

The focus region of DEPARTURE is the tropical and northern Africa, which is a sensitive region and in the focus of several international programs (e.g. CORDEX, GLOWA, BIOTA, AMMA, ENSEMBLES). The project will assess the relatively high potential predictability found for this region using a multi model ensemble of RCMs. The effects of the important regional feedbacks between different compartments of the earth system and the decadal climate development in Northern and Western Africa such as ocean temperature variability, soil moisture vegetation incl. land cover changes, as well as direct and indirect aerosol effects are known to some extent. They will be studied in greater depth with respect to their potential in decadal climate prediction. An additional highlight is the development of hurricanes which is related to sub-Saharan precipitation anomalies and the African easterly waves.