

Biography

Professor Douglas Parker

National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS), University of Leeds & NORCE Norwegian Research Centre AS

I am employed by the UK [National Centre for Atmospheric Science](#), at the University of Leeds. From 2010 to 2019 I was responsible for the coordination of the University's formal partnership with the Met Office. I now have an adjoint position at [NORCE-Climate](#) in Bergen. I have recently led, jointly with Alan Blyth, the [GCRF African SWIFT](#) project (2017-2022), which has brought about transdisciplinary solutions to improve weather forecasts in Africa, and thereby to increase the resilience of millions of vulnerable people in the continent to high-impact weather. SWIFT is a consortium of 16 partners, including 10 African universities and agencies, with strong support from the World Meteorological Organisation. I have played a leading role in the [African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis \(AMMA\)](#) programme, 2003-2019. AMMA has been the largest and most extensive multidisciplinary research programme ever conducted in Africa. I led AMMA-UK, and co-led the AMMA Radiosonde Programme and the AMMA Monsoon-Season Special Observing Periods (SOPs). I lead transdisciplinary work to bring the benefits of weather forecasts to society. I have led and edited a textbook on weather forecasting in West Africa. "[Meteorology of Tropical West Africa: The Forecasters' Handbook](#)" is the first book of its kind, collecting together the scientific principles and practical forecasting techniques for a particular climatic region. The book has been [translated into French](#) and more than 300 copies have been distributed to the forecasting and training centres in Africa, funded by the Met Office and Météo-France.

His work has formed a significant part of the [Queen's Anniversary Prize](#) awarded to the University of Leeds in 2021.