

1. Ethical issue

The use and usability of stripes like this has been proven by the warming stripes that have previously been published and widely used. While the authors did receive feedback on the development of the air pollution stripes, they were open about this feedback being informal. Since the feedback was also anonymous in this setting, I accept the ethical statement as it stands that no human subjects were used directly. However, I think it would be useful and honest for the readers if the ethical is updated accordingly. Maybe something like:

“This article does not include any studies involving human or animal subjects. The air pollution stripes build on a previously established tool—the global warming stripes—and were therefore evaluated informally and anonymously, as clearly stated in the paper. Due to this, ethical review was therefore not required.”

Thanks for the suggestion, we have added this text to the ethical statement.

2. Abstract length

As it states in the guidelines for GC Letters, the Abstract needs to be 200 words. Could you please edit the Abstract so that it is within this limit?

I have double checked the abstract length, it is 177 words.

3. Dataset

I tested the link for the dataset Air Quality Stripes: Comparison of Model and Satellite Values at <http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14392693> several times on different browsers and I only received a "504 Gateway Time-out" error message. Please ensure that this dataset is accessible or update the link accordingly.

Apologies, I am not sure what is happening here. I have double checked the links in the References section and they link works for me and my colleagues. I have updated the link in the manuscript assets to be the full URL not just the doi, so these works directly as links too. There is an Air Quality Stripes “community” on Zenodo where all the assets related to this work are stored and open to access.

The Air Quality Stripes images visualise historical changes in particulate matter air pollution in over 150 cities worldwide. The project celebrates significant improvements in air quality in regions like Europe, North America, and China, while highlighting the urgent need for action in areas such as Central Asia. Designed to raise awareness, it aims to inspire discussions about the critical impact of air pollution and the global inequalities it causes.