



Scientific ocean drilling has contributed to investigations of monsoon systems that impact a significant portion of the world's population (plot on right). It has provided long, high-resolution records of regional monsoon activity and documented orbital controls on its variability back into the Miocene (~23 million years ago) to answer questions about how monsoons responded to past climate warming. The map shows global monsoon regions (white rectangles and labels), illustrated using the average difference in precipitation (mm/day) between Northern Hemisphere summer (June–August) and winter (December–February) between 1979 and 2018. Future drilling will balance the geographic distribution of monsoon records, which are currently biased toward the Northern Hemisphere, and push the temporal range back to the Paleogene and Cretaceous. *Sources: Precipitation: Climate Prediction Center Merged Analysis of Precipitation 1979–2018; Population: Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University (2018)*