Ten years of monitoring diffuse CO$_2$ degassing from Taal volcanic crater lake, Philippines

María Asensio-Ramos (1), Claudia Rodríguez-Pérez (1), Pedro A. Hernández (1,2,3), Germán D. Padilla (1,2), Cecilia Amonte (1), Eleazar Padron (1,2,3), Criselda Baldago (4), Gladys V. Melián (1,2,3), Nemesio M. Pérez (1,2,3), Carlo Arcilla (4), Alfredo M. Lagmay (4), Fátima Rodríguez (1), Mar Alonso (1,2), and Mario A. Aurelio (4)

(1) Instituto Volcanológico de Canarias (INVOLCAN), 38320 La Laguna, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain (nperez@iter.es), (2) Instituto Tecnológico y de Energías Renovables (ITER), 38600 Granadilla de Abona, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain, (3) Agencia Insular de la Energía de Tenerife (AIET), 38600 Granadilla de Abona, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain, (4) National Institute of Geological Sciences, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Velasquez Street, Quezon City, Philippines

Taal volcano is one of the most active volcanoes in the Philippines and has produced some of its most powerful historical eruptions. Located on the southwestern part of Luzon Island, Taal consists of a 15-22-km prehistoric caldera, occupied by the Taal Lake, the active vent complex of Volcano Island and the Crater Lake (TCL), 1.9 km in diameter. Six of 24 known eruptions at Taal since 1572 have caused many fatalities, and several million people live within a 20-km radius of Taal’s caldera rim, making the volcano the largest threat to the Philippine population. An alarming increase in seismicity, gas emission, deformation and temperature of the TCL from March 2011, was interpreted as the result of a new magma intrusion (Arpa et al., 2013; Hernández et al., 2017). Between 2008 and 2014, ITER/INVOLCAN has collaborated with PHIVOLCS and from 2015 to the present with the University of the Philippines, also counting with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), to perform diffuse CO$_2$ ef$_{U+FBO2}$ux surveys at the surface of the TCL. In total, 18 surveys have been undertaken since 2008. Last survey was performed in November 2018, with 75 sites distributed homogenously along the surface of TCL. Together with diffuse CO$_2$ ef$_{U+FBO2}$ux measurements, at each sampling site, water temperature and pH were measured. The CO$_2$ measurements were carried out following the accumulation chamber method by means of a portable LICOR soil CO$_2$ ef$_{U+FBO2}$ux instrument. To estimate the diffuse CO$_2$ output, sequential Gaussian simulations (sGs) were used. The CO$_2$ ef$_{U+FBO2}$ux values ranged from 231 to 20,920 gm$^{-2}$d$^{-1}$. Main CO$_2$ contributions were always observed at those areas where bubbling activity occurs. The estimated diffuse CO$_2$ emission released from the Taal crater lake during 2018 survey was $3,050 \pm 107$ t$d^{-1}$. Observing the time series, the results reveal significant variations from 2008 to 2018 and do not seem to be masked by external variations, showing a temporal correlation with the onsets of high frequency seismic events recorded by PHIVOLCS at Taal. The above observations suggest subsurface magma movement as the cause for the observed changes in the total output of diffuse CO$_2$ emission at the Taal crater lake, and CO$_2$ ef$_{U+FBO2}$ux surveys become an effective volcanic surveillance tool for Taal volcano.
