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many quarters in the country of Mexico as we can, so we can have as careful reconstructions of background climate as possible. Against that backdrop of climate variability, [we could] then go to historical records and identify epidemic events that have transpired in history to see which ones, if any, occurred during times of famine and during times of drought, to determine to what extent climate

has mediated the outbreak of infectious disease in Mexico."

For further information, see: Tree-Ring Data Document 16th Century Megadrought Over North America by David Stahle (*Eos, Trans., AGU*, March 21, 2000 p. 121); Large Epidemics of Hemorrhagic Fevers in Mexico 1545-1815 by Rodolfo Acuna-Soto, Leticia Calderón Romero, and James H. Maguire, (*American*

Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, in press); Was the Huey Cocoliztli a Hemorrhagic Fever? by John S. Marr and James B. Kiracofe, (*Medical History*, July 2000, Vol. 44); and "The Great Maya Droughts: Water, Life, and Death," by Richardson Gill (University of Mexico Press, 2000).

Randy Showstack, Staff Writer

Data Sets from Forest-Atmosphere Research Now Available

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Research to date indicates that rising global temperatures could have their greatest impact at higher latitudes (45° to 65°N), with the most marked effects within continental interiors; this includes predictions of significant warming and drying. In response to the need for data to better model the possible effects of global warming on boreal forests—which inhabit much of the northerly latitudes—the Boreal Ecosystems Atmosphere Study (BOREAS) was carried out between 1990 and 1999.

BOREAS was an international, interdisciplinary field campaign to improve understanding of boreal forest ecology, the interactions between boreal forest and the atmosphere, how these interactions are affected by climate change, and how satellite imagery can be used to monitor these interactions [Sellers, *et al.*, 1997]. BOREAS was a cooperative field experiment involving elements of land surface climatology, biogeochemistry, and terrestrial ecology, with remote sensing playing a strong, integrating role. A primary objective was to collect the data needed to improve computer simulation models of the important processes controlling these exchanges, in order to improve capabilities to anticipate the effects of global change—principally altered temperature and precipitation patterns—on the biome.

A set of 13 CD-ROMs containing key data sets from BOREAS is now available free of

charge. The set is one of two components of the overall BOREAS data archive. The second component is an online system at the Distributed Active Archive Center at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (DAAC/ORNL) in the United States.

The CD-ROM set contains all of the point data sets; however, only selected image data sets are included due to resource limitations. All point data are stored in ASCII files. With a few exceptions, the image and GIS data are stored as binary images, compressed using GZip™. For the image data that are not included, an ASCII inventory file is provided that lists all of the images that are available through the DAAC/ORNL. All of the data sets have accompanying documentation files, which are being published as a National Aeronautics and Space Administration Technical Memoranda (TM) series (NASA/TM-2000-209891) (<http://www.sti.nasa.gov/>) to serve as literature references for the data.

Along with the data and documentation, the CD-ROMs include a Web browser, image decompression, and image display software for MacOS, Windows95+, and UNIX systems.

The CD-ROM set uses a HyperText Markup Language (HTML) interface to guide the user to data of interest. The interface provides an introduction to BOREAS, a picture and map-based tour of the field sites in Canada, preliminary conclusions, and multiple indexes to the data. The challenge in creating the interface was to produce something that would work

on multiple platforms and had a good possibility of being viable 20 years hence. Using HTML allowed the creation of a multi-platform interface that operates on MacOS, Windows95+, and multiple UNIX versions by using a Web browser in "local mode," with no Web server running. Since Web browsing software will be updated and distributed by commercial vendors, we expect that some form of HTML will still operate in 20 years, thus insuring that the interface will continue to work as operating systems evolve. All the user has to do is download new browser software when it is available.

The CD-ROMs and data are available from the DAAC User Services Office, Distributed Active Archive Center, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, PO. Box 2008, MS 6407, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6407 USA; Tel: +1-865-241-3952; Fax: +1-865-574-4665; E-mail: ornl daac@ornl.gov. The URL is for the DAC Web site is <http://www.daac.ornl.gov/>.

An electronic supplement to this news item by the authors may be viewed at the Web site: http://www.agu.org/eos_elec/as00251e.html.

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Reference

Sellers, P. J. *et al.*, BOREAS in 1997: Experiment overview, scientific results, and future directions, *J. Geo. Research* 102 (D24), 28,731–28,770, 1997.

AAAS Announces Grants Program for U.S.-CEE-NIS Collaboration

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To increase the number of women scientists and engineers participating as PIs and co-PIs in research collaborations in Central and Eastern Europe, The National Science Foundation has funded the Women's International Science Collaboration (WISC) Program. This new program, administered by the Program on Central and Eastern Europe of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), provides grants to individual U.S. women scientists who plan to establish new research partnerships with their colleagues in Central and Eastern

Europe (CEE) and the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union (NIS).

U.S. scientists can spend up to four weeks in the partner country to develop a research program and design. The grant, up to \$4,000, will provide travel expenses and support for living expenses for the scientist and, when appropriate, an additional grant of \$4,000 to her American co-PI. (The funded co-PI can be either male or female.) Each scientist will be responsible for arranging accommodations. Expenses can also be used to cover materials and supplies needed during the stay. The grants are not to be used for the

sole purpose of attending conferences or workshops, or for teaching or training.

Men and women scientists who have their Ph.D.s or equivalent research experience are eligible to apply. Scientists who have received their doctoral degrees within the past 6 years and those applying to work with colleagues in less frequently represented countries and regions will receive special consideration.

Fields funded by the National Science Foundation include, among others, astronomy, biochemistry, Earth sciences, engineering, environmental sciences, geography, history and philosophy of science, mathematics, and physics. Those with interdisciplinary research cutting across these fields are also eligible.