Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 21, EGU2019-19182, 2019 EGU General Assembly 2019 © Author(s) 2019. CC Attribution 4.0 license.



Globally Significant \mathbf{CO}_2 Emissions From Katla, a Subglacial Volcano in Iceland

Evgenia Ilyinskaya (1), Stephen Mobbs (2), Ralph Burton (2), Mike Burton (3), Federica Pardini (3), Melissa Anne Pfeffer (4), Ruth Purvis (5), James Lee (5), Stephane Baguitte (6), Barbara Brooks (2), Ionna Colfescu (2), Gudrun Nina Petersen (4), Axel Wellpott (6), and Baldur Bergsson (4)

(1) School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK, (2) National Centre for Atmospheric Science, Fairbairn House, University of Leeds, Juk, (3) School of Earth and Environmental Science, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK, (4) Iceland Meterological Office, Reykjavik, Iceland, UK, (5) National Centre for Atmospheric Science, Innovation Way, University of York, , York, UK, (6) Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements, Cranfield University, , Cranfield, UK

Volcanoes are a key natural source of CO_2 , but global estimates of volcanic CO_2 flux are predominantly based on measurements from a fraction of world's actively degassing volcanoes. We combine high-precision airborne measurements from 2016 and 2017 with atmospheric dispersion modeling to quantify CO_2 emissions from Katla, a major subglacial volcanic caldera in Iceland that last erupted 100 years ago but has been undergoing significant unrest in recent decades. Katla's sustained CO_2 flux, 12–24 kt/d, is up to an order of magnitude greater than previous estimates of total CO_2 release from Iceland's natural sources. Katla is one of the largest volcanic sources of CO_2 on the planet, contributing up to 4% of global emissions from nonerupting volcanoes. Further measurements on subglacial volcanoes worldwide are urgently required to establish if Katla is exceptional, or if there is a significant previously unrecognized contribution to global CO_2 emissions from natural sources.