Tamanrasset/Assekrem GAW Station

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Following World Meteorological Organization (WMO) recommendations, a Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) monitoring program was established in Algeria at the Tamanrasset (alt. 1377 m) and Assekrem sites in the central Sahara with total ozone, solar radiation, atmospheric turbidity, and meteorology measurements split and shared between the two sites. Under a WMO/UNDP/GEF project, GAW instruments have been installed since 1994. All infrastructure is now complete and staff is available at both sites. In 2000 the station became part of the BSRN network.

Tamanrasset Meteorological Center

A remote site suitable for trace gas measurements is situated at Assekrem. This site, situated in the National Park of Ahaggar, offers a remote, continental environment for measuring background levels of greenhouse gases and aerosols as well as the tropospheric chemical and dynamic processes that affect greenhouse gases far removed from their sources but still resident over a continental region. The absence of vegetation and an extremely low level of biological activity around Assekrem extends for at least 1000 km in all directions from this site. Its high elevation (2710 m), prevailing easterly flow, temperate range of air temperatures, and its close proximity to major Saharan dust storms that generate long-range transports of dust over Africa, Europe, and the Atlantic qualifies and allows the Assekrem site to be a unique place in which to establish a GAW measuring program.

Short technical trainings have been organised with France and CMDL as twining partners.

Assekrem GAW Station

A quarterly report *Bulletin de la VAG-Algérie* with all GAW data measured at both sites, statistics, and graphs is edited in Tamanrasset by the staff in charge of the measurement program. All GAW data are also sent to WMO GAW World Data Centers in recommended format.

Ozone total: Moyenne annuelle 94-00.