

1 **Insights on the spatial distribution of global, national and sub-national GHG emissions**
2 **in EDGARv8.0**

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15 **Abstract**

16
17 To mitigate the impact of greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions, it is of the utmost
18 importance understanding where emissions happen. Atmospheric pollutants are emitted by a
19 variety of sources which can be represented by point source information (e.g. power plants,
20 industrial facilities, etc.), but also diffuse sources (e.g. residential activities, agriculture, etc.).
21 However, emission inventories are typically compiled making use of country level statistics by
22 sector, which are then downscaled at gridcell level making use of spatial information. In this
23 work, we develop high-spatial resolution proxies used to downscale national emission totals
24 for all world countries as provided by the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric
25 Research (EDGAR).

26 The latest EDGAR v8.0 GHG emissions provide readily available emission data at different
27 spatial granularity, obtained from a consistently developed GHG emissions database. This is
28 achieved through the improvement and development of high-resolution spatial proxies which
29 allow a more precise allocation of emissions over the globe. A key novelty of this work is the
30 possibility to analyse sub-national GHG emissions over the European domain, but also over
31 the US, China, India and other high-emitting countries. These data answer not only the need of
32 atmospheric modellers but at aim at informing policy makers acting in the field of climate
33 change mitigation. For example, the EDGAR GHG emissions at NUTS2 level over Europe
34 contribute to the development of EU Cohesion policies, identifying the progress of each region
35 towards the carbon neutrality target, as well as providing insights on the most emitting sectors.
36 The data can be accessed at <https://doi.org/10.2905/b54d8149-2864-4fb9-96b9-5fd3a020c224>
37 specific for EDGARv8.0 (Crippa, 2023a) and [doi:10.2905/D67EEDA8-C03E-4421-95D0-](https://doi.org/10.2905/D67EEDA8-C03E-4421-95D0-0ADC460B9658)
38 [0ADC460B9658](https://doi.org/10.2905/D67EEDA8-C03E-4421-95D0-0ADC460B9658) for the sub-national dataset (Crippa et al., 2023b).

39
40 To mitigate the impact of greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions, it is of utmost importance
41 understanding where emissions happen. Atmospheric pollutants are emitted by a variety of

42 ~~sources which can be represented by point source information (e.g. power plants, industrial~~
43 ~~facilities, etc.), but also diffuse sources (e.g. residential activities, agriculture, etc.). However,~~
44 ~~emission inventories are typically compiled making use of country level statistics by sector,~~
45 ~~which are then downscaled at gridecell level making use of spatial information. In this work, we~~
46 ~~develop high spatial resolution proxies used to downscale national emission totals for all world~~
47 ~~countries as provided by the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR).~~

48 ~~Knowing where emissions occur is essential for planning effective emission reduction~~
49 ~~measures and for atmospheric modelling. Emission inventories are typically compiled at~~
50 ~~national level and provide sector specific emission estimates. Disaggregating national~~
51 ~~emissions on high resolution grids requires spatial proxies that contain information on the~~
52 ~~location of different emission sources (e.g. point sources, linear and area sources). Knowing~~
53 ~~the correct allocation of emissions from point sources is essential to avoid the misallocating~~
54 ~~high emission levels. However, gathering information on point sources covering the entire~~
55 ~~globe and a wide temporal domain (1970 to present) is challenging due to limited data~~
56 ~~availability, accuracy of the reporting and completeness of data. The latest EDGARv8.0 spatial~~
57 ~~proxies developed as part of the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research~~
58 ~~(EDGARv8.0) provide the userreadily available emission data at different spatial granularity,~~
59 ~~with the possibility to work with different geographical details using obtained from a~~
60 ~~consistently developed GHG emissions database. A key novelty of EDGARv8.0 is the~~
61 ~~possibility to analyse sub national GHG emissions over the European domain, but also over~~
62 ~~the US, China, India and other high emitting main world countries. For example, the EDGAR~~
63 ~~GHG emissions at NUTS2 level over Europe contribute to the development of EU Cohesion~~
64 ~~policies, identifying the progress of each region towards the carbon neutrality target, as well as~~
65 ~~the most emitting sectors. The relevance of using updated spatial information is assessed on~~
66 ~~the basis of regional case studies. The data can be accessed at~~
67 ~~<https://doi.org/10.2905/b54d8149-2864-4fb9-96b9-5fd3a020e224> specific for EDGARv8.0~~
68 ~~(Crippa, 2023a) and [doi:10.2905/D67EEDA8-C03E-4421-95D0-0ADC460B9658](https://doi.org/10.2905/D67EEDA8-C03E-4421-95D0-0ADC460B9658) for the sub-~~
69 ~~national dataset (Crippa et al., 2023b).~~

70 **1 Introduction**

71 Knowing where emissions ~~are released happen~~ is essential to support the design of effective
72 mitigation actions and for atmospheric modelling purposes. Emission inventories are typically
73 developed at ~~the~~ national level and provide sector-specific emission estimates. In order to
74 disaggregate national emissions over high-resolution grids, information on the location of the
75 different emission sources (e.g. point, linear and area sources) must be collected and ‘spatial
76 proxies’ should be developed and applied to national sector specific emission totals to
77 downscale them over gridmaps. ~~The correct allocation of point source emissions is essential to~~
78 ~~avoid misplacing high emission levels. However, gathering information on point sources~~
79 ~~covering the entire globe and a wide temporal domain (1970 to present) is challenging due to~~
80 ~~limited data availability, accuracy in the reporting (real location vs. legal address, etc.) and~~
81 ~~completeness of data.~~

82 The Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) provides global
83 greenhouse gas (GHG) and air pollutant emissions over the global gridmap at 0.1x0.1 degree
84 resolution, ~~obtained through a downscaling process of national emissions using high-~~
85 ~~resolution; _although the resolution of the underlying spatial data, information used to~~

86 ~~downscale national totals may be higher (down to few hundred meters resolution). The~~
87 ~~development and maintenance of the EDGAR gridmaps is essential since several regional and~~
88 ~~global databases rely on the EDGAR emission gridmaps to disaggregate national emissions to~~
89 ~~the grid-weight national inventories. This is the case of the Community Emissions Data System~~
90 ~~(CEDS) (Feng et al., 2020; Hoesly et al., 2018) or the EMEP Centre on Emission Inventories~~
91 ~~and Projections (CEIP) to support Parties to the LRTAP Convention EU Member States in their~~
92 ~~official gridded emission reporting requirements (CEIP, 2021). This work is an update of~~
93 ~~previous EDGAR publications dealing with spatial data (Janssens-Maenhout et al., 2019;~~
94 ~~Crippa et al., 2021), and describes all the new developments for the spatialisation of the~~
95 ~~emissions from EDGARv8.0 onwards.~~

96 ~~Knowing ~~the correct allocation of point source emissions is essential to avoid the~~~~
97 ~~~~misplacement of~~ misplacing high emission levels. However, gathering information on point~~
98 ~~~~sources covering the entire globe and a wide temporal domain (1970 to present) is challenging~~~~
99 ~~~~due to limited data availability, accuracy in the reporting (real location vs. legal address/site,~~~~
100 ~~~~etc.) and completeness of data. The latest spatial proxies developed within EDGAR will be~~~~
101 ~~~~presented in this work, focusing on high emitting sectors such as power plant and industrial~~~~
102 ~~~~activities, but also on more distributed sources such as residential activities.~~~~

103 ~~This work is an update of previous EDGAR publications dealing with spatial data (Janssens-~~
104 ~~Maenhout et al., 2019; Crippa et al., 2021), and describes all the new developments for the~~
105 ~~spatialisation of the emissions from EDGARv8.0 onwards, focusing on high emitting sectors~~
106 ~~such as power plants and industrial activities, but also on more diffuse sources such as~~
107 ~~residential activities. High resolution spatial information has been gathered at the global level~~
108 ~~combining Global Energy Monitor data, official registries and satellite retrievals. The relevance~~
109 ~~of using updated spatial information is also assessed with regional case studies.~~

110 ~~regarding patterns. (2023; 2011; 2006)A.~~

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112 ~~Maenhout et al., 2019; Crippa et al., 2021), and describes all the new developments for the~~
113 ~~spatialisation of the emissions from EDGARv8.0 onwards, focusing on high emitting sectors~~
114 ~~such as power plants and industrial activities, but also on more diffuse sources such as~~
115 ~~residential activities. High-resolution spatial information has been gathered at the global level~~
116 ~~combining Global Energy Monitor data, official registries and satellite retrievals. The relevance~~
117 ~~of using updated spatial information is also assessed with regional case studies.~~

118 The purpose of this publication is describing the EDGARv8.0 GHG gridded emission datasets,
119 focusing on the updates of the spatial proxies included in this data release. The analysis of
120 EDGARv8.0 emission time series (European Union, 2023; IEA-EDGAR CO2, 2023) and the
121 methodology behind emission calculations is available in Crippa et al. (2023).

122 ~~The main~~ novelties of this work are i) ~~an~~ update of emission point sources using global
123 datasets (e.g. Global Energy Monitor), ii) ~~the~~ development of a gap-filling method for non-
124 population based sources using built-up surface information for non-residential areas¹ from the

¹ This information is compliant with the definition of 'building' as per the 'Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe', INSPIRE directive, <https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/id/document/tg/bu> for non-residential areas (i.e. industrial or commercial facilities, warehouses, etc.) from the Global Human Settlements Layer (GHSL).

125 Global Human Settlements Layer (GHSL), iii) ~~an~~ update of population based proxies using the
126 latest GHSL data including a weight for meteorological dependence of heating needs, and v)
127 ~~an~~ update of international ship tracks and weights by vessel type. In addition, information at
128 sub-national level (e.g. for Europe at NUTS2 level) is included when developing the new
129 spatial proxies of EDGAR, thus allowing a more accurate allocation and analysis of sub-
130 national emissions. The EDGARv8.0 GHG global emission maps can be accessed at
131 [doi:10.2905/D67EEDA8-C03E-4421-95D0-0ADC460B9658](https://doi.org/10.2905/D67EEDA8-C03E-4421-95D0-0ADC460B9658) for the subnational emissions,
132 and at doi: 10.2905/B54d8149-2864-4FB9-96B9-5FD3A020C224 for v8.0 for the emission
133 gridmaps at 0.1x0.1 degree resolution.

134 2 Overview on the methodology and data sources used for updating spatial information 135 in EDGAR

136 Bottom-up global inventories ~~;~~ (such as EDGAR) ~~;~~ compute emissions for each sector, pollutant
137 and year at ~~the national e~~country-level, making use of international statistics and official
138 guidelines for emission computation (Janssens-Maenhout et al., 2019; Crippa et al., 2018).
139 However, atmospheric modellers, policy makers, local authorities and scientists may need to
140 analyse spatially distributed emissions ~~at a higher resolution~~ than country-level data.
141 Therefore, annual country specific emissions are distributed over the globe making use of
142 spatial information, representing either the exact location of point~~s~~ sources (e.g. power plants,
143 industrial facilities, etc.), ~~or~~ linear tracks (e.g. road network, ship and airplane tracks, etc.),
144 ~~and~~ area sources (e.g. populated areas, industrial areas, etc.). Within the EDGAR database,
145 over 130 proxy datasets (f) varying over time are developed to ~~weight~~distribute the contribution
146 of sector-specific emissions ($EM_{i,j,k}$) of each country (C) and pollutant (x) over time (t) to each
147 grid cell ($em_{i,j,k}$) at 0.1°x0.1° resolution (about 10km at the equator) spatial resolution (WGS84,
148 EPSG:4326) ~~;~~ with the Heaviside function (i.e. ~~unit step function whose value is zero for~~
149 ~~negative arguments and 1 for positive arguments~~), equalling 1 when the grid cell belongs to the
150 country area, accordingly with the following formula:

$$151 \quad em_{i,j,k}(lon, lat, t, x) = EM_{i,j,k}(C, t, x) \cdot \frac{f_{i,j,k}(lon, lat, t)}{\sum_{lon, lat} (f_{i,j,k}(lon, lat, t) \cdot H_{i,j}(C, lon, lat))}$$

152

153 Where

154 $H_{i,j}(C, lon, lat)$ = fraction/weight of gridcell within C,

155 i=sector,

156 j=fuel,

157 k=technology.

158 Table 1 summarises the data sources and the methodology used to update spatial information
159 for each emitting sector in the EDGAR database, highlighting the most relevant and latest
160 updates compared to previous EDGAR data releases. These updates apply from EDGARv8.0
161 onwards. Being a global database of emissions, the spatial data sources ~~used~~are typically
162 developed at the global level (e.g. satellite based retrievals, etc.), ~~although-but~~ often rely~~ing~~
163 on national data collections (e.g. national point-source information reported to fulfill legal
164 requirements). Therefore, the same data sources may be used by other inventory developers to

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165 update their spatial disaggregation of the emissions. In the following sections, a detailed
166 description on the data sources and the approach used for updating each emission sector is
167 provided, distinguishing between point sources, area sources and linear sources. For all sectors
168 not subjected to a recent revision in the EDGAR database, we ~~recommend~~ refer the reader to
169 ~~rely on~~ the overview Table S1 and ~~there~~ references therein.

170 A key methodological advancement in the EDGAR gridding system is ~~also represented by~~ the
171 inclusion of ~~the correct~~ sub-national ~~attributes information~~ for each spatial ~~proxy data~~ and in
172 particular for each point source. This implies attaching to each point not only its exact location
173 expressed in longitude and latitude, but also the related NUTS2 (Nomenclature of territorial
174 units for statistics) code (EUROSTAT, 2021) for Europe or the Global ADministrative layer at
175 level 1 (GADM version 4.1). The choice of including NUTS2 rather than NUTS3 information
176 aims ~~to at~~ enhance the capability of a global database such as EDGAR to represent sub-
177 national regional emissions in support of the development of regional policies (e.g. EU
178 Cohesion Reports (European Commission, 2022) or the 2040 Climate Impact Assessment),
179 ~~while compromising with the global dimension of the database. In fact,~~ the attribution of
180 subnational details is not only developed with an EU-oriented focus, but also for other
181 countries such as the United States, China, and India, by providing emissions at the state or
182 province level, but also it allows approaching for example the Unites States, China and India
183 not anymore at national level administrative boundary, but providing emissions on each US
184 state, each Chinese province and Indian state. Moving towards

185 ~~province or city scale dimension starting from national emissions is requires not only subjected~~
186 ~~associating to the association of e.g. point sources to NUTS3 level but also relying on more~~
187 ~~disaggregated statistics. Therefore, considering the current purposes of EDGAR the NUTS2~~
188 ~~level represents the right balance between accuracy of the final emissions and downscaling of~~
189 ~~national totals. The relevance of including not only country specific details, but also sub-~~
190 ~~regional information is essential when doing emission data extraction at sub national level,~~
191 ~~thus avoiding border issues. Some inventory compilers (Kuenen et al., 2022), report point~~
192 ~~source information just as points without distributing them over a gridmap with a certain~~
193 ~~resolution. This approach is accurate since it provides the exact geographical coordinates of~~
194 ~~individual facilities; however, it does not reduce data extraction issues, since the allocation of~~
195 ~~a specific point to a certain gridecell cell may fall between the borders of e.g. two regions.~~
196 ~~Another challenge that we address with this new gridding approach is related with the~~
197 ~~harmonization of national and sub national data. Local and regional inventories are often~~
198 ~~developed independently, therefore, undermining the possibility to collate together sub-~~
199 ~~national emissions to retrieve the national values. The challenge of using different and not~~
200 ~~coherent databases is overtaken by the EDGAR database, being able to consistently work both~~
201 ~~at the national and regional level, thus offering the user the possibility to work across different~~
202 ~~geographical scales. The purpose of our work is to provide readily available emissions at sub-~~
203 ~~national level estimated in a consistent way for all countries. The EDGAR data may represent~~
204 an approximation for those countries with developed statistical infrastructure (e.g. those
205 including sub-national statistics and very precise spatial proxies), however, they provide a
206 default if such data is not available, as it is the case for many countries in the world. In the
207 results section, case studies on sub-national emissions are presented for the EU, US, China and
208 India.

209 3 Point sources of emissions

210 Gathering information on point sources covering the globe and spanning a wide temporal
211 domain (1970-~~Present~~~~nowadays~~) is challenging due to the limited data availability, accuracy
212 and completeness in the reporting (real plant location vs. legal address~~site~~, etc.). The correct
213 location of point sources is essential since they are often super emitters (e.g. power plants for
214 CO₂ emissions). In EDGARv8.0, the location of the main industrial point sources (e.g. power
215 plants, iron and steel industries ~~and other plants~~, coal mines, venting and flaring activities, etc.),
216 which contribute for around half of global CO₂ emissions, has been updated using state of the
217 art information making use of global databases, such as the Global Gas/Coal Plant Tracker of
218 the Global Energy Monitor. A complete overview of the data sources and updates included in
219 EDGARv8 is provided in Table 1. ~~In the following, we will describe sector by sector how the~~
220 ~~most up to date spatial data on point sources have been collected and implemented in the~~
221 ~~EDGAR database to downscale national emissions over the global gridmap.~~

222 However, point source databases are characterised by some limitations, in terms of
223 completeness of the point sources, availability of time series of information, misplacement of
224 data points compared to the real country belonging, etc. In EDGAR v8.0, quality checks
225 procedures are applied to validate the correct location of each point source to the corresponding
226 country or sub-national attribute. Moreover, missing information is completed using
227 assumptions on the time life of power plants (i.e. 40 years) to indicatively attribute opening or
228 closing years for each plant.

229 No consistency check between CO₂ emissions estimated through independent methods has
230 been here performed. However, Guevara et al. (2024) have proven the good agreement between
231 national CO₂ emissions from power plants as reported by EDGAR (which is based on
232 international statistics) and plant level inventories.

233 Atmospheric modellers require information not only regarding the spatial patterns of the
234 emissions, but also on the temporal and vertical distribution, as described in Ahsan et al.
235 (2023), Bieser et al. (2011) and De Meij et. al. (2006). For example, De Meij et al. (2006) found
236 that an important role is played by the vertical distribution of SO₂ and NO_x emissions in
237 understanding the differences between emission inventories on calculated gas and aerosol
238 concentrations. Accordingly, with the EMEP model, industrial point sources and power plants
239 emissions are injected up to the third level (top up to 184 m), while shipping emissions happen
240 in the first level (top up to 20 m). However, addressing the vertical distribution of the emissions
241 in beyond the purpose of this work. In the following, we will describe sector by sector how the
242 most up to date spatial data on point sources have been collected and implemented in the
243 EDGAR database to downscale national emissions over the global gridmap.

244

245 3.1 Power plants

246 Power plants represent a major source of fossil CO₂ and GHG emissions globally, contributing
247 nowadays for around 38% and 18%, respectively, to the corresponding global totals (Crippa et
248 al., 2023). It is therefore of utmost importance ~~including the latest available information~~ to
249 correctly spatially allocate these emissions at the global level and understand their evolution
250 over time, in order to design and implement adequate emission mitigation measures.

251 ~~In~~ EDGARv8.0, fuel-specific spatial proxies have been developed using data from the Global
252 Coal and Gas Plant Tracker of the Global Energy Monitor (for coal and gas) (Global Energy

253 Monitor, 2022d, a), the Global Power Plant Database v1.3.0 (World Resources Institute, 2018;
254 WRI, 2021) for oil and biofuels, CARMAv3.0 for autoproducers (i.e. plants and industries
255 producing power for their own use). In addition, information on autoproducers and biofuel-
256 fired power plants in Europe has been integrated using the European Pollutant Release and
257 Transfer Register (EPRTv18) (EPRT, 2020). For the US domain, the location of fossil fuel
258 -fired power plants is taken from the US Energy Information Administration (US EIA, 2022b)
259 as they represent the most updated source for the US. The time frame covered by the new power
260 plant spatial proxy datasets developed in EDGARv8.0 is 1970-2022, which includes, for each
261 plant, information on opening and closing years (also beyond 2022 for recently built power
262 plants), capacity, main fuel type, etc. When only partial information is available for the years
263 of operations, assumptions on the typical lifetime of power plants is ~~assumed-made~~ (e.g. 40
264 years). The capacity of each power plant is used to relatively weigh~~t~~ within a country the fuel
265 specific emissions from power plants. An additional adjustment is performed over the US
266 domain, to ~~take into~~ account for the different sulphur content in the fuel used in the different
267 US states based on EIA and FERC utility surveys.

268 The Global Energy Monitor is chosen as ~~the~~ main data source for updating power plants proxies
269 since it relies on data from public and private data sources (including the Global Energy
270 Observatory, CARMA, Platts World Energy Power Plant database, national-level trackers
271 developed by environmental organisations, as well as various company and government
272 sources). It is validated with i) government data on individual power plants; ii) country energy
273 and resource plans, and government websites tracking coal plant permits and applications; iii)
274 reports by state-owned and private power companies; iv) news and media reports; ~~and;~~ v) local
275 non-governmental organizations tracking coal plants or permits. Local experts are also
276 involved in the review of coal and gas plant data. Regular bi-annual updates of these databases
277 also guarantee the possibility to include further updates in future EDGAR releases. As of
278 January 2019, the Global Coal Plant Tracker included exact locations for 95.3% of operating
279 units (6411 out of 6725). Independent use and validation of the Global Coal and Gas Plant
280 Trackers is also performed by Guevara et al. ~~(2023, 2024)~~. Figure S1 shows the comparison
281 between the geo-coverage of EDGARv8.0 and the previous EDGAR spatial data for power
282 plants, while Fig. S2 provides a view ~~on-of~~ the global coverage of power plants in EDGARv8.0
283 by fuel type.

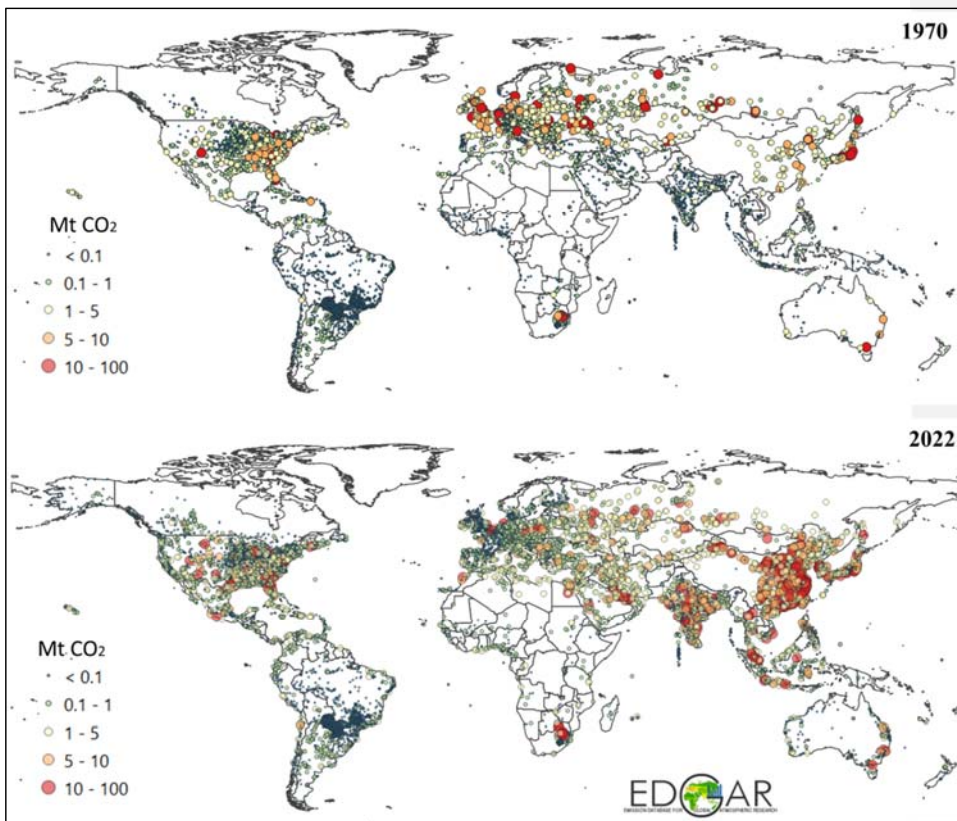
284 Figure 1 shows the global coverage and intensity of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel-fired power
285 plants from EDGARv8.0 for the years 1970 and 2022. As a general trend, the number of power
286 plants ~~highly-strongly~~ increased from 1970 to 2022 (see also Fig.2) ~~due to the global~~
287 ~~industrialisation process happened over the past five5 decades at the global level, although the~~
288 ~~number of power plants in 1970 is subjected to higher uncertainty compared to nowadays~~
289 ~~situation-more uncertain than that of the present day.~~

290 -The total number of power plants grew from around 8500 in 1970 to 13000 in 2022, with the
291 sharpest increase occurring in China (4.5 times more) and North America (2 times more).
292 However, the intensity of the emissions changed over the past 5 decades, depending on the
293 region. As shown in Fig.2, despite the increase in the regional number of power plants, ~~the~~ shift
294 towards cleaner fuels ~~is found~~ in ~~historically~~ industrialised regions (such as Europe and North
295 America) together with increased energy efficiency, ~~which leadhas led~~ to stable and lower CO₂
296 emissions (e.g. 13% decrease in Europe between 1970 and 2022). On the contrary, emerging

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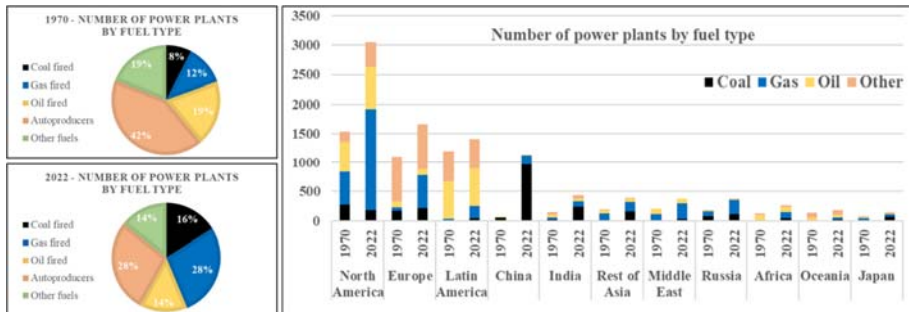
297 regions are characterised by significantly higher emissions in 2022 and the use of high C₂
298 content fuels, such as coal. Over the past fives decades, fossil CO₂ emissions from power plants
299 increased up to 42 and 38 times in China and India, respectively. Country-specific trends of
300 CO₂ and GHG emissions from power plants are presented in Crippa et al. (2023).

301



302

303 **Figure 1 – CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel fired power plants in 1970 and 2022 from EDGARv8.0. The size**
304 **of the circles is proportional to the magnitude of the emissions.**



305
 306 **Figure 2 - Evolution of the total number of power plants (including fossil and bio fuels fired) from 1970 to**
 307 **2022 by world region included in the updated EDGAR spatial proxies.**

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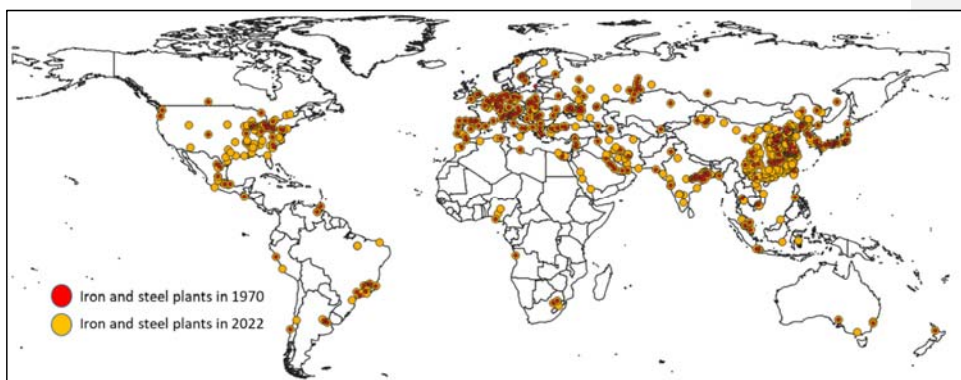
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310 **3.2 Industrial facilities and other point sources**

311 Industrial activities cover a wide range of sectors encompassing ~~manufacturing~~, the production
 312 of iron and steel, cement, glass, metals, ~~solvents~~, chemicals, ~~or~~ fertilisers, ~~use of solvents~~, but
 313 also intensive animal farming (see section 3.4). Gathering information on industrial activities
 314 (e.g. production, capacity, location of the facilities, etc.) at the global level is challenging, also
 315 due to confidentiality and data protection issues. For this reason, we ~~partly focused~~ not only
 316 on the update of information on industrial point sources (when available), but also on the while
 317 we improvement of ~~the~~ gap-filling method for all industrial activities in case of incomplete
 318 or missing data (as discussed in detail in Sect. 3.5). In EDGARv8.0, we included the latest
 319 European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (EPRTRv18) locations for all industrial
 320 facilities (with the exception of power plants, iron and steel facilities and coal mines, for which
 321 dedicated spatial proxies have been developed at the global level). Several manual adjustments
 322 were implemented to overcome data quality issues related with missing spatial information and
 323 inconsistencies. The analysis of the EPRTR dataset also inspired the idea of attributing only a
 324 fraction of the emissions to the reported point sources. This is also justified by the fact that
 325 industrial facilities have to report their emissions only if they fall above a certain threshold.
 326 The fraction of the emissions to be allocated to the available point sources is determined
 327 through the ratio between EPRTR emissions (typically of CO₂) and the corresponding EDGAR
 328 emissions. When the ratio is 1, all emissions are allocated to the point sources; when the ratio
 329 is lower than 1, the complementary fraction is then attributed to the gap-filling grid (i.e. non-
 330 residential proxy as defined in Sect. 3.5).

331 In EDGARv8.0, we have also updated the global locations of iron and steel plants, which are
 332 among the most energy intensive industries. The Global steel plant tracker of the Global Energy
 333 Monitor (2022b) was used as a data source due to its global and temporal completeness (1970-
 334 present). The installed capacity was used to weigh the relative contribution of each iron and
 335 steel plant, although it may represent an approximation for the real capacity in use. A map of
 336 iron and steel production plants in 1970 and 2022 is presented in Fig.3. The number of iron and
 337 steel plants increased- around tenfold over the last five decades (from 77 to 728) with the
 338 sharpest increase in China (fivefold), USA and India (2.7-fold).

339 Coal Mines are also a relevant source of fugitive emissions of GHGs and air pollutants (e.g.
340 volatile organic compounds). In EDGARv8.0, we updated the information on coal mines at [the](#)
341 global level using the Global Coal Mine Tracker of the Global Energy Monitor (2022c)
342 complemented with the Energy Information Administration data for the US (US EIA, 2022a).
343 For countries not covered by these data sources, we relied on the previous EDGAR spatial
344 proxies including data from the US Geological Survey (USGS, 2019). More specifically, we
345 included information on surface and underground mines, both for hard and brown coal.

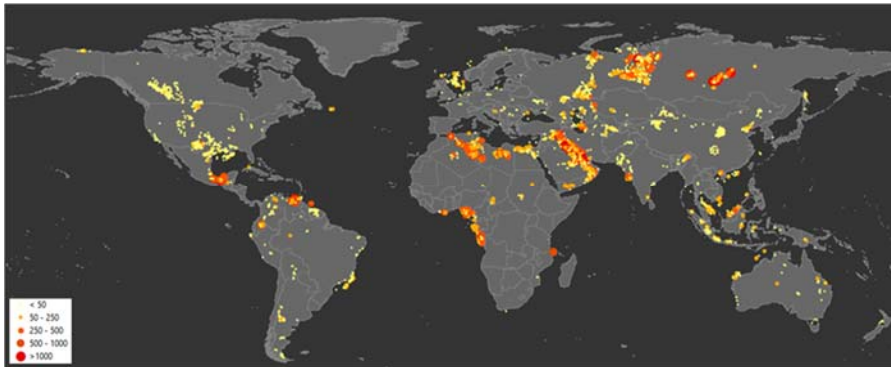


346
347 **Figure 3 – Global location of iron and steel plants in 1970 and 2022.**

348 **3.3 Venting and flaring**

349 Gas flaring is the burning of the natural gas [associated that results with from](#) oil extraction.
350 Although this practice is highly polluting and represents a waste of resources, it is still in place
351 due to economic constraints and [the](#) lack of appropriate legislation in several countries. Flaring
352 takes place both as on-shore and off-shore activities and it is a source of GHG and air pollutant
353 emissions.

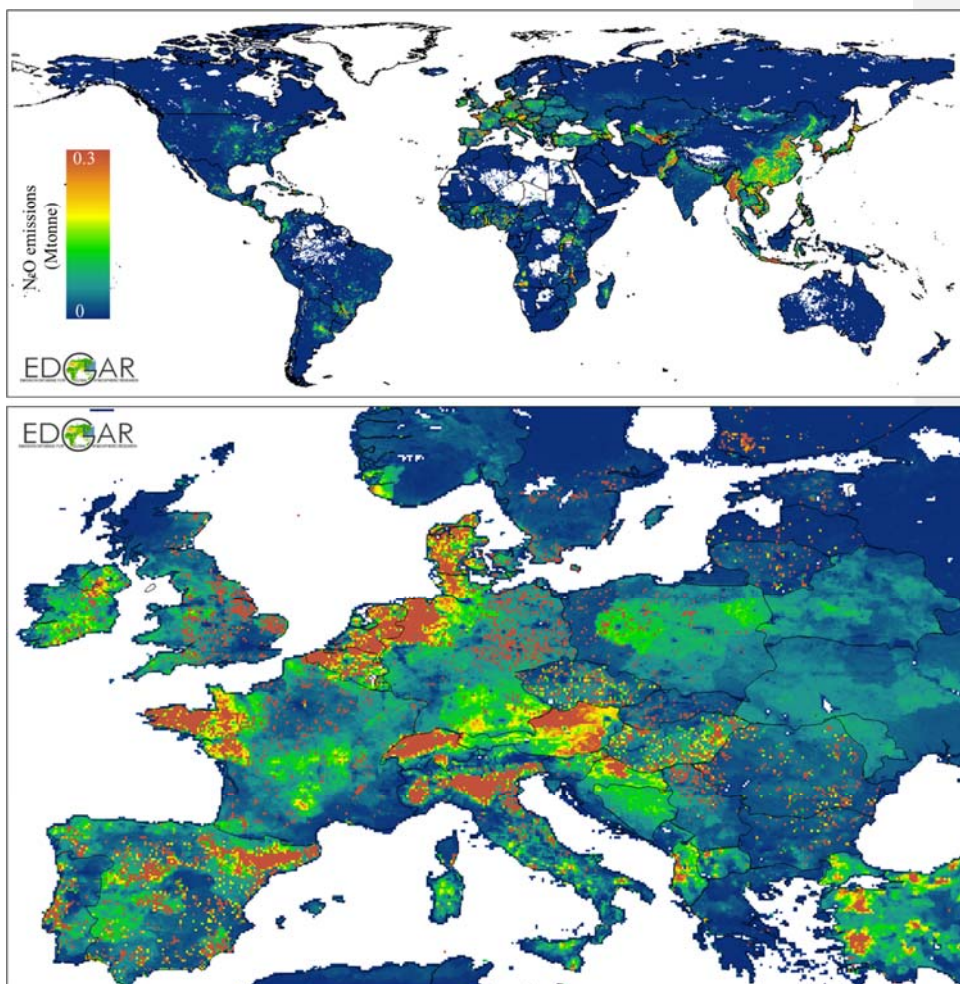
354 Global CO₂ emissions related with flaring account for 276 Mt in 2022, of which ~~7650%~~ is
355 emitted ~~by 10 only by four~~ countries, namely Russia (18% of the global total), Iraq (13%), Iran
356 (12%) and Venezuela (7%), ~~followed by 76% of the global CO₂ emissions from flaring~~
357 ~~activities is produced by 10 top emitting countries with individual contribution higher than 2%~~
358 ~~of the global total (including~~ Algeria, USA, Mexico, Libya, Nigeria and China ~~in addition to~~
359 ~~the abovementioned top 4)~~. Although this emission source represents only 0.8% of global CO₂
360 emissions, it is particularly relevant for certain regions in the world, such as Venezuela (20%
361 of the CO₂ country total), Iraq (18%), Libya (17%), Algeria (10%) and Nigeria (9%).
362 Considering the relevance of venting emissions and the potential of control measures, it is
363 essential to best quantify and attribute the correct georeference for this source. Flaring
364 emissions can also be localised and quantified through space born measurements (Elvidge et
365 al., 2017; NOAA, 2017). In EDGARv8.0, data from the World Bank Global Gas Flaring
366 Tracker Report (2023) were used both for estimating the emissions and location of global
367 flaring activities from 2012 ~~to~~ 2022. These spatial data were also used as [a](#) best
368 approximation to spatially distribute emissions from venting, ~~which is the controlled release of~~
369 ~~natural gas without being burned~~, although the two activities may not overlap. The resulting
370 CO₂ emission map in 2012 and 2022 is reported in Fig. 4.



371
 372 **Figure 4 – Global map of CO2 emissions (kton) from flaring in 2022.**

373 **3.4 Intensive livestock and fertiliser industries**

374 Agriculture includes a variety of activities that are typically distributed over large areas (e.g.
 375 crop areas, animal pastures, etc.). However, several agricultural activities can be defined as
 376 hot-spots or point sources and include intensive animal farming and manure management
 377 practices. In a broader sense, we allocate to this sector also fertiliser production industries
 378 which represent an important source of NH3 and N2O. In EDGARv8.0, the IASI satellite-
 379 derived NH3 point source database (Van Damme et al., 2018; Clarisse et al., 2019) is included
 380 to map animal farming and fertiliser production emissions with yearly information –for the
 381 period 2008-2022. It includes 270 agricultural hot-spots and 251 production facilities of
 382 synthetic NH3 worldwide. Since the NH3 point source database includes only hot-spots we
 383 decided to allocate to these points only a fraction of the total emissions for that sector and
 384 country derived from approximate estimates of NH3 emission flux from IASI measurements,
 385 while distributing the remaining fraction to livestock density maps formerly available in
 386 EDGAR. Similarly to what was done for other industries, for Europe, intensive livestock point
 387 sources and fertiliser production industries were taken from EPRTRv18. Similarly, the
 388 satellite-based information on fertiliser industries was integrated in the previous EDGAR proxy
 389 for this sector. This update represents a significant improvement in representing N related hot-
 390 spots compared to former EDGAR releases (Van Damme et al., 2018) compared to former
 391 EDGAR releases which mostly used animal density as proxy (see Table S1), although
 392 considering the uncertainty of IASI information of around 50%. A snapshot on N2O emissions
 393 from manure management at global level and in Europe, where intensive livestock activities
 394 appear as emission hot-spots is shown in Fig. 5.



395
 396 **Figure 5 – N₂O emissions from manure management at global level and in Europe, where intensive livestock**
 397 **activities appear as emission hot-spots.**

398 **3.5 Gap-filling missing information of point sources**

399 A significant improvement is represented by the development and use of a new spatial proxy
 400 to gap-fill missing information for all industrial related emissions. Until EDGARv7.0,
 401 population-related proxies were used as backup information when no spatial data was available
 402 to represent the emissions for a sector within a country (Crippa et al., 2021). However, here we
 403 decided to use the non-residential built-up surface information developed by the Global Human
 404 Settlements Layer (GHSL) (Pesaresi and Politis, 2023; European Commission, 2023) as a
 405 backup proxy to distribute the emissions of all the activities not related with-to small-scale
 406 combustion for which no point source information was available (even for individual
 407 countries). This methodological assumption is a key novelty of this work due to its application

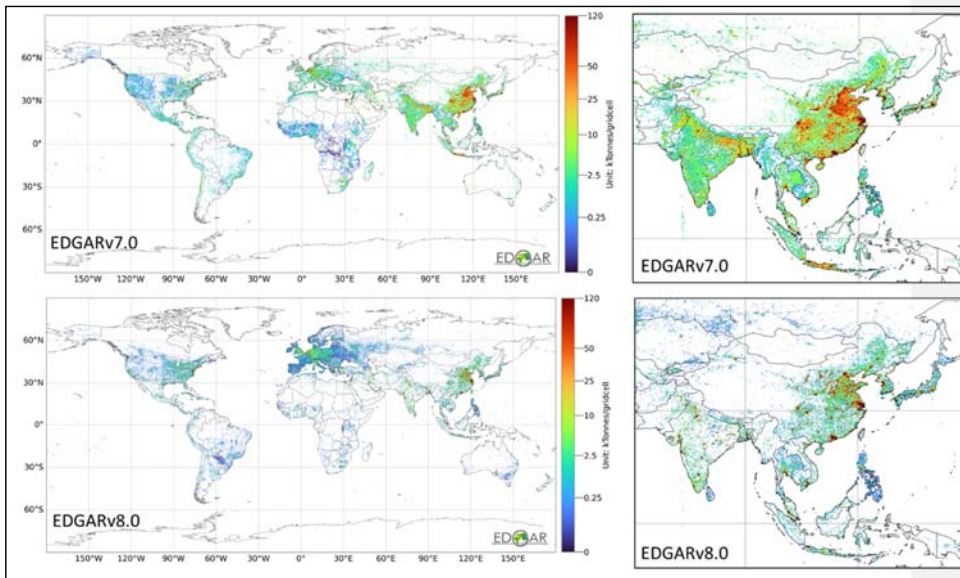
408 at the global level. However, it is in line with methodologies already applied in regional
409 inventories, such as in Europe (Kuenen et al., 2022), where the CORINE land-use dataset is
410 used to spatially allocate emissions to areas with industrial activity, thus supporting the validity
411 of this assumption.

412 For certain sectors and regions, this non-residential gap-filling proxy is also used to allocate a
413 fraction of the emissions of ~~a~~ certain sectors (refer for example to the industrial facilities section
414 for Europe). The overall effect of using this new proxy is a change in the industrial contribution
415 over densely populated areas which was previously higher in EDGAR compared to other
416 inventories in particular over Europe (Thunis et al., 2023). Figure 6 shows CO₂ emission maps
417 from manufacturing industries obtained in EDGARv7.0 and EDGARv8.0. This comparison
418 figure highlights the implications of using different gap-filling proxies for the industrial sector,
419 and in particular contrasts those based on population (EDGARv7.0) ~~and with~~ the new ones
420 based on non-residential built-up surface data used in EDGARv8.0.

421 Overall, using non-residential built-up information to allocate emissions of industrial activities
422 to complement point source information leads to lower emission levels allocated to urban areas
423 and a less densely distributed map over certain regions (e.g. China, India, etc.). Figure S3 shows
424 the impact of this update on global fossil CO₂ emissions from the industrial sector over global
425 Functional Urban Areas (FUAs) in 2022. The share of CO₂ industrial emissions to the national
426 total ratio between these emissions over FUAs is typically higher, on average by around 30%,
427 in EDGARv8.0 than in EDGARv7.0 for several developing countries (e.g. Africa, South
428 America, India, etc.) due to the presence of industrial point sources and non-residential
429 activities still close to urban areas. ~~On the opposite~~ On the other hand, lower ~~(on average around~~
430 ~~20% less)~~ emissions from industries (on average around 20% less) –are found in many
431 industrialised regions (e.g. Europe, USA, Oceania) due to the displacement of industrial
432 activities in remote areas or outside the FUAs. This result represents the effect of using non-
433 population based proxies for industrial emissions in EDGARv8.0 compared to previous
434 EDGAR proxies.

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435

436 Figure 6 – CO2 emissions from industrial combustion in 2021 from EDGARv7.0 and v8.0, showing the
 437 impact of the gap-filling proxies used for industrial sources.

438 **4 Linear sources of emissions: international shipping**

439 Since EDGARv6.0, international shipping emissions are distributed using the STEAM³ (Ship
 440 Traffic Emission Assessment Model) model from the Finnish Meteorological Institute
 441 (Jalkanen et al., 2012; Johansson et al., 2017) ~~and the same spatial distribution is kept also this~~
 442 ~~approach has remained unchanged in EDGARv8.0.~~ Emissions are distributed on a yearly basis
 443 from 2000 ~~to 2018~~ 2018, including multi vessels information (cargo, container, fishing, passenger
 444 cruisers, service, tankers, vehicle carriers, miscellaneous). Compared to the previous EDGAR
 445 proxy, the use of the STEAM data allows a better representation of the evolution in time of the
 446 international shipping emissions, differentiating on ~~yearly-an annual~~ basis the variation of the
 447 routes and their intensity for the different vessels consistently with the information available in
 448 EDGAR (see Fig. 7). Only data covering sea areas are included, since inland data over big
 449 rivers or lakes is not robust ~~yet-enough~~ to be included in EDGAR. Information on Emission
 450 Control Areas (ECAs), and in particular on sulphur emission control areas (SECAs) and NO_x
 451 emission control areas (NECAs), are not yet included, ~~while it represents one of the~~ ~~although~~
 452 ~~this may be considered for-is planned for~~ future updates of EDGAR. A comparison between
 453 international shipping intensities ~~as-that are~~ available in EDGAR before and after this update
 454 is presented in Fig. S4 of the Supplement.

455 Figure 8 focuses on three main vessel types, representing the largest fraction of GHG
 456 emissions from international shipping in 2022 and contributing specifically for around 22%
 457 (tankers), 24% (containers) and 28% (cargo) to total international shipping GHG emissions.
 458 The impact of using the STEAM data to develop the new spatial proxies for international
 459 shipping is shown in Fig. 8, where the comparison between EDGARv5 and EDGARv8 CO2
 460 emissions from the three main vessel types over the different Oceans and Seas is presented.

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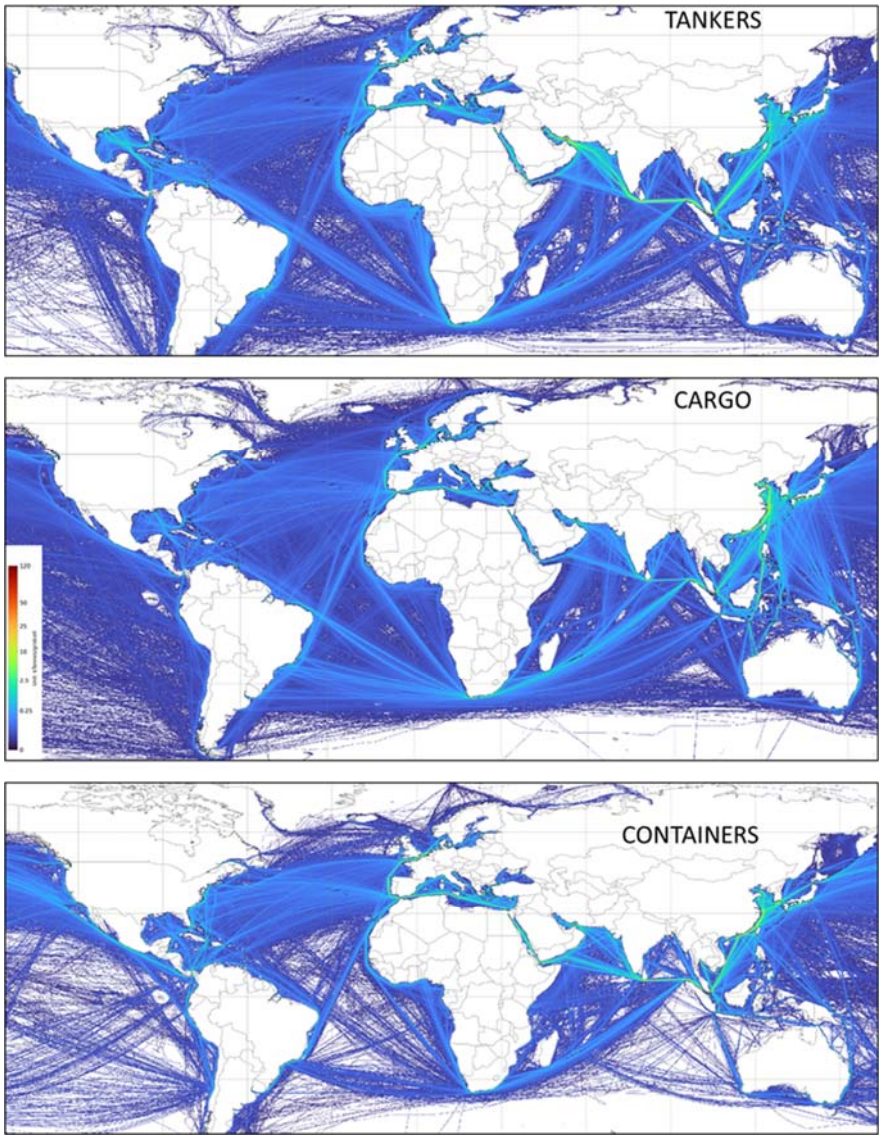
461 EDGARv5 used an in-house EDGAR proxy based on Wang et al. (2008), improved with LRIT
462 (Long-Range Identification and Tracking) information (Alessandrini et al., 2017) for European
463 seas, as described in Janssens-Maenhout et al. (2019). EDGARv5 proxies were allocating most
464 of the international shipping emissions over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, while the new
465 proxies of EDGARv8 allocate the largest portion of these emissions (40%) over the Seas
466 around China, Japan and Philippines. The relative share of tankers emissions over the
467 Mediterranean Sea is also very different between the two versions, with the largest contribution
468 (85%) among the three considered categories in EDGARv5. Two times higher Emissions are
469 ~~also~~ allocated to the Gulf of Mexico and Arabian Sea are two times higher when using the
470 STEAM based proxies in EDGARv8.

471

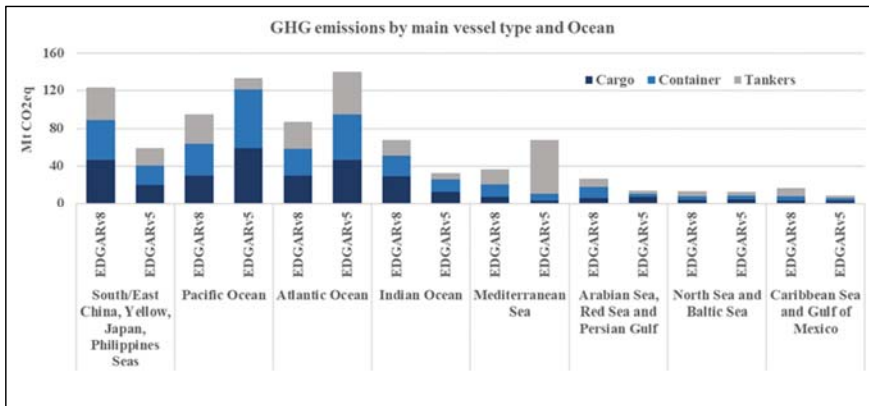
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473
 474 **Figure 7 – International shipping GHG emissions (2021) with the ship tracks for tankers, containers and**
 475 **cargo vessels as in EDGARv8.0.**
 476



477

478 **Figure 8 – Comparison of GHG emissions from international shipping (2022) by main vessel type and**
 479 **Ocean from EDGARv5 and EDGARv8. Fishing, services and passenger related emissions are excluded**
 480 **from this comparison.**

481 **5 Area sources of emissions**

482 **5.1 Residential activities**

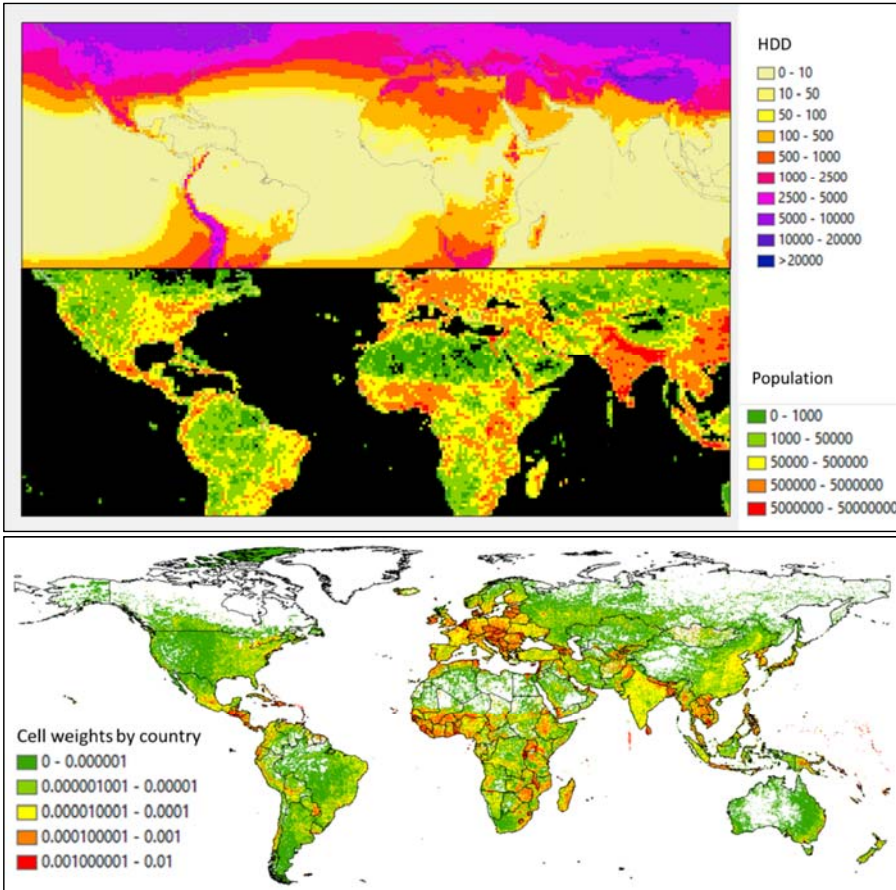
483 Small-scale combustion emissions are mostly related with non-industrial activities, such as
 484 those from the residential, commercial and agricultural/fishing sectors. Therefore, population
 485 based spatial proxies are often used to downscale national emissions. EDGARv8.0 aims ~~to at~~
 486 ~~coupling-couple~~ population distribution with heating degree days since the amount of emissions
 487 is not only dependent on the number of people living over certain areas, but also on the
 488 meteorological conditions and the heating needs for indoor spaces. Residential emissions are
 489 therefore distributed considering both population intensities and heating needs, with varying
 490 profiles from 1970 to 2022. EDGARv8.0 includes the latest population gridmaps developed by
 491 the Global Human Settlements GHS-POP R2023A (Schiavina et al., 2023b; Freire et al., 2016),
 492 which comprise residential population information for 12 epochs, ~~starting from over~~ 1975-~~to~~
 493 2020 with ~~five~~-years time steps and projections to 2025 and 2030 obtained ~~by~~ distributing
 494 ~~census data from CIESIN GPWv4.11~~ over global gridmaps ~~census data from CIESIN~~
 495 ~~GPWv4.11~~. GHS-POP R2023A data at 30 arc-seconds (WGS84, EPSG:4326) (or about 1km)
 496 spatial resolution were used to develop the corresponding spatial proxies in EDGAR.
 497 Population density is then calculated for each gridcell and it is used as a proxy to allocate
 498 household emissions over populated areas. Small-scale combustion activities related with
 499 agriculture are distributed using rural population maps obtained from the GHS-SMOD R2023
 500 product (including only low and very low density rural grid cells) (Schiavina et al., 2023a). For
 501 missing years, the closest population map to each epoch is taken (e.g. for the years 2001 and
 502 2002 the population map ~~is the one offrom~~ 2000 ~~is used~~, while for the years 2003 and 2004 ~~it~~
 503 ~~is the one ofthe~~ 2005 ~~map is used~~).

504 To account for the effect of the weather (ambient temperature) on heating needs in the
 505 residential sector, heating degree days (HDD) have been computed using the 2 meters
 506 temperature data with hourly time resolution and 1 degree spatial resolution using the
 507 Copernicus ERA5 atmospheric reanalysis produced by ECMWF for the years 1970-2022

508 (<https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/reanalysis-era5-single-levels?tab=form>).

509 HDD is the cumulative number of degrees by which the mean daily temperature falls below a
510 reference temperature (usually 18 °C or 19 °C which is adequate for human comfort). HDD
511 were calculated following the methodology described by Spinoni et al. (2018) and assuming a
512 reference temperature of 18°C. Cooling Degree Days (CDD) are not included in the
513 development of the spatial proxies since they are mainly related with electricity consumption
514 rather than to fuel combustion in the residential sector. An additional weight to the population
515 distribution is therefore added by the HDD metric, thus increasing the emissions arising in
516 colder regions subjected to more heating needs rather than in warm areas for the same amount
517 of population.

518 Our approach does not aim ~~to~~ identify~~ing~~ and represent~~ing~~ the heating habits for all countries,
519 while modulating within a single country the combustion of fuels for e.g. heating purposes due
520 to the different temperatures across latitudes (climatic zones). Countries may in fact have ~~in~~
521 ~~fact~~ different habits in turning on and off their heating systems, thus requiring the use of
522 different reference temperature values in the calculation of HDD (Atalla et al., 2018) which is
523 not taken into account here. The process to build the residential proxy in EDGAR is shown in
524 Fig. 9.



525

526

527 **Figure 9 – Coupling heating degree days (a) and population density (b) as a proxy (c) to downscale**
 528 **residential emissions. Data refer to the year 2020.**

529

530 **6 Results**

531 The purpose of this work is to describe the methodological improvements included in
 532 EDGARv8.0 linked to the update of the spatial data used to downscale country and sector
 533 specific emissions. In addition, a specific focus is dedicated to case studies showing the
 534 relevance of understanding the evolution of GHG emissions at sub-national level in order to
 535 support the development of regional climate mitigation and adaptation policies (Kuramochi et
 536 al., 2020). Therefore, the reader can refer to Crippa et al. (2023) for the description of country
 537 and sector-specific GHG emission trends at global level. In the following sections, insights on
 538 the global distribution of GHG emissions as well as their sub-national features are described.

539 **6.1 Global GHG emissions in EDGARv8.0**

540 Figure 10 shows global GHG emissions in 2022 as a result of the EDGARv8 gridding process,
541 while Figure 11 reports the same emissions at the country and sub-national level.
542 Complementary figures are also reported in the Supplement (Figs. S5-S8) showing the
543 evolution of GHG, fossil CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O global emission maps from 1970 to 2022.

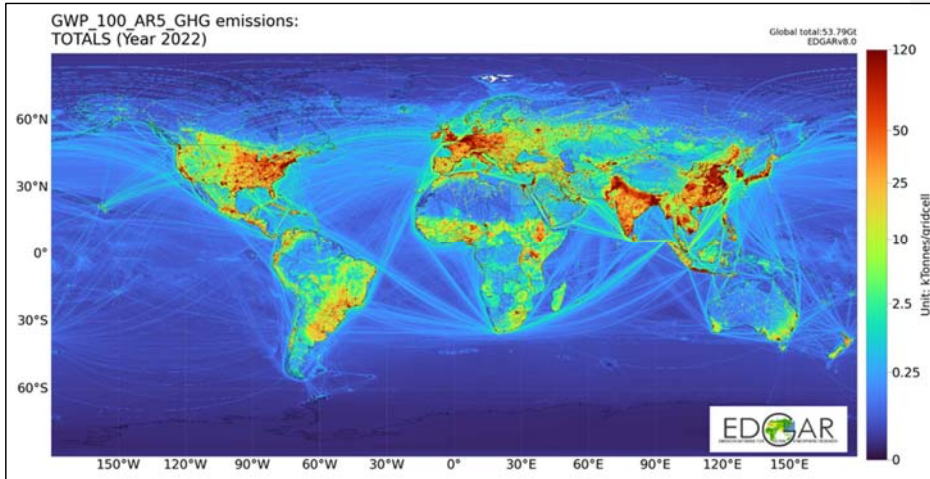
544 The main strength and novelty of EDGARv8.0 is related with the production of a global GHG
545 emission database at different level of granularity in support of local, regional and global
546 climate actions. The high spatial resolution global maps are available at 0.1°x0.1° WGS84
547 (EPSG4326), about 10km at the equator, both as emissions and emission fluxes (.txt and .NetCDF
548 files, https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dataset_ghg80) fulfilling the requirements of the global
549 atmospheric modelling community but also bridging bottom-up and top-down (mostly satellite
550 based) GHG emission estimates (see Fig. 10).

551 EDGARv8.0 allows full flexibility in the aggregation of emissions at the sub-national level,
552 thus supporting the analysis of the spatio-temporal variability of the emissions not only at
553 gridcell level but also over wider administrative domains, or areas of interest such as urban
554 centres (Melchiorri, 2022). A second key product from EDGARv8.0 is represented by GHG
555 emissions at sub-national level using the Global ADMinistrative layer version 4.1
556 (https://gadm.org/download_country.html) at level 1 and NUTS2 level for the EU extended
557 geographical domain, as shown in Fig. 11. ~~In the next sections, case studies over the European,
558 American and Asian domains are discussed more in detail.~~

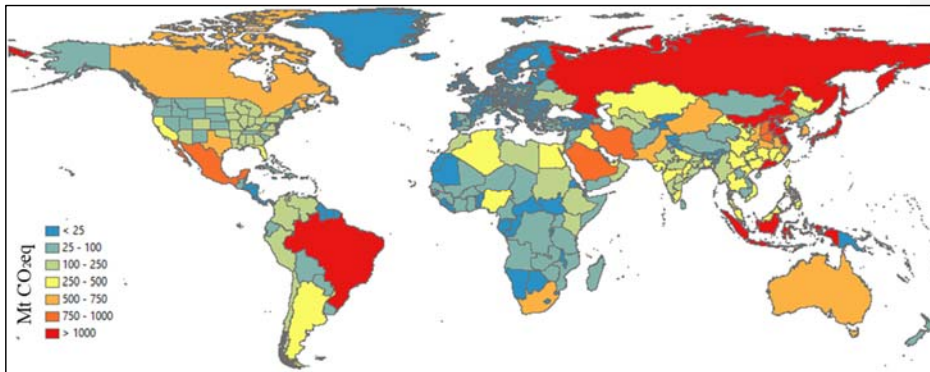
559 Looking at province or city scale emissions requires not only associating e.g. point sources to
560 NUTS3 level but also relying on a different approach from the downscaling of national totals,
561 which may include the use of statistical information available over smaller territorial units.
562 Therefore, considering the current purposes of EDGAR the NUTS2 level represents the right
563 balance between accuracy of the final emissions and downscaling of national totals. The
564 relevance of including not only country specific details, but also sub-regional information is
565 essential when doing emission data extraction at sub-national level, thus avoiding border
566 issues. Some inventory compilers (Kuenen et al., 2022), report point source information just as
567 points without distributing them over a gridmap with a certain resolution. This approach is
568 accurate since it provides the exact geographical coordinates of individual facilities; however,
569 it does not reduce data extraction issues, since the allocation of a specific point to a certain grid
570 cell may fall between the borders of e.g. two regions.

571 Another challenge that we address with this new gridding approach is related with the
572 harmonization of national and sub-national data. Local and regional inventories are often
573 developed independently, therefore, undermining the possibility to collate together sub-
574 national emissions to retrieve the national values. The challenge of using different and not
575 coherent databases is overtaken by the EDGAR database, being able to consistently work both
576 at the national and regional level, thus offering the user the possibility to work across different
577 geographical scales. This is achieved through the downscaling of national emissions to sub-
578 national data making use of high-spatial resolution proxies, as discussed in this paper. In the
579 next sections, case studies over the European, American and Asian domains are discussed more
580 in detail.

581



582
583 Figure 10 – Global GHG (expressed in CO₂eq) emission map in 2022 from EDGARv8.0.



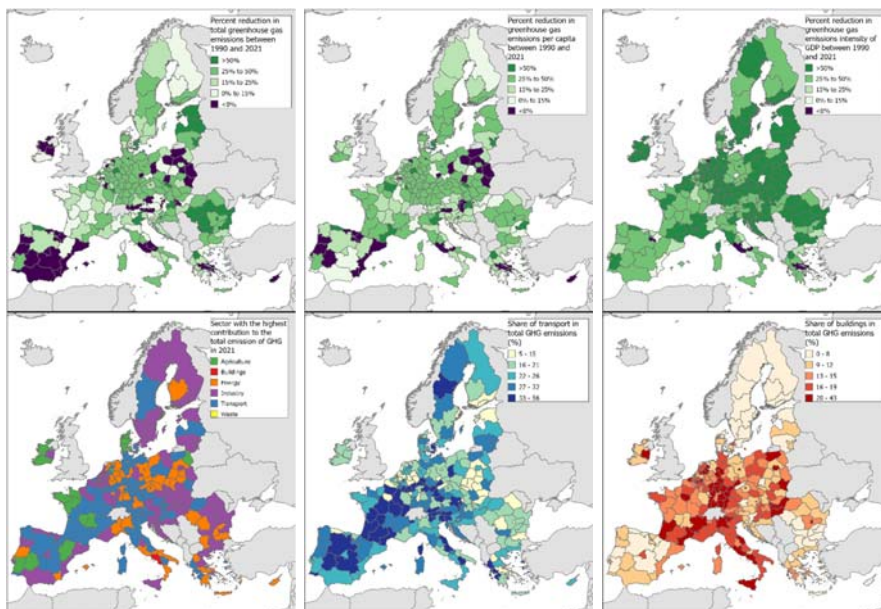
584
585 Figure 11 – Global GHG emissions by country and sub-national level in 2022 based on EDGARv8.0.

586
587 **6.2 Sub-national emissions: the EU case**

588 Climate and environmental territorial policies require robust and consistent knowledge of
589 greenhouse gas (GHG) and air pollutant emissions at the sub-national level (e.g. NUTS2). No
590 sub-national official reporting is available and the high spatial resolution data of EDGAR fill
591 this knowledge gap. EDGAR sub-national GHG emissions are used as a reference by the
592 European Commission in Cohesion Reports (European Commission, 2022), the EU semester
593 process or Climate Action territorial analysis. Figure 12 shows how GHG emissions at NUTS2
594 level have changed from 1990 to 2021 both in absolute, per capita and per GDP terms. Out of
595 242 EU regions, 155 regions have shown a downward trend since 1990, while it is found for
596 206 and 204 regions since 2005 (on average -1.27% per year) and 2010 (on average -1.35%
597 per year), respectively. However, in 2021, only 34 regions reached less than 5t CO₂eq/person

598 which corresponds to the average value needed to achieve the 2030 EU climate targets. The
 599 most contributing sectors to total EU GHG emissions in 2021 are ~~the~~ power generation (27%),
 600 industry (23%), transportation (20%), buildings (14%) and agriculture (11%), showing ~~that~~
 601 the different regions in the EU have different transition challenges. For example, when looking at
 602 ~~the~~ NUTS2 level (see Fig. 12, middle bottom panel) the transport sector often represents the
 603 sector with the largest contribution at regional level, in particular in rural regions of Spain,
 604 France, Italy, or Germany. Figure 12 (bottom right panel) also shows the share of GHG
 605 emissions arising from small-scale combustion (buildings sector) at ~~the~~ NUTS2 level,
 606 highlighting several regions for which this sector contributes more than 15-20% to the regional
 607 total.

608



609
 610 **Figure 12 – Relative change of European GHG emissions by NUTS2 between 1990 and 2021 (top panels).**
 611 **Sector contribution of European GHG emissions by NUTS2 in 2021 (bottom panels). The sector with the**
 612 **highest contribution in 2021 for each NUTS2 is shown in the map on the left panel. The share of GHG**
 613 **emissions from transport (middle panel) and buildings (right panel) to total emissions in 2021 in Europe by**
 614 **NUTS2 is also shown.**

615

616

617 6.3 Sub-national emissions in the United States, China and India

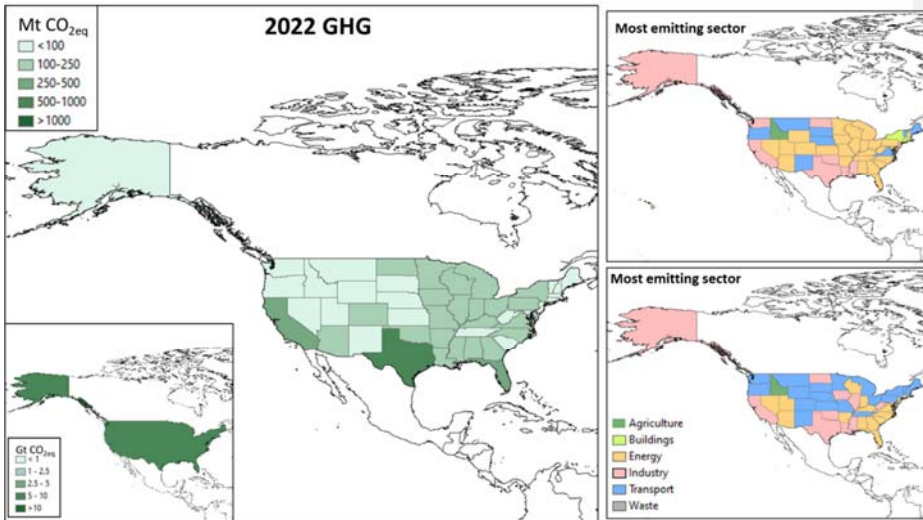
618 EDGARv8.0 includes GHG emission estimates at ~~the~~ sub-national level also for the United
 619 States (i.e. estimates for each US state, Fig. 13), for each Chinese province and each Indian
 620 state (Fig. 14). Based on our analysis, Texas emits 11.5% of the total US GHG emissions in

621 2022, followed by California with a contribution of 7.7% and Florida with a share of 4.6%.
 622 ~~Also~~ In 1990, Texas and California were the most emitting states, followed by Ohio,
 623 Pennsylvania and Illinois. Over the past ~~three~~ decades, the sector with the highest share of
 624 GHGs at state level over the US has changed, with a shift from power and industry towards
 625 transport (see Fig. 13).

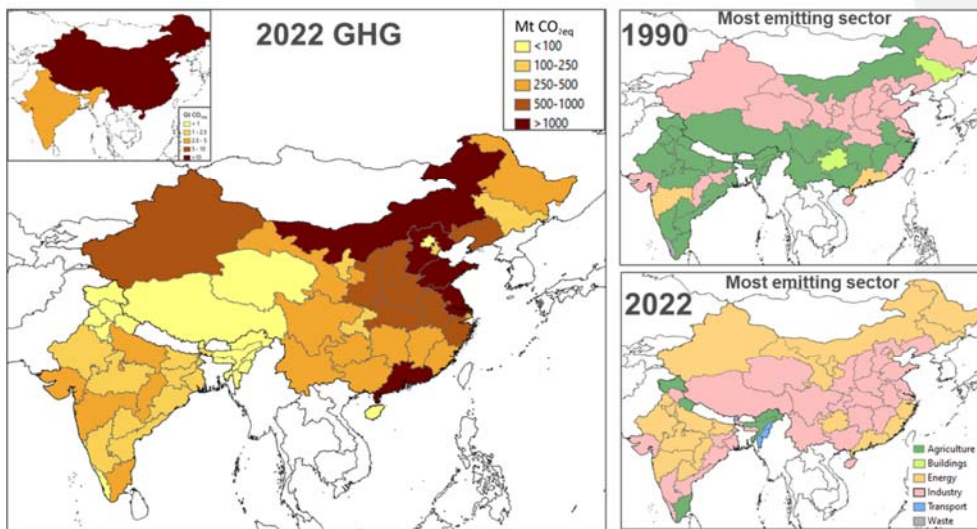
626 In 2022, ~~the five~~ most emitting Chinese provinces contributed ~~for to~~ around 40% of the
 627 Chinese total GHG emissions. ~~These were and they were~~ Shandong (8.9% of the country total),
 628 Guangdong (8.4%), Jiangsu (7.4%), Hebei (6.6%) and Nei Mongol (6.5%), consistently with
 629 ~~some other~~ literature studies addressing ~~province level~~ ~~provincial~~ CO2 and GHG emissions in
 630 China (Jiang et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2020). In 1990, the top ~~five~~ emitting provinces were
 631 Shandong (8.1%), Hebei (6.5%), Jiangsu (6.2%), Henan (5.9%) and Nei Mongol (5.8%)
 632 contributing ~~for~~ around 30% to the Chinese total GHG emissions.

633 -In 2022, ~~five~~ Indian states emitted around 50% of the country total GHG emissions, namely
 634 Maharashtra (11.8%), Tamil Nadu (11.7%), Uttar Pradesh (8.1%), Gujarat (8.0%) ~~and~~
 635 Chhattisgarh (6.6%). In 1990, the most emitting Indian states were Tamil Nadu (18.4%),
 636 Maharashtra (9.5%), Uttar Pradesh (9.3%), West Bengal (6.6%) ~~and~~ Andhra Pradesh (6.0%).
 637 Compared to the US and Europe ~~an~~ cases, a different picture is found over the Asian domain in
 638 terms of ~~most top~~-emitting sectors at sub-national level (Fig. 14). The effect of the economic
 639 growth and the transition from an agricultural ~~based~~ towards a more industrialised economy
 640 can be seen in Fig. 14 (right panels). As a result, the sectors with the highest share changed
 641 from agriculture (in 1990) to energy and industry (in 2022) over China and India, with the
 642 exception of ~~some~~ few regions (e.g. Tamil Nadu, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand)
 643 which ~~kept still had~~ an agriculture-based economy ~~also~~ in 2022. This type of information and
 644 analysis is instrumental for the definition of effective sector-specific climate mitigation actions
 645 at ~~the~~ sub-national level.

646



647 Figure 13 – 2022 GHG emissions at sub-national level in the United States are represented left panel and
 648 the sector with the highest contribution in 1990 and 2022 for each US state is shown in the maps on the
 649 right.



650
 651 Figure 14 – 2022 GHG emissions at sub-national level over the Asian domain, with focus on China and
 652 India, (left panel) and the sector with the highest contribution in 1990 and 2022 for each Chinese and Indian
 653 province/state is shown in the maps on the right.

654 **7 Data availability**

655 The EDGARv8.0 GHG global emission maps can be freely accessed at
 656 <https://doi.org/10.2905/b54d8149-2864-4fb9-96b9-5fd3a020c224> (Crippa, 2023a). The
 657 EDGARv8.0 subnational emissions can be accessed at [doi:10.2905/D67EEDA8-C03E-4421-95D0-0ADC460B9658](https://doi.org/10.2905/D67EEDA8-C03E-4421-95D0-0ADC460B9658) (Crippa et al., 2023b). All data can also be accessed through the
 658 EDGAR website at https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dataset_ghg80 and
 659 https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dataset_ghg80_nuts2 (last access: November 2023).
 660

661 Data are made available as emission gridmaps for each ~~speciessubstance~~ and for total GHGs
 662 as .txt and .nc files with emissions expressed in ton substance/0.1degree x 0.1degree/year.
 663 Emission fluxes are available as .nc files and they are expressed in kg substance/m2/s. Emission
 664 maps are available both as total and sector specific emissions.

665 **8 Conclusions**

666 Climate targets are often set at the global and national level, ~~however their but implementation~~
 667 ~~may occur at the subnational level, but also in many cases at national level, the implementation~~
 668 ~~of mitigation actions occurs at local and regional level.~~ It is therefore of the utmost relevance
 669 ~~developing to develop~~ sub-national GHG emission ~~estimates~~ for policy development and to
 670 monitor the progress towards climate targets or to evaluate their impacts. This work
 671 summarises the main updates developed within the Emissions Database for Global
 672 Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) for what concerns the use of high resolution and up to date
 673 spatial information to improve the global geospatial disaggregation of GHG emissions at sub-

674 national level. Having accurate and up to date sector-specific GHG emission global maps at
675 high spatial resolution (0.1x0.1 degrees) is instrumental for the design of effective climate
676 mitigation options beyond (inter)national climate targets. EDGARv8.0 spatial proxies include
677 globally consistent spatial data derived for example from the Global Energy Monitor, the
678 Global Human Settlements Layer work, satellite based information to compute heating degree
679 days or to identify hot-spots from agricultural activities, the STEAM model for ship track and
680 many other global datasets. The use of satellite data to improve the EDGAR spatial proxies
681 represents a successful cooperation between bottom-up inventory compilers and the Earth
682 observation community, and the possibility to integrate relevant satellite based datasets and
683 statistical information. In addition, EDGARv8.0 integrates spatial information from local
684 databases (e.g. EPRTTR for Europe, EIA data for the US) when including more detailed data
685 ~~compared to than what is that~~ available in global databases.

686 Continuous updates and improvements of the spatial data used to downscale national emissions
687 over the global grid are required to best represent the evolution of emission sources and their
688 location. The strength and uniqueness of the EDGAR work are associated with its global
689 coverage and consistency in computing and representing emissions for all countries, thus
690 becoming a reference for many countries with limited capabilities for emissions estimation.
691 However, several challenges are associated with the use of global databases of information, in
692 particular dealing with the collection of point sources. Therefore, the use of local data, if
693 available, is recommended when performing analysis at the highest spatial resolution (e.g. at
694 city scale level, etc.).

695 A further improvement within EDGAR is related with the inclusion of sub-national
696 information, representing a unique feature to address in a consistent way the evaluation of
697 spatial patterns in the evolution of sub-national GHG emissions. Such spatial resolution and
698 sub-national sector specific variability sets the ground for the production of city level emission
699 data records, as used for example in the Urban Centre Database
700 (https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ghs_stat_ucdb2015mt_r2019a.php). In this paper, few case
701 studies are presented, with main focus on the European case where the EDGAR sub-national
702 data are regularly used as input for the EU Semesters and contribute to climate action territorial
703 and cohesion policies through the EU Cohesion Reports.

704 Continuous updates and improvements of the spatial data used to downscale national emissions
705 over the global grid are required... limitations of the work... .

706

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Table 1 – Overview of updated spatial proxies in EDGARv8.0, including data sources and methods.

Sector and spatial coverage	OLD EDGAR proxies	NEW EDGAR proxies	Details NEW EDGAR proxies	Time coverage	Data access
Power plants (global)	CARMAv3 (not anymore available): 2004, 2009, 2014, fuel type derived from plant capacity (assumption)	Global coal/gas plant tracker (Global Energy Monitor)	Coal, Gas	1970-2050	https://globalenergymonitor.org/projects/global-coal-plant-tracker/ and https://globalenergymonitor.org/projects/global-gas-plant-tracker/ (2022)
		Global Power Plant Database v1.3.0	Biomass, Other, Oil		https://datasets.wri.org/dataset/globalpowerplantdatabase
		US EIA	USA power plants, all fuels	All	https://atlas.eia.gov/datasets/eia::power-plants/explore?location=41.629235%2C-118.496000%2C3.79
		CARMAv3	Autoproducers, missing countries	2004, 2009, 2014	http://carma.org/
All other industries (Europe)	EPRTTR v4*	European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (EPRTTR), v18	All industries and waste plants (with the exception of power plants, iron and steel and coal mines)	2007-2017	https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/member-states-reporting-art-7-under-the-european-pollutant-release-and-transfer-register-e-prtr-regulation-23/european-pollutant-release-and-transfer-register-e-prtr-data-base/eptr_v9_csv.zip
Iron and Steel (global)	In-house EDGAR	Global steel plant tracker (Global Energy Monitor)		1970-2050	https://globalenergymonitor.org/projects/global-steel-plant-tracker/

Coal mines (global)	USGS derived proxies, Global Energy Observatory (China)	Global coal mine tracker (Global Energy Monitor)	Brown and hard coal, surface and underground	1970-2050	https://globalenergymonitor.org/projects/global-coal-mine-tracker/
		Global Energy Monitor + EIA (Energy Information Administration)	USA all fuels, more precise open and close years	1970-2050	https://atlas.eia.gov/datasets/cia::coal-mines-1/explore
		EDGAR old proxy	For missing countries	Key years	
Flaring (global)	NOAA-NDGC (2015) VIIRS data https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/eog/viirs.html	Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report (2023)	Used both for venting and flaring activities	2012-2022	https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/gas-flaring-reduction/global-flaring-data
Small scale combustion (global)	Global Human Settlements Layer (1975, 1990, 2000, 2015)	Global Human Settlements Layer data Package 2023 + Heating Degree Days from ERA5	For all fuels	Population every 5 years from 1975 to 2030, HDD every year from 1970 to 2022	https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ghs_pop2023.php and https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/reanalysis-era5-single-levels?tab=form
Small scale combustion in agriculture (global)-Rural population	Global Human Settlements Layer (1975, 1990, 2000, 2015)	Global Human Settlements Layer data Package 2023, including GHS-SMOD R2023A - GHS settlement layers + Heating Degree Days from ERA5	For small-scale combustion in agriculture which are mostly associated to rural areas.	Population every 5 years from 1975 to 2030, HDD every year from 1970 to 2022	https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ghs_pop2023.php , https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ghs_smod2023.php , and https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/reanalysis-era5-single-levels?tab=form
Intensive livestock and fertiliser industries (global)	Livestock density maps	ESA World Emission project +intensive livestock point sources were taken from EPRTv18 for Europe.	For intensive livestock and fertiliser industry+ gapfilling with livestock density map	2008-2022	https://www.world-emission.com/
Gap-filling of industrial activities (global)	Population based	Built-up for non-residential areas from Global Human	It is used entirely when no information is available or attributing a fraction of	every 5 years from 1975	https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ghs_buS2023.php

		Settlements data package 2023	emissions which was not allocated to point sources.	to 2030	
International shipping	In-house EDGAR proxy based on LRIT and Wang et al. (2007) and Trombetti et al. (2017)	STEAM (Ship Traffic Emission Assessment Model)	Based on CO2 emissions for multi vessels and multi-years.	2000-2018	Jalkanen et al., 2012; Johansson et al., 2017