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Remote Sensing of the Global Dust Cycle

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Message from the Guest Editor

Recent advances in remote sensing studies of the dust cycle have sought to work at a regional scale and have focused on linking remote sensing observations and geomorphological signatures within source regions (i.e., at sub-basin scales). The goal of these studies has been to improve characterisation of candidate surfaces in dust modelling, thereby allowing better estimates of dust emission to be made. These endeavours have been facilitated significantly by the recent increase in availability of high-resolution remote sensing data (e.g., CubeSat, DOVE constellation, Sentinel-2, Landsat-8) and will be further complimented via data emanating from the forthcoming the Earth Surface Mineral Dust Source Investigation (EMIT) instrument on the International Space Station (ISS). Initial studies involving the use of UAS/UAV systems are also available. However, it is clear that there remain some significant challenges to the generation of close synergies between remote sensing observations and viable ground-based geomorphological / geochemical / climatological information.

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