

**Chapter 5: Global Carbon and other Biogeochemical Cycles and Feedbacks****Coordinating Lead Authors:**

Josep G. Canadell (Australia), Pedro M.S. Monteiro (South Africa)

**Lead Authors:**

Marcos Costa (Brazil), Leticia Cotrim da Cunha (Brazil), Peter Cox (UK), Alexey V. Eliseev (Russia), Stephanie Henson (UK), Masao Ishii (Japan), Samuel Jaccard (Switzerland), Charles Koven (USA), Annalea Lohila (Finland), Prabir Patra (Japan/India), Shilong Piao (China), Joeri Rogelj (Austria/Belgium), Stephen Sympungani (Zambia), Sönke Zaehle (Germany), Kirsten Zickfeld (Canada/Germany)

**Contributing Authors:**

Georgii Alexandrov (Russia), Lena Boysen (Germany), Long Cao (China), Naveen Chandra (Japan), Philippe Ciais (France), Piers Forster (UK), Véronique Garçon (France), Bettina Gier (Germany), Nathan Gillett (Canada), Bala Govindasamy (India), Vanessa Haverd (Australia), Jian He (USA), Forrest Hoffman (USA), Chris Jones (UK), David Keller (USA/Germany), Andrew Lenton (Australia), Laura Lorenzoni (USA), Nicole Lovenduski (USA), Andrew MacDougall (Canada), Damon Matthews (Canada), Malte Meinshausen (Germany/Australia), Igor Mokhov (Russia), Intan Nurhati (Indonesia), Julia Pongratz (Germany), Benjamin Poulter (USA), Ann Stavert (Australia), Parvadha Suntharalingham (UK), Kaoru Tachiiri (Japan), Rona Thompson (Norway), Hanqin Tian (USA), Xuhui Wang (China)

**Chapter Scientist:**

Alice Lebehot (South Africa/France)

**Review Editors:**

Victor Brovkin (Germany/Russia), Richard Feely (USA), Jose Lara Lara (Mexico)

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## 1 **Executive Summary**

2  
3 Increasing accumulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere is the dominant cause of the Earth's  
4 changing radiative properties, which are resulting in climate change. The main driver of changes in  
5 atmospheric GHGs over the past 200 years is the direct emissions from human activities, but the actual  
6 accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere is determined by the balance between human GHG emissions and  
7 biogeochemical source-sink dynamics that exchange materials between multiple carbon reservoirs on land,  
8 oceans and atmosphere. This chapter assesses how biogeochemical processes affect the abundance of GHGs  
9 in the atmosphere and identifies biogeochemical feedbacks that have led or could lead to a future  
10 acceleration, slowdown or abrupt transition in the rate of GHG accumulation in the atmosphere, and  
11 therefore, of climate change and its impacts. The chapter also assesses the remaining carbon budget for  
12 halting global warming and large-scale consequences of carbon dioxide removal on biogeochemical cycles.

### 13 ***Time context of the human perturbation on biogeochemical cycles***

14  
15  
16 **Atmospheric concentrations of the three main GHGs reached 405 ppm for CO<sub>2</sub>, 1850 ppb for CH<sub>4</sub>,  
17 and 330 ppb for N<sub>2</sub>O in 2017, and are very likely to be the highest in the last 800,000 years.** These  
18 global mean concentrations correspond to an increase of about 46%, 156%, and 22% above pre-industrial  
19 levels, respectively. Current CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are also *very likely* to be unprecedented in more than 2  
20 million years. There have been times in Earth's history when CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were much higher than at  
21 present, but multiple lines of evidence show with *medium confidence* that the rate at which CO<sub>2</sub> increases in  
22 the atmosphere during the Industrial Era has been by at least a factor of 10 higher than at any other time  
23 during the last 66 million years. This extraordinary speed of change characterizes the unprecedented nature  
24 of the current anthropogenic perturbation. {5.1.1, Figures 5.1, 5.2}

25  
26 **Paleoclimate records show abrupt changes with large pulses (>100 ppm) in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> over  
27 millennia and smaller pulses (~10 ppm) over centuries in response to climate forcing (*medium*  
28 *confidence*).** For future warming of no more than 2°C, paleorecords suggest, with *medium confidence*, that it  
29 is *unlikely* that a tipping point will be crossed leading to large, unpredictable changes in the state of the  
30 climate system. However, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rates from those pulses are *likely* one order of magnitude  
31 slower than the current anthropogenic emissions suggesting some limits to using the paleorecord as an  
32 analogue for contemporary and future climate change. {5.1.3.4}

### 33 ***Contemporary Trends of Greenhouse Gases***

34  
35  
36 **It is virtually certain that the accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O in the atmosphere over the  
37 Industrial Era is the result of human activities.** During the last decade, average annual anthropogenic  
38 emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O, reached the highest levels in the history of human civilisation (*virtually*  
39 *certain*) at 10.9 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>, 319 Tg CH<sub>4</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup>, and 6.1 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. {5.2.1.1, 5.2.2.1, 5.2.3.1}

40  
41 **The fate of the carbon emitted from human activities during the decade of 2008–2017 (annual average  
42 10.9 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>) was: 44% accumulated in the atmosphere (4.7 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>), 22% was taken up by the  
43 ocean (2.4 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>) and 29% was removed by terrestrial ecosystems (3.2 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>).** These quantities  
44 have an imbalance of 0.5 PgC suggesting an overestimation of the emissions, or underestimation of the  
45 sinks, or both. Of the total anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, about 87% come from the combustion of fossil  
46 fuels and the remaining from land use, land use change, and forestry. {Table 5.1, 5.2.1.2, 5.2.1.5}

47  
48 **The CO<sub>2</sub> ocean and land sinks have continued to increase at rates that remain close to the rate of  
49 increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (*high confidence*), albeit with large decadal and interannual variability.**  
50 However, the ocean carbonate buffering capacity is now decreasing and is *very likely* to form the basis of a  
51 long-term feedback that will reduce the effectiveness of ocean CO<sub>2</sub> uptake in the future. Interannual and  
52 decadal variability of the ocean and land sinks indicate that these fluxes are very sensitive to climate forcing  
53 and that this sensitivity has a strong regional character. {5.2.1.3.1, 5.2.1.4.2, Figure 5.10}.

54

1 **Atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> resumed its long-term growth trend in 2007 at an average rate of 7±3 ppb yr<sup>-1</sup> for**  
2 **the last decade (2008–2017), a trend that accelerated over the last period (2014–2017).** The multi-  
3 decadal growth trend in atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> is *very likely* dominated by anthropogenic activities, and the  
4 resumption since 2007 is *likely* to be driven in a significant way by emissions from fossil fuels and  
5 agriculture, while the multi-year variability is predominantly driven by El Niño Southern Oscillation cycles  
6 during which biomass burning and wetland emissions play an important role. {5.2.2}

7  
8 **The growth rate of atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O has accelerated since the 1980s, and it is *virtually certain* that the**  
9 **growth has predominantly been driven by the global increase in emissions from the expansion and**  
10 **intensification of agriculture, and to lesser extent due to climate–N<sub>2</sub>O feedbacks.** Agricultural N<sub>2</sub>O  
11 emissions have increased by about 80% since the early 1900s, and by 30% since the 1980s. Increased use of  
12 nitrogen fertiliser and manure contributed to about 70% of the increase during 1980–2016. {5.2.3.2.1}

### 13 *Ocean Acidification and Ocean de-Oxygenation*

14  
15  
16 **It is clear with *virtual certainty* that ocean acidification is intensifying as a result of the ocean**  
17 **continuing to take up annually about 22% of global anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.** This uptake is  
18 driving changes in the ocean carbonate chemistry, which results in ocean acidification and associated  
19 carbonate undersaturation. It is *likely* that there is a threshold in the extent and persistence of undersaturation  
20 in the Southern Ocean by 2100, which increases the area affected by month-long onset of undersaturation  
21 from negligible under future low emissions scenarios (RCP2.6) to ~30% under medium emissions scenarios  
22 (RCP4.5), and to more than 95% in high emissions scenarios (RCP8.5). {Figure 5.20; 5.3.3.3}

23  
24 **Shelf systems, particularly upwelling systems, are *likely* susceptible to the combined and strengthening**  
25 **influence of ocean acidification and ocean de-oxygenation in the tropical and sub-tropical ocean**  
26 **interior.** This effect is two-fold; the naturally low buffer factor in upwelling systems are *likely* to make them  
27 more vulnerable to the impact of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> that results in enhanced ocean acidification and  
28 secondly, ocean-de-oxygenation in upwelled waters is *likely* to enhance N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that  
29 are *as likely as not* to enhance greenhouse gas fluxes out of these systems (*medium confidence*). Coastal  
30 areas, especially under highly populated zones also experience acidification and deoxygenation because the  
31 inputs of effluents and its microbial degradation produce CO<sub>2</sub> and consume dissolved oxygen in the water  
32 column (*high confidence*) {5.3}

### 33 *Future Projections of Biogeochemical Feedbacks on Climate Change*

34  
35  
36 **The ocean and terrestrial carbon sinks are expected to continue to grow due to increased atmospheric**  
37 **CO<sub>2</sub> but weaken with warming (*high confidence*) and stop growing or decline under high GHG**  
38 **emissions scenarios.** All Earth System Models indicate that the global ocean sink will stop growing from  
39 around 2060 under the warmest scenarios, although at a level varying from about 4 to 6 Pg yr<sup>-1</sup> Most models  
40 predict a declining land carbon sink from 2060 onwards once CO<sub>2</sub> emissions begins to slow down under the  
41 warmest scenarios, while some models also predict that the land becomes a carbon source by 2100 (from  
42 being sink of up to 4 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>); it is *very likely* that terrestrial nutrient shortage will limit the effect of rising  
43 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> on future land carbon sinks. It is *very likely* that the ocean sink will be limited It is *very*  
44 *likely* that the ocean sink will be limited by a decreasing buffer capacity. Despite the wide range of model  
45 responses, there is *high confidence* that overall uncertainty in projections of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2100 is dominated by  
46 uncertainties in emissions scenarios rather than uncertainties in carbon cycle feedbacks. {5.4}

47  
48 **It is *virtually certain* that the land and ocean sources of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O, and the atmospheric sink of**  
49 **methane will be affected by climate change.** There is *large uncertainty* about the magnitude and timing of  
50 the responses of each individual process involved. However, there is *medium to high confidence* that at  
51 multidecadal and centennial timescales the additional radiative forcing arising from climate-CH<sub>4</sub> and  
52 climate–N<sub>2</sub>O feedbacks will be small compared to the forcing from the direct anthropogenic GHG emissions  
53 in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. {5.4}

1 **On the basis of the paleorecord, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is sensitive to changes in the efficiency of the ocean's**  
2 **biological carbon pump.** However, the processes that drive this sensitivity remain very uncertain. Long  
3 term projections do not provide an agreement on the magnitude and direction of climate-driven trends in  
4 ocean primary production. {5.4.4.2}

5  
6 **There is *high confidence* that thawing terrestrial permafrost will lead to carbon release, but *low***  
7 ***confidence* in the timing, magnitude and the relative roles of CO<sub>2</sub> versus CH<sub>4</sub> as feedback processes.**  
8 Model projections under high warming scenarios estimate carbon emissions from permafrost of between 11  
9 and 174 PgC by 2100. Because of widespread soil saturation and anoxia in the region, part of the carbon flux  
10 from ecosystems to the atmosphere is via the production of CH<sub>4</sub>, and the combined radiative forcing from  
11 both gases may be larger than from CO<sub>2</sub> emissions only. {5.4.8.2}

12  
13 **The response of biogeochemical cycles to human-forcing may be abrupt at regional scales, and**  
14 **irreversible on decadal to century timescales.** The risks of crossing local thresholds (such as forest  
15 dieback) increase with climate change, but there is no consensus on a particular threshold of global warming  
16 or atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in Earth System Model projections. Models have begun to include a wider array of  
17 processes, such as permafrost and nutrient dynamics, which result in feedbacks that are substantial but do not  
18 lead to runaway feedbacks over the next 100 years (*medium confidence*). Large uncertainties remain on the  
19 possibility of additional feedbacks not represented in current models, which could lead to significant  
20 departures from the current modelled trajectories. {5.4.8}

### 21 *Carbon Budgets to Climate Stabilisation*

22  
23  
24 **Robust physical understanding underpins the near linear relationship between cumulative CO<sub>2</sub>**  
25 **emissions and global mean temperature increase, known as the transient climate response to**  
26 **cumulative carbon emissions (TCRE) (*high confidence*).** The TCRE implies that stabilizing global  
27 warming requires global net anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to become zero. TCRE is assessed to amount to  
28 0.8–2.5°C per 1000 PgC (*likely* range). Additional Earth system feedbacks that operate on century timescales  
29 like permafrost thawing have the potential to break the linearity of TCRE, resulting in both higher warming  
30 or a path dependency of warming as a function of cumulative emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. {5.5.1}

31  
32 **Mitigation requirements for limiting warming to specific levels can be quantified using a carbon**  
33 **budget that relates cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to global mean temperature increase (*high confidence*).**  
34 Since preindustrial times, a total of 690±90 PgC of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> has been emitted. Besides the TCRE,  
35 estimating the remaining carbon budget is further influenced by historical warming, the warming  
36 contribution of non-CO<sub>2</sub> forcings, and additional Earth system feedbacks that are not typically included in  
37 coupled models informing the TCRE. The remaining carbon budget starting from the year 2019 for limiting  
38 warming to 1.5°C, 2°C, and 3°C with a probability of at least 66% is assessed to amount to X PgC, X PgC,  
39 X PgC, respectively, and Y PgC, Y PgC, and Y PgC for at least 50% probability. Following a linear  
40 trajectory from today onwards these values correspond to reaching net zero in Y, Y, and Y year,  
41 respectively. If a specific remaining carbon budget is exceeded, carbon-dioxide removal will be required to  
42 return warming to a certain temperature level. [[To be updated]] {5.5.2}

43  
44 **Several factors, including future emissions from permafrost thawing and wetlands, and variations in**  
45 **projected non-CO<sub>2</sub> warming, affect the precise value of carbon budgets but do not change the need for**  
46 **global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to decline to net zero to halt global warming (*medium confidence*).** Emissions of  
47 permafrost and wetlands *likely* reduces the estimated remaining carbon for 1.5°C or 2°C by about 30 PgC  
48 and continue to add to warming beyond this century. Geophysical uncertainties related to non-CO<sub>2</sub> response  
49 and TCRE distribution result in an uncertainty of at least ±100 PgC. Uncertainties in the level of historic  
50 warming contribute about 70 PgC. These estimates can also vary by about 70 PgC depending on projected  
51 non-CO<sub>2</sub> warming as found in available pathways (from 1.5°C special report. [to be updated] {5.5.2}



1 ***Biogeochemical implications of Carbon Dioxide Removal and Solar Radiation Modification***

2  
3 **Net Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) from the atmosphere will be opposed by outgassing of CO<sub>2</sub> from**  
4 **land and ocean carbon reservoirs (*high confidence*).** In the same way that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are partitioned  
5 between atmosphere, land, and ocean carbon reservoirs, net removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere leads to  
6 repartitioning of CO<sub>2</sub> between reservoirs. The fraction of CO<sub>2</sub> removed that remains out of the atmosphere is  
7 *very likely* 50% for 100 PgC removed under current atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, but varies with the  
8 climate state from which CDR is applied and the amount of CDR implemented (*medium confidence*).  
9 {Figure 5.33, bottom panel; 5.6.2.1 }

10  
11 **The climate-carbon cycle response to the removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere (negative emissions) is**  
12 **not equal and opposite to the response to positive emissions, i.e. the response is not always symmetric**  
13 **(*medium confidence*).** Initial model runs (to be updated) show a symmetric response of the carbon cycle for  
14 pulse emissions and removals of ±100 PgC, but the response becomes increasingly asymmetric for higher  
15 pulse emissions and removals. The asymmetry originates largely from state-dependencies and nonlinearities  
16 in the ocean and will require proportionally larger removal efforts as the reliance on CDR methods increases.  
17 {Figure 5.31; 5.6.2.1 }

18  
19 **Deployment of CDR methods can have beneficial and adverse environmental side effects (*very high***  
20 ***confidence*).** Side effects are either biogeochemical (with consequences for GHG emissions) or biophysical  
21 (changes in hydrology or reflectivity). Some side effects strengthen the climate benefits of CDR methods  
22 while others weaken them. Some CDR methods have additional non-climate benefits such as increasing soil  
23 fertility and productivity or decreasing ocean acidification. The level of confidence in positive and negative  
24 side effects of CDR methods is *low* and often very project/regionally specific. Reversing the increase in  
25 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations by CDR will reverse ocean acidification at the sea surface but will not result  
26 in rapid amelioration of ocean acidification in the deeper ocean (*medium confidence*). {5.6.2.2 }

27  
28 **Solar Radiation Modification (SRM), with the concomitant effects of increasing anthropogenic**  
29 **atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, will *very likely* increase global mean net primary production and carbon storage on**  
30 **land.** This effect is the result of the CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation effect on photosynthesis, which is independent from  
31 any effects from SRM, and the *highly uncertain* diffuse-radiation fertilisation effect on photosynthesis from  
32 the increase diffuse radiation fraction due to the aerosol injections in the atmosphere. Because SRM does not  
33 directly address the increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, it does not counteract ocean acidification. {5.6.3 }

## 5.1 Introduction and the paleo context

Increasing the abundance of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere is the dominant cause of the changing Earth's radiative properties which are leading to climate change. While the main driver of changes in atmospheric GHGs over the past 200 years is the direct emissions from human activities, the actual accumulation of GHG in the atmosphere is also controlled by biogeochemical source-sink dynamics that exchange quantities between multiple carbon pools on land, oceans and atmosphere. For instance, the combustion of fossil fuels and land use change for the period 1750–2017 have released an estimated  $660 \pm 90$  PgC to the atmosphere (Le Quéré et al., 2018a) of which less than half remains in the atmosphere today. This underscores the large role of terrestrial and ocean carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) sinks in regulating the concentration of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Ballantyne et al., 2012; Gruber et al., 2019a; Le Quéré et al., 2018a; Li et al., 2016b).

The biogeochemical controls of GHGs is a central motivation for this chapter, which identifies biogeochemical feedbacks that have led or could lead to a future acceleration, slowdown or abrupt transitions in the rate of GHG accumulation in the atmosphere, and therefore of climate change, its impacts, and the remaining carbon budget to chosen climate stabilisation targets.

The chapter covers the three GHGs that dominate the human perturbation of the Earth's radiation budget: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O).

This section (Section 5.1) provides an overview of the place in Earth's history of the current and future scenarios of atmospheric concentrations and growth rates of the three GHGs. It also introduces the main processes involved in GHGs-climate feedbacks followed by an assessment of what can be learned from the paleo record towards a better understanding of contemporary and future GHG-climate dynamics and their response to different mitigation trajectories.

The chapter covers the historical (< 100 years) and contemporary (past decade) state of the carbon cycle and other biogeochemical cycles in Section 5.2, including the global budgets of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O. Significant advancements have taken place since IPCC AR5, particularly in constraining the annual to decadal variability of the ocean and land carbon sinks and what that reveals about the sensitivity of carbon pools to current and future climate changes. There are also new isotopic and other data constraints on the causes of the observed CH<sub>4</sub> trends over the past two decades, and significantly more complete and better constrained global N<sub>2</sub>O budget than in previous assessments.

The uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> by the oceans leads to ocean acidification. Section 5.3 covers the paleo, historical and future trends in ocean acidification, with consequences for biogeochemical cycles and marine life. These impacts are assessed in AR6-WG II. The section also assesses the trend in deoxygenation of the oceans due to warming, increased stratification of the surface ocean and slowing of the meridional overturning circulation, which reduce the ventilation of the ocean interior and amplify the impact of remineralisation of the biological carbon pump on DIC and pH in the ocean interior. Growing hypoxia zones in the tropical and sub-tropical oceans linked to changing ventilation are also significant sources of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions as well as important influences on Eastern Boundary Upwelling systems where they can amplify ocean acidification and the generations of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O.

Future projections of biogeochemical cycles and their feedbacks to the climate system are in Section 5.4. Earth system models have made significant progress towards including more complex carbon cycle and associated biogeochemical processes that enable exploring a range of possible future carbon-climate feedbacks and their impacts on the climate system. Emphasis is placed in understanding processes involved in carbon-climate feedbacks and the possibility for rapid and abrupt changes brought about non-linear dynamics. Uncertainties and the limits of our models to predict future dynamics for a given GHG emissions trajectories are given.

A significant advance in the IPCC AR5 was the development of the total and remaining carbon budgets to climate stabilisation targets and the associated transient climate response to cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These advances were based on the finding that the excess global warming compared to the preindustrial time

1 was quasi linearly related with the historical cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Section 5.5 shows the progress  
2 made since the AR5 and the 1.5°C Special Report (IPCC, 2018b) particularly on key components required to  
3 estimate the remaining carbon budget. These components include transient response to cumulative emissions  
4 of CO<sub>2</sub>, zero emission commitment, projected non-CO<sub>2</sub> warming, and unrepresented Earth system feedbacks.  
5

6 Section 5.6 assesses the biogeochemical implications of Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR, also known as  
7 negative emissions) and Solar Radiation Modification (SRM). CDR seeks to directly reverse the effects of  
8 greenhouse gas emissions by removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere either directly or by enhancing terrestrial,  
9 marine or geological carbon sinks. SRM attempts to offset the climate effects of greenhouse gas emissions,  
10 by intentional manipulation of planetary solar absorption to counter climate change. The potential and socio-  
11 economic feasibility of such options are assessed in detail in IPCC AR6 WGIII.  
12

13 Finally, Section 5.7 highlights the knowledge gaps that emerged from this assessment, which would have  
14 strengthened the assessment reported in this chapter.  
15

### 17 5.1.1 Time context of the human perturbation of biogeochemical cycles

18  
19 Measurements in air samples extracted from bubbles trapped in ice cores and collected from the ambient  
20 atmosphere show that concentrations of the three most important long-lived and well-mixed GHGs, CO<sub>2</sub>,  
21 CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O, began to rapidly increase at the onset of the Industrial era around 1750 (Figure 5.1).  
22

23 Atmospheric concentrations of the three GHGs reached 405 ppm for CO<sub>2</sub>, 1850 ppb for CH<sub>4</sub>, and 330 ppb  
24 for N<sub>2</sub>O in 2017, and are *very likely* to be the highest in the last 800,000 years (Figure 5.1). These  
25 concentrations correspond to about 46%, 156%, and 22% increase above pre-industrial levels, respectively  
26 (Section 5.2). For CO<sub>2</sub>, current concentrations are also *very likely* to be unprecedented in more than 2 million  
27 years (Martínez-Botí et al., 2015b).  
28

29  
30 [START FIGURE 5.1 HERE]

31  
32 **Figure 5.1:** Atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O in air bubble trapped in ice cores, dated period from  
33 800,000 BCE to 1990 CE (note the variable x-axis range and tick mark intervals for the 3 columns). Ice  
34 core data is over-plotted by atmospheric observations from 1958 to present for CO<sub>2</sub>, from 1984 for CH<sub>4</sub>  
35 and from 1994 for N<sub>2</sub>O. The linear growth rates for different time periods (800K–0 BCE, 0–1900 CE and  
36 1900–2017 CE) are given in each panel. For the BCE period, mean rise and fall rates are calculated for  
37 the individual slopes between the peaks and troughs, which are given in the panels in left column. The  
38 data for BCE period are used from the Vostok, EPICA and Dome C ice cores (Louergue et al., 2008;  
39 Lüthi et al., 2008; Monnin, 2001; Pépin et al., 2001; Petit et al., 1999; Raynaud et al., 2005; Schilt et al.,  
40 2010a; Siegenthaler et al., 2005). The data until 0-yr CE are taken mainly from Law Dome ice core  
41 analysis (MacFarling Meure et al., 2006a). The surface observations for all species are taken from  
42 NOAA cooperative research network (Dlugokencky and Tans, 2019), where ALT, MLO and SPO stand  
43 for Alert (Canada), Mauna Loa Observatory, and South Pole Observatory, respectively.  
44

45 [END FIGURE 5.1 HERE]

46  
47  
48 Further back in time, CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations reached much higher levels than present day. Possibly the best  
49 studied interval in the past that provides some level of comparison with the current anthropogenic increase in  
50 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions relates to the Palaeocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM), 55.8 Myr ago. Atmospheric  
51 CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations increased from ~800 to ~2200 ppm in as little as 4–20 Kyr as a result of pulsed release  
52 of geological carbon to the ocean–atmosphere system (Gutjahr et al., 2017; Turner, 2018; Zeebe et al., 2016)  
53 (Figure 5.2).  
54

55 The PETM was also associated with pronounced, widespread ocean acidification, with surface ocean pH  
56 transiently decreasing by 0.15–0.30 units (Babila et al., 2018; Gutjahr et al., 2017; Penman et al., 2014) with

1 deleterious consequences for shelf and pelagic marine ecosystems (McInerney and Wing, 2011). These  
2 observations highlight that the rate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and by inference the rate at which the ocean absorbs  
3 CO<sub>2</sub>, is crucial in determining the severity of ocean acidification and other related adverse consequences,  
4 such as ocean deoxygenation (see Section 5.3).

5  
6 Multiple lines of evidence show with medium confidence that the rates of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to the atmosphere  
7 during the Industrial Era has been by at least a factor of 10 higher than at any other time of the last 66  
8 million years (Zeebe et al., 2016; Zeebe and Zachos, 2013) showing the unprecedented pace of change of the  
9 current anthropogenic perturbation (Figure 5.2).

10  
11 The last ~50 million years have been characterised by a gradual decline in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels at a rate  
12 of ~16 ppm Myr<sup>-1</sup> (Anagnostou et al., 2016; Foster et al., 2017; Gutjahr et al., 2017). The most recent time  
13 interval atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration was as high as 1000 ppm (i.e. similar to the end-of 21<sup>st</sup> century  
14 projection for the high-end emission scenario RCP8.5) was around 33.5 million years ago, prior to the  
15 Eocene-Oligocene transition (Anagnostou et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2013b). Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels then  
16 reached a critical threshold (1000–750 ppm, (DeConto et al., 2008)) enabling the development of regional  
17 ice-sheets on Antarctica.

18  
19 The most recent interval characterised by atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels similar to modern (i.e. 400–450 ppm) was  
20 the mid- to late Pliocene (3–3.3 Myr, (Martínez-Botí et al., 2015a) after which atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
21 concentration declined gradually at a rate of 40 ppm Myr<sup>-1</sup>, allowing for major advances in Northern  
22 Hemisphere ice sheets, 2.7 Myr ago (DeConto et al., 2008; Sigman et al., 2004).

23  
24 During the period of 800,000–0 BCE, periodic oscillations in GHG concentrations are forced by orbital  
25 modulation as per the Milankovich theory, reinforced by feedbacks internal to the Earth climate system.  
26 Concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> during that time period oscillated cyclically between 160–180 ppm and 300 ppm  
27 (Lüthi et al., 2008) (Figure 5.1). During the last deglaciation, growth rates of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations peaked at  
28 0.12 ppm yr<sup>-1</sup> (Marcott et al., 2014), 6 times smaller when compared to the average growth rate of CO<sub>2</sub>  
29 emissions for the twentieth century (0.71 ppm yr<sup>-1</sup>) (Joos and Spahni, 2008), and 20 times smaller when  
30 compared with the growth rate of 2.3 ppm yr<sup>-1</sup> for the last decade (2009–2018) (Dlugokencky and Tans,  
31 2019). The rise and decline rates for each of the glacial and interglacial peaks suggests that both the high  
32 concentrations at present and the growth rates of atmospheric accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O in the past  
33 century are unprecedented.

34  
35 For the period with the highest resolution of paleo and atmospheric records, data show growth rates of  
36 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> were about 100 times faster during the period of 1900–2017 compared to that during the  
37 period of 0–1900 (Figure 5.1).

38  
39 The acceleration in the GHGs atmospheric growth over the latter period is consistent with the intensification  
40 of industrial and agricultural activities. However, beyond a causal relationship, there are multiple lines of  
41 independent evidence that make the relationship between growth of excess GHGs and human activities  
42 *virtually certain* (see Sections 5.2.1.1, 5.2.2.1, 5.2.3.1).

43  
44  
45 **[START FIGURE 5.2 HERE]**

46  
47 **Figure 5.2:** CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and growth rates for the past 60 million years to 2100 using RCP2.6 and RCP8.5.  
48 Concentrations data as in Figure 5.1 and data prior to 800K years from (Foster et al., 2017). BCE =  
49 Before Current Era, CE = Current Era.

50  
51 **[END FIGURE 5.2 HERE]**

### 52 53 **5.1.2 Biogeochemical cycling and greenhouse gases-climate feedbacks**

54  
55 Atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> and other GHGs are controlled by the exchange between multiple

1 reservoirs on land, oceans and the atmosphere involving fast and slow physical and biogeochemical  
2 processes. Carbon – Climate feedbacks link changes in the net air-sea and air-land fluxes of CO<sub>2</sub> driven by  
3 both anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon feedback) and warming and wind stress (climate feedback) to anomalies in  
4 the trend of the airborne fraction of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> (the fraction of anthropogenic emissions remaining  
5 in the atmosphere), which in turn, drives climate change (Cox et al., 2000). Depending on the particular  
6 combination of driver and response dynamics, they behave as positive or negative feedbacks that amplify or  
7 dampen the magnitude and rates of climate change (Cox et al., 2000; Friedlingstein et al., 2003, 2006).  
8 Positive and negative feedbacks involve fast processes on land and oceans that expand from seconds to  
9 months such as photosynthesis, soil respiration, and net primary production, and slower processes taking  
10 decades to millennia such as ocean buffering capacity, ocean circulation, vegetation dynamics and peat  
11 formation and decomposition.

12  
13 During the historical period the biogeochemical processes on land and the combined physical and  
14 biogeochemical processes in the ocean have demonstrated a remarkable capacity to keep up with the growth  
15 in anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These processes have maintained a rather constant mean decadal (2008–  
16 2017) fraction of the total emissions going into the ocean and land, and with 50% of emissions remaining in  
17 the atmosphere (Black and magenta arrows in Figure 5.3; Section 5.2.1.5; Table 5.1). The negative feedback  
18 to CO<sub>2</sub> forcing is associated with its impact on the air-sea and air-land CO<sub>2</sub> gradient as well as the internal  
19 processes that enhance uptake: the CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation effect on gross primary production and the buffering  
20 capacity of the ocean (Section 5.4.1–4). This negative feedback in the global carbon cycle has slowed the  
21 rate of global warming significantly by maintaining the Airborne Fraction of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> at close to  
22 45% Table 5.1. The excess heat generated by an increasing burden of GHGs in the atmosphere is itself  
23 partitioned into the ocean (93%) and the residual balance (7%) approximately equally split between  
24 atmospheric and terrestrial warming and ice melting (blue arrows: Figure 5.3 (Frölicher et al., 2015)).

25  
26 The combined effect of these two large scale negative feedbacks of CO<sub>2</sub> and heat is reflected in the Transient  
27 Climate Response to cumulative carbon Emissions (TCRE) concept (Section 5.5), which shows that there is  
28 a linear relationship between cumulative emissions and global warming, which is used as the basis to  
29 estimate the remaining carbon budget (Section 5.5) (MacDougall and Friedlingstein, 2015). A fundamental  
30 aspect of TCRE, which makes it independent of the rate is that the ocean dominates both heat and CO<sub>2</sub>  
31 uptake rates and maintains the linearity. Future carbon-climate feedbacks yet unknown could break this  
32 quasi linear relationship, which relies on the dominance by the ocean CO<sub>2</sub> uptake in driving the airborne  
33 fraction in the historical and in the future (see Section 5.5).

34  
35  
36 **[START FIGURE 5.3 HERE]**

37  
38 **Figure 5.3:** Schematic summarizing the key compartments, processes and pathways that govern historical and future  
39 carbon concentration and carbon – climate feedbacks through both terrestrial and ocean systems. Central  
40 to this is the influence of both carbon and climate feedbacks on the evolution of the GHG burden in the  
41 atmosphere and the airborne fraction of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> (Red circle), which drives the Earth’s energy  
42 imbalance that is partitioned between the ocean (93%) and the terrestrial residual (7%). The ocean  
43 dominates the heat feedback. The airborne fraction that drives this historical climate forcing (~ 44%) is  
44 largely regulated by the negative feedback of ocean (22%) and terrestrial (29%) sinks that partition  
45 anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> (black arrows) in ocean and terrestrial domains (magenta) and result in negative  
46 feedbacks (magenta)(partition excludes the estimated imbalance of 0.5PgC: see Table 5.1). Positive  
47 feedback processes (Purple arrows) although mostly weak in the historical period, are *likely* to strengthen  
48 in the coming decades and are influenced by both carbon and climate forcing simultaneously (Purple).  
49 Additional biosphere processes have been included that have an, as yet uncertain feedback bias (Brown  
50 arrows). Although this schematic is built around CO<sub>2</sub>, the dominant GHG, some of the same processes  
51 also influence the fluxes of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O from the terrestrial and ocean systems. Those are noted as they  
52 contribute to the total radiative forcing.

53  
54 **[END FIGURE 5.3 HERE]**

1 The combined effects of climate and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration feedbacks on the global carbon cycle are predicted  
2 by Earth System Models to modify both the processes and natural reservoirs of carbon that are *likely* to result  
3 in positive feedbacks (purple arrows in Figure 5.1.3). Examples include *inter alia* permafrost thawing on  
4 land and the combined impacts of warming on solubility and decreased buffering capacity in the ocean  
5 weakening the terrestrial and ocean carbon sinks (Section 5.4). Assessing our understanding of the  
6 mechanisms of contemporary feedbacks and their future dynamics, particularly, the potential for rapidly  
7 emerging carbon-climate feedbacks is a key focus of this Chapter.

### 10 5.1.3 *Paleo trends and feedbacks*

12 Paleoclimatic records extend beyond the noise of recent natural climate oscillations and provide an  
13 independent perspective on the links between climate and carbon cycle dynamics. These past changes tended  
14 to be slower than the current anthropogenic ones, so they do not provide a direct comparison. Nonetheless,  
15 they can help appraise sensitivities and point toward potentially dominant mechanisms of change.

17 Polar ice cores represent the only archives from which greenhouse concentrations can be directly  
18 reconstructed. Major GHGs, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> generally co-vary, on both orbital and millennial timescales  
19 (Schilt et al., 2010b), with higher atmospheric concentrations during warm intervals of the past, suggesting a  
20 strong sensitivity to climate.

22 Major preindustrial sources of CH<sub>4</sub> include wetlands, biomass burning and clathrates (methane hydrates)  
23 (Bock et al., 2010, 2017). Stable isotope investigations on CH<sub>4</sub> extracted from Antarctic ice cores, suggest  
24 that CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were largely controlled by tropical wetland dynamics and seasonally inundated  
25 floodplains (Bock et al., 2017). Changes in these sources are steered by variations in temperatures,  
26 precipitations and water table as modulated by insolation, local sea-level changes and monsoon intensity.  
27 Natural geological emissions, related to the destabilisation of fossil methane hydrates buried in continental  
28 margins and permafrost as a result of abrupt warming appear negligible, at least across the glacial  
29 termination and the Holocene (Bock et al., 2017; Petrenko et al., 2017).

31 Pre-industrial atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O concentrations were regulated by microbial production in marine (water  
32 column nitrification/denitrification) and terrestrial environments as well as by photochemical destruction in  
33 the stratosphere (Schilt et al., 2014). Stable isotope analysis on N<sub>2</sub>O extracted from Antarctic and Greenland  
34 ice reveal that marine and terrestrial sources were approximately equal across the last glacial termination  
35 (Schilt et al., 2014).

37 Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are regulated by rapid exchange with terrestrial and surface ocean carbon  
38 reservoirs. The dominant process controlling atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations on millennial to orbital  
39 timescales involve exchange with the voluminous deep ocean reservoir (Jaccard et al., 2016; Rae et al., 2018;  
40 Schmitt et al., 2012; Sigman and Boyle, 2000). Stable carbon isotope measurement on CO<sub>2</sub> covering the  
41 transition from the last ice age to the Holocene highlight that the reconstructed CO<sub>2</sub> rise was primarily  
42 related to CO<sub>2</sub> outgassing from the ocean subsurface, likely due to a weakening of the biological carbon  
43 pump and rising ocean temperature and to a lesser degree by carbon sources on land (Bauska et al., 2016;  
44 Galbraith and Jaccard, 2015; Schmitt et al., 2012).

46 CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O contribute approximately equally to the natural global radiative forcing, but their relative  
47 contribution is of secondary importance compared to the radiative forcing imposed by CO<sub>2</sub>, which alone  
48 represents 80% of the total change in radiative forcing across the last glacial cycle (Köhler et al., 2017; Schilt  
49 et al., 2014).

#### 53 5.1.3.1 *High-CO<sub>2</sub> periods*

55 The Pliocene Optimum (4.3-3.3 Ma) and the mid-Pliocene Warm Period (mPWP, 3.2–3.0 Myr ago) in

1 particular was perhaps the most recent analogue for near future climate (Burke et al., 2018) and thus offers  
2 an opportunity to investigate feedback mechanisms operating in a warmer-than-present world (Haywood et  
3 al., 2016). Many parallels can be drawn between the mPWP and modern observations as well as future  
4 climate projections, due to similar continental configuration, land elevation and ocean bathymetry.  
5 During warm intervals of the Pliocene, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are estimated to have ranged  
6 between 350–450 ppm (Martínez-Botí et al., 2015b; Seki et al., 2010). As a result, the global average  
7 temperature was about 3–4°C warmer than pre-industrial (Haywood et al., 2016). Generally warmer  
8 temperatures were associated with reduced continental ice extent in both hemispheres, with parts of  
9 Greenland and Northern Canada being forested (Ballantyne et al., 2006). Increased SSTs combined with  
10 altered atmospheric moisture transport (Haywood et al., 2016) supported subarctic North Pacific deep  
11 convection and a Pacific meridional overturning circulation. This second Northern Hemisphere overturning  
12 cell had important consequences for heat transport and the partitioning of CO<sub>2</sub> between the ocean and  
13 atmosphere (Burls et al., 2017). The presence of an active, deep Pacific overturning cell would have  
14 contributed to decrease the global ocean CO<sub>2</sub> storage capacity (Burls et al., 2017), further weakening the  
15 global efficiency of the biological carbon pump (Sigman et al., 2004) during the mPWP.

16  
17 Despite generally higher atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, the increase in radiative forcing was relatively  
18 moderate (equivalent to  $\approx 2 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$ ) and thus presents a challenge to attribute mPWP warmth the CO<sub>2</sub> alone.  
19 Earth climate sensitivity (ECS) to CO<sub>2</sub>-based radiative forcing (Earth System Sensitivity, ESS) was half as  
20 strong during the Pliocene as during the colder Pleistocene epoch. The difference is attributed to the radiative  
21 impacts of continental ice-volume changes (i.e. ice-albedo feedback) during the late Pleistocene, because  
22 ESS was analogue for the two intervals (Lunt et al., 2010). Predictions of ECS for the “Pliocene-like” future  
23 are well described by the currently accepted range of an increase of 1.5–4.5 K per doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> (Fischer  
24 et al., 2018; Rohling et al., 2012, 2018).

### 26 5.1.3.2 *Glacial-interglacial changes*

27  
28 The high-resolution Antarctic ice core record covering the past 800,000 years provides an important archive  
29 to explore the carbon-climate feedbacks prior to human perturbations (Brovkin et al., 2016). Paleo modelling  
30 work suggests that the carbon cycle contributes to globalise and amplify changes in orbital forcing, which  
31 are pacing glacial-interglacial climate oscillations (Ganopolski and Brovkin, 2017), with ocean  
32 biogeochemistry and physics, terrestrial vegetation, peatland and permafrost all playing a role in modulating  
33 the concentration of atmospheric GHGs prior the Industrial era.

34  
35 Under the generally colder glacial climate, characterised by atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations  $90 \pm 10$  ppm (-  
36  $190 \pm 20$  GtC) lower than preindustrial levels (Lüthi et al., 2008), interactions between climate and the global  
37 carbon cycle were arguably different.

38  
39 During past ice ages, a generally colder climate state, associated with a weaker hydrological cycle,  
40 contributed to a substantial decline of the land biosphere carbon inventory. Early estimates assessing the  
41 glacial decrease in the terrestrial biosphere carbon stock vary widely, yet, recent, and arguably more realistic  
42 calculations cluster around 300–600 PgC (Ciais et al., 2012; Peterson et al., 2014), possibly 850 PgC when  
43 accounting for ocean-sediment interactions and burial (Jeltsch-Thömmes et al., 2018). The large uncertainty  
44 reflects a yet limited understanding on how glacially perturbed nutrient fluxes and soil dynamics as well as  
45 largely exposed shelf areas in the tropics as a result of lowered sea-level altered carbon inventories.

46  
47 Vegetation regrowth and increased precipitation in wetland regions associated with the mid-deglacial  
48 Northern Hemisphere warming (referred to as the Bolling/Allerod warm interval), in particular in the  
49 (sub)tropics, accounts for large increases in both CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions to the atmosphere (Bock et al.,  
50 2017; Schilt et al., 2014). Rapid warming of high northern latitude has also been proposed to have  
51 destabilised permafrost, potentially liberating vast quantities of labile organic carbon to the atmosphere  
52 (Crichton et al., 2016; Köhler et al., 2014). Isotopic measurements on CO<sub>2</sub> extracted from Antarctic ice  
53 suggest, however, that the abrupt release of geological carbon is *unlikely* to have substantially affected the  
54 deglacial atmospheric carbon inventory (Bauska et al., 2016; Schmitt et al., 2012) and rather point to a

1 dominant oceanic source.

2  
3 Recent estimates suggests deep-sea CO<sub>2</sub> storage during the last ice age exceeded modern values by as much  
4 as 750–950 PgC (Jaccard et al., 2009; Sarnthein et al., 2013; Anderson et al., 2019), sufficient to balance the  
5 removal of carbon from the atmosphere and the terrestrial biosphere reservoirs combined. A combination of  
6 increased CO<sub>2</sub> solubility associated with generally colder oceanic temperatures, altered oceanic alkalinity  
7 (Cartapanis et al., 2018; Hoogakker et al., 2018; Yu et al., 2010a); and a generally more efficient biological  
8 carbon pump (Galbraith and Jaccard, 2015; Hain et al., 2010; Martinez-Garcia et al., 2014; Ziegler et al.,  
9 2013); likely conspired to partition CO<sub>2</sub> into the ocean interior (Anderson et al., 2019). Glacial atmospheric  
10 CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were kept to a temporally consistent lower level of 190±7 ppm, as a result of CO<sub>2</sub>  
11 limitation of photosynthesis, either directly or via CO<sub>2</sub>-limitation on N<sub>2</sub> fixation (Galbraith and Eggleston,  
12 2017).

13  
14 The generally gradual increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> from the last ice age into the Holocene was punctuated  
15 by three sub-millennial 10–15 ppm increments (Marcott et al., 2014). These transient CO<sub>2</sub> outgassing events  
16 have been associated with the release of CO<sub>2</sub> previously sequestered in the ocean interior (Marcott et al.,  
17 2014), possibly via the Southern Ocean (Jaccard et al., 2016; Rae et al., 2018; Schmitt et al., 2012; Skinner et  
18 al., 2010). The early deglacial release of remineralised carbon from the ocean abyss coincides with the  
19 resumption of the Southern Ocean overturning circulation (Ferrari et al., 2014; Jaccard et al., 2016; Rae et  
20 al., 2018; Skinner et al., 2010). The two later pulses are associated with the rejuvenation of the Atlantic  
21 Meridional Overturning Circulation (Marcott et al., 2014). The deglacial increase in Atlantic overturning  
22 contributed to transfer the locus of remineralised carbon to intermediate depths (Schmittner et al., 2008),  
23 which contributed to reduce subsurface dissolved oxygen concentrations thereby substantially increasing  
24 marine N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (Jaccard and Galbraith, 2012; Schilt et al., 2014).

25  
26 Coupled glacial-interglacial climate and carbon cycle EMIC simulations were able to reproduce first-order  
27 changes in the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> content for the first time (Brovkin et al., 2012; Ganopolski and Brovkin,  
28 2017). The most important processes accounting for the full deglacial CO<sub>2</sub> amplitude in the model include  
29 solubility changes, changes in oceanic circulation and marine inorganic carbonate chemistry. The impact of  
30 the terrestrial carbon cycle, variable volcanic outgassing, and the temperature dependence on the oceanic  
31 remineralisation length scale contribute less than 15 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> between the glacial and non-glacial parts of  
32 the cycles.

### 33 34 35 5.1.3.3 *Holocene changes*

36  
37 The Holocene (11.7 ka – today) was characterised by relatively stable global climate conditions, despite  
38 large changes in insolation. This period of time is characterised by CO<sub>2</sub> concentration levels similar to pre-  
39 industrial times. The Early Holocene (11.7–5 ka) warmth is followed by ~0.7°C cooling through the middle  
40 to late Holocene (< 5 ka), culminating in the coolest temperatures of the Holocene during the Little Ice Age  
41 (LIA), about 200 years ago. This cooling could be associated with ~2°C change in the North Atlantic,  
42 possibly linked to a slow-down of the AMOC, although recent palaeoceanographic evidence report stable  
43 and vigorous Atlantic circulation throughout the Holocene (Hoffmann et al., 2018). Parallel increase in  
44 Southern Ocean circulation and upwelling intensity (Studer et al., 2018), possibly promoted by stronger  
45 westerly winds (Saunders et al., 2018), could account for the 20 ppm increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
46 concentrations reported for the Holocene.

47  
48 Peat reservoirs have gradually increased over the Holocene, resulting in long-term sequestration of carbon  
49 (Frolking and Roulet, 2007). The Holocene Thermal Maximum rates for net carbon uptake by northern  
50 peatlands were clearly higher than those for the cooler late Holocene (Stocker et al., 2017; Yu et al., 2010b)  
51 as a result of rapid peat growth during times of ice-sheet retreat and strong seasonality, contributing to  
52 maintain Holocene atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations changes within limited bounds. Stable carbon isotope  
53 values measured on CO<sub>2</sub> extracted from Antarctic ice are consistent with a parallel uptake of carbon by the  
54 land biosphere and carbon release from the ocean as a result of enhanced outgassing and carbonate  
55 compensation (Elsig et al., 2009; Menviel and Joos, 2012).



#### 5.1.3.4 Past to understand the future

The geological record of past climate variability offers a unique opportunity to document how Earth system processes and feedbacks operated beyond the instrumental record and are fundamental to our ability to adequately project future climate and environmental change. These records have provided key insights in the processes involved in past dynamics of biogeochemical cycles and in the development of understanding and modelling capability.

Paleoclimatic reconstructions reveal profound ecosystem disruptions associated with pulsed CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to the ocean and atmosphere reservoirs in the geologic past, with multiple recent (<23,000 years) instances of rapid increases of 10 to 15 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub> in less than two centuries (Marcott et al., 2014). Importantly, the CO<sub>2</sub> emission rates from paleo records show to be likely one order of magnitude slower than the current anthropogenic change raising concerns about future ecological changes on land and related to ocean acidification (Gattuso et al., 2015) and ocean deoxygenation (Gruber, 2011).

A recent observation-based synthesis of the understanding of past intervals with temperatures within the range of projected future warming suggest that there is low risk of crossing a tipping-point in the climate system leading to large, unpredictable changes in the state of the system for warming of no more than 2°C (Fischer et al., 2018). However, the synthesis also reveals substantial regional impacts, in particular in high-latitude environments, which were more affected by warming owing to polar amplification.

## 5.2 Historical trends, variability and budgets of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O

This section describes the trends and variability in atmospheric accumulation, sources and sinks, and the budgets of the three main GHGs CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O during the historical period (1750–2018). Emphasis is placed on the more recent period where understanding is tightly constrained by atmospheric, ocean and land observations. The section also shows the forcing and processes driving the trends, and how variability at the seasonal to decadal scales provide insights on the mechanism governing long term trends and emerging GHG-climate feedbacks.

### 5.2.1 CO<sub>2</sub>: Trends, Variability and Budget

#### 5.2.1.1 Atmosphere

Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration measurements in remote (background) locations began in 1957 at the South Pole Observatory (SPO), and in 1958 at Mauna Loa Observatory (MLO) (Keeling et al., 1960). Since then, measurements have been extended to multiple location around the world. CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations grew on average  $1.56 \pm 0.16$  ppm yr<sup>-1</sup> over the 59 years of atmospheric measurements (1959–2018), with the rate of CO<sub>2</sub> accumulation almost tripling from an average of  $0.82 \pm 0.28$  ppm yr<sup>-1</sup> during the 1960s to 2.33 ppm yr<sup>-1</sup> during the most recent decade of 2009–2018 (Dlugokencky and Tans, 2019).

These measurements at very high accuracy and time resolution have been critical for understanding the natural and anthropogenic processes that influence the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> trends and variability. The seasonal variation at MLO is observed due to the predominant role of northern hemispheric terrestrial biosphere uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> in summer and release in the winter, while a systematic increase in gradient between MLO and SPO is caused primarily by continuous increase in emissions due to fossil fuel combustion by the industrialised nations in the northern hemisphere (Figure 5.4). Further evidences for the effects of fossil fuel combustion on atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> increase can be drawn from the simultaneous measurements of stable carbon isotope ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ) and O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>, which show reduction with time because both coal and oil extracted from geological storage are depleted in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and for every molecule of carbon compounds burned one molecule of oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) is consumed (Figure 5.4b, c; note inverted y-axis; (Goddard et al., 2007). An additional strong

1 line of evidence for fossil fuel emissions causing CO<sub>2</sub> increase comes from the measurements of radiocarbon  
 2 (<sup>14</sup>C) at Wellington, because the fossil fuels of millions of years old carbon are completely devoid of  
 3 radiocarbon (Turnbull et al., 2017). The naturally occurring radiocarbon abundance (background) in the  
 4 atmosphere was strongly perturbed by nuclear bomb tests in the 1940s through 1960s that increased the δ<sup>14</sup>C  
 5 abundance until 1965; the high levels gradually decreased back to close to background levels in 2015 due to  
 6 dilution by the large amounts of <sup>14</sup>C avoided-fossil fuel emissions, and also by lost to the ocean interior and  
 7 to the upper atmosphere (Levin et al., 2010; Suess, 1955).

8  
 9  
 10 **[START FIGURE 5.4 HERE]**

11  
 12 **Figure 5.4:** Time series of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and related measurements in ambient air. All the data are taken from  
 13 Mauna Loa Observatory (MLO) and South Pole Observatory (SPO) operated by the Scripps Institution of  
 14 Oceanography (SIO)/University of California, San Diego (Keeling et al., 2001) except for the δ<sup>14</sup>C-CO<sub>2</sub>  
 15 (panel b, right y-axis). The δ(O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>) are expressed in per meg units (= (FF/M)×10<sup>6</sup>, where FF = moles of  
 16 O<sub>2</sub> consumed by fossil-fuel burning, M = 3.706×10<sup>19</sup>, total number of O<sub>2</sub> molecules in the atmosphere)  
 17 (Goddard et al., 2007). The <sup>14</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> time series at Wellington, New Zealand (BHD) is provided by GNS  
 18 Science and NIWA (Turnbull et al., 2017).

19  
 20 **[END FIGURE 5.4 HERE]**

21  
 22  
 23 The evolution of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> over the past six decades has also shown a relative unchanged airborne  
 24 fraction, the fraction of anthropogenic emissions that have accumulated in the atmosphere. That suggest in  
 25 part that the land and ocean CO<sub>2</sub> sinks have grown at a rate consistent with the growth rate of anthropogenic  
 26 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, albeit large inter-annual and sub-decadal variability (Ballantyne et al., 2012; Gruber et al.,  
 27 2019a; P. Ciais et al., 2019).

### 28 29 30 *5.2.1.2 Anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions*

31  
 32 The two anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> sources are the combustion fossil fuels and industry, and the net flux from land  
 33 use, land use change and forestry.

34  
 35 Fossil fuel and industry CO<sub>2</sub> emissions include the combustion of coal, oil and gas covering all sectors of the  
 36 economy (domestic, transport and industrial use), the production of cement, and industrial processes such as  
 37 the production of chemicals and fertilisers (Figure 5.5A). Emissions from these sources have grown  
 38 continuously since the beginning of the Industrial era with short intermissions due to global economic crises  
 39 or social instability (Peters et al., 2012). Fossil fuel and industry CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were responsible for 86% of  
 40 all anthropogenic emissions during the most recent decade (2008–2017) and reached 9.9±0.5 PgC per year in  
 41 2017; emissions during the 1960s were 3.1±0.2 PgC per year (Le Quéré et al., 2018a).

42  
 43 Since AR5, fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and industry followed a period (2014–2016) with little or no growth  
 44 (Jackson et al., 2016) (largely due to reductions in coal emissions), after growth rates of 3.2% per year  
 45 during the 2000s and 1.5% per year for the last decade of 2008–2017. Emission growth has resumed since  
 46 2016 (Le Quéré et al., 2018a).

47  
 48  
 49 **[START FIGURE 5.5 HERE]**

50  
 51 **Figure 5.5:** Global anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: A) Historical trends of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emission for the period  
 52 1870 to 2016. Data sources: (Andrew, 2018; BP, 2018; IEA, 2017; Marland et al.; Quéré et al., 2018). B)  
 53 The net land use change CO<sub>2</sub> flux (Pg yr<sup>-1</sup>) from two bookkeeping and 16 dynamic global vegetation  
 54 models (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). B) Bookkeeping models are BLUE (Hansis et al., 2015; Houghton and  
 55 Nassikas, 2017) both updated as described in (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). All estimates are unsmoothed  
 56 annual data. Note that the estimates differ in process comprehensiveness of the models and in definition

of flux components included in the net land use change flux.

[END FIGURE 5.5 HERE]

The net carbon flux from land use and land use change, including management interventions such as forestry, consists of gross sources, such as loss of biomass in deforestation, and gross sinks, such as CO<sub>2</sub> uptake in forest re-growing after harvesting or agricultural abandonment. The net land use change flux relates to direct human interference with the terrestrial vegetation cover, separating it conceptually from carbon fluxes occurring due to interannual variability or trends in environmental conditions (in particular climate, CO<sub>2</sub>, nutrient deposition) (Houghton, 2013). Since AR5 progress has been made on attributing large discrepancies between estimates to divergent inclusion of synergistic effects between environmental and land use change, which led to estimates differing up to 50% (Pongratz et al., 2014; Stocker and Joos, 2015) and to large differences of scientific estimates to country's greenhouse gas inventories under the UNFCCC (Grassi et al., 2018). Also, evidence emerged that the net land use change flux might have been underestimated (which would imply an underestimation of the land sink), as DGVMs have mostly included only anthropogenic land cover change, ignoring land management (Pongratz et al., 2018a). Sensitivity studies including management practices find land use emissions increase on average 20–30% for each practice (Arneeth et al., 2017), or explain about half of the cumulative loss in aboveground biomass (Erb et al., 2018a).

Industrial-era estimates have been updated routinely in the annual budgets of the Global Carbon Project, which now uses two bookkeeping models (Hansis et al., 2015; Houghton and Nassikas, 2017), with uncertainty estimates from dynamic global vegetation models (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). For the decade 2008–2017 emissions averaged to 1.5 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> with an assigned uncertainty of ±0.7 PgC<sup>-1</sup> (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). A general upward trend since 1850 is halted or inversed during the second part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 5.5B), but trends differ since the 1980s related, among other, to different land use forcings used in (Hansis et al., 2015)/the DGVMs and in (Houghton and Nassikas, 2017) (FAO/FRA-based). A trend from generally lower to higher emission estimates as compared to bookkeeping estimates is expected from the DGVMs as they include the loss of additional sink capacity (Gitz and Ciais, 2003), which is growing with atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 5.5).

Cumulative (preindustrial and industrial-era) losses by land use activities have been estimated based on global compilations of carbon stocks for soils as 116 PgC (Sanderman et al., 2018), with 80 PgC [[Placeholder: confirmation of exact number by Sanderman is coming, just read from figure for now]] of this occurring prior to 1800, and for vegetation as 447 (375–525) PgC. For the latter, a share of 353 (310–395) PgC from prior to 1800 has indirectly been suggested as difference of net biosphere flux and terrestrial sink estimates (Erb et al., 2018). Earth System Models with coral reef formation and peat accumulation support the view that anthropogenic emissions are needed in the last 3 ka to explain the ice-core record (Kleinen et al., 2016), but upper-end scenarios for the extent of agricultural expansion before 1850 CE are found incompatible with the carbon budget thereafter (Stocker et al., 2017). Overall, uncertainties in attributing to processes the CO<sub>2</sub> increase measured from ice-cores between the early Holocene and the beginning of the industrial era are still large (Brovkin et al., 2016; Ruddiman et al., 2016).

Uncertainties related to current estimates of the net land use change flux are still large (Figure 5.5B). Carbon fluxes inferred from atmospheric inversions are used to constrain the temporal evolution of the net land use change flux (Piao et al., 2018a), but inversion products show large differences (Bastos et al., 2016) and can be used for evaluation only for regions where the fluxes due to environmental changes are known with confidence. The latter constraint applies to satellite-based biomass estimates. They have become available covering a number of regions of the globe (e.g., Baccini et al., 2017; Thurner et al., 2014) and can be used to evaluate carbon stock changes, including effects of degradation, but differ from model flux estimates because models include legacy emissions which are not included in remote sensing based estimates.

### 5.2.1.3 Ocean CO<sub>2</sub>: Historical and Contemporary Variability and Trends

1  
2 It is almost certain that the contemporary (past 50 years) ocean sink of CO<sub>2</sub> is strengthening ( $1.7\pm 0.5$  PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> to  $2.5\pm 0.5$  PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> between early 1980s and the 2000s respectively; (see SROCC Chapter 5: Section 5.2.2.3) in direct response to the growing atmospheric burden of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> corresponding to a multidecadal mean uptake of  $25\pm 5\%$  of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Le Quéré et al., 2018b). This growing sink both mitigates global warming and drives already observable changes to ocean carbonate chemistry that drive ocean acidification and, though the effect is still small during the contemporary, drive future weakening of the ocean CO<sub>2</sub> sink (Bates et al., 2014; Landschützer et al., 2018; Sutton et al., 2016). Three major advances since AR5 have been the new observational constraints for decadal variability in ocean uptake and storage, and the observation product based changes in *p*CO<sub>2</sub> seasonal cycle amplitude in response to changing ocean carbonate chemistry (Landschützer et al., 2016, 2018; Rödenbeck et al., 2015; Gruber et al., 2019). These advances were made possible by the simultaneous global coordination of observations and data quality control through the Surface Ocean CO<sub>2</sub> Atlas (SOCAT) and LDEO and the rapid adoption of a large variety of interpolation techniques for the surface layer and their inter-comparison to constrain uncertainties and biases (Bakker et al., 2016; Gregor et al., 2019; Landschützer et al., 2016; McKinley et al., 2017; Rödenbeck et al., 2015). Similarly, for carbon storage in the ocean interior the Global Ocean Ship-based Hydrographic Investigations Programme (GO-SHIP) coupled to the Global Ocean Data Analysis Project for Carbon (GLODAPv2) were central to supporting the advances in constraining decadal variability (Clement and Gruber, 2018; Lauvset et al., 2016; Olsen et al., 2016).

#### 22 5.2.1.3.1 Ocean-Atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub> Exchange

23 Estimates of the ocean sink of CO<sub>2</sub> for the contemporary period have been made on the basis of surface ocean *p*CO<sub>2</sub> observations with empirical gap-filling interpolations and from Global Ocean Biogeochemistry Models (GOBMS) (Figure 5.6) (Lenton et al., 2013; McKinley et al., 2017). GOBMs simulate ocean circulation and biogeochemistry for recent decades by forcing the models with wind, heat, and freshwater fluxes derived from various atmospheric reanalysis products and at medium to high resolution grids (Aumont and Bopp, 2006; Doney et al., 2009; Hauck et al., 2018; Le Quéré et al., 2010, 2018c; Schwinger et al., 2016).

32 [START FIGURE 5.6 HERE]

34 **Figure 5.6:** Temporal evolution of the globally-integrated sea-air CO<sub>2</sub> flux as reconstructed by (grey/black) ocean physical and biogeochemical models forced with observed atmospheric history (Doney et al., 2009; Schwinger et al., 2016) (Aumont and Bopp, 2006; Hauck et al., 2018; Le Quéré et al., 2010; Paulsen et al., 2017) [[SROCC reference]], and (blue) observationally-based products that represent spatial and temporal variability in the flux from sparse observations of surface ocean *p*CO<sub>2</sub> (Denvil-Sommer et al., 2018; Gregor et al., 2019; Iida et al., 2015; Landschützer et al., 2016; Rödenbeck et al., 2013; Zeng et al., 2015). Thick lines represent the multi-model mean. Observationally-based products have been corrected for a 0.45 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> pre-industrial riverine source of carbon, as in (Le Quéré et al., 2018c). Dark blue box represents the observed range in the 1990s (using a 90% confidence interval, as in Le Quéré et al., 2018b). [[Placeholder: include ensemble from inversion models]]

45 [END FIGURE 5.6 HERE]

46  
47  
48 The sea-air CO<sub>2</sub> flux reconstructions from GOBMs span 1959–2017, and are updated every year for the Global Carbon Budget (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). GOBM reconstructions demonstrate that the global ocean carbon sink has grown over past six decades, but also reveal a slowdown in the sink in the 1990s, consistent with that found from the observationally-based products. However, variability in globally-integrated flux from the GOBMs is on average lower than that of the observationally-based and inverse modelled products and characterised by both regional differences and biases in the variability of *p*CO<sub>2</sub>, which can influence the trends and the climate sensitivity in GOBM and ESMs (DeVries et al., 2019; Kessler and Tjiputra, 2016; McKinley et al., 2017; Mongwe et al., 2016, 2018) (Figure 5.6). Moreover, while it *likely* that decadal and interannual modes of variability found in ESMs are linked to natural forcing (Li and Ilyina, 2018a), the

1 likely link of the 1990–2000 decadal mode to climate forcing in the Southern Ocean points to a likely  
2 climate sensitivity linked to the influence of climate on winds but absent in prognostic models (Bronse-  
3 laer et al., 2018; Gregor et al., 2018; Gruber et al., 2019c; Roobaert et al., 2018; Swart et al., 2014)  
4

5 For data-based ocean CO<sub>2</sub> flux products, the sparse *p*CO<sub>2</sub> observations are interpolated in space and time  
6 and used in combination with observations of atmospheric *p*CO<sub>2</sub> and wind products to quantify the sea-air  
7 CO<sub>2</sub> flux (Landschützer et al., 2014; McKinley et al., 2017; Rödenbeck et al., 2014, 2015). These  
8 observationally-based estimates have provided important new insights into decadal and interannual  
9 variability in the global ocean CO<sub>2</sub> sink characterised especially by a slow-down in ocean carbon uptake in  
10 the 1990s and a strengthening sink thereafter, which is absent from prognostic models (Figure 5.7; (Gregor et  
11 al., 2019; Landschützer et al., 2014, 2015; Le Quéré et al., 2018b; Rödenbeck et al., 2014).  
12

13  
14 **[START FIGURE 5.7 HERE]**

15  
16 **Figure 5.7:** Regional characteristics of the mean multi-decadal fluxes showing: (a) ocean CO<sub>2</sub> uptake is dominated by  
17 the mid-latitude oceans and (b) mid- to high latitudes contributed the most to the decadal invigoration in  
18 ocean CO<sub>2</sub> uptake (2000–2016). The trends plotted in the lower panels show that (1) the Southern Ocean  
19 is critical to global variability, (2) the tropics are characterised by a strengthening outgassing and (3) most  
20 of the inter-model uncertainty arises from the Southern Hemisphere where observations are sparse  
21 (Gregor et al., 2019). [[Placeholder: This figure may be changed to means of model types – empirical,  
22 inversion, ESM]]  
23

24 **[END FIGURE 5.7 HERE]**

25  
26  
27 The variability and trend of the global ocean – atmosphere exchange of CO<sub>2</sub> is subject to strong regional  
28 modulation (Figure 5.7) (Gregor et al., 2019; Landschützer et al., 2014; Rödenbeck et al., 2015). Natural and  
29 climate forced modes of regional interannual and decadal variability influence global air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes, as  
30 has been demonstrated in the tropical Pacific and Southern Ocean. The multidecadal mean monthly CO<sub>2</sub>  
31 fluxes (1990–2016) highlight regional contrasts in ocean outgassing trends (Tropics) and sink (Mid to High  
32 Latitudes) of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 5.7). The invigoration of ocean CO<sub>2</sub> uptake (2000–2016) was  
33 dominated by the mid and high latitudes, particularly the Southern Ocean, which also dominates the  
34 uncertainty (Figure 5.7; The global invigoration was only offset by the tropical outgassing trend mainly in  
35 the Pacific Ocean (Franks et al., 2013; Gregor et al., 2018, 2019; Gruber et al., 2019c; Li and Ilyina, 2018b).  
36 Model ensembles are still the most widely adopted approach to overcome these biases and uncertainties  
37 ((Gregor et al., 2019; Le Quéré et al., 2018a; Li and Ilyina, 2018b).  
38  
39

#### 40 5.2.1.3.2 Ocean storage of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>

41 It is virtually certain that anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> taken up from the atmosphere into the ocean surface layer is  
42 further transported at about the same rate into the ocean interior by vertical mixing and overturning  
43 circulation including the formation and advection of mode, intermediate and deep waters (DeVries et al.,  
44 2017; Gruber et al., 2019b; Nakano et al., 2015; Sallée et al., 2012; Toyama et al., 2017). The total  
45 anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> stored in the ocean in the Industrial Era has increased by 29 ±8% from 1994 to 2007 to  
46 152±23 PgC in proportion to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> increases, showing that the effect of the decrease in the  
47 seawater CO<sub>2</sub> buffering capacity and changes in ocean productivity are not yet significant (Gruber et al.,  
48 2019a). The most significant advance since AR5 has been the clarification that the global decadal mean trend  
49 in storage is subject to strong regional scale variability that points to regional rather than global mean climate  
50 sensitivity in respect of carbon subduction into the ocean interior (DeVries et al., 2017; Gruber et al., 2019b;  
51 Tanhua et al., 2017). Globally, model results also showed that decadal-scale enhancement in the upper  
52 ocean overturning circulation drove a weakened sink in the 1990s, but reversed in the 2000s (DeVries et al.,  
53 2017). Based on observations, the increase in global oceanic anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> storage between 1994 and  
54 2007 is estimated to be 34±4 PgC (Gruber et al., 2019c; Kouketsu and Murata, 2014), which is 31 ±4% of  
55 the total global anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the same period. When corrected for the losses from the  
56 inventory of natural CO<sub>2</sub> due to upwelling in the Southern Ocean and ocean warming (5±3 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>) this

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1 yields a mean annual net storage rate of  $2.2 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$  which corresponds closely to the global mean ocean-  
2 atmosphere flux of  $2.5 \pm 0.5 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$  (Gregor et al., 2019; Gruber et al., 2019b; McKinley et al., 2017;  
3 Rödenbeck et al., 2015).

4  
5  
6 **[START FIGURE 5.8 HERE]**

7  
8 **Figure 5.8:** Map of column inventory change of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> between 1994 and 2007 (Gruber et al., 2019c).  
9 It shows that regional ocean inventories are dominated by the Mode and Intermediate waters of the  
10 Atlantic Ocean and to a lesser extent the Indian and Pacific Ocean. Most of the net increase in storage  
11 relative to the previous decade is in the Southern Hemisphere reservoirs.

12  
13 **[END FIGURE 5.8 HERE]**

14  
15  
16 The largest inventory increase occurred in the Southern Hemisphere mid-latitudes associated with transport  
17 by mode and intermediate waters, in the North Atlantic associated with deep-water formation, and in the  
18 shallow overturning region of the western North Pacific (Figure 5.8). In the North Atlantic and in the Indian  
19 and Pacific sectors of the Southern Ocean, however, accumulation of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> from 1994–2007 is  
20 ~20% smaller than expected from the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> increase for the same period (Gruber et al., 2019c).  
21 This is attributable to the slow-down of the meridional overturning circulation (Pérez et al., 2013; DeVries et  
22 al., 2017; Wanninkhof et al., 2010). By contrast, an acceleration of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> accumulation has  
23 occurred in the South Atlantic and South Pacific due to enhanced shallow overturning circulation (Carter et  
24 al., 2017; Gruber et al., 2019c). In the North Atlantic, very low anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> storage of  $1.9 \pm 0.4 \text{ PgC}$   
25 per decade for 1989–2003 reinvigorated to  $4.4 \pm 0.9 \text{ PgC}$  per decade for 2003–2014. This increase in the  
26 anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> sink is attributed to the changing ventilation pattern associated with the North Atlantic  
27 Oscillation (Woosley et al., 2016). Decadal variability in downward transport of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> in the  
28 western North Pacific is associated with changes in the formation volume of subtropical mode water linked  
29 remotely to the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (Oka et al., 2015; 2019).

#### 30 31 32 5.2.1.4 *Terrestrial Carbon: Historical and Contemporary Variability and Trends*

##### 33 34 5.2.1.4.1 *Trend in land-atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub> exchange*

35 The global net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink has been strengthening (*high confidence*) over the past six decades (Ballantyne  
36 et al., 2017; Ciais et al., 2018; Keenan et al., 2016; Le Quéré et al., 2018c; Sarmiento et al., 2010). Based on  
37 the residual resulting from the mass balance budget with fossil fuel emissions, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth rate  
38 and ocean CO<sub>2</sub> sink estimates, the global net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink increased from  $0.3 \pm 0.5 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$  during 1960s to  
39  $2.1 \pm 0.7 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$  during 2008–2017 (Le Quéré et al., 2018c). Several lines of evidences consistently show  
40 increasing global net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink since 1980s (Figure 5.9), including atmospheric inversion models (e.g.  
41 Peylin et al., 2013; Rayner et al., 2015) and Dynamic Global Vegetation Models (DGVMs) (Sitch et al.,  
42 2015; Huntzinger et al., 2017).

43  
44 Carbon uptake by vegetation photosynthesis exerts a first-order control over ecosystem CO<sub>2</sub> balance. Several  
45 lines of evidence show enhanced vegetation photosynthesis over the past decades (Figure 5.9), including  
46 increasing satellite-derived vegetation greenness (e.g. Mao et al., 2016; Zhu et al., 2016), enlarging seasonal  
47 CO<sub>2</sub> amplitude (Forkel et al., 2016a, 2016b; Graven et al., 2013a; Piao et al., 2018c), enhanced water use  
48 efficiency (Cheng et al., 2017) and change in atmospheric concentration of carbonyl sulphide inferring  
49 increasing photosynthesis CO<sub>2</sub> uptake (Campbell et al., 2017a).

50  
51 It is *likely* that the increasing strength of global net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink is mainly driven by the fertilisation effect  
52 from rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations (e.g. Fernández-Martínez et al., 2019; O’Sullivan et al., 2019;  
53 Schimel et al., 2015; Sitch et al., 2015). Increasing nitrogen deposition (de Vries et al., 2014; Huntzinger et  
54 al., 2017) or the synergy between increasing nitrogen deposition and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration  
55 (O’Sullivan et al., 2019) could have also contributed to the increased sink. The contribution of climate

1 change to changes of the global net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink is divergent across DGVMs (Huntzinger et al., 2017;  
2 Keenan et al., 2016). Sizeable uncertainties remain in attributing change of global net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink due to  
3 challenges in reconciling evidences from the scale of the experiments to that of the globe (Fatichi et al.,  
4 2019) and from large spatial and inter-model differences in the dominant driving factors affecting the net  
5 land CO<sub>2</sub> sink (Fernández-Martínez et al., 2019; Huntzinger et al., 2017).  
6  
7

8 **[START FIGURE 5.9 HERE]**

9  
10 **Figure 5.9:** Change of net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink, Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and net primary  
11 productivity during 1980–2016. Net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink is estimated from the global CO<sub>2</sub> mass balance (Le  
12 Quéré et al., 2018c). Inversion Net Biome Productivity (NBP) is the net land CO<sub>2</sub> flux estimated by an  
13 ensemble of atmospheric inversion models. Positive net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink and NBP values indicate net CO<sub>2</sub>  
14 uptake from the atmosphere. DGVM NBP is the ensemble net land CO<sub>2</sub> flux estimated by 16 Dynamic  
15 Global Vegetation Models driven by climate change, rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, land use change and  
16 nitrogen deposition change (for carbon-nitrogen models). NDVI anomaly is the anomaly of global area-  
17 weighted NDVI observed by AVHRR and MODIS satellite sensors. AVHRR data are available during  
18 1982–2016 and MODIS data are available during 2000–2016. Net Primary Productivity based on the two  
19 satellites data have the temporal coverage of 1982–2011 for AVHRR NPP and 2000–2012 for MODIS  
20 NPP. DGVM NPP is the ensemble global NPP estimated by the same 16 DGVMs as the DGVM NBP  
21 estimates. Shaded area for net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink is the uncertainty range (Le Quéré et al., 2018c). Shaded  
22 area for other panels indicates standard deviation of different atmospheric inversions or DGVMs.  
23

24 **[END FIGURE 5.9 HERE]**

25  
26  
27 The long-term increasing trend of net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink has shown an acceleration since 1990s. Different  
28 mechanisms, including higher rates of photosynthesis enhancement (Keenan et al., 2016), reduced  
29 respiration (Ballantyne et al., 2017), lower land use change emissions (Piao et al., 2018a), and plant regrowth  
30 after land use change (Kondo et al., 2018) were proposed to explain the acceleration.  
31

#### 32 33 5.2.1.4.2 *Interannual variability in land-atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub> exchange*

34 AR5 concluded that Interannual variability of global land-atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub> exchange is dominated by  
35 tropical land ecosystems. Since AR5, studies from process and empirical carbon cycle models show that  
36 semi-arid ecosystems over the tropics, rather than moist tropical forest ecosystems, have larger contribution  
37 to interannual variability in global land-atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub> exchange (Korth et al., 2015; Poulter et al., 2014;  
38 Zhang et al., 2018a). The study of mechanisms driving interannual variability of the carbon cycle might help  
39 to understand whether and how much the carbon cycle might accelerate or slow down climate warming, with  
40 particular interests on the highly responsive tropical carbon cycle to interannual climate anomalies (e.g. Cox  
41 et al., 2013a; Fang et al., 2017; Humphrey et al., 2018; Jung et al., 2017a; Malhi et al., 2018; Wang et al.,  
42 2014; see Section 5.4.1).  
43

44 Atmospheric inversions, satellite measurements and DGVMs consistently report that warmer and drier  
45 conditions, particularly over El Niño events, reduce the tropical land CO<sub>2</sub> sink (e.g. Bastos et al., 2018;  
46 Malhi et al., 2018; Rödenbeck et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2016). The interannual anomalies of atmospheric  
47 CO<sub>2</sub> growth rate, resulting mostly from variations in tropical land-atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub> exchange, are more  
48 closely correlated with temperature anomalies than with precipitation anomalies (Figure 5.10; Wang et al.,  
49 2013, 2014). However, the sensitivity of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth rate to temperature anomalies varies by  
50 two-folds depending on the study period and temperature data used (e.g. Cox et al., 2013a; Humphrey et al.,  
51 2018; Jung et al., 2017a; Rödenbeck et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2013, 2014). Anomalies of precipitation or  
52 moisture proxies are also significantly correlated with anomalies of land-atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub> exchange (Figure  
53 5.10; Humphrey et al., 2018; Jung et al., 2017a). Distinguishing the relative contribution of moisture and  
54 temperature anomalies in carbon cycle variability, remain challenging, not only because of the covariations  
55 between anomalies of temperature and that of moisture (Humphrey et al., 2018; Jung et al., 2017a), but also  
56 because the sensitivity of land-atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub> exchange to temperature variations is regulated by moisture

1 conditions (Wang et al., 2014).

2  
3  
4 **[START FIGURE 5.10 HERE]**

5  
6 **Figure 5.10:** Interannual variation in detrended anomalies of net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink (NLS) and temperature (T) and  
7 correlations of NLS anomalies and temperature anomalies at the globe or at the latitudinal bands during  
8 1980–2016. NLS is estimated by atmospheric inversions and Dynamic Global Vegetation Models  
9 (DGVMs). Solid lines show model mean detrended anomalies of NLS. The ensemble mean of inversion  
10 models or TRENDY models is bounded by the 1- $\sigma$  inter-model spread in each large latitude band (North  
11 20°N–90°N, Tropics 20°S–20°N, South 90°S–20°S) and the globe. For each latitudinal band, the CO<sub>2</sub>  
12 flux anomalies and temperature anomalies were obtained by removing the long-term trend signal and  
13 seasonal cycle. Six-month running mean was taken to reduce high-frequency noise. Years on the  
14 horizontal axis indicate January of this year as the third month in the moving 6-month window.  
15 Correlation coefficients of NLS anomalies and temperature anomalies are shown for each region and two  
16 asterisks indicate the 99% significance and one indicates the 95% significance. Grey shaded area shows  
17 the intensity of El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) as defined by the multivariate ENSO index. Two  
18 volcanic eruptions (El Chichón eruption and Pinatubo eruption) are indicated with purple dashed lines. A  
19 positive flux anomaly means a larger than normal source of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere (or a smaller CO<sub>2</sub>  
20 sink). Net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink are estimated by four atmospheric inversions and thirteen DGVMs respectively  
21 (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). Temperature data are from Harris et al., (2014).

22  
23 **[END FIGURE 5.10 HERE]**

#### 24 25 26 5.2.1.4.3 *Model evaluation*

27 Since AR5, several emergent properties of the carbon cycle, such as decadal change in seasonal and  
28 interannual variability of [CO<sub>2</sub>] has been proposed as the metrics for evaluating dynamic global vegetation  
29 models (DGVMs). The DGVM ensemble mean can generally reproduce the sensitivity of global net land  
30 CO<sub>2</sub> sink to interannual temperature variations ( $\gamma$ IAV), (Huntzinger et al., 2017; Piao et al., 2013) and the  
31 significant increase of seasonal [CO<sub>2</sub>] amplitude at boreal (north of 50°N) stations since 1980s (Piao et al.,  
32 2018b). The ensemble of 16 DGVMs (Trendy v7, (Le Quéré et al., 2018a)) can robustly reproduce the  
33 magnitude and year-to-year variations of land CO<sub>2</sub> sink estimated as the residual of other global carbon  
34 budget component. The large model spread, however, indicates uncertainties associated with individual  
35 model structure and parameters. The growing capacity of the DGVM ensemble has led to the decision to  
36 replace land CO<sub>2</sub> sink estimates from the mass balance residual to independent estimates by the DGVM  
37 ensemble ((Le Quéré et al., 2018a).

38  
39 More processes are being included in DGVMs since AR5. As the major gap identified, nutrient dynamics  
40 have now been incorporated in about half of the Trendy DGVMs and growing number of earth system  
41 models. The representation of the same nitrogen processes varies greatly among models, leading to large  
42 uncertainties in the response of ecosystem carbon uptake to higher atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Walker et al., 2015;  
43 Zaehle et al., 2014). Several DGVMs have developed more detailed representation of permafrost carbon  
44 cycle process (e.g. Guimberteau et al., 2018; Koven et al., 2015b), though the sensitivity of permafrost  
45 carbon storage to climate change remains largely uncertain (McGuire et al., 2016). Models still show biases  
46 over intensively managed ecosystems, such as croplands and managed forests (Guanter et al., 2014; Zhu et  
47 al., 2016; Thurner et al., 2017), leading to growing DGVM developments to include management practices  
48 (Pongratz et al., 2018b; Pugh et al., 2019). Growing numbers and varieties of earth observations are being  
49 used for model evaluations, which help identify key processes missing or mechanisms poorly represented in  
50 current generation of DGVMs (e.g. Collier et al., 2018).

#### 51 52 53 5.2.1.5 *CO<sub>2</sub> budget*

54  
55 The global carbon budget (Figure 5.11, Table 5.1) refers to the perturbation of the carbon budget since the  
56 beginning of the Industrial era, circa 1750. The human perturbation prior to the industrial era is considered to



1 be small based on the small changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. The budget, based on the annual  
 2 assessment by the Global Carbon Project (Le Quéré et al., 2018a) is constructed for the first time in the IPCC  
 3 using independent estimates of all major flux components: fossil fuel and industry emissions ( $E_{FF}$ ), land use  
 4 change emissions ( $E_{LUC}$ ), the growth rate of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere ( $G_{Atm}$ ), and the ocean ( $S_{Ocean}$ ) and land  
 5 ( $S_{Land}$ ) CO<sub>2</sub> sinks. An imbalance term ( $B_{Imb}$ ) is required to ensure mass balance of the source and sinks that  
 6 have been independently estimated:  $E_{FF} + E_{LUC} = G_{Atm} + S_{Ocean} + S_{Land} + B_{Imb}$ .

7  
 8 Of the 10.9 PgCy<sup>-1</sup> emitted from fossil fuels and land use change during the decade of 2008–2017, about  
 9 44% remained in the atmosphere (4.7 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>), 22% were taken up by the ocean (2.4 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>) and 29%  
 10 were removed by terrestrial ecosystems (3.2 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>) (Table 5.1). The budget imbalance of 0.5 PgCy<sup>-1</sup>  
 11 suggests modest overestimation of emissions and/or underestimation of the sinks. Land and ocean sinks have  
 12 increased since 1980, largely in proportion to the growth of anthropogenic emissions, albeit with significant  
 13 decadal variability associated with major climate and ocean circulation modes.

14  
 15 Over the Industrial era (1750–2017), the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> fossil fuel and industry emissions were 430±20  
 16 PgC, and 235±95 PgC from land use change. Of the total 665 PgC anthropogenic emissions about 41% (275  
 17 PgC) accumulated in the atmosphere while the rest were removed and stored, 25% in the oceans (165 PgC)  
 18 and 32% on land (215 PgC) (Table 5.1).

19  
 20 This budget does not explicitly account for source/sink dynamics due to carbon cycling in the land–ocean  
 21 aquatic continuum comprising freshwaters, estuaries, and coastal areas. While some estimates suggest that  
 22 transfers from soils to freshwater systems are significant ((0.78–5.1 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>, (Drake et al., 2018; Resplandy  
 23 et al., 2018) and increasing in response to human activity, an almost equivalent flux is returned to the  
 24 atmosphere via outgassing in lakes, rivers and estuaries. Thus, the net export of carbon from the terrestrial  
 25 domain to the open oceans is *likely* to be small (0.1 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>, (Regnier et al., 2013)) relative to either the land  
 26 or ocean sinks and their uncertainty. Accounting for the land-ocean continuum carbon dynamics reduces the  
 27 size of the of land sink (Regnier et al., 2013).

28  
 29  
 30 **[START FIGURE 5.11 HERE]**

31  
 32 **Figure 5.11:** The global carbon cycle. Blue arrows represent annual carbon exchange fluxes (in PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>) associated  
 33 with the natural carbon cycle estimated for the time prior to the Industrial Era, around 1750. Pink arrows  
 34 represent anthropogenic fluxes averaged over the period 2008–2017. The rate of carbon accumulation in  
 35 the atmosphere is equal to net land-use change emissions plus fossil fuel emissions, minus land and ocean  
 36 sinks (plus a small budget imbalance, Table 5.1). Numbers in white circles represent pre-industrial carbon  
 37 stocks in PgC. Numbers in dashed circles represent anthropogenic changes to these stocks (cumulative  
 38 anthropogenic fluxes) since 1750. Anthropogenic net fluxes are reproduced from le Le Quéré et al.,  
 39 (2018c). The relative change of *Gross photosynthesis* since pre-industrial times is estimated as the range  
 40 of observation-based of 31±3 % (Campbell et al., 2017b) and land-model of 19±12% (Sitch et al., 2015)  
 41 estimates. This is used to estimate the pre-industrial *Gross photosynthesis*, assuming a present-day range  
 42 of 116–175 PgCy<sup>-1</sup> (Joiner et al., 2018). The corresponding emissions by *Total respiration and fire* are  
 43 those required to match the *Net land flux*. The cumulative change of anthropogenic carbon in the  
 44 terrestrial reservoir is the sum of carbon cumulatively lost by net land use change emissions, and net  
 45 carbon accumulated since 1750 in response to environmental drivers (warming, rising CO<sub>2</sub>, nitrogen  
 46 deposition) (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). The change in *Ocean-atmosphere gas exchange* (red arrows of ocean  
 47 atmosphere gas exchange) is estimated from the difference in atmospheric partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> since  
 48 1750 (Sarmiento and Gruber, 2006). Individual gross fluxes and their changes since the beginning of the  
 49 Industrial Era have typical uncertainties of more than 20%, while their differences (*Net ocean flux*) are  
 50 determined from independent measurements with a much higher accuracy. Therefore, to achieve an  
 51 overall balance, the values of the more uncertain gross fluxes have been adjusted so that their difference  
 52 matches the and *Net ocean flux* estimate. The sediment storage is a sum of 150 PgC of the organic carbon  
 53 in the mixed layer (Emerson and Hedges, 1988) and 1600 PgC of the deep-sea CaCO<sub>3</sub> sediments  
 54 available to neutralize fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> (Archer et al., 1998). Note that the mass balance of the two ocean  
 55 carbon stocks *Surface ocean* and *Intermediate and deep ocean* includes a yearly accumulation of  
 56 anthropogenic carbon (not shown). Fossil fuel reserves are from (BGR, 2017). Permafrost region stores  
 57 are from (Hugelius et al., 2014; Strauss et al., 2017) and soil carbon stocks outside of permafrost region  
 58 from (Batjes, 2016; Jackson et al., 2017) Biomass stocks (range of seven estimates) are from (Erb et al.,

2018b). Fluxes from volcanic eruptions, rock weathering (removal of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in weathering reactions and chemical weathering of C contained in rocks) export of carbon from soils to rivers, burial of carbon in freshwater lakes and reservoirs and transport of carbon by rivers to the ocean are all assumed to be pre-industrial fluxes and are sourced from (Regnier et al., 2013).

[END FIGURE 5.11 HERE]

[START TABLE 5.1 HERE]

**Table 5.1:** Global anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> budget, accumulated since the Industrial Revolution (onset in 1750) and averaged over the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, as well as the recent decade from 2008. By convention, a negative ocean or land to atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub> flux is equivalent to a gain of carbon by these reservoirs. The table does not include natural exchanges (e.g., rivers, weathering) between reservoirs. Uncertainties represent the 68% confidence interval. All numbers are reproduced from (Le Quéré et al., 2018a).

	1750–2017	1980–1989	1990–1999	2000–2009	2008–2017
Atmospheric increase <sup>a</sup>	275 ± 5	3.4 ± 0.02	3.1 ± 0.02	4.0 ± 0.02	4.7 ± 0.02
Fossil fuel combustion and cement production <sup>b</sup>	430 ± 20	5.4±0.3	6.3±0.3	7.8±0.4	9.4±0.5
Ocean-to-atmosphere flux <sup>c</sup>	-165 ± 20	-1.7 ± 0.5	-2.0 ± 0.5	-2.1 ± 0.5	-2.4 ± 0.5
Land-to-atmosphere flux Partitioned as follows	20 ± 210	-0.6 ± 1.8	-1.0 ± 1.8	-1.4 ± 1.8	-1.7 ± 1.8
Net land use change <sup>d</sup>	235 ± 190	1.2 ± 0.7	1.4 ± 0.7	1.3 ± 0.7	1.5 ± 0.7
Terrestrial sink <sup>e</sup>	-215 ± 50	-1.8 ± 0.6	-2.4 ± 0.5	-2.7 ± 0.7	-3.2 ± 0.7
Budget imbalance <sup>f</sup>	5	-0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5

[END TABLE 5.1 HERE]

## 5.2.2 CH<sub>4</sub>: Trends, Variability and Budget

The seasonal to inter-decadal variability in CH<sub>4</sub> in atmosphere is mainly a result of net balance between surface emissions and chemical losses. Atmospheric transport only redistributes the CH<sub>4</sub> variability signal to different parts of the Earth's atmosphere at monthly to annual time scales. The average atmospheric burden of CH<sub>4</sub> is about 5001±54 Tg, with an emission and loss of about 543±18 and 522±8 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> during 2007–2016 (1Tg = 10<sup>12</sup>g; 1-σ standard deviation for the interannual variations is shown as the range). About 90% of CH<sub>4</sub> are lost in the troposphere by reaction with hydroxyl (OH) radicals and 6% by soil oxidation, and the rest is transported through the stratosphere-troposphere exchange into the stratosphere where CH<sub>4</sub> is lost by chemical reactions with OH, excited state oxygen (O<sup>1</sup>D), atomic chlorine (Cl) (Patra et al., 2016; Saunio et al., 2016). Methane has significant emissions from both natural and anthropogenic origins, but a clear demarcation of their nature is difficult because of the use and conversions of natural ecosystem for human purposes. Methane sources, however, can also be divided into thermogenic, biogenic or pyrogenic processes. The greatest natural sources are wetlands, freshwaters and coastal oceans, while the largest anthropogenic emissions are due to ruminant farming and manure treatment, waste treatment (including landfills), rice cultivation and fossil fuels (Saunio et al., 2016; details in Section 5.2.2.5, Table 5.2). In the past two centuries, CH<sub>4</sub> emissions have significantly exceeded the losses (*virtually certain*), thereby increasing the atmospheric abundance (Dalsøren et al., 2016; Ferretti et al., 2005; Ghosh et al., 2015).

### 5.2.2.1 Atmosphere

During the period with direct measurements of CH<sub>4</sub> in the atmosphere beginning in the 1970s (Figure 5.12), the increase rate was most rapid at the rate of 18±4 ppb yr<sup>-1</sup> during 1977–1986 (Rice et al., 2016). The rapid growth was due to the green revolution and fast global industrialisation causing rapid increases in emissions

1 from ruminant animals, landfills, coal mining, oil and gas exploration, and rice cultivation (Ferretti et al.,  
2 2005; Ghosh et al., 2015; Janssens–Maenhout et al., 2017). Due to increases in oil prices in the early 1980s,  
3 emissions from gas flaring declined significantly (Stern and Kaufmann, 1996). This is *likely* to explain the  
4 first reduction in CH<sub>4</sub> growth rates during 1985–1990. The causes of progress toward a temporary pause in  
5 CH<sub>4</sub> increase after 1990 and persistence through 2006 are debated (Dlugokencky, 2003; Steele et al., 1992).  
6 CH<sub>4</sub> growth rates were about 6±4 and 0.5±3 ppb yr<sup>-1</sup> during the 1990s and 2000–2006, respectively. Recent  
7 studies suggest a decrease in wetland emissions due to cooler surface temperature under the Mt Pinatubo  
8 aerosols in 1991 triggered further reduction in CH<sub>4</sub> growth rate (Bändă et al., 2016; Chandra et al., 2019).  
9 The cause of the renewed high CH<sub>4</sub> growth rate since 2007 is highly debated even today (Nisbet et al., 2019),  
10 with studies conflicting on the relative contribution of pyrogenic and biogenic emissions (see Cross-Chapter  
11 Box 5.1).

12  
13  
14 **[START FIGURE 5.12 HERE]**

15  
16 **Figure 5.12:** Time series of CH<sub>4</sub> mole fraction (in ppb), growth rate (ppb yr<sup>-1</sup>) and δ<sup>13</sup>C from selected sites from  
17 NOAA, AGAGE and PDX surface networks (data sources: Portland State University - PDX;  
18 [www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends\\_ch4/](http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends_ch4/); <https://agage.mit.edu/data/agage-data>). To maintain clarity,  
19 data from many other measurement networks are not included here. Global mean values of XCH<sub>4</sub> (total-  
20 column) from Greenhouse gases Observation SATellite (GOSAT; [www.gosat.nies.go.jp/en/recent-global-  
21 ch4.html](http://www.gosat.nies.go.jp/en/recent-global-ch4.html)) are shown. Cape Grim Observatory (CGO) and Trinidad Head (THD) data are taken from the  
22 AGAGE network, NOAA global (GL) and northern hemispheric (NH) means for δ<sup>13</sup>C are calculated  
23 from 10 and 6 sites, respectively. The PDX data adjusted to NH (period: 1977–1996) are merged with  
24 THD (period: 1997–2018) for CH<sub>4</sub> concentration and growth rate analysis, and PDX and NOAA NH  
25 means of δ<sup>13</sup>C data are used for joint interpretation of long-term trends analysis.

26  
27 **[END FIGURE 5.12 HERE]**

#### 28 29 30 5.2.2.2 Anthropogenic CH<sub>4</sub> emissions

31  
32 CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from fossil fuels are mainly attributed to coal, gas, and oil emissions during their excavation,  
33 pumping, transport and use (Table 5.2.). Coal mining contributes to about 35% of the total CH<sub>4</sub> emissions  
34 from fossil fuels. Top-down estimates of fossil fuel emissions (101 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>) are slightly smaller than bottom-  
35 up estimates (113 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>) during 2010–2017. Both top-down and bottom-up methods suggest that emissions  
36 in 2008–2012 have increased from 2002–2006, with the BU method showing a larger increase (17 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>)  
37 than top-down (7 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>) (Patra et al., 2016; Saunio et al., 2016), which can be largely explained by the  
38 uncertainties in fugitive emissions from Chinese coal mines (Peng et al., 2016). The latest edition of the  
39 Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR, v4.3.2; Janssens-Maenhout et al., 2019) is  
40 in better agreement with the top-down estimates for the period 2007–2012 but a faster emission increase still  
41 persists between 2003–2007. Schwietzke et al. (2016) have suggested, by applying a box model on  
42 atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> and δ<sup>13</sup>C data, that methane emissions from natural gas, oil and coal production and their  
43 usage are 20 to 60% greater than shown by the inventories and a gradual decrease in fossil fuel emission by  
44 about 25 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> during 2001–2014.

45  
46 Enteric fermentation is the greatest source among agricultural CH<sub>4</sub> producing categories, and the largest  
47 single greenhouse gases source in the livestock sector (Herrero et al., 2016). Anthropogenic ruminant  
48 emissions are driven by anaerobic CH<sub>4</sub> production in livestock rumen (dairy, beef, goats, sheep, etc.). The  
49 highest emissions are attributed to cattle, whereas pigs and poultry together contribute to about 20% of the  
50 livestock emissions. Ruminant emissions are affected by the type, amount and quality of feeds, energy  
51 consumption, animal size and growth rate, production rate, and temperature (Broucek, 2014). CH<sub>4</sub> emissions  
52 from ruminants (enteric fermentation and manure) in 2010–2017 equalled to 102 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>. The estimate has  
53 not changed significantly from that of Saunio et al. (2016), although EDGARv4.3.2 and Food and  
54 Agriculture Organisation (Statistics division. Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations,  
55 2018) time series data all show slight but continuous increases since ~2000. AR5 showed that there was a  
56 clear increase from 89 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> in 2000–2009 period, which is in line with Wolf et al. (2017) who suggested

1 an increase from 100 to ~120 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> in 2000–2011 in total global livestock CH<sub>4</sub> emission. Manure emissions  
 2 are only about 10% of the enteric fermentation but have been continuously increasing since 2000, with a  
 3 total of 12 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> in 2011 (~11% of the emissions from enteric fermentation). Methane is mainly emitted  
 4 during the storage of manure, when anoxic conditions are developed (Hristov et al., 2013).

5  
6  
7 **[START TABLE 5.2 HERE]**

8  
9 **Table 5.2:** Sources and sinks of CH<sub>4</sub> for the 4 recent decades from bottom–up (e.g., inventories, terrestrial models)  
 10 and top-down estimations (atmospheric inversions) (updated from Saunio et al., 2016; (Etiopie et al.,  
 11 2019; FAOSTAT, 2018; Herrero et al., 2016; Hristov, et al., 2013; Janssens-Maenhout et al., 2019;  
 12 Poulter et al., 2017; Van Der Werf et al., 2017; Wik et al., 2016; Wolf et al., 2017)). Note that the most  
 13 top-down estimations cannot distinguish between various source sectors due to limited observations of  
 14 molecular CH<sub>4</sub> and measurements of carbon and hydrogen isotopes.  
 15

Tg CH <sub>4</sub> /yr	1980-1989		1990-1999		2000-2009		2010-2017	
	Top-Down	Bottom-Up	Top-Down	Bottom-Up	Top-Down	Bottom-Up	Top-Down	Bottom-Up
<b>Natural sources</b>	<b>203 (150-267)</b>	<b>355 (244-466)</b>	<b>182 (230-465)</b>	<b>336 (230-456)</b>	<b>234 (194-292)</b>	<b>382 (255-519)</b>	<b>234 (194-292)</b>	<b>382 (255-519)</b>
Wetlands	167 (115-231)	225 (183-266)	150 (144-160)	206 (169-265)	166 (125-204)	183 (151-222)	166 (125-204)	183 (151-222)
Other Sources	35 (35-36)	130 (61-200)	32 (23-37)	130 (61-200)	68 (21-130)	199 (104-297)	68 (21-130)	199 (104-297)
Freshwater (lakes and rivers)		40 (8-73)		40 (8-73)		122 (60-180)		122 (60-180)
Wild animals		15 (15-15)		15 (15-15)		10 (5-15)		10 (5-15)
Wildfires		3 (1-3)		3 (1-5)		3 (1-5)		3 (1-5)
Termites		11 (2-11)		11 (2-22)		9 (3-15)		9 (3-15)
Geological (inc. Oceans)		54 (33-75)		54 (33-75)		52 (35-76)		52 (35-76)
Hydrates		6 (2-9)		6 (2-9)		2 (0-5)		2 (0-5)
Permafrost (excl. lakes and wetlands)		1 (0-1)		1 (0-1)		1 (0-1)		1 (0-1)
<b>Anthropogenic sources</b>	<b>348 (305-383)</b>	<b>308 (292-323)</b>	<b>372 (290-453)</b>	<b>313 (281-347)</b>	<b>319 (255-357)</b>	<b>338 (329-342)</b>	<b>319 (255-357)</b>	<b>330</b>
Agriculture & Waste	208 (187-220)	185 (172-197)	239 (180-30)	188 (177-196)	183 (112-241)	190 (174-201)	183 (112-241)	193 (163-224)
Enteric fermentation & Manure		85 (81-90)		87 (82-91)		103 (95-109)		102 (87-117)
Landfills & waste		55 (50-60)		65 (63-68)		57 (51-61)		61 (55-70)
Rice		45 (41-47)		35 (32-27)		29 (23-35)		30 (55-70)
Biomass burning & biofuels	46 (43-55)	34 (31-37)	38 (26-45)	42 (38-45)	35 (16-53)	30 (26-34)	35 (16-53)	24
Biomass burning						18 (15-20)		14
Biofuels						12 (9-14)		10 (7-14)
Fossil fuels	94 (75-108)	89 (89-89)	95 (84-107)	84 (66-96)	101 (77-126)	112 (107-126)	101 (77-126)	113 (93-141)
Coal		27 (27-27)		24 (19-28)		36 (24-43)		33 (24-43)
Oil and gas		61 (61-61)		58 (46-67)		74 (62-83)		74 (68-86)
Transport		1 (1-1)		1 (1-1)		1 (1-1)		5 (1-10)
Industry		1 (1-1)		1 (1-1)		1 (1-1)		1 (0-2)
<b>Sinks</b>	<b>511 (460-559)</b>	<b>567 (420-718)</b>	<b>552 (518-581)</b>	<b>599 (530-668)</b>	<b>550 (514-560)</b>	<b>632 (492-785)</b>	<b>550 (514-560)</b>	<b>632 (492-785)</b>
Total chemical loss	490 (450-533)	539 (411-671)	525 (491-554)	571 (521-621)	518 (510-538)	604 (483-738)	518 (510-538)	604 (483-738)
Tropospheric OH		468 (382-567)		479 (457-501)		528 (454-617)		528 (454-617)
Stratospheric loss		46 (16-67)		67 (51-83)		51 (16-84)		51 (16-84)
Tropospheric Cl		25 (13-37)		25 (13-37)		25 (13-37)		25 (13-37)
Soil uptake	21 (10-27)	28 (9-47)	27 (27-27)	28 (9-47)	32 (26-42)	28 (9-47)	32 (26-42)	28 (9-47)
Sum of sources	551 (500-592)	663 (536+789)	554 (529-596)	649 (511-569)	553 (526-569)	719 (583-861)	553 (526-569)	712
Sum of sinks	511 (460-559)	567 (420-718)	552 (518-581)	599 (530-668)	550 (514-560)	632 (492-785)	550 (514-560)	632 (492-785)
Imbalance	30 (16-40)		12 (7-17)		3 (-3-19)		3 (-3-19)	
Atmospheric growth rate	34		17		6			

16  
17  
18 **[END TABLE 5.2 HERE]**

19  
20  
21 **5.2.2.3 Land biospheric emissions and sinks**

22  
23 Freshwater wetlands are the single largest global source of CH<sub>4</sub> into the atmosphere, accounting for about  
 24 30% of the total CH<sub>4</sub> source (*medium agreement, robust evidence*). Bottom-up and top-down estimates for  
 25 2010–2017 are 183 and 166 Tg CH<sub>4</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, with a top-down uncertainty range of 125–204 Tg  
 26 CH<sub>4</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup> (updated from (Saunio et al., 2016)). The large uncertainties stem from challenges in mapping  
 27 wetland area and temporal dynamics, and in scaling methane production, transport, and consumption  
 28 processes, that are measured with small chambers or flux towers, to landscape estimates (Pham-Duc et al.,  
 29 2017). Both the top-down and bottom-up estimates presented in Saunio et al. (2017) indicate little increase  
 30 in wetland CH<sub>4</sub> emissions during the last three decades but are slightly smaller than in AR5. It is *likely* that  
 31 the bulk of the post–2006 increase in atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> concentration should be attributed to sources other  
 32 than wetlands, but their role cannot be totally ruled out. The evidence from land-surface models (Poulter et  
 33 al., 2017), isotopic <sup>13</sup>CH<sub>4</sub> data (Schaefer et al., 2016) and inverse modelling (Patra et al., 2016) together  
 34 suggest that sources other than wetlands are mainly responsible for the increase from 2002–2006 to 2008–  
 35 2012. The biogenic methane fluxes due to enteric fermentation, waste and manure management are also

1 depleted in  $^{13}\text{C}$ .

2  
3 Although significant direct production of  $\text{CH}_4$  by vegetation is considered *uncertain* and *unlikely*, there is  
4 emerging evidence of the role of trees in transporting and conducting  $\text{CH}_4$  from soils into the atmosphere,  
5 which is potentially relevant considering global budget, particularly in tropics and in forested wetlands of  
6 temperate region (Pangala et al., 2017).

7  
8 Rice is typically cultivated in flooded soils which makes rice fields significant  $\text{CH}_4$  sources. Emissions from  
9 rice cultivation tended to decrease from about 42 Tg  $\text{yr}^{-1}$  in the 1980s to about 33 Tg  $\text{yr}^{-1}$  in 2003 but have  
10 increased gradually by about 20% between 2003 and 2012 as per EDGARv4.3.2 (*low agreement, limited*  
11 *evidence*). Emissions are partly affected by climate, elevated  $\text{CO}_2$  in atmosphere and site-specific soil C  
12 content, but can, to a large extent, be controlled by modifying management-related factors such as organic  
13 amendments, water management (from intermittent irrigation to continuous flooding), use of inorganic and  
14 organic fertilizers, and rice cultivars (Feng et al., 2013; Jiang et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2017; Oo et al., 2018;  
15 Yang et al., 2018).

16  
17 Biomass burning and biofuel consumption, causing an emission of at least 24 Tg  $\text{CH}_4 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  constitute a large  
18 fraction, up to about 8%, of global anthropogenic  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions (*likely*). Wildfires comprise a small  $\text{CH}_4$   
19 source globally, with 3 Tg  $\text{yr}^{-1}$  being liberated into the atmosphere. The satellite observed burned area  
20 anomaly provided critical information for estimation of open biomass burning, which showed tight link with  
21 the natural climate variability, e.g. ENSO and explained a large part of the interannual variability in  
22 atmospheric  $\text{CH}_4$  (Patra et al., 2016; Saunio et al., 2017; van der Werf et al., 2017).  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions from  
23 biomass burning show a decreasing trend during past two decades (van der Werf et al., 2017; Worden et al.,  
24 2017). There is recent evidence from the tropics that fire occurrence is non-linearly related to the  
25 precipitation, implying that severe droughts will increase  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions from fires, particularly from the  
26 degraded peatlands (Field et al., 2016).

27  
28 Microbial methane uptake by soil comprises about 5% of the total chemical  $\text{CH}_4$  sink (Table 5.2). In AR5,  
29 the methane uptake by microbial oxidation in upland soils during three decades was reported to increase and  
30 stay unchanged according to top-down and bottom-up estimates, respectively. Saunio et al. (2016) report  
31 similar increase but suggest revised, higher uptake rates. Recently a decreased sink in forest soils, explained  
32 by higher precipitation, has been observed using direct observations (Ni and Groffman, 2018).

#### 33 34 35 5.2.2.4 Ocean and freshwater emissions and sinks

36  
37 Coastal oceans, fjords and mud volcanos are the major source of  $\text{CH}_4$  in marine environment and  
38 measurement of  $\text{CH}_4$  fluxes are sparse. However, there are increasing amount of evidence of  $\text{CH}_4$  seepage  
39 from the Arctic shelf, possibly triggered by the melting of geological storage in the sediments, permafrost  
40 and hydrates (Shakhova et al., 2010, 2017). These emissions are estimated to be 2–9 Tg  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ , and although  
41 they are *likely* to increase in a warmer world, the current flux is *likely* to be a mix of pre-industrial and  
42 climate change-driven fluxes. All geological sources, including the coastal oceans and fjords around the  
43 world are estimated to emit  $\text{CH}_4$  in the range of 35–76 Tg  $\text{yr}^{-1}$  (Etiope et al., 2019). There are evidence that  
44 the ventilation of geological  $\text{CH}_4$  is *likely* to be smaller than about 15 Tg  $\text{yr}^{-1}$  (Petrenko et al., 2017). A lower  
45 geological  $\text{CH}_4$  ventilation will reduce the gap between top-down and bottom-up estimations.

46  
47 Freshwater (lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, estuaries) emissions are proportionally the largest source of  
48 uncertainty in the  $\text{CH}_4$  budget. Since AR5, the estimate of freshwater  $\text{CH}_4$  source has been revised from 40  
49 to ~122 Tg  $\text{yr}^{-1}$  with the availability of more observational data and improved areal estimates (Saunio et al.,  
50 2016). The freshwater  $\text{CH}_4$  emission remains unaccounted in the top-down models, leading to the largest gap  
51 in bottom-up and top-down budgets of global  $\text{CH}_4$  (Table 5.2). The very large uncertainty in the global  $\text{CH}_4$   
52 emission from freshwaters is attributed to the large spatial and temporal variation in lake and river  $\text{CH}_4$   
53 fluxes (Natchimuthu et al., 2017; Wik et al., 2016) and uncertainties in global area of them (Allen and  
54 Pavelsky, 2018). It is *very likely* that the estimates of the emissions from freshwaters and wetlands are  
55 partially overlapping (Thornton et al., 2016), explaining some part of the gap in bottom-up and top-down

1 budgets.

#### 4 5.2.2.5 CH<sub>4</sub> budget

6 A summary of top-down and bottom-up estimations of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and sinks for the period 2010–2017  
7 are depicted in Figure 5.13 (details in Table 5.2). Since AR5, the uncertainty in sectorial emissions have  
8 reduced significantly, except for the emissions from freshwaters (60–180 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>). Presently freshwater  
9 emissions are not considered in the top-down model simulations. The decadal mean CH<sub>4</sub> burden increase has  
10 been about 42, 17, 6 and 20 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> in the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s and 2010s, respectively as can be estimated  
11 from observed atmospheric increase (*virtually certain*). It is *very likely* that the inter-decadal differences in  
12 CH<sub>4</sub> growth rate is driven by changes in emissions rather than the OH variability. Variability in OH is very  
13 uncertain and is *likely* to be of some importance at interannual or shorter time scales (Chapter 6 and Cross-  
14 Chapter Box 5.1).

17 [START FIGURE 5.13 HERE]

19 **Figure 5.13:** Schematic diagram of major sources and sinks of CH<sub>4</sub> for the decade 2010–2017. Values and data sources  
20 as in Table 5.2.

22 [END FIGURE 5.13 HERE]

25 [START CROSS-CHAPTER BOX 5.1 HERE]

#### 27 **Cross-Chapter Box 5.1: Drivers of methane changes during 1980–2017**

29 Atmospheric methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) growth rate varied widely over the past three decades. The mean growth rate  
30 decreased from 15±5 ppb yr<sup>-1</sup> in the 1980s to 0.5±3 ppb yr<sup>-1</sup> during 2000–2006 (the so-called quasi-  
31 equilibrium phase) and returned to a rate of 7±3 ppb yr<sup>-1</sup> in the past decade (2008–2017) (based on data in  
32 Figure 5.12). Over the last four years (2014–2017), atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> grew sharply at rates not observed  
33 since the 1980s (Nisbet et al., 2019), a period that included a prolonged El Niño condition covering 2014–  
34 2015. CH<sub>4</sub> growth rates are observed to be high during El Niño. Because of large uncertainties in both the  
35 emissions and sinks of CH<sub>4</sub>, it has been challenging to quantify accurately the methane budget and ascribe  
36 reasons for the growth over the past decade. To address greenhouse gas mitigation, it is critical to know if  
37 changes are related to emissions from human activities, which once identified could be reduced, or from  
38 natural processes responding to changing climate. Due to these uncertainties, projections of atmospheric  
39 methane considered in AR5 and the IPCC 1.5°C Special Report (IPCC, 2018a) did not anticipate this  
40 renewed growth after a period of stabilisation (Ciais et al., 2013; Rogelj et al., 2018). A sustained growth of  
41 CH<sub>4</sub> at rates similar to those observed over the past decade might lead to higher temperatures (Saunio et al.,  
42 2016) and challenges countries ability to meet the Paris agreement goal of keeping global average  
43 temperature well below 2°C (Nisbet et al., 2019).

45 Cross-Chapter Box 5.1 Figure 1 shows the decadal CH<sub>4</sub> budget derived from the Global Carbon Project  
46 (GCP)-CH<sub>4</sub> synthesis for 1980s, 1990s and 2000s (Kirschke et al., 2013), and for 2010–2017 (update from  
47 Saunio et al., 2016). The natural sources include emissions from natural wetlands, lakes and rivers,  
48 geological (on shore), wild animals, termites, wildfires, permafrost soils, and oceans (offshore and hydrates).  
49 Anthropogenic sources include emissions from enteric fermentation and manure, landfills and waste, rice  
50 cultivation, coal mining, oil and gas industry, biomass and biofuel burning. The top-down total sink  
51 determined from global mass balance, includes loss due to hydroxyl (OH), atomic Cl, O<sup>1</sup>D, and soil  
52 oxidation.

55 [START CROSS-CHAPTER BOX 5.1, FIGURE 1 HERE]

**Cross-Chapter Box 5.1, Figure 1:** Methane budget estimates for four decades from top-down (light colour, left) and bottom-up (dark colour, right) analyses (plotted on the left y axis). Sources are positive and sinks are negative. The black dots represent observed global monthly mean atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> dry-air mole fractions for 1983–2017 (Dlugokencky et al.) (www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends\_ch4) and the solid black line represents the smoothed global monthly means (plotted on the right y axis). The bottom-up total sinks are inferred from the global mass balance (i.e., source minus growth) and not directly computed. [[Placeholder: To be updated]].

**[END CROSS-CHAPTER BOX 5.1, FIGURE 1 HERE]**

Since AR5, a large number of studies have discussed the role of emissions in explaining the recent increase in CH<sub>4</sub> growth rate since 2007 and a fairly coincident decrease of  $\delta^{13}\text{C-CH}_4$  and  $\delta\text{D-CH}_4$  isotopes (Figure 1). Both C and H isotopes in CH<sub>4</sub> emissions are enriched in thermogenic (e.g., coal, oil and gas) and pyrogenic (biomass burning), and depleted in biogenic (e.g., wetlands, rice paddies, enteric fermentation, landfill and waste) sources. Proposed hypotheses for CH<sub>4</sub> growth (2007–2017) vary from a decrease in thermogenic and increase in biogenic emissions (Schwietzke et al., 2016), an increase in wetland and other biogenic emissions (Nisbet et al., 2016), emissions increase from agriculture in tropics (Schaefer et al., 2016), a reduction in pyrogenic and increase in thermogenic emissions (Worden et al., 2017) or emission increase from biogenic sources and a slower increase in emissions from thermogenic sources compared to inventory emissions (Patra et al., 2016; Saunio et al., 2017). Ethane (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>), the 2<sup>nd</sup> most abundant hydrocarbon after CH<sub>4</sub> in the remote atmosphere, also help understanding the decrease in CH<sub>4</sub> growth rate during the 1980s and 1990s due to decreasing fugitive emissions from venting and flaring of natural gas in oil fields (Simpson et al., 2012).

A few studies have emphasised the role of OH, the primary sink of methane, in driving changes in the growth of atmospheric methane abundance, in particular after 2006. Atmospheric box-model studies using measurements of methyl chloroform (CH<sub>3</sub>CCl<sub>3</sub>), methane and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CH}_4}$  infer larger variability in OH – increasing by ~7%–10% in the 1990s and early 2000s and then a decline of ~7%–11% up to 2014 (Rigby et al., 2017; Turner et al., 2017). However, [OH] trends in both studies have large uncertainties arising from uncertainty in CH<sub>3</sub>CCl<sub>3</sub> emissions, e.g., the full range of OH trends and variability is within their estimated uncertainty range (Rigby et al., 2017), and possibly likely from the inherent configuration of their box modelling framework (Naus et al., 2019). Another study applying 3-dimensional inverse modelling with observations of methane and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CH}_4}$  finds a smaller decline (~2%) in OH post-2007 and a consequent smaller role of OH in the post-2006 methane growth (McNorton et al., 2018). Similarly, studies applying simple multi-species inversion (Thompson et al., 2018) as well as empirical method using a variety of observational constraints based on OH chemistry (Nicely et al., 2018) did not find any trends in OH significant enough to play role in methane changes over the last three decades. On the contrary, global chemistry-climate models based on fundamental principles of atmospheric chemistry simulate an increasing trend in OH (more than 8%) over the past three decades with small interannual variability (Dalsøren et al., 2016). Due to uncertainties and contradictions in the temporal evolution of OH derived from inverse box models as well as from global chemistry-climate models (Section 6.2.3) there is *low confidence* in the role of OH changes in driving the observed methane changes.

Methane emissions corresponding to their best OH estimates (Rigby et al., 2017; Turner et al., 2017), require increase sharply by up to about 40 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> in the mid-2000s and stay stable or decrease slightly afterwards. The sharp increase is inconsistent with anthropogenic inventory emissions estimated for farmed animals, fossil fuel industry and waste management (e.g., Janssens-Maenhout et al., 2019). However, a more consistent picture emerges for the regional trends of emission rates from high-resolution inverse modelling, where observations from individual sites are utilised to optimise subcontinental scale CH<sub>4</sub> emissions (Cross-Chapter Box 5.1 Figure 2). Because the emissions are optimised at monthly or shorter time scales, the effect of OH inter-annual variability does not strongly influence the determination of regional emission trends. CH<sub>4</sub> lifetime in any latitude band is one year or longer, and its global mean lifetime is about 9 years; both much longer than the mixing timescales of regional emissions hemispherically (~weeks). Cross-Chapter Box 5.1 Figure 2 suggests that progress toward atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> quasi-equilibrium was primarily driven by

1 reductions in emissions in Europe, Boreal Asia and Temperate North America over 1988-2000. In the global  
2 totals, emissions equalled loss in the early 2000s. The recent growth since 2006 is driven by emissions from  
3 East Asia (1997–2016), West Asia (2005–2016), Brazil (1988–2016), temperate North America (2010–  
4 2016), Northern Africa (2015–2016). A recent study using a variety of sensitivity simulations by changing  
5 OH, provides further evidence for strong link between the emissions and CH<sub>4</sub> growth rate at inter-decadal  
6 time periods, and only minor role of OH on the interannual CH<sub>4</sub> variability (Chandra et al., in prep).  
7

8  
9 **[START CROSS-CHAPTER BOX 5.1 FIGURE 2 HERE]**  
10

11 **Cross-Chapter Box 5.1, Figure 2:** Anomalies in regional CH<sub>4</sub> emissions during 1988-2016. Results for 2000-2016 are  
12 shown for 8 inversion models that participated in GCP-CH<sub>4</sub> budget assessment  
13 (update from Saunio et al., 2017), and results for 1988-1999 are available from  
14 only one inversion (Chandra, in prep). A long-term mean is subtracted from the  
15 annual-mean time series for the calculation of anomalies for each region.  
16

17 **[END CROSS-CHAPTER BOX 5.1, FIGURE 2 HERE]**  
18  
19

20 Although a consensus on the inter-decadal variability of OH could not be achieved using box modelling of  
21 CH<sub>3</sub>CCl<sub>3</sub> and chemistry-climate model simulations, there is strong evidence from inventory emissions at  
22 country level and regional inverse modelling that CH<sub>4</sub> growth rate variability during the 1980s through the  
23 2010s is closely linked with anthropogenic activities (*likely, medium agreement*). Isotopes and inventory  
24 data suggest that both fossil fuels and agriculture are *likely* playing a role in the resumed CH<sub>4</sub> growth and  
25 trends since 2007. Shorter-term variability is predominantly driven by the El Niño Southern Oscillation  
26 cycles, and *very likely* associated with emissions from wetland and biomass burning, and loss due to OH. By  
27 synthesising all available information regionally from a priori emissions and inverse modelling (top-down  
28 observation constraints), the capacity to track “changes” in natural and anthropogenic emissions is  
29 developed. For example, emissions inventory data suggest increase in emissions from East Asia and  
30 Temperate North America are primarily of industrial origin, while the emission increase from West Asia,  
31 Southeast Asia and Brazil are driven by agricultural sectors.  
32

33 **[END CROSS-CHAPTER BOX 5.1 HERE]**  
34  
35  
36

### 37 5.2.3 N<sub>2</sub>O: Trends, Variability and Budget

#### 38 5.2.3.1 Atmosphere

39  
40  
41 The present-day level of atmospheric abundance N<sub>2</sub>O, of 329.7 ppb (parts per billion) for 2017, is 22%  
42 higher than preindustrial levels (Figure 5.14), (Elkins et al., 2018; MacFarling Meure et al., 2006b; Prinn et  
43 al., 2016)). Direct atmospheric measurements of N<sub>2</sub>O are available from the late 1970s, and are currently  
44 recorded at more than 140 surface sites, ship tracks, and aircraft profiles (Thompson et al., 2014). Prior to  
45 this, atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O has been indirectly observed by firn air samples and ice cores (MacFarling Meure et  
46 al., 2006). Combined firn ice air and atmospheric measurements show that the 15N/14N isotope ratio, as well  
47 as the 15N site preference, in N<sub>2</sub>O has changed since 1940 (Figure 5.14b, c) (Ishijima et al., 2007; Park et al.,  
48 2012; Prokopiou et al., 2017). This change indicates that the N-substrate available for nitrification and  
49 denitrification, and the relative contribution of nitrification to the global N<sub>2</sub>O source have *very likely*  
50 increased. Both of these phenomena are *very likely* associated with increased fertiliser use in agriculture  
51 (Park et al., 2012).  
52

53 Since the late 1990s, atmospheric measurements with high accuracy and density show an average



1 atmospheric growth rate of  $0.83 \pm 0.01$  ppbv yr<sup>-1</sup> (1998 to 2017, Figure 5.14a). The growth rate exhibits large  
 2 interannual variations and shows an increase of nearly 20% between the decade 1998 to 2007 and the most  
 3 recent decade (2008 to 2017;  $0.94 \pm 0.01$  ppbv yr<sup>-1</sup>) (Elkins et al., 2018)). This growth rate is higher than  
 4 during 1970–2000 of 0.6–0.8 ppbv yr<sup>-1</sup> (Ishijima et al., 2007) and for the thirty-year period prior to 2011  
 5 ( $0.73 \pm 0.03$  ppbv yr<sup>-1</sup>), as reported by AR5. In the tropics and sub-tropics, inter-annual variations in the growth  
 6 rate are negatively correlated with the multivariate ENSO index (MEI) (Ishijima et al., 2009; Thompson et  
 7 al., 2013) (Figure 5.14). This is *likely* associated with reduced tropical N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from land related to a  
 8 reduction in precipitation in the tropics and sub-tropics (Werner et al., 2007), and ocean, due to reduced  
 9 upwelling in the eastern tropical Pacific (Nevison et al., 2007) during El Niño conditions. In the mid to high  
 10 latitudes of both hemispheres, inter-annual variations in the seasonal minima of N<sub>2</sub>O abundance are  
 11 correlated with anomalies in the winter-spring temperature of the lower stratosphere (Nevison et al., 2011).  
 12 This suggests that inter-annual variations in the stratosphere to troposphere air mass transport, coupled with  
 13 the stratospheric depletion of N<sub>2</sub>O, contribute to the inter-annual variability of atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O in the mid to  
 14 high latitudes. However, the quantitative understanding of the processes influencing the inter-annual  
 15 variations of natural N<sub>2</sub>O emissions and tropospheric abundance is poor.

16  
 17 **[START FIGURE 5.14 HERE]**

18  
 19 **Figure 5.14:** (a) Atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O abundance (parts per billion, ppb) and growth rate (ppbv yr<sup>-1</sup>), (b) δ<sup>15</sup>N of  
 20 atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O, and (c) alpha-site 15N–N<sub>2</sub>O, based on direct atmospheric measurements in the  
 21 AGAGE and NOAA (Elkins et al., 2018; Hall et al., 2007; Prinn et al., 2000, 2016) networks, archived  
 22 air samples from Cape Grim, Australia (Park et al., 2012), and firn air from NGRIP Greenland and H72  
 23 Antarctica (Ishijima et al., 2007), and Law Dome Antarctica (Park et al., 2012). Grey shading in (a) are  
 24 times of positive values of the multivariate ENSO index, indicating El Niño conditions (Wolter and  
 25 Timlin, 1998).

26  
 27 **[END FIGURE 5.14 HERE]**

### 28 29 30 5.2.3.2 Anthropogenic N<sub>2</sub>O emissions

#### 31 32 5.2.3.2.1 Agricultural sources

33 Agriculture is the largest anthropogenic source of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions and emits 3.8 (3.0–5.2) TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> (average  
 34 2007–2016), owing to the widespread use of nitrogen fertiliser and manure on cropland and pasture, manure  
 35 management, and aquaculture (see Table 5.3 (Bouwman et al., 2013; Dangal et al., 2019; Janssens-Maenhout  
 36 et al., 2017; Tian et al., 2019; Winiwarter et al., 2010). The global total emission from aquaculture due to  
 37 nitrogen enrichment in inland and coastal waters (Williams and Crutzen, 2010) is estimated to be 0.05 (0.02–  
 38 0.23) TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> for 2010 (Bouwman et al., 2013). Estimates of agricultural emissions are either based on  
 39 empirical emission factors (De Klein et al., 2006; Smith et al., 2012) or process-based modelling (Tian et al.,  
 40 2016). Research since AR5 has demonstrated that both approaches are subject to large uncertainties  
 41 regarding the extrapolation of data in space and time and the ability to adequately account for the  
 42 heterogeneity in environmental factors affecting emissions (Gerber et al., 2016; Shcherbak et al., 2014;  
 43 Wagner-Riddle et al., 2017; Zhou et al., 2015). Agricultural N<sub>2</sub>O emissions have increased by approximately  
 44 80% since the early 1900s, and by 30% since the 1980s. Increased use of nitrogen fertiliser and manure  
 45 contributed to about 70% of the increase, followed by manure application in pasture/range/paddock (20%)  
 46 and manure management (10%) during 1980–2016

47  
 48  
 49 **[START FIGURE 5.15 HERE]**

50  
 51 **Figure 5.15:** Trends in the N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from terrestrial soils (natural and agriculture) simulated from the NMIP  
 52 ensemble of terrestrial biosphere models (Tian et al., 2019). The effect of anthropogenic nitrogen  
 53 additions (atmospheric deposition, manure addition, fertiliser use) is evaluated against the background  
 54 flux driven by changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, climate change, and land cover change. The  
 55 map in the centre shows the ensemble average of the decadal mean N<sub>2</sub>O emissions for 2007–2016  
 56 including all forcings.

1  
2 **[END FIGURE 5.15 HERE]**  
3  
4

#### 5 5.2.3.2.2 *Non-agricultural sources*

6 The principal non-agricultural anthropogenic sources of N<sub>2</sub>O are industry, specifically chemical processing,  
7 combustion of fossil fuels and biomass, and wastewater. Industrial emissions of N<sub>2</sub>O are mainly due to nitric  
8 and adipic acid production, in which N<sub>2</sub>O is a by-product (Bouwman et al., 2013). Since the wide-spread  
9 installation of abatement technologies in the 1990s, the emissions from industrial sources have decreased by  
10 24% to approximately 0.22 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> in 2007 (Janssens-Maenhout et al., 2017; Lee et al., 2011; Pérez-  
11 Ramírez et al., 2003). Fossil fuel combustion emissions from stationary sources, such as power plants,  
12 amount to 0.48 (0.32–0.80) TgN y<sup>-1</sup>, with smaller contributions from mobile sources such as road transport  
13 0.095 ± 0.042 TgN y<sup>-1</sup> (Bouwman et al., 2013) and aviation 0.020 ± 0.005 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> (Graham et al., 2009;  
14 Heland and Schäfer, 1998; Wiesen et al., 1994, 1996).

15  
16 Wastewater sources of N<sub>2</sub>O result from chemical and biological transformations in the water, which can  
17 occur at the time of its treatment or when it is discharged to inland or coastal waters (Law et al., 2012).  
18 Wastewater N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, including those from domestic and industrial sources are estimated to be 0.16  
19 (0.02–0.77) TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> for the year 2010 (Bouwman et al., 2013). Biomass burning releases N<sub>2</sub>O during the  
20 combustion of organic matter. Biomass burning emissions include those from crop residue burning,  
21 grassland, savannah and forest fires, as well as biomass burnt in household stoves, and have contributed  
22 around 0.7 (0.5–1.7) TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> (Bouwman et al., 2013) .  
23

#### 24 25 5.2.3.3 *Ocean and freshwater emissions*

26  
27 N<sub>2</sub>O is produced in the sub-surface ocean during remineralisation of organic matter via the primary pathways  
28 of nitrification and denitrification. Net N<sub>2</sub>O production from these processes is sensitive to local oxygen  
29 concentration. In the oxic ocean (> 97% of ocean volume), nitrification is believed to be the primary N<sub>2</sub>O  
30 source (Freing et al., 2012). In sub-oxic ocean zones where denitrification prevails, higher N<sub>2</sub>O yields and  
31 turnover rates make these regions potentially significant sources of N<sub>2</sub>O (Arévalo-Martínez et al., 2015;  
32 Babbin et al., 2015; Ji et al., 2015). Recent estimates of the global ocean N<sub>2</sub>O source derived from ocean  
33 biogeochemistry models are 3.8±1.6 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup>, and slightly lower than some of the earlier empirically based-  
34 methods (Battaglia and Joos, 2018; Bianchi et al., 2012; Buitenhuis et al., 2018; Landolfi et al., 2017;  
35 Manizza et al., 2012; Martinez-Rey et al., 2015; Suntharalingam et al., 2012). N<sub>2</sub>O processes in coastal  
36 upwelling zones are only poorly represented in these global estimates (Kock et al., 2016), but may account  
37 for 0.2 to 0.6 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> of the global ocean source (Nevison et al., 2004; Seitzinger et al., 2000).  
38

39 The relative proportion of ocean N<sub>2</sub>O from oxygen-minimum zones is *highly uncertain* (Zamora et al.,  
40 2012). Estimates derived from in-situ sampling, particularly in the eastern tropical Pacific, suggest  
41 significant fluxes from these regions, and potentially up to 50% of the global ocean source (Arévalo-  
42 Martínez et al., 2015; Babbin et al., 2015; Codispoti, 2010). However, recent global-scale analyses estimate  
43 lower contributions (4 to 7%, Battaglia and Joos, 2018; Buitenhuis et al., 2018). Further investigation is  
44 required to reconcile these estimates and provide improved constraints on the N<sub>2</sub>O source from low-oxygen  
45 zones.  
46

47 Anthropogenic N-deposition on oceans can stimulate marine productivity and influence ocean emissions of  
48 N<sub>2</sub>O. Recent ocean model analyses suggest a relatively modest global potential impact of 0.01–0.32 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup>  
49 (pre-industrial to present-day) equivalent to 0.5% – 3.3% of the global ocean N<sub>2</sub>O source (Jickells et al.,  
50 2017; Landolfi et al., 2017; Suntharalingam et al., 2012). However, larger proportionate impacts are  
51 predicted in nitrogen-limited coastal and inland waters down-wind of continental pollution outflow (Jickells  
52 et al., 2017; Suntharalingam et al., 2012).  
53

#### 54 55 5.2.3.4 *Land emissions and sinks*

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#### 5.2.3.4.1 Soils under non-agricultural vegetation and surface sinks

Soils are the largest natural source of N<sub>2</sub>O, arising from nitrogen processing associated with nitrification and denitrification (Butterbach-Bahl et al., 2013). Ensemble simulations with process-models suggest a present-day source of 6.7±1.4 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> from non-agricultural soils during the period 2007–2016, with a large range between models due to alternative process formulations and lacking data to constrain the model ranges (Tian et al., 2019). This estimate is in broad agreement with the previous assessment based on empirical upscaling in AR5 but allows separating the natural N<sub>2</sub>O source from the anthropogenic increase in N<sub>2</sub>O emissions due to nitrogen enrichment following chronic nitrogen deposition (Figure 5.16 and Table 5.3). The largest source of natural terrestrial N<sub>2</sub>O emissions is in the tropics, 4.3 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> for 23.5°N–23.5°S during the period 1980–2016. Model simulations do not suggest a trend over this time, but do not account for increased N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from tropical peatland due to land-use change (Hadi et al., 2000). Simulated N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from the mid latitudes (23.5°–55°) show a gradual increase from 1.7 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> in the 1980s to 2.1 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> during 2007–2016 due to a combination of climatic variability and change, and Nr deposition (Tian et al., 2019; Zaehle et al., 2011). Boreal and arctic regions (>55°) contribute little to the overall natural N<sub>2</sub>O flux (0.3 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> during 1980–2016). New field instruments with high sensitivity and precision confirmed that under some conditions soils can act as small sinks of N<sub>2</sub>O (Davidson, 2015). However, global soil N<sub>2</sub>O uptake is not *likely* to exceed 0.3 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> (Schlesinger, 2013).

#### 5.2.3.4.2 Inland water bodies and Estuaries

Inland waters are generally sources of N<sub>2</sub>O as a result of nitrification and denitrification of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN). Based on improved emission factors, their spatio-temporal scaling, and consideration of transport within the aquatic system, recent studies, point to lower range of emissions than AR5 of 0.3 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> (range: 0.1–1 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup>) resulting from for inland waters, including 0.01–0.07 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> for rivers (Hu et al., 2016; Maavara et al., 2019), 0.02–0.07 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> for reservoirs (Deemer et al., 2016; Maavara et al., 2019), and 0.06–0.9 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> for estuaries (Maavara et al., 2019; Murray et al., 2015).

#### 5.2.3.5 N<sub>2</sub>O budget

**[START FIGURE 5.16 HERE]**

**Figure 5.16:** Global nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) budget for the period 2007–2016. Annual nitrous oxide fluxes (TgN<sub>2</sub>O–N yr<sup>-1</sup>) and nitrous oxide pools (TgN<sub>2</sub>O–N), as described in Table 5.3.

**[END FIGURE 5.16 HERE]**

The N<sub>2</sub>O budget derived from the synthesis of empirical and process-based bottom-up sources in Section 5.2.3.2 yield a global N<sub>2</sub>O source of 17.2 (10.8–27.2) TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> for the years 2007–2016 (Figure 5.16, Table 5.3). This estimate is comparable to AR5, but the range has been reduced primarily due to improved estimates of the ocean and anthropogenic N<sub>2</sub>O sources. Anthropogenic emissions from agricultural nitrogen use and indirect effects for instance due to nitrogen deposition have increased by approximately 1.3 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> (Tian et al., 2019) from the 1980s to 2007–2016, and in total accounted for 6.1 (4.6–9.9) TgN yr<sup>-1</sup>, compared to natural emission of 11.1 (6.1–17.3) TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> during 2007–2016.

A number of studies have estimates the global N<sub>2</sub>O budget by inversion of atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O measurements using atmospheric transport models( Saikawa et al., 2014; Thompson et al.). The inversion-based estimate a global mean N<sub>2</sub>O source for 1998–2014 averages 16.6±0.6 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> (Thompson et al.). The split between land and ocean sources based on atmospheric inversions is less well constrained, yielding 10.6±1.4 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> and 6.0±1.5 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> for land and ocean, respectively. Based on the observed growth rate of atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O and simulations of the atmospheric loss of N<sub>2</sub>O, the inversions suggest an increase in global emissions from 2000–2005 to 2010–2015 of 1.6 (1.4–1.7) TgN yr<sup>-1</sup>, primarily caused by land-based changes in Central

1 and South America (27%), China (26%) and Africa (20%), as well as 10% to increased ocean emissions  
2 (Thompson et al.).

3  
4 N<sub>2</sub>O loss in the stratosphere by photolysis and oxidation by O(1D) radicals amounts to approximately  
5 13.2±1.0 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> (Minschwaner et al., 1993; Prather et al., 2015). The imbalance between the sum of N<sub>2</sub>O  
6 sources and atmospheric loss results in an increase in atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O abundance 4.0±0.1 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup> as  
7 determined from the atmospheric growth rate for 2000–2016. The atmospheric loss estimates combined with  
8 satellite-based estimates of N<sub>2</sub>O atmospheric abundance (1539 TgN in the year 2010) results in a mean  
9 atmospheric lifetime of ~116±9 years (Prather et al., 2015). The long atmospheric lifetime of N<sub>2</sub>O implies  
10 that it will take more than a century before atmospheric abundances stabilise after the stabilisation of global  
11 emissions. This is of concern not only because of its contribution to the radiative forcing, but also because of  
12 the importance of N<sub>2</sub>O in stratospheric ozone loss (Fleming et al., 2011; Ravishankara et al., 2009).

13  
14  
15 **[START TABLE 5.3 HERE]**

16  
17 **Table 5.3:** Global N<sub>2</sub>O budget (units TgN yr<sup>-1</sup>). References: <sup>a</sup> (Bouwman et al., 2013; Graham et al., 2009; Heland  
18 and Schäfer, 1998; Janssens-Maenhout et al., 2017; Lee et al., 2011; Wiesen et al., 1994, 1996), <sup>b</sup>  
19 (Bouwman et al., 2013; Dangal et al., 2019; Janssens-Maenhout et al., 2017; Tian et al., 2019; Winiwarter  
20 et al., 2010), <sup>c</sup> (Bouwman et al., 2013; Davidson and Kanter, 2014), <sup>d</sup>(Bouwman et al., 2013), <sup>e</sup> (Tian et  
21 al., 2019), <sup>f</sup> (Jickells et al., 2017; Landolfi et al., 2017; Suntharalingam et al., 2012), <sup>g</sup> (Deemer et al.,  
22 2016; Hu et al., 2016; Maavara et al., 2019; Murray et al., 2015; Nevison et al., 2004; Seitzinger et al.,  
23 2000), <sup>h</sup> (Battaglia and Joos, 2018; Bianchi et al., 2012; Buitenhuis et al., 2018; Landolfi et al., 2017;  
24 Manizza et al., 2012; Martinez-Rey et al., 2015; Suntharalingam et al., 2012), <sup>i</sup> AR5, <sup>k</sup> (Schlesinger,  
25 2013), <sup>l</sup> (Elkins et al., 2018; Prather et al., 2015), <sup>m</sup> (Prather et al., 2015), <sup>n</sup> (Thompson et al.)

	AR6 (2007–2016)	AR5 (2006)
<b>Bottom-up budget</b>		
<b>Anthropogenic Sources</b>		
Fossil Fuel combustion and Industry <sup>a</sup>	0.8 (0.7–1.2)	0.7 (0.2–1.8)
Agriculture (incl. Aquaculture) <sup>b</sup>	3.8 (3.0–5.2)	4.1 (1.7–4.8)
Biomass and biofuel burning <sup>c</sup>	0.7 (0.5–1.7)	0.7 (0.2–1.0)
Wastewater <sup>d</sup>	0.2 (0.02–0.7)	0.2 (0.1–0.3)
Atmospheric N deposition on land <sup>e</sup>	0.5 (0.4–0.8)	0.4 (0.3–0.9)
Atmospheric N deposition on ocean <sup>f</sup>	0.2 (0.01–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.4)
<b>Total Anthropogenic</b>	<b>6.1 (4.6–9.9)</b>	<b>6.3 (2.6–9.2)</b>
<b>Natural Sources and Sinks</b>		
Soils under natural vegetation <sup>g</sup>	6.2 (3.6–8.8)	6.6 (3.3–9.0)
Rivers, estuaries, and coastal zones <sup>g</sup>	0.5 (0.2–1.4)	0.6 (0.1–2.9)
Oceans <sup>h</sup>	3.8 (2.1–6.0)	3.8 (1.8–9.4)
Atmospheric chemistry <sup>i</sup>	0.6 (0.3–1.2)	0.6 (0.3–1.2)
Surface sink <sup>k</sup>	-0.01 (-0.3–0)	-0.01 (-1–0)
<b>Total natural</b>	<b>11.1 (6.1–17.3)</b>	<b>11.6 (5.5–23.5)</b>
<b>Total bottom-up source</b>	<b>17.2 (10.8–27.2)</b>	<b>17.9 (8.1–30.7)</b>
<b>Observed growth rate<sup>l</sup></b>	<b>4.0 (3.9–4.2)</b>	<b>3.6 (3.5–3.8)</b>
<b>Inferred stratospheric sink</b>	13.2 (6.9–23.0)	14.3 (4.3–28.7)
<b>Top-down budget<sup>m</sup></b>		
Atmospheric loss	13.2±1.0	11.9±0.9
Anthropogenic source	10.5±1.0	9.1±1.0
Natural source	6.6±1.3	6.7±1.3
Imbalance	3.9±0.5	4.0±0.5
<b>Atmospheric inversion<sup>n</sup></b>		
Atmospheric loss	12.0	
Total source	16.6±0.6	
Imbalance	4.6	

53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58 **[END TABLE 5.3 HERE]**

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#### 5.2.4 The relative importance of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O

The total influence of anthropogenic GHGs on the Earth's radiative balance needs to be understood as the combined effect of those gases, which the three most important were discussed separately in the previous sections. GHGs include short-lived gases such as ozone and black carbon, and long-lived gases with both anthropogenic sources and sinks (e.g. CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O), and sources for GHGs produced by industrial processes, also called synthetic GHGs (e.g., perfluoro-compounds, chlorofluorocarbons, HCFCs, HFCs). Figure 5.17 shows that CO<sub>2</sub> is by far the single most important GHG, with greater increase of its radiative forcing since the 1960s. For the period 2007–2016, the relative contribution to the total radiative forcing was 65% for CO<sub>2</sub>, 17% for CH<sub>4</sub>, 6% for N<sub>2</sub>O, and 11% synthetic gases.

[START FIGURE 5.17 HERE]

**Figure 5.17:** Change in radiative forcing by long-lived GHGs since 1900 (values relative to 1750, as a reference of the preindustrial era). The concentration time series of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O are taken from Figure 5.1 for the calculation of radiative forcings using the simplified expressions given in (Etminan et al., 2016); the calculation includes shortwave forcing and the overlap between CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O. The radiative forcing of synthetic gases (others) for the period 1979–2017 is taken from (Hofmann et al., 2006), with an extrapolation to 0 at 1940 when the CFCs were first introduced for industrial use.

[END FIGURE 5.17 HERE]

To compare the relative importance of the three GHGs (Figure 5.18), two approaches are used: The Global Temperature Potential (GTP), which measures the temperature at the end of a chosen period; and the Global Warming Potential (GWP), which measures the heat absorbed over a given period of time (Chapter 7). Thus, while GTP provides information to reach an end goal temperature (e.g., the climate targets of the Paris Agreement), GWP at various time scales provides relevant information on the warming path (and therefore impacts) along the way to an end temperature target.

For most developed nations in North America, Europe and Asia, net CO<sub>2</sub> flux overwhelms the emissions for CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O when the GTP metric used for comparing emissions. Interestingly, the significance of CH<sub>4</sub> to the global climate is dwarfed when GTP is chosen over GWP over a 100-year time horizon (*virtually certain*), especially for the West Asia region. Both the boreal regions in America and Asia are net sink of CO<sub>2</sub>, while close to flux neutrality is observed for Temperate South America, Southern Africa, and Australia and New Zealand. Only weak but persistent emission of CO<sub>2</sub> is observed for Tropical North America, Brazil and Southeast Asia. The 100-year time horizon is most relevant for the success of limiting global warming below 2°C under the Paris Agreement. However, the pathways to reaching the goal depend on the management of non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases. For instance, the GTP of CH<sub>4</sub> at 20-year time horizon is as high as 67 (AR5), having an overwhelming effect on global climate stabilisation in short-medium time periods.

[START FIGURE 5.18 HERE]

**Figure 5.18:** Regional attribution of global fluxes of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O derived from concentrations as in Figure 5.1. The fluxes include anthropogenic sources and sinks, and natural fluxes that result from responses to anthropogenic GHGs and climate forcing (feedbacks) as in the three budgets shown in Sections 5.2.1.5, 5.2.2.5, and 5.2.3.5. The CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions are weighted by their global warming potential (GWP) and global temperature-change potential (GTP) over 100-year time horizon (GTP and GWP values from Chapter 7). Fluxes are from MIROC4-ACTM inverse modelling (updated from (Patra et al., 2016; Saeki and Patra, 2017; Thompson et al.)) and will be replaced by multi-model results from GCP budgets-2019 and AR6.

1 [END FIGURE 5.18 HERE]  
2  
3

### 4 5.3 Ocean acidification and de-oxygenation 5

6 The surface ocean absorbs up to a quarter of all anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions mainly through physical-  
7 chemical processes. Once dissolved in seawater, CO<sub>2</sub> reacts with water and forms carbonic acid, that in turns  
8 dissociates, leading to changes in the concentrations of carbonate (CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>) and bicarbonate (HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>), and  
9 increasing the concentration of H<sup>+</sup> ions which turns the water more acidic (Doney et al., 2009). Although the  
10 societal concern for this problem is relatively recent (~ last 20 years), the physical-chemical basis for the  
11 ocean absorption (sink) of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> have been discussed much earlier by Revelle and Suess (1957).  
12 The effects of increased H<sup>+</sup> ions (reduced water pH) on marine biota are known with robust confidence, and  
13 changes in the trophic chain are expected to happen (*medium confidence*, Hofmann et al., 2011).  
14

15 The observed and modelled increase in ocean heat content from increasing GHG concentrations in the  
16 atmosphere warms the oceans and strengthens water column stratification. The former decreases the  
17 solubility of dissolved oxygen in seawater, and the latter reduces the ventilation flux into the ocean interior,  
18 leading to the ocean deoxygenation process. Deoxygenation may enhance the emissions of nitrous oxide,  
19 especially from oxygen minimum zones or hypoxic coastal areas (Breitburg et al., 2018; Oschlies et al.,  
20 2018). The coupled effects of acidification on deoxygenation also occur at the level of marine organisms  
21 metabolism, as the excess CO<sub>2</sub> dissolved in the oceans lead to a respiratory stress and reduction of thermal  
22 tolerance by organisms (Gruber, 2011) [[Placeholder: +SROCC citation]]. Since AR5 in 2013 and SROCC  
23 [[update SROCC reference]], other ocean modelling and observation-based studies have projected a general  
24 decline in the total dissolved oxygen content in the ocean, such as 2%-loss since 1960 to present (Schmidtko  
25 et al., 2017).  
26

#### 26 5.3.1 Paleo context 27

##### 28 5.3.1.1 Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) 29

30 The Palaeocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) was an episode of transient global warming likely  
31 exceeding 5–8°C (Dunkley Jones et al., 2013) that occurred 55.8 Myr ago. The PETM involved a large pulse  
32 of volcanic CO<sub>2</sub> released into the ocean-atmosphere system within 5–20 kyrs (Turner, 2018) and was  
33 associated with profound perturbations of the global carbon cycle. Estimates of the total amount of carbon  
34 released during the PETM vary from around 3000 Pg C to more than 10,000 Pg C (Cui et al., 2011; Gutjahr  
35 et al., 2017; Zeebe et al., 2009). The estimated carbon input is similar to the RCP8.5 scenario, although CO<sub>2</sub>  
36 release rates during the PETM were about an order of magnitude slower than today (i.e. 0.5–1.1 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>;  
37 (Panchuk et al., 2008; Zeebe et al., 2016)). Methane emission related to hydrate and terrestrial permafrost  
38 destabilisation may have acted as positive feedbacks (DeConto et al., 2012), as the inferred increase in  
39 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> can only account for approximately half of the reported temperature increase (Zeebe et al.,  
40 2009). The PETM thus provides a test for our understanding of the ocean's response to the rapid invasion of  
41 carbon (and heat).  
42

43 In response to carbon emissions during the PETM, observation-constrained model simulations report a CO<sub>2</sub>  
44 increase ranging from about 800 ppm to a peak value of > 2000 ppm (Gutjahr et al., 2017). As a result, the  
45 PETM was associated with a transient and negative surface ocean pH excursion likely ranging from 0.15 to  
46 0.30 units (Babila et al., 2018; Gutjahr et al., 2017; Penman et al., 2014). It was also accompanied by a rapid  
47 (< 10 kyrs) shoaling of the carbonate compensation depth of more than 2000 m, followed by a gradual (100  
48 kyrs) recovery (Bralower et al., 2018; Zachos, 2005). The remarkable similarity among sedimentary records  
49 spanning a wide range of ecosystems suggests that the perturbation in the ocean carbonate saturation was  
50 *likely* globally uniform (Babila et al., 2018) and directly resulted from elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels. The  
51 degree of acidification is similar to the 0.4 pH unit decrease predicted for the end of the twenty-first century  
52 (RCP8.5) due to anthropogenic carbon emissions (Gattuso et al., 2015) and *likely* occurred at one order of  
53 magnitude slower than the current rate of ocean acidification (Zeebe et al., 2016).  
54

55 This event was characterised by widespread ecological disruptions (Honisch et al., 2012; McInerney and

1 Wing, 2011). Continental shelf ecosystems (Bralower et al., 2018) and planktonic communities (including  
2 both phyto- and zooplankton) show reductions in diversity (Robinson, 2011). For calcifiers residing deeper  
3 in the ocean, the impact of the PETM was much more deleterious, with a major extinction affecting 30–50%  
4 of the benthic foraminifera species, globally (Thomas, 2007). It is not yet established, however, whether the  
5 mass mortality affecting benthic organisms was related to a decrease in oxygenation (see below), bottom  
6 ocean warming and/or carbonate undersaturation (Ridgwell and Schmidt, 2010; Thomas, 2007).

7  
8 Recent model outputs as well as geochemical data reveal widespread ocean deoxygenation during the PETM  
9 (Dickson et al., 2012; Winguth et al., 2012), with parts of the ocean potentially becoming drastically oxygen-  
10 depleted (anoxia) (Yao et al., 2018). Deoxygenation affected the surface ocean globally (including the Arctic  
11 Ocean (Sluijs et al., 2006), due to vertical and lateral expansion of oxygen minimum zones (OMZs) (Zhou et  
12 al., 2014) that resulted from warming and related changes in ocean stratification as well as the oxidation of  
13 methane hydrates (Pälike et al., 2014). Expansion of OMZs may have stimulated N<sub>2</sub>O production through  
14 water-column denitrification (Junium et al., 2018). The degree to which N<sub>2</sub>O production impacted PETM  
15 warming has not yet been established.

16  
17 The feedbacks associated with recovery from the PETM are uncertain, with hypotheses that include  
18 drawdown associated with silicate weathering (Zachos, 2005), rapid regrowth of organic carbon stocks  
19 (Bowen and Zachos, 2010; Gutjahr et al., 2017), and global increase in marine export production (Bains et  
20 al., 2000).

### 21 22 23 5.3.1.2 *Last deglaciation (18-11 kyr ago)*

24  
25 The last deglaciation is the best documented climatic transition in the past associated with a substantial  
26 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> rise ranging from 190 to 265 ppm (equivalent to 160 PgC) between 17.8 and 11.6 kyr ago  
27 (Marcott et al., 2014). The amplitude of the deglacial CO<sub>2</sub> rise is thus on the order of magnitude of the  
28 increase undergone since the Industrial Revolution. The increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> was punctuated by  
29 three abrupt 10–15 ppm increments spanning a few hundred years, associated with the rapid transfer of CO<sub>2</sub>  
30 previously sequestered in the ocean interior and permafrost (Bauska et al., 2016; Köhler et al., 2014).  
31 Emission rates during these transient events remained lower than 0.5 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> (Marcott et al., 2014).

32  
33 Geochemical proxy data show a 0.15–0.05 unit decrease in sea-surface pH (Hönisch and Hemming, 2005;  
34 Martínez-Botí et al., 2015c) across the deglacial transition – an average rate of decline of ~0.002 units per  
35 100 years compared with the current rate of more than 0.1 units per 100 years. Planktonic foraminiferal shell  
36 weights decreased by 40 to 50% (Barker, 2002), and coccolith mass decreased by ~25% (Beaufort et al.,  
37 2011) across the last glacial termination.

38  
39 Geochemical and micropaleontological evidence suggest that intermediate-depth OMZs almost totally  
40 vanished during the LGM (Jaccard et al., 2014). On the other hand, the deep (> 1,500 m) ocean became  
41 depleted in O<sub>2</sub> (concentrations were *likely* lower than 50 μmol kg<sup>-1</sup>) globally (Anderson et al., 2019;  
42 Gottschalk et al., 2016; Hoogakker et al., 2015; Hoogakker et al., 2018; Jaccard and Galbraith, 2012) related  
43 to sluggish ventilation of the ocean subsurface (e.g. Gottschalk et al., 2016; Skinner et al., 2017) and  
44 increased (T-dependent) remineralisation length scale (Matsumoto, 2007). As a result, the ocean interior is  
45 thought to have stored an additional 750–950 Gt C compared to today (Anderson et al., 2019; Jaccard et al.,  
46 2009; Sarnthein et al., 2013; Skinner et al., 2015). This highlights the contribution of apparent oxygen  
47 utilisation (AOU), which overcompensated changes in T-dependent O<sub>2</sub> saturation (Bopp et al., 2017; Jaccard  
48 et al., 2014).

49  
50 During the deglaciation, deep ocean ventilation increased as Antarctic Bottom Water (Gottschalk et al.,  
51 2016; Jaccard et al., 2016; Skinner et al., 2010) and subsequently North Atlantic Deep Water (Lippold et al.,  
52 2016; McManus et al., 2004) circulation resumed, transferring previously sequestered remineralised carbon  
53 from the ocean interior to the upper ocean and eventually the atmosphere (Galbraith and Jaccard, 2015),  
54 contributing to the CO<sub>2</sub> rise. Intermediate depths lost oxygen as a result of sluggish ventilation and  
55 increasing temperatures (decreasing saturation) as the world emerged from the last ice age. OMZs underwent

1 a large volumetric increase at the beginning of the Bølling-Allerød a northern-hemisphere wide abrupt  
2 warming event, 14.5 kyr ago (Jaccard and Galbraith, 2012; Praetorius et al., 2015) with deleterious  
3 consequences for benthic ecosystems (e.g. Moffitt et al., 2015).

4  
5 The expansion of OMZs contributed to a widespread increase in water column denitrification (Galbraith and  
6 Kienast, 2013), which contributed to substantially enhance atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O concentrations (Schilt et al.,  
7 2014; Suthhof et al., 2001). Stable isotope measurements on N<sub>2</sub>O extracted from ice cores suggest that  
8 approximately half (on the order of 1–1.25 TgN yr<sup>-1</sup>) of the deglacial increase in N<sub>2</sub>O emissions relates to  
9 oceanic sources, while the other half results from tropical vegetation regrowth (Schilt et al., 2014).

### 11 5.3.2 *Historical trends and spatial characteristics in the “upper ocean”*

#### 13 5.3.2.1 *Observations of ocean acidification over the past decades*

14  
15  
16 Acidification of seawater is continuing to occur from tropical through to polar oceans because of growing  
17 anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> uptake (*virtually certain*). Decreasing pH trends and declining calcium carbonate  
18 saturation level as well as the increasing trends of surface ocean CO<sub>2</sub> have currently been observed at several  
19 ocean time-series stations and in several regions where underway surface ocean pCO<sub>2</sub> observations have  
20 been made repeatedly providing temporally resolved datasets over the past decades (Figure 5.19).

21  
22 In the subtropical zones of the open ocean, pH is decreasing at a rate about -0.018 pH unit per decade (Bates  
23 et al., 2014; González-Dávila et al., 2010; Ishii et al., 2011; Midorikawa et al., 2010), i.e., about 4% increase  
24 in hydrogen ion concentration ([H<sup>+</sup>]) per decade, and the saturation level of calcium carbonate mineral  
25 aragonite is declining at about -0.10 per decade. This is consistent with the rates expected from the transient  
26 equilibration with the increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations (Bates et al., 2014). In the western tropical  
27 Pacific, the rate of [H<sup>+</sup>] increase is about 20% lower than in the subtropics (Midorikawa et al., 2010), which  
28 is attributable to the shallow overturning circulation that brings anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> from the extra-tropics  
29 into the tropics at time scales of a decade, and thus delays the [H<sup>+</sup>] increase. In subpolar oceans and in  
30 coastal regions, uncertainty in the rate of pH change is larger, reflecting the complex interplay between  
31 physical forcing and biological activities, which can be further mixed by local processes (Bates et al., 2014;  
32 Merlivat et al., 2018; Wakita et al., 2017). Nevertheless, the trend of acidification is significant at most sites.  
33 In the Southern Ocean, the rate of pH decrease has been determined from the integrated data of surface  
34 ocean pCO<sub>2</sub> and total alkalinity measurements (Lauvset et al., 2015; Midorikawa et al., 2012; Takahashi et  
35 al., 2014). Its rate, ranging between -0.002±0.004 and -0.023±0.004 pH unit per decade, depends on the  
36 region of observation, periods and methods used (Fay et al., 2014). In the Arctic Ocean, there is no ocean  
37 CO<sub>2</sub> time-series data long enough to make a robust analysis of the ocean acidification. However, calcium  
38 carbonate saturation level is generally low, and the undersaturation of aragonite has been observed in  
39 response to large freshwater inputs due to the recent extensive melting of sea ice and river discharge  
40 (Azetsu-Scott et al., 2010; Bates et al., 2009; Chierici and Fransson, 2009; Yamamoto-Kawai et al., 2009).

41  
42  
43 **[START FIGURE 5.19 HERE]**

44  
45 **Figure 5.19:** Time-series of pH (red) and seasonally-detrended pH (blue) in surface layer at various sites of the oceans.  
46 [[Placeholder: to be updated]]

47  
48 **[END FIGURE 5.19 HERE]**

#### 49 5.3.2.2 *Reconstructed centennial ocean acidification trends*

50  
51  
52  
53 Ocean pH time series reconstructed from coral boron isotopic (δ<sup>11</sup>B) records evident a prominent ocean  
54 acidification trend since mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (*high confidence*) underlying strong imprints of internal climate  
55 variability (*high confidence*). A majority of coral δ<sup>11</sup>B data have been generated from the western Pacific



1 regions with a few from the Atlantic Ocean. Biweekly resolution paleo-pH records show monsoonal  
2 variation of  $\sim 0.5$  in the South China Sea (Liu et al., 2015). Interannual ocean pH variability in the range of  
3  $0.07\text{--}0.16$  characterize SW Pacific corals that are attributed to ENSO (Wu et al., 2018) and river runoff  
4 (D’Olivo et al., 2015). Decadal (10, 22 and 48-year) ocean pH variations in the SW Pacific have been linked  
5 to the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation, causing up to 0.30 in ocean pH changes in the Great Barrier Reef  
6 (Pelejero, 2005; Wei et al., 2009) but weaker ( $\sim 0.08$ ) in the open ocean setting (Wu et al., 2018). Decadal  
7 variation in the South China Sea of  $0.10\text{--}0.20$  ocean pH changes also have been associated with ocean  
8 advection (Liu et al., 2015; Wei et al., 2015). Since the beginning of the Industrial Period in the mid-19th  
9 century, coral  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ -derived ocean pH has decreased by  $0.06\text{--}0.24$  in the South China Sea (Liu et al., 2015;  
10 Wei et al., 2015) and  $0.12$  in the SW Pacific (Wu et al., 2018). A distinct feature of coral  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  records is  
11 ocean acidification trends since the mid-20th century albeit having wide-range values. The trends are  $0.12\text{--}$   
12  $0.40$  in the Great Barrier Reef (D’Olivo et al., 2015; Wei et al., 2009),  $0.05\text{--}0.08$  in the NW Pacific (Shinjo  
13 et al., 2013),  $0.9\text{--}1.16$  in the subtropical western Pacific (Kubota et al., 2017), and  $0.04\text{--}0.09$  in the Atlantic  
14 Ocean (Fowell et al., 2018; Goodkin et al., 2015). Concurrent coral carbon isotopic ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ) measurements  
15 infer the ocean uptake of anthropogenic  $\text{CO}_2$  from the combustion of fossil fuel characterised based on the  
16 isotopically depleted  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  of fossil fuels or the Suess effect. Western Pacific coral records show depleted  
17  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  trends since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that are more prominent since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (*high confidence*)  
18 (Kubota et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2015; Pelejero, 2005; Shinjo et al., 2013; Wei et al., 2009; Wu et al., 2018)  
19 where coral  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  leads  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  in these anthropogenic trends by about 2 years (Shinjo et al., 2013). Overall,  
20 there is a consistent depleted coral  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  trends particularly in recent decades with further works needed for  
21 assessing *in situ* and inter-colony calibration.  
22  
23

### 24 5.3.3 Ocean interior change

#### 25 5.3.3.1 Ocean memory – acidification in the ocean interior

26 Anthropogenic  $\text{CO}_2$  taken up into the ocean surface layer is further spreading downward through the vertical  
27 mixing and advection (see Section 5.2.2.3.2), thereby causing acidification in the ocean interior (*virtually*  
28 *certain*). Its trend is modulated by the changes in ocean circulation through those in the net anthropogenic  
29  $\text{CO}_2$  transport (Gruber et al., 2019b) and in the cumulative impact of  $\text{CO}_2$  released from the metabolic  
30 process of organisms (remineralsation of organic matter) that accompanies the changes in the dissolved  
31 oxygen (Breitburg et al., 2018; Chen et al., 2017; Gattuso et al., 2015; Gruber, 2011; Levin, 2018; Mora et  
32 al., 2013; Robinson, 2019) (see Section 5.3.3.2).  
33  
34

35 The signal of acidification tends to diminish with depth while it has been amplified over time (*virtually*  
36 *certain*). The depth at which its signal has been found so far varies largely connecting with the structure of  
37 the ocean circulation. It is deeper in the subpolar North Atlantic (Perez et al., 2018) and mid-latitudinal zones  
38 in both hemispheres, and is shallower in the tropics (Carter et al., 2017; Murata and Saito, 2012; Ríos et al.,  
39 2015) and in the Southern Ocean with a significant pH decrease on the Antarctic continental slope (Hauck et  
40 al., 2010; Williams et al., 2015). In the subpolar North Atlantic, the trend of acidification has been observed  
41 during 1991–2016 even at the depth of 3000m with the shoaling of aragonite saturation horizon below which  
42 aragonite is undersaturated ( $\Omega_{\text{arag}} < 1$ ) at a rate of  $10\text{--}15$  m per year to 2250m. At  $30^\circ\text{S}\text{--}40^\circ\text{S}$  in the South  
43 Atlantic, a distinct pH decrease that reached  $-0.029 \pm 0.014$  pH unit has been observed at 1000m in two  
44 decades during 1993–2013 (Ríos et al., 2015). It is attributable to the increased impacts of the  
45 remineralisation as well as the anthropogenic  $\text{CO}_2$  invasion into the Antarctic Intermediate Water.  
46

47 A significant reinforcement of acidification by the increased remineralisation is also evident in the broad  
48 range of the intermediate water in the North Pacific (Byrne et al., 2010; Carter et al., 2017; Chu et al., 2016;  
49 Dore et al., 2009). Taken the long-term trend of decline in the dissolved oxygen ( $-4.0 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$  per decade)  
50 in the intermediate water of the North Pacific as revealed by time-series measurements (Sasano et al., 2015,  
51 2018; Takatani et al., 2012), this is thought to have been occurring persistently in the past several decades  
52 (*medium confidence*). By contrast, in the North Pacific Subtropical Mode Water ( $\sim 200\text{--}300$  m), large decadal  
53 variability in pH and aragonite saturation level with their amplitudes of  $\sim 0.02$  and  $\sim 0.1$  have been observed  
54 on their secular trend of decrease due to anthropogenic  $\text{CO}_2$  invasion (Oka et al., 2019). This is associated  
55 with the variability in the impact of remineralisation driven by the  $\sim 50\%$  variation in the formation volume

1 of the mode water that is forced remotely by the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (Oka et al., 2015). The trend and  
2 variability of the modulation of ocean interior acidification in space and time in the coming decades is also  
3 thought to be linked with those of deoxygenation due to changes in ventilation (Section 5.3.3.2).  
4  
5

#### 6 5.3.3.2 *Deoxygenation and its implications for GHGs and pH decline*

7

8 The rate of oxygen decrease in the ocean interior exhibits large variability in space, depth and time, but in  
9 total more than 2% ( $4.8 \pm 2.1$  Petamoles) of the global ocean oxygen content has been lost since 1960 (Helm  
10 et al., 2011; Ito et al., 2017; Schmidtko et al., 2017). Substantial changes in thermocline oxygen  
11 concentrations have been observed (i.e. (Deutsch et al., 2014; Hahn et al., 2017)) but attribution to different  
12 forcing agents such as anthropogenic warming, internal climate variability or a combination of both (i.e.,  
13 changing internal variability in a warming world) is challenging (Oschlies et al., 2018). Climate models  
14 confirm this decline and predict continuing and accelerating ocean deoxygenation (Bopp et al., 2013).  
15 However current models for instance do not reproduce observed patterns for oxygen changes in the ocean's  
16 tropical thermocline and generally simulate only about half the oceanic oxygen loss inferred from  
17 observations (Oschlies et al., 2018).  
18

19 The areas with relatively rapid oxygen decrease and with its large impact include the OMZs found in the  
20 tropical oceans, where oxygen content is decreasing at a rate of 0.9 to 3.4  $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$  per decade in the  
21 thermocline for the past five decades (Stramma et al., 2008). Low oxygen, low pH and shallow aragonite  
22 saturation horizons in the OMZ in the eastern boundary upwelling regions co-occur within them, affecting  
23 ecosystem structure (Chavez et al., 2008) and function in the water column, including the present unbalanced  
24 nitrogen cycle (Paulmier and Ruiz-Pino, 2009). The coupling between upwelling, productivity, and oxygen  
25 depletion feeds back to biological productivity and their role as sinks or sources of climate active gases.  
26 When OMZ waters upwell and impinge on the euphotic zone, they release significant quantities of  
27 greenhouse gases, including CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub>, to the atmosphere (i.e. (Arévalo-Martínez et al., 2015;  
28 Babbin et al., 2015; Farías et al., 2015; Kock et al., 2012; Naqvi et al., 2010) exacerbating global warming  
29 with feedbacks to stratification, biological productivity and the oxygen inventory. According to modelling  
30 projections of oceanic N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in 2100 under RCP8.5 emission scenario, the expansion of OMZs  
31 could thus increase N<sub>2</sub>O production and net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, associated primarily to denitrification (Martinez-  
32 Rey et al., 2015). Denitrification depletes nitrate and thus, when upwelled waters reach the photic zone,  
33 primary production is N-limited and CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted to the atmosphere (Tyrrell and Lucas, 2002). However,  
34 in other oceanic regions, further stratification of the ocean due to warming may reduce the amount of N<sub>2</sub>O  
35 reaching the surface inducing a decreased N<sub>2</sub>O flux to the atmosphere. Landolfi et al., (2017) suggest that by  
36 2100, under the same RCP8.5 scenario, total N<sub>2</sub>O production may have declined by 5% and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions  
37 be reduced by 24% due to decrease in organic matter export and anthropogenic driven changes in ocean  
38 circulation and atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O concentrations. It is yet unclear whether N<sub>2</sub>O production from bacterial  
39 nitrification increases exponentially or linearly with decreasing oxygen and whether a threshold oxygen  
40 value exists below which net N<sub>2</sub>O production switches to N<sub>2</sub>O consumption. Furthermore, the correlation  
41 between N<sub>2</sub>O and oxygen varies with microorganisms present, nutrient concentrations, and  
42 other environmental variables.  
43  
44

#### 45 5.3.4 *Future projections*

46

47 Ocean acidification is projected to continue as atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels continue to rise, with Earth system  
48 models showing similar net change in the surface ocean in the period to 2100, primarily determined by  
49 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and the existing regional carbonate chemistry (Hurd et al., 2018). The Arctic  
50 Ocean is an exception due to freshwater input from rivers and sea-ice melt, as well as circulation changes,  
51 which leads to a faster rate of change than waters in other regions (Qi et al., 2017), that continues through to  
52 2100 (Hurd et al., 2018).  
53

54 Earth system models project significant and irreversible changes that start to occur in polar regions within  
55 the next 15 years, as surface waters begin to become seasonally undersaturated with respect to aragonite,

1 which is predicted to occur in Southern Ocean surface waters by 2030 under all emissions pathways except  
2 very low RCP2.6 (Hauri et al., 2016; Negrete-García et al., 2019; Sasse et al., 2015). It is *likely* that the  
3 extent and persistence of ocean acidification in the high latitude oceans is very sensitive to the emissions  
4 scenarios. For the Southern Ocean, the extent of seasonal month-long undersaturation for aragonite by 2100  
5 were calculated to vary from negligible (less than 2%) under RCP2.6 to ~30% for RCP4.5 and more than  
6 95% for RCP8.5 (Sasse et al., 2015). These long term projections are modulated at interannual timescales by  
7 large-scale climate modes (Ríos et al., 2015), such as the representation of the El-Niño/Southern Oscillation  
8 and the Southern Annular Mode in models (Conrad and Lovenduski, 2015).

9  
10 As atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels continue to rise, the seasonal cycle of ocean acidification will continue to be  
11 modulated, with each part of the carbonate system responding differently. Overall a decrease in pH  
12 seasonality is anticipated globally, but in contrast, hydrogen ion seasonality concentration increases.  
13 However, the aragonite saturation state shows a reduction in all basins except for the subtropical gyres,  
14 which show an amplification of the seasonal cycle due to warming under high emissions scenarios  
15 (Kwiatkowski and Orr, 2018). The magnitude of these changes, however, will be sensitive to the future  
16 emissions pathway followed and highlights the interplay between warming and ocean chemistry in future  
17 projections.

18  
19  
20 **[START FIGURE 5.20 HERE]**

21  
22 **Figure 5.20:** Upper the observed aragonite saturation state in the present day (Hurd et al., 2018), and lower year that  
23 surface waters will become undersaturated and its extent with respect to aragonite at the monthly scale for  
24 high and low emissions pathways (RCP2.6 and RCP8.5) from Sasse et al., (2015).

25  
26 **[END FIGURE 5.20 HERE]**

27  
28  
29 At regional scale, these changes are modulated by local variability due to a range of processes that includes  
30 circulation, temperature changes, carbon cycling, carbonate chemistry and the structure of the marine  
31 ecosystem. As current model projections don't resolve these fine-scale temporal and spatial variability and  
32 processes, this suggests that current projections are *unlikely* to fully capture the chemical changes that the  
33 marine environment will experience in the future (Takeshita et al., 2015; Turi et al., 2016).

34  
35 As atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations rather than emissions often drive models used to project future changes,  
36 important carbon-climate feedbacks (more positive than negative) have been overlooked, which will directly  
37 impact the rates of ocean acidification suggesting changes possibly occurring more quickly than currently  
38 modelled (Matear and Lenton, 2018; Zhang et al., 2018a). Equally, feedbacks of the marine ecosystem on  
39 ocean chemistry have also been overlooked, and while the magnitude and sign of many of these feedbacks  
40 are still poorly known, nevertheless studies that explore these feedbacks suggest a potentially very  
41 significant and long-lasting impact (Matear and Lenton, 2014).

### 42 43 44 **5.3.5 Coastal ocean acidification and deoxygenation**

#### 45 46 **5.3.5.1 Drivers**

47  
48 High spatial and temporal variability characterise the coastal ocean marine carbonate system, thus surface  
49 pCO<sub>2</sub>, pH, and sea-air CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes. Typically, inner seas, bays and estuaries are saturated with CO<sub>2</sub>, despite  
50 the latitude region (i.e. tropical, temperate, polar) because heterotrophic respiration of organic matter from  
51 basin drainage prevails over photosynthesis. Additionally, highly populated coastal areas receive large  
52 amounts of organic matter from domestic and industrial sewage (Chen and Borges, 2009). On the contrary,  
53 continental shelves, excluding estuaries and near-shore areas, act as CO<sub>2</sub> sinks at a rate of ~0.2 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>  
54 (Laruelle et al., 2014) or a sink yield of 0.7 molC m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>, considering ice-free areas. Under scenarios of  
55 concomitant increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and eutrophication, such ecosystems would be more vulnerable to

1 ecological and biogeochemical changes, impacting local economical activities. Nevertheless, coastal and  
2 shelf seas acidification, whether induced by the increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> or by enhancement of  
3 eutrophication, is *very likely* to have negative effects on groups of marine organisms (Dupont et al., 2010),  
4 especially when combined to other stressors such as temperature and metallic ions (Boyd et al., 2015;  
5 Breitburg et al., 2018).

#### 6 7 8 5.3.5.2 *Spatial characteristics*

9  
10 Reported long-term decline in seawater pH for coastal areas in the north-western USA (Pacific coast) are  
11 related to local metabolism, and relates more significantly to the dissolved oxygen saturation state than the  
12 increasing trends in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Lowe et al., 2019). Non-upwelling coastal areas, such as in the north-  
13 eastern USA also present a significant positive correlation between pH and dissolved oxygen, where more  
14 acidic waters (i.e. pH ≈ 7.00) are found in hypoxic areas (Wallace et al., 2014). Model results predict a  
15 concomitant increase in bottom waters acidification and deoxygenation in the northern shelf of the Gulf of  
16 Mexico with increasing eutrophication, implying that this situation could be managed with regulation of the  
17 riverine input of nutrients (Laurent et al., 2017). Similarly to the former examples, although in a smaller  
18 spatial scale, (Cotovicz et al., 2018; Cotovicz Jr. et al., 2015) observations show that eutrophication induces  
19 net atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> absorption in tropical, shallow and vertically stratified ecosystems in spite of the  
20 presence of bottom water acidification and hypoxia, driven by autochthonous primary production. In  
21 addition to that, more acidic coastal sub-surface waters are also found close to wastewater effluents, where  
22 microbial respiration lowers water pH (Cotovicz Jr. et al., 2015; Fennel and Testa, 2019; Lowe et al., 2019;  
23 Wallace et al., 2014). Cai et al., (2011) showed through observations, that the CO<sub>2</sub> production from the  
24 decomposition of organic matter in eutrophic coastal areas (off the Mississippi and Chanjiang rivers) has  
25 already increased acidification levels in adjacent subsurface waters.

26  
27 Spatial distribution of hypoxic coastal areas is highly heterogeneous, but more severe hypoxia or anoxia is  
28 *likely* to occur in highly populated coastal areas, or in regions where local water circulation, water column  
29 stratification and wind patterns lead to an accumulation of organic matter (Breitburg et al., 2018; Ciais et al.,  
30 2013; Rabalais et al., 2014). The signal for deoxygenation trends is thus heterogeneous and can be only  
31 assessed by making available coastal water quality surveys, many times not obtainable in the peer-reviewed  
32 literature.

33  
34 The Baltic Sea is the largest regional sea where hypoxia is reported to happen before the 1950s (Carstensen  
35 et al., 2014; Łukawska-Matuszewska et al., 2019; Rabalais et al., 2014). The frequency and volume of North  
36 Seawater inflows to the Baltic Sea decreased after 1950, leading to an expansion of hypoxic areas from  
37 40,000 to 60,000 km<sup>2</sup> in combination with increasing eutrophication (Carstensen et al., 2014) [reference  
38 missing]. Chesapeake Bay, a densely populated coastal ecosystem on the North American east coast,  
39 displays summer hypoxia with large interannual variation (Li et al., 2016a). Wang et al. (2017)[*reference*  
40 *missing*] showed, using sedimentary record, that since about 1850 the oxygen minimum zone off southern  
41 California in the Pacific Ocean has become more intense since the 1990s, with high interannual variability  
42 due to the Southern Oscillation. The East China Sea is one of the largest coastal oxygen-depleted areas in the  
43 world, where observed summer hypoxia has been related to increasing inputs of riverine nutrients (Chen et  
44 al., 2007). Recently, Qian et al., (2017) have shown that regional seawater circulation processes (i.e. non  
45 local) also play a role in the intensity of East China Sea summer hypoxia. On the north-western Atlantic  
46 shelf, (Claret et al., 2018) in a combined observation and model approach show that the observed shelf  
47 deoxygenation trends are related to changes (retreat) in the Labrador Current circulation patterns.

48  
49 Shelf waters in the Arabian Sea display seasonal hypoxia driven by the summer monsoon upwelling  
50 (Madhupratap et al., 1996). A comparison of observational data from the late 1950's with a modern time-  
51 series does not show an increase in hypoxia in this area (Gupta et al., 2016). Djakovic et al., (2015) have  
52 analysed a 40-year time-series and concluded that changes in regional circulation in the Adriatic Sea  
53 alleviated the local strong summer/autumn bottom hypoxia events in its eastern portion while on the north-  
54 western Adriatic Sea, the decrease in nutrient and freshwater inputs lead to present less severe hypoxic  
55 conditions when compared to the 1970s and 1980s decades.

## 5.4 Biogeochemical Feedbacks on Climate Change

This section covers biogeochemical feedbacks on climate change, which represent one of the largest sources of uncertainty in projections of climate change. The relevant processes are discussed, prior to discussing the simulation and projection of the carbon cycle in Earth System Models, emergent constraints on future projections, non-CO<sub>2</sub> feedbacks, and possible biogeochemical tipping points.

### 5.4.1 Direct CO<sub>2</sub> effects on land carbon uptake

As detailed in AR5, the CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation effect, the leaf-level increase of photosynthesis and an associated decline in stomatal conductance as a consequence of elevated CO<sub>2</sub>, is the dominant cause for the projected increase in global land productivity and land carbon uptake between 1850 and 2099 in Earth System Models (ESMs) in the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5) ensemble (Arora et al., 2013; Wenzel et al., 2016). Increased productivity is one key driver of increases in vegetation carbon storage, but processes affecting vegetation turnover such as allocation changes, mortality, and vegetation structural changes also play an important role (Friend et al., 2014; Walker et al., 2019). Changes in plant carbon inputs to soils are the major cause for changing soil carbon stocks, which represent a significant contribution to the carbon-concentration feedback (Todd-Brown et al., 2013).

AR5 concluded that the CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation effect included in ESMs has been corroborated by many experimental studies (e.g. Ainsworth and Long, 2005). Interactions of leaf-level CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation with light availability, growth temperature, and seasonal drought at ecosystem level contribute to the spread in model projections of productivity increase as they are as yet insufficiently constrained by observations (Baig et al., 2015; Kelly et al., 2016; Zaehle et al., 2014). New syntheses since AR5 corroborate the earlier assessment that the effect of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> on ecosystem-scale productivity and carbon storage is much less clear (Walker et al., 2019). Field studies with elevated CO<sub>2</sub> have demonstrated that the initial stimulation of above-ground growth may decline, if insufficient amounts of nitrogen are available to support the increased growth (Finzi et al., 2007; Norby et al., 2010; Reich and Hobbie, 2013; Terrer et al., 2018).

Model-data intercomparisons using CO<sub>2</sub> manipulation experiments have demonstrated that the long-term model projections depend on their ability to predict soil-vegetation interactions (Medlyn et al., 2015; Zaehle et al., 2014). Meta-analyses of CO<sub>2</sub> manipulation experiments point to accelerated turnover of soil organic matter (van Groenigen et al., 2017) as a result of increased plant below ground carbon allocation, increased root exudation or mycorrhizal activity (Drake et al., 2011; Meier et al., 2017), which may depend on the dominant type of mycorrhizal associated (Terrer et al., 2016, 2017). Such effects are not considered in the ESMs included in CMIP5 or CMIP6 (CMIP Phase 6). Representation of soil microbial dynamics in ecosystem models leads to a reduced effect of increased C inputs on soil carbon storage, because elevated CO<sub>2</sub> stimulates the decomposer community (e.g., Guenet et al., 2018; Sulman et al., 2014; Wieder et al., 2013, 2017). It is unclear whether this effect reduces the carbon-concentration interaction because of the increase in soil C losses, or increases the carbon-concentration interaction because increased N availability and subsequent stimulation of plant growth and carbon storage.

The two ESMs in CMIP5 with N dynamics reported in AR5, which relied on the same land model, showed a very strong reduction in the land carbon sensitivity to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Arora et al., 2013). Since AR5, an increasing number of land surface models have incorporated a representation of the nitrogen cycle to account for potential progressive nitrogen limitation of the CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation effect (Goll et al., 2017; Wania et al., 2012; Wårlind et al., 2014). Improvements in process representation and the larger ensemble size allow now for a better quantification of this effect (Figure 5.29; Table 5.5). Based on independent assessments by stand-alone land model simulations (Wårlind et al., 2014; Zaehle et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2014), and analyses of CMIP5 simulations (Wieder et al., 2015; Zaehle et al., 2015), the land nitrogen cycle *very likely* reduces the sensitivity of the land carbon cycle to CO<sub>2</sub>, however, the magnitude is *likely* less than in the CMIP5 ensemble.

1  
2 Understanding of the effect of phosphorus limitation in large parts of the tropical zone and Australia (Grandy  
3 et al., 2013; Vitousek et al., 2010) on CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation is less well developed. Since AR5, the first free-air  
4 CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment experiment in a phosphorus-limited mature forest ecosystem did not find an increase in  
5 biomass growth despite increases in photosynthesis after three years of CO<sub>2</sub> exposure (Drake et al., 2018;  
6 Ellsworth et al., 2017). Models accounting for the effects of P availability in addition to N generally show a  
7 stronger reduction of the response of the ecosystem carbon storage to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> (Goll et al., 2012;  
8 Medlyn et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2014). This suggests that the carbon-concentration interactions in CMIP5  
9 ESMs maybe overestimated for predominantly P limited regions. Land P cycling will be represented in at  
10 least two of the ESMs participating in C<sup>4</sup>MIP of CMIP6, providing an opportunity to assess the strength of  
11 the P-effect in the second-order draft.

12  
13 Independent indirect evidence based on the interpretation of the <sup>13</sup>C-isotopic signature in tree rings support  
14 the observations from CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment experiments that water-use efficiency respond positively to changes  
15 in CO<sub>2</sub> (but see Brienen et al., 2017; Frank et al., 2015; van der Sleen et al., 2015). Idealised simulations  
16 from seven ESMs suggest that increased water-use efficiency reduces future water loss from vegetation,  
17 thereby also contributing to surface warming, because the effect of decreased leaf-level conductance  
18 outweighs the projected increases in leaf area index (Swann et al., 2016).

#### 19 20 21 **5.4.2 Direct CO<sub>2</sub> effects on ocean carbon uptake**

22  
23 A persistent increase in the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration will drive further net CO<sub>2</sub> uptake into the ocean.  
24 During 2008–2017 the ocean has taken up around 30% of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Section 5.2.2.3).  
25 However, there is broad agreement among Earth system models that the anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> uptake by the  
26 ocean as a fraction of anthropogenic emissions will decrease with the increase in the ocean CO<sub>2</sub> inventory  
27 (Arora et al., 2013a; Wang et al., 2016) (*very likely*). For the RCP8.5 scenario, it is projected that the oceanic  
28 CO<sub>2</sub> uptake fraction of fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will decrease from 32% in the 1990s to 23% on average  
29 over the twenty-first century (Jones et al., 2013b; Wang et al., 2016). This decrease is a result of the impact  
30 of CO<sub>2</sub> uptake on the carbonate chemistry of seawater that lowers the capacity of absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> from the  
31 atmosphere (buffering capacity) (Katavouta et al., 2018). It will have a positive feedback on the sensitivity of  
32 global warming to the cumulative anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emission through the elevation of the airborne fraction.  
33

34 Due to the lowering of the CO<sub>2</sub> buffering capacity of seawater, biological CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation increases its  
35 importance for CO<sub>2</sub> uptake in the Southern Ocean, even if biological productivity remains unchanged. This  
36 is because the decreasing buffering capacity results in a larger draw-down of *p*CO<sub>2</sub> in sea-water, and hence a  
37 larger CO<sub>2</sub> gradient between ocean and atmosphere (Hauck and Völker, 2015). Changes in seawater  
38 carbonate chemistry due to cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> uptake is also *likely* to amplify the seasonal cycle of hydrogen  
39 ion concentration (+81±16%) during the twenty-first century (Ishii et al., 2011; Kwiatkowski et al., 2018;  
40 see also Chapter 5.3.2). Depending on the seasons and regions, it may exacerbate or ameliorate the  
41 impacts of ocean acidification on marine organisms (see Section 5.3).

42  
43 Ocean acidification is *very likely* to reduce the calcification rate of marine organisms (e.g. Kroeker et al.,  
44 2013) and so may form a negative feedback on atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels. However, the predicted sensitivity of  
45 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is fairly small; under RCP8.5, the decrease in CaCO<sub>3</sub> production and dissolution due to  
46 increasing ocean acidification are predicted to result in a small negative feedback on atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> of -2  
47 to -11 ppm by 2100 (Gangstø et al., 2011). However, different model parameterisations for the CO<sub>2</sub>-  
48 calcification feedback result in widely diverging estimates of the feedback magnitude, which range from -1  
49 ppm to -125 ppm (part of this spread is also due to use of different forcing scenarios) (Heinze, 2004;  
50 Hofmann and Schellnhuber, 2009; Ridgwell et al., 2007; Zhang and Cao, 2016). The magnitude of the  
51 feedback effect will also depend on the parameterisation of the ballast effect on export fluxes of organic  
52 carbon, which acts to counteract the negative calcification response to increased CO<sub>2</sub> (Barker et al., 2003).  
53  
54

### 5.4.3 *Climate effects on land carbon uptake*

CMIP5 ESMs project that a warming climate will lead to losses of carbon from vegetation and soils, due to a variety of factors, which include: reduced photosynthetic uptake, particularly in tropical ecosystems, due to temperature and water stresses; elevated rates of plant (autotrophic) respiration with warmer temperatures; changes to plant mortality and disturbance rates; and increases to heterotrophic respiration rates with warmer temperatures. ESMs also indicate areas of carbon gain that offset some of these losses due to processes that include: longer growing seasons in colder climates and increased nutrient availability from mineralisation of organic matter that accompanies elevated decomposition rates. Uncertainty on the magnitude and geographic pattern of these feedbacks remain high, but it is *likely* that ecosystem responses to climate change will act as a positive feedback that will enhance global warming.

Plant productivity is highly dependent on local climate. In cold environments, warming has generally led to an earlier onset of the growing season, and with it vegetation productivity (e.g. Forkel et al., 2016). However, this trend is affected by adverse effects of climate variability and other emerging limitations of vegetation production by water, energy or nutrients, which may gradually reduce the effects of warming (Buermann et al., 2018; Piao et al., 2017).

In warmer environments, high temperatures are observed to correlate with reduced photosynthetic rates (e.g. Pau et al., 2018), suggesting that further warming may reduce vegetation productivity. A key question is whether the observed relationships are due to the exceedance of temperature thresholds in photosynthetic biochemistry itself, with higher vapour pressure deficit accompanying high temperatures; observations and models suggest that the vapour pressure deficit effects are strongest, and that acclimation of photosynthetic optimal temperature may mitigate productivity losses of tropical forests under climate change (Lloyd and Farquhar, 2008; Tan et al., 2017). Since AR5, some ESMs have begun to include these acclimation responses, both in photosynthesis (Lombardozzi et al., 2015; Mercado et al., 2018) as well as in autotrophic respiration (Huntingford et al., 2017). However, these acclimation effects remain a large uncertainty in estimates of carbon-climate feedbacks.

Since AR5, research has been conducted to better understand the effect of variability in water availability on plant production and net land carbon uptake. Much of the local scale year-to-year variability in global vegetation production and net carbon uptake is associated with interannual variability in total and seasonal precipitation and therefore the extent of drought. In particular, semi-arid regions with substantial variability in the interannual rainfall appear to be an important driver of the global interannual variability of productivity (Jung et al., 2017; Korth et al., 2015). ENSO-related occurrence of drought in the Amazon basin is a further large contributor to interannual variability in carbon exchange (Bastos et al., 2018; Humphrey et al., 2018; Lee et al., 2013), and may also play a role in carbon storage through changing mortality rates (Brienen et al., 2015). Analyses of offline land models show that they underestimate the correlation between terrestrial water storage and carbon fluxes (Humphrey et al., 2018), thus suggesting a similar pattern in fully-coupled ESMs. All CMIP5 ESMs predict that changes to productivity will outweigh changes to mortality in governing biomass changes (Koven et al., 2015a). However, an ensemble of land models that include additional ecological processes suggest that changes to mortality may be a more important driver of carbon dynamics in the real world (Friend et al., 2014). The role of longer-term changes in water availability in governing carbon fluxes remains an important uncertainty in carbon feedback estimates.

The majority of terrestrial ecosystem carbon resides in soils, where it is cycled back to the atmosphere by decomposers. Changes to soil carbon stocks in response to global change have long been considered a likely and potentially strong positive feedback (Cox et al., 2000). Since the AR5, there have been important changes to our understanding of soil carbon dynamics, and thus the likely strength of feedbacks from soils. These include: (1) an increased recognition of the role of high latitude soils in storing large amounts of potentially decomposable soil carbon, and an increased focus on modelling these dynamics in ESMs; (2) a shift in the understanding of the causes responsible for soil carbon persistence on long timescales, away from earlier theories governed mainly by the intrinsic chemical recalcitrance of soil organic matter to a view of soil organic matter persistence as governed by complex ecological dynamics of the decomposer community interacting with soil organic matter and mineral assemblages (Luo et al., 2016; Schmidt et al., 2011).

1  
2 In the CMIP5 ESMs, soils represented a significant contributor to both the carbon-concentration and carbon-  
3 climate feedbacks. The *uncertainty* on this feedback is *large*, as demonstrated by both the large model  
4 ensemble spread for carbon stock changes, as well as the large spread in current soil carbon stocks predicted  
5 by the models (Todd-Brown et al., 2013). Soil contributions to both feedbacks can often be traced to changes  
6 in plant carbon inputs to soils, which then result in changing soil carbon stocks. Changes to the lifetime of  
7 carbon in the soil, in response to elevated decomposition rates under global warming, were relatively weak in  
8 the CMIP5 ESMs (Koven et al., 2015a). This may be an artefact of the lack of permafrost carbon  
9 representation in any of the models. Changes to soil decomposition rates due to interactions between  
10 elevated productivity under elevated CO<sub>2</sub> and changing decomposer dynamics were also not included in any  
11 of the models.

12  
13 For CMIP6, at least one ESM includes permafrost carbon cycle dynamics, which changes the sign of the  
14 carbon-climate feedback from the high latitudes from a weak sink with warming to a strong source of carbon  
15 with warming (Burke et al., 2018; Koven et al., 2011; McGuire et al., 2016; Schaefer et al., 2011). This  
16 response arises from the enormous stocks of carbon stored in high latitude soils (Hugelius et al., 2014),  
17 which are highly decomposable upon thaw (Schädel et al., 2014). Experimental warming treatments that  
18 thaw permafrost demonstrate a high potential for ecosystem carbon losses with warming (Schuur et al.,  
19 2009). Interactions between permafrost C and N cycles under warming weakens but does not offset feedback  
20 (Koven et al., 2015b). The uncertainty in this process remains large (McGuire et al., 2016), and the degree  
21 to which ESMs represent the feedback varies greatly.

22  
23 Representation of soil microbial dynamics modify the response to temperature, as the longer-term microbial  
24 community responses are more complex than short-term temperature sensitivity. Such responses are  
25 observed in response to long-term warming experiments (Melillo et al., 2017). Complex responses show no  
26 clear pattern in meta-analyses of soil responses to warming, partially due to inability to separate  
27 decomposition from productivity changes (van Gestel et al., 2018). Using natural gradients of soil carbon  
28 turnover as a constraint on long-term responses to warming suggests that the CMIP5 ESMs may  
29 systematically underestimate the temperature sensitivity at high latitudes, and may overestimate the  
30 temperature sensitivity in the tropics (Koven et al., 2017; Wieder et al., 2018).

31  
32 In nutrient limited ecosystems, prolonged soil warming can induce a fertilisation effect through increased  
33 decomposition, which increases nutrient availability and thereby vegetation productivity (Melillo et al.,  
34 2011). Models that include this process tend to have weaker carbon-climate feedbacks than those that do not  
35 (Thornton et al., 2009; Wårlind et al., 2014; Zaehle et al., 2010). In CMIP5, only one land model included  
36 nutrient dynamics, and it was an outlier in its feedback strength as compared to models that did not include  
37 nutrients. Several ESMs include nutrients in CMIP6 but only partly account for the interactions of nutrient  
38 effects with other processes such as shift of vegetation zones under climate changes (Sakaguchi et al., 2016)  
39 leading to either changes in species composition or changes in plant stoichiometry (Achat et al., 2016; Du et  
40 al., 2019; Thomas et al., 2015). Early analyses suggest that these models tend to have a less negative climate-  
41 carbon feedback than models not including nitrogen dynamics. However, the overall effect of nutrients is  
42 weaker than was inferred in AR5 [[Placeholder: needs update]].

#### 43 44 45 **5.4.4 Climate effects on ocean carbon uptake**

##### 46 47 **5.4.4.1 Physical drivers of ocean carbon uptake**

48  
49 It is *likely* that the heat and anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> storage in the ocean show a common broad-scale pattern of  
50 change (Frölicher et al., 2015) and the ocean warming tends to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake from the atmosphere,  
51 resulting in a positive climate-carbon cycle feedback (Randerson et al., 2015). The cumulative ocean CO<sub>2</sub>  
52 uptake has been projected to reduce by 20 PgC by 2100 due to climate-driven perturbations to the natural  
53 carbon cycle (Bernardello et al., 2014). Changing buoyancy fluxes (heat, freshwater) result in circulation-  
54 driven changes in carbon storage, which decrease CO<sub>2</sub> uptake (Bernardello et al., 2014; Ito et al., 2015).  
55 Ocean carbon is also redistributed, with higher concentration at high latitudes and increased vertical



1 gradients in low latitude regions (Khatiwala et al., 2018). Ocean warming reduces the solubility of CO<sub>2</sub>,  
2 increases stratification, which limits air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> exchange, and may contribute to slower meridional  
3 overturning circulation (Section 5.2.2.3.2; Chapter 9) (Matsumoto et al., 2010). With deep ocean circulation  
4 weakening, the downward transport of CO<sub>2</sub> from the surface to the deep ocean results in decreased CO<sub>2</sub>  
5 uptake in high latitudes, although at the same time weaker equatorial upwelling reduces upward transport of  
6 CO<sub>2</sub> therefore enhancing CO<sub>2</sub> uptake in low latitudes (Yamamoto et al., 2018). The warming of the ocean  
7 and its circulation changes in a high-CO<sub>2</sub> world also explains in part the lowering of the oceanic CO<sub>2</sub> uptake  
8 fraction. Sensitivity tests with an Earth system model driven by the RCP8.5 scenario suggests that these  
9 changes will reduce oceanic CO<sub>2</sub> uptake by 20% by the end of the twenty-first century compared to the case  
10 when these changes will not occur. Nearly half this decrease is attributed to warming surface waters in the  
11 shallow meridional overturning region (45°S–45°N) at high surface ocean pCO<sub>2</sub> conditions, with the  
12 remainder being due to circulation changes in the Southern Ocean and the northern North Atlantic (Rodgers  
13 and others No title).

14  
15 Sea-ice processes may also affect the air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> exchange. During sea-ice growth, seawater total alkalinity  
16 (TA) and dissolved organic carbon (DIC) are concentrated in the brine and hence brine rejection during sea-  
17 ice melt increases the underlying DIC and TA (Søren et al., 2011). In regions of net export of sea ice, the  
18 polar mixed layer may become enriched in brine-associated TA and DIC, driving a sea-ice induced flux of  
19 CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere (Rysgaard et al., 2013). This sea-ice induced CO<sub>2</sub> uptake is however a small fraction  
20 of net regional oceanic CO<sub>2</sub> uptake: ~1% in the Arctic and 5% in the Antarctic under the RCP4.5 warming  
21 scenario (Grimm et al., 2016).

#### 22 23 24 5.4.4.2 *Biological drivers of ocean carbon uptake*

25  
26 Currently, even the sign of the response of primary production (PP) to increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
27 concentration and climate warming remains unclear, as it did at the time of AR5 (Taucher and Oschlies,  
28 2011). Several interacting processes drive the response of PP to a changing climate and the choice of model  
29 parameterisation can result in different projections. Warmer temperatures increase metabolic rates, including  
30 PP, but also increase respiration rate (Boscolo-Galazzo et al., 2018). Warming also acts to increase  
31 stratification which reduces nutrient supply to the upper ocean (Chapter 9) and would thus result in  
32 decreased PP. However, experimental studies have shown that nutrient limitation reduces the temperature  
33 dependence of metabolic rates (Marañón et al., 2018), implying that the dominant effect of warming may be  
34 through indirect (nutrient supply) rather than direct (metabolic rates). Enhanced dust input into the ocean  
35 from desertification could alleviate iron limitation and result in increased PP. Alternatively, changes in ocean  
36 circulation and increased stratification could result in reduced iron supply to iron-limited regions, decreasing  
37 PP. Tagliabue et al., (2014) show that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> increases by only 2 ppmv if dust deposition is  
38 completely shut off, but incorporating light-iron colimitation leads to an increase of 9.6 µatm at low dust  
39 deposition (Nickelsen and Oschlies, 2015). An additional effect of increased warming is predicted to be  
40 changes in phytoplankton community structure towards smaller functional types that are adapted to low  
41 nutrient conditions, and also as a result of ocean acidification reducing the viability of calcareous organisms  
42 (Fu et al., 2016); both are expected to reduce PP. These stressors will not change in isolation in the future  
43 ocean, and the potential for synergistic, or antagonistic, effects of multiple stressors is unclear (Brennan and  
44 Collins, 2015; Boyd et al., 2015).

45  
46 As a result of this complexity, CMIP5 model-simulated PP responses to the RCP8.5 scenario have a wide  
47 spread (Laufkötter et al., 2015), from -4.3 to +10 GtC yr<sup>-1</sup> (median -0.2 GtC yr<sup>-1</sup>), with 5 out of 9 models  
48 analysed showing a decrease in global PP to 2100. The reduction in PP at low latitudes in 3 of the models is  
49 driven by nutrient limitation due to increased stratification, whereas in the other models temperature-driven  
50 increases in loss processes (grazing, sinking, mortality) outweigh the higher phytoplankton growth rates  
51 (Laufkötter et al., 2015). Observations provide little constraint on the modelled responses of PP to climate  
52 change, partly due to insufficiently long records (Henson et al., 2016).

53  
54 As climate change exposes phytoplankton to lower nutrient supply and potentially increased light levels,  
55 phytoplankton community structure changes may affect the nutrient stoichiometry of organic matter.

1 Biogeochemical models which incorporate variable stoichiometry predict that the C:N ratio will increase by  
2 0.4% and the C:P ratio by 4.3% under RCP8.5 (Kwiatkowski et al., 2018), i.e. the amount of carbon stored  
3 via the soft tissue pump increases relative to the amount of PP. In a 5 box ocean model with variable  
4 stoichiometry, declines in subtropical phosphate supply driven by an increase in ocean temperature of 5 °C  
5 resulted in a decrease in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations of 60 ppm (Moreno et al., 2018). By overlooking  
6 variable organic matter stoichiometry, the fixed stoichiometry models (as used in CMIP5) may  
7 underestimate cumulative ocean carbon uptake to 2100 by 0.5–3.5% (2–15 PgC) (Kwiatkowski et al., 2018).

8  
9 The mechanisms underlying the remineralisation of particulate organic carbon (POC) in the water column  
10 are myriad, interlinked and difficult to quantify observationally. Alterations to the efficiency and  
11 functioning of the soft tissue pump may arise due to changing circulation, altered phyto- and zooplankton  
12 community structure (altering both the magnitude of POC export and the type of sinking material produced),  
13 warming affecting metabolic rates, changing stoichiometry of organic matter, etc. In addition, a reduction in  
14 the viability of calcifying organisms due to ocean acidification may affect the soft tissue pump by reducing  
15 the amount of material available to ‘ballast’ POC. Other climate effects such as deoxygenation and warming  
16 could also result in alterations to the magnitude and efficiency of the carbonate pump via changes in  
17 phytoplankton community composition (Fu et al., 2016). POC export flux is expected to decline by 1-12%  
18 by 2100 with CMIP5 models run under RCP8.5 (Laufkötter et al., 2016), with the mechanisms driving these  
19 changes varying widely between models due to differences in parameterisation of particle formation,  
20 remineralisation and phytoplankton community structure. The model simulation by Matear and Lenton  
21 (2014) suggested that if POC export increases under RCP8.5, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> drops by ~43ppm by 2100,  
22 while enhanced remineralisation of POC and dissolution of particulate organic carbon (PIC) could increase  
23 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by ~18 ppm by 2100. The combination of the above processes reduced atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
24 by 38ppm by 2100. However, the complexity of the mechanisms involved in the remineralisation of POC  
25 represent a significant uncertainty in the magnitude and sign of ocean carbon cycle feedback to changes in  
26 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and climate (Hülse et al., 2017). Improved model representation (which will require better  
27 observational constraints) of the soft tissue pump is required, as the contribution of biological processes to  
28 CO<sub>2</sub> uptake is expected to become more significant with continued climate change, due to a combination of  
29 decreasing buffer capacity and strong seasonality in the pump (at high latitudes) resulting in strengthening  
30 seasonality in anthropogenic carbon uptake (Hauck et al., 2015).

### 31 32 33 **5.4.5 Carbon Cycle Projections in Earth System Models**

34  
35 This section analyses the future projections of land and ocean carbon sinks, and of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, from the  
36 latest Earth System Models (ESMs). ESMs are the basis for century timescale projections, and for detection  
37 and attribution studies (Chapter 3). These models aim to simulate the evolution of the carbon sources and sinks  
38 on land and in the ocean, in addition to the physical components of the climate system.

39  
40 Land-atmosphere and ocean-atmosphere carbon fluxes are sensitive to changes in climate and atmospheric  
41 CO<sub>2</sub>, for the many reasons outlined in Sections 5.4.2 and 5.4.3. Early attempts to include the carbon cycle as  
42 an interactive element within GCM climate models showed the potential for the carbon cycle to accelerate the  
43 rate of global warming (Cox et al., 2000; Friedlingstein et al., 2001). The subsequent C<sup>4</sup>MIP project compared  
44 coupled climate-carbon cycle simulations from six models, highlighting the uncertainties associated with  
45 carbon cycle feedbacks (Friedlingstein et al., 2006). By the time of the IPCC AR5 most climate modelling  
46 groups had included an interactive carbon cycle, leading to the evolution of climate models into ESMs.

47  
48 The CMIP5 ESMs discussed in the AR5 produced a wide range of projections of future CO<sub>2</sub> (Friedlingstein et  
49 al., 2014) primarily associated with different magnitudes of carbon-climate and carbon-concentration  
50 feedbacks (Arora et al., 2013), but also exacerbated by differences in the simulation of the net carbon release  
51 from land-use change (Brovkin et al., 2013). A key difference among the CMIP5 models was the extent to  
52 which nutrient availability limited the CO<sub>2</sub>-fertilisation of plant photosynthesis, with most models assuming  
53 no nutrient limitations (Zaehle et al., 2015). The CMIP6 models considered in this report now include nutrient  
54 limitations on vegetation growth, along with many other improvements (see Table 5.4).

1  
2 [START TABLE 5.4 HERE]

3  
4 **Table 5.4:** CMIP6 Earth System Models considered in this subsection [[Placeholder: needs to be updated for CMIP6  
5 rather than CMIP5 models]].  
6

Model name	Model name expanded	Land carbon component	Ocean carbon component	Land use emissions	Terrestrial nitrogen cycle	Reference
CanESM2	Second Generation Canadian Earth System Model	Canadian Terrestrial Ecosystem Model (CTEM)	Canadian Model of Ocean Carbon (CMOC)	Computed	No	Arora et al. (2011)
GFDL-ESM2G	Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory Earth System Model with Generalized Ocean Layer Dynamics (GOLD) component (ESM2G)	Land Model LM3V	Tracers of Ocean Phytoplankton with Allometric Zooplankton (TOPAZ)	Computed	No	Dunne et al. (2013)
HadGEM2-ES	Hadley Centre Global Environment Model, version 2 - Earth System	Met Office Surface Exchange Scheme–Top-down Representation of Interactive Foliage and Flora Including Dynamics (MOSES-TRIFFID)	Diatom version of the Hadley Centre Ocean Carbon Cycle model (Diat-HadOCC)	Computed and prescribed	No	Collins et al. (2011)
IPSL-CM5A-LR	L'Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace Coupled Model, version 5, coupled with NEMO, low resolution	Organizing Carbon and Hydrology in Dynamic Ecosystems (ORCHIDEE)	Pelagic Interactive Scheme for Carbon and Ecosystem Studies (PISCES)	Computed	No	Dufresne et al. (2103)
MIROC-ESM	Model for Interdisciplinary Research on Climate, Earth System Model	Spatially Explicit Individual-Based Dynamic Global Vegetation Model (SEIB-DGVM)	Nutrients–phytoplankton–zooplankton–detritus (NPZD)	Computed	No	Watanabe et al. (2011)
MPI-ESM-LR	Max Planck Institute Earth System Model, low resolution	Jena Scheme for Biosphere–Atmosphere Coupling in Hamburg (JSBACH)	Hamburg Model of the Ocean Carbon Cycle (HAMOCC)	Computed	No	Ilyina et al. (2013)
CESM1-BGC	Community Earth System Model, version 1–Biogeochemistry	Community Land Model (CLM)	Biogeochemical Elemental Recycling (BEC)	Computed	Yes	Long et al. (2013)
NorESM1-ME	Norwegian Earth System Model, version 1 (carbon cycle)	Community Land Model (CLM)	Miami Isopycnic Coordinate Ocean Model (MICOM)	Computed	Yes	Tjiputra et al. (2012)
BCC-CSM-1	Beijing Climate Center, Climate System Model, version 1	BCC Atmosphere–Vegetation–Interaction Model (BCC-AVIM1)	Ocean Carbon–Cycle Model Intercomparison Project Phase 2 (OCMIP-2)	Prescribed	No	Wu et al. (2010), Xin et al. (2013a,b)
INM-CM4.0	Institute of Numerical Mathematics Coupled Model, version 4.0	—	—	Prescribed	No	Volodin et al. (2010)
MRI-ESM1	Meteorological Research Institute Earth System Model, version 1	—	—	Prescribed	No	Adachi et al. (2013)

7  
8  
9  
10 [END TABLE 5.4 HERE]

11  
12  
13 *5.4.5.1 Evaluation of carbon cycle simulations against observations*

14  
15 To have confidence in their projections the models must be compared to as wide an array of observational  
16 benchmarks as possible. This is particularly the case for highly-uncertain land carbon cycle feedbacks  
17 (Friedlingstein et al., 2003, 2006, 2014b). Land models within ESMs should be compared to multiple  
18 different datasets of processes such as gross carbon uptake, physical predictions such as leaf area and carbon  
19 stocks which influence carbon fluxes and are diagnostic of carbon turnover times, as well as linkages  
20 between carbon and water cycles and other aspects of the terrestrial carbon cycle. To address this, a model  
21 benchmarking system, ILAMB has been developed (Collier et al., 2018) to provide these multiple orthogonal

1 constraints. Figure 5.21 shows an overview of an initial set of terrestrial benchmarks applied to both the  
2 CMIP5 and CMIP6 models. [[Placeholder: On the whole, and provisional statement based on incomplete  
3 data thus far available from CMIP6. Based on preliminary data from CMIP6 models, it appears that model  
4 benchmarking scores have generally improved from the CMIP5 to the CMIP6 generation of models, which is  
5 consistent with the models providing a more useful estimate of feedback parameters than the CMIP5  
6 generation of ESMs.]]  
7  
8

9 **[START FIGURE 5.21 HERE]**

10  
11 **Figure 5.21:** Overview scores of CMIP5 (left hand side of table) and CMIP6 (right hand side of table) models, for  
12 multiple land-surface benchmarks against different datasets. Scores are relative to other models within  
13 each benchmark row, with positive scores indicating a better agreement with observations. [[Placeholder:  
14 Figure to be updated in SOD to include all and only the models used for carbon cycle feedback parameter  
15 assessments in AR5 and AR6, as well as to sort out some artefacts in current figure associated with unit  
16 conversions that are resulting in missing values (grey squares), etc.]]

17 **[END FIGURE 5.21 HERE]**

18  
19  
20 When used within fully coupled ESM historical simulations (with prescribed emissions) ocean carbon cycle  
21 models reproduce historical carbon uptake well, with a current day sink of 2.0–2.7 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>. Simulated  
22 changes in ocean carbon storage (1860–2005) range from 75 to 160 PgC, but most models are within 25 PgC  
23 of the observational estimate of 125 PgC (Figure 5.22).  
24

25  
26 **[START FIGURE 5.22 HERE]**

27  
28 **Figure 5.22:** Modelled ocean carbon sink for 1850 to 2005 in historical ESM simulations, compared to observation-  
29 based estimates (from GCP); panel (a): uptake rate (PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>), panel (b): change in carbon store (PgC).  
30

31 **[END FIGURE 5.22 HERE]**

32  
33  
34 The land carbon cycle components of historical ESM simulations show a much larger range, with simulated  
35 historical changes in land carbon storage (1850–2005) spanning the range from -130 to +80 PgC (Figure  
36 5.23). This range is due in part to the complications of simulating the difference between carbon uptake by  
37 intact ecosystems (e.g. due to CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation of photosynthesis) and the direct release of carbon due to  
38 land-use change (e.g. tropical deforestation). It also reflects the much higher-interannual variability of net  
39 land carbon uptake compared to ocean carbon uptake. However, the tendency for the land carbon cycle to be  
40 a dominant source of uncertainty in the climate-carbon cycle projections of C<sup>4</sup>MIP and CMIP5 models, is  
41 also clear in CMIP6.  
42

43  
44 **[START FIGURE 5.23 HERE]**

45  
46 **Figure 5.23:** Modelled net land carbon sink for 1850 to 2005 in historical ESM simulations, compared to observation-  
47 based estimates (from GCP); panel (a): net uptake rate (PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>), panel (b): change in carbon store  
48 (PgC).  
49

50 **[END FIGURE 5.23 HERE]**

51  
52  
53 This distinction between the relatively high-fidelity with which the ocean carbon sink is simulated, and the  
54 much wider range of simulations of the land carbon sink, is also evident in the zonal distribution of the sinks  
55 (Figure 5.24a). When compared to estimates from a state-of-the-art atmospheric inversion, the ocean carbon  
56 cycle components of ESMs are able to simulate the tropical CO<sub>2</sub> source and mid-latitude CO<sub>2</sub>, and with

1 relatively small model spread. The ensemble mean simulates a larger ocean carbon sink at 50°N and a  
2 weaker sink in the Southern Ocean, than the inversion estimate.

3  
4 By contrast, the land carbon components of ESMs produce a wide range in the latitudinal distribution of net  
5 land carbon uptake (Figure 5.24b). Most ESMs tend to overestimate net land carbon uptake in the tropics,  
6 and underestimate the northern hemisphere land carbon sink. [[Placeholder: this error in the geographical  
7 location of the land carbon sink is however less obvious than it was in the previous generation CMIP5  
8 models (Anav et al., 2013), perhaps because the CMIP6 models now include the impacts of nitrogen  
9 deposition.]]

10  
11  
12 **[START FIGURE 5.24 HERE]**

13  
14 **Figure 5.24:** Evaluation of the modelled zonal distribution of carbon sinks against atmospheric inversion estimates for  
15 2000–2009, (a) ocean carbon uptake; (b) net land uptake. The model results are shown as the mean plus  
16 and minus one standard deviation of the annual values across the model ensemble.

17  
18 **[END FIGURE 5.24 HERE]**

#### 19 20 21 5.4.5.2 *Coupled Climate-Carbon Cycle Projections*

22  
23 Here we briefly describe results from the emissions-driven projections carried out with the ESMs (only  
24 RCP8.5 from CMIP5 available to date), and also from the RCP2.6 and RCP8.5 concentration-driven runs,  
25 which enable a cleaner comparison of the differences across the carbon cycle components of the ESMs.

26  
27 The carbon cycle feeds back to climate change by affecting the evolution of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, so firstly, we  
28 look at the projections of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations from the emission-driven ESM  
29 projections. For each model, common future scenarios of anthropogenic fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and land-  
30 use change were prescribed [[Placeholder: consistent with the RCP8.5 and RCP2.6 scenarios]] (Jones et al.,  
31 2016a). As for the CMIP5 models (Friedlingstein et al., 2014b), the CMIP6 ESMs project a range of CO<sub>2</sub>  
32 concentrations under each scenario, with a spread of almost 250 ppmv by 2100 for RCP8.5 [[Placeholder:  
33 needs checking]] (Figure 5.25a).

34  
35  
36 **[START FIGURE 5.25 HERE]**

37  
38 **Figure 5.25:** Modelled global mean, annual mean, carbon dioxide concentration compared to observations. (a) CO<sub>2</sub>  
39 concentration for 1860 to 2100 from emissions-driven RCP8.5 runs, compared to observed global mean  
40 CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (as used in prescribed concentration runs) for 1860–2018; (b) Relationship between  
41 CO<sub>2</sub> concentration simulated for 2014 and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration projected for 2060 under RCP8.5 emissions  
42 (after Hoffman et al., 2014).

43  
44 **[END FIGURE 5.25 HERE]**

45  
46  
47 Models that tend to have higher-CO<sub>2</sub> by 2100 also tend to overestimate CO<sub>2</sub> by the current day in historical  
48 simulations (1860–2005 in Figure 5.25a). This implies an emergent relationship between current and future  
49 CO<sub>2</sub> in each model (Figure 5.25b), and therefore the possibility of constraining future CO<sub>2</sub> levels using that  
50 relationship plus the observed value of current CO<sub>2</sub>. This is an example of an *emergent constraint* on  
51 projections (see Section 5.4.6).

52  
53 The differences in projected CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations arise primarily because the models simulate different futures  
54 for the ocean and land carbon sinks. Figure 5.26 shows the projected evolution of the global ocean carbon  
55 sink (left panel) and accumulated change in ocean carbon storage from the current day (right panel), from  
56 RCP2.6 and RCP8.5 concentration-driven ESM runs. The colour wedges represent the ensemble mean plus

1 and minus one standard deviation of the individual ESM values across the ensemble.

2  
3  
4 **[START FIGURE 5.26 HERE]**

5  
6 **Figure 5.26:** Projected evolution of the ocean carbon sink for 2005 to 2090 in concentration-driven RCP2.6 (blue) and  
7 RCP8.5 (red) scenarios. Panel (a): net uptake rate (PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>); panel (b): change in carbon store (PgC).  
8 Thick lines represent the ensemble mean of the available ESM runs, and the shaded area represents ± one  
9 standard deviation about that mean.

10  
11 **[END FIGURE 5.26 HERE]**

12  
13  
14 All ESMs predict a declining global ocean carbon sink once the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration starts to decline from the  
15 mid–2020s onwards under RCP2.6, such that the projected ocean sink is around 1±0.3 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> by 2090  
16 [[Placeholder: Numbers to be updated]]. Stabilisation of CO<sub>2</sub> from 2070 onwards under RCP8.5 leads to a  
17 saturation of the ocean carbon sink by 2090 at 5.5±0.7 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>. The change in ocean carbon storage from  
18 the present day until 2090 is very different between RCP8.5 (350±40 PgC) and RCP2.6 (160±30 PgC), with  
19 different consequences for ocean acidification (see Section 5.3).

20  
21  
22 **[START FIGURE 5.27 HERE]**

23  
24 **Figure 5.27:** Projected evolution of the net land carbon sink for 2005 to 2090 in concentration-driven RCP2.6 (blue)  
25 and RCP8.5 (red) scenarios. Panel (a): net uptake rate (PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>); panel (b): change in carbon store (PgC).  
26 Thick lines represent the ensemble mean of the available ESM runs, and the shaded area represents ± one  
27 standard deviation about that mean.

28  
29 **[END FIGURE 5.27 HERE]**

30  
31  
32 One again, we see a much larger range in future projections of the land carbon sink (Figure 5.27). The model  
33 ensemble projects a change in land carbon storage from 2005 to 2090 of 70±80 PgC under RCP2.6 and  
34 90±200 PgC under RCP8.5. Even the sign of the change in land carbon storage, which depends on the  
35 difference between the net carbon uptake by existing vegetation and net carbon release from land-use  
36 change, is therefore disputed.

### 37 38 39 5.4.5.3 *Linear Feedback Analysis*

40  
41 In order to diagnose the causes of the varying time-evolution of carbon sinks, the traditional linear feedback  
42 approach is adopted (Friedlingstein et al., 2003), as used previously to analyse C<sup>4</sup>MIP (Friedlingstein et al.,  
43 2006) and CMIP5 models (Arora et al., 2013). Changes in land carbon storage ( $\Delta C_L$ ) and changes in ocean  
44 carbon storage ( $\Delta C_o$ ) are decomposed into contributions arising from warming ( $\Delta T$ ) and increases in CO<sub>2</sub>  
45 ( $\Delta CO_2$ ):

$$46 \quad \Delta C_L = \beta_L \Delta CO_2 + \gamma_L \Delta T$$

47  
48 where  $\beta_L$  and  $\gamma_L$  the coefficients that represent the sensitivity of land carbon storage to changes in CO<sub>2</sub> and  
49 climate respectively.

50  
51 Although this quasi-equilibrium framework is known to be dependent on scenario because of the timescales  
52 associated with land and ocean carbon uptake, we retain it here for consistency with the AR5, and because it  
53 has been used to define a number of emergent constraints on carbon cycle feedbacks (see below). In order to  
54 minimise the confounding effect of the scenario dependence,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  values are diagnosed from idealised  
55 runs in which a 1% per year increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is prescribed, as for AR5 (Arora et

al., 2013). Values of  $\beta$  are calculated from ‘biogeochemical’ runs in which the prescribed CO<sub>2</sub> increases do not affect climate, and these are then used to isolate  $\gamma$  values in fully-coupled runs in which both climate and CO<sub>2</sub> change (Friedlingstein et al., 2003).

Table 5.5 shows the global and tropical (30°N–30°S) values of  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  for each of the CMIP6 ESMs. As for AR5, the largest uncertainties are in the sensitivity of land carbon storage to CO<sub>2</sub> ( $\beta_L$ ) and the sensitivity of tropical carbon storage to climate change ( $\gamma_{LT}$ ). Emergent constraints have been suggested for both of these sensitivities.

[START TABLE 5.5 HERE]

**Table 5.5:** Diagnosed feedback parameters for ESMs. [[Placeholder from (Arora et al., 2013), needs to be updated to latest CMIP6 models, and with columns consistent with the emergent constraints to be presented in the next section, e.g. global, tropical land (30°N–30°S), mid & high latitudes land (30°N–90°N), tropical ocean, Southern Ocean. We do not need beta and gamma for the atmosphere.]]

Model	Carbon–concentration feedback parameter $\beta$ (Pg C ppm <sup>-1</sup> )			Carbon–climate feedback parameter $\gamma$ (Pg C °C <sup>-1</sup> )		
	$\beta_A$	$\beta_L$	$\beta_O$	$\gamma_A$	$\gamma_L$	$\gamma_O$
	Atmosphere	Land	Ocean	Atmosphere	Land	Ocean
MPI-ESM-LR	-2.29	1.46	0.83	92.2	-83.2	-9.0
IPSL-CM5A-LR	-2.04	1.14	0.91	64.8	-58.6	-6.2
BCC-CSM1	-2.19	1.36	0.83	87.6	-77.8	-9.8
HadGEM2	-1.95	1.16	0.79	40.1	-30.1	-10.0
UVic ESCM 2.9	-1.75	0.96	0.78	85.8	-78.5	-7.3
CanESM2	-1.65	0.97	0.69	79.7	-71.9	-7.8
NorESM-ME	-1.07	0.22	0.85	21.4	-15.6	-5.7
CESM1-BGC	-0.96	0.24	0.72	23.8	-21.3	-2.4
MIROC ESM	-1.56	0.74	0.82	100.7	-88.6	-12.1
Model mean (std dev)	-1.72 (0.47)	0.92 (0.44)	0.80 (0.07)	66.2 (30.4)	-58.4 (28.5)	-7.8 (2.9)
C <sup>4</sup> MIP mean (std dev) (FEA)	-2.48 (0.59)	1.35 (0.61)	1.13 (0.26)	109.6 (50.6)	-78.6 (45.8)	-30.9 (16.3)

[END TABLE 5.5 HERE]

#### 5.4.6 Emergent constraints to reduce uncertainties in projections

Emergent constraints are based-on relationships between observable aspects of the current or past climate (such as trends or variability), and uncertain aspects of future climate change (such as the strength of particular feedbacks) – relationships which are evident across an ensemble of models. When combined with an observational estimate of the trend or variability in the real climate, such emergent relationships can yield ‘emergent constraints’ on the future climate change. The term was coined in 2002 (Allen and Ingram, 2002), but the archetypal example is an emergent constraint on snow-albedo feedback (Hall and Qu, 2006). At the time of the AR5, there had been relatively few applications of the technique to constrain carbon cycle sensitivities (Cox et al., 2013), but there have been many relevant studies published since. The concept of emergent constraints is explained in more depth in Chapter 1 Section 1.?? [[Update]].

The simplest type of emergent constraint is a relationship between a past-to-present change and a present-to-future change. For example, a relationship was noted in ESM runs between the simulated CO<sub>2</sub> concentration by 2010, and the projected CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the future under the RCP8.5 scenario (Friedlingstein et al., 2014b). As the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in 2010 is known from observations, there is a potential emergent constraint on the future CO<sub>2</sub> concentration under this common scenario (Hoffman et al., 2014), as shown in Figure 5.28a. Such trend-on-trend relationships depend on models being similarly forced (in this case by CO<sub>2</sub> emissions consistent with RCP8.5).

Other emergent constraints assume relationships between short-term variability and long-term sensitivity to forcing, and are often motivated by ideas related to the fluctuation-dissipation theorem (Leith, 1975). These constraints can also be understood as utilizing relationships between the sensitivity of fluxes and the

1 sensitivity of stores. For example, the observed interannual variability in the growth-rate of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
 2 is known to be due to variability in land uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> which is itself driven by ENSO climate variability.  
 3 Interannual variations in CO<sub>2</sub> in response to ENSO therefore reveal the sensitivity of the net atmosphere-land  
 4 CO<sub>2</sub> flux to temperature. In ESMs this flux sensitivity has been shown to be approximately proportional to  
 5 the sensitivity of the tropical land carbon store to future warming ( $\gamma_{LT}$ ). Since CO<sub>2</sub> and climate records allow  
 6 the observed flux sensitivity to be estimated, this implies an emergent constraint on  $\gamma_{LT}$ , which was originally  
 7 reported for C<sup>4</sup>MIP models (Cox et al., 2013) and confirmed for CMIP5 models (Wenzel et al., 2014) – see  
 8 Figure 5.28b. In a similar way, satellite estimates of the variability in ocean productivity constrain projected  
 9 changes in tropical marine productivity under long-term warming (Kwiatkowski et al., 2017).

10  
 11 Other constraints relate the seasonal cycle (Hall and Qu, 2006), or changes in the seasonal cycle (Wenzel et  
 12 al., 2016), to the strength of particular feedbacks. A recent carbon cycle example uses the well-documented  
 13 increase in the amplitude of the seasonal cycle of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> as measured at Mauna Loa and Point  
 14 Barrow (Graven et al., 2013) to constrain CO<sub>2</sub>-fertilisation of photosynthesis on mid and high-latitude  
 15 (Wenzel et al., 2016), as shown in Figure 5.28c.

16  
 17  
 18 **[START FIGURE 5.28 HERE]**

19  
 20 **Figure 5.28:** Examples of emergent constraints on the carbon cycle in ESMs. (a) projected global mean atmospheric  
 21 CO<sub>2</sub> concentration by 2100 under the RCP8.5 emissions scenario against the error in simulation of global  
 22 mean atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by 2010 in historical simulations (Friedlingstein et al., 2014b; Hoffman et al.,  
 23 2014); (b)  $\gamma$ -factor for tropical land ( $\gamma_{LT}$ ) against the sensitivity of the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth-rate to  
 24 tropical temperature variability (Cox et al., 2013b; Wenzel et al., 2014); (c)  $\beta$ -factor for mid and high-  
 25 latitude land ( $\beta_{LM}$ ) against the sensitivity of the amplitude of the CO<sub>2</sub> seasonal cycle at Kumukahi,  
 26 Hawaii to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (Wenzel et al., 2016).

27  
 28 **[END FIGURE 5.28 HERE]**

### 29 30 31 **5.4.7 Non-CO<sub>2</sub> feedbacks**

32  
 33 Sources and sinks of non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases such as methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) respond to  
 34 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and climate change, and therefore give rise to CO<sub>2</sub>-concentration and climate  
 35 feedbacks. These feedbacks are not yet routinely included in ESMs. Nevertheless, the likely strength of these  
 36 feedbacks can be approximated in a similar, linear framework as for CO<sub>2</sub> based on simulations with  
 37 standalone models or ESMs of intermediate complexity (Figure 5.29).

38  
 39  
 40 **[START FIGURE 5.29 HERE]**

41  
 42 **Figure 5.29:** A synthesis of the magnitude of biogeochemical feedbacks on climate expressing non-climate feedbacks  
 43 in common units (W m<sup>-2</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>) with physical feedbacks, following (Arneth et al., 2010; Gregory et al.,  
 44 2009) and revised radiative forcing calculations (Etminan et al., 2016). Black dots represent single  
 45 estimates, and coloured bars denote the simple mean of the dots with no weighting or assessment being  
 46 made to likelihood of any single estimate. These feedback metrics have, where possible, been assessed  
 47 for the RCP8.5 scenario in year 2100. They may be state or scenario dependent and therefore cannot  
 48 always be compared like-for-like. Note the different x-axis scale for the lower portion of the Figure.  
 49 There is low confidence in the magnitude of the feedbacks in the lower panel of the figure. The role of  
 50 nitrogen limitation on terrestrial carbon sinks is also shown this is not a separate feedback, but rather a  
 51 modulation to the climate-carbon and concentration-carbon feedbacks. Results have been compiled from  
 52 (a) C-cycle ESMs of C<sup>4</sup>MIP (Arora et al., 2013); (b) CN-cycle ESMs of C<sup>4</sup>MIP (Arora et al., 2013) and  
 53 (Sokolov et al., 2008; Thornton et al., 2009; Zaehle et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2013a); (c) (Arneth et al.,  
 54 2010; Eliseev et al., 2014; Harrison et al., 2018); (d) (Burke et al., 2013; Gasser et al., 2018; Koven et al.,  
 55 2015b; Schneider von Deimling et al., 2012), (e) (Schneider von Deimling et al., 2012, 2015; Turetsky et al.,  
 56 al.); (f) (Denisov et al., 2013; Stocker et al., 2013a; Zhang et al., 2017); (g) (Voulgarakis et al., 2013); (h)



(Stocker et al., 2013a; Tian et al., 2019; Xu-Ri et al., 2012; Zaehle, 2013); (i) (Battaglia and Joos, 2018; Landolfi et al., 2017; Martinez-Rey et al., 2015).

**[END FIGURE 5.29 HERE]**

CH<sub>4</sub> feedbacks may arise from changing wetland and permafrost CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and the response of atmospheric chemistry to climate change. CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from wetlands generally respond positive to warming due to enhanced decomposition with higher temperatures, thereby potentially providing a positive CH<sub>4</sub> feedback on climate (Dean et al., 2018; van Groenigen et al., 2011). The contribution of wetlands to interannual variability of atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> is shaped by the diverging impacts of temperature and precipitation anomalies on wetland emissions and therefore the relationship between climate anomalies and the wetland contribution to the CH<sub>4</sub> growth rate is less clear (Pison et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2018b). In model simulations, the climate-CH<sub>4</sub> cycle feedback enhances the CH<sub>4</sub> build up in the atmosphere under RCP emission scenarios at decadal to multidecadal timescales, but the effect on the methane radiative forcing is low (Denisov et al., 2013; Gedney, 2004; Ringeval et al., 2011; Volodin, 2008). Model simulations further suggest that the climate-CH<sub>4</sub> feedback from wetlands is weaker than the effect of rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> on CH<sub>4</sub> emissions feedback due to the effect of increased plant productivity on methane production (Melton et al., 2013; Ringeval et al., 2011). However, insufficient studies are available to assess the effect of the CO<sub>2</sub>-wetland CH<sub>4</sub> on radiative forcing. Permafrost thaw and methane emissions from thermokarst may further contribute to a positive land-CH<sub>4</sub>-climate feedback, but the quantitative understanding of the magnitude and timing of CH<sub>4</sub> release is low (Schneider von Deimling et al., 2012, see Section 5.4.8; 2015; Turetsky et al.). Higher temperatures affect atmospheric chemistry and thereby reduce the lifetime of methane in the atmosphere, providing a negative feedback (Stevenson et al., 2006; Voulgarakis et al., 2013).

Both land and ocean N<sub>2</sub>O emissions respond to climate change. At the interannual time-scale, land N<sub>2</sub>O emissions respond to anomalies in temperature and precipitation, likely leading to lower emissions in warmer, but dryer El Nino years (Thompson et al., 2014). Land biosphere models suggest that longer-term global warming is accompanied by enhanced N<sub>2</sub>O release from terrestrial ecosystems (Stocker et al., 2013a; Tian et al., 2019; Xu-Ri et al., 2012; Zaehle, 2013). The response of terrestrial N<sub>2</sub>O emissions to CO<sub>2</sub> is dependent on nitrogen availability, where generally nitrogen rich ecosystems, such as highly fertilised fields show a positive interaction, whereas nitrogen poor ecosystems may show also declines in N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (Butterbach-Bahl et al., 2013; Tian et al., 2019; van Groenigen et al., 2011). Climate change will also affect N<sub>2</sub>O production in the ocean through changes in productivity, stronger vertical stratification and ocean de-oxygenation (Bopp et al., 2013; Codispoti, 2010; Freing et al., 2012). Model projections under the RCP8.5 scenario suggest ocean N<sub>2</sub>O emissions may decrease by 4–12% over the 21st century due to a combination of factors including increased ocean stratification, decreases in ocean productivity, and the impact of increasing atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O abundance on the air-sea flux (Battaglia and Joos, 2018; Landolfi et al., 2017; Martinez-Rey et al., 2015). Ocean N<sub>2</sub>O emissions may recover on longer timescales owing to ocean de-oxygenation and long-term increases in remineralisation, leading to a positive correlation of N<sub>2</sub>O emission and climate at the timescale of millennia (Battaglia and Joos, 2018). The magnitude of the terrestrial and oceanic N<sub>2</sub>O feedbacks combined with the long atmospheric lifetime of N<sub>2</sub>O imply that their effect on radiative forcing in the next century will be low, but may become important if the terrestrial emission changes are sustained beyond that time scale (Xu-Ri et al., 2012).

Despite these uncertainties, there is *medium to high confidence* that at multidecadal and centennial timescales the additional radiative forcing arising from climate-CH<sub>4</sub> and climate-N<sub>2</sub>O feedbacks will be small compared to anthropogenic forcing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### 5.4.8 Abrupt changes and tipping points

The utility of the linear feedback framework (Section 5.4.4.1) and the existence of emergent constraints (Section 5.4.4.2) suggest that large-scale biogeochemical feedbacks are approximately linear in the forcing from changes in CO<sub>2</sub> and climate. Nevertheless, regionally the biosphere is known to be capable of

1 producing abrupt changes or ‘tipping points’ (see Chapter 1, Section/Box 1.?.? [[Update]]). The catalogue of  
2 possible Earth System tipping points identified to date includes a number related to ecosystems and  
3 biogeochemistry (Lenton et al., 2008) – including tropical and boreal forest dieback, greening of sub-Saharan  
4 Africa, and release of carbon from permafrost. Some of the proposed tipping points are essentially  
5 bifurcations of a system with multiple steady-states. These cases are described as ‘irreversible’ when  
6 crossing the bifurcation point leads to a new steady-state that is not destabilised by merely passing back  
7 through the bifurcation point. This section focuses on non-linear changes that could have a significant impact  
8 on greenhouse gases concentrations to 2100, relative to changes caused directly by anthropogenic emissions  
9 (see Section 5.4.9 for longer time scales).

#### 11 5.4.8.1 Forest dieback

13 Known examples of tipping points with apparent changes in biogeochemical cycles functioning are tropical  
14 rain forests dieback (Cox et al., 2004; Le Page et al., 2017; Zemp et al., 2017) and temperate and boreal  
15 forests dieback (Joos et al., 2001; Lasslop et al., 2016; Lucht et al., 2006; Scheffer et al., 2012) diebacks.  
16 Such tipping point may be related to (i) large-scale change in climate conditions (Cox et al., 2004; Hirota et  
17 al., 2011; Joos et al., 2001; Le Page et al., 2017; Lucht et al., 2006; Scheffer et al., 2012; Zemp et al., 2017)  
18 and may be traced to crossing of particular climatic thresholds,(ii) to temperature and precipitation extremes  
19 (Higgins and Scheiter, 2012; Pavlov, 2015; Staver et al., 2011), or (iii) to possible intermittency in fire  
20 activity (Higgins and Scheiter, 2012; Lasslop et al., 2016; Staver et al., 2011) occurring either due to climate  
21 feedbacks or due to human (ignition) forcing. For large-scale change of climate conditions and associated  
22 crossing of climatic threshold the confidence is low because there is a disagreement between different  
23 simulations: some of them do not exhibit tropical forests dieback partly due to climate changes, which are  
24 insufficient for crossing climatic thresholds (Boulton et al., 2017; Huntingford et al., 2013), a greater degree  
25 of ecosystem stability due to environmental heterogeneity and plant trait diversity (Levine et al., 2016;  
26 Sakschewski et al., 2016), or possible acclimation of terrestrial vegetation to imposed climate changes  
27 (Lloret et al., 2012). In the latter case, acclimation is more likely to occur for relatively slow climate  
28 changes. In general, forest dieback is more probable under higher-emission scenarios of anthropogenic  
29 forcing leading to more prominent climate changes (Lyra et al., 2017) as well as under more intensive land  
30 use (Le Page et al., 2017). For the RCP8.5 scenario (Anadón et al., 2014) estimate that 24% (range 9–39%)  
31 of the contemporary American tropical rainforests may be converted to savanna until the late 21st century.  
32 Extrapolating this estimate for whole tropical forests, and using the estimate of the tropical forest carbon  
33 stock (Saatchi et al., 2011), an upper bound for the respective carbon release into the atmosphere is ~100  
34 PgC, which translates to  $dCO_2/dt$  O(0.1 ppmv yr<sup>-1</sup>). Boreal forest dieback is *unlikely* to change the  
35 atmospheric perturbation substantially. Tropical and boreal dieback tipping trajectories are slow, associated  
36 with a multi-decadal development timescale.  
37 There is a *high confidence* that forest dieback will not release more than 100 Pg of carbon over the 21<sup>st</sup>  
38 century.

#### 41 5.4.8.2 Biogenic emissions from permafrost

43 The permafrost region has acted as either a weak carbon sink or source historically (Belshe et al., 2013;  
44 McGuire et al., 2012), but the source strength could strengthen considerably under warming. Model  
45 projections of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2100 under a high warming scenario have been estimated at 37–174 Pg  
46 (Schuur et al., 2015); 28–113 Pg (Koven et al., 2015c); 11–143 Pg (Gasser et al., 2018), and strengthen even  
47 further by 2300. Of the CMIP6 ESMs that include permafrost, they estimate gains/losses of XX Pg  
48 [[Placeholder: needs update]]. Because of widespread soil saturation and anoxia in the region, part of the  
49 carbon flux from ecosystems to the atmosphere is via production of CH<sub>4</sub>, and the respective radiative forcing  
50 may be larger. Methane release from thermokarst lakes under warming has been estimated at 663–2440 Tg  
51 CH<sub>4</sub> over the 21<sup>st</sup> century (Schneider von Deimling et al., 2015), and from all abrupt thaw processes as 9000  
52 Tg CH<sub>4</sub> over the 21<sup>st</sup> century (Turetsky and others). Internal heat production in organic permafrost soils is  
53 able to amplify permafrost thawing and accelerate organic matter decomposition, thus, increasing carbon  
54 loss (Hollesen et al., 2015). In the case of carbon in deep peat and carbon-rich permafrost sediments,  
55 warming accompanied by drying may also induce internal heat production leading to the compost-bomb

1 instability (Koven et al., 2011; Luke and Cox, 2011), though the uncertainty on this process is particularly  
2 high. Coupled CH<sub>4</sub>-climate models show that possible increases in CH<sub>4</sub> lead to similar patterns in the global  
3 pattern of radiative forcing of CH<sub>4</sub>, irrespective of where the CH<sub>4</sub> sources are located (Volodin, 2015).  
4 Another possible source of CH<sub>4</sub> from the terrestrial cryosphere are relict gas hydrates in deeper permafrost,  
5 which may have caused recent craters in the Russian North (Arzhanov et al., 2016; Kizyakov et al., 2017,  
6 2018), and which might indicate that the contemporary warming already exceeded the mid-Holocene climate  
7 in these regions (Arzhanov and Mokhov, 2017).

8  
9 There is *high confidence* that thawing terrestrial permafrost will lead to carbon releases, but *low confidence*  
10 in the timing, magnitude and the relative roles of CO<sub>2</sub> versus CH<sub>4</sub> as feedback processes.

#### 11 5.4.8.3 Clathrate release

12  
13 Methane release from shelf clathrates is <10 TgCH<sub>4</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup> (Saunio et al., 2016b). Abrupt change is *very*  
14 *unlikely* for the permafrost-embedded subsea clathrates owing to a long response time, which makes the  
15 ‘clathrate gun’ hypothesis *extremely unlikely* at the centennial and millennium timescales. Early estimates  
16 had suggested that the ocean may release 600 PgCH<sub>4</sub> in response to 1000 PgC of cumulative emissions from  
17 fossil fuels (Archer et al., 2009), indicating that this hypothesis would be plausible at multi-millennium and  
18 longer time scales (Majorowicz et al., 2014; Zeebe, 2013). This tipping point is also associated with a slow,  
19 from multi-decadal to centennial timescale. More recent estimates of the amount of carbon stored in  
20 methane clathrates are much smaller, at around 2000 PgC total (Ruppel and Kessler, 2017). Because the  
21 amount of clathrate that might be destabilised due to warming is a small fraction of this, the long timescales  
22 associated with clathrate destabilisation, and because much of that CH<sub>4</sub> would likely be oxidised in the  
23 process, leading to estimated fluxes of less than 5 TgCH<sub>4</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup> over the next century (Kretschmer et al., 2015).  
24 Thus there is *medium confidence* that this tipping point is *unlikely* to substantially warm the climate system.

#### 25 26 27 5.4.8.4 Weakening of the Southern Ocean carbon sink

28  
29 In the ocean, a tipping point is possible due to suppression of the carbon uptake in the Southern Ocean,  
30 which was already observed during 1990s and 2000s with a rebound in 2010s (Gruber et al., 2019b;  
31 Landschützer et al., 2016). The former suppression is attributed to the southward shift of westerlies (Lenton  
32 and Matear, 2007; Lovenduski et al., 2015), and the latter rebound is linked to the diminishing of the  
33 Southern Ocean upwelling because of overall reduction of the global oceanic circulation (DeVries et al.,  
34 2017). Both southward shift of westerlies and the reduction of global oceanic circulation are expected under  
35 anthropogenic greenhouse-gases increase with an unknown compensation between these two processes.  
36 Given the Southern Ocean is currently responsible for ~50% of the total oceanic CO<sub>2</sub> uptake (Section  
37 5.2.2.3.1), this tipping-point could be amplified by the decreasing buffer capacity of within this century and  
38 beyond. There is only a limited evidence for development and direction of this tipping point during next  
39 several centuries though.

#### 40 41 42 5.4.8.5 Abrupt changes detected in ESM projections

43  
44 Predicting abrupt changes is intrinsically difficult because by definition they occur in a small region of the  
45 parameter and/or forcing space. Fortunately though, many bifurcation-like tipping points exhibit time-series  
46 precursors that may be used to detect them (Scheffer et al., 2009). The most commonly used tipping point  
47 precursors relate to ‘critical slowing down’ (Lenton, 2011). These detect the reducing resilience of the  
48 current state through fluctuations about that state. Essentially, less resilient systems exhibit longer and larger  
49 oscillations about their steady-state, as revealed by the variance and autocorrelation of the key state variables  
50 (such as temperature of CO<sub>2</sub>). Through detecting changes in these metrics, it has been possible to identify  
51 tipping points in many past climate records (Dakos et al., 2008). At the time of the AR5, there was however  
52 no available systematic study of tipping points in ESMs.

53  
54 An analysis of ESMs since the AR5 has however identified a number of tipping points in the CMIP5  
55 ensemble (Drijfhout et al., 2015) (Figure 5.30). The most commonly detected abrupt changes in the CMIP5

1 archive relate to sea-ice changes, but there also a number of detected changes in the land biosphere  
2 especially in that subset of models which included dynamic vegetation. These include abrupt changes in  
3 tropical forests and high-latitude greening, permafrost thaw, and vegetation composition change. Projected  
4 dynamics of some of these tipping elements under an RCP8.5 scenario from CMIP5 ESMs is shown in  
5 Figure 5.30 [[Placeholder: current figure based on CMIP5 results, to be updated with CMIP6 and possibly  
6 expanded to include other tipping elements for FOD]]. There is a medium confidence that abrupt changes  
7 may occur during next several centuries but with only a limited evidence for their impact on atmospheric  
8 GHG concentrations.

9  
10  
11 **[START FIGURE 5.30 HERE]**

12  
13 **Figure 5.30:** Projections of some tipping points in the Earth system: physical permafrost extent, boreal forest area, and  
14 tropical forest area. Each curve is from a different CMIP5 model, for the historical and RCP8.5  
15 scenarios. For forest area projections, only models with active dynamic vegetation models were used.  
16 [[Placeholder: To be updated and expanded for CMIP6 models when available]].  
17

18 **[END FIGURE 5.30 HERE]**

#### 19 20 21 **5.4.9 Long term response past 2100**

22  
23 The strength of carbon cycle feedbacks is dependent on the state of the system, the specific scenarios  
24 followed, and the timescale of interest. Feedback strengths estimates from an idealised and rapid 1% yr<sup>-1</sup>  
25 experiment for the period to CO<sub>2</sub> quadrupling may be different from those on longer timescales beyond  
26 2100. Few of the CMIP5-era ESMs have explored these longer timescales. However, experiments with the  
27 CESM1 for the period 1850-2300 suggest that both land and ocean carbon-climate feedbacks strengthen in  
28 time, while both land and ocean carbon-concentration feedbacks weaken, and the relative role of ocean  
29 versus the land increasing in time. The projected overall strengthening of carbon feedbacks beyond 2100  
30 offsets the declining climate sensitivity to incremental increases of CO<sub>2</sub>, leading to an overall strengthening  
31 of the carbon cycle gain from one century to the next (Randerson et al., 2015). Experiments with  
32 permafrost-enabled models suggest that the magnitude of the permafrost C feedback strengthens  
33 considerably over the period 2100-2300 under a high-emissions scenario (McGuire et al., 2018). It has been  
34 estimated that thawing permafrost could release 115–172 PgC of CO<sub>2</sub> and 2.8–7.4 PgCH<sub>4</sub> in the period from  
35 2100 to 2300 under the RCP8.5 scenario' leading to a 0.23K increase in global temperature. Under RCP2.6,  
36 permafrost has been projected to release less than 40 PgC over the same period. (Schneider von Deimling et  
37 al., 2015) .

38  
39 [[Placeholder: CMIP6 experiments for the SSP5-8.5 scenario extension out to 2300 feedback parameters]]  
40  
41

### 42 **5.5 Remaining Carbon Budgets**

43  
44 Science at the time of the IPCC AR5 established a near-linear relationship between cumulative emissions of  
45 CO<sub>2</sub> and global average temperature increase (Allen et al., 2009; Collins et al., 2013; Matthews et al., 2009;  
46 Meinshausen et al., 2009; Stocker et al., 2013b; Zickfeld et al., 2009), called the transient climate response to  
47 cumulative emissions of carbon dioxide or TCRE. This relationship is now used to estimate the amount of  
48 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that would be consistent with limiting global average temperature increase to specific levels  
49 (Allen et al., 2009; Collins et al., 2013; Knutti and Rogelj, 2015; Matthews et al., 2009, 2012; Meinshausen  
50 et al., 2009; Rogelj et al., 2016; Stocker et al., 2013b; Zickfeld et al., 2009) noting that this relies on more  
51 than CO<sub>2</sub> emissions only (Meinshausen et al., 2009; Mengis et al., 2018; Rogelj et al., 2015a, 2015b, 2016;  
52 Simmons and Matthews, 2016; Tokarska et al., 2018). Acknowledging that warming to date has been largely  
53 driven by cumulative emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> (Chapter 3 and Section 5.2) the remainder of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that  
54 would be in line with limiting warming to a specific temperature threshold is referred to as the remaining

1 carbon budget. This section first assesses the TCRE as one of the core concepts underlying the notion of a  
2 remaining carbon budget (Section 5.5.1) and then integrates this with the assessment of other contributing  
3 factors to provide a consolidated assessment of remaining carbon budgets (Section 5.5.2).

## 6 **5.5.1 Transient climate response to cumulative emissions of carbon (TCRE)**

### 8 *5.5.1.1 Contributing physical processes and theoretical frameworks*

10 The processes that translate emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> into a change in global temperature (terrestrial and oceanic  
11 carbon uptake, radiative forcing from CO<sub>2</sub>, and ocean heat uptake) are governed by complex mechanisms  
12 that all evolve in time (Gregory et al., 2009). Finding a simple proportional relationship between cumulative  
13 emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and change in global temperature was thus initially met with surprise (Allen et al., 2009;  
14 Matthews et al., 2009). Since AR5 (Collins et al., 2013; Stocker et al., 2013b) a body of literature has  
15 proposed physical mechanisms from which the TCRE relationship arises.

17 Studies have focused on two key features of the TCRE relationship: i) why the relationship is nearly constant  
18 in time (Ehlert et al., 2017; Goodwin et al., 2015; Katavouta et al., 2018; MacDougall and Friedlingstein,  
19 2015; Williams et al., 2016); and ii) why the relationship is independent of the pathway of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
20 (MacDougall, 2017; Seshadri, 2017).

22 Studies have used a variety of methods to examine the near-constancy of TCRE including: sensitivity studies  
23 with Earth-system Models of Intermediate Complexity (EMICs) (Ehlert et al., 2017); analytical methods to  
24 decompose and examine Earth System Model (ESM) and EMIC output (Goodwin et al., 2015; Williams et  
25 al., 2016); and simple analytical models that capture aspects of the relationship (MacDougall and  
26 Friedlingstein, 2015). These methods vary in the specific approach and processes considered, however all  
27 studies agree that the near-constancy of the TCRE arises from compensation between the diminishing  
28 sensitivity of radiative forcing to CO<sub>2</sub> at higher atmospheric concentration (Matthews et al., 2009), and the  
29 diminishing ability of the ocean to take up heat and carbon at higher cumulative emissions (Ehlert et al.,  
30 2017; Goodwin et al., 2015; MacDougall, 2016; MacDougall and Friedlingstein, 2015). The approach of  
31 Williams et al. (2016) decomposes TCRE into terms of TCR and the airborne fraction of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>  
32 emissions over time. These two terms, which can be assessed individually (see Section 5.4 and Chapter 7,  
33 respectively), allow to verify internal consistency between the TCRE assessment and assessment of other  
34 factors in this report (Section 5.5.1.3).

36 The pathway independence of TCRE has been examined by using simple mathematically-tractable models  
37 that capture pathway independence (MacDougall, 2017; Seshadri, 2017). Both studies conducted to date  
38 agree that pathway independence is sensitive to the rate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, such that pathway independence  
39 is expected to breakdown at both very high and very low CO<sub>2</sub> emission rates (MacDougall, 2017; Seshadri,  
40 2017). The studies also agree that no similar relationship analogous to TCRE can be expected for non-CO<sub>2</sub>  
41 greenhouse gases. (MacDougall, 2017) suggests that two additional constraints are required to create  
42 pathway independence. First, the transport of heat and carbon into the deep ocean should be governed by the  
43 same physical process; and second, the ratio of the net change in the atmospheric carbon pool to the net  
44 change in the ocean carbon pool should be close to the ratio of the radiative response of the surface to ocean  
45 heat uptake. If these ratios are identical then TCRE would be completely path independent. If the ratios are  
46 close but not identical, TCRE would be only approximately path independent over a wide range of  
47 cumulative emissions (MacDougall, 2017).

49 The land carbon cycle does not appear to play a fundamental role in the physical origin of TCRE (Ehlert et  
50 al., 2017; Goodwin et al., 2015; MacDougall and Friedlingstein, 2015). However, carbon cycle feedbacks  
51 have the potential to break both the constancy and pathway independence of TCRE, if such feedbacks  
52 significantly contribute carbon to the atmosphere (MacDougall and Friedlingstein, 2015) (Section 5.5.1.2.3).

### 54 *5.5.1.2 Assessment of TCRE limits*

1  
2 [[Placeholder: Potentially an illustration of the influence of feedbacks on linearity of TCRE relationship.]]  
3  
4

#### 5 5.5.1.2.1 Sensitivity to quantify of cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

6 AR5 assessed that the TCRE remains approximately constant for scenarios with increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions,  
7 and for cumulative emissions up to 2000 PgC (Collins et al., 2013). More recent modelling studies support  
8 this finding up to a similar limit (Herrington and Zickfeld, 2014; Steinacher and Joos, 2016) or extend this  
9 limit up to at least 3000 PgC (Leduc et al., 2015; Tokarska et al., 2016). Going beyond these upper limits,  
10 these studies suggest that TCRE will decrease. Using an analytical approach, MacDougall and Friedlingstein  
11 (2015) quantified a window of constant TCRE – defined as the range in cumulative emissions over which the  
12 TCRE remains within 95 % of its peak value – as between 360 to 1560 PgC, while models with a more  
13 sophisticated ocean representation support expanding the high-end of this window further (Franks et al.,  
14 2013; Tokarska et al., 2016).

15  
16 As cumulative emissions increase, weakening land and ocean carbon sinks tend to increase the airborne  
17 fraction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but each unit increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> has a smaller effect on global  
18 temperature owing to the saturation of CO<sub>2</sub> radiative forcing (Matthews et al., 2009). At high values of  
19 cumulative emissions, some models simulate less warming per unit CO<sub>2</sub> emitted, suggesting that the  
20 saturation of CO<sub>2</sub> radiative forcing becomes more important than the effect of weakened carbon sinks  
21 (Herrington and Zickfeld, 2014; Leduc et al., 2015). Most of the models used to assess the limits of the  
22 TCRE, however, do not include the effect of permafrost carbon feedbacks (Section 5.5.1.2.3), which would  
23 tend to further increase the airborne fraction of emissions at high emissions levels, and could therefore  
24 extend the window of linearity to higher total amounts of emissions (MacDougall et al., 2015). Leduc et al.  
25 (2016) suggested further that a declining strength of snow and sea-ice feedbacks in a warmer world would  
26 also contribute to a smaller TCRE at high amounts of cumulative emissions. On the other hand, Tokarska et  
27 al. (2016) suggested that a large decrease in TCRE for high cumulative emissions is only associated with  
28 some EMICs, although in four ESMs analysed in their study TCRE remains approximately constant up to  
29 5000 PgC.

#### 30 31 32 5.5.1.2.2 Sensitivity to the rate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

33 There is about a 10-year response timescale to a 100 PgC pulse of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Joos et al., 2013; Ricke  
34 and Caldeira, 2014), with a longer timescale associated with larger emission pulses and vice versa for shorter  
35 timescales and smaller pulses (Joos et al., 2013; Matthews and Solomon, 2013; Zickfeld and Herrington,  
36 2015). Studies that have calculated the temperature response to CO<sub>2</sub> emission pulses (or instantaneous  
37 doubling/quadrupling of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>) have shown an initial deviation from a linear temperature  
38 response to cumulative emissions that is consistent with this decadal response timescale to large emission  
39 pulses (Gillett et al., 2013; Herrington and Zickfeld, 2014; Leduc et al., 2015; Matthews et al., 2009). This  
40 suggests that the TCRE would also be sensitive to the rate of emissions, though this sensitivity is expected to  
41 be relatively small for small changes in emission rates. Studies that have assessed the sensitivity of the  
42 TCRE to emission rates have found varying results. Herrington and Zickfeld (2014) and Leduc et al. (2015)  
43 found a decrease in TCRE with increasing emission rates in their EMIC experiment, which is consistent with  
44 the finding of a longer temperature response timescale for larger CO<sub>2</sub> emission pulses. However, Krasting et  
45 al. (2014) found in their ESM experiment that TCRE is highest for low and high emission rates (2 and 25  
46 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>) but is lower for current emission rates (between 5–10 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>). This finding is supported by  
47 another ESM study (Hajima et al., 2012) of which results might, however, be affected by model drift.  
48 Ultimately, Tachiiri et al. (2015) found that the uncertainty in TCRE increased in cases in which CO<sub>2</sub>  
49 concentrations were stabilised (and implied annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions hence gradually decline). A robust finding  
50 of these studies is that the TCRE would in most cases be expected to increase in ambitious climate mitigation  
51 scenarios with decreasing annual emissions rates (see also Section 5.5.2.2.4 and the zero emissions  
52 commitment).  
53  
54

### 5.5.1.2.3 Reversibility and Earth system feedbacks

There are relatively few studies that have assessed how the TCRE is expected to change in scenarios of declining followed by net negative annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Conceptually, the literature assessed here suggests that the small lag between CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and temperature change would result in more warming at a given amount of cumulative emissions in a scenario where that emission level is reached via overshoot followed by negative emissions. Zickfeld et al. (2016) showed this to hold across a range of scenarios with positive emissions followed by negative emissions, whereby the TCRE increased by about 10% across the transition from positive to negative emissions as a result of the thermal and carbon inertia of the deep ocean.

The AR5 assessed range of the TCRE was based on the ESMs available at the time, which did not include some potentially important Earth system feedbacks. Since then, a number of studies have assessed the importance of permafrost carbon feedbacks in particular on remaining carbon budgets (Burke et al., 2017; Gasser et al., 2018; Lowe and Bernie, 2018; MacDougall et al., 2015; MacDougall and Friedlingstein, 2015), a development highlighted and assessed in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (Rogelj et al., 2018). MacDougall and Friedlingstein (2015) showed that the TCRE increased by about 15% in a model version that included permafrost carbon feedbacks; while the overall linearity of the TCRE during the 21st century was not affected, they did find that permafrost carbon feedbacks also caused a larger increase in the TCRE on multi-century timescales in response to declining CO<sub>2</sub> emission rates. In addition, other processes that are currently not explicitly considered in ESMs could cause a further increase of TCRE. These are discussed in detail in Section 5.4, but their quantitative effects on TCRE have not been explored by the literature.

### 5.5.1.3 Literature estimates of TCRE

IPCC AR5 (Collins et al., 2013) assessed TCRE to *likely* fall in the range of 0.8–2.5°C per 1000 PgC for cumulative emissions up to 2000 PgC, based on multiple lines of evidence. These include estimates based on carbon-cycle models (Matthews et al., 2009), EMICs (Zickfeld et al., 2013), ESMs (Gillett et al., 2013), simple carbon-cycle and climate models reflecting uncertainties in forcing, climate sensitivity and observational constraints (Rogelj et al., 2012), or other approaches that use either simple climate modelling approaches (Allen et al., 2009) or observational constraints and attributable warming (Gillett et al., 2013).

Since IPCC AR5, new studies have further expanded the evidence base for estimating the value of TCRE (Ehlert et al., 2017; Goodwin et al., 2015; MacDougall et al., 2017; Millar and Friedlingstein, 2018; Steinacher and Joos, 2016; Tachiiri et al., 2015) (Table 5.6). These studies rely on (i) EMICs (combined with observational constraints) (Ehlert et al., 2017; MacDougall et al., 2017; Steinacher and Joos, 2016; Tachiiri et al., 2015), (ii) concepts of attributable warming from observations (Millar and Friedlingstein, 2018), or (iii) theoretically derived equations (Goodwin et al., 2015).

[START TABLE 5.6 HERE]

**Table 5.6:** Overview of literature TCRE estimates. GSAT = Global average surface air temperature increase

Study	TCRE Range [K EgC <sup>-1</sup> ]	Notes
<b>Studies available at the time of IPCC AR5</b>		
(Matthews et al., 2009)	1–2.1	5 to 95% range GSAT C <sup>4</sup> MIP model range
(Allen et al., 2009)	1.4–2.5	5 to 95% range Blended global mean surface air and sea-surface temperatures (no infilling of coverage gaps) Simple model
(Zickfeld et al., 2009)	1.5	Best estimate GSAT, EMIC
(Rogelj et al., 2012)	About 1–2	5 to 95% range

		Mixed definition of global average temperature increase MAGICC model calibrated to C <sup>4</sup> MIP model range and 2°C to 4.5°C <i>likely</i> equilibrium climate sensitivity
(Zickfeld et al., 2013)	1.4–2.5 mean: 1.9	Model range GSAT
(Gillett et al., 2013)	0.8–2.4	Model range GSAT, CMIP5 ESMs
(Gillett et al., 2013)	0.7–2.0	5 to 95% range Blended global mean surface air and sea-surface temperatures Observationally constrained estimates of historical warming and emissions
IPCC AR5 (Collins et al., 2013)	0.8–2.5	Assessed <i>likely</i> range Multiple lines of evidence. Mixed definition of global average temperature increase
<b>Studies published after IPCC AR5</b>		
(Tachiiri et al., 2015)	0.3–2.4	5 to 95% range Blended global mean surface air and sea-surface temperatures JUMP-LCM model perturbed physics ensemble (EMIC)
(Tachiiri et al., 2015)	1.1–1.7	5 to 95% range Blended global mean surface air and sea-surface temperatures Observationally constrained JUMP-LCM perturbed physics ensemble
(Steinacher and Joos, 2016)	1.0–2.7 median: 1.7	5 to 95% range GSAT, observationally constrained BERN3D-LPJ EMIC
(MacDougall et al., 2017)	0.9–2.5 mean: 1.7	5 to 95% range GSAT, emulation of 23 CMIP5 ESMs
(Millar and Friedlingstein, 2018)	0.9–2.6 best estimate: 1.3	5 to 95% range Blended global mean surface air and sea-surface temperatures (HadCRUT4) (Cowtan and Way, 2014) Detection attribution with observational constraints
(Millar and Friedlingstein, 2018)	best estimate: 1.5	Blended global mean surface air and sea-surface temperatures (Berkeley Earth) Detection attribution with observational constraints
(Millar and Friedlingstein, 2018)	best estimate: 1.2	Blended global mean surface air and sea-surface temperatures (HadCRUT4) (Cowtan and Way, 2014) Detection attribution with observational constraints, with updated historical CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (Le Quéré et al., 2018b)
(Ehlert et al., 2017)	1.2– 2.1	Model range GSAT, UVIC EMIC with varying ocean mixing parameters
<b>Overall assessment</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>

[END TABLE 5.6 HERE]

5.5.1.4 Combined assessment of TCRE

All available evidence currently continues to support an assessed *likely* TCRE range of 0.8–2.5 K EgC<sup>-1</sup>, with *medium confidence*. Warming here reflects the globally averaged surface air temperature increase. Forthcoming literature based on simulations from and understanding of the latest version of ESMs as part of the Sixth Phase of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6) might further inform the robustness of this range. Taking into account the evidence discussing the impact of permafrost and potentially other feedbacks suggests that values at the lower end of the above-mentioned range have become *less likely*. However, given the large uncertainties in projections of these Earth-system feedback processes and the limited amount of studies, there is *low confidence* in their precise quantitative impact on TCRE. Further integration of assessments of the transient climate response (TCR) and the projected airborne fraction could allow to further limit the TCRE range in the future. These potential additional lines of evidence might also provide additional information that can inform the shape of the uncertainty distribution surrounding TCRE.

5.5.2 Remaining carbon budget assessment



1 Estimates of remaining carbon budgets consistent with holding global warming below a specific temperature  
2 threshold depend on a range of factors which are increasingly being studied and quantified. These factors  
3 include (1) well-understood methodological and definitional choices (Friedlingstein et al., 2014a; Rogelj et  
4 al., 2016, 2018) (Section 5.5.2.1), and (2) a set of contributing factors like historical warming, the TCRE and  
5 its limitations, as well as contributions of non-CO<sub>2</sub> climate forcers (Section 5.5.2.2) (Ehlert et al., 2017;  
6 Goodwin et al., 2018; MacDougall, 2016; MacDougall and Friedlingstein, 2015; Matthews et al., 2017;  
7 Mengis et al., 2018; Millar et al., 2017; Pfliegerer et al., 2018; Rogelj et al., 2015a, 2015b; Simmons and  
8 Matthews, 2016; Tokarska et al., 2018). These contributing factors are integrated in an overarching  
9 assessment of remaining carbon budgets for limiting global average warming to levels ranging from 1.5°C to  
10 3°C relative to preindustrial levels provided in Section 5.5.2.3.

### 11 12 13 *5.5.2.1 Framework and earlier approaches*

14  
15 Remaining carbon budgets can be defined in a variety of ways. For example, remaining carbon budgets can  
16 be defined as the cumulative emissions at the time when global-mean temperature increase would reach,  
17 exceed, avoid, or peak at a given warming level with a given probability (Rogelj et al., 2016). These  
18 definitional choices affect the approach by which remaining carbon budgets are estimated as well as  
19 assumptions about the contributions of the various factors listed above (see also Section 5.5.2.2). The choice  
20 of remaining carbon budget definition and associated methods for their estimation thus determines the domain  
21 in which these estimates can be appropriately used and the questions they can inform. Here, the remaining  
22 carbon budget is defined as the amount of cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions starting today (or at a point in the  
23 recent past) that could be emitted while still holding global warming below a specific temperature threshold,  
24 consistent with its use in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (Rogelj et al., 2018).  
25 Following the near-linear TCRE relationship, this definition implies that global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions decline to net  
26 zero levels in order to hold warming below a specific threshold.

27  
28 Two approaches were used in AR5 to determine carbon budgets (Clarke et al., 2014; Collins et al., 2013;  
29 IPCC, 2014; Rogelj et al., 2016; Stocker et al., 2013b). Working Group I (WGI) reported Threshold  
30 Exceedance Budgets (TEB) that correspond to the amount of cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at the time a specific  
31 temperature threshold is exceeded with a given probability in a particular multi-gas and aerosol emission  
32 scenario (Collins et al., 2013; IPCC, 2013; Stocker et al., 2013b). WGI also reported TEBs for the  
33 hypothetical case that only CO<sub>2</sub> would be emitted by human activities (Collins et al., 2013; IPCC, 2013;  
34 Stocker et al., 2013b). Working Group III (WGIII) used Threshold Avoidance Budgets (TAB) that  
35 correspond to the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over a given time period of a subset of multi-gas and aerosol  
36 emission scenarios in which global-mean temperature stays below a specific temperature threshold with a  
37 given probability (Clarke et al., 2014). The AR5 Synthesis Report used TABs defined until the time of peak  
38 warming over the 21<sup>st</sup> century (IPCC, 2014). Drawbacks have been identified for both TEBs and TABs  
39 (Rogelj et al., 2016). TABs provide an estimate of the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions under pathways that have  
40 as a common characteristic that they do not exceed a specific global warming threshold. The actual level of  
41 maximum warming can however vary between pathways, leading to an unnecessary and poorly constrained  
42 spread in TAB estimates (Rogelj et al., 2016). Drawbacks of TEBs are that they provide an estimate of the  
43 cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at the time global warming crosses a given threshold of interest in a specific  
44 emissions scenario. Because of potential variations in the non-CO<sub>2</sub> warming contribution at that point or lags  
45 of about a decade in warming (Joos et al., 2013; Ricke and Caldeira, 2014; Rogelj et al., 2015a, 2016, 2018;  
46 Zickfeld and Herrington, 2015), TEBs are thus not necessarily providing a precise estimate of the remaining  
47 carbon budget for limiting warming to a specific level.

48  
49 Since the publication of AR5, several new approaches have been proposed to estimate carbon budgets  
50 compatible with limiting warming to specific temperature levels. Most of these approaches indirectly rely on  
51 the TCRE (Section 5.5.1), for example (Friedlingstein et al., 2014a; Matthews et al., 2017; Millar et al.,  
52 2017; Tokarska et al., 2018). Here we use the assessment framework as applied in the IPCC Special Report  
53 on Global Warming of 1.5°C to estimate remaining carbon budgets compatible with a range of maximum  
54 global warming levels (Rogelj et al., 2018). This framework builds on the advances in estimating remaining  
55 carbon budgets or related quantities that have been published since AR5 (Gasser et al., 2018; Haustein et al.,

2017; Lowe and Bernie, 2018; Matthews et al., 2017; Millar et al., 2017; Rogelj et al., 2015a; Tokarska et al., 2018) and combines the assessment of four contributing factors (historical warming, TCRE, non-CO<sub>2</sub> warming contribution, and adjustments due to additional Earth system feedbacks, see Section 5.5.2.2) to estimate remaining carbon budgets from 2018 onwards<sup>1</sup>. Together with estimates of historical CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to date (Section 5.2.2), these remaining carbon budgets provide the overall amount of cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions consistent with limiting global warming to specific levels, although no formal method is available to combine the uncertainty estimates surrounding these values. A comparison with the approach applied in AR5 (Clarke et al., 2014; Collins et al., 2013) is available in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C Section 2.2.2 (Rogelj et al., 2018).

#### 5.5.2.2 Assessment of individual components

Remaining carbon budgets are estimated through the combination of four components that are estimated separately (Forster et al., 2018; Rogelj et al., 2018). Each component is discussed separately in the sections below.

##### 5.5.2.2.1 TCRE

The first and central component for estimating remaining carbon budgets is the TCRE. Based on the assessment in Section 5.5.1.4, an assessed *likely* range for TCRE of 0.8–2.5°C/1000 PgC is used. The value and uncertainty surrounding TCRE directly affects estimates of the remaining carbon budget (Matthews et al., 2017; Millar and Friedlingstein, 2018; Rogelj et al., 2018). As in IPCC AR5 (Collins et al., 2013), a normal uncertainty distribution with a one-sigma range corresponding to the *likely* range is applied.

##### 5.5.2.2.2 Historical warming

Advances in methods to estimate remaining carbon budgets have shown the importance of applying an as precise as possible estimate of historical warming to date (Millar et al., 2017; Tokarska et al., 2018). This becomes particularly important when assessing remaining carbon budgets for global warming thresholds that are relatively close to present-day warming, like a 1.5°C or 2°C threshold (Rogelj et al., 2018). Also the definition of global average temperature by which historical warming is estimated is shown to be important (Allen et al., 2018; Cowtan and Way, 2014; Pfliederer et al., 2018; Richardson et al., 2018) as is the correct isolation of human-induced global warming (Allen et al., 2018; Haustein et al., 2017). We here apply a historical warming expressed in global average surface air temperatures (SAT) of 0.97°C between the 1850–1900 and 2006–2015 periods, based on the assessment of human-induced global warming by the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, which will be updated to the most up to date assessment reported in Chapter 3.

[[Placeholder : Confidence statement in line with Chapter 3 assessment: to be added with cross-reference to Chapter 3.]]

##### 5.5.2.2.3 Non-CO<sub>2</sub> warming contribution

Projected global average warming of non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions affects estimates of remaining carbon budgets consistent with limiting warming to specific temperature thresholds by reducing the amount of warming that could still result from CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Collins et al., 2018; Friedlingstein et al., 2014a; Knutti and Rogelj, 2015; Matthews et al., 2017; Meinshausen et al., 2009; Mengis et al., 2018; Rogelj et al., 2015a, 2016; Tokarska et al., 2018). The size of this contribution has been estimated by both implicitly (Friedlingstein et al., 2014a; Matthews et al., 2017; Meinshausen et al., 2009; Mengis et al., 2018; Rogelj et al., 2016; Tokarska et al., 2018) and explicitly (Collins et al., 2018; Rogelj et al., 2015a, 2018) varying the assumptions of non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and associated warming. Internally consistent evolutions of future CO<sub>2</sub> and non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions allow to derive non-CO<sub>2</sub> warming contributions that reflect societal developments by which global

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<sup>1</sup> This start year will be updated depending on latest year available from the historical carbon budget assessment.

1 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are held to within a finite remaining carbon budget (Clarke et al., 2014; Rogelj et al., 2018;  
2 Smith and Mizrahi, 2013) – that is, developments in which global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions decline to net zero levels.  
3 Integrated pathways (Clarke et al., 2014; Huppmann et al., 2018) allow the assessment of non-CO<sub>2</sub> emission  
4 contributions at the time global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reach net zero levels (Rogelj et al., 2018). These emission  
5 contributions can subsequently be assessed in terms of their estimated global average temperature outcome  
6 with simple climate model and emulator approaches which incorporate synthesised knowledge of climate  
7 and carbon-cycle response and uncertainty (Gasser et al., 2018; Goodwin et al., 2018; Meinshausen et al.,  
8 2009; Millar et al., 2017; Rogelj et al., 2018; Smith et al., 2018a). Section [[Placeholder reference cross-box  
9 Chapter 1 on emulators]] and Section 7.6 provide an assessment of these tools and of how they are used to  
10 reflect the assessment and uncertainty in climate (Chapter 7) and carbon-cycle (Section 5.4) response in line  
11 with historical observations (Chapters 1–4).

12  
13 [[Placeholder: Pending updated assessments of Chapters 1–4 and 7, this estimate is still based on IPCC  
14 SR15.]]

15 [[Placeholder: Confidence statement based on integrated assessment of Chapters 1–4 and 7 confidence  
16 statements.]]

#### 17 18 19 5.5.2.2.4 Adjustments due to other not represented feedbacks and potential limitations of TCRE

20 Recent literature has led to an improved understanding of the limitations and applicability of TCRE (Section  
21 5.5.1.2), which is here reflected in the assessment of remaining carbon budgets. A first aspect affecting the  
22 use of TCRE for estimating remaining carbon budgets is whether there is any expected additional warming  
23 after a complete cessation of net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, also referred to as zero emissions commitment (ZEC) of  
24 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Estimates of the ZEC are assessed in Chapter 4. At present no conclusive evidence is  
25 available about the sign of the ZEC and estimates range from slightly negative (i.e. global average  
26 temperatures decline slightly after a complete cessation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) to slightly positive (Collins et al.,  
27 2013; Frölicher and Joos, 2010; Gillett et al., 2011; Lowe et al., 2009; Matthews and Caldeira, 2008;  
28 Matthews and Zickfeld, 2012), but in most cases showing that once CO<sub>2</sub> emissions decline to net zero levels,  
29 they do not contribute to substantial further warming (Allen et al., 2018; Matthews and Solomon, 2013;  
30 Smith et al., 2019; Solomon et al., 2010). Studies that do suggest a higher ZEC identify this only for  
31 cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that lay beyond the range cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions consistent with keeping  
32 warming to 1.5°C–3°C relative to preindustrial levels and add to future warming over century to millennial  
33 timescales (Ehlert and Zickfeld, 2017; Frölicher et al., 2014). Based on this assessment, the ZEC of CO<sub>2</sub> is  
34 considered zero for this estimation of the remaining carbon budget, although because of the diverging  
35 evidence on this matter there is overall *low confidence* in it being precisely zero.

36  
37 As highlighted in Section 5.5.1.2, recent literature has described potential impacts of Earth system feedbacks  
38 that have typically not been included in standard ESMs (Burke et al., 2017; Comyn-Platt et al., 2018; Gasser  
39 et al., 2018; Lowe and Bernie, 2018; MacDougall and Friedlingstein, 2015; Mahowald et al., 2017; Schädel  
40 et al., 2016; Schneider von Deimling et al., 2015), the most important of which is carbon release from  
41 thawing permafrost. Due to the long-term and potentially non-linear reinforcing feedbacks (see Section 5.4)  
42 this process is anticipated to both increase the value of TCRE and add additional carbon emissions to the  
43 atmosphere over timescales of centuries to millennia. The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C  
44 (Rogelj et al., 2018) estimated unrepresented Earth system processes to result in a reduction of remaining  
45 carbon budgets of about 100 GtCO<sub>2</sub> over the course of this century, and more thereafter. There is robust  
46 agreement across all available studies that unrepresented Earth system feedbacks related to permafrost  
47 thawing will result in more carbon being released into the atmosphere and hence a reduction in the size of  
48 remaining carbon budgets over century timescales; this results in *high confidence* about the direction of the  
49 overall effect of these additional processes on estimates of the remaining carbon budget. However, the large  
50 range in potential magnitude of permafrost thawing effects in the available literature and the absence of  
51 dedicated multi-model intercomparison exercises leads to overall *low confidence* in the quantified magnitude  
52 of this effect. For other not represented Earth system feedbacks very few to no studies are available and both  
53 the sign and magnitude of their effect on the remaining carbon budget is hence uncertain.

54  
55 [[Placeholder: Statement about high-risk events identified in Section 5.4.]]

5.5.2.3 Remaining budget overview

The combination of the four contributions assessed in Sections 5.5.2.2.1–4 allows for an overall assessment of the remaining carbon budget in line with different levels of global average warming, as documented in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (Rogelj et al., 2018). The overall assessment of remaining carbon budgets (Table 5.7) reflects the uncertainty in TCRE quantification and provides estimates of the uncertainties surrounding the contributions of each of the respective further components. A formal combination of these uncertainties is not possible because they are not independent and no estimates of the correlation between them are available in the literature. There is robust evidence supporting the concept of TCRE as well as the *high confidence* in the range of historical human-induced warming. Combined with the assessed uncertainties in the Earth system’s response to non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and less well-established quantification of some of the effect of non-linear Earth system feedbacks, this leads to *medium confidence* being assigned to the assessed remaining carbon budget estimates.

[[Placeholder: A discussion of how uncertainties of various components affect the assessment of remaining carbon budgets – yet only once other chapters have finalised their respective assessments of ZEC, historical warming, forcing and transient climate sensitivity.]]

[START TABLE 5.7 HERE]

**Table 5.7: The assessed remaining carbon budget and corresponding uncertainties.** Assessed estimates are provided for additional human-induced warming expressed as global average surface air temperature since the recent past [[Placeholder: insert range provided by Chapter 3]], which amounted to X.X°C +- Y.Y°C relative to the 1850–1900 period [[Placeholder: use values from Chapter 3]]. [[Draft Table design only. To be updated once assessment of other chapters is available (current values from IPCC SR15 Table 2.2).]]

Additional warming since 2006-2015 [°C](1)	Appr. warming since 1850-1900 [°C](1)	Remaining carbon budget (excluding additional Earth-system feedbacks*(5))			Key uncertainties and variations*(4)					
		Percentiles of TCRE(3)			Earth-system feedbacks*(5) [GtCO <sub>2</sub> ]	Non-CO <sub>2</sub> scenario variation*(6) [GtCO <sub>2</sub> ]	Non-CO <sub>2</sub> forcing and response uncertainty [GtCO <sub>2</sub> ]	TCRE distribution uncertainty*(7) [GtCO <sub>2</sub> ]	Historical temperature uncertainty*(1) [GtCO <sub>2</sub> ]	Recent emissions uncertainty*(8) [GtCO <sub>2</sub> ]
		33rd	50th	67th						
0.3		290	160	80	Budgets on the left are reduced by about -100 on centennial time scales	+250	-400 to +200	+100 to +200	+250	+20
0.4		530	350	230						
0.5		770	530	380						
0.53	~1.5°C	840	580	420						
0.6		1010	710	530						
0.63		1080	770	570						
0.7		1240	900	680						
0.78		1440	1040	800						
0.8		1480	1080	830						
0.9		1720	1260	980						
1		1960	1450	1130						
1.03	~2.°C	2030	1500	1170						
1.1		2200	1630	1280						
1.13		2270	1690	1320						
1.2		2440	1820	1430						

\*(1) Chapter 1 has assessed historical warming between the 1850-1900 and 2006-2015 periods to be 0.87°C with a +/- 0.12°C *likely* (1-standard deviation) range, and global near surface air temperature to be 0.97°C. The temperature changes from the 2006-2015 period are expressed in changes of global near-surface air temperature.  
 \*(2) Historical CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since the middle of the 1850-1900 historical base period (mid-1875) are estimated at 1940 GtCO<sub>2</sub> (1640-2240 GtCO<sub>2</sub>, one standard deviation range) until end 2010. Since 1 January 2011, an additional 290 GtCO<sub>2</sub> (270-310 GtCO<sub>2</sub>, one sigma range) has been emitted until the end of 2017 (Le Quéré et al., 2018).  
 \*(3) TCRE: transient climate response to cumulative emissions of carbon, assessed by AR5 to fall *likely* between 0.8-2.5 °C / 1000 PgC (Collins et al., 2013), considering a normal distribution consistent with AR5 (Stocker et al., 2013). Values are rounded to the nearest 10 GtCO<sub>2</sub>.  
 \*(4) Focussing on the impact of various key uncertainties on median budgets for 0.53°C of additional warming.  
 \*(5) Earth system feedbacks include CO<sub>2</sub> released by permafrost thawing or methane released by wetlands, see main text.  
 \*(6) Variations due to different scenario assumptions related to the future evolution of non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.  
 \*(7) The distribution of TCRE is not precisely defined. Here the influence of assuming a lognormal instead of a normal distribution shown.  
 \*(8) Historical emissions uncertainty reflects the uncertainty in historical emissions since 1 January 2011.

[END TABLE 5.7 HERE]

**5.6 Biogeochemical implications of Carbon Dioxide Removal and Solar Radiation Modification**

**5.6.1 Introduction**

Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) and Solar Radiation Modification (SRM) refer to deliberate actions taken to either reverse or offset the effects of greenhouse gas emissions on the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and climate. They contrast with climate mitigation, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere.

CDR, also referred to as “negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions”, seeks to directly reverse greenhouse gas emissions by removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and durably storing it in geological, terrestrial or ocean reservoirs. CO<sub>2</sub> is removed from the atmosphere either directly or by enhancing biological or geochemical carbon sinks. SRM, on the other hand, SRM attempts to offset the climate effects of greenhouse gas emissions, by intentional modification of the Earth’s shortwave radiative budget.

This section assesses the biogeochemical implications of CDR and SRM. Specifically for CDR, there has been growing interest in light of the finding that it is *very likely* that removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere will be required to meet the Paris climate targets (AR5; SR1.5). The climate effects of CDR and SRM are assessed in Chapter 4, and a detailed assessment of the socio-economic dimensions of these options is done in AR6 WGIII.

**5.6.2 Biogeochemical responses to Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR)**

CDR methods seek to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere either directly or by enhancing terrestrial, marine or geological carbon sinks to accelerate removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. Several CDR methods have been proposed, with distinct effects on carbon and other biogeochemical cycles. Commonly discussed CDR methods are summarised in Table 5.8.

The scope of this section is to assess the general and methods-specific effects of CDR on the global carbon cycle and other biogeochemical cycles. Global carbon sequestration potentials of CDR methods are briefly discussed, but a comprehensive assessment is left to the AR6 Working Group III report, as these potentials depend on socio-economic factors (e.g. availability of land, carbon pricing). Instead the focus is on sequestration biophysical potentials per unit deployment (e.g. per hectare for land-based methods) and on biogeochemical feedbacks that either amplify or reduce carbon sequestration of specific CDR methods, determining their *effectiveness* in reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Side effects on other biogeochemical cycles, climate and ecosystems are also assessed. The assessment emphasizes literature published since AR5; the IPCC Special Reports on the global warming of 1.5 degrees (SR1.5) and on climate change and land (SRCCL) assessed CDR potentials and side effects but did not address the effects of CDR on carbon and other biogeochemical cycles in detail.

CDR methods may be divided in four major categories, according to the carbon cycle processes that result in CO<sub>2</sub> removal: (1) enhanced net biological uptake and storage by land ecosystems, (2) enhanced net biological uptake and storage in the ocean, (3) enhanced geochemical processes on land and in the ocean, (4) direct air capture by chemical processes with carbon storage. The main methods suggested are summarised in Table 5.8.

**[START TABLE 5.8 HERE]**

**Table 5.8:** Carbon Dioxide Removal methods

Category	Methods	Nature of CO <sub>2</sub> Removal Process / Storage Form	Description
----------	---------	--	-------------

Enhanced biological production and storage on land	Afforestation, reforestation and forest management	Biological / Organic	Store carbon in trees and soils by planting, restoring or managing forests
	Agricultural soil management	Biological / Organic	Use agricultural management practices to improve soil carbon storage
	Biochar	Biological / Organic	Pyrolyze terrestrial biomass to form biochar and add to soils
	Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS)	Biological / Organic	Capture and storage of CO <sub>2</sub> produced by burning of bioenergy crops
	Wetland restoration	Biological / Organic	Store C in soil by creating or restoring wetlands and restoring peatlands
Enhanced biological production and storage in ocean	Ocean fertilisation	Biological / organic	Fertilize upper ocean with micro (Fe) and macronutrients (N, P) to increase phytoplankton photosynthesis and biomass and deep ocean carbon storage through the biological pump
	Artificial ocean upwelling	Biological / organic	Pump nutrient rich deep ocean water to the surface
	Blue carbon management	Biological / organic	Manage coastal ecosystems to increase Net Primary Production and store C in sediments
Geochemical	Enhanced weathering	Geochemical / inorganic	Spread alkaline minerals on land to chemically remove atmospheric CO <sub>2</sub> in reactions that form solid minerals (carbonates and silicates) that are stored in soils or in the ocean
	Ocean alkalinisation	Geochemical / inorganic	Deposit alkaline minerals (e.g. olivine) on the ocean surface to increase CO <sub>2</sub> uptake by increasing ocean alkalinity
Chemical	Direct air capture with carbon storage (DACCS)	Chemical / inorganic	Direct removal of CO <sub>2</sub> from air and storage underground or in long-lasting usable materials

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[END TABLE 5.8 HERE]

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Many other CDR options have been suggested, but there is insufficient literature for an assessment. These include biomass burial, ocean downwelling, removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from seawater with storage, and cloud alkalinisation (Keller et al., 2018b). The use of harvested wood products as a carbon storage option (e.g., houses) has no other biogeochemical implications and is therefore not covered here to discuss its potential.

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#### 5.6.2.1 Global carbon cycle responses to CDR

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This section assesses evidence about the response of the global carbon cycle to CDR from idealised model simulations which assume that CO<sub>2</sub> is removed from the atmosphere directly and stored permanently in the geologic reservoir, which is analogous to direct air capture with carbon storage (DACCS; Table 5.8). The carbon cycle response to specific CDR methods will be discussed in Section 5.6.2.2.2.

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Although our understanding of the climate-carbon cycle response to CDR has evolved since AR5, a limited numbers of modelling studies exists (Cao and Caldeira, 2010; Jones et al., 2016b; Tokarska and Zickfeld, 2015; Vichi et al., 2013). We assess results from two types of model simulations: idealised “pulse removal” simulations, whereby a specified amount of CO<sub>2</sub> is removed instantly from the atmosphere, and scenario simulations, whereby CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and CDR follow a plausible trajectory. The assessment is based on a review of the literature since AR5 and results from the Carbon Dioxide Removal Model Intercomparison Project (CDR-MIP) (Keller et al., 2018b) and the Scenario Model Intercomparison Project (ScenarioMIP) (O'Neill et al., 2018), which include pulse removal simulations as well as scenario simulations. This section

1 will focus on three aspects of the climate-carbon cycle response to CDR: the symmetry of the response to  
2 positive and negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the time-dependent behaviour of CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in scenarios with CDR,  
3 and the effectiveness of CDR in drawing down atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

4  
5  
6 **[START BOX 5.1 HERE]**

7  
8 **BOX 5.1: Carbon cycle response to CO<sub>2</sub> removal from the atmosphere**

9 During the industrial era, CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by human activities such as fossil-fuel combustion and land-use  
10 change, has been redistributed between atmosphere, land, ocean and geologic carbon reservoirs (Figure 1b of  
11 Box 5.1). Over the past decade (2007–2016) 47% of the emitted CO<sub>2</sub> remained in the atmosphere, 23% was  
12 stored in the ocean and 30% in the terrestrial biosphere (Le Quéré et al., 2018b) (see Section 5.6.2.1). When  
13 CDR is applied during periods of positive CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and is smaller in magnitude than these emissions  
14 (*net positive* emissions), it acts to counteract these emissions, reducing their magnitude (Figure 1c of Box  
15 5.1). The excess CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is partly taken up by the land and the ocean, as in the case of  
16 industrial era emissions without CDR. When CDR exceeds CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (*net removal* of CO<sub>2</sub> from the  
17 atmosphere or *net negative* emissions) and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> declines, CO<sub>2</sub> is also redistributed between  
18 reservoirs, but in the opposite direction as under positive emissions: CO<sub>2</sub> removal from the atmosphere is  
19 opposed by outgassing from the land and ocean carbon reservoirs (Figure 1d of Box 5.1).

20  
21  
22 **[START BOX 5.1, FIGURE 1 HERE]**

23  
24 **Box 5.1, Figure 1:** Schematic representation of carbon fluxes between atmosphere, land, ocean and geologic reservoirs  
25 for (a) an unperturbed Earth System, (b) an Earth system perturbed by fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, (c) an Earth system  
26 with fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are partially offset by CDR, (d) an Earth system in which CDR exceeds CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
27 from fossil fuels (“net negative emissions”). Carbon fluxes depicted in (a) (solid and dashed black lines) also occur in  
28 (b)-(d). From (Keller et al., 2018b).

29  
30 **[END BOX 5.1, FIGURE 1 HERE]**

31  
32  
33 **[END BOX 5.1 HERE]**

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35  
36  
37 **5.6.2.1.1 Symmetry of carbon cycle response to positive and negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

38 Since the first coupled-climate carbon cycle models were developed in the late 1990s, enormous progress has  
39 been made in understanding and quantifying the carbon cycle response to increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
40 concentrations and the associated climate changes (Section 5.4). To quantify the effectiveness of CDR in  
41 reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, it is important to establish whether the insights gained about carbon cycle  
42 responses and feedbacks under positive CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be applied to responses under negative emissions.  
43 This would be the case if the climate-carbon cycle response to negative emissions were equal and opposite to  
44 the response to positive emissions, i.e. if the response were *symmetric*. This section assesses the symmetry in  
45 the coupled climate-carbon cycle response to positive and negative emission pulses of the same magnitude  
46 released from different climate states. Simulations with the UVic ESCM, an Earth system model of  
47 intermediate complexity, suggests that the response is approximately symmetric for pulse  
48 emissions/removals of ±100 PgC, but becomes increasingly asymmetric for higher pulse emissions/removals  
49 (Zickfeld et al., 2019) (Figure 5.31). This asymmetry originates largely from state-dependencies and  
50 nonlinearities in the ocean response.

51  
52 [[Placeholder for assessment based on results of CDR-MIP simulations with positive and negative 100 PgC  
53 emission pulses released from a climate state in equilibrium with the pre-industrial atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
54 concentration (Keller et al., 2018b).]]

1 **[START FIGURE 5.31 HERE]**

2  
3 **Figure 5.31:** Changes in carbon stores (atmosphere, ocean, land) as a fraction of cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (equivalent to CO<sub>2</sub> pulse size) 1000 years after the pulse emission/removal ( $\pm 100$  PgC,  $\pm 500$  PgC,  $\pm 1000$  PgC) for simulations initialised from different equilibrium states (1 to 4 times the pre-industrial atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration). Changes in carbon stores are positive (i.e. uptake) for positive CO<sub>2</sub> pulses and negative (i.e. outgassing) for negative CO<sub>2</sub> pulses. (Top) Atmospheric carbon burden change fraction, (Middle) ocean carbon store change fraction, (Bottom) land carbon store change fraction. In each panel the parts of the graph on the left and right hand-side of the zero line (black dashed line) are not mirror images of each other, indicating that the response is asymmetric, particularly for higher pulse emissions/removals. From (Zickfeld et al., 2019). [[Placeholder: Will be updated based on results from CDR-MIP simulations.]]

12  
13 **[END FIGURE 5.31 HERE]**

#### 14 5.6.2.1.2 Carbon cycle response over time in scenarios with CDR

15 Since AR5 studies with Earth System Models have explored the land and ocean carbon sink response to scenarios with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions gradually declining during the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as CDR and other mitigation activities are ramped up, until they become net zero and, as removals exceed emissions, net negative (such as in RCP2.6). These studies suggest that when net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are positive, but start to decline, the land and ocean carbon sinks begin to weaken and take up less CO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 5.32a, b) (Jones et al., 2016b; Tokarska and Zickfeld, 2015). Decades to centuries after CO<sub>2</sub> emissions become net negative, the terrestrial biosphere becomes a net emitter of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere (Figure 5.32d). This source-to-sink transition lags the time CO<sub>2</sub> emissions become net negative, as carbon sinks respond to the history of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (not the instantaneous emissions rate) and continue to take up CO<sub>2</sub> for decades to centuries after emissions become net negative (Jones et al., 2016b; Tokarska and Zickfeld, 2015; Zickfeld et al., 2016). While the general response is robust across models, the magnitude of the CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes and the timing of the source-to-sink transition are uncertain, particularly for the land sink (Jones et al., 2016b). These uncertainties mirror the large spread in simulated terrestrial carbon cycle responses under positive CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with differences in model representations of system processes (Section 5.4).

30  
31 [[Placeholder: This section will be expanded based on analysis of CMIP6 simulations. It is planned to repeat the analysis of Jones et al. (2016) for SSP1-2.6 and SSP5-3.4OS scenarios and their long-term extensions. Such an analysis will allow to investigate the time and scenario dependence of the carbon cycle response to CDR. It is expected that the source-to-sink transition will occur with a longer lag relative to the time emissions become net negative in SSP5-3.4OS than in SSP1-2.6.]]

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37  
38 **[START FIGURE 5.32 HERE]**

39  
40 **Figure 5.32:** Carbon flux components during different stages of ESM simulations driven by RCP2.6. (a) Large positive CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, (b) Small net positive CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, (c) Net negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (short-term response), (d) Net negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (long-term response). From (Jones et al., 2016a).  
41  
42  
43 [[Placeholder. Will be replotted based on CMIP6 simulations (scenarios SSP1-2.6 and SSP5-3.4OS)].]

44  
45 **[END FIGURE 5.32 HERE]**

#### 46 5.6.2.1.3 Effectiveness of CDR

47  
48 It is well known that the response of land and ocean carbon sinks is sensitive to the level of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and climate change and differs under different future scenarios (Section 5.4). It is therefore important to establish to what extent the effectiveness of CDR – i.e. the reduction in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> per unit CDR – is dependent on the climate scenario from which it is applied. Different metrics have been used to quantify the effectiveness of CDR (Jones et al., 2016b; Tokarska and Zickfeld, 2015; Zickfeld et al., 2016). One is the airborne fraction of cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (AF), defined in the same way as for positive emissions (i.e. as the ratio of change in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at a given point in time to the cumulative emissions up to that time), with its use extended to periods of declining and net negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This metric, however,



1 has not proven to be useful to quantify the effectiveness of CDR in simulations where CDR is applied from a  
2 transient state, as it measures the carbon cycle response to CDR as well as to the prior history of increasing  
3 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (Jones et al., 2016b; Tokarska and Zickfeld, 2015). Therefore, an alternative  
4 metric has been proposed: the airborne fraction of the perturbation relative to a reference scenario (Jones et  
5 al., 2016b; Tokarska and Zickfeld, 2015), dubbed the “perturbation airborne fraction” (PAF) (Jones et al.,  
6 2016b). The advantage of this metric is that it separates the response to a positive or negative emission  
7 perturbation from the response to the history of CO<sub>2</sub> prior to the point in time the perturbation is applied. A  
8 disadvantage is that the PAF cannot be calculated from a single model simulation but requires a reference  
9 simulation relative to which the effect of the perturbation can be evaluated.

10  
11 Based on scenario simulations and idealised model simulations with pulse removals applied from an  
12 equilibrium state, the effectiveness of CDR is found to be rather insensitive to the rate and amount of CDR  
13 (Jones et al., 2016b; Tokarska and Zickfeld, 2015), but to be strongly dependent on the emission scenario  
14 from which CDR is applied (Jones et al., 2016b) (Figure 5.33). The effectiveness of CDR is larger in  
15 scenarios with higher background atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, due state dependencies and climate-  
16 carbon cycle feedbacks that lead to a weaker overall response to CO<sub>2</sub> removal (Zickfeld et al., 2019).  
17 [[Placeholder: Will be expanded based on new studies and analysis of CDR-MIP simulations]].

18  
19  
20 **[START FIGURE 5.33 HERE]**

21  
22 **Figure 5.33:** Effectiveness of CDR. (Top) Perturbation airborne fraction (PAF) for model simulations where CDR is  
23 applied from four different RCPs (shown on the horizontal axis in terms of their cumulative CO<sub>2</sub>  
24 emissions over the 2020–2099 period). Symbols indicate results for four CDR scenarios, which differ in  
25 terms of the magnitude and rate of CDR (see Jones et al., (2016b) for details). Results are based on  
26 simulations with the Hadley Centre Simple Climate–Carbon Model. From Jones et al., (2016b). (Bottom)  
27 Airborne fraction of cumulative emissions (AF) for idealised model simulations with CDR applied  
28 instantly (pulse removals) from climate states in equilibrium with different atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
29 concentration levels (shown on the horizontal axis). Symbols indicate results for different magnitudes of  
30 CDR. Based on simulations with the UVic ESCM model of intermediate complexity. From (Zickfeld et  
31 al., 2019). [[Placeholder: Will be supplemented with results from new studies and CDR-MIP  
32 simulations]].

33  
34 **[END FIGURE 5.33 HERE]**

### 35 36 37 5.6.2.2 *Effects of specific CDR methods on biogeochemical cycles and climate*

#### 38 39 5.6.2.2.1 *Land-based biological CDR methods*

40 Land biological processes are the main drivers of CO<sub>2</sub> exchange between the land and the atmosphere. CO<sub>2</sub>  
41 is removed by GPP and returned to the atmosphere mainly by autotrophic and heterotrophic respiration, but  
42 also by deforestation and disturbances. As long as GPP is greater than these three sources, global land will  
43 act as a net sink, as is the case today (Section 5.3.2.2). Biological CDR methods seek to take deliberate  
44 measures to increase the difference between GPP and the CO<sub>2</sub> sources leading to increased carbon storage on  
45 land.

46  
47 CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration rates via reforestation and afforestation depend on forest age and are highest for young,  
48 productive trees, but decrease as forest matures, usually after several decades to a few centuries. Forest  
49 management (e.g. fire suppression, wood harvest) is *likely* to be needed to maintain carbon stocks from  
50 depletion and sustaining CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration rates (Griscom et al., 2017; Kurz et al., 2016; Naudts et al., 2016;  
51 Yousefpour et al., 2018). Global sequestration potential varies substantially with the amount of marginal  
52 land available to forestation, and the age of forest (Fuss et al., 2018). Dynamic global vegetation models  
53 (DGVMs) further incorporate carbon-climate-vegetation feedbacks such as the CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation effect on  
54 forest productivity, soil carbon enrichment due to enhanced litter input or the northward shift of the tree-line  
55 in future climate projection favouring higher CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration potentials (Bathiany et al., 2010; Boysen et  
56 al., 2017; Harper et al., 2018; Sonntag et al., 2015). The cooling effectiveness of carbon (C) sequestration

1 can be offset by the temperature increase arising from biophysical effects (Table 5.9).

2  
 3 Methods to increase soil carbon content include the restoration of marginal or degraded land (Paustian et al.,  
 4 2016; Smith, 2016) and improved management practices of cultivated land. The latter include selection of  
 5 appropriate varieties or species with greater root mass, selection of crop rotation cycles which improve C  
 6 sequestration, increasing the amount of crop residues, using cover crops which prevent periods of bare soil  
 7 (Paustian et al., 2016), applying optimised grazing (Henderson et al., 2015), planting cover crops in fallow  
 8 periods (Griscom et al., 2017; Poeplau and Don, 2015), selecting cultivars with deeper roots (Kell, 2011) or  
 9 higher yields (Burney et al., 2010), optimizing residue management (Wilhelm et al., 2004) and employing  
 10 low-tillage. The carbon sequestration potential of re-/afforestation and soil carbon sequestration methods is  
 11 substantial (*medium confidence*) but they both have several beneficial (*low confidence*) and adverse (*low*  
 12 *confidence*) side-effects. With *high confidence*, deployment of both methods will decrease biodiversity  
 13 unless wisely adopted (Table 5.9).

14  
 15 Biochar is produced by burning biomass at high temperatures under anoxic conditions (pyrolysis) and can,  
 16 when added to soils, increase soil carbon stocks and fertility for decades to centuries (Lehmann et al., 2015;  
 17 Woolf et al., 2010). Sequestration potentials depend on the biomass feedstock source and the residence time,  
 18 in turn determined by the feedstock type and the applied pyrolysis temperature.

19  
 20 Sequestration potentials from bioenergy combined with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) depend  
 21 strongly on the feedstock, climate and management practices (Beringer et al., 2011; Heck et al., 2016; Kato  
 22 & Yamagata, 2014; Andreas Krause et al., 2017; Smith et al., 2016). DGVMs simulate increases in net  
 23 carbon uptake if marginal land is replaced by woody bioenergy plants enriching soil carbon (Boysen et al.,  
 24 2017; Don et al., 2012; Heck et al., 2016; Kraxner et al., 2013; Smith et al., 2012b) while replacing carbon-  
 25 rich ecosystems with herbaceous bioenergy plants could deplete soil-carbon stocks and reduce the additional  
 26 sink capacity of standing forests (Boysen et al., 2017b, 2017a; Elshout et al., 2015; Harper et al., 2018; Heck  
 27 et al., 2018; Vaughan et al., 2018). Further, carbon losses along the biomass transport, conversion and  
 28 capture chain could reduce the overall CDR potential of BECCS to 50 to >90% of the initially sequestered  
 29 carbon (Creutzig et al., 2015; Fuss et al., 2018; Harper et al., 2018; Heck et al., 2018; Humpenöder et al.,  
 30 2014; Andreas Krause et al., 2017; Vaughan & Gough, 2016). Leakage and uncertain permanence of carbon  
 31 capture and storage could substantially diminish the anticipated CDR goal (Scott et al., 2015; Vaughan et al.,  
 32 2018). BECCS has moderate potential to sequester C (*medium confidence*) but has several adverse side  
 33 effects (*low confidence*) and will decrease biodiversity (*medium confidence*).

34  
 35 Wetlands are less extensive than forests, croplands and grazing lands, yet per unit area they hold a high  
 36 carbon stock. This option relies on restoration or build of high-carbon-density soils, essentially through  
 37 flooding.

38  
 39  
 40 **[START TABLE 5.9 HERE]**

41  
 42 **Table 5.9:** Characteristics of specific CDR methods: time scale of carbon storage, global CDR potential, CDR  
 43 potential per unit deployment, CDR reversibility by natural and anthropogenic processes, feedbacks on  
 44 CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration potential, side-effects on other BGC cycles and climate. In ‘Impacts on other BGC  
 45 cycles’, asterisks indicate the confidence for each BGC impact (\*low, \*\*medium, \*\*\* high confidence).

Methods	Time Scale of C Storage	CDR Potential Range (median) PgC yr <sup>-1</sup>	CDR Potential Per Unit Deployment	CDR Reversibility	Feedbacks on CO <sub>2</sub> Sequestration Potential	Impacts on Other BGC Cycles, Climate and Biodiversity (BD)
---------	-------------------------	---	-----------------------------------	-------------------	--	--

Afforestation, reforestation and forest management	Decades to centuries	0.14–3.3 (1.3)  (Fuss et al., 2018a)	Global: 1.0–4.1 MgC ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup>  (Griscom et al., 2017a; Lenton, 2014)  China : 1.6 MgC ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> (Lenton, 2014), Tropics: 2 MgC ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> (Houghton et al., 2015) Europe : 2 MgC ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> (Naudts et al., 2016)	Easily reversible	Warming to increase soil respiration;  reduced soil moisture to cause drought stress and increased fire risk;  warming to increase the occurrence of pests, diseases and extreme weather	Increased transpiration and decreased soil moisture to suppress runoff and threaten water supply (Farley et al., 2005), N <sub>2</sub> O emissions if fertilised, VOC emissions (Krause et al., 2017), decreased and increased surface temperature, in tropics and boreal region, respectively, due to changes in reflectivity, evapotranspiration and surface roughness (Fuss et al., 2018; Griscom et al., 2017; Pongratz et al., 2010; Jackson et al., 2008; Bright et al., 2015), decreased BD if not adopted wisely (Smith et al., 2018b; Williamson, P., & Bodle, 2016)
Soil carbon sequestration	Decades to centuries	0.11–3.3 (1.0)  (Fuss et al., 2018a)	0.1–1.0 MgC ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup>  (Paustian et al., 2016a; Smith, 2016)	Easily reversible	Warming to increase soil respiration; reduced soil moisture to cause drought stress and increased fire risk	N <sub>2</sub> O emissions if fertilised (Gu et al., 2017), reduction of N <sub>2</sub> O emissions, reduced nutrient losses, increased biological activity (Fornara et al., 2011; Paustian et al., 2016; Tonitto et al., 2006), increased BD (Paustian et al., 2016)
Biochar	Decades to centuries	0.08–9.5 (1.2)  (Fuss et al., 2018a)	30–60 MgC ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup>	Reversible by fire	Reduced soil moisture to cause increased fire risk	Improved soil fertility and productivity, reduced nutrient losses, enhanced fertilizer N use efficiency (Clough et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2017; Shen et al., 2016; Woolf et al., 2010), reduced N <sub>2</sub> O emissions (Cayuela et al., 2014; Kammann, C., 2017), local warming related to darkened surface (Smith et al., 2016),

						decreased BD (Smith et al., 2018b)
BECCS	Potentially permanent	0.14–1.4 (Fuss et al., 2018a)	1.5–8.7 MgC ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> (Lenton, 2014; Smith et al., 2016)	Partially reversible by leakage		Land-use change related emissions of CO <sub>2</sub> and N <sub>2</sub> O (Creutzig et al., 2015), changes in reflectivity and water use similar to those in re/afforestation; VOC emissions (Krause et al., 2017b); decreased BD (Smith et al., 2018b);  see DACCS for storage-related side effects
Wetland restoration	Decades to centuries	0.19–0.67 (0.22) (Griscom et al., 2017b)	1.5–7.9 MgCe ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> (Griscom et al., 2017b)	Easily reversible	Higher temperature to increase CH <sub>4</sub> emission; drought to increase risk of fire	Enhanced CH <sub>4</sub> emission; increased nutrient infiltration and retention to increase water quality  (Daneshvar et al., 2017; Kluber et al., 2014); protection from fire, increased BD (Smith et al., 2018b)
Ocean fertilisation	Centuries to millennia	0.32–12 (1.0) (Fuss et al., 2018a)	46–125 kgC per ton of iron deposited (Aumont and Bopp, 2006b; Zahariev et al., 2008)	Cannot be easily reversed.	Decreased productivity in unfertilised regions (Oschlies, 2010); carbonate counter pump could decrease C sequestration (Salter et al., 2014)	Perturbation to marine ecosystems (Oschlies et al., 2010a);  Enhanced ocean acidification;  Increased suboxic zone extent in fertilised areas; Shrinkage of suboxic zones outside fertilised areas (Keller et al., 2014)
Artificial ocean upwelling	Centuries to millennia	0.9–4.3 (Keller et al., 2014b; Oschlies, 2010)	1.2 x 10 <sup>5</sup> kgC yr <sup>-1</sup> removed from atmosphere per upwelling pipe, assuming deployment of 7 million pipes to 1000 m depth for 100 years.	Cannot be easily reversed or safely stopped. Causes subsequent warming beyond temperatures experienced	Cooling effect & increased terrestrial C storage.	Perturbation to marine ecosystems* (Oschlies et al., 2010a, 2010b)  Enhanced ocean acidification  Increased suboxic zone extent in fertilised areas

			(Oschlies et al., 2010c)	if AOUp not started.		Alters ocean temperature, salinity, circulation  Alters Earth's heat and water budget (Keller et al., 2014)
Blue carbon management	Decades to centuries	0.17–0.29 (0.23) (Griscom et al., 2017b)	1.9–18.4 MgC ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> (Griscom et al., 2017b)	Easily reversed, if C is stored on land (similar to wetland restoration)		Provision of ecosystem services (recreation and tourism, key fishery habitats, improved water quality, and flood and erosion mitigation);  CH4 emissions (Rosentreter et al., 2018)
Enhanced weathering - terrestrial	Centuries to millennia  for carbonates,  permanent for silicates	0.05–26 (1.3) (Fuss et al., 2018a)				Soil fertilisation and stimulated biological production (Hartmann et al., 2013) ; can liberate toxic trace metals into soil or water bodies (Keller et al., 2018a); can decrease drinking water quality by causing freshwater salinisation (Kaushal et al., 2018); increases alkalinity and pH of natural waters, helps dampen ocean acidification, increases ocean carbon uptake (Beerling et al., 2018). Decreased BD (Smith et al., 2018b)
Ocean alkanisation	10,000 to 100,000 years	<27 (González, 2016; Sonntag et al., 2018)	220 kgC per ton of olivine/lime  (González, 2016; Sonntag et al., 2018)	Not easily reversible	Enhanced primary production through addition of iron and silicic acid (Köhler et al., 2013a) (Hauck et al., 2016)	Decreased ocean acidification (surface waters only)***  Decreased deoxygenation (González, 2016)  Release of toxic trace metals* (Hartmann et al., 2013)

Direct air carbon capture and storage (DACCS)	Potentially permanent	0.14–1.4 (Fuss et al., 2018a)		Can be partially reversed by leakage		Pollution of drinking water; seismic activity (Fuss et al., 2018);  Perturbation of marine ecosystems through leakage of CO <sub>2</sub> from submarine storage (Molari et al., 2018)
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[END TABLE 5.9 HERE]

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#### 5.6.2.2 Ocean-based biological CDR methods

6

Both ocean biological and physical processes drive the CO<sub>2</sub> exchange between the ocean and atmosphere.

7

However, the ocean physical processes that remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, such as large-scale circulation and mixing, cannot be feasibly altered, so ocean CDR methods focus on increasing the productivity of ocean ecosystems, and subsequent sequestration of carbon.

8

9

10

Artificial ocean upwelling (AOUpw) brings nutrient-rich water to the ocean surface to alleviate nutrient limitation of (near-)surface phytoplankton growth and thus boost primary production and subsequent ocean CO<sub>2</sub> uptake. For AOUpw to be effective at increasing ocean carbon storage, the increased primary production has to result in increased export of organic carbon out of the upper ocean and no change (or a deepening) in its remineralisation depth. In model simulations (Keller et al., 2014; Oschlies, 2010) where AOUpw is applied continuously and at the largest feasible scales, cumulative atmospheric carbon dioxide removal is up to 4.3 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> during the first decade, and decreases afterwards to 0.9 to 1.5 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> (average), with 50–80% of this removal results from cooling-induced enhancement of the terrestrial carbon sink (Keller et al., 2014). AOUpw is expected to have widespread side effects (Table 5.9).

11

Ocean fertilisation (OF) aims to boost primary production and subsequently organic carbon export by seeding the ocean surface with nutrients, typically in iron-limited areas such as the Southern Ocean or North Pacific. Iron fertilisation experiments have been inconclusive on deep-sea carbon sequestration enhancement (Boyd et al., 2007; Yoon et al., 2018), with only one observing an increase in the biological pump below 1000 m (Smetacek et al., 2012). Model simulations (Keller et al., 2014; Oschlies et al., 2010) suggest that if OF is applied continuously under a high CO<sub>2</sub> emission scenarios, CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration rates are initially between 2 and 4 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>, but then decrease to 0.4 to 1 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> (average) after the initial decade. Increased productivity in the fertilised areas is *likely* to result in decreased productivity in unfertilised regions (Oschlies, 2010). The carbonate counter pump could also potentially reduce iron fertilisation-induced C sequestration by 6–32% (Salter et al., 2014). Upon fertilisation termination, up to a third of the sequestered carbon may be returned to the atmosphere within a century (Robinson et al., 2014). The carbon sequestration potential of AOUpw and OF is moderate (*high confidence*), but both have a multitude of negative side effects (*high confidence*) (Table 5.9).

12

Blue carbon refers to carbon sequestration by plant growth and burial of plant organic carbon in the soil of coastal wetlands (including salt marshes and mangroves) and seagrass ecosystems. Coastal wetlands and seagrass meadows are among the most productive ecosystems per unit area, with a global annual sequestration rate of 0.084–0.233 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> (Mcleod et al., 2011). Current sequestration rates are *unlikely* to be maintained into the future due to changing environmental conditions, including sea level rise, changes in the availability of sediments, temperature, salinity and light availability, and coastal development (National Academies of Sciences and Medicine, 2019). Although increase sea level rise might lead to long term carbon sequestration in coastal wetlands and seagrass meadows (Rogers et al., 2019), more immediate increase in frequency and intensity of marine heatwaves poses a threat to the long term conservation, let alone expansion of existing carbon stocks (Smale et al., 2019). Blue carbon approaches seek to maintain or increase the rate of carbon sequestration against this baseline through management and restoration of coastal wetlands and seagrass meadows. Globally it is estimated that these measures combined have a potential to

13

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1 maintain and accelerate the rate of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration at a scale of 0.17–0.29 PgCO<sub>2</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup> (Griscom et al.,  
2 2017). Part of the climate benefits of blue carbon might be offset by increased CH<sub>4</sub> production (Rosentreter  
3 et al., 2018). The carbon sequestration potential of blue carbon approaches is moderate (*low confidence*), but  
4 these approaches have several positive side-effects through the provision of valuable ecosystem services  
5 (*medium confidence*) (Table 5.9).  
6  
7

#### 8 5.6.2.2.3 Geochemical and chemical CDR methods

9 Enhanced weathering (EW) is based on naturally occurring weathering process in which rock minerals are  
10 decomposed and at the same time dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> is converted to bicarbonate which is then leached to surface  
11 waters and ultimately to the ocean. Weathering is accelerated by spreading grinded rocks on e.g. managed  
12 croplands which will increase the reactive surface area and accelerate the rate of weathering (Taylor et al.,  
13 2015). For enhanced weathering the carbon sequestration potential is higher and the time scale of C storage  
14 is longer than those of most land-based methods (*high confidence*). Enhanced weathering has several  
15 potential side-effects which can be both beneficial and adverse (*low confidence*).  
16

17 Ocean alkalisation, via the deposition of alkaline minerals (e.g. olivine) or their dissociation products (e.g.  
18 quicklime) at the ocean surface, can increase surface total alkalinity and thus increase CO<sub>2</sub> uptake and  
19 storage. Modelling studies suggest that massive additions of alkalinity (e.g., 114 Pmol by the end of the  
20 century) during high CO<sub>2</sub> emission scenarios could increase ocean uptake by up to 27 Pg C yr<sup>-1</sup> by the end of  
21 the century, and permanently keep it there (100 ka residence time; Renforth & Henderson, 2017) even if  
22 additions were stopped (Feng et al., 2017; González et al., 2016; Sonntag et al., 2018). Enhanced ocean  
23 carbon uptake rapidly stops upon termination of ocean alkalisation (González et al., 2018). Modelling  
24 studies suggest that the carbon sequestration potential is higher under high emissions scenarios (Hauck et al.,  
25 2016), although the potential for climate change mitigation is higher under low emission scenarios. If olivine  
26 is deposited, the associated addition of iron and silicic acid is predicted to enhance primary production  
27 (Köhler et al., 2013; Hauck et al., 2016). The carbon sequestration potential of ocean alkalisation is high  
28 (*high confidence*). Ocean alkalisation has positive side effects on the marine ecosystem (*medium*  
29 *confidence*), but also adverse ones (*low confidence*), most of which are poorly understood or quantified.  
30

31 Direct air capture with carbon storage is a combination of two techniques, direct air capture of CO<sub>2</sub> (DAC)  
32 and carbon storage. DAC entails the flow of large amounts of air through a filter that separates carbon  
33 dioxide from air, producing a concentrated CO<sub>2</sub> gas stream. The CO<sub>2</sub> stream then may be either stored  
34 geologically as a high-pressure gas or sequestered by a mineral carbonation process. DACCS has significant  
35 requirements of water and energy, and carbon storage has additional energy requirements. Storage is  
36 potentially permanent in both pressurised gas form and mineral form. The main risks and side effects of  
37 DACCS are largely related to the high pressure at which CO<sub>2</sub> is stored in geologic formations (Table 5.9).  
38 The conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> captured by BECCS/DACCS to ocean alkalinity and subsequent storage in the ocean  
39 has been proposed (Rau, 2014) and carries with it the same potential feedbacks and side effects as ocean  
40 alkalisation.  
41  
42

43 **[START FIGURE 5.34 HERE]**

44  
45 **Figure 5.34:** Relative sequestration potentials of CDR methods plotted against the time scale of C storage. Colour of  
46 the full circle indicate whether side effects act to weaken or enhance the carbon sequestration potential,  
47 surrounding dashed lines denote the sign of other environmental impacts. Vertical bars indicate the  
48 uncertainty ranges in potentials, horizontal bars the uncertainty ranges in the time scale of C storage.  
49 [[Placeholder: To be completed and underlying numbers to be checked and updated]].  
50

51 **[END FIGURE 5.34 HERE]**

#### 52 5.6.2.3 Reversal of ocean acidification by CDR

53  
54  
55

1 Reversing the increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations will reverse ocean acidification at the sea surface  
2 but will not result in rapid amelioration of ocean acidification in the deeper ocean, which is already occurring  
3 (see Section 5.3.3.1). The ocean's uptake of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> will start to decrease if atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
4 decreases, and the ocean will gradually become a source, rather than sink, of CO<sub>2</sub> (Mathesius et al., 2015;  
5 Tokarska and Zickfeld, 2015). However, because of the long timescales of the ocean turnover that transfers  
6 CO<sub>2</sub> from the upper to the deep ocean, excess carbon will continue to accumulate in the deep ocean even  
7 after a decrease in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Cao et al., 2014; Mathesius et al., 2015; Tokarska and Zickfeld, 2015).  
8 In model simulations with a strong increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and a subsequent decrease to pre-industrial  
9 levels, *surface* pH returns to its pre-industrial value in ~100 years after atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> returns to pre-  
10 industrial levels (Cao et al., 2014). The ocean mean-pH, however, does not return to its pre-industrial  
11 starting point when atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> returns to pre-industrial levels. The global mean ocean pH remains  
12 ~0.1 units lower than its pre-industrial value, even 200 years after atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> returns to pre-industrial  
13 levels (Mathesius et al., 2015; Section 5.3.3.1). Even with a probably unfeasible CO<sub>2</sub> extraction rate of 25  
14 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>, global ocean pH does not return to pre-industrial levels by 2700 (Mathesius et al., 2015).

15  
16 The slow timescales of ocean circulation result in an inability to restore the mean ocean pH to pre-industrial  
17 levels even with an aggressive atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> removal rate. Even with reversal of the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
18 increase, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions leave a long-term legacy in ocean acidification, and are therefore irreversible at  
19 multi-human generational scales.

20  
21 [[Placeholder: Update with CDR-MIP results, when available]]  
22  
23

### 24 **5.6.3 Biogeochemical responses to Solar Radiation Modification (SRM)**

25  
26 Solar Radiation Modification (SRM) approaches are deliberate attempts to reduce the amount of sunlight  
27 absorbed by the planet in order to counteract global warming due to greenhouse gases (Shepherd, 2012). SRM  
28 proposals (Section 4.6.3) include those that increase surface albedo (e.g. by painting the buildings bright white,  
29 or by engineering crops to be brighter in near-infrared wavelengths), brighten clouds (e.g. by increasing the  
30 amount of sea-salt cloud condensation nuclei), or even reduce the amount of sunlight incident at the top of the  
31 Earth's atmosphere (e.g. using hypothetical space mirrors). However, the most commonly-studied approaches  
32 attempt to mimic the cooling effects of volcanoes by injecting bright aerosols, or aerosol precursors such  
33 sulphur dioxide, into the stratosphere (Crutzen, 2006). SRM is not part of the standard RCP and SSP scenarios  
34 considered throughout this report, but it continues to be discussed because the direct costs of large-scale SRM  
35 implementation have been estimated as small compared to the cost of rapid decarbonisation of the global  
36 economy (Smith and Wagner, 2018). The risks of unintended consequences due to SRM may however be  
37 significant, such as regional climate changes, and rapid changes on termination (Jones et al., 2013a). In this  
38 section we assess the possible impacts of SRM on the biosphere and on global biogeochemical cycles, calling  
39 on published model sensitivity studies that focus on stratospheric aerosol injection, such as GEOMIP (Kravitz  
40 et al., 2015). The climate response to SRM is assessed in detail in Chapter 4 (Section 4.6.3)

#### 41 42 43 **5.6.3.1 Impacts of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> relatives to pre-industrial conditions**

44  
45 As atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> continues to increase under SRM, current Earth System Models typically simulate a  
46 sizeable CO<sub>2</sub>-fertilisation effect on the photosynthesis of land plants. Therefore, Gross Primary Production  
47 (GPP) on land is modelled to be higher under high-CO<sub>2</sub> SRM conditions, leading to both higher net primary  
48 production and higher land carbon storage. CO<sub>2</sub>-fertilisation is smaller in ESMs that include strong nitrogen  
49 limitations on plant growth, which implies a smaller increase in land carbon storage in a high-CO<sub>2</sub> SRM world  
50 relative to pre-industrial. Plant stomata also open less widely under elevated CO<sub>2</sub>, leading to reduced plant  
51 transpiration and reduced evaporative cooling of the land. Because SRM does not directly address the increase  
52 in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, it does not counteract ocean acidification. In the ocean, acidification caused by elevated  
53 CO<sub>2</sub> would be detrimental to many shell-forming marine organisms (see Section 5.3). SRM may even  
54 accelerate acidification in the deep ocean as a result of SRM-induced ocean circulation change (Tjiputra et  
55 al., 2016).



### 5.6.3.2 Impacts of changes in incident solar radiation

Stratospheric aerosol injection acts to reduce the sunlight reaching the Earth's surface, but also increases the fraction of that light that is diffuse. These changes in the quantity and quality of the sunlight have opposing effects on the photosynthesis of land plants. On their own, reductions in Photosynthetic Active Radiation (PAR) will reduce photosynthesis. However, diffuse light is more effective than direct light in accessing the light-limited leaves within plant canopies, leading to the so-called 'diffuse-radiation' fertilisation effect (Mercado et al., 2009). The balance between the negative impacts of reducing PAR and the positive impacts of increasing diffuse fraction differ between models (Kalidindi et al., 2015; Mercado et al., 2009) and across different ecosystems. For the moderately small changes in surface PAR implied by SRM, diffuse-radiation fertilisation seems *likely* to overcome the reduction in total PAR, at least for dense canopies with high leaf area index (Ito, 2017). However, based-on the response of crop yields to the eruption of the Mount Pinatubo volcano (as a surrogate of SRM), there is a risk that the decrease in incident solar radiation could reduce the yields of maize, soy, rice and wheat (Proctor et al., 2018). The SRM-induced cooling could also cause a reduction in nitrogen mineralisation and limit nutrient availability (Dagon and Schrag, 2019).

### 5.6.3.3 Net impacts of SRM compared to pre-industrial

Compared to pre-industrial conditions, a high-CO<sub>2</sub> SRM climate scenario produced by uniform stratospheric aerosol injection, would be cooler in the tropics, warmer in the high-latitudes, and have reductions in global mean precipitation (reference). The higher CO<sub>2</sub> relative to pre-industrial would increase land and ocean carbon storage but increase ocean acidification. The photosynthesis of land plants would *likely* be larger in the high-CO<sub>2</sub> SRM climate, but by an uncertain amount that depends on the extent to which CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation of land plants is limited by other constraints, such as nutrient and water availability. Modelling studies suggest that sunlight reduction will tend to limit changes in vegetation distribution caused by radiatively-induced climate warming but would not prevent increase in terrestrial plant productivity and carbon stocks due to CO<sub>2</sub>-fertilisation (Glienke et al., 2015; Govindasamy et al., 2002) – see Figure 5.35.

### 5.6.3.4 Net impacts of SRM compared to unmitigated climate change

Compared to unmitigated climate change under a given scenario of anthropogenic emissions, SRM is *likely* to reduce the burden of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by enhancing global land and ocean sinks. SRM acts to cool the planet relative to unmitigated climate change, which reduces plant and soil respiration, and also reduces the negative impacts of warming on ocean carbon uptake. Cao and Jiang (2017) reported that SRM would reduce atmospheric burden of CO<sub>2</sub> by about 47 PgC in 2100, under RCP8.5. Keith et al. (2017) reported that if SRM was used to hold radiative forcing at current level under RCP8.5, SRM may reduce atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by about 100 PgC. However, Tjiputra et al. (2016) reported a much smaller reduction of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in response to SRM probably because of the inclusion of the nitrogen cycle that leads to a weaker terrestrial carbon sink. In the case of a halt or termination of an SRM scheme, a sudden warming would cause the additional carbon stored in the land and ocean reservoir to be released into the atmosphere, triggering a further warming that is much faster than in the absence of SRM (Jones et al., 2013a), with potentially dangerous consequences for biodiversity (Trisos et al., 2018).

Based-on current knowledge, SRM with elevated CO<sub>2</sub> would *very likely* increase global mean net primary production and carbon storage on land, relative to both the pre-industrial climate (because of CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation of photosynthesis), and also relative to an elevated CO<sub>2</sub> world without SRM (because of reduced plant and soil respiration at the lower temperatures). However, SRM plus elevated CO<sub>2</sub> is *very likely* to have negative impacts on ocean ecosystems relative to the pre-industrial due to ocean acidification, with poorly-known consequences for the biological carbon pump and the ocean carbon sink.

1 [START FIGURE 5.35 HERE]

2  
3 **Figure 5.35:** [[Placeholder: From (Glienke et al., 2015). abrupt4×CO<sub>2</sub> is an experiment with an abrupt quadrupling of  
4 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and G1 is a GEOMIP experiment in which a decrease in the solar constant offsets the  
5 global radiative forcing of 4×CO<sub>2</sub>.]]

6  
7 [END FIGURE 5.35 HERE]

## 8 9 10 **5.7 Knowledge gaps**

### 11 *Contemporary GHG Trends and Attribution*

12  
13  
14 Two key developments require further development on terrestrial models assessing the magnitude and trends  
15 of the land CO<sub>2</sub> sink. First, to further constrain the flux from the land use, land use change and forestry.  
16 Models have inadequate resolution or lack of representation of land management, such forestry, grazing and  
17 cropland management, which covers three quarters of the ice-free land surface. Second, the movement of  
18 carbon through the land to ocean continuum has implications for the strength of the land CO<sub>2</sub> sink. Land  
19 surface modelling is only at the beginning of representing lateral flows of carbon resulting in carbon  
20 accumulation (sinks) in freshwater reservoirs and carbon releases to the atmosphere through the whole  
21 continuum of freshwater bodies, rivers to coastal zones.

22  
23 Improved constraints for air-sea fluxes: Data gaps in space and time for surface ocean CO<sub>2</sub> observations are  
24 one of the main obstacles to reducing the biases and uncertainties and provide improved global constraints to  
25 the variability and trends of air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes, particularly to resolve the seasonal cycle bias in  
26 sampling. This applies particularly for the Southern Ocean and the Southern Hemisphere oceans in general,  
27 which account for most of the uncertainty in global estimates of the air-sea fluxes.

28  
29 Full attribution of observed CH<sub>4</sub> trends in atmosphere to the underlying drivers has not been fully resolved,  
30 yet it is a fundamental to design mitigation activities and incorporate potential future CH<sub>4</sub>-climate feedback  
31 mechanisms into scenario projections. Difficulties remain to partition the contributions from human activity  
32 sources, natural sources, and fluxes associated with emerging CH<sub>4</sub>-climate feedbacks under a warmer and  
33 higher atmospheric CO environment. Particularly, wetlands are the single largest source term in the global  
34 CH<sub>4</sub> budget, proportionally with the largest source of uncertainty, and have the highest potential for  
35 producing CH<sub>4</sub>-climate feedbacks.

36  
37 Despite important progress, large uncertainties remain in the contemporary N<sub>2</sub>O budget, specifically the  
38 magnitude and underlying process-contribution of land and ocean N<sub>2</sub>O sources. There is only weak  
39 quantitative understanding of the processes leading to inter annual variations of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. This  
40 hampers the attribution of the recent increase in the growth rate to underlying causes, including the increased  
41 anthropogenic N<sub>2</sub>O emissions.

42  
43 As the budgets of all three major greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O) remain uncertain from process level  
44 understanding, atmospheric and oceanic inverse models have the potential to provide key information on  
45 regional sources and sinks from atmospheric observations using chemistry-transport models. Presently  
46 inverse models are limited by long-term observational data coverage. The space-borne remote sensing  
47 retrievals may relax this limitation if biases can be identified and properly corrected. The chemistry-transport  
48 models are often biased for parameterisations of photo-chemical sinks and strength of tracer transport. When  
49 improved, inverse models can provide an independent assessment of the emission estimates and track  
50 emissions mitigation progress towards defined targets.

### 51 *Ocean Acidification and Deoxygenation*

52  
53  
54 The rate of ocean acidification and its changes are largely uncertain particularly in subpolar and coastal  
55 regions. This is because of the undersampling and strong interplay between carbonate chemistry and a

1 variety of biogeochemical and physical processes including river water inflow. Current model projections  
2 potentially overlook the important future changes in the marine biogeochemistry such as the acidification, as  
3 they do not resolve fine-scale temporal and spatial variability and processes, the magnitude and sign of many  
4 feedbacks of marine ecosystem are poorly quantified, and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations rather than  
5 emissions often drive models.  
6

7 Trends in ocean acidification and deoxygenation in the ocean interior are linked to changes in water mass  
8 ventilation, the evolution of which is poorly constrained. Many Earth System Models project a global decline  
9 in the oxygen content of the ocean in the future, but uncertainties remain for the subtropical oceans where  
10 the major oxygen-depleted environments reside. The primary uncertainty on future ocean deoxygenation in  
11 the subsurface tropical ocean relates to a consistent compensation between oxygen saturation due to warming  
12 and decreasing apparent oxygen utilisation as a result of increased ventilation.

13 Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) is produced hypoxic areas, mediated by bacteria. It is still unclear at which threshold of  
14 oxygen concentration does N<sub>2</sub>O production turn into consumption, and how it would affect ocean emissions.  
15

16 Future ocean model projections use atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations instead of emissions, which might  
17 underestimate ocean acidification rates.  
18

### 19 *Biogeochemical Feedbacks on Climate Change*

20

21 Changes in land carbon storage remain the key uncertainty in carbon cycle projections. Models differ in the  
22 treatment of CO<sub>2</sub>-fertilisation, nutrient-limitations, and the net effect of land-use change. The challenge is to  
23 better constrain the land carbon components of ESMs with observations, including using the findings of  
24 emergent constraint and process-based studies to focus model evaluation and development.  
25

26 Development and evaluation of coupled carbon-nitrogen-phosphorus land cycle models remains a challenge  
27 at any scale, but in particular with respect to understanding and projecting regional patterns of nutrient  
28 limitation. New experimental studies highlight the important role of soil processes, which may alter the  
29 projections of the current generation of global carbon-nitrogen cycle models. However, the available  
30 experimental evidence insufficiently constrains new modelling approaches and therefore hampers their  
31 inclusion into large-scale assessments.  
32

33 Several key processes are missing from the majority of terrestrial carbon cycle models, each of which may  
34 systematically bias the ensemble of ESM results. In order to more confidently project carbon cycle  
35 feedbacks, models may also need to include soil microbial and mineral stabilization processes, large-scale  
36 and fine-scale permafrost processes, the growth and mortality dynamics of individual trees rather than  
37 ecosystem canopies as a whole, competition between plants with differing traits across multiple axes of plant  
38 functional diversity, and more explicit representation of disturbance processes. For each of these, better  
39 global-scale observational constraints are needed to test emerging model approaches that include each of  
40 these processes. Further, the high degree of complexity in current ESMs requires numerous parameters,  
41 which project on carbon cycle feedbacks in poorly understood ways. Understanding and reducing this  
42 parametric and structural uncertainty remains a major problem for projecting feedbacks.  
43

44 Although model projections of changes in carbon storage agree much better for the ocean than for land,  
45 projections of future global ocean primary production do not even agree on the direction of change to 2100.  
46 Improved understanding of the processes affecting the efficiency and climate sensitivity of the biological  
47 carbon pump, and additional data to constrain large-scales models, are required to improve confidence in  
48 projections of ocean primary production.  
49

50 The estimated risks associated with tipping points in the Earth System are based largely on palaeoclimate  
51 data, for which the rates of change are much lower than expected in the next 100 years. New conceptual  
52 models, analyses, and ESM runs, are needed to understand how tipping point risks vary with the rate of  
53 change of climate and CO<sub>2</sub>.  
54

55 Biases in the physics and biogeochemical drivers of the seasonal cycle of air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in ESMs may be

1 one of the main sources of uncertainties for future projections of air-sea fluxes. Of particular importance are  
2 the drivers of the seasonal cycle of sea surface temperature and DIC which control the variability of ocean  
3 CO<sub>2</sub>. These two drivers determine the climate sensitivity of CO<sub>2</sub> in any particular model. Improved  
4 constraints from observational products will provide greater confidence to the model outputs.  
5

### 6 ***Remaining Carbon Budget to Climate Stabilization***

7

8 Important areas for advancing the more precise estimation of carbon budgets remain. These include a better  
9 understanding in both the sign and magnitude of a possible Zero Emissions Commitment (ZEC) and its  
10 impact on the Transient Climate Response to cumulative carbon dioxide Emissions (TCRE). ZEC is  
11 particularly relevant for cumulative emissions and emissions rates that are consistent with limiting warming  
12 to policy-relevant levels.  
13

14 A better and more broadly supported understanding of the potential magnitude of permafrost thawing  
15 feedbacks and their effect on TCRE, as well as the effect on TCRE of other currently not represented Earth  
16 system feedbacks can also contribute to a further improved understanding of the remaining carbon budget  
17 until peak warming and beyond.  
18

19 The development of translation tools that allow the easy and internally consistent integration of radiative  
20 forcing and other assessments in the estimation of non-CO<sub>2</sub> warming for remaining carbon budgets remains  
21 an important avenue for further interdisciplinary advancement.  
22

### 23 ***Carbon Dioxide Removal and Solar Radiation Modification***

24

25 Assessment of the global carbon cycle response to Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) is based on a limited  
26 number of modelling studies. Simulations with Earth System Models and the exploration of a broader range  
27 of scenarios would increase confidence in the assessment, particularly with regard to the effectiveness of  
28 CDR in reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and the symmetry in the climate-carbon cycle response to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
29 and removals. A common limitation of existing studies is the assumption of idealized CDR deployment,  
30 without specification of the CDR method. Explicit representation of CDR methods in Earth System models  
31 would advance our understanding of the carbon cycle response and Earth System feedbacks associated with  
32 these methods.  
33

34 Large uncertainties exist regarding global CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration potentials of specific land- and ocean-based  
35 CDR methods. Most studies of the sequestration potential of land-based CDR methods are at the plot scale,  
36 and scaled up globally with models, with no independent verification to evaluate the results. Large-scale and  
37 long-term field-based experiments or assessments that involve independent verification are still needed to  
38 demonstrate that these methods are not only feasible regionally, but also present an actual and verifiable  
39 negative regional carbon balance, with no negative unintended consequences. Potential carbon sequestration  
40 for blue carbon ecosystems needs to be better assessed.  
41

42 Estimation of global CDR potentials of other ocean-based methods (ocean alkalisation, artificial ocean  
43 upwelling) relies exclusively on model simulations, often with experiments that assume unrealistic  
44 deployment scenarios. Research is required to understand the potential for scalability of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration  
45 potentials for ocean-based methods for which field-based experiments exist (iron fertilization, blue carbon),  
46 and their potential unintended negative consequences.  
47

48 Key uncertainties in the assessment of the effects of Solar Radiation Modification (SRM) on the carbon  
49 cycle are related to the response of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and associated carbon storage. Several  
50 of these uncertainties are in common with the assessment of the land and ocean carbon cycle response to  
51 CO<sub>2</sub> increase and warming, such as the impact of ocean acidification on the biological carbon pump and the  
52 impact of nutrient limitation on soil respiration and land carbon storage.  
53  
54

**1 Frequently Asked Questions**

2

**3 FAQ 5.1: Are the ways nature removes carbon from the atmosphere slowing down?**

4

5 *For decades, nature has removed about half of the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that human activities have emitted*  
6 *to the atmosphere by increasing the amount of carbon stored in vegetation, soils and oceans. These*  
7 *processes have thus roughly halved the rate at which atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have increased, and*  
8 *therefore slowdown global warming. There is as yet no observable evidence that this natural removal is*  
9 *slowing down or that the processes underlying this removal are changing.*

10

11 Since scientists began measuring CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere in 1959, only about half of all  
12 emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels and land-use change (e.g. deforestation) has remained in the  
13 atmosphere, the so-called air-borne fraction. Natural carbon sinks, processes on land and oceans that remove  
14 CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, have removed the other half of the emissions.

15

16 The key land process that removes CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere is plant photosynthesis, which for most plants  
17 increases as the concentration of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> rises, due to what is known as the CO<sub>2</sub> fertilisation effect.  
18 Longer growing seasons in cold places due to global warming might also contribute to increased land CO<sub>2</sub>  
19 uptake. A large part of the CO<sub>2</sub> captured is lost back to the atmosphere through respiration, fires, other  
20 disturbances, and the net balance among all these processes constitutes the net land carbon sink.

21

22 The processes involved in the land CO<sub>2</sub> uptake are affected by many factors, and as climate and other  
23 biophysical properties changes, the land CO<sub>2</sub> uptake will change too. For instance, higher temperatures and  
24 droughts reduce the land sink, a process that is, often observed during El Nino years, a frequent climate  
25 event when the Earth surface has well above average temperatures. Other natural factors and human  
26 activities also influence the net removal of carbon by the land biosphere, either causing an increase in carbon  
27 storage (e.g. reforestation, nitrogen deposition) or a decrease (e.g. deforestation and land degradation,  
28 disturbances such as fire or windthrow, air pollution). The natural land sink varies strongly from year to year,  
29 making it challenging to detect long-term trends.

30

31 In the ocean, the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake is primarily driven by three physical and chemical factors: the difference in  
32 CO<sub>2</sub> concentration between the atmosphere and the surface ocean (approximately the upper 50m, but with  
33 important variations across seasons), the chemical capacity of seawater to take up CO<sub>2</sub> (or buffering  
34 capacity), and wind speeds at the ocean surface. Surface ocean water with elevated CO<sub>2</sub> is transported to the  
35 deep ocean in specific deep-water formation zones around the globe (like the Northern Atlantic and the  
36 Southern Ocean), effectively storing it away from the surface ocean and atmosphere for many decades to  
37 centuries.

38

39 Remarkably, both the land and ocean sinks have been growing largely proportional to the increase in CO<sub>2</sub>  
40 emissions. This has made the airborne fraction, the fraction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions staying in the atmosphere, to  
41 remain on average unchanged over the last five decades despite continuously increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from  
42 human activities. There is currently no evidence that the land or ocean sinks are slowing down, and also no  
43 evidence that the way these sinks respond to the excess of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is  
44 fundamentally changing (see Figure).

45

46 The fact that both the land and ocean sink respond to excess anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, suggests  
47 that the absolute sink strength of land and ocean will vary in proportion to future anthropogenic emissions.  
48 Hence this implies that if countries manage to strongly reduce global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or even reach net zero  
49 or negative emission levels, these sinks will in all likelihood also again become smaller. Also, if emissions  
50 are not reduced that strongly, the ocean sink is expected to become smaller. For the land sink, model  
51 simulations suggest that if emissions are not reduced sufficiently strongly so as to cap warming at 2°C the  
52 combined effect of increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and climate change may weaken the land sink in the second  
53 half of this century. In summary, CO<sub>2</sub> sinks will change in the future and understanding the directions of  
54 change will be fundamental to design mitigation pathways.

55

1 **[START FAQ 5.1, FIGURE 1 HERE]**

2

3 **FAQ 5.1, Figure 1:** Growth rate of the CO<sub>2</sub> inventory in the atmosphere, ocean and land, as well as the air-borne  
4 fraction of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and the efficiency of the ocean and land carbon sinks  
5 (defined as the size of the sink divided by the excess of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere).  
6 Estimates are derived from atmospheric observations, process-based models, data-driven ocean  
7 flux products, and atmospheric inversions (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). Dots and arrow bars denote the  
8 year-to-year variability as  $\pm 1$  standard deviation. Uncertainties in the estimates will be added for  
9 the SOD.

10

11 **[END FAQ 5.1, FIGURE 1 HERE]**

12

**1 FAQ 5.2: Can thawing permafrost or ocean warming substantially increase global temperatures?**

2

3 *Carbon released as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) or methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) as a result of increased rates of decomposition*  
4 *in thawing permafrost soils may add an additional amount of warming, that is significant enough that it*  
5 *should be considered in carbon estimates, but does not appear to be a process that will lead to runaway*  
6 *warming. Warming of frozen sediments beneath the ocean and deeper on land appears to be a weaker*  
7 *potential source of greenhouse gases.*

8

9 Across arctic ecosystems, where deep soils remain frozen throughout the year, there are enormous amount of  
10 carbon in accumulated soil organic matter: more than twice the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that is currently in the  
11 atmosphere. This carbon has built up over thousands of years, through the growth of plants that become thick  
12 organic litter layers when they die, which then can be buried into deeper, permanently-frozen soil layers,  
13 where the cold conditions slow the rate of their decomposition for as long as the soils remain frozen. These  
14 processes have led permafrost soils to act as carbon sinks historically, but experiments have shown that, by  
15 warming these ecosystems, the carbon in these soils will begin to decompose rapidly and return to the  
16 atmosphere as either CO<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>4</sub>, which are both important greenhouse gases. Climate models project that  
17 much of the near-surface permafrost throughout the arctic would thaw under moderate to high amounts of  
18 global warming, and thus the carbon stored in this ecosystem is at risk.

19

20 Thawing of permafrost carbon has already began due to the rapid warming experienced in the Arctic, twice  
21 as fast as the global average. With this thawing there are measurements showing very old carbon frozen for  
22 thousands of years being emitted to the atmosphere and transported into waterways. There are many  
23 processes that can speed up the loss of carbon from these northern ecosystems. Melting of massive blocks of  
24 ice in the soils can cause the landscape to sink and erode. Ponds and lakes that are common in some arctic  
25 ecosystems can expand and move across the landscape. Thick surface organic layers can dry out in warmer  
26 summers and catch fire. The same warming also releases nutrients from the decomposing soils, and warmer  
27 and longer growing seasons favours plants to grow and store carbon as it is being observed in some regions  
28 of tundra.

29

30 While these processes are complex, they are beginning to be included in models that represent the climate  
31 and the carbon cycle in an interactive manner. The projections from these models show a wide range in the  
32 estimated strength of a carbon-climate self-reinforcing loop, but the general results are: (a) that this extra  
33 warming is strong enough that it must be included to estimate the total amount of emissions permitted to  
34 stabilise the climate at a given level, but (b) not so strong that they would lead to warming that is greater than  
35 the warming from fossil fuel burning itself at any level of warming, and (c) that emissions of greenhouse  
36 gases from permafrost are projected to be higher under high emissions scenarios.

37

38 In addition to carbon within permafrost soils, concern has been raised about carbon frozen in sediments deep  
39 below the soils of permafrost ecosystems or frozen in ocean sediments, known as methane hydrates or  
40 clathrates, which are methane molecules locked within a cage of ice molecules. Hydrates are stable at low  
41 temperatures and high pressures, conditions that are found below permafrost and in ocean sediments. As  
42 global warming affects both the permafrost and the oceans, there are concerns this warming could destabilise  
43 hydrates, releasing methane into the atmosphere and significantly exacerbating climate change.

44

45 Current understanding shows that the global marine hydrate reserve is probably smaller than initially  
46 thought, now at 2000 PgC. Global warming also takes millennia to penetrate into the deep ocean and reach  
47 these hydrates, so the hydrate that could be destabilised during a century timescale is a small fraction of the  
48 total estimated marine hydrate reserve. Finally, even when methane is released from hydrates, most of it is  
49 expected to be either consumed or oxidised to carbon dioxide in the ocean before reaching the atmosphere.  
50 The most complete modelling of these processes to date suggests a release of less than 5 TgCH<sub>4</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup> over the  
51 next century, which is less than 2% of current anthropogenic methane emissions.

52

53 *[[Figure Placeholder: Schematic of the processes that effect permafrost thawing (what speeds up or slows*  
54 *down the release of GHG emissions.)]]*

**FAQ 5.3: Can negative emissions reverse climate change?**

*Negative emissions refer to removal of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere by deliberate human activities; that means, in addition to the removal that would occur naturally. If CO<sub>2</sub> removal from the atmosphere is greater than CO<sub>2</sub> release, emissions are said to be net negative. The effect of negative emissions on atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> depends on the balance between CO<sub>2</sub> releases, deliberate removals and removals by natural carbon sinks. Generally, net negative emissions results in a decline in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. However, because of the delayed reaction of many climate system components such as vegetation, soils, the deep ocean, ice sheets, a decline in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> will not result in immediate reversal of climate changes. While some parts of the Earth's climate system such as surface air temperature will follow a decline in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> quite rapidly, others will take decades to millennia to reverse.*

[Concept of negative and net negative emissions] Negative emissions refer to removal of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere by deliberate human activities; that means, in addition to the removal that would occur naturally. The term negative emissions is often used as synonymous with carbon dioxide removal (CDR). Negative emission can compensate release of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. If CO<sub>2</sub> removal from the atmosphere is greater than CO<sub>2</sub> release, emissions are said to be *net* negative.

[Carbon bathtub] In the absence of negative emissions, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere (a measure of the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere) results from a balance between CO<sub>2</sub> release and removal by natural processes on land and in the ocean (natural “carbon sinks”). If CO<sub>2</sub> release exceeds removal by carbon sinks, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere will increase; if CO<sub>2</sub> release equals removal the, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration will stabilise; and if CO<sub>2</sub> removal exceeds release, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration will decline. In the same way, if *net* emissions (i.e. the sum of releases and deliberate removals) exceed removals by natural carbon sinks, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> will go up; if net emissions equal removals by sinks, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> will not change; and if removals exceed net emissions, or emissions are net negative, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> will go down.

[Climate system inertia, reversibility] If the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere starts to go down, the Earth's climate will respond to this change. Some parts of the climate system have a delayed reaction to a change in CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere and a decline in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> through net negative emissions would therefore not imply a simultaneous reversal of climate change. Recent studies have shown that surface air temperature starts to decline within a few years following a decline in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Other components of the climate system, however, such as vegetation, soils, the deep ocean, ice sheets, take decades to millennia to react to the decline in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. For these components, net negative emissions would not result in an immediate reversal of changes caused by CO<sub>2</sub>. For instance, warming, acidification and oxygen loss of the deep ocean would take centuries to reverse following a decline in the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. Sea level rise due to warming and expansion of seawater would continue for centuries even if large amounts of negative emissions would be implemented.

[Overshoot scenarios] A class of future scenarios that is receiving increasing attention, particularly in the context of ambitious climate targets, such as the 1.5°C and 2°C targets included in the Paris Agreement, are so-called “overshoot” scenarios. In these scenarios slow emission reductions in the near term are compensated by net negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the later part of this century, which results in a temporary breach or “overshoot” of a specific temperature level. Due to the delayed reaction of several climate system components it follows that the temporary breach of a temperature target level will result in additional climate changes (compared to a scenario that reaches the target level without overshoot) that will take decades to many centuries to reverse.

In conclusion, negative emissions can only reverse climate change to a limited degree. Some parts of the Earth's climate system such as surface air temperature will follow a decline in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> quite rapidly, while others such as sea level rise will take multiple centuries to reverse.

*[[Figure suggestion – Time series of responses of climate system components with short to long response time scales (short term would include things like surface air temperature, long term would be warming,*



1 *acidification and oxygen loss of the deep ocean, sea level etc.).]]*

2

3

**1 FAQ 5.4: What is a carbon budget?**2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10

*The term carbon budget refers to two major concepts depending on how it is used. It can refer to how emissions of carbon dioxide from human activities get redistributed in the Earth system: how much of those emissions accumulate in the atmosphere and how much are taken up by the ocean or the land biosphere. It is then referred to as the “human perturbation carbon budget” or the ‘historical/contemporary carbon budget’. However, carbon budget can also refer to the total net amount of carbon dioxide emission that can still be emitted by human activities, while managing to keep global warming below a specific maximum temperature threshold. It is then called the ‘remaining carbon budget’.*

11 The term carbon budget is a widely used term but refers to different concepts depending on its context. First,  
12 the term is used when describing the historical carbon budget. The historical carbon budget describes all past  
13 and present sources and sinks of carbon dioxide. It thus describes how the carbon dioxide emissions that  
14 were emitted by human activities have redistributed across the various reservoirs of the Earth system. These  
15 are the ocean, the land biosphere, and the atmosphere, into which carbon dioxide emissions were emitted to  
16 start with. Whatever amount of carbon dioxide emissions that is not taken up by the ocean or the land  
17 biosphere results in an increase of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations, and therewith further drives  
18 global warming. Carbon dioxide taken up by the ocean is not harmless, because it results in changing the  
19 chemistry of the ocean water, reducing its alkalinity. This process is known as ocean acidification. The study  
20 of the historical carbon budget teaches us that of the about 2440 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide that were  
21 released into the atmosphere by human activities between 1750 and 2017, about a quarter was absorbed by  
22 the ocean, and about a third by the land biosphere. About 40% of these emissions remains currently in the  
23 atmosphere.

24  
25 The term carbon budget is also used when describing the total net amount of carbon dioxide that human  
26 activities would still be allowed to release into the atmosphere while keeping global warming to a specific  
27 temperature threshold, like 1.5°C or 2°C relative to preindustrial levels. In this context it is referred to as the  
28 ‘remaining carbon budget’. Underlying the concept of a remaining carbon budget is our understanding that  
29 global warming is roughly linearly proportional to the total net amount of carbon dioxide emissions – also  
30 referred to as cumulative carbon dioxide emissions – that are released into the atmosphere by human  
31 activities. This characteristic only holds true for carbon dioxide, because of the specific way carbon dioxide  
32 behaves in the Earth system. The concept of a remaining carbon budgets comes with some direct  
33 implications. It means that to stay to halt global warming, global emissions of carbon dioxide need to be  
34 reduced to net zero levels. It also means that if emissions are not reduced in the next decade, deeper and  
35 faster reductions in carbon dioxide emissions are required thereafter. The exact size of the remaining carbon  
36 budget depends on the global warming level that we set as a limit, the probability with which we want to  
37 ensure that warming is held below that limit, and how successful we are in limiting emissions of other  
38 emissions that affect the climate, like methane or nitrous oxide. [[Sentence on the AR6 WG1 remaining  
39 carbon budget assessment.]]

40  
41 *[[Figure idea: visual combining the historical carbon budget, with straight lines going down from today’s  
42 emissions to zero, and in line with the remaining carbon budget for 1.5°C or 2°C – coloured and labelled  
43 differently to make the difference clear.]]*

44  
45  
46  
47

1 **References**

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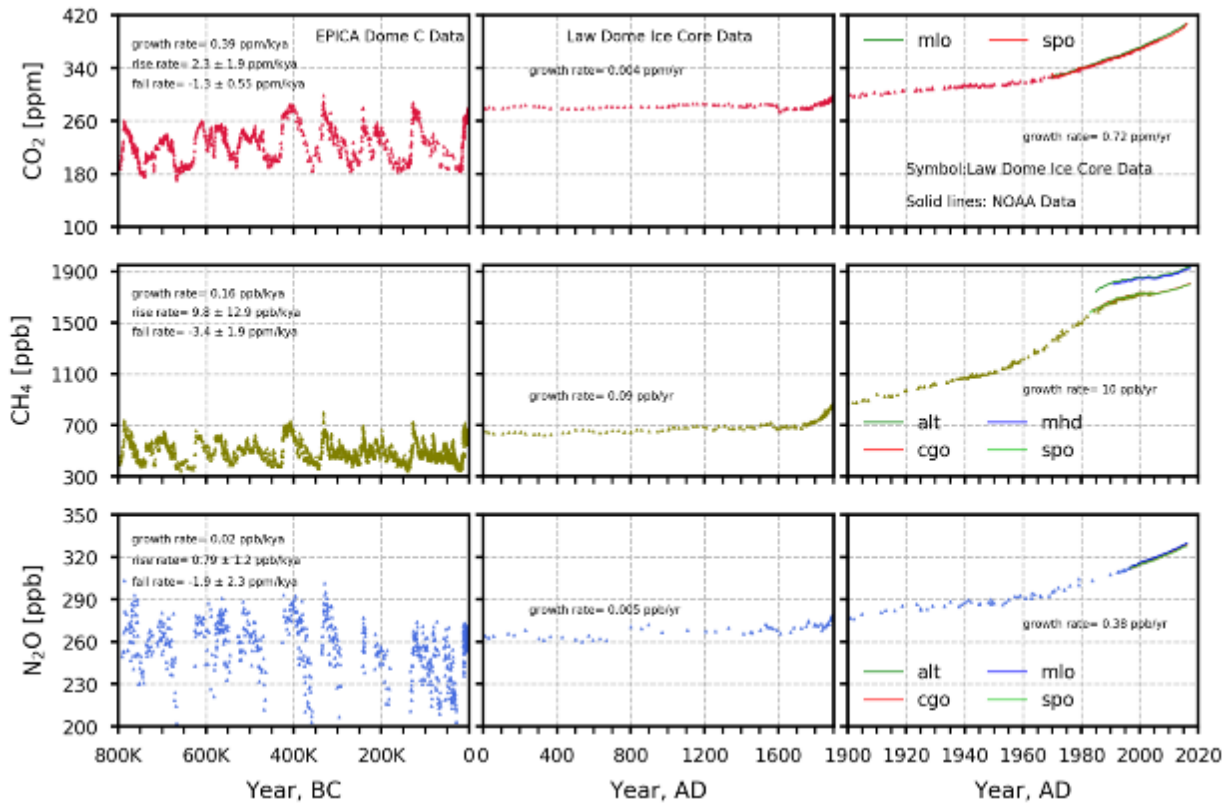
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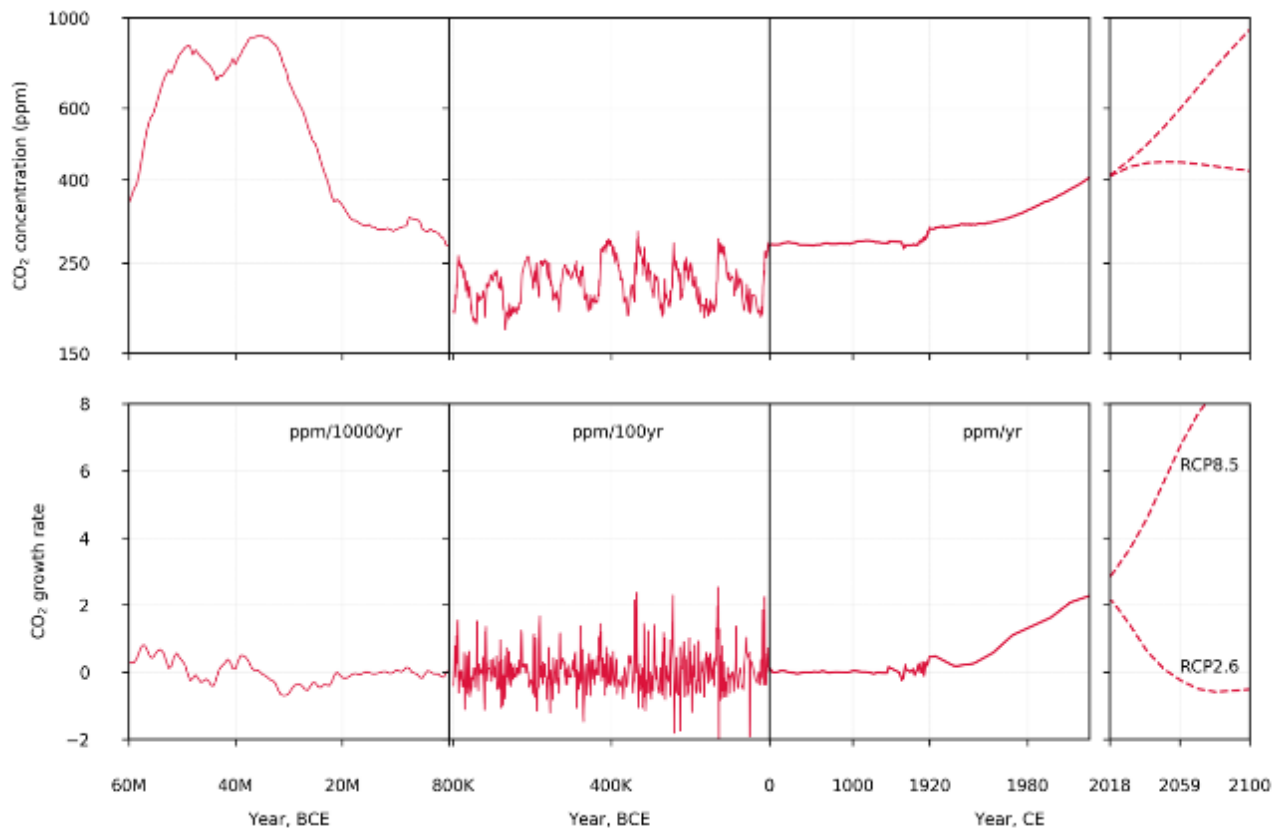
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1 **Figures**

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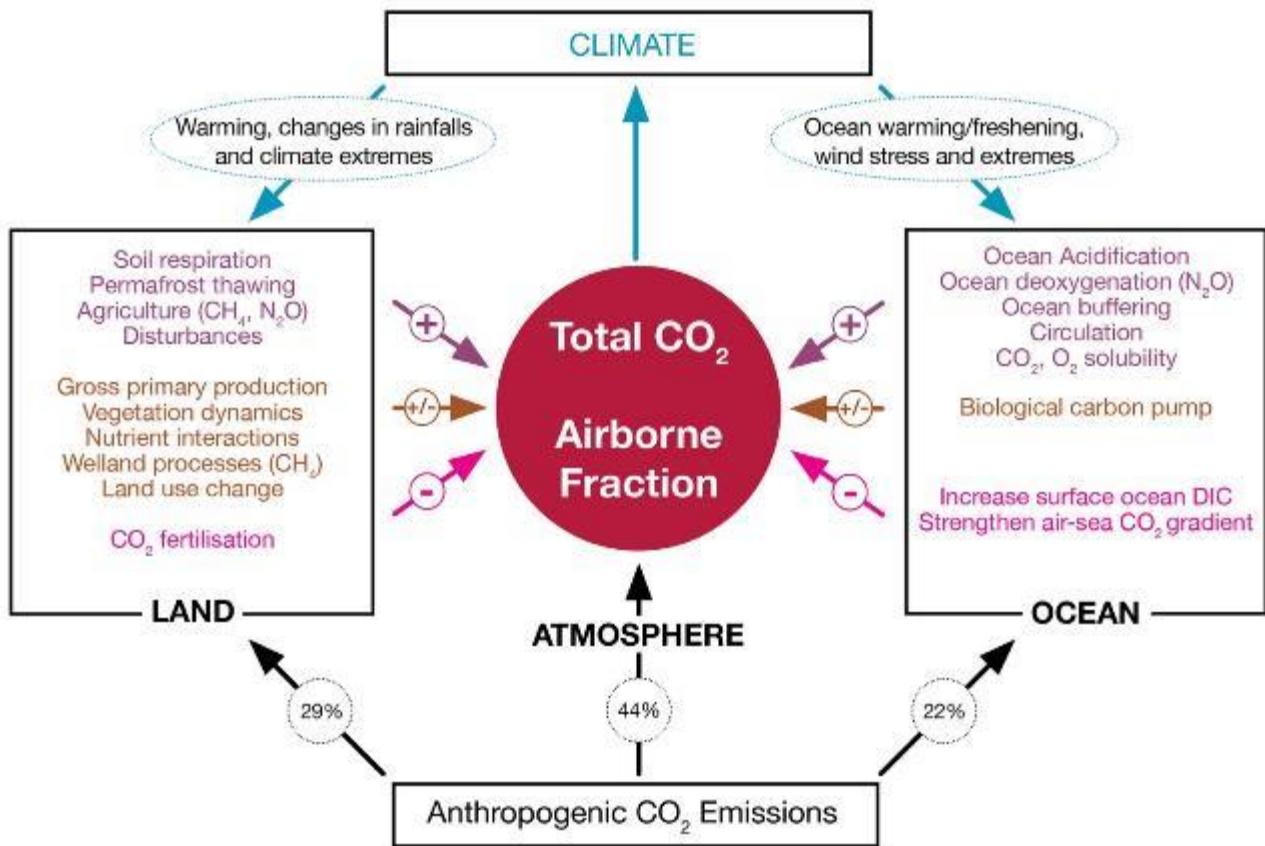


5 **Figure 5.1:** Atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O in air bubble trapped in ice cores, dated period from  
 6 800,000 BCE to 1990 CE (note the variable x-axis range and tick mark intervals for the 3 columns). Ice  
 7 core data is over-plotted by atmospheric observations from 1958 to present for CO<sub>2</sub>, from 1984 for CH<sub>4</sub>  
 8 and from 1994 for N<sub>2</sub>O. The linear growth rates for different time periods (800K–0 BCE, 0–1900 CE and  
 9 1900–2017 CE) are given in each panel. For the BCE period, mean rise and fall rates are calculated for  
 10 the individual slopes between the peaks and troughs, which are given in the panels in left column. The  
 11 data for BCE period are used from the Vostok, EPICA and Dome C ice cores (Loulergue et al., 2008;  
 12 Lüthi et al., 2008; Monnin, 2001; Pépin et al., 2001; Petit et al., 1999; Raynaud et al., 2005; Schilt et al.,  
 13 2010; Siegenthaler et al., 2005). The data until 0–yr CE are taken mainly from Law Dome ice core  
 14 analysis (MacFarling Meure et al., 2006). The surface observations for all species are taken from NOAA  
 15 cooperative research network (Dlugokencky and Tans, 2019), where ALT, MLO and SPO stand for Alert  
 16 (Canada), Mauna Loa Observatory, and South Pole Observatory, respectively.  
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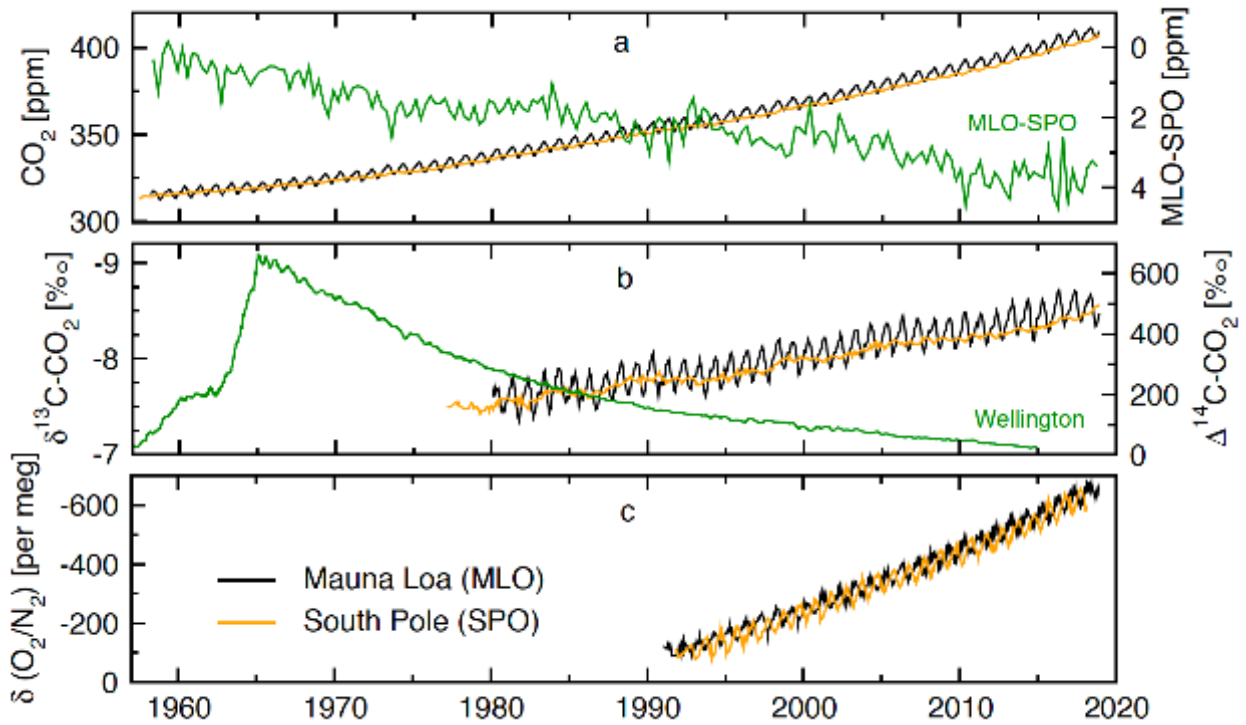
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**Figure 5.2:** CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and growth rates for the past 60 million years to 2100 using RCP2.6 and RCP8.5. Concentrations data as in Figure 5.1 and data prior to 800K years from (Foster et al., 2017). BCE = Before Current Era, CE = Current Era.



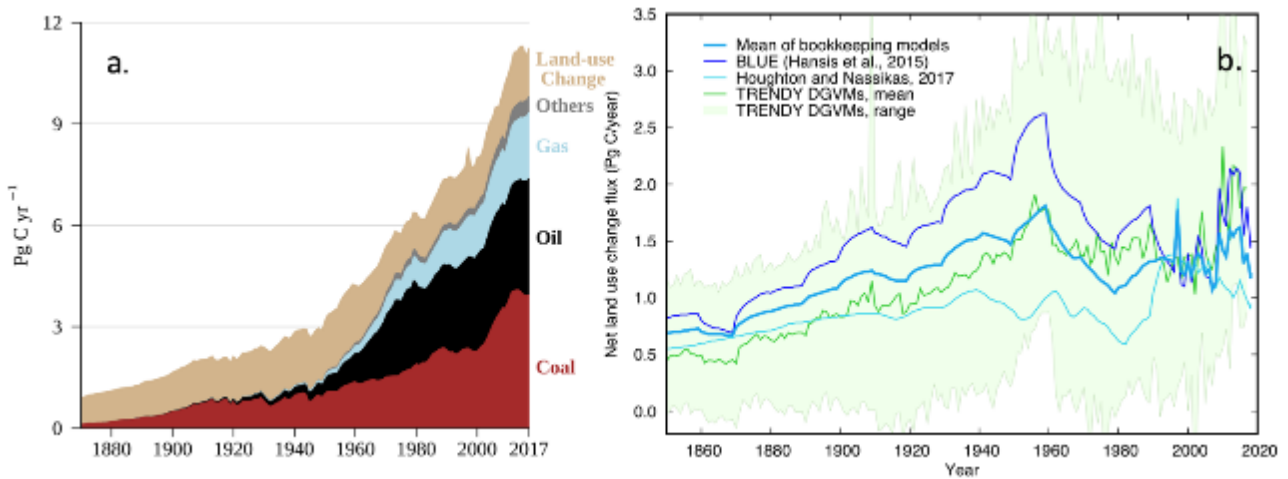
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**Figure 5.3:** Schematic summarizing the key compartments, processes and pathways that govern historical and future carbon concentration and carbon – climate feedbacks through both terrestrial and ocean systems. Central to this is the influence of both carbon and climate feedbacks on the evolution of the GHG burden in the atmosphere and the airborne fraction of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> (Red circle), which drives the Earth’s energy imbalance that is partitioned between the ocean (93%) and the terrestrial residual (7%). The ocean dominates the heat feedback. The airborne fraction that drives this historical climate forcing (~ 44%) is largely regulated by the negative feedback of ocean (22%) and terrestrial (29%) sinks that partition anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> (black arrows) in ocean and terrestrial domains (magenta) and result in negative feedbacks (magenta) (partition excludes the estimated imbalance of 0.5PgC: see Table 5.1). Positive feedback processes (Purple arrows) although mostly weak in the historical period, are *likely* to strengthen in the coming decades and are influenced by both carbon and climate forcing simultaneously (Purple). Additional biosphere processes have been included that have an, as yet uncertain feedback bias (Brown arrows). Although this schematic is built around CO<sub>2</sub>, the dominant GHG, some of the same processes also influence the fluxes of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O from the terrestrial and ocean systems. Those are noted as they contribute to the total radiative forcing.



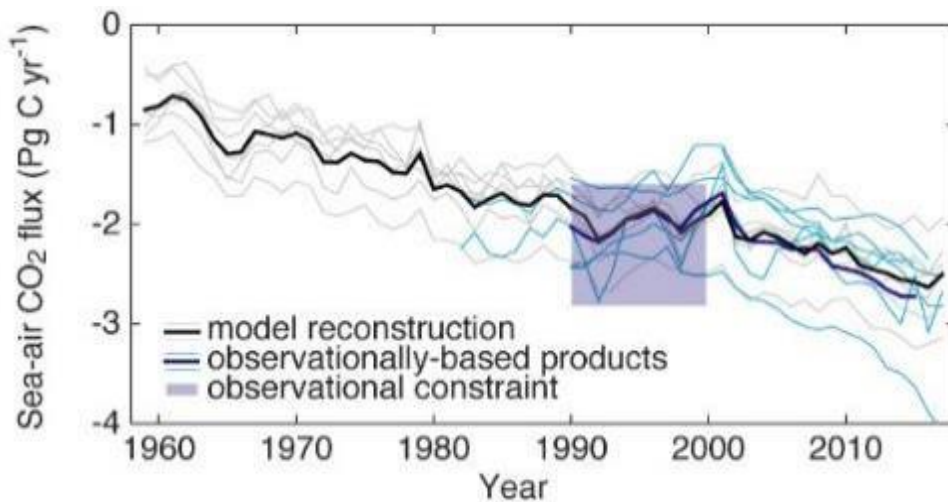
**Figure 5.4:** Time series of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and related measurements in ambient air. All the data are taken from Mauna Loa Observatory (MLO) and South Pole Observatory (SPO) operated by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO)/University of California, San Diego (Keeling et al., 2001) except for the  $\delta^{14}\text{C-CO}_2$  (panel b, right y-axis). The  $\delta(\text{O}_2/\text{N}_2)$  are expressed in per meg units ( $= (\text{FF}/\text{M}) \times 106$ , where FF = moles of O<sub>2</sub> consumed by fossil-fuel burning, M =  $3.706 \times 10^{19}$ , total number of O<sub>2</sub> molecules in the atmosphere) (Goddard et al., 2007). The  $^{14}\text{CO}_2$  time series at Wellington, New Zealand (BHD) is provided by GNS Science and NIWA (Turnbull et al., 2017).

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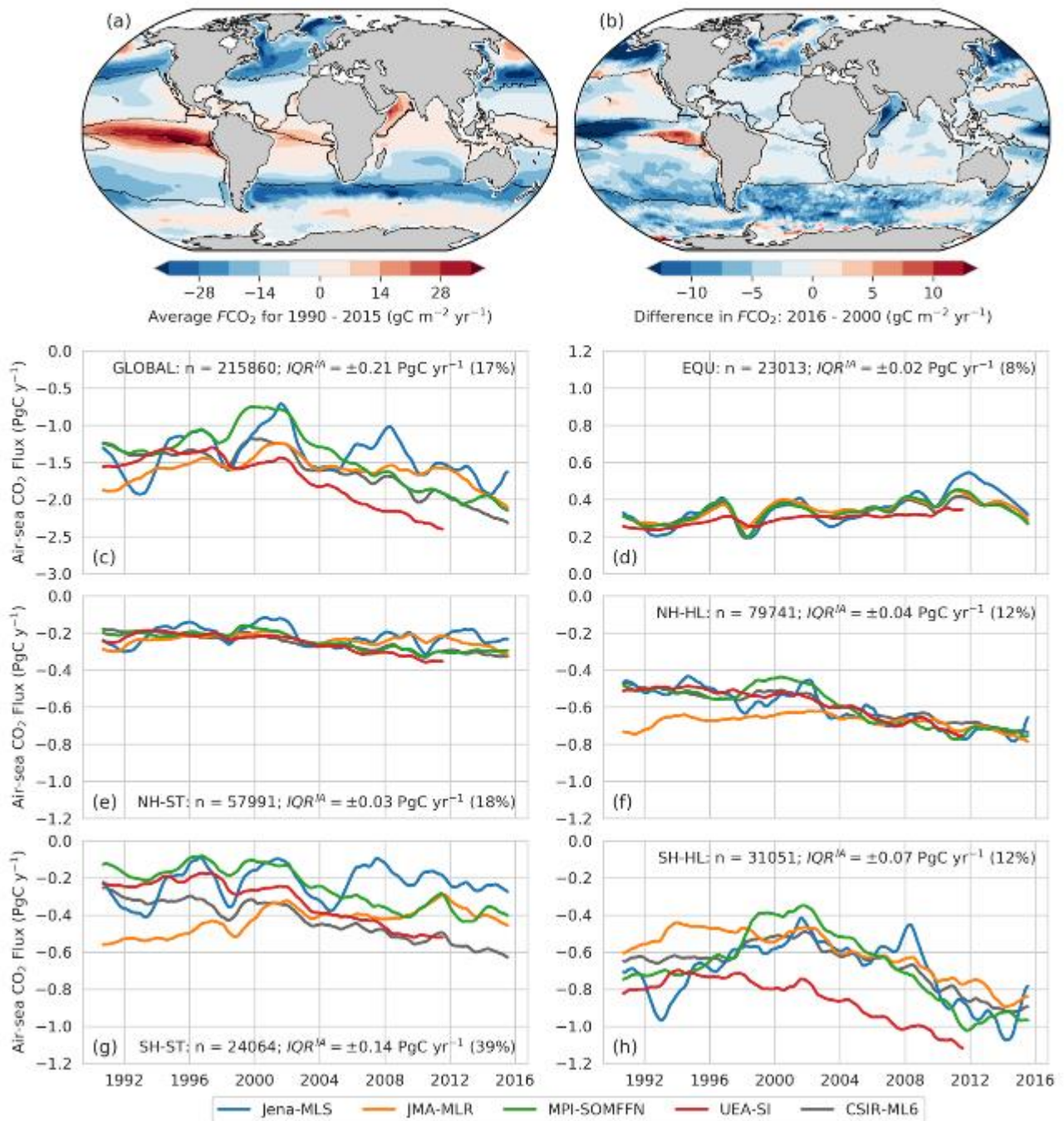


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 2 **Figure 5.5:** Global anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: A) Historical trends of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emission for the period  
 3 1870 to 2016. Data sources: (Andrew, 2018; BP, 2018; IEA, 2017; Marland et al.; Quéré et al., 2018). B)  
 4 The net land use change CO<sub>2</sub> flux (Pg yr<sup>-1</sup>) from two bookkeeping and 16 dynamic global vegetation  
 5 models (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). Bookkeeping models are BLUE (Hansis et al., 2015; Houghton and  
 6 Nassikas, 2017) both updated as described in (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). All estimates are unsmoothed  
 7 annual data. Note that the estimates differ in process comprehensiveness of the models and in definition  
 8 of flux components included in the net land use change flux.  
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**Figure 5.6:** Temporal evolution of the globally-integrated sea-air CO<sub>2</sub> flux as reconstructed by (grey/black) ocean physical and biogeochemical models forced with observed atmospheric history (Aumont and Bopp, 2006; Berthet et al.; Doney et al., 2009; Hauck et al., 2018; Le Quéré et al., 2010; Paulsen et al., 2017; Schwinger et al., 2016), and (blue) observationally-based products that represent spatial and temporal variability in the flux from sparse observations of surface ocean pCO<sub>2</sub> (Denvil-Sommer et al., 2018; Gregor et al., 2019; Iida et al., 2015; Landschützer et al., 2016; Rödenbeck et al., 2013; Zeng et al., 2015). Thick lines represent the multi-model mean. Observationally-based products have been corrected for a 0.45 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> pre-industrial riverine source of carbon, as in (Le Quéré et al., 2018b). Dark blue box represents the observed range in the 1990s (using a 90% confidence interval, as in Le Quéré et al., 2018b). [[Placeholder: include ensemble from inversion models]]

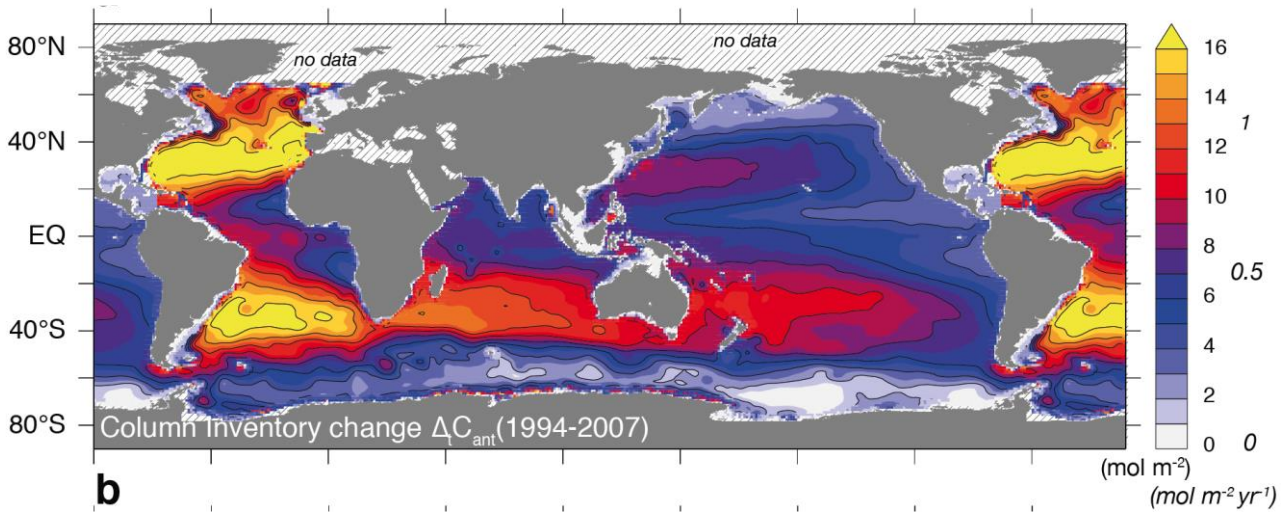


**Figure 5.7:** Regional characteristics of the mean multi-decadal fluxes showing: (a) ocean CO<sub>2</sub> uptake is dominated by the mid-latitude oceans and (b) mid- to high latitudes contributed the most to the decadal invigoration in ocean CO<sub>2</sub> uptake (2000–2016). The trends plotted in the lower panels show that (1) the Southern Ocean is critical to global variability, (2) the tropics are characterised by a strengthening outgassing and 3) most of the inter-model uncertainty arises from the Southern Hemisphere where observations are sparse (Gregor et al., 2019). [[Placeholder: This figure may be changed to means of model types – empirical, inversion, ESM]]

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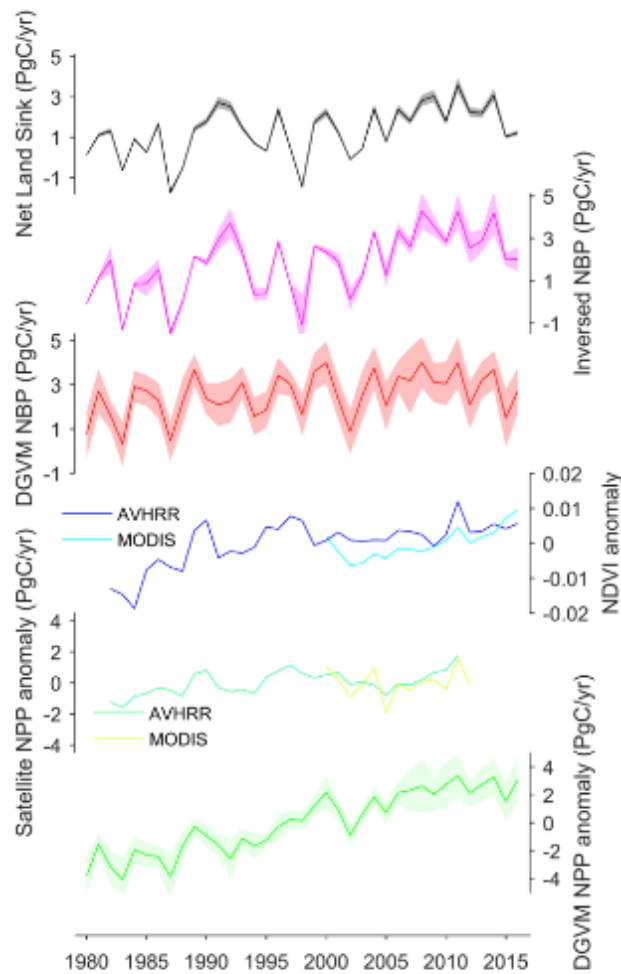
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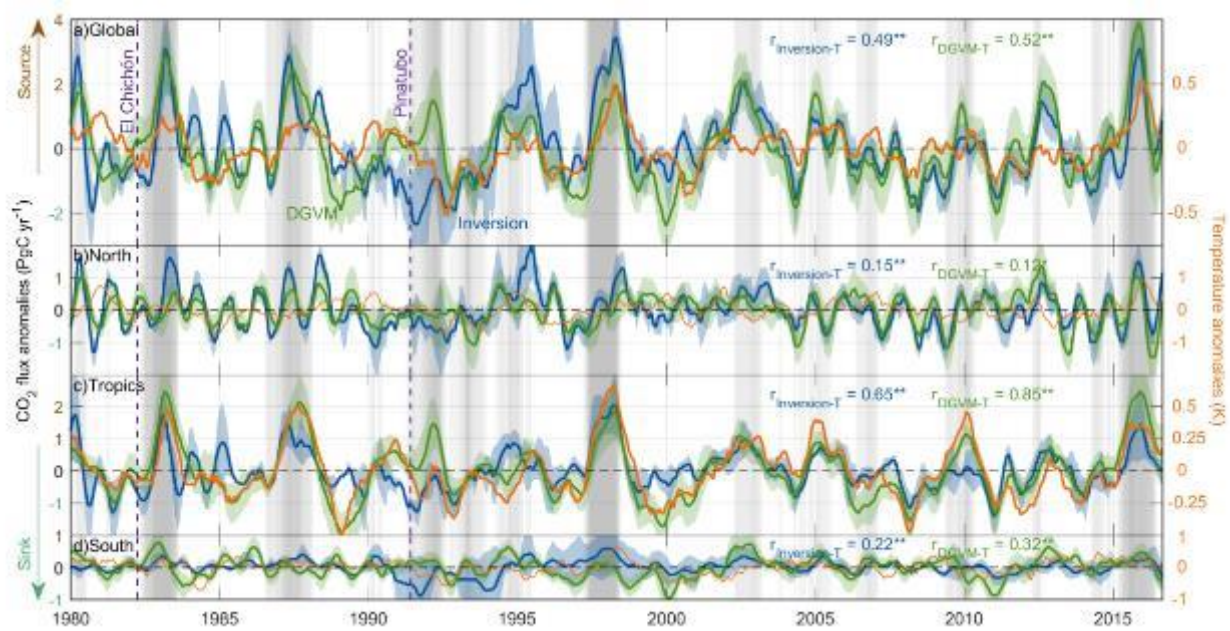
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**Figure 5.8:** Map of column inventory change of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> between 1994 and 2007 (Gruber et al., 2019). It shows that regional ocean inventories are dominated by the Mode and Intermediate waters of the Atlantic Ocean and to a lesser extent the Indian and Pacific Ocean. Most of the net increase in storage relative to the previous decade is in the Southern Hemisphere reservoirs.

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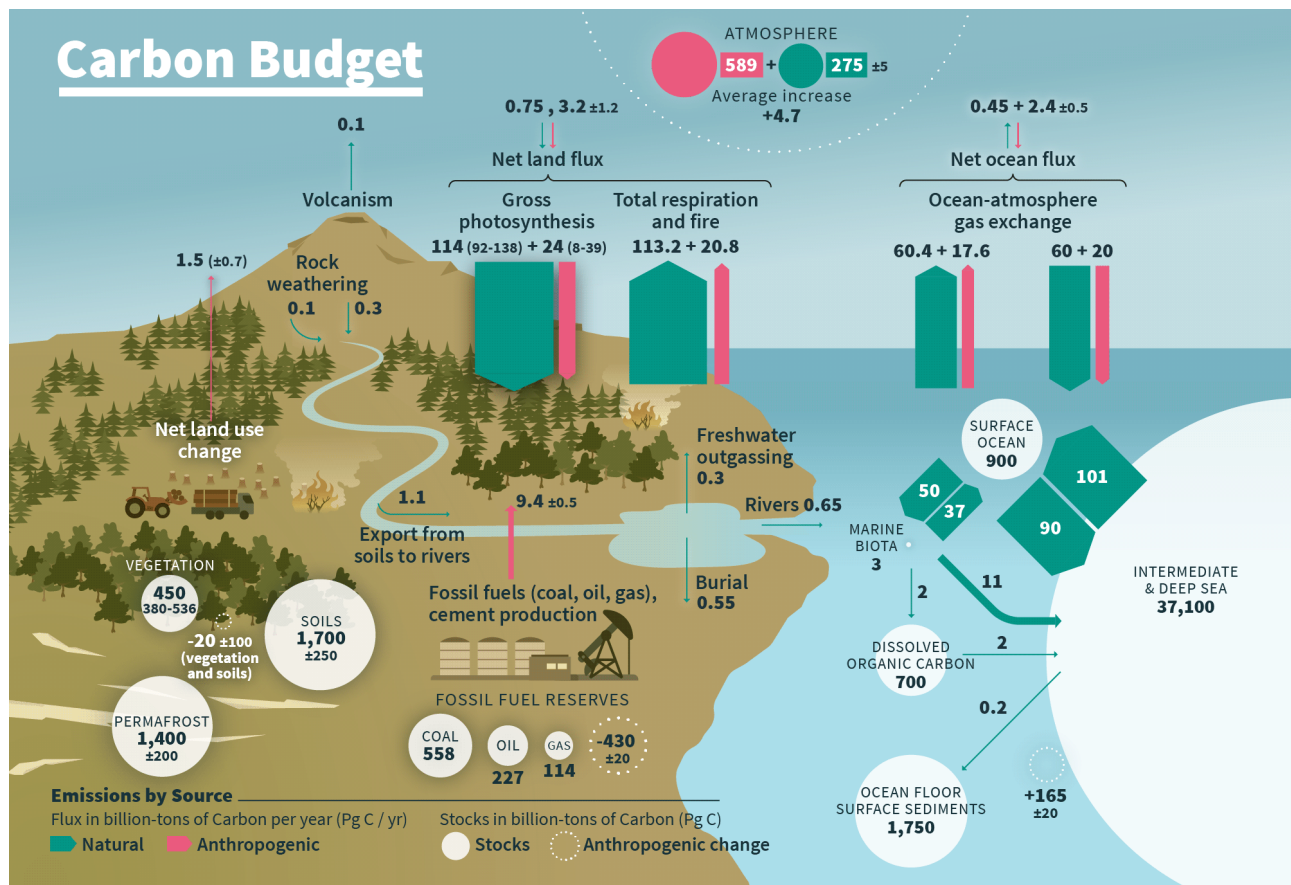


**Figure 5.9:** Change of net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink, Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and net primary productivity during 1980–2016. Net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink is estimated from the global CO<sub>2</sub> mass balance (Le Quéré et al., 2018b). Inversion Net Biome Productivity (NBP) is the net land CO<sub>2</sub> flux estimated by an ensemble of atmospheric inversion models. Positive net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink and NBP values indicate net CO<sub>2</sub> uptake from the atmosphere. DGVM NBP is the ensemble net land CO<sub>2</sub> flux estimated by 16 Dynamic Global Vegetation Models driven by climate change, rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, land use change and nitrogen deposition change (for carbon-nitrogen models). NDVI anomaly is the anomaly of global area-weighted NDVI observed by AVHRR and MODIS satellite sensors. AVHRR data are available during 1982–2016 and MODIS data are available during 2000–2016. Net Primary Productivity based on the two satellites data have the temporal coverage of 1982–2011 for AVHRR NPP and 2000–2012 for MODIS NPP. DGVM NPP is the ensemble global NPP estimated by the same 16 DGVMs as the DGVM NBP estimates. Shaded area for net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink is the uncertainty range (Le Quéré et al., 2018b). Shaded area for other panels indicates standard deviation of different atmospheric inversions or DGVMs.



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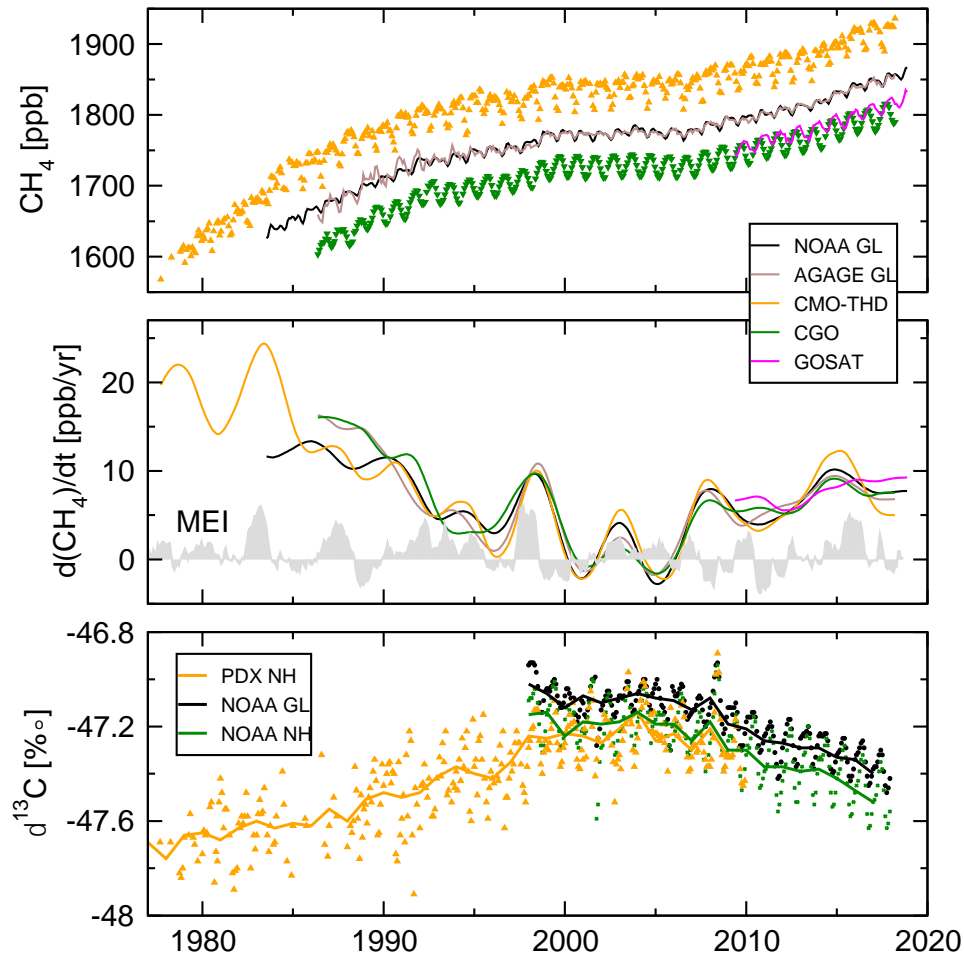
**Figure 5.10:** Interannual variation in detrended anomalies of net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink (NLS) and temperature (T) and correlations of NLS anomalies and temperature anomalies at the globe or at the latitudinal bands during 1980–2016. NLS is estimated by atmospheric inversions and Dynamic Global Vegetation Models (DGVMs). Solid lines show model mean detrended anomalies of NLS. The ensemble mean of inversion models or TRENDY models is bounded by the 1-σ inter-model spread in each large latitude band (North 20°N–90°N, Tropics 20°S–20°N, South 90°S–20°S) and the globe. For each latitudinal band, the CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies and temperature anomalies were obtained by removing the long-term trend signal and seasonal cycle. Six-month running mean was taken to reduce high-frequency noise. Years on the horizontal axis indicate January of this year as the third month in the moving 6-month window. Correlation coefficients of NLS anomalies and temperature anomalies are shown for each region and two asterisks indicate the 99% significance and one indicates the 95% significance. Grey shaded area shows the intensity of El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) as defined by the multivariate ENSO index. Two volcanic eruptions (El Chichón eruption and Pinatubo eruption) are indicated with purple dashed lines. A positive flux anomaly means a larger than normal source of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere (or a smaller CO<sub>2</sub> sink). Net land CO<sub>2</sub> sink are estimated by four atmospheric inversions and thirteen DGVMs respectively (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). Temperature data are from Harris et al., (2014).



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**Figure 5.11:** The global carbon cycle. Blue arrows represent annual carbon exchange fluxes (in PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>) associated with the natural carbon cycle estimated for the time prior to the Industrial Era, around 1750. Pink arrows represent anthropogenic fluxes averaged over the period 2008–2017. The rate of carbon accumulation in the atmosphere is equal to net land-use change emissions plus fossil fuel emissions, minus land and ocean sinks (plus a small budget imbalance, Table 1). Numbers in white circles represent pre-industrial carbon stocks in PgC. Numbers in dashed circles represent anthropogenic changes to these stocks (cumulative anthropogenic fluxes) since 1750. Anthropogenic net fluxes are reproduced from le Le Quéré et al., (2018c). The relative change of *Gross photosynthesis* since pre-industrial times is estimated as the range of observation-based of 31±3 % (Campbell et al., 2017) and land-model of 19±12% (Sitch et al., 2015) estimates. This is used to estimate the pre-industrial *Gross photosynthesis*, assuming a present-day range of 116–175 PgCy<sup>-1</sup> (Joiner et al., 2018). The corresponding emissions by *Total respiration and fire* are those required to match the *Net land flux*. The cumulative change of anthropogenic carbon in the terrestrial reservoir is the sum of carbon cumulatively lost by net land use change emissions, and net carbon accumulated since 1750 in response to environmental drivers (warming, rising CO<sub>2</sub>, nitrogen deposition) (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). The change in *Ocean-atmosphere gas exchange* (red arrows of ocean atmosphere gas exchange) is estimated from the difference in atmospheric partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> since 1750 (Sarmiento and Gruber, 2006). Individual gross fluxes and their changes since the beginning of the Industrial Era have typical uncertainties of more than 20%, while their differences (*Net ocean flux*) are determined from independent measurements with a much higher accuracy. Therefore, to achieve an overall balance, the values of the more uncertain gross fluxes have been adjusted so that their difference matches the *Net ocean flux* estimate. The sediment storage is a sum of 150 PgC of the organic carbon in the mixed layer (Emerson and Hedges, 1988) and 1600 PgC of the deep-sea CaCO<sub>3</sub> sediments available to neutralize fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> (Archer et al., 1998). Note that the mass balance of the two ocean carbon stocks *Surface ocean* and *Intermediate and deep ocean* includes a yearly accumulation of anthropogenic carbon (not shown). Fossil fuel reserves are from (BGR, 2017). Permafrost region stores are from (Hugelius et al., 2014; Strauss et al., 2017) and soil carbon stocks outside of permafrost region from (Batjes, 2016; Jackson et al., 2017). Biomass stocks (range of seven estimates) are from (Erb et al., 2018). Fluxes from volcanic eruptions, rock weathering (removal of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in weathering reactions and chemical weathering of C contained in rocks) export of carbon from soils to rivers, burial of carbon in freshwater lakes and reservoirs and transport of carbon by rivers to the ocean are all assumed to be pre-industrial fluxes and are sourced from (Regnier et al., 2013).

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**Figure 5.12:** Time series of CH<sub>4</sub> mole fraction (in ppb), growth rate (ppb yr<sup>-1</sup>) and δ<sup>13</sup>C from selected sites from NOAA, AGAGE and PDX surface networks (data sources: Portland State University - PDX; [www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends\\_ch4/](http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends_ch4/); <https://agage.mit.edu/data/agage-data>). To maintain clarity, data from many other measurement networks are not included here. Global mean values of XCH<sub>4</sub> (total-column) from Greenhouse gases Observation SATellite (GOSAT; [www.gosat.nies.go.jp/en/recent-global-ch4.html](http://www.gosat.nies.go.jp/en/recent-global-ch4.html)) are shown. Cape Grim Observatory (CGO) and Trinidad Head (THD) data are taken from the AGAGE network, NOAA global (GL) and northern hemispheric (NH) means for δ<sup>13</sup>C are calculated from 10 and 6 sites, respectively. The PDX data adjusted to NH (period: 1977–1996) are merged with THD (period: 1997–2018) for CH<sub>4</sub> concentration and growth rate analysis, and PDX and NOAA NH means of δ<sup>13</sup>C data are used for joint interpretation of long-term trends analysis.

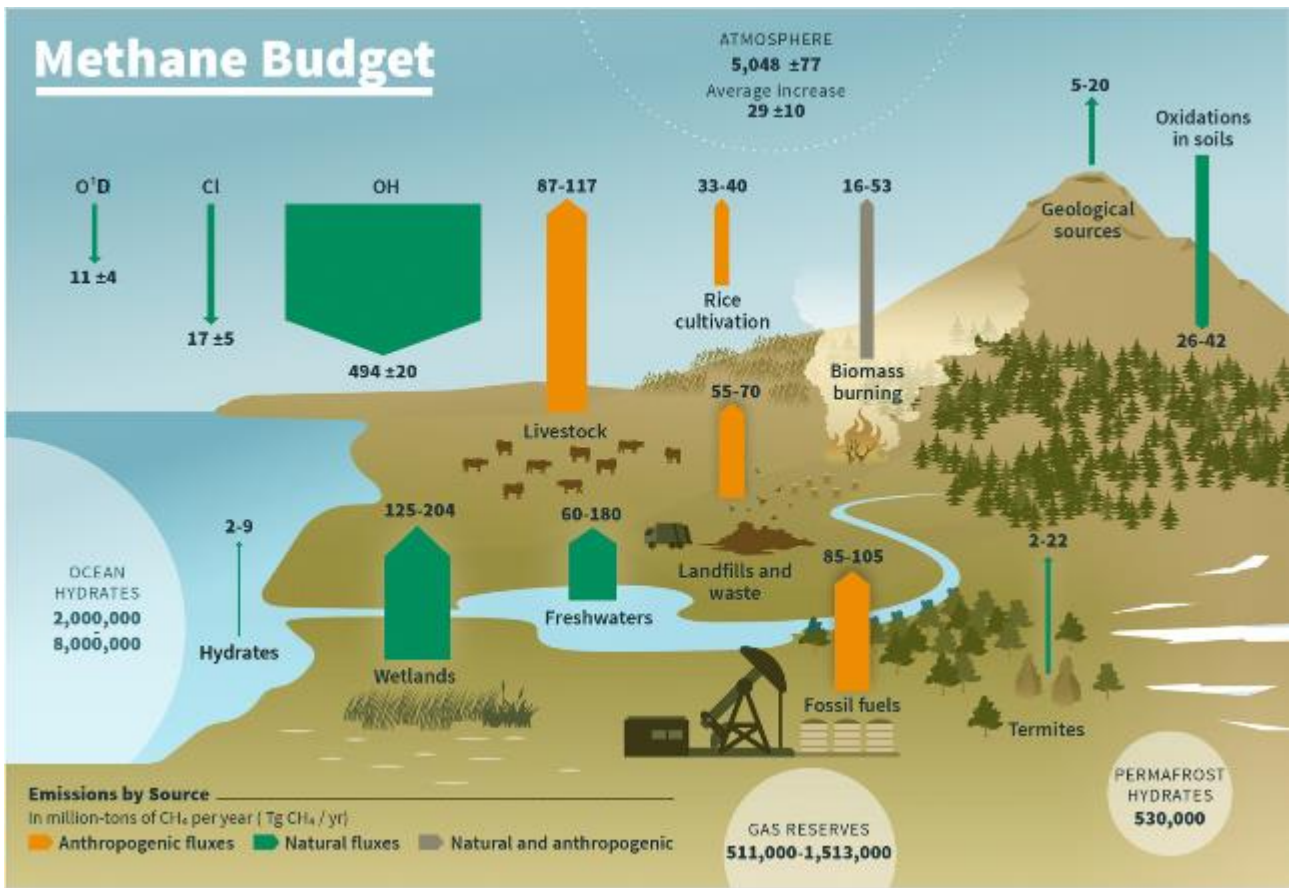
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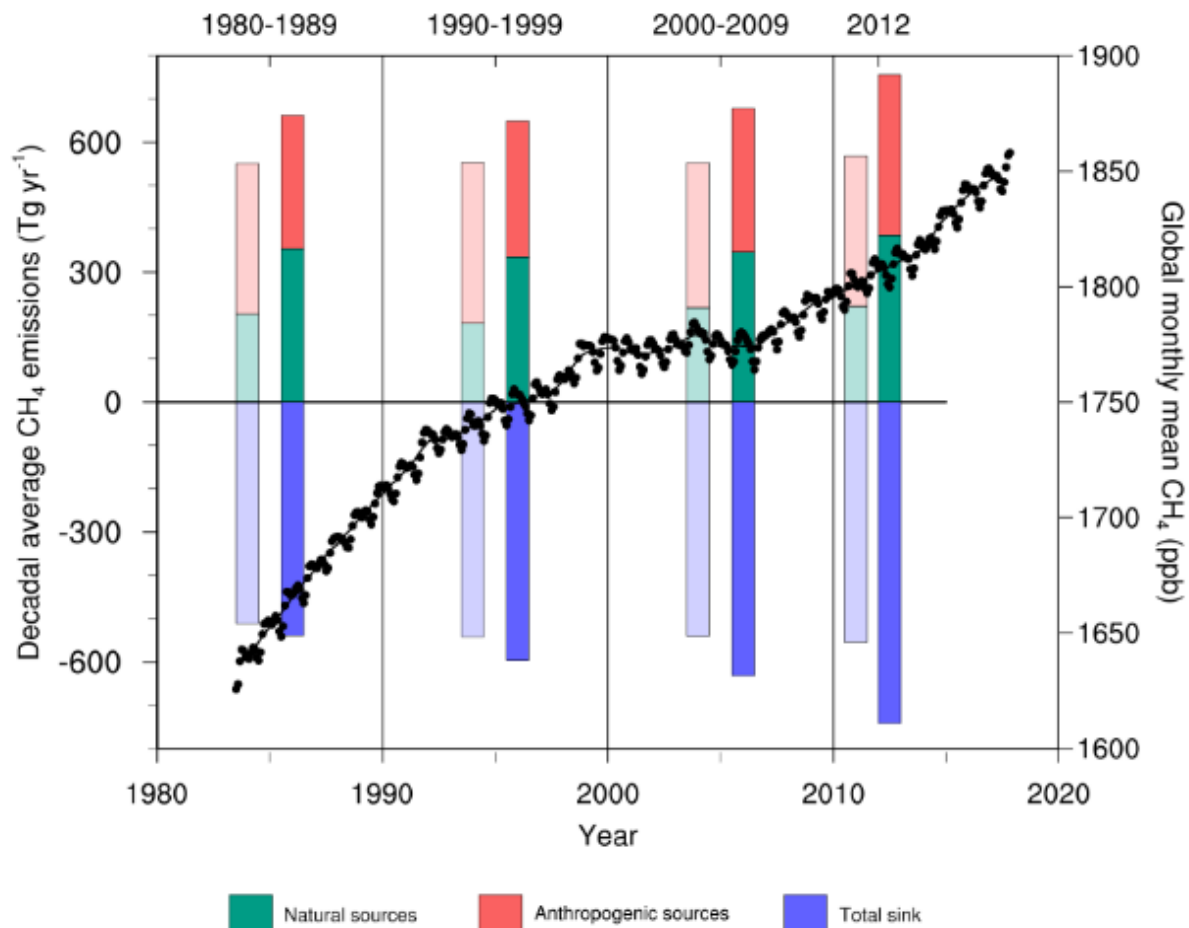
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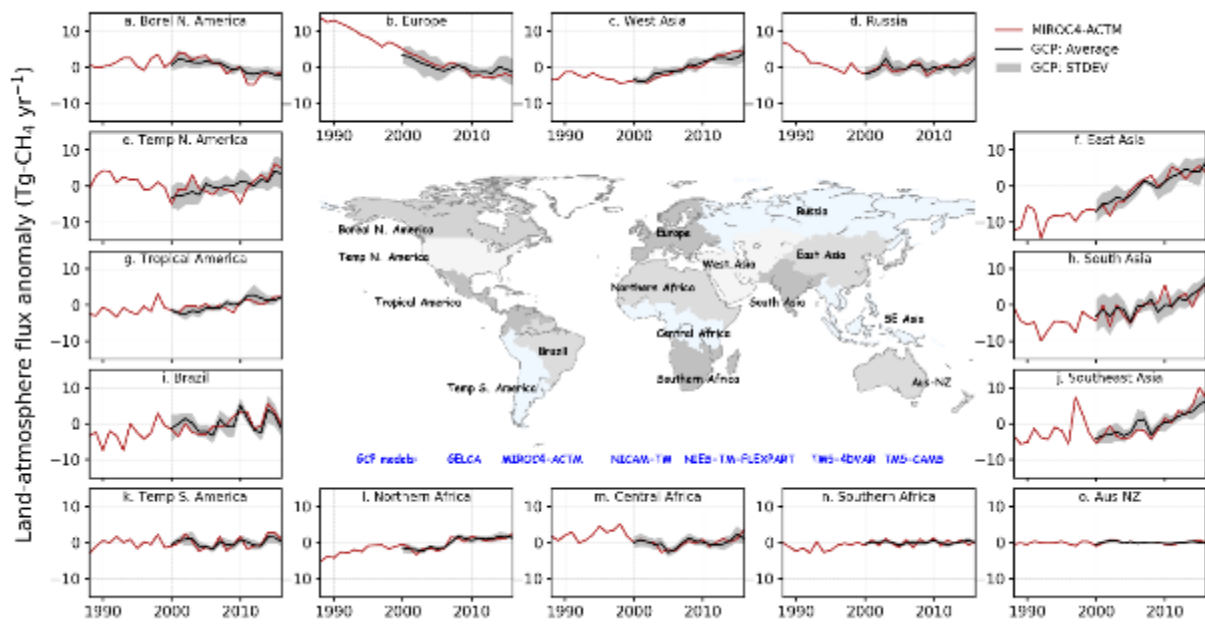
**Figure 5.13:** Schematic diagram of major sources and sinks of CH<sub>4</sub> for the decade 2010–2017. Values and data sources as in Table 5.2.



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2 **Cross-Chapter Box 5.1, Figure 1:** Methane budget estimates for four decades from top-down (light colour, left) and  
3 bottom-up (dark colour, right) analyses (plotted on the left y axis). Sources are  
4 positive and sinks are negative. The black dots represent observed global monthly  
5 mean atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> dry-air mole fractions for 1983–2017 (Dlugokencky et al.)  
6 ([www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends\\_ch4](http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends_ch4))  
7 and the solid black line represents the smoothed global monthly means (plotted on the right y axis). The bottom-up total  
8 sinks are inferred from the global mass balance (i.e., source minus growth) and not  
9 directly computed. [[Placeholder: To be updated]].

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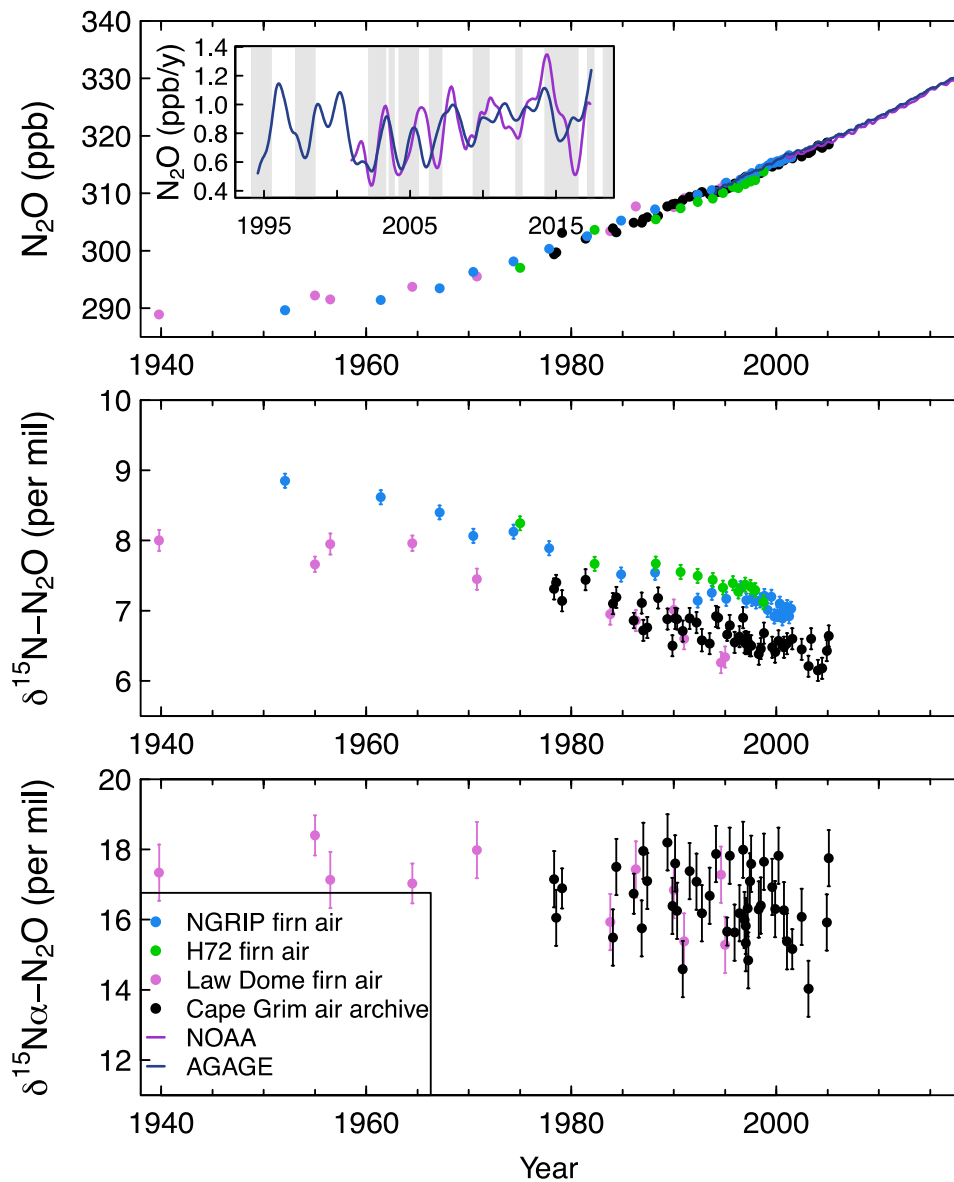


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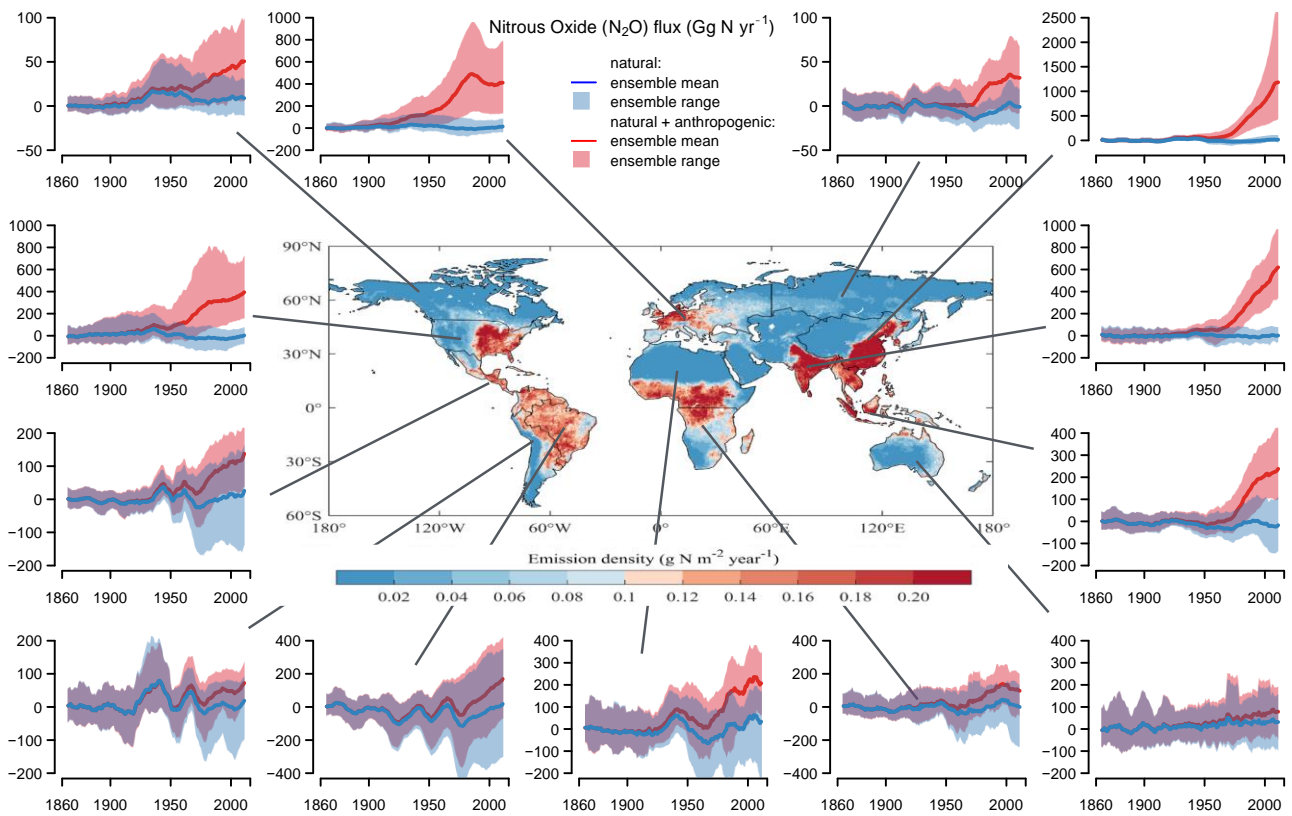
**Cross-Chapter Box 5.1, Figure 2:** Anomalies in regional CH<sub>4</sub> emissions during 1988-2016. Results for 2000-2016 are shown for 8 inversion models that participated in GCP-CH<sub>4</sub> budget assessment (update from Saunio et al., 2017), and results for 1988-1999 are available from only one inversion (Chandra, in prep). A long-term mean is subtracted from the annual-mean time series for the calculation of anomalies for each region.

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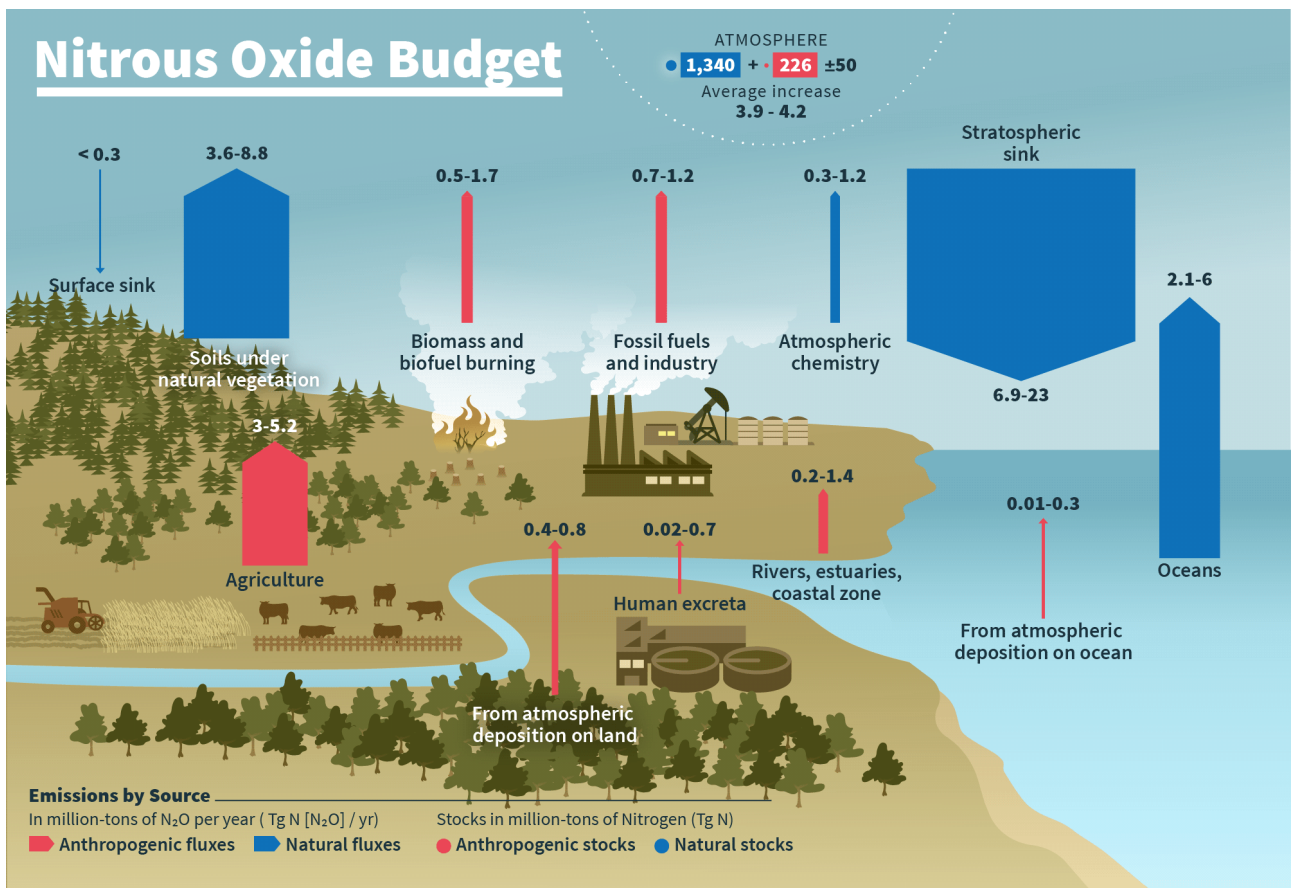


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 2 **Figure 5.14:** (a) Atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O abundance (parts per billion, ppb) and growth rate (ppb yr<sup>-1</sup>), (b) δ<sup>15</sup>N of  
 3 atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O, and (c) alpha-site <sup>15</sup>N-N<sub>2</sub>O, based on direct atmospheric measurements in the  
 4 AGAGE and NOAA (Elkins et al., 2018; Hall et al., 2007; Prinn et al., 2000, 2016) networks, archived  
 5 air samples from Cape Grim, Australia (Park et al., 2012), and firn air from NGRIP Greenland and H72  
 6 Antarctica (Ishijima et al., 2007), and Law Dome Antarctica (Park et al., 2012). Grey shading in (a) are  
 7 times of positive values of the multivariate ENSO index, indicating El Niño conditions (Wolter and  
 8 Timlin, 1998).  
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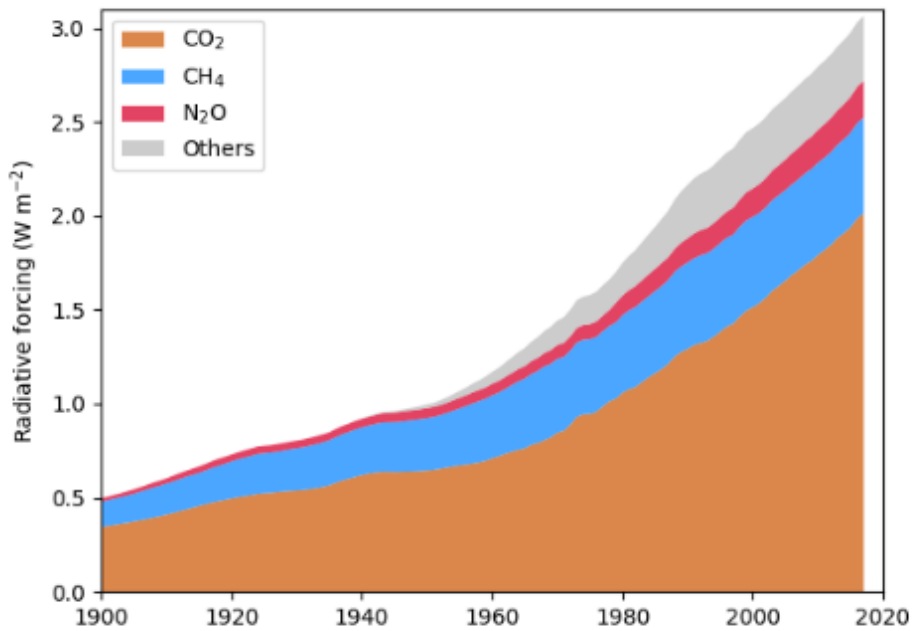
**Figure 5.15:** Trends in the  $N_2O$  emissions from terrestrial soils (natural and agriculture) simulated from the NMIP ensemble of terrestrial biosphere models (Tian et al., 2019). The effect of anthropogenic nitrogen additions (atmospheric deposition, manure addition, fertiliser use) is evaluated against the background flux driven by changes in atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentration, climate change, and land cover change. The map in the centre shows the ensemble average of the decadal mean  $N_2O$  emissions for 2007–2016 including all forcings.

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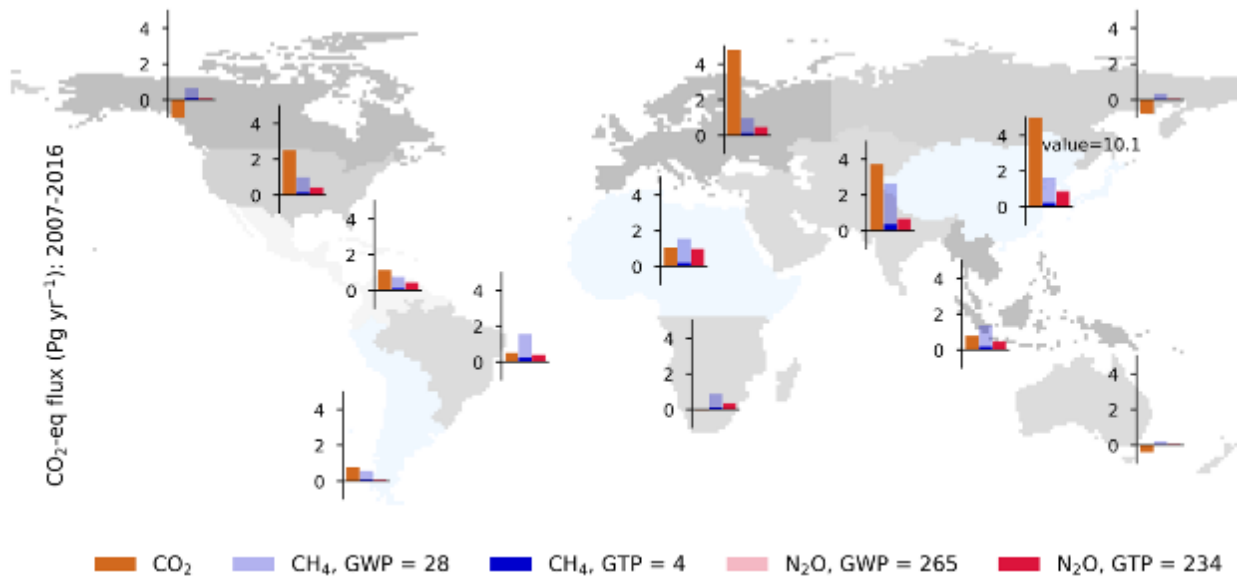
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**Figure 5.16:** Global nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) budget for the period 2007–2016. Annual nitrous oxide fluxes (TgN<sub>2</sub>O–N yr<sup>-1</sup>) and nitrous oxide pools (TgN<sub>2</sub>O–N), as described in Table 5.3.



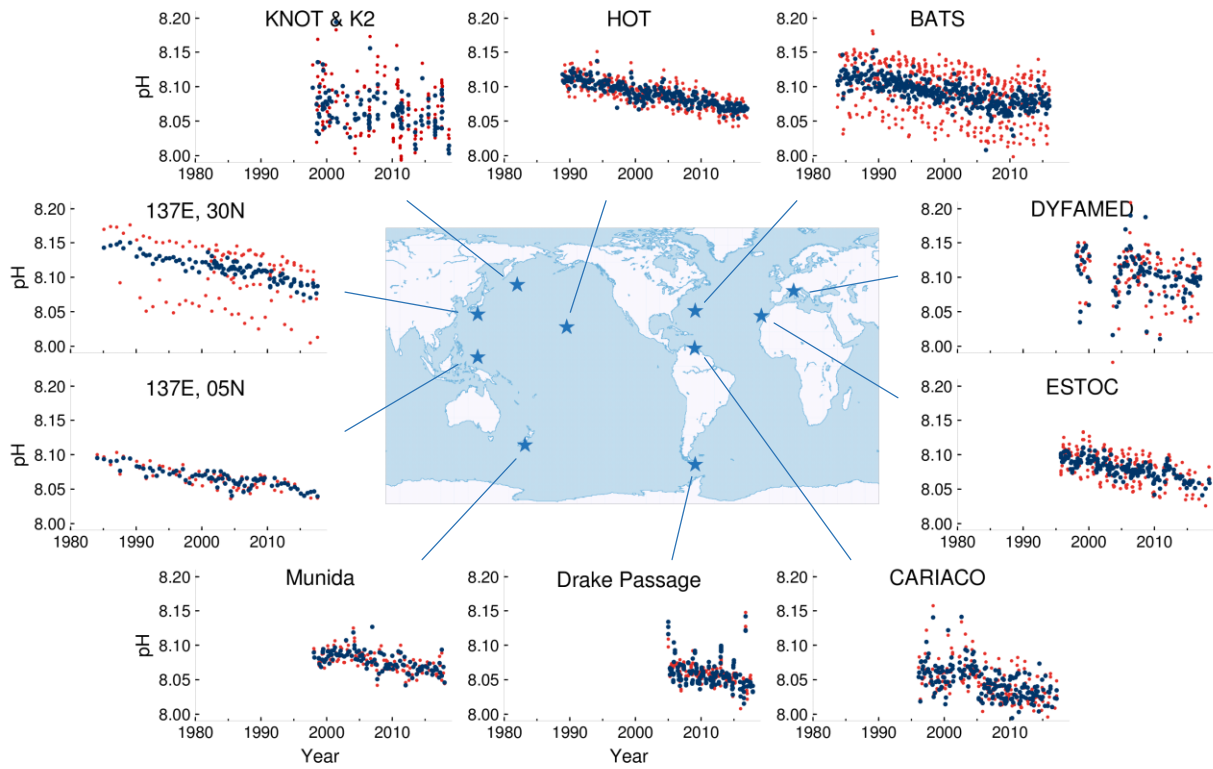
**Figure 5.17:** Change in radiative forcing by long-lived GHGs since 1900 (values relative to 1750, as a reference of the preindustrial era). The concentration time series of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O are taken from Figure 5.1 for the calculation of radiative forcings using the simplified expressions given in (Etminan et al., 2016); the calculation includes shortwave forcing and the overlap between CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O. The radiative forcing of synthetic gases (others) for the period 1979–2017 is taken from (Hofmann et al., 2006), with an extrapolation to 0 at 1940 when the CFCs were first introduced for industrial use.

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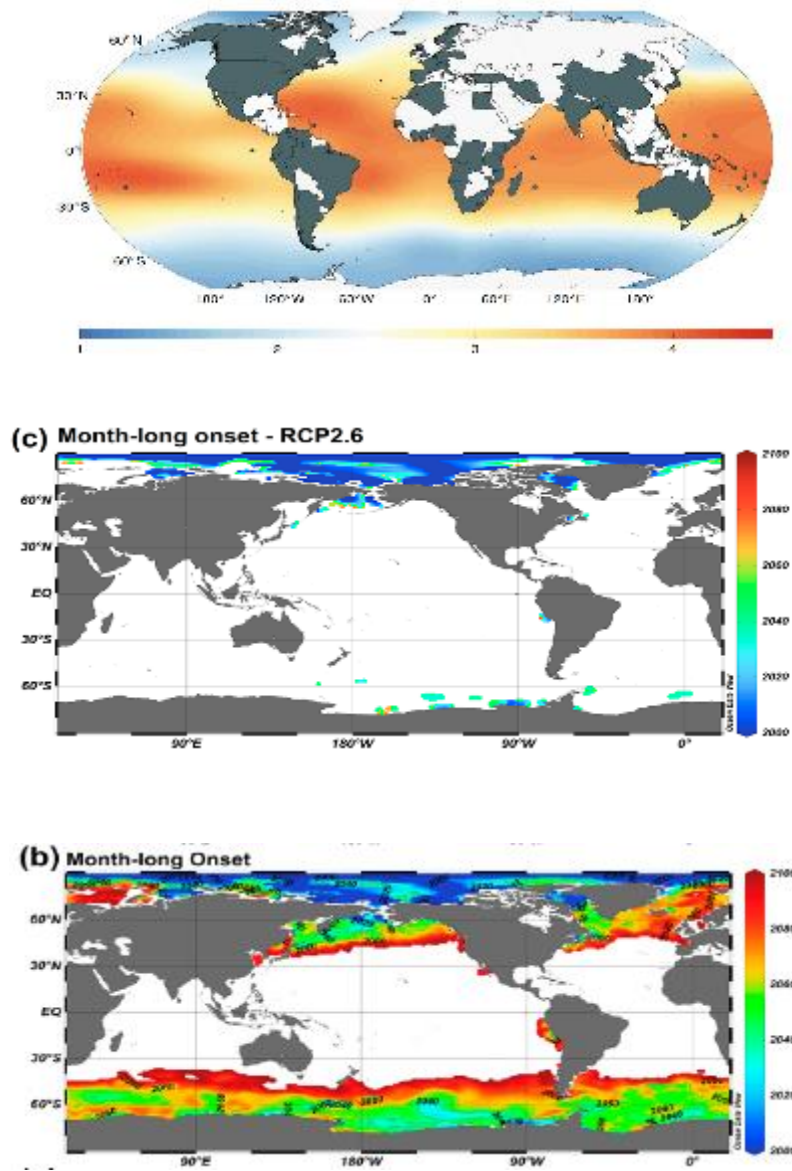
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**Figure 5.18:** Regional attribution of global fluxes of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O derived from concentrations as in Figure 5.1. The fluxes include anthropogenic sources and sinks, and natural fluxes that result from responses to anthropogenic GHGs and climate forcing (feedbacks) as in the three budgets shown in Sections 5.2.1.5, 5.2.2.5, and 5.2.3.5. The CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions are weighted by their global warming potential (GWP) and global temperature-change potential (GTP) over 100-year time horizon (GTP and GWP values from Chapter 7). Fluxes are from MIROC4-ACTM inverse modelling (updated from (Patra et al., 2016; Saeki and Patra, 2017; Thompson et al.)) and will be replaced by multi-model results from GCP budgets-2019 and AR6.



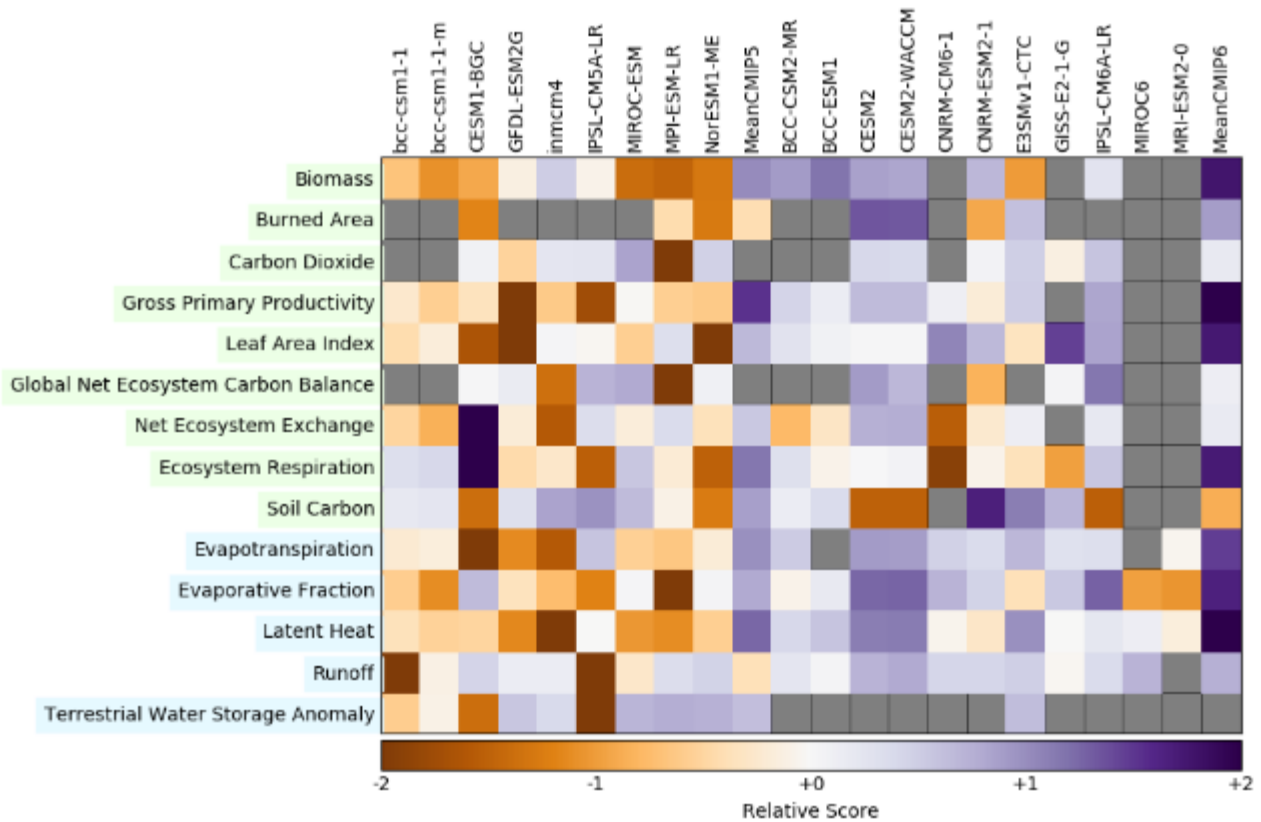
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**Figure 5.19:** Time-series of pH (red) and seasonally-detrended pH (blue) in surface layer at various sites of the oceans.   
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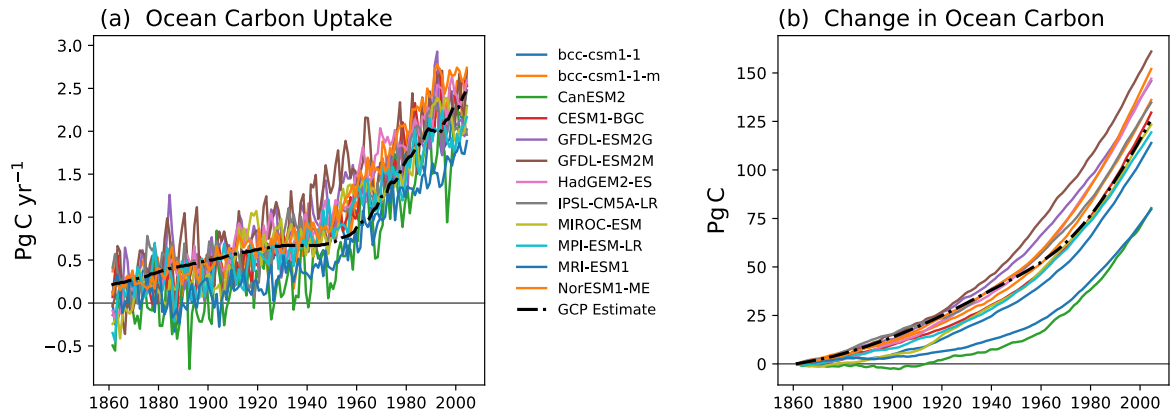
**Figure 5.20:** Upper the observed aragonite saturation state in the present day (Hurd et al., 2018), and lower year that surface waters will become undersaturated with respect to aragonite at the monthly scale for high and low emissions pathways (RCP2.6 and RCP8.5) from Sasse et al., (2015).



1 **Figure 5.21:** Overview scores of CMIP5 (left hand side of table) and CMIP6 (right hand side of table) models, for  
 2 multiple land-surface benchmarks against different datasets. Scores are relative to other models within  
 3 each benchmark row, with positive scores indicating a better agreement with observations. [[Placeholder:  
 4 Figure to be updated in SOD to include all and only the models used for carbon cycle feedback parameter  
 5 assessments in AR5 and AR6, as well as to sort out some artefacts in current figure associated with unit  
 6 conversions that are resulting in missing values (grey squares), etc.]]  
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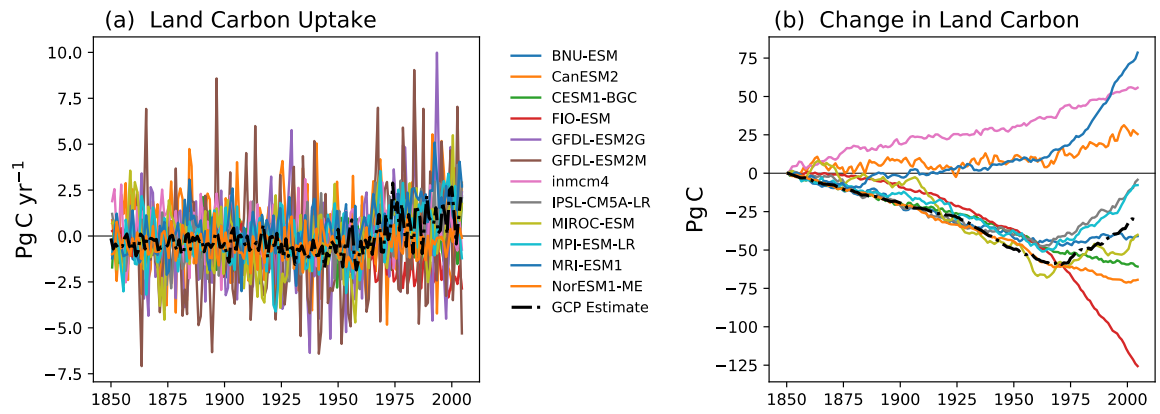
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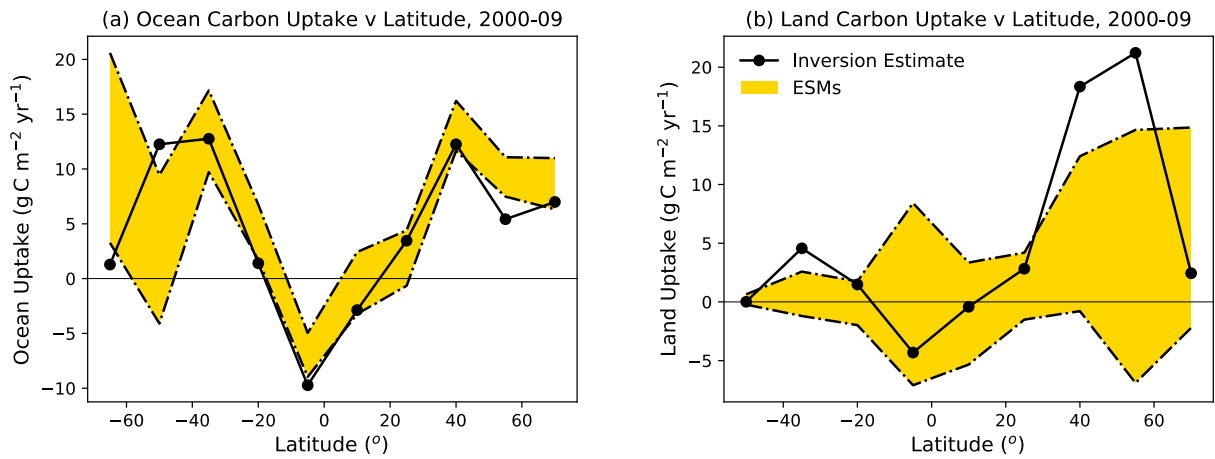
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**Figure 5.22:** Modelled ocean carbon sink for 1850 to 2005 in historical ESM simulations, compared to observation-based estimates (from GCP); panel (a): uptake rate ( $\text{PgC yr}^{-1}$ ), panel (b): change in carbon store ( $\text{PgC}$ ).



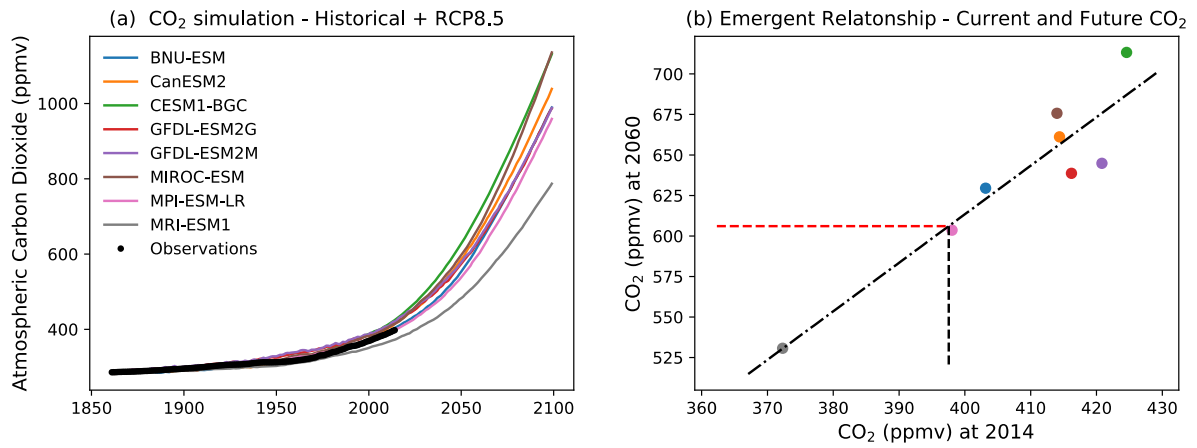
**Figure 5.23:** Modelled net land carbon sink for 1850 to 2005 in historical ESM simulations, compared to observation-based estimates (from GCP); panel (a): net uptake rate (PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>), panel (b): change in carbon store (PgC).

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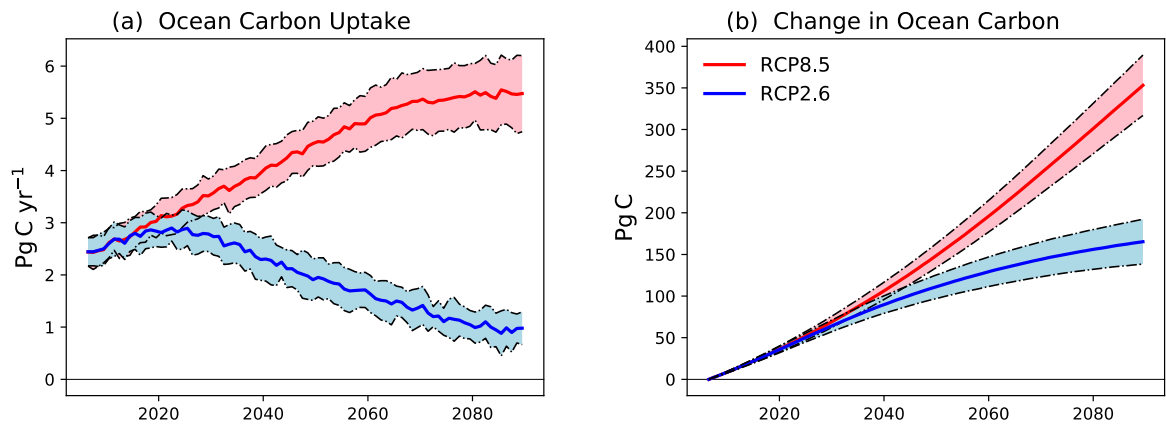
**Figure 5.24:** Evaluation of the modelled zonal distribution of carbon sinks against atmospheric inversion estimates for 2000–2009, (a) ocean carbon uptake; (b) net land uptake. The model results are shown as the mean plus and minus one standard deviation of the annual values across the model ensemble.

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**Figure 5.25:** Modelled global mean, annual mean, carbon dioxide concentration compared to observations. (a) CO<sub>2</sub> concentration for 1860 to 2100 from emissions-driven RCP8.5 runs, compared to observed global mean CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (as used in prescribed concentration runs) for 1860–2018; (b) Relationship between CO<sub>2</sub> concentration simulated for 2014 and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration projected for 2060 under RCP8.5 emissions (after Hoffman et al., 2014).

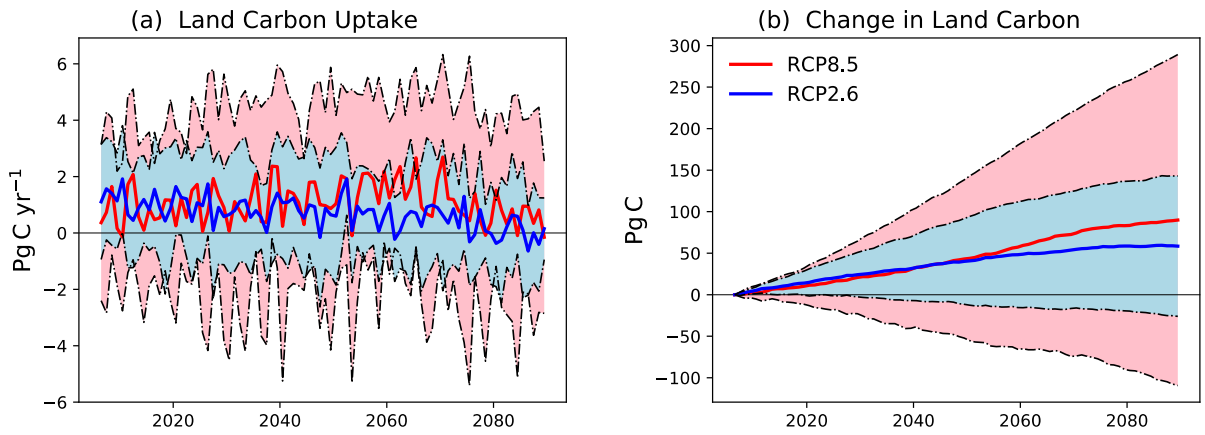
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**Figure 5.26:** Projected evolution of the ocean carbon sink for 2005 to 2090 in concentration-driven RCP2.6 (blue) and RCP8.5 (red) scenarios. Panel (a): net uptake rate (PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>); panel (b): change in carbon store (PgC). Thick lines represent the ensemble mean of the available ESM runs, and the shaded area represents ± one standard deviation about that mean.

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4 **Figure 5.27:** Projected evolution of the net land carbon sink for 2005 to 2090 in concentration-driven RCP2.6 (blue)  
5 and RCP8.5 (red) scenarios. Panel (a): net uptake rate (PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>); panel (b): change in carbon store (PgC).  
6 Thick lines represent the ensemble mean of the available ESM runs, and the shaded area represents ± one  
7 standard deviation about that mean.  
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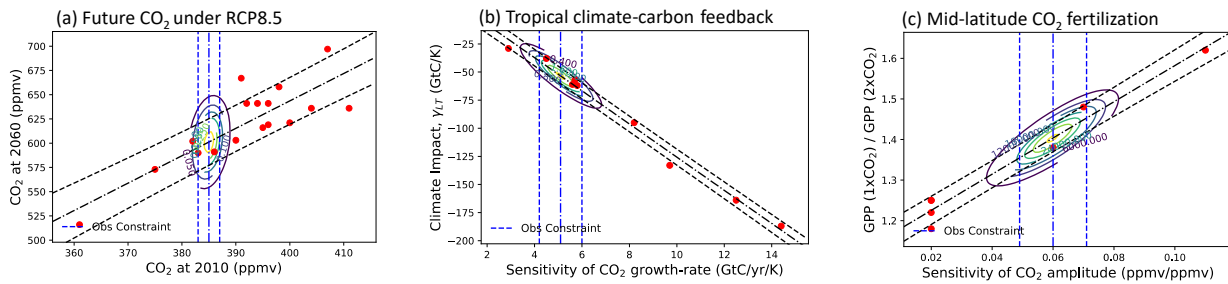
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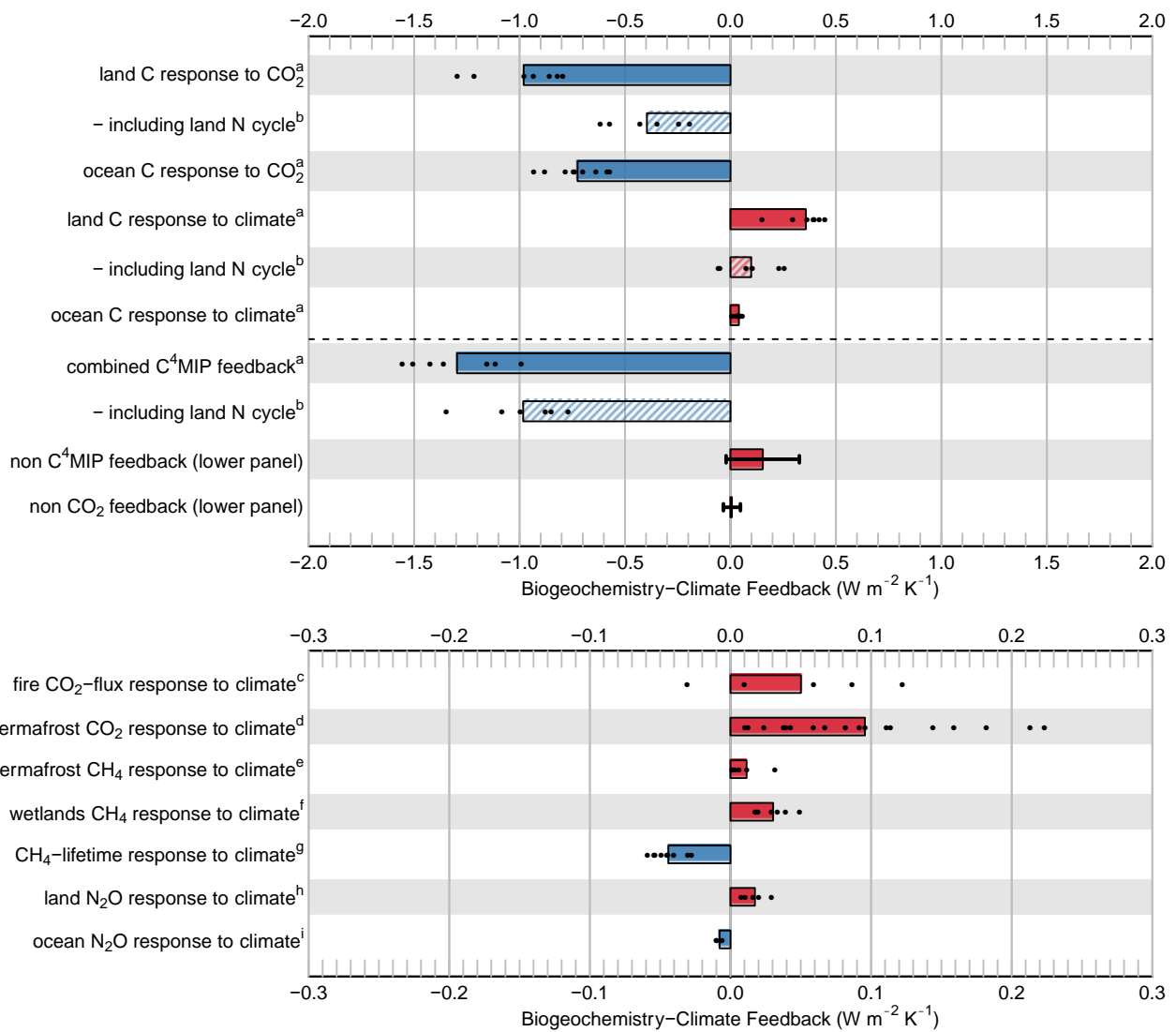
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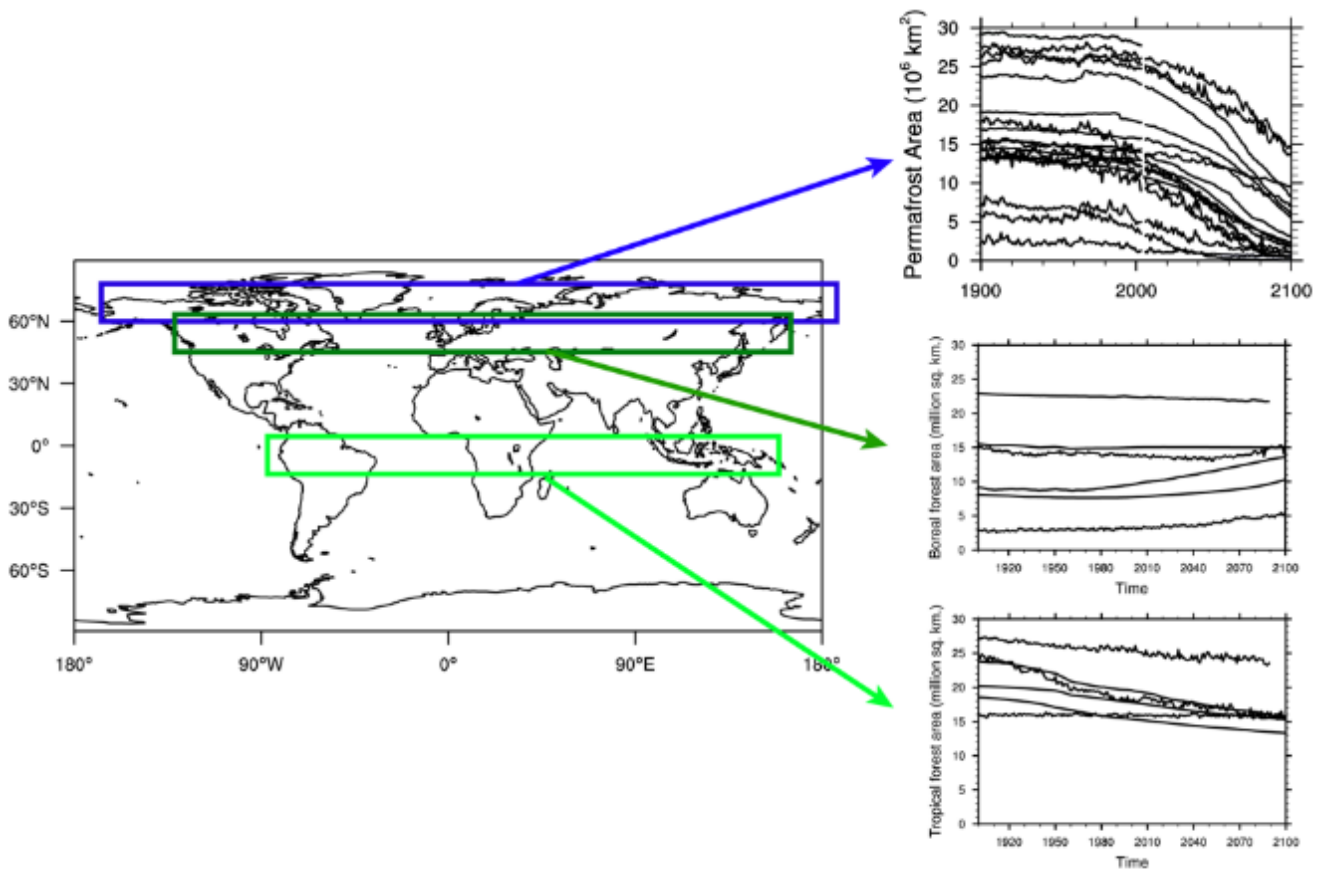
**Figure 5.28:** Examples of emergent constraints on the carbon cycle in ESMs. (a) projected global mean atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration by 2100 under the RCP8.5 emissions scenario against the error in simulation of global mean atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by 2010 in historical simulations (Friedlingstein et al., 2014; Hoffman et al., 2014); (b)  $\gamma$ -factor for tropical land ( $\gamma_{LT}$ ) against the sensitivity of the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth-rate to tropical temperature variability (Cox et al., 2013; Wenzel et al., 2014); (c)  $\beta$ -factor for mid and high-latitude land ( $\beta_{LM}$ ) against the sensitivity of the amplitude of the CO<sub>2</sub> seasonal cycle at Kumukahi, Hawaii to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (Wenzel et al., 2016).



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**Figure 5.29:** A synthesis of the magnitude of biogeochemical feedbacks on climate expressing non-climate feedbacks in common units ( $W m^{-2} K^{-1}$ ) with physical feedbacks, following (Arneth et al., 2010; Gregory et al., 2009) and revised radiative forcing calculations (Etminan et al., 2016). Black dots represent single estimates, and coloured bars denote the simple mean of the dots with no weighting or assessment being made to likelihood of any single estimate. These feedback metrics have, where possible, been assessed for the RCP8.5 scenario in year 2100. They may be state or scenario dependent and therefore cannot always be compared like-for-like. Note the different x-axis scale for the lower portion of the Figure. There is low confidence in the magnitude of the feedbacks in the lower panel of the figure. The role of nitrogen limitation on terrestrial carbon sinks is also shown this is not a separate feedback, but rather a modulation to the climate-carbon and concentration-carbon feedbacks. Results have been compiled from (a) C-cycle ESMs of C4MIP (Arora et al., 2013); (b) CN-cycle ESMs of C4MIP (Arora et al., 2013) and (Sokolov et al., 2008; Thornton et al., 2009; Zaehle et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2013a); (c) (Arneth et al., 2010; Eliseev et al., 2014; Harrison et al., 2018); (d) (Burke et al., 2013; Gasser et al., 2018; Koven et al., 2015b; Schneider von Deimling et al., 2012), (e) (Schneider von Deimling et al., 2012, 2015; Turetsky et al. No title); (f) (Denisov et al., 2013; Stocker et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2017); (g) (Voulgarakis et al., 2013); (h) (Stocker et al., 2013a; Tian et al., 2019; Xu-Ri et al., 2012; Zaehle, 2013); (i) (Battaglia and Joos, 2018; Landolfi et al., 2017; Martinez-Rey et al., 2015).



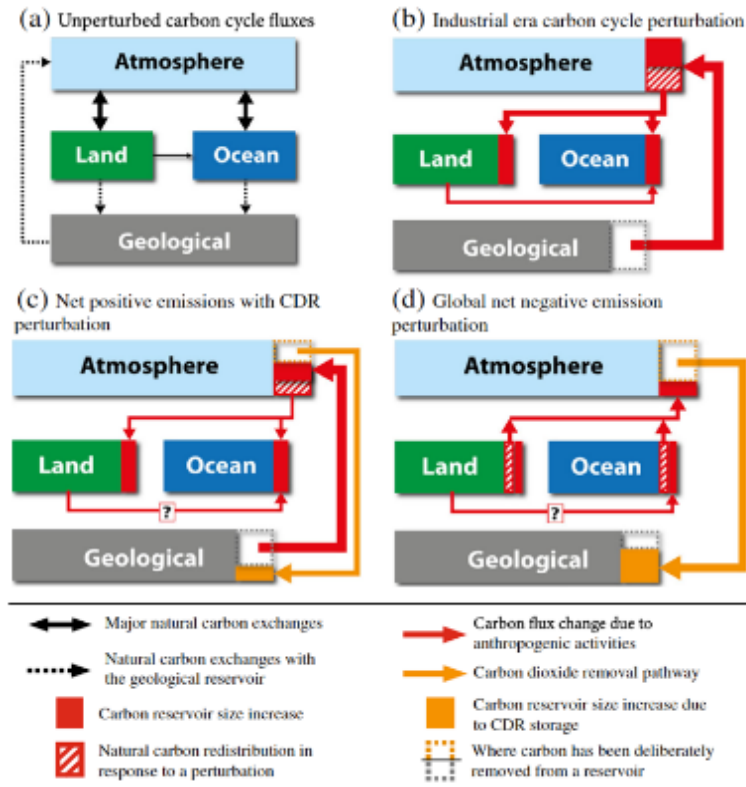


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**Figure 5.30:** Projections of some tipping points in the Earth system: physical permafrost extent, boreal forest area, and tropical forest area. Each curve is from a different CMIP5 model, for the historical and RCP8.5 scenarios. For forest area projections, only models with active dynamic vegetation models were used. [[Placeholder: To be updated and expanded for CMIP6 models when available]].

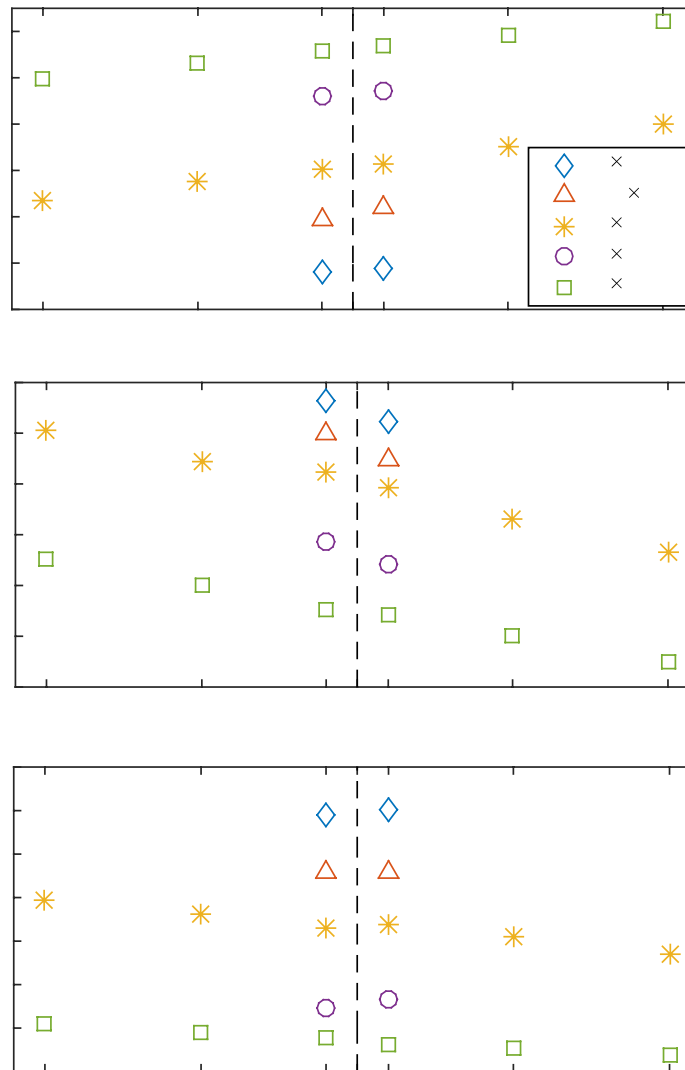
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**Fig. 1** Schematic representation of the main carbon flows among atmospheric, land, ocean, and geological reservoirs for (a) the Earth before significant anthropogenic impacts; and how carbon flows have or may have changed due to anthropogenic activities such as (b) industrial era fossil fuel combustion, (c) when carbon dioxide removal (CDR) begins, but net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are positive, and (d) when CO<sub>2</sub> is removed from the atmosphere, i.e., “net negative emissions.” Note that when net emissions are negative as in (d), it is still possible to have some emissions, but these are not depicted here. Carbon exchanges depicted in (a; black and dashed lines) also occur in b, c, and d. The question mark in the land to ocean carbon flux perturbation in c and d indicates that it is unknown how or if this carbon cycle perturbation will be affected by CDR. Adapted from [1\*\*, 71]



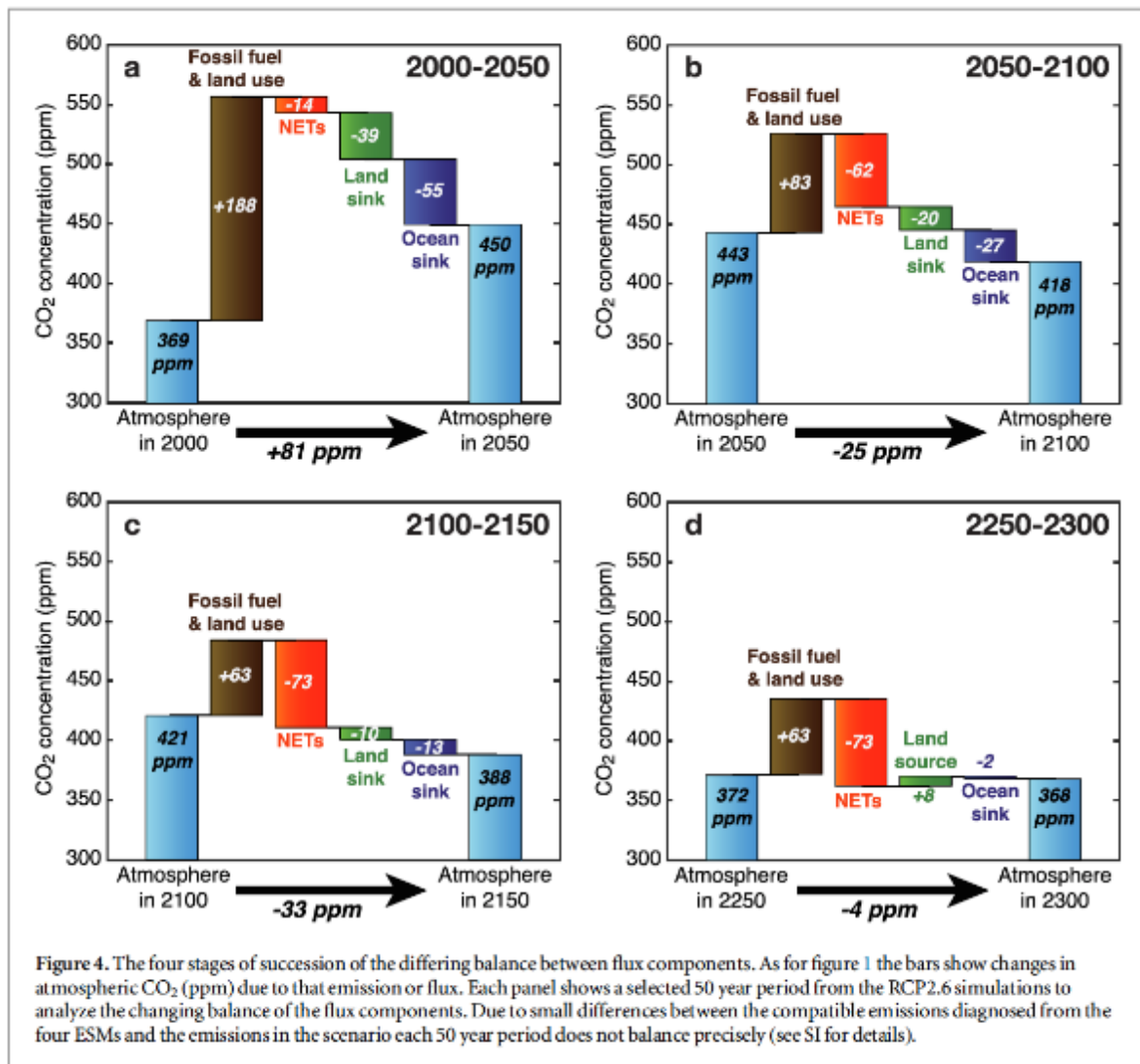
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**Box 5.1, Figure 1:** Schematic representation of carbon fluxes between atmosphere, land, ocean and geologic reservoirs for (a) an unperturbed Earth System, (b) an Earth system perturbed by fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, (c) an Earth system with fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are partially offset by CDR, (d) an Earth system in which CDR exceeds CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels (“net negative emissions”). Carbon fluxes depicted in (a) (solid and dashed black lines) also occur in (b)-(d). From (Keller et al., 2018).



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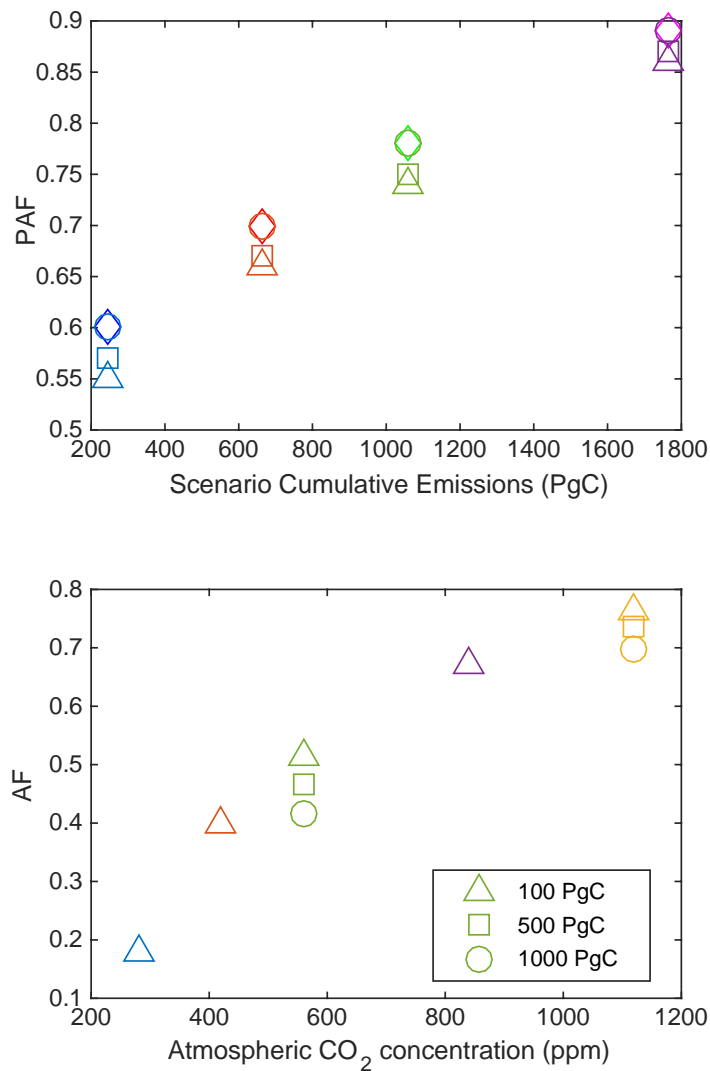
**Figure 5.31:** Changes in carbon stores (atmosphere, ocean, land) as a fraction of cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (equivalent to CO<sub>2</sub> pulse size) 1000 years after the pulse emission/removal ( $\pm 100$  PgC,  $\pm 500$  PgC,  $\pm 1000$  PgC) for simulations initialised from different equilibrium states (1 times to 4 times the pre-industrial atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration). Changes in carbon stores are positive (i.e. uptake) for positive CO<sub>2</sub> pulses and negative (i.e. outgassing) for negative CO<sub>2</sub> pulses. (Top) Atmospheric carbon burden change fraction, (Middle) ocean carbon store change fraction, (Bottom) land carbon store change fraction. In each panel the parts of the graph on the left and right hand-side of the zero line (black dashed line) are not mirror images of each other, indicating that the response is asymmetric, particularly for higher pulse emissions/removals. From (Zickfeld et al., 2019). [[Placeholder: Will be updated based on results from CDR-MIP simulations.]]



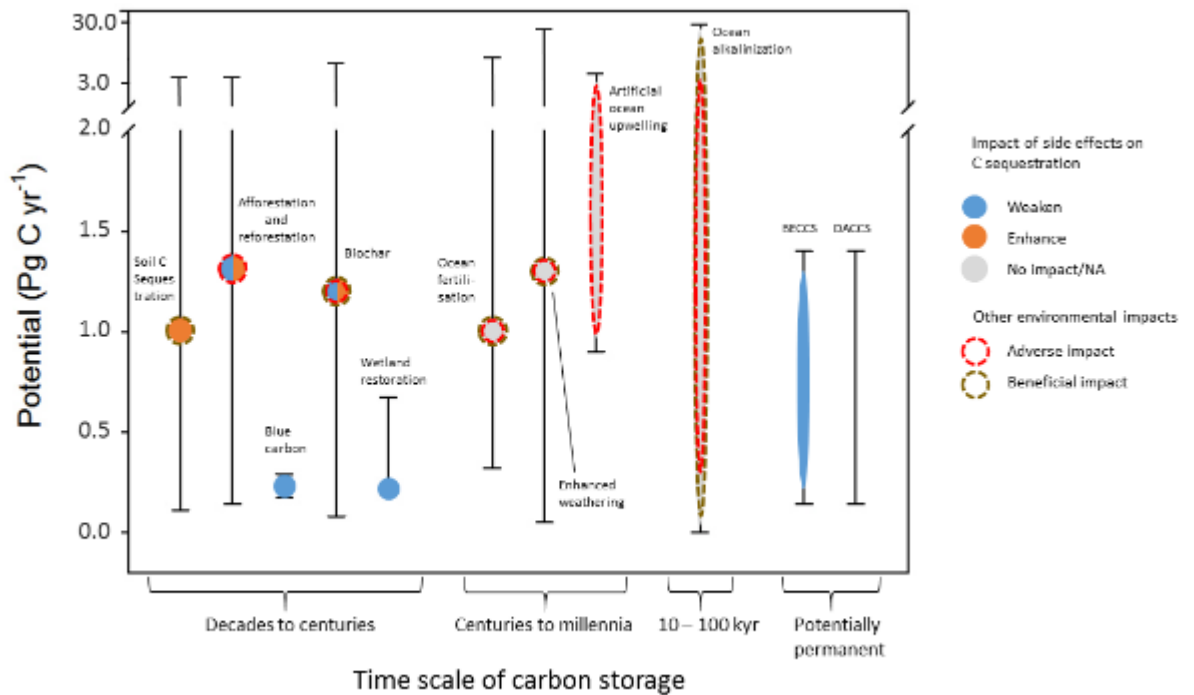
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**Figure 5.32:** Carbon flux components during different stages of ESM simulations driven by RCP2.6. (a) Large positive CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, (b) Small net positive CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, (c) Net negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (short-term response), (d) Net negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (long-term response). From (Jones et al., 2016a).

[[Placeholder. Will be replotted based on CMIP6 simulations (scenarios SSP1-2.6 and SSP5-3.4OS)]]

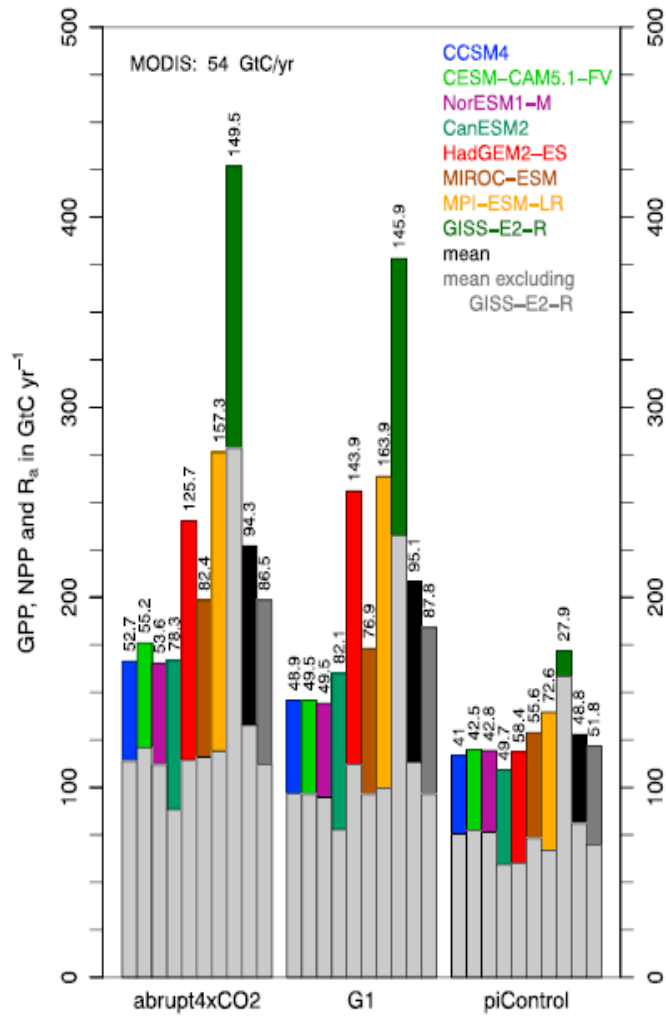


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 2 **Figure 5.33:** Effectiveness of CDR. (Top) Perturbation airborne fraction (PAF) for model simulations where CDR is  
 3 applied from four different RCPs (shown on the horizontal axis in terms of their cumulative CO<sub>2</sub>  
 4 emissions over the 2020–2099 period). Symbols indicate results for four CDR scenarios, which differ in  
 5 terms of the magnitude and rate of CDR (see Jones et al., (2016b) for details). Results are based on  
 6 simulations with the Hadley Centre Simple Climate-Carbon Model. From Jones et al., (2016b). (Bottom)  
 7 Airborne fraction of cumulative emissions (AF) for idealised model simulations with CDR applied  
 8 instantly (pulse removals) from climate states in equilibrium with different atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
 9 concentration levels (shown on the horizontal axis). Symbols indicate results for different magnitudes of  
 10 CDR. Based on simulations with the UVic ESCM model of intermediate complexity. From (Zickfeld et  
 11 al., 2019). [[Placeholder: Will be supplemented with results from new studies and CDR-MIP  
 12 simulations]].  
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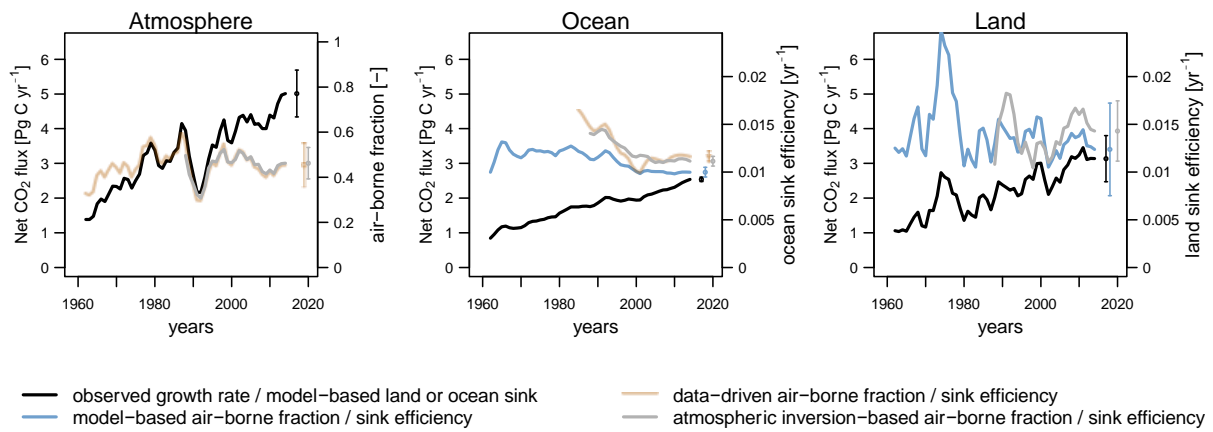
**Figure 5.34:** Relative sequestration potentials of CDR methods plotted against the time scale of C storage. Colour of the full circle indicate whether side effects act to weaken or enhance the carbon sequestration potential, surrounding dashed lines denote the sign of other environmental impacts. Vertical bars indicate the uncertainty ranges in potentials, horizontal bars the uncertainty ranges in the time scale of C storage. [[Placeholder: To be completed and underlying numbers to be checked and updated]].



**Figure 1.** Global mean values for NPP averaged over land (colored with numbers above),  $R_a$  (grey) and GPP (total) for all models of the three experiments abrupt4 × CO<sub>2</sub>, G1, and piControl. The number in the top left corner is the global average of NPP determined from MODIS data.

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**Figure 5.35:** [[Placeholder: From (Glienke et al., 2015). abrupt4×CO<sub>2</sub> is an experiment with an abrupt quadrupling of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and G1 is a GEOMIP experiment in which a decrease in the solar constant offsets the global radiative forcing of 4×CO<sub>2</sub>.]]



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**FAQ 5.1, Figure 1:** Growth rate of the CO<sub>2</sub> inventory in the atmosphere, ocean and land, as well as the air-borne fraction of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and the efficiency of the ocean and land carbon sinks (defined as the size of the sink divided by the excess of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere). Estimates are derived from atmospheric observations, process-based models, data-driven ocean flux products, and atmospheric inversions (Le Quéré et al., 2018a). Dots and arrow bars denote the year-to-year variability as  $\pm 1$  standard deviation. Uncertainties in the estimates will be added for the SOD.