



1

What in the world  
is  
the WMO GAW QA SAC – Americas?



2

How can NADP contribute  
to the quality of  
global precipitation chemistry measurements?

IGACO

SAC

GESAMP

GAW

NMHS

EPAC SSC

What in the world  
is

the WMO GAW QA SAC – Americas?

SDS-MAS

GURME

WMO

WDCPC

GAW SIS

ET-WDC

SAG-PC



# World Meteorological Organization

Weather • Climate • Water



RADAR

## Numerical Wx Prediction Models

ENIAC

- ❖ WMO is an agency of the United Nations.
- ❖ WMO was formed in 1950.
- ❖ Goal of WMO was (and is) to foster international cooperation in matters related to weather, climate, water (hydrology) and **related geophysical sciences**.
  - 1) promotes establishment of networks, standardized procedures, training & tech' transfer
  - 2) facilitates free and unrestricted exchange of data and information



# World Meteorological Organization

Weather • Climate • Water

\* \* \* 1950 \* \* \*

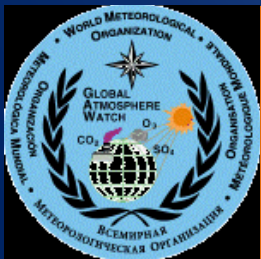
Seasonal Ozone  
Hole

Acid Rain  
Damage to  
Forests &  
Fisheries

Greenhouse  
Gases > Climate  
Change

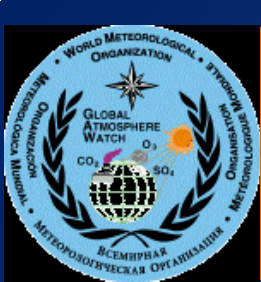
\* \* \* 1986 \* \* \*

\* \* \* Important Discoveries \* \* \*



[The Global Atmosphere Watch Programme: 25 Years of Global Coordinated Atmospheric Composition Observations and Analyses](#)

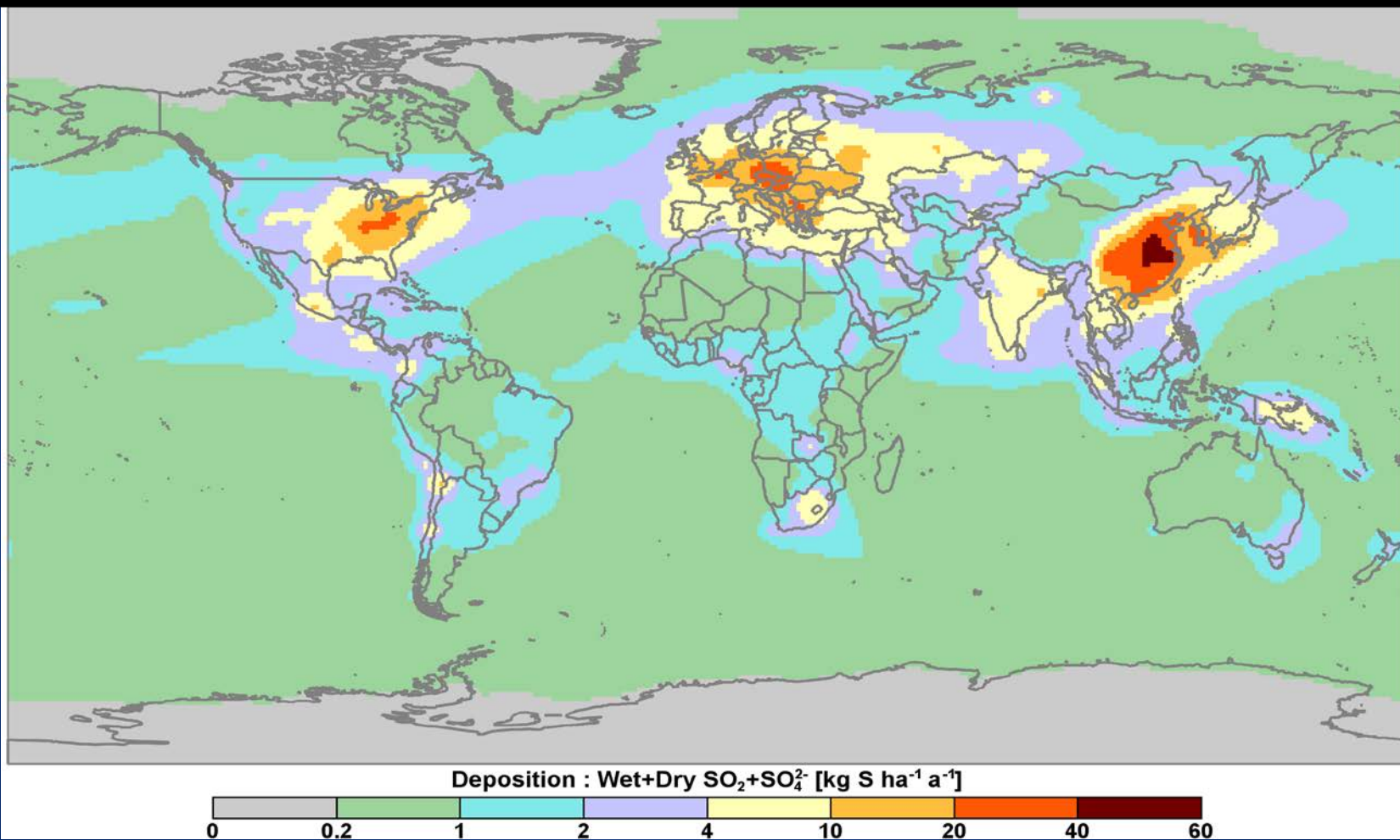




## The Global Atmosphere Watch Programme: 25 Years of Global Coordinated Atmospheric Composition Observations and Analyses



# Atmospheric Deposition





## The Global Atmosphere Watch Programme: 25 Years of Global Coordinated Atmospheric Composition Observations and Analyses



### The mission of GAW is:

- IGACO** = record Integrated Global long-term Atmospheric Chemistry Observations to evaluate environmental risk & conventions
- emphasize Data Quality Objectives (QA/QC)
- deliver data/products/services of relevance to users
- contribute to scientific assessments and strengthen predictive capabilities (i.e., models)



## The Global Atmosphere Watch Programme: 25 Years of Global Coordinated Atmospheric Composition Observations and Analyses



### Initial Problems

- GAW data not used for (weather/climate/flood) prediction
- standard protocols
- trace-level measurements
- QA/QC poorly established

**SAG to the rescue!**

# Science Advisory Group – Precipitation Chemistry

Rick Artz, Chair  
NOAA, USA

Bob Vet, Canada

Silvina Carou, Canada

Hiroshi Hara, Japan

Wenche Aas, Norway

Tamara Khodzher, Russia

Kobus Pienaar, S. Africa

Van Bowersox, USA



WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION  
GLOBAL ATMOSPHERE WATCH



No. 160

MANUAL FOR  
GAW PRECIPITATION

Guidelines for Precipitation Measuring Procedures



November 2004

**SAG to the rescue!**

1) Equipment & procedures for collecting water, position and measurement procedures

2) Instrument calibration  
3) Analytical instruments  
analysis methods

d – data verification

4) Data reporting & flagging

5) QA/QC

a – data quality objectives

b – QA Plans

c – tests of instruments, containers, handling procedures

d – measurement accuracy, completeness, representativeness



Full-screen Snip

## A global assessment of precipitation chemistry and deposition of nitrogen, sea salt, base cations, organic acids, acidity equivalent, and phosphorus <sup>\*</sup>

Robert Vet<sup>a</sup>, Richard S. Artz<sup>b</sup>, Silvina Carou<sup>a</sup>, Mike Shaw<sup>a</sup>, Chul-Un Ro<sup>a</sup>, Wenche Aas<sup>c</sup>, Alex Baker<sup>d</sup>, Van C. Bowersox<sup>e</sup>, Frank Dentener<sup>f</sup>, Corinne Galy-Lacaux<sup>g</sup>, Amy Hou<sup>a</sup>, Jacobus J. Pienaar<sup>h</sup>, Robert Gillett<sup>i</sup>, M. Cristina Forti<sup>j</sup>, Sergey Gromov<sup>k</sup>, Hiroshi Hara<sup>l</sup>, Tamara Khodzher<sup>m</sup>, Natalie M. Mahowald<sup>n</sup>, Slobodan Nickovic<sup>o</sup>, P.S.P. Rao<sup>p</sup>, Neville W. Reid<sup>q</sup>

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<sup>g</sup> Laboratoire d'Aérodologie, Observatoire Midi Pyrénées, Toulouse, France

<sup>h</sup> Faculty of Natural Sciences, North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa

<sup>i</sup> CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, Aspendale, Victoria, Australia

<sup>j</sup> Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais, Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação, São José dos Campos, São Paulo, Brazil

<sup>k</sup> Institute of Global Climate and Ecology, Roshydromet and RAS, Moscow, Russian Federation

<sup>l</sup> Department of Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Tokyo, Japan

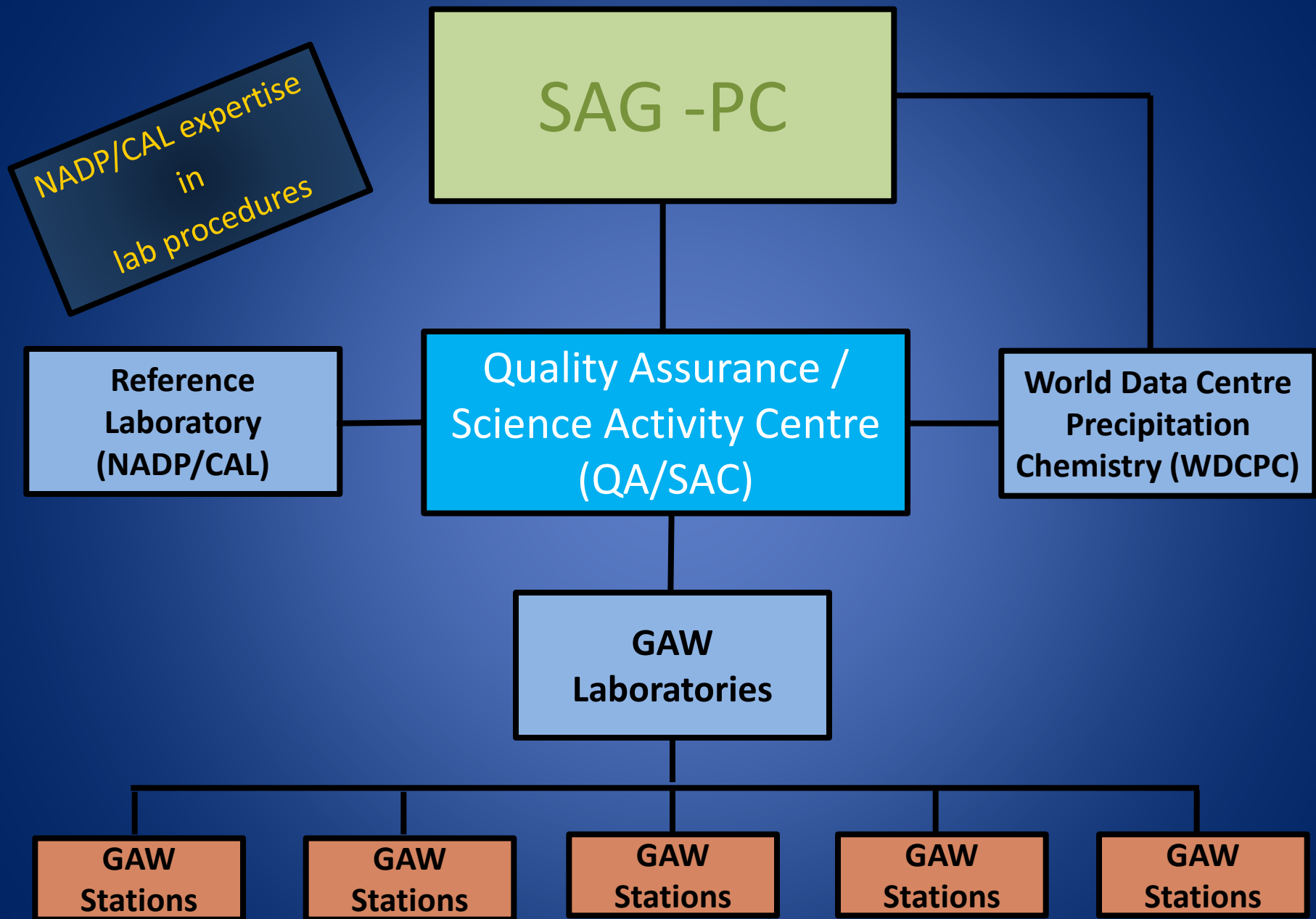
<sup>m</sup> Limnological Institute, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Irkutsk, Russian Federation

<sup>n</sup> Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, U.S

<sup>o</sup> Atmospheric Research and Environment Branch (AREB), World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

<sup>p</sup> Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, India

KUDOS



SAG - PC

NADP/CAL expertise  
in  
lab procedures

Reference  
Laboratory  
(NADP/CAL)

Quality Assurance /  
Science Activity Centre  
(QA/SAC)

World Data Centre  
Precipitation  
Chemistry (WDCPC)

GAW  
Laboratories

GAW  
Stations

GAW  
Stations

GAW  
Stations

GAW  
Stations

GAW  
Stations

<http://qasac-americas.org/>



The Quality Assurance  
Science Activity Centre – Americas



Helping ensure the high quality of  
precipitation chemistry measurements

HOME

PRECIP CHEM MANUAL

STUDY RESULTS

RING DIAGRAMS

LAB STUDY 51

SAG-PC

## QA/SAC-Americas



Welcome to the Quality Assurance/Science Activity Centre – Americas (QA/SAC-Americas), one of four QA/SACs operating to ensure data quality and support science activities in the [World Meteorological Organization Global Atmosphere Watch \(GAW\)](#).

The QA/SAC-Americas seeks to document and help improve the quality of precipitation chemistry measurements from around the world. It conducts semi-annual inter-laboratory comparison studies. Graphical and tabular results of past studies are available by accessing [Study Results](#).

Guidance on all aspects of collecting precipitation for chemical analysis is provided in the [Manual for the GAW Precipitation Chemistry Programme \(WMO-GAW Report No. 160\)](#).

Visit the [World Data Centre for Precipitation Chemistry Web site](#) for information about the new Global Assessment of Precipitation Chemistry and Deposition.

The Quality Assurance/Science Activity Centre – Americas is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Air Resources Laboratory. Data and information on this website are in the public domain, unless otherwise indicated, and may be used freely by the public. See [QA/SAC-Americas Data and Information Use](#)

Lab Manager Login

By activating this tab, Lab Managers can log in with a User Name and Password.

# When Lab Managers log into the QA/SAC system, they can:

- Update contact information
- Edit shipping address, latitude/longitude, etc.
- Enter biannual Inter-laboratory Comparison Study reports.

### Audience Overview

Jan 1, 2011 - Dec 31, 2012

Advanced Segments Email Export Add to Dashboard Shortcut

% of visits: 100.00%

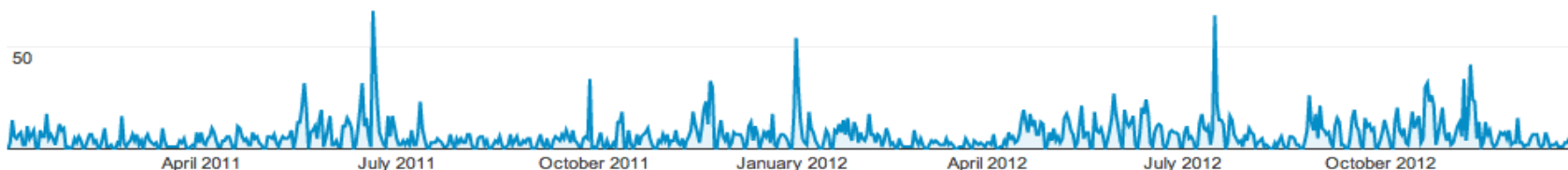
#### Overview

Visits vs. Select a metric

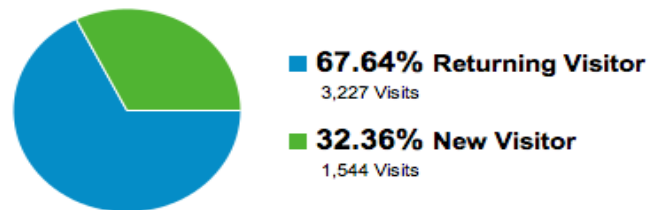
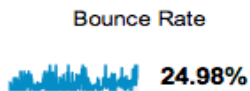
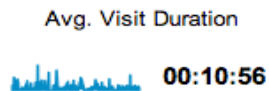
Hourly Day Week Month

# Google : QA-SAC

Visits  
100  
50



### 1,634 people visited this site



# Study Results : Tabular Summary

# Study Results : Ring Diagrams

## Sample 1 Results

Measurement	Units	N	Target	Median	$\Sigma$ sigma <sub>est</sub>	Good (25th perc)
pH	pH units	73	4.75	4.80	0.06	4.76
Conductivity	$\mu$ S/cm	67	20.8	20.4	0.5	20.0
Acidity (optional)	$\mu$ eq/L	10	N/A	15.1	2.6	13.2
Sulfate as $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$	mg/L	73	1.935	1.930	0.110	1.872
Nitrate as $\text{NO}_3^-$	mg/L	77	0.978	0.962	0.042	0.930
Ammonium as $\text{NH}_4^+$	mg/L	73	0.381	0.376	0.019	0.365
Fluoride (optional)	mg/L	22	0.054	0.051	0.005	0.048
Chloride	mg/L	74	2.032	2.013	0.060	1.974
Sodium	mg/L	70	1.124	1.104	0.043	1.062
Potassium	mg/L	72	0.219	0.215	0.014	0.200
Calcium	mg/L	70	0.270	0.266	0.034	0.250
Magnesium	mg/L	69	0.119	0.117	0.005	0.113

## Select Data Sets

### 1. Choose Action:

Download

View

Would you like to download data files or view data?

### 2. Choose Data:

Ring Diagrams

HTML Table

Comma-delimited CSV

### 3. Choose Lab:

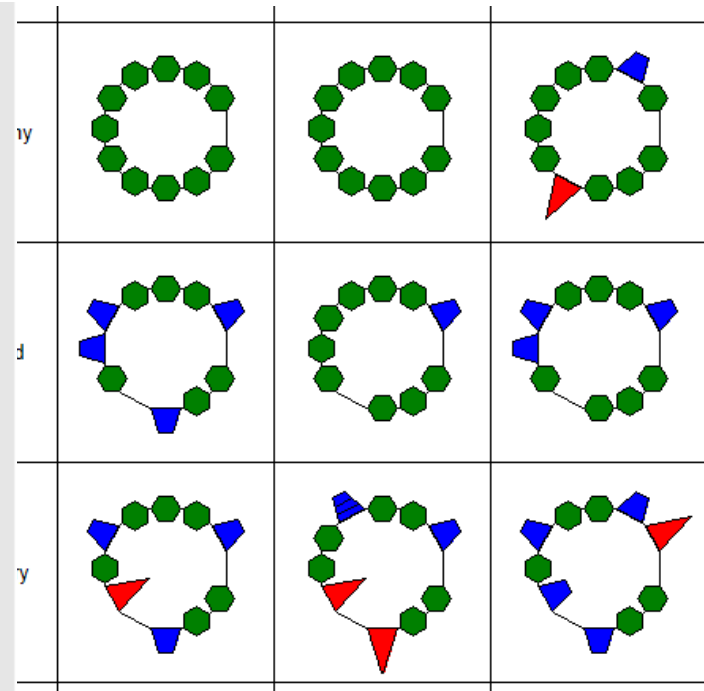
All Labs

Select a single lab, or all for entire dataset.

### 4. Choose Period:

LIS 2014 50

Go!



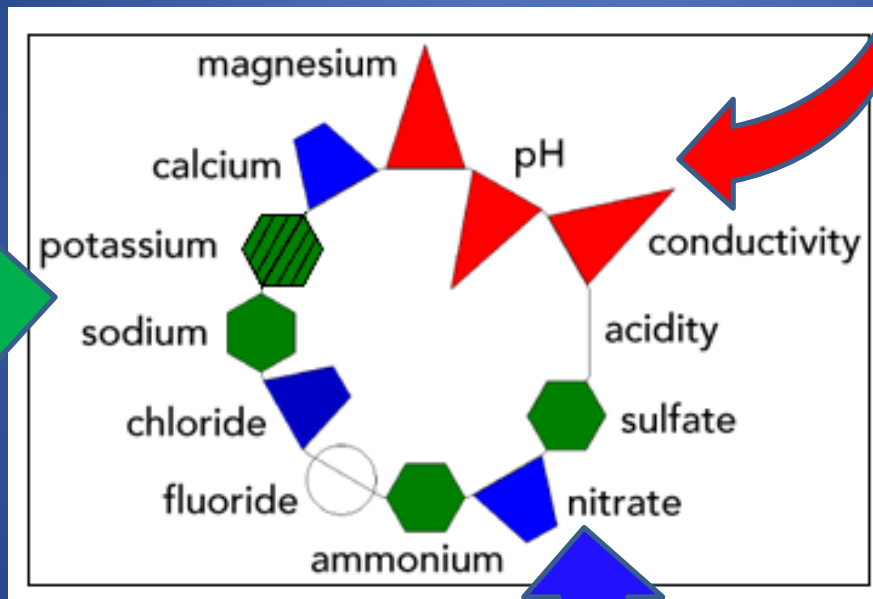
download csv file

Lab	pH pH units	conductivity $\mu$ S/cm	acidity $\mu$ eq/L
700003 Sample 1	4.76 Z= - 0.67	20.8 Z= 0.80	m
700003 Sample 2	4.58 Z= - 0.60	15.9 Z= 0.71	m
700003 Sample 3	5.35 Z= 0.18	22.1 Z= 0.20	m
700006 Sample 1	4.53 Z= - 4.60	20.3 Z= - 0.20	15.0 Z= - 0.00
700006 Sample 2	4.41 Z= - 4.75	15.4 Z= 0.00	29.0 Z= 0.50

potassium K <sup>+</sup> mg/L	calcium Ca <sup>2+</sup> mg/L	magnesium Mg <sup>2+</sup> mg/L	Ring Diagram
0.219 Z= 0.29	0.261 Z= - 0.15	0.119 Z= 0.40	
0.028 Z= 0.14	0.115 Z= - 0.24	0.033 Z= 0.00	
0.324 Z= 0.46	0.458 Z= - 0.16	0.214 Z= 0.43	
0.178 Z= - 2.64	0.352 Z= 2.63	0.132 Z= 3.00	
<0.03	0.130 Z= 0.48	0.035 Z= 0.29	

## Study Results: HTML Table (CSV) with Z-scores

**UNSATISFACTORY**  
outside (median  $\pm$  Sigma)



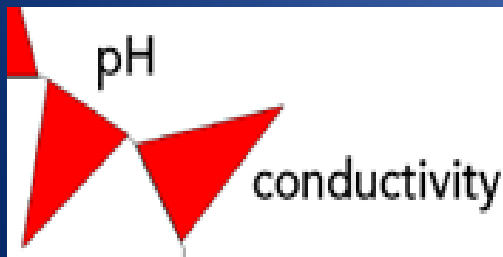
**SATISFACTORY**  
between Good  
&  
Unsatisfactory

**GOOD**  
within interquartile range



# How can NADP contribute to the quality of global precipitation chemistry measurements?

- YouTube demonstration : “How To” enter lab study measurements on-line (6-minute video)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1h1-dEgdXg>
- On-line data entry is secure, quality-assured (measurements are entered twice and both entries must match), and efficient (participant receives report that lists measurements and target values by e-mail)
- Over 3 years, participation has grown to 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of labs



YouTube video addressing correct measurement procedures



### Precipitation Chemistry Labs and Stations

Select Lab

Select Station

Select WMO Region

#### Lab 700035 Switzerland

Location: Region 6, Europe

Swiss Federal Laboratories for  
Materials Science & Technology (EMPA)  
Überlandstrasse 129  
Dübendorf

CH-8600 SWITZERLAND

Website:  
[http://www.empa.ch/plugin/  
template/empa/704/\\*/--/l=1](http://www.empa.ch/plugin/template/empa/704/*/--/l=1)

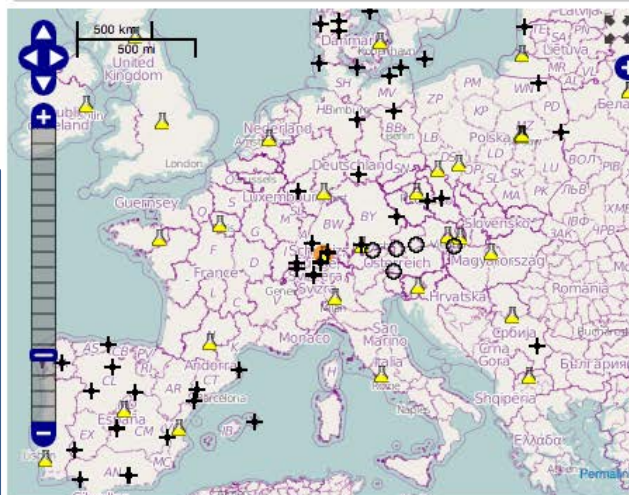
#### Stations Served:

- Tänikon
- Payerne
- Jungfrauoch
- Chaumont
- Rigi
- Jungfrauoch
- Payerne
- Rigi
- Tänikon

#### Intercomparison Data:

Select LIS Study

### Lab 700035 Switzerland



## Laboratory Information

- Lab Website link
- List of stations served by the lab
- Link to Ring Diagrams for lab

IGACO

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GESAMP

GAW

NMHS

~~EPAC-SSC~~

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