Biography

Professor Douglas Parker
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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.