (Figure 4c, d) and  
238 better capture the amplitude but exhibit too early onset and too late retreat (red and  
239 orange curves in Figure 5e,f).

240 The model runs agree better in the representation of the subtropical regime, as they all  
241 underestimate the observed precipitation in fall and winter over the Atlas and Mediter-  
242 ranean (Figure 5a,b). This suggests that the model resolution play a minor role in the  
243 representation of the subtropical compared to the tropical regime. The model runs dif-  
244 fer again in the representation of the dry regime over the Sahara West and East, where

245 EXPL and HIRES-P lack any precipitation whereas CTRL-P exhibits tracks of individual  
246 systems (Figures 4b-d and 5c,d).

247 The observations exhibit a clear diurnal cycle of precipitation (black curve in Figure 6).  
248 They reach a peak in the afternoon when convection is triggered, then decrease slowly  
249 in the evening when organized convective systems propagate, and decrease quicker in the  
250 morning when the systems disaggregate. This diurnal cycle is mainly influenced by the  
251 tropical regime, since the diurnal cycle exhibits a smaller amplitude in the subtropical  
252 and dry regimes (see Figure S1 for the diurnal cycle of precipitation over each area). Note  
253 that the area-averaged diurnal cycle in Figure 6 is a composite of local diurnal cycles that  
254 strongly vary geographically, as organized convective systems tend to form over mountain  
255 ranges and propagate to the west [*Fink and Reiner, 2003; Laing et al., 2008*].

256 The model runs strongly contrast with the observations and exhibit a surprisingly sim-  
257 ilar diurnal cycle of precipitation considering their different representation of convection.  
258 The EXPL run exhibits a diurnal cycle of weak amplitude, where precipitation slowly  
259 increases in the afternoon and evening to peak at night (blue curve in Figure 6). The  
260 delay compared to the observations (black curve in Figure 6) suggests that the lifetime of  
261 organized convective systems is overestimated in EXPL (V. Maurer, manuscript in prepa-  
262 ration, 2016). The CTRL-P and HIRES-P runs peak at noon (red and orange curves in  
263 Figure 6), which is expected with parameterized convection. However, the precipitation  
264 also increases in the evening and at night. The modeled diurnal cycles in Figure 6 are  
265 also influenced by the tropical regime mainly but are found in the other regimes as well,  
266 albeit with smaller amplitude (see Figure S1 for the diurnal cycle of precipitation over  
267 each area).

### 3.2. Dust Uplift Potential

268 The density of the SYNOP network drops over arid zones, thus some single stations  
269 are crucial to capture the relevant processes for dust emission. In particular, the station  
270 of Faya in northern Chad exhibits the highest observed DUP (18°N, 19°E in Figure 7a).  
271 Faya is located in the Bodélé Depression, which is known as a major source of dust due  
272 to the strong low-level jet in winter and spring [*Washington and Todd, 2005*]. The station  
273 of Bordj Badji Mokhtar in southern Algeria also exhibits high observed DUP (21°N, 1°E  
274 in Figure 7a). Bordj Badji Mokhtar is located close to the center of the Saharan heat  
275 low in summer, which is also a major source of dust [*Marsham et al., 2013a; Allen et al.,*  
276 *2013, 2015*]. Further stations exhibit high DUP over northeastern Sudan and over central  
277 Algeria, as well as near the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts. In contrast, the stations  
278 exhibit lower DUP over the western Sahel and over the Libyan Desert (Figure 7a).

279 The model runs capture the observed pattern of DUP overall but differ regionally. They  
280 succeed in exhibiting highest DUP over the Bodélé Depression around Faya, high DUP  
281 over central Algeria and near the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts, as well as low DUP  
282 over the Libyan Desert (Figure 7b-d). In contrast, the model runs locally fail in exhibiting  
283 high DUP, e.g., over the southern Sahara around Bordj Badji Mokhtar. The model runs  
284 furthermore overestimate DUP over the western Sahel, where the match between the  
285 sharp meridional gradient in modeled DUP and in roughness length (contours in Figure  
286 1) suggests a too low roughness length in the model (see also Figure S2 for a scatter plot  
287 of DUP between observations and EXPL subsampled at SYNOP stations). Beyond the  
288 geographical pattern, the magnitude of DUP increases with increasing model resolution  
289 (Figure 7c,d,b), in particular over mountain ranges (contours).

290 The observed and modeled DUP are further compared with respect to their seasonal  
291 and diurnal cycles. The observed DUP is aggregated over each area and scaled with  
292 the fraction of land for comparison with the modeled DUP. Although the comparison is  
293 affected by the density of stations and the frequency of observations, results are consistent  
294 with subsampling the modeled wind to the location and time of observations (see Figure  
295 S3 for the correlation of seasonal and diurnal cycles of DUP between observations and  
296 EXPL subsampled at SYNOP stations). As dust uplift is unlikely on elevated ground,  
297 elevations over 800 m are excluded from the modeled DUP. They are, however, included  
298 in the observed DUP, because 4 SYNOP stations are concerned only. Among them is the  
299 crucial station of Bordj Badji Mokhtar, which is located at 816 m above sea level, but  
300 which elevation remains below 800 m in the model orography (contours in Figure 7b-d).

301 The observed DUP reaches a strong seasonal peak in winter over the Sahel East (black  
302 curve in Figure 8f) due to the contribution of the strong low-level jet, in Faya in particular.  
303 It also reaches a seasonal peak in winter over the Atlas and Mediterranean (black curves  
304 in Figure 8a,b) due to midlatitude systems such as lee cyclones over the Atlas and Sharav  
305 cyclones [Alpert and Ziv, 1989] over the Mediterranean. In contrast, the observed DUP  
306 reaches a seasonal peak in summer over the Sahara West (black curve in Figure 8c), which  
307 matches the monsoon cycle (Figure 5c). Finally, the observed DUP exhibits a rather flat  
308 seasonal cycle over the Sahara East and Sahel West (Figure 8d,e). In the diurnal cycle,  
309 the observed DUP reaches a peak in the morning (black curve in Figure 9) due to the  
310 downbreak of the nocturnal low-level jet [Fiedler *et al.*, 2013], then slowly decreases in the  
311 afternoon due to dry convection in the boundary layer [Parker *et al.*, 2005] and remains

312 low at night due to the stable layer inhibiting strong surface winds (see Figure S4 for the  
313 diurnal cycle of DUP over each area).

314 The model runs capture the observed morning peak and its slow decrease in the diur-  
315 nal cycle of DUP, although delayed, and again with magnitude depending on the model  
316 resolution (Figure 9). However, the model runs lack the observed winter peak in the  
317 seasonal cycle of DUP over the Sahel East (Figure 8f), which suggests that they under-  
318 estimates the contribution of the low-level jet [see *Fiedler et al.*, 2013, for a discussion  
319 of the representation of the nocturnal low-level jet and its breakdown in models]. The  
320 model runs also lack the observed winter peak over the Atlas and Mediterranean (Figure  
321 8a,b), which suggests that they underestimate the contribution of midlatitude systems to  
322 DUP. The model runs better match the observations over the Sahara West, where they  
323 reach a seasonal peak in summer (Figure 8c). The model runs also reach a seasonal peak  
324 in summer over the Sahel West (Figure 8e), which strongly overestimates the observed  
325 DUP and again suggests a too low roughness length in the model (contours in Figure 1).

### 3.3. Discussion

326 The strong circulation of the Saharan heat low, as well as monsoon surges, contribute  
327 to the summer peak in DUP over the Sahara West (Figure 8c). In addition, further  
328 processes also contribute to the summer peak in modeled DUP. Mesoscale convective  
329 systems produce strong surface winds at the leading edge of cold pools (Figure 10a).  
330 Although they are driven by moist convection, they generally do not produce surface  
331 precipitation over the Sahara, where the evaporation is too strong. Mesoscale convective  
332 systems are found in EXPL only, because their formation and propagation require the

333 explicit representation of convection [*Marsham et al.*, 2011; *Garcia-Carreras et al.*, 2013;  
334 *Heinold et al.*, 2013; *Largerone et al.*, 2015; *Sodemann et al.*, 2015].

335 The parameterized runs also exhibit some organization of convection but mostly with  
336 weak surface winds. However, cases of extreme surface winds created by deep cyclones  
337 are found in CTRL-P and HIRES-P (Figure 10b). The deep cyclones form in August  
338 and September over the Sahel and migrate westward then northwestward into the Sahara.  
339 The single case illustrated here contributes most of the September DUP over the Sahel  
340 West and Sahara West in CTRL-P. A few of such cyclones are also responsible for the  
341 precipitation over the Sahara West in CTRL-P (Figure 4c) and for the peak in September  
342 over the Sahel West in CTRL-P and HIRES-P (Figure 5e).

343 At first sight, the modeled deep cyclones match the concept of Soudano-Saharan de-  
344 pressions, whose exact definition and meteorological characteristics are somewhat unclear  
345 [*Schepanski and Knippertz*, 2011]. They also exhibit similarities with tropical cyclones,  
346 which can form in August and September from African easterly waves, but exclusively  
347 offshore [e.g., *Berry and Thorncroft*, 2005]. We therefore suggest that the deep cyclones  
348 are a model artifact and are due to the failure of the convective parameterization in re-  
349 leasing the atmospheric instability through mesoscale convective systems. The convective  
350 parameterization contributes little to the precipitation associated with the deep cyclones,  
351 which thus only weakly affect the parameterization of haboobs.

#### 4. Haboobs in the Model Runs

352 The spatial distribution, seasonal and diurnal cycles of haboobs are given here for the  
353 different model runs. The identified haboobs are first discussed in the EXPL run and  
354 compared to those observed during field campaigns. The parameterized haboobs are then

discussed for the CTRL-P and HIRES-P runs, using the different formulations of the  
parameterization, and compared to those identified in EXPL.

#### 4.1. Explicit Haboobs

The EXPL run exhibits high DUP from haboobs in relation with both orographic con-  
vection and the monsoon flow. Highest DUP is found in the Atlas area, over the mountain  
range itself and over the southern foothills (Figure 11a). High DUP is also found over a  
wide region in the Sahel West area, over the Hoggar Mountains in the Sahara West, and  
over Sudan in the Sahel East area. In contrast, low DUP is found in the dry Sahara East  
and Mediterranean areas, as well as over the southern part of the Sahel West area. As  
in the DUP from the model's total wind (Figure 7), a sharp meridional gradient over the  
Sahel West (Figure 11a) matches that in roughness length (contours in Figure 1).

To some extent, the pattern of DUP from haboobs (Figure 11a) matches the pattern of  
total DUP (Figure 7b), with high DUP over the Atlas and the Sahel West, and low DUP  
over the Sahara East. The contribution of haboobs to the total DUP, however, contrasts  
between the areas and is generally higher where the total DUP is higher (Figure 11f). It  
reaches 28 % over the Sahel West but 9 % only over the Sahara East, and 18 % on average  
over all areas (Table 2). The contribution of haboobs is higher during the May-October  
period, when it reaches 24 % on average and up to 33 % over the Sahel West. As in the  
seasonal and diurnal cycles, elevations below 800 m only are considered here.

Haboobs exhibit a strong seasonal cycle in EXPL, with high activity in spring and  
summer in the different areas. In the Atlas area, DUP reaches a primary peak in May  
and a secondary peak in July (blue curve in Figure 12a). Haboobs in the area are related  
to upper-level troughs from the midlatitudes, which reduce the atmospheric stability and

377 favor convection [*Knippertz et al.*, 2007]. The low DUP in the Mediterranean and Sahara  
378 East areas exhibits similar seasonal cycles but with much smaller amplitudes (blue curves  
379 in Figure 12b,d). Over the Sahel West and East and the Sahara West, the seasonal  
380 cycle is controlled by the monsoon. DUP in the Sahel West quickly increases in May to  
381 reach a primary peak in June during the monsoon onset, then reaches a secondary peak  
382 in August during the monsoon maximum before quickly decreasing in September during  
383 the monsoon retreat (blue curve in Figure 12e). The August peak has larger amplitude  
384 than the June peak in the Sahara West and Sahel East areas, where the monsoon flow  
385 arrives later in the season (blue curves in Figure 12c,f). The different areas exhibit similar  
386 diurnal cycles of DUP, which increases in the afternoon to reach a peak or a plateau in  
387 the evening, then decreases at night (blue curve in Figure 13; see Figure S5 for the diurnal  
388 cycle of haboobs over each area).

389 These results are consistent with the available observations of haboobs, although the  
390 modeled DUP and the observed frequency of storms are different diagnostics and thus can  
391 be compared qualitatively only. Several haboobs were observed in May-June 2006 over  
392 southern Morocco during the Saharan Mineral Dust Experiment (SAMUM) field campaign  
393 [*Knippertz et al.*, 2007]. Frequent cold pools from moist convection were further observed  
394 over the area in May-September during the 2002-2006 period [*Emmel et al.*, 2010] at  
395 surface stations of the Integrated Approach to the Efficient Management of Scarce Water  
396 Resources in West Africa (IMPETUS) project. The highest activity was observed in  
397 August and attributed to the midlevel transport of moisture from the Sahel [*Knippertz*  
398 *et al.*, 2003; *Knippertz*, 2003]. These results were confirmed when the study was extended  
399 to the 2002-2012 period and to northern Algeria and Tunisia [*Redl et al.*, 2015]. They

400 validate the high DUP found over the Atlas in EXPL (Figure 11a). The relatively low  
401 modeled activity in August (blue curve in Figure 12a) may be due to a lack of moisture  
402 transport from the Sahel in the model or to a lower activity in August 2006 compared to  
403 other years.

404 Over the Sahel West, haboobs were observed in June 2006 during the African Monsoon  
405 Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA) field campaign [*Flamant et al.*, 2007; *Bou Karam*  
406 *et al.*, 2008]. Intense haboobs were further observed over the area from the end of May  
407 to the end of July during the 2006-2008 period at the AMMA Sahelian Dust Transect of  
408 3 stations aligned around 14°N [*Marticorena et al.*, 2010]. The majority of the haboobs  
409 were observed in the evening, which is consistent with high evening DUP in EXPL (blue  
410 curve in Figure 13). These results also validate the primary peak in modeled DUP in  
411 June (blue curve in Figure 12e). The secondary peak in modeled DUP in August suggests  
412 a too weak seasonal cycle of roughness length in the model.

413 To the best of the authors' knowledge, haboobs were not documented over the other  
414 areas in 2006, thus the modeled DUP is assessed against observations from other years.  
415 Over the Sahara West, haboobs were observed at Bordj Badji Mokhtar in June 2011 and  
416 2012, at night mostly, and contributed 50–70% of dust emissions [*Marsham et al.*, 2013a;  
417 *Allen et al.*, 2013, 2015]. This is consistent with the secondary peak in modeled DUP in  
418 June (blue curve in Figure 12c), with the higher modeled DUP between 18 and 06 UTC  
419 (blue curve in Figure 13), and with the area of high haboob-to-total DUP ratio extending  
420 to Bordj Badji Mokhtar (plus symbol in Figure 11f).

421 In contrast with Bordj Badji Mokhtar, few haboobs were observed at Zouerate, northern  
422 Mauritania, in June 2011 [*Todd et al.*, 2013], which is also consistent with the lower

423 modeled DUP over that region (Figure 11a). Over the Sahel East, the first climatology of  
424 haboobs reported cases over Khartoum between May and October and highest activity in  
425 June [Sutton, 1925]. This agrees with the modeled activity from May to September but  
426 contrasts with the modeled peak in August (blue curve in Figure 12f). This also suggests  
427 a too weak seasonal cycle of roughness length in the model, although the 1916-1923 period  
428 documented by Sutton [1925] may not be comparable to 2006. Finally, the low DUP over  
429 the Sahara East and the Mediterranean areas (blue curves in Figure 12b,d) is consistent  
430 with the extreme dryness of the Libyan Desert [e.g., O'Hara et al., 2006] and thus the  
431 lack of moist convective storms.

432 The modeled DUP in EXPL can also be compared to the modeled DUP in the run with  
433 explicit convection used in PKMB15. This run was performed with the UK Met Office  
434 Unified Model [Walters et al., 2011] using a 4-km grid spacing over the western Sahel and  
435 Sahara for the June-July 2006 period (hereafter the 4-km run). The EXPL and 4-km  
436 runs agree on the high DUP from haboobs over northern Mali, while high DUP over the  
437 Hoggar at Air Moutains is found in EXPL only (compare Figure 11a here with Figure  
438 11a in PKMB15), which suggests stronger orographic convection in EXPL than in the  
439 4-km run. The two runs differ in the location of the sharp meridional gradient in DUP,  
440 which is again closely related to the pattern of roughness length (compare the contours in  
441 Figure 1 with Figure 1c in PKMB15). Despite the differences in the spatial distribution,  
442 the two runs compare well in the contribution of haboobs to the total DUP, with 16 %  
443 in the 4-km run (PKMB15) and 22 % in EXPL over the same area and time period. The  
444 spatial distribution in EXPL is weakly impacted by considering the whole year instead of  
445 the June-July period only (compare Figure S6 with Figure 11a).

446 However, the diurnal cycle differs markedly between the two runs, as the 4-km run  
447 exhibits a strong and narrow peak at 18 UTC (Figure 12 in PKMB15), while EXPL  
448 exhibits a weak and broad peak between 18 and 00 UTC (blue curve in Figure 13). A  
449 weak and broad peak at 00 UTC is also found in EXPL over the western Sahel and Sahara  
450 for the June-July period only as in PKMB15 (Figure S7). The difference in diurnal cycle of  
451 DUP is consistent with the difference in the diurnal cycle of precipitation, which exhibits  
452 a too strong and narrow peak in the 4-km run [*Marsham et al.*, 2013b; *Birch et al.*, 2014]  
453 and a too weak and broad peak in EXPL (blue curve in Figure 6) as compared to TRMM  
454 observations. This suggests that haboobs are too short-lived in the 4-km run and too  
455 long-lived in EXPL.

## 4.2. Parameterized Haboobs

456 The parameterization of haboobs in CTRL-P and HIRES-P is tuned to match the DUP  
457 averaged over the whole year 2006 and over all areas in EXPL, excluding elevations over  
458 800 m. The root-mean-square error (RMSE) of the parameterization is also computed  
459 with respect to EXPL (Table 3). The spatial RMSE is first computed from the annual  
460 DUP interpolated on the  $0.44^\circ$  grid then averaged over all areas, while the seasonal RMSE  
461 is first computed from the monthly DUP over each area then averaged over all months  
462 and all areas.

463 The different runs require different tuning parameters. With the original formulation,  
464 the tuning parameter  $R$  approximately scales with the grid spacing between CTRL-P  
465 and HIRES-P (Table 3). In Equation 3, this compensates for  $M_{dd}$  approximately scaling  
466 with the grid surface area, i.e., the square of the grid spacing. With the alternative  
467 formulation, the tuning parameter  $w_{dd}$  weakly changes with the grid spacing between

468 CTRL-P and HIRES-P (Table 3). This is due to  $C$  not depending on  $M_{dd}$  in Equation 5.  
469 Finally, with the gust formulation (Equation 6), the tuning parameter  $\sigma$  increases between  
470 CTRL-P and HIRES-P (Table 3), which compensates for DCAPE decreasing with grid  
471 spacing.

472 The parameterization captures the geographical pattern of identified haboobs in EXPL  
473 (Figure 11a) but with some sensitivity to the model run and to the formulation. When  
474 applied to CTRL-P with the original formulation, the parameterization succeeds in ex-  
475 hibiting highest DUP over the Atlas area, high DUP over a wide region in the Sahel West  
476 area, and low DUP over the Sahara East (Figure 11b). The parameterization, however,  
477 misses local features of DUP and lacks the sharp meridional gradient in the southern  
478 part of the Sahel West area. Using the alternative formulation weakly affects the spatial  
479 distribution of parameterized DUP, with differences in local features only (Figure 11c).  
480 In contrast, using the gust formulation strongly impacts on the spatial distribution. The  
481 large region of high DUP is shifted from the Sahel West to the Sahara West and the region  
482 of low DUP is extended from the Sahara East to the Mediterranean (Figure 11d). This  
483 suggests that computing the DCAPE in the deep Saharan boundary layer overestimates  
484 the parameterized DUP. The northward shift in DUP increases the spatial RMSE as  
485 compared to the original and alternative formulations, which perform equally well (Table  
486 3).

487 Applying the parameterization to HIRES-P instead of CTRL-P produces smaller-scale  
488 features, as expected from the higher resolution, but weakly affects the spatial distribution,  
489 either with the original formulation (Figure 11e), or with the alternative and the gust  
490 formulations (not shown). The spatial RMSE slightly increases in HIRES-P as compared

491 to CTRL-P but the original and alternative formulations again perform equally well,  
492 whereas the gust formulation exhibits higher spatial RMSE (Table 3).

493 The parameterization also succeeds in reproducing the seasonal cycle of haboobs related  
494 to the monsoon over the Sahel West and East and the Sahara West. With the original  
495 formulation applied to CTRL-P, the parameterization captures the primary peak in June  
496 over the Sahel West (solid red curve in Figure 12e) and in August over the Sahara West  
497 and the Sahel East (solid red curves in Figure 12c,f). The parameterization also captures  
498 the weaker seasonal cycle over the Mediterranean and Sahara East areas (solid red curves  
499 in Figure 12b,d). In contrast, the parameterization poorly captures the seasonal cycle  
500 over the Atlas, where it overestimates the weak peak in February and underestimates the  
501 stronger peaks in May and July (solid red curve in Figure 12a). This suggests that the pa-  
502 rameterization produces too high DUP in the convection embedded in winter storms, and  
503 too low DUP in the convection favored by upper-level troughs in spring and summer. The  
504 parameterization also overestimates the weak peak in February over the Mediterranean,  
505 Sahara West, and Sahel West areas (solid red curves in Figure 12b,c,e).

506 As for the spatial distribution, applying the parameterization to HIRES-P instead of  
507 CTRL-P weakly impacts on the seasonal cycle, although the amplitude increases over the  
508 Sahel West and East (solid orange curves in Figure 12e,f). This is consistent with the  
509 higher amplitude of the monsoon cycle in HIRES-P (orange curves in Figure 5e,f). The  
510 higher amplitude of DUP increases the seasonal RMSE as compared to CTRL-P (Table  
511 3). As for the spatial distribution again, using the alternative formulation weakly affects  
512 the seasonal cycle, although DUP slightly decreases in winter and increases in spring and

513 summer (dashed curves in Figure 12). This improves the seasonal cycle and decreases the  
514 seasonal RMSE in CTRL-P and HIRES-P (Table 3).

515 In contrast with the alternative formulation, using the gust formulation strongly changes  
516 the seasonal cycle. After increasing during the monsoon onset, DUP stagnates over the  
517 Sahel East and even drops over the Sahel West (dotted curves in Figure 12e,f). This is  
518 due to the asymmetry in DCAPE between the monsoon onset and retreat, which matches  
519 the observed dust uplift over the Sahel and southern Sahara [Marsham *et al.*, 2008]. Over  
520 the Atlas area, the gust formulation reaches a peak in August (dotted curves in Figure  
521 12a), which also matches the observed frequency of haboobs [Emmel *et al.*, 2010]. This  
522 however contrasts with the seasonal cycle of haboobs in EXPL (blue curves in Figure  
523 12a,e,f), which therefore suggests that the match between the gust formulation and the  
524 observations is due to compensating errors. Finally, the weak peak in February vanishes  
525 with the gust formulation (dotted curves in Figure 12), which improves the seasonal  
526 cycle. The gust formulation still shows the highest seasonal RMSE for both CTRL-P and  
527 HIRES-P (Table 3).

528 The parameterization does not succeed in capturing the diurnal cycle of haboobs. With  
529 all formulations and applied to all runs, the parameterized DUP increases quicker in the  
530 morning and reaches its peak earlier in the afternoon as compared to EXPL (Figure 13).  
531 This is consistent with the parameterized convection reaching its peak at noon (Figure  
532 6), which is a known issue in the Tropics [e.g., Marsham *et al.*, 2013b; Birch *et al.*,  
533 2014]. The amplitude increases but the diurnal cycle is weakly impacted when using the  
534 alternative formulation (dashed curves in Figure 13). In contrast, the amplitude of the  
535 diurnal cycle strongly increases with the gust formulation (dotted curves). This shows that

536 the DCAPE exhibits a stronger diurnal cycle than the downdraft mass flux, which again  
537 suggests that computing the DCAPE in the deep Saharan boundary layer overestimates  
538 the parameterized DUP. The relative amplitude of the different formulations is consistent  
539 between the different areas (see Figure S5 for the diurnal cycle of haboobs over each area).

540 When added to the DUP from the resolved model wind, the parameterized DUP overall  
541 improves the seasonal cycle in CTRL-P and HIRES-P (dashed curves in Figure 8) as  
542 compared to EXPL. However, this total DUP still exhibits substantial biases, which can  
543 be explained by several factors. On the one hand, the parameterization itself exhibits  
544 biases as compared to EXPL, e.g, the underestimation of DUP from haboobs over the  
545 Atlas in spring and summer (Figure 12a). The tuning of the parameterization may also  
546 contribute to the underestimation, as it uses the rather conservative identification of  
547 haboobs in EXPL as a reference. On the other hand, the resolution is expected to affect  
548 the resolved winds independently of haboobs, e.g., over complex topography, or for specific  
549 processes such as the low-level jet. The resolution furthermore leads to the overestimation  
550 of DUP from resolved winds over the Sahel West in summer, where the representation of  
551 the monsoon is affected (Figure 5e) and deep cyclones develop (Figure 10b) in CTRL-P  
552 and HIRES-P. The parameterization therefore offers a solution for the important issue of  
553 lacking haboobs in the model runs with parameterized convection, but other biases need  
554 to be carefully investigated in these model runs. Finally, the parameterized DUP improves  
555 the diurnal cycle in CTRL-P and HIRES-P (dashed curves in Figure 9) as compared to  
556 EXPL, but through a general increase in DUP only.

## 5. Conclusion

557 Haboobs occur over most dust sources worldwide and contribute at least half of dust emis-  
558 sions over the central Sahara in summer [*Marsham et al.*, 2013a; *Allen et al.*, 2013, 2015].  
559 However, they are absent from most large-scale weather and climate models, which do  
560 not explicitly represent convection and thus haboobs. Here, an unprecedented one-  
561 year-long run with explicit convection delivers the first full seasonal cycle of haboobs over  
562 the different arid regions of northern Africa. This computationally very expensive run  
563 further allows testing a simple parameterization based on the downdraft mass-flux of the  
564 convection scheme, originally developed in PKMB15, in a set of additional model runs  
565 with parameterized convection.

566 The explicit run exhibits two contrasting regimes. Highest DUP (dust uplift potential,  
567 i.e., dust-generating winds) from haboobs is found in the subtropical regime over the Atlas  
568 and northern Algeria, where it reaches its peak in spring and summer due to midlatitude  
569 troughs. High DUP from haboobs is also found in the tropical regime over the Sahel and  
570 the western Sahara, where it reaches its peak in summer due to the monsoon flow. The  
571 results are consistent with observations of haboobs during the few field campaigns over  
572 these areas, as well as with an earlier explicit run restricted to the western Sahel and  
573 Sahara, and to a shorter time period. Low DUP from haboobs is finally found over the  
574 dry eastern Sahara. The contribution of haboobs to the total DUP reaches 18 % annually  
575 over northern Africa, 24 % between May and October, and up to 33 % over the western  
576 Sahel during that period.

577 The parameterization succeeds in capturing the spatial pattern of DUP from haboobs as  
578 compared to the explicit run. The parameterization also succeeds in capturing the seasonal  
579 cycle due to the monsoon in the tropical regime, while it struggles with the seasonal cycle

580 due to midlatitude systems in the subtropical regime. The parameterization can be tuned  
581 for the model resolution and for an alternative formulation with weak impact on the  
582 spatial and temporal distributions. In contrast, using a formulation based on DCAPE  
583 shifts the parameterized DUP northward and worsens the results. With the original and  
584 the alternative formulation, the parameterization improves the seasonal cycle of DUP,  
585 although the overall performance remains constrained by other limitations in the model  
586 runs.

587 The main limitations are common to both explicit and parameterized runs. The diurnal  
588 cycle of haboobs differs between parameterized and explicit DUP, but also between explicit  
589 DUP from two different models, which is consistent with differences in the diurnal cycle  
590 of precipitation and emphasizes the uncertainty in modeling convective organization. The  
591 seasonal cycle in the subtropical regime contrasts between parameterized and explicit DUP  
592 from haboobs, but also between explicit and observed DUP, which is again consistent with  
593 differences in the seasonal cycle of precipitation and suggests a model deficiency in this  
594 regime. Finally, the spatial distribution differs over the Sahel West between parameterized  
595 and explicit DUP from haboobs, but also between modelled and observed DUP, which  
596 shows the high sensitivity to the roughness length in this area.

597 The results are also subject to uncertainties in the spatial and seasonal distribution  
598 of haboobs. One part of the uncertainty lies in the identification of haboobs in the  
599 explicit run, which becomes ambiguous when the cold pools evolve into complex structures  
600 [*Heinold et al.*, 2013], the identification being rather conservative here. The other part of  
601 the uncertainty lies in the scarcity of surface observations, which lack both spatial and  
602 temporal sampling over northern Africa [*Cowie et al.*, 2014]. Furthermore, identifying

603 haboobs is challenging and must often be done manually, even with high-resolution data  
604 [*Engerer et al.*, 2008; *Provod et al.*, 2015]. This raises the need for more observations  
605 over northern Africa, or for new algorithms to identify haboobs in available satellite and  
606 surface observations, as recently suggested by *Redl et al.* [2015].

607 Despite the limitations discussed above, the results presented here show that the pa-  
608 rameterization originally developed by PKMB15 is robust with respect to the model and  
609 its resolution, as well as to the formulation with constant radius or constant propagation  
610 speed of cold pools. The parameterization is simple and can be used online or offline, pro-  
611 viding that the downdraft mass flux is stored, in large-scale weather and climate models  
612 with mass-flux convection schemes. It can thus be implemented in full dust models and  
613 the results be compared with extensive observations beyond the SYNOP winds considered  
614 here, as, e.g., aerosol optical depth (AOD) from satellites and AERONET stations. The  
615 parameterization may in particular compensate for the too low AOD over summertime  
616 West Africa in large-scale dust models compared to observations [e.g., *Johnson et al.*,  
617 2011; *Ridley et al.*, 2012; *Guirado et al.*, 2014; *Cuevas et al.*, 2015]. It has potential to  
618 solve a long-standing issue in simulating dust storms.

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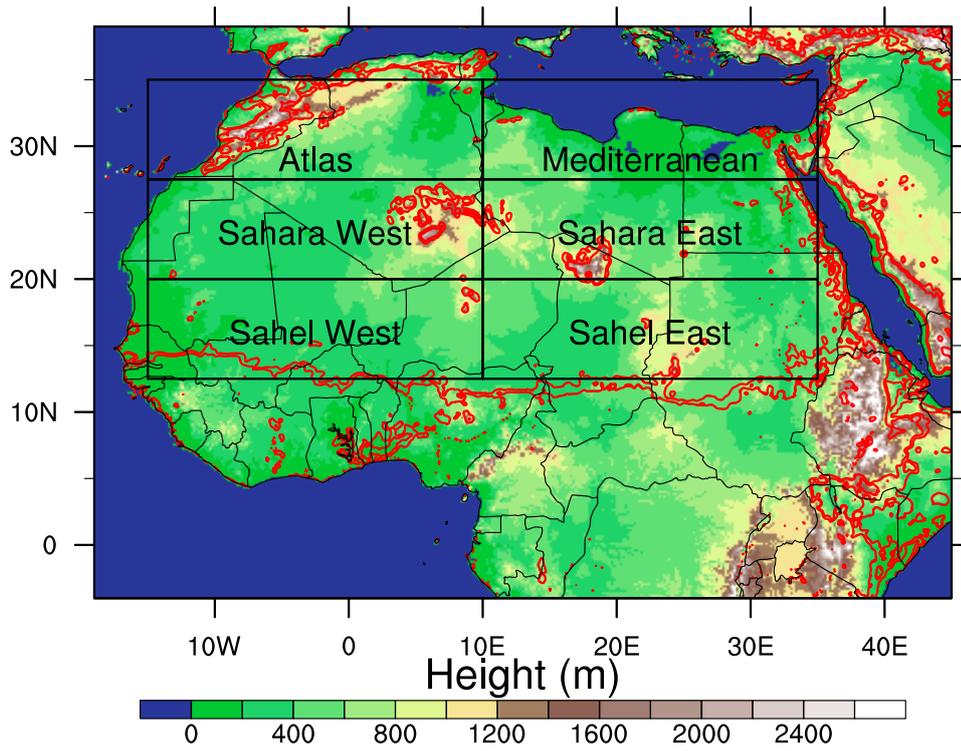
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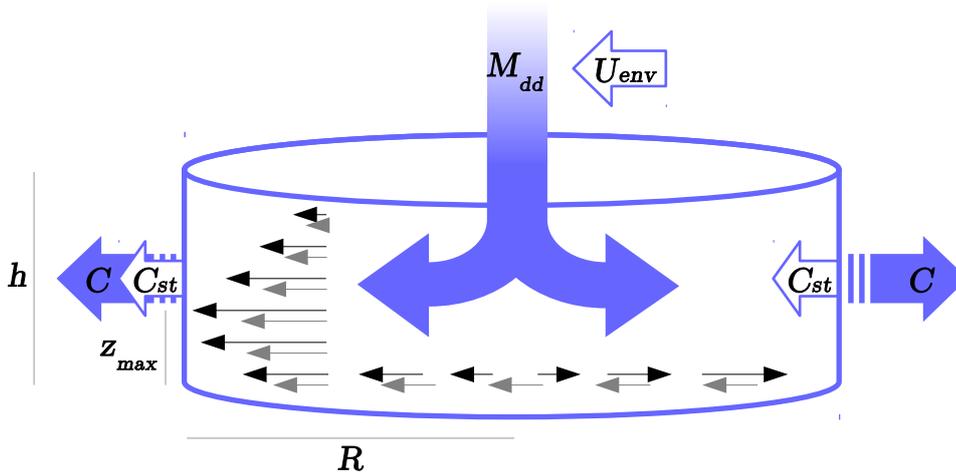
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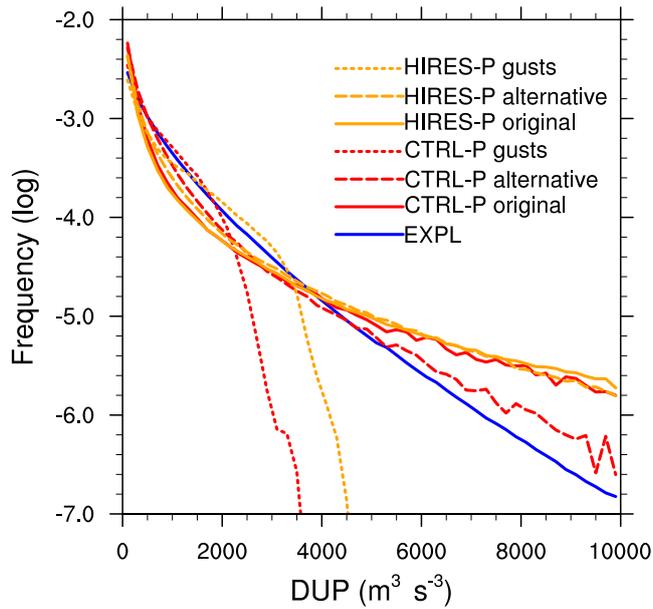
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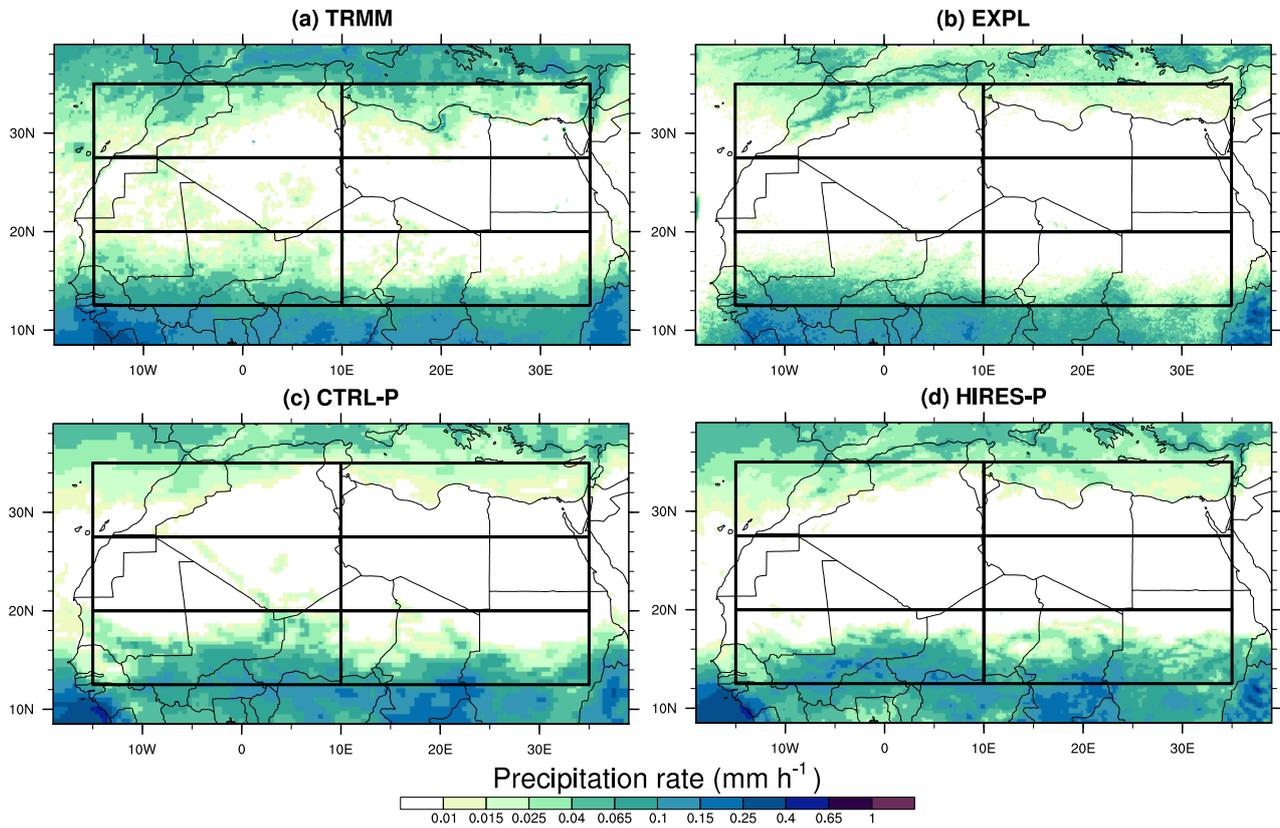
**Figure 1.** Domain and orography in the EXPL model run. Red contours show the roughness length at typical values of 0.05 and 0.1 m to mark the border between arid and vegetated areas. The areas defined in Section 3 are marked by boxes and labelled.



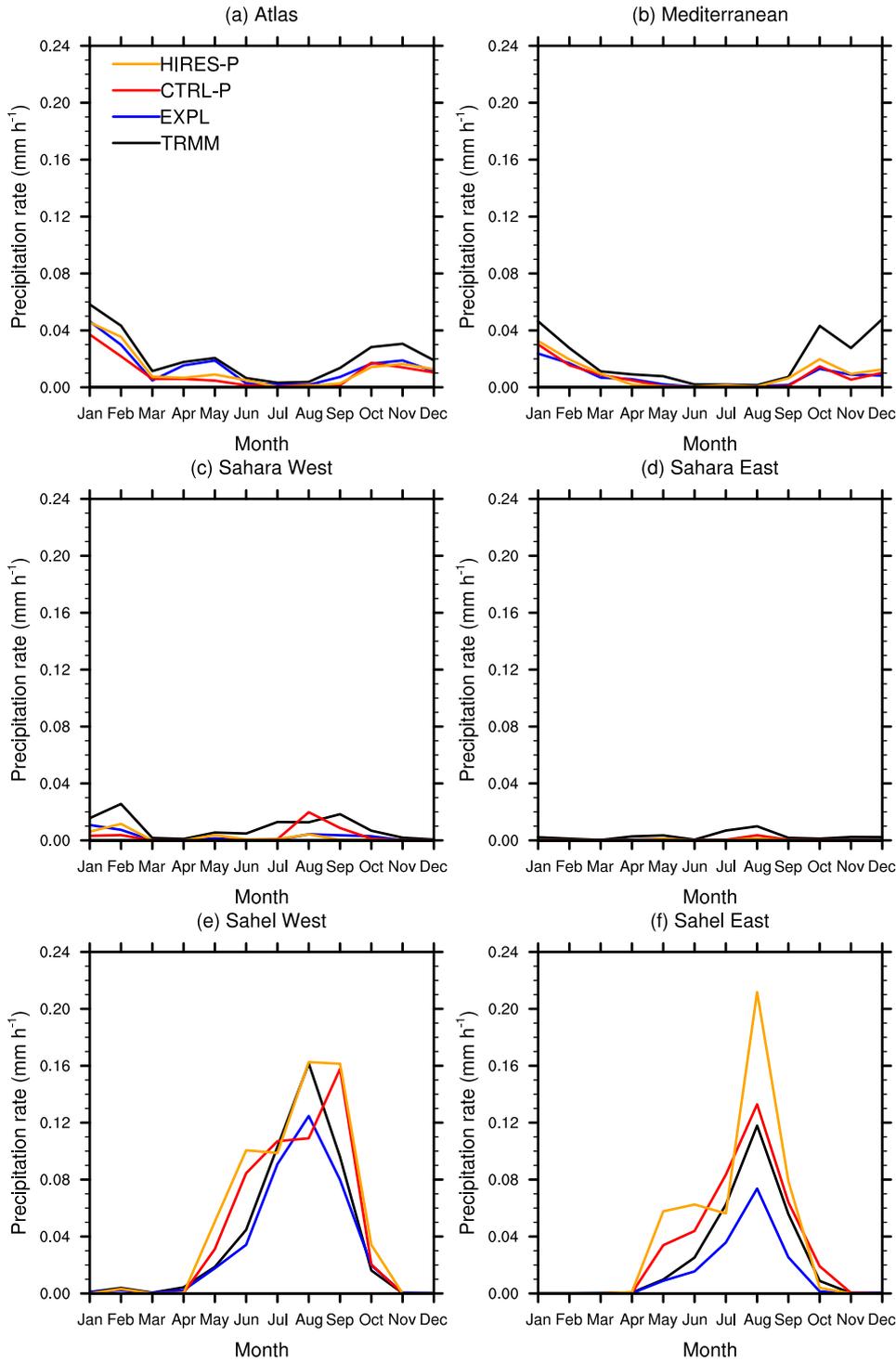
**Figure 2.** Schematic of the conceptual model, with  $M_{dd}$  the downdraft mass flux,  $U_{env}$  the environmental steering wind,  $C$  and  $C_{st}$  the propagation and steering speeds of the cold pool, respectively,  $h$  and  $R$  the height and radius of the cold pool, respectively, and  $z_{max}$  the height of maximum wind. Thin black and gray arrows illustrate the radial and the steering wind within the cold pool, respectively. From *Pantillon et al.* [2015]. ©American Meteorological Society. Used with permission.



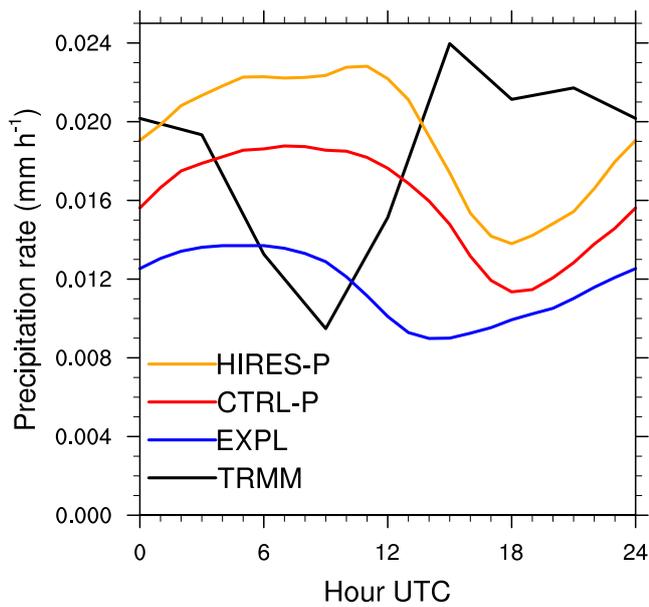
**Figure 3.** Probability distribution function of DUP computed over the year 2006 and over all domains displayed in Figure 11 from haboobs identified in EXPL and parameterized in CTRL-P and HIRES-P with the original, the alternative, and the gust formulation (Table 3).



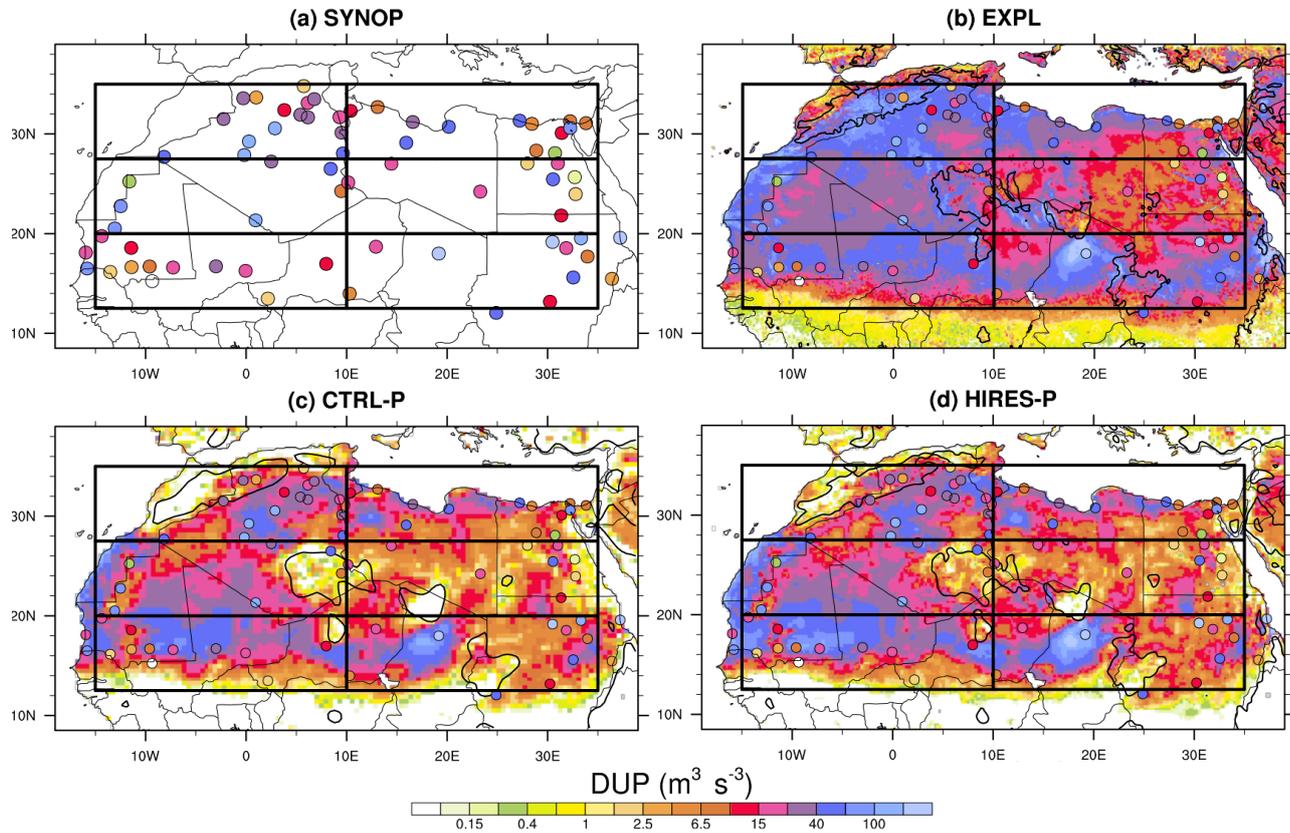
**Figure 4.** Spatial distribution of precipitation rate averaged over the year 2006 in the TRMM-3B42 observation product (a) and in the EXPL (b), CTRL-P (c), and HIRES-P (d) model runs (Table 1). The boxes mark the areas defined in Section 3.



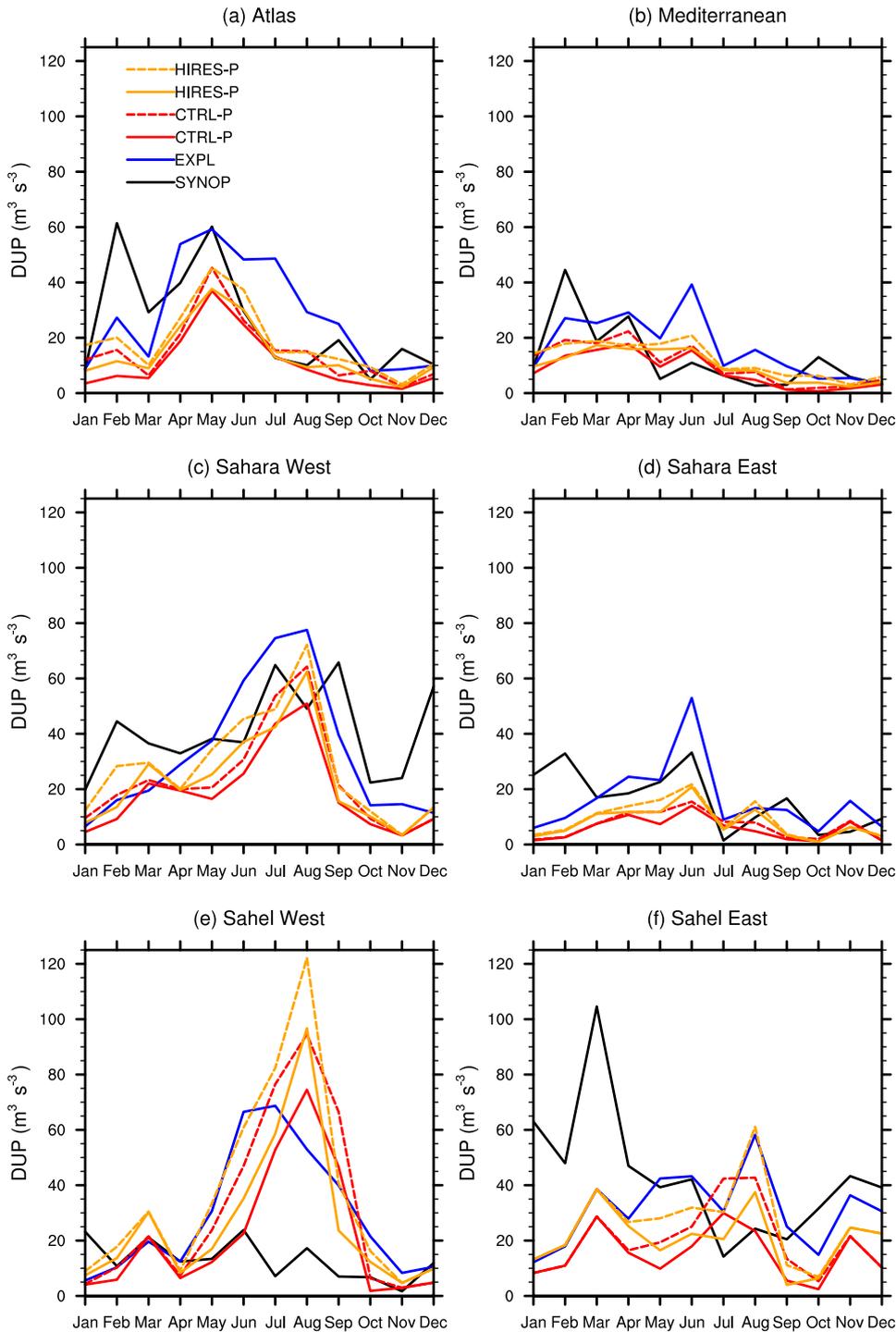
**Figure 5.** Seasonal cycle in precipitation rate averaged over each area marked by a box in Figure 4 in the TRMM-3B42 observation product and in the EXPL, CTRL-P, and HIRES-P model runs (Table 1).



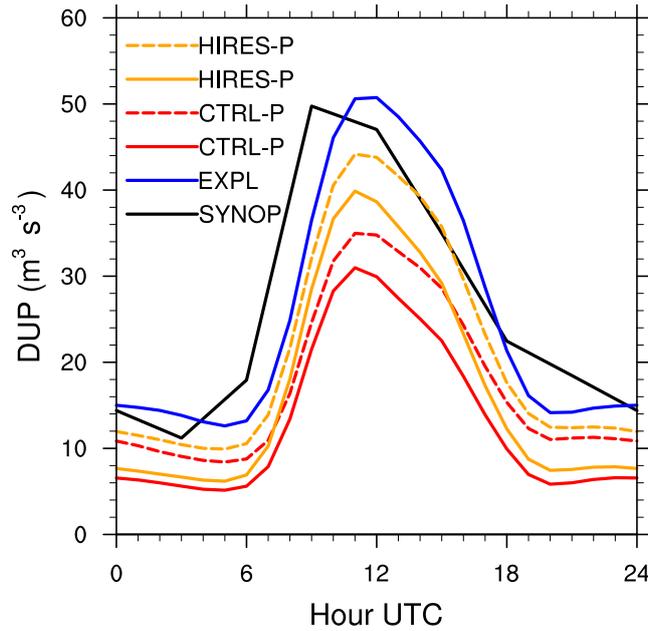
**Figure 6.** Diurnal cycle in precipitation rate averaged over the year 2006 and over all areas marked by boxes in Figure 4 in the TRMM-3B42 observation product and in the EXPL, CTRL-P, and HIRES-P model runs (Table 1).



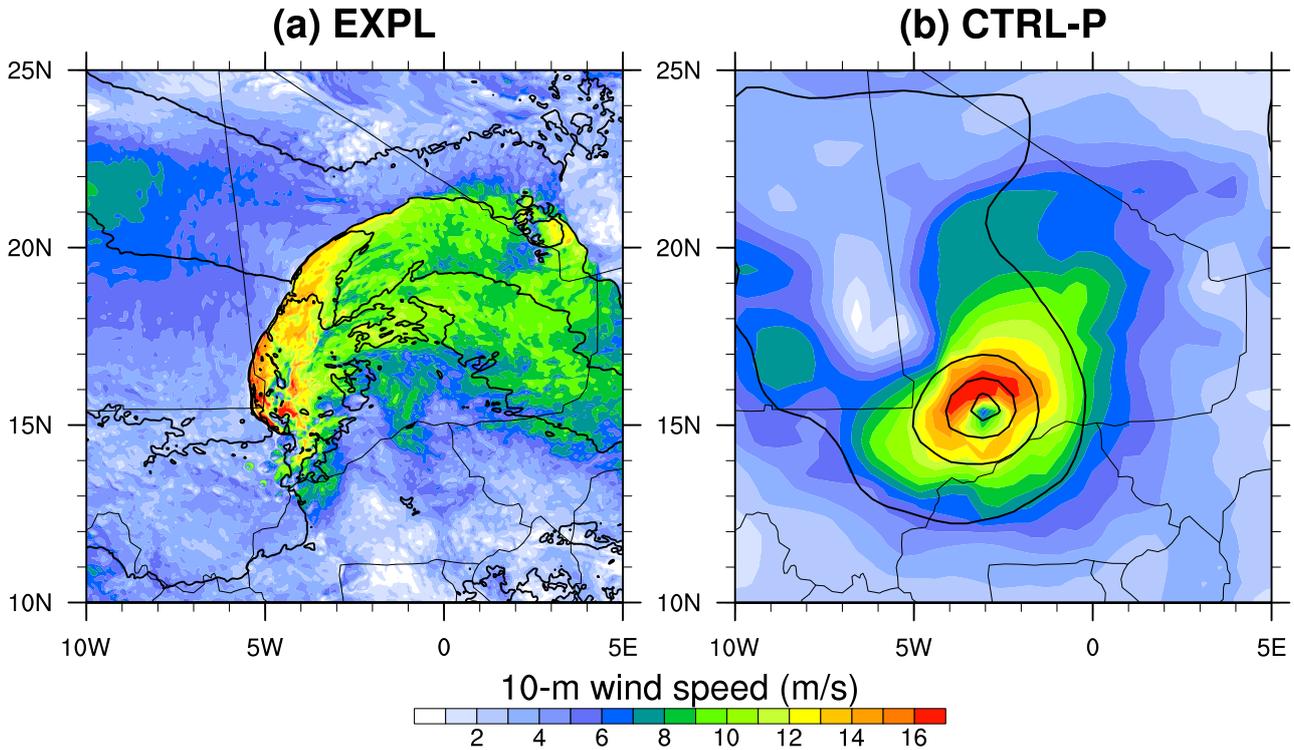
**Figure 7.** Spatial distribution of DUP averaged over the year 2006 from the observed wind at SYNOP stations (a) and from the resolved model wind in the EXPL (b), CTRL-P (c), and HIRES-P (d) model runs (Table 1). The DUP in (a) is overplotted in (b-d) for comparison. The contours in (b-d) show the 800-m elevation in the model runs. The boxes mark the areas defined in Section 3.



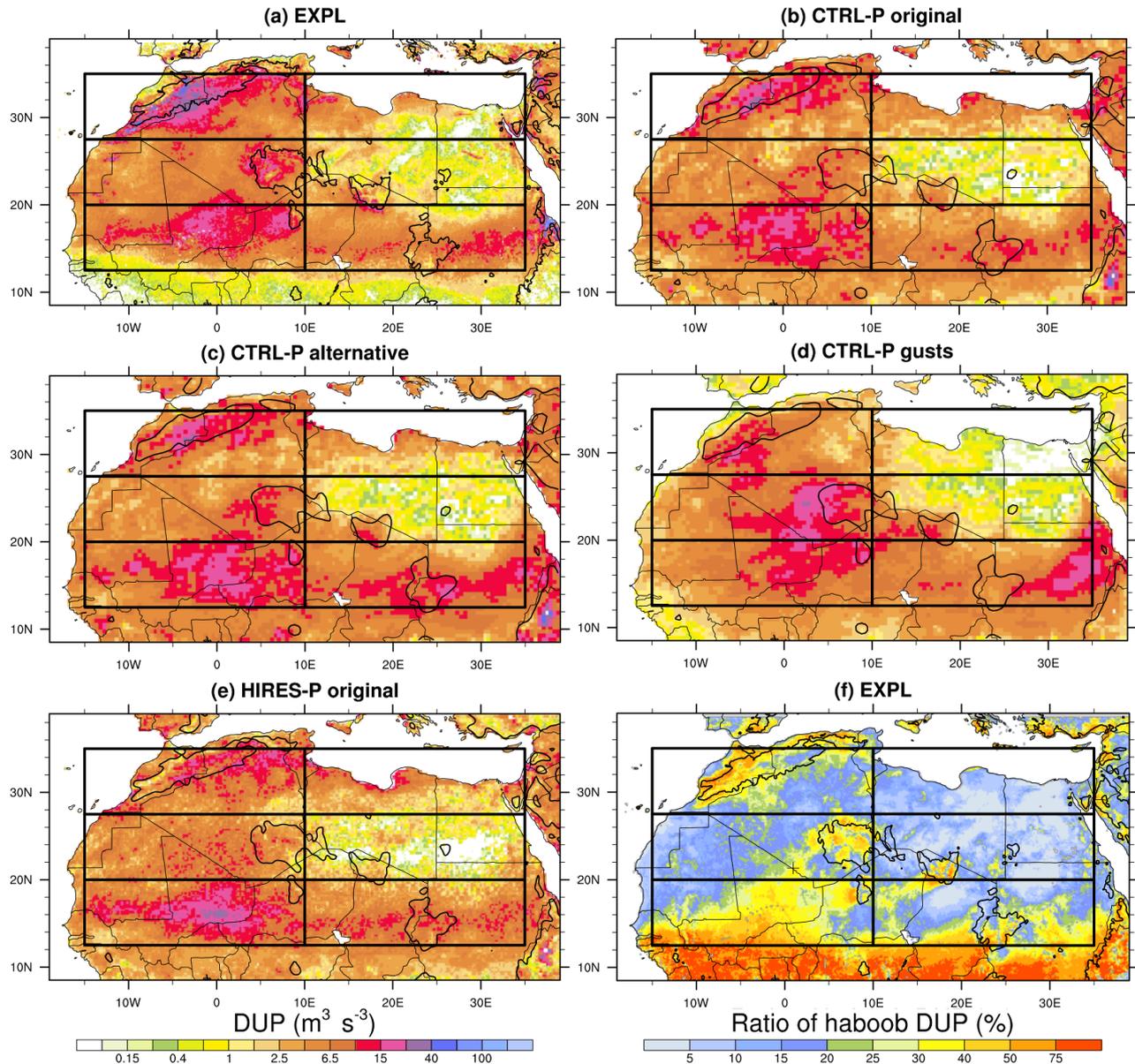
**Figure 8.** Seasonal cycle in DUP averaged over each area marked by a box in Figure 7 from the observed wind at SYNOP stations and from the resolved model wind in the EXPL, CTRL-P, and Hires-P model runs (Table 1). The dashed curves show the total DUP from the resolved model wind and the haboobs parameterized with the original formulation.



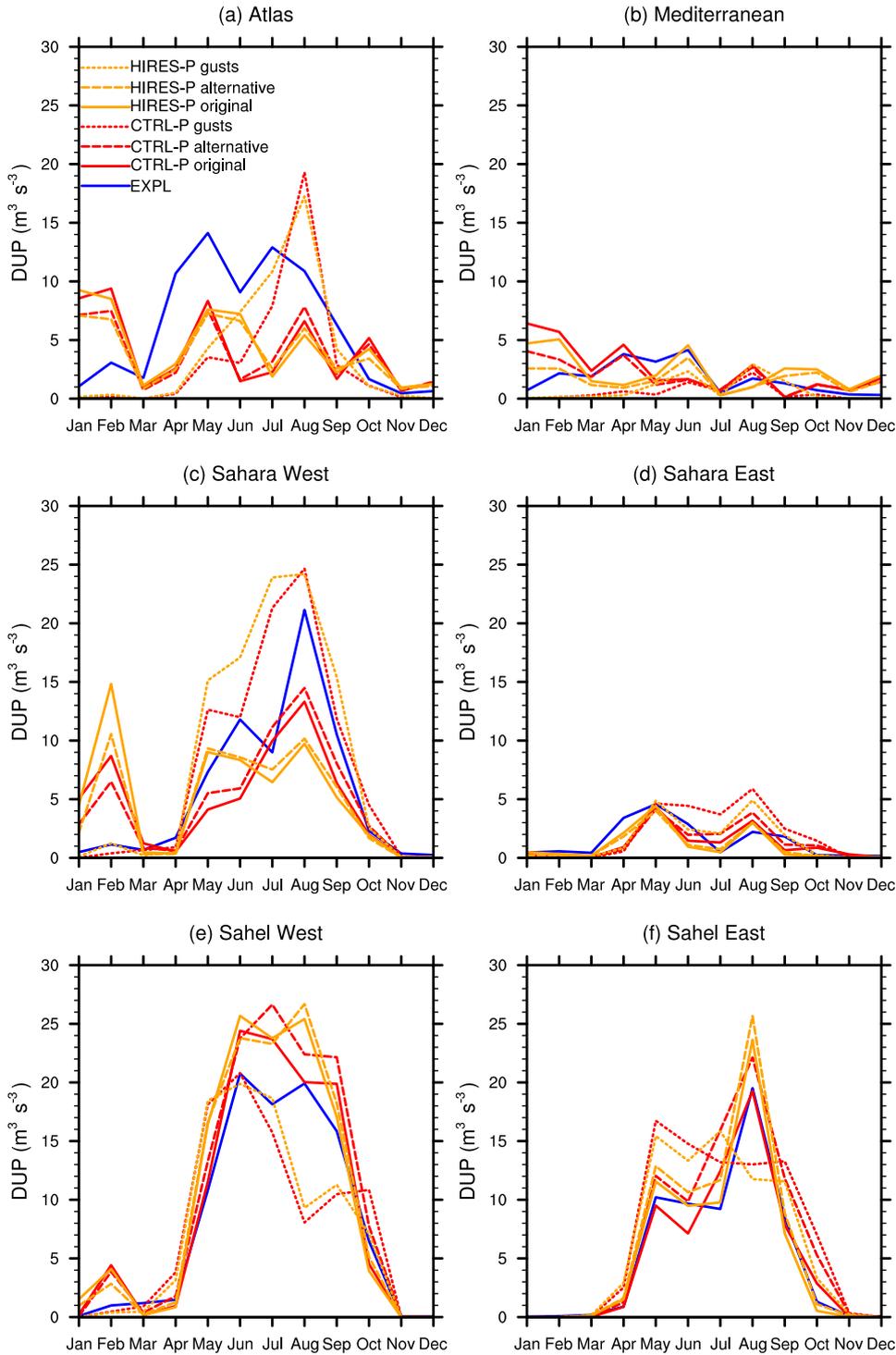
**Figure 9.** Diurnal cycle in DUP averaged over the year 2006 and over all areas marked by boxes in Figure 7 from the observed wind at SYNOP stations and from the resolved model wind in the EXPL, CTRL-P, and HIRES-P model runs (Table 1). The dashed curves show the total DUP from the resolved model wind and the haboobs parameterized with the original formulation.



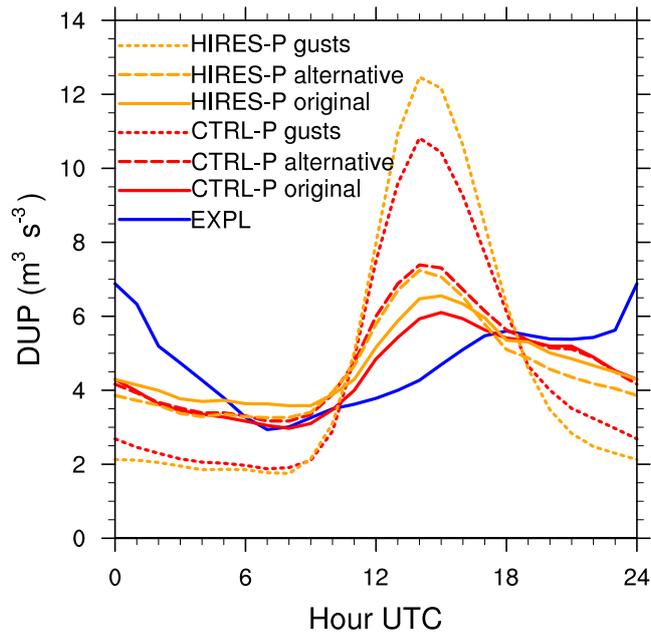
**Figure 10.** Examples of storms in the model runs: mesoscale convective system at 1800 UTC 03 August 2006 in EXPL (a) and deep cyclone at 0600 UTC 10 September 2006 in CTRL-P (b). Contours show the 925-hPa temperature every 5 K in (a) and the mean-sea-level pressure every 5 hPa in (b).



**Figure 11.** Spatial distribution of DUP averaged over the year 2006 from haboobs identified in EXPL (a), parameterized in CTRL-P with the original formulation (b), the alternative formulation (c), and the gust formulation (d), and parameterized in HIRES-P (e) with the original formulation, and ratio of haboob to total DUP in EXPL (f). The boxes mark the areas defined in Section 3. The plus symbol in (f) marks the position of Bordj Badji Mokhtar.



**Figure 12.** Seasonal cycle in DUP averaged over each area marked by a box in Figure 11 from haboobs identified in EXPL and parameterized in CTRL-P and HIREP with the original, the alternative, and the gust formulation (Table 3).



**Figure 13.** Diurnal cycle in DUP averaged over the year 2006 and over all areas marked by boxes in Figure 11 from haboobs identified in EXPL and parameterized in CTRL-P and HIREP-P with the original, the alternative, and the gust formulation (Table 3).

**Table 1.** List of model runs with principal characteristics of their configuration.

Name	Grid spacing	Vertical levels	Moist convection	Domain
CTRL-P	0.44° (50 km)	35	Parameterized	Africa
HIRES-P	0.22° (25 km)	35	Parameterized	Africa
EXPL	0.025° (2.8 km)	50	Explicit	northern Africa

**Table 2.** DUP attributed to haboobs in the explicit run, averaged over the whole year 2006

and over the May-October period only, in  $\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-3}$  and as fraction of the total DUP in brackets.

	Atlas	Mediterranean	Sahara West	Sahara East	Sahel West	Sahel East	All
Whole year	6.1 (21%)	1.7 (10%)	5.6 (17%)	1.5 (9%)	8.0 (28%)	5.0 (16%)	4.6 (18%)
May-Oct	9.2 (25%)	1.9 (12%)	10.3 (21%)	2.0 (11%)	15.3 (33%)	9.7 (27%)	8.1 (24%)

**Table 3.** Tuning of the parameterization for each run and formulation, and spatial and seasonal root-mean-square error (RMSE) of DUP (in  $\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-3}$ ) with respect to EXPL.

Run	Formulation	Tuning	Spatial RMSE	Seasonal RMSE
CTRL-P	Original	$R = 6.0 \text{ km}$	3.39	3.26
CTRL-P	Alternative	$w_{dd} = 5.0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$	3.42	3.17
CTRL-P	Gusts	$\sigma = 0.09$	3.81	3.87
HIRES-P	Original	$R = 3.5 \text{ km}$	3.56	3.60
HIRES-P	Alternative	$w_{dd} = 5.4 \text{ m s}^{-1}$	3.57	3.20
HIRES-P	Gusts	$\sigma = 0.12$	3.88	3.78