Short-term variations of diffuse CO$_2$ and H$_2$S emission from the summit crater of Teide volcano, Tenerife, Canary Islands

Gladys V. Melián (1,2,3), Krescent Williams (4), Emily Mason (5), Abigail Metcalfe (6), María Asensio-Ramos (1), Mar Alonso (1,2), Matteo Biancospino (7), Cecilia Amonte (1,3), Cecilia Morales (1), Ernesto García (1), Fiona Burns (1), Verónica Vela (1,2), Nemesio M. Pérez (1,2,3)

(1) Instituto Volcánológico de Canarias (INVolCAN), Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain (gladys@iter.es), (2) Instituto Tecnológico y de Energías Renovables (ITER), Granadilla de Abona, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, (3) Agencia Insular de la Energía de Tenerife (AIET), Granadilla de Abona, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, (4) Department of Chemistry, Rollins College, FL 32789, USA, (5) Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, CB2 3EQ, UK, (6) Department of Earth Sciences, Durham University, DH1 3LE, UK, (7) Università Degli Studi "G. d’Annunzio" Chieti-Pescara, Chieti, Italy

Tenerife (2034 km$^2$) is the largest of the Canary Islands and hosts a central volcanic complex (Las Cañadas caldera). The twin stratovolcanoes Pico Viejo (3,103 m) and Teide (3,717 m) lie within the summit of Las Cañadas caldera and at the intersection of the three major volcanic rift-zones. Teide summit cone has been constructed during several phases and, although it shows a weak fumarolic system, volcanic gas emissions observed there are mainly controlled by high rates of diffuse CO$_2$ degassing. Previous diffuse CO$_2$ surveys have shown to be an important tool to detect early warnings of possible impending volcanic unrests at Tenerife Island (Melián et al., 2012; Pérez et al., 2013). During the summer of 2017, 11 diffuse CO$_2$ and H$_2$S degassing studies were performed at Teide Volcano crater (6,972 m$^2$) in order to evaluate short-term variations in the degassing regime. Soil CO$_2$ and H$_2$S efflux were measured at 38 observation sites homogeneously distributed inside the summit crater according to the accumulation chamber method, using a non-dispersive infrared (NDIR) LICOR-820 CO$_2$ analyzer and a H$_2$S electrochemical cell H2S-BH, Alphasense. Soil CO$_2$ efflux values ranged between non-detectable values and 492 kg·m$^{-2}$·d$^{-1}$, with an average of 216 kg·m$^{-2}$·d$^{-1}$, while soil H$_2$S efflux values presented a range from non-detectable to 35 g·m$^{-2}$·d$^{-1}$, with an average of 0.86 g·m$^{-2}$·d$^{-1}$. Sequential Gaussian simulation (sGs) was used for mapping and estimating the volcanic CO$_2$ discharge. The highest diffuse CO$_2$ efflux values were measured at the East sector of the crater (>60 kg·m$^{-2}$·d$^{-1}$). The zones with the highest diffuse CO$_2$ effluxes were also characterized by a relatively high soil temperature (>60°C) and intense hydrothermal alteration. The total amount of diffuse CO$_2$ discharged through the surface environment of the summit crater ranged between 76 and 159 t·d$^{-1}$ with an average of 115 t·d$^{-1}$. The observed variations of CO$_2$ diffuse emission during June-August 2017 are higher than those observed during the same period of 2016 (15.6-22.4 t·d$^{-1}$, with an average of 19.0 t·d$^{-1}$) and during 1999 to 2010 period (2.2-36.3 t·d$^{-1}$, with a mean value of 15.7 t·d$^{-1}$; Melián et al., 2012). This increase in the diffuse emission of CO$_2$ is well-correlated with an increase in the seismic activity recorded during 2017: INVolCAN seismic network registered a total of 102, 73 and 38 seismic events for June, July and August, respectively, values higher than those registered by the Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN; http://www.ign.es) in the same period of 2016, with an average value of 10 seismic events per month. This change in the CO$_2$ emission ranges was probably due to the increase of fluid pressure in the hydrothermal-magmatic system of Tenerife. Periodic diffuse CO$_2$ and H$_2$S surveys will be a valuable to improve and optimize the detection of early warning signals of future volcanic unrest at Teide volcano.

References

Pérez et al., 2013. J. Geol. Soc. DOI 10.1144/jgs2012-125