

## INCREASED AIR POLLUTION IN VENEZUELA DURING THE LAST DECADE (1991-2000) OF THE XX CENTURY

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The main purpose of conventional (and automatic) surface meteorological stations is for weather forecasts and climatological issues; however some particular instrumental measurements, phenomena observations and estimations which are undertaken by the stations observers are worthy and valuable for air quality studies. This is the case of meteorological parameters such as horizontal air visibility, solar radiation, sunshine and cloudiness, all of them directly influenced by increasing smog, aerosols and other pollutants in the air around the stations. Data from the 36 meteorological stations of the Servicio de Meteorología de la Fuerza Aérea de Venezuela (SMFAV) were used to assess the behavior and trends in the time series of the above mentioned parameters during the decade 1991-2000. These data were then matched with the previous period 1951-1990. All the time series were tested for homogeneity; common statistics were obtained. The results show significant decreased values for the decade 1991-2000 in time series of horizontal air visibility, solar radiation and sunshine, and increased values of cloudiness in most of the stations, as compared with 1951-1990 period. With this research and from previous ones undertaken by the author in Venezuela, there is no doubt that this situation is the result of an increasing air pollution observed in the low atmosphere of the country.