

PNAS

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Supplementary Information for

Changing nutrient cycling in Lake Baikal, the world's oldest lake

George E. A. Swann, Virginia N. Panizzo, Sebastiano Piccolroaz, Vanessa Pashley, Matthew S. A. Horstwood, Sarah Roberts, Elena Vologina, Natalia Piotrowska, Michael Sturm, Andre Zhdanov, Nikolay Granin, Charlotte Norman, Suzanne McGowan, Anson W. Mackay

Paste corresponding author name here

Email: george.swann@nottingham.ac.uk, virginia.panizzo@nottingham.ac.uk

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Supplementary Information Text

Lake Baikal

Lake Baikal is the world's oldest lake, lying in a rift zone in south eastern Siberia (103°43'-109°58'E, 51°28'-55°47'N; Fig. 1) that began to form over 30 million years ago. Divided into three basins (south, central and north) (Fig. 1), waters in the lake are primarily derived from direct precipitation (16.3%) and riverine inputs (83.2%), with >350 rivers draining a catchment (c. 540,000 km²) that extends into Mongolia and supports over 3 million people¹. A key feature of Lake Baikal is the high degree of biodiversity with over 2,500 flora and fauna, the majority of which are endemic². Such high levels of endemism have been attributed to the lake's age and to a fully oxygenated water column, driven by seasonal overturning and deep-water renewal³. Cited as the "most outstanding example of a freshwater ecosystem" this, together with its high level of endemism, led the site being designated a World Heritage Site in 1996⁴. As a result of Lake Baikal's high-profile ecosystem, in addition to its historic and cultural status as a sacred site for indigenous Buryat people, the lake is of interest to a range of national/international agencies (e.g., UNESCO, World Bank and the UN Integrated Natural Resource Management in the Baikal Basin Transboundary Ecosystem) as well as organisations and academic institutions (e.g., [Rivers without Boundaries](#) and the [Limnological Institute Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences](#)) supporting biodiversity/conservation and other ecosystem services.

Today, Lake Baikal is responding strongly to anthropogenic pressures that are threatening the stability of its ecosystem. Whilst the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill (BPPM) (operating 1966-2008 and 2010-2013) on the edge of Lake Baikal was the most notorious source of direct pollution, other hydrologically-derived contamination originating from major conurbations, industrial centres, mining and agricultural practises has leading to shoreline eutrophication and rising mercury concentrations⁵⁻⁹. Anthropogenic climate change is also increasing water column temperature and reducing ice cover duration/thickness¹⁰⁻¹⁵. Together, these changes are impacting or predicted to impact existing balances between endemic and cosmopolitan biota^{14,16-19} and food-web interactions inextricably linked to ice dynamics and seasonal overturning, from the rapid growth of primary producers underneath ice to the lake's top consumer, *Phoca* or *Pusa sibirica* (endemic freshwater seal)^{20,21}. In order to ensure that future development and policy plans for the catchment are capable of sustaining Lake Baikal's unique ecosystem, there is a need to not only understand the impact of anthropogenic influence on the lake, but to also distinguish between natural and non-natural variability in the lake's ecosystem by placing measurements into a historical context.

Diatom productivity

Diatoms are unicellular siliceous algae that dominate primary productivity in many aquatic systems across the globe, where they photosynthesise within the photic zone in the uppermost section of the water column. Within Lake Baikal, diatoms form a key component of phytoplankton²²⁻²⁶, with upwards of 40% of taxa endemic to the lake²⁷⁻²⁹. Due to their siliceous frustule (shell), which helps protect them from dissolution, diatoms also dominate the fossil assemblage, forming c. 98% of all biogenic silica (BSi) in Lake Baikal's sediments³⁰. Existing palaeoenvironmental research, from Lake Baikal's uninterrupted sediment record spanning the past c. 20 million years³¹, has often focused on diatoms, taking advantage of the strong linkages between individual species and environmental conditions³².

There are two main seasonal diatom blooms in Lake Baikal, with the biomineralisation of dissolved silica (DSi; i.e., silicic acid [SiOH₄]) dominating silica cycling in the lake^{33,34} (Fig. S1). Whilst diatoms annually export 1,830 mmol m⁻² of DSi from the photic zone to deep waters, this can increase to 2,700 mmol m⁻² during "Melosira years" in which exceptionally large blooms of the endemic diatom *Aulacoseira baicalensis* occur³⁴. Each year the first diatom bloom starts under ice in spring, with the greatest rate of diatom growth occurring after ice break-up when frustules undergo rapid cell division in response to increases in light availability and turbulent mixing in the uppermost sections of the water column^{35,36}. During this period, diatoms can

constitute 50-90% of phytoplankton biomass in the lake and consume up to 90% of available silicic acid in the photic zone^{25,37}. Following atmospheric warming of the surface waters a summer stratification develops, which leads to low surface water nutrient conditions and to diatoms being replaced by pico-cyanobacteria as the dominant phytoplankton^{23,35,38}. As summer stratification breaks down in autumn, the return of turbulent mixing triggers a second diatom bloom that is notably smaller than the spring bloom in terms of magnitude and silicic acid utilisation^{35,37}. Today, productivity in the photic zone of Lake Baikal is co-limited by nitrogen and phosphorus^{39,40}. Therefore, increased upwelling of deep water rich in silicon, nitrogen and phosphate to the photic zone ($630 \text{ mmol SiO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}$; $93 \text{ mmol NO}_3^- \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}$; $5 \text{ mmol P m}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}$)³⁴ will increase both biological productivity and rates of silicic acid utilisation.

Silicon exported by diatoms from the photic zone will, depending on rates of dissolution and other sedimentation processes, either be remineralised in deep waters or transferred into the sediment record. Combined with a long silicon residence time in Lake Baikal of 100-170 years, this results in deep water nutrient concentrations for nitrate, phosphate and silicate that are significantly higher than those at the surface^{34,41-44}. The mixing of these waters back to the photic zone, therefore, provides an essential source of nutrients to fuel further primary productivity. This internal cycling of regenerated silicon back to the photic zone significantly exceeds riverine inputs to the lake of $312 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ^{33,34}, with riverine inputs quickly diluted by pre-existing lake waters³⁷. Consequently, changes in the rate at which these nutrient-rich deep waters are mixed into the photic zone have the potential to significantly alter biogeochemical cycling, aquatic productivity and food-web interactions in Lake Baikal.

Previous studies have argued that silicic acid concentrations have decreased throughout Lake Baikal's water column from 1995-2001 CE, in response to an increased export of silicon by diatoms into the sediment record^{44,45}. These measurements, however, are potentially biased by sampling, which varies in any given year from May to September and so is influenced by aforementioned seasonal/monthly variations in biological productivity and nutrient cycling to the photic zone. The observation of a decline in Lake Baikal silicic acid concentrations is also not in agreement with nutrient mass-balance calculations for the lake³⁴. Within the $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}}$ record presented in this study, there are insufficient samples which allow further investigation of the reported decline in silicic acid concentrations from 1995-2001 CE^{44,45}, although our reconstructed record indicates a moderate increase in rates of silicic acid supply to the photic zone between two samples dated to 1990 CE and 2000 CE respectively.

Silicon isotopes

Silicon has three stable isotopes: ^{28}Si (92.2% relative abundance on Earth), ^{29}Si (4.7%), and ^{30}Si (3.1%)⁴⁶. The silicon isotope ratios of diatoms ($\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}}$) are expressed as δ and reported in part per mille (‰):

$$\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}} = \frac{R_{\text{diatom}} - R_{\text{reference}}}{R_{\text{reference}}} \cdot 1000 \quad (1)$$

where R is $^{30}\text{Si}/^{28}\text{Si}$ and "reference" refers to NBS-28: the standard reference material for silicon. There is a well constrained mass dependent fractionation between $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ ($^{30}\text{Si}/^{28}\text{Si}$) and $\delta^{29}\text{Si}$ ($^{29}\text{Si}/^{28}\text{Si}$) such that:

$$\delta^{30}\text{Si} = 1.96 \cdot \delta^{29}\text{Si} \quad (2)$$

During biomineralisation, diatoms preferentially uptake the lighter ^{28}Si isotope over the heavier ^{29}Si and ^{30}Si from silicic acid in the water column. This results in a progressive enrichment of ^{30}Si in both the dissolved and particulate phases within the photic zone, so that $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}}$ can be used to infer changes in the rate of silicic acid utilization. The magnitude of this isotopic fractionation between diatoms and dissolved silicic acid is defined by (α):

$$\alpha_{\text{diatom-DSi}} = \frac{{}^{30}\text{Si}(\text{OH})_4 / {}^{28}\text{Si}(\text{OH})_4}{{}^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}} / {}^{28}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}}} \quad (3)$$

Most commonly, this isotopic fractionation is defined in terms of the enrichment factor ϵ :

$$\epsilon \cong 1000 \cdot (\alpha_{\text{diatom-DSi}} - 1) \quad (4)$$

Whilst marine diatoms grown under laboratory conditions have shown evidence of species-dependent silicon isotope fractionation⁴⁷, such a process has not been demonstrated in lacustrine diatoms/systems. Instead, previous work analysing diatoms in sediment traps through Lake Baikal's water column has constrained ϵ at -1.61‰ ⁴⁸. Reassessment of the raw data, assuming a normal distribution for proxy data uncertainty and using 10,000 replicate Monte Carlo simulations with the Monte Carlo package in R^{49,50} indicates an uncertainty for ϵ of 0.11‰ (1σ). Given this, and using the Rayleigh fractionation model to describe changes in the isotopic composition of $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}}$ and $\delta^{30}\text{Si}(\text{OH})_4$ ⁵¹, measurements of $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}}$ can be interpreted to reflect changes in the relative rate of nutrient (silicic acid) utilisation and supply in the photic zone (Fig. S2).

An increase (decrease) in $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}}$ could be caused by: 1) an increase (decrease) in biogenic silicic acid utilisation due to the isotope fractionation associated with this process; 2) a decrease (increase) in nutrient supply to the photic zone, which replenishes the pool of nutrients and their isotope composition; or 3) a combination of these two processes. In calculating rates of photic zone silicic acid utilisation and supply (see Equations in Methods Section which are repeated below for clarity) a series of assumptions are required, each of which are examined in the sections below:

$$\text{Si}(\text{OH})_{4(\text{utilisation})} = \left(1 - \frac{\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}} - 1.71}{1.61}\right) \cdot 100 \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Si}(\text{OH})_{4(\text{supply})} = \frac{\text{BSi MAR}_{\text{sample}} / \text{BSi MAR}_{2005\text{CE}}}{\text{Si}(\text{OH})_{4(\text{utilisation})} / \text{Si}(\text{OH})_{4(\text{utilisation-2005CE})}} \quad (6)$$

Dissolution

The use of ($\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}}$) in palaeoenvironmental research requires that the isotopic composition of living diatoms in the photic zone is faithfully transported into diatoms buried in the sediment record following their deposition at the surface-sediment interface⁵². This issue is particularly important in Lake Baikal, with only c. 1% of diatoms in the photic zone ultimately preserved in the sediment record^{53,54} and dissolution indices indicating that up to 60% of diatom frustules preserved over the last 1,000 years have undergone some form of dissolution^{18,55}. However, measurements from sediment traps distributed down the entire depth of Lake Baikal's water column and at the surface sediment show no alteration in $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}}$, indicating that any dissolution during sinking or sedimentation in Lake Baikal does not modify $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}}$ ⁴⁸.

The high rate of diatom dissolution does potentially impact sediment biogenic silica concentrations and so calculation of $\text{Si}(\text{OH})_4$ supply (equation 6). The $\text{Si}(\text{OH})_4$ supply record presented in this study assumes that the degree of biogenic silica dissolution through the water column and within the sediment record has remained unchanged over the analysed interval. This assumption can be tested through the use of a diatom dissolution index⁵⁶:

$$\text{DDI} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_{1i}}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_{1i} + \sum_{i=1}^n x_{2i}} \quad (7)$$

in which n is the number of diatom frustules ($n \geq 300$), x_{1i} is the number of pristine diatom frustules and x_{2i} is the number of diatoms frustules showing any sign of dissolution. From this the

raw BSi mass accumulation rate (MAR) concentration record can be corrected for dissolution and used to re-calculate changes in silicic acid supply to the photic zone (equation 6):

$$\text{BSi MAR [dissolution corrected]} = \frac{\text{BSi (wt. \%as SiO}_2\text{)}}{\text{DDI}} \cdot \text{MAR} \quad (8)$$

The results from this show that whilst reconstructed rates of silicic acid supply are higher when the BSi data is corrected for dissolution, the overlying trend of a significant increase in nutrient (silicic acid) supply from the 20th Century onwards remain valid and is in agreement with concordant increases in *Ulnaria acus*, a diatom often associated with high dissolved silica concentrations^{57,58} (Fig. S3). In this study we elect not to use the dissolution corrected nutrient supply record due to the uncertainties associated with individual indices^{59,60}. We also avoid using diatom biovolume accumulation rates in place of BSi MAR since, although relatively well established for Lake Baikal⁶¹, there remains considerable uncertainty in the calculation of species biovolume coefficients and over their potential to vary with time and changing environmental conditions, including changes in nutrient availability.

$\delta^{30}\text{Si}(\text{OH})_4$

Although nutrients are primarily supplied to the lake through riverine inputs^{33,34,62}, intra- and inter-annual nutrient cycling in Lake Baikal is regulated by vertical mixing in the water column, which transports regenerated nutrients from deep waters in Lake Baikal into the photic zone^{33,34}. Due to this cycling and the volume of water in Lake Baikal, the isotopic and DSI signature of riverine waters entering the lake is minimal beyond the immediate area around a river mouth³⁷. As such, the $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ composition of silicic acid ($\delta^{30}\text{Si}(\text{OH})_4$) supplied to the photic zone and utilised by diatoms is best described by the $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ composition of deep water ($\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{lake}}$), constrained at 1.71‰ ($1\sigma = 0.10\text{‰}$)³⁷. Whilst it is not possible to account for how $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{lake}}$ may have varied over time, the residence time of $\text{Si}(\text{OH})_4$ in the south basin of Lake Baikal is 100–170 years^{43,44}, minimising the risk that large changes have occurred over the studied time interval.

Core chronology

All ¹⁴C dating was completed at the Gliwice Radiocarbon Laboratory, Silesian University of Technology. The total organic carbon was prepared from the sediment by treatment with 0.5M HCl, subsequent rinse with DI water and drying. The samples were combusted in VarioMicroCube elemental analyser (Elementar™) coupled to AGE-3 graphitisation equipment⁶³. ¹⁴C concentration was determined in DirectAMS laboratory, Bothell, WA, USA⁶⁴ (Table S1).

New ¹⁴C and existing ²¹⁰Pb dates⁶⁵ were combined using the Bacon software⁶⁶ to establish an age-depth model as well as an age interval for each analysed sample (Fig. S4). The curve IntCal13 was used for calibration of ¹⁴C results⁶⁷. For calculations, the cores were divided into 0.5-cm-thick sections. The priors used were accumulation rate 200 yr/cm of gamma distribution with shape 1.5. The default memory prior was used, which is a beta distribution with the parameters mem.strength = 4 and mem.mean = 0.7. The models were extrapolated to match the range of proxy data and the ages and uncertainties for required depths generated. Throughout the paper, the weighted mean age was used as an approximate age, along with 1 σ uncertainty.

¹⁴C chronologies are widely used in Lake Baikal, due to their unrivalled ability to date Holocene and late glacial sediments⁶⁸⁻⁷⁰. Some uncertainties exist over ¹⁴C dating in Lake Baikal, with evidence for non-zero surface sediment ages, different sources of organic carbon (old carbon effect) and ¹⁴C reservoir effects^{71,72}. These artefacts do not impact the findings of this current study, with 20th and 21st Century increases in nutrient utilisation and Ekman transport inferred from sections of the age-model based on ²¹⁰Pb dating, the robustness of which has been demonstrated in Lake Baikal⁷³.

Ekman transport

Due to Lake Baikal's depth (maximum depth of 1,642 m) and climatic conditions, a key contribution to vertical mixing is given by periodic deep mixing events controlled by thermobaricity, i.e. the combined dependence of water density on temperature and pressure. According to this physical property of water, wind-driven inshore Ekman transport can trigger thermobarically unstable conditions, generating deep coastal downwellings that can reach down to the bottom of Lake Baikal. Deep mixing events typically occur in December/January, before ice formation on the lake, and in May-June after ice-out in late spring when the lake is weakly inversely stratified^{41,42,74-79}. Further deep water renewal events have been detected under-ice, although it remains unclear to what extent these were driven by Ekman transport before the onset of ice-cover on the lake⁸⁰. Deep mixing events promote the vertical redistribution of dissolved substances along the water column through the transfer of large volumes of water (ranging between 10 and 100 km³ per year^{77,78,81,82}) from the surface to the bottom of the lake and vice-versa. Such vertical transport and mixing activity in the lake promotes oxygen replenishment in deep water (i.e., deep ventilation) and the reciprocal upwelling of nutrient-rich deep waters to the photic zone, which fuels primary productivity within the lake.

CERA-20C reanalysis data⁸³ (resolution = 125 km) around the barycentre of Lake Baikal (53.375°N, 108.125°E) shows a progressive strengthening of surface wind (height = 10 m) from 1901-2010 CE during months in which deep ventilation occurs in the lake (Fig. S5). This trend is consistent with a progressively increased probability of more intensive deep ventilation events and so deep water nutrient supply to Lake Baikal's photic zone during the 20th and 21st Century and follows previous analyses that showed deep ventilation in Lake Baikal is particularly sensitive to climate change through changes in wind forcing⁷⁹. Whilst the horizontal resolution of the CERA-20C data is relatively coarse (125 km), ERA5 reanalysis data⁸⁴ from 1979 CE, with a finer horizontal resolution (30 km), averaged over the same area covered by the CERA-20C data, accurately captures wind seasonality over Lake Baikal (Fig. S6), confirms the wind patterns and the inter-annual variability and trends described by CERA-20C over the same interval (Fig. S5), thereby providing validation of the coarser reanalysis product.

Equations for calculating Ekman transport in the lake are reported in the methods section of the main manuscript, with anomalies for a given downwelling season (s) of year (i) calculated relative to the mean Ekman transport from 1990-2000 CE (Fig. S7). By reasonably assuming that all variables in Equations 4 and 5 in the Methods Section of the main text are constant, except for wind speed parallel to Lake Baikal's coast (W), Ekman transport (M) anomalies can be calculated as the anomalies of the square of directional wind (W) over Lake Baikal around the barycentre of the lake:

$$\text{Anomaly } \overline{M}_c(i, s) = \frac{\overline{M}_c(i, s)}{\overline{M}_c(1990 - 2000, s)} = \text{Anomaly } \overline{W}_c^2(i, s) = \frac{\overline{W}_c^2(i, s)}{\overline{W}_c^2(1990 - 2000, s)} \quad (9)$$

where the subscript c indicates the cumulative calculated across periods when the wind both blows from the north-east and is interrupted by winds from other directions for less than 1 day. The overbar indicates averaging over each downwelling season (s) of a given year (i), to obtain a quantitative measure of the potential intensity of deep ventilation in that season and year.

Diatom assemblage data

Changes in Ekman transport nutrient supply to the photic zone, from the late 19th Century onwards, coincide with changes in the diatom record (Fig. S8 a-e). In addition to reductions in the ratio of autumn/spring blooming taxa, significant declines also occur through the 20th and 21st Century in the wider diatom community (PCA axis 1) and composition turnover - the change in species composition and relative abundances - (DCCA axis 1)⁸⁵.

Changes in composition turnover, beginning in the late 19th Century and pre-dating other anthropogenic impacts on the lake, are strongly associated with reduced relative abundances for

the endemic *Crateriportula inconspicua* ($r = +0.75$; $p < 0.005$), (Fig. S8f). Whilst the ecology of *Cyclotella inconspicua* is poorly understood, phytoplankton monitoring has found *C. inconspicua* cells to be most abundant during autumn overturn⁵³. However, *Cyclotella minuta* is the only pelagic diatom in Lake Baikal with a notable autumnal bloom, attributed to its ability to survive warm summer surface water temperatures (SWT) that result in a competitive advantage at the end of summer stratification⁸⁶. Although *C. minuta* is only weakly associated with declining DCCA score (0.141; $p = 0.511$), together *C. inconspicua* and *C. minuta* suggest a significant decline in autumnal productivity from the 19th Century (Fig. S8 f-g).

In addition to the autumnal decline in *C. inconspicua* and, *C. minuta*, the increase in diatom composition turnover is strongly associated with increases in the endemic *Aulacoseira skvortzowii* ($r = -0.68$, $p < 0.005$) and cosmopolitan *Ulnaria acus* ($r = -0.83$; $p < 0.005$) (Fig. S8 h-i). *A. skvortzowii* is adapted to cold water conditions⁸⁷ whilst *U. acus* is a thermally tolerant taxon associated with higher dissolved silica concentrations in the water column^{58,88}. Whilst previous work has attributed recent community changes in Lake Baikal's diatom community to warmer SWT and enhanced summer stratification (Fig. S8j)^{55,89}, the concordant change between nutrient supply and diatom community changes from the late 19th Century, including increases in *U. acus*, suggests that community shifts over the last 150 years are a function of both nutrient supply and SWT. *A. skvortzowii* and *U. acus* also both require strong winds/currents in Lake Baikal for their cells to be transported from littoral to pelagic waters. The correlated increases in wind speed, Ekman transport driven nutrient supply, *A. skvortzowii* and *U. acus* therefore lends further support to our suggestion that increased photic zone nutrient supply has significantly impacted recent diatom changes in Lake Baikal (Fig. S8h-j), by accounting for 23.4% ($p = 0.002$) of community variation. All ordinations were calculated using CANOCO5⁹⁰.

The other dominant taxon in Lake Baikal, the endemic *Aulacoseira baicalensis*, exhibits a weak curvilinear trend through the 20th-21st Century (Fig. 8k). Whilst *A. baicalensis* needs relatively high concentrations of both silicic acid and turbulence in the photic zone to grow, the taxa is also adapted to cold water, low light conditions⁹¹. Although speculative, the increase in *A. baicalensis* up to c. 1950 CE may be linked to increasing photic zone nutrient supply, with the more recent (post-1950 CE) decline linked to increasing SWT, causing its heavily silicified cells to sink deeper into the water column (Fig. S8j-k).

Generalized additive model

Generalized additive models (GAM) were calculated with restricted maximum likelihood (REML) smoothness selection using the *mgcv* package in R^{50,92,93}. To account for temporal autocorrelation, all models included a continuous-time first-order autoregressive (CAR(1)) process⁹⁴. Intervals of significant temporal change in a GAM were detected using the first order derivative of the fitted trend and a 95% simultaneous confidence interval using the *gratia* package in R^{50,94,95}. Additional breakpoint analyses were carried out using the *segmented* package in R^{50,96}.

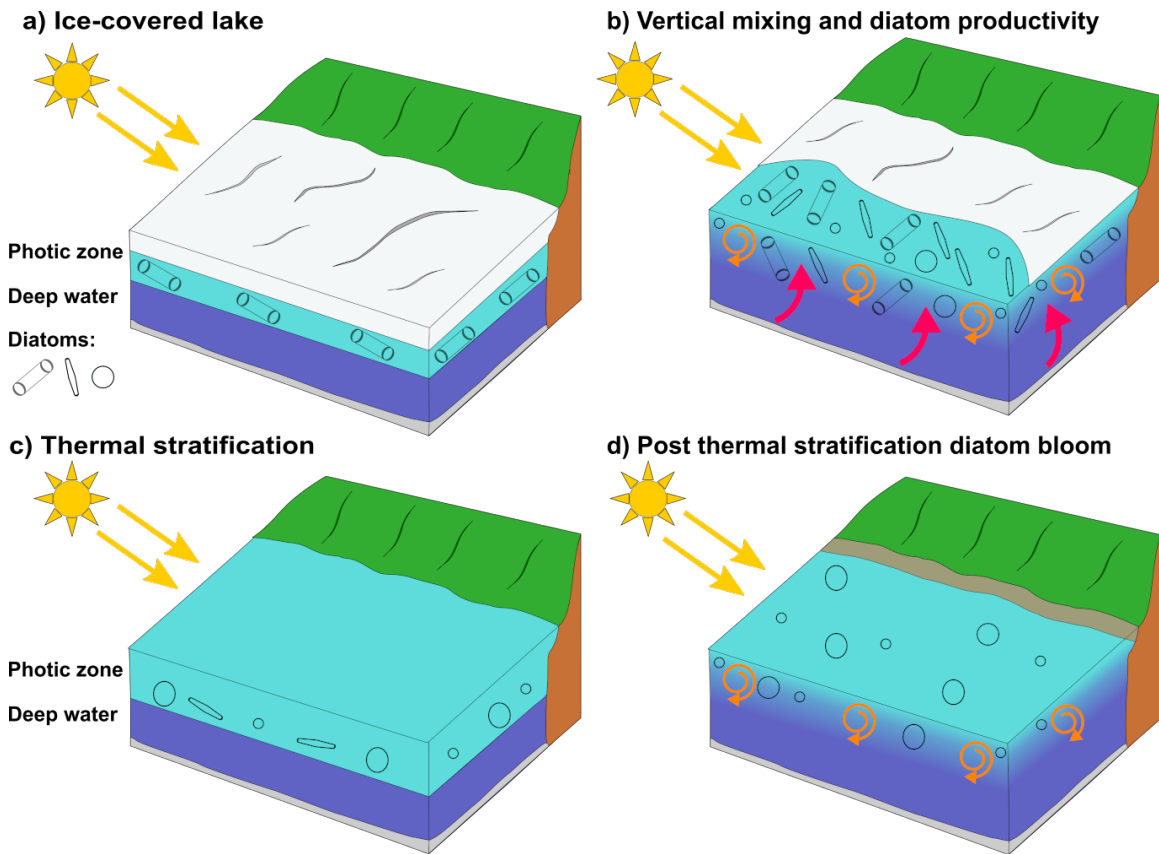


Fig. S1. Dominant seasonal controls on diatom productivity in Lake Baikal a, Ice/snow cover over the lake from January to May inhibits diatom blooms, although important under-ice growth occurs, with an increase during ice break-up. b, Ice break-up from May onwards allows turbulent mixing within the uppermost sections of the water column. Combined with coastal downwelling (typical months = May-June and December-January), and the associated upwelling and build-up of nutrient-rich deep waters in the photic zone, large diatom blooms occur. c, Thermal stratification of the lake in summer reduces nutrient availability for diatoms, with productivity instead dominated by autotrophic pico-cyanobacteria. d, Breakdown of the stratification in autumn months restarts the turbulent mixing of nutrients into the photic zone. Due to the absence of coastal downwelling and deep water supply of nutrients to the photic zone, the autumnal bloom is typically smaller than the spring bloom.

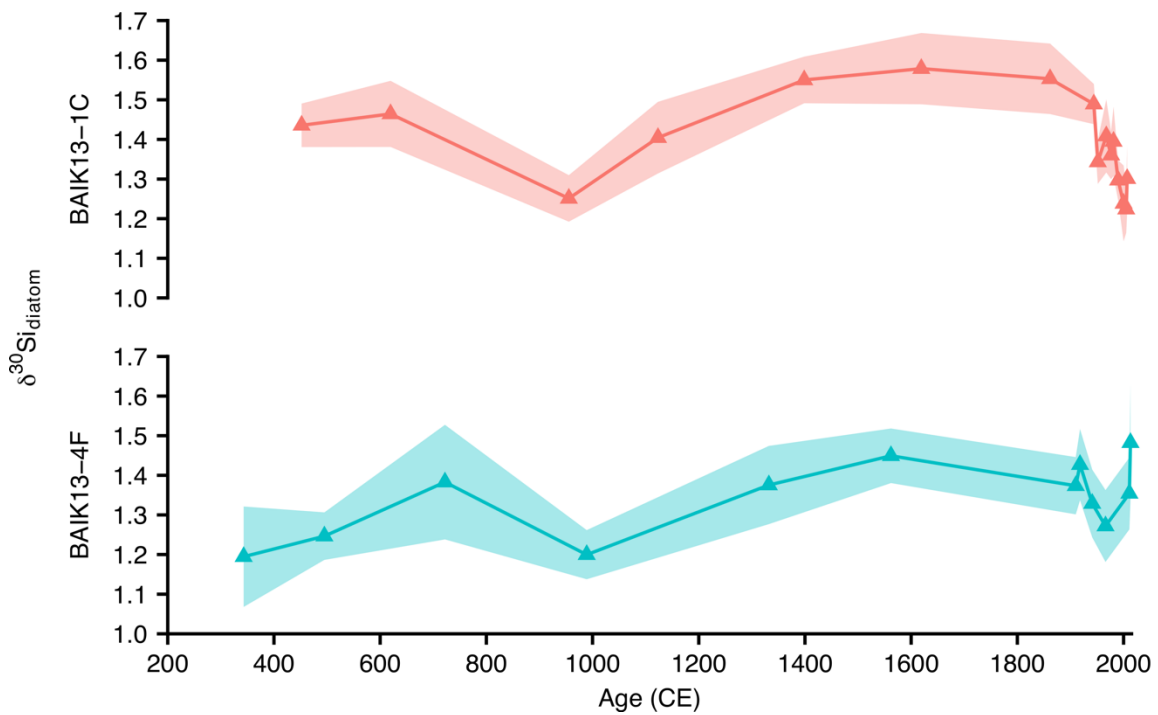


Fig. S2. $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}}$ in cores BAIK13-1C and BAIK13-4F in Lake Baikal (see Fig. 1 in the main text for core location). Given the proximity of the two sites and their well constrained age-models, these records are combined to create a composite record which are then used to reconstruct changes in photic zone silicic acid utilisation/supply (see main text). Shaded polygons reflect the 1σ uncertainty derived from Monte Carlo simulations (10,000 replicates).

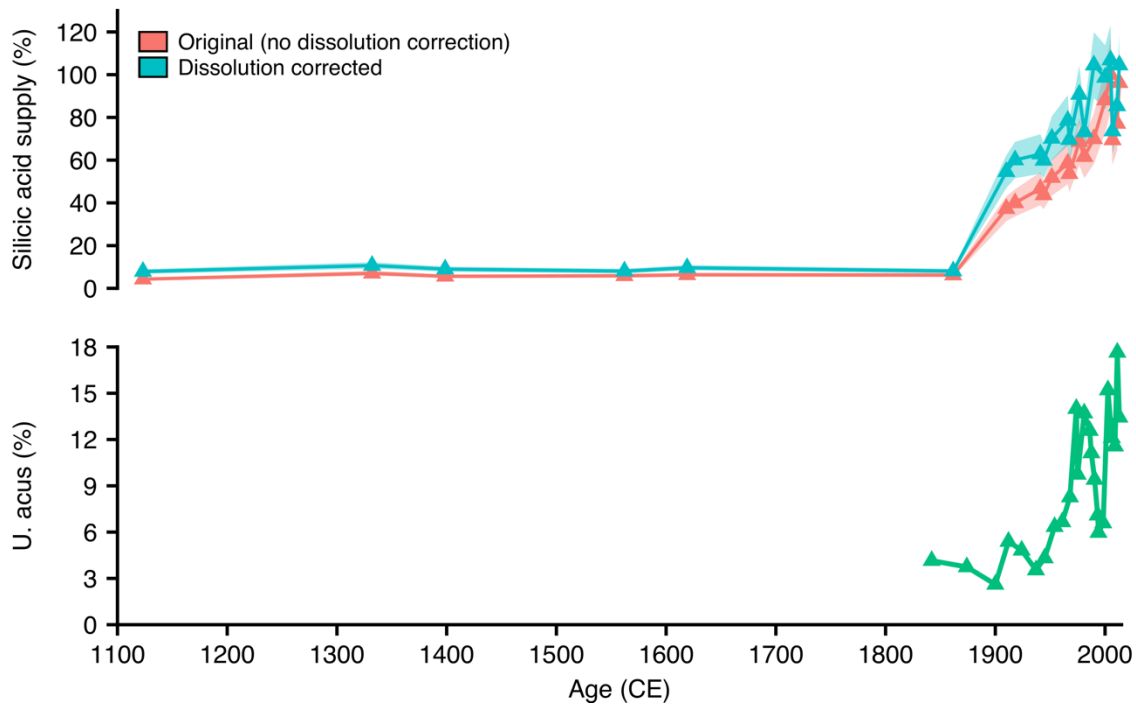


Fig. S3. Changes in photic zone silicic acid supply (relative to a value of 100% at 2005 CE). The original supply record used in the manuscript contains no correction for diatom dissolution. The dissolution corrected supply record uses diatom dissolution indices^{18,55} to correct the BSi MAR record for differential levels of diatom dissolution through the sediment core. Shaded regions reflect the 1σ uncertainty derived from Monte Carlo simulations (10,000 replicates). Higher rates of silicic acid supply in the 20th and 21st Century are in agreement with relative abundance increases in the diatom *U. acus* at core site BAIK13-7^{18,55} (Fig. 1).

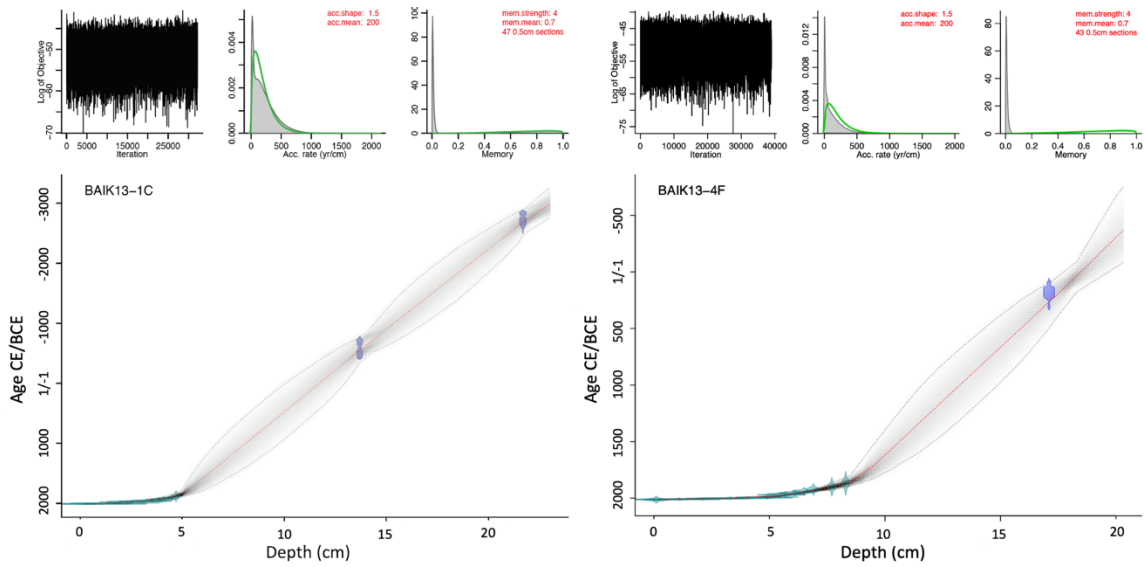


Fig. S4. Age-depth models for BAIK13-1C and BAIK13-4F. Models were generated with the use of Bacon⁶⁶. Upper panels: MCMC iterations structure on the left; prior (green) and posterior (grey) distributions for accumulation rate in the middle; prior and posterior distributions for memory on the right. Lower panels: red dotted curve shows the age-depth model, the grey-shaded area presents 95% probability intervals; ²¹⁰Pb ages are represented by Gaussian distributions in green and ¹⁴C calibrated ages are shown as blue distributions.

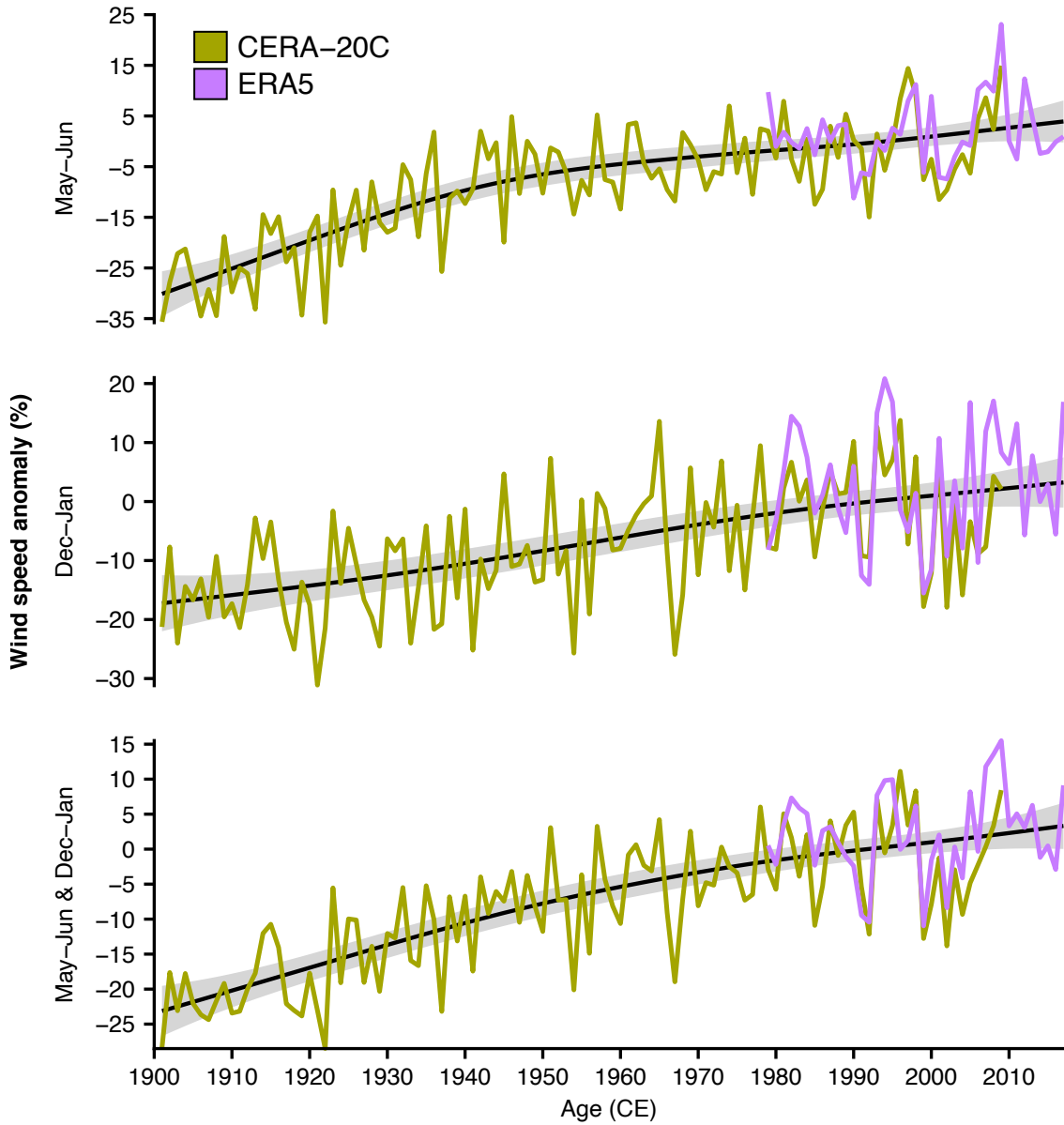


Fig. S5. CERA-20C⁸³ and ERA5⁸⁴ wind speed reanalysis data from the barycentre of Lake Baikal during the typical periods of coastal downwelling (May-June and December-January). All data are anomalies relative to a baseline period of 1990-2000 CE. Black line and grey confidence interval show a generalized additive model fitted to each interval using R^{50} .

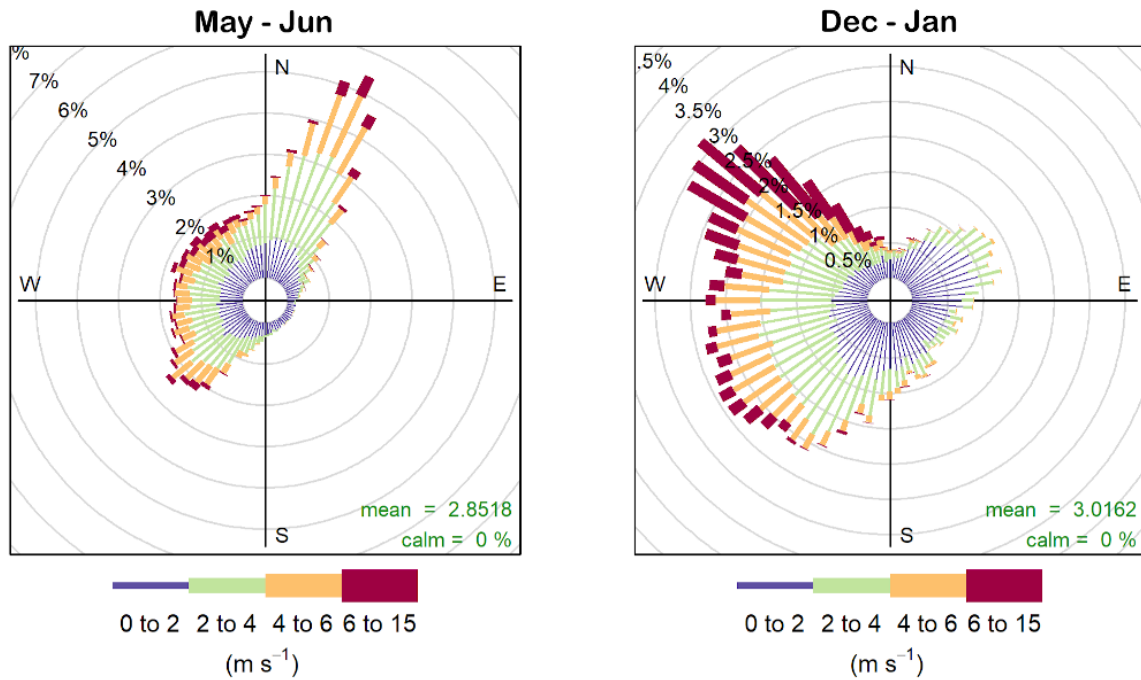


Fig. S6. ERA5 wind analyses frequency counts by wind direction from 1979-2019 CE. The wind roses are consistent with the typical wind fields observed at the lake⁹⁷ and with those available from downscaled regional atmospheric models for the region (see Tsimiri et al., 2015⁸⁰ for the seasonal climatology of wind in the south basin of Lake Baikal).

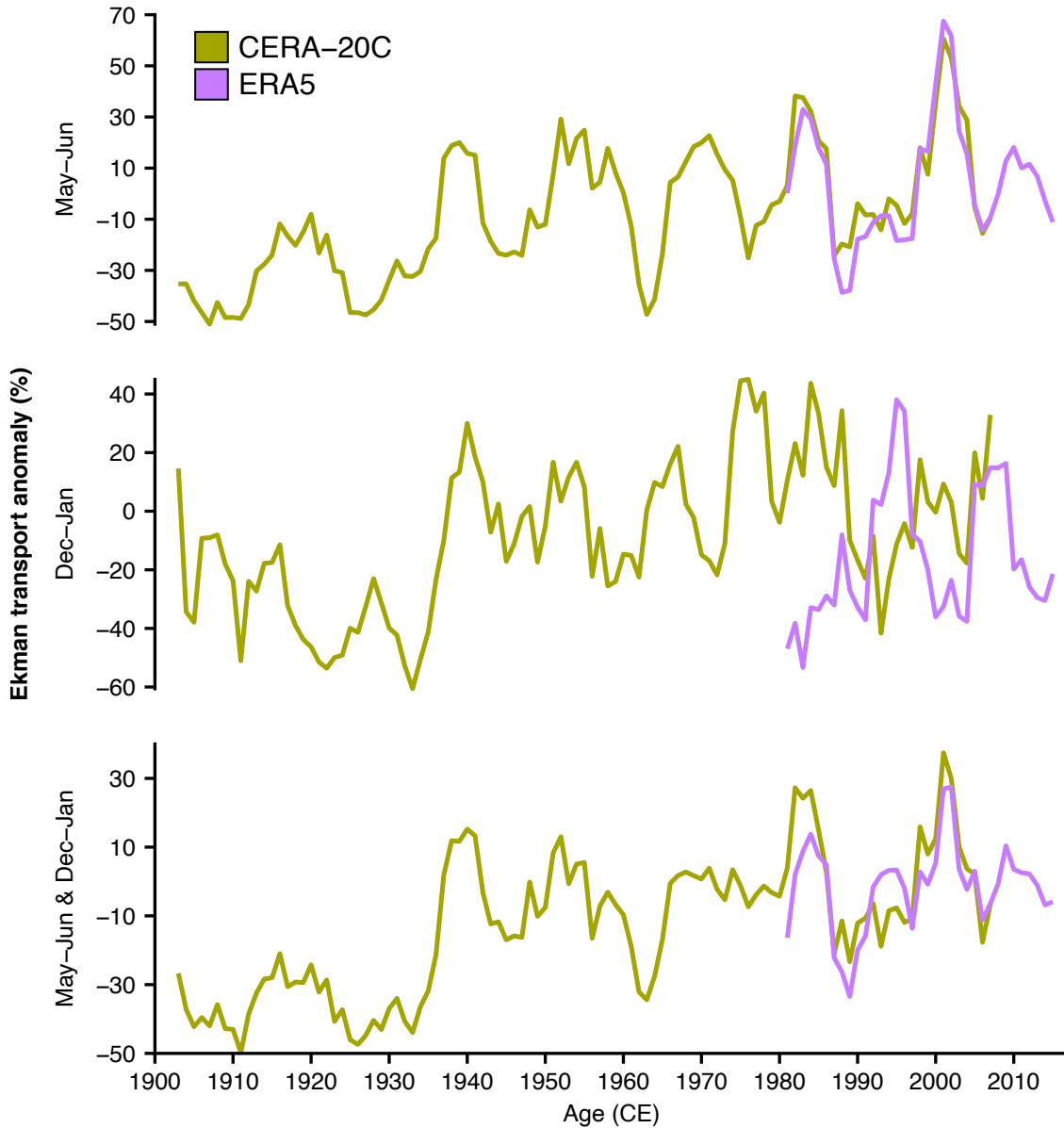


Fig. S7. Modelled Ekman transport in Lake Baikal with a 5-year running mean during the typical periods of downwelling (May-June and December-January). All anomalies are relative to a baseline period of 1990-2000 CE with wind data which drives Ekman transport taken from CERA-20C and ERA5 reanalysis data from the barycentre of Lake Baikal.

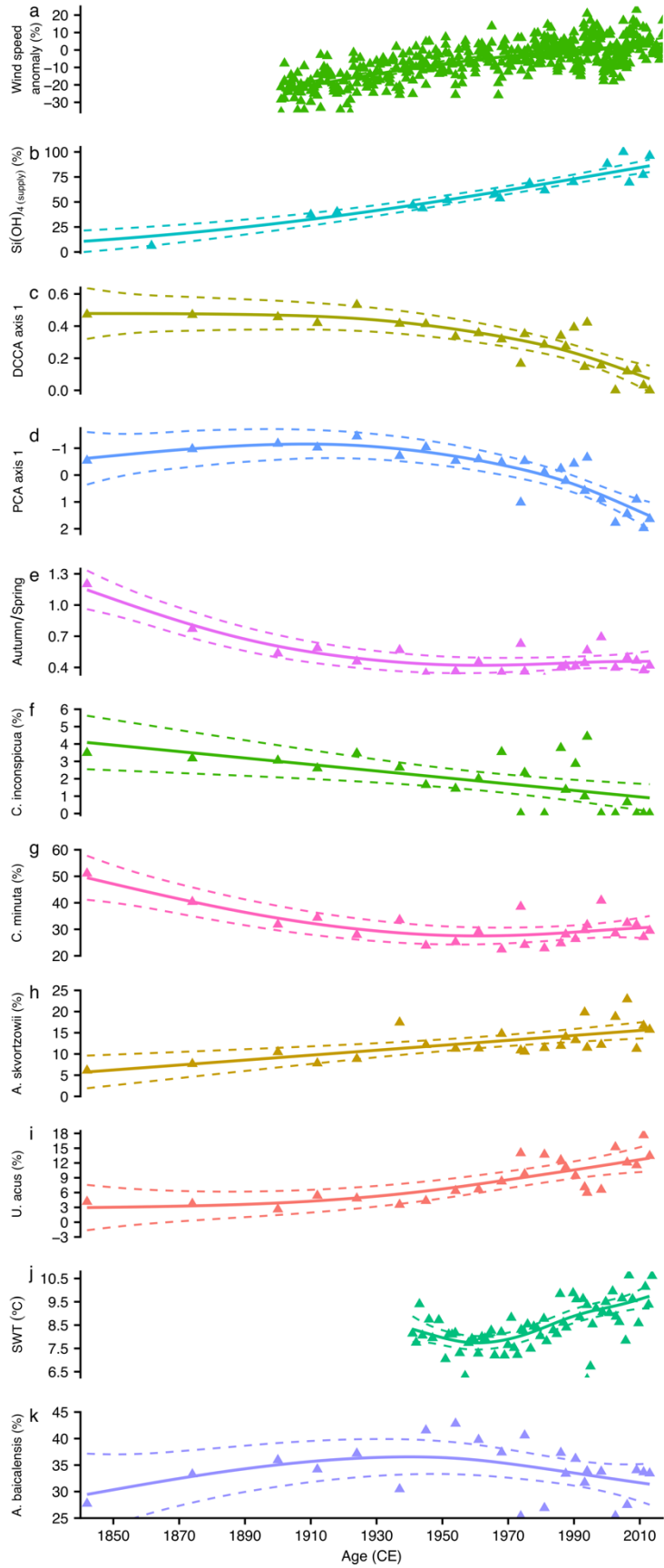


Fig. S8. Diatom community changes in Lake Baikal at core site BAIK13-7^{18,55} (Fig. 1). a, CERA-20C⁸³ and ERA5⁸⁴ wind speed reanalysis anomaly data, relative to a baseline period of 1990-2000 CE, from the barycentre of Lake Baikal during the typical periods of downwelling (May-June and December-January). b, Changes in photic zone silicic acid supply (relative to a value of 100% at 2005 CE). c, Detrended canonical correspondence analysis (DCCA) axis 1 scores reflecting diatom composition turnover. d, Principal components analysis (PCA) axis 1 scores reflect changing diatom taxa composition. e, Ratio of autumn/spring taxa. f, Relative abundance of *C. inconspicua*. g, Relative abundance of *C. minuta*. h, Relative abundance of *A. skvortzowii*. i, relative abundance of *U. acus*. j, Mean lake surface water temperatures (SWT) (May-October) from shoreline locations across Lake Baikal¹⁵. k, Relative abundance of *A. baicalensis*. For all panels, trend lines (solid) and confidence intervals (dashed lines) show a generalized additive model fitted to each time series.

Table S1. New ¹⁴C dates used in this study.

Core	Depth (cm)	¹⁴C Age (BP)	Calibrated Age (CE/BCE)	Modelled age (CE/BCE) (weighted mean ± 1 σ)
BAIK13-1C	13.7	2445 ± 30	<u>68.2% probability</u> 735-670 BCE (20.1%) 660-650 BCE (6.2%) 545-430 BCE (41.8%) <u>95.4% probability</u> 750-685 BCE (25.1%) 670-615 BCE (13.3%) 590-410 BCE (57.0%)	550 ± 110 BCE
BAIK13-1C	21.7	4135 ± 30	<u>68.2% probability</u> 28600 (13.6%) 2835 BCE 2820-2810 BCE (5.5%) 2755-2720 BCE (17.3%) 2705-2635 BCE (31.8%) <u>95.4% probability</u> 2870-2620 BCE (95.4%)	2690 ± 110 BCE
BAIK13-4F	17.1	1835 ± 30	<u>68.2% probability</u> 130-215 CE (68.2%) <u>95.4% probability</u> 85-250 CE (95.4%)	275 ± 105 CE

Dataset S1 (separate file). $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diatom}}$ and absolute analytical uncertainty (2σ) together with reconstructed rates of silicic acid utilisation and supply to the photic zone with the 1σ uncertainty derived from Monte Carlo simulations (10,000 replicates).

Dataset S2 (separate file). Biogenic silica concentrations from core BAIK13-1C.

Dataset S3 (separate file). CERA-20C wind speed reanalysis data from the barycentre of Lake Baikal during the typical periods of coastal downwelling (May-June and December-January). All data are anomalies relative to a baseline period of 1990-2000 CE.

Dataset S4 (separate file). Modelled Ekman transport anomalies during the typical periods of coastal downwelling (May-June and December-January). All anomalies are relative to a baseline period of 1990-2000 CE.

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