



Vegetation distribution and terrestrial carbon cycle in a carbon-cycle configuration of JULES4.6 with new plant functional types

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Abstract. Dynamic global vegetation models (DGVMs) are used for studying historical and future changes to vegetation and the terrestrial carbon cycle. JULES (the Joint UK Land Environment Simulator) represents the land surface in the Hadley Centre climate models and in the UK Earth System Model. Recently the number of plant functional types (PFTs) in JULES were expanded from 5 to 9 to better represent functional diversity in global ecosystems. Here we introduce a more mechanistic representation of vegetation dynamics in TRIFFID, the dynamic vegetation component of JULES, that allows for any number of PFTs to compete based solely on their height, removing the previous hardwired dominance hierarchy where dominant types are assumed to outcompete subdominant types.

With the new set of 9 PFTs, JULES is able to more accurately reproduce global vegetation distribution compared to the former 5 PFT version. Improvements include the coverage of trees



within tropical and boreal forests, and a reduction in shrubs, which dominated at high latitudes. We show that JULES is able to realistically represent several aspects of the global carbon cycle. The simulated gross primary productivity (GPP) is within the range of observations, but simulated net primary productivity (NPP) is slightly too high. GPP in JULES from 1982-2011 was 133 PgC yr^{-1} , compared to observation-based estimates between 123 ± 8 (over the same time period) and $150\text{-}175 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$. NPP from 2000-2013 was 72 PgC yr^{-1} , compared to satellite-derived NPP of 55 PgC yr^{-1} over the same period and independent estimates of $56.2 \pm 14.3 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$. The simulated carbon stored in vegetation is 542 PgC , compared to an observation-based range of $400\text{-}600 \text{ PgC}$. Soil carbon is much lower (1422 PgC) than estimates from measurements ($>2400 \text{ PgC}$), with large underestimations of soil carbon in the tropical and boreal forests.

We also examined some aspects of the historical terrestrial carbon sink as simulated by JULES. Between the 1900s and 2000s, increased atmospheric carbon dioxide levels enhanced vegetation productivity and litter inputs into the soils, while land-use change removed vegetation and reduced soil carbon. The result was a simulated increase in soil carbon of 57 PgC but a decrease in vegetation carbon by 14 PgC . JULES simulated a loss of soil and vegetation carbon of 14 and 124 PgC , respectively, due to land-use change from 1900-2009. The simulated land carbon sink was $2.0 \pm 1.0 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$ from 2000-2009, in close agreement to estimates from the IPCC and Global Carbon Project.

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1. Introduction

Dynamic global vegetation models (DGVMs) are used for predicting changes in vegetation distribution and carbon stored in the terrestrial biosphere (Prentice et al., 2007; Fisher et al., 2014). When coupled to climate models, these tools enable the study of interactions between climate change, land use patterns, and the terrestrial carbon cycle. Typically, DGVMs either group the world's vegetation types into plant functional types (PFTs), or aggregate vegetation sharing a



common biogeography into biomes (Prentice et al., 1992; Woodward, 1987; Running and Gower, 1991). A move towards a PFT approach recognized the differential response of plant function to rapid future climate change (Foley et al., 1996; Sitch et al., 2003). However, due to data limitations
55 these models were handicapped in the number of PFTs they could define and differentiate.

JULES (Clark et al., 2011; Best et al., 2011) is a DGVM that represents the land surface in the UK Hadley Centre family of models (e.g. the UK Earth System Model in the 6th phase of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project, CMIP6, and the HadGEM2 models in CMIP3 and CMIP5). Within
60 JULES, TRIFFID (Top-down representation of Interaction of Foliage and Flora Including Dynamics; Cox, 2001) predicts changes in the carbon content of vegetation and soils, and vegetation competition. Since its creation in the late 1990's, competition in TRIFFID was limited to between five PFTs (broadleaf trees, needle-leaf trees, C3 and C4 grasses, and shrubs). Under this approach, each PFT competed with other PFTs based on a prescribed hierarchy, where dominant
65 PFTs were assumed to outcompete subdominant PFTs. The proliferation of new ecological data over the past decade has provided the opportunity to improve TRIFFID and the entire JULES model on a range of scales: for example, the TRY database stores detailed information on plant traits that are important for the processes of photosynthesis and respiration (Harper et al., 2016), while on the global-scale new vegetation maps enable improved analysis of predicted plant distributions (e.g.
70 (Poulter et al., 2015). Exploitation of these new datasets allow a more detailed representation of vegetation distribution and the terrestrial carbon cycle, and improve the biophysical characterization of the land-surface in climate models (e.g. albedo implications of deciduous versus evergreen phenology in boreal forests).

75 The physiology of JULES was recently updated to include the following leaf traits: leaf mass per unit area, leaf nitrogen per unit mass, and leaf lifespan. An iterative process of development and evaluation with JULES resulted in an improved representation of gross and net primary productivity



(GPP and NPP, respectively) based on an expanded set of PFTs (Harper et al., 2016). The new PFTs were also used in the development and evaluation of a new fire module in JULES (Interactive
80 Fire and Emission algoRithm for Natural enviroNments, or INFERNO; Mangeon et al., 2016). However, given the primary focus on improved physiology, the Harper et al. (2016) study adopted a prescribed vegetation distribution based on satellite data. Here we present developments in the representation of vegetation dynamics in TRIFFID and include an evaluation of the expanded set of PFTs on simulated global vegetation distribution, and associated global carbon stocks and fluxes.
85 This paper aims to demonstrate the overall performance of the new version of JULES in offline (not coupled to a climate model) simulations compared to both independent data sources and a previous version of the model.

2. Methods

90 2.1 JULES and TRIFFID

JULES simulates the processes of photosynthesis, autotrophic and heterotrophic respiration, and calculates the turbulent exchange of CO₂, heat, water, and momentum between the land surface and the atmosphere (Cox et al., 1998; Clark et al., 2011; Best et al., 2011). Vegetation dynamics are simulated by TRIFFID. Recently, new PFTs were added to JULES (Harper et al., 2016) (Table 1),
95 which required updates to TRIFFID competition scheme, described below. In this paper, we compare two versions of JULES: JULES-C1 and JULES-C2 based on JULES version 4.6. The former is a configuration of JULES with five PFTs as described in Harper et al. (2016) (called JULES5 in that paper) and as used in the TRENDY multi-DGVM synthesis project (Sitch et al., 2015). The latter (JULES-C2) is the new version, with 9PFTs and vegetation dynamics and updates
100 described in Sections 2.2-2.3.

2.2 Vegetation dynamics and new height-based competition



Within TRIFFID, carbon acquired through NPP is allocated to either spreading (in other words increasing fractional coverage of a PFT in a grid cell) or growth (increasing height). The time evolution of fractional coverage of each PFT i (v_i) is calculated as:

$$C_{V_i} \frac{dv_i}{dt} = \lambda_i \Pi_i v_* (1 - \sum_j c_{ij} v_j) - \gamma_{v_i} v_* C_{V_i} \quad (1)$$

where C_v is the vegetation carbon (kg C m^{-2}), Π is the accumulated NPP between calls to TRIFFID ($\text{kg C m}^{-2} (360 \text{ d})^{-1}$), v_* is the maximum of the actual fraction and a “seeding fraction” (0.01), and γ_v is a PFT dependent parameter representing large-scale disturbance ($(360 \text{ d})^{-1}$). In the present study, TRIFFID ran on a daily time step. The fraction of NPP allocated to spreading, λ , is a function of the balanced LAI, L_{bal} , which is the seasonal maximum of LAI based on allometric relationships (Cox, 2001):

$$\lambda = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } L_{\text{bal}} > L_{\text{max}} \\ \frac{L_{\text{bal}} - L_{\text{min}}}{L_{\text{max}} - L_{\text{min}}} & \text{for } L_{\text{min}} < L_{\text{bal}} \leq L_{\text{max}} \\ 0 & \text{for } L_{\text{bal}} \leq L_{\text{min}} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

and the fraction allocated to growth is $(1-\lambda)$. The PFT-dependent parameters L_{max} and L_{min} determine the balanced LAI at which plants allocate 100% of NPP toward expanding PFT coverage (spreading: $L_{\text{bal}} \geq L_{\text{max}}$) or 100% toward vertical plant growth ($L_{\text{bal}} < L_{\text{min}}$).

Competition for space in the grid cell between PFT i and the other PFTs is represented by the matrix c_{ij} , which represents a dominance hierarchy where height is the most important factor as it determines access to light. Effectively, the $(1-\sum c_{ij} v_j)$ term in Eq. 1 is the space available to PFT i . In the original version of TRIFFID, trees were assumed to dominate shrubs, and shrubs were assumed to dominate grasses (Cox, 2001). Within tree (broadleaf and needle-leaf) and grass (C_3 and C_4) PFTs, there was co-competition and c_{ij} was calculated as a function of vegetation height for the two competing PFTs:

$$c_{ij} = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left[20 \cdot \frac{h_i - h_j}{h_i + h_j}\right]} \quad (3)$$



We made two changes to the original TRIFFID: first we removed the hard-wired dominance hierarchy (trees>shrubs>grasses) to allow for a generic number of PFTs. The dominance hierarchy is now completely height-based, so that the tallest PFTs get the first opportunity to take up space in a grid cell. Second we removed co-competition, so that c_{ij} is either 1 or 0. This simplifies the equilibrium solution for vegetation coverage, as will be explained later. When PFT i is dominant, $c_{ij} = 0$ and PFT i is not affected by PFT j ; when type j is dominant, $c_{ij} = 1$ and PFT i does not have access to the space occupied by PFT j (v_j).

2.3 Updated parameters for JULES-C2

Although the version of JULES described in this paper is similar to that described previously by (Harper et al., 2016), there are four differences, which are summarized here. The impacts of the new allometric parameters and introduction of the geographic variation of soil clay fraction are described in Section 3.2. Impacts of the new equations for leaf, root, and stem nitrogen are discussed in detail in the Supplemental Material.

2.3.1 Allometric parameters

At the end of a TRIFFID timestep, the portion of NPP allocated toward growth increases the carbon content of leaves, roots, and wood. Both leaf and root carbon is linear with the balanced LAI, while total wood carbon (C_{wood}) is proportional to L_{bal} based on the power law (Enquist et al., 1998):

$$C_{wood} = a_{wl} * L_{bal}^{b_{wl}} \quad (4)$$

The parameter a_{wl} is a PFT-dependent coefficient relating wood to leaf carbon (units of kg C m⁻² per unit LAI), and b_{wl} is a parameter equal to 5/3 (Cox, 2001). Previously, a_{wl} was 0.65 for trees, 0.005 for grasses, and 0.10 for shrubs. After carbon pools are updated, canopy height is calculated from Eq. (5):

$$h = \frac{C_{wood}}{a_{ws} \eta_{st}} * \left(\frac{a_{wl}}{C_{wood}} \right)^{1/b_{wl}} \quad (5)$$



The derivation of Eq. (5) is based on the assumption that total wood carbon is proportional to carbon in respiring stemwood (S), which itself is proportional to leaf area and canopy height (h) based on the live stemwood coefficient, η_{sl} ($= 0.01 \text{ kg C m}^{-1} (\text{m}^2 \text{ leaf})^{-1}$, derived from Friend et al., 1993):

$$C_{wood} = a_{ws} S \quad (6)$$

$$S = \eta_{sl} h * L_b \quad (7)$$

In Eq. (6), a_{ws} is the ratio of total wood carbon to respiring stem carbon, it was previously 10.0 for trees and shrubs and 1.0 for grasses. As shown in the Results, there was a low vegetation carbon bias in JULES-C1, especially in regions dominated by broadleaf trees and shrubs. In order to address the bias, we modified the allometric parameters a_{wl} and a_{ws} in the model. Changing a_{wl} alone would affect the competitiveness of a PFT because it also affects plant height, h . To increase vegetation carbon in areas where the model was lower than observed, we increased a_{wl} and a_{ws} , while keeping their ratio constant, to the values given in Table 2.

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2.3.2 Soil respiration

JULES soil carbon is modelled with the Roth-C carbon model (Coleman and Jenkinson, 2014; Jenkinson, 1990). There are four pools: decomposable plant material (DPM), resistant plant material (RPM), microbial biomass (BIO), and humus (HUM). Respiration from each pool is calculated based on soil temperature (T_{soil}), moisture content (s), vegetation cover (v), and a pool-dependent turnover rate (κ_i):

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$$R_i = \kappa_i * C_i * F_T(T_{soil}) * F_s(s) * F_v(v) \quad (8)$$

For both JULES-C1 and JULES-C2 in this paper, a Q_{10} formulation was used for F_T (Eq. 65 in Clark et al., 2011). However, only a fraction of respired carbon actually escapes to the atmosphere to represent the protective effect of small particles:

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$$R_{soil \rightarrow atm} = (1 - \beta_R) \sum_{i=1}^{scpool} R_i \quad (9)$$

where



$$\beta_R = 1/[4.0895 + 2.672 * e^{-0.0786 * Clayfrac}] \quad (10)$$

Until version 4.6, JULES used a global clay fraction of 0.23 for this equation, which was based on
180 the clay content at the site where the Roth-C model was calibrated. Now JULES uses a
geographical variation of clay content based on the clay ancillary from the HadGEM2-ES CMIP5
simulations. All versions of the model presented in this study implement the global maps of clay.

2.3.3 Root and Stem Nitrogen

185 Third, new equations for root and stem nitrogen content (N_{root} and N_{stem} , respectively) were added
using updated data from the TRY database (Harper et al., 2016):

$$N_{root} = n_r * C_m * LMA * L_{bal} \quad (11)$$

$$N_{stem} = \eta_{sl} * h * L_{bal} * n_{sw} \left[\frac{1}{a_{ws}} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{a_{ws}} \right) * hw_{sw} \right] \quad (12)$$

where C_m is the ratio of carbon per unit biomass (=0.4), LMA is the leaf mass per unit area for top
190 of the canopy leaves, n_r is the ratio of root N to root C, n_{sw} is the ratio of stemwood N to stem C,
and hw_{sw} is the ratio of heartwood N to stemwood N. The latter is set to 0.5 based on a
recommended range of 0.4-0.6 (Hillis, 1987). Parameters n_r and n_{sw} were calculated from the TRY
database (Table 2).

195 2.3.4 Leaf nitrogen distribution

Fourth, updates were made to the parameter that characterizes the vertical distribution of leaf N
through the canopy. Although these updates do not affect radiation interception through the canopy,
they are referred to in the code as canopy radiation model 6 (“CRM6”). JULES splits the canopy
into 10 layers of equal LAI increment. In CRM6, leaf N declines exponentially through the canopy,
200 so that for canopy layer i , the leaf N content (N_{leaf_i} , kg N m⁻²) is:

$$N_{leaf_i} = N_m * LMA * e^{-k_{nl} * Li} \quad (13)$$



where N_m is leaf nitrogen per unit mass at the top of the canopy and k_{nl} is a decay coefficient (=0.20). In JULES-C2 we update the value of k_{nl} (Lloyd et al., 2010) and include the explicit term for LAI (L) in Eq. (13). The mean leaf N content is:

$$205 \quad \overline{N_{leaf}} = \frac{N_m * LMA * (1 - e^{-k_{nl} * L})}{k_{nl} * L} \quad (14)$$

Plant maintenance respiration is calculated as a function of the mean leaf nitrogen content. Impacts of the changes to leaf, root, and wood N are described in the supplementary material.

2.4 Model evaluation

210 The distribution of PFTs was evaluated by first dividing the land surface into eight biomes, based on the 14 World Wildlife Fund terrestrial ecoregions (Olson et al., 2001). The map of biomes (Fig. SM8) acted as a mask for the results to calculate biome-scale averages, and each grid cell was assumed to be 100% composed of the biomes shown in Fig. SM8. For each biome, we calculated the average fractional coverage of each PFT, average gridbox fluxes (GPP and NPP), and average
215 gridbox carbon stocks (soils and vegetation), as well as average fractional coverage of agricultural land. These biome-scaled distributions and averages were then compared to observations. For observed PFT distribution, we used the global vegetation distribution from the European Space Agency's Land Cover Climate Change Initiative (ESA LCCCI) global vegetation distribution (Poulter et al., 2015). To quantify the evaluation of PFT distribution, we calculated an error metric ϵ
220 for each PFT:

$$\epsilon_i = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{B=1}^8 A_B * (v_{B,i}^{mod} - v_{B,i}^{obs})^2}{\sum_{B=1}^8 A_B}} \quad (15)$$

where A_B is the area of biome, B , and $v_{B,i}$ is the fractional coverage of PFT i in biome B .

To evaluate the carbon fluxes, we used Gross primary productivity (GPP) from the Model Tree
225 Ensemble (MTE; Jung et al., 2011), and MODIS NPP from the MOD17 algorithm (Zhao et al., 2005a; Zhao and Running, 2010). Soil and vegetation carbon were from Carvalhais et al. (2014). In



addition, we compared biomass stocks to the data set from Ruesch and Gibbs (2008). In all evaluations, we used model years corresponding to the available observation years: 1982-2011 for GPP, 2000-2013 for NPP, and we used a 30-year period for soil and vegetation carbon (1980-2009).
230 All datasets were regridded to the model resolution of 1.25° latitude x 1.875° longitude.

3. Model spin up and simulations

3.1 Model simulations

There are a total of 9 simulations: 4 using JULES-C1 and 5 using JULES-C2. Both versions of the
235 model were run with transient climate, CO₂ and land use over the historical period. The climate was from CRUNCEP-v6, which is a merged dataset of CRU and NCEP reanalysis spanning from 1901 to 2015. The fraction of agriculture in each grid cell was included as fraction of crop and pasture from the harmonized dataset based on HYDE3.2 (Hurtt et al., 2011). CO₂ concentration was from Dlugokencky and Tans (2013). We ran three additional experiments with JULES-C2 to assess the
240 contributions of climate change, land use change (LUC), and CO₂ fertilization to the changes in carbon cycle components over the historical period (Table 5). Experiment S_{CLIM} was forced with the transient climate from CRUNCEP-v6 to assess the contribution of climate change alone, while atmospheric CO₂ and land use were held to pre-industrial (1860) values. In experiment S_{LUC,CLIM}, climate and land-use changed, while CO₂ was held constant, and in experiment S_{CO₂,CLIM}, climate
245 and atmospheric CO₂ changed, while land-use was held constant. For the discussion of attributing changes to these drivers we refer to the main experiment as S_{ALL}, which has transient climate, LUC, and CO₂. The impact of LUC on the present-day carbon cycle is given by S_{ALL}-S_{CO₂,CLIM}, and impact of CO₂ fertilization is given by S_{ALL}-S_{LUC,CLIM}. A fifth simulation with JULES-C2 was done
250 to test the model with raw climate model output without bias correction to assess sensitivity of PFT distribution to the climate. This simulation was forced with the HadGEM2-ES RCP2.6 climate and CO₂.



3.2 Estimating disturbance rates

The simulated distribution of PFTs in TRIFFID is sensitive to the large-scale disturbance parameter γ_v , from Eq. (1), which represents vegetation turnover/mortality from natural processes, and so we developed a method for quickly estimating a global value of γ_v for each PFT. The estimation was necessary due to new physiology, which resulted in a new NPP per PFT, and an expanded set of PFTs. The method is possible using the equilibrium mode of TRIFFID and because of the removal of the hard-wired dominance hierarchy. Now the equilibrium vegetation fractions are given by:

$$\lambda_i \Pi_i (1 - \sum_j c_{ij} v_j) = \gamma_{v_i} C_{v_i} \quad (16)$$

And for PFT i , the disturbance rate can be calculated as:

$$\gamma_{v_i} = \lambda_i \Pi_i [1 - c_{i1} v_1 - c_{i2} v_2 - \dots - c_{i, n_{pft}} v_{n_{pft}}] * \frac{1}{C_{v_i}} \quad (17)$$

where n_{pft} is the number of PFTs.

To estimate new values for γ_{v_i} , JULES was run in equilibrium mode for 60 years under present-day climate, CO₂, and land-use with a 5-year time step for TRIFFID (see Section 7 of Clark et al., 2011). We used the simulated vegetation carbon (C_v), canopy height (to calculate the competition coefficients c_{ij}), and NPP for spreading ($\lambda \Pi$) at the end of the 60 years, together with the ESA LCCCI observed fraction of PFTs (v_i) (Poulter et al., 2015), to solve for γ_{v_i} in each grid cell. In other words, we calculated the γ (~disturbance rate) required to get the observed PFT distribution based on simulated carbon available. Based on global distributions of γ_v for each PFT in grid cells with <50% agriculture from 1950-2012, we used the median value in our simulations (Table 2).

3.3 Spinning up vegetation and soil carbon

The turnover rates for the four soil carbon pools are 10 yr⁻¹ for DPM, 0.3 yr⁻¹ for RPM, 0.66 yr⁻¹ for microbial biomass, and 0.02 yr⁻¹ for humus (Coleman and Jenkinson, 2014). These are based on experiments on the decomposition of ¹⁴C labelled ryegrass over a 10-year period under field conditions (~9.3°C and > 20 mm of water) (Jenkinson, 1990). The vegetation fractions and soil



carbon both require a long initial simulation to reach equilibrium. In a standard simulation, soil
280 carbon spin-up needs to continue for 1,000-2,000 years after vegetation types have stabilized. There
are two ways to speed this up: First by using TRIFFID in an equilibrium mode, which rapidly
calculates vegetation fractions for trees and shrubs; and second by using the ‘modified accelerated
decomposition’ technique (modified-AD) (Koven et al., 2013). This results in a three-step spin up,
summarized below.

- 285 1) TRIFFID in equilibrium mode with a time step of 5 years for TRIFFID and 10 days for
phenology. Recycle the climate from the first 20 years of the simulation for a total of 60
years; in this case, CRUNCEPv6 begins in 1900, so we recycled the 1901-1920 climate. In
the simulations with HadGEM2-ES climate, the first 20 years of climate driving data is from
1860-1879. Specify land-use and CO₂ at their 1860 values.
- 290 2) Modified-AD: TRIFFID in dynamic mode with a time step of 1 day for TRIFFID and
phenology using accelerated soil turnover rates (Table 3). Recycle climate from the first 20
years of the simulation for a total of 100 years. Soil carbon is initialized to a global constant
value of 3 kg C m⁻² to avoid any unrealistic values of soil carbon calculated during step 1.
Specify land-use and CO₂ at their 1860 values.
- 295 3) Default decomposition: As above but use the default soil carbon turnover times for 200
years.
- 4) Begin the transient simulation from 1860, using transient CO₂, land-use, and climate. For
CRUNCEP, recycle the 1901-1920 climate for the first 41 years of the simulation.

In the last 100 years of the spin up, soil carbon changed by -0.06% and 0.86% with the HadGEM2-
300 ES and CRUNCEP climates, respectively. These drifts are <6 PgC/100 years, or 2.8 ppm/100 years,
which is below the C4MIP spin-up requirement for drifts of less than 10 ppm per century (Fig.
SM2).

4. Results



305 We analyse the results of JULES-C2 with the CRUNCEP-v6 climate against observations, and
against two other models: JULES-C1 with CRUNCEP-v6 and JULES-C2 with HadGEM2-ES.

4.1 Predicted vegetation distribution

We evaluate the distribution of vegetation with two methods. First, to compare JULES-C1 and
JULES-C2, we aggregated the 9 PFTs into the original 5 (Fig. 1: BT=broadleaf trees, NT=needle-
310 leaf trees, C3=C3 grasses, C4=C4 grasses, SH=shrubs). Second, we calculated fractional coverage
of each PFT in eight biomes based on the WWF ecoregions (Fig. 2). The eight biomes are tropical
forests (TF), extra-tropical mixed forests (MF), boreal forests (BF), tropical savannas (TS),
temperate grasslands (TG), tundra (TU), Mediterranean woodland (Med), and deserts(D) (Figure
SM8).

315 Most carbon in a tree/shrub is stored as woody biomass. Therefore, in terms of vegetation carbon
content, the most important distinction between plant types is between trees, grasses, and shrubs.
With the CRUNCEP climate, JULES-C2 represents the distribution of these broad vegetation types
very well (Fig. 1). There are several improvements compared to JULES-C1: for example, both the
320 amount of tropical broadleaf trees in the central tropical forests and the spatial extent of boreal
forests are more realistic in JULES-C2. The boreal forests in JULES-C1 do not extend far enough
across the North American and Eurasian continents. Instead, large areas of shrubs dominate at high
latitudes. This bias is reduced in JULES-C2, although there is an underestimation (overestimation)
in the coverage of needle-leaf trees in northeastern Eurasia (northern Europe).

325 Biome-scale distributions of the PFTs are shown in Figure 2, with results from JULES-C2 with
both the CRUNCEP and HadGEM2-ES climates. Differences between JULES-C2 run with
CRUNCEP and HadGEM2-ES climate are typically small. The needle-leaf deciduous tree (NDT)
shows high climate sensitivity, with a large range predicted in the boreal forest; from 16% with the
330 CRUNCEP climate to 27% with the HadGEM2-ES climate. This PFT was developed to have a



competitive advantage in cold, dry environments. The HadGEM2-ES climate is relatively colder and drier than CRUNCEP in the larch-dominated regions of Asia, which explains the higher fractions of needle-leaf deciduous trees with this climate.

335 Agriculture is shown as a separate category since JULES can only grow either C3 or C4 grasses in the agricultural fraction of grid cells. Agriculture accounts for 22-40% of all biomes except the two high latitude biomes (boreal forests and tundra). The fraction of agriculture calculated per biome can vary between the observations and JULES since the data sets for land cover (ESA LCCCI) and for agriculture were produced separately. The model can sometimes underestimate the amount of
340 agricultural land (e.g. in temperate grasslands with JULES-C1) if grasses are not productive enough to survive on land where agriculture is prescribed (possibly due to no irrigation applied in JULES).

JULES-C2 tends to overestimate the observed coverage of trees by 10-12% in tropical forests, and savannahs, and by 3-5% in Mediterranean woodlands. The overestimation of trees in the tropical
345 biomes is due to too much tropical broadleaf evergreen trees (BET-Tr). For example, in the tropical forest biome, 31% of the biome is covered with BET-Tr in the observations compared to a simulated range of 40-44% (with the HadGEM2-ES and CRUNCEP climates, respectively). The simulated coverage of broadleaf deciduous (BDT) trees is very realistic in the tropical savannahs. The coverage of dominant tree types is also close to observed in the boreal and mixed forests, with
350 needle-leaf deciduous and evergreen trees in former and broadleaf deciduous and needle-leaf evergreen trees in the latter. However, the coverage of broadleaf deciduous trees is underestimated by 2-6% in both biomes.

Grasses are overestimated compared to observations by up to 21% in the boreal forests and tundra.
355 The fractional coverage of bare soil is generally close to observed, with errors <5% for every biome except for tundra, where it is underestimated. In this biome, JULES-C2 produces 10-13% more



shrubs and 10-21% more grass than observed. In the temperate grasslands, JULES-C2 with HadGEM2-ES climate overestimates the grass and needle-leaf evergreen tree coverage and underestimates bare soil coverage. Shrubs in JULES-C2 tend to do best in cold environments: they
360 are underestimated in tropical and mid-latitude biomes, very well simulated in the boreal forests, but overestimated in the tundra biome.

The total model biases are between 0.55-0.57 for all versions of the model (Table 4). The bias is an area-weighted fractional error per grid cell where the PFT exists (Eq. 15). The biases are reduced
365 for shrubs and grasses, but are higher for broadleaf trees. The bias for needle-leaf trees in JULES-C2 depends on the climate: the bias is higher with the HadGEM2-ES climate compared to the CRUNCEP-v6 climate.

4.2 Terrestrial carbon cycle

370 The patterns of gross and net primary production (GPP and NPP, respectively) simulated by JULES are similar to estimates derived from observations, although JULES fluxes are slightly high (Fig. 3). From 1982-2011, GPP was 133 PgC yr^{-1} and 138 PgC yr^{-1} according to JULES forced with CRUNCEP and HadGEM2-ES climate, respectively, compared to observation-based estimates from the same time period of $123 \pm 8 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$ (1982-2011; Beer et al., 2010). JULES-C1 with the
375 CRUNCEP climate produced a higher GPP (143 PgC yr^{-1}). GPP is lower in JULES-C2 compared to JULES-C1, and closer to observations, in the tropical biomes (savannahs and forests, Fig. 4a).

From 2000-2013, MODIS estimated an NPP of $\sim 55 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$, compared to 71 and 75 PgC yr^{-1} in JULES with the CRUNCEP and HadGEM2-ES climates, respectively. During the same time
380 period, JULES-C1 NPP was 66 PgC yr^{-1} . On average, NPP is 54% of GPP in JULES-C2, while it is 46% in JULES-C1. Both of these are similar to observation-based estimates that NPP should be roughly half of GPP. In JULES-C2, the largest overestimations of NPP occur in the tropical forests,



savannahs, and mixed forests (Fig. 4b). JULES-C1 has high biases for GPP and NPP in tropical savannahs due to over-productive C4 grasses, and this bias is reduced in JULES-C2.

385

Global total vegetation carbon is 542 PgC in JULES-C2 with CRUNCEP climate and 553 PgC with the HadGEM2-ES climate, which is within the range supported by observations (400-600 PgC, Prentice et al., 2001), and is 65 PgC higher than the dataset from Ruesch and Gibbs (2008). The high bias mostly occurs in boreal and temperate forests and in tropical savannahs, where JULES
390 produces more trees than observed (Fig. 4c). However, there is large uncertainty in global biomass datasets, for example the tropical savannah biome in JULES is very comparable to the data from Carvalhais et al. (2014). JULES-C1 has lower vegetation carbon (468 PgC), with the largest differences between the models being in the tropical forest and savannah biomes. There are two reasons for the increase in C_{veg} for JULES-C2. First, tropical evergreen and deciduous broadleaf
395 trees are more prevalent in JULES-C2 (Fig. 1). Second, the low vegetation carbon was identified as a bias and the allometric parameters a_{wl} and a_{ws} were increased (Section 2.3.1).

The largest biases in JULES occur for soil carbon, which is underestimated in both the high latitudes and the tropics. Globally there is 1422 PgC in JULES-C2 with the CRUNCEP climate and
400 1440 PgC with the HadGEM2-ES climate, compared to 2420 PgC in observations and 1362 PgC in JULES-C1. Soil carbon is the result of centuries (or longer) of litter accumulation. Woody PFTs contribute more resistant material to the soil, while grasses turn over carbon in a more decomposable form. Therefore, relatively small differences between simulations in PFT distribution and NPP can contribute to large differences in the soil carbon. For example, in the tropics, soil
405 carbon is higher in JULES-C2 corresponding to the presence of more broadleaf trees and fewer shrubs than in JULES-C1. In addition, due to the increased productivity simulated by JULES-C2, the amount of carbon going into the soils through litterfall is also increased.



4.3 Transient carbon cycle

410 Over the past century and according to JULES-C2, the land surface was a net sink of carbon due to
an increase in soil carbon (+57 PgC) that offset a smaller decrease in vegetation carbon (-48 PgC)
(Fig. 5). The changes in brackets are the average during 2000-2009 minus average during 1900-
1909. These changes can be attributed to climate change acting on its own, climate change plus CO₂
fertilization, or climate change plus LUC. In the experiment with climate change only (S_{CLIM}, Table
415 5), vegetation carbon increased by 40 PgC, and there was a smaller increase in soil carbon since
warming encourages decomposition.

The effects of CO₂ fertilization and LUC on land carbon are given by the differences between
experiments S_{ALL} and S_{LUC,CLIM}, and between S_{ALL} and S_{CO₂,CLIM}, respectively. Increased CO₂ over
420 the 20th century resulted in an additional 63 PgC of soil carbon and 49 PgC of vegetation carbon.
This was due to larger increases in NPP and litterfall than soil respiration. Both NPP and R_{het} were
58 PgC yr⁻¹ in 1900 in S_{ALL}. NPP increased to ~72 PgC yr⁻¹, while R_{het} increased to 70 PgC yr⁻¹ by
the end of the simulation. Land-use change resulted in a loss of 14 PgC of soil carbon and 124 PgC
of vegetation carbon. The largest reductions in vegetation carbon occurred in the tropics and in the
425 eastern U.S. and Europe (Fig. 6).

The annual sink is the net biosphere productivity (NBP), or NPP-R_h, where R_h is the heterotrophic
respiration. The simulated NBP from 2000-2009 in JULES-C2 was 2.0±1.0 PgC yr⁻¹. The net land
sink simulated by JULES is within the range of estimates from both the Global Carbon Project
430 (1.7±0.8 PgC yr⁻¹ over the same period, Le Quéré et al., 2017) and the IPCC Fifth Assessment
Report (1.5±0.7 PgC yr⁻¹). The JULES land sink is slightly high compared to the other two
estimates, but this was not the case during the 1980s and 1990s. Excluding LUC, JULES-C2
simulated an NBP of 3.3 PgC yr⁻¹ in the 2000s, which was nearly double the natural NBP in the
1980s. The increase was due to a strong uptake simulated in the experiment without land-use



435 change, and in agreement with the high bias in simulated NPP. In S_{ALL} , the simulated NBP
fluctuated around zero until the 1970s, when it began to steadily increase due to the fertilizing effect
of atmospheric CO_2 . Between 1980-2009, the NBP increased by 0.08 PgC yr^{-1} , which was due
to a stronger positive trend in NPP ($+0.27 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) than in Rh ($+0.19 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$). This
increase is not seen in the experiment with preindustrial CO_2 .

440

5. Discussion and Conclusion

Overall JULES with the new nine PFTs produces reasonable present-day distributions of
vegetation, GPP, NPP, and vegetation carbon. Global simulated GPP with JULES-C2 with
observed climate (133 PgC yr^{-1}) is slightly higher than GPP derived from up-scaled flux towers
445 $123 \pm 8 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$ (Beer et al., 2010) and is lower than GPP estimated from oxygen isotopes of
atmospheric CO_2 ($150\text{-}175 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$; Welp et al., 2011). Another study evaluated present-day NPP
from 251 estimates in the literature and found a mean (± 1 standard deviation) of $56.2 (\pm 14.3) \text{ PgC}$
 yr^{-1} (Ito, 2011), so the JULES NPP is slightly too high, which could be reduced by incorporating
recent improvements to the parameterization of leaf dark respiration (Huntingford et al., 2017). The
450 largest bias occurs for soil carbon, which is underestimated in regions where observations support a
high soil carbon content – for example in peatlands and tundra.

In a similar version of JULES with prescribed vegetation, simulated GPP and NPP were 128 and 62
 PgC yr^{-1} , respectively (during the same time periods presented here) (Harper et al., 2016). In that
455 study, differences in PFT-level NPP did not affect the overall vegetation distribution owing to the
prescribed distributions used. The simulations presented in the current study use dynamic
vegetation, allowing JULES to predict global vegetation distribution. Therefore, the productivity is
slightly higher when JULES is allowed to predict vegetation distribution, although the previous
study used older versions of CRU-NCEP (v4) and JULES (v4.2 – see code availability).

460



NPP is an essential component of the JULES simulation since it largely determines the competitive advantage of a PFT. Unfortunately, the only available global dataset of NPP is a satellite-derived product (MOD17), which does not directly measure NPP, but instead uses a model to estimate NPP using a DGVM (BIOME-BGC) constrained by land cover, fraction of absorbed photosynthetically available radiation observed from space, incoming radiation and climate. Therefore, a direct match
465 between JULES and the MODIS NPP is not the aim of model development, but it is still useful to compare the large-scale fluxes. JULES overestimates NPP in most biomes compared to MODIS, with the exception of deserts and temperate grasslands (Fig. 4). The fact that it also tends to overestimate C_{veg} in these biomes supports the conclusion that JULES production is too high. One
470 issue might be the tendency for JULES to overestimate the tree coverage and underestimate coverage by shrubs –i.e. very productive woody trees are dominating in regions where in reality shrubs form a larger proportion of the landscape. This is seen to be the case in tropical savannahs and Mediterranean woodlands (Fig. 1). In addition, JULES lacks an interactive fire model which would reduce woody vegetation cover in these regions. The simulation without land-use change
475 (experiment S1) shows a large overestimation of biomass in the cerrado region of Brazil, where fires (in addition to human land clearing) likely limit vegetation coverage. These are also biomes in dry or semi-arid climates. Based on this we suggest focusing future development of PFTs on vegetation characteristic of these biomes – for example drought-tolerant shrubs. The lack of vegetation in arid environments could also be due to plants experiencing too much moisture-related
480 stress as soils dry, or to soils drying too rapidly following a rain event. A revised parameterisation of soil moisture stress or more sophisticated hydraulic scheme would likely improve the model in these regions. Previous work also pointed to soil moisture stress as a likely culprit for underestimated dry season GPP at two towers in the Brazilian Amazon and for too low GPP at a non-irrigated maize site (Harper et al., 2016; Williams et al., 2017). Another large bias is the
485 prevalence of shrubs in the tundra biome and therefore more tundra-specific PFTs could improve the simulation in these regions. The importance of such developments should not be understated –



climate change will likely bring a widening of subtropical dry zones and warmer temperatures at high latitudes, so these regions will be areas of large changes in vegetation in the future and will play key roles the evolving carbon cycle and ecosystem distribution of the 21st century.

490

JULES vegetation distribution and productivity fluxes seem robust to small differences in the climate based on the simulation with HadGEM2-ES climate, implying that different climate driving datasets should not result in large differences in vegetation distribution. Global mean GPP, NPP, and C_{veg} simulated with the two different climates varies by 5%, 7%, and <1%, respectively.

495 Vegetation distributions are broadly the same as well, with an exception being the distribution of

needle-leaf deciduous trees which seem relatively more sensitive to air temperature and humidity.

In contrast, simulated values of C_{soil} have significant variation depending on the climate data used, since the soil carbon accumulates over centuries and is therefore sensitive to small differences in vegetation distribution and productivity. Global C_{soil} is similar between the two simulations with

500 JULES-C2, but the distribution has large regional differences (not shown). In the case of soil

carbon, the mismatch between simulated and observed is greater than the range between simulations.

Compared to the best available estimates of the annual terrestrial carbon sink, the JULES simulation

505 is well within the range ($2.0 \pm 1.0 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$ from 2000-2009). However without nutrient limitations

in this version of the model, it's possible that the positive trend in NBP is too high in JULES, as indicated by the large simulated increase in NBP between the 1990s and 2000s in the experiment without land-use change, which was not found in the IPCC AR5 or GCP results.

510 **Acknowledgements**

A.B.H. acknowledges support from the NERC Joint Weather and Climate Research Programme, NERC grant NE/K016016/1, from the EPSRC Fellowship "Negative Emissions and the Food-



Energy-Water Nexus" (EP/N030141/1), and the EU H2020 project CRESCENDO (GA641816).
S.S. & P.F. acknowledges funding from EU FP7 LUC4C (GA603542). K.W. was supported by the
515 Joint UK BEIS/Defra Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme (GA01101).

Code availability

This work was based on a version of JULES4.6 with some additional developments that will be
included in UKESM. The code is available from the JULES FCM repository:
<https://code.metoffice.gov.uk/trac/jules> (registration required). The version used was
520 r4546_UKESM (located in the repository at branches/dev/annaharper/r4546_UKESM). Two suites
are available to replicate the factorial experiments with CRUNCEP-v6 climate: u-ao199 and u-
ao216.



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5 PFTs (JULES-C1)	9 PFTs (JULES-C2)
Broadleaf trees (BT)	Tropical broadleaf evergreen trees (BET-Tr)
Needle-leaf trees (NT)	Temperate broadleaf evergreen trees (BET-Te)
C3 grass (C3)	Broadleaf deciduous trees (BDT)
C4 grass (C4)	Needle-leaf evergreen trees (NET)
Shrubs (SH)	Needle-leaf deciduous trees (NDT)
	C3 grass (C3)
	C4 grass (C4)
	Evergreen shrubs (ESH)
	Deciduous shrubs (DSH)

Table 1. The original five and new nine PFTs in JULES.

	BET-Tr	BET-Te	BDT	NET	NDT	C3 grass	C4 grass	ESH	DSH
a_{wl}	0.845	0.78	0.78	0.65	0.80	0.005	0.005	0.13	0.13
a_{ws}	13	12	12	10	10	1	1	13	13
n_{sw}	0.0072	0.0072	0.0072	0.0083	0.0083	0.01604	0.0202	0.0072	0.0072
n_r	0.01726	0.01726	0.01726	0.00784	0.00784	0.0162	0.0084	0.01726	0.01726
γ initial	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.007	0.007	0.20	0.20	0.05	0.05
γ from Eq. 17	0.007	0.014	0.007	0.020	0.010	0.25	0.06	0.10	0.06

Table 2. Updated parameters for vegetation carbon, root and stem nitrogen in JULES-C2. The parameters are: a_{wl} relates wood to leaf carbon (kg C m^{-2} per unit LAI), a_{ws} is the ratio of total wood carbon to respiring stem carbon, n_r is the ratio of root N to root C, n_{sw} is the ratio of stemwood N to stem C, γ is the large-scale disturbance parameter ($\text{kg C m}^{-2} \text{360 d}^{-1}$).

	RPM	DPM	BIO	HUM
Default (s^{-1})	3.17×10^{-7}	9.6×10^{-9}	2.1×10^{-8}	6.4×10^{-10}
Accelerated (s^{-1})	3.17×10^{-7}	3.17×10^{-7}	3.15×10^{-7}	3.2×10^{-7}
Factor	1	33	15	500

Table 3. Turnover rates for the four soil carbon pools (RPM = resistant plant material; DPM = decomposable plant material; BIO = microbial biomass; HUM = humus). The factor is used to rescale soil carbon pools between the “fast” and “slow” spin ups.



PFT	JULES-C2 CRUNCEP	JULES-C2 HadGEM2	JULESC1- CRUNCEP
Bet-Tr	0.15	0.14	0.13 (for all BT)
BET-Te	0.017	0.015	--
BDT	0.063	0.049	--
NET	0.078	0.12	0.15 (for all NT)
NDT	0.043	0.044	--
Grasses	0.088	0.096	0.11
ESH	0.053	0.054	0.17 (for all Shrubs)
DSH	0.054	0.056	--
Total bias	0.55	0.57	0.56

Table 4. Bias in PFT distribution for JULES-C2 run with two different climates and JULES-C1 run with the CRUNCEP climate.

	JULES-C2 (S _{CLIM})	JULES-C2 (S _{ALL})	JULES-C2 (S _{CLIM,LUC})	JULES-C2 (S _{CLIM,CO2})
Experiment summary	Transient climate change only	Transient CO ₂ , land-use, and climate change	Transient climate and LUC	Transient climate and CO ₂
ΔC_{soil} (PgC)	8	57	-6	71
ΔC_{veg} (PgC)	40	-48	-97	75

Table 5. Simulated change in average fluxes and stocks from the period 1900-1909 to 2000-2009 in JULES-C2. Positive values indicate a gain of carbon by the land surface.



	1980-1989	1990-1999	2000-2009
Net land sink			
JULES-C2 (NBP in S_{ALL})	0.4±1.1	1.0±0.8	2.0±1.0
IPCC AR5	0.1±0.6	1.1±0.7	1.5±0.7
GCP 2017 ($S_{land}-E_{LUC}$)	0.7±0.7	1.2±0.5	1.7±0.8
Emissions from LUC JULES-C2 (NBP,			
$S_{CLIM,CO2}-S3_{ALL}$)	-1.2±1.1	-1.3±0.9	-1.3±1.0
IPCC AR5: net LUC ¹	-1.4±0.6	-1.5±0.6	-1.1±0.6
GCP 2017 (E_{LUC}) ²	-1.2±0.7	-1.3±0.7	-1.2±0.7
Residual Land sink			
JULES-C2 (NBP in $S_{CLIM,CO2}$)	1.6±1.1	2.3±0.9	3.3±1.0
IPCC AR5	1.5±0.8	2.6±0.9	2.6±0.9
GCP 2017 (S_{land})	2.0±0.6	2.5±0.5	2.9±0.8

¹Using the bookkeeping LUC flux accounting model of Houghton et al. (2012).

²Bookkeeping methods

Table 6. Estimates of net land sink, emissions due to land-use change, and the “residual” sink on land from JULES compared to two other methods. Uncertainty ranges were reported differently for each method: for JULES $\pm 1\sigma$ indicates the interannual variability of the annual mean, the IPCC reported a 90% confidence interval (based on GCP 2013) which here is converted to $\pm 1\sigma$, and GCP reported $\pm 1\sigma$ of the decadal mean across DGVMs for S_{land} and $\pm 1\sigma$ of bookkeeping estimates for E_{LUC} .

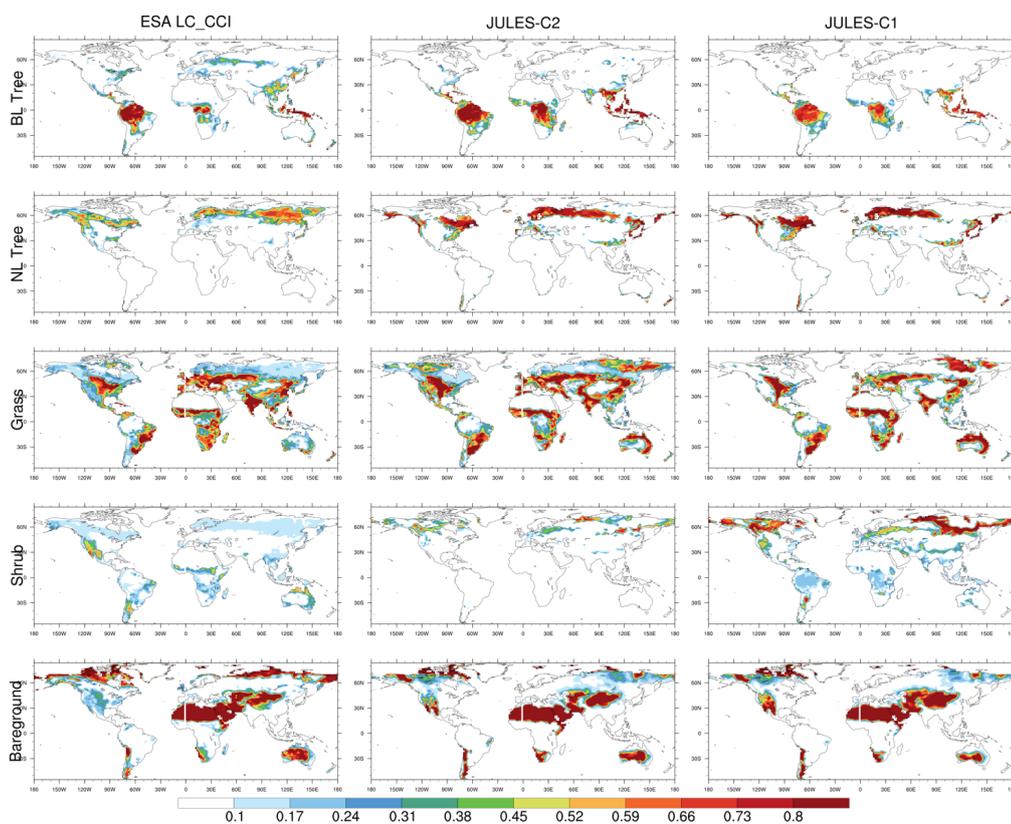


Figure 1: Distribution of vegetation and bare soil over the period 2010-2014 in the ESA LC-CCI dataset (left column), and JULES-C2 with CRUNCEP climate (middle column), and JULES-C1 with CRUNCEP climate (right column). BL = broadleaf; NL = needle-leaf.

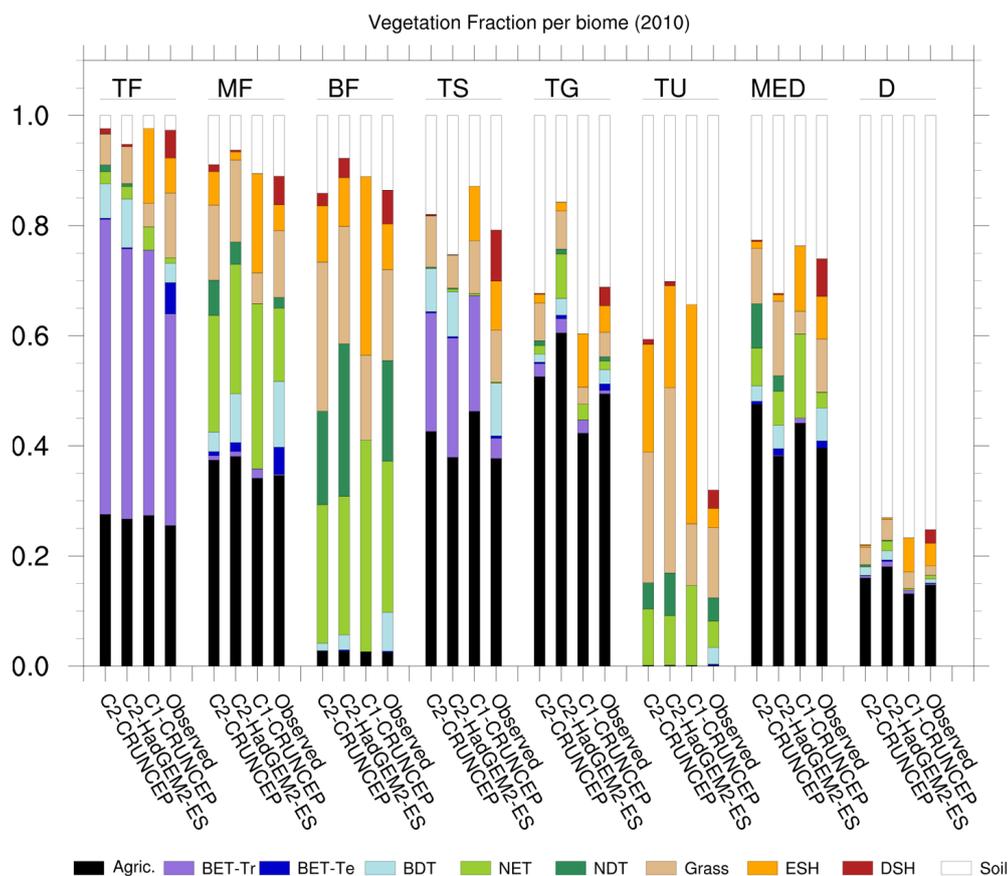


Figure 2: Comparison of PFT distribution by biome in JULES-C2 forced with CRUNCEP and HadGEM2-ES climates, compared to JULES-C1 with CRUNCEP climate and to the observed distribution from ESA LC-CCI. TF: Tropical Forests; MF: Temperate Mixed Forests; BF: Boreal Forests; TS: Tropical Savannah; TG: Temperate Grasslands; TU: Tundra; MED: Mediterranean Woodlands; D: Deserts (biomes in Fig. SM8). The black bars represent agricultural land.

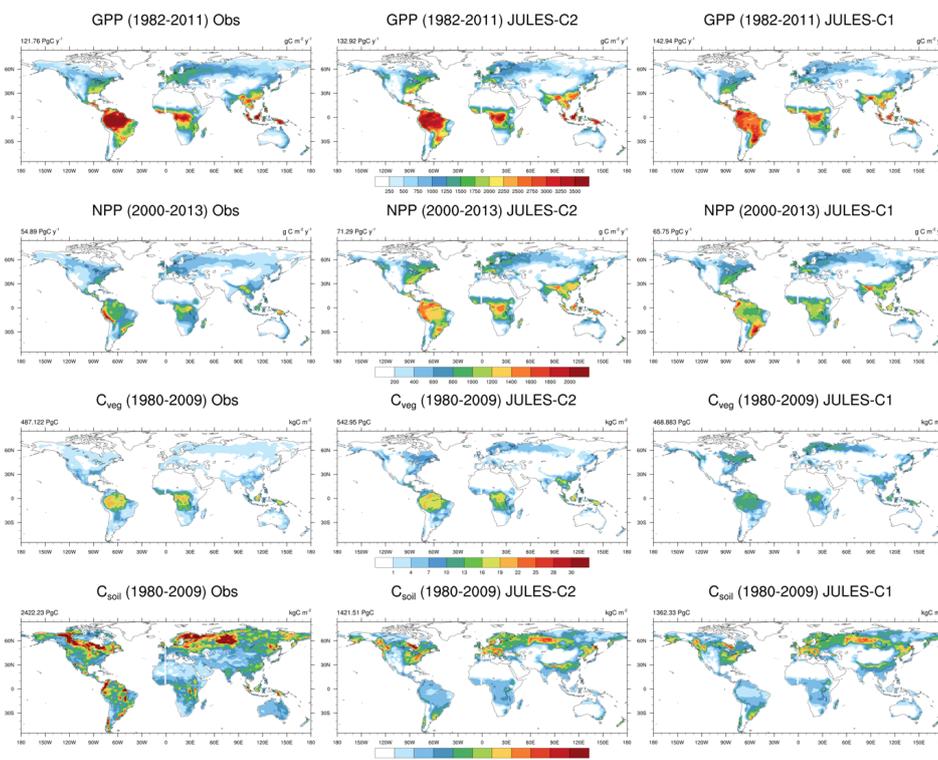


Figure 3: Simulated and observed GPP, NPP, vegetation and soil carbon. Results are shown from JULES-C2 and JULES-C1 both with CRUNCEP climate. Sources for observations are: GPP: FLUXNET-derived model tree ensemble (Jung et al., 2011); NPP: MODIS17 (Zhao et al., 2005b); C_{veg} : Ruesch and Gibbs (2008); C_{soil} : Carvalhais et al. (2014).

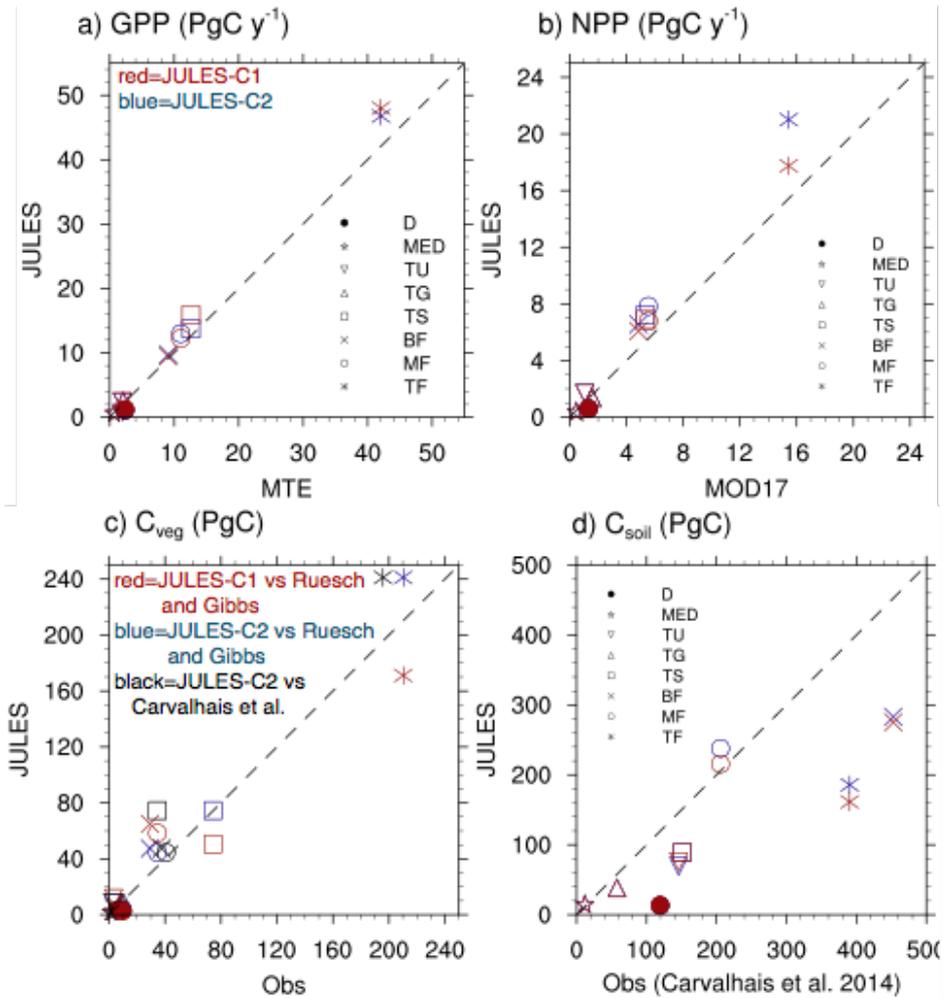


Figure 4: Biome-averaged (a) GPP, (b) NPP, (c) C_{veg}, and (d) C_{soil} in JULES-C1 and JULES-C2 (both with CRUNCEP-v6 climate) compared to observations. The observation sources are the same as in Fig. 3 except (c) includes the C_{veg} from Carvalhois et al. (2014) (black shapes). The biomes are TF: Tropical Forests; MF: Temperate Mixed Forests; BF: Boreal Forests; TS: Tropical Savannah; TG: Temperate Grasslands; TU: Tundra; MED: Mediterranean Woodlands; D: Deserts (biomes in Fig. SM8). Grid cells with >50% agriculture have been excluded from the biome averages.

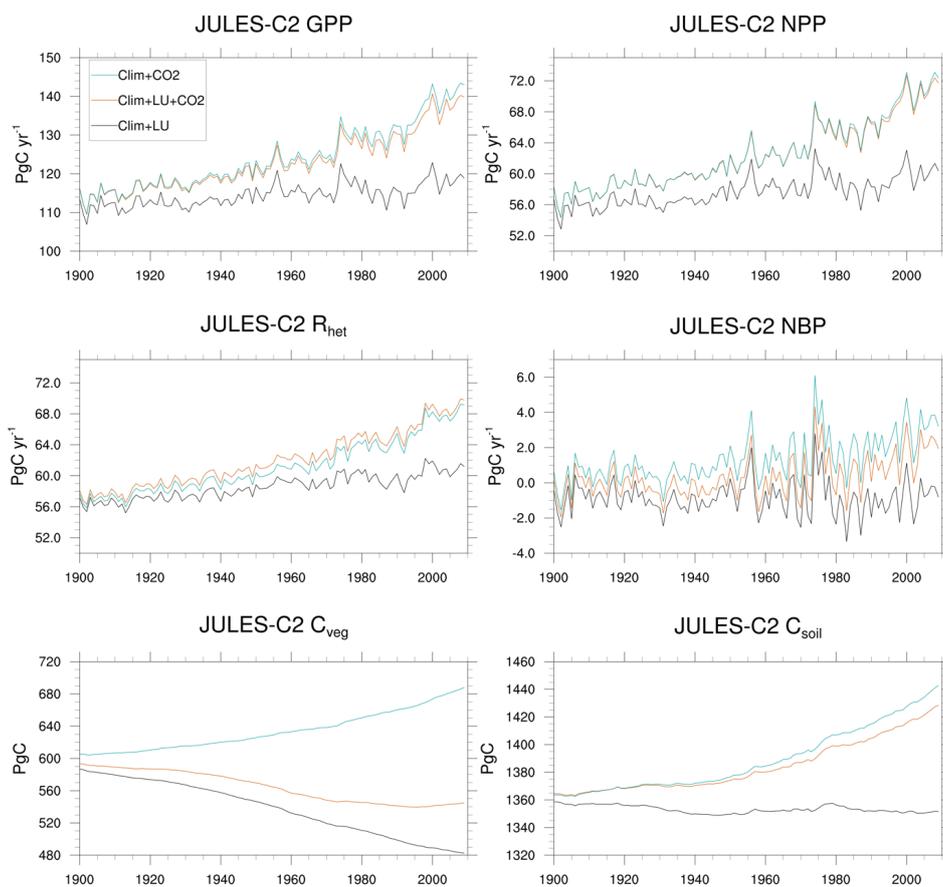


Figure 5: Global mean gross primary productivity (GPP), net primary productivity (NPP), heterotrophic respiration (R_{het}), net biome productivity ($NBP = GPP - R_{het}$), vegetation carbon (C_{veg}), and soil carbon (C_{soil}). Global means are shown for the experiment with transient climate change only (S1), transient climate change and land-use change (S2), and S2 plus transient CO_2 (S3).

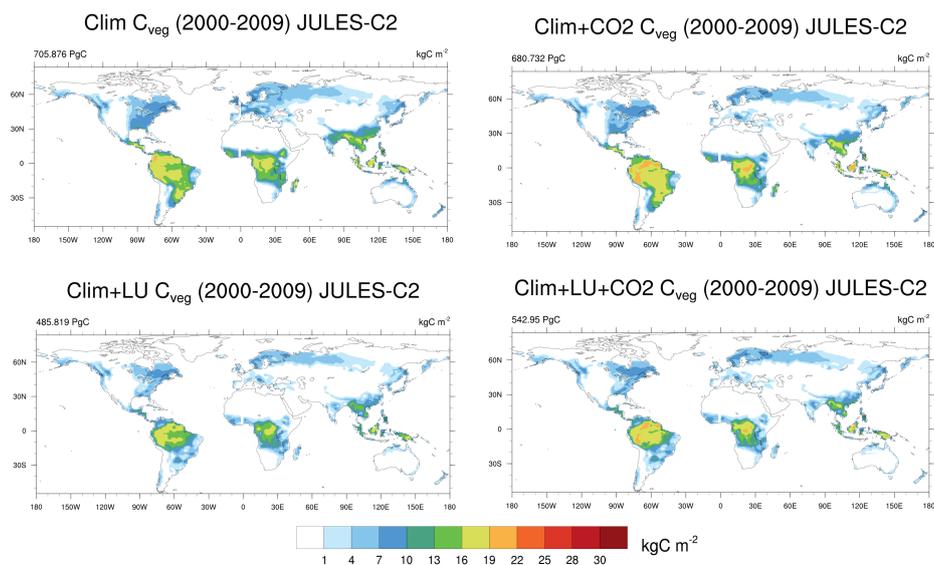


Figure 6: Global distribution of vegetation carbon in JULES-C2 in experiments with and without transient land-use and CO_2 .