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Elevated CO₂ Emissions during Magmatic-Hydrothermal Degassing at Awu volcano, Sangihe Arc, Indonesia

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Received: 19 August 2020; Accepted: 17 November 2020; Published: 20 November 2020



Abstract: Awu is a remote and little known active volcano of Indonesia located in the northern part of Molucca Sea. It is the northernmost active volcano of the Sangihe arc with 18 eruptions in less than 4 centuries, causing a cumulative death toll of 11,048. Two of these eruptions were classified with a Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI) of 4. Since 2004, a lava dome has occupied the centre of Awu crater, channelling the fumarolic gas output along the crater wall. A combined Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (DOAS) and Multi-component Gas Analyzer System (Multi-GAS) study highlight a relatively small SO₂ flux (13 t/d) sustained by mixed magmatic–hydrothermal emissions made-up of 82 mol.% H₂O, 15 mol.% CO₂, 2.55 mol.% total S (S_T) and 0.02 mol.% H₂. The CO₂ emission budget, as observed during a short observation period in 2015, corresponds to a daily contribution to the atmosphere of 2600 t/d, representing 1% of the global CO₂ emission budget from volcanoes. The gas CO₂/S_T ratio of 3.7 to 7.9 is at the upper limit of the Indonesian gas range, which is ascribed to (i) some extent of S loss during hydrothermal processing, and perhaps (ii) a C-rich signature of the feeding magmatic gas phase. The source of this high CO₂ signature and flux is yet to be fully understood; however, given the peculiar geodynamic context of the region, dominated by the arc-to-arc collision, this may result from either the prolonged heating of the slab and consequent production of carbon-rich fluids, or the recycling of crustal carbon.

Keywords: Awu volcano; Sangihe arc; volcanic degassing; CO₂ emission

1. Introduction

The Indonesian archipelago is one of the Earth's most active volcanic arc segments, but yet one whose volcanic gas contribution into the atmosphere remains poorly constrained due to access difficulties. Volcanic gas emissions were measured only at a few volcanoes, initially using conventional techniques such as Giggenbach bottles and Correlation Spectrometer (COSPEC). This was the case for Merapi, Tangkuban Perahu, Papandayan, Dieng, Lewotolo and Bromo [1–4]. Thanks to the advent of new portable and less-energy-demanding instruments, including DOAS [5] UV-Camera [6] and Multi-GAS [7,8], gas measurements in Indonesia have later been extended to several other volcanoes over the last decade, including Semeru [9], Krakatau [10], Kawah Ijen [11], Sirung [12], Dukono [13], Sinabung [14] and Gamkonora [15]. Initial Indonesian arc-scale volcanic SO₂ emission budget estimates were based on the interpolation of sparse field measurements [2,16–18], resulting in large emission ranges between 0.07 and 2.6 Tg/yr. Recent measurements are based primarily on

satellite observations (which are unbiased by measurement locations) but limited to volcanoes with large SO₂ emissions that can be detected by satellites. Hence, according to [19], the SO₂ emission budget from the entire Indonesian archipelago corresponds to ~2.2 Tg/yr, representing 9% of the global volcanic SO₂ emission budget. Based on these SO₂ satellite data, [20] established the CO₂ emission budget of 3.6 Tg/yr from Indonesian volcanoes, using the CO₂/S_T ratio when the gas composition was known, and the whole rock trace elements (e.g., Ba/La) as a proxy for CO₂/S_T ratio when the gas composition was not measured. However, only 17 volcanoes were considered in these works whilst Indonesia hosts a total of at least 127 active volcanoes. [21] report a higher CO₂ emission budget, of 7.5 Tg/yr, from Indonesian volcanoes, classified into three degassing categories, including strong degassing sources (4.1 Tg/yr), whose emission can be detected by satellites, weak emitters (0.2 Tg/yr) and hydrothermal–magmatic source (3.2 Tg/yr). To achieve estimations for these latter two categories, authors utilize new data on C/S ratios and a classification into magmatic and hydrothermal categories based on visual observations, volcano databases, field reports, and observations made by authors. Such a holistic approach can enhance a very uncertain estimate for Indonesian volcanoes given the access difficulties and the variability of the C/S ratio on hydrothermal–magmatic systems that are strongly dependent on geodynamic settings and local magmatic and hydrothermal processes.

Here, we report on degassing features of little known and remote Awu volcano and emphasize its elevated CO₂ fluxes. Awu, one among the least studied volcanoes in Indonesia, is situated in the northern part of the Molucca Sea, and is the northernmost active volcano of Sangihe arc (Figure 1). It is a large volcano with an aerial volume of ~27 km³, with a summit altitude of 1318 m above sea level. The 700 m-wide crater with a depth of 380 m from the rim is currently occupied by a cooling lava dome of 30 m in height and 200 m in diameter. Note that over its historical activity, the crater also hosted a crater lake. Rock samples collected since 1966 indicate a basaltic andesite magmatic source [22–25] with the phenocrysts composed mainly of plagioclase, olivine, orthopyroxene, and hornblende [25].

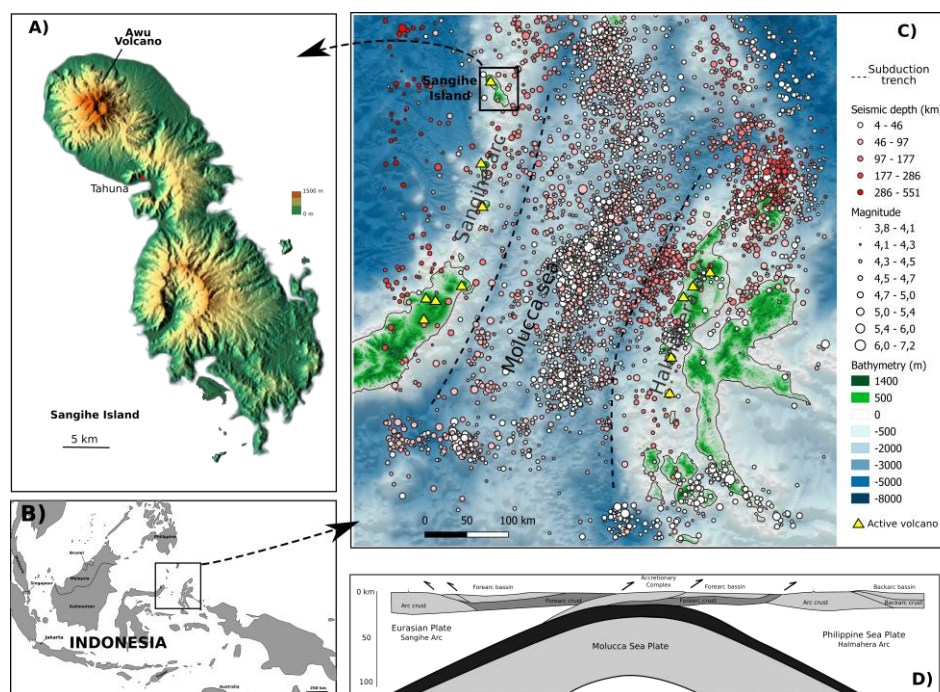


Figure 1. Awu volcano constitutes the northern portion of Sangihe Island (A) in the northern part of Molucca Sea, northeast Indonesia (B). The geodynamic context at the Molucca Sea is dominated by the double subduction of the same Molucca Sea plate that deepens to the east under the Halmahera arc, and to the west under the Sangihe arc, as materialized by the depth of seismic events (C). The high number of located earthquakes in the middle of Molucca Sea emphasizes the current ongoing arc–arc collision, highlighted by the Sangihe forearc overriding the Halmahera forearc (D).

The Sangihe forearc is currently overriding the Halmahera forearc creating a unique present-day example of arc-to-arc collision [26]. This particular geodynamic context results from a double-subduction of the Molucca Sea plate that existed between the two arcs and is now dipping east under the Halmahera arc and west under the Sangihe arc [26,27]. In nearly four centuries, Awu went through 18 eruptions (Table 1), including two with VEI 4 (Volcanic Explosivity Index [28]). Nine of these eruptive events were tagged as phreatic whilst nine others were considered as phreatomagmatic and magmatic [29,30]. Several studies have pointed to significant global impacts of past largest-scale Awu eruptions [31–38]. The 1812 Awu’s eruption has induced a global abnormal correlation between the dust load in the atmosphere and solar activity [37]. In 1856, the volatiles released by another eruption on Awu have increased the stratospheric aerosol optical depth, leading to a decrease in sea surface temperature and subsequently less tropical cyclone events in the following year [38]. More recently, in 1966, a strong eruption on Awu induced a warmer eastern tropical Pacific Ocean over three consecutive seasons with a strong influence on El Nino type events [33]. At the regional scale, two recorded tsunamis were triggered by the 1856 and 1892 eruptions [39,40]. These intense eruptive events have claimed a total of 11,048 victims on the island of Sangihe [24], mainly through lahars and pyroclastic flows [30,41–44]. Awu is thus one of the deadliest volcanoes on Earth [24] (Bani et al., 2020).

Table 1. History of Awu eruptive activity.

Year	Eruptive Events
1640	Magmatic eruption.
1641	Phreatic eruption, lahar event.
1677	Phreatic eruption.
1711	Violent eruption (VEI 3) triggered a pyroclastic flow and hot lahar claiming about 3000 victims.
1812	Large phreatomagmatic eruption (VEI 4). Lahar and pyroclastic events. Villages destroyed, 963 victims.
1856	Large phreatomagmatic eruption (VEI 3). Pyroclastic and lahar flows killed 2806 inhabitants.
1875	Phreatic eruption (VEI 2) was reported with no further detail.
1883	Possible phreatic eruption (VEI 2) was reported with no further detail.
1885	Phreatic eruption (VEI 2) was reported with no further detail.
1892	Large phreatomagmatic eruption (VEI 3) with lahar events claiming 1532 victims.
1893	Phreatic eruption (VEI 2).
1913	Phreatic eruption (VEI 2).
1921	Phreatic eruption—crater lake activity.
1922	Phreatic eruption—crater lake activity.
1931	Lava dome developed through a crater lake.
1966	Large VEI 4 eruption. Violent blast, heavy ashfall, pyroclastic flow, lahars events. 39 victims and 11,000 inhabitants evacuated.
1992	Phreatic eruption (VEI 1).
2004	Magmatic eruption (VEI 2), 18,648 inhabitants evacuated.

2. Methodology

To evaluate the gas composition on Awu volcano, a compact and portable Multi-GAS system built at the University of Palermo (as used by [12,13,45] was deployed in July 2015. The instrument was positioned at three degassing points in the crater (Figure 2) and simultaneously acquired at 0.5 Hz the concentrations of H₂O, CO₂, SO₂, H₂S, and H₂ in the fumaroles’ atmospheric plumes. CO₂ was detected by non-dispersive infrared spectroscopy (GasCard NGII; 0–3000 ppm range) whilst relative humidity (Galltec sensor) was used to calculate H₂O following Buck [46]:

$$H_2O = 6.1121 \cdot (1.0007 + 3.46 \cdot P^{-6}) \cdot \exp((17.502 \cdot T) / (240.97 + T)) \cdot Rh \cdot 10^4 \cdot P^{-1} \quad (1)$$

H₂O is the water vapor content in ppm, P is the surface pressure in mbar, T is the air temperature in °C, and Rh is relative humidity (%). SO₂, H₂S, and H₂ were detected via specific electrochemical sensors (respectively, models 3ST/F, EZ3H, and EZT3HYT “Easy Cal”, all from City Technology with calibration range of 0–200 ppm. Data were processed using the Ratiocalc program [47].

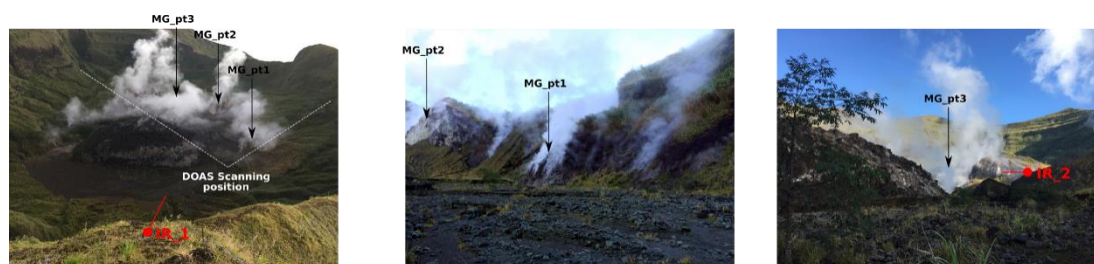


Figure 2. Awu crater hosts a cooling lava dome (left picture) of 30 m height and 200 m in diameter, surrounded by numerous fumaroles. The MultiGAS was deployed at 3 different locations, namely MG_pt1, MG_pt2, and MG_pt3 (left and central pictures). The strongest degassing site (MG_pt3) is located in the northern part of the crater (right picture). The position of the thermal camera is provided on the left and right pictures.

To quantify the SO₂ output, we performed DOAS measurements in a fixed scanning mode in the crater (Figure 2). Measurements were performed at an angle of 45° from a horizontal plane to increase the chances of catching each of the degassing sources, thus, the scanning profile was just above the crater rim. Twenty-four distinct scans were carried out from 8:30 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. (local time) and 23–24 spectra were collected during each scan. The spectrometer used was an Ocean Optics USB2000+ with a spectral range of 290–440 nm and a spectral resolution of 0.5 full width at half maximum. The SO₂ column amounts (ppm m) were retrieved using DOAS calibration and standard analysis procedures [48]. Reference spectra included in the non-linear fit were obtained by convolving high resolution SO₂ [49] and O₃ [50] cross-sections with the instrument line shape. A Fraunhofer reference spectrum and ring spectrum, calculated in DOAS Intelligent System), were also included in the fit. The total column amount of the plume cross-section was then multiplied by the mean plume rise speed (estimated at 1.3 m/s using a thermal camera) to derive the SO₂ emission rate.

3. Results

3.1. SO₂ Emission Rate

Out of the 24 scans carried out within 2 h of the DOAS recording, only eight scans, acquired in the first part of the measurements, were considered representative (Table 2). They were acquired in clear sky conditions, whilst the other 2/3 of the scans were strongly affected by the rapid formation of cloud coverage. The scanning profiles 1 and 6 did not entirely cover the plume and thus they are also omitted from the mean calculation. Based on the eight assumed representative scans, a mean daily SO₂ emission rate of 13±6 tons was obtained, highlighting the small emission budget relative to other Indonesian volcanoes, such as Dukono, (800 t d⁻¹; [13]), Bromo (> 160 t d⁻¹; [45]) or Krakatau (190 t d⁻¹; [10]), but higher than the magmatic degassing at Gamkonora (3.4 t d⁻¹; [15]) and the hydrothermal system of Papandayan (1.4 t d⁻¹; [51]).

Table 2. SO₂ flux obtained from two hours of scanning DOAS.

	Start Time (LT)	Scan Step (m)	Nber of Spectra	Mean CA (mg/m ²)	SO ₂ Flux	
					kg/s	t/d
Scan 1	08:38	15	33	62	0.04	4
Scan 2	08:44	47	24	74	0.11	9 ± 4
Scan 3	08:52	47	24	189	0.27	23 ± 10
Scan 4	09:00	47	24	80	0.11	10 ± 4
Scan 5	09:08	47	24	89	0.13	11 ± 5
Scan 6	09:12	47	24	48	0.05	6
Scan 7	09:16	47	24	96	0.14	12 ± 5
Scan 8	09:19	47	24	118	0.17	15 ± 7
Scan 9	09:25	47	24	102	0.15	13 ± 6
Scan 10	09:33	47	24	104	0.15	13 ± 5
Scan 11	09:41	47	24	24	0.03	3
Scan 12	09:53	47	9	170	0.03	3
Scan 13	09:59	15	23	23	0.01	1
Scan 14	10:02	15	23	30	0.01	1
Scan 15	10:05	15	23	63	0.03	2
Scan 16	10:07	15	23	48	0.02	2
Scan 17	10:10	15	23	46	0.02	2
Scan 18	10:14	15	23	54	0.02	2
Scan 19	10:18	15	23	88	0.05	4
Scan 20	10:23	15	23	58	0.03	3
Scan 21	10:24	15	23	52	0.03	3
Scan 22	10:27	15	23	64	0.04	3
Scan 23	10:30	15	23	66	0.04	3
Scan 24	10:33	15	23	53	0.03	2
Mean SO₂ emission rate: 13 ± 6 t/day						

Notes: only scans 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 were considered in the mean emission rate. Other scans are underestimating the emission due to the initialization of the scanning system (scan 1, 6) and the rapid cloud build-up (scans 11–24).

3.2. Gas Composition

Multi-GAS recordings highlight distinct gas composition at the three measured degassing points (Figure 3, Table 3). The H₂O concentration fluctuates between 10,000–20,000 ppm v, 5000–18,000 ppm v and 20,000–30,000 ppm v above the background value (~30,000 ppm v) at the recording points MG_pt1, MG_pt2 and MG_pt3, respectively. The CO₂ concentration varies between 400 (background level) and 2100 ppm v, 450–2050 ppm v and 400–2050 ppm v at MG_pt1, MG_pt2 and MG_pt3, respectively. The SO₂ concentration is less than 0.1 ppm v at MG_pt1 while varies from <0.1 to 1.5 ppm v at MG_pt2 and from 1 to 6 ppm v at MG_pt3. The H₂ concentration fluctuates between 0.1–1.2 ppm v, 0.1–1.5 and 0.1–2.2 ppm v at MG_pt1, MG_pt2 and MG_pt3, respectively. Finally, the H₂S concentration fluctuates around 0.5–22 ppm v, 2–>57 ppm v and 27–>57 ppm v at MG_pt1, MG_pt2 and MG_pt3, respectively. The differences in gas composition at the recording points are well discriminated by the gas to SO₂ ratios with H₂S/SO₂ ratios of 230, 163 and 49, CO₂/SO₂ ratios of 1824, 600 and 297, H₂/SO₂ ratios of 6, 0.8 and 0.1, respectively, for MG_Pt1, MG_Pt2, and MG_Pt3 (Figure 4). Note that at MG_Pt3, the H₂S/SO₂ ratio is obtained only from the unsaturated values of H₂S. The water to sulphur ratio (H₂O/SO₂ of 1596) was only retrieved at the MG_Pt3 sampling point, where the H₂O could be correlated to SO₂. The water content at MG_pt3 is higher (up to >30,000 ppm v) than the concentrations at MG-pt1 and Mg_Pt2 (~15,000 ppm v on average). Overall, the gas concentration increase, and H₂S/SO₂, CO₂/SO₂, and H₂/SO₂ ratios decrease, in the sequence MG_Pt1, MG_Pt2, and MG_Pt3 (Table 3). The MG_pt1 located at the eastern edge of the main degassing area has the highest gas (H₂, CO₂, and H₂S) to SO₂ ratios, whilst the MG_pt3 situated just next to the lava dome exhibits the highest gas concentrations. The strongest degassing point on Awu (Mg_pt3) displayed a much high SO₂ gas content, and the lowest H₂S/SO₂ (49) and CO₂/SO₂ (297) ratios relative to MG_Pt1 and MG_Pt2.

Table 3. Gas ratios, gas composition and gas fluxes from Awu volcano.

Sampling Date	28 July 2015			3 August 2001 *			
Sample. ID	MG_Pt1	MG_Pt2	MG_Pt3	IND-15	IND-16	IND-17	
Vent type	Fumarole	Fumarole	Fumarole	Fumarole	Fumarole	Spring	
H ₂ O (ppm v)	10,000–20,000 mean val. 16091	5000–18,000 mean val. 13395	20,000–30,000 mean val. 27080				
CO ₂ (ppm v)	400–2100 mean val. 510	450–2050 mean val. 549	400–2050 mean val. 867				
SO ₂ (ppm v)	<0.1 mean val. 0.017	<0.1–1.5 mean val. 0.027	1–6 mean val. 2.43				
H ₂ S (ppm v)	0.5–22 mean val. 1.03	2–57 mean val. 10.34	27–57 (saturation) mean val. 51.21				
H ₂ (ppm v)	0.1–1.2 mean val. 0.27	0.1–1.5 mean val. 0.31	0.1–2.2 mean val. 0.84				
H ₂ S/SO ₂	230 ± 110	163 ± 62	49 ± 20	H ₂ S/SO ₂	0.81	0.93	
CO ₂ /SO ₂	1824 ± 850	600 ± 230	287 ± 164	CO ₂ /SO ₂	115	113	
H ₂ /SO ₂	6 ± 4	0.8 ± 0.1	0.3 ± 0.1	H ₂ /SO ₂	0.003	0.002	
H ₂ O/SO ₂	-	-	1596 ± 670	H ₂ O/SO ₂	62349	62356	
CO ₂ /S _T	7.9 ± 3.7	3.6 ± 1.4	5.7 ± 3.2	CO ₂ /S _T	63	58	
	Composition (mol %)			Flux (t/d)	Composition (mol %)		
H ₂ O			82.5 ± 34.1	5800 ± 2400	H ₂ O	99.80	99.81
CO ₂			14.8 ± 6.8	2600 ± 1200	CO ₂	0.18	0.18
SO ₂			0.05 ± 0.02	13 ± 6	SO ₂	0.002	0.002
H ₂ S			2.5 ± 1.1	340 ± 150	H ₂ S	0.001	0.002
H ₂			0.02 ± 0.01	0.1 ± 0.04	H ₂	0.000	0.000
					HCl	0.018	0.009

* Data from Clor et al., 2005. IND-16 is a duplicate sample from IND-15.

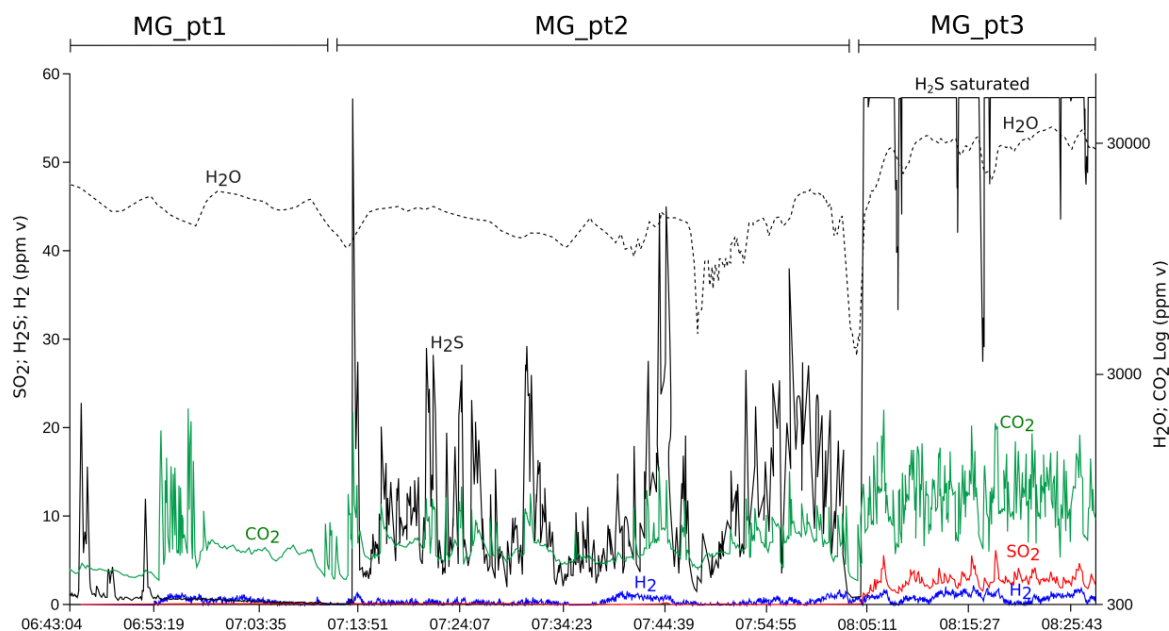


Figure 3. Gas composition recorded at 3 degassing points (MG_pt1, MG_pt2, MG_pt3) with H₂O in a dotted line whilst H₂S, CO₂, SO₂, and H₂ in black, green, red and blue, respectively. H₂S result is saturated at the point MG_pt3.

The gas composition at Mt_pt3 (situated at the northern end of the crater) is visibly the main degassing area (Figure 2) and is therefore considered as the most representative of the Awu magmatic system. Moreover, being the most SO₂-rich, Mt_pt3 displays the most magmatic signature (e.g., it is less affected by hydrothermal processing) relative to other fumaroles. Based on the measured volatile ratios, its composition is inferred at 82 mol. % H₂O, 15 mol. % CO₂, 2 mol. % H₂S, 0.05 mol. % SO₂ and 0.02 mol. % H₂ (Table 3), assuming no other representative gas is present in the plume. Associating this gas composition with the DOAS-derived SO₂ flux, the H₂O, CO₂, H₂S, and H₂ emission rates from Awu are estimated at 5800 ± 2400 t d⁻¹, 2600 ± 1200 t d⁻¹, 340 ± 150 t d⁻¹, and 0.1 ± 0.04 t d⁻¹, respectively.

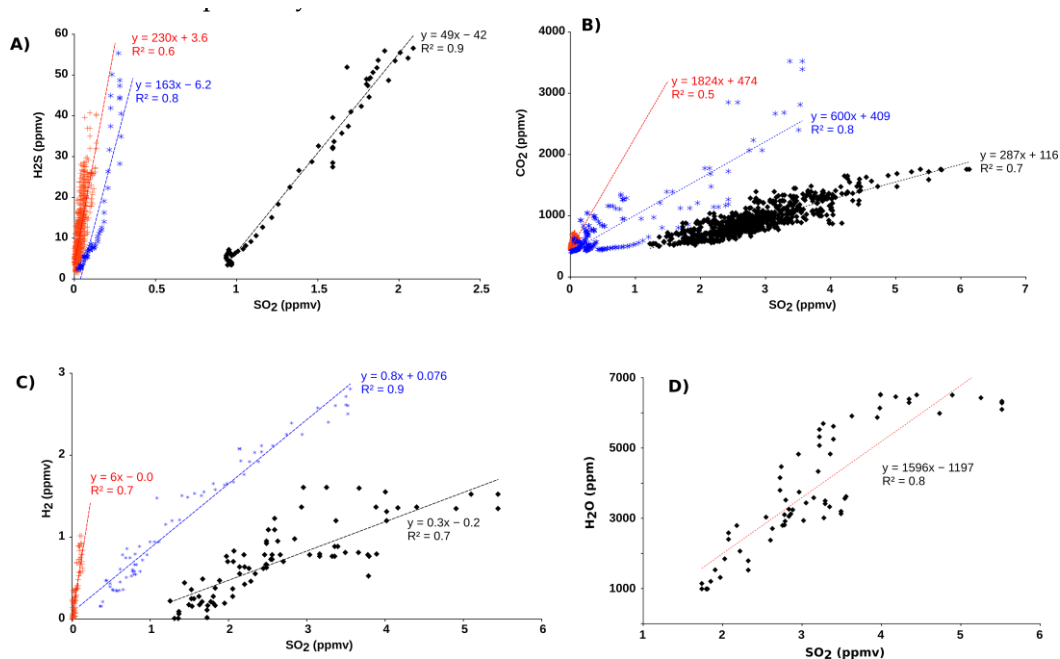
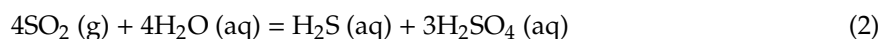


Figure 4. Linear correlation between H₂S and SO₂ (A), CO₂ and SO₂ (B), H₂ and SO₂ (C) and H₂O and SO₂ (D) from MG_Pt1 (red), MG_Pt2 (blue) and MG_Pt3 (black). For H₂S, the saturated points were excluded whilst the correlation between H₂O and SO₂ was obtained only at MG_pt3 (D).

4. Discussion

Our relatively short duration gas flux measurements at Awu highlight daily mean emission rates of 13 t/d, 5800 t/d, 2600 t/d, 340 t/d, and 0.1 t/d for SO₂, H₂O, CO₂, H₂S, and H₂, respectively. If put in the context of the recent global volcanic SO₂ catalog of [19], Awu's SO₂ flux falls below the lower end (32 t/d) of the time-averaged SO₂ emissions from the 91 top degassing volcanoes during the period 2005–2015. Thus, in its current activity level, Awu only contributes ~0.02% of the daily global volcanic SO₂ emission budget of ~63 kt [19]. In contrast, with a daily release of 2600 t of CO₂, and assuming a representative of the system, Awu would rank in the upper range of the global volcanic CO₂ sources representing ~1% (0.9 Tg) of the global CO₂ annual output from volcanoes (71–87 Tg/yr; [20,21,52]). In Indonesia, such a CO₂ contribution from Awu is higher than the combined CO₂ contribution from Bromo and Semeru (2184 t/d) which appears as the strongest CO₂ degassing source in Indonesia [20]. If we consider the entire archipelago, the Awu CO₂ emission represents 12% of the total volcanic CO₂ degassing budget of Indonesia and nearly 1/3 of the combined weak and magmatic–hydrothermal sources [21]. We caution that these fluxes are based on using the SO₂-richest gas composition from the strongest degassing point (MG_Pt3). As such, our derived fluxes potentially underestimate the CO₂ (and H₂S and H₂) emissions from several weakly degassing fumaroles nearby (exemplified by MG_Pt1 and MG_Pt2) that, albeit contributing little SO₂ (< 1.5 ppm v were measured in their atmospheric plumes), are characterized by high X/SO₂ ratios (Figures 2–4).

The decreasing gas concentrations, and the increases in the $\text{H}_2\text{S}/\text{SO}_2$, CO_2/SO_2 and H_2/SO_2 ratios, in the sequence MG_Pt3, MG_Pt2, and MG_Pt1, are likely due to increasing extents of subsurface magmatic gas scrubbing. During hydrothermal processing in the fumaroles' ascent chimneys, and upon interaction with any hydrothermal system present in the subsurface, magmatic SO_2 would be consumed by hydrolysis reactions such as [53]:



These reactions shift strongly to the right with gas ascent and cooling below 400°C [54], while in contrast, S scrubbing becomes progressively negligible at magmatic temperatures [54,55]. In 2015, the fumaroles outlet temperature on Awu was $\sim 100^\circ\text{C}$ (Figure 5) with a typical hydrothermal CO_2 -rich composition. The most "magmatic" (SO_2 -richest) gas at MG_Pt3 fumarole is also influenced by hydrothermal processes, highlighted by the prevalence of H_2S over SO_2 ($\text{H}_2\text{S}/\text{SO}_2$ ratio of 49, Table 3). However, these outlet temperatures only reflect residual heat transfer to the surface at fluid discharge conditions, when most of the thermal energy has already been lost to the surrounding rock. In fact, the combined modelling of $\text{SO}_2/\text{H}_2\text{S}$ and $\text{H}_2/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ redox couples [56] in MG_pt3 fumarole implies an equilibrium temperature of $\sim 475^\circ\text{C}$, thus supporting a sustained fluid contribution from a deep-seated magmatic source (see below).

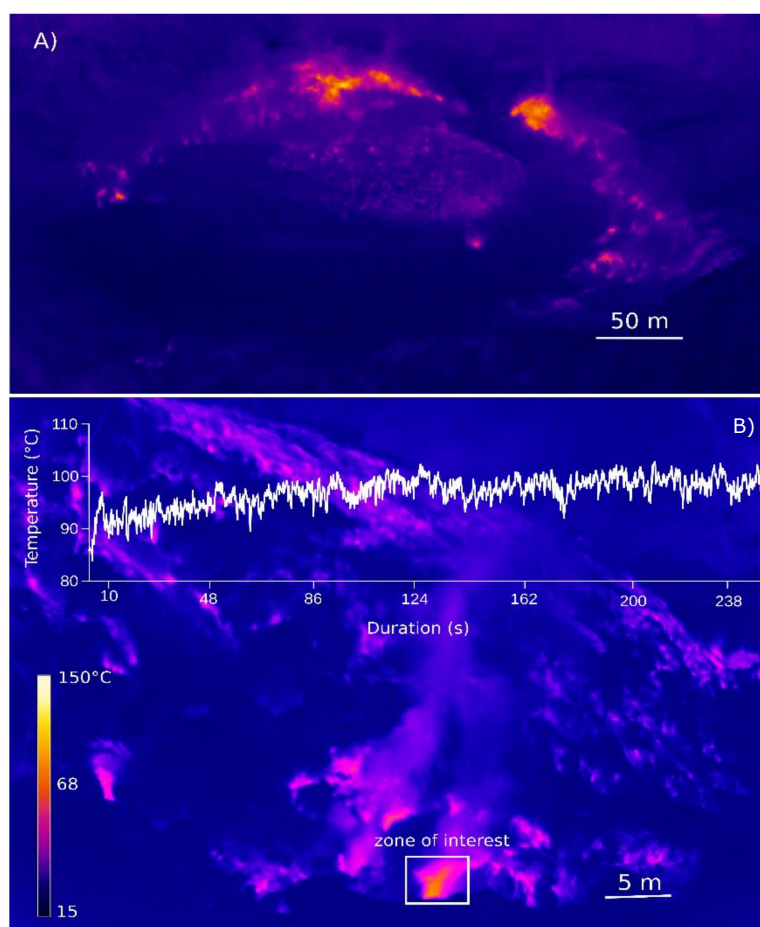


Figure 5. Heat distribution in Awu's crater highlighting the heated surfaces around the lava dome (A). The surface temperature obtained from a continuous thermal recording is $\sim 100^\circ\text{C}$ (B). The most heated surface is situated in the northern part of the crater.

A CO₂-rich gas signature was inferred previously (in 2001) for Awu by [57] (Table 3) and was interpreted as evidence of the hydrothermal character of the Awu system. Indeed, the 2001 Awu gas plots along the H₂O–CO₂ axis in the CO₂–S_T–H₂O ternary diagram [55] (Figure 6), as typical for hydrothermal gases. Similarly, in the CO₂–SO₂–H₂S diagram [58] (Figure 6), the 2001 gas compositions plot in the field of systems dominated by S-loss via scrubbing processes [54]. The CO₂/S_T vs. gas temperature plot [55] (Figure 7) (S_T is SO₂+H₂S and gas temperature is either measured or calculated from the redox equilibria) further indicates this hydrothermal nature for the 2001 gas, with equilibrium temperatures ranging 138 to 330 °C, and therefore, well below the ~475 °C 2015 equilibrium temperature.

Overall, the results (Figures 6 and 7 and Table 3) suggest distinct gas compositions, and more reduced hydrothermal processing, in 2015 relative to 2001. Indeed, no lava dome existed in 2001 and the crater was occupied by a crater lake. The presence of a crater lake is likely to have caused more extensive gas–water interactions and scrubbing, ultimately leading to the more hydrous and S-depleted composition observed at that time (water-soluble S species are rapidly dissolved during gas transit through volcanic lakes [59]). In 2015, there was no lake and degassing occurred at the margins of a lava dome, similar to what observed at Rokatenda [60], Lascar [61] or Soufriere Hills [62]. When plotting the 2015 Awu’s gas composition within the CO₂–H₂O–S_T diagram, it falls at the upper range of the magmatic field, whilst the CO₂–SO₂–H₂S diagram indicates hydrothermal influence (Figure 6).

Taken together, the observations above suggest that the Awu gas composition has evolved from manifestly hydrothermal in 2001 to mixed magmatic–hydrothermal (e.g., those typically of hydrothermal systems patently fed by magmatic volatiles) in 2015. In the time interval between the two gas surveys, Awu went through a VEI 2 eruption that ended with the formation of a lava dome [29,30]. This latter reached its current size in less than two weeks then it completely stopped growing and progressively cooled down until its 5.6 MW radiant flux in 2015 [24]. Such cooling has subsequently allowed the progressive development of a hydrothermal system highlighted by the 2015 gas results (Table 3).

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and total sulphur (S_T) constitute, along with the water, the major components of the arc volcanic gases. By looking at their relative abundances (e.g., the CO₂/S_T ratio), one can infer information on their origin and recycling efficiency through subduction [55,63]. For Indonesia, a “magmatic” gas CO₂/S_T ratio range of 3–6 has been proposed by [61], with a best-guess value of 4.3 quoted by [4], at the upper range of arc volcanic gases [55,64] (Figure 7). The 2015 Awu gas CO₂/S_T ratios (Table 3) stand at the upper limit of the Indonesian range, in a compilation (Figures 6 and 7) that includes both hydrothermal and magmatic gases. In consideration of the above, it is thus very possible that, in addition to hydrothermal processing, the high CO₂/SO₂ ratios reflect the degassing of a carbon-rich melt source at depth. Such magmatic C-rich source is especially needed to sustain the CO₂ fluxes at Awu.

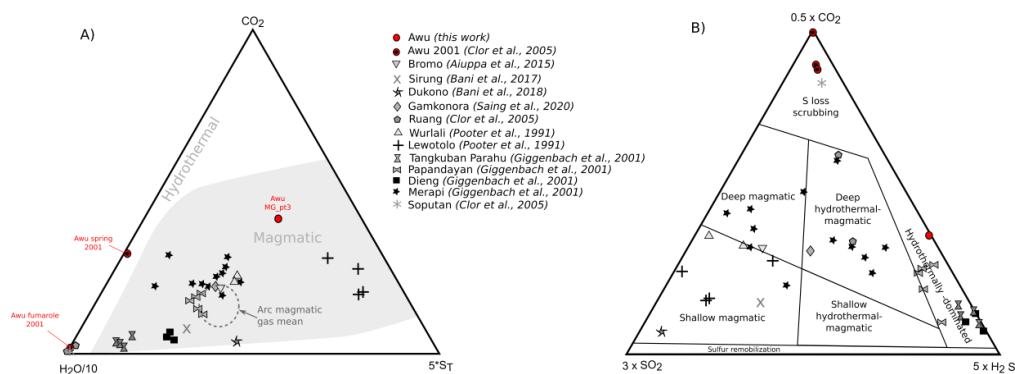


Figure 6. The CO₂–H₂O–S_T ternary diagram highlighting the hydrothermal gas composition at Awu in 2001 (A) with strong S-loss by scrubbing processes (B). In contrast, in 2015 Awu’s gas had a magmatic signature (A) influenced by a hydrothermal manifestation (B). The gas compositions of other Indonesian active volcanoes available in the literature are plotted for comparison.

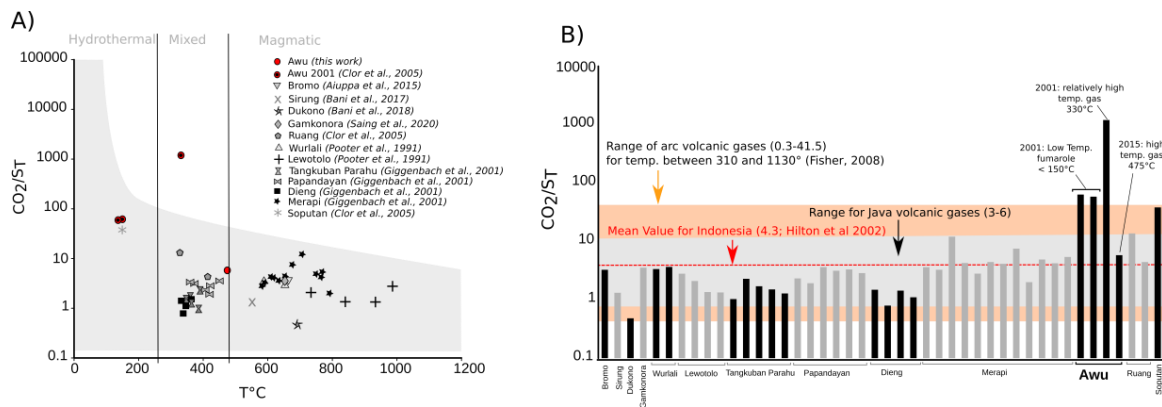


Figure 7. (A) Variation of the CO_2/S_T ratios as a function of temperature for the Indonesian volcanoes. The diagram discriminates the magmatic gas signature (Merapi, Bromo, Dukono, Sirung, Wurlali, and Lewotolo) from the hydrothermal (low-temperature fumarole at Awu and Soputan) and mixed gases composition (Papandayan, Dieng, Tangkuban Parahu, Ruang, and the high-temperature gas from Awu). (B) The CO_2/S_T ratios highlight the strong CO_2 signature of Awu above the means value of Indonesian volcanoes and above the arc volcanic gases. Awu CO_2 signature is also higher than the Java arc, considered as the CO_2 -enriched arc [4,55].

A C-rich magmatic source would be consistent with the results of [57,65] who found high $CO_2/{}^3He$ ($64\text{--}180\cdot 10^9$) and $\delta^{13}C$ ($\geq -2\text{‰}$) values (in addition to a nitrogen isotope signature of -3.3‰) at Awu and Karangetang, the two volcanoes at the northern part of the Sangihe arc. Such positive C isotope compositions (and C excesses relative to 3He) are likely indicators for the involvement of C-rich, slab sediment-derived fluids in the mantle source. The thickness of the slab induced by the arc-to-arc collision [13,26,65] (Figure 1) and the slow-down of collision evidenced by seismic recording [66–68] have likely enhanced the heating of the slab [69] thereby promoting the greater production of C-rich melts and/or fluids beneath the Awu volcano [65]. The involvement of recycled crustal C, from the assimilation of limestones [55,70] in the Sangihe arc crustal section, cannot be excluded. The hypothesis of a C-rich magmatic source will require testing from analyses of volatiles stored in crystal-hosted melt inclusions and investigate the possibility of skarn formation [70–72], and if verified, may imply sizeable CO_2 emissions during the relatively frequent explosive (up to VEI 4) Awu eruptions [73]. The warmer eastern tropical Pacific Ocean with subsequent influence on El Nino type events over three consecutive seasons following the 1966 VEI 4 eruption of Awu was considered as the result of a notable amount of aerosols in the stratosphere and asymmetric stratospheric heating [33,74]. Our findings thus suggest that there may be a significant role of CO_2 -rich gas in these climatic processes.

5. Conclusions

Gas measurement results on Awu volcano obtained in 2015, compared with results obtained nearly 20 years ago on the same volcano, demonstrate a high- CO_2 gas signature for this volcano. By combining Multi-GAS and DOAS measurements, we estimate daily mean fluxes of 13 t/d, 5800 t/d, 2600 t/d, 340 t/d, and 0.1 t/d for SO_2 , H_2O , CO_2 , H_2S , and H_2 , respectively. These gas flux estimates are derived from a short period of SO_2 flux measurements. Long-term gas flux measurements are needed to further constrain the gas contribution from Awu into the atmosphere. Nevertheless, the C-rich signature of gas and the subsequent elevated CO_2 emission rate, compared to other gases, reflects a combination of (i) the hydrothermal processing of the feeding magmatic gas source and (ii) possibly a C-rich melt source. The latter could result from the slowing down of arc-to-arc collision and subsequent slab heating, ultimately leading to a larger delivery of C-rich fluids/melts. Other mechanisms such as the recycling of crustal C from the assimilation of limestones or the CO_2 release from skarn processes need to be investigated, as they could contribute to this C-rich gas. More work is thus required to further constrain this potential CO_2 -rich source, knowing that the relatively frequent explosive (up

to VEI 4) eruptions on Awu may have injected sizeable CO₂ mass into the atmosphere—a possible contributing factor to the observed worldwide impacts of Awu eruptive activity.

Author Contributions: P.B. conducted the field survey and wrote the whole paper with A.A.; K. and D.K.S. contributed to the construction of the historical activity of Awu volcano and facilitated the field investigation with the local observatory; E.L.G. participated in the data analyses and M.B. carried out the instrumental calibrations and provided the technical support for the field investigation. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research was supported by IRD under the JEAI-COMMISSION program in collaboration with CVGHM. Alessandro Aiuppa acknowledges funding support from the Deep Carbon Observatory (UniPa-CiW subcontract 10881-1262) and from MIUR (under grant n. PRIN2017-2017LMNLAW).

Acknowledgments: We thank all the staffs of Awu observatory for their support in organizing the expedition to the crater of Awu. We sincerely acknowledge M. Gaeta and the two anonymous reviewers for their detailed reviews that substantially improved this paper. We highly appreciate and thank the academic editor for the text review.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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