



AIR RESOURCES LABORATORY

SEMINAR

Can Climate Change at Mountain Sites be Predicted From Free-Atmospheric Change?

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Abstract

Mountain areas are known to contain fragile ecosystems and are under threat from climate change. Glaciers on Kilimanjaro and other high peaks are melting, whilst at the same time there is increased population pressure and tourism potential in such environments.

Are the climate changes in mountain areas similar to those experienced in lowland areas?
Are the changes similar to those occurring in the free-atmosphere at the same level?
Can an examination of changes observed in the mountains help address the observed discrepancies between climate changes as measured by various well-known surface and free-air datasets?

These and other questions are addressed through a comparison of temperature trends at high elevation mountain stations, with those observed in the free-atmosphere from radiosonde and satellite data.

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