



Report Int. Prot. ET2009/03

Summary of the events from March 25 to April 17, 2009

During the considered period, activity at Mt. Etna was rather constant, being chiefly characterized by lava effusions at very low rates from the eruptive fracture located on the upper sector of the western flank of the Valle del Bove, at about 2800 m of altitude.

As during the last weeks of March, active flows were emplaced next to the northern sector of the compound lava field, produced as a consequence of the continuous lava effusions started on May 13, 2008. Active fronts varied their location and altitude, although they were always above ~2400 m of elevation. All the lava flows were therefore confined in the upper part of the Valle del Bove, without any kind of hazard for the population and their properties.

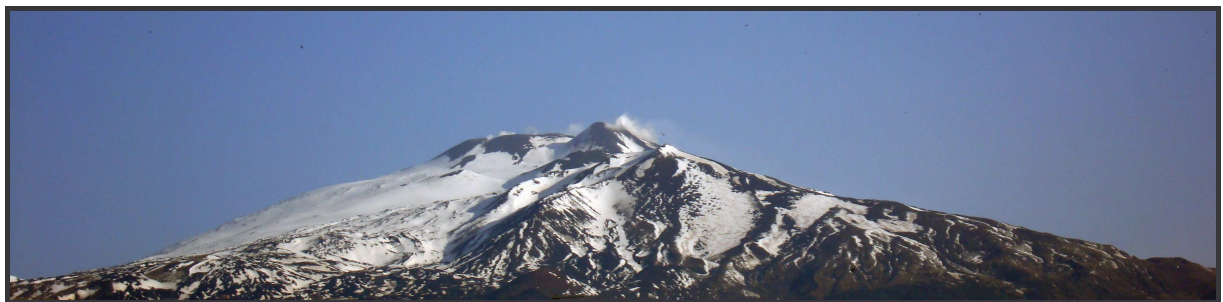


Photo taken from Nicolosi in the morning of April 17, 2009

No significant ash emissions were observed during the considered period both at the active fracture (2800 m) and at the summit craters. During the first week of April, and especially on April 3, a consistent pulsating degassing has been noticed at the 2800 m fracture taking place from two vents along the fissure (the upper and the lower ones).

Degassing at the summit craters, which affected especially the Bocca Nuova and the

North-East Crater during the first weeks of March, strongly decreased during the considered period (March 25 – April 17). The sole, slightly more relevant, degassing activity occurred (and continues to be present on April 17) at the fumarolic field developed on the southeastern flank of the South East Crater.

Further details or significant changes in the behaviour of the eruptive activity will be provided in following reports.

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