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Within the framework of the SHIVA-measuring campaign the research aircraft FALCON from the German Aerospace Center (DLR) is stationed in Borneo. This enables the researchers to get a full picture of the transportation paths of the trace gases. The FALCON will concentrate on the examination of atmospheric parameters that are of interest for the ongoing study. Additionally the scientists will be able to use observations made by the environmental satellite ENVISAT. By this the path ways of the relevant trace gases can be followed from the South-East Asian coastal waters up to the borders of the troposphere and the stratosphere at a height up to 15 kilometers.

“During the expedition we will try to gather an extensive observational data set to be able to make quantitative and qualitative assumptions about the amount of material transported, the transportation paths and the chemical processes happening along them”, says Dr. Kröger. “At the IFM-GEOMAR we have a long tradition measuring the exchange of trace gases between the ocean and the atmosphere.” Thanks to the close collaboration between the different research institutes and due to the connection of different measuring platforms, such as vessel, aircraft and satellite, the chance to understand the problem of the global ozone depletion has arrived. “We are eagerly interested for the results”, Chief Scientist Dr. Quack says.

Background Information:

The measuring campaign in the South China Sea is part of the project SHIVA (Stratospheric Ozone: Halogen Impacts in a Varying Atmosphere) which is sponsored by the EU. In the project scientists from Belgium, Germany, France, Great Britain, Norway and Malaysia examine the development and the effects of trace gases in the stratosphere. The project is part of the EU FP6 programme.