

Press Release

C02 hits record highs in the Southern hemisphere

Last month, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (C02) as measured at Amsterdam Island, in the southern Indian Ocean, for the first time exceeded the symbolic value of 400 ppm1, or 0.04%. The C02 concentrations recorded at the Amsterdam Island research station are the lowest in the world (excluding seasonal cycles), due to the island's remoteness from anthropogenic sources. The 400 ppm threshold was already crossed in the Northern hemisphere during the 2012/2013 winter. In addition, the increase of C02 in the atmosphere is speeding up, growing by more than 2 ppm annually over the past four years. The data has been collected for the past 35 years at the Amsterdam Island research station by the French national observation service ICOS-France at the Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement (LSCE, CNRS / CEA / UVSQ)2, with the support of the Institut Polaire Français Paul-Emile Victor (IPEV).

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1 ppm: parts per million (1 ppm in volume is equal to 1 cm³ per m³ of air).

2 LSCE is a laboratory belonging to the Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace (IPSL).