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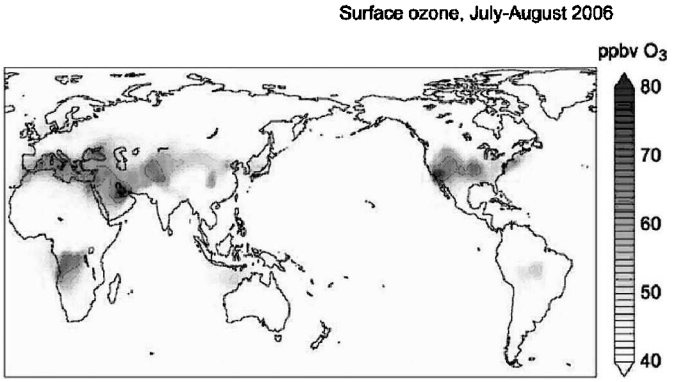
Cyprus Institute research highlighted in *Science* Magazine

RESEARCH results from the Energy, Environment and Water Research Centre, of the Cyprus Institute (www.cyi.ac.cy) were recently published in the international scientific journal *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, and have received international attention.

Subsequently, the editors of the renowned *Science* magazine highlighted this article on 'Severe ozone air pollution in the Persian Gulf region' in its March issue. The Research concluded that Persian Gulf region conditions are highly favourable to ozone air pollution and the dry local climate is likely to deteriorate in the future. Much of the pollution is actually transported from the eastern Mediterranean area in summer and forms the "background" for strong local pollution emissions around the Persian Gulf. This may severely affect the environmental health conditions of the region. The work included model calculations and satellite measurements, and showed that pollution conditions are rapidly aggravating. In the summer, the Eastern Mediterranean acts as a "gateway" for strong air pollution from Eastern Europe towards the Middle East. Evidently, this also negatively affects the air quality in Cyprus as the pollution passes through.

The research was led by Professor Jos Lelieveld, who is a Professor at the Cyprus Institute leading the Atmospheric and Climate Modelling group at the EEWRC and is also Director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Germany (an Institutional Partner of the Cyprus Institute). The research team comprised other scientists from EEWRC including Dr Panos Hadjinicolaou and Dr Andrea Pozzer, and other institutions in Germany and France.



Map depicting the excessive surface ozone, highlighting the pronounced pollution hot spots in the summer of 2006