# The role of the lake-land breeze circulation in the formation and propagation of storms over Lake Victoria

Beth Woodhams<sup>1</sup>, Cathryn Birch<sup>1,2</sup>, John Marsham<sup>1,3</sup>, Caroline Bain<sup>2</sup>, Todd Lane<sup>4</sup>

- 1 Institute for Climate and Atmospheric Science, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, UK
- 2 Met Office, Exeter, UK
- 3 National Centre for Atmospheric Science, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, UK
- 4 School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia



#### Lake Victoria



# Motivation

#### Lake Victoria

35 million people depend on Lake Victoria to survive

200,000 fishermen use the lake

5000 deaths on the lake each year

Surrounding land used for agriculture



# Background





# Background





#### **UM Nesting Suite\***

Driving model: UM global mode (re-run from archived analysis files)

2 resolutions: 4.4km, 1.5km SINGV2.1, with Aranami (2015) moisture conservation

72 hour simulations

#### Output every hour

\* The authors wish to acknowledge to Stu Webster (Met Office)



Case Study 1: Dry Period ► July 2015 (dry season) Case Study 2: Large Storm ► May 2015 (Long Rains) Case Study 3: Small Storm ► July 2016 (dry season)















# 19:00 LT





# 01:00 LT



















2015/07/09 13:00



Case Study 1: Dry Period ► July 2015 (dry season) Case Study 2: Large Storm ► May 2015 (Long Rains) Case Study 3: Small Storm ► July 2016 (dry season)

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

2015/05/06 15:30









# 19:00 LT









Case Study 1: Dry Period ► July 2015 (dry season) Case Study 2: Large Storm ► May 2015 (Long Rains) Case Study 3: Small Storm ► July 2016 (dry season)

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

2016/07/29 02:30











#### **Lake-land Breeze Circulation**

- -Shows characteristics of textbook lake-land breeze circulation
- -Asymmetry due to prevailing south-easterly flow and downslope flow from the eastern mountains

#### Large storm

- Initiates onshore as lake-breeze front collides with downslope winds
- -Moves offshore with the land-breeze
- -New convection is initiated on the leading edge of the storm due to the land-breeze from the western edge of the lake
- -High moisture availability

#### **Small Storm**

- -Initiates over the lake, where the land-breeze from the east meets moist anomalous north-westerly flow
- Storms propagate along line of convergence

**Two very different storms:** 

Lake-land breeze circulation plays an important role in both

# **Further Work**





How representative are the two case study storms?

Using satellite observations and storm tracking, classify storms by e.g.

- location of initiation
- size
- track

Investigate correlations of storm type with factors such as

- Large-scale flow
- Time of year
- Atmospheric wave-modes
- Teleconnections

Using operational forecast model, investigate predictability of different storm types

## Questions?



#### Acknowledgements

Australian Bicentennial Scholarship (Menzies Centre, King's College London) and RMetS Rupert Ford Award for funding research visit to University of Melbourne