

*Thank you for your helpful comments. We have used these comments as a guide to improve the revised version of this manuscript. Notable changes include:*

- 1) An updated title and notes throughout the text to clarify that this is primarily a sensitivity study and that we test representations of both minimum and nighttime conductance.*
- 2) Inclusion of the soil moisture constraint in Eq. 1, and the addition of new Eq. 2 that shows how the soil moisture constraint is calculated in CLM.*
- 3) Acknowledging that  $g_{s,n}$  can possibly be simulated as a proportion of daytime  $g_s$ .*

*Please find the detailed response to each comment in italics below.*

### **Comments from Reviewer Kevin Tu**

Consistent with the first two reviewers, in particular reviewer Fisher, I believe the motivation behind this study is excellent, but that there are some issues that still need to be addressed which I describe below.

On reviewer Fisher's suggestion for comparison to empirical observations, this study still lacks sufficient validation, for example the data presented in Figure 5 is poor at best for validating the model. Without any means to gauge if the model predictions are reasonable, this study is most effectively a sensitivity analysis that serves to highlight the need for additional studies, particularly field measurements, on nighttime conductance and how it is parameterized in land surface models.

***Author Response:*** *We agree that there is no satisfying way to evaluate the model results, and that this study is most effective as a sensitivity analysis. In response to this and below comments, we update the title and text to reflect that we are highlighting the sensitivity of simulated carbon and water cycles, as well as the need for additional studies. We have iterated over several new title possibilities, and selected the one we thought most suitable for this paper. However, we are open to other specific suggestions if the new title is not satisfactory.*

I agree with the 2nd reviewer's comments on the misleading title and attribution of the effects to nighttime conductance not being accurate - that the results indicate larger impacts on water and carbon fluxes occur when the minimum conductance during the day is altered rather than the nighttime conductance. Further, the authors agree and point out that the focus is really on stomatal conductance rather than nighttime or daytime minimum conductance per se, and as such, the title should not focus solely on minimum conductance. However, by the author's own logic, the title should not focus solely on nighttime conductance either.

***Author Response:*** *The previous title was chosen based on the fact that we used observed nighttime conductance values to modify the CLM4.5, and was not an attempt to describe the methodology for how we used the observed values within the model. To*

*reduce the confusion, we now clarify that we modify both nighttime and minimum conductance representations using observations.*

The authors also argue that it's unclear whether the observations of nighttime conductance are equivalent to minimum conductance, thus their emphasis on nighttime conductance in the title. While the authors may have used observations of nighttime conductance, they clearly used them to alter both nighttime and minimum daytime conductance in the model (in the  $\Delta g_0$  and  $\Delta g_{min}$  scenarios), with the result being larger effects of minimum daytime conductance. Both the methods and the results are not consistent with the bias towards nighttime conductance in the title.

**Author Response:** *The use of "nighttime" in the title was to describe the observational data that we used. We have updated the title to reflect that we use these observational constraints to modify nighttime and minimum conductance representations in CLM4.5.*

Further, not only were observations of nighttime conductance incorporated into the model, but a new parameterization of minimum daytime conductance was effectively incorporated as well (in the  $\Delta g_{min}$  scenario). Given that the title should reflect the content of the paper, the title should indicate to both nighttime and minimum conductance. This may not have been the original objective of the authors, but it does reflect what they actually did. In two of three approaches examined (the  $\Delta g_0$  and  $\Delta g_{min}$  scenarios), the conductances were altered during both the nighttime and daytime.

**Author Response:** *We agree that this title did not effectively convey the fact that our study was a sensitivity analysis comparing different possible methods representing nighttime and minimum conductance. We have updated the title to better indicate that this is a sensitivity study that tests different methodologies.*

The authors indicate (L156) that the observations are most likely representative of maximum nighttime conductance, since most measurements were done during well-watered conditions without water stress, yet inconsistent with this, the observations were incorporated in the first approach ( $\Delta g_0$ ) as actual nighttime conductance (no soil moisture constraint was used). Substituting observations of maximum nighttime conductance directly for values of actual nighttime conductance seems illogical and physiologically unrealistic.

**Author Response:** *We agree with the reviewer that this point was misrepresented in the text because the soil moisture stress function was, in fact, also applied to the  $\Delta g_0$  simulation. For clarification, we now explicitly state that the  $\Delta g_0$  simulation also uses the soil moisture constraint, and it is applied in the same way as in the unmodified simulation. The text now states: "Similar to the unmodified and  $\Delta g_0$  simulations that adjust the  $g_0$  parameter based on a soil wetness scalar ( $\beta_{soil}$ ), the  $\Delta g_{night}$  and  $\Delta g_{min}$  modifications also adjusted the minimum  $g_s$  threshold..."*

The real value and contribution of this study is as a sensitivity analysis of the BWB model, specifically the sensitivity of global water and carbon fluxes to the value of the BWB intercept in the CLM4.5. This would be consistent with the author's statement in response to reviewer Fisher's comment on the need for more empirical validation, that the "... primary aim is to highlight the high sensitivity of the hydrological and carbon cycles to these typically poorly constrained parameters". The physical meaning of the BWB intercept and/or its physiological interpretation is debatable. Regardless, it's important to characterize and understand the sensitivity of the CLM4.5, and water and carbon budgets in general, to this variable. As noted by reviewer Fisher, nighttime conductance and associated nighttime transpiration is an under-represented but potentially important process in models of land-atmosphere interaction. Clearly, this is what the authors set out to address. However, their efforts are confounded by the fact that the current parameterization of stomatal conductance using the BWB model in the CLM4.5 is not easily modified to include nighttime conductance. The issues raised by the reviewers highlight the empirical side of the BWB model, and the problems associated with attempting a mechanistic implementation (i.e. nighttime conductance) of a largely empirical model (i.e. the BWB intercept).

**Author Response:** *We agree that it is important to characterize and understand the sensitivity of water and carbon budgets in CLM4.5, and acknowledge that the empirical nature of the BWB make it quite difficult to incorporate mechanistic processes like nighttime conductance. We include a more explicit acknowledgement of this point in the last paragraph of the discussion section by adding the text: "Indeed, the use of the BWB model at all is currently the subject of some debate (Bonan et al., 2014; De Kauwe et al., 2015), and this study additionally highlights how the empirical nature of the BWB model leads to difficulties when attempting to implement mechanistic processes."*

Further, the observations are too far and few between to be representative of the actual BWB intercept (night or day) for a given PFT in a global model like CLM4.5. It would make more sense to use the observations merely as realistic constraints on the range of potential variation of the BWB intercept in a sensitivity analysis. Further still, if the objective is to determine the sensitivity of CLM4.5 to nighttime conductance it should be sufficient to examine only  $\tau_{\text{night}}$ . Once changes to daytime conductance are made (e.g. through changes in minimum conductance) the question then expands to daytime as well as nighttime conductance, which is really beyond the goal of this study. If the goal is truly focused on nighttime conductance then simply change nighttime conductance, and exclude both the  $\tau_{\text{gmin}}$  experiment which involves changes to daytime conductance as well as the  $\tau_{\text{g0}}$  experiment, which also includes changes to daytime conductance (and is unreasonable for other reasons as well, see above). If the goal is really to highlight the sensitivity of the model to nighttime conductance then the issue of daytime conductance being consistent with the nighttime conductance is beyond the scope of the study. More than anything, the  $\tau_{\text{gmin}}$  experiment should be included only for discussion purposes, to address the issue of consistency between nighttime and daytime

conductance, rather than as an alternative method of modifying nighttime conductance. The authors could then focus the manuscript on their stated goal of "Sensitivity of global water and carbon budgets to nighttime conductance in CLM4.5".

**Author Response:** *We agree that the data are sparse and would love to have a more comprehensive dataset to parameterize a global model like CLM to better constrain the actual range of conductances. We feel it is important to note, however, that often global models are parameterized using very few data (e.g., using a single  $g_o$  and  $g_1$  value for all C3 plants is also arguably not representative of the empirical BWB intercept), and this is a problem that we try to address by compiling a comprehensive dataset of nighttime conductance values. In this regard we believe it is better to allow values to vary by the type of plant rather than use one value for all plants, as is currently done. Both are based on observations, though the standard single value used is based on observations from a single study in the 1980's that used three crops, five herbaceous plants, and a shrub; whereas the dataset compiled here includes data from multiple plant types and studies conducted through 2015. Therefore it is difficult to argue the current single-value approach used by most models does not need to be updated and improved by incorporating a larger, albeit still limited, dataset.*

*Given the paucity of available data, we agree that our simulations should serve as merely a realistic constraint on the range of potential variation, as recommended. We therefore emphasize throughout the text that we do not aim to determine a single, correct way of implementing nighttime or minimum conductance, but instead provide a range of possible scenarios based on different methodologies. Since  $g_o$  is often thought to represent minimum stomatal conductance values, we first test adjusting this parameter in the BWB model. We test two additional methodologies that constrain minimum conductance in other ways. One of those methodologies assumes that daytime minimum conductance can be lower than nighttime conductance, and the other assumes that nighttime conductance is the lowest conductance a plant uses. Comparing these methodologies serves to highlight the possible structural uncertainty of the model. Additionally, we plot the possible range of canopy conductance and transpiration based on observational uncertainty in SI Figure 2, which clearly illustrates that the uncertainty in the observations swamps the model structural uncertainty.*

*We think that it is important to include the  $\Delta g_{min}$  and  $\Delta g_o$  experiments to illustrate both the functioning of the BWB model and also to highlight the uncertainty in knowledge about both daytime and nighttime minimum conductance values. Is nighttime conductance truly the minimum conductance value that a plant uses, or can daytime conductance be lower than nighttime conductance given the same water availability? This is an important question, particularly since the  $\Delta g_{night}$  BWB implementation illustrates the possibility of lower daytime conductance using this representation. The inclusion of all these methodologies in the paper highlights the sensitivity of hydrology and carbon cycling to this model uncertainty. It also*

*demonstrates that different model representations can behave in ways that are not clearly physiological plausible, emphasizing the need for additional knowledge. By only including one model representation, we are unable to address the model structural sensitivity and cannot highlight the gaps in scientific knowledge.*

On reviewer Fisher's suggestion to incorporate the results synthesized in a Tree Physiology special issue in 2007, I do not feel the authors responded adequately. First, in contrast to the author's claim that the papers in that special issue do not include environmental sensitivities of nighttime conductance, the paper by Dawson et al. provides a clear relationship between observations of nighttime conductance and days following rainfall, and changes in the ratio of nighttime to daytime conductance following rainfall, with greater fractions (~25%) during the wettest periods immediately following rainfall, with a decline of 5% per day after rain. As noted, "This relationship provides a strong and predictable index of water loss from plants at night based on daylight values...". This type of data should provide valuable information for parameterizing nighttime conductance as a function of daytime conductance and time since rainfall or soil moisture. Second, the authors note that some plant types are sensitive to environmental factors while others are not. This phenomena needs to be explained rather than used as evidence to discard the data. It could very well be that nighttime conductance is not a phenomenon parameterized as easily as the intercept of the BWB model constrained by soil moisture.

**Author Response:** *The Dawson et al. 2007 paper nicely illustrates the concept that minimum conductance is connected to soil water availability and VPD, and we previously overlooked these data. In support of the Dawson et al. (2007) data, we adjust the nighttime conductance value based on soil water stress, which effectively functions to decrease nighttime conductance as days since rainfall increase.*

*We do not capture the change in ratio of nighttime to daytime conductance as a function of days since rainfall, and now note this within the discussion. We think that the development of a new, independent nighttime conductance model that predicts nighttime conductance based on the night/day ratio as soil water availability changes is a great next step to implementing nighttime conductance. In particular, the new text states: " A different implementation of  $g_{s,n}$  might calculate  $g_{s,n}$  as a proportion of daytime  $g_s$ , based on Dawson et al. (2007), who find that  $g_{s,n}$  is a proportion of daytime  $g_s$  that changes based on days since last rainfall. We do not test this potential method here, but acknowledge it as a viable alternative to be considered."*

*We are unsure what the reviewer is referring to when suggesting that we discard data based on plant sensitivity to environmental factors, but are happy to include an explanation of this phenomenon as requested if the lines are pointed out to us. We use nearly all the data in our parameterization, regardless of environmental sensitivity. The data that were not used in our parameterization (but are included in Table S1) were only plants that were parasitic or use the CAM photosynthetic pathway. The*

*justification for not using these was that parasitic plants often gain their water resources from host plants and therefore have little environmental pressure to minimize stomatal conductance; and CAM plants by definition open their stomata at night to gain CO<sub>2</sub>. These assumptions were explicitly stated in the text. We did not discard any data based on sensitivity to environmental factors.*

## Specific Comments

Equation 1: The full equation including the soil adjustment factor ( $\psi_{soil}$ ) should be shown. Not showing the full equation can be confusing and potentially misleading. It would be informative to also show the  $\psi_{soil}$  parameterization and the parameter values by PFT, since poor parametrization of this function could lead to poor performance and unreasonable results, for example if  $\psi_{soil}$  did not adequately constrain  $g_0$  during drought conditions (e.g. in semi-arid regions).

**Author Response:** *We have updated Eq. 1 to better illustrate how the soil moisture stress function is applied to stomatal conductance. This function is not a plant functional type parameter, but is applied at the column level. We now include the equation for the calculation of the soil moisture stress parameter as Eq. 2.*

It's worth noting that in CLM4.5, soil drought also effectively impacts  $g_1$  by way of constraining  $V_{c,max}$  (I'm assuming this based on the fact that the authors state CLM is based on SiB2; Sellers et al. 1996).

**Author Response:** *Yes, the soil moisture function is applied to  $V_{c,max}$  and therefore impacts  $A$ . It also is applied to leaf maintenance respiration. We now include text to note this: "It is also important to note that  $\beta_{soil}$  is also applied to the  $V_{c,max}$  (the maximum rate of carboxylation) parameter in the  $A$  equation, as well as to leaf maintenance respiration (Oleson et al. 2013)."*

Are there differences between glasshouse and field  $g_{s,n}$  values? Using glasshouse  $g_{s,n}$  data needs to be validated since glasshouse conditions, including both plant and environmental, can be unrepresentative of actual field conditions and plant responses in the field. In the very least, glasshouse vs field data should be clearly indicated in Table 1.

**Author Response:** *The data in Table 1 are averaged across field and glasshouse studies. This table is a summary of the raw data, which are presented in Table S1. The location of the study (field, glasshouse, etc.) is clearly indicated in the column titled "Location", so is readily available to readers. When separately averaged, the field data are similar to the overall averages for nearly all PFTs, and those PFTs with somewhat different average values fall well within the range of the standard deviation.*

L115: It's not clear what the 'simulated PFT' is. Were the PFTs 'simulated' then replaced with observed values of  $g_0$ ? It probably just needs wordsmithing. If so, it

seems clearer to simply state that constant minimum  $g_s$  values were assumed for each PFT for the method.

**Author Response:** *We removed the word "simulated" to reduce confusion.*

References are needed in Table 1 to know the source of the data.

**Author Response:** *The references for all the data presented in Table 1 are included in Table S1. Table 1 is a summary of all the data presented in Table S1.*

The data in Table 1 indicates that the entirety of boreal forests, both needleleaf evergreen and broadleaf deciduous, are each represented by a single measurement. This is poor parameter estimation at best and reinforces the notion that the observations would serve best as a guide for their potential range in a sensitivity analysis, rather than as direct estimates of nighttime conductance. Given the paucity of data, it's unreasonable to expect that the observations will be robust representations of actual values of (maximum) nighttime conductance for all plants at every time-step throughout every growing season within each PFT.

**Author Response:** *Yes, it is true that boreal trees are poorly represented in our dataset. Similar to our response above, a single study providing a measurement for a boreal tree is arguably more globally representative of boreal tree  $g_{s,n}$  than the current value ( $10 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) that is not based on data from any trees.*

Values in Table 1 should only be reported to significant digits. It's uninformative and potentially misleading to indicate conductance out to 8 decimal places.

**Author Response:** *Yes, we agree that reporting values to 8 decimal places is misleading. We have updated Table 1 accordingly.*

1 ~~*Incorporating observed nighttime conductance alters global hydrology and*~~  
2 ~~*carbon budgets in CLM4.5.*~~  
3 ~~*5) The sensitivity of global hydrology and carbon budgets to observed*~~  
4 ~~*nighttime and minimum stomatal conductance representations in*~~  
5 ~~*CLM4.5. Representing nighttime and minimum conductance in CLM4.5: Global*~~  
6 ~~*hydrology and carbon sensitivity analysis using observational constraints*~~  
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20 **Abstract**

21           The terrestrial biosphere regulates climate through carbon, water, and  
22 energy exchanges with the atmosphere. Land surface models estimate plant  
23 transpiration, which is actively regulated by stomatal pores, and provide  
24 projections essential for understanding Earth's carbon and water resources.  
25 Empirical evidence from 204 species suggests that significant amounts of water  
26 are lost through leaves at night, though land surface models typically reduce  
27 stomatal conductance to nearly zero at night. Here, we test [the sensitivity of  
28 carbon and water budgets in a global land surface model, the Community Land  
29 Model \(CLM\) version 4.5, to](#) three different methods of incorporating observed  
30 nighttime stomatal conductance values ~~to a global land surface model, the  
31 Community Land Model (CLM) version 4.5, to better constrain carbon and water  
32 budgets~~. We find that our modifications increase transpiration up to 5% globally,  
33 reduce modeled available soil moisture by up to 50% in semi-arid regions, and  
34 increase the importance of the land surface in modulating energy fluxes. Carbon  
35 gain declines up to ~4% globally and >25% in semi-arid regions. We advocate  
36 for realistic constraints of minimum stomatal conductance in future climate  
37 simulations, and widespread field observations to improve parameterizations.

38

39 **1. Introduction**

40           Terrestrial plants must balance their need to obtain CO<sub>2</sub> with the risk of  
41 desiccation if transpiration continues unchecked. Higher plants evolved stomatal  
42 pores to control the exchange of water and carbon between the leaf interior and  
43 the atmosphere (Hetherington and Woodward, 2003). Stomatal function, thus, is  
44 the dominant control over terrestrial fluxes of water and carbon. Most large-

45 scale land-surface models use an empirical representation of stomatal  
46 conductance ( $g_s$ ), similar to the Ball-Woodrow-Berry (BWB) model (Ball, 1988;  
47 Ball et al., 1987; Collatz et al., 1991; Leuning, 1995; Medlyn et al., 2011; Sellers et  
48 al., 1996), to calculate plant gas exchange. The BWB model is linear, with two  
49 constants, the intercept ( $g_o$ ) and slope ( $g_1$ ), and estimates  $g_s$  from the rate of CO<sub>2</sub>  
50 assimilation ( $A$ ), atmospheric humidity ( $h_r$ ), and internal leaf CO<sub>2</sub> concentration.  
51 The original BWB model parameters were fitted to observations of leaf gas  
52 exchange for ten plant species, with different  $g_o$  values for each species, ranging  
53 from -310 to 130 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> (Ball, 1988). The Community Land Model (CLM),  
54 however, uses only two  $g_o$  values, (10 and 40 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> for C<sub>3</sub> plants and C<sub>4</sub>  
55 plants, respectively; Collatz et al., 1991; Oleson et al., 2013; Sellers et al., 1996).  
56 Conductance during the night (and at other times when  $A$  is 0) is thus  
57 represented using  $g_o$ . Recent advances in our ability to observe nighttime  
58 stomatal conductance (Caird et al., 2007; Phillips et al., 2010),  $g_{s,n}$ , illustrate that  
59 values are often larger in the field than the BWB parameters used in the CLM.

60 A comprehensive database (see Table S1) of 204 observed  $g_{s,n}$  values  
61 illustrates that the minimum BWB  $g_s$  values (equivalent to  $g_o$ ) used in the CLM  
62 starkly differ with observed mean and median  $g_{s,n}$  values. The available data for  
63  $g_{s,n}$  range from 0-450 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> with an overall mean of 78 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>  
64 (excluding hemi-parasites and CAM plants, which were omitted from model  
65 testing). Observations of  $g_{s,n}$  are, on average, ten times higher in broadleaf  
66 tropical deciduous species (Table 1; 129 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) and seven times higher in  
67 temperate broadleaf deciduous trees (73 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) compared to the 10  
68 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> used for C<sub>3</sub> plants. Potential benefits of a high  $g_{s,n}$  might include the  
69 transport of nutrients (Dios et al., 2013; Scholz et al., 2007; Zeppel et al., 2014) or

70 processes related to embolism repair, phloem transport, or xylem refilling that  
71 might improve carbon gain, but these ideas remain untested. Nonetheless, the  
72 discrepancy between parameterized  $g_o$  and observed  $g_{s,n}$  serves as motivation to  
73 investigate the sensitivity of simulated land surface processes to more realistic  
74 minimum  $g_s$  values. Such field measurements of  $g_{s,n}$  have not previously been  
75 incorporated into a global land surface model, despite the possible impacts on  
76 surface hydrology, ecosystem carbon gain, and land-atmosphere feedbacks.

77 We use a global land-surface model, the Community Land Model (CLM)  
78 version 4.5, forced with a data atmosphere and driven with observed ('satellite  
79 phenology') leaf area indices (CLM4.5SP), to test the sensitivity of the land  
80 surface to using realistic minimum  $g_s$  from observed  $g_{s,n}$ , averaged by plant  
81 functional type (PFT; Table 1). Since the BWB approach is primarily intended to  
82 predict daytime stomatal behavior, the appropriate method for application of  
83 observed  $g_{s,n}$  within the context of the BWB model is unclear. We therefore test  
84 three methodologies for implementing observed  $g_{s,n}$ : 1) modifying the BWB  
85 intercept ( $g_o$ ); 2) setting a nighttime threshold value; and 3) setting a minimum  
86 threshold value. We anticipate that implementing observed  $g_{s,n}$  values will  
87 increase plant transpiration, altering carbon and water budgets on regional and  
88 global scales.

89

## 90 **2. Methods**

91

### 92 **2.1 Model *Description and Simulation Designing***

93 The CLM4.5SP model used here is an updated version of CLM4.0,  
94 originally described by Lawrence et al., (2011), with updated technical details for

95 v4.5 described by Oleson et al., (2013). The CLM4.5SP simulations were run with  
 96 CRU-NCEP climate forcing data (combines Climate Research Unit (CRU) TS 3.2  
 97 monthly climatology with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
 98 National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) and NCAR 2.5° x 2.5° 6-  
 99 hourly reanalysis; (downloaded at:  
 100 <http://dods.ipsl.jussieu.fr/igcmg/IGCM/BC/OOL/OL/CRU-NCEP/>), a historical  
 101 atmospheric dataset that includes observed precipitation, temperature,  
 102 downward solar radiation, surface wind speed, specific humidity, and air  
 103 pressure from 1901 through 2010, and did not include the influences of nitrogen  
 104 deposition, land use change, or changing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.

105 The CLM4.5SP uses the coupled Farquhar photosynthesis and BWB  $g_s$   
 106 models to simulate plant physiology (Bonan et al., 2011; Oleson et al., 2013). The  
 107 BWB  $g_s$  is calculated based on the equation:

$$108 \quad g_s = g_0 * \beta_{soil} + g_1(Ah_r/C_a) \quad (Eq. 1)$$

109 where  $g_0$  and  $g_1$  are empirical fitting parameters of the minimum  $g_s$  and the slope  
 110 of the conductance-photosynthesis relationship, respectively;  $A$  is net carbon  
 111 assimilation rate ( $\mu\text{mol C m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ );  $h_r$  is the fractional humidity at the leaf surface  
 112 (dimensionless), and  $C_a$  is the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration at the leaf surface ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ ).

113 and  $\beta_{soil}$  is the soil wetness scalar, ranging from zero to one (see Oleson et al.  
 114 2013).  $\beta_{soil}$  is calculated as:

$$115 \quad \beta_{soil} = \sum_i w_i r_i \quad (Eq. 2)$$

116 where  $w_i$  is a plant wilting factor for layer  $i$  and  $r_i$  is the fraction of roots in layer  
 117  $i$ . When implemented in the unmodified CLM4.5SP,  $g_0$  is 10 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> for all C<sub>3</sub>  
 118 plants and 40 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> for all C<sub>4</sub> plants, and is adjusted by  $\beta_{soil}$  a soil wetness  
 119 factor (varying from 0-1) every time-step. It is also important to note that  $\beta_{soil}$  is

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120 | [also applied to the  \$V\_{c,max}\$  \(the maximum rate of carboxylation\) parameter in the  \$A\$](#)   
121 | [equation, as well as to leaf maintenance respiration \(Oleson et al. 2013\).](#)

122 | Values of  $g_{s,n}$  based on literature data (Table S1) are typically larger than  
123 | the  $g_o$  values used in current implementations of the BWB model. The  $g_{s,n}$  data,  
124 | grouped and then averaged by PFT (Table 1), were used to modify simulated  
125 | minimum  $g_s$  using three methodologies. First, the ' $\Delta g_o$ ' method replaced the BWB  
126 | minimum conductance,  $g_o$ , value for each ~~simulated~~-PFT with the observed  $g_{s,n}$   
127 | (Table 1), resulting in a uniform increase to  $g_s$  during both day and night  
128 | (referred to as the  $\Delta g_o$  simulation; tested previously by Barnard and Bauerle,  
129 | 2013). Second, the  $\Delta g_{night}$  method implemented the BWB model in its standard  
130 | form (Eq. 1; the  $g_o$  and  $g_1$  values are the same as the control), but included a  
131 | minimum threshold that was applied only at night, based on observed  $g_{s,n}$  for  
132 | each PFT, below which  $g_s$  could not fall. In the  $\Delta g_{night}$  simulation, daytime  $\Delta g_s$   
133 | occasionally fell below the observed nighttime threshold on account of high  
134 | vapor pressure deficit (VPD) or low assimilation rates. To avoid this potentially  
135 | unrealistic behavior, we use a third method, ' $\Delta g_{min}$ ', which extended the  
136 | observation-based threshold used in the  $\Delta g_{night}$  simulation to all times during the  
137 | day or night, so that  $g_s$  never fell below the minimum threshold value found in  
138 | Table 1. These three modified simulations were compared to a control  
139 | simulation using the unmodified BWB formulation. Similar to the unmodified  
140 | [and  \$\Delta g\_o\$  simulations](#) that adjusts the  $g_o$  parameter based on a soil wetness scalar  
141 | ( $\beta_{soil}$ ), the  $\Delta g_{night}$  and  $\Delta g_{min}$  modifications also adjusted the minimum  $g_s$  threshold  
142 | ~~by a soil wetness scalar,  $\beta_{soil}$ , that ranges from zero to one,~~ at every time-step.  
143 | Each simulation was run for 25 years with monthly output to determine the

144 long-term impact of changing minimum conductance, and for one year with half-  
145 hourly output to determine the changes in diel patterns.

146

## 147 *2.2 Data Collection*

148 Values of  $g_{s,n}$  were obtained from field and glasshouse studies, using  
149 Scopus ([www.scopus.com](http://www.scopus.com)), with data for 204 records across 150 species and  
150 cultivars (Table S1). Records available were predominately for temperate plants  
151 (93 records) and crops (34), with more data available for broad-leaf plant types  
152 (89) than needle-leaf plants (16; Zeppel et al., 2014). The data were collated by  
153 plant functional type (PFT), with means, medians, and standard deviations for  
154 each PFT presented in Table 1. Simulations presented here were run with mean  
155 values for each PFT, though median values were also tested and are presented in  
156 SI Figure 3 and SI Figure 4. Since there is large variability in the PFT responses,  
157 we present the range of variability in SI Figure 2.

158 The measurements of each  $g_{s,n}$  value are generally obtained from steady  
159 state porometers, diffusion porometers, Licor 1600 and Licor 6400 gas exchange  
160 systems (Caird et al., 2007; Phillips et al., 2010), with a small number converted  
161 from sap flux (Benyon 1999) using an inverted Penman-Monteith equation.  
162 Different sampling methods may lead to different estimates of  $g_{s,n}$ , and  
163 measureable  $g_{s,n}$  typically only occurs where VPD is above zero. For example,  
164 using a cuvette clamped over the leaf, which changes the leaf boundary layers,  
165 will be different compared to measurements from sap flow with an unaltered  
166 boundary layer. Data for  $g_{s,n}$  were typically reported during well-watered  
167 conditions, which is ideal because the CLM4.5 calculates stomatal  $g_s$  without

168 water stress and then adjusts  $g_o$  values (and modifications additionally adjust  
169  $g_{night}$  and  $g_{min}$  thresholds) using a soil wetness scalar.

170

### 171 2.3 Terrestrial Coupling Index

172 To investigate the impact of stomatal conductance changes on ~~the degree~~  
173 ~~to which land processes exert influence over~~ the atmosphere, a terrestrial  
174 coupling index was calculated, allowing examination of the influence of a  
175 minimum  $g_s$  threshold on land-atmosphere coupling. Following Dirmeyer  
176 (2011), the terrestrial segment of land-atmosphere coupling is defined as:

177

$$178 \quad \text{Terrestrial Coupling Index (TCI)} = \sigma_w * \beta_{w,ET} \quad (\text{Eq. 23})$$

179

180 where  $\sigma_w$  is the standard deviation of root-zone soil moisture relevant for  
181 transpiration across a given season (e.g., 25 years times 3 summer months), and  
182  $\beta_{w,ET}$  is the linear slope of monthly mean evapotranspiration and root-zone soil  
183 moisture. The TCI captures the variability ( $\sigma_w$ ) and sensitivity of  
184 evapotranspiration to changes in soil moisture and returns units equivalent to  
185 those of evapotranspiration. Therefore, for a region to have high TCI, soil  
186 moisture must have high variability thus enabling any evapotranspiration-soil  
187 moisture sensitivity to manifest in the climate system. While this is strictly a  
188 metric for defining the terrestrial component of coupling, the terrestrial  
189 component has been used as a surrogate for the total soil moisture-precipitation  
190 coupling pattern because of the strong spatial pattern correlation (Wei and  
191 Dirmeyer, 2012).

192

193 **3. Results and Discussion**

194 *3.1 Implementation of  $g_{s,n}$*

195         Incorporating observed minimum constraints on  $g_s$  in all modified  
196 simulations increased  $g_s$  and transpiration compared to the control simulation,  
197 illustrated in Fig. 1 for a highly impacted semi-arid location in Ethiopia (see Fig.  
198 S1 for other regions). The large variability in the observational dataset causes  
199 substantial uncertainty in the simulations, masking the differences among  
200 parameterizations and highlighting the impact of  $g_{s,n}$  on transpiration (Fig. S2).  
201 The sensitivity of  $g_s$  and transpiration to the altered  $g_o$  parameter in the  $\Delta g_o$   
202 simulation is large (Barnard and Bauerle, 2013; Bowden and Bauerle, 2008).  
203 Since the higher  $g_o$  is added to  $g_s$  in the BWB calculation at every model time step  
204 (see Eq. 1), altering  $g_o$  increases transpiration throughout the entire diel cycle,  
205 and produces changes in the daytime evaporative flux that are not supported by  
206 observations of  $g_{s,n}$ . We consider that uniformly adjusting the  $g_o$  parameter does  
207 not represent the correct implementation of observed  $g_{s,n}$  values.

208         If  $g_o$  cannot be equated to plant minimum  $g_s$  in the BWB paradigm, this  
209 raises the possibility of whether  $g_o$  has a theoretical interpretation beyond an  
210 empirical fitting parameter. It is possible that  $g_o$  is equivalent to cuticular  
211 conductance ( $g_{cut}$ ), or conductance that is not regulated by the stomatal guard  
212 cells (Caird et al., 2007), occurring during the day and night. Niyogi and Raman  
213 (1997) describe  $g_o$  as cuticular conductance, though there is no record of  $g_o$   
214 being tested or described as  $g_{cut}$  previously. Studies that have quantified  $g_{cut}$   
215 found that  $g_{cut}$  was a low proportion, < 10%, of total  $g_s$  and less than measured  
216  $g_{s,n}$  (Caird et al., 2007; Zeppel et al., 2014). The values of  $g_o$  used in current  
217 implementations of the Ball-Berry model for C<sub>3</sub> plants ( $10 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) fall



218 within the range of measured  $g_{cut}$  values (4 to 20 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>; Caird et al., 2007).  
219 Assuming  $g_o$  does have a theoretical function of representing  $g_{cut}$ , rather than  $g_{s,n}$ ,  
220 incorporating an observed threshold of minimum  $g_s$  is necessary. Whether  $g_o$   
221 functions theoretically as  $g_{cut}$  in the BWB model needs further evaluation, as  
222 adjusting simulated  $g_o$  has large impacts on canopy conductance and  
223 transpiration (Fig 1; Barnard and Bauerle, 2013). Regardless, observed  $g_{s,n}$  is  
224 larger than modeled  $g_o$  and functions differently, and therefore should be  
225 considered independently in model parameterizations.

226         The  $\Delta g_{min}$  and  $\Delta g_{night}$  simulations represent the intended change in  
227 minimum  $g_s$  with greater fidelity, by limiting the minimum value without  
228 increasing  $g_s$  at every model time step. Interestingly, in restricting only  
229 nighttime conductance, the  $\Delta g_{night}$  simulation allows daytime  $g_s$  to decrease  
230 below the nighttime threshold during the dry season in semi-arid ecosystems  
231 (Fig. 1a). This occurs when  $A_n$  nears zero in shade or low humidity, causing  $g_s$  to  
232 fall to the default (lower)  $g_o$ . In contrast, the  $\Delta g_{min}$  simulation restricts minimum  
233  $g_s$  at all times, and therefore daytime values are never less than the water-  
234 adjusted  $g_{s,n}$ . This increases canopy-averaged daytime  $g_s$ , and hence  
235 transpiration, compared to the unmodified simulation whenever daytime  $g_s$   
236 values fall below the minimum threshold (Fig. 1a, c).

237         The data in Table S1 is a compilation of all available published  $g_{s,n}$  data to  
238 date, and reports  $g_{s,n}$  values for 204 distinct plants. Of these, only four plants  
239 exhibit higher  $g_{s,n}$  than daytime  $g_s$ , and two of those are Crassulacean acid  
240 metabolism (CAM) plants, which by definition open their stomata at night to gain  
241 carbon dioxide and close their stomata during the day, and were not used in our  
242 parameterization. These data suggest that, as expected,  $g_{s,n}$  is typically less than

243 daytime  $g_s$ . Most data presented in Table S1 are average values under non-  
244 drought stressed conditions, and are likely only reported for leaves in sunlit  
245 canopy layers. Thus, these data do not elucidate whether, at any given time,  
246 daytime values might drop below the nighttime threshold, but only suggest that,  
247 on average, they do not.

248 In the context of the model simulations, low daytime  $g_s$  occurs any time  
249 that  $Ah_r/C$  is low. These are conditions which are poorly illuminated (in shade or  
250 at dawn/dusk and night), or when humidity is low. The CLM4.5SP contains a  
251 representation of the shaded canopy, which has lower  $g_s$  and often reaches the  
252 minimum daytime threshold ( $g_o$  in the unmodified,  $\Delta g_o$ , and  $\Delta g_{night}$  simulations;  
253 and  $g_{s,n}$  in the  $\Delta g_{min}$  simulation). The central issue in determining whether the  
254  $\Delta g_{min}$  or  $\Delta g_{night}$  simulation is a better representation of minimum  $g_s$  is whether,  
255 under the same conditions in the real world, daytime  $g_s$  might be lower than  $g_{s,n}$ .  
256 For example, if observational data support that daytime  $g_s$  is less than  $g_{s,n}$  in  
257 shaded canopy layers [given the same water availability](#), then the  $\Delta g_{night}$   
258 simulation is a better parameterization. However, if observational data suggest  
259 that daytime  $g_s$  is consistently higher than  $g_{s,n}$ , then the  $\Delta g_{min}$  simulation is a  
260 better parameterization. While observational data are not available to  
261 specifically answer this question, the available data [{presented in Table S1} and](#)  
262 [data from Dawson et al. \(2007\), which suggest that  \$g\_{s,n}\$  is a fraction of daytime  \$g\_s\$ ,](#)  
263 imply that daytime  $g_s$  is on average higher than  $g_{s,n}$ , providing partial support for  
264 the  $\Delta g_{min}$  implementation. [A different implementation of  \$g\_{s,n}\$  might calculate  \$g\_{s,n}\$](#)   
265 [as a proportion of daytime  \$g\_s\$ , based on Dawson et al. \(2007\), who find that  \$g\_{s,n}\$  is](#)  
266 [a proportion of daytime  \$g\_s\$  that changes based on days since last rainfall. We do](#)

267 | [not test this potential method here, but acknowledge it as a viable alternative to](#)  
268 | [be considered.](#)

269 |         The possible existence of a higher  $g_{s,n}$  compared to daytime  $g_s$  raises an  
270 | interesting question about the potential selective advantage for leaves with a  
271 | high  $g_{s,n}$ . It is hypothesized that high  $g_{s,n}$  may provide a beneficial function to the  
272 | plant, such as embolism repair or phloem transport ([e.g., Dawson et al. 2007](#)).  
273 | Additionally,  $g_{s,n}$  may contribute to xylem refilling, potentially improving carbon  
274 | gain by making water available when light conditions allow for photosynthesis  
275 | ([Dawson et al. 2007](#)). Critically, it is not clear whether these potential functions  
276 | are only relevant at night (and daytime  $g_s$  can be lower than  $g_{s,n}$ ), or whether  
277 | high  $g_{s,n}$  is representative of a general strategy of higher overall minimum  $g_s$ . We  
278 | are not aware of data that exist to support either possibility, and advocate for  
279 | observations that will help determine the functional significance of  $g_{s,n}$ .

280 |         From a model or theoretical perspective, it is important to note that the  
281 | reason that simulated  $g_s$  values are reduced to as low as  $10 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (or  
282 | lower, if down-regulated for water stress) is a function of the universal  
283 | parameterization of all  $C_3$  plants with that value of  $g_o$ . Given that it is unlikely  
284 | that this value is universal for all plants, we consider that the large difference  
285 | between the  $\Delta g_{min}$  or  $\Delta g_{night}$  simulations is an artifact of the poorly constrained  
286 | parameterization of the daytime BWB model.

287 |         It should be noted that all the minimum thresholds implemented in our  
288 | simulations ( $\Delta g_o$ ,  $\Delta g_{night}$ , and  $\Delta g_{min}$ ) are adjusted by a soil water scalar ( $\beta_{soil}$ ).  
289 | Therefore, the nighttime ( $\Delta g_{night}$ ) and the minimum ( $\Delta g_{min}$ ) thresholds are

290 altered according to the degree of soil moisture stress. When the daytime  $g_s$   
291 value is lower than the  $g_{night}$  threshold in the  $\Delta g_{night}$  simulation (Fig. 1c), the  $g_{night}$   
292 threshold is already down-regulated for water stress. In this scenario, the  
293 daytime minimum  $g_s$  is less than the nighttime  $g_s$  when water stress is  
294 equivalent.

295 Responses to dry soil conditions are mediated both through the minimum  
296  $g_s$  values, and through the impact of soil moisture on photosynthetic capacity and  
297 leaf maintenance respiration, which are also multiplied by  $\beta_{soil}$ . Many of the  
298 impacts of our simulations result from feedbacks between higher transpiration  
299 rates resulting in faster depletion of soil moisture store, and therefore greater  
300 constraint on photosynthesis. These results are all emergent features of the  
301 model and should not be interpreted as direct results of the altered  
302 parameterization.

### 303 *3.2 Global Water and Carbon*

304 When averaged over 25 years, incorporating observed rates of  $g_{s,n}$  in the  
305  $\Delta g_{min}$  simulation increased transpiration losses up to 30% in the Amazon, and  
306 >30% in some arid regions, in part due to the small absolute magnitude of  
307 available soil water (Fig. 2a-c). Semi-arid regions are primarily broad-leaf shrub  
308 and C<sub>3</sub> grass PFTs that have particularly high values (130 and 156 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>  
309 respectively) of observed  $g_{s,n}$  (Table 1), and have high nighttime vapor pressure  
310 deficits that interact with higher minimum  $g_s$  values, causing large nighttime  
311 transpiration rates. Using median rather than mean values caused only small  
312 (<1.5%) differences in global transpiration (Fig. S3, Fig. S4). Though the  
313 magnitude of response is different depending on parameterization used, the

314 increases in transpiration imply that current model estimates of plant water loss  
315 are underestimated in many regions.

316 Simulated higher transpiration resulting from higher minimum  $g_s$  also has  
317 ecosystem-scale ramifications for hydrology (McLaughlin et al., 2007). For  
318 example, the increased transpiration resulted in drier soils compared to the  
319 control simulation (Fig. 2g-i), with  $\Delta g_{min}$  causing >40% soil moisture decreases in  
320 semi-arid ecosystems like the Southwestern United States and much of Australia  
321 (>10% in  $\Delta g_{night}$ ). Additionally, the  $\Delta g_{min}$  estimated changes to surface runoff are  
322 large in some regions, such as the 10-25% decreases in the tropics (5-10% in  
323  $\Delta g_{night}$ ; Fig. 2d-f), suggesting that current runoff estimates may be too large. It  
324 should be noted that the difference between the  $\Delta g_{min}$  and  $\Delta g_{night}$  simulations is  
325 largely due to changes in minimum  $g_s$  that affect daytime  $g_s$  (see Section 3.1).  
326 Hydrologic changes in soil moisture and runoff in response to increased  $g_s$  have  
327 previously been documented in catchments in southeastern United States  
328 (McLaughlin et al., 2007), and our results suggest that changes to stomatal  
329 conductance have similar consequences in CLM4.5SP simulations. Additionally,  
330 increasing minimum  $g_s$  caused gross primary productivity (GPP) to decrease  
331 (Figure 3) by 10 to >25% in many semi-arid regions. These are regions where  
332 water availability already restricts GPP, and the decreases in soil moisture  
333 caused by higher transpiration likely impart even more drought-induced  
334 stomatal closure.

335 To more directly evaluate the potential influence of minimum  $g_s$  on the  
336 climate system, we calculate the change in terrestrial coupling to the  
337 atmosphere. The terrestrial coupling index (Dirmeyer, 2011) estimates the  
338 degree to which changes in soil moisture control surface energy fluxes to the

339 atmosphere. This study uses root-zone soil moisture rather than soil moisture  
340 over spatially constant soil depth to highlight the direct impact of vegetation and  
341 minimum  $g_s$  on surface fluxes. Here we calculate the terrestrial coupling index  
342 during boreal summer months when warmer temperatures allow for the highest  
343  $g_s$  rates. We find that the terrestrial coupling strength increases when using the  
344  $\Delta g_{min}$  implementation, but is generally unchanged for  $\Delta g_{night}$  (Fig. 4), meaning  
345 root-zone soil moisture exerts a greater control on surface flux variability for  
346  $\Delta g_{min}$ , largely due to the impact this simulation has on daytime  $g_s$ . This increased  
347 terrestrial coupling to the atmosphere largely mirrors the reductions in GPP and  
348 soil moisture in semi-arid ecosystems, and may reinforce climate extremes such  
349 as droughts or heat waves (Hirschi et al., 2011; Miralles et al., 2014).

### 350 3.3 Evaluating $g_{s,n}$

351 Evaluating the performance of the new  $g_{s,n}$  parameterizations is  
352 challenging for numerous reasons. First, our model scales from leaf-level  $g_s$  and  
353  $g_{s,n}$  estimates to canopy transpiration. The best way of evaluating the model is to  
354 compare simulated and observed canopy transpiration because the model  
355 captures the average of an entire canopy, which is comprised of multiple plant  
356 functional types, rather than individual plant functional types. Incorporating  
357 realistic minimum  $g_s$  increases global evapotranspiration and decreases global  
358 runoff compared to globally-scaled observations, while estimates of GPP from all  
359 simulations fall within the range of global GPP estimates from observations  
360 (Table 2; Bonan et al., 2011, 2012; Li et al., 2011). However, these comparisons  
361 should be used with caution, since eddy covariance data used in estimating the  
362 GPP and evapotranspiration observations are susceptible to errors at night  
363 (Fisher et al., 2007; van Gorsel et al., 2008; Kirschbaum et al., 2007; Medlyn et al.,

364 2005) due to a lack of sufficient canopy turbulence that precludes detection of  
365 nighttime transpiration using this measurement methodology, and are not useful  
366 for evaluating the changes in water fluxes tested in this study. Other data for  
367 evaluating model responses to minimum  $g_s$  on large spatial scales are not yet  
368 available.

369 A comparison of simulated canopy transpiration to transpiration  
370 calculated from sap-flux data in Australia (Fig. 5) illustrates that a minimum  $g_s$   
371 threshold changes transpiration estimates during the early part of the night,  
372 though simulated nighttime rates are still low compared to observations. All  
373 model parameterizations fall within the observational range of uncertainty, but  
374 under-predict nighttime and midday canopy transpiration during May and June,  
375 and over-predict midday canopy transpiration in July. The lack of fidelity  
376 between the various model parameterizations and the observations is likely  
377 affected by the fact that observed meteorological data were unavailable to force  
378 the model. Therefore, key parameters driving both daytime and nighttime  
379 transpiration fluxes, such as VPD and soil water availability, were likely different  
380 in the model simulations compared to the actual meteorological conditions at  
381 Castlereagh during data collection. Additionally, because sap flow is measured at  
382 the base of the tree, there is typically a lag between when sap flow is measured  
383 and when the canopy transpires, and this lag is also notable in comparing  
384 observed sap flow with simulated estimates of transpiration. Estimating  
385 nighttime transpiration using sap flow methodology is also convoluted with the  
386 refilling of aboveground water stores depleted during the day, and thus is not  
387 directly comparable to our simulations. It should also be noted that the model

388 does not have a semi-arid plant functional type, so semi-arid plants are typically  
389 represented in the model as deciduous plant functional types.

390         Given that our study focused only on one aspect of the  $g_s$  formulation  
391 within a land surface model, evaluating daytime  $g_s$  and other aspects of the BWB  
392 model function (i.e., photosynthetic drivers of daytime  $g_s$ , feedbacks to water  
393 availability, etc.) are all subject to pre-existing deficiencies in the representation  
394 of a host of other model processes. For example, there are only two values of the  
395  $g_1$  (slope) parameter in the BWB model, one for  $C_3$  and one for  $C_4$  plants (Sellers  
396 et al., 1996), and this parameter has not been modified or comprehensively  
397 evaluated within the context of the CLM4.5SP. Indeed, the use of the BWB model  
398 at all is currently the subject of some debate (Bonan et al., 2014; De Kauwe et al.,  
399 2015), [and this study additionally highlights how the empirical nature of the  
400 BWB model leads to difficulties when attempting to implement mechanistic  
401 processes](#). Further, daytime  $g_s$  is also dependent on the photosynthetic capacity,  
402 and observations of  $V_{\text{cmax}}$  and  $J_{\text{max}}$  (Bonan et al., 2011; Kattge and Knorr, 2007)  
403 indicate very wide ranges of plant functional type variation in these properties,  
404 also limiting our confidence that the globally averaged parameters used in the  
405 default model will lead to accurate  $g_s$  and transpiration at most locations. We  
406 choose not to focus on these and other parameters that effect daytime  $g_s$ , as it  
407 does not directly impact the representation of  $g_{s,n}$ , and is therefore beyond the  
408 scope of this paper.

409

#### 410 **4. Conclusion**

411         The rate of minimum  $g_s$  estimated from the BWB model used in many  
412 global land surface models is typically smaller than observed  $g_{s,n}$  (Barnard and



413 Bauerle, 2013), as demonstrated in a review of 204 species (Zeppel et al., 2014).  
414 Including a nighttime or minimum  $g_s$  threshold based on observations results in  
415 simulated hydrologic changes, such as decreased soil moisture and runoff (Fig.  
416 2), particularly in semi-arid regions where water availability already restricts  
417 growth. In addition to potentially increasing drought stress in sensitive regions,  
418 this has the impact of reducing plant growth (Fig. 3) and changing the modeled  
419 terrestrial coupling to the atmosphere (Fig. 4). The difference between the  $\Delta g_{min}$   
420 and  $\Delta g_{night}$  simulations highlights one outstanding uncertainty: Does minimum  
421 daytime  $g_s$  decrease below nighttime  $g_s$ ? While the balance of our arguments  
422 favors the  $\Delta g_{min}$  implementation of  $g_{s,n}$ , this study primarily illustrates the  
423 potential sensitivity of global simulations to minimum  $g_s$  considerations, and  
424 serves as motivation for additional field experiments, particularly in semi-arid  
425 areas, to discern better representations of low  $g_s$  conditions during daytime and  
426 nighttime. To better understand the future of these sensitive ecosystems,  
427 widespread field observations, quantification of minimum daytime  $g_s$ , and a  
428 better understanding of the physiological causes and consequences of nighttime  
429 transpiration are necessary so that land surface models can robustly incorporate  
430 observations and theory.

## 431 **5. Code and Data Availability**

432 The code for CLM4.5 is publically available through Subversion code repository:  
433 [https://svn-ccsm-models.cgd.ucar.edu/cesm1/release\\_tags/cesm1\\_2\\_2](https://svn-ccsm-models.cgd.ucar.edu/cesm1/release_tags/cesm1_2_2). To  
434 access the code, fill out a short, required registration to get a user name and  
435 password, necessary to gain access to the repository.  
436 [http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/models/register/register\\_cesm.cgi](http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/models/register/register_cesm.cgi)  
437 [http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/models/cesm1.2/clm/CLM45\\_Tech\\_Note.pdf](http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/models/cesm1.2/clm/CLM45_Tech_Note.pdf). The CLM4.5 User's

438 Guide can be found at:  
439 [http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/models/cesm1.2/clm/models/lnd/clm/doc/UsersG](http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/models/cesm1.2/clm/models/lnd/clm/doc/UsersGuide/book1.html)  
440 [uide/book1.html](http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/models/cesm1.2/clm/models/lnd/clm/doc/UsersGuide/book1.html). All stomatal conductance data used in developing the  
441 implementations can be found in Table S1.

442

#### 443 **Author Contributions**

444 DL, MZ, and RF conceived the project. MZ assembled the  $g_{s,n}$  datasets; DL ran  
445 model simulations; and DL and AT analyzed model simulations, with guidance  
446 from RF. All authors contributed to writing the paper.

447

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458 **Tables**

**Table 1.** Old and new minimum stomatal conductance values used in CLM4.5SP. Units are  $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$

<b>Plant Functional Type</b>	<b>Old Value</b>	<b>Mean New Value</b>	<b>Median New Value</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>n</b>
temperate needle-leaf evergreen tree	10	16.896	10	20.803 <del>32642</del>	12
boreal needle-leaf evergreen tree	10	8	8	NA	1
needle-leaf deciduous tree	10	35.367	35	6.457 <del>8118078</del>	3
tropical broadleaf evergreen tree	10	90.488	75.5	67.850 <del>15923</del>	8
temperate broadleaf evergreen tree	10	34.017	27	28.2 <del>627804263</del>	25
tropical broadleaf deciduous tree	10	129	129	41.012 <del>19331</del>	2
temperate broadleaf deciduous tree	10	72.637	41.66	83.5 <del>2495039525</del>	22
boreal broadleaf deciduous tree	10	50	50	NA	1
broadleaf evergreen shrub	10	65.353	29	116.0 <del>616668062</del>	16
broadleaf deciduous shrub	10	129.644	60	145.5 <del>387501539</del>	9
c3 grass	10	157.988	161	67.317 <del>44598</del>	24
C4 grass	40	93.933	48.5	125.5 <del>325881533</del>	6
crop	10	60.629	36.7	60.745 <del>43722</del>	21

150

\*New Value, Standard Deviation and n are based on data pooled from the literature.

459

460

461

**Table 2.** Global values from CLM simulations and observations<sup>a</sup>

<b>Simulation</b>	<b><math>g_{s,n}</math> data used</b>	<b>GPP (Pg C yr<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	<b>ET (10<sup>3</sup> km<sup>3</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	<b>Runoff (10<sup>3</sup> km<sup>3</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>)</b>
Control	N/A	157.83	65.6148	30.462
$g_o$	Mean	152.56	72.6555	24.2141
$g_{night}$	Mean	156.068	66.0926	30.0724
$g_{min}$	Mean	151.252	68.6843	27.8161
$g_o$	Median	153.641	71.5441	25.1739
$g_{night}$	Median	156.346	66.031	30.119
$g_{min}$	Median	152.385	67.8881	28.51
Observation		119-175	65.13	37.7521

<sup>a</sup>Global gross primary productivity (GPP), evapotranspiration (ET) and runoff values. Observed values presented in Bonan et al. (2011), Welp et al. (2011), and Lawrence et al. (2011)

462

463

464 **Figure Captions**

465 **Figure 1.** Diurnal time-series of canopy conductance (a,c) and transpiration  
466 (b,d) for Ethiopia over five days in mid-January (a-b) and mid-July (c-d). The  
467 control simulation (solid black line) had lower conductance and transpiration  
468 than the  $\Delta g_o$  simulation (dotted red line) and the  $\Delta g_{min}$  simulation (dashed blue  
469 line). The  $\Delta g_{night}$  simulation (dot-dashed teal line) had higher nighttime  
470 conductance and transpiration than the control simulation, but similar daytime  
471 conductance and transpiration, allowing for daytime conductance to fall below  
472 the nighttime threshold. The  $\Delta g_o$  simulation added the observed  $g_{s,n}$  values to the  
473 conductance calculation at every time, day or night, which is not theoretically  
474 aligned with the function of including observed  $g_{s,n}$ . As a result, the  $\Delta g_o$   
475 simulation was eliminated from further analyses. Note that all minimum  
476 thresholds ( $g_o$ ,  $g_{night}$ , and  $g_{min}$ ) were adjusted using a soil moisture scalar.

477

478 **Figure 2.** Simulated average transpiration (a), runoff (d), and soil moisture (g)  
479 for a control simulation; and percent change from control in transpiration (b-c),  
480 runoff (e-f), and soil moisture (h-i) after including a nighttime threshold ( $\Delta g_{night}$ ;  
481 b,e,h) or a minimum  $g_s$  threshold ( $\Delta g_{min}$ ; c,f,i) based on observational data. Note  
482 that both nighttime and minimum thresholds were adjusted based on a soil  
483 moisture scalar.

484

485 **Figure 3.** Average gross primary productivity (GPP) for a control simulation (a),  
486 and percent change from control (b-c) after including a nighttime threshold  
487 ( $\Delta g_{night}$ ; b) or a minimum  $g_s$  threshold ( $\Delta g_{min}$ ; c) based on observational data.

488 Note that both nighttime and minimum thresholds were adjusted based on a soil  
489 moisture scalar.

490

491 **Figure 4.** Terrestrial coupling for June-July-August for a control simulation (a),  
492 and the difference from control (b-c) after including a nighttime threshold  
493 ( $\Delta g_{night}$ ; b) or a minimum  $g_s$  threshold value ( $\Delta g_{min}$ ; c) based on observational  
494 data. Note that both nighttime and minimum thresholds were adjusted based on  
495 a soil moisture scalar.

496

497 **Figure 5.** Average diel canopy transpiration for the months of May, June, and July  
498 in Castlereagh, Australia (observation, dotted black line), estimated from sap flux  
499 measurements of Red Gum and Iron Bark, the dominant tree species in the  
500 canopy. Average simulated canopy transpiration for the grid cell corresponding  
501 to Castlereagh, Australia for the control (unmodified; solid black line),  $\Delta g_o$  (Ball-  
502 Berry  $g_o$  parameter adjusted; red line),  $\Delta g_{night}$  (minimum nighttime threshold  
503 added; teal line), and  $\Delta g_{min}$  (minimum conductance threshold added; blue line)  
504 simulations. Error bars corresponding to the observations (dashed) and each  
505 simulation (solid) are colored accordingly, and are calculated as +/- one  
506 standard deviation from the mean. Note that the simulations use meteorological  
507 forcings from an atmospheric dataset (see Methods), not the local meteorology  
508 from when the measurements were collected (some meteorological data was  
509 collected at the site, but not all variables required by the model). The simulated  
510 grid cell covers a much larger area than the observational data collection site.

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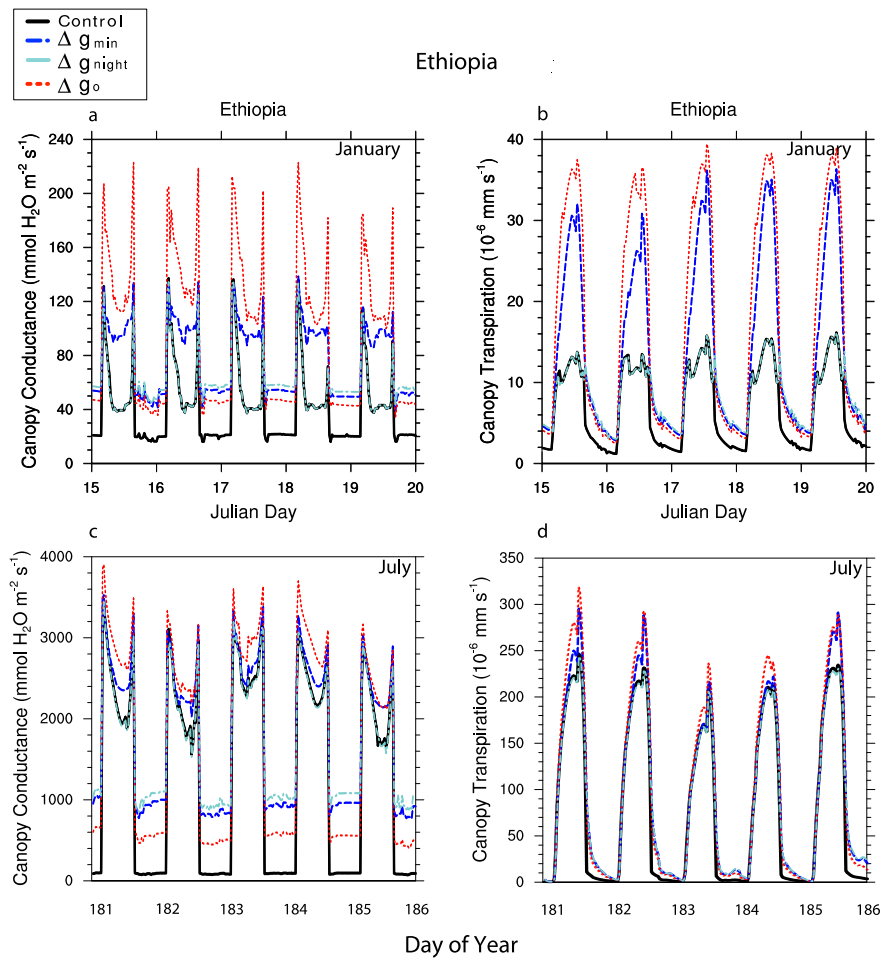
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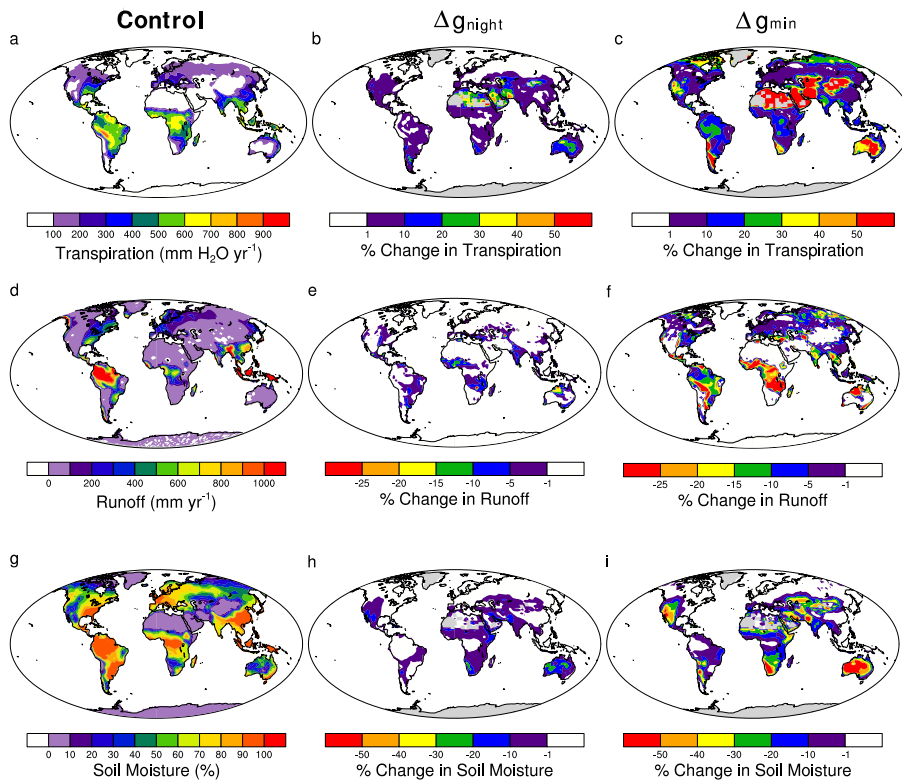
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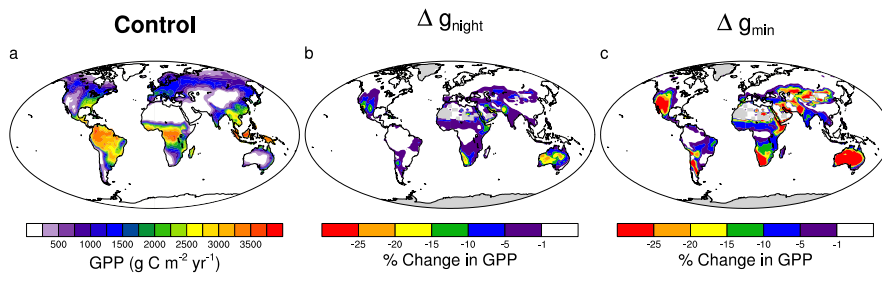


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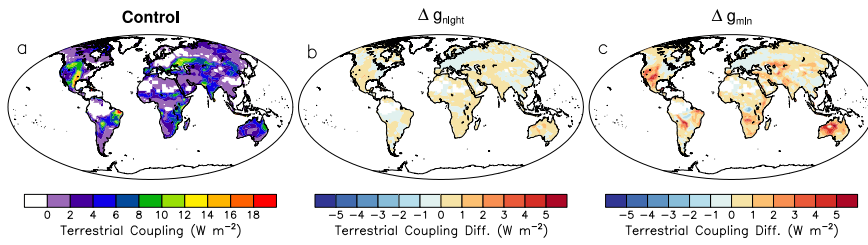
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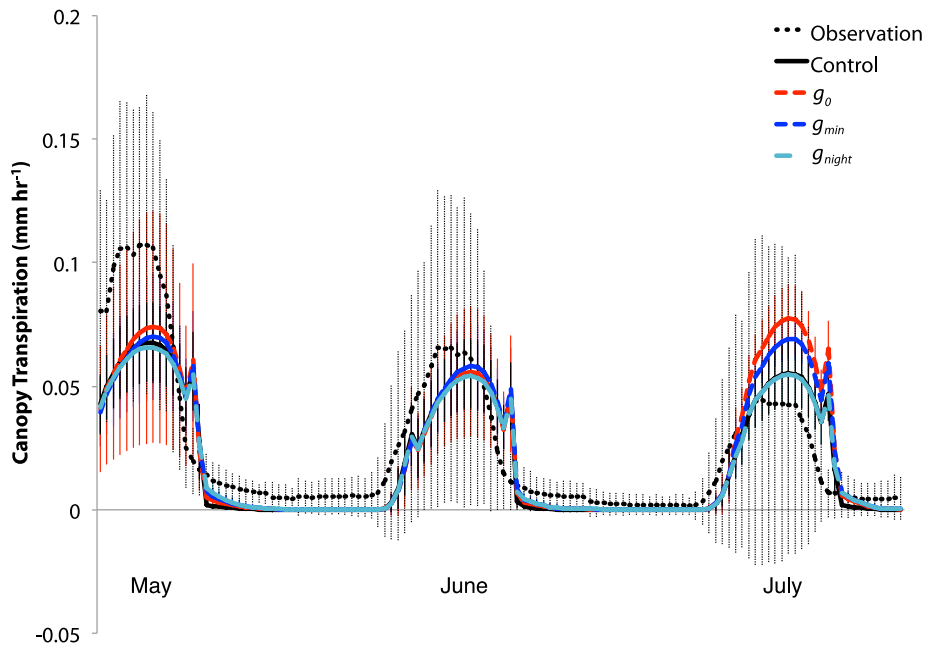
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