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Supplementary Information for

**Toxic Dust Emission from Drought-Exposed Lakebeds – A New Air
Pollution Threat from Dried Lakes**

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4 Texts

9 Tables

15 Figures

23 **Texture S1. PAH Standards**

24 A PAH standard mixture, referred to as PAH-Mix 16, encompasses 16 target analytes: phenanthrene
25 (PHE), anthracene (ANA), fluoranthene (FLA), pyrene (PYR), benzo[a]anthracene (BaA), chrysene
26 (CHR), benzo[b]fluoranthene (BbF), benzo[k]fluoranthene (BkF), benzo[a]pyrene (BaP),
27 dibenzo[a,h]anthracene (DBA), indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene (IDP), and benzo[g,h,i]perylene (BPE)
28 dissolved in dichloromethane (1000 µg/mL). Additionally, five internal standards including D8-
29 naphthalene, D10-acenaphthene, D10-phenanthrene, D12-chrysene, and D12-perylene in
30 dichloromethane (1000 µg/mL) were provided by TanMo Quality Testing Technology Co., Ltd. All
31 standards were verified with a purity of over 98%. Working solutions were prepared at
32 concentrations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 500 ng/mL in isooctane and stored at
33 -10°C in a refrigerator. Each calibration level contained relevant internal standards at 100 ng/mL.

34

35 **Texture S2. Temperature programmed method of PAHs**

36 The GC-MS oven temperature was programmed as follows: starting at an initial temperature of
37 40 °C, held for 4 min, then increased to 160 °C at a rate of 10 °C/min and held for 1 min, followed
38 by a ramp to 280 °C at 10 °C/min, where it was held for 4 min. Finally, the temperature was raised
39 to 300 °C at 10 °C /min and maintained for 10 min. The total analysis duration was 45 min. Sample
40 injections were carried out in splitless mode, using helium as the carrier gas at a constant flow rate
41 of 1 mL/min. Five internal standards were spiked into each sample before analysis. The retention
42 times for the PAHs were established after identifying each compound in scan mode.

43 **Text S3.** All statistics equations related to the model validation are shown below:

44
$$\mathbf{MB} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{C}_m - \mathbf{C}_o)$$

45
$$\mathbf{GE} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\mathbf{C}_m - \mathbf{C}_o|$$

46
$$\mathbf{RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{C}_m - \mathbf{C}_o)^2}{N}}$$

47
$$\mathbf{MFB} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(\mathbf{C}_m - \mathbf{C}_o)}{\left(\frac{\mathbf{C}_o + \mathbf{C}_m}{2}\right)}$$

48
$$\mathbf{MFE} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{|\mathbf{C}_m - \mathbf{C}_o|}{\left(\frac{\mathbf{C}_o + \mathbf{C}_m}{2}\right)}$$

49
$$\mathbf{MNB} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(\frac{\mathbf{C}_m - \mathbf{C}_o}{\mathbf{C}_o}\right)$$

50
$$\mathbf{MNE} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left|\frac{\mathbf{C}_m - \mathbf{C}_o}{\mathbf{C}_o}\right|$$

51 In these equations \mathbf{C}_m represents the model results, \mathbf{C}_o represents the observations, and N
52 is the number of data points, i represents a data point.

53

54 **Text S4. Determination of exposure frequency in health risk assessment of Poyang Lake and**
55 **Dongting Lake**

56 To establish the parameter settings for health risk assessment formulas, this study referenced EPA
57 reports and pertinent literature on Poyang Lake and Dongting Lake. For residents, the outdoor
58 exposure time was defined as 8 hours per day (Ren et al., 2021; Agency, 2009). Fig. S3, Fig. S4,
59 and Table S6 illustrate that during drought periods, the water level at Xingzi Station in Poyang Lake
60 was defined at 7 m below, corresponding to a lake area of 600 km² (~4 % of the lake's area) (Fig.
61 S3a). Based on the 15-year average from 2000 to 2014, the exposure frequency for Poyang Lake
62 was calculated as 80 days per year. For Dongting Lake, drought conditions were defined when the
63 lake area dropped below 700 km² (Fig. S3b), and timing data (Fig. S4) established an exposure
64 frequency of 140 days per year. Additionally, the exposure duration for residents was set at 30 years,
65 consistent with government environmental assessment guidelines (Bureau, 2009). All parameters
66 are systematically presented in Table S7.

67 **Table S1.** The properties of different soils.

68

ID	Type	Color	Density (g/cm ³)	Location	Longitude	Latitude
A1	Sandy Loam	Brown	1.18826	Duchang County, Poyang Lake	116.157996 E	29.243726 N
B1	Sandy Loam	Brown	1.007	Duchang County, Poyang Lake	116.157990 E	29.243528 N
C1	Loamy Sand	Brown	1.08158	Duchang County, Poyang Lake	116.157810 E	29.242878 N
A2	Sandy Clay Loam	Yellow	0.9787	Yugan County, Poyang Lake	116.396692 E	29.053927 N
B2	Silt Clay	Black	0.92936	Yugan County, Poyang Lake	116.396182 E	29.053813 N
C2	Silt Clay Loam	Brownish Yellow	1.17544	Yugan County, Poyang Lake	116.395759 E	29.053549 N
A3	Silt Clay Loam	Brownish Yellow	1.30354	Yueyang County, Yueyang City	113.069367 E	29.338117 N
B3	Sandy Clay Loam	Brown	1.08312	Yueyang County, Yueyang City	113.064997 E	29.336263 N
C3	Silt Clay	Black	1.01874	Yueyang County, Yueyang City	113.063560 E	29.336425 N

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Table S2. Mass collected in dust aerosols of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀. The unit is g.

EXP	A1	B1	C1	A2	B2	C2	A3	B3	C3
PM _{2.5} -1	0.0131	0.011	0.0134	0.0143	0.0118	0.0111	0.0137	0.0112	0.0123
PM _{2.5} -2	0.0155	0.0129	0.0151	0.0127	0.0118	0.0139	0.0131	0.0112	0.0149
PM _{2.5} -3	0.0163	0.0124	0.0134	0.0164	0.0145	0.0161	0.0137	0.0123	0.0129
PM ₁₀ -1	0.0226	0.0222	0.0214	0.0213	0.0246	0.0253	0.0229	0.0223	0.0226
PM ₁₀ -2	0.0288	0.0212	0.023	0.0223	0.0241	0.022	0.0225	0.0298	0.0215
PM ₁₀ -3	0.0227	0.0217	0.0223	0.022	0.0232	0.0276	0.0236	0.0232	0.0243

71

72

73 **Table S3.** Scenarios setting.

	description
CASE_unexposed	2022 Meteorology with ordinary lake
CASE_exposed	2022 Meteorology with the exposed lakebed

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75

76 **Table S4.** The sixteen priority PAHs identified by the U.S. EPA, along with their abbreviations and
 77 toxic equivalency factors (TEFs) as derived from previous studies (Delistraty, 1997; Nisbet and
 78 Lagoy, 1992).

PAHs name	abbreviation	TEF	Quantitative ion
Naphthalene	NAP	0.001	128
Acenaphthylene	ANY	0.001	152
Acenaphthene	ANA	0.001	154
Fluorene	FLU	0.001	166
Phenanthrene	PHE	0.001	178
Anthracene	ANT	0.01	178
Fluoranthene	FLT	0.001	202
Pyrene	PYR	0.001	202
Benz[a]anthracene	BaA	0.1	228
Chrysene	CHR	0.01	228
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	BbF	0.1	252
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	BkF	0.1	252
Benzo(a)pyrene	BaP	1	252
Indeno[1,2,3-cd] pyrene	IPY	0.1	278
Dibenz[a,h]anthracene	DBA	1	276
Benzo[ghi]perylene	BPE	0.01	276

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80

81 **Table S5.** Twelve selected toxic metals, along with TEFs, were estimated obtained from the U.S.
82 EPA website (EPA).

Heavy metals	TEF
Fe	
Mg	
Mn	
Ba	
Ti	
V	
Cu	
Zn	
Cr	1
Ni	3.1×10^{-3}
As	5.12×10^{-2}
Pb	1.43×10^{-4}

83

84

85 **Table S6.** The drought duration in recent years according to water level records from Xingzi
 86 station of Poyang Lake (Qi et al., 2019).

Year	Drought duration/d					
	<5.5 m	5.5~6 m	6~7 m	7~8 m	8~9 m	9~10 m
2003	0	1	31	54	83	118
2004	31	61	83	118	175	190
2005	0	0	34	71	95	152
2006	0	6	83	139	184	229
2007	20	61	100	145	195	222
2008	9	42	86	109	127	159
2009	0	55	123	141	167	188
2010	0	13	57	88	122	142
2011	0	0	70	181	239	264
2012	0	9	19	59	104	134
2013	3	16	69	122	148	188
2014	4	52	69	90	144	169
1951-1999 average	3.4	12.7	42.7	73.5	100	126.4
2000-2014 average	4.5	18.9	56.6	97.8	136	169.5

87

88

89 **Table S7.** Summary of key parameter values used in assessing health risks from inhalation
 90 exposure to heavy metals in PM₁₀.

Parameter	Definition	Unit	Value	Reference
ET	Exposure time	hours×day ⁻¹		USEPA, 8 2009(Agency), 2009)
EF	Exposure frequency	days×year ⁻¹	140 for Dongting Lake; 80 for Poyang Lake	These studies(Qi et al., 2019; Huang et al., 2012)
ED	Exposure duration	year		USEPA, 30 2009(Agency), 2009)
AT	Averaging time	hour	ED×365×24 (for non-carcinogenic risk) 70×365×24 (for carcinogenic risk)	USEPA, 2009(Agency), 2009)
RfC	Reference concentration	μg×m ⁻³	Cr (VI)*: 1.0×10 ⁻⁷ Mn: 5.0×10 ⁻⁸ Co: 6.0×10 ⁻⁹ Ni: 1.4×10 ⁻⁸ As: 1.5×10 ⁻⁸ Cd: 1.0×10 ⁻⁸ Ba: 5.0×10 ⁻⁷ V: 1.0×10 ⁻⁷ BaP _{eq} : 2.0×10 ⁻³	USEPA, 2020(Agency), 2020)
IUR	Inhalation unit risk	(μg×m ⁻³) ⁻¹	Cr (VI)*: 8.4×10 ⁻² Co: 9.0×10 ⁻³ Mn: 0 Ba: 0 V: 0 Ni: 2.4×10 ⁻⁴ As: 4.3×10 ⁻³ Cd: 1.8×10 ⁻³ Pb: 8.0×10 ⁻⁵ BaP _{eq} : 8.0×10 ⁻²	USEPA, 2020(Agency), 2020)
AV	Acute dose-response Value	μg×m ⁻³	Cr (III)**: 0.48 Mn: 0.17	WHO(Organization, 2000) OEHHA(Monserrat, 2016)

Ni: 0.2
As: 0.2
V: 30
Cu: 100

91 Note:

92 — Only the total Cr content was determined in this study. Given that the ratio of Cr (VI) to Cr
93 (III) in the atmosphere has been reported as approximately 1:6 (Wu et al., 2020; Ramírez et al.,
94 2020; Liu et al., 2018; Huang et al., 2018), the Cr (VI) content was estimated to be one-seventh
95 of the total Cr content for the purpose of assessing chronic non-carcinogenic and carcinogenic
96 risks. And Cr (III) content was estimated to be six-seventh of the total Cr content for assessing
97 short-term non-carcinogenic risks.

98

99

100 **Table S8.** Meteorology performance in 2022 October (OBS is mean observation; PRE is mean
 101 prediction; MB is mean bias; GE is gross error; RMSE is root mean square error). The
 102 benchmarks are suggested by Emery et al. (2001)). The values that do not meet the criteria are
 103 denoted in bold. The related equations are shown in Text S3.

		CASE_unexposed (12km)	CASE-exposed (12km)	Criteria
T2 (K)	OBS	290.2	290.2	
	PRE	290.3	290.3	
	MB	0.05	0.04	$\leq \pm 0.5$
	GE	2.11	2.11	≤ 2.0
	RMSE	2.82	2.82	
WS (m s⁻¹)	OBS	3.21	3.21	
	PRE	4.22	4.23	
	MB	1.01	1.02	$\leq \pm 0.5$
	GE	1.60	1.61	≤ 2.0
	RMSE	2.09	2.10	≤ 2.0
WD (°)	OBS	134.3	134.3	
	PRE	113.6	113.7	
	MB	-7.39	-7.34	$\leq \pm 10$
	GE	37.49	37.42	≤ 30
	RMSE	53.78	53.64	
RH (%)	OBS	66.7	66.7	
	PRE	57.9	57.8	
	MB	-8.83	-8.92	
	GE	13.82	13.85	
	RMSE	18.37	18.40	

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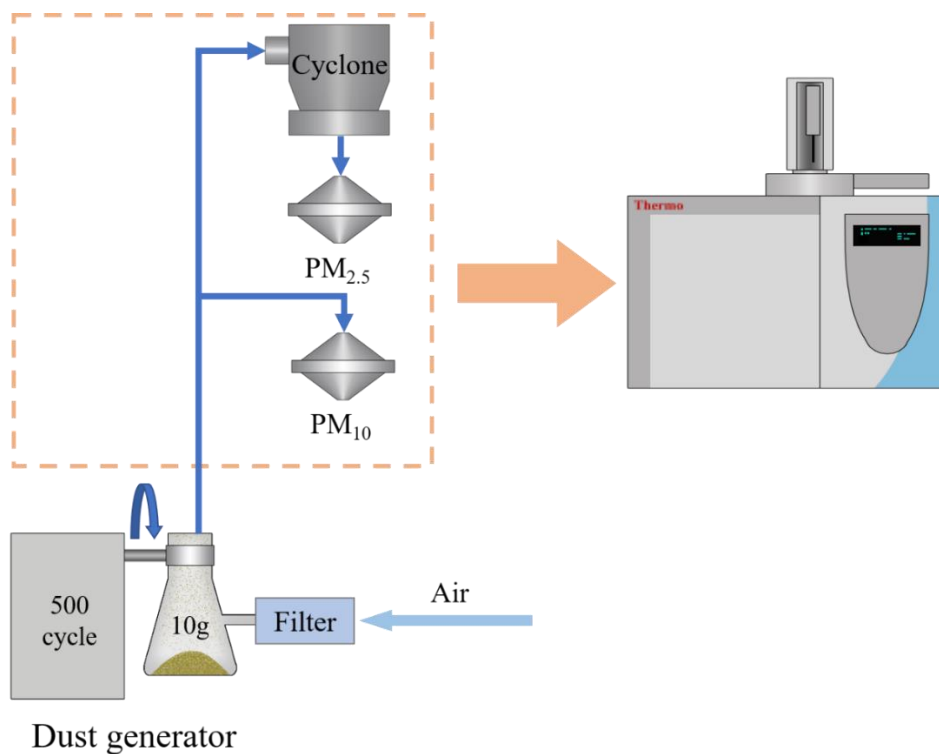
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106 **Table S9.** Model performance on PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ in 2022 October. (MNB is mean normalized
 107 bias; MNE is mean normalized error; MFB is mean fractional bias; MFE is mean fractional
 108 error). The performance criteria for PM are suggested by this study (Boylan and Russell, 2006).

		CASE_unexposed (12 km)	CASE_exposed (12 km)	Criteria
PM_{2.5} (μg m⁻³)	OBS	32.33	32.33	
	PRE	42.35	42.08	
	MNB	0.60	0.60	
	MNE	1.00	1.00	
	MFB	8%	8%	≤ ±60%
	MFE	65%	65%	≤ 75%
	RMSE	38.22	37.96	
PM₁₀ (μg m⁻³)	OBS	55.28	55.28	
	PRE	46.82	48.07	
	MNB	0.03	0.06	
	MNE	0.65	0.65	
	MFB	-27%	-24%	≤ ±60%
	MFE	64%	62%	≤ 75%
	RMSE	43.65	42.94	

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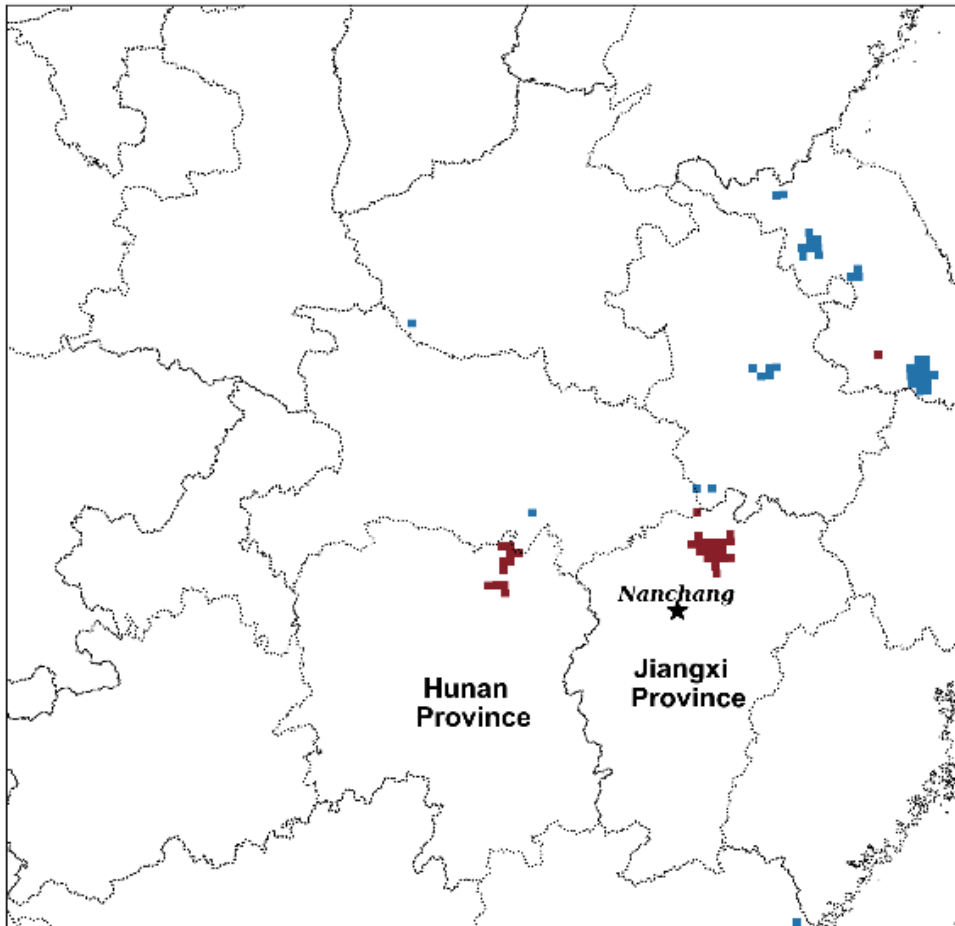
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112 **Supplementary Figure S1.** Experimental setup. The setup consists of four parts: a dust generation

113 system (Shaker), a dust particle size separation system (PM_{2.5} Cyclone), a dust collection system

114 (Filter holder), and a chemical analysis instrument (GC-MS).

115

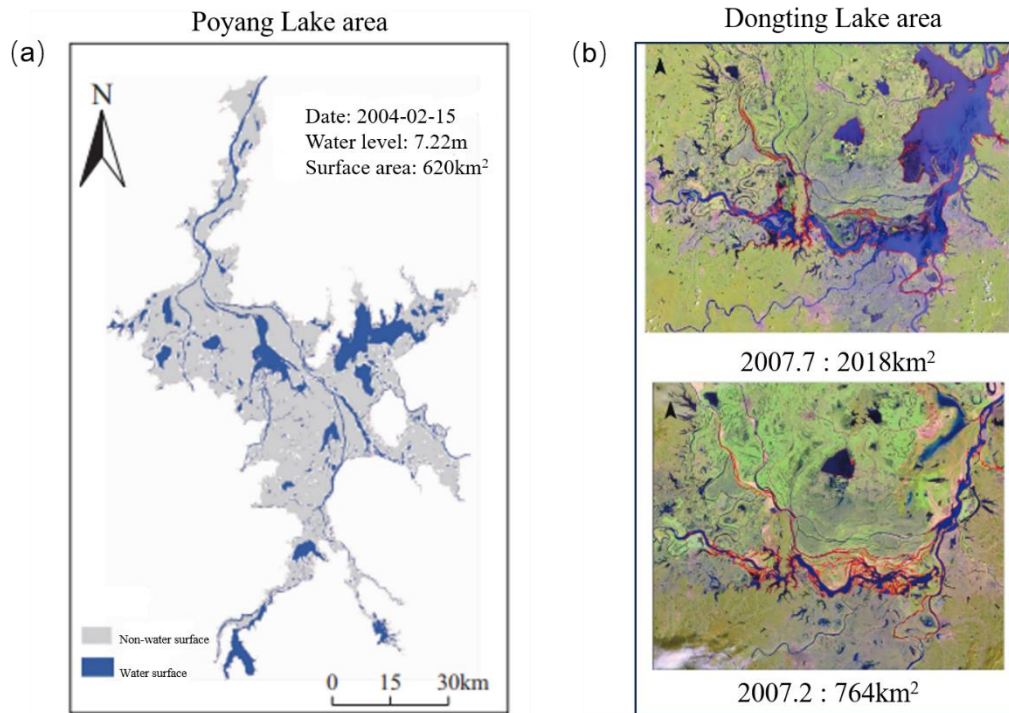


117

118 **Supplementary Figure S2.** Study area setting. Grid cells of blue are ordinary lakes, and those in

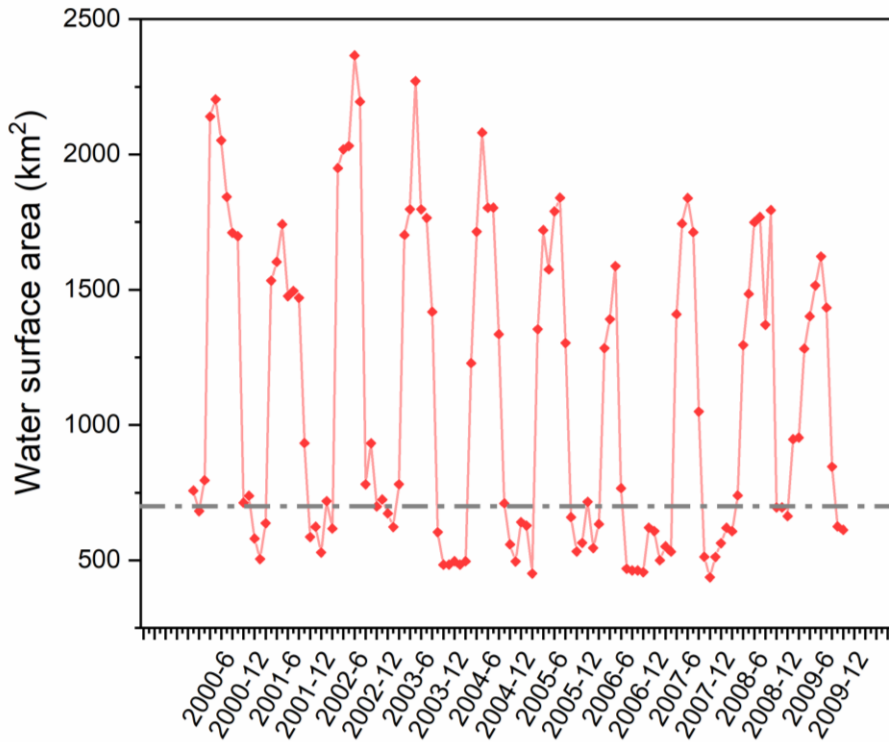
119 red are the exposed lakebeds detected by sentinel-2. Nanchang near Poyang Lake is marked.

120



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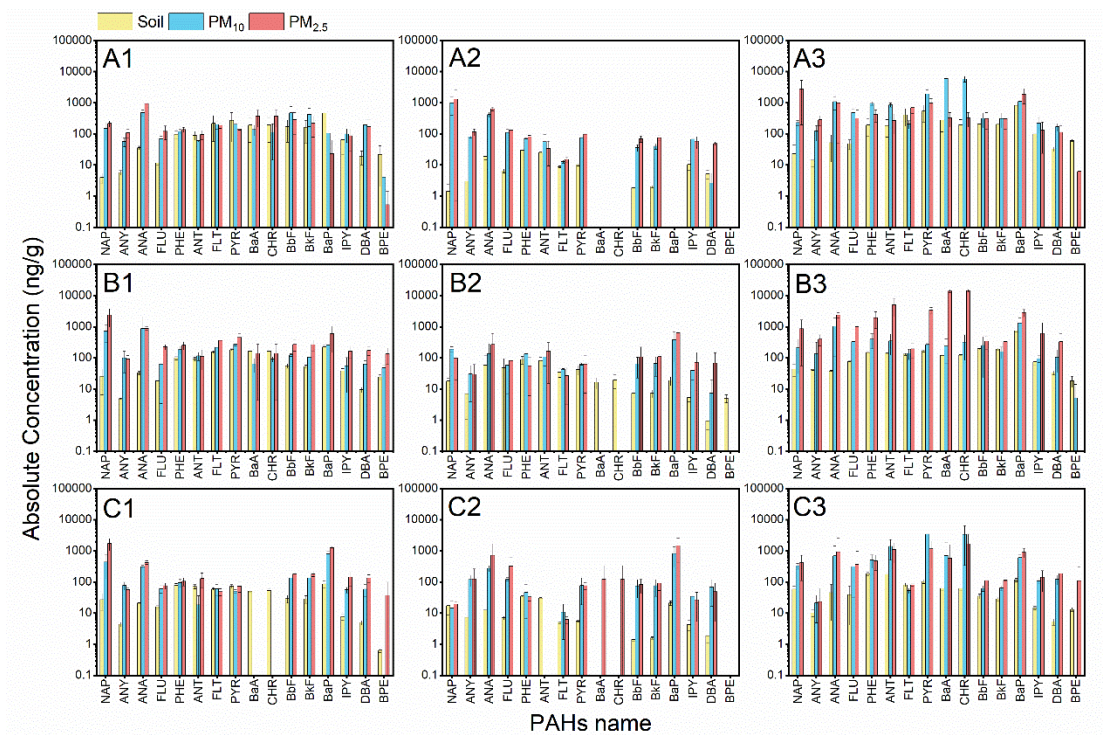
123 **Supplementary Figure S3.** Lake area of Poyang and Dongting lakes. Water surface area of
 124 Poyang Lake (a) and Dongting Lake (b) during drought periods. Date were obtained from these
 125 studies (Liu et al., 2022; Li et al., 2013).



126

127 **Supplementary Figure S4.** Variations of water area in the Dongting Lake. Data observed by
 128 Terra/MODIS between March 2000 and December 2009. The gray dotted line at 700 km² indicates
 129 the drought conditions in Dongting Lake. Between 2000 and 2009, the average duration of drought
 130 conditions was 140 days per year (Huang et al., 2012).

131



132

133 **Supplementary Figure S5.** Comparison of the absolute concentrations of heavy metals between

134 natural soil samples and dust aerosols. A1, B1, C1, A2, B2 and C2 were obtained in Poyang Lake,

135 and A3, B3 and C3 were obtained in Dong ting Lake. A1, A2, and A3 are regions typically dry and

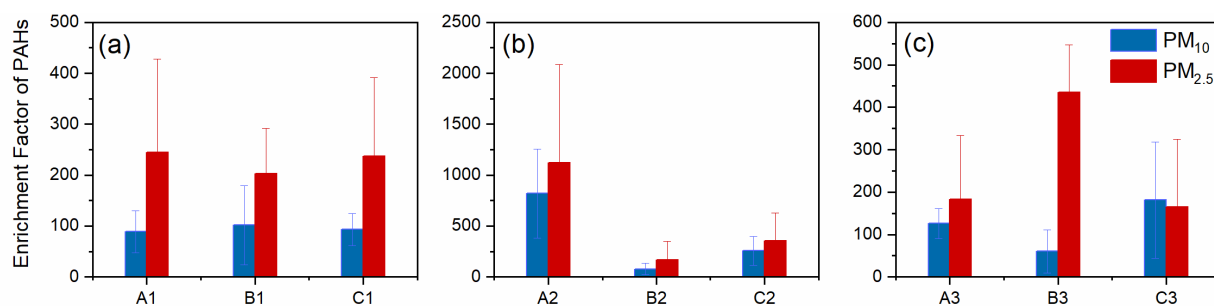
136 exposed year-round. B1, B2, and B3 are transitional zones that fluctuate between submerged and

137 dry states. C1, C2, and C3 are areas usually underwater but sometimes exposed due to extreme

138 drought. The whiskers on the bars represent the standard deviations of triplicates.

139

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149

150 **Supplementary Figure S7.** Total enrichment factors of PAHs in dust aerosols from soils. A-B were

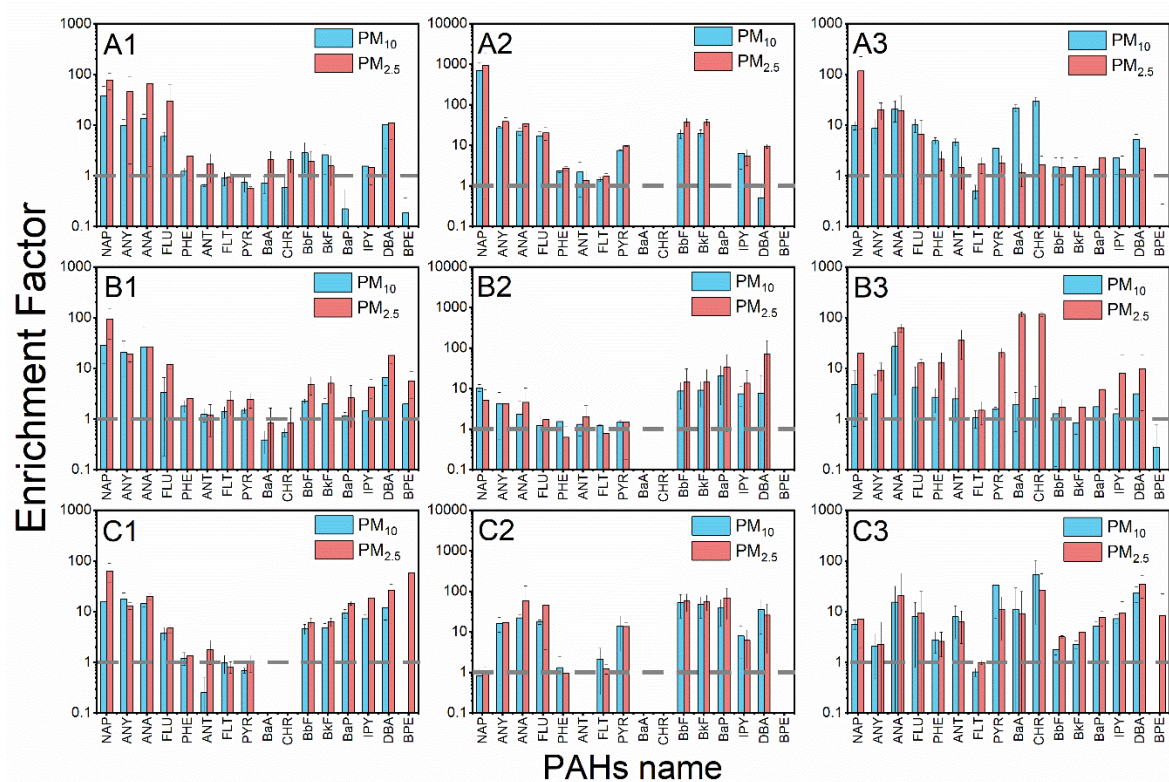
151 sampled in Poyang Lake and C was sampled in Dongting Lake. A1, A2, and A3 are regions typically

152 dry and exposed year-round. B1, B2, and B3 are transitional zones that fluctuate between submerged

153 and dry states. C1, C2, and C3 are areas usually underwater but sometimes exposed due to extreme

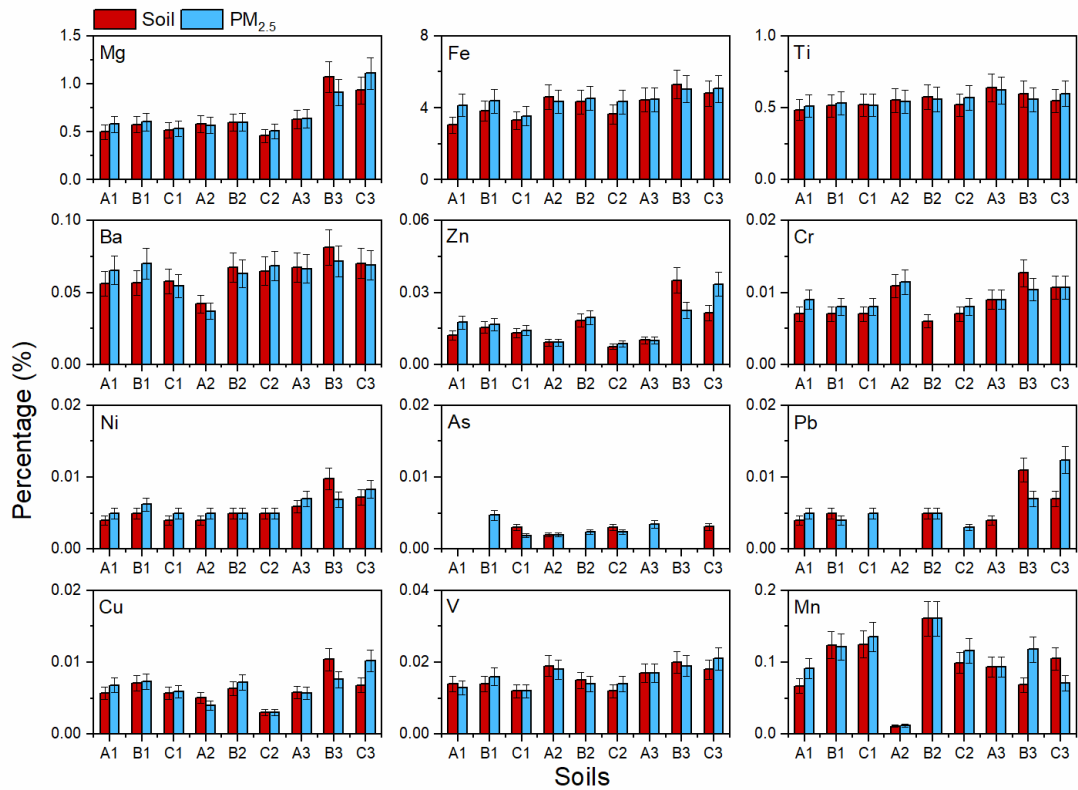
154 drought.

155



157

158 **Supplementary Figure S8.** Enrichment factors of individual PAH in dust aerosols from soils. Red
 159 represents PM_{2.5} and blue represents PM₁₀. The grey dotted line represents the EF as 1. A1, B1, C1,
 160 A2, B2 and C2 were obtained in Poyang Lake, and A3, B3 and C3 were obtained in Dong ting Lake.
 161 A1, A2, and A3 are regions typically dry and exposed year-round. B1, B2, and B3 are transitional
 162 zones that fluctuate between submerged and dry states. C1, C2, and C3 are areas usually underwater
 163 but sometimes exposed due to extreme drought. The whiskers on the bars represent the standard
 164 deviations of triplicates.



165

166 **Supplementary Figure S9.** Heavy metal composition of soil and PM_{2.5} determined by XRF

167 Spectroscopy. A1, B1, C1, A2, B2 and C2 were obtained in Poyang Lake, and A3, B3 and C3 were

168 obtained in Dong ting Lake. A1, A2, and A3 are regions typically dry and exposed year-round. B1,

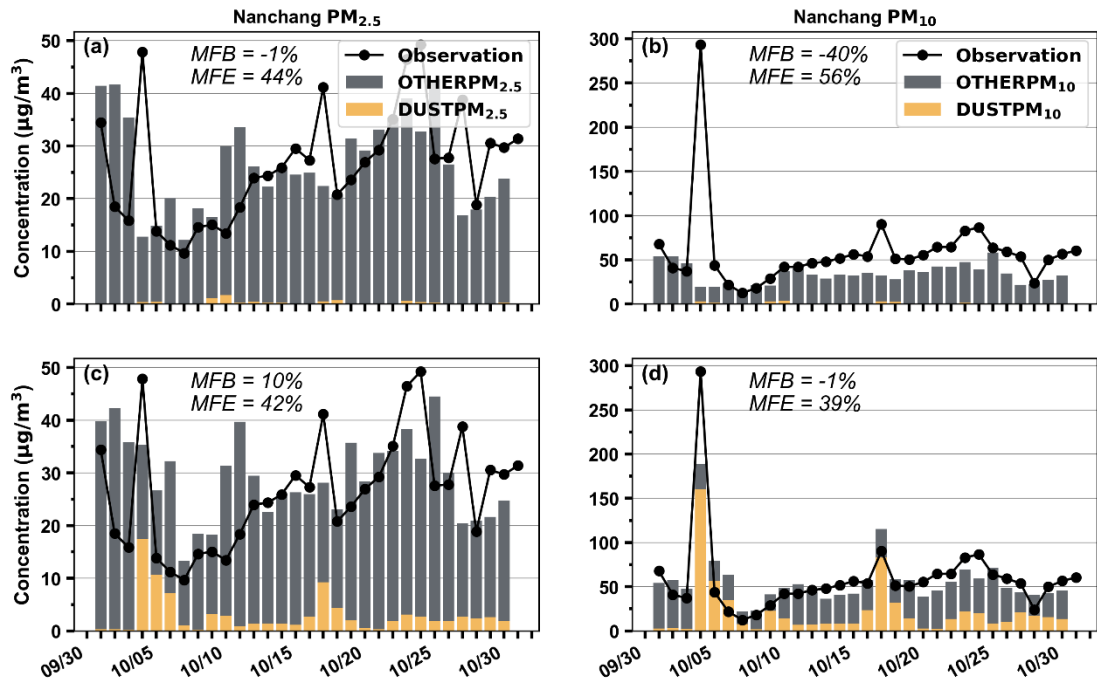
169 B2, and B3 are transitional zones that fluctuate between submerged and dry states. C1, C2, and C3

170 are areas usually underwater but sometimes exposed due to extreme drought. The whiskers on the

171 bars represent the standard deviations of triplicates. The whiskers on the bars represent the standard

172 deviations of triplicates.

173

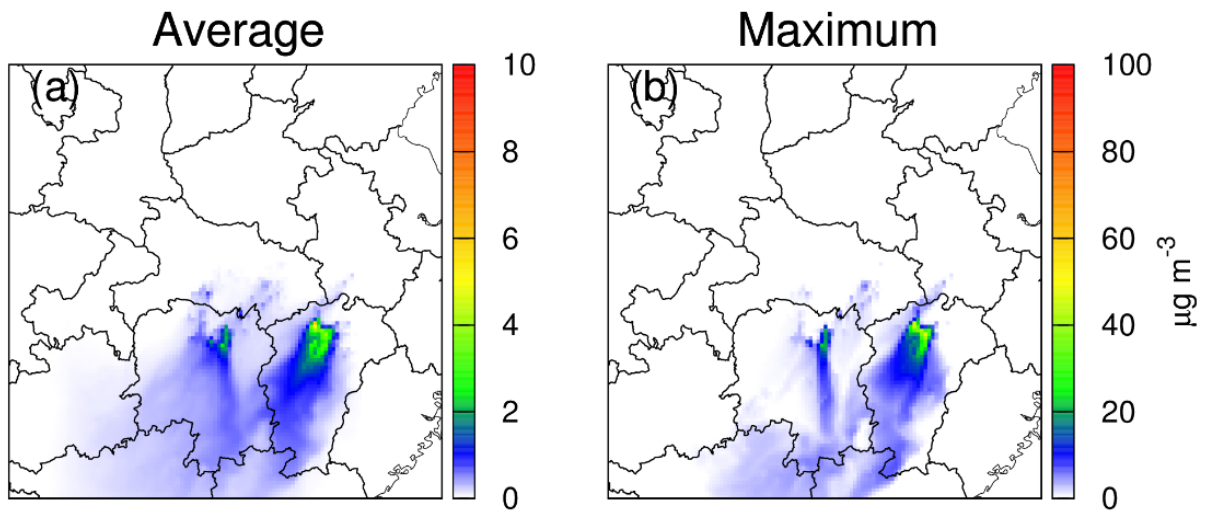


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175 **Supplementary Figure S10.** Time series of PM concentrations in Nanchang. Upper panels display
 176 the CASE_unexposed (a) PM_{2.5} and (b) PM₁₀ concentration in Nanchang from October 1 to 30 2022.
 177 Bottom panels display the CASE_exposed (c) PM_{2.5} and (d) PM₁₀ concentration in Nanchang from
 178 October 1 to 30 2022. (MFB: mean fractional bias; MFE: mean fractional error).

179

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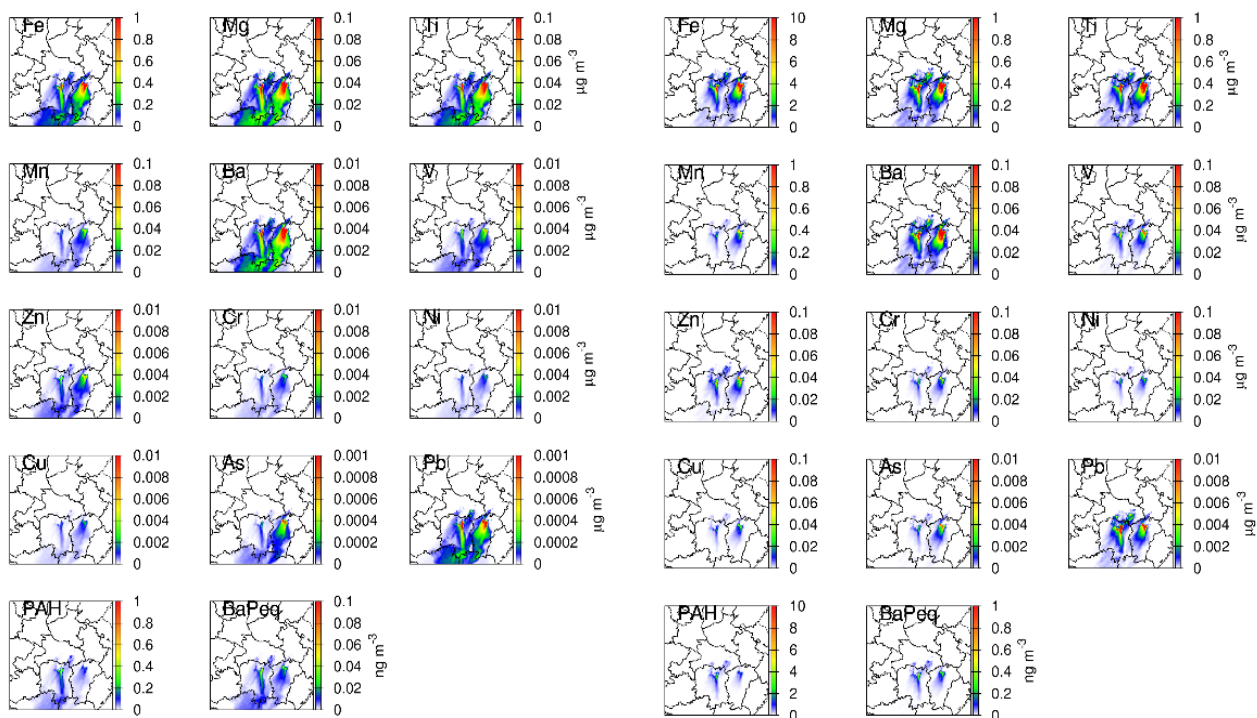


181

182 **Supplementary Figure S11.** Spatial distribution of predicted monthly average and maximum daily
183 concentrations of lakebed dust PM_{2.5}. Lakebed dust PM_{2.5} for (a) monthly average and (b) maximum
184 daily concentrations.

185

186

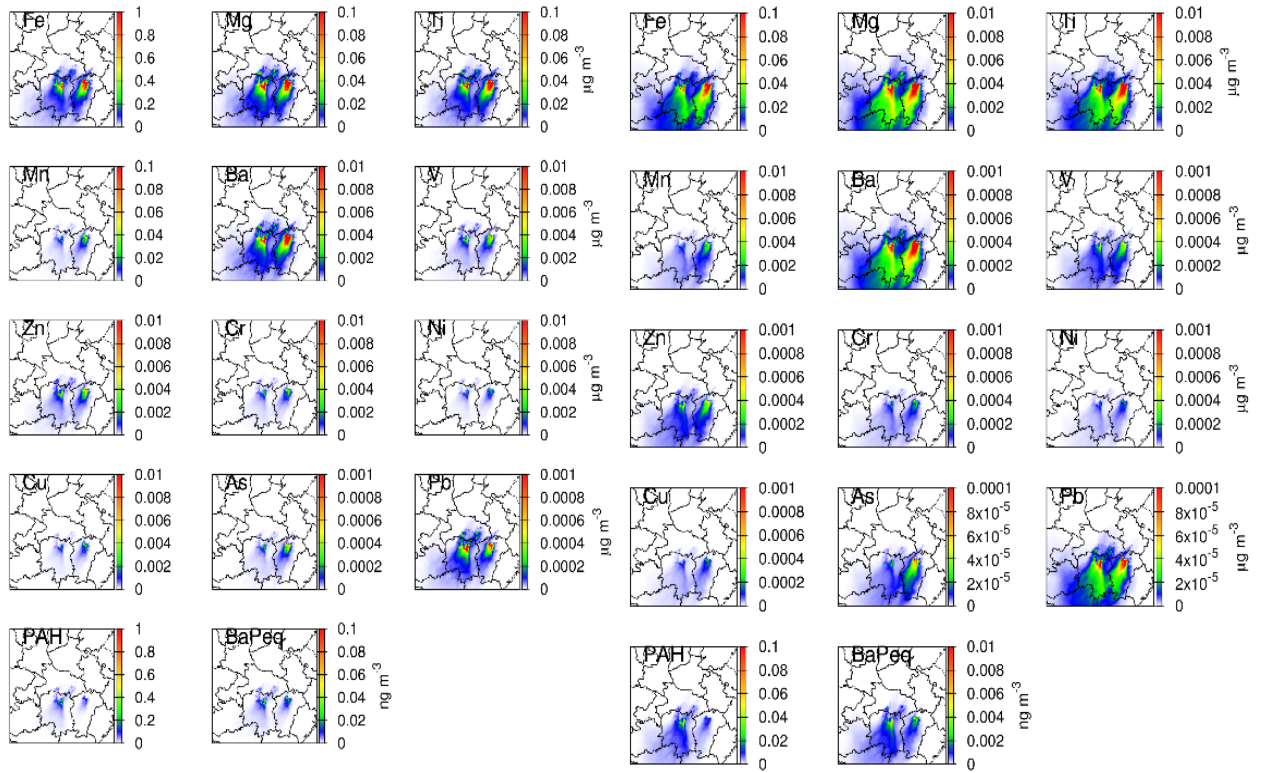


187

188 **Supplementary Figure S12.** Maximum daily HM and PAH concentration of lakebed dust PM.

189 Concentrations for (left) PM_{2.5} and (right) PM₁₀.

190

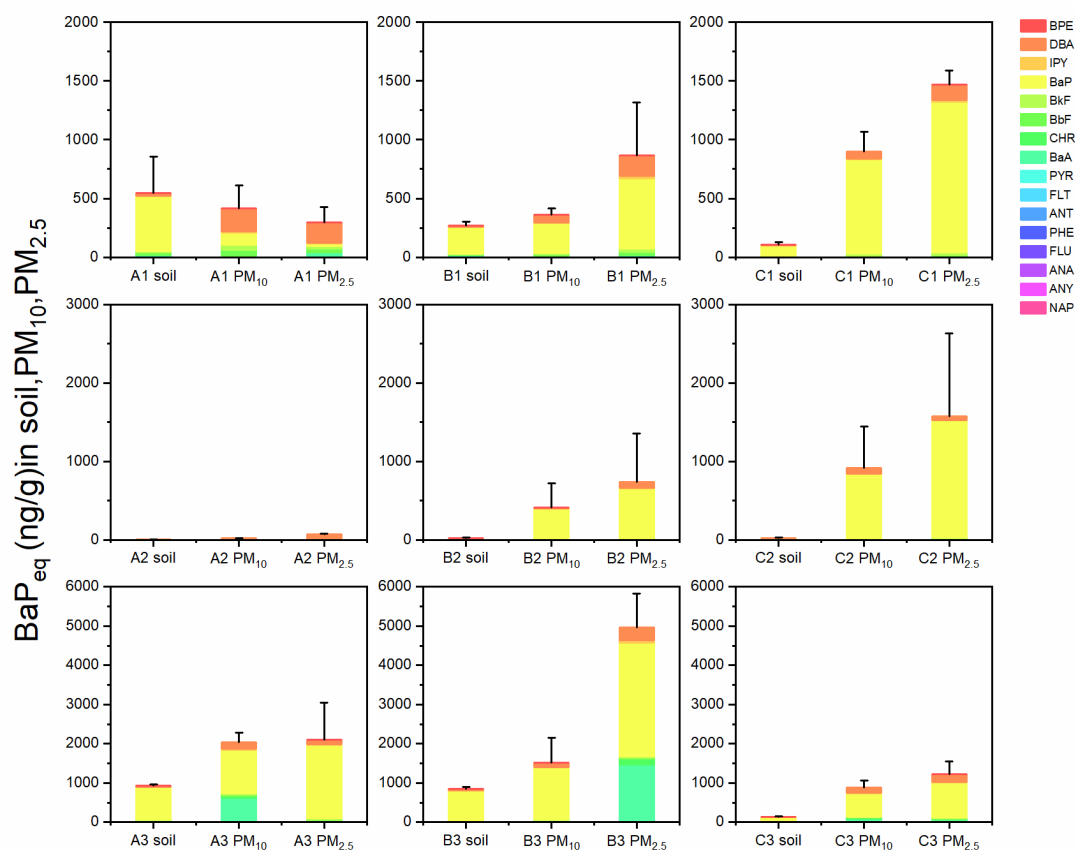


191

192 **Supplementary Figure S13.** Monthly average HM and PAH concentration of lakebed dust PM.

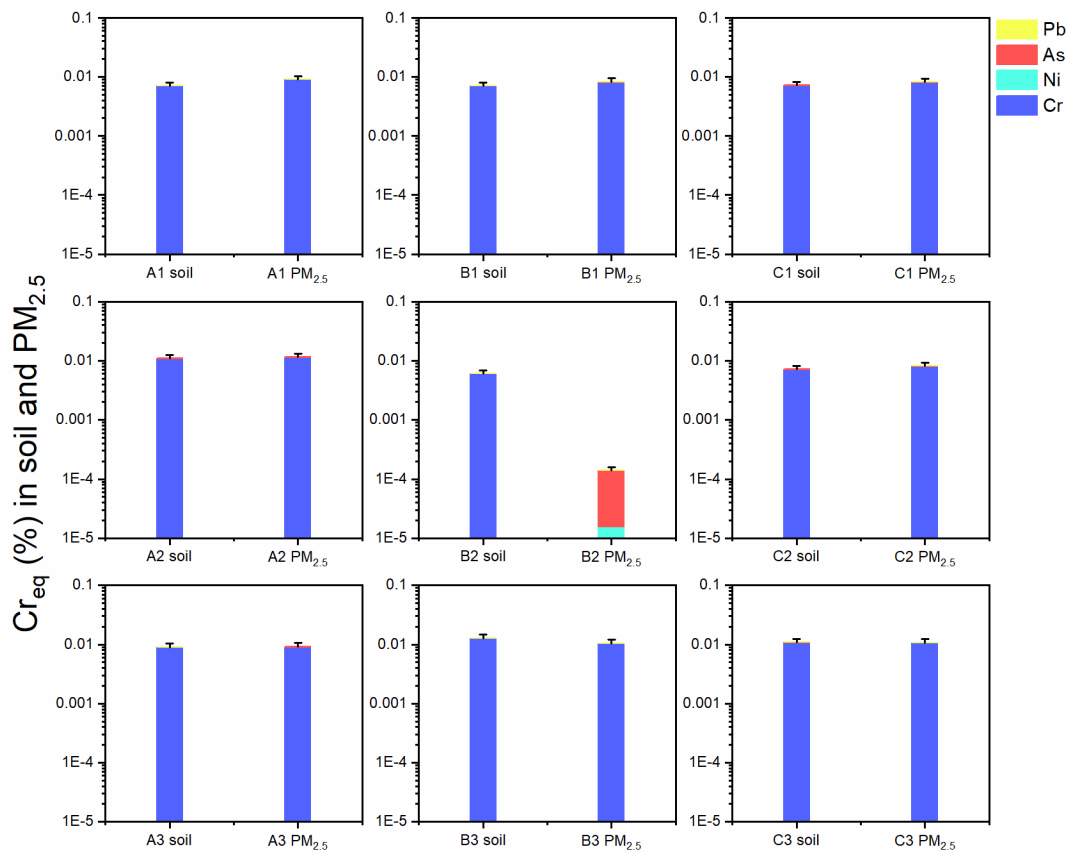
193 Concentrations for (left) PM_{2.5} and (right) PM₁₀.

194



196

197 **Supplementary Figure S14.** Comparison of toxic equivalent carcinogenic potency of PAHs (BaP_{eq})
 198 in soil, dust- PM_{10} and dust- $PM_{2.5}$ sampled in Dongting Lake. A1, B1, C1, A2, B2 and C2 were
 199 obtained in Poyang Lake, and A3, B3 and C3 were obtained in Dongting Lake. A1, A2, and A3 are
 200 regions typically dry and exposed year-round. B1, B2, and B3 are transitional zones that fluctuate
 201 between submerged and dry states. C1, C2, and C3 are areas usually underwater but sometimes
 202 exposed due to extreme drought. The whiskers on the bars represent the standard deviations of
 203 triplicates.



204

205 **Supplementary Figure S15.** Comparison of the Toxic metals (Cr_{eq}) between natural soil samples
 206 and dust aerosols in Poyang and Dongting Lakes. A1, B1, C1, A2, B2 and C2 were obtained in
 207 Poyang Lake, and A3, B3 and C3 were obtained in Dong ting Lake. A1, A2, and A3 are regions
 208 typically dry and exposed year-round. B1, B2, and B3 are transitional zones that fluctuate between
 209 submerged and dry states. C1, C2, and C3 are areas usually underwater but sometimes exposed due
 210 to extreme drought. The whiskers on the bars represent the standard deviations of triplicates.

211

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