

# Estimation of Distribution NO<sub>2</sub> In East Java From 2019-2021 And The Factors That Improve It

### ABSTRACT

*This study aims to analyze the spatial and temporal distribution of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations in East Java during the 2019–2021 period, as well as identify the factors affecting it. The study's design used Sentinel-5P satellite imagery data with the Google Earth Engine platform to visualize NO<sub>2</sub> distribution patterns. Studies were conducted in East Java over a span of three years, covering the period before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The methodology used includes collection of NO<sub>2</sub> emission data from satellites, as well as supporting data on industrial, population, and transport activities from the BPS-Statistics Indonesia. The data is processed using programming scripts on Google Earth Engine to generate distribution maps and NO<sub>2</sub> concentration trend graphs. Research results show that areas with dense industrial and transportation activities, such as Gresik, Surabaya, and Probolinggo, have higher concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> than other areas. Although the concentration value is still below the threshold set by the Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency (BMKG), urban areas show a higher risk of pollution. The conclusion of this study confirmed the importance of monitoring satellite technology-based air quality to support effective environmental management policies. Decreases in NO<sub>2</sub> emissions during the pandemic indicate that human activity, especially in the industrial and transport sectors, is a major contributing factor to air pollution. Mitigation strategies such as the use of environmentally friendly technologies and the development of sustainable transportation are needed to reduce future NO<sub>2</sub> emissions.*

*Key word: nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), air quality, COVID-19 pandemic, sentinel-5P, Google Earth Engine*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Air is a vital element of human, animal, and plant life. However, in this modern era, the rapid development of urban development, industrial centers and transportation has brought significant changes to air quality (Della Ertiana, 2022). This change is largely due to air pollution, the introduction of gas or small particles (aerosols) into the atmosphere for a considerable amount of time. This condition can negatively affect human health, animal welfare, and plant survival, while threatening the overall ecosystem balance. Long-term exposure to air pollutants such as NO<sub>x</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and particulates can cause serious damage to the respiratory and cardiovascular systems, as well as increase the risk of premature death (Hasan et al., 2020).

East Java, as one of the provinces with high economic activity in Indonesia, faces significant challenges in air pollution management. The economy of East Java in 2022 grew by 5.34% with growth in almost all business fields except mining and excavation. Transportation and warehousing (Izza et al, 2023) have significant growth. The rapid growth of urbanization and industrialization in the region has affected air quality. Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), which is one of the major air pollutants produced from human activity, is an indicator of air pollution (Zhang et al, 2023). Long-term exposure to NO<sub>2</sub> can cause serious

respiratory problems and increase the risk of chronic disease. In addition, the long-term impact of NO<sub>2</sub> is the damage to the stratospheric ozone layer which increases UV radiation leading to an increase in skin cancer incidence (Vries, 2021).

Therefore, a comprehensive analysis is required to understand the distribution patterns and trends in NO<sub>2</sub> concentration to support data-based decision making. The 2019–2021 timeframe was chosen to provide a comprehensive picture of the pattern and trend of NO<sub>2</sub> concentration in East Java. In addition, this period includes the dynamics of human activity before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, which affects emission patterns in various sectors. Analysis in this time range is also important to evaluate the effectiveness of air pollution control policies that have been implemented and provide a view for future mitigation planning.

Against this backdrop, the study aims to analyze the spatial and temporal distribution patterns of NO<sub>2</sub> in East Java during the 2019–2021 period, as well as identify major factors affecting its concentration. This study uses Google Earth Engine, a cloud-based platform that enables high-efficiency analysis of geospatial data. The results of this analysis are expected to contribute to the development of more effective air quality management strategies at regional and national levels.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 2.1 Data

This study used NO<sub>2</sub> concentration data from Sentinel-5P satellite imagery with Tropomi or Tropospheric Monitoring Instrument sensors. The data sets used in this study used versions of Near Real-Time or NRTI. Sentinel-5P features a spectrometer called the Tropospheric Monitoring Instrument (TROPOMI). TROPOMI is useful for measuring UV-visible wavelengths (270–500 nm), near infrared (710–770 nm), and shortwave infrared (2314–2382 nm). TROPOMI has a spatial resolution of 7 x 3.5 km<sup>2</sup> for 2-6 (UVN), 7 x 7 km<sup>2</sup> for 7 and 8 (SWIR) bands, and 21 x 28 km<sup>2</sup> for 1 (deep UV). With this resolution, TROPOMI has advantages over its predecessors such as OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument), SCIAMACHY (Scanning Imaging Absorption Spectrometer for Atmospheric Chartography) and GOME-2 (Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment-2). In addition, this study also used data on population growth in East Java, the distribution of NO<sub>2</sub> in East Java, the distribution of industry in East Java, and the use of transportation in East Java obtained from the BPS-Statistics Indonesia.

### 2.2 Data Processing

The distribution data of NO<sub>2</sub> used in this article is distribution of NO<sub>2</sub> conditions throughout 2019, 2020, and 2021. The condition in the three years is expected to describe the pre-COVID-19 pandemic condition, during the COVID-19 pandemic, and after the COVID-19 pandemic. This study compared three NO<sub>2</sub> distribution conditions using Google Earth Engine in each year to look at the trend of NO<sub>2</sub> distribution. The following command is used to generate NO<sub>2</sub> distribution:

```
var collection = ee.ImageCollection('COPERNICUS/S5P/NRTI/L3_NO2')  
  
  .select('NO2_column_number_density')  
  
  .filterDate('2019-06-01', '2019-06-06');  
  
var band_viz = {  
  min: 0,  
  max: 0.0002,  
  palette: ['black', 'blue', 'purple', 'cyan', 'green', 'yellow', 'red']  
};
```

```
Map.addLayer(collection.mean(), band_viz, 'S5P NO2');
```

```
Map.setCenter(65.27, 24.11, 4);
```

After bringing up the NO<sub>2</sub> distribution, the next step is to bring up the graph parameters and bring up the graph using the following command:

```
// script parameter grafik
```

```
var options = {
```

```
  title: 'Grafik Kadar No2 Tahun 2021',
```

```
  hAxis: {title: 'Bulan ke-'},
```

```
  vAxis: {title: 'Kandungan NO2'},
```

```
  lineWidth: 1,
```

```
  pointSize: 4,
```

```
};
```

```
var waktu = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12];
```

```
// Script memunculkan grafik
```

```
var chart = ui.Chart.image.regions(
```

```
  stacked_composite, geometry, ee.Reducer.mean(), 30, 'label', waktu)
```

```
  .setChartType('ScatterChart')
```

```
  .setOptions(options);
```

```
// Display grafik.
```

```
print(chart);
```

After displaying the NO<sub>2</sub> distribution image, the parameters, and graph data are downloaded and described according to the discussion.

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 Analysis of NO<sub>2</sub> Concentration Changes from 2019-2021**

### Distribution Map NO<sub>2</sub> East Java

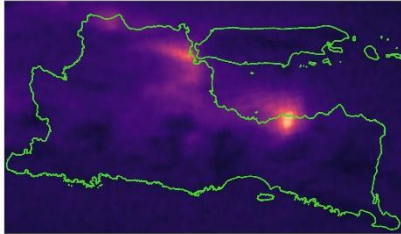


Figure 1 . Distribution NO<sub>2</sub> East Java in 2019

### Distribution Chart NO<sub>2</sub> East Java

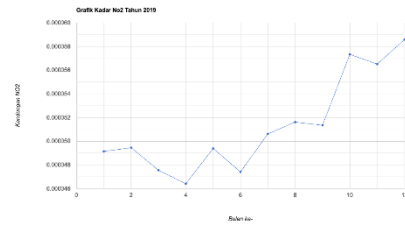


Chart 1. Distribution NO<sub>2</sub> East Java in 2019

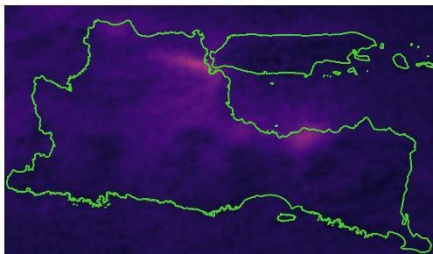


Figure 2. Distribution NO<sub>2</sub> East Java in 2020

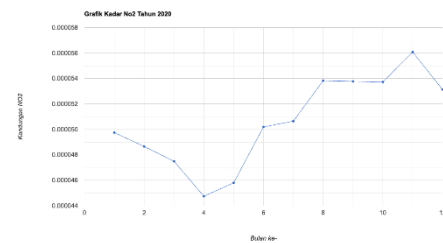


Chart 2. Distribution NO<sub>2</sub> East Java in 2020

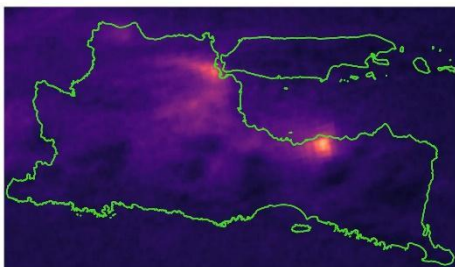


Figure 3. Distribution NO<sub>2</sub> East Java in 2021

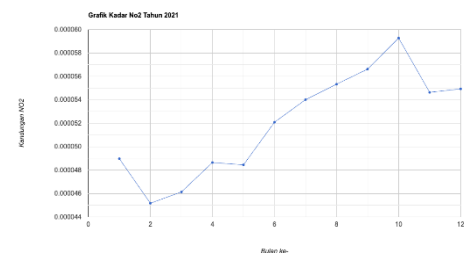


Chart 3. Distribution NO<sub>2</sub> East Java in 2021

The standard value of nitrogen dioxide pollution based on the Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) is 0.08 ppm. Based on the trend chart of the distribution of NO<sub>2</sub> 2019 to 2021 in general, it still has not reached the quality standards set by BMKG. The highest value of distribution for three years is 0.000059 ppm which indicates that the distribution of NO<sub>2</sub> in East Java is still safe for the environment and health. Meanwhile, the lowest value for three years reached 0.000045 ppm in 2020 and 2021. The distribution value of NO<sub>2</sub> 2019-2021 has a quite similar trend, which decreased in the first few months of the year and then in the 6th month, starting to increase quite drastically until the end of the year. This indicates that there are repeated activities in the East Java area, including industry, transportation, and other NO<sub>2</sub> producing activities. During the COVID-19

pandemic, the value of NO<sub>2</sub> distribution is also not too far different from the pre- and post-pandemic periods, indicating that NO<sub>2</sub> generating activities are still running even though they are limited to the pandemic period.

The highest value of NO<sub>2</sub> contamination in East Java is described in bright yellow to red in the Gresik, Surabaya, and Probolinggo regions. The three regions are the regions with the highest NO<sub>2</sub> distribution in East Java. As in the research by Zulkarnain and Ramadani (2020), there are several NO<sub>2</sub> hotspots in Java, namely Jabodetabek, Cilegon City, and East Java, namely Surabaya City, Gresik Regency, and Probolinggo Regency. This is influenced by industrial activities located in all three areas. The study conducted by Putra (2020) said that there is a tendency that gas concentration is relatively high in industrial zones, which shows the contribution of gases from industrial business activities, especially in several seasonal winds.

Paiton area, Probolinggo Regency is an area that has Steam Power Plant, causing NO<sub>2</sub> pollution to the environment. Seen from the image of NO<sub>2</sub> distribution, the Paiton area has bright yellow and red colors indicating the high value of NO<sub>2</sub> even though it is still quite far from the quality standards set by BMKG. Other PLTU activities such as loading and unloading of materials are also a factor in the occurrence of air pollution. A study by Bahri (2018), stated that there is a dominant particulate matter that has an effect on respiratory distress, both from the coal loading and unloading process, so that this coal loading and unloading activity causes respiratory distress.

### **3.2 Factors Affecting Changes in NO<sub>2</sub> Concentration**

Changes in the concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> are influenced by various factors associated with anthropogenic human activity, geographical conditions, and weather patterns. Based on the results of analysis, the change in the concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> in East Java province showed that the Gresik, Surabaya and Probolinggo regions experienced the highest NO<sub>2</sub> contamination. These conditions indicate that anthropogenic factors have a significant influence in contributing NO<sub>2</sub> contamination because the three regions are urban centers, industrial centers and PLTU locations. The following describes how anthropogenic factors affect changes in the concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> in East Java province.

#### **3.2.1 Industrial Activities**

East Java Province BPS said that in 2021 there were 5,782 large medium-sized industrial companies active in the East Java region. The middle industry criterion is if the company has between 20-99 employees and the big industry criterion is if the company has at least 100 workers. Some industries use fossil fuels in their activities but without sufficient emission control, and often produce pollutant gas, one of which is NO<sub>2</sub>. The condition of many industrial areas in East Java causes this concentration of pollutants to increase, especially in areas with dense industrial activity. According to BPS data from East Java Province, the most densely populated areas are Sidoarjo (772-1106 companies), followed by Surabaya, Gresik and Pasuruan (319-771 companies).

The data on the number of industries supports the results of NO<sub>2</sub> distribution map analysis where these areas show high NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations such as Surabaya and Gresik. Industries in Surabaya have been shown to produce the distribution of pollutants in the form of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> which then blow and are influenced by wind direction in the industrial area (Suwanto and Kusuma., 2023). The results of satellite image analysis show that NO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Surabaya City look higher than Sidoarjo Regency, which is the most densely populated industrial area. This condition is possible because in Surabaya, not only the industrial activity factor that plays a role in producing NO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but as the city center, the influence of activities from dense population and transportation is an additional contributing factor. As h Cancer

ed in Tangerang City in the study of Faisal and Sofyan (2019), it was explained that NO<sub>x</sub> emissions were dominated by the industrial sector, with the transportation sector also contributing significantly.

In addition, coal-fired power plants such as PLTU in Paiton, Probolinggo are also one of the main sources of emissions as seen from NO<sub>2</sub> distribution analysis maps. Sarwono et al (2021), explained

that the Steam Power Plant (PLTU) produces emissions such as  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  that are emitted from the PLTU chimney and spread to the atmosphere with the influence of meteorological conditions in the surrounding area. The distribution of  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  emissions in addition to being influenced by wind direction also shows higher concentrations of pollutants in the dry season than in the rainy season (Sasmita et al, 2021). Gresik itself is one of the regions that has power generation units whose activities have proven to produce a distribution of  $\text{NO}_2$  with exposures close to emission sources have higher concentrations than those that avoid pollutant sources (Widyasari, et al., 2018).

Maula (2024), said that air pollution control policies have been formulated well, but many implementations face obstacles such as lack of coordination between institutions, less effective law enforcement and resource constraints. Many companies still use old technologies that are not environmentally friendly due to the high cost of upgrading to cleaner technologies. The lack of environmentally friendly technology and strict supervision of industrial emissions also made the situation worse.

### **3.2.2 Population Growth**

According to the BPS-Statistics Indonesia (2024), East Java is the second-largest province in Indonesia, with 41,814,500 inhabitants. Increasing population means increasing energy requirements, transportation and other domestic activities that produce emissions. These conditions are directly correlated with the increase in  $\text{NO}_2$  emissions. This condition is worsened by the weak public awareness of the environmental impact of daily activities such as excessive use of private vehicles or burning garbage.

In addition, the need for housing and other supporting facilities often leads to the conversion of green land into urban areas. According to Kristi and Boedisantoso (2015), vegetation in the form of trees, shrubs, grasses and rice fields which are usually called green open spaces (RTH) has ecological functions as urban lungs, microclimate regulators, oxygen generators, rainwater absorbers and pollutants absorbers. Thus the loss of vegetation reduces the ability of the environment to absorb and process hazardous gases such as  $\text{NO}_2$ .

Based on the results of analysis of changes in the concentration of  $\text{NO}_2$  in East Java, it showed a decrease in  $\text{NO}_2$  concentration in 2020 and 2021 although the decrease was not large. This condition can be possible due to the Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) during the Covid-19 pandemic. The results of  $\text{NO}_2$  concentration satellite data in 2019 tend to be higher than 2020. A decrease in  $\text{NO}_2$  concentration was seen early in the pandemic, the lowest in May ( $0.00012\mu\text{g}/\text{Nm}^3$ ). However, the following month tended to increase, the highest in September ( $0.00014\mu\text{g}/\text{Nm}^3$ ). The satellite imagery of  $\text{NO}_2$  distribution is concentrated in East Java Province, namely Surabaya and Probolinggo (Wicaksono et al, 2021).

### **3.2.3 Transportation**

Transportation is one of the main sources of nitrogen dioxide ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) emissions. Based on data from the BPS-Statistics Indonesia (2021), it is recorded that the number of vehicles in East Java province is the highest in Indonesia reaching 22,774,562 vehicles consisting of minibuses, buses, trucks and motorcycles. Major cities in East Java often experience traffic jams that cause vehicles to spend more time on the road, resulting in higher emissions of  $\text{NO}_2$ . Fauzan et al (2024), mentioned that traffic congestion has a negative impact, namely air pollution due to smoke of motor vehicles, cars and other public transportations producing dust (particulate), sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ), nitrogen dioxide ( $\text{NO}_2$ ), carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrocarbons (HC).

Research results at the Purabaya Terminal, Sidoarjo Regency, showed that dust and  $\text{NO}_2$  exceeded the quality standards of East Java Governor Regulation Number 10 of 2009 with an average concentration of  $2.946\text{ mg}/\text{m}^3$  and  $165.93\text{ }\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (Hikmiyah, 2018). Meanwhile, the  $\text{NO}_2$  measurement results at the Dupak 1 toll gate in Surabaya showed that when the number of vehicles was 480 units the  $\text{NO}_2$  value was 0.0084 ppm, when the number of vehicles 420 units the  $\text{NO}_2$  value was 0.0080 ppm and when the number of vehicles was 1230 units the  $\text{NO}_2$  value was 0.1183 ppm. This condition shows that the increasing number of vehicles at a point in location is proportional to the increase in  $\text{NO}_2$

(Darmawan, 2018). In addition, Masito (2018) in his research concluded that NO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> in the Kaliak Surabaya area still meet quality standards but show that NO<sub>2</sub> risk levels are not safe, thus suggesting that there is an effort to control air pollution caused by motor vehicle activities by planting plants that can reduce ambient air pollutants.

Based on the results of monitoring satellite imagery, the distribution of NO<sub>2</sub> from the transportation sector is not very clear. This is because NO<sub>2</sub> emissions are generated at certain points or locations such as terminals, toll gate queues and roads with high congestion where there are many vehicles gathered. In general, it can only be concluded that most of these locations are in downtown areas such as Surabaya. In contrast to the industrial sector and the location of the power plant which clearly marks the NO<sub>2</sub> distribution area because the emission location covers a large enough area and the resulting emissions are larger, for example the industrial sector, which is mostly in the form of areas. Hendriyono and Kusuma (2017), concluded that the total NO<sub>x</sub> emission burden from industrial activities in the SIER Industrial Area of Surabaya is 155.32 tons/year. In addition, in another study by Hendriyono and Kusuma (2017), it was stated that the NO<sub>x</sub> burden generated from the industry in Karang Pilang Surabaya was 99.56 tons/year.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This study identified the spatial and temporal distribution patterns of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations in the East Java region during the 2019–2021 period. Areas with dense industrial and transportation activities, such as Gresik, Surabaya, and Probolinggo, show a higher concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> than other areas. Although the overall NO<sub>2</sub> concentration is still below the threshold set by the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG), urban areas remain a priority area for air quality control.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on NO<sub>2</sub> concentration, especially during the Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB). Restrictions on human activity, such as transport mobility and industrial operations, contribute to a decrease in concentration of NO<sub>2</sub>. However, after the restriction ended, the concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> increased again, reflecting the dependence of air quality on human activity. This highlights the need for strategic measures to reduce emissions, especially in the transport and industrial sectors.

The research findings show the importance of utilizing satellite-based monitoring technologies, such as Sentinel-5P and Google Earth Engine platforms, for accurate and efficient air quality analysis. In addition, these results provide important insight for policy makers to develop more effective air management strategies. Implementation of environmentally friendly technologies, continuous transportation development, and improvement of green open space are recommended measures to reduce NO<sub>2</sub> emissions and improve air quality in the future.

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