

A52G-06: Airborne in-situ observations during the CoMet campaign 2018: Quantification of CH₄ emissions from coal mining activities in Upper Silesia, Poland

The Upper Silesian Coal Belt (USCB) represents one of the largest European CH_4 emission source regions, with a total sum of ~0.5 Tg CH_4 /a released by individual ventilation shafts spread over an area of ~4000 km $^{\circ}$. During the CoMet campaign in late spring 2018, airborne in-situ measurements were carried out aboard the DLR research aircraft Cessna Grand Caravan. The Caravan was equipped with a cavity ring-down and a quantum cascade laser system to measure CH_4 and CO_2 , as well as related tracers such as CO, C_2H_6 and N_2O . Additionally, air samples were collected and analyzed for greenhouse and trace gases, including isotopic ratios of CH_4 . The aircraft itself is equipped with a boom mounted sensor package for the measurement of meteorological parameters.

During nine research flights, CH₄ emissions were studied by using an airborne Mass Balance Approach. Depending on the wind situation, different areas of the USCB region were targeted. To account for the lower part of the plume not accessible by the aircraft, a number of vans were instrumented with mobile in-situ measurement systems and conducted ground-based measurements in a coordinated manner. We will present derived emission fluxes, discuss related uncertainties, and compare our results with bottom-up estimates.

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