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Atmospheric gas-phase composition over the Indian Ocean

Susann Tegtmeier¹, Christa Marandino², Yue Jia^{1*}, Birgit Quack², Anoop S. Mahajan³

¹Institute of Space and Atmospheric Studies, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada

²GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, 24105 Kiel, Germany

³Center for Climate Change Research, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune,
411016, India

*Now at NOAA Chemical Sciences Laboratory, USA

Corresponding author: Susann Tegtmeier (susann.tegtmeier@usask.ca)

1 **Abstract**

2
3 The Indian Ocean is coupled to atmospheric dynamics, and chemical composition via several
4 unique mechanisms, such as the seasonally varying monsoon circulation. During the winter
5 monsoon season, high pollution levels are regularly observed over the entire northern Indian
6 Ocean, while during the summer monsoon, clean air dominates the atmospheric composition,
7 leading to distinct chemical regimes. The changing atmospheric composition over the Indian
8 Ocean can interact with oceanic biogeochemical cycles and impact marine ecosystems,
9 resulting in potential climate feedbacks.

10 Here, we review current progress in detecting and understanding atmospheric gas-phase
11 composition over the Indian Ocean and its local and global impacts. The review considers
12 results from recent Indian Ocean ship campaigns, satellite measurements, station data and
13 information on continental and oceanic trace gas emissions. The distribution of all major
14 pollutants and greenhouse gases shows pronounced differences between the landmass source
15 regions and the Indian Ocean with strong gradients over the coastal areas. Surface pollution and
16 ozone are highest during the winter monsoon over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea
17 coastal waters due to air mass advection from the Indo-Gangetic Plain and continental outflow
18 from Southeast Asia. We observe, however, that unusual types of wind patterns can lead to
19 pronounced deviations of the typical trace gas distributions. For example, the ozone distribution
20 maxima shift to different regions under wind scenarios that differ from the typical seasonal
21 transport patterns. The distribution of greenhouse gases over the Indian Ocean shows many
22 similarities when compared to the pollution fields, but also some differences of the latitudinal
23 and seasonal variations resulting from their long lifetimes and biogenic sources. Mixing ratios
24 of greenhouse gases such as methane show positive trends over the Indian Ocean, but long-
25 term changes of pollution and ozone, and in particular how they are driven by changing
26 emissions and transport patterns, require further investigation in the future. Although we know
27 that changing atmospheric composition and perturbations within the Indian Ocean affect each
28 other, the impacts of atmospheric pollution on oceanic biogeochemistry and trace gas cycling
29 is severely understudied. We highlight potential mechanisms, future research topics and
30 observational requirements that need to be explored in order to fully understand such
31 interactions and feedbacks in the Indian Ocean region.

32 **1. Introduction**

34 Over the Indian Ocean, intense anthropogenic pollution from Southeast Asia mixes with
35 pristine oceanic air. The interplay of the polluted continental and the clean oceanic air masses,
36 and the resulting atmospheric composition are determined by distinct seasonal circulation
37 patterns. The large-scale monsoon circulations in combination with anthropogenic emissions
38 from southern Asia lead to seasonally contrasting chemical regimes over the Indian Ocean. As
39 the anthropogenic emissions include relatively large contributions from biofuel/biomass
40 combustion and incomplete industrial burning, the atmospheric composition during polluted
41 periods shows unique characteristics when compared to other regimes. The complex mixture
42 of chemical constituents and large-scale transport patterns can have a profound influence on
43 oceanic processes, stratospheric composition, and neighbouring regions such as the
44 Mediterranean and Africa. This article provides a review of the recent progress in our
45 understanding of the atmospheric gas-phase composition over the Indian Ocean and how it
46 impacts the ocean and upper atmosphere. This article is part of the special issue ‘Understanding
47 the Indian Ocean system: past, present and future’.

1 **1.1 Region**

2 The Indian Ocean is the world's third largest ocean covering 19.8% of the water on the Earth's
3 surface. In contrast to the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, it does not stretch from pole to pole, but
4 is enclosed on three sides by major landmasses and an archipelago. The Indian Ocean is centred
5 on the Indian Peninsula, which also forms the northern border together with Iran, Pakistan, and
6 Bangladesh. In the west, the Indian Ocean is bounded by East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula,
7 while the eastern and southern boundaries are set by Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Southern
8 Ocean.

9 The countries bordering the Indian Ocean are home to one-third of the world's population
10 accounting for approximately 2.5 billion people (Roser et al., 2013). The economies of many
11 Indian Ocean countries are expanding rapidly, with India being the fastest growing major
12 economy in the world. Similarly, many Indian Ocean countries show a rapid population growth,
13 which is expected to further increase in the future. Given the quickly growing populations and
14 industries, the Indian Ocean is becoming a pivotal zone of strategic political competition. At
15 the same time, the Indian Ocean hosts a large variety of marine ecosystems including coral
16 reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests. Anthropogenic activities along the coastlines and
17 climate change threaten biodiversity in the Indian Ocean, which contains 25% of the Earth's
18 biodiversity hotspots (Mittermeier et al., 2011).

19 Growing populations also lead to rapidly increasing anthropogenic emissions. Burning
20 conditions are often poorly controlled, as for instance during biofuel burning in cook-stoves,
21 and fossil fuel burning in vehicles (Li et al., 2017). Together with burning of coal and other
22 fossil fuels for energy production, this leads to large emissions of man-made trace species
23 including greenhouse gases and ozone precursors (e.g., Lawrence, 2004). In addition, primary
24 aerosols, such as soot and dust, and precursors of secondary aerosols are released in relatively
25 large amounts. As a result, air pollution is a serious health issue in many Indian Ocean countries,
26 leading to increases in respiratory and cardiovascular problems (Rajak and Chattopadhyay,
27 2019). The intense pollution has also been linked to regional weather impacts, such as changes
28 of rainfall patterns and decreasing crop harvests (e.g., Bollasina et al., 2011, Li et al., 2016).

29 **1.2 Seasons**

30 Seasonal changes of atmospheric transport patterns are the main driver of Indian Ocean
31 chemical regimes and lead to periods of intense anthropogenic pollution alternating with
32 periods of clean oceanic air. The South Asian monsoon circulation, the strongest monsoon
33 system in the world, dominates the regional meteorology of the Indian subcontinent. The
34 seasonal reversal of the winds is coupled to a strong annual cycle of precipitation with very wet
35 summer and dry winter conditions (Chang, 1967). Being the dominant driver of the annual
36 cycle of rainfall, the South Asian monsoon controls the water and food security of the region
37 and, thus, the well-being and prosperity of large populations.

38 The monsoon system also has a strong impact on the atmospheric composition over the Indian
39 Ocean. During the winter monsoon from December to February, continental aerosols as well as
40 man-made trace species and their reaction products dominate the chemical regime (Lelieveld
41 et al., 2001). A layer of air pollution is visible on satellite pictures as a haze of brown colour
42 hanging over much of South Asia and the Indian Ocean. This so-called Indian Ocean brown
43 cloud has been suggested to impact regional climate by masking greenhouse gas induced
44 surface warming (Ramanathan et al., 2005) and to affect monsoon rainfall.

45 In contrast, clean air dominates the atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean during the
46 summer monsoon from June to September, leading to a completely different chemical regime.
47 Atmospheric pollutant levels over the Indian Ocean are low and typical open ocean background

1 conditions can be observed (Lawrence and Lelieveld, 2010). While boreal summer conditions
2 prevent the anthropogenic pollution from spreading across the Indian Ocean, an anticyclonic
3 circulation, centred at 200 to 100 hPa, offers an efficient pathway for continental pollution into
4 the global upper troposphere and lower stratosphere (e.g., Randel et al., 2010; Lelieveld et al.,
5 2018).

6 Finally, during the monsoon transition periods from April to May and September to October,
7 the offshore pollution is less strong, due to weaker air mass transport from Southeast Asia and
8 Africa over the Indian Ocean (Sahu et al., 2006).

9 **1.3 Early work**

10 The largest international scientific study exploring the impact of South Asian emissions on the
11 composition of the atmosphere over the Indian Ocean, the Indian Ocean Experiment
12 (INDOEX), took place during the winter monsoon 1999, with some pilot campaigns conducted
13 during 1996–1997. During the multiplatform field campaign, surprisingly high pollution was
14 detected over the entire northern Indian Ocean all the way to the Intertropical Convergence
15 Zone (ITCZ). Scientific studies revealed that the nature of the pollution was considerably
16 different from that in Europe or North America, with strongly enhanced carbon monoxide
17 concentrations related to widespread biofuel use and agricultural burning (e.g., Lelieveld et al.,
18 2001). Other large pollution sources based on fossil fuel combustion and biomass burning were
19 linked to high loads of sunlight-absorbing aerosols with potential consequences for the regional
20 atmospheric energy balance (Ramanathan et al., 2002). A few years before INDOEX, the Joint
21 Global Ocean Flux Study (JGOFS) India investigated the factors controlling carbon fluxes in
22 the Arabian Sea and led to estimates of CO₂ emissions to the atmosphere for this region (Sarma
23 et al., 2003).

24
25 The INDOEX findings, presented in many scientific publications, have drawn attention to this
26 region and several projects and campaigns followed over the next decade. The Bay of Bengal
27 Experiment (BOBEX) research cruise during February to March 2001 detected high ozone and
28 pollution levels over the Bay of Bengal and linked them to transport from the continent (Naja
29 et al., 2004; Lal et al., 2006). The southern Indian Ocean was explored during the Pilot
30 Expedition to the Southern Ocean (PESO) research cruise from January to April 2004, which
31 revealed much cleaner air masses with smaller aerosol loadings in the region south of the ITCZ
32 (Pant et al., 2009). Other research cruises such as the Bay of Bengal Processes Studies (BOBPS)
33 during September to October 2002, investigated oceanic productivity and nutrients in relation
34 to air-sea exchange of climate active gases (Sardessai et al., 2007). A detailed overview of
35 research cruises, island measurements and aircraft campaigns investigating the atmosphere over
36 the Indian Ocean is given in Lawrence and Lelieveld (2010). The authors provide a
37 comprehensive review of the state of the art at this time by bringing together observational and
38 modelling studies.

39 **1.4 Scope and organization of this study**

40 Here we will focus on recent progress in the field by giving an overview of results published
41 after 2010. We will synthesize the current understanding of Indian Ocean gas phase
42 atmospheric composition and explore how it is driven by emission sources, transport, and
43 chemistry. Our region of interest encloses the Indian Ocean from 30°S to its northern
44 continental borders and across its whole longitudinal range. It also includes neighbouring land
45 mass such as parts of East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and
46 Australia as depicted in Fig. 1. This review focuses on three groups of atmospheric gases 1)
47 ozone and pollutants - carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulphur dioxide (SO₂),
48 ammonia (NH₃) and mercury; 2) greenhouse gases - methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O),

1 carbon dioxide (CO₂) and carbonyl sulphide (COS) and 3) volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
2 and short-lived biogenic gases - dimethylsulphide (DMS), isoprene and halogen compounds.

3
4 Section 2 provides an overview of the physical processes in the atmosphere and ocean that are
5 relevant for the atmospheric composition. Section 3 will introduce all campaigns and
6 measurements that are the basis for scientific studies published after 2010 and are discussed
7 here. Regional sources and sinks of greenhouse gases, pollution and biogenic trace gases will
8 be given in Section 4. Short introductions to all gases listed above, including their role in the
9 atmosphere, can also be found in section 4. The focus of section 5 is on our current knowledge
10 of the atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean and how it is driven by physical
11 processes and by regional sources. We will present a synthesis of the scientific progress made
12 after 2010 in Section 6, where we will also discuss the global and local impacts of the Indian
13 Ocean atmospheric composition. An outlook and a summary of current knowledge gaps are
14 given in Section 7. A key for all abbreviations used in this paper is provided in Appendix A.

15 16 17 **2 Physical processes**

18 **2.1 Atmospheric processes**

19 The South Asian monsoon circulation dominates the transport patterns and regional
20 meteorology over the Indian Ocean. Strong seasonal circulation changes give rise to three main
21 meteorological regimes: the summer monsoon from June to September, the winter monsoon
22 from November to March and the transition periods from April to May and from the end of
23 September to October. Surface flow patterns as well as seasonal transport regimes are described
24 in the following subsections, while a discussion of intraseasonal and interannual variability can
25 be found in the supplementary materials section A.

26 **Near-surface flow patterns**

27 A detailed picture of the near-surface flow patterns is provided in Fig. 1 in the form of seasonal
28 mean surface wind fields and sea level pressure derived from 2018/2019 ERA-Interim
29 reanalysis data. Seasonal mean plots here and in the rest of the paper are shown for core
30 monsoon and transition periods, i.e., June to August (JJA) for the summer monsoon, December
31 to February (DJF) for the winter monsoon, April to May (Apr-May) for the boreal spring
32 transition period and October (Oct) for the boreal autumn transition period. The equatorial and
33 northern Indian Ocean (north of 10°S) are dominated by seasonally reversing monsoon winds
34 (Schott and McCreary, 2001; Schott et al., 2009). Southeast winds occur during the summer
35 monsoon with the low-pressure system of the ITCZ shifted north of 15°N (Fig. 1a), while
36 northwest winds occur during the winter monsoon with the low-pressure belt situated south of
37 the equator (Fig. 1b). Over the southern Indian Ocean (south of 10°S), steady southeast trades
38 prevail during all seasons, but reach further northward during the northern summer.

39 The seasonally reversing monsoon winds and inter-hemispheric pressure gradients over the
40 equatorial Indian Ocean are a striking feature different from the other tropical oceans, where
41 sustained easterly winds are found along the equator. In contrast, equatorial winds over the
42 Indian Ocean are westerlies during the monsoon transition periods (Fig. 1c and 1d) and show a
43 weak westerly annual mean component (Lamb and Hastenrath, 1979). These equatorial
44 westerlies are driven by an interplay of an eastward pressure gradient along the equator, the
45 latitudinal position of the flow recurvature and the strength of the trade winds (Hastenrath and
46 Polzin, 2004).

MSLP and Surface Wind

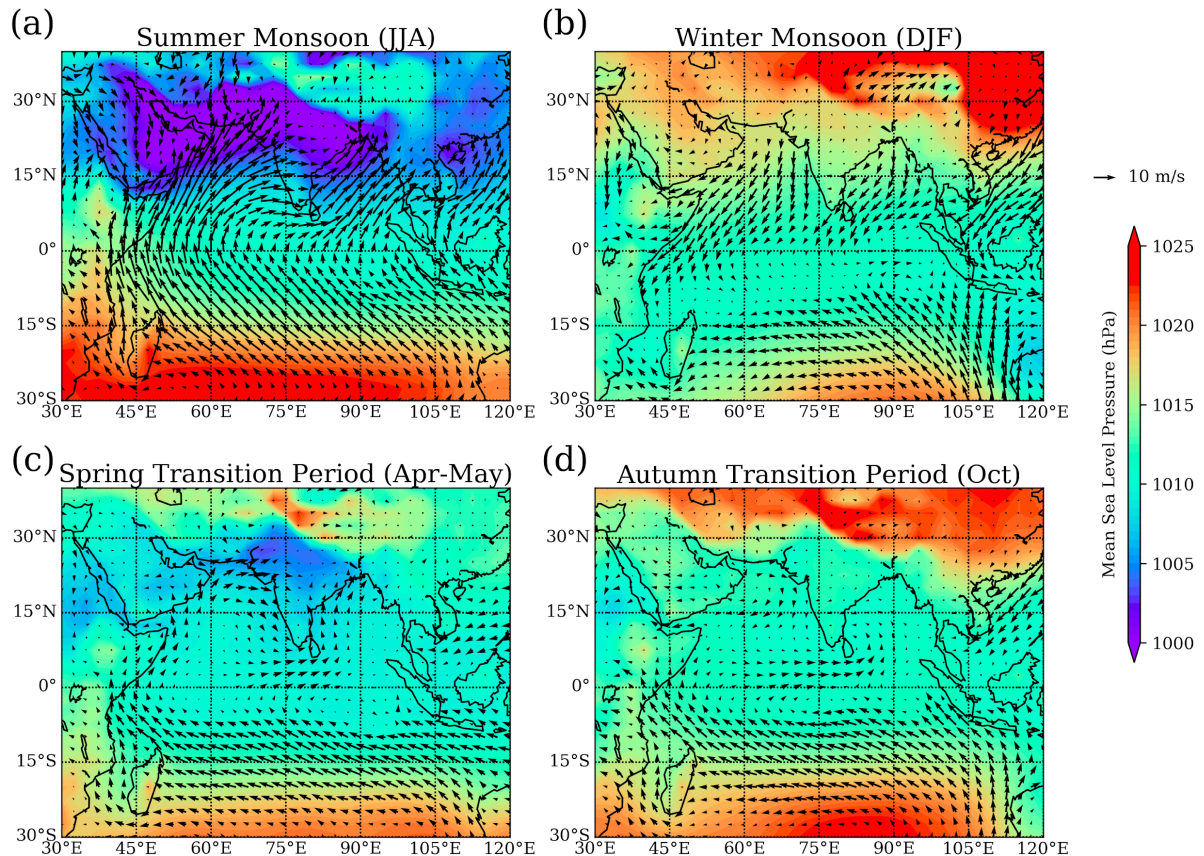


Figure 1. Mean surface level pressure (MSLP) and surface wind for (a) summer monsoon 2018 (June – August), (b) winter monsoon 2018/2019 (December – February), (c) spring transition 2018 (April – May) and (d) autumn transition 2018 (October) periods from ERA-Interim.

Summer and winter monsoon

During the summer monsoon, steady onshore winds transport air from the ocean over to the continent, where it results in deep convection and the well-known Indian summer monsoon rains. Air masses experiencing fast upward transport in convective updraughts converge in the upper troposphere forming a high-pressure system. The associated anticyclone circulation is tied to the outflow of the deep convection and is situated directly over the highly polluted southern Asia. As a result, distinct tracer anomalies have been observed in the anticyclone indicating strong upward transport of pollution from the surface (e.g., Randel et al., 2010). Given the dynamical confinement of tropospheric tracers and aerosols in the anticyclone, the Asian monsoon system provides a potentially efficient pathway from the surface to the tropical upper troposphere and lower stratosphere. However, a significant fraction of the pollution can be removed from the air mass before entering the stratosphere due to lightning driven OH reactions in monsoonal convection (Lelieveld et al., 2018).

During the winter monsoon, the prevailing north-easterly winds reverse the meteorological situation. There is little rain over southern Asia marking this as the ‘dry season’ and the missing convection chemically disconnects the surface layer from the upper troposphere (Kunhikrishnan et al., 2004). Instead, pollution outflow occurs in the marine boundary layer (MBL) via offshore winds towards the northern Indian Ocean down to the equator. Primary MBL flow channels have been identified in the western Arabian Sea, the eastern Arabian Sea

1 just off the Indian west coast, the western Bay of Bengal and Southeast Asia (Krishnamurti
2 1997a; 1997b; Verver et al., 2001).

3 Winter monsoon flow patterns are further complicated by effects of the land-sea breeze, which
4 lofts coastal air masses above the MBL (Simpson and Raman, 2004). The associated offshore
5 flow above the MBL transports air masses over the coastal oceans where they constitute the so-
6 called ‘elevated layer’. Due to the relatively rapid outflow, the elevated layer provides an
7 additional effective mechanism for pollution transport from the continents towards the Indian
8 Ocean (Lawrence and Lelieveld, 2010). As a result, outflow during the winter monsoon occurs
9 in two distinct layers, namely the pollutant plume within the MBL (up to 800–1000m) and the
10 elevated layer (1–3km). Once over the northern Indian ocean, the north-easterly trade winds
11 transport the air masses towards the ITCZ, typical within 7–10 days (Ethe’ et al., 2002).
12 Similarly, over the southern Indian Ocean, south-easterly winds transport pristine boundary
13 layer air masses northwards. At the ITCZ, these trade wind flows converge, and associated
14 convection transports the air upwards into the upper troposphere (Iyengar et al., 1999).

15 Over the western part of the tropical Indian Ocean, the ITCZ has been observed to occur
16 simultaneously in two bands on either side of the equator forming the so-called double ITCZ
17 (Meenu et al., 2007) throughout the year. Based on cloud characteristics and outgoing longwave
18 radiation, the most preferred latitudes for the northern and southern bands of the ITZC were
19 found to be around 5°N and 7.5°S to 10°S.

20

21 **2.2 Oceanic processes**

22 The physical oceanography of the northern Indian Ocean reflects the seasonal changes of the
23 monsoon cycle, including impacts on currents, thermohaline circulation, sea surface
24 temperature (SST), salinity, and upwelling events, while the equatorial and southern Indian
25 Ocean do not experience this influence. For more details about general Indian Ocean physical
26 processes, please see Schott et al. (2009) and references therein, as well as Phillips et al. (2021)
27 from this issue and supplementary material B. In the following sections, we concentrate on how
28 physical oceanography affects salinity, SST, and biological productivity, which in turn play a
29 major role in controlling air-sea exchange and atmospheric composition, in particular for
30 biogenic trace gases such as bromoform, DMS, and isoprene

31

32 **Salinity, SSTs and productivity**

33 On seasonal time scales, freshwater input due to rainfall and river discharge is important for the
34 salinity balance in the Bay of Bengal and horizontal advection related to the monsoon plays a
35 dominant role in the north Indian Ocean (Rao and Sivakumar 2003; Da-Allada et al., 2015). In
36 the southwestern tropical Indian Ocean, the freshwater flux due to precipitation is a major
37 control on the salinity (Da-Allada et al., 2015). The rainfall over the Indian Ocean shows a
38 general migration to the summer hemisphere following sunlight and warm SSTs, highlighting
39 their strong coupling. Conversely, latent heat loss caused by cool, dry air from the Asian
40 continent leads to strong wintertime cooling in the northern Arabian Sea. The strong
41 summertime cooling in parts of the Arabian Sea instead is a combined result of latent heat loss
42 caused by the strong south-westerly winds and upwelling/offshore advection from the Somali
43 and Omani coasts. During boreal summer, upwelling induced cooling off Somalia prevents
44 atmospheric convection from the western Arabian Sea. From the eastern Arabian Sea to the
45 South China Sea, north of the Equator, high SSTs promote atmospheric deep convection (Schott
46 et al., 2009).

1 The oceanic upwelling caused by strong monsoonal winds supplies nutrients to the surface
2 layer, where they support elevated rates of primary productivity. This occurs mainly in the
3 Arabian Sea, the Somali Basin, along the Indian coast and the northern Bay of Bengal,
4 especially during summer months. The seasonal reversals in the boundary currents of the
5 northern Indian Ocean, including the seasonal switching from upwelling to downwelling
6 circulations, have important biogeochemical and ecological impacts that modify primary
7 productivity, nutrient stoichiometry, oxygen concentrations and phytoplankton species
8 composition (Hood et al., 2017). In addition, transient upwelling due to seasonal variations of
9 currents and mesoscale variability can give rise to episodically high levels of primary
10 production throughout the Indian Ocean coastal waters.

11 **2.3 Long-term changes**

12 **Indian Ocean warming**

13 The Indian Ocean has warmed steadily over the past century, with an SST increase of 1°C
14 during 1951–2015, markedly higher than the global average SST warming of 0.7°C, over the
15 same period (Du and Xie, 2008; Han et al., 2014; Krishnan et al., 2020). Overall, this Indian
16 Ocean-averaged warming rate is broadly consistent across observational products (Dong et al.
17 2014; Yao et al., 2016) and historical simulations from the Coupled Model Intercomparison
18 Project - Phase 5 (CMIP5). It can be largely attributed to anthropogenic forcing rather than
19 natural external forcing, such as volcanic and solar variations (e.g., Dong et al., 2014). It has
20 been shown that the basin wide warming due to increasing greenhouse gases is slowed down
21 by the indirect effects of anthropogenic aerosol (Dong and Zhou, 2014). In addition to
22 anthropogenic forcing, the sustained warming over the Indian Ocean warm pool region is
23 caused by local ocean–atmosphere coupled mechanisms, with their relative roles being debated
24 (e.g., Dong et al., 2014; Du and Xie, 2008). The importance of the Indian Ocean in the global
25 ocean heat budget was not recognised until the hiatus period at the beginning of the 21st
26 century, during which the abrupt increase of the upper Indian Ocean heat content served as a
27 major sink of the excessive heat entering the Earth system (e.g., Nieves et al., 2015).

28 The Indian Ocean warming is not spatially homogeneous in both models and observations. The
29 western tropical Indian Ocean has been warming for more than a century, at a rate faster than
30 any other region of the tropical oceans and is the largest contributor to the overall trend in the
31 global mean SST (Roxy et al., 2014). Positive SST anomalies in the western part of the Indian
32 ocean, have increased markedly since 1950, while negative events have reduced (Cai et al.,
33 2009). The warming of the generally cool western Indian Ocean against the rest of the tropical
34 warm pool region (Roxy et al., 2014, 2015) and corresponding changes of the zonal SST
35 gradient (Saha et al., 2014) have been both proposed as plausible explanations for the observed
36 decrease of Indian monsoon rainfall over the last three decades. In addition, they have the
37 potential to alter the marine food webs in this biologically productive region.

38 The Indian Ocean warming is projected to further increase over the course of the 21st century
39 in response to unabated greenhouse gas emissions. By the end of the 21st century, strongest
40 warming in the Arabian Sea and western equatorial Indian Ocean is consistently projected in
41 CMIP models, which could yield more Arabian Sea cyclones and further decrease monsoonal
42 rains (Gopika et al., 2020).

43

44 **Summer monsoon and precipitation**

45 There are large uncertainties related to variability in the South Asian summer monsoon in a
46 changing climate. Several studies debate whether the monsoon is weakening or strengthening,
47 as well as the mechanisms driving the changes (Roxy et al., 2015). According to a review by

1 Singh et al. (2019a), both observational and modelling studies have determined that the
2 potentially weakened monsoon is due to a combination of forcings, such as land use and
3 irrigation changes, increased greenhouse gas as well as anthropogenic aerosols. Roxy et al.
4 (2015) provide compelling evidence that Indian Ocean warming potentially weakens the land-
5 sea thermal contrast and dampens the summer monsoon Hadley circulation, leading to reduced
6 rainfall over parts of South Asia.

7 The Indian Ocean is one of the greatest moisture sources accounting for nearly one-third of the
8 total net transport of water toward the continents (Bengtsson, 2010). Both remote and local SST
9 anomalies can induce hydrological cycle changes over the Indian ocean affecting local and
10 remote precipitation. Han et al. (2019) showed that the moisture sources (evaporation minus
11 precipitation) in the tropical central-eastern and south-western Indian Ocean experienced a
12 significant increase during boreal summer between 1979 to 2016. In addition, there has been a
13 significant reduction in the annual frequency of tropical cyclones and their associated rainfall
14 over the northern Indian Ocean since the middle of the twentieth century (Krishnan et al., 2020).
15 In contrast, the frequency of very severe cyclonic storms during the autumn transition season
16 has increased significantly during the last two decades. At the same time, an enhanced rainfall
17 contribution has occurred due to a higher precipitation efficiency (Singh et al., 2016; 2019b)
18 possibly leading to a dry atmosphere. Further changes of the Indian summer monsoon rainfall
19 are expected for the future, however current model projections give contradicting results (e.g.,
20 Roxy et al., 2015; Zou and Zhou, 2013).

21 Changes in surface wind are expected to be moderate for the first half of the 21st century, with
22 a noticeable decline of wind speed over the tropical Indian Ocean due to reduced thermal land-
23 sea contrasts. The southern extratropical region and Southern Ocean, on the other hand, show
24 a significant strengthening of the wind fields by the end of the twenty-first century (Mohan and
25 Bhaskaran, 2019). Not well represented ocean–atmosphere feedback and coarse model
26 resolutions, however, are known to lead to large uncertainties in model estimates of wind speed
27 changes (Annamalai et al. 2017; Mohan and Bhaskaran, 2019).

28 **Salinity and productivity**

29 Du et al. (2015) noted freshening in the south-eastern tropical Indian Ocea starting in the mid-
30 1990s. Idealised model experiments suggest that multidecadal changes of subsurface ocean
31 salinity during 1950–2000 were due to isopycnal migration related to ocean surface warming
32 (Lago et al. 2016). However, the enhanced precipitation in the Maritime Continent and the
33 strengthening of the Indonesian Throughflow are thought to be the likely causes of the
34 freshening trend in the south-east Indian Ocean since early 2000s (Llovel and Lee 2015; Hu
35 and Sprintall, 2017).

36 While Behrenfeld et al. (2006) indicate a reduction in net primary productivity over most of the
37 tropics as a result of surface thermal stratification, they have suggested an increase in primary
38 productivity for the western Indian Ocean from 1998 to 2004. Recent biogeochemical
39 simulations of the Arabian Sea ecosystem also predict that a projected intensification of
40 monsoon winds strongly increases the ecosystem productivity, thereby amplifying the oxygen
41 biological consumption and intensifying the oxygen minimum zone (OMZ) at depth (Lachkar
42 et al., 2018). At the same time, the near-surface will experience increased ventilation due to the
43 predicted stronger winds. On the contrary, a review in this issue summarizes evidence
44 indicating a significant, but small, reduction in primary production in the northern Indian Ocean
45 (Löscher et al., 2021). An alarming decrease of up to 20% in marine phytoplankton during the
46 past six decades has been identified in the western Indian Ocean (Roxy et al., 2016 driven by
47 enhanced ocean stratification and suppressed nutrient mixing from subsurface layers. Gregg
48 and Rousseaux (2019) also conclude from the assimilation of ocean colour satellite data (1998–

2015) into an ocean biogeochemical model, that the decline in global ocean primary productivity of 2.1% per decade is mainly driven by the northern and equatorial Indian Ocean. Any changes to biological processes have the potential to alter trace gas cycling in the surface ocean.

3. Campaigns, station data and satellite measurements

A few Indian Ocean coastal or island stations have been operated as part of long-term scientific measurement programmes or operational air quality networks providing limited area observations. In addition, intensive ship and aircraft campaigns have been conducted for detailed investigations of atmospheric processes during short episodes. These data can be complemented by satellite observations of the tropospheric composition, which provide the large-scale picture for a number of substances, albeit often with limited vertical resolution and reduced accuracy for individual measurements. In this section, we will give an overview of campaigns, station data and satellite measurements that have been applied to study the atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean over the last decade.

3.1 Campaigns and station data

Over the last decades, chemical, physical, and biogeochemical processes occurring in and above the Indian Ocean have been explored during various field campaigns. Here, all campaigns that have contributed to the recent progress in the field and led to publications after 2010 are summarized in Table 1. It should be noted that the ICARB multi-platform field experiment consisted of three phases, with the first phase exploring post winter monsoon composition in 2006 (ICARB), a second phase taking place during the winter monsoon 2008/2009 (referred to as W_ICARB) supplemented by aircraft measurements and a third phase during the winter monsoon of 2018 (referred to as ICARB-218).

Table 1. Summary of campaigns in the Indian Ocean for the 21st century.

Campaign	Time	Region	Objective	Reference
ARMEX (Arabian Sea Monsoon Experiment)	2002 Jun – Aug	Arabian Sea	Study of reactive halides released from sea salt aerosols and their role in ozone chemistry	Ali et al., 2009
PESO (Pilot Expedition to the Southern Ocean)	2004 Jan – Apr	Southern Indian Ocean	Multi-disciplinary expeditions to understand the forcing mechanisms behind widely geographically separated climate change.	Pandey et al. (2006)
ISOE 1-11 (1st-11th Indian Southern Ocean Expedition)	Since 2004	Southern Indian Ocean	Identify role and response of Southern Ocean to the regional and global climate variability (emissions of trace gases since ISOE 8)	ISOE Reports Mahajan et al. (2019a, b) Inamdar et al. (2020)

ICARB (Integrated Campaign for Aerosols, gases and Radiation Budget)	2006 Mar – May; 2008/09 Dec – Jan; 2018 Jan – Feb	Indian mainland, northern Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal	Characterize the physico-chemical properties and radiative effects of atmospheric aerosols and trace gases over the Indian landmass and the adjoining oceanic regions.	Moorthy et al. (2008) David et al., 2011
Sagar Kanya cruise during the CTCZ (Continental Tropical Convergence Zone) experiment	2009 Jul – Aug	Bay of Bengal	Understanding the gaseous atmospheric boundary layer composition over the Bay of Bengal during the summer monsoon season	Girach et al. (2017)
Campaign aboard the Ocean Research Vessel Sagar Kanya (SK-277)	2010 Oct – Nov	Bay of Bengal	Analyze atmospheric composition over the Bay of Bengal and how it is driven by air mass origin from Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, and the Indian subcontinent	Mallik et al. (2013)
OASIS (Organic VSLs and their air sea exchange from the Indian Ocean to the Stratosphere)	2014 Jul – Aug	West Indian Ocean	Investigate oceanic emissions of very short-lived substances and their transport and chemistry from the tropical Indian Ocean to the atmosphere, in particular to the stratosphere	Fiehn et al. (2017) Zavarsky et al. (2018b)
OMO (Oxidation Mechanism Observations aircraft campaign)	2015 Jul – Aug	Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean	Identify atmospheric impacts of associated air pollution emissions at regional and global scales during the South Asian summer monsoon	Lelieveld et al. (2018)
IIOE-2 (Second International Indian Ocean Expedition)	2015 – 2020	Indian Ocean	Advance Indian Ocean initiatives and projects addressing emerging scientific issues of the Indian Ocean in the 21st century	Hood et al., 2016
AQABA (Air Quality and climate change in the Arabian Basin)	2017 Jul – Aug	Mediterranean and Arabian Peninsula	Study air quality and climate change in the Arabian Basin	Bourtsoukidis et al., 2019

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3 In addition to dedicated campaigns, some island and coastal stations have conducted long-term
4 measurements that provide valuable information about the atmospheric composition over the
5 Indian Ocean.

6 CO₂ surface flask measurements from the Cape Rama site on the Indian coastline have been
7 used to analyse the distribution and variability of CO₂ over this region for 2009–2012 (Nalini
8 et al., 2018). Measurements of CH₄, another important greenhouse gas, and the pollutant CO
9 are available from ground-based in situ cavity ring-down spectroscopy analysers and Fourier
10 transform infrared spectrometers at two sites on Reunion Island in the southern Indian Ocean
11 (Zhou et al., 2018). These multi-annual time series (2011–2017) allowed to investigate the
12 impact of emissions from biomass burning in Africa and South America on atmospheric

1 pollutant levels over the Indian Ocean. CO surface data are also available from the
2 NOAA/ESRL Global Monitoring Division network station in Mahé (Wai et al., 2014).

3 In situ tropospheric ozone measurements have been collected from 2003 to 2007 from balloon-
4 borne electrochemical concentration cell sensors launched above Ahmedabad in western India
5 (Lal et al., 2014). The continuous dataset enabled studies of the impact of transport processes
6 on the seasonal cycle and on the vertical distribution of ozone. The observation site in
7 Trivandrum situated on the southwest coast of India collected measurements of nitrogen oxides
8 with a chemiluminescence NO_x analyser from 2007 to 2009 (David and Nair, 2011).

9 **3.2 Satellite measurements**

10 Satellite measurements of atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean have provided
11 valuable information over the last decades that allowed for studies of the overall distribution
12 and long-term changes of key substances. Most instruments used today apply passive remote
13 sensing with observations being mainly done in nadir geometry. Here we will give a short
14 overview of satellite instruments that provide measurements used in scientific studies of the
15 Indian Ocean atmosphere. In addition, we have compiled plots of the seasonal CO, NO₂ and
16 CH₄ surface distribution for this review article and will describe the respective satellite
17 measurements more in detail.

18 **Pollutants (NO₂) from OMI and TROPOMI**

19 The Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) is a key instrument onboard NASA's Aura satellite.
20 OMI is a nadir-viewing, wide-field-imaging spectrometer that measures backscattered
21 radiances at a spectral resolution of 0.42–0.63 nm (Levelt et al., 2006). Its wide field-of-view
22 of 114° with a swath width of 2600 km yields daily global coverage with a spatial resolution of
23 13 km×24 km (Liu et al., 2010). OMI measures ozone profiles as well as other key air quality
24 components such as NO₂, SO₂, and aerosol characteristics. In this article, we use the OMI
25 tropospheric NO₂ column product from 2003 to 2020 to analyse long-term changes over
26 different coastal and open ocean regions of the Indian Ocean (Section 6).

27 The TROPospheric Monitoring Instrument (TROPOMI) is a nadir-viewing imaging
28 spectrometer on board the Copernicus Sentinel-5 Precursor satellite, which was launched in
29 October 2017 for a mission of seven years. The satellite has a sun-synchronous orbit achieving
30 near full-surface coverage on a daily basis. The TROPOMI instrument contains four
31 spectrometers with three covering the ultraviolet-near infrared and one for the shortwave
32 infrared range. Key atmospheric species observed by TROPOMI include ozone, NO₂, SO₂, CO
33 and aerosol properties. The TROPOMI tropospheric NO₂ column product (Boersma et al.,
34 2018) shows improved spatial resolution compared to previous versions. The NO₂ retrieval
35 algorithm is based on the NO₂ DOMINO retrieval previously used for OMI spectra with
36 improvements made for all retrieval steps. In this article, we use the TROPOMI Level 2 NO₂
37 tropospheric column data product to show its distribution and seasonal variations (Section 5.1).

38 **Pollutants (CO) from MOPITT**

39 The Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere (MOPITT) instrument is onboard NASA's
40 Earth Observing System Terra spacecraft, measuring tropospheric CO since March 2000. The
41 satellite is in a sun-synchronous polar orbit of 705 km allowing the instrument to make
42 measurements in a 612 km cross-track scan with a footprint of 22 km × 22 km providing global
43 coverage every 3 days. The MOPITT measurements provide vertical profiles and total columns
44 of CO, which are useful to analyse the distribution, transport, sources and sinks on a global
45 scale. CO retrieval products are generated with an iterative optimal-estimation-based retrieval
46 algorithm based on the MOPITT calibrated radiances and a priori knowledge of CO variability.
47 The recently released version 8 (V8) products benefit from updated spectroscopic information

1 used in the radiative transfer model and improved methods for radiance bias corrections (Deeter
2 et al., 2019). In this article, we use MOPITT V8 Level 3 monthly data (Near and Thermal
3 Infrared Radiances, JIR) with day and night retrievals averaged to analyse the seasonal variation
4 of surface CO distribution (Section 5.1).

5 **Greenhouse gases (CH₄ and CO₂) from GOSAT**

6 The Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT/Ibuki) is a sun-synchronous polar orbit
7 satellite that measures CO₂ and CH₄ from the stratosphere to the Earth's surface. The retrieval
8 precision for CO₂ is smaller than 3.5 ppm (Yoshida et al., 2011) utilising the Thermal and Near
9 Infrared Sensor for Carbon Observation – Fourier Transform Spectrometer, which operates in
10 the shortwave and thermal emission bands. The GOSAT Level 3 product at a horizontal
11 resolution of 2.5° × 2.5° has data gaps over the globe including a major portion of the Indian
12 region during the monsoon season due to its limitation in retrieving CO₂ in the presence of
13 clouds. This is rectified in the level 4 product that uses the Atmospheric Tracer Transport Model
14 to incorporate ground-based observations and achieves a better distribution of CO₂ over the
15 Indian Ocean (Nalini et al., 2018).

16 Observations from the Thermal and Near-infrared Sensor for carbon Observation-Fourier
17 Transform Spectrometer (TANSO-FTS) onboard GOSAT in the thermal infrared (TIR) provide
18 CH₄ profile information. While the sensitivity of TIR CH₄ observations is relatively low near
19 the surface, the GOSAT/TANSO-FTS TIR instrument has been shown to have sufficient
20 sensitivity to provide CH₄ information at the top of the boundary layer for the Indian
21 subcontinent and Indian ocean region (Belikov et al., 2021). In this article we use
22 GOSAT/TANSO-FTS CH₄ Version 1 (Level 2 V1) CH₄ data at 800 hPa averaged over 2009–
23 2014 to analyse the seasonal variation of surface CH₄ distribution (Section 5.2).

24 **Pollutants (NO₂) from GOME and SCIAMACHY**

25 The Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment (GOME) is a UV/Visible spectrometer on the
26 European polar sun-synchronous orbiting satellite ERS-2, launched in April 1995. It measures
27 in 230–800 nm wavelength range, with a spectral resolution of 0.2–0.4 nm, and obtains global
28 coverage at the equator after 3 days (Burrows et al. 1999). Problems with tape storage on ERS-
29 2 led to the replacement of GOME by the Scanning Imaging Absorption Spectrometer for
30 Atmospheric Chartography (SCIAMACHY), which was launched in 2002 on the European
31 ENVISAT platform. It measures in the spectral range 240–2380 nm (Bovensmann et al., 1999).
32 Both instruments provide measurements of the mean columnar amount of tropospheric NO₂
33 facilitating studies of its variations and long-term changes over the Indian subcontinent (Ghude
34 et al., 2013; Mahajan et al., 2015a).

35 **4. Regional sources and sinks**

36
37
38
39 Atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean is known to be impacted by the trace gas
40 outflow from the surrounding continental land masses, long range transport and regional
41 oceanic air-sea fluxes (Lawrence and Lelieveld, 2010). Here, we describe the distribution,
42 seasonality and trends of continental and oceanic trace gas emissions important for the
43 atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean. Our study region includes East Africa, the
44 Middle East, South Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia and is depicted in Fig. 2.

45 We use the latest versions of the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research
46 (EDGAR) to present continental pollution and greenhouse gas emissions over the last two
47 decades. For air pollutants, EDGAR v5.0_AP for the period 1970–2015 is available (Crippa et
48 al., 2020) and for greenhouse gases EDGAR v5.0_GHG for the period 1970–2015 (Crippa et
49 al., 2019) can be used. The EDGAR datasets include continental emissions from the energy

1 sector (i.e., power industry), industrial processes (i.e., manufacturing, industrial combustion),
2 the transport sector (i.e., road transport, aviation), residential sources (small-scale combustion
3 and waste treatment), and agriculture. Exhausts from ship engines as one of the major sources
4 of air pollution over the open ocean are also included in the EDGAR emissions. The datasets
5 are given at a high spatial resolution of $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$. The results shown in this section focus on
6 the main pollutants CO, NO_x, and SO₂, and the greenhouse gases CH₄, N₂O, and CO₂. We also
7 briefly discuss mercury emissions. The most recent year for which data is given (year 2015 for
8 both air pollutants and greenhouse gases) is used here to present emissions strength and patterns
9 representative for the last decade. Emission changes are calculated for the time period 2000–
10 2015 and are shown in relative terms compared to the emissions in 2000. Emissions are
11 averaged over East Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia for a
12 direct comparison of the regional contributions and the text and tables.

13 The ocean is an important source and sink to/from the atmosphere for many of the same gases
14 mentioned above, as well as other climate- and chemically active compounds, such as DMS,
15 isoprene, and halogen species. Below we will describe the net ocean fluxes of CO, CH₄, CO₂,
16 N₂O, VOCs, DMS, isoprene, and bromoform (CHBr₃) as obtained from recent publications,
17 placing special attention on monsoon related variability.

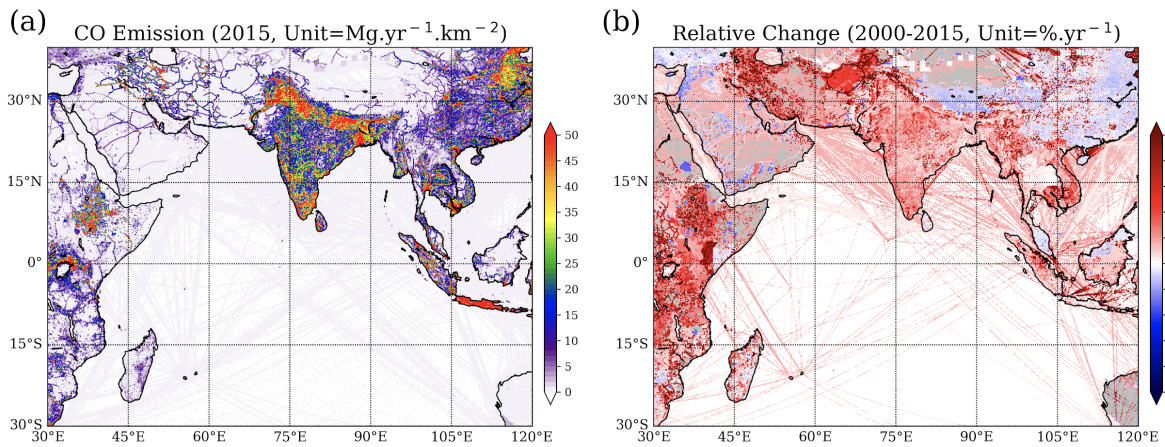
18 **4.1 Pollutants**

19 Among atmospheric pollutants, CO is considered to be one of the most important gases as it is
20 highly toxic at elevated concentrations. Due to its intermediate lifetime of a few months
21 (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006), CO is much more variable in the troposphere than other
22 atmospheric constituents with longer lifetimes and often used as a transport tracer. CO has an
23 indirect radiative effect, since it scavenges the hydroxyl radical (OH), the cleaning agent of the
24 atmosphere that otherwise would destroy the greenhouse gases CH₄ and O₃ (Daniel and
25 Solomon, 1998). Another important pollutant is the family of the nitrogen oxides (NO_x)
26 consisting of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO). Tropospheric NO_x acts as a
27 precursor for a number of harmful secondary air pollutants such as ozone and particulate matter
28 and plays a role in the formation of acid rain. Breathing in raised levels of NO₂ can cause
29 respiratory problems independently of negative health effects of other secondary pollutants.
30 Once transported into the stratosphere, reactive odd-nitrogen species destroy ozone, in
31 particular in the middle stratosphere near the ozone maximum (Portmann et al., 2012). SO₂ is
32 another key component of gaseous air pollution. As for NO₂, exposure to SO₂ can harm the
33 human respiratory system. In addition, SO₂ can react with other compounds in the atmosphere
34 to form small particles that contribute to particulate matter pollution. If oxidised within airborne
35 water droplets, SO₂ produces sulphuric acid, which can be transported by wind over many
36 hundreds of kilometres and deposited as acid rain. Atmospheric NH₃ is a pollutant which plays
37 an important role in the formation of particulate matter, as well as in acidification and
38 eutrophication of ecosystems (Lelieveld et al., 2015; Bauer et al., 2016).

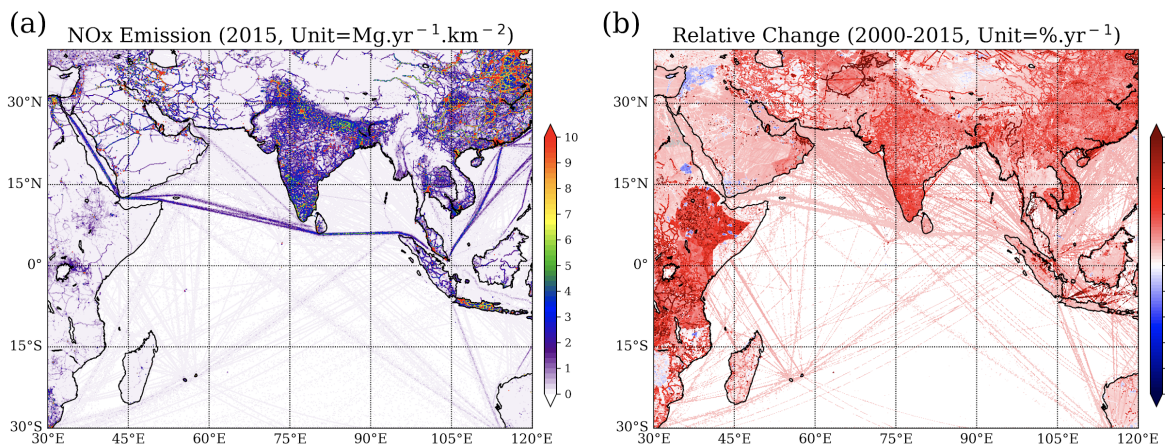
39 The distributions of CO, NO_x, and SO₂ emissions are shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4, respectively.
40 One of the common features of the spatial distribution of these emissions is that they generally
41 coincide with the population distribution, such that high emissions appear in the densely
42 populated areas. In East Asia, high-emission areas include northern China, the Yangtze River
43 delta, Sichuan Basin, Korea, and Japan (not shown in the Figure). In South Asia, high emissions
44 are distributed throughout northern India, Nepal, the southern point of India, and Bangladesh.
45 In Southeast Asia, high emissions appear around some major cities including Bangkok, Hanoi,
46 and Ho Chi Minh City, as well as Java. Similar to Southeast Asia, high-emission regions in
47 East Africa are also around major cities like Kampala, Nairobi, and Addis Ababa. In the Middle
48 East, high-emission regions are distributed around the Persian Gulf. Among the different source
49 regions, East Asia and South Asia are main emitters. In 2015, the two regions accounted for

1 41% (East Asia) and 27% (South Asia) of the total CO emissions discussed here. East Asia is
2 also a large emitter of NO_x (54%) and SO₂ (57%).

3 It is well known that pollution sources from Asia are characterized by inefficient combustion
4 processes during biofuel and fossil fuel burning. For instance, the burning of biofuels such as
5 wood, dung, and agricultural waste accounts for 18% of all CO emissions in Southeast Asia.
6 Globally it only accounted for ~9% of all CO emissions in 2015, highlighting the role of biofuel
7 burning in regions around the Indian Ocean. Inefficient combustion processes also occur during
8 fossil fuel burning at lower temperatures and result in relatively low NO_x emissions and higher
9 CO/CO₂ ratios, when compared to other industrialized areas around the globe. The incomplete
10 fossil fuel combustion from the residential sector and road transportation are the two main
11 sources contributing to the CO production, accounting for 29.5% and 29.0% of all CO
12 emissions in our study region in 2015.



13
14 **Figure 2.** Annual mean CO emissions for 2015 (a) and relative change with respect to 2000 (b) from
15 EDGAR V5.0_AP.



16
17 **Figure 3.** Annual mean NO_x emissions for 2015 (a) and relative change with respect to 2000 (b) from
18 EDGAR V5.0_AP.

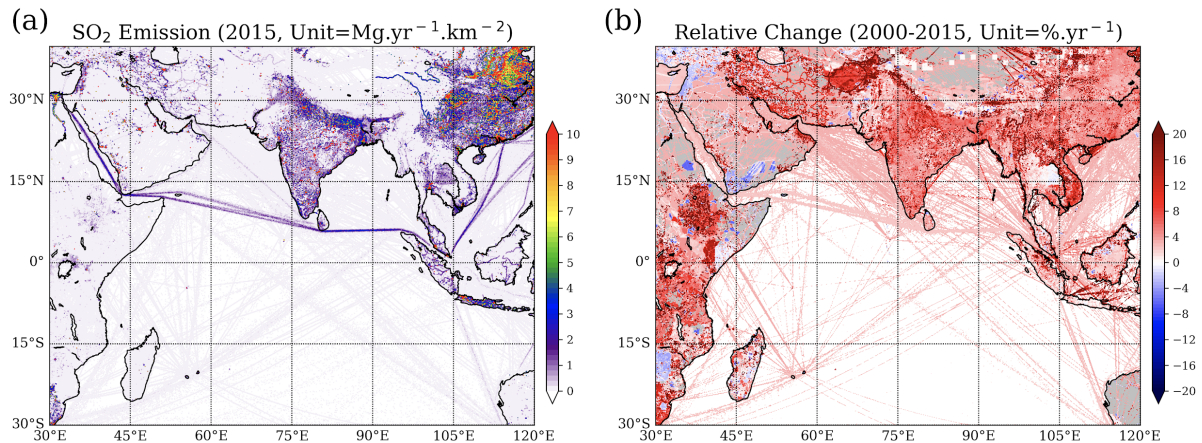


Figure 4. Annual mean SO₂ emissions for 2015 (a) and relative change with respect to 2000 (b) from EDGAR V5.0_AP.

NO_x emissions mainly stem from high temperature combustion. Energy production, manufacturing industries and road transportation caused 30.7%, 25.8%, and 25.6% of all NO_x emissions in our study region in 2015, respectively. Manufacturing industries and energy (electricity and heat production) are also the two main contributors to the SO₂ emissions, accounting for 41% and 40%, respectively, of all SO₂ emissions in our study region in 2015. As per the 2000 Asian emission inventory, India has the second highest SO₂ emission (14%) after China (65%) with coal-burning power plants contributing to around half (47%) of the emissions in India (Kurokawa et al., 2013). About 40% of the thermal plants in India are located over the Indo-Gangetic Plains causing relatively high SO₂ emissions from this region (Fig. 4; Aswini et al., 2020). In addition, ship traffic leads to anthropogenic NO_x and SO₂ emissions directly over the open ocean with emissions concentrated along the major shipping lanes (e.g., Franke et al., 2009). In general, NO_x ship emissions can lead to substantial ozone enhancements and in turn to higher OH concentrations (Endresen et al., 2003).

Over the period 2000-2015, the emissions of all pollutants increased in almost all regions around the Indian Ocean, with CO emissions changing from 275.9 Tg yr⁻¹ to 350.3 Tg yr⁻¹, NO_x from 35.3 Tg yr⁻¹ to 58.3 Tg yr⁻¹, and SO₂ from 41.8 Tg yr⁻¹ to 61.1 Tg yr⁻¹. Between 2000 and 2015, CO emissions increased particularly along the Mekong River, north of the Persian Gulf, in Afghanistan and East Africa, while CO emissions in most regions of East Asia decreased despite a comparably low overall increase (15%, Table 2, Fig. 2b). NO_x emission increases show a different pattern and are relatively high in most regions around the Indian Ocean, with peaks in East Asia, South Asia and East Africa (Fig. 3b). SO₂ emission changes show a similar distribution as the NO_x changes, with peaks along the Mekong River and in East Africa (Fig. 4b). Ship traffic in the Indian ocean has seen the largest increase worldwide between 1992 and 2012, especially on well-defined shipping lanes, such as the Red Sea-Arabian Gulf-Asia route or the Asia-Cape Town route (Tournadre, 2014). The overall increase of the pollutant emissions shows pronounced variations from region to region (Table 2) with the highest rate of all three pollutants emission increases found in South Asia.

In particular, for the time period after 2012, satellite measurements have shown pronounced regional SO₂ and NO₂ pollution changes. A decrease of SO₂ pollution from the North China Plain has been noted since 2011 as a result of government efforts, while SO₂ and NO₂ emissions from India have continued to grow at a fast rate (Krotkov et al., 2016). Recent emission estimates suggest that during 2013–2017, anthropogenic emissions from China decreased by

23 % for CO, 21 % for NO_x, and 59 % for SO₂ over this period as a consequence of the implementation of active clean air policies (Zheng et al., 2018).

Table 2. Emissions of CO, NO_x, and SO₂ from different regions in 2015 and their increase with respect to 2000.

	Emission in 2015 (Increase with respect to 2000)				
	East Africa	Middle East	South Asia	East Asia	Southeast Asia
CO	26.48 Tg yr ⁻¹ (40%)	16.76 Tg yr ⁻¹ (18%)	93.97 Tg yr ⁻¹ (50%)	144.21 Tg yr ⁻¹ (15%)	68.91 Tg yr ⁻¹ (25%)
NO _x	0.89 Tg yr ⁻¹ (76%)	7.27 Tg yr ⁻¹ (65%)	12.47 Tg yr ⁻¹ (101%)	31.39 Tg yr ⁻¹ (56%)	6.28 Tg yr ⁻¹ (54%)
SO ₂	0.43 Tg yr ⁻¹ (67%)	7.55 Tg yr ⁻¹ (54%)	13.09 Tg yr ⁻¹ (120%)	34.63 Tg yr ⁻¹ (29%)	5.42 Tg yr ⁻¹ (40%)

Unfortunately, measurements of oceanic CO emissions from the Indian Ocean are sparse. We only know of unpublished data sets (D. Arevalo-Martinez, personal communication) from one GEOMAR campaign (OASIS) and a series of NASA-SAGA cruises (www.saga.pmel.noaa.gov, eastern open Indian Ocean, summer 1987). Net fluxes covering the northern to southern extent of the Indian Ocean range from ~0.1 to ~1.4 Mg km⁻² yr⁻¹, as CO is always supersaturated in the surface ocean (Conte et al., 2019 and references therein), and values are similar to ship emissions but considerably smaller than continental emissions (Fig. 2). CO is produced in the surface ocean from organic material photochemistry and biological processes (Conte et al., 2019). Available data from the western Indian Ocean suggests that the most significant meridional gradients occur due to open ocean upwelling at 5°S–10°S. CO emissions are high from 5°–15°S, but to the north and south of this region, emissions decrease to zero with seasonal variations occurring due to upwelling changes. In the eastern Indian Ocean, seasonal variability is expected in association with surface productivity changes in the Seychelles–Chagos Thermocline Ridge. However, no seasonal cycle can be detected in available measurements from this region, and it is not clear if this is a real feature or caused by the lack of data. Additional variability is expected in coastal regions, since large amounts of seasonally discharged runoff supply terrestrial organic material that serves as a precursor to CO marine photoproduction.

The atmospheric pollutant mercury is transported around the globe as gaseous elemental mercury, eventually oxidizing to divalent mercury. The latter is known to deposit to the surface from where it can be taken up into food webs and be transformed to highly toxic species endangering humans and ecosystems (Selin et al., 2007). Atmospheric mercury is released from anthropogenic activities, such as coal-fired power plants, metal smelting, and waste incineration (Pacyna et al., 2005; Streets et al., 2005). Emissions associated with artisanal and small-scale gold mining account for almost 38% of the global total emission (UN-Environment, 2019). Mercury is also emitted from the oceans, soils, terrestrial vegetation, and biomass burning. These ‘natural’ emissions include some anthropogenic fraction related to the recycling of previously deposited mercury (Mason and Sheu, 2002). Based on 2015 inventories, Asia is

1 responsible for a large part of the emissions (49%), which primarily stem from East and
2 Southeast Asia. While emissions in North America and the European Union have shown
3 moderate decreases, increased economic activity, notably in Asia, and the use and disposal of
4 mercury-added products have led to a global increase of approximately 20% between 2010 and
5 2015 (UN-Environment, 2019).

6 For NH₃, East Asia and South Asia are the two main contributors, which account for 38.9% and
7 32.3% of the total emissions, respectively (not shown here). From 2000 to 2015, emissions of
8 NH₃ in the regions around the Indian Ocean documented by EDGAR increased by 22.5%.
9 Agricultural activities dominate the ammonia emissions, with about 56.7%, 18.4% of the
10 emissions from the sectors of direct soil emission and manure management. Besides, long-term
11 satellite measurements (van Damme et al., 2018) show other hotspots of ammonia emission not
12 well represented in EDGAR inventory, most of which are associated with either high-density
13 animal farming or industrial fertilizer production.

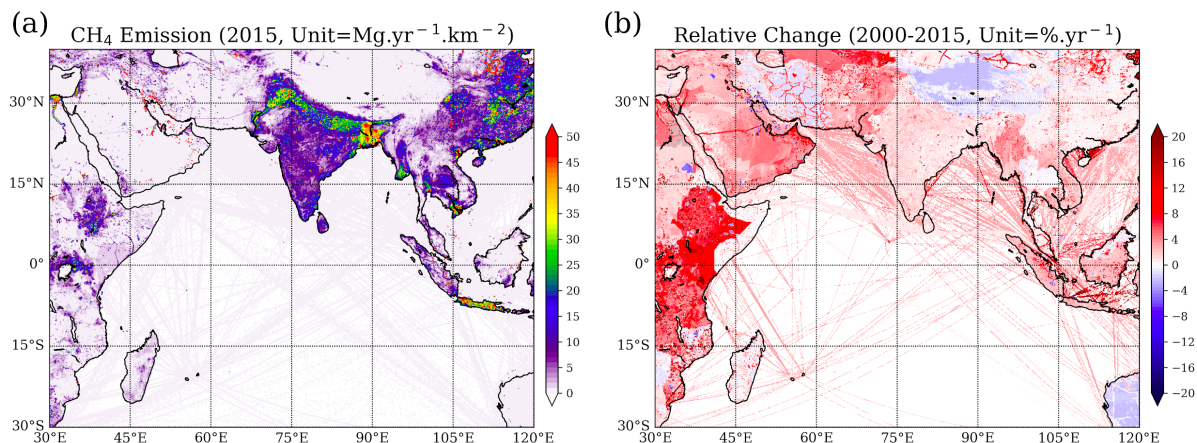
14 **4.2 Greenhouse gases**

15 CO₂ concentrations have been increasing steadily over the last decades reaching a new annual
16 global mean record high in 2019 of 409.8 ± 0.1 ppm (Blunden and Arndt, 2020). Due to its high
17 atmospheric abundance and long atmospheric lifetime, CO₂ is the most important of Earth's
18 long-lived greenhouse gases. In addition to its impact on climate, CO₂ is responsible for ocean
19 acidification as it produces carbonic acid when it dissolves in the ocean. CH₄ is also a very
20 effective greenhouse gas and the second-largest contributor to anthropogenic radiative forcing
21 since preindustrial times after CO₂. In the troposphere, CH₄ acts to reduce the atmosphere's
22 oxidizing capacity. It has a relatively short atmospheric lifetime of about 12.4 years (Myhre et
23 al., 2013) and exhibits a strong seasonal cycle as well as a distinct gradient across the equator.
24 Despite its relatively low atmospheric concentrations, N₂O is the third anthropogenic
25 greenhouse gas after CO₂ and CH₄ in terms of radiative forcing (Ciais et al., 2014). Due to its
26 long atmospheric lifetime of about 116 years (Prather et al., 2015) and large infrared absorption
27 capacity per molecule, N₂O is a much more efficient greenhouse gas than CO₂ with a global
28 warming potential of 265 over a 100-year time span. In the stratosphere, reaction with O(¹D)
29 leads to the production of NO (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006), which is involved in chemical ozone
30 depletion. As a consequence, N₂O has been estimated to be the main emitted ozone-depleting
31 substance of the 21st century (Ravishankara et al., 2009; Butler et al., 2016).

32 Anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions in the regions surrounding the Indian Ocean generally
33 correspond to economic activities. As the largest emerging economies, East Asia and South
34 Asia are the main emitters of CH₄ (Fig. 5) and N₂O (Fig. 6) with emission centres in the Indo-
35 Gangetic Plain, northern China and Java. In 2015, East Asia and South Asia accounted for 37%
36 and 26% of the total CH₄ emission, as well as 43% and 26% of the total N₂O emission discussed
37 here. Among the regions surrounding the Indian Ocean, East Asia is also the largest CO₂ emitter
38 causing 68% of the total CO₂ emissions in our study region in 2015 (Fig. 7).

39 Atmospheric CH₄ has anthropogenic and natural sources, with the latter including natural
40 wetlands, livestock, termites, hydrates and forest fires. Anthropogenic sources account for the
41 majority of all emissions and can be split into biogenic and non-biogenic sectors. Almost a
42 quarter (23%) of the CH₄ emissions in our study region stems from enteric fermentation
43 (livestock farming), which acts as the primary source in South Asia and East Africa. Rice
44 cultivation in Asia is responsible for 19% of CH₄ emissions in our study region causing a
45 systematic seasonal pattern with peak emissions during the fully-grown stage in September and
46 October (Pathak et al., 2005). Other main sources of CH₄ are solid fuels (17%), mainly from
47 East Asia and Southeast Asia, and oil and gas production (14%), mainly from the Middle East.

1 N₂O emissions are linked to the biogeochemical cycle of nitrogen and are thus impacted by
 2 anthropogenic use of fertilizer and industrial activities that lead to the atmospheric deposition
 3 of reactive nitrogen (e.g., Davidson, 2009). More than half of the N₂O emissions in our study
 4 region (56%) are directly from managed soils and can be quite heterogeneous with spatial
 5 patterns revealing hot spots in agricultural areas in China and the Indo-Gangetic Plains (Ito et
 6 al., 2018; Fig. 6). Furthermore, the N₂O emissions from managed soils are characterized by a
 7 pronounced seasonal cycle and interannual variability, primarily in response to meteorological
 8 conditions and nitrogen inputs. In particular, N₂O emissions are correlated with soil moisture
 9 (Raut et al., 2015), leading to strongly enhanced emissions in South Asia during summertime
 10 when high precipitation events occur.



11
 12 **Figure 5.** Annual mean CH₄ emissions for 2015 (a) and relative change with respect to 2000 (b) from
 13 EDGAR V5.0_GHG.

14
 15 Similar to the air pollutants discussed above, the overall CH₄ and N₂O emissions increased
 16 significantly over the period 2000–2015 from 135.7 Tg yr⁻¹ to 182.4 Tg yr⁻¹ and from 2.80 Tg
 17 yr⁻¹ to 3.51 Tg yr⁻¹, respectively. Increasing CH₄ emission in South Asia (Fig. 5b) have been
 18 linked to increased rice cultivation area, natural wetlands, and warmer climate (Tian et al.,
 19 2015). Increasing N₂O emissions (Fig. 6b) are believed to stem from intensified crop production
 20 and nitrogen fertilizer use as well as higher air temperatures (Raut et al., 2015). While not being
 21 the main emitter, East Africa is the region with the fastest increase of CH₄ and N₂O emissions
 22 among the regions discussed here (Fig. 5b and 6b, Table 3). A recent study suggested that east
 23 African wetlands could account for up to a third of the spike in global CH₄ emissions between
 24 2010 and 2016, with most of this coming from the South Sudanese wetland, one of the largest
 25 freshwater ecosystems in the world (Lunt et al., 2019).

26 **Table 3.** Emissions of CH₄, N₂O, and CO₂ from different regions in 2015 and their increase in respect
 27 to 2000.

	Emission in 2015 (Increase respect to 2000)				
	East Africa	Middle East	South Asia	East Asia	Southeast Asia
CH ₄	12.33 Tg yr ⁻¹ (50%)	21.47 Tg yr ⁻¹ (50%)	47.65 Tg yr ⁻¹ (24%)	68.08 Tg yr ⁻¹ (34%)	32.83 Tg yr ⁻¹ (38%)

N ₂ O	0.36 Tg yr ⁻¹ (51%)	0.20 Tg yr ⁻¹ (21%)	0.91 Tg yr ⁻¹ (36%)	1.52 Tg yr ⁻¹ (15%)	0.52 Tg yr ⁻¹ (26%)
CO ₂	69.3 Tg yr ⁻¹ (137%)	2062.30 Tg yr ⁻¹ (93%)	2565.10 Tg yr ⁻¹ (125%)	13041.02 Tg yr ⁻¹ (127%)	1430.79 Tg yr ⁻¹ (79%)

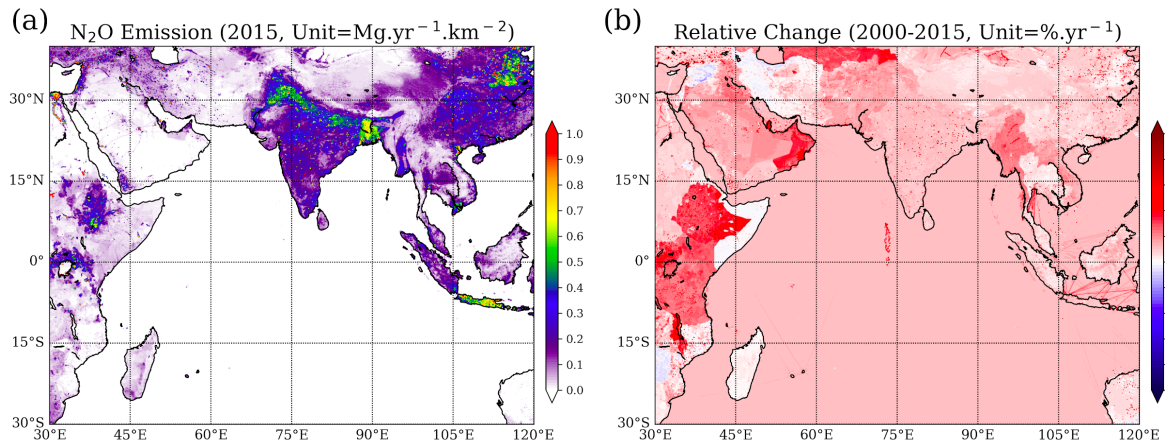


Figure 6. Annual mean N₂O emissions for 2015 (a) and relative change with respect to 2000 (b) from EDGAR V5.0_GHG.

For CO₂, the majority of the emissions in our study region stem from East Asia related to two main sectors: electricity and heat production (41%) and manufacturing industries (23%). Over the period 2000–2015, the CO₂ emissions in our study region more than doubled from 8790 Tg yr⁻¹ to 19168 Tg yr⁻¹. Especially in East Asia and South Asia, they grew at very fast rates with increases of 127% and 125%, respectively. Despite the apparent policy breakthrough leading to the Paris Agreement in 2015, CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel and industry have continued to increase over the recent years. According to the latest estimates from the Global Carbon Project, the expected growth of global emissions in 2019 will be almost entirely due to China and India with expected annual growth rates of 2.6% and 1.8%, respectively (Peters et al., 2020).

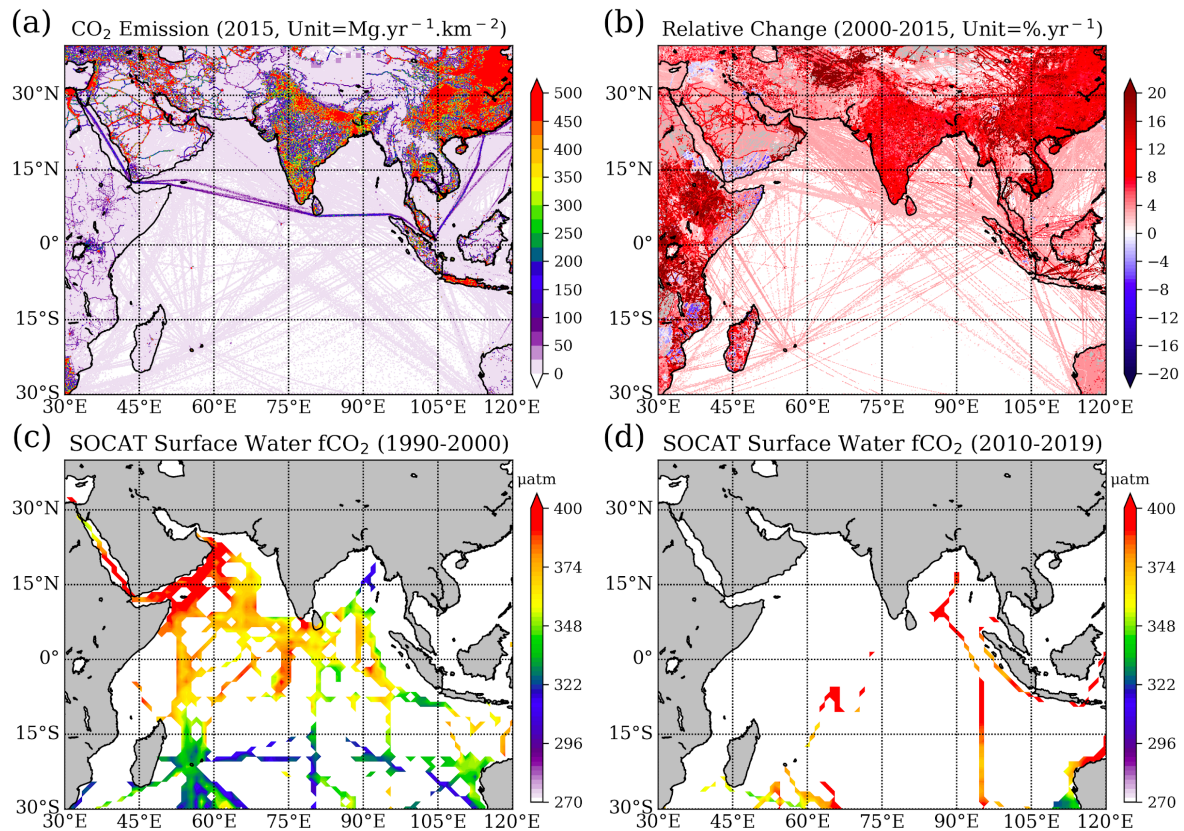
The ocean is also a source and sink of greenhouse gases. Compared to the terrestrial sources, the ocean is just a minor contributor to the atmospheric CH₄, accounting for 1–13% of the global atmospheric CH₄ budget (Saunois et al., 2016). The concentration of CH₄ in the Indian Ocean is characterized by a sharp decrease offshore (Naqvi et al., 2010a). Due to the large geographical changes in surface saturation and wind speed, the sea-to-air flux of CH₄ varies strongly in the northern Indian Ocean. Highest emissions were observed during the southwest monsoon in the Arabian Sea (~64 μmol m⁻² d⁻¹), and the estimated overall CH₄ emission from Arabian Sea amounts to 0.1–0.2 Tg yr⁻¹ (Naqvi et al., 2005), which is much smaller than the total terrestrial emissions mentioned above (~182 Tg yr⁻¹ in 2015).

Unlike CH₄, the ocean is a major source of N₂O, accounting for at least one third of global N₂O emissions (Bange, 2006). Intense N₂O emissions are usually found in upwelling regions with OMZs (Codispoti, 2010), such as in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal (not shown). The South Asian monsoon drives intense seasonal changes of upwelling in both OMZs, thus affecting the regional N₂O productivity and emissions. The upwelling in the Arabian Sea is most intense during the South Asian summer monsoon, leading to high oceanic N₂O production (Naqvi et al., 2010a) and emissions of 0.34–0.99 Tg N₂O yr⁻¹ (Naqvi et al., 2010b), representing 2–31% global oceanic N₂O emissions (Suntharalingam et al., 2019). However, the estimate by Sudheesh et al. (2016) in the south-eastern Arabian Sea, based on the measurements from

1 Mangalore and Kochi, is almost four times lower than previous estimates. Raes et al. (2016)
2 proposed that the south-eastern Indian Ocean could be both a source and sink of N₂O,
3 suggesting great uncertainty of the oceanic emission of N₂O in the Indian Ocean. The upwelling
4 driven by the summer monsoon also occurs in the Bay of Bengal, however, it is attenuated by
5 the intense precipitation and pronounced freshwater discharge from the Ganges, yielding lower
6 N₂O productivity (Singh and Ramesh, 2015) and much smaller emission (~0.03–0.11 Tg N₂O
7 yr⁻¹, Naqvi et al., 1994, 2010b). There is some indication that increased nitrogen deposition,
8 due to anthropogenic perturbation, already influences the air-sea flux of N₂O in the northern
9 Indian Ocean and will continue to do so into the future (Suntharalingam et al., 2019). Due to
10 sparse measurements, it is impossible to compare the oceanic N₂O emission of the Indian Ocean
11 with the terrestrial emissions directly. However, the emissions from the Arabian Sea alone are
12 about 9.6–28% of the terrestrial emissions of the study region (~3.5 Tg yr⁻¹ in 2015), suggesting
13 the importance of the oceanic source in the Arabian Sea region. Enhanced N₂O sea-to-air fluxes
14 were also found in a zonal band between 5°S and 10°S as a result of wind-driven upwelling
15 during the OASIS research cruise in 2014 (Ma et al., 2018).
16

17 While the global oceans act as a net sink of CO₂, absorbing about 25% of the annual
18 anthropogenic CO₂ emission (Le Quéré et al., 2018), the air-sea exchange of CO₂ varies at
19 different spatial and temporal scales. The northern Indian Ocean is a net source of CO₂ to the
20 atmosphere, while the southern Indian Ocean is a net sink (e.g., Sarma et al., 2013). Based on
21 the inorganic carbon data collected in the Indian Ocean in 1995, for example, Bates et al. (2006)
22 suggested that the BoB is a net oceanic source of atmospheric CO₂. Takahashi et al. (2009)
23 constructed the climatological mean distribution for the sea surface water pCO₂ over the global
24 oceans based on the observations from 1970 and 2007, and they suggested that the BoB is near
25 equilibrium for CO₂. By examining numerical results produced by various ocean
26 biogeochemical models and different atmospheric inversions, Sarma et al. (2013) argued that
27 the BoB is a small annual net sink region for the atmospheric CO₂. Other studies report that on
28 an annual scale, specific regions in the Bay of Bengal emit between ~1.61 and 2.45± 0.49 Mg
29 CO₂ yr⁻¹ km⁻² (Dixit et al., 2019; Ye et al., 2019). Significant impacts of tropical cyclones (Ye
30 et al., 2019), biological productivity (Chakraborty et al., 2018) and freshwater discharge
31 (Sarma et al., 2011) on the CO₂ air-sea exchange have been suggested for the Bay of Bengal.
32 If compared to anthropogenic emissions of more than 500 Mg CO₂ yr⁻¹ km⁻² over large areas
33 (Fig. 7a), the contribution of the northern Indian Ocean to the atmospheric CO₂ is relatively
34 low. Analysing the Surface Ocean CO₂ Atlas (SOCATv2019; Bakker et al., 2016) demonstrates
35 that in the Indian Ocean only a few CO₂ measurements are available for the last decade,
36 especially when compared with the 1990s (Fig. 7c and d), making it impossible to assess the
37 long-term changes of CO₂ air-sea exchange in this region. Northern Indian Ocean CO₂ flux
38 variability may be influenced by ENSO events (Valsala and Maksyutov, 2013) and
39 hydrographic features (i.e., eddies, Valsala and Murtugudde, 2015).

40
41



1
2 **Figure 7.** Annual mean CO₂ emissions for 2015 (a) and relative change with respect to 2000 (b) from
3 EDGAR V5.0_GHG. Surface water fCO₂ observations (color shading, unit: µatm) over the Indian
4 Ocean for 1990–2000 (c) and 2010–2019 (d) from SOCATv2019 (Bakker et al., 2016).

5
6 During the OASIS campaign in the western Indian Ocean (Zavarsky et al., 2018a), both positive and negative CO₂ fluxes were observed based on the direct eddy covariance flux technique.
7 South of the equator, average values were 0.2 Mg day⁻¹ km⁻² and -0.28 Mg day⁻¹ km⁻²,
8 respectively, making this region a net sink of CO₂. These results are consistent with Chen et al.
9 (2011), who found significant spatial and temporal variability in the southern Indian Ocean
10 carbon sink. However, by comparing campaigns that occurred from 1999-2000 to those from
11 2004–2005, Chen et al. (2011) imply that the sink of the southern Indian Ocean is weakening.
12 A decadal variability analysis from 1991–2007 of dissolved CO₂ in surface seawater in the
13 southern Indian Ocean (20°–55°S) suggests that it increased at a faster rate than atmospheric
14 CO₂ (Metzl, 2009), indicating that the ocean carbon sink weakened. The authors suggested that
15 the reduction was related to variability in the Southern Annular Mode. The weakening of Indian
16 Ocean carbon sink has also been found in a recent modelling study (DeVries et al. 2019). The
17 southern Indian Ocean CO₂ fluxes are driven by both the solubility and biological pumps, with
18 indications that their variability is driving by ENSO forcing (Valsala et al., 2013).

19
20 Carbonyl sulphide (COS) is another important long-lived trace gas that acts as a greenhouse
21 gas in the troposphere and as the main precursor of aerosols in the stratosphere (Brühl et al.
22 2012; Kremser et al. 2016). The ocean is the main source of COS to the atmosphere, previously
23 estimated at 441–542 Gg COS yr⁻¹, globally, but a revision of the vegetation sinks has led to
24 the hypothesis that the ocean source might be stronger than previously calculated. The missing
25 ocean source is hypothesised to be in the tropics (e.g., Suntharalingam et al., 2008; Glatthor et
26 al., 2015). Launois et al. (2015) modelled oceanic concentrations and emissions for this region
27 that are approximately an order of magnitude higher, but the values do not agree with the albeit
28 sparse COS measurements that exist in the Indian Ocean. A recent measurement and modelling

1 study on the OASIS campaign has shown that, in fact, the ocean source of COS is not higher
2 than previously determined (Lennartz et al., 2017). Daily integrated air-sea fluxes computed
3 for the southern Indian Ocean ranged between -0.045 and -0.000375 g COS km⁻², indicating
4 that the Indian Ocean may be a net sink for COS. In addition, COS is produced in the
5 atmosphere from DMS and carbon disulphide (CS₂) oxidation, both of which are emitted from
6 the ocean (Chin and Davis, 1993; Watts, 2000). These pathways increase the ocean source of
7 COS indirectly, but do not account for the full missing ocean source (Lennartz et al., 2017).
8 Campbell et al. (2015) and Lennartz et al. (2017) point to anthropogenic emissions of COS
9 from Asia to close the gap and, indeed, Lee and Brimblecombe (2016) find twice as much COS
10 in the atmosphere from anthropogenic emissions than previously thought. They report that
11 anthropogenic COS emissions account for approximately one third of global emissions and
12 originate from the paper industry and biofuel and coal combustion. Another study suggests that
13 COS emission from domestic use coal combustion only in China would be at least 57.2 ± 10.5
14 Gg COS yr⁻¹, an order of magnitude greater than recent estimates of COS emissions from the
15 total coal combustion in China (Du et al., 2016).

16 **4.3 VOCs and short-lived gases DMS, isoprene and bromoform**

17 **Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**

18 Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as alkanes, alkenes, and alkynes, are highly reactive
19 throughout the troposphere, influencing oxidants (OH, O₃, NO₃) (Williams et al. 2010),
20 peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN), a reservoir for reactive nitrogen compounds, and forming secondary
21 organic aerosols (SOA) (Singh et al., 1995; Blando and Turpin 2000). Oxygenated VOCs play
22 a special role in upper tropospheric OH production (e.g., Singh et al., 1995).

23 The Middle East is a hotspot of VOC emissions, such as ethane and propane, from oil and gas
24 production. Interestingly, a recent study found that in addition deep water masses can be a large
25 source of VOCs that is comparable with total anthropogenic emissions from individual Middle
26 East countries (Bourtsoukidis et al., 2020). Other biogenic sources of VOCs include
27 surrounding forested areas (Dufлот et al., 2019). Formaldehyde (HCHO) is emitted via biomass
28 burning and fuel combustion. In addition, it has a secondary source via reactions between OH
29 and CH₄. Ship fuel combustion has recently been targeted a large source (Gopikrishnan et al.
30 2021). This was first postulated by Marbach et al. (2009) using satellite measurements of
31 HCHO and shown again by De Smedt et al. (2021).

32 In addition to the Bourtsoukidis et al. (2020) study cited above, the Indian Ocean has been
33 shown to be a main source of VOCs at other specific locations, such as at the Maïdo
34 Observatory (Dufлот et al., 2019). Evidence of alkene emissions from the Indian Ocean and
35 specifically the Bay of Bengal was presented by Sahu et al. (2010; 2011) by demonstrating that
36 the ratios of ethene/propene are in line with fresh oceanic emissions (2.3 ppt/ppt). Alkene
37 emissions seem to be controlled by dissolved organic carbon, wind speed, and sunlight. The
38 eastern Indian Ocean may be a source of biogenic VOCs, leading to the production of acids
39 (diacids, oxocarboxylic acids, and α -dicarbonyls) in the atmosphere (Yang et al., 2020). The
40 highly productive Arabian Sea OMZ area has been associated with enhanced production of
41 alkanes and alkenes related to *Trichodesmium* and *Thalassiosira* phytoplankton species
42 (Tripathi et al., 2020).

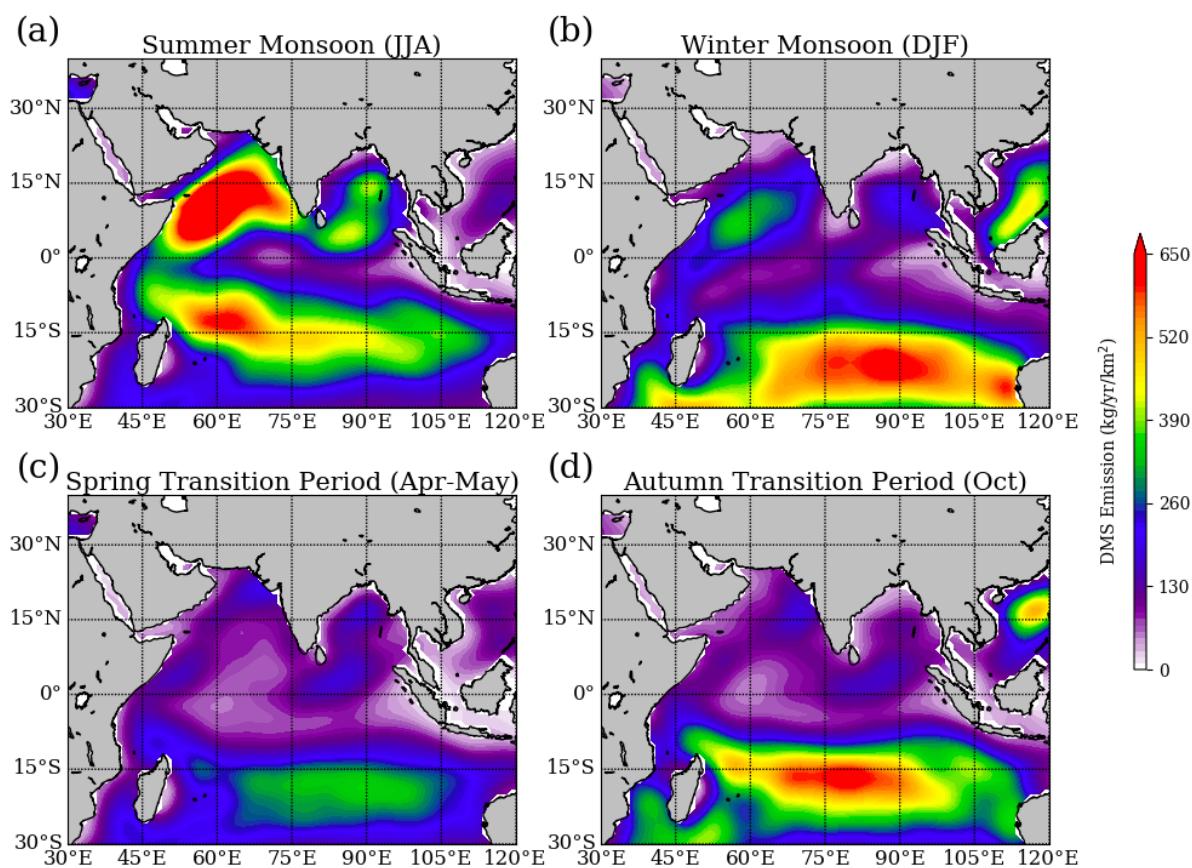
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1 **Dimethylsulphide (DMS)**

2 Marine DMS is the largest source of biogenic sulphur to the atmosphere. DMS is produced
3 from the algal derived precursor, dimethylsulphoniopropionate (DMSP), which is cleaved by
4 marine microbes to form DMS. Only a small fraction of this DMS is released to the atmosphere.
5 The seminal CLAW hypothesis proposed a feedback loop between marine biogenic DMS
6 production, emissions, and climate, via aerosol and cloud formation (Charlson et al., 1987),
7 triggering decades of research on DMS cycling in the ocean and emission to the atmosphere.
8 Lana et al. (2011) is the most comprehensive and up-to-date monthly DMS concentration and
9 flux climatology resulting from this large body of research. Unfortunately, measurements in the
10 Indian Ocean are sparse and most values in the climatology are interpolated, with only 6271
11 non-uniformly spaced data points over 40 years available in the Indian Ocean.

12 DMS emissions exhibit clear seasonality, with the highest fluxes, basin wide, evident during
13 the summer monsoon period. According to Lana et al. (2011), the summertime values in the
14 Indian Ocean are a global hotspot for DMS emissions. The largest values are found in the
15 Arabian Sea (Fig. 8). High biological productivity associated with the upwelling areas off north-
16 east Africa and the Arabian Sea are strongly correlated with the monsoon cycle (Yoder et al.,
17 1993). Combined with the strong, steady winds during the summer monsoon, fluxes of DMS
18 reach their peak. Lowest fluxes are computed during the spring transition period, likely
19 associated with low productivity and low wind speeds. Year round, there is a relatively large
20 flux area around 15°S, which migrates north and south according to the summer hemisphere
21 and is related to biogenic processes in the upwelling. Winds are always relatively high in this
22 region throughout the year, which also enhances the flux (Fig. 1). Maximum emissions of over
23 650 kg DMS k⁻² yr⁻¹ for the Arabian Sea (Lana et al., 2011) translate to slightly larger S flux to
24 the atmosphere from DMS than that from SO₂ ship emissions (approximately 335 kg S k⁻² yr⁻¹
25 from DMS and 250 kg S k⁻² yr⁻¹ from SO₂).

26 Gali et al. (2018) used satellite-based proxies to estimate the DMS concentration climatology
27 and reported that the Lana et al. (2011) climatology overestimates the DMS in the Indian Ocean
28 region by 25–50% in all the seasons. DMS direct flux measurements using the eddy covariance
29 technique and ocean concentration measurements were performed during the OASIS campaign
30 in order to compare directly with the Lana climatology in the western tropical Indian Ocean
31 (Zavarsky et al., 2018a). The oceanic DMS concentrations were found to be lower than those
32 in the climatology, but the difference was more pronounced south of 16°S where measured
33 values were a third of those in the climatology. North of 16°S, the measured ocean
34 concentrations were in better agreement with those in the climatology until the vicinity of the
35 Maldives, where they again were lower by a factor of three. The measured fluxes, subsequently,
36 were lower than the climatology for the region by approximately 60% on average. This was
37 attributed to lower measured oceanic concentrations, as well as lower measured wind speeds
38 than used in the climatology and a different gas transfer parameterisation. The directly derived
39 gas transfer parameterisation was linearly dependent on wind speed, while the climatology uses
40 a quadratic wind speed dependence. Nonetheless, the Indian Ocean appears to be a hotspot for
41 DMS emissions during the summer monsoon, but with more likely sulphur loading to the
42 atmosphere on the order of half of that from SO₂ ship emissions.

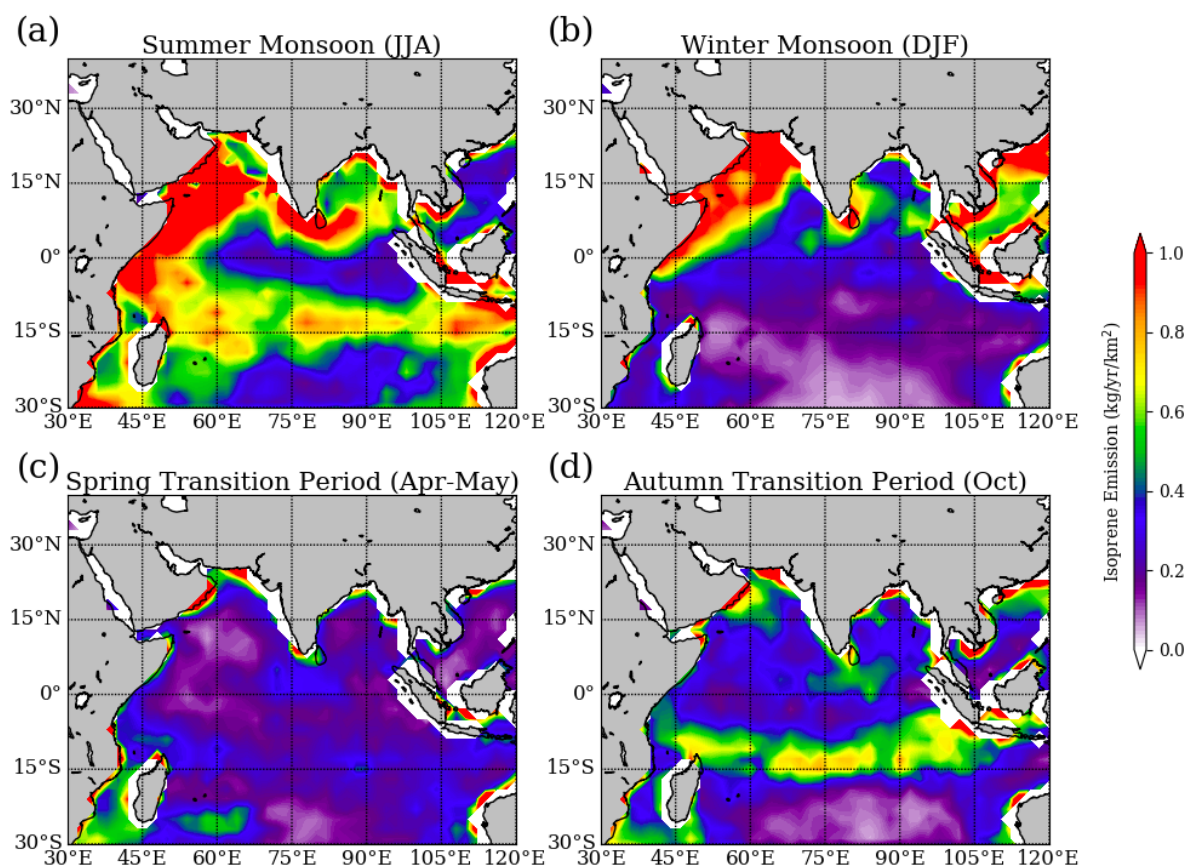


1
2 **Figure 8.** DMS emissions for (a) summer monsoon (June – August), (b) winter monsoon (December –
3 February), (c) spring transition (April – May) and (d) autumn transition (October) periods from Lana et
4 al. (2011).

5
6 **Isoprene**

7 Isoprene (2-methyl-1,3-butadiene) is a biogenic VOC and accounts for half of the total global
8 biogenic VOCs in the atmosphere (Guenther et al., 2012). Most is emitted from terrestrial
9 vegetation (400–600 TgC yr⁻¹, Guenther et al., 2006; Arneth et al., 2008). The ocean source
10 strength is much lower, and the magnitude is debated (Carlton et al., 2009), with most estimates
11 lower than 1 TgC yr⁻¹ (Palmer and Shaw, 2005; Arnold et al., 2009; Gantt et al., 2009; Booge
12 et al., 2016). It is known from laboratory studies that phytoplankton produce isoprene (Exton
13 et al., 2013 and references therein), but only a few studies have performed direct measurements
14 of marine isoprene concentrations worldwide.

15 Emitted isoprene affects the oxidative capacity of the atmosphere through ozone and OH
16 interactions and is a source for SOAs (Carlton et al., 2009). Due to the short atmospheric
17 lifetime of minutes to a few hours, terrestrial isoprene does not reach the atmosphere over much
18 of the ocean and, thus, marine emissions of isoprene could play an important role in SOA
19 formation on regional and seasonal scales, especially in association with increased production
20 during phytoplankton blooms (Hu et al., 2013). Furthermore, isoprene SOA yields increase
21 under acid-catalysed particle phase reaction in low-NO_x conditions, which dominate over open
22 oceans regions (Surratt et al., 2010), and which are significantly higher than that during neutral
23 aerosol experiments (Henze and Seinfeld, 2006). Here we provide data from a published
24 modelling study from the OASIS campaign with input variables from 2014 to assess seasonal
25 isoprene fluxes to the atmosphere from the Indian Ocean (Booge et al., 2016; 2018).



1
2 **Figure 9.** Isoprene emissions for (a) summer monsoon (June – August), (b) winter monsoon (December
3 – February), (c) spring transition (April – May) and (d) autumn transition (October) periods from Booge
4 et al. (2016).

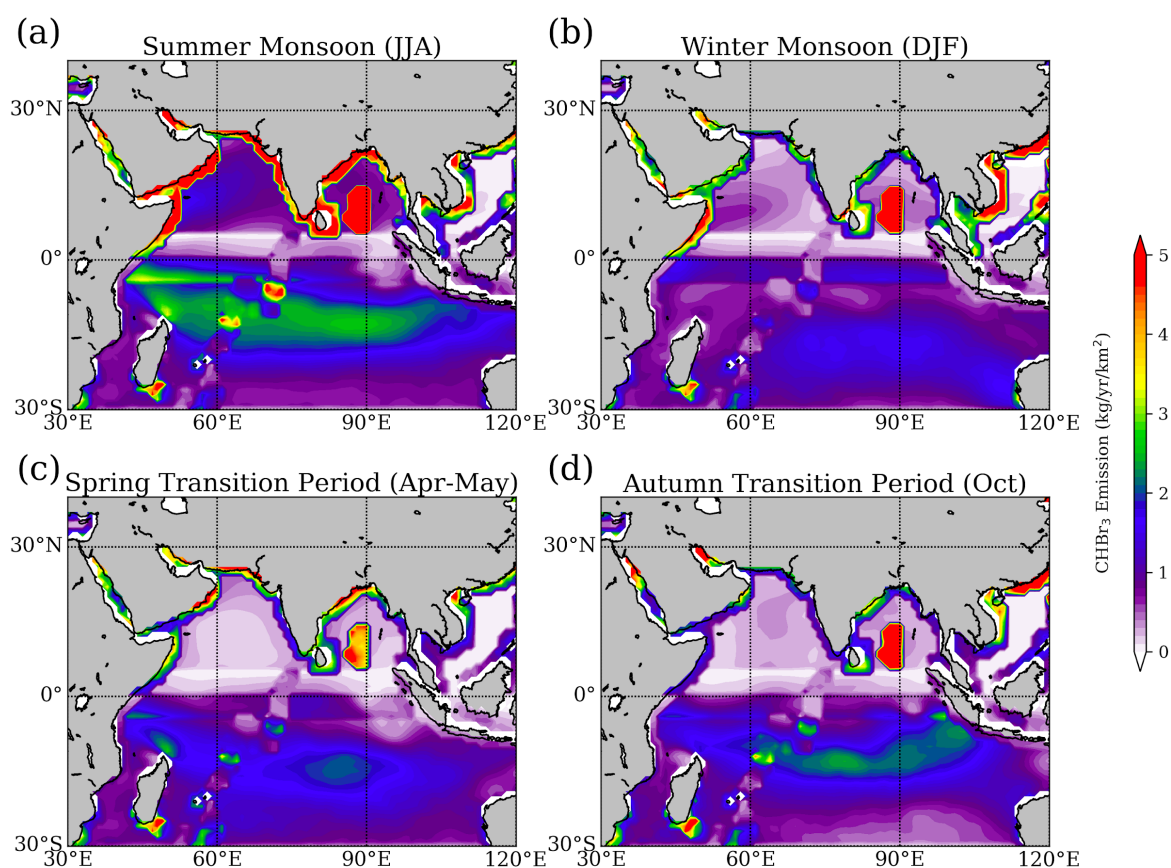
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6 Isoprene fluxes to the atmosphere change seasonally, with the highest values computed during
7 the summer monsoon over the entire Indian Ocean extent (Fig. 9). The summer values are the
8 second highest values, globally, during that season, following the Southern Ocean. Lowest
9 isoprene emissions in the Indian Ocean are found in the spring transition period. This seasonal
10 pattern is similar to the DMS emissions pattern. Computed fluxes during the winter monsoon
11 are high in the northern region of the Indian Ocean, especially in the Arabian Sea. A belt of
12 relatively high isoprene fluxes can be seen in the autumn transition period around 15°S, but the
13 values are lower than the highs seen during the summer (basin wide) and winter (Arabian Sea)
14 monsoon season. Unlike DMS, this is only visible in the summer and autumn seasons. Isoprene
15 production rates are phytoplankton functional type dependent and are driven further by light,
16 SST, salinity, and nutrients (Booge et al., 2018). High light and high SST favour higher
17 production, while high salinity and high nutrients lead to lower production. The combination
18 of the direct influence of wind speeds on fluxes and the interaction of the environmental factors
19 and isoprene production leads to the seasonal patterns.

20 **Halogens**

21 Halogenated very short-lived substances (VSLs, with lifetimes shorter than 6 months) from
22 the ocean, such as bromoform (CHBr_3), dibromomethane (CH_2Br_2) and methyl iodide (CH_3I),
23 contribute to atmospheric halogen loading and ozone depletion (Engel and Rigby et al., 2019).
24 The oceanic CHBr_3 surface concentrations are spatially and temporally highly variable. Natural

1 production of CHBr_3 involves marine organisms such as macroalgae and phytoplankton
2 (Gschwend et al., 1985), while CH_2Br_2 is formed in parallel and correlates with CHBr_3 in water
3 and air (Tokarczyk and Moore, 1994). A recent study suggests that heterotrophic processes in
4 the ocean can increase the flux of CH_2Br_2 from the sea to the atmosphere (Mehlmann et al.,
5 2020). Enhanced emissions of brominated VSLs coincide with biologically active equatorial
6 and coastal upwelling regions (Quack et al., 2007) and the distribution of macroalgae and
7 anthropogenic sources along the coasts (Carpenter and Liss, 2000; Maas et al, 2020). Iodinated
8 VSLs such as CH_3I , on the other hand, show elevated oceanic abundances in the subtropical
9 gyre regions in agreement with identified production by photochemical reactions (Richter and
10 Wallace, 2004).

11 Various CHBr_3 emission inventories have been derived from the extrapolation of measurement-
12 based data (Ziska et al., 2013; Fiehn et al., 2017), oceanic modelling (Stemmler et al., 2015),
13 top-down atmospheric modelling approaches (Liang et al., 2010) and a data-oriented machine-
14 learning algorithm (Wang et al., 2019). Overall, large differences between CHBr_3 emission
15 inventories exist with the observation-based, bottom-up emissions (Ziska et al., 2013) being
16 most consistent with atmospheric measurements in the tropics (Hossaini et al., 2013). All
17 inventories agree on the tropical Indian Ocean being a productive source region of CHBr_3 .



18 **Figure 10.** Bromoform (CHBr_3) emission for (a) summer monsoon (June – August), (b) winter monsoon
19 (December – February), (c) spring transition (April – May) and (d) autumn transition (October) periods
20 based on static surface concentrations and ERA-Interim meteorology for 2014 (Fiehn et al., 2018).
21
22

23
24 Here we show the most recent bottom-up CHBr_3 emission inventory (Fiehn et al., 2018) based
25 on two campaigns in the marginal seas (Yamamoto et al., 2001; Roy et al., 2011), one campaign

1 in the open Indian Ocean (Fiehn et al., 2017) and extrapolations of measurements from other
2 oceans (Ziska et al., 2013) in Fig. 10. The emission inventory is based on static surface
3 concentration maps generated from atmospheric and oceanic surface ship-borne in-situ
4 measurements collected within the HalOcAt (Halocarbons in the ocean and atmosphere)
5 database project (<https://halocat.geomar.de>, last access July 2020). While the concentration
6 maps do not provide any temporal variability, the emission parameterisation is based on
7 monthly mean meteorological ERA-Interim data allowing for relative emission peaks related
8 to maxima in the horizontal wind and SST.

9 The CHBr_3 emissions peak along the Northern Hemisphere (NH) coastlines due to macroalgae
10 production and anthropogenic sources ($3.3\text{--}6.6 \text{ kg yr}^{-1} \text{ km}^{-2}$), the central Bay of Bengal (up to
11 $11.1 \text{ kg yr}^{-1} \text{ km}^{-2}$) and the southern tropical Indian Ocean ($2.2 \text{ kg yr}^{-1} \text{ km}^{-2}$). The coastal
12 emissions in the Indian Ocean of the bottom-up inventory presented here agree well with other
13 emission estimates (Fiehn et al., 2018). High emissions along the coasts of Somalia and Oman
14 due to coastal upwelling detected in biogeochemical modelling studies (Stemmler et al., 2015)
15 are not captured here due to missing CHBr_3 measurements in this biogeochemical regime. The
16 emissions show a pronounced seasonal cycle with a peak during the summer monsoon period
17 (Fig. 10) due to higher wind speeds over the whole Indian Ocean during this time of year (Fig.
18 1).

19 Once destroyed in the atmosphere, brominated VSLs contribute to the family of inorganic
20 bromine (Br_y) consisting of bromine radicals such as bromine monoxide (BrO) and non-radical
21 reservoir species such as HBr and HOBr . Inorganic bromine has also other anthropogenic and
22 natural sources including methyl bromide, which is a product of biomass burning, leaded fuel
23 combustion, plant and marsh emissions, as well as soil fumigation (Mano and Andreae, 1994).
24 Inorganic bromine can also be released when sea salt is exposed to the atmosphere from young
25 sea-ice surfaces, frost flowers, snowpack, seawater and marine aerosols (Hay et al., 2007).

26 Similar to bromine, inorganic iodine such as iodine oxide (IO) is produced through the
27 degradation of its organic precursor CH_3I and other short-lived iodinated VSLs. The primary
28 source of iodine to the marine boundary layer, however, are believed to be inorganic iodine
29 emissions at the ocean surface from reactions of dissolved iodide with deposited gas-phase
30 ozone (Carpenter et al., 2013). Once in the atmosphere, inorganic iodine plays an important
31 role for the boundary layer chemistry by influencing the oxidising capacity through catalytically
32 removing O_3 and altering the HO_x and NO_x balance.

34 5. Atmospheric composition

35 During the South Asian summer monsoon, clean air dominates the atmospheric composition
36 over the Indian Ocean, leading to a completely different chemical regime than observed during
37 wintertime. As the ITCZ moves over the Indian subcontinent (Waliser and Gautier, 1993), air
38 mass transport via steady winds is directed from the ocean towards the land and anthropogenic
39 pollutants are confined to the continents. During this period, the intense summer monsoon
40 rainfalls also effectively remove many soluble species from the continental boundary layer.
41 During the winter monsoon and transitional months, the wind pattern is reversed with
42 continental air masses being transported towards and over the open ocean environment. This
43 leads to an increase in the anthropogenic origin trace gases and aerosol loading over the Indian
44 Ocean. Based on studies and campaigns that took place before 2010, Lawrence and Lelieveld
45 (2010) provided a comprehensive review of atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean.
46 Here we summarize their most important findings and report on new datasets and results that
47 have emerged since then.

1

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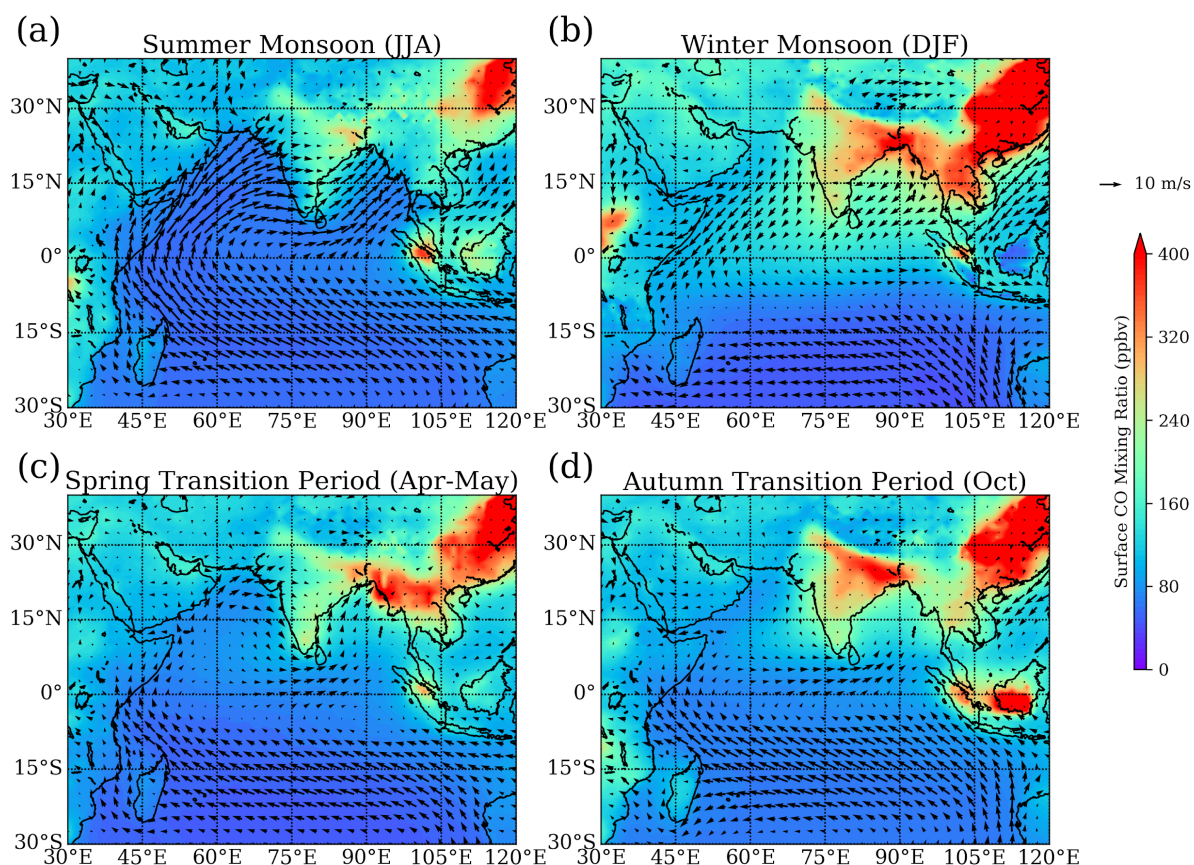
3 **5.1 Pollution and O₃**

4 The surface distributions of anthropogenic pollutants and ozone levels are often highly
5 correlated as the majority of tropospheric ozone formation occurs when CO, NO_x, and other
6 ozone precursor gases react in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. Tropospheric ozone
7 is a greenhouse gas with a relatively short lifetime on the order of several weeks and is therefore
8 considered a near-term climate forcer. The direct radiative forcing of ozone is estimated to be
9 $0.40 \pm 0.20 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ (IPCC, 2013) and additional indirect radiative forcings can result from its
10 impact on vegetation, carbon uptake and methane lifetime (e.g., Lombardozzi et al., 2015; Fiore
11 et al., 2008). Ozone also acts as an environmental pollutant detrimental to human health, and
12 crop and ecosystem productivity (e.g., Monks et al., 2015). Changes of ozone precursor
13 emissions, low-frequency climate variability and long-term anthropogenic climate change all
14 impact the quantity and distribution of tropospheric ozone (e.g., Barnes et al., 2016).

15 The distribution and variations of pollutants and ozone over the Indian Ocean have been
16 investigated during individual campaigns (e.g., ICARB) and can be derived from continuous
17 in-situ (e.g., ozone profiling at Indian coastal stations) and satellite measurements (e.g., OMI
18 and MOPITT). The various data sets offer different advantages, allowing for a wide range of
19 applications. While the in-situ measurements are characterised by higher resolution and lower
20 uncertainties, they are usually limited in space (stations) or time (campaigns). The satellite
21 measurements on the other hand, offer comprehensive spatial coverage and extend over longer
22 time periods, but suffer from limited vertical resolution and higher uncertainties. Most available
23 Indian Ocean campaigns and studies investigate O₃, CO and NO_x. As a result, the following
24 sections focus on the distribution and variability of these three gases, while SO₂ and mercury
25 are only discussed briefly.

26 **Carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x)**

27 The distribution of the major pollutant CO over the Indian Ocean is well known from MOPITT
28 satellite measurements (e.g., Ghude et al., 2011; Srivastava et al., 2012a). Seasonal mean
29 surface values for 2014/15–2018/19 show a clear gradient between CO over the Indian Ocean
30 and over the landmass source regions (Fig. 11). Highest CO surface values over the Indian
31 Ocean occur during the winter monsoon with multiannual mean mixing ratios of around 150
32 ppb over the open ocean and 350–400 ppb over Bay of Bengal coastal waters (Fig. 11b). CO
33 mixing ratios over marine regions of more than 150 ppb are considered as polluted continental
34 air (Nowak et al., 2004), and during the winter monsoon most parts of the NH Indian ocean fall
35 into this category. South of 5°S, mixing ratios drop below 100 ppb during winter and can be
36 considered as part of the pristine oceanic regime.

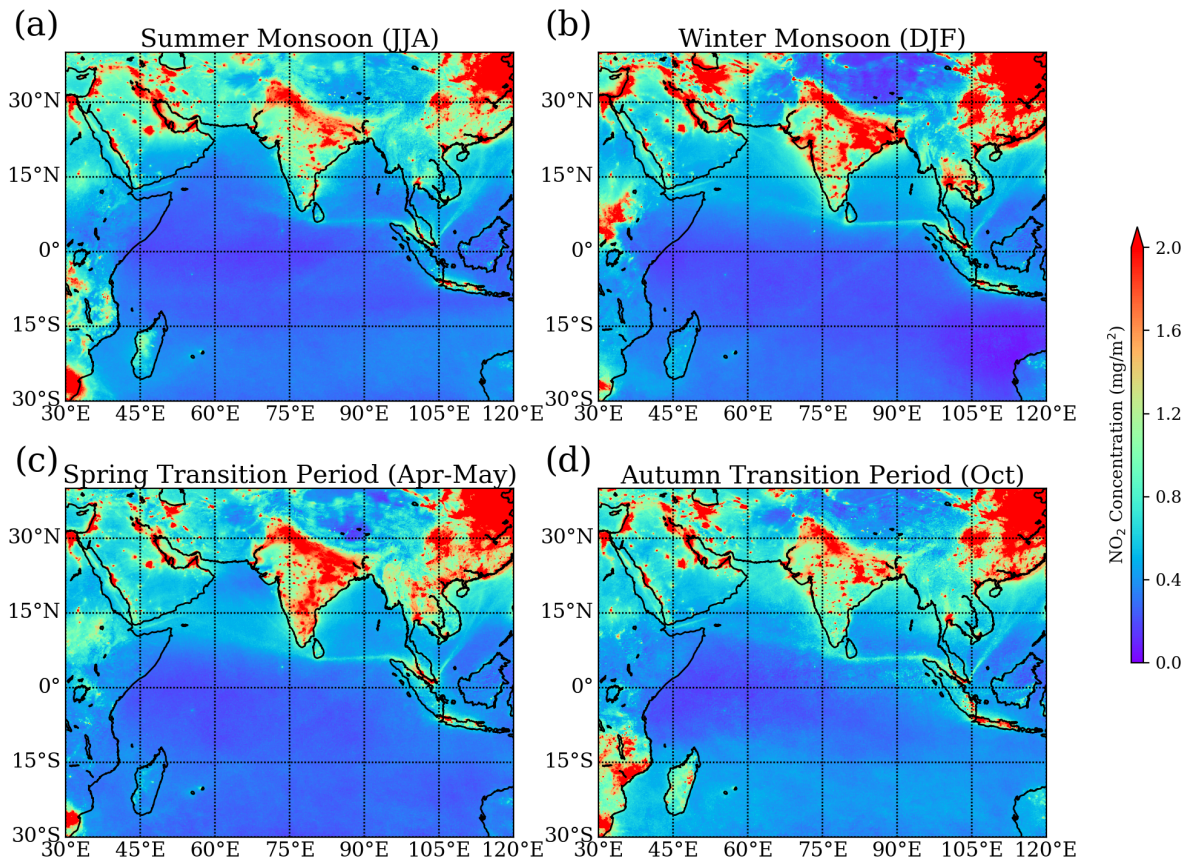


1
2 **Figure 11.** Surface carbon monoxide (CO) mixing ratios from MOPITT (coloured shading) and surface
3 wind from ERA-Interim (black arrows) for (a) summer monsoon 2014 – 2018 (June – August), (b)
4 winter monsoon 2014/2015 – 2018/2019 (December – February), (c) spring transition 2014 – 2018
5 (April – May) and (d) autumn transition 2014 – 2018 (October) periods.
6

7 The tropospheric distribution of NO_x is relatively similar to that of CO, however with a larger
8 variability on small scales and steeper gradients between the continental source regions and the
9 Indian Ocean. Figure 12 shows the tropospheric NO_2 column from TROPOMI, which, due to
10 the fast photochemical cycling between NO and NO_2 , can be taken as a robust measure for
11 concentrations of nitrogen oxides. Seasonal mean values for 2018/19 show a clear gradient of
12 NO_2 , with maxima over the landmass source regions and minimum values over the equatorial
13 western Indian Ocean (Fig. 12). Coastal gradients are particularly pronounced around the Indian
14 coastline during the autumn transition period and winter monsoon. One clear difference in
15 comparison to the CO distribution is the appearance of enhanced NO_2 columns along the
16 shipping lanes, in particular along the major route at around 6°N over the Bay of Bengal from
17 the southern tip of India to Malaysia.

18 The INDOEX campaign showed that the winter monsoon season is characterized by strongly
19 enhanced CO abundances over the northern Indian Ocean, with values comparable to air
20 downwind of Europe and North America (Lawrence and Lelieveld, 2010). Based on
21 simultaneous measurements of methyl cyanide (CH_3CN) and model simulations, biomass
22 burning in South and Southeast Asia and subsequent transport of the polluted air towards the
23 Indian Ocean was identified as a major source of CO (Lelieveld et al., 2001). Over the open
24 Indian Ocean, southward transport along with chemical processing, dilution, and surface
25 deposition causes a strong north-south pollution gradient. In the boundary layer, the contrast

1 between polluted NH and pristine Southern Hemisphere (SH) air results in a sharp gradient
 2 across the ITCZ (Lawrence et al., 2003), while the upper troposphere was identified as a region
 3 for interhemispheric exchange of these air masses (Williams et al., 2002).



4
 5 **Figure 12.** Tropospheric nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) column from TROPOMI for (a) summer monsoon
 6 2019 (June – August), (b) winter monsoon 2018/2019 (December – February), (c) spring transition 2019
 7 (April – May) and (d) autumn transition 2019 (October) periods.

8
 9 Recent studies of atmospheric composition during the winter monsoon period have focused on
 10 the Bay of Bengal where the ship-based measurements were conducted during the second part
 11 of ICARB for December 2008–January 2009. Mixing ratios of NO₂ and CO show a distinct
 12 spatial pattern with elevated values in the head (northern part) and the south-east Bay of Bengal
 13 due to transport from adjoining landmasses (Asatar and Nair, 2010; David et al., 2011). The in-
 14 situ measurements reveal highest CO surface mixing ratios of 379 ± 58 ppb over the south-east
 15 Bay of Bengal, which exceed the MOPITT multiannual mean values (Fig. 11b). Similar to CO,
 16 the NO₂ surface distribution exhibits prominent highs over the head and the south-east Bay of
 17 Bengal, with lower values in the south (David et al., 2011). Analysis of back trajectories and
 18 airflow patterns revealed that the high pollution over the head of the Bay of Bengal (15°N-
 19 21°N) was advected from the Indo-Gangetic Plain, which is one of the major CO emission
 20 centres (Fig. 2). The high pollution over the south-east Bay of Bengal, on the other hand, was
 21 attributed to the effects of continental outflow from Southeast Asia, a transport pattern
 22 discernible from the wind patterns in Fig. 11. Airborne measurements conducted during the
 23 same campaign confirm the higher pollution over the northern and south-eastern part of the Bay
 24 of Bengal (Srivastava et al., 2012b). Analyses of the acetylene/CO ratio suggested that air mass

1 samples taken over the northern Bay of Bengal were less chemically aged compared to samples
2 taken during the other flights.

3 Enhanced wintertime CO values of up to 365 ppbv were also found in the Arabian Sea near the
4 southwest coast of India, while lower levels of around 50 ppb prevailed over the equatorial
5 Indian Ocean during ICARB-2018 (Girach et al., 2020a). Consistent with previous campaign
6 results, the authors linked the enhanced surface values to the impact of South Asian outflow.
7 The study also highlighted the impact of convective outflow from Southeast Asia in the upper
8 troposphere on the pollution levels. Enhanced CO in the upper troposphere (300–200 hPa) over
9 the equatorial IO was suggested to result from anomalous westerlies associated with a disturbed
10 Walker cell and the influence of African forest fires.

11 Seasonal variations of NO_x at a surface station in Trivandrum, situated on the south-west coast
12 of India, also show highest values during the winter monsoon season due to land-based
13 emissions and transport patterns (David and Nair, 2011). While the strongest NO_x emissions
14 are located in East Asia, enhanced emissions also exist in southern India (Fig. 3) contributing
15 to the wintertime NO_x maxima over the Indian coastline (see also Fig. 12). Ship based
16 observations of NO₂ show a strong decreasing gradient in concentrations from the sub-continent
17 towards the open ocean. Observations made on the IIOE-2 expedition observed peak values of
18 854 ± 223 ppt close to Goa, but the values were below the detection limit of 120 ppt away from
19 the coast. A similar gradient is evident from the satellite retrieved tropospheric NO₂ with the
20 emissions of NO_x over the sub-continent leading to higher values close to the coast (Fig. 12;
21 Mahajan et al., 2019a).

22 The impact of anthropogenic emissions during the winter monsoon is evident over large parts
23 of the Indian ocean, as demonstrated by surface measurements from the island of Mahé in the
24 western Indian Ocean just south of the equator. Seasonal variations of CO values peak in
25 January–February as a result of the long-range transport of anthropogenic emissions from India
26 during this time of year (Wai et al., 2014). Reunion Island around 19°S, on the other hand, is
27 much less impacted by the winter monsoon due to the ITCZ functioning as a transport barrier.
28 Seasonal variations of CO measurements at two stations on Reunion Island peak in September–
29 November, primarily driven by the emissions from biomass burning in Africa and South
30 America (Zhou et al., 2018). The seasonal variations of the CO distribution given by the
31 MOPITT satellite observations (Fig. 11) are consistent with the findings of the in-situ
32 measurement studies discussed above.

33 During the summer monsoon, CO mixing ratios over the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and the
34 Indian Ocean drop mostly below 80 ppb, except for over coastal waters in the Bay of Bengal
35 with values of up to 150 ppb (Fig 12). As the ITCZ moves north over the Indian subcontinent,
36 the large-scale air flow is directed from the Indian Ocean towards the land, preventing the
37 spread of pollution in the maritime environment. In addition, convective uplifting and mixing
38 also contribute to lower CO abundances over the Bay of Bengal (Girach and Nair, 2014a). The
39 coastal regions of Bangladesh and eastern India are exceptions, as they are impacted by strong
40 westerlies transporting polluted air from southern India and Sri Lanka resulting in elevated CO
41 mixing ratios larger than 150 ppb (Fig. 11a). In-situ measurements in 2018 conducted as part
42 of IIOE-2 confirmed elevated CO levels up to 164 ppb downwind of Chennai, a coastal
43 megacity in East India (Girach et al., 2020b). In addition, the impact of shipping emissions was
44 detected near 6°N with higher values of CO (up to 120 ppb) in the otherwise pristine airmasses
45 of the southern Bay of Bengal. The elevated pollution along the eastern India coastline is in
46 stark contrast to the western India coastline, with very low CO mixing ratios of well below 100
47 ppb. The overall prevalence of clean oceanic background air during the summer monsoon
48 season was confirmed by the low CO values detected over the equatorial Indian Ocean during
49 the OMO campaign in July/August 2015 (Tomsche et al., 2019). Vertical profiles of CO were

1 derived during flights over Gan (Maldives), which is situated close to the equator and, thus,
2 influenced by air from the southern Indian Ocean. The CO profiles over Gan with values of
3 ~60 ppb were found to be lower than the NH background and the Asian monsoon CO profiles
4 for all altitudes below 8 km (Fig. 2 in Tomsche et al., 2019). During the AQABA ship campaign
5 in summer 2017, low pollution levels over the Arabian Sea were confirmed by measurements
6 of relatively low NO_x mixing ratios (0.19 ppb, Tadic et al., 2019).

7 The transition periods during boreal spring and autumn are characterized by a large spatial and
8 temporal variability of the pollution distribution, which shifts between the clean summer regime
9 and the polluted winter regime. Mean CO mixing ratios in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea
10 range between 100 and 200 ppb, while the equatorial and southern Indian Ocean are dominated
11 by clean oceanic air with CO values below 100 ppb (Fig 12c and d). ICARB measurements
12 during March–April 2006 show higher CO values in the Bay of Bengal compared to the Arabian
13 Sea and higher CO values towards the coast, as expected with continental pollution being the
14 main source of the observed values (Aneesh et al., 2008). Transport regimes start to shift in
15 March when the outflow from India into the Arabian Sea and from Southeast Asia into the Bay
16 of Bengal begins to weaken. This shift leads to slowly decreasing pollution, as observed during
17 ICARB where CO values over the northern Bay of Bengal were found to be around 234 ppb
18 during March (Srivastava et al., 2012a), thus being lower than the above discussed winter
19 monsoon values. In April, offshore flow from the Indian subcontinent or Southeast Asia has
20 weakened further leading to very little pollution transport towards the ocean. The southern Bay
21 of Bengal is dominated by south-westerly winds (see also Fig 12c) carrying cleaner marine air,
22 as evident from CO mixing ratios of 88 ppb obtained during ICARB April measurements
23 (Srivastava et al., 2012a).

24 The boreal autumn transition period, also referred to as post-summer monsoon, marks the onset
25 of the polluted winter regime after the withdrawal of the monsoon winds. During this period, a
26 sudden increase of pollutant levels can be expected, in particular in coastal regions and over the
27 Bay of Bengal. During the SK-277 ship campaign, a large spatial heterogeneity of pollution
28 was observed over the Bay of Bengal (Mallik et al., 2013) reflecting the direct impact of air
29 masses being advected from different source regions in South Asia. Highest CO levels were
30 found in air masses originating in Southeast Asia with signatures of biomass and biofuel
31 burning. Continental pollution sources for NO_x were further enhanced by regional sources
32 possibly from ship emissions over the Bay of Bengal, which contains the international shipping
33 corridor connecting the southern tip of India and the Strait of Malacca.

34 **Sulfur dioxide (SO₂), mercury and ammonia**

35 In comparison to other pollutants, the SO₂ characterisation above the Indian Ocean is sparse.
36 Data available from the recent ICARB campaign in 2018, nonetheless, can be used to assess
37 the influence of anthropogenic SO₂ in the marine atmosphere over the Indian Ocean by using
38 non-sea salt sulfate aerosol (SO₄²⁺) as a proxy for SO₂. Aswini et al. (2020) show the presence
39 of SO₄²⁺ in an intense pollution plume over the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean during the
40 winter monsoon. Meteorological conditions during this season are favourable for SO₂ to SO₄²⁺
41 conversion. This is proposed to take place through photochemical oxidation of SO₂ by the OH
42 radical in the gas phase and through oxidation of SO₂ by H₂O₂ and O₃ in the aqueous phase
43 (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006). About two-thirds of the total tropospheric SO₄²⁺ formation is
44 thought to occur through aqueous phase reactions (e.g., Warneck, 1999).

45 SO₂ has both anthropogenic and natural sources (i.e. oxidation of DMS), but comparison with
46 previous research cruise studies conducted nearly two decades ago shows a more than two-fold
47 increase in the concentration of nss-sulphate aerosols over the continental outflow region in the
48 Arabian Sea that appears to be due to anthropogenic SO₂ (Aswini et al., 2020). Despite
49 decreasing SO₂ emissions in East Asia since 2010, emissions are rapidly increasing in South

1 Asia, by about 10% per year with the Indo-Gangetic Plains being a major source region
2 (Lelieveld et al., 2019, Sec. 4). In order to further explore the contribution of anthropogenic
3 SO₂ to nss-sulphate aerosol formation, the ratio of methanesulphonic acid (MSA), due solely
4 to DMS oxidation, to SO₄²⁺ was computed. The average MSA/nss-SO₄²⁺ ratio during the
5 ICARB campaign was 3.1 x 10³. Over the more pristine sections of the cruise, the average ratio
6 was 4.7 x 10³. In remote marine regions, ratios of 0.065 have been found (Savoie and Prospero,
7 1989). The lower MSA/nss-SO₄²⁺ ratio implies that most of the nss-SO₄²⁺ is from anthropogenic
8 sources (Aswini et al., 2020).

9 Under the framework of the Global Mercury Observation System (GMOS) project, a mercury
10 monitoring station was set up on Amsterdam Island, a remote and small island located in the
11 southern Indian Ocean (Sprovieri et al., 2016). Observations of gaseous elemental mercury
12 (GEM), reactive gaseous mercury (RGM) and particle-bound mercury (PBM) from this station
13 over several years were reported by Angot et al. (2014). GEM concentrations were found to be
14 remarkably steady, with an average hourly mean concentration of 1.03 ± 0.08 ng m⁻³, and show
15 a small seasonal cycle. In comparison, the high altitude GMOS site in Kodaikanal located in
16 southern India shows significantly higher GEM concentrations of 1.54 ± 0.20 ng m⁻³ in 2013,
17 possibly related to different long-range transport patterns and closer proximity of anthropogenic
18 sources (Sprovieri et al., 2016).

19 RGM and PBM concentrations at Amsterdam Island were also very low (0.34 pgm⁻³ and 0.67
20 pgm⁻³, respectively), but displayed a strong seasonal variability (ranging between the detection
21 limit and 4.07 pgm⁻³ and 12.67 pgm⁻³, respectively). Analysis showed that, despite the
22 remoteness of the island, long-range transport from southern Africa contributed significantly to
23 the GEM and PBM budgets from July to September when biomass burning peaks in Africa
24 (Angot et al., 2014). During these periods, the higher GEM concentrations observed at
25 Amsterdam Island were comparable to those recorded at other tropical stations distributed
26 around the globe. During periods of lower GEM concentrations, on the other hand, values of
27 less than 1 ng m⁻³ were found to be characteristic for air masses from the southern Indian
28 Ocean and Antarctic continent (Sprovieri et al., 2016).

29 Observations of ambient ammonia (NH₃) are rare in the Indian Ocean region. Recent
30 measurements of NH₄ in aerosols over the Indian Ocean have been related to gaseous NH₃
31 emissions from land (either anthropogenic or crustal sources, Aryasree et al., 2015; Aswini et
32 al., 2020). Earlier direct observations in 1980 by Ayers and Gras (1980) in the Southern Indian
33 Ocean showed a range between 2.2 and 4.4 nmol m⁻³. Later observations in the same region of
34 the ocean showed a lower range of 0.3 to 2.1 nmol m⁻³ (mean of 1.1 nmol m⁻³) (Norman and
35 Leck, 2005). In the northwest Arabian Sea, observations of NH₃ were first carried out in 1999
36 reporting higher concentrations in the coastal environment 2.5 to 5.6 nmol m⁻³ (mean 3.8 nmol
37 m⁻³) as compared to the remote open ocean environment 0.4 to 1.8 nmol m⁻³ (mean 1 nmol m⁻³),
38 showing the importance of continental fluxes to the ambient marine NH₃ loading (Gibb and
39 Mantouura, 1999a; 1999b). Similar to the Southern Indian Ocean, later observations by Norman
40 and Leck (2005) again reported a lower range between 0.05 and 0.2 nmol m⁻³ (0.1 nmol m⁻³).
41 The reason for this discrepancy between the two studies is not clear and was not discussed in
42 the study by Norman and Leck (2005).

43 Closer to the Indian coast, observations of NH₃ have been made in the Bay of Bengal over five
44 studies and show much higher concentrations as compared to the central or southern Indian
45 Ocean. Khemani et al. (1987) reported high concentrations of NH₃ in the coastal region in the
46 range between 117.6 and 211.8 nmol m⁻³ (mean 158.8 nmol m⁻³). Later, Carmichael et al. (2003)
47 also reported high NH₃ concentrations at two coastal sites (Bhubneswar: mean 288.2 nmol m⁻³
48 and Berhampur: mean 329.4 nmol m⁻³). These observations show a west-east positive gradient

1 close to the western coast of the Bay of Bengal, which is most likely driven by the local
2 transport of NH₃. Further to the northwest, Biswas et al. (2005) made observations of ambient
3 NH₃ close to the Sundarban mangrove forest which is one of the largest river deltas in the world.
4 They saw highly elevated levels, ranging from 105.2 to 675.0 nmol m⁻³ (mean 265.2 nmol m⁻³).
5 The most recent reports in the literature were measurements done during the winter phase of
6 ICARB in the Bay of Bengal, which reported an average concentration of ranging between 11.7
7 and 441.2 nmol m⁻³ (mean 281.2 nmol m⁻³), with higher concentrations observed closer to the
8 coast and the lower concentrations observed in the open ocean environment (Sharma et al.,
9 2012). Unfortunately, no seasonal information is available due to the lack of continuous
10 observations through the entire year in the marine environment.

11 **Ozone**

12 Ozone distribution over the Indian Ocean is largely determined by the abundance of precursor
13 gases, transport patterns and chemical processing. During the winter monsoon, the southern
14 Asian outflow brings ozone precursors such as CO, NO_x and VOCs from their source regions
15 in South and East Asia (Section 4) into the marine environment. Within the outflow, substantial
16 photochemical production of ozone occurs due to high pollution levels and strong tropical solar
17 radiation, which is particularly effective under cloud-free conditions. As a result, relatively high
18 ozone mixing ratios of 60–70 nmol/mol have been observed off the coast of India and over the
19 Bay of Bengal up to a few hundred kilometres downwind (Lawrence and Lelieveld, 2010 and
20 references therein). Similarly, high concentrations of up to 80 nmol/mol have also been reported
21 off the western Indian coast in the Arabian Sea (Lal and Lawrence, 2001). Once produced,
22 ozone can be transported to the remote marine environment, where local dominant sources of
23 ozone precursor gases are absent. As a result, the marine boundary layer is considered as an
24 ideal place to study the processes that drive ozone photochemistry (e.g., Monks et al., 1998).
25 Tropospheric ozone is also influenced by downward transport from the stratosphere (e.g.,
26 Ganguly and Tzanis, 2011) and deposition to surfaces (Graedel and Crutzen, 1992). Photo-
27 dissociation of ozone leads to increasing OH levels particularly within the highly humid marine
28 boundary layer affecting the chemistry of the tropical marine environment and highlighting the
29 importance of continental outflow over cleaner oceanic regions.

30 A continuous dataset of O₃ vertical profiles at Ahmedabad, a city in western India, shows a
31 clear annual cycle dominated by the wind patterns (Lal et al., 2014). The lowest ozone (~20
32 ppb) was observed near the surface during September, which is at the end of the summer
33 monsoon. Clean air from the ocean and removal of precursors due to monsoon rains drive this
34 reduction. Model simulations showed that the lower tropospheric (<3 km) O₃ during the
35 summer monsoon was transported from the Indian Ocean via the east coast of Africa and the
36 Arabian Sea. Observations of mid-tropospheric ozone are highest (70–75 ppb) during April–
37 June and lowest (40–50 ppb) during winter due to the impact of long-range transport from North
38 Africa, North America, and the stratosphere. Balloon-borne O₃ measurements during 2011–
39 2014 at the southwest coast of India confirmed the highly dynamic nature of tropospheric O₃
40 profiles (Ajayakumar et al., 2019). The variations in their vertical structure and short-term
41 changes can be attributed to photochemistry as well as meteorological conditions in form of
42 synoptic scale systems, long range transport and stratospheric intrusions. Unfortunately, such
43 continuous measurements are not available at any site off the Indian subcontinent, but model
44 simulations suggest that a similar annual cycle can also be expected in the northern Indian
45 Ocean environment (Lal et al., 2014).

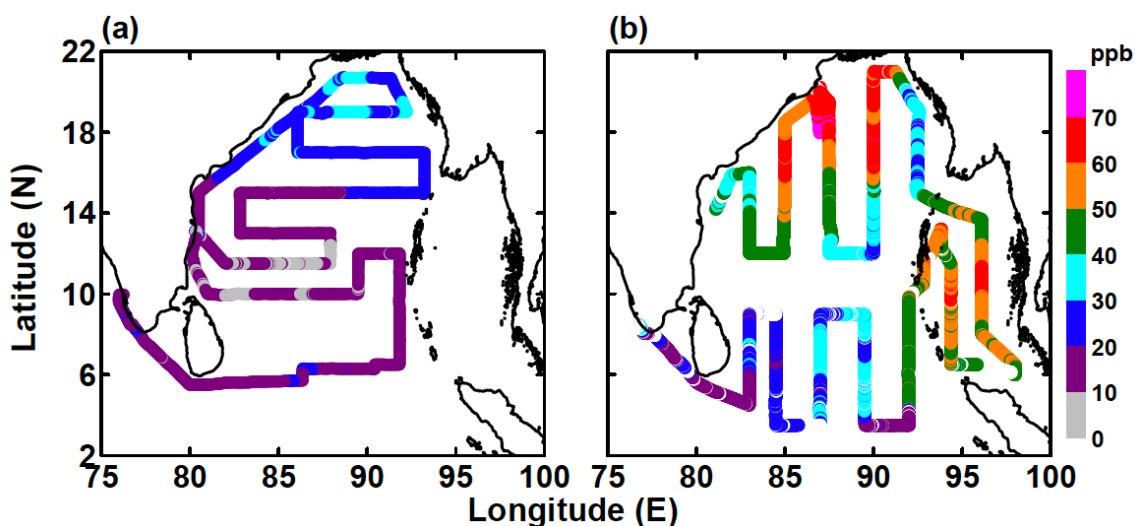
46 During the winter monsoon, measurements of ozone in the Bay of Bengal have been carried
47 out as a part of the ICARB campaign (David et al., 2011). The marine boundary layer showed
48 large variations in the mixing ratios of ozone and its precursor gases with similar spatial patterns
49 (Fig. 13a) pointing to the same source regions, but different relative contributions. In the head

1 and south-east of the Bay of Bengal, mixing ratios of ozone (61 ± 7 ppb and 53 ± 6 ppb) and
2 precursors (discussed earlier) were found to be very high. Air mass back trajectories originated
3 from the Indo-Gangetic Plain and Southeast Asian countries, respectively, both characterized
4 by high tropospheric ozone and NO_2 values. In the south/south-western part of the Bay of
5 Bengal, the ozone mixing ratios were low, and the back trajectories originated from coastal
6 regions. Here, the longer transit times over the marine environment could have resulted in the
7 OH-driven destruction of ozone and precursors as well as in changes of surface level mixing
8 ratios due to updrafts and downdrafts (David et al., 2011). Over this oceanic region,
9 photochemical production involving NO_2 did not play a major role for the ozone production,
10 while the high water vapour acted as a sink.

11 Observations during the spring transition season of near-surface ozone in the Bay of Bengal
12 were carried out as part of the first ICARB phase during March and April 2006 (Fig. 13b). Over
13 the northern Bay of Bengal, higher ozone mixing ratios (~ 30 ppb, Nair et al., 2011) were found
14 to be well correlated with precursor gases indicating their co-located sources (Srivastava et al.,
15 2012a). Similar to the winter monsoon conditions, north-westerly winds transported large
16 amounts of anthropogenic pollutants from the Indo-Gangetic Plain to the northern part of the
17 Bay of Bengal causing the elevated pollution levels. The middle and southern Bay of Bengal
18 were more influenced by the open ocean environment and showed lower ozone mixing ratios
19 (~ 10 – 15 ppb, Nair et al., 2011). For both regions, the surface ozone mixing ratios were
20 anticorrelated with the boundary layer height. Ozone measurements taken during the
21 same campaign revealed an elevated plume between 1 and 3 km over the northern Bay of
22 Bengal with very high ozone mixing ratios of 60–90 ppb (Srivastava et al., 2011; Lal et al.,
23 2013). The plume was also characterised by higher temperature and lower specific humidity
24 compared to the background marine air over other regions. This elevated layer sandwiched
25 between the marine boundary layer and the free troposphere can be attributed to the advection
26 of land air mass as a consequence of land-sea breeze circulation near the coast or long-range
27 transport. Ozone profiles in the first 3 km over the Arabian Sea are around 10 ppb lower than
28 over the Bay of Bengal (Lal et al., 2013). Above this height, ozone levels are about 20 ppb
29 higher over the Arabian Sea possibly due to intrusions of ozone-rich air from upper levels.

30 Observations over the Arabian sea during the spring transition period revealed a completely
31 different picture. Ozone and pollutants showed significantly lower mixing ratios when
32 compared to the northern Bay of Bengal, suggesting the larger impact of cleaner marine air
33 (Srivastava et al., 2012a). This argument is further supported by the poor inter-correlations of
34 ozone and the various precursors. Based on simulations with the global chemical transport
35 model MOZART, the authors hypothesize that loss of ozone due to halogen chemistry might
36 be an additional reason for the relatively low ozone abundances over the Arabian Sea.
37 Latitudinal gradients of the gases were slightly negative most likely due to some transport of
38 polluted air from southern India over the southern Arabian Sea and continuous dilution of
39 pollution with time over this region. Such negative pollution gradients over the Arabian sea
40 during the transition periods were confirmed by the CO distribution obtained from MOPITT
41 (Srivastava et al., 2012a; Fig. 11c and d).

42



1
 2 **Figure 13.** Surface ozone mixing ratios in the Bay of Bengal observed during a) boreal spring (March
 3 – April 2006, ICARB) and b) winter monsoon (December – January 2009, ICARB). From David et al.,
 4 2011, copyright 2011, reproduced with permission.

5 During the summer monsoon period, unusually low levels of ozone (9 ppb) were reported for
 6 the Arabian Sea during the ARMEX campaign in 2002 (Ali et al., 2009). Based on MOZART
 7 model simulations, the authors attribute the low ozone abundances to chemical loss driven by
 8 reactive halogens from sea salt, which can account for up to 30% of the total ozone loss (2.15
 9 ppb day⁻¹). In addition, increased marine surface reactivity facilitated enhanced dry deposition
 10 of ozone and thus also contributed to the observed low ozone levels (~0.12 ppb day⁻¹). Summer
 11 monsoon ozone measurements close to the Arabian Peninsula are available from the AQABA
 12 ship campaign in 2017. Consistent with the low pollution levels detected in this region, ozone
 13 mixing ratios were relatively low (22.5 ppb) representing remote MBL conditions (Tadic et al.,
 14 2019). Net ozone production rates did not significantly deviate from zero and indicate weak net
 15 ozone production of 5 ppb day⁻¹. In contrast, measurements during the rest of the campaign in
 16 the Red Sea, Oman Gulf and Arabian Gulf revealed strongly enhanced tropospheric ozone with
 17 larger ozone production rates of up to 28 ppb day⁻¹. The sensitivity of ozone production to the
 18 prevailing conditions was assessed by defining ozone production regimes in terms of the OH
 19 reactivities of VOCs and NO_x. Based on this analysis, the relatively clean air of the Arabian
 20 Sea was found to be due to partially NO_x-limited ozone production in this region (Pfanterstill
 21 et al., 2019).

22 Summer monsoon measurements in the Bay of Bengal report enhanced ozone and pollution
 23 levels over the coastal regions, in particular, downwind of the tropical megacity Chennai. The
 24 Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) model simulations suggest that in the
 25 Chennai plume, VOC-limited ozone production dominates in the morning and gradual shifts to
 26 a NO_x-limited regime in the afternoon (Girach et al., 2020b).

27 During the autumn transition season, simultaneous measurements of O₃ and precursors were
 28 made over the Bay of Bengal in October – November 2010. These measurements revealed large
 29 variability in O₃ (11–60 ppb) with maximum values found in the northern Bay of Bengal. Back
 30 trajectory analysis led to similar conclusion as the above mentioned ICARB study, revealing
 31 the influence of pollution plumes from the India-Bangladesh region and Southeast Asia in
 32 addition to long-range transport of pristine marine air from the Indian Ocean (Mallik et al.,

1 2013). Diurnal variations found in surface ozone were also attributed to the interplay of these
2 two processes.

3 In addition to the studies focusing on the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, observations of
4 O₃ were made along two ship tracks from the east and west of the Indian subcontinent and
5 heading towards the open oceans during December-March as a part of the ISOE 8 and IIOE-2
6 in 2014 and 2015. The ISOE 8 campaign started from Chennai on the east coast and headed
7 towards the Southern Ocean, while IIOE-2 started in Goa and went across the Arabian sea and
8 the north equatorial Indian Ocean towards Mauritius. Both campaigns show a strong reduction
9 in the ozone concentrations from ~50 ppb to ~5–10 ppb within a few degrees off the Indian
10 coast (Mahajan et al. 2019a; 2019b), demonstrating that continental emissions are the main
11 drivers behind the high ozone concentrations close to the Indian subcontinent.

12 Diurnal variations of ozone in the marine boundary layer are driven by effects of large-scale
13 horizontal advection from source regions, entrainment of ozone rich air from higher altitudes,
14 photochemical production involving precursor gases, and loss mechanism involving OH
15 radicals. Over the last decade, significant progress has been made in understanding how the
16 different processes determine diurnal ozone variations based on in-situ observations
17 corroborated by chemistry simulations from box models, regional forecast models and chemical
18 reanalysis.

19 In polluted air masses, daytime photochemical production of ozone from anthropogenic
20 precursors such as NO_x has been observed (Nair et al., 2011; Mallik et al., 2013; Girach et al.,
21 2020b). Such photochemical production only occurs if a sufficient amount of precursor gases
22 is present and leads to peak ozone values around noon. Ozone daytime buildup has been
23 identified in the downwind of the shipping lane over the Bay of Bengal (Girach et al., 2020b)
24 and close to coastal cities (Nair et al., 2011).

25 In pristine air masses over the Indian Ocean with low pollution levels and high water vapour,
26 photochemical destruction of surface ozone occurs during daytime (Nair et al., 2011; Mallik et
27 al., 2013; Girach et al., 2020b). Photolysis of ozone produces O(1D), which reacts with H₂O
28 and produces OH radicals with the latter causing the destruction of ozone (Pitts and Pitts, 2000).
29 Increase in the absolute water vapour content was found to coincide with the decrease in ozone
30 and vice versa (Nair et al., 2011). During the night-time, ozone rich air can be entrained from
31 free troposphere into the marine boundary layer allowing ozone recovery and leading to next
32 day daytime destruction. Box model simulations have highlighted the importance of such
33 entrainment processes given their high sensitivity to various background levels of ozone
34 (Mallik et al., 2013).

35 In the remote marine regions, ozone is known to show ‘virtually no diurnal variation’ (Liu et
36 al., 1983) due to the scarcity of precursor gases and the lack of exchange between the ozone-
37 rich free troposphere and the ozone-poor boundary layer. The absence of in situ photochemical
38 production of ozone has been observed during various Indian Ocean campaigns (e.g., Sahu et
39 al., 2006; Lal et al., 2007; Girach et al., 2017; Girach et al., 2018). Such absence of daytime
40 ozone build-up suggests that the observed spatio-temporal variations in surface ozone can be
41 attributed to in situ photochemical build-up in air masses moving from coastal polluted regions
42 towards the Indian Ocean (Ojha et al., 2012; Girach et al., 2018). Ozone simulations with the
43 Weather Research and Forecasting model with Chemistry (WRF-Chem) along air mass
44 trajectories suggest mean en-route ozone production in the outflow towards the Bay of Bengal
45 (Girach et al., 2017).

46

1 **Table 4.** O₃ mean values [ppb] and latitudinal gradients reported for various campaigns in the Bay of
 2 Bengal, Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. Ozone maximum values are given in the marine boundary layer
 3 (MBL) and in the elevated layer (EL), as available.

Season	Year and campaign	Region	O ₃ [ppb]	O ₃ maxima [ppb]	Latitudinal O ₃ gradient [ppb/°]	Reference
Winter monsoon	1999 INDOEX	Indian Ocean Arabian Sea 15°S–20°N	21.5 ± 3.5 43.9 ± 7.9	80 – 100 (EL)	1.5 – 2	Lelieveld et al. (2001) Lal et al. (2006)
	2001 BOBEX I	Bay of Bengal 13°N–20°N	42 ± 12	64 (MBL)	1.5	Lal et al. (2006)
	2008/2009 ICARB	Bay of Bengal 8°N–21°N	48 ± 8	65 (MBL)	2.1	David et al. (2011)
	2003 BOBEX II	Bay of Bengal 4°N–19°N	34 ± 6	50 (MBL)	1.4	Lal et al. (2007)
	2014 ISOE-8	Bay of Bengal Indian Ocean 11.5°N–55°S	range: 5 – 53	53 (MBL)		Mahajan et al. (2019a)
	2015 IIOE-2	Arabian Sea Indian Ocean 11.5°N–20°S	range: 10 – 52	52 (MBL)		Mahajan et al. (2019b)
Spring transition	2006 ICARB	Bay of Bengal 6°N–21°N	18	30 (MBL)	1.3 ± 0.1	Nair et al. (2011)
		Bay of Bengal 6°N–21°N	28.3 ± 14.4	55 (MBL) 80 (EL)	5.4 ± 0.9 (>12°N)	Srivastava et al. (2012a)
		Arabian Sea 9°N–22°N	19.8 ± 4.1	26 (MBL) 60 (EL)	-0.4 ± 0.2	Srivastava et al. (2012a)
Summer monsoon	2002 ARMEX	Arabian Sea 10°N–17°N	9 ± 5	15 (MBL)		Ali et al. (2009)
	2017 AQABA	Arabian Sea 12°N–23°N	22.5	35 (MBL)		Tadic et al. (2019)

	2018 HIOE-2	Bay of Bengal 7°N–17°N	27.5 ± 6.3	45 (MBL)		Girach et al. (2020b)
Summer monsoon and autumn transition	2002 BOBPS	Bay of Bengal 7°N–20°N	27 ± 6	43 (MBL)	1.3	Sahu et al. (2006)
Autumn transition	SK-277 2010	Bay of Bengal 8°N–18°N	41 ± 9	60	3.95	Mallik et al. (2013)

1
2 Available ozone measurements from campaigns conducted in the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea,
3 and Indian Ocean over the last decades have been summarized in Table 4. The measurements
4 reveal some clear spatial and seasonal patterns with highest ozone mixing ratios during the
5 winter monsoon, in particular in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. On average, ozone
6 abundances decrease during the spring transition period and increase again after the summer
7 monsoon. Nearly all campaigns detected highest ozone values close to the northern continental
8 landmasses, reflecting direct impact of air masses originating from different pollution source
9 regions in South Asia and the Indo-Gangetic Plain. However, the situation can also be reversed,
10 with higher levels of ozone observed over the central Bay of Bengal, not near the coastal regions
11 (Lal et al., 2006), due to different types of wind patterns and possible titration by fresh
12 emissions of NO. Sharp latitudinal gradients ranging from 1.3 to 5.4 ppb O₃/° with increasing
13 ozone towards northern landmasses were identified during all campaigns except for ICARB
14 measurements in the Arabian Sea during the spring transition period. The strength of the
15 gradients depends on the season, with sharper gradients during the winter and sometimes
16 transition periods, and on the latitudinal extent, with sharper gradients closer to the coastlines.
17 Air-sea breeze triggered transport of polluted air masses in the elevated layer can lead to
18 substantially higher ozone values above the MBL, as demonstrated during the campaigns where
19 ozonesonde measurements were available. Direct comparisons of ozone values in the Bay of
20 Bengal and the Arabian Sea are in most cases not possible, except for the ICARB spring
21 campaign during which ozone peaked in the Bay of Bengal.

22 5.2 Greenhouse gases

23 Greenhouse gases are largely emitted from anthropogenic activities over the continents, as are
24 most of the atmospheric pollutants discussed above (Section 4). Therefore, greenhouse gases
25 and pollution show a similar spatial distribution with higher values towards the coast and lower
26 values over the open ocean. However, greenhouse gases have in general longer lifetimes
27 resulting in overall smaller spatial gradients. In addition, they often have large sources from the
28 terrestrial biosphere of the NH midlatitudes, which can impact their seasonal cycle over coastal
29 and open ocean regions. In the following section, we discuss the distribution and variability of
30 the greenhouse gases CH₄, N₂O, CO₂ and COS.

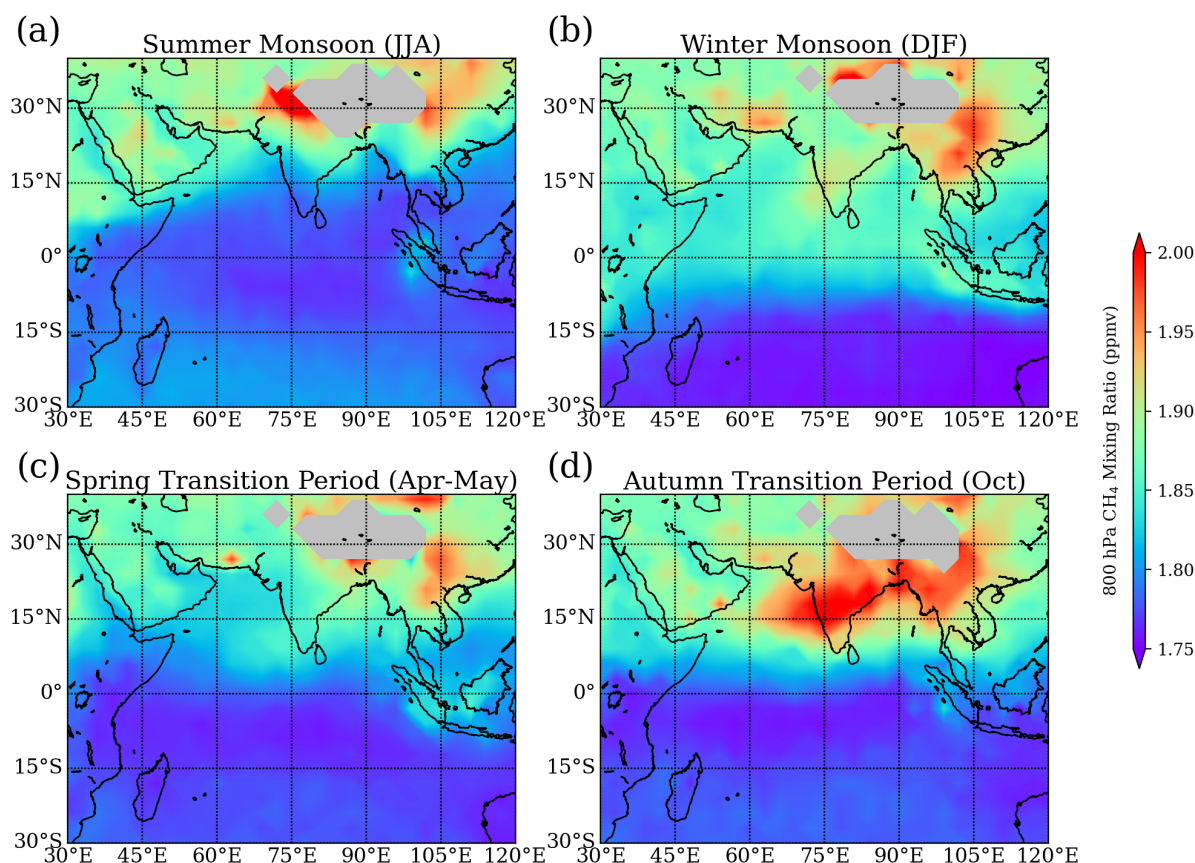
31 Methane (CH₄)

32 In-situ observations collected over the last two decades have significantly contributed to our
33 current understanding of the large-scale CH₄ distribution. During the summer monsoon season,
34 near-surface CH₄ mixing ratios of 1830 ± 140 ppb were detected over the northern Bay of
35 Bengal during the 2009 CTCZ campaign (Girach et al., 2017). Back trajectory simulations
36 linked the enhanced values over the Bay of Bengal to emissions from central and northern India.

1 Ship data collected during the winter monsoon shows decreasing CH₄ mixing ratios from the
2 northern (1910 ppb) to southern Bay of Bengal (1750 ppb) and slightly smaller abundances
3 over the Arabian Sea (1700 to 1800 ppb) (Srivastava et al., 2012a). Station data for 1993–2002
4 from the west coast of India revealed large seasonal variations with maximum values of up to
5 1980 ppb at the beginning of the winter monsoon season (Bhattacharya et al., 2009) related to
6 the interplay of seasonal variations in emissions and transport. CH₄ production from Asian rice
7 cultivation maximises during the autumn transition season when the plants are fully grown
8 (Section 4.2). At the same time, the onset of the winter regime starts to allow for air mass
9 transport from continental regions with significant anthropogenic influence. During the winter
10 monsoon, these transport patterns intensify bringing air masses with elevated CH₄ over the
11 Indian Ocean.

12 The three-dimensional distribution of CH₄ above the boundary layer over the Arabian Sea, Bay
13 of Bengal and Indian Ocean can be investigated based on GOSAT satellite measurements (Fig.
14 14; CH₄ at 800 hPa). CH₄ is higher towards the coast and lower over the open ocean due to the
15 proximity of the source rich land regions. In particular, the fossil fuel mining areas in the Arab
16 region are believed to contribute to enhanced CH₄ over the northern Arabian Sea (Kavitha and
17 Nair, 2019). Overall, latitudinal CH₄ variations between 20°N and 30°S of up to 6% are much
18 smaller than latitudinal variations of CO over the same region of up to 150%. Consistent with
19 in-situ surface measurements, CH₄ at the top of the boundary layer of the eastern Arabian Sea
20 and Bay of Bengal maximises during the autumn transition and winter monsoon seasons. Peak
21 values of over 2000 ppb appear over the northern Bay of Bengal and along the Indian west coast.
22 The overall spatial distribution does not change much with height and at all altitudes between
23 850 – 200 hPa highest CH₄ values are found over the northern Arabian Sea and northern Bay
24 of Bengal (Kavitha and Nair, 2019). Similarly, the monthly variations of CH₄ mixing ratios
25 over all oceanic regions remain more or less similar at all altitudes with a peak during the
26 autumn transition season.

27



1
 2 **Figure 14.** Methane (CH₄) mixing ratios at 800 hPa from GOSAT for (a) summer monsoon 2009 – 2014
 3 (June – August), (b) winter monsoon 2009/2010 – 2014/2015 (December – February), (c) spring
 4 transition 2009 – 2014 (April – May) and (d) autumn transition 2009 – 2004 (October) periods.

5
 6 Over the equatorial Indian Ocean, CH₄ values at the top of boundary layer are relatively low
 7 during all seasons with values mostly below 1800 ppb, except for the winter season during
 8 which values can reach 1870 ppb (Fig. 14b). The OMO aircraft campaign in July/August 2015
 9 confirmed low CH₄ values detected by the satellite for the summer monsoon. Observations over
 10 Gan (Maldives) show average CH₄ mixing ratios of 1778.3 ± 19.5 ppb during the summer period
 11 being significantly lower than in the NH background or the Asian monsoon profiles (Tomsche
 12 et al., 2019). CH₄ mixing ratios increase with height due to inter-hemispheric transport mixing
 13 NH air masses into the SH at higher altitudes. As the NH air masses have experienced
 14 convective uplift from the boundary layer, they advect higher CH₄ mixing ratios into the SH
 15 (Bergamaschi et al., 2013).

16 The SH Indian Ocean has been found to be much less impacted by the winter monsoon
 17 compared to the NH Indian Ocean due to the ITCZ functioning as a transport barrier. In situ
 18 measurements from Reunion Island around 19°S, suggest the opposite seasonal cycle with
 19 lowest CH₄ values in December–February and highest CH₄ values in August–September (Zhou
 20 et al., 2018). Here, the CH₄ variability is not dominated by nearby land sources, but rather
 21 seasonal variations of OH radicals drive the seasonal cycle of CH₄.

22 Nitrous oxide (N₂O)

23 Measurements of N₂O over the Indian Ocean are sparse. The distribution of N₂O derived during
 24 a ship campaign in the Arabian Sea, equatorial Indian Ocean, and southwest part of the Bay of

1 Bengal during the autumn transition period (October–November 2004) reveals clear latitudinal
2 gradients (Mandal et al., 2006). Near the coast, N₂O values of 312 ppb were found, and they
3 increased towards the open ocean, with a maximum of 432 ppb at the equator. In the equatorial
4 SH, N₂O decreased sharply to 312 ppb and did not change substantially during the rest of the
5 cruise along the equator and in the southwest part of the Bay of Bengal. Given the sparse data
6 it is difficult to determine if the peak values around the equator are caused by local oceanic
7 emissions or are related to long-range transport from other sources.

8 **Carbon dioxide (CO₂)**

9 CO₂ satellite-based observations over the Indian Ocean reveal strong seasonal and latitudinal
10 gradients (Nalini et al., 2018; Nayak et al., 2011). During most seasons, larger CO₂ values over
11 the south and south-east Asian land masses are accompanied by pronounced latitudinal
12 gradients over the coastal regions and lower CO₂ values over the ocean. This distribution has
13 been confirmed by ship-based observations during the summer monsoon (Kumar et al., 2014)
14 and autumn transition season (Mandal et al., 2006). The measurements showed elevated CO₂
15 with large variability near the coastal region and relatively low CO₂ with correspondingly lower
16 variability over the open ocean.

17 CO₂ over the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea is characterized by a pronounced seasonal cycle,
18 with highest values in boreal spring and lowest values in autumn (Nalini et al., 2018). Satellite
19 observations show that during winter, a band of relatively low CO₂ mixing ratios (376–378
20 ppm) extends over the northern Indian Ocean between 0°–25°N in the west-east direction,
21 where the smallest values exist over the western Arabian Sea (Nayak et al., 2011). During boreal
22 spring, the CO₂ in this region increases, in particular over the Bay of Bengal. Seasonality over
23 the southern Indian Ocean shows a different pattern. Similarly, to the northern part, a belt of
24 low CO₂ is found during boreal winter between 10°S and 25°S. During boreal spring, however,
25 this band of relatively low CO₂ values remains prominent (Nayak et al., 2011), highlighting the
26 potential role of this region as an oceanic CO₂ sink (Section 4.2). In addition, Valsala et al.
27 (2020) used 60 years of reanalysis data to identify that atmospheric mixing ratios over the
28 southeastern tropical region are driven by the Indian Ocean Dipole.

29 Lagrangian transport simulations, carried out to analyse the seasonal cycle at two Indian coastal
30 stations, suggest that the seasonality of the CO₂ distribution over the Indian Ocean is driven by
31 atmospheric circulation changes combined with the seasonal cycle of CO₂ over land regions
32 (Nalini et al., 2018). While dominant marine contributions during the summer monsoon result
33 in slowly decaying values, the winter and spring monsoon season is characterized by sources
34 from the eastern continental land masses, leading to maximum values over the coastal stations
35 during spring. The equatorial Indian Ocean, on the other hand, shows only a weak seasonal
36 cycle when compared to Indian coastal locations, the Bay of Bengal, and the Arabian Sea. Here,
37 contributions from oceanic regions dominate during all seasons with smaller continental
38 contributions during the winter period. Overall, the anthropogenic emissions over the
39 continental land masses appear not to be a large source for CO₂ in the open Indian Ocean
40 environment.

41 **Carbonyl sulfide (COS)**

42 There are only three published datasets of ship or land-based observations of COS mixing ratios
43 over the Indian Ocean. The measurements were made over the course of a year at Amsterdam
44 Island (Mihalopoulos et al., 1991), on a research cruise in the eastern and southern Indian Ocean
45 in November (Inomata et al., 2006), and on the OASIS research cruise in the western tropical
46 Indian Ocean in July (Lennartz et al., 2017, see section 3). All measured COS values are either
47 at or below the global mean COS atmospheric mixing ratio of ~549 ppt and exhibit no clear
48 seasonal or latitudinal pattern (Lennartz et al., 2020). Satellite measurements and inverse

1 modelling studies show elevated values of the atmospheric COS mixing ratio over the Indian
2 Ocean, but the values are not as high as those over the Pacific Ocean and Maritime Continent
3 at similar latitudes (Glatthor et al., 2015; Kuai et al., 2015). The elevated values have led to the
4 hypothesis that the northern Indian Ocean is one of the missing source regions (Kuai et al.,
5 2015). Given the lack of compelling evidence from surface ocean measurements, however, it
6 does not appear that the Indian Ocean is the location of the missing source. Instead,
7 anthropogenic sources around Southeast Asia could be responsible, as discussed in section 4.

8 9 **5.3 VOCs and short-lived gases DMS, isoprene and halogens**

10 **VOCs**

11 The VOC mixing ratios over the Bay of Bengal are higher during the winter monsoon than
12 during the summer monsoon for most VOCs, but with clear north-south gradients all year round
13 (Sahu et al., 2011). Alkenes show an opposite seasonality to the rest of the major VOCs, with
14 higher mixing ratios during the summer monsoon and no clear latitudinal gradients. For the
15 other major VOCs, latitudinal gradients during the summer monsoon are caused by the transport
16 of pollutants from peninsular India to the northern Bay of Bengal and clean marine air over
17 southern Bay of Bengal. Latitudinal gradients during the winter monsoon are ascribed to
18 dilution and increased photochemical loss towards the southern Bay of Bengal. However,
19 measurements along the coasts during both seasons showed no clear latitudinal trend and were
20 influenced by photochemistry and stagnant air flow. Seasonal changes in the distribution of
21 VOCs in the surface layer over the Bay of Bengal resemble changes in wind speed (Sahu et al.,
22 2010). Diurnal variability of alkenes is evident in summer, but not winter, and there is evidence
23 that cyclones and convective activities in the summer season impact their mixing ratios. High
24 mixing ratios are also found over the Arabian Gulf (Bourtsoukidis et al., 2020). VOC
25 measurements at the Maïdo observatory in the southern Indian Ocean over two years reveal
26 VOCs in the surface layer from anthropogenic sources (38%), biomass burning (33%), and both
27 primary (15%) and secondary (14%) biogenic sources (Verreyken et al., 2021).

28
29 Regarding HCHO, Gopikrishnan et al. (2021) used satellite measurements for the period 2005–
30 2014 and found large amounts along the ship routes in the Indian Ocean. The values were
31 double the natural background without the presence of ships. The trend in HCHO
32 concentrations over the Indian Ocean shipping lanes is about 0.008×10^{15} molec./cm²/year,
33 where the HCHO values and trends from the northern Indian Ocean routes are comparable to
34 those in the Panama Canal, Mediterranean Sea and Strait of Malacca.

35 36 **DMS and isoprene**

37 DMS in the Arabian Sea is projected to act as a relatively large oceanic source of sulfur to the
38 atmosphere during the Asian summer monsoon season (Lana et al., 2011). These high emissions
39 have been confirmed by recent ship-based measurements during the AQABA campaign,
40 identifying elevated DMS values in the atmosphere ranging from 100 to 500 ppt (Edtbauer et
41 al., 2020). Given the low atmospheric background pollution and the elevated DMS mixing
42 ratios, the latter was found among the ten most important OH sinks with a reactivity of 0.02 s⁻¹
43 (Pfannerstill et al., 2019). During the OASIS campaign, similar atmospheric mixing ratios of
44 approximately 20–300 ppt were measured over the western tropical Indian Ocean. The
45 atmospheric distribution patterns in time and space during OASIS generally matched measured
46 fluxes (Zavarsky et al., 2018b). During this study, the directly measured DMS fluxes, as well
47 as calculated isoprene fluxes and sea spray fluxes, were correlated with satellite-derived aerosol
48 products over the region. Many of the correlations, which took into account the influence of
49 regional transport as computed FLEXPART trajectories, were statistically significant. The
50 aerosol product distribution more closely resembled the trace gas fluxes than the sea spray flux

1 distributions. Thus, sea spray appears to be more of a minor precursor than the trace gases. This
2 is supported by Quinn et al. (2017) who found a 30% contribution of sea spray to cloud
3 condensation nuclei in the tropics. These results illustrate the importance of the regional
4 coupling between marine-derived gaseous precursors and aerosol products in the remote MBL,
5 which can give rise to local feedback processes (Zavarsky et al., 2018b).

6 The longest continuous observations of atmospheric DMS in the Indian Ocean were obtained
7 at the Amsterdam Islands (37.8°S, 77.5°E) in the southern Indian Ocean (Scaire et al., 2000).
8 Measurements from 1990 to 1999 revealed atmospheric DMS ranging from 5 to 1900 ppt with
9 a clear seasonal cycle. Maximum DMS values in January were on average 20 times higher than
10 minimum values in July-August. These strong seasonal variations are not caused by
11 atmospheric transport patterns but are linked to a similar cycle in DMS concentration in
12 seawater induced by enhanced phytoplanktonic activity during the boreal summer. Model runs
13 using the Lana et al. (2011) climatology show a good match with these observations confirming
14 the dominant impact of oceanic processes on atmospheric DMS concentrations over the open
15 Indian Ocean (Mahajan et al., 2015b).

16 Atmospheric mixing ratios of isoprene were also measured during the OASIS campaign. The
17 mean measured mixing ratio was 2.5 ± 1.5 ppt (Booge et al., 2016), which is in agreement with
18 atmospheric measurements in other remote open ocean regions (Shaw et al., 2003). Booge et
19 al. (2016) used a top-down approach to calculate isoprene emissions in order to compare with
20 the bottom-up flux estimates using a box model, in which the only source of isoprene for the
21 air was assumed to be the sea-to-air flux (emission), the atmospheric lifetime was assumed to
22 be determined by reaction with OH (chemical loss, 1 h) and assuming air values to be zero at
23 the start. Computed atmospheric mixing ratios were 45 times lower than measured. In order to
24 calculate values consistent with measured mixing ratios, isoprene emissions must be more than
25 one order of magnitude greater than those computed using the bottom-up estimate based on
26 measured oceanic isoprene levels (section 4). This result agrees with isoprene emissions
27 computed with a numerical model by Luo and Yu (2010). One possible explanation could be
28 that production in the surface microlayer (SML) is not taken into account with the bottom-up
29 approach. Ciuraru et al. (2015) showed that isoprene can be produced photochemically by
30 surfactants in an organic monolayer directly at the air-sea interface. SML surfactant enrichment
31 has been observed (Wurl et al., 2011), which could result in about two orders of magnitude
32 larger isoprene fluxes than the highest fluxes calculated during the OASIS campaign. Further
33 field measurements targeting isoprene production in the SML could be a step forward in
34 reconciling the ocean source of isoprene to the atmosphere.

35 **Halogens**

36 The Indian Ocean is an important source region for halogenated VSLs such as CHBr_3 , CH_2Br_2
37 and CH_3I . During the OASIS ship campaign in summer 2014 in the west Indian Ocean, high
38 VSL emissions with pronounced hotspots were detected (Fiehn et al., 2017). The prevailing
39 atmospheric mixing ratios, however, were generally low. The atmospheric mixing ratios of
40 CHBr_3 showed an overall mean of 1.20 ± 0.35 ppt. Elevated mixing ratios larger than 1.5 ppt
41 were found in the equatorial region coinciding with lower wind speeds and maximum values
42 larger than 2 ppt were detected close to islands, where coastal sources appear to influence the
43 atmosphere. Atmospheric mixing ratios of CH_2Br_2 varied little around the mean value of 0.9
44 ppt and showed a similar pattern to the CHBr_3 mixing ratios. The CH_3I mixing ratios showed
45 relatively large variations with a mean of 0.8 ppt (Fiehn et al., 2017).

46 Reactive halogen species, such as iodine oxide (IO) and bromine oxide (BrO), that result from
47 VSLs and other sources (Section 4.3), were found to be below the detection limit or very low
48 over the Indian Ocean. In December 2000, measurements in the southern Indian Ocean were
49 carried out as preparative study for an intensive field campaign within the ELCID4 project with

1 ship track between Reunion Islands, Amsterdam Islands, Corzet Islands and Kerguelen Islands.
2 IO and BrO were both below the detection limit of the instrument, and hence upper limits of 4
3 ppt were reported for both species in the Indian Ocean (Hönninger, 2002). A field campaign in
4 the Maldives also reported upper limits for the BrO vertical columns (3×10^{14} molecules cm^{-2})
5 (Ladstätter-Weißmayer et al., 2007). Observations on the ISOE and IIOE-2 cruises
6 reconfirmed that BrO was below the detection limit, with a lower upper limit of 2 ppt on cruises
7 starting from both the east and west of the Indian subcontinent (unpublished data). However,
8 ship-based observations have confirmed the presence of iodine oxide in the marine atmosphere,
9 although at low levels (<1 ppt). At these levels, the effect of halogen chemistry on ozone
10 destruction in the Indian Ocean MBL is significantly smaller than the Atlantic MBL, where
11 reactive halogen species can result in as much as 45% of the total ozone loss (Read et al., 2008).
12 Additionally, the outflow of NO_x from the Indian sub-continent can titrate iodine chemistry
13 through the formation of IONO_2 , which further reduces the impact of iodine on atmospheric
14 chemistry (Mahajan et al., 2019a, 2019b). Another land-based campaign observed between 2.4–
15 3.1 ppt of IO at the Maldives (Oetjen, 2009). These results suggest that, although the reactive
16 species are low, they could contribute to local oxidative chemistry, considering that they are
17 higher than levels observed in the Atlantic MBL where they contribute towards significant
18 surface ozone loss (Mahajan et al., 2010).
19

20 **6 Long-term changes**

21 Long-term changes of atmospheric dynamics, oceanic processes and anthropogenic emissions
22 impact the atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean with the growth of traffic and
23 industries being expected to lead to increasing air pollution. Available trend studies of pollution
24 and greenhouse gases often make use of long-term satellite measurements.

25 Despite the increasing emissions, CO abundances have been found to decrease in a number of
26 studies. Srivastava et al. (2012a), using monthly mean CO at 900 hPa obtained from MOPITT,
27 have observed lower offshore pollution during the transition periods than expected based on
28 modelling studies with The Model for OZone And Related Tracers (MOZART) model. They
29 suggest that temporal dilution of pollutants is the main reason for this mismatch. A study
30 focusing on regions further south in the Indian Ocean indicates that CO was decreasing (1.8%
31 per year over Madagascar and 1.7% per year over Reunion Island) over the years 2005 to 2009.
32 The main drivers behind this decrease were identified as the La Niña between 2006 and 2008
33 and the reduction in biomass burning emissions in southern Africa (Tohir et al., 2015).
34 Decreasing CO abundance in the lower troposphere was also found by Girach and Nair (2014b)
35 using MOPITT CO data for 2000–2014. The authors attributed the negative trend of around 2%
36 per year partly due to an increase in lower tropospheric water vapour and ozone and partly to a
37 strengthening of convective activity, uplifting CO to higher altitudes. As a result of the latter,
38 upper tropospheric CO was found to increase with a long-term trend of up to 3.2% per year. A
39 recent study conducted as part of ICARB observed lower CO levels (200 ± 43 ppbv) than those
40 during the INDOEX campaign (229 ± 40 ppbv) confirming decreasing levels of CO over the IO
41 (Girach et al, 2020). As demonstrated in section 4, CO emissions in most regions surrounding
42 the Indian Ocean have increased, which highlights the importance of the interplay of emission,
43 dynamics, and chemistry for trace gas variability. In particular, CO emissions along the Mekong
44 River, north of the Persian Gulf, in Afghanistan and East Africa have shown pronounced growth
45 rates. Future studies of the CO trends over the Indian Ocean over longer time periods are needed
46 in order to understand how these changing emissions, together with changing atmospheric
47 dynamics and chemistry, impact the CO concentrations in the marine atmosphere.

48 The variation of the mean total columnar amount of tropospheric NO_2 has been studied in detail
49 over the Indian subcontinent. Mahajan et al. (2015a) have reported an average increase of 2.20

1 $\pm 0.73 \text{ \% yr}^{-1}$ using four different satellites across India. For OMI, this rate of increase from
2 2004–2013 was $2.79 \pm 0.23 \text{ \% yr}^{-1}$. This compares well to the rate of $2.9 \pm 1.9 \text{ \% yr}^{-1}$ reported
3 by Ghude et al. (2013), even though their study focused on urban locations. Studies focusing
4 on the atmosphere over the Indian Ocean are relatively scarce, but Tournadre (2014) reported
5 a 50% increase along the Sri Lanka-Sumatra-China shipping lane. The OMI tropospheric
6 column data from 2003–2020 shows an increasing trend in the Arabian sea, close to the Indian
7 coast ($0.83 \pm 0.24 \text{ \% yr}^{-1}$; $t_B=3.41$), but along the eastern coast in the Bay of Bengal the trend
8 is not significant ($0.44 \pm 0.29 \text{ \% yr}^{-1}$; $t_B=1.53$). In the remote Indian ocean, OMI observations
9 show an increasing trend ranging between $0.76\text{--}1.87 \text{ \% yr}^{-1}$, although the open ocean trends
10 might not be accurate considering the low columnar densities close to or below the detection
11 limit of the satellite instruments (unpublished data).

12 Long-term changes of CH_4 have been estimated from AIRS satellite measurements over the
13 2003–2015 time period (Kavitha and Nair, 2019). Over the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, a
14 consistent positive trend ranging from 2 ppb year^{-1} to 6 ppb year^{-1} was found at all pressure
15 levels comparable to trends over Indian land regions. Interestingly, the trend was larger at
16 higher altitudes ($<500 \text{ hPa}$) and maximized at the $300 \text{ hPa}\text{--}150 \text{ hPa}$ level. The authors
17 hypothesized that the changes of growth rate with altitude are related to increased convective
18 activity uplifting CH_4 , leading to a smaller growth rate at the lower levels and higher growth at
19 the upper levels.

20 Based on OMI satellite data, a positive long-term trend in annual mean ozone over the Arabian
21 Sea and northern Bay of Bengal was detected for the ten-year period from 2000 to 2009 (David
22 and Nair, 2013). The southern Bay of Bengal is an exception to this and shows a negative long-
23 term change for annual mean ozone and the annual minimum with the latter representing
24 background conditions. Overall, quantifying long-term changes of ozone is an ongoing
25 challenge given its high variability and the scarcity of long-term measurement stations, so that
26 currently no updated, reliable trend estimates are available.

27 Observations of reactive halogen species over the Indian Ocean do not display any significant
28 long-term trends, with BrO values below the stated upper limits of 2 ppt across observations
29 made over two decades. In the case of IO, annual observations since 2014 during the ISOE ship
30 campaigns have also not identified a significant difference, although the time period is less than
31 one decade and hence changes would not be expected beyond instrumental accuracy and natural
32 variation. Laboratory studies indicate a strong link between ozone concentrations in the MBL
33 and emissions of iodine species from the ocean surface (Carpenter et al., 2013, section 6.3).
34 Modelling studies suggest that ocean emissions of iodine species have increased on a global
35 scale over the last few decades driven by an increase in ozone concentrations due to
36 anthropogenic emissions (Saiz-Lopez et al., 2014; 2015). This increase has been observed
37 indirectly through an increase in the concentrations of iodine species in ice cores in the Alps
38 and in the Arctic (Cuevas et al., 2018; Legrand et al., 2018). However, in the absence of long-
39 term ozone observations or iodine fluxes in the Indian Ocean region, it is difficult to quantify
40 the change in iodine emissions.

41 The examples listed above make clear that not only the increasing anthropogenic emissions,
42 but also atmospheric dynamics, chemistry, and ocean-atmosphere interactions, are important
43 for the long-term changes of the atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean. In particular,
44 changes of transport patterns and convective uplifting can amplify or dampen the emission-
45 driven changes of greenhouse gases and pollution. Furthermore, long-term changes of the
46 frequency of modes of interannual variability can mask long-term changes of atmospheric
47 composition if the analysed period is relatively short (e.g., Toiher et al., 2015). In addition,
48 physical, chemical, and biological processes in the Indian Ocean, as well as dynamically driven

1 changes of the air-sea gas exchange, can be expected to impact the long-term trends of
2 atmospheric composition.

3

4 **7 Impact on the upper atmosphere and ocean**

5 The changing atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean can influence remote regions
6 like the stratosphere via convective transport pathways (Section 7.1). It can also interact with
7 the ocean by impacting biogeochemical cycles and marine ecosystems (Section 7.2), which can,
8 in turn, feedback on the overlying atmosphere. Here, we present new insights into how
9 atmospheric pollution over the Indian Ocean can impact other Earth system components.

10 **7.1 Impact on the stratosphere**

11 Marine trace gases emitted from the Indian Ocean can be transported into the stratosphere via
12 convection directly above the Indian Ocean or via the summer monsoon convection and
13 anticyclone (e.g., Fiehn et al., 2017; Hanumanthu et al., 2020). Recent studies have highlighted
14 the role of the Indian Ocean as a source region for stratospheric VSLs entrainment and similar
15 mechanisms could also apply to other marine traces gases.

16 Regional and global modelling studies have shown that stratospheric entrainment of oceanic
17 VSLs from the Indian Ocean occurs mainly via localized convection (Tegtmeier et al., 2020;
18 Fiehn et al., 2018). Modelled CHBr_3 entrainment displays a global maximum over the Bay of
19 Bengal, the Arabian Sea, and the southern tip of India (Tegtmeier et al., 2020). The main source
20 regions for this global maximum include the Indian Ocean during boreal summer and the
21 tropical west Pacific Ocean during boreal winter. Based on OASIS campaign data in the west
22 Indian Ocean and atmospheric modelling, Fiehn et al. (2017) have confirmed that VSLs can
23 be transported from the boundary layer into the tropical tropopause layer and eventually into
24 the stratosphere. All three studies highlight that the importance of the Indian Ocean sources for
25 the stratospheric halogen budget depends on the regional and seasonal strength of emissions
26 and the transit time in preferred transport regimes. While the main entrainment occurs via
27 convection above the Indian Ocean lifting oceanic trace gases towards the tropopause, Fiehn et
28 al. (2017) suggest that the Asian summer monsoon may also play a role. The monsoon
29 circulation can transport oceanic VSLs towards India and the Bay of Bengal from where they
30 are lifted with the monsoon convection and reach stratospheric levels in the south-eastern part
31 of the Asian monsoon anticyclone. StratoClim aircraft measurements of CH_2Br_2 in the UTLS
32 above the Asian monsoon confirm these findings (Adcock et al., 2020). They show CH_2Br_2
33 abundances very similar to tropical background values, indicating that while some VSLs enter
34 the stratosphere via the monsoon circulation, it is not a hotspot for entrainment of oceanic short-
35 lived species. Overall, the Indian Ocean is a strong source of VSLs for the stratosphere with
36 the main entrainment occurring via localized convection.

37 Besides contributing to stratospheric halocarbons, during the summer monsoon, the Indian
38 Ocean and surrounding areas are potentially important source regions for stratospheric
39 entrainment of other naturally produced gases such as N_2O and COS (Ma et al., 2018; Lennartz
40 et al., 2017). The open Indian Ocean is in general a rather weak, but likely perennial and far-
41 reaching (in terms of atmospheric transport) source of several trace gases to the atmosphere.
42 However, it is unclear to what extent the atmospheric mixing ratios at a given location in the
43 north Indian Ocean might correspond to air masses transported from the southwest Indian
44 Ocean, where they have been enriched in oceanic trace gases (Ma et al., 2018). Such knowledge
45 is necessary for quantifying the total contribution of the Indian Ocean emissions to the
46 stratosphere and should be addressed in future studies. Potentially important feedback may
47 occur if, for example, more N_2O is emitted to the atmosphere as a result of over fertilization

1 (see section 6.3) and subsequently makes its way to the stratosphere. As N₂O contributes to
2 stratospheric ozone depletion, resulting radiation changes at the ocean surface could feed back
3 on biological and chemical processes.

4 5 **7.2 Impact on the ocean**

6 Changes of the atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean, together with changing
7 transport patterns and river inputs, affect oceanic production and biogeochemical trace gas
8 cycling, which in turn feedback on the overlying atmosphere (e.g., Rixen et al, 2020 this issue).
9 Satellite-derived time-series measurements indicate that the atmospheric pollution of some
10 gases and annual aerosol load, including ship emissions, are increasing over the northern Indian
11 Ocean and especially over the Bay of Bengal (Hsu et al., 2012; Tournadre, 2014). River inputs
12 lead to low salinities in the surface mixed layer, resulting in strong stratification that dampens
13 coastal upwelling and traps nutrients in the subsurface (Prasanna Kumar et al., 2002, Rixen et
14 al., 2006). Other concerns include how potentially changing monsoon intensity will affect air
15 mass trajectories (Goes et al., 2005), which influence deposition to the sea surface over the
16 Indian Ocean and that Indian Ocean warming exacerbates ocean acidification (e.g., in the
17 Arabaian Sea, Sreesh et al., 2019).

18
19 It has been shown that atmospheric deposition can have both favourable (nutrifying, e.g., Rahav
20 et al., 2018) and unfavourable effects (toxic, e.g., Paytan et al., 2009, Jordi et al., 2012, Wang
21 et al., 2015) on biological processes. Further, it has been shown that mixing natural and
22 anthropogenic sources of gases and aerosols may alter the properties and subsequent
23 functionality of the deposited materials (increased bioavailability, e.g., Herut et al., 2016, Krom
24 et al., 2016, Jickells et al., 2017, Mahowald et al., 2018). Biogeochemical changes due to
25 atmospheric deposition in the SML can be important for trace gas cycling and air-sea exchange,
26 for example through reactions with deposited ozone (Zhou et al. 2014, Chiu et al. 2017, Mungall
27 et al. 2017, see below) or changes to the heterotrophic community (Astrahan et al. 2016). Some
28 modelling studies show that atmospheric deposition will lead to less CO₂ uptake and less ocean
29 acidification (GESAMP 2012), while iron deposition doubles primary production (Guieu et al.,
30 2019). The bioaccumulation of persistent organic pollutants and mercury in fish are of
31 prevailing concern for fish stocks and human health (Brooks et al., 2019). In turn, marine-
32 derived volatile forms of iodine, sulfur, and selenium are essential to recycle the elements onto
33 the land and can be important for human health (Rayman, 2000; Fuge and Johnson, 2015).

34
35 To date, the anthropogenically-derived nitrogen input to the northern Indian Ocean, supplied
36 by both atmospheric deposition and riverine fluxes (Jickells et al., 2017), has significantly
37 increased in recent decades. This external nutrient source has the potential to affect the
38 vulnerable biogeochemistry, by increasing overfertilization of the surface waters.
39 Overfertilization can increase primary productivity, remineralization in the water column,
40 enhanced ocean deoxygenation and thus N₂O production via denitrification and nitrification
41 cycles. As a consequence, the air-sea flux of N₂O increases (Suntharalingam et al., 2019), which
42 can be expected to continue in the future.

43
44 Another example for the complex interaction between natural and anthropogenic processes in
45 marine surface water and the atmosphere is the deposition of tropospheric ozone, and its
46 reaction with marine iodide, which is linked to biological productivity and increases the input
47 of inorganic iodine to the atmosphere (Carpenter et al., 2013). This major source of reactive
48 iodine species in the marine atmosphere, in turn, forms a significant sink for atmospheric ozone
49 through catalytic destruction. In polluted regions, however, the anthropogenic NO_x inactivates
50 the reactive species to reservoir species (Mahajan, 2019b), thus volatile organoiodine

1 compounds (Martino et al., 2009) or organobromine compounds (Kornmüller, 2007) are formed
2 by ozone deposition. Especially in the polluted coastal regions of the northern landmasses, their
3 formation adds to the release of organohalogens formed during industrial disinfection processes
4 (Maas et al., 2020; 2021). Unexpected formation of ozone from reactive bromine and iodine
5 species can occur in the marine boundary layer under, near coastlines and ship plumes, under
6 VOC-limited conditions associated with high nitrogen oxide concentrations (Shechner and Tas,
7 2017).

8 9 **8 Summary and current knowledge gaps**

10
11 The atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean is determined by a complex array of
12 atmospheric transport patterns, chemistry, anthropogenic emissions, and atmosphere-ocean
13 interactions. Emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases in the regions surrounding the Indian
14 Ocean generally correspond to population densities and economic activities with emission
15 centres in the Indo-Gangetic Plain, northern China, and Java. The distribution of all major
16 pollutants and greenhouse gases shows pronounced differences between the landmass source
17 regions and the Indian Ocean, with strong gradients over the coastal areas. During the winter
18 monsoon, the north-south pollution gradients continue over the open Indian Ocean driven by
19 southward transport along with chemical processing, dilution, and surface deposition. In the
20 boundary layer, the contrast between polluted NH and pristine SH air results in a sharp gradient
21 across the ITCZ, where interhemispheric exchange of these air masses occurs in the upper
22 troposphere. During the summer monsoon, clean air dominates the atmospheric composition
23 over the northern Indian Ocean, leading to a different chemical regime with low atmospheric
24 pollutant levels. Over the last decade, new knowledge of the atmospheric composition and
25 related processes over the Indian Ocean has been derived from intensive ship and aircraft
26 campaigns, coastal station measurements and satellite data. Here, we provide a synthesis of the
27 scientific progress made after 2010 taking into account all observational data, updated emission
28 inventories and modelling studies presented in Sections 3 to 7.

29 **8.1 Pollution and O₃**

30 Over the last decade, campaign and station measurements have revealed new findings of the
31 distribution of pollution and ozone with some clear spatial and seasonal patterns. Over the Bay
32 of Bengal strongly elevated pollution and ozone were detected in the head and the south-eastern
33 part during winter and attributed to advection from the Indo-Gangetic Plain and continental
34 outflow from Southeast Asia, respectively. Post-winter observations show similar maxima in
35 the head, but significantly lower values in middle and southern Bay of Bengal due to open
36 ocean influence. A completely different picture was found over the Arabian sea, where during
37 spring transition period clean marine air results in significantly lower pollution when compared
38 to the northern Bay of Bengal. Recent studies have also revealed that the impact of
39 anthropogenic pollution can extend far over the Indian Ocean. Remote locations such as the
40 island of Mahé just south of the equator show CO maxima during winter that result from the
41 long-range transport of anthropogenic emissions from India. Pollution levels further south such
42 as over Reunion Island are driven by the emissions from biomass burning in Africa and South
43 America. In addition to continental pollution source, ship emissions are known to impact the
44 Indian Ocean air masses leading to enhanced NO_x abundances. Black carbon aerosols also show
45 enhancements over Bay of Bengal shipping lanes, and thus similar signatures for CO could be
46 expected. However, no studies have so far reported enhanced CO abundances in close proximity
47 to Indian Ocean shipping lanes prompting the need for further investigations.

48 Given the strongly increasing pollutant emissions from the surrounding continents, similar
49 trends might be expected in pollutants over the Indian Ocean. Comparisons of current

1 observations and previous data obtained two decades earlier have demonstrated the growing
2 influence of anthropogenic SO₂ on the marine atmosphere over the Indian Ocean. This
3 pronounced increase has occurred despite the decreasing SO₂ emissions in East Asia and is
4 most likely related to rapidly increasing emissions in South Asia. For tropospheric NO₂ column
5 data an increasing trend was detected to be significant in the Arabian sea, close to the Indian
6 coast. Lower tropospheric CO, on the other hand, was found to decrease, due to increasing
7 water vapour and ozone as well as a strengthening of convective activity, uplifting CO to higher
8 altitudes.

9 Scientific studies conducted over the last 10 years have added many details to our picture of the
10 spatial distribution in ozone. Latitudinal gradients with increasing ozone towards northern
11 landmasses were found to depend on the season, with sharper gradients during the winter and
12 transition periods, and on the latitudinal extent, with sharper gradients closer to the coastlines.
13 It has been noted that local wind patterns can lead to changes of the ozone seasonal cycle and
14 pronounced deviations of the ozone distribution causing complex temporal and spatial
15 variations. Diurnal variations of boundary layer ozone were found to follow different regimes
16 with daytime photochemical production from anthropogenic precursors occurring only in
17 polluted air masses. In pristine air masses, the absence of in situ photochemical production
18 leads to either no diurnal ozone variation or photochemical destruction during daytime and
19 entrainment of ozone rich from the free troposphere during nighttime. Despite the notable
20 progress, a complete picture of the seasonal, latitudinal, and vertical ozone variations as well
21 as reliable and updated trend estimates are currently not available.

23 **8.2 Greenhouse gases**

24 Emissions of CH₄, N₂O, and CO₂ in the regions surrounding the Indian Ocean have increased
25 steadily over the last decade with East Asia often being the largest emitter. Important recent
26 findings in this area have revealed high, and increasing, CH₄ emissions from east African
27 wetlands. The ocean also acts as an important source/sink, especially for N₂O (source), CO₂
28 (sink), and OCS (source), and its role in regulating atmospheric budgets must be understood.
29 Campaign data collected in 1999–2000 and 2004–2005 suggests that the CO₂ sink in the
30 southern Indian Ocean is weakening, a conclusion further supported by a recent modelling
31 study. Despite such alarming findings, we report here a drastic decrease in oceanic CO₂
32 observations over the last decades that must be rectified.

33 The distribution of greenhouse gases over the Indian Ocean shows many similarities when
34 compared to the pollution fields, presenting higher values towards the coast due to the proximity
35 of the source rich land regions. However, longer atmospheric lifetimes and active air-sea
36 exchange also lead to some clear differences, such as the latitudinal variations of greenhouse
37 gases being much smaller than the latitudinal variations of the shorter-lived pollutants. In
38 addition, greenhouse gas emissions are characterized by pronounced seasonal variations
39 because of their biogenic and agricultural sources. Over the northern Indian Ocean, CH₄
40 maximises during the autumn transition and winter monsoon following the seasonal cycle of
41 rice cultivation, while CO₂ is characterized by highest values in boreal spring due to biogenic
42 sources from the eastern continental land masses. Seasonality over the southern Indian Ocean
43 shows different patterns with seasonal variations of OH radicals leading to CH₄ maxima during
44 summer and air-sea exchange leading to relatively constant CO₂ levels. Long-term changes of
45 CH₄ show positive trends that maximized in the upper troposphere potentially driven by
46 increased convective activity.

47 Over the last decade, important progress has been made in understanding the interplay of
48 greenhouse gases and aerosols in driving physical trends in the region. It is clear now that the

1 Indian Ocean continues to warm due to greenhouse warming partially dampened by
2 anthropogenic aerosols. This warming has been shown to have serious consequences for the
3 monsoon and extreme weather in this region as well as for the global heat budget, as highlighted
4 by the recent hiatus period at the beginning of the 21st century. The warming is expected to
5 increase throughout the 21st century in response to continuing greenhouse gas emissions, with
6 the strongest warming in the Arabian Sea and western equatorial Indian Ocean consistently
7 projected in CMIP models.

8 9 **8.3 Short-lived gases DMS, isoprene and halogens**

10 For marine short-lived gases such as DMS, isoprene and halogenated VSLs, the Indian Ocean
11 is a hotspot emission region. Before 2010, short lived gases were some of the least sampled
12 compounds in the Indian Ocean. This review shows that over the last 10 years significant
13 improvements have been made in addressing the lack of data through multiple campaigns by
14 groups from all over the world.

15 For DMS, the number of datapoints available in the Indian Ocean has increased by 30–40%
16 since 2010. These new measurements can provide critical input for improving DMS emission
17 estimates, which are a major uncertainty in the currently available emission climatology. While
18 the total data are still too sparse to identify a long-term trend in DMS, proxy-based estimations
19 suggest an increase in global oceanic DMS concentrations, including the Indian Ocean. New
20 ship campaign data showed that oceanic sulfur fluxes in the form of DMS emissions are the
21 major precursor of aerosols in the summer monsoon remote MBL, with the possibility to
22 significantly contribute to cloud condensation nuclei in the tropical Indian Ocean.

23 In the case of isoprene, new campaigns conducted over the last 10 years have increased our
24 understanding of isoprene emissions, highlighting aspects such as the Arabian Sea isoprene
25 emissions peak in the oxygen minimum zone. An important new finding revealed that fluxes of
26 DMS and isoprene show a significant positive correlation with aerosol, suggesting a regional
27 influence of marine emissions.

28 New observations since 2014 have confirmed the ubiquitous presence of reactive iodine and
29 bromine species in the Indian Ocean, which interact with air pollutants from the Indian
30 subcontinent and need to be considered for regional air quality modelling. While the levels of
31 reactive halogen species were overall low, iodine chemistry was found to be responsible for up
32 to 25% ozone destruction in the northern Indian Ocean marine boundary layer. The improved
33 availability of reactive halogen dataset in the Indian Ocean demonstrates how important regular
34 in-situ observations are for our understanding of the regional atmospheric chemistry and
35 composition.

36 37 **8.4 Knowledge gaps**

38 Long-term changes in atmospheric composition over the Indian Ocean are driven by increasing
39 anthropogenic emissions, but also by atmospheric dynamics such as changes of transport
40 patterns and convection. Furthermore, physical, chemical, and biological processes in the
41 Indian Ocean can be expected to play a role for the long-term trends of atmospheric
42 composition. Possible changes in stratification, mixing, microbial speciation, and primary
43 productivity will influence trace gases in the atmosphere via modified oceanic emissions.
44 Similarly, ocean acidification can impact biogenic trace gas production and exchange. In
45 addition to changes of oceanic trace gas production, most of the observed and predicted
46 atmospheric long-term changes can influence air-sea gas exchange. For example, more rainfall
47 and intensified cyclone activities could lead to more turbulence at the sea surface and higher

1 fluxes of gases. In most cases, the direction and magnitude of such changes are currently unclear
2 and future studies are required to link oceanic changes to observed changes of atmospheric
3 composition.

4 Our current understanding of the Indian Ocean is mostly based on sporadic ship campaigns and
5 remote sensing data. Details of the large-scale features such as the seasonal cycles over the
6 individual ocean basins, variations of the latitudinal gradients, the vertical distributions and
7 long-term changes for several trace gases are not well known, and nor are all the processes well
8 understood. Large uncertainties remain in the current emission inventories that are used in
9 models and data for validation of model simulations is sparse. Dedicated long-term
10 measurement stations, such as they exist in the Atlantic (e.g., Cape Verde Atmospheric
11 Observatory), Pacific (e.g., Mauna Loa Observatory) or the Southern Ocean (e.g., Pointe
12 Bénédicte station), are required in order to link the distribution of trace gases over the Indian
13 Ocean to transport patterns and chemical regimes and to investigate feedback and forcing
14 mechanisms. In addition to long term stations, it is imperative to maintain a repository of the
15 past and future observations made in the Indian Ocean. Identifying long term trends, which are
16 crucial to understanding the processes and impacts of climate change, are hindered by the lack
17 of a consolidated database.

18 Interactions between the Indian Ocean and the atmosphere are bidirectional, and it has become
19 clear that the changing atmospheric composition can impact many oceanic processes, leading
20 to feedback mechanisms. Severe atmospheric pollution, known as the ‘South Asian Brown
21 Cloud’ transports high levels of gaseous pollutants and aerosols (including dust) containing
22 various nutrients and toxic substances to the Indian Ocean. This review only covers gas-phase
23 composition over the Indian Ocean, however, the complex interactions between anthropogenic
24 and marine trace gases and aerosols are also highly important for atmosphere-ocean feedback
25 mechanisms and climate impacts. Interactions between aerosols and trace gases can form new
26 particles, thus contributing to cloud formation, and wet deposition in the clean marine
27 atmosphere, as well as influence storm patterns and tropical cyclones. Such dynamical effects
28 together with the additional supply of pollution and aerosols will impact biogeochemical and
29 biological processes in the Indian Ocean. The connection between ocean biogeochemistry and
30 atmospheric deposition involves several issues of importance for society, including global and
31 regional pollution, the health of the ocean, fisheries, ocean fertilization, and carbon
32 sequestration, all related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. However, the impacts of
33 atmospheric pollution and dust on the Indian Ocean’s biogeochemistry, trace gas cycling, and
34 potential climate feedbacks, are severely understudied. Further research is needed to understand
35 how sources, transport, reactivity, and the atmosphere-ocean feedback mechanisms interact.
36 Such understanding is required in order to predict future changes, to assess if such changes can
37 have harmful effects on the environment and to find pathways which strengthen atmosphere,
38 ocean and community resilience in the Indian ocean region and globally.

39 40 **Appendix A: Major abbreviations and terms**

41		
42	AQABA	Air Quality and climate change in the Arabian Basin
43	AIRS	Atmospheric Infrared Sounder
44	ARMEX	Arabian Sea Monsoon Experiment
45	BOB	Bay of Bengal
46	BOBEX	Bay of Bengal Experiment
47	BOBPS	Bay of Bengal Processes Studies
48	CMIP	Coupled Model Intercomparison Project
49	CTCZ	Continental Tropical Convergence Zone experiment
50	EDGAR	Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research

1	ENSO	El Niño–Southern Oscillation
2	GMOS	Global Mercury Observation System
3	GOME	Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment
4	GOSAT	Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite
5	ICARB	Integrated Campaign for Aerosols, gases and Radiation Budget
6	IGP	Indo-Gangetic Plains
7	IIOE-2	2nd International Indian Ocean Expedition program
8	INDOEX	Indian Ocean Experiment
9	IO	Indian Ocean
10	ISOE	Indian Southern Ocean Expedition
11	ITZC	Intertropical Convergence Zone
12	MBL	Marine Boundary Layer
13	MJO	Madden-Julian Oscillation
14	MSLP	Mean surface level pressure
15	MOPITT	Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere
16	NH	Northern Hemisphere
17	NMHC	Non-Methane Hydrocarbon
18	NMVOC	Non-Methane Volatile Organic Compound
19	OASIS	Organic VSLs and their air sea exchange from the Indian Ocean to the
20		Stratosphere
21	OMI	Ozone Monitoring Instrument
22	OMO	Oxidation Mechanism Observations
23	OMZ	Oxygen Minimum Zone
24	OVOC	Oxidized Volatile Organic Compound
25	PESO	Pilot Expedition to the Southern Ocean
26	SCIAMACHY	Scanning Imaging Absorption Spectrometer for Atmospheric Chartography
27	SH	Southern Hemisphere
28	SML	Surface Microlayer
29	SOA	Secondary Organic Aerosols
30	SST	Sea Surface Temperature
31	TROPOMI	TROPOspheric Monitoring Instrument
32	VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
33	VSLs	Very Short-Lived Substances

34
35

36 **Data availability.**

37 EDGAR pollutant and greenhouse gas emission data are available from
38 <https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu>, SOCAT CO₂ data are available from
39 <https://www.socat.info/index.php/data-access/>, MOPITT V8 Level 3 CO data are available
40 from <https://www2.acom.ucar.edu/mopitt>, GOSAT CH₄ profiles are available
41 at <http://www.gosat.nies.go.jp/en/>, and TROPOMI Level 2 NO₂ data are available from
42 <https://scihub.copernicus.eu/>.

43
44

44 **Author contributions.**

45 ST coordinated the writing processes. The paper was written jointly by all co-authors with ST
46 and CM designing the review and contributing to all sections. YJ contributed to sections 3 and
47 5; BQ contributed to sections 2, 7 and 8; AM contributed to sections 5 and 6.

48
49

49 **Competing interests.**

50 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

51

1 **Special issue statement.**

2 This article is part of the special issue “Understanding the Indian Ocean system: past, present
3 and future (BG/ACP/OS/SE inter-journal SI)”. It is not associated with a conference.
4

5 **Acknowledgments**

6 We thank Jonathan Williams, Liji M. David, Imran A. Girach, Vinu Valsala, Hermann Bange,
7 Sinikka Lennartz, and Damian Arevalo for helpful discussions of the manuscript and Debora
8 Griffin for assisting with the TROPOMI data. The Surface Ocean CO₂ Atlas (SOCAT) is an
9 international effort, endorsed by the International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project
10 (IOCCP), the Surface Ocean Lower Atmosphere Study (SOLAS) and the Integrated Marine
11 Biosphere Research (IMBeR) program, to deliver a uniformly quality-controlled surface ocean
12 CO₂ database. The many researchers and funding agencies responsible for the collection of data
13 and quality control are thanked for their contributions to SOCAT. IITM is funded by the
14 Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.
15

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