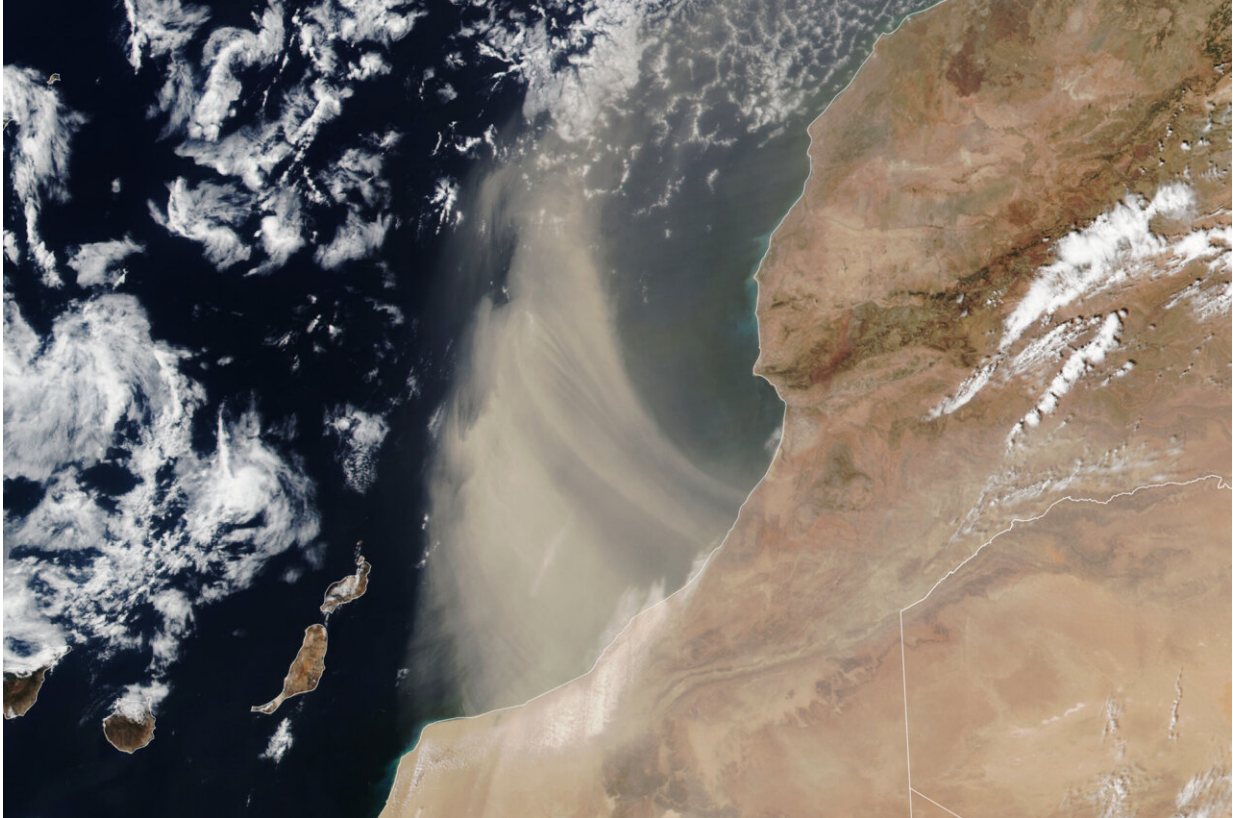


# Image: Saharan dust in the wind

August 30 2024, by Lindsey Doermann

---



Credit: NASA/Lauren Dauphin, using VIIRS data from NASA

The Suomi NPP satellite acquired this image of a plume of Saharan dust as winds lofted it over the Atlantic Ocean on Aug. 24, 2024.

The Sahara Desert is Earth's largest source of airborne dust, and the particles can travel for thousands of miles. From late spring to early fall,

it is common for the dry, dusty Saharan Air Layer to carry the particles westward across the Atlantic Ocean high in the atmosphere.

Saharan Air Layer activity subsides after mid-August, according to NOAA, making it less likely that the plume shown here is bound for a transoceanic journey. Instead, it arcs to the north after blowing out over the ocean. Earlier in the summer, however, several clouds of fine dust from the Sahara reached the United States, creating hazy skies over Texas.

Provided by NASA

Citation: Image: Saharan dust in the wind (2024, August 30) retrieved 31 August 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2024-08-image-saharan.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.