

# Impact of Volcanic Aerosols on Stratospheric Ozone Recovery

**Short/Running Title:** Impact of volcanic aerosols on stratospheric O<sub>3</sub>

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Key Points:

- Volcanic aerosols modulate future evolution of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub>
- Stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> recovers earlier in the presence of volcanic aerosols
- Projections of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> should consider volcanic aerosols

21 **Abstract**

22 We show that the uncertainty in predicting stratospheric ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) recovery from volcanic  
23 aerosols in the coming decades can be accounted for by including volcanic aerosol loading  
24 similar to that observed over the last decade in simulations projecting the future abundance of  
25 stratospheric O<sub>3</sub>. The recent multi-model assessment of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> projections did not  
26 consider any changes in stratospheric aerosols from volcanoes after the year 2000. Analysis of  
27 21st century transient chemistry-climate model simulations with and without aerosol loadings  
28 indicates that volcanic aerosols delay the recovery of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column in the 2000-2020  
29 period characterized by high atmospheric halogen abundance. However, as halogen levels  
30 decline O<sub>3</sub> recovers to 1980 levels about seven years earlier in the presence of volcanic aerosols  
31 relative to that in their absence. Our results illustrate that natural volcanic aerosols modulate the  
32 future evolution of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub>, inducing uncertainty in estimates of future O<sub>3</sub> recovery.

33

34

## 35 **1. Introduction**

36           Perturbations in stratospheric aerosols affect stratospheric ozone ( $O_3$ ) directly via changes  
37 in heterogeneous chemistry and photolysis rates and indirectly via changes in stratospheric  
38 temperature and large-scale circulation patterns [SPARC 2006]. Recent measurements indicate  
39 that there has been a discrete increase in stratospheric aerosols in the last decade following a  
40 period (1998-2002) of background (non-volcanic) stratospheric aerosol levels, which has been  
41 attributed to smaller but intense tropical volcanic eruptions [Vernier *et al.*, 2011]. Volcanic  
42 aerosols were set to zero or near-zero background in the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project  
43 Phase 5 (CMIP5) global chemistry-climate model simulations over the future (2006-2100) period  
44 [Collins *et al.*, 2014; see their Table 12.1]. Thus, the impact of volcanic perturbations on the  
45 evolution of stratospheric  $O_3$  in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is generally neglected in multi-model projections  
46 [Eyring *et al.*, 2013]. Here we explore the evolution of stratospheric  $O_3$  for the 2006-2100 time  
47 period in response to a constant volcanic aerosol loading with the goal of highlighting the  
48 importance of considering this important natural perturbation on stratospheric  $O_3$  recovery.

49           Volcanic eruptions enhance the background stratospheric aerosol layer, first identified by  
50 Junge *et al.* [1961], by injecting large amounts of sulfur dioxide ( $SO_2$ ).  $SO_2$  oxidizes to sulfuric  
51 acid ( $H_2SO_4$ ) which nucleates homogeneously or condenses on existing particles to form sulfate  
52 aerosols ( $H_2SO_4$ - $H_2O$ ). Volcanic sulfate aerosols affect the Earth's radiative balance by  
53 increasing the scattering of incoming solar radiation and enhancing the infrared absorption  
54 depending on the particle size, thus cooling the troposphere and warming the stratosphere  
55 [McCormick *et al.* 1995]. Recent ground-based measurements show an increasing trend in  
56 background stratospheric aerosols of 4-7% per year over the period 2000-2009 [Hofmann *et al.*  
57 2009]. Satellite measurements confirm this increase, and attribute it to largely smaller but more

58 intense tropical volcanic eruptions [Vernier *et al.* 2009; 2011]. Recent work has emphasized the  
59 importance of increasing volcanic stratospheric aerosols since 2000 on climate [Solomon *et al.*,  
60 2011; Fyfe *et al.* 2013; Haywood *et al.*, 2013; Santer *et al.*, 2014]. These changes in volcanic  
61 stratospheric aerosols can impact stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> via heterogeneous chemistry as discussed  
62 below.

63         Observational and modeling studies after the Pinatubo eruption have provided evidence  
64 that heterogeneous chemistry on stratospheric aerosols modulates the abundance of stratospheric  
65 O<sub>3</sub> [see Solomon *et al.* 1999 for a detailed review]. Enhanced aerosol loading following volcanic  
66 eruptions reduce the NO<sub>x</sub>/NO<sub>y</sub> partitioning [Fahey *et al.*, 1993], resulting in suppressed NO<sub>x</sub>-  
67 catalyzed O<sub>3</sub> loss particularly in the middle stratosphere where the NO<sub>x</sub> cycle is efficient at  
68 destroying O<sub>3</sub> [Brasseur *et al.* 1999]. This control of NO<sub>x</sub> by stratospheric aerosols is more  
69 pronounced at low aerosol loading since the NO<sub>x</sub> effect saturates as aerosol surface area  
70 increases beyond about 10 μm<sup>2</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup> [Prather, 1992; Fahey *et al.* 1993]. Increased volcanic  
71 aerosol loading also increases the efficiency of O<sub>3</sub> destruction by halogen (chlorine and bromine)  
72 and HO<sub>x</sub> cycles [Wennberg *et al.*, 1994; Lary *et al.*, 1996; Solomon *et al.*, 1996]. The net impact  
73 of enhanced volcanic aerosols in the contemporary atmosphere is to increase O<sub>3</sub> in the middle  
74 stratosphere and decrease O<sub>3</sub> in the lower stratosphere, with the overall effect on global O<sub>3</sub>  
75 burden depending on the halogen loading of the atmosphere [Tie and Brasseur, 1995]. Indeed,  
76 Austin *et al.* [2013] find that volcanic eruptions in the pre-halogen era led to a temporary  
77 increase in ozone column while those in the presence of anthropogenic halogen caused O<sub>3</sub>  
78 column to decrease.

79         Long-term changes in stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> over the historical (1850-2005) and future (2006-  
80 2100) time periods were assessed from the chemistry-climate model (CCM) simulations

81 conducted in support of CMIP5 [Eyring *et al.*, 2013]. Nine of the 46 CMIP5 models considered  
82 by Eyring *et al.* simulate stratospheric and tropospheric ozone chemistry interactively. Volcanic  
83 aerosols in the CMIP5 future simulations following the Representative Concentration Pathway  
84 (RCP) scenarios conducted by four of these nine models were set to zero or near-zero  
85 background after 2000 [Collins *et al.*, 2014; Table 12.1]. Increasing stratospheric volcanic  
86 aerosols after year 2000 will likely have influenced O<sub>3</sub> concentrations and will continue to do so  
87 if volcanic aerosols increase in the future. The possibility of significant changes in background  
88 aerosols levels has been identified to be a key uncertainty in predicting future O<sub>3</sub> abundance by  
89 the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme Scientific  
90 Assessment of Ozone Depletion [Bekki *et al.*, 2011]. In this study, we attempt to shed light on the  
91 evolution of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> in response to a non-zero volcanic aerosol loading in the 2000-2100  
92 time period using a global chemistry-climate model.

93

## 94 **2. Model and Simulations**

95 We analyze the transient 21<sup>st</sup> century simulations of the fully interactive chemistry-  
96 climate model CM3 [Donner *et al.*, 2011; Austin *et al.*, 2013; Naik *et al.*, 2013]. The chemical  
97 mechanism in CM3 includes both tropospheric and stratospheric processes coupled seamlessly  
98 [Austin *et al.*, 2013; Naik *et al.*, 2013]. Stratospheric chemistry, based on Austin and Wilson  
99 [2010], includes gas-phase reactions describing the HO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, ClO<sub>x</sub>, and BrO<sub>x</sub> catalytic cycles  
100 and heterogeneous reactions on polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs) and ternary liquid particles.  
101 Total column O<sub>3</sub> in the historical CM3 simulations in the present-day atmosphere has been  
102 shown to generally match the observations, except for a high bias in the tropics and southern  
103 mid-latitudes [Austin *et al.*, 2013]. The positive bias in the southern mid-latitudes is likely due to

104 increased strength of the Brewer Dobson circulation transporting more O<sub>3</sub> from the tropics,  
105 where O<sub>3</sub> is already high, to the mid-latitudes [Austin et al., 2013; Eyring et al., 2013]. These  
106 deficiencies in the model will most likely have minor impact on our results as we discuss relative  
107 changes.

108 Direct injection of aerosols or their precursors into the stratosphere is not considered  
109 explicitly as the stratospheric aerosol life cycle is not represented in the model. Instead, the effect  
110 of stratospheric volcanic aerosols is accounted for by implementing vertically resolved spatial  
111 and temporal distributions of volcanic aerosol optical properties (monthly mean aerosol  
112 extinction, single scattering albedo, and asymmetry factor). This dataset was originally  
113 developed for the Pinatubo eruption based on satellite measurements [Stenchikov et al. 1998] and  
114 extended to cover the historical time period (1850-1999) based on volcanic aerosol optical  
115 depths from Sato et al. [1993] and its updates. Volcanic aerosol surface area density (SAD) is  
116 derived from aerosol extinction centered at 1.0- $\mu$ m following the relationship of Thomason et al.  
117 [1997].

118 We analyze results from two 3-member ensemble transient simulations of CM3  
119 conducted for the 2006-2100 time period in which concentrations of greenhouse gases and ozone  
120 depleting substances (ODSs), and emissions of short-lived species evolve following the RCP 8.5  
121 scenario [Riahi et al., 2011]. Initial conditions for both ensembles are from the respective  
122 members of the historical CM3 simulation [Austin et al., 2013]. In the first ensemble,  
123 stratospheric volcanic aerosols are set to zero for chemistry and radiation (RCP8.5\_novolc). This  
124 simulation is different from the CMIP5 RCP8.5 simulation analyzed previously [Santer et al.,  
125 2012; John et al., 2012; Eyring et al., 2013] in which aerosol surface area for chemistry  
126 calculations was inadvertently set to non-zero values. The second ensemble is the same as

127 RCP8.5\_novolc but with stratospheric volcanic aerosols set to 1860 levels (RCP8.5\_volc)  
128 intended to mimic an arbitrary stratospheric volcanic aerosol distribution greater than zero. The  
129 aerosol optical properties derived for January through December of 1860 are repeated over the  
130 95 years of RCP8.5\_volc. Since our intention is to assess the sensitivity of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> to  
131 non-zero stratospheric aerosol loading in the future, we set the values to 1860 to represent  
132 conditions significantly different from those in RCP8.5\_novolc simulation.

133 The global annual mean volcanic aerosol optical depth in RCP8.5\_volc in the visible  
134 wavelength is 0.007 which is close to the mean observed AOD over the 2000-2010 period  
135 [Vernier *et al.* 2011]. Annual average zonal mean volcanic aerosol SAD in the RCP8.5\_volc  
136 simulation is shown in Figure S1.

137 For the analysis discussed below, we average results across ensemble members to better  
138 isolate the forced response to volcanic aerosols. Stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column is defined here as O<sub>3</sub>  
139 concentrations integrated above 200 hPa.

140

### 141 **3. Impact of Volcanic Aerosols on Stratospheric Ozone**

#### 142 **3.1. Ozone Column**

143 We first analyze the long term evolution of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column relative to 1980  
144 levels in the RCP8.5\_novolc and RCP8.5\_volc runs, since return of O<sub>3</sub> to mean 1980 values is a  
145 major milestone in the future evolution of O<sub>3</sub> [Bekki *et al.*, 2011]. Figure 1 shows the 1980  
146 baseline-adjusted time series of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column from 1960 to 2100 for the  
147 RCP8.5\_novolc and RCP8.5\_volc simulations for globally and in five selected latitude bands.  
148 The time series are smoothed with a 1:2:1 filter applied 30 times iteratively [see Eyring *et al.*,  
149 2010] to reduce year-to-year variability. The recovery in annual mean global average

150 stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column is slower for RCP8.5\_volc than that for RCP8.5\_novolc in the 2000-  
151 2020 period (Figure 1a). The two projections intersect in the mid-2020s with O<sub>3</sub> recovering to  
152 1980 levels in RCP8.5\_volc seven years earlier (2049) than in RCP8.5\_novolc (2056). By 2100,  
153 the recovery of global stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column above 1980 levels is 3.5 DU or 45% greater in  
154 RCP8.5\_volc relative to RCP8.5\_novolc and this difference is statistically significant to 1-  
155 standard deviation as indicated by the non-overlapping shaded areas in Figure 1a. In the tropics,  
156 the annual mean stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column does not recover to 1980 levels (Figure 1b) in either  
157 simulation; however, the baseline-adjusted O<sub>3</sub> column is greater in RCP8.5\_volc than in  
158 RCP8.5\_novolc simulation throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The non-recovery of tropical  
159 stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column to 1980 levels is consistent with previous multi-model assessments  
160 [Eyring *et al.*, 2013].

161 In the mid-latitudes, the RCP8.5\_novolc and RCP8.5\_volc projections of the 1980  
162 baseline adjusted annual stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column (Figures 1c and 1d) evolve in a similar manner  
163 as that for global mean. The O<sub>3</sub> column decrease is slightly greater in the presence of volcanic  
164 aerosols than in their absence in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century in both the hemispheres (more so in the  
165 southern mid-latitudes). However, by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century O<sub>3</sub> column in RCP8.5\_volc  
166 surpasses that in RCP8.5\_novolc by as much as 6 DU. O<sub>3</sub> recovers to 1980 levels earlier in  
167 RCP8.5\_volc than in RCP8.5\_novolc, with a more pronounced effect in the northern mid-  
168 latitudes. The presence of volcanic aerosols has a strong impact on the evolution of stratospheric  
169 O<sub>3</sub> column in the polar regions as indicated by the strong reduction in O<sub>3</sub> column in March  
170 (Figure 1e) and October (Figure 1f) for northern and southern hemisphere, respectively. The  
171 recovery to 1980 levels in RCP8.5\_volc is 9-10 years later than that in RCP8.5\_novolc in the  
172 polar regions. Polar spring time stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column in RCP8.5\_volc surpasses that in



173 RCP8.5\_novolc only in late 21<sup>st</sup> century (2070s) with values at 2100 for both the simulations not  
174 significantly different from each other.

### 175 3.2. Vertical Distribution of Zonal Mean Ozone Concentration

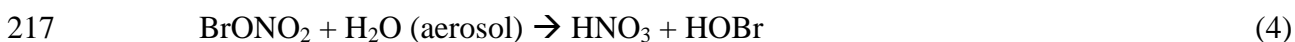
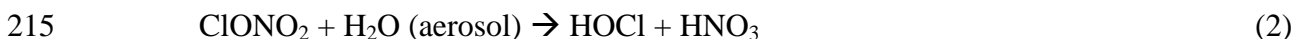
176 To decipher the trends in the stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> columns, we analyze the difference in the  
177 zonal mean O<sub>3</sub> concentrations simulated for RCP8.5\_novolc and RCP8.5\_volc. Left and right  
178 columns of Figure 2 show the change in zonal mean O<sub>3</sub> concentrations in RCP8.5\_volc relative  
179 to RCP8.5\_novolc for 2006-2015 and 2091-2100 time periods, respectively; stippling indicates  
180 results significant at 95% confidence level based on student's t-test. In the presence of volcanic  
181 aerosols, annual mean O<sub>3</sub> concentrations increase by up to 0.3 ppm (5%) throughout the middle  
182 stratosphere and decrease by up to 0.3 ppm (20%) in the lower stratosphere over the mean 2006-  
183 2015 period (Figure 2, top left); a time period when stratospheric halogen loading is still  
184 sufficiently high (as shown by the 1980 baseline-adjusted equivalent stratospheric chlorine in  
185 Figure S2). Stronger monthly mean O<sub>3</sub> increases and decreases are simulated in the presence of  
186 volcanic aerosols for middle and lower stratosphere, respectively, for northern hemisphere extra-  
187 tropics in March (Figure 2, middle left) and southern hemisphere in October (Figure 2, bottom  
188 left) when chemistry is more active in these regions. The presence of volcanic aerosols leads to  
189 significant O<sub>3</sub> decreases in the polar regions where cold temperatures make heterogeneous  
190 chemistry (discussed below) very effective in perturbing O<sub>3</sub>. In contrast, in the 2091-2100 period  
191 when halogen loading is significantly diminished, the model predicts weaker O<sub>3</sub> decreases in the  
192 lower stratosphere but the strong increases in middle stratosphere persist and the spatial extent of  
193 statistically significant increases is enhanced for both annual mean and monthly mean changes  
194 (Figure 2, right).

195

### 196 3.3. Changes in Chemical Partitioning

197 We further analyze the changes in stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> by examining the changes in chemical  
198 partitioning of reactive nitrogen, NO<sub>y</sub>, reactive chlorine, Cl<sub>y</sub>, and reactive bromine, Br<sub>y</sub>, as a  
199 function of volcanic SADs in RCP8.5\_novolc and RCP8.5\_volc, focusing on the northern mid-  
200 latitudes. Observed dependencies of NO<sub>x</sub>/NO<sub>y</sub>, ClO/Cl<sub>y</sub>, HNO<sub>3</sub>/NO<sub>y</sub>, HCl/Cl<sub>y</sub>, and BrO/Br<sub>y</sub> upon  
201 volcanic aerosol amounts after the Pinatubo eruption have been used to identify the strong role of  
202 volcanic aerosol driven heterogeneous chemistry in controlling stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> loss [see review  
203 of *Solomon* 1999]. Figure 3 shows simulated annual mean radical ratios versus aerosol SAD at  
204 50°N at 17 hpa (middle stratosphere) and 63 hPa (lower stratosphere) over 2006-2015 and 2091-  
205 2100 time periods in RCP8.5\_novolc and RCP8.5\_volc. Annual mean ClO/Cl<sub>y</sub> and BrO/Br<sub>y</sub>  
206 increase with increasing volcanic SAD in the lower and middle stratosphere while NO<sub>x</sub>/NO<sub>y</sub>  
207 decreases; ClO/Cl<sub>y</sub> and BrO/Br<sub>y</sub> increase more strongly in the near future when halogen loading  
208 is still high than in the future, particularly in the lower stratosphere. Similar dependencies are  
209 simulated for the southern mid-latitudes (not shown).

210 These changes in the partitioning of reactive halogens and NO<sub>y</sub> are attributed to increased  
211 rates of heterogeneous reactions in the presence of volcanic SADs [*Fahey et al.*, 1993; *Granier*  
212 *and Brasseur*, 1992; *Koike et al.*, 1994; *Slusser et al.*, 1997; *Solomon et al.*, 1996; *Prather*, 1992;  
213 *Webster et al.*, 1998]. The key heterogeneous reactions on sulfate aerosols are:



218 These reactions can proceed on polar stratospheric clouds (which form in extremely cold polar  
219 regions, especially Antarctica), even without volcanic sulfate aerosols, however, with enhanced  
220 aerosol surface areas, these reactions become more important in regions where temperatures are  
221 cold but not extremely cold [Solomon *et al.*, 1999 and references therein]. With increased SADs,  
222 the conversion of  $\text{NO}_x$  ( $\text{NO} + \text{NO}_2$ ) to nitric acid ( $\text{HNO}_3$ ), the primary  $\text{NO}_y$  reservoir species, is  
223 enhanced in RCP8.5\_volc compared with RCP8.5\_novolc, resulting in lower  $\text{NO}_x/\text{NO}_y$  and  
224 higher  $\text{HNO}_3/\text{NO}_x$  (Figure 3) for both the time periods. Reaction 1 is particularly efficient at  
225 changing the  $\text{NO}_x$  partitioning throughout the stratosphere as it is nearly temperature independent  
226 at stratospheric temperatures and water vapor [Sander *et al.*, 2011]. A reduction in  $\text{NO}_x$  would be  
227 expected to reduce  $\text{NO}_x$ -catalyzed  $\text{O}_3$  loss; however, these heterogeneous reactions also perturb  
228 halogen partitioning, enhancing the  $\text{ClO}_x$ - and  $\text{BrO}_x$ -catalyzed  $\text{O}_3$  loss particularly in the 2006-  
229 2015 timeframe with elevated halogen levels in the atmosphere. Chlorine is activated directly via  
230 reactions 2 and 3 in which chlorine nitrate ( $\text{ClONO}_2$ ) and hydrochloric acid ( $\text{HCl}$ ), key chlorine  
231 reservoir species, are decomposed to produce reactive species. Chlorine is also activated  
232 indirectly by reaction 1 which reduces the amount of  $\text{NO}_2$  available to combine with  $\text{ClO}$  to form  
233  $\text{ClONO}_2$ . These reactions result in enhanced  $\text{ClO}/\text{Cl}_y$  in RCP8.5\_volc compared to  
234 RCP8.5\_novolc (Figure 3). The rates of reactions 2 and 3 increase with decreasing temperature  
235 hence these reactions compete more favorably in altering the chlorine partitioning in lower  
236 stratosphere than in middle stratosphere. Bromine is activated in a similar manner as chlorine via  
237 reactions 4 and 1 enhancing  $\text{BrO}/\text{Br}_y$  in the presence of volcanic aerosols (Figure 3). These  
238 reactions also enhance  $\text{OH}$  (not shown), contributing to  $\text{HO}_x$ -catalyzed  $\text{O}_3$  loss. The net effect of  
239 changes in  $\text{Cl}_y$ ,  $\text{Br}_y$ , and  $\text{NO}_y$  partitioning on  $\text{O}_3$  is a balance between competing effects on  $\text{NO}_x$ ,  
240  $\text{HO}_x$  and halogen loss cycles, with net  $\text{O}_3$  change depending on the altitude and atmospheric

241 halogen loading, consistent with the results of Tie and Brasseur [1995] using a two-dimensional  
242 chemical transport model.

243 The presence of volcanic aerosols in conjunction with relatively high halogen loading in  
244 the early 21<sup>st</sup> century enhances halogen-driven O<sub>3</sub> loss in the lower stratosphere and suppresses  
245 the NO<sub>x</sub>-catalyzed O<sub>3</sub> loss in the middle stratosphere, with the resulting O<sub>3</sub> changes as shown in  
246 Figure 2. Since halogen loading diminishes to pre-anthropogenic levels by 2091-2100,  
247 suppression of NO<sub>x</sub>-catalyzed O<sub>3</sub> loss dominates in the presence of volcanic aerosols leading to  
248 enhanced O<sub>3</sub> concentrations in RP8.5\_volc relative to RCP8.5\_novolc. Our results are consistent  
249 with those of previous modeling studies that have analyzed the impact of volcanic aerosols  
250 [Granier and Brasseur, 1992; Tie and Brasseur, 1995; Solomon et al., 1996; Austin et al., 2013;  
251 Aquila et al., 2013] and the impact of geoengineering via sulfate aerosols [Heckendorn et al.,  
252 2009; Tilmes et al., 2009; Pitari et al., 2014] on stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> in the presence of varying  
253 amounts of halogens.

254

#### 255 **4. Conclusions and Discussion**

256 Analyses of three-member ensemble GFDL CM3 simulations indicate that the 21<sup>st</sup>  
257 century evolution of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column (Figure 1) in response to a constant volcanic  
258 aerosol distribution is a combination of opposing changes at different altitudes and halogen  
259 levels (Figure 2). In the presence of volcanic aerosols the decrease in global mean stratospheric  
260 O<sub>3</sub> column relative to 1980 levels is greater than that in their absence in the 2000-2020 period  
261 due to the dominance of halogen-catalyzed O<sub>3</sub> loss in the lower stratosphere over the suppression  
262 of NO<sub>x</sub>-catalyzed O<sub>3</sub> loss in the middle stratosphere. However, the suppression of NO<sub>x</sub>-catalyzed  
263 O<sub>3</sub> destruction induced by volcanic aerosols dominates later in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as halogen levels

264 decline, resulting in global mean stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> recovering to 1980 levels about seven years  
265 earlier relative to that in the absence of volcanic aerosols. In the mid-latitudes, the enhanced O<sub>3</sub>  
266 loss by halogens is nearly canceled out in terms of its effect of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column by the  
267 NO<sub>x</sub>-catalyzed suppression of O<sub>3</sub> loss in the presence of volcanic aerosols in the near future; by  
268 2100 the NO<sub>x</sub> suppression dominates, leading to stronger O<sub>3</sub> recovery (Figure 1c, d). Polar  
269 stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> is most sensitive to the presence of volcanic aerosols. Strong O<sub>3</sub> column  
270 reductions from enhanced halogen-catalyzed O<sub>3</sub> loss dominate over an extended period in the  
271 21<sup>st</sup> century, resulting in delayed recovery to 1980 levels.

272 Our simulated total O<sub>3</sub> column changes in response to volcanic aerosols, particularly for  
273 the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, depend strongly on the assumed aerosol loading since the suppression of  
274 the NO<sub>x</sub> catalytic cycle saturates with increasing SAD while the activation of the halogen and  
275 HO<sub>x</sub> catalytic cycles increases with SAD. The reduction in NO<sub>x</sub>/NO<sub>y</sub> ratio is saturated at the SAD  
276 considered here [Prather, 1992; Fahey *et al.*, 1993]. Therefore, a greater SAD (or an episodic  
277 intense volcanic eruption with high SAD) in the future is unlikely to lead to further changes in  
278 NO<sub>x</sub>/NO<sub>y</sub> ratio or middle stratospheric O<sub>3</sub>. Because the increase in ClO/Cl<sub>y</sub> (and BrO/Br<sub>y</sub>) is not  
279 saturated at the SAD considered here, greater SAD, particularly at present-day halogen levels,  
280 can lead to greater increases in ClO/Cl<sub>y</sub> and thus stronger lower stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> reductions that  
281 could outweigh the middle stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> increases, resulting in stronger decreases in  
282 stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

283 Additionally, our results depend on our modeling framework and its deficiencies. For  
284 example, CM3 does not explicitly simulate the stratospheric aerosol formation, growth and loss  
285 processes after volcanic eruptions – processes that determine the aerosol SAD and therefore  
286 affect the rate of heterogeneous reactions. We also do not consider trends in halogenated very

287 short-lived substances that can contribute to halogen loading of the stratosphere [*Montzka et al.*,  
288 2011] and can counteract the O<sub>3</sub> column increases in the future from NO<sub>x</sub> suppression at elevated  
289 volcanic aerosol levels. Similar experiments with other global models that include these  
290 processes will help provide more robust estimates of the impact of stratospheric volcanic  
291 aerosols on the evolution of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> in the future.

292 The analysis presented here underscores the importance of volcanic aerosols in altering  
293 the future projection of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub>. Predicting future volcanic eruptions on a global scale  
294 and the resulting stratospheric aerosol distributions is nearly impossible as of now. Model  
295 simulations that consider hypothetical volcanic aerosol distributions based on recent  
296 measurements could help provide a lower limit of the influence of volcanic aerosols on  
297 stratospheric O<sub>3</sub>. Further, the response of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column to observed SAD over the  
298 2000-2010 period for which we have observational constraints can help provide estimates of the  
299 net effect of recent observed SAD on total O<sub>3</sub> column.

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304

## 305 **6. References**

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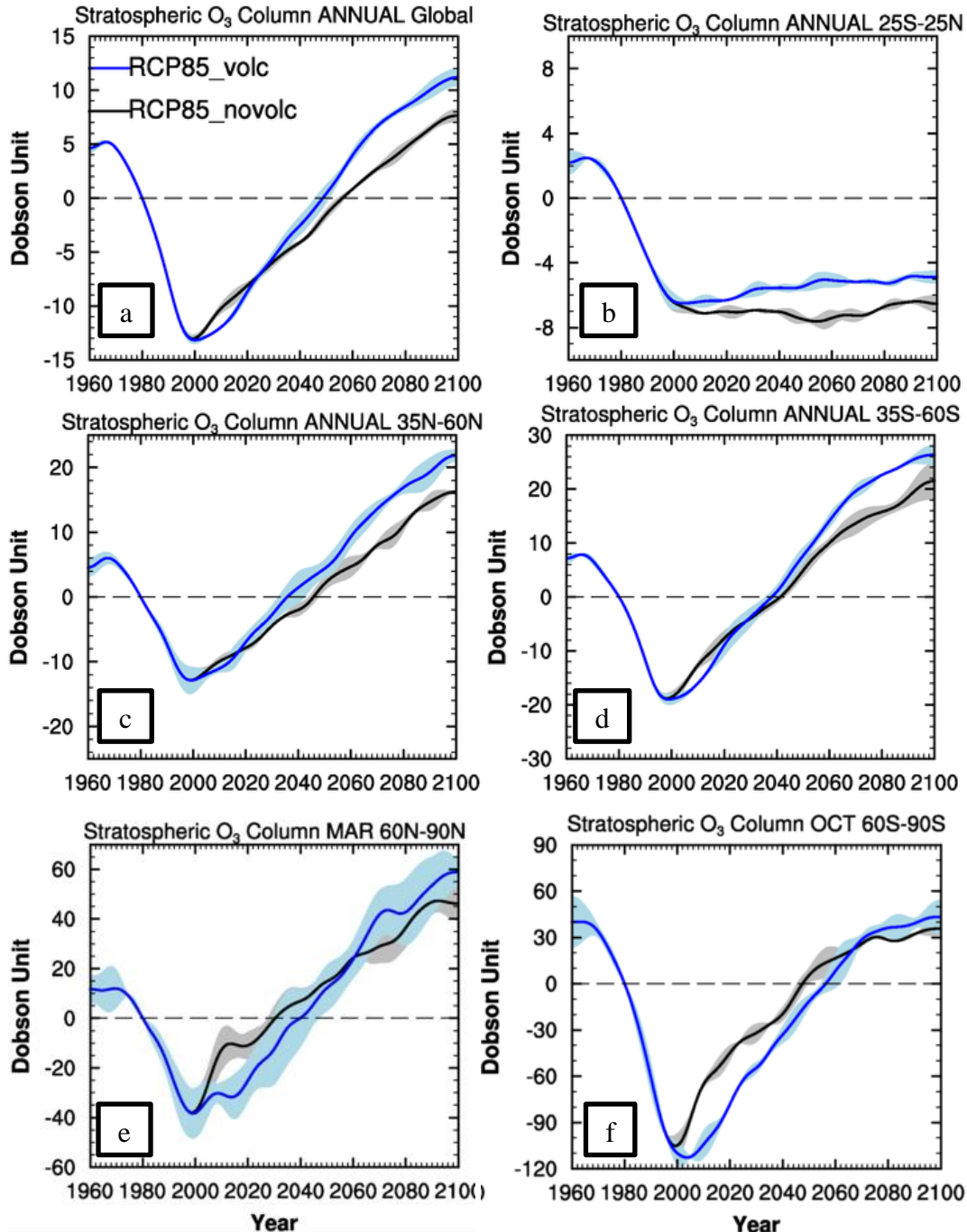
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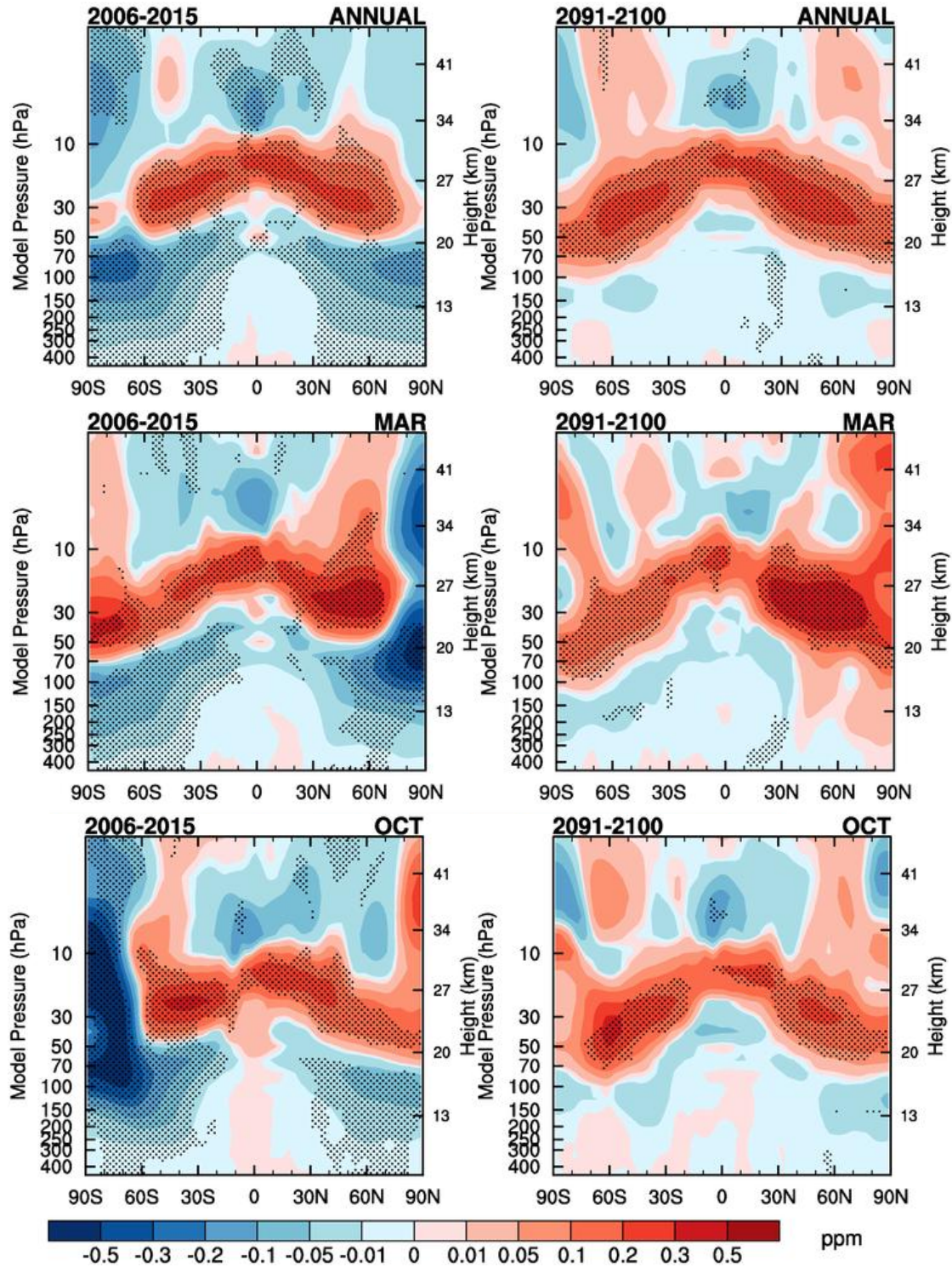
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412 **7. Figures**

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 414 Figure 1. The 1980 baseline-adjusted time series of stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> column (200 – 0 hPa) from  
 415 1960 to 2100 for the RCP8.5\_volc and RCP8.5\_novolc simulations for (a) global and annual  
 416 average, (b) annual average over 25°N-25°S (c) annual average over 35°-60°N (d) annual  
 417 average over 35-60°S (e) averaged over 60-90°N for March, and (f) averaged over 60-90°S for  
 418 October. Shaded areas indicate ± 1-standard deviation across the three ensemble members for  
 419 each simulation. The time series are smoothed with a 1:2:1 filter applied 30 times iteratively.  
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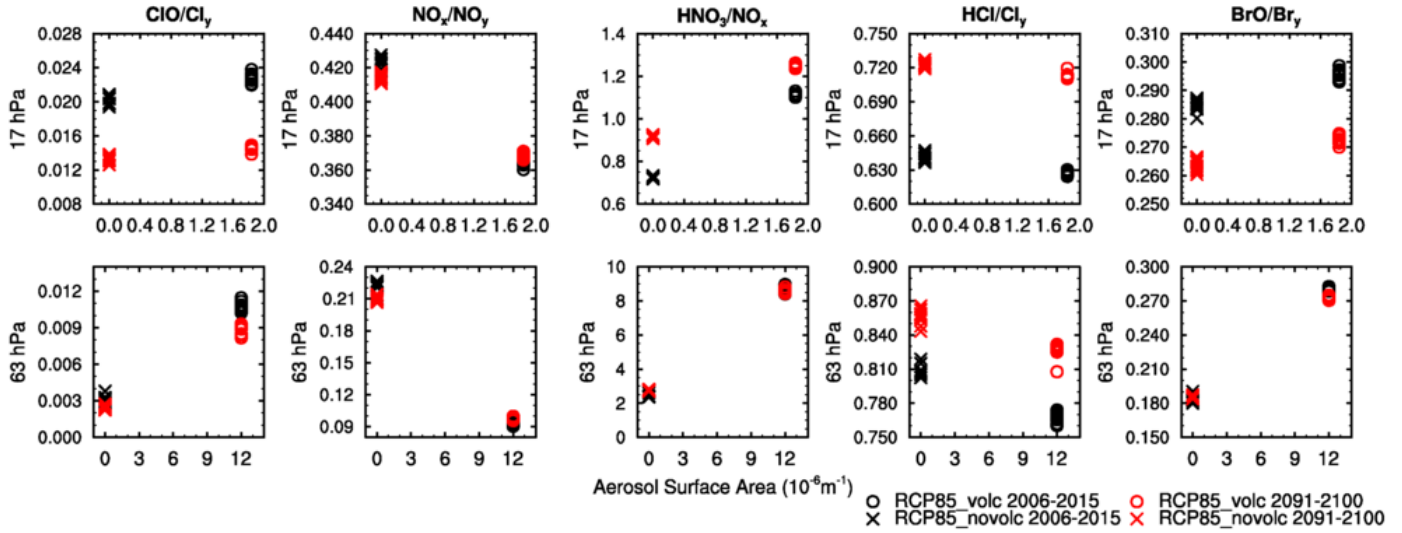


459 Figure 2. Change in zonal mean O<sub>3</sub> concentration for RCP8.5\_volc with respect to  
 460 RCP8.5\_novolc annual (top), March (middle) and October (bottom) for mean 2006-2015 (left)  
 461 and 2091-2100 (right) time periods. Stippled areas show differences that are significant at 95%  
 462 confidence level based on student's t-test.



506 Figure 3. Annual mean radical ratios as a function of volcanic aerosol surface area density for  
 507 17hPa and 63hPa at 50°N. Values are individual years within 2006-2015 and 2091-2100 time  
 508 periods averaged over three ensemble members of the RCP8.5\_novolc and RCP8.5\_volc  
 509 simulations.

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## Auxiliary Material for

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## Impact of Volcanic Aerosols on Stratospheric Ozone Recovery

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531

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Figure S1. Annual mean zonal average volcanic aerosol surface area density in RCP8.5\_volc simulations.

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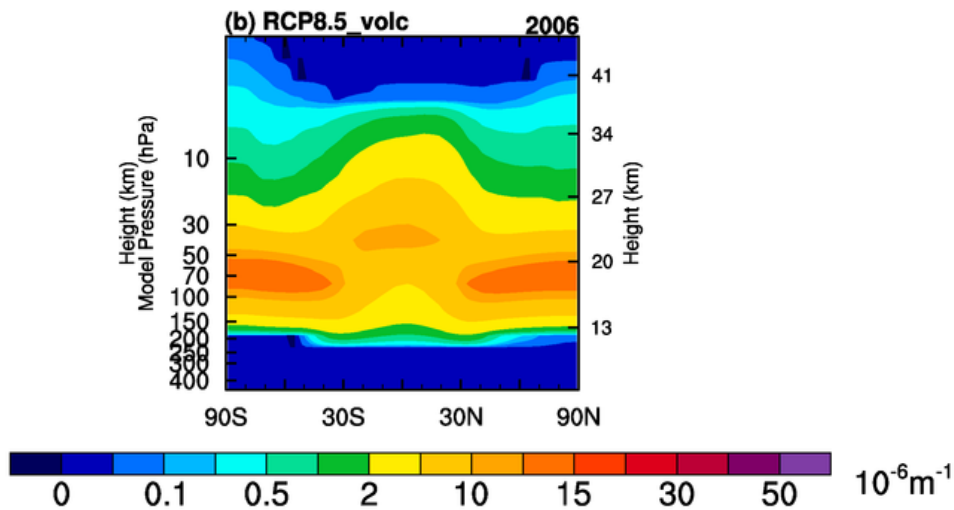
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550 Figure S2. 1980 baseline-adjusted trend in annual mean equivalent stratospheric chlorine (ESC =  
551  $Cl_y + 60 * Br_y$ ) at 63 hPa.

