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# **Application of a computationally efficient method to approximate gap model results with a probabilistic approach**

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## **Abstract.**

To be able to simulate climate change effects on forest dynamics over the whole of Switzerland, we adapted the second generation DGVM LPJ-GUESS to the Alpine environment. We modified model functions, tuned model parameters, and implemented new tree species to represent the potential natural vegetation of Alpine landscapes. Furthermore, we increased the computational efficiency of the model to enable area-covering simulations in a fine resolution (1 km) sufficient for the complex topography of the Alps, which resulted in more than 32.000 simulation grid cells. To this aim, we applied the recently developed method GAPPARD (Scherstjanoi et al., 2013) to LPJ-GUESS. GAPPARD derives mean output values from a combination of simulation runs without disturbances and a patch age distribution defined by the disturbance frequency. With this computationally efficient method, that increased the model's speed by approximately the factor 8, we were able to faster detect shortcomings of LPJ-GUESS functions and parameters. We used the adapted LPJ-GUESS together with GAPPARD to assess the influence of one climate change scenario on dynamics of tree species composition and biomass throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Switzerland. To allow for comparison with the original model, we additionally simulated forest dynamics along a north-south-transect through Switzerland. The results from this transect confirmed the high value of the GAPPARD method despite some limitations towards extreme climatic events. It allowed for the first time to obtain area-wide, detailed high resolution LPJ-GUESS simulation results for a large part of the Alpine region.



## 1 Introduction

20 Climate change affects species composition, forest structure and biomass of forests worldwide. An appropriate modeling of forests at a large scale is important to assess their functions, in particular their influence on the global carbon cycle (Fischlin and Midgley, 2007; Purves and Pacala, 2008). This requires model functions that describe forest dynamics, particularly with respect to forest disturbances and structure-related competition (Bonan, 2008; Quillet et al., 2010).

25 The well established Dynamic Global Vegetation Models (DGVMs) simulate dynamics of vegetation, including forests, based on main plant physiological functions. The first generation DGVMs simulate the vegetation of one plant functional type or species in a stand aggregated in one individual (big-leaf approach). Therefore, they do not take into account forest structure and show limitations in modeling competition and disturbances (Quillet et al., 2010), which might especially affect mixed  
30 forests and the vegetation growth under dry conditions (Smith et al., 2001). Second generation DGVMs (Sato et al., 2007; Hickler et al., 2008; Fisher et al., 2010), also termed as hybrid models, account for structural characteristics, improve the modeling of competition and small scale disturbances, and thus lead to more realistic simulations of forest dynamics, but on the cost of either model resolution, model extent or simulation speed.

35 One commonly used but simulation time-consuming way to include structural characteristics into a DGVM is the gap approach (Botkin et al., 1972; Shugart, 1984), which stochastically simulates dynamics of tree individuals or cohorts on numerous small patches, so that the mean of all stochastic replicates builds the result of one simulation step. The second generation DGVM LPJ-GUESS (Smith et al., 2001; Hickler et al., 2004) combines such an approach with plant physiological functions of the LPJ-DGVM (Sitch et al., 2003). As it uses the gap approach, LPJ-GUESS is yet not  
40 computationally efficient enough to simulate forests with a fine resolution (<1 km) on a large scale (continental to global). Area-wide simulations with LPJ-GUESS typically use resolutions of 10' or 50' (Gritti et al., 2006; Koca et al., 2006; Morales et al., 2007; Wolf et al., 2008; Hickler et al., 2012) to perform simulations on sub-continental to continental scale. To more specifically analyze  
45 model functions of LPJ-GUESS some studies focused on simulations on certain stands (e.g. for Switzerland Portner et al., 2010; Manusch et al., 2012; Wolf et al., 2012). However, the most recent LPJ-GUESS parameterization led to substantial discrepancies at a finer scale between model results and comparable data (Hickler et al., 2012).

We aimed to perform simulations with a 1 km resolution over the whole of Switzerland. Our  
50 decision to use Switzerland as a study area was supported by two main arguments: First, this specific region combines altitudinal gradients with a very rugged topography and different continentalities and consequently contains different climate and vegetation zones. Therefore, it is a difficult test for every modeling exercise. Partly due to that, there are no dynamic, area-covering climate change impact simulation studies on Swiss forests. Second, comparatively detailed climate and soil input data  
55 are available that are necessary for our model purposes. Despite the limitations at a finer scale, we

chose to use LPJ-GUESS for the modeling because it contains detailed plant physiological functions combined with a structured vegetation and dynamics. However, recent results from Scherstjanoi et al. (2013) allow to estimate that using a 1 km resolution over the whole of Switzerland would require several months of simulation time. To enable simulations over a large range we used a method  
60 that was lately developed by Scherstjanoi et al. (2013). With it, GAP model results are approximated with a Probabilistic Approach to account for stand Replacing Disturbances (GAPPARD method).

The GAPPARD method utilizes a modified version of the von Foerster equation of age-structured population dynamics (von Foerster, 1959). Several other approaches also used von Foerster types to approximate gap dynamics (Kohyama, 1993; Falster et al., 2010). Moorcroft et al. (2001), e.g.,  
65 approximated in the second generation DGVM ED (Ecosystem Demography Model) size and age by applying a van Foerster type equation. In contrast to GAPPARD, this size- and age-approximation method is applied during the simulations and for each simulation year. Hence, **and also due to a lower spatial resolution in ED (Moorcroft et al., 2001)**, GAPPARD has **most likely** a higher computational efficiency. **However, this increase in efficiency** comes along at the cost of less precision on smaller  
70 time scales.

The approximation used by the method shortens LPJ-GUESS simulations (100 stochastic replicates) by roughly factor 10. Therefore, the computationally efficient simulations were highly advantageous and enabled us to more rapidly analyze functions of the model and more easily adapt model parameters. This is the first time that this method is used area-wide on a large scale. Hence, our  
75 first aim was to test the applicability of the GAPPARD method. As we tested LPJ-GUESS on a finer scale than typically used and applied the model to a specific region, we expected that we will have to change model parameters and adapt model functions. It was, thus, our second aim to control how applicable the latest LPJ-GUESS parameters are to model the potential natural vegetation (PNV) in a heterogeneous Alpine landscape and on a finer scale, and what changes have to be made due to  
80 model functions and parameters to improve results. Our third aim was to use GAPPARD with the adjusted functions and parameters, and to assess a) the usefulness of our modifications and b) the potential influence of one climate change scenario on the development of forest biomass and species composition all over Switzerland. One main issue was the response of the different tree species to warmer and drier climates and to the increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Additionally, we were also in-  
85 terested in how the results of the adjusted LPJ-GUESS differ from the results using the most recent LPJ-GUESS functions and parameters (Hickler et al., 2012).

To sum up, our main research questions are:

- How applicable for area-wide studies over the whole of Switzerland is the GAPPARD method?
- How valuable are the recent LPJ-GUESS parameters and functions to model the potential  
90 natural vegetation in a heterogeneous Alpine landscape, and how do model functions and parameters have to be adapted to improve results?

- Which changes of forest biomass and species composition are projected by simulations over the whole of Switzerland using one climate change scenario and what trends do different parameters and input data indicate?

## 95 2 Material and methods

### 2.1 LPJ-GUESS

LPJ-GUESS is a process-oriented second generation dynamic global vegetation model (DGVM) that simulates the vegetation dynamics of forests (Smith et al., 2001; Hickler et al., 2004). It shows characteristics from the first generation DGVM LPJ (Sitch et al., 2003) and the individual (cohort) based gap model GUESS (Smith et al., 2001). Plant physiological and biogeochemical processes are based on the formulations in LPJ-DGVM. Plants are either simulated as tree species (Koca et al., 2006; Hickler et al., 2012) or aggregated to plant functional types (PFTs).

LPJ-GUESS uses a gap approach to simulate the fate of individual trees, determined by growth, stochastic establishment and stochastic death processes. Other stochastic elements can be climatic drivers and in particular stochastically appearing small scale stand replacing disturbances (disturbance stochasticity). Due to the stochasticity, individuals and vegetation biomass on each patch develop differently and simulations of many patches have to be averaged to yield the forest dynamics, requiring a lot of computational time. For gap models in general, Bugmann et al. (1996) recommended the use of 200 stochastic replicates per stand. In LPJ-GUESS, most commonly 50 or 100 of such replicates are used (so in Koca et al., 2006; Hickler et al., 2008; Miller et al., 2008; Wramneby et al., 2008; Hickler et al., 2009), but to save computational time the number of patches is often even smaller (e.g. 20 in Hickler et al., 2012).

### 2.2 GAPPARD method

The GAPPARD method (Scherstjanoi et al., 2013) is based on the idea that a forest does not necessarily have to be represented by different stochastic replicates but can be calculated with just one undisturbed simulation, which would be much more computationally efficient. The method assumes that stochastically appearing small scale disturbance events that transfer all living biomass of a stochastic replicate to the litter are mainly responsible for the difference between a stochastic and a deterministic model run. In LPJ-GUESS such stand-replacing disturbances occur with a constant probability  $p_{dist}$ . The GAPPARD method furthermore assumes that the succession after a disturbance event is always the same, given a constant climate. Thus, values of state variables  $y$  starting from bare patch produced for each simulation year  $a$  in an undisturbed model run and information on the patch age distribution based on  $p_{dist}$  can be used to approximate stochastic model run results. The expectation value  $Y(T)$  of  $y$ , which includes the effect of small scale disturbances, is calculated for each year  $T$  in a postprocessing way:

$$Y(T) = (1 - p_{dist})^T y(T) + p_{dist} \sum_{a=1}^{T-1} (1 - p_{dist})^a y(a) \quad (1)$$

The results of Scherstjanoi et al. (2013) showed that the other stochastic functions of LPJ-GUESS, establishment and mortality, either do not have a significant influence or their effect is included in the GAPPARD method. Therefore, an undisturbed model run is fully deterministic.

130 Using just one deterministic undisturbed run leads to an extrapolation of the vegetation succession pattern from the beginning of the simulations to the whole simulation period without considering the effect of changing drivers (in LPJ-GUESS changing climate). As a solution, additional deterministic undisturbed simulation runs starting from different points of time (nodes) are performed. The final result is interpolated between these nodes. A more detailed explanation of the derivation of the  
135 method is given in Scherstjanoi et al. (2013). For our study, we used five deterministic undisturbed simulations: one starting in 1100 with a spinup up to 1900, one starting in 1950, one in 2000, one in 2050, and one in 2080. After several tests (results not shown), and due to the results of Scherstjanoi et al. (2013) we decided to use a disturbance frequency of 0.0154, corresponding to a return interval of 65 y.

140 Applying the GAPPARD method does not currently allow any spatial interactions between neighboring grid cells or patch-to-patch interactions. Therefore, seed dispersal or migration functions or the spatial mass effect of LPJ-GUESS (establishment in a patch depends on other patches' biomass in a stand) cannot be applied.

### 2.3 Simulation setup

145 We simulated forest dynamics on all cells of a 1 km grid of Switzerland where forests potentially could grow at the moment. Based on the Swiss soil suitability map (Frei, 1976), we excluded rocky, urban or water areas, which led to a simulation setup containing 32.214 cells.

We applied climate change after the simulation year 1900. Up to 1900 we used randomly selected values of the first 30 climate data years for the model spinup. For the 1901-1929 simulation  
150 period, we used CRU data downscaled to the 1 km model grid (Mitchell et al., 2004). For the 1930-2006 simulation period, we used Swiss weather station data from the Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss interpolated to a hundred meter grid by applying the Daymet method (Thornton et al., 1997). For the 2007-2100 simulation period, we used CRU climate data of one  
155 A1B climate scenario (Mitchell et al., 2004). Along with that scenario we used CO<sub>2</sub> data that reach 703 ppm in 2100 (IPCC, 2001, Annex II). To be able to make statements about the CO<sub>2</sub> effect, we additionally performed simulations with constant atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> from the simulation year 2000 on. A visualization of the climate used for the simulations is given in Fig. D.2 (appendix).

We developed and applied an empirical model to estimate daily cloud coverage of each simulated stand. It uses available climate data from 59 Swiss weather stations (Table D.1 in the appendix)

160 to predict cloud coverage from season, and precipitation and altitude of a stand. A more detailed description is given in appendix C1.

Based on the Soil Suitability Map of Switzerland (Frei, 1976), we defined the required LPJ-GUESS soil parameters: usable volumetric soil water holding capacity (fraction of soil layer depth), soil thermal diffusivities at different points of water holding capacity and an empirical parameter for  
165 the percolation equation. A more detailed description is given in appendix C2.

## 2.4 Model adaptation

We applied two parameter sets to our simulations, one with existing parameters and one with new ones (see Table D.10 in the appendix). For simulations with the first parameter set we used all boreal and temperate species Hickler et al. (2012) used for their simulations, as well as C3 grass and  
170 boreal evergreen shrubs. We applied the species parameters of Hickler et al. (2012) who simulated the PNV Europe-wide. For boreal evergreen shrubs we additionally used parameters of Wolf et al. (2008). Here we refer to this set as the standard parameter set. Considering that LPJ-GUESS was not designed for this specific region and a fine scale and based on first tests (results not shown), we expected from the results that (1) the species distribution would differ from PNV, (2) not all important  
175 tree species would be modeled, and (3) the occurrence of some species might end to abrupt.

We created a second parameter set to improve simulations of the PNV in Alpine landscapes. For this aim, we used general knowledge and different publications on PNV (Ellenberg, 1986; Brzeziecki et al., 1993; Bohn et al., 2004; Frehner et al., 2005). We did not use stand data to fine-tune LPJ-GUESS because almost all Swiss forests have been influenced by forest management for a long  
180 period. To this set, to which we will refer to as the adjusted parameter set, we additionally added the three new species *Larix decidua*, *Pinus cembra* and *Pinus mugo* as described in Scherstjanoi et al. (2013). The fine-tuning of LPJ-GUESS includes a new function to describe the leaf senescence of *Larix decidua*. Its photosynthetic activity decreases in fall with an s-shaped curve (based on results of Migliavacca et al. (2008), see appendix A). Furthermore, we developed a modified functionality  
185 of the plant parameter of maximum 20-year coldest month mean temperature for establishment. This parameter is a proxy for chilling requirements for seed germination; if the 20-year coldest month mean temperature exceeds the parameter's value, establishment of boreal species is prevented (Nienstaedt, 1967, as cited in Prentice et al., 1992). Instead of allowing no establishment above this limit, we used a function that decreases the amount of new saplings with an s-shaped curve. This  
190 novelty allows shade tolerant boreal trees to also grow in more temperate vegetation zones but not to such a degree that they dominate the forests (see appendix A for details). Based on Scherstjanoi et al. (2013), we changed further parameters mainly addressing drought resistance and temperature dependencies.

## 2.5 Simulation evaluation

195 For both applied parameter sets, we mapped total biomass, the biomass of single main species for  
the year 2000, and the biomass differences between 2000 and 2100. Additionally to the Swiss-  
wide simulations, we mapped the temporal course of the biomass of the main species along an  
exemplary north-south transect (Fig. 1) to (1) get a more detailed idea of the temporal development  
of the species composition and species biomass, (2) have a smaller amount of grid cells so that  
200 results can be compared to stochastic LPJ-GUESS simulations using 100 stochastic replicates. The  
transect covers the east Jura, the Central Plateau, the central Prealps, the northwest Alps, and the  
Valais. Along this transect we displayed the changes in biomass between 1900 and 2100. For the  
comparison along the transect, we mapped the biomass change of the species along time for both,  
LPJ-GUESS results and GAPPARD results. To quantify the quality of the GAPPARD-approximated  
205 results we calculated a root mean square error (RMSE) between the stochastic LPJ-GUESS results  
and the GAPPARD results for each stand of the transect and each species. Here, we present the  
mean RMSE value of all stands of the transect. The RMSE corresponds to the differences in carbon  
mass between the two models in each simulation year (described in detail in appendix B). For  
every species, each of these differences enter into the calculation of the RMSE as a fraction of the  
210 maximum possible difference appearing in that stand and the calculated simulation period. Hence,  
the maximum RMSE is one (completely different results). We calculated the RMSEs only for the  
climate change period. Furthermore, we compared the simulation time between both simulation  
types. The simulations ran on one core of an AMD Opteron 2439 2.8 GHz processor.

The terms describing geographical regions mentioned in the following sections are defined in Fig.  
215 1. Here, we describe the biomass as in  $\text{kgm}^{-2}$ , consistent with the LPJ-GUESS output variable.  
Assuming that carbon makes half of the wood's total mass and a wood density of  $0.5 \text{ gcm}^{-3}$   $1$   
 $\text{kgCm}^{-2}$  equals  $40 \text{ m}^3 \text{ wood ha}^{-1}$  or  $20 \text{ t biomass ha}^{-1}$ .

## 3 Results

### 3.1 Simulations along the transect

220 Applying the GAPPARD method generally decreased the simulation time. Simulations along the  
transect with LPJ-GUESS required 27 h 58 min, and thus about the 8 fold computing time as those  
with the GAPPARD method: 3 h 28 min (all values are a mean of 10 simulations). The results along  
the transect for both methods in general were similar (Figs. 2 and 3, for the location of regions  
refer to Fig. 1). The Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) for the total carbon mass between both used  
225 methods was smaller than 0.1. The RMSE for single species was always smaller than 0.3, for most  
species smaller than 0.2 (Table 1). Generally the GAPPARD results appear more smoothed, along  
the latitudinal axis as well as in time. LPJ-GUESS, on the other hand, tends to show irregularities and

stripe-like patterns. Within a few years particularly the biomass of broadleaved species can decrease or increase suddenly and over large sections of the transect. However, this is the only remarkable  
230 difference between the methods.

Both methods used show a biomass increase of drought resistant species (e.g. *Quercus pubescens* and *Pinus sylvestris*), a shift or area extension of most species to higher altitudes, and a general increase in biomass over time. In the transect, the shift of species to higher stands can most clearly be seen in some higher elevated parts of the Valais region, where at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century  
235 no trees at all appeared whereas at the end of the century a high biomass of *Larix decidua* and *Pinus cembra* occurred.

### 3.2 Swiss-wide simulations for 2000

Applying the standard parameter set, in the year 2000 the carbon mass of most stands' forests was between 9 and 13 kgCm<sup>-2</sup> (Fig. 4, a), for the region names cf. Fig. 1, Table 2). In particular, the  
240 carbon mass was lowest above the upper treeline and in the dry inner Alpine valleys (<4 kgCm<sup>-2</sup>), and highest in stands of the Jura, the Ticino and the Prealps (>14 kgCm<sup>-2</sup>). Using the adjusted parameter set, we simulated a similar total biomass as with the standard LPJ-GUESS parameter set, with a few exceptions (Fig. 4, a)). The biomass in higher stands of the Jura and the Prealps was slightly smaller and in the Central Plateau slightly higher. Additionally, the increase in biomass  
245 from the lowest stands of the Central Plateau to stands in the Prealps was smoother.

#### 3.2.1 Simulations of single species for the year 2000 with the standard parameter set

Applying the standard parameter set, at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century either *Picea abies* or *Fagus sylvatica* dominated most stands (Fig. 5, for the region names cf. Fig. 1, Table 3). *Fagus sylvatica* grew in stands below approximately 600 m, and was very dominant on humid sites. Up to roughly  
250 1000 m it co-occurred with *Pinus sylvestris* or *Picea abies* as a secondary species. *Betula pendula* hardly established. Most broadleaved summergreen species reached highest biomass values in the Central Plateau, in the dry inner Alpine valleys and valleys of the Jura. *Quercus pubescens* was a dominant species in southwest Switzerland, and in the valley bottoms of the Ticino and the Valais, where *Fagus sylvatica* was less dominant. As a minor species it also appeared in the lowest stands  
255 of the Central Plateau. *Abies alba* was modeled, but did not establish at all. The occurrence of *Picea abies* was generally restricted to stands at altitudes higher than approximately 1000 m. Its dominance reached up almost to the highest potential inhabitable stands in the Alps, but a small stripe above remained where it did not establish. *Pinus sylvestris* occurred only above approximately 600 m, but only established on stands below *Picea abies* or besides *Betula pubescens* at the upper treeline.

### 260 3.2.2 Simulations of single species for the year 2000 with the adjusted parameter set

Applying the adjusted parameter set generally allowed more species to co-occur and the dominance of species was less pronounced (Fig. 6, for the region names cf. Fig. 1, Table 3). In contrast to the standard parameter set, *Pinus sylvestris* grew in the lower Central Plateau stands and valley bottoms of the Valais and Ticino, and was most successful on drier stands. Generally, a mixed forest that  
265 was dominated by *Fagus sylvatica* developed in the Central Plateau, with *Quercus robur* besides *Pinus sylvestris* as the main secondary species. *Betula pendula* established as well on most stands below approximately 1000 m but the very dry ones, and became more successful with increasing altitude and fewer *Fagus sylvatica* biomass. Also, *Quercus pubescens* established in small densities at the lowest elevation sites of the Central Plateau; it was more successful in the southwest and  
270 especially in the Valais, similarly to the standard set. All the species that grew in the Central Plateau also established in the low Alpine valleys, but *Fagus sylvatica* and *Betula pendula* did not grow there on drier sites. *Abies alba* established, in contrast to the standard parameter set simulations. It appeared in the transition zone between the Central Plateau and higher altitudes, and there co-occurred with Central Plateau species or *Picea abies*. It did not grow in the lower parts of the  
275 Central Plateau, but increased its biomass stepwise from approximately 600 m on and decreased again at approximately 1200 m. *Picea abies* was less dominant in the Jura and the Prealps than with the standard parameter set. Similarly to *Abies alba*, the biomass of *Picea abies* decreased gradually to zero from mountainous stands down to higher sites of the Central Plateau. Two of the three newly parameterized species appeared as main species: *Larix decidua* with gradually increasing biomass  
280 from the lower montane vegetation zone up to the subalpine zone and *Pinus cembra* restricted to the subalpine zone.

### 3.3 Development of GAPPARD simulations until the year 2100 focusing on the adjusted parameter set

The temporal course of the climate change simulations with the GAPPARD method, and the adjusted  
285 parameter set was rather smooth (Fig. 2 a, left). The biomass increased in all except few stands in the valley bottoms of the Ticino and the Valais, where it decreased by up to 0.5 kgCm<sup>-2</sup> (Fig. 4 b) and c), left). For most parts of Switzerland, we simulated an increase of 1-2 kgCm<sup>-2</sup> (Table 2). The increase was highest at the upper treeline. In the east of the Jura, most lower stands of the Valais, and in the southwest of Switzerland the increase in carbon mass was lower than 1 kgCm<sup>-2</sup>. Using the  
290 standard parameter set yielded a very similar picture. One difference is, that in the Central Plateau the increase was rather small (<1 kgCm<sup>-2</sup>). Another difference is that forest biomass decreased in lower parts of the east of the Jura, and in stands at the valley bottoms of the Ticino and the Valais (up to 1 kgCm<sup>-2</sup>).

The changes in biomass main species underwent until 2100 show that drought adapted species



295 benefited most from climate change, and that boreal species lost most biomass in lower stands and  
experience a gain of biomass in higher stands (Fig. 7, Fig. 8 left, Table 3 and Fig. D.3 in the  
appendix). Climate change led to an increase of *Pinus sylvestris* biomass in most stands. On sites  
in southwest and north Switzerland, and on stands of the dry inner Alpine valleys the increase was  
highest. Only on mid-altitudinal sites in the Valais its biomass decreased. The biomass of *Fagus*  
300 *sylvatica* increased on stands of the Jura and the Prealps and decreased in the lower part of the Central  
Plateau. *Quercus robur* biomass increased on most stands, but some low sites in the southwest.  
*Quercus pubescens* increased its biomass on most stands, and besides *Pinus sylvestris* was the only  
species benefiting from climate change in the lower part of the Central Plateau. It was also the species  
with the highest increase in distribution area and it only lost biomass in some stands of the southwest.  
305 *Picea abies* biomass decreased in most parts of the Jura and the Prealps. In contrast, on most stands  
of the Alps and the higher stands of the Prealps the biomass of *Picea abies* increased. *Abies alba*  
biomass did not change significantly. Besides *Picea abies*, the newly implemented species *Larix*  
*decidua* and *Pinus cembra* were most successful establishing at higher altitudes, specifically where  
they were not growing at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. On the other hand, *Larix decidua* biomass  
310 decreased in the Jura and the Prealps, and *Pinus cembra* lost approximately a third of its biomass  
on lower sites and only increased on very high sites. *Betula pendula* benefited from the decrease in  
*Larix decidua* biomass in the Prealps and the Jura and increased its biomass there.

With the standard parameter set simulations until 2100 for some species led to clearly different  
patterns (Fig. 8 and Figs. D.4-D.6 in the appendix). Besides those species that were not param-  
315 eterized for or were not able to establish well with the standard set, this is mainly true for *Pinus*  
*sylvestris*, *Fagus sylvatica* and *Quercus robur*. In contrast to the adjusted set, *Pinus sylvestris* lost  
biomass on all but few highly elevated stands and mid-altitudinal stands of the Valais, *Fagus sylvat-*  
*ica* increased its biomass largely in the higher elevations of the Central Plateau, and the biomass of  
*Quercus robur* decreased on most stands of the Central Plateau.

### 320 3.4 Development under constant CO<sub>2</sub> conditions

Applying constant CO<sub>2</sub> from 2000 on led to a decrease of total biomass on most stands (Fig. 9).  
The total carbon mass in the Central Plateau decreased by more than 2 kgCm<sup>-2</sup>. Only above  
approximately 1000 m, we simulated an increase of biomass. The only species that still benefited  
from the temperature increase in the Central Plateau were *Quercus pubescens* and *Pinus sylvestris*.

### 325 3.5 Summary of the most important changes by adjusting the parameters

By using the adjusted parameter set we significantly changed simulation results of forest dynamics.  
The implementation of the three species *Larix decidua*, *Pinus cembra* and *Pinus mugo* was one ma-  
jor change. The modeling of particularly *Larix decidua* and *Pinus cembra* and the adjustment of  
temperature and drought related parameters of species in general led to an altered species distribu-

330 tion in comparison to simulations with LPJ-GUESS standard parameters. Concerning LPJ-GUESS  
standard species, we replaced especially the regions *Pinus sylvestris* and *Abies alba* occurred. More-  
over, we reduced the dominance of *Fagus sylvatica* and *Picea abies*. Furthermore, we enabled more  
gradual transitions between species of different vegetation zones, in particular between *Picea abies*,  
*Abies alba* and species below the upper montane vegetation zone.

## 335 4 Discussion

### 4.1 The GAPPARD method

By applying the GAPPARD method we were able to simulate forest dynamics Swiss-wide on a fine  
grid requiring a short simulation time. Hence, we were able to analyze the effects of the chosen  
climate change scenario on forest dynamics in the heterogeneous topography of Switzerland.

340 Our simulations along the transect once again confirmed that the GAPPARD method provides  
good approximations of the stochastic LPJ-GUESS, already shown for sample sites (Scherstjanoi  
et al., 2013). This is reflected in the RMSE values. Furthermore, the comparison of simulation  
times emphasizes the computational efficiency of GAPPARD. Using GAPPARD we were able to  
efficiently adjust a parameter set and to improve functions of the complex forest model LPJ-GUESS.

345 For the first time simulations of LPJ-GUESS could be run over the whole of Switzerland and on all  
potentially suitable cells on a 1 km grid (more than 32.000 grid cells). Hence, the method has the  
potential to be applied to other regions with similar or larger numbers of grid cells. The usefulness  
of the GAPPARD method can be highlighted even more by extrapolating the simulation time the  
stochastic LPJ-GUESS required for the transect (131 grid cells) to whole Switzerland (assuming  
350 that the transect is representative for Switzerland). If ten processors are used in parallel the Swiss-  
wide simulations would roughly last 30 days which complicates an analysis of results, whereas with  
GAPPARD Swiss-wide simulations required only 3-4 days.

By applying GAPPARD, we indirectly showed that the parameter of LPJ-GUESS with the  
strongest influence on the stochasticity of results is the return interval for stand replacing distur-  
355 bances. The great influence of this parameter was already shown in other studies (Hickler et al.,  
2004; Gritti et al., 2006; Scherstjanoi et al., 2013). One great advantage of the GAPPARD method  
is that the results of the deterministic runs, starting from different nodes (see section 2.2), can easily  
be used for multiple values of disturbance intervals. The main reason for this is that GAPPARD  
is applied in a postprocessing way, and it requires substantially less computational time than the  
360 deterministic simulation runs (roughly 15 minutes for the whole of Switzerland). Thus, furthermore  
underlining the great potential of our method, disturbance intervals also easily could be implemented  
as stand specific (e.g. soil, management or altitude specific). However, in this study we did not focus  
on the analysis of disturbance frequency and chose one constant value for the disturbance interval.  
In contrast to the standard LPJ-GUESS value of 100 y we used an interval of 65 y. Our decision

365 for a low disturbance return interval was mainly based on the idea to also consider the effects of  
other disturbances (e.g. wind, fire, parasites, human disturbances) and was also supported by recent  
results of Scherstjanoi et al. (2013).

The most remarkable difference in our results between the stochastic LPJ-GUESS simulations  
and the GAPPARD method concerns the intensity with which the biomass can change over time.  
370 Most probably extreme climatic events, i.e. dry periods combined with high temperatures, led to  
extinction events **when** simulated with the stochastic LPJ-GUESS. In a similar way the vegetation  
increased as a response to good growing conditions. In contrast, applying the GAPPARD method  
on LPJ-GUESS **led** to smoothed results. On the one hand this is limiting the use of the GAPPARD  
method on shorter temporal scales. On the other hand, the long term trends of both used methods  
375 were very similar, and the longer temporal scale applicability is not negatively influenced.

Still, there are some limitations. One shortcoming of the GAPPARD method is the current im-  
possibility of allowing spatial interactions (see section 2.2). Especially migration might have a  
significant influence on the change of species composition under a changing climate (Lischke, 2005;  
Neilson et al., 2005; Lischke et al., 2006; Epstein et al., 2007; Snell et al., 2014). The shift of species  
380 towards higher altitudes simulated here was not constrained by tree dispersal. Whenever climatic  
conditions allowed, tree species grew there. Therefore, the simulated shifts might be too fast and  
the species composition could be biased. However, this limitation also addresses LPJ-GUESS as it  
does not include a migration function. Furthermore, the role of demographic stochasticity (stochas-  
tic establishment and mortality) has not been fully covered by the GAPPARD method, as we assume  
385 that small scale disturbances have the biggest potential to achieve deviations from the deterministic  
LPJ-GUESS run. When applying the method to other models it should be first tested how much  
influence a demographic stochasticity has.

## 4.2 Swiss-wide simulations

We evaluated the plausibility of our results by comparing them with assumed PNV (Ellenberg, 1986;  
390 Brzeziecki et al., 1993; Bohn et al., 2004; Frehner et al., 2005) and general expert knowledge. How-  
ever, we are well aware that PNV distributions are also results of models, be it statistical mod-  
els or thought models. **Still we tend to favor these distributions over** forest compositions derived  
from observations, e.g. of the InfoFlora (**National Swiss Data and Information Center of the Swiss  
Flora, <http://www.infoflora.ch>, last access: 8 June 2014**) or of National Forest Inventory (NFI) data  
395 (Brändli, 2009), because a) the current forest composition is biased by management, such as favoring  
certain species (e.g. *Picea abies*) by selective thinning and planting, and b) **it would be challenging  
to extrapolate the plot based NFI-data in space. Furthermore, the existing LPJ-GUESS parameteriza-  
tion is according to a PNV. Hence, a comparison to actual forest dynamics would require to take into  
account management effects and would most probably cause additional changes to the LPJ-GUESS  
400 parameterization (e.g. reduced sensitivity of seedlings to chilling if trees are planted, i.e. surpass the**

seedling stage).

#### 4.2.1 Situation for the simulation year 2000

The total biomass we modeled in general is slightly higher than the actual forest biomass. In Table 2 our results are compared with data from the Swiss NFI (Brändli, 2009). Our simulated total biomass  
405 for the Central Plateau is closest to the NFI data, whereas the results for the Jura and Alps differ more strongly from each other. Our total biomass results are also consistent with results of Erb (2004) who reported a PNV carbon mass of  $12.4 \text{ kgCm}^{-2}$  for Austrian forests. Furthermore, in a study where LPJ-GUESS was used locally for a valley in the Swiss Prealps, Gimmi et al. (2009) also concluded that the actual biomass was slightly smaller than the assumed natural forest biomass.

410 Simulations with the standard parameter set led to a species distribution that revealed that the parameterization was not specifically designed for the Alpine region. It might work better on larger scales (see also Hickler et al., 2012). For the specific climate, soil properties, terrain and present species this parameterization is not adapted enough. Important species were missing and the distribution of major species was not realistic. Using the standard parameter set, the spatial distribution  
415 of *Picea abies* ends too abrupt at altitudes of approximately 1000 m. Here, it should build mixed forests with *Abies alba* (Brzeziecki et al., 1993; Bohn et al., 2004; Frehner et al., 2005). However, *Abies alba* did not establish at all. The most likely reason for its absence might be the combination of a low parameter value for maximum 20-year coldest month mean temperature for establishment (high temperatures prevent establishment) and a high value of minimum Growing Degree Day sum  
420 on  $5^\circ\text{C}$  base ( $\text{GDD}_{\text{min}}$ , high temperatures are required for establishment, columns "tc\_max\_e" and "gdd5min" Table D.10 in the appendix). With the standard parameter set, *Pinus sylvestris* appeared at the upper treeline. In contrast, according to PNV it is supposed to grow in the dry Alpine valleys (Bohn et al., 2004), and *Larix decidua* and *Pinus cembra* are the species that build up the upper tree-line. In Northern Europe, *Pinus sylvestris* reaches up to the northern treeline (e.g. Kullman, 2007).  
425 However, the distribution of *Pinus sylvestris* in the Alps must be regarded separately from the one in Northern Europe. The Scandinavian northern and Alpine upper treelines differ in terms of solar energy, angle of insolation, altitude, summer temperatures, wind magnitude, soil properties and the biota, which might have an influence on the species composition. Due to our information on *Pinus sylvestris* in the Alps we changed its parameters for our study. We particularly removed the limit  
430 for **the maximum 20-year coldest month mean temperature for establishment** so that the species can also grow in the valleys (column "tc\_max\_e" in Table D.10 in the appendix). To force the growth of *Pinus sylvestris* especially in the Alpine valleys additional functions would have to be implemented into the model. Another parameter we changed for *Pinus sylvestris* was  $\text{GDD}_{\text{min}}$ . We raised it from 500 to 600 to prevent growth at higher altitudes (column "gdd5min" in Table D.10 in the appendix).  
435 Generally, information on *Pinus sylvestris*  $\text{GDD}_{\text{min}}$  in the literature reaches from 500-950 (Mikola, 1993; Rehfeldt et al., 2003; Matías and Jump, 2012). Considering a PNV, *Fagus sylvatica* is the

dominant species in the Central Plateau (Brzeziecki et al., 1993; Bohn et al., 2004; Frehner et al., 2005), but it is not exactly clear what grade of dominance is most realistic. There should be at least 50% *Fagus sylvatica* biomass but in most cases less than 10% of the biomass are of secondary tree species (Bohn et al., 2004). We decreased the drought tolerance of *Fagus sylvatica* (column "d.tol" in Table D.10 in the appendix). As a result it is less abundant but still makes approximately half of the forest biomass in the Central Plateau. With the standard parameterization set this value is higher but the species is too successful in dry regions where it should not appear under natural conditions (e.g. the east of the Valais). Another shortcoming of the standard parameter set is the low biomass of *Betula pendula*. We fixed that with the adjusted parameter set when we decreased the species' needed growing degree sum required for full leaf cover (column "phenramp" in Table D.10 in the appendix) to account for its comparatively fast budburst (Murray et al., 1989). The implementation of the new species was successful. The upper treeline picture with *Larix decidua* and *Pinus cembra* as main species, and the gradual downslope decrease of *Larix decidua* is consistent to the expected distribution (Frehner et al., 2005).

#### 4.2.2 Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

The total biomass increase of 1-2 kgCm<sup>-2</sup> (equivalent to 40-80 m<sup>3</sup> wood ha<sup>-1</sup>, see section 2.5) is mainly CO<sub>2</sub> driven, as simulations with a constant atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> show (see Fig. 9). An increase of temperature alone might have the effect of making more stands potentially habitable to more species but it also increases the evapotranspiration and thus the risk of water stress situations.

The fate of forest trees as a consequence of climate change does not only depend on species characteristics but also on the interspecific interactions (Walther, 2010). Our study strengthens this statement. Using the adjusted parameter set, the biomass of *Pinus sylvestris* and *Quercus robur* widely increased throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In contrast, using the standard set their biomass in general decreased. A likely reason for this is a strong increase in *Fagus sylvatica* biomass, favored by its unrealistically high drought tolerance, especially on sites initially populated by *Pinus sylvestris* (compare Fig. 8 "F.syl", right with Fig. 5 "P.syl"). However, also with the adjusted parameter set, *Pinus sylvestris* first experienced a decrease starting in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 3). It is not completely clear what triggered this decrease but it could be of complex origin. Most probably slight changes in the species composition play a role, since climatic events alone can be excluded because other less drought or cold resistant species were not affected. Nevertheless, in the second half of the 21<sup>st</sup> century a strong increase of *Pinus sylvestris* biomass occurred, yielding a positive increment for the whole simulation period. Interestingly, *Pinus sylvestris* is also one of the few species that increases its biomass on most stands even under a constant atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Based on simulations with the LPJ-DGVM (same plant physiological functions like LPJ-GUESS), Cheaib et al. (2012) reported a different result. They found that *Pinus sylvestris* in contrast to deciduous broadleaved trees benefits less from an increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. However, our results show that

statements of a general model behavior are critical when parameters are sensitive to small changes, and once more emphasize the importance of the species composition.

475 We most probably overestimated the increase in biomass for species establishing in new regions, because their future distribution will depend on migration rates, which we did not implement into the models used. This is in particular true for *Quercus pubescens*, which established on regions very distant to its origin (Fig. 3).

## 5 Conclusions and Outlook

480 The results of our simulations can be regarded as a success towards (1) applying the GAPPARD method on a large scale, (2) advancing the complex forest model LPJ-GUESS, and (3) gaining insight into forest changes as a consequence of climate change. We were able to show that GAPPARD incorporates a computationally efficient method to analyze forest dynamics on large scales. Therefore, it represents a substantial advancement in forest modeling. The GAPPARD method could  
485 potentially be applied to every gap model that uses patch replacing disturbances. Thereby simulation time would decrease, and thus the potential simulation range can increase. Furthermore, it could be applied to models of other type to include the effect of stand replacing small scale disturbances.

One big future task is to find a way to allow spatial interconnectivity. In particular, it should be considered to find a way to include migration functions to improve the GAPPARD method. More-  
490 over, it could further advance the method if the effect of disturbances that are not stand-replacing will be implemented. To solve these issues and test the general applicability of GAPPARD, in the near future the method could be applied to other gap models, e.g. ForMind (Köhler and Huth, 1998). Furthermore, regional to large scale intercomparisons with the forest landscape model TreeMig (Lischke et al., 2006) are planned.

495 To further improve the applicability of LPJ-GUESS in Alpine landscapes, the new found parameters and functions must be applied to different regions. It is furthermore relevant whether the new parameters and functions can also be applied on a larger scale and on regions with different climates. Such studies could also go hand in hand with analyses of the influence of different disturbance regimes on the modeling of forest dynamics, since the effect of different disturbance intervals  
500 can easily be applied.

In this paper, we successfully applied the GAPPARD method to simulate climate change effects on forest dynamics over the whole of Switzerland. We are optimistic that it can be used for any scale and any model that uses the gap model approach and that does not include interactions between neighboring grid cells or patch-to-patch interactions. Regardless of whether using GAPPARD or not,  
505 if applying LPJ-GUESS to different regions one big challenge will be to parameterize all relevant species.

## Appendix A New plant physiological functions and parameters

Based on Scherstjanoi et al. (2013) we included the three new tree species *Larix decidua*, *Pinus cembra* and *Pinus mugo*. Existing functions of LPJ-GUESS were applied to both *Pinus* species.

510 However, first plausibility tests showed that these functions were not sufficient for *Larix decidua*, mainly due to the tree species' specific phenology. In LPJ-GUESS, the foliage of summergreen species is transferred to the litter all at once on one simulation day (typically in fall) when the maximum number of equivalent days with full leaf cover per growing season exceeds a certain value. For most species, this approximation has no significant negative influence because photosynthetic

515 efficiency in general is reduced more suddenly. However, especially for larches leaf senescence can be a process that lasts for months during which photosynthetic intensity is reduced stepwise. Based on Migliavacca et al. (2008), Scherstjanoi et al. (2013) included this physiological trait by defining a new phenology type for *Larix decidua*. The tree species is modeled like a summergreen species, but in autumn the phenological state of the larches will decrease with an s-shaped curve. Here, we

520 improved this function to make it more applicable for more varying climate conditions. For means of simplification, we decided to define a time point in a year when the process of leaf senescence will be completed, independent of climate conditions. **This is also in accordance with the findings of Migliavacca et al. (2008) who reported** that *Larix decidua* trees of different stands complete leaf senescence roughly at the same time, independently of the senescence curve. We decided to use

525 December 1<sup>st</sup> as that day. We then calculated the phenology of *Larix decidua* depending on the number of days since the start of fall of leaves  $t_{ls}$  and the length of the period between the start of fall of leaves and December 1<sup>st</sup>  $d_{ls}$ :

$$phen(t) = \frac{1}{1+0.5e^{\left(\frac{13.5}{d_{ls}}t_{ls}-6.75\right)}} \quad (A1)$$

so that  $phen(t)$  is close to 1 when the ratio of  $t_{ls}$  to  $d_{ls}$  is approaching 0, and close to 0 when the

530 ratio is close to 1.

According to Scherstjanoi et al. (2013), we defined *Larix decidua* as a shade intolerant species with a high ratio of leaf area to sapwood cross-sectional area (Oren et al., 1995). The parameters of the new *Pinus* species are mainly based on *Pinus sylvestris* parameters. However, both new *Pinus* species are more cold resistant, have seeds that are less drought resistant and their needles have a

535 higher longevity. Moreover, *Pinus mugo* was defined as shade intolerant.

In the establishment function, we changed the functionality of the LPJ-GUESS parameter of maximum 20-year coldest month mean temperature for establishment ( $tc_{max\_e}$ ), which prevents certain boreal species from growing in temperate stands. Instead of this so far used threshold function, for temperatures above the lowest mean monthly temperature for the last 20 years ( $mt_{min}$  in Celsius

540 degrees) saplings now can establish. Above ( $tc_{max\_e}$ ), their number ( $n$ ) decreases according to an s-shaped curve:

$$n = \frac{1}{1+0.5e^{(3(mt_{min}-tc_{max_e})-tc_{max_f})}} \quad (A2)$$

with  $tc_{max\_f}$  being a newly introduced plant specific shape parameter that influences how intense the reduction of sapling establishment is (Table D.10).

545 **A summary of all used parameters is given in Tables D.8-D.10.**

## Appendix B Calculation of the Root Mean Square Error

The differences in carbon mass of one species between the two model outputs ( $C_{m1}$ ,  $C_{m2}$ ) are added up for each year ( $y$ ) between 1901 and 2100. These for each  $y$  calculated differences

$$c_{md,y} = C_{m1,y} - C_{m2,y} \quad (B1)$$

550 are scaled by the mean maximum carbon mass appearing in the period defined by the time window:

$$c_{mm} = \max(C_{m1,1901}, C_{m2,1901}, C_{m1,1902}, C_{m2,1902}, \dots, C_{m1,2100}, C_{m2,2100}) \quad (B2)$$

Then its square is added up and divided by the number of years in which the species had a positive biomass in either of both models  $y_{count}$  elements to add up. The root of it is the Root Mean Square

555 Error:

$$rmse = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{y=y_{start}}^{y_{end}} \left(\frac{C_{md,y}}{C_{mm}}\right)^2}{y_{count}}} \quad (B3)$$

## Appendix C LPJ-GUESS input data

### C1 Cloud coverage

In LPJ-GUESS, either daily cloud coverage or total net radiation is needed as an input to calculate  
 560 the net primary carbon uptake. No data in the wanted resolution was available to us on either of them. However, upscaled radiation data is often not correlated to precipitation data, so that unrealistic input is produced (e.g. precipitation without cloud coverage). One possibility would have been to apply advanced geostatistical methods for the interpolation of the precipitation and net radiation between climate stations.

565 For means of simplicity, we used the available climate data from 59 Swiss weather stations (Table D.1) to be able to predict cloud coverage for all kilometer grid cells using an empirical probability



distribution density coded as a set of lookup tables. We discretized six cloud coverage classes to be predicted and applied three discretized explanatory variables: precipitation of a day, season and altitude. For each combination of explanatory variables (5 precipitation classes x 5 altitudinal classes  
570 x 4 seasons) we calculated probabilities of each of the six cloud coverage classes derived from the weather station data frequency and thus created the lookup tables (Tables D.2-D.6). During the simulation one cloud coverage class for a simulation day was picked depending on the three explanatory variables. If, for example, no cloud cover for a certain day is predicted with a probability of 25 percent the lowest cloud coverage class will be taken if a random number between 0 and  
575 1 is smaller than 0.25. After the cloud coverage class has been determined, the value is sampled randomly between the border values of the class.

## **C2 Soil data**

The soil of simulated stands in LPJ-GUESS is described by a code number (see Table A6.3 in Prentice et al., 1992). With this soil code values of five different soil characteristics are identified  
580 (Table D.7, columns ep-t3). We used the soil suitability map of Switzerland (Frei, 1976) to estimate LPJ-GUESS soil code (Table D.7, column un) based on section 5.3.3 of Jury et al. (1991) and general knowledge. As a result a soil code number was attached to each simulated grid cell (Fig. D.1).

## **Appendix D Figures and tables**

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**Table 1.** Root Mean Square Error of the carbon mass between LPJ-GUESS results and GAPPARD results along the mapped transect. LPJ-GUESS used 100 stochastic replicates. Values were calculated as a mean of all simulated stands in between 1901-2100.

	Root Mean Square Error
Boreal evergreen shrubs	0.27
Betula pubescens	0.24
Larix decidua	0.2
Picea abies	0.27
Pinus cembra	0.27
Pinus mugo	0.22
Pinus sylvestris	0.19
Abies alba	0.25
Betula pendula	0.12
Carpinus betulus	0.13
Coryllus avelanna	0.14
Fagus sylvatica	0.15
Fraxinus excelsior	0.15
Quercus pubescens	0.12
Quercus robur	0.13
Tilia cordata	0.13
Total carbon mass	0.08

**Table 2.** Total simulated (rough values) and actual biomass for the years 2000 and 2100. CP: Central Plateau; JA: Jura; PA: Prealps; NA: Central, northwest and northeast Alps; SA: south, southeast and southwest Alps (see Brändli (2009) for the detailed locations of regions); SP: standard parameter set; AP: adjusted parameter set; APS: Forest stock approximated from AP 2000 results (10 kgCm<sup>-2</sup> are equivalent to 400 m<sup>3</sup> wood ha<sup>-1</sup>, see section 2.5); NFIS: actual forest stock as result of the newest SWISS national forest inventory (Brändli, 2009). Units of SP and AP are in kgCm<sup>-2</sup>. Units of APS and NFIS are in m<sup>3</sup> wood ha<sup>-1</sup>.

	AP 2000	AP 2100	SP 2000	SP 2100	APS 2000	NFIS
CP	10	12	9	10-11	400	387-411
JA	11-12	12-13	9-13	12-15	440-480	367-369
PA	11-12	12-15	9-13	12-16	440-480	416-466
NA	9-11	11-12	9-12	10-12	360-440	329-358
SA	7-11	7-12	7-11	7-12	280-440	225-298

**Table 3.** Simulation results of selected species for the different regions. Units in  $\text{kgCm}^{-2}$ . I: standard parameter set results for 2000; II: adjusted parameter set results for 2000; III: development of standard parameter set results until 2100; IV: development of adjusted parameter set results until 2100; a: Central Plateau and low sites in the Ticino; b: Alpine valley bottoms (submontane/colline); c: lower montane vegetation zone of Jura, Prealps and Alps; d: upper montane vegetation zone; e: subalpine vegetation zones; F.syl: *Fagus sylvatica*; B.pen: *Betula pendula*; Q.rob: *Quercus robur*; Q.pub: *Quercus pubescens*; P.syl: *Pinus sylvestris*; A.alb: *Abies alba*; P.abi: *Picea abies*; B.pub: *Betula pubescens*; BES: boreal evergreen shrubs; L.dec: *Larix decidua*; P.cem: *Pinus cembra*; n.i.: not implemented; -: species did not establish or only had a very small biomass; N: none if too dry; \*: strongly increases with water availability; \*\*: strongly decreases with water availability; U: on upper stands; L: on lower stands; D: on dry sites; T: only Ticino; SA: south Alps;  $\uparrow$ : increase higher than  $3 \text{ kgCm}^{-2}$ ;  $\uparrow$ : increase of  $1-2 \text{ kgCm}^{-2}$ ;  $\nearrow$ : increase lower than  $1 \text{ kgCm}^{-2}$ ;  $\rightarrow$ : roughly constant;  $\searrow$ : decrease lower than  $1 \text{ kgCm}^{-2}$ ;  $\downarrow$ : decrease of  $1-2 \text{ kgCm}^{-2}$ ;  $\rightsquigarrow$ : varies strongly.

	F.syl	B.pen	Q.rob	Q.pub	P.syl	A.alb	P.abi	B.pub	BES	L.dec	P.cem
I a	$6..9^L, 2^U$	$<0.2$	0.4	2	$>4.5^U$	-	-	-	-	n.i.	n.i.
b	$0.6^*$	$<0.2$	0.6	$>0.5^{**}$	-	-	-	-	-	n.i.	n.i.
c	-	-	-	-	-	-	$5..>10$	$<1^*$	-	n.i.	n.i.
d	-	-	-	-	0-10	-	$1..>10^*$	$0..5^*$	-	n.i.	n.i.
e	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$0.5^*$	1.4	n.i.	n.i.
II a	4.6	$0.3^*$	2	0..	$>0.5^{**}$	$2..3^U$	-	-	-	-	-
b	$5^N$	$0.1^*$	2	$1..5^{**}$	$>0.6^{**}$	$2^U$	-	-	-	-	-
c	-	-	-	-	-	2	$>0..10$	$<0.5^*$	-	2.3	-
d	-	-	-	-	-	-	$5..10$	$<0.5^*$	-	4.6	-
e	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$<0.5^*$	$1.4^U$	4.6	5
III a	$\searrow^L \uparrow^U$	$\rightarrow$	$\searrow \nearrow^T$	$\uparrow^L \uparrow^U$	$\searrow^U$	-	-	-	-	n.i.	n.i.
b	$\searrow^L \uparrow^U$	$\rightarrow$	$\searrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\searrow^U$	-	-	-	-	n.i.	n.i.
c	$\nearrow^L$	$\rightarrow$	$\nearrow^N$	-	$\rightsquigarrow$	-	$\searrow$	$\rightarrow$	-	n.i.	n.i.
d	-	$\nearrow^L$	$\nearrow^{SA}$	-	$\rightsquigarrow$	-	$\uparrow$	$\searrow$	-	n.i.	n.i.
e	-	-	-	-	-	-	$\uparrow$	$\nearrow$	$\searrow^L \nearrow^U$	n.i.	n.i.
IV a	$\searrow^L$	$\searrow^{T,D}$	$\searrow^D \nearrow^U$	$\uparrow^L \nearrow$	$\uparrow^L \nearrow^U$	$\rightarrow$	-	-	-	-	-
b	$\rightarrow$	$\rightarrow$	$\searrow^D \nearrow^U$	$\nearrow$	$\nearrow^L \searrow^U$	$\rightarrow$	-	-	-	-	-
c	$\nearrow^L$	$\nearrow$	$\nearrow$	-	-	$\rightarrow$	$\searrow$	$\rightarrow$	-	$\searrow$	-
d	-	$\nearrow$	-	-	-	-	$\uparrow$	$\rightarrow$	-	$\rightarrow$	-
e	-	-	-	-	-	-	$\uparrow^L$	$\nearrow$	$\searrow^L \nearrow^U$	$\uparrow$	$\searrow^L \nearrow^U$



**Table D.1.** Climate station data used to estimate cloud coverage. lat and lon: latitude and longitude in m, CH1903/lv03 (Swiss) coordinates; alt: altitude above sea level in m; ys: first year of cloud coverage recording; ye: last year of cloud coverage recording. When cloud coverage was recorded at a station also precipitation was recorded.

	lat	lon	alt	ys	ye
Aadorf / Tänikon	710500	259820	536	1971	2007
Acquarossa / Comprovasco	714998	146440	575	1959	1976
Adelboden	609400	148975	1320	1966	2011
Aigle	560120	130630	381	1981	2011
Altdorf	690960	191700	449	1901	2011
Basel / Binningen	610850	265620	316	1901	2011
Bern / Zollikofen	601930	204410	553	1901	2011
Buchs / Aarau	648400	248380	387	1984	2011
Buffalora	816500	170250	1970	1964	1997
Chur	759471	193157	556	1931	2011
Col du Grand St-Bernard	579200	79720	2472	1901	2011
Davos	783580	187480	1590	1901	2005
Disentis / Sedrun	708200	173800	1190	1961	2011
Engelberg	674150	186060	1035	1931	1996
Evolène / Villa	605415	106740	1825	1986	2011
Fahy	562460	252650	596	1981	2007
Fey	586725	115180	737	1959	1979
Genève-Cointrin	498580	122320	420	1958	2011
Glarus	723800	210600	515	1931	1996
Grimsel Hospiz	668580	158210	1980	1964	2011
Gütsch ob Andermatt	690140	167590	2287	1958	2003
Güttingen	738430	273950	440	1976	1997
Hinterrhein	733900	153980	1611	1968	1996
Interlaken	633070	169120	580	1931	1997
Jungfrauoch	641930	155275	3580	1933	2011
La Brévine	537000	203980	1050	1966	1996
La Chaux-de-Fonds	551290	215150	1018	1901	2011
La Dôle	497050	142380	1670	1973	1993
Leibstadt	656350	272100	341	2004	2006
Locarno / Monti	704167	114313	383	1935	2011

**Table D.1.** Continued.

	lat	lon	alt	ys	ye
Lugano	717880	95870	273	1901	2011
Luzern	665520	209860	456	1931	2007
Magadino / Cadenazzo	715475	113162	203	1958	2010
Montana	603600	129160	1508	1931	1996
Neuchâtel	563150	205600	485	1901	2006
Nyon / Changins	507280	139170	430	1965	1977
Payerne	562150	184855	490	1964	2011
Pilatus	661910	203410	2106	1981	1998
Piotta	694930	152500	1007	1979	2011
Plaffeien	586850	177400	1042	1989	1995
Poschiavo / Robbia	801850	136180	1078	1961	2011
PSI Würenlingen	659540	265600	334	2004	2005
Pully	540820	151500	461	1978	1995
Säntis	744100	234900	2502	1901	2011
Samedan	787149	155701	1709	1980	2011
S.Bernardino	734120	147270	1639	1968	2010
Schaffhausen	688700	282800	437	1931	2011
Scuol	817130	186400	1298	1931	2005
Sion	592200	118625	482	1958	2011
Stabio	716040	77970	353	1981	1990
St.Gallen	747940	254600	779	1931	2011
Ulrichen	666740	150760	1345	1984	2011
Vaduz	757720	221720	460	1971	2011
Visp	631150	128020	640	1980	1995
Weissfluhjoch	780600	189630	2690	1959	2008
Wynau	626400	233860	422	1978	2009
Zermatt	624300	97575	1638	1960	2003
Zürich / Fluntern	685125	248090	556	1901	2011
Zürich / Kloten	682720	259340	436	1958	2011

**Table D.2.** Probabilities of cloud coverage classes for a 24 hrs precipitation sum of 0 cm depending on explanatory variables following selected Swiss climate weather stations. A: altitude of the climate stations; S: season; wi: winter (before day 46 or after day 319 of a year); sp: spring (between days 46 and 136 of a year); su: summer (between days 137 and 227 of a year); fa: fall (between days 228 and 318 of a year); I-IV: cloud coverage classes; I: 0%; II: 0-20%; III: 20-40%; IV: 40-60%; V: 60-80%; VI: 80-100% cloud coverage.

A	S	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
<500 m	wi	0.0816	0.1248	0.1367	0.1434	0.1634	0.3501
	sp	0.0676	0.1646	0.1870	0.2000	0.1977	0.1830
	su	0.0393	0.2196	0.2653	0.2285	0.1672	0.0802
	fa	0.0555	0.1591	0.2092	0.2139	0.1847	0.1775
500 - <1000 m	wi	0.0782	0.1089	0.1413	0.1567	0.1864	0.3285
	sp	0.0688	0.1568	0.1777	0.1979	0.2142	0.1846
	su	0.0409	0.2194	0.2487	0.2288	0.1741	0.0880
	fa	0.0587	0.1560	0.2055	0.2147	0.1979	0.1672
1000 - <1500 m	wi	0.2423	0.1816	0.1872	0.1576	0.1222	0.1091
	sp	0.1146	0.1630	0.1956	0.1949	0.1815	0.1503
	su	0.0395	0.1821	0.2745	0.2423	0.1805	0.0812
	fa	0.1107	0.1968	0.2325	0.2004	0.1594	0.1002
1500 - <2000 m	wi	0.2494	0.2080	0.1897	0.1496	0.1237	0.0796
	sp	0.1229	0.1717	0.1926	0.1904	0.1826	0.1397
	su	0.0449	0.1816	0.2727	0.2489	0.1772	0.0747
	fa	0.1270	0.1964	0.2271	0.2109	0.1559	0.0827
≥2000 m	wi	0.1958	0.2911	0.1946	0.1495	0.1030	0.0660
	sp	0.1003	0.2178	0.1984	0.1849	0.1705	0.1280
	su	0.0373	0.1874	0.2444	0.2435	0.1795	0.1079
	fa	0.0888	0.2206	0.2300	0.2114	0.1591	0.0901

**Table D.3.** Probabilities of cloud coverage classes for a 24 hrs precipitation sum of >0-4 cm depending on explanatory variables following selected Swiss climate stations. For further description see Table D.2.

A	S	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
<500 m	Wi	0.0012	0.0054	0.0281	0.0815	0.2068	0.6770
	Sp	0.0003	0.0047	0.0305	0.1095	0.2653	0.5897
	Su	0.0014	0.0141	0.0785	0.1946	0.3245	0.3869
	Fa	0.0037	0.0126	0.0566	0.1473	0.2922	0.4875
500 - <1000 m	Wi	0.0004	0.0032	0.0255	0.0876	0.2235	0.6598
	Sp	0.0002	0.0036	0.0246	0.1034	0.2696	0.5986
	Su	0.0002	0.0114	0.0685	0.1859	0.3366	0.3974
	Fa	0.0015	0.0104	0.0459	0.1421	0.3135	0.4866
1000 - <1500 m	Wi	0.0061	0.0139	0.0527	0.1199	0.2406	0.5668
	Sp	0.0012	0.0062	0.0396	0.1157	0.2541	0.5832
	Su	0.0016	0.0117	0.0697	0.1974	0.3214	0.3983
	Fa	0.0027	0.0143	0.0629	0.1627	0.2812	0.4761
1500 - <2000 m	Wi	0.0060	0.0165	0.0598	0.1420	0.2636	0.5121
	Sp	0.0018	0.0109	0.0406	0.1168	0.2477	0.5821
	Su	0.0006	0.0122	0.0749	0.2051	0.3207	0.3865
	Fa	0.0019	0.0169	0.0602	0.1631	0.3015	0.4564
>=2000 m	Wi	0.0154	0.0406	0.0907	0.1598	0.2702	0.4234
	Sp	0.0047	0.0126	0.0505	0.1211	0.2765	0.5345
	Su	0.0025	0.0117	0.0472	0.1649	0.2961	0.4776
	Fa	0.0038	0.0151	0.0582	0.1485	0.2901	0.4843

**Table D.4.** Probabilities of cloud coverage classes for a 24 hrs precipitation sum of >4-10 cm depending on explanatory variables following selected Swiss climate stations. For further description see Table D.2.

A	S	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
<500 m	Wi	0	0.0002	0.0070	0.0339	0.1409	0.8179
	Sp	0	0.0006	0.0073	0.0440	0.1664	0.7817
	Su	0.0002	0.0043	0.0378	0.1197	0.2644	0.5736
	Fa	0.0005	0.0038	0.0204	0.0790	0.2161	0.6801
500 - <1000 m	Wi	0	0	0.0041	0.0303	0.1657	0.7998
	Sp	0	0.0004	0.0076	0.0396	0.1759	0.7765
	Su	0	0.0045	0.0267	0.1095	0.2731	0.5862
	Fa	0.0010	0.0015	0.0130	0.0713	0.2448	0.6685
1000 - <1500 m	Wi	0	0	0.0113	0.0388	0.1582	0.7916
	Sp	0	0	0.0069	0.0365	0.1448	0.8118
	Su	0.0004	0.0021	0.0367	0.1356	0.2512	0.5740
	Fa	0	0.0024	0.0200	0.0871	0.2159	0.6747
1500 - <2000 m	Wi	0.0007	0	0.0110	0.0542	0.1670	0.7670
	Sp	0	0.0007	0.0078	0.0501	0.1482	0.7932
	Su	0.0005	0.0046	0.0250	0.1287	0.2431	0.5981
	Fa	0.0007	0.0026	0.0216	0.0778	0.2085	0.6889
>=2000 m	Wi	0.0025	0.0034	0.0211	0.0684	0.2466	0.6579
	Sp	0	0.0021	0.0084	0.0505	0.1593	0.7796
	Su	0	0.0006	0.0280	0.0784	0.2298	0.6632
	Fa	0.0008	0.0008	0.0188	0.0776	0.1951	0.7069

**Table D.5.** Probabilities of cloud coverage classes for a 24 hrs precipitation sum of >10-20 cm depending on explanatory variables following selected Swiss climate stations. For further description see Table D.2.

A	S	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
<500 m	Wi	0	0.0002	0.0070	0.0339	0.1409	0.8179
	Sp	0	0.0006	0.0073	0.0440	0.1664	0.7817
	Su	0.0002	0.0043	0.0378	0.1197	0.2644	0.5736
	Fa	0.0005	0.0038	0.0204	0.0790	0.2161	0.6801
500 - <1000 m	Wi	0	0	0.0041	0.0303	0.1657	0.7998
	Sp	0	0.0004	0.0076	0.0396	0.1759	0.7765
	Su	0	0.0045	0.0267	0.1095	0.2731	0.5862
	Fa	0.0010	0.0015	0.0130	0.0713	0.2448	0.6685
1000 - <1500 m	Wi	0	0	0.0113	0.0388	0.1582	0.7916
	Sp	0	0	0.0069	0.0365	0.1448	0.8118
	Su	0.0004	0.0021	0.0367	0.1356	0.2512	0.5740
	Fa	0	0.0024	0.0200	0.0871	0.2159	0.6747
1500 - <2000 m	Wi	0.0007	0	0.0110	0.0542	0.1670	0.7670
	Sp	0	0.0007	0.0078	0.0501	0.1482	0.7932
	Su	0.0005	0.0046	0.0250	0.1287	0.2431	0.5981
	Fa	0.0007	0.0026	0.0216	0.0778	0.2085	0.6889
≥2000 m	Wi	0.0025	0.0034	0.0211	0.0684	0.2466	0.6579
	Sp	0	0.0021	0.0084	0.0505	0.1593	0.7796
	Su	0	0.0006	0.0280	0.0784	0.2298	0.6632
	Fa	0.0008	0.0008	0.0188	0.0776	0.1951	0.7069

**Table D.6.** Probabilities of cloud coverage classes for a 24 hrs precipitation sum of >20 cm depending on explanatory variables following selected Swiss climate stations. For further description see Table D.2.

A	S	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
<500 m	Wi	0	0	0	0.0019	0.0393	0.9588
	Sp	0	0	0.0008	0.0068	0.0462	0.9462
	Su	0	0.0004	0.0198	0.0757	0.1713	0.7327
	Fa	0	0.0005	0.0097	0.0353	0.1078	0.8468
500 - <1000 m	Wi	0	0	0	0.0024	0.0217	0.9759
	Sp	0	0	0.0045	0.0135	0.0655	0.9165
	Su	0	0.0020	0.0153	0.0675	0.1554	0.7597
	Fa	0	0	0.0075	0.0313	0.1314	0.8298
1000 - <1500 m	Wi	0	0	0	0.0035	0.0318	0.9647
	Sp	0	0	0	0.0069	0.0466	0.9465
	Su	0	0	0.0181	0.0683	0.1215	0.7922
	Fa	0	0	0.0031	0.0251	0.0868	0.8849
1500 - <2000 m	Wi	0	0	0	0.0014	0.0360	0.9626
	Sp	0	0	0	0.0061	0.0167	0.9772
	Su	0	0	0.0060	0.0518	0.0976	0.8446
	Fa	0	0	0.0011	0.0139	0.0622	0.9227
≥2000 m	Wi	0	0	0.0018	0.0062	0.0677	0.9244
	Sp	0	0	0.0010	0.0089	0.0546	0.9355
	Su	0	0	0.0041	0.0386	0.1269	0.8305
	Fa	0	0	0.0057	0.0149	0.0744	0.9050

**Table D.7.** Soil classification. sc: LPJ-GUESS soil code; ep: empirical parameter in percolation equation (mm/day); vw: volumetric water holding capacity (WHC) at field capacity minus WHC at wilting point, as fraction of soil layer depth; t1-t3: thermal diffusivities (TD) in  $\text{mm}^2\text{sec}^{-1}$ ; t1: TD at wilting point (0% WHC); t2: TD at 15% WHC; t3: TD at field capacity (100% WHC). Thermal diffusivities follow van Duin (1963) and Jury et al. (1991, Fig 5.11.); un: unit number in soil suitability map.

sc	ep	vw	t1	t2	t3	un
1	5.0	0.110	0.2	0.800	0.4	B3,E3,L1,P1,P4,P7,Q2,Q5,R2,R5,S1,S5,S7,T1,T3,U1,U2,U3, U5,U7,  V1,V2,V3,V4,V5,V6,V7,V8,W1,W2,W3,W5,W7, W8,Y2,Y5,Z2
2	4.0	0.150	0.2	0.650	0.4	A7,A8,A9,B7,C3,C6,H1,O2,Q1
3	3.0	0.120	0.2	0.500	0.4	A1,A3,B1,C5,C7,C8,D1,E2,E4,E5,E7,F3
4	4.5	0.130	0.2	0.725	0.4	F2,F4,G1,G2,H3,H7,J2,K3,L2,L3,L4,M1,M3,N1,N3,P8,R1, R4,S2,  S3,S4,S6,S8,T2,T4,U4,U6,U8,W4,W6,X2,Y1,Y4,Z3,Z4
5	4.0	0.115	0.2	0.650	0.4	B6,C2,E1,E6,E8
6	3.5	0.135	0.2	0.575	0.4	A4,A5,B2,B4,B5,B8,B9,C1,C4,D2,G3,G4,H2,H4,H5,H6,J1, K1,K2,K4,M2,M4,N2,N4,O1,O3,O4,O5,P2,P3,P5,P6,Q4,R3 X1,Y3,Z1,Z5
7	4.0	0.127	0.2	0.650	0.4	A6,E9,F1
8	9.0	0.300	0.1	0.100	0.1	Q3
9	0.2	0.100	0.2	0.500	0.4	A2

**Table D.8.** Shade tolerance parameters. The affiliations to species are given in Table D.10. st: shade tolerant; ns: nearly shade tolerant; ist: intermediate shade tolerant; si: shade intolerant; siBES: shade intolerant boreal evergreen shrubs.

	st	ns	ist	si	siBES
Minimum forest-floor PAR for establishment ( $\text{MJ m}^{-2} \text{day}^{-1}$ )	1.25	1.625	2	2.5	1.5
Growth efficiency threshold ( $\text{kgCm}^{-2}\text{year}^{-1}$ )	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.1	0.04
Maximum establishment rate (saplings $\text{m}^{-2} \text{year}^{-1}$ )	0.05	0.075	0.1	0.2	0.625
Recruitment shape parameter after Fulton (1991)	2	4	6	10	10
Annual sapwood to heartwood turnover rate ( $\text{y}^{-1}$ )	0.05	0.0575	0.065	0.08	0.0125

**Table D.9.** Climatic range parameters. The affiliations to species are shown in Tables D.10.

	boreal	temperate
Optimal temperature range for photosynthesis (°C)	10 - 25	15 - 25
Maximum temperature range for photosynthesis (°C)	-4 - 38	-2 - 38

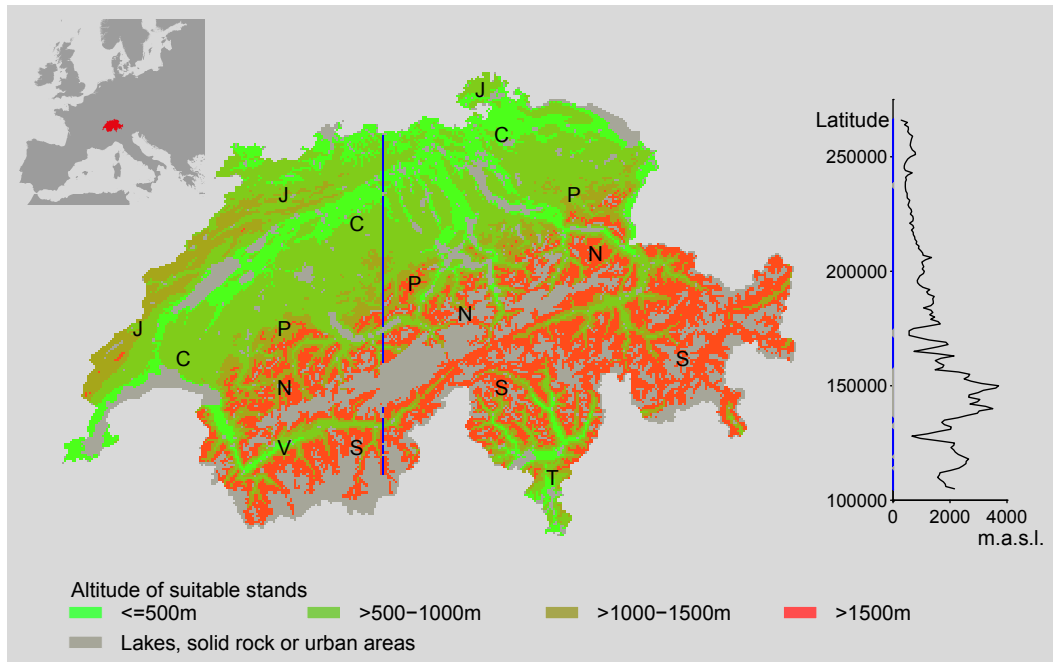
**Table D.10.** Specific tree parameters of I) the standard and II) the adjusted parameter set. One entry per species and parameter means same parameters were used for both sets **or that the species was not included in the standard parameter set (newly added species)**. \* newly added species; \*\* direct comparison between I and II not meaningful because different establishment functions were used; n.i.: parameter not implemented. b: boreal; t: temperate; st: shade tolerant; ns: nearly shade tolerant; ist: intermediate shade tolerant; si: shade intolerant; e: evergreen; s: summergreen; d: summergreen with decelerated senescence; cl.range: climatic range; shade tol.: shade tolerance; ph.type: phenology type; phenramp: growing degree sum on 5 degree base required for full leaf cover; k\_latosa: ratio of leaf area to sapwood cross-sectional area; rootdist\_u and rootdist\_l: proportion of fine roots extending into upper and lower soil layer; leaflong: leaf longevity; chill\_b: changed chilling parameter (Sykes et al., 1996); d.tol: drought tolerance, lower values show higher tolerance (minimum soil water content needed for establishment, averaged over the growing season and expressed as a fraction of available water holding capacity, and water uptake efficiency); gdd5min: minimum growing degree day sum on 5 °C base, tc\_max\_e and tc\_min\_e : maximum and minimum 20-year coldest month mean temperature for establishment; tc\_max\_f: shape parameter for new tc\_max\_e function (see appendix A); tc\_min\_s: maximum 20-year coldest month mean temperature for survival; k\_allom2: steepness-influencing parameter in diameter to height relation; BES: boreal evergreen shrubs; B.pub: *Betula pubescens*; L.dec: *Larix decidua*; P.abi: *Picea abies*; P.cem: *Pinus cembra*; P.mug: *Pinus mugo*; P.syl: *Pinus sylvestris*; A.alb: *Abies alba*; B.pen: *Betula pendula*; C.bet: *Carpinus betulus*; C.ave: *Coryllus avelanna*; F.syl: *Fagus sylvatica*; F.exc: *Fraxinus excelsior*; Q.pub: *Quercus pubescens*; Q.rob: *Quercus robur*; T.cor: *Tilia cordata*;

		BES	B.pub	L.dec*	P.abi	P.cem*	P.mug*	P.syl	A.alb
shade tol.	I II	si	si	si	st ns	ist	si	ist	st
k_latosa		300	5000	5000	4000	2000	2000	2000	4000
d.tol	I II	0.25	0.5	0.3	0.43 0.38	0.3	0.3	0.25	0.35 0.33
gdd5min	I II	200	350	300	600	300	400	500 600	1450 900
tc_max_e**	I II	-2	-	-2	-1.5 -3	-3	-1.5	-1 -	-2
tc_max_f	I II	n.i. 9	n.i. -	n.i. 4.5	n.i. 4.5	n.i. 4.5	n.i. 4.5	n.i. 4.5	n.i. 6
phenramp	I II	-	200 150	100	-	-	-	-	-
longevity	I II	50	200	500	500	500	500	500	350 450
k_allom2		5	40	40	40	22	30	40	40
tc_min_e		-	-	-29	-29	-29	-29	-29	-3.5
tc_min_s		-	-	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	-4.5
ph.type		e	s	d	e	e	e	e	e
rootdist_u		0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8
rootdist_l		0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2
leaflong		2	0.5	0.5	4	4	4	2	4
chill_b		100	400	100	100	100	100	100	100
cl.range		b	b	b	b	b	b	b	t

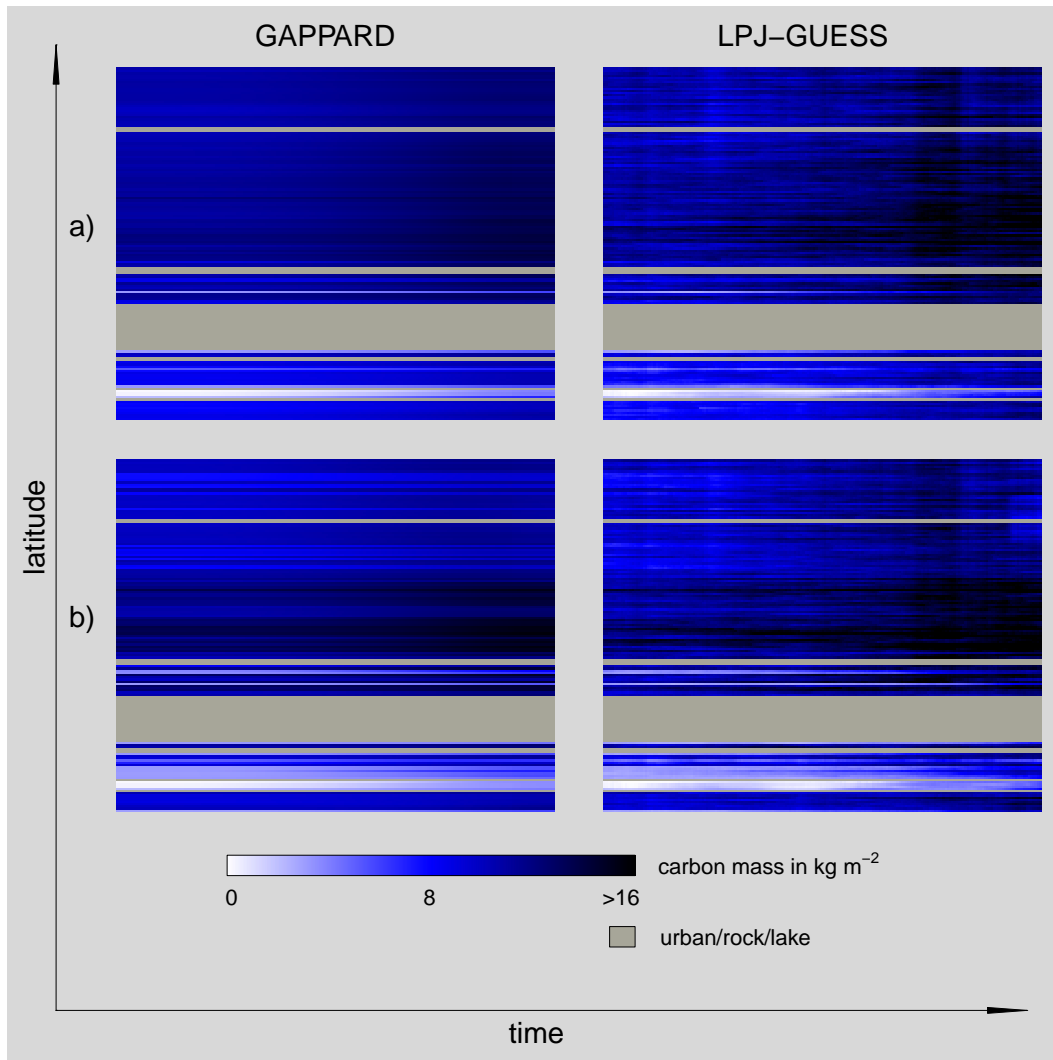


**Table D.10.** Continued.

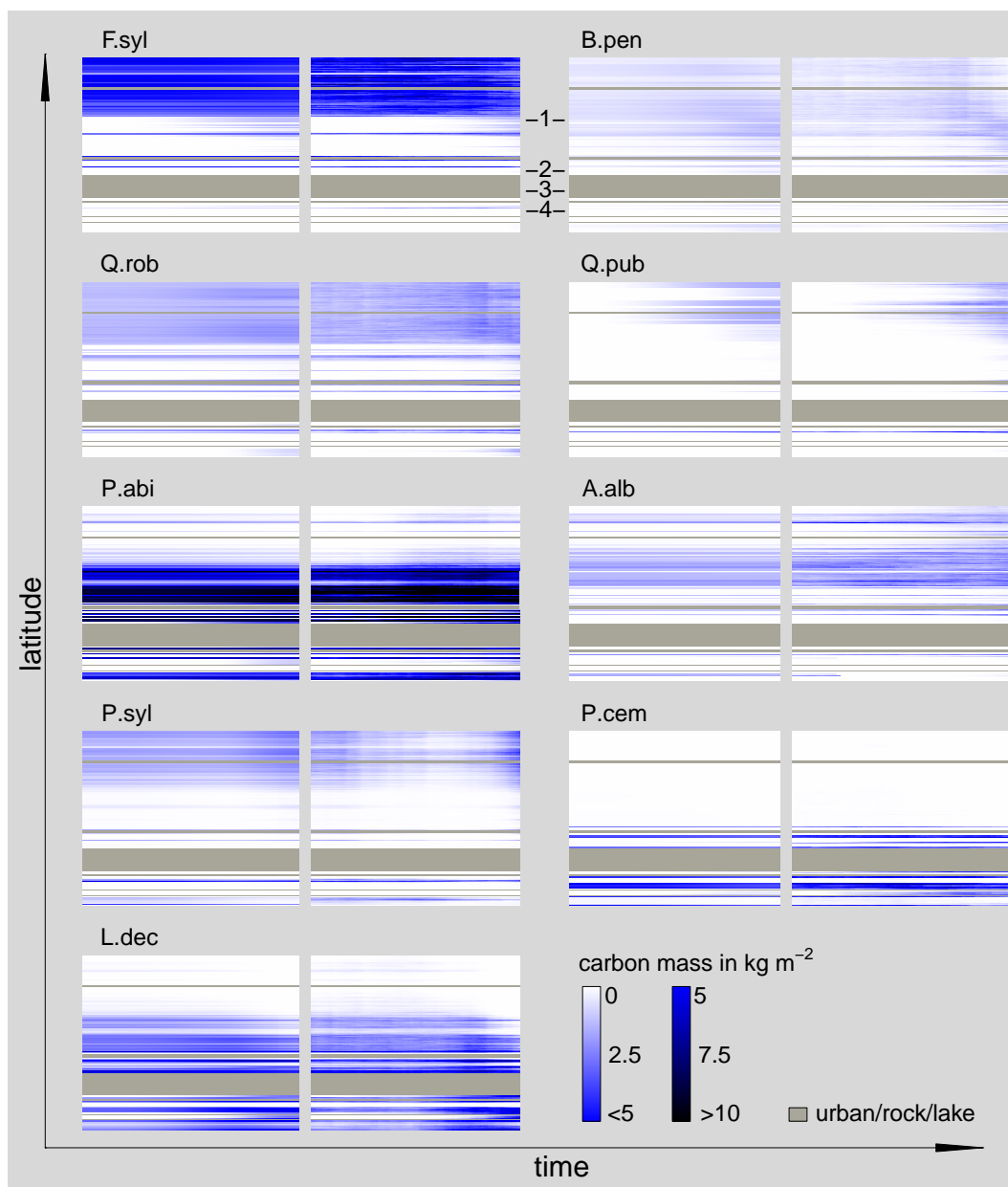
		B.pen	C.bet	C.ave	F.syl	F.exc	Q.pub	Q.rob	T.cor
shade tol.		si	ist	si	st	ist	ist	ist	ist
k_latosa	I II	5000	5000	4000	5000	5000	4000	4000 4500	5000
d_tol	I II	0.42 0.35	0.33	0.3	0.3 0.35	0.4	0.2	0.25 0.27	0.33
gdd5min	I II	700	1200	800	1500 1300	1100	1900	1100	1000
tc_max_e		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
tc_max_f	I II	n.i. -	n.i. -	n.i. -	n.i. -	n.i. -	n.i. -	n.i. -	n.i. -
phenramp	I II	200 150	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
longevity		200	350	300	500	350	500	500	350
k_allom2		40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
tc_min_e		-29	-7	-10	-2.5	-15	-5	-15	-17
tc_min_s		-30	-8	-11	-3.5	-16	-6	-16	-18
ph.type		s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s
phenramp		100	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
longevity		200	350	300	500	350	500	500	350
rootdist_u		0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.8
rootdist_l		0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2
leaflong		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
chill_b		400	600	400	600	100	100	100	600
cl.range		t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t



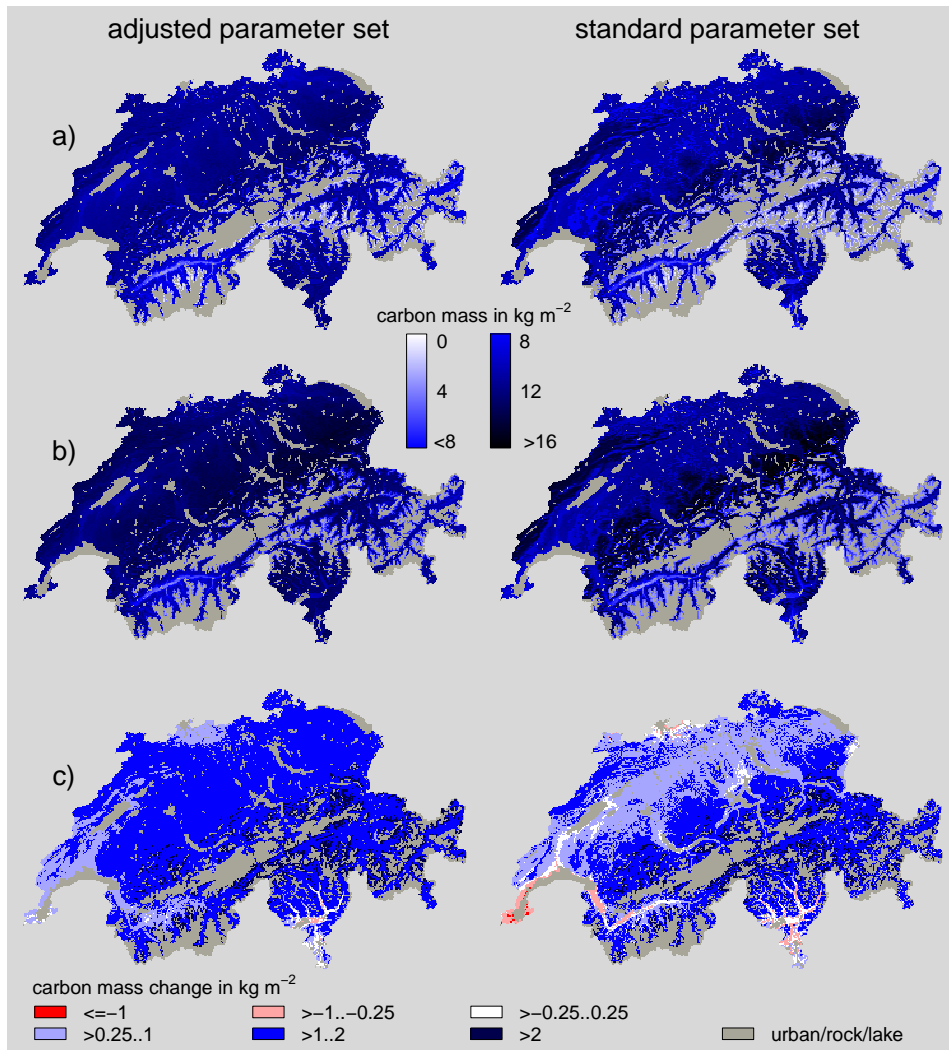
**Fig. 1.** Location of and altitude along the analyzed transect, and location of geographic terms. The transect (blue line) is placed at a longitude of 638000 m (Swiss CH1903/lv03 coordinates). J: Jura; C: Central Plateau; P: Prealps; N: north Alps; S: south Alps; V: Valais; T: Ticino.)



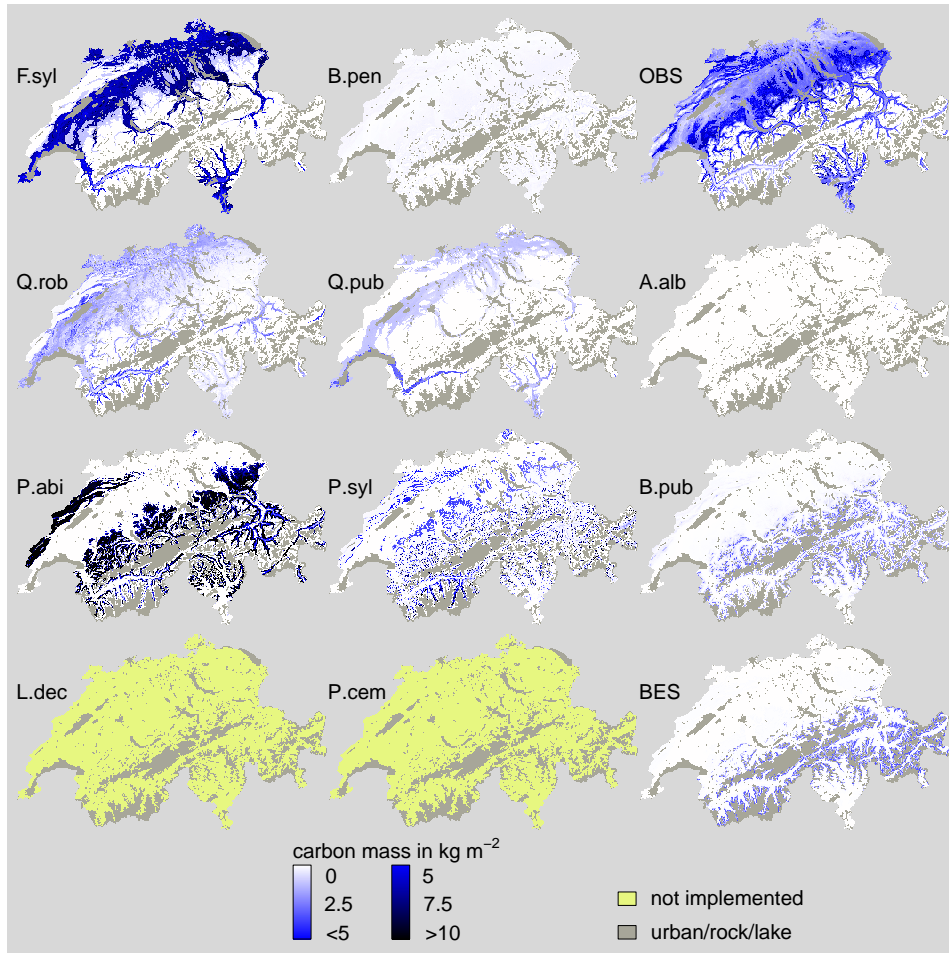
**Fig. 2.** Total carbon mass development along the analyzed transect from 1900 (left side) to 2100 (right side) with LPJ-GUESS (100 stochastic replicates) and using the GAPPARD method. a) adjusted parameter set; b) standard parameter set.



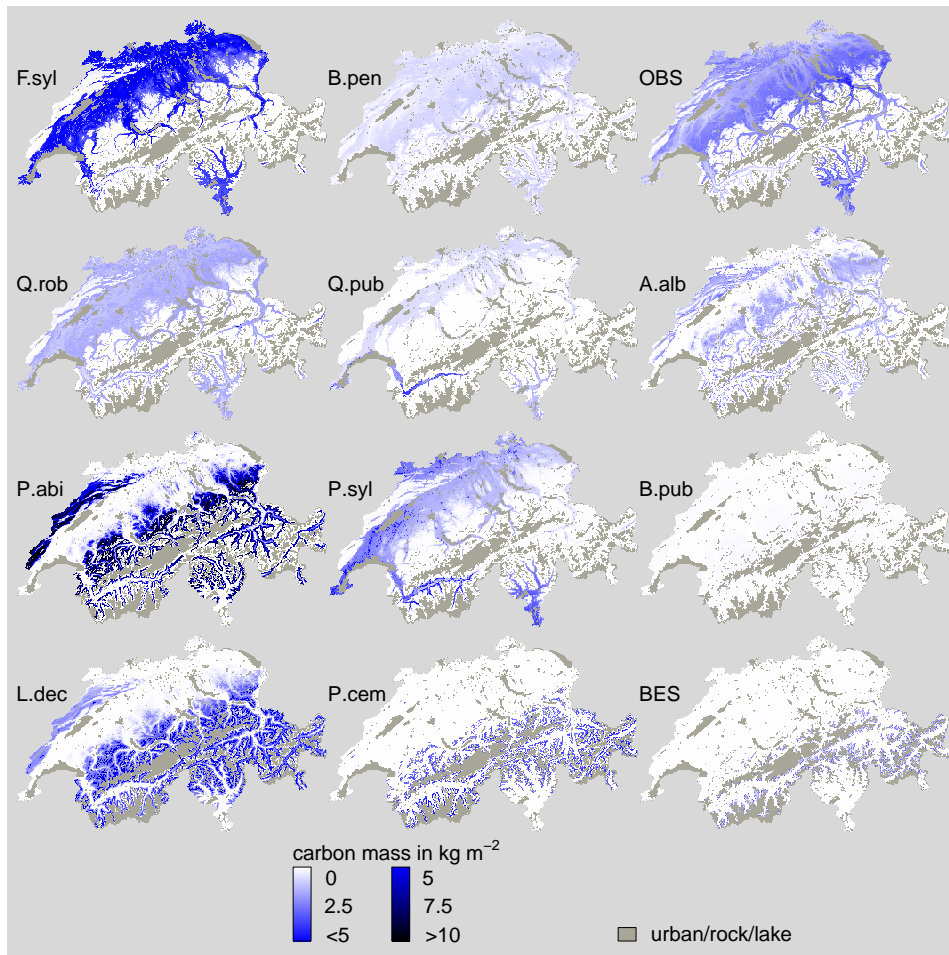
**Fig. 3.** Carbon mass development along the analyzed transect of nine selected species using the stochastic (100 replicates) LPJ-GUESS approach (right) and the GAPPARD method (left), both with the adjusted parameter set. Time scale on each plot reaches from 1900 (left side) to 2100 (right side). A.alb: *Abies alba*; B.pen: *Betula pendula*; F.syl: *Fagus sylvatica*; L.dec: *Larix decidua*; P.abi: *Picea abies*; P.cem: *Pinus cembra*; P.syl: *Pinus sylvestris*; Q.pub: *Quercus pubescens*; Q.rob: *Quercus robur*; 1: Central Plateau; 2: north Alps; 3: main Alpine ridge; 4: Valais. For the location of regions see Fig. 1.



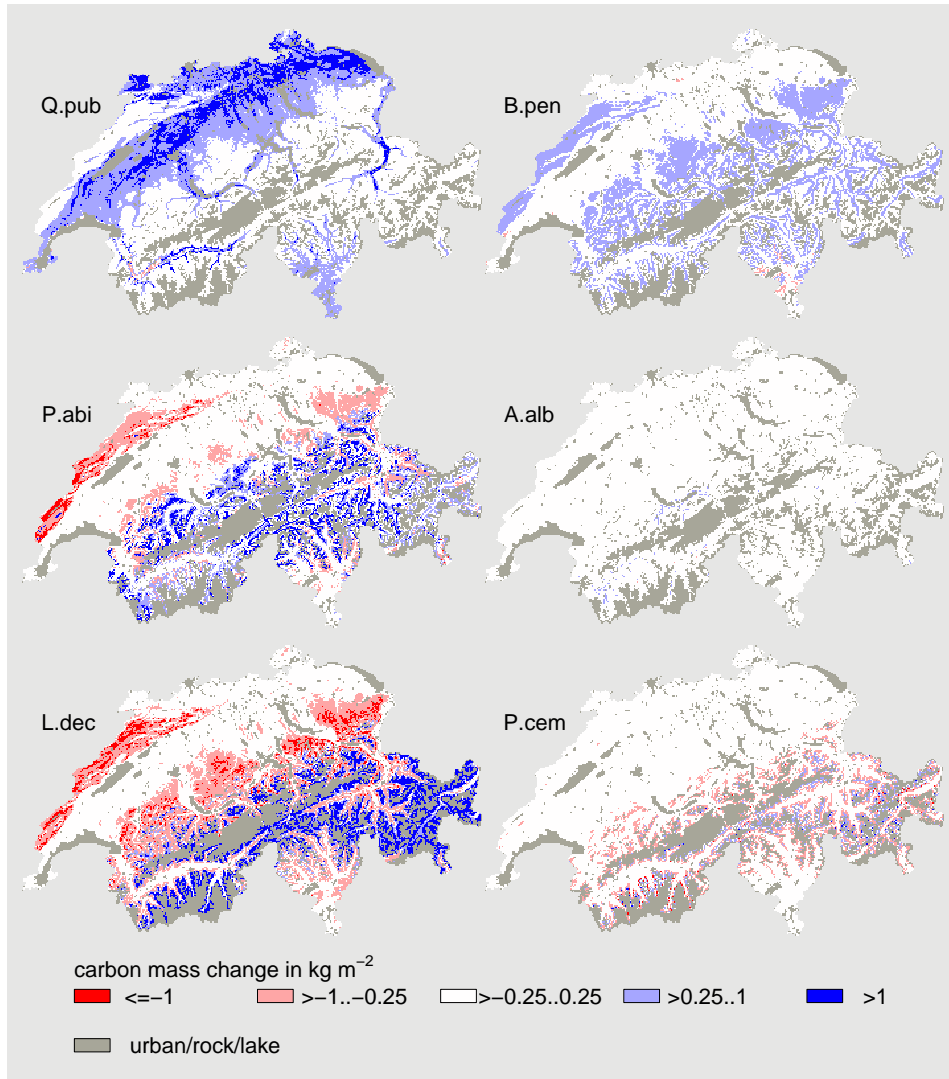
**Fig. 4.** Total carbon mass simulated with the adjusted and the standard parameter set, both using GAPPARD, for a) 2000 and b) 2100. Total carbon mass changes between a) and b) are displayed in c).



**Fig. 5.** Carbon mass simulated with the standard parameter set for single species at 2000. A.alb: *Abies alba*; B.pen: *Betula pendula*; B. pub: *Betula pubescens*; F.syl: *Fagus sylvatica*; L.dec: *Larix decidua*; P.abi: *Picea abies*; P.cem: *Pinus cembra*; P.syl: *Pinus sylvestris*; Q.pub: *Quercus pubescens*; Q.rob: *Quercus robur*; BES: boreal evergreen shrubs; OBS: other broadleaved species (*Carpinus betulus*, *Coryllus avelanna*, *Fraxinus excelsior* and *Tilia cordata*).

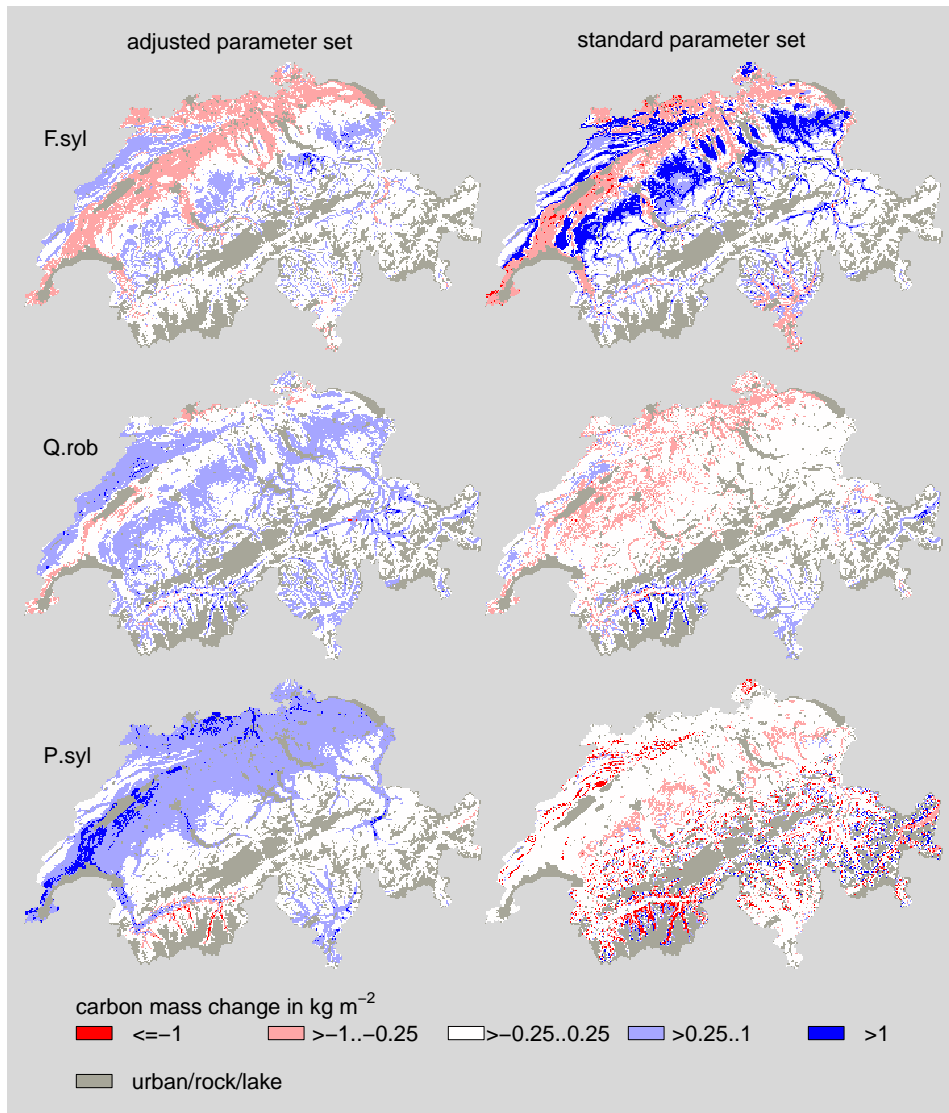


**Fig. 6.** Carbon mass simulated with the adjusted parameter set for single species at 2000. See Fig. 5 for species abbreviations.

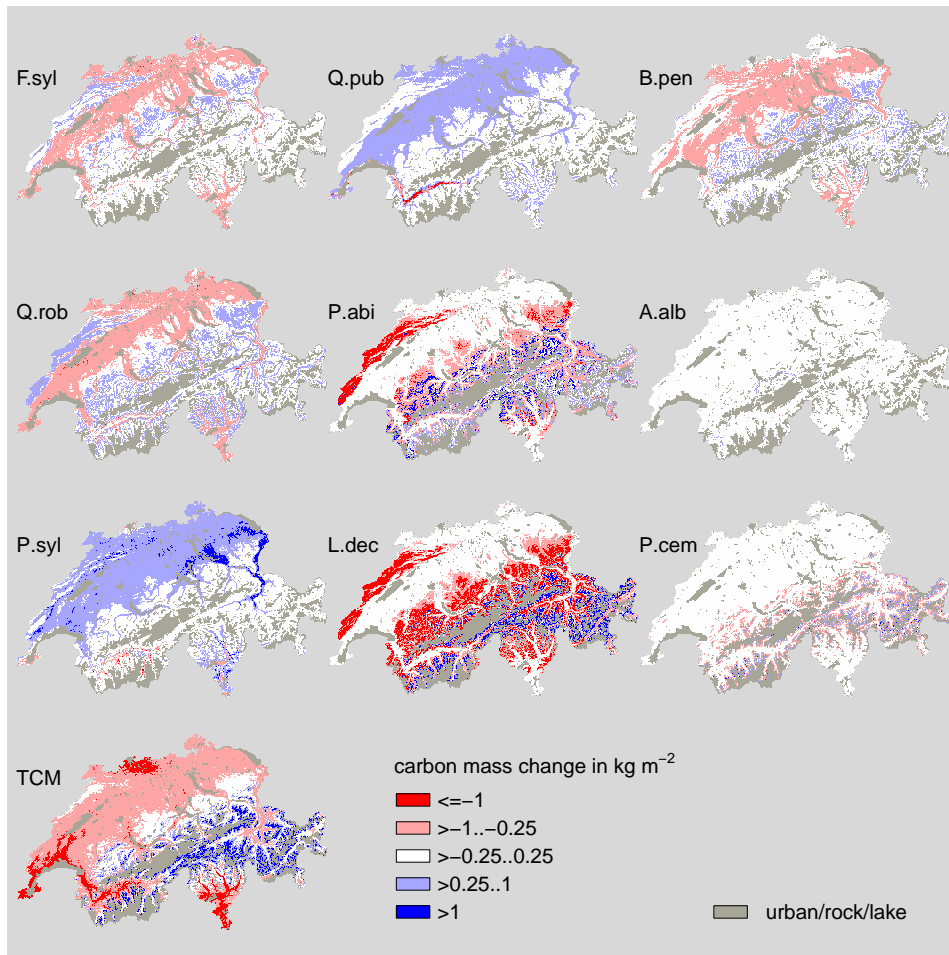


**Fig. 7.** Changes in carbon mass between 2000 and 2100 for six selected species simulated with the adjusted parameter set. See Fig. 5 for species abbreviations.

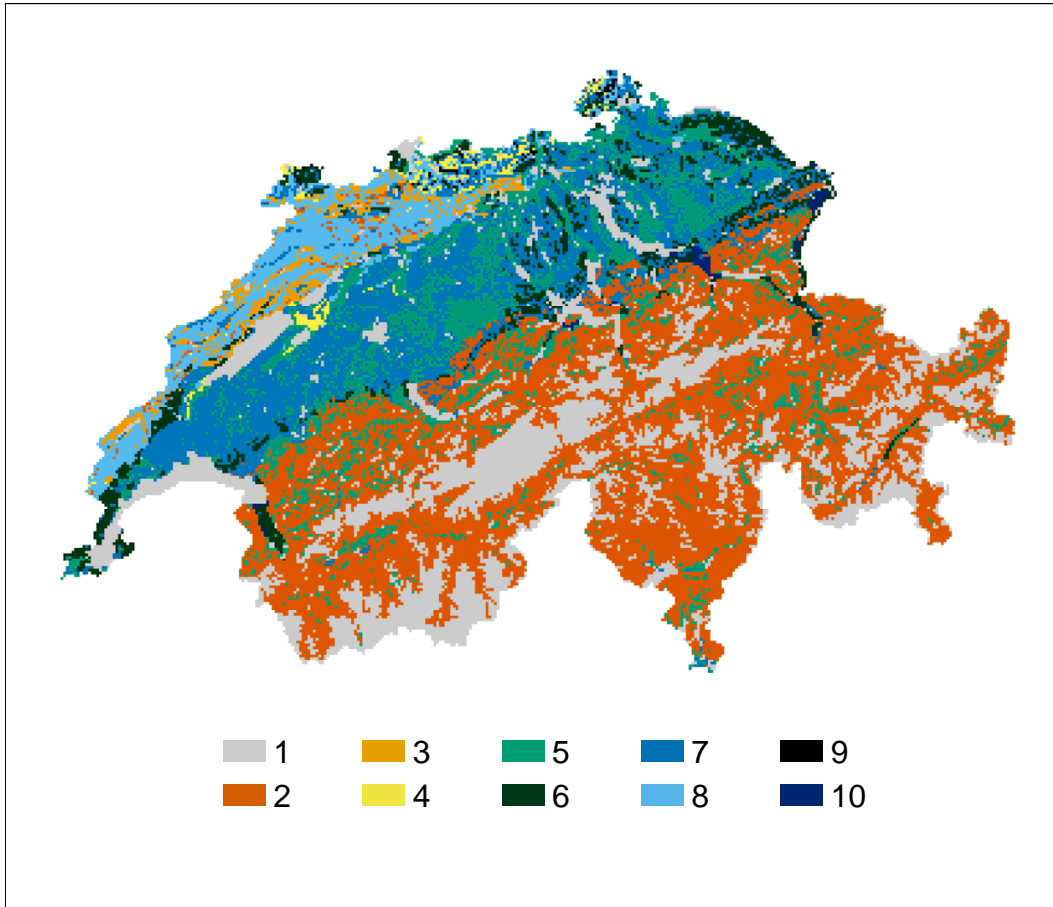




**Fig. 8.** Changes in carbon mass between 2000 and 2100 for three selected species compared between simulations with the adjusted parameter set and the standard parameter set. See Fig. 5 for species abbreviations.



**Fig. 9.** Changes in carbon mass between 2000 and 2100 simulated with the adjusted parameter set under a constant  $\text{CO}_2$  level from year 2000 on. See Fig. 5 for species abbreviations. TCM: total carbon mass change. Compare to Fig. 7 and 8 for single species results under a rising  $\text{CO}_2$  level, and to Fig. 4 for total carbon mass results under a rising  $\text{CO}_2$  level.



**Fig. D.1.** Soil code used in LPJ-GUESS simulations.

1 - urban, rocky or water areas (no forest growth)

2 - E : 5.0 . V : 0.110 . D0 : 0.2 . D15 : 0.800 . D100 : 0.4

3 - E : 4.0 . V : 0.115 . D0 : 0.2 . D15 : 0.650 . D100 : 0.4

4 - E : 4.0 . V : 0.127 . D0 : 0.2 . D15 : 0.650 . D100 : 0.4

5 - E : 4.5 . V : 0.130 . D0 : 0.2 . D15 : 0.725 . D100 : 0.4

6 - E : 4.0 . V : 0.150 . D0 : 0.2 . D15 : 0.650 . D100 : 0.4

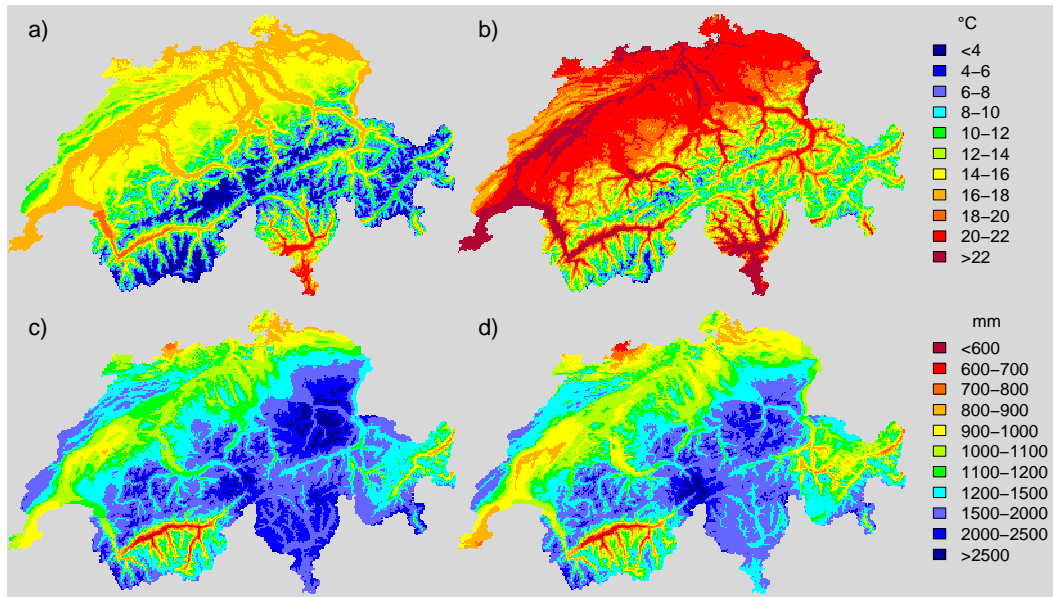
7 - E : 3.5 . V : 0.135 . D0 : 0.2 . D15 : 0.575 . D100 : 0.4

8 - E : 3.0 . V : 0.120 . D0 : 0.2 . D15 : 0.500 . D100 : 0.4

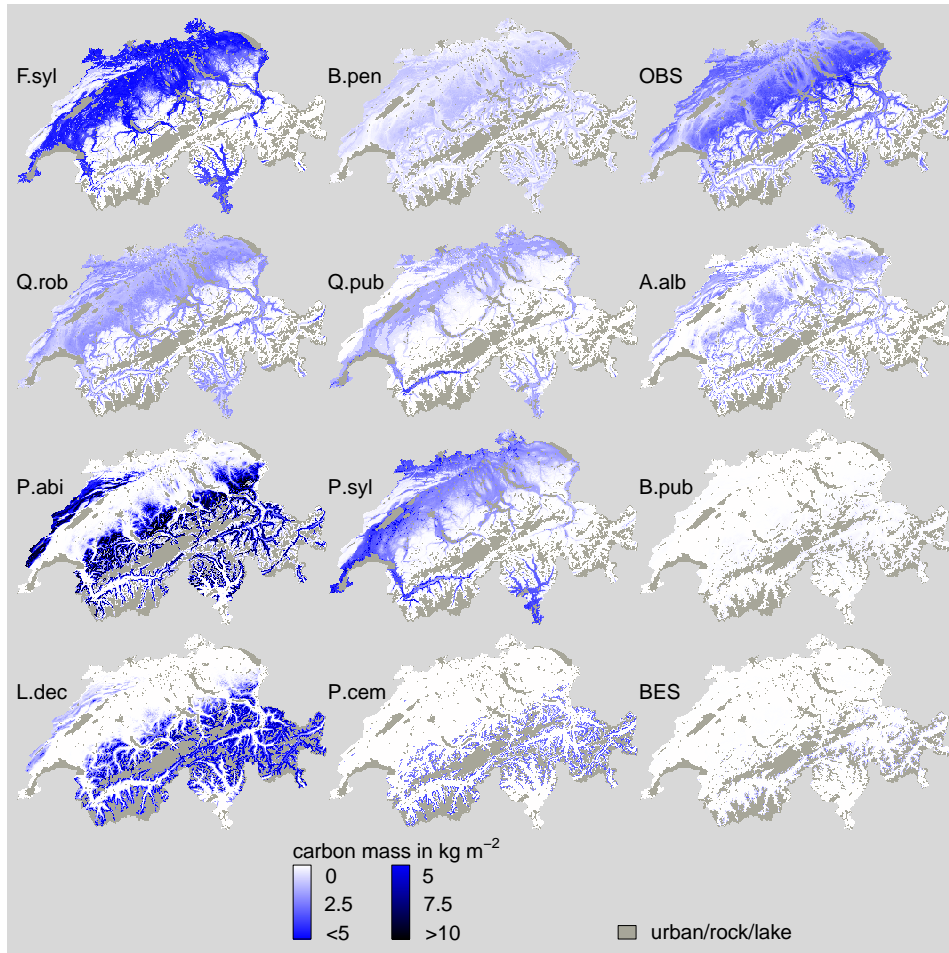
9 - E : 0.2 . V : 0.100 . D0 : 0.2 . D15 : 0.500 . D100 : 0.4

10 - E : 9.0 . V : 0.300 . D0 : 0.1 . D15 : 0.100 . D100 : 0.1

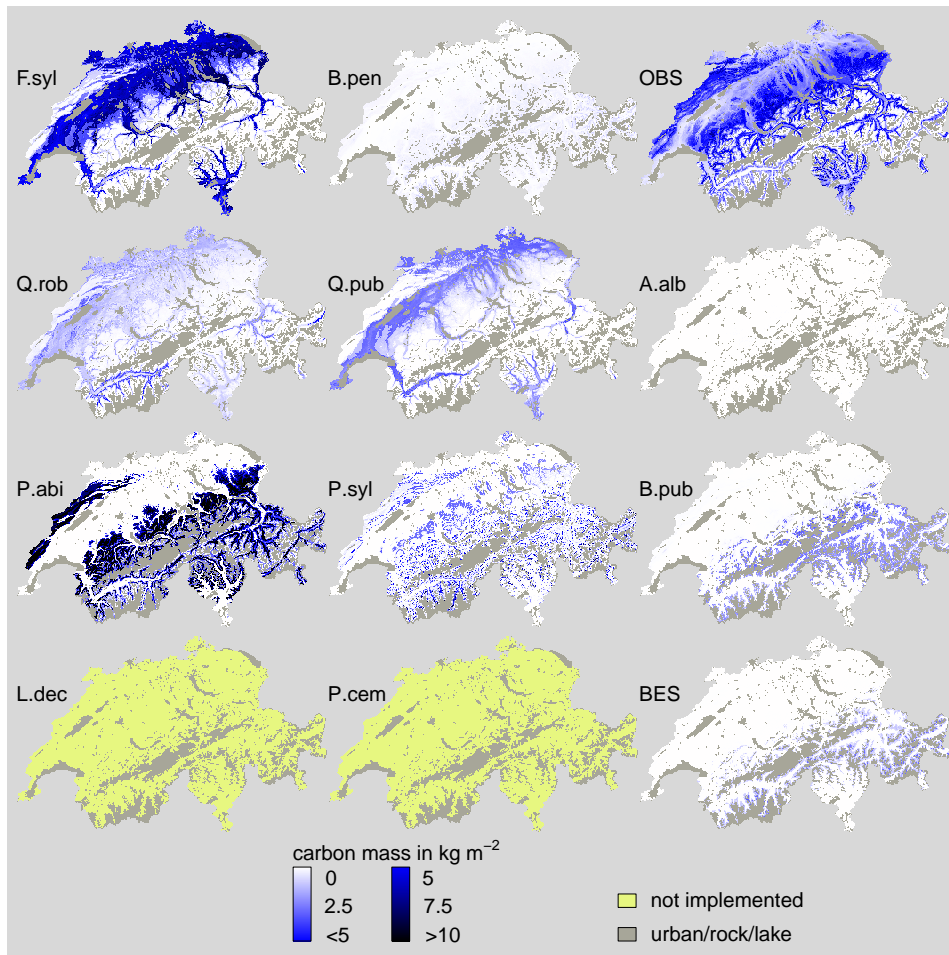
E: empirical parameter in percolation equation ( $k_1$ ) ( $\text{mm day}^{-1}$ ); V: volumetric water holding capacity at field capacity minus volumetric water holding capacity at wilting point, as fraction of soil layer depth; D0, D15 and D100: thermal diffusivity ( $\text{mm}^2 \text{sec}^{-1}$ ) at 0%, 15% and 100% water holding capacity.



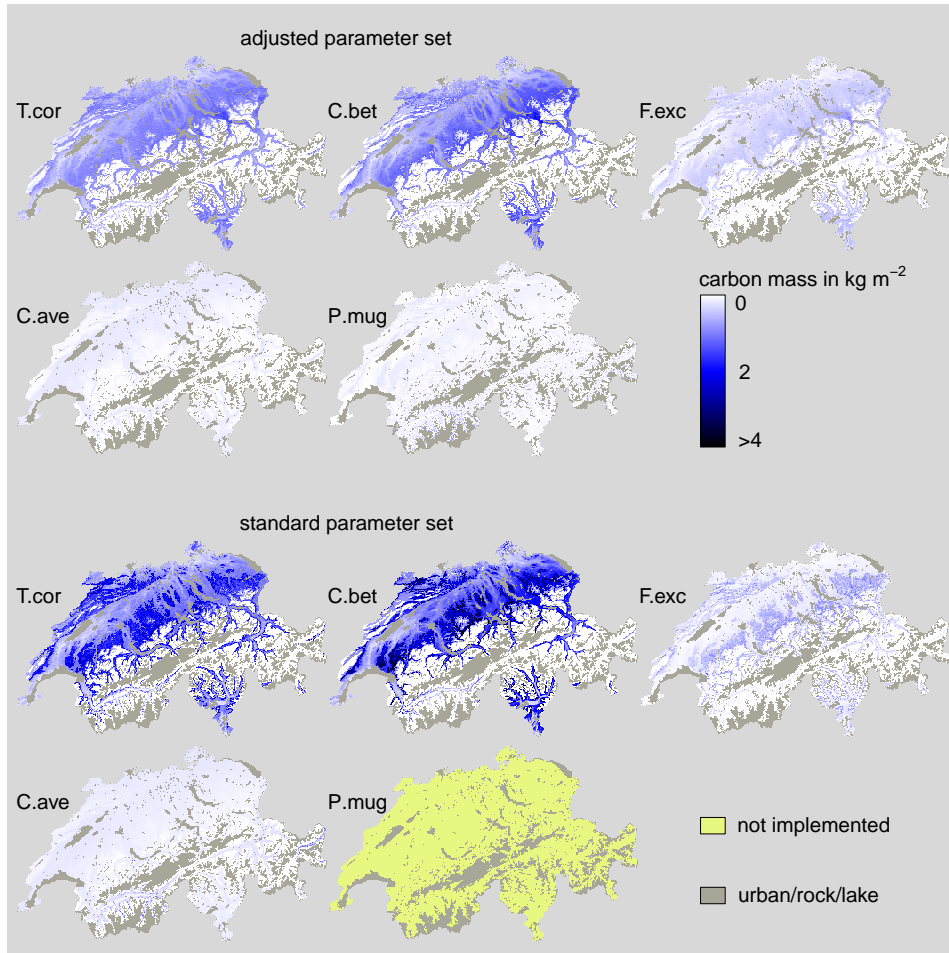
**Fig. D.2.** Development of temperature and precipitation over time under the used SRES A1B scenario. a) Mean summer temperature (June, July, August) for the 1900-1930 period; b) Mean summer temperature for the 2070-2100 period; c) Mean annual precipitation for the 1900-1930 period; d) Mean annual precipitation for the 2070-2100 period.



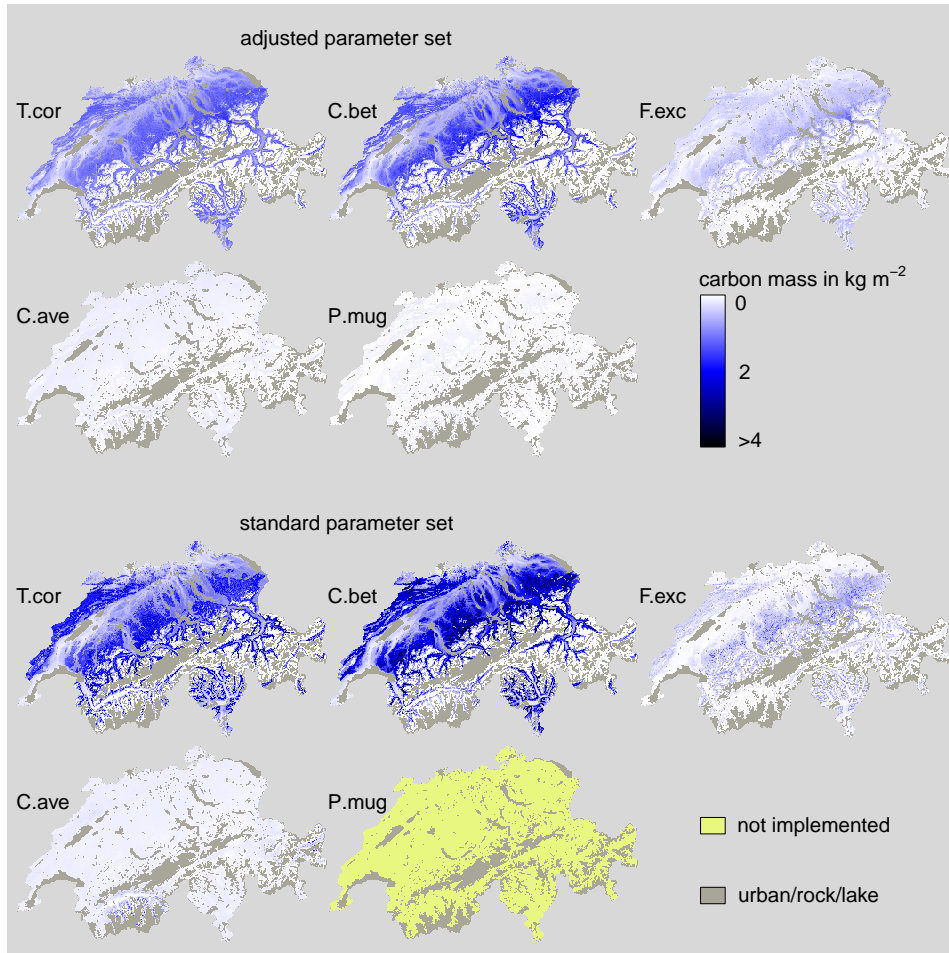
**Fig. D.3.** Carbon mass simulated with the adjusted parameter set for single species at 2100. A.alb: *Abies alba*; B.pen: *Betula pendula*; B. pub: *Betula pubescens*; F.syl: *Fagus sylvatica*; L.dec: *Larix decidua*; P.abi: *Picea abies*; P.cem: *Pinus cembra*; P.syl: *Pinus sylvestris*; Q.pub: *Quercus pubescens*; Q.rob: *Quercus robur*; BES: boreal evergreen shrubs; OBS: other broadleaved species.



**Fig. D.4.** Carbon mass simulated with the standard parameter set for single species at 2100. See Fig. D.3 for species abbreviations.

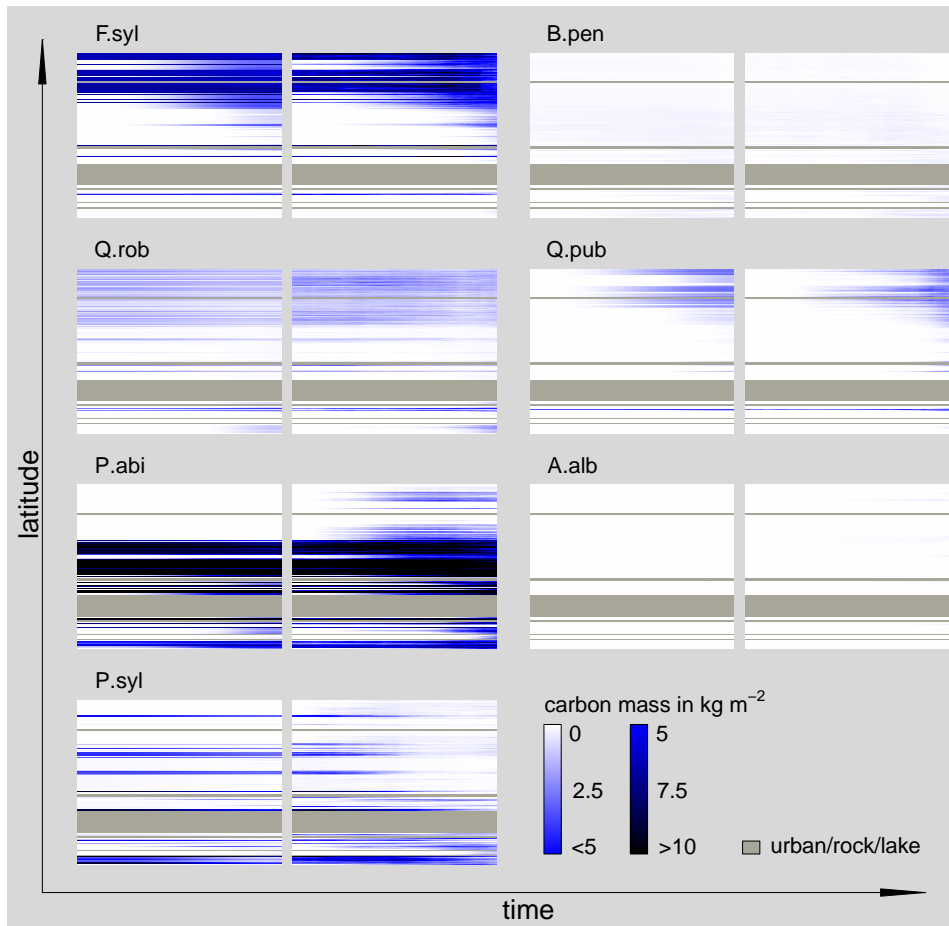


**Fig. D.5.** Carbon mass simulated with the adjusted and standard parameter set for minor species at 2000. C.bet: *Carpinus betulus*; C.ave: *Coryllus avelanna*; F.exc: *Fraxinus excelsior*; P.mug: *Pinus mugo*; T.cor: *Tilia cordata*. Please note that a different color gradient was used than in Fig. D.3.

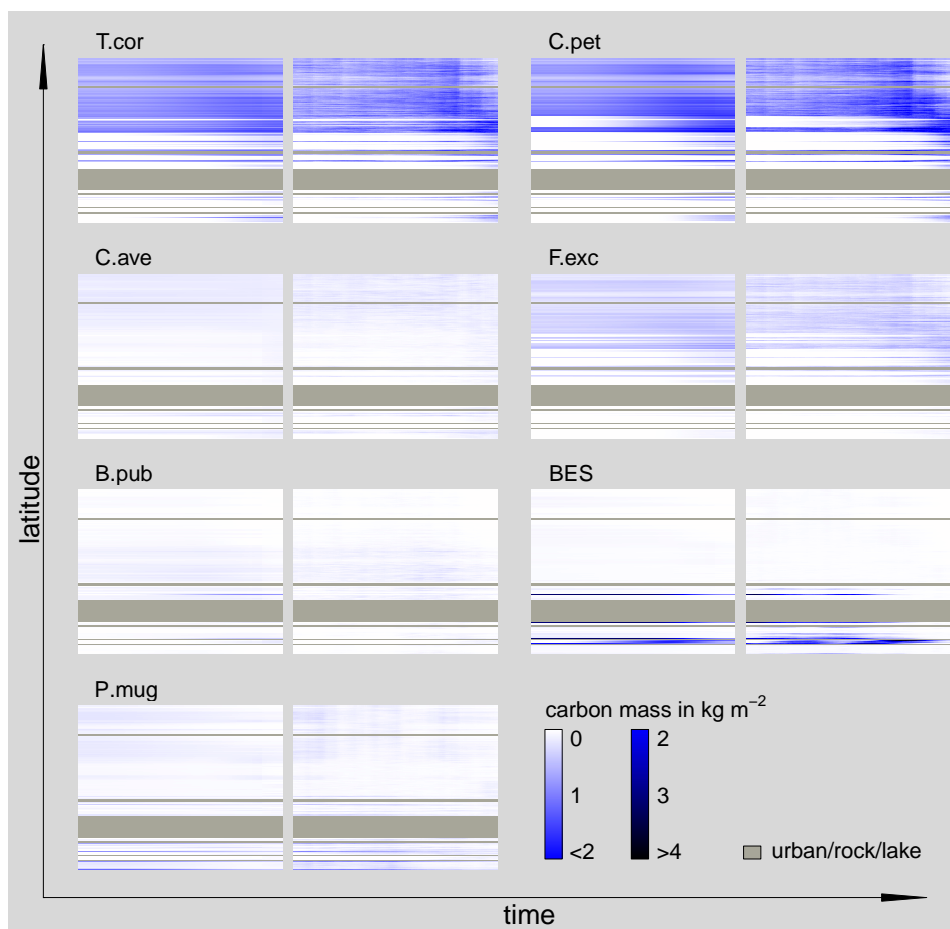


**Fig. D.6.** Carbon mass simulated with the adjusted and standard parameter set for minor species at 2100. See Fig. D.5 for species abbreviations. Please note that a different color gradient was used than in Fig. D.3.

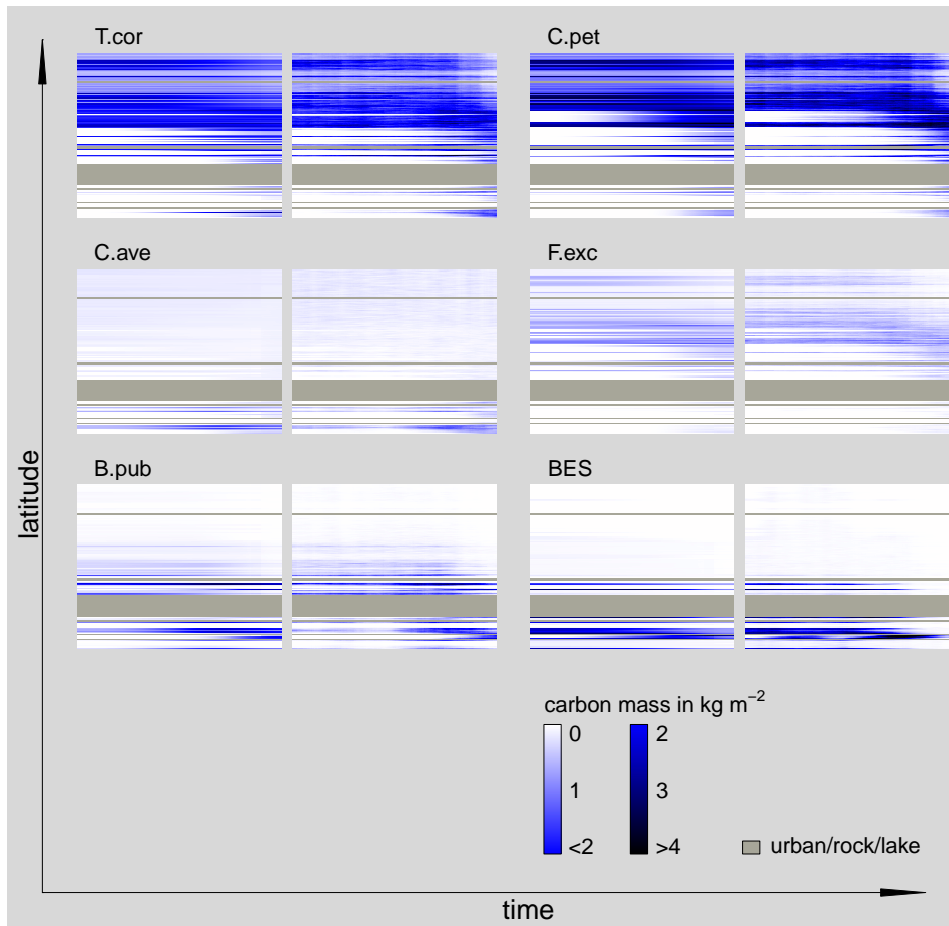




**Fig. D.7.** Carbon mass development along the analyzed transect of seven selected species using the stochastic (100 stochastic replicates) LPJ-GUESS approach (right) and the GAPPARD method (left), both with the standard parameter set. Time scale on each plot reaches from 1900 (left side) to 2100 (right side). See Fig. D.3 for species abbreviations.



**Fig. D.8.** Carbon mass development of the minor species along the analyzed transect using the stochastic (100 stochastic replicates) LPJ-GUESS approach (right) and the GAPPARD method (left), both with the adjusted parameter set. Time scale on each plot reaches from 1900 (left side) to 2100 (right side). See Fig. D.3 for species abbreviations. Please note that a different color gradient was used than in Fig. D.7.



**Fig. D.9.** Carbon mass development of the minor species along the analyzed transect using the stochastic (100 stochastic replicates) LPJ-GUESS approach (right) and the GAPPARD method (left), both with the standard parameter set. Time scale on each plot reaches from 1900 (left side) to 2100 (right side). See Fig. D.3 for species abbreviations. Please note that a different color gradient was used than in Fig. D.7.