

1 **The Yale Interactive terrestrial Biosphere Model version 1.0: description,**  
2 **evaluation and implementation into NASA GISS ModelE2**

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## Abstract

The land biosphere, atmospheric chemistry and climate are intricately interconnected yet the modeling of carbon-climate and chemistry-climate interactions have evolved as entirely separate research communities. We describe the Yale Interactive terrestrial Biosphere (YIBs) model version 1.0, a land carbon cycle model that has been developed for coupling to the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) ModelE2 global chemistry-climate model. The YIBs model adapts routines from the mature TRIFFID and CASA models to simulate interactive carbon assimilation, allocation, and autotrophic and heterotrophic respiration. Dynamic daily leaf area index is simulated based on carbon allocation and temperature- and drought-dependent prognostic phenology. YIBs incorporates a semi-mechanistic ozone vegetation damage scheme. Here, we validate the present day YIBs land carbon fluxes for three increasingly complex configurations: (i) off-line local site-level (ii) off-line global forced with WFDEI (WATCH Forcing Data methodology applied to ERA-Interim data) meteorology (iii) on-line coupled to the NASA ModelE2 (NASA ModelE2-YIBs). Off-line YIBs has hourly and on-line YIBs has half-hourly temporal resolution. The large observational database used for validation includes carbon fluxes from 145 flux tower sites and multiple satellite products. At the site level, YIBs simulates reasonable seasonality (correlation coefficient  $R > 0.8$ ) of gross primary productivity (GPP) at 121 out of 145 sites with biases in magnitude ranging from -19% to 7% depending on plant functional type. On the global scale, the off-line model simulates an annual GPP of  $125 \pm 3$  petagrams of carbon (Pg C) and net ecosystem exchange (NEE) of  $-2.5 \pm 0.7$  Pg C for 1982-2011, with seasonality and spatial distribution consistent with the satellite observations. We assess present day global ozone vegetation damage using the off-line YIBs configuration. Ozone damage reduces global GPP by 2-5% annually with regional extremes of 4-10% in East Asia. The on-line model simulates annual GPP of  $123 \pm 1$  Pg C and NEE of  $-2.7 \pm 0.7$  Pg C. NASA ModelE2-YIBs is a useful new tool to investigate coupled interactions between the land carbon cycle, atmospheric chemistry, and climate change.

*Keywords:* terrestrial biosphere model, carbon cycle, photosynthesis, ozone, phenology, gross primary productivity, net ecosystem exchange

41 **1. Introduction**

42 The terrestrial biosphere interacts with the atmosphere through the exchanges of energy,  
43 carbon, reactive gases, water, and momentum fluxes. Forest ecosystems absorb an  
44 estimated 120 petagrams of carbon (Pg C) per year from the atmosphere (Beer et al.,  
45 2010) and mitigate about one quarter of the anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)  
46 emissions (Friedlingstein et al., 2014). This carbon assimilation is sensitive to human-  
47 caused perturbations including climate change and land use change (Zhao and Running,  
48 2010; Houghton et al., 2012), and is affected by atmospheric pollutants such as ozone and  
49 aerosols (Sitch et al., 2007; Mercado et al., 2009). Over the past 2-3 decades, a number of  
50 terrestrial biosphere models have been developed as tools to quantify the present-day  
51 global carbon budget in conjunction with available but sparse observations (e.g., Jung et  
52 al., 2009), to understand the relationships between terrestrial biospheric fluxes and  
53 environmental conditions (e.g., Zeng et al., 2005), to attribute drivers of trends in the  
54 carbon cycle during the anthropogenic era (e.g., Sitch et al., 2015), and to project future  
55 changes in the land biosphere and the consequences for regional and global climate  
56 change (e.g., Friedlingstein et al., 2006).

57

58 Emerging research identifies climatically-relevant interactions between the land  
59 biosphere and atmospheric chemistry (e.g, Huntingford et al., 2011). For instance,  
60 stomatal uptake is an important sink of tropospheric ozone (Val Martin et al., 2014), but  
61 damages photosynthesis, reduces plant growth and biomass accumulation, limits crop  
62 yields, and affects stomatal control over plant transpiration of water vapor between the  
63 leaf surface and atmosphere (Ainsworth et al., 2012; Hollaway et al., 2012). The indirect  
64 CO<sub>2</sub> radiative forcing due to the vegetation damage effects of anthropogenic ozone  
65 increases since the industrial revolution may be as large as +0.4 W m<sup>-2</sup> (Sitch et al.,  
66 2007), which is 25% of the magnitude of the direct CO<sub>2</sub> radiative forcing over the same  
67 period, and of similar magnitude to the direct ozone radiative forcing. Atmospheric  
68 oxidation of biogenic volatile organic compound (BVOC) emissions affects surface air  
69 quality and exerts additional regional and global chemical climate forcings (Scott et al.,  
70 2014; Unger, 2014a, b). Fine mode atmospheric pollution particles affect the land  
71 biosphere by changing the physical climate state and through diffuse radiation

72 fertilization (Mercado et al., 2009; Mahowald, 2011). Land plant phenology has  
73 experienced substantial changes in the last few decades (Keenan et al., 2014), possibly  
74 influencing both ozone deposition and BVOC emissions through the extension of  
75 growing seasons. These coupled interactions are often not adequately represented in  
76 current generation land biosphere models or global chemistry-climate models. Global  
77 land carbon cycle models often prescribe off-line ozone and aerosol fields (e.g., Sitch et  
78 al., 2007; Mercado et al., 2009), and global chemistry-climate models often prescribe  
79 fixed off-line vegetation fields (e.g., Lamarque et al., 2013; Shindell et al., 2013a).  
80 However, multiple mutual feedbacks occur between vegetation physiology and reactive  
81 atmospheric chemical composition that are completely neglected using these previous  
82 off-line approaches. Model frameworks are needed that fully 2-way couple the land  
83 carbon cycle and atmospheric chemistry, and simulate the consequences for climate  
84 change.

85

86 Our objective is to present the description and present-day evaluation of the Yale  
87 Interactive terrestrial Biosphere (YIBs) model version 1.0 that has been developed for the  
88 investigation of carbon-chemistry-climate interactions. The YIBs model can be used in  
89 three configurations: (i) off-line local site-level (ii) off-line global forced with WFDEI  
90 (WATCH Forcing Data methodology applied to ERA-Interim data) meteorology (iii) on-  
91 line coupled to the latest frozen version of the NASA GISS ModelE2 (Schmidt et al.,  
92 2014). The global climate model represents atmospheric gas-phase and aerosol chemistry,  
93 cloud, radiation, and land surface processes, and has been widely used for studies of  
94 atmospheric components, climate change, and their interactions (Schmidt et al., 2006;  
95 Koch et al., 2011; Unger, 2011; Shindell et al., 2013b; Miller et al., 2014). To our  
96 knowledge, this study represents the first description and validation of an interactive  
97 climate-sensitive closed land carbon cycle in NASA ModelE2. The impacts of the  
98 updated vegetation scheme on the chemistry and climate simulations in NASA ModelE2  
99 will be addressed in other on-going research. Section 2 describes the observational  
100 datasets used to evaluate YIBs land carbon cycle performance. Section 3 describes  
101 physical parameterizations of the vegetation model. Section 4 explains the model set up

102 and simulations in three configurations. Section 5 presents the results of the model  
103 evaluation and section 6 summarizes the model performance.

104

## 105 **1.1 YIBs design strategy**

106

107 Many land carbon cycle models already exist (e.g. Sitch et al., 2015 and references  
108 therein; Schaefer et al., 2012 and references therein). We elected to build YIBs in a step-  
109 by-step process such that our research group has intimate familiarity with the underlying  
110 scientific processes, rather than adopting an existing model as a “black box”. This  
111 unconventional interdisciplinary approach is important for discerning the complex mutual  
112 feedbacks between atmospheric chemistry and the land carbon sink under global change.  
113 The development of YIBs land carbon cycle model has proceeded in three main steps.  
114 The first step was the implementation of vegetation biophysics, photosynthesis-dependent  
115 BVOC emissions and ozone vegetation damage that have been extensively documented,  
116 validated and applied in 7 previous publications (Unger, 2013; Unger et al., 2013; Unger,  
117 2014a, b; Unger and Yue, 2014; Yue and Unger, 2014; Zheng et al., 2015). The second  
118 step was the selection of the YIBs default phenology scheme based on rigorous inter-  
119 comparison of 13 published phenological models (Yue et al., 2015a). This study  
120 represents the third step to simulate the closed climate-sensitive land carbon cycle:  
121 implementation of interactive carbon assimilation, allocation, autotrophic and  
122 heterotrophic respiration, and dynamic tree growth (changes in both height and LAI). For  
123 this third step, we purposefully select the mature, well-supported, well-established,  
124 readily available and accessible community algorithms: TRIFFID (Cox, 2001; Clark et  
125 al., 2011) and the Carnegie-Ames-Stanford Approach (CASA) (Potter et al., 1993;  
126 Schaefer et al., 2008). TRIFFID has demonstrated previous usage in carbon-chemistry-  
127 climate interactions research.

128

## 129 **2. Observational datasets for validation**

130

### 131 **2.1 Site-level measurements**

132 To validate the YIBs model, we use eddy covariance measurements from 145 flux tower  
133 sites (Fig. 1), which are collected by the North American Carbon Program (Schaefer et  
134 al., 2012) (K. Schaefer, personal communication) and downloaded from the FLUXNET  
135 (<http://fluxnet.ornl.gov>) network. Among these sites, 138 are located in the Northern  
136 Hemisphere, with 74 in Europe, 38 in U.S., and 24 in Canada (Table S1). Sites on other  
137 continents are limited. Most of the sites have one dominant plant functional type (PFT),  
138 including 54 sites of evergreen needleleaf forests (ENF), 20 deciduous broadleaf forests  
139 (DBF), 9 evergreen broadleaf forests (EBF), 28 grasslands, 18 shrublands, and 16  
140 croplands. We attribute sites with mixed forest to the ENF as these sites are usually at  
141 high latitudes. Each site dataset provides hourly or half-hourly measurements of carbon  
142 fluxes, including gross primary productivity (GPP) and net ecosystem exchange (NEE),  
143 and CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and meteorological variables, such as surface air temperature,  
144 relative humidity, wind speed, and shortwave radiation.

145

## 146 **2.2 Global measurements**

147

148 We use global tree height, leaf area index (LAI), GPP, net primary productivity (NPP),  
149 and phenology datasets to validate the vegetation model. Canopy height is retrieved using  
150 2005 remote sensing data from the Geoscience Laser Altimeter System (GLAS) aboard  
151 ICESat satellite (Simard et al., 2011). LAI measurements for 1982-2011 are derived  
152 using the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) from Global Inventory  
153 Modeling and Mapping Studies (GIMMS) (Zhu et al., 2013). Global GPP observations of  
154 1982-2011 are estimated based on the upscaling of FLUXNET eddy covariance data with  
155 a biosphere model (Jung et al., 2009). This product was made to reproduce a model  
156 (LPJmL) using the fraction of absorbed PAR simulated in LPJmL. As a comparison, we  
157 also use GPP observations of 1982-2008 derived based on FLUXNET, satellite, and  
158 meteorological observations (Jung et al., 2011), which is about 10% lower than that of  
159 Jung et al. (2009). The NPP for 2000-2011 is derived using remote sensing data from  
160 Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) (Zhao et al., 2005). We use  
161 the global retrieval of greenness onset derived from the Advanced Very High Resolution

162 Radiometer (AVHRR) and the MODIS data from 1982 to 2011 (Zhang et al., 2014). All  
 163 datasets are interpolated to the  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  off-line model resolution for comparisons.

164

### 165 **3. YIBs model description**

166

#### 167 **3.1 Vegetation biophysics**

168 YIBs calculates carbon uptake for 9 PFTs: tundra, C3/C4 grass, shrubland, DBF, ENF,  
 169 EBF, and C3/C4 cropland (Table 1). In the gridded large-scale model applications, each  
 170 model PFT fraction in the vegetated part of each grid cell represents a single canopy. The  
 171 vegetation biophysics simulates C3 and C4 photosynthesis with the well-established  
 172 Michealis-Menten enzyme-kinetics scheme (Farquhar et al., 1980; von Caemmerer and  
 173 Farquhar, 1981) and the stomatal conductance model of Ball and Berry (Ball et al., 1987).  
 174 The total leaf photosynthesis ( $A_{tot}$ ,  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}$  [leaf]  $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) is limited by one of three  
 175 processes: (i) the capacity of the ribulose 1,5-bisphosphate (RuBP) carboxylase-  
 176 oxygenase enzyme (Rubisco) to catalyze carbon fixation ( $J_c$ ); (ii) the capacity of the  
 177 Calvin cycle and the thylakoid reactions to regenerate RuBP supported by electron  
 178 transport ( $J_e$ ); (iii) the capacity of starch and sucrose synthesis to regenerate inorganic  
 179 phosphate for photo- phosphorylation in C3 plants and phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP) in  
 180 C4 plants ( $J_s$ ).

181

$$182 \quad A_{tot} = \min(J_c, J_e, J_s) \quad (1)$$

183

184 The  $J_c$ ,  $J_e$ , and  $J_s$  are parameterized as functions of environmental variables (e.g.  
 185 temperature, radiation, and  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations) and the maximum carboxylation capacity  
 186 ( $V_{cmax}$ ,  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) (Collatz et al., 1991; Collatz et al., 1992):

187

$$188 \quad J_c = \begin{cases} V_{cmax} \left( \frac{c_i - \Gamma^*}{c_i + K_c (1 + O_i / K_o)} \right) & \text{for C3 plant} \\ V_{cmax} & \text{for C4 plant} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

189

190 
$$J_e = \begin{cases} a_{leaf} \cdot PAR \cdot \alpha \cdot \left( \frac{c_i - \Gamma^*}{c_i + 2\Gamma^*} \right) & \text{for C3 plant} \\ a_{leaf} \cdot PAR \cdot \alpha & \text{for C4 plant} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

191

192 
$$J_s = \begin{cases} 0.5V_{cmax} & \text{for C3 plant} \\ K_s \cdot V_{cmax} \cdot \frac{c_i}{P_s} & \text{for C4 plant} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

193

194 where  $c_i$  and  $O_i$  are the leaf internal partial pressure (Pa) of CO<sub>2</sub> and oxygen,  $\Gamma^*$  (Pa) is  
 195 the CO<sub>2</sub> compensation point,  $K_c$  and  $K_o$  (Pa) are Michaelis-Menten parameters for the  
 196 carboxylation and oxygenation of rubisco. The parameters  $K_c$ ,  $K_o$ , and  $\Gamma^*$  vary with  
 197 temperature according to a Q<sub>10</sub> function. PAR ( $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) is the incident  
 198 photosynthetically active radiation,  $a_{leaf}$  is leaf-specific light absorbance, and  $\alpha$  is intrinsic  
 199 quantum efficiency.  $P_s$  is the ambient pressure and  $K_s$  is a constant set to 4000 following  
 200 Oleson et al. (2010).  $V_{cmax}$  is a function of the optimal  $V_{cmax}$  at 25 °C ( $V_{cmax25}$ ) based on a  
 201 Q<sub>10</sub> function.

202

203 Net carbon assimilation ( $A_{net}$ ) of leaf is given by:

204

205 
$$A_{net} = A_{tot} - R_d \quad (5)$$

206

207 where  $R_d$  is the rate of dark respiration set to 0.011  $V_{cmax}$  for C3 plants (Farquhar et al.,  
 208 1980) and 0.025  $V_{cmax}$  for C4 plants (Clark et al., 2011). The stomatal conductance of  
 209 water vapor ( $g_s$  in mol [H<sub>2</sub>O]  $\text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) is dependent on net photosynthesis:

210

211 
$$g_s = m \frac{A_{net} \cdot RH}{c_s} + b \quad (6)$$

212

213 where  $m$  and  $b$  are the slope and intercept derived from empirical fitting to the Ball and  
 214 Berry stomatal conductance equations,  $RH$  is relative humidity, and  $c_s$  is the CO<sub>2</sub>  
 215 concentration at the leaf surface. In the model, the slope  $m$  is influenced by water stress,



216 so that drought decreases photosynthesis by affecting stomatal conductance. Appropriate  
217 photosynthesis parameters for different PFTs are taken from Friend and Kiang (2005) and  
218 the Community Land Model (Oleson et al., 2010) with updates from Bonan et al. (2011)  
219 (Table 1). In future work, we will investigate the carbon-chemistry-climate impacts of  
220 updated stomatal conductance models in YIBs (Berry et al., 2010; Pieruschka et al.,  
221 2010; Medlyn et al., 2011).

222

223 The coupled equation system of photosynthesis, stomatal conductance and CO<sub>2</sub> diffusive  
224 flux transport equations form a cubic in  $A_{net}$  that is solved analytically (Balocchi, 1994).  
225 A simplified but realistic representation of soil water stress  $\beta$  is included in the vegetation  
226 biophysics following the approach of Porporato et al. (2001). The algorithm reflects the  
227 relationship between soil water amount and the extent of stomatal closure ranging from  
228 no water stress to the soil moisture stress onset point ( $s^*$ ) through to the wilting point  
229 ( $s_{wilt}$ ). Stomatal conductance is reduced linearly between the PFT-specific values of  $s^*$   
230 and  $s_{wilt}$  based on the climate model's soil water volumetric saturation in 6 soil layers  
231 (Unger et al., 2013).

232

233 The canopy radiative transfer scheme divides the canopy into an adaptive number of  
234 layers (typically 2-16) for light stratification. Each canopy layer distinguishes sunlit and  
235 shaded portions of leaves, so that the direct and diffuse photosynthetically active  
236 radiation (PAR) is used for carbon assimilation respectively (Spitters et al., 1986). The  
237 leaf photosynthesis is then integrated over all canopy layers to generate the GPP:

238

$$239 \quad GPP = \int_0^{LAI} A_{tot} dL \quad (7)$$

240

### 241 **3.2 Leaf phenology**

242 Phenology determines the annual cycle of LAI. Plant phenology is generally controlled  
243 by temperature, water availability, and photoperiod (Richardson et al., 2013). For  
244 deciduous trees, the timing of budburst is sensitive to temperature (Vitasse et al., 2009)  
245 and the autumn senescence is related to both temperature and photoperiod (Delpierre et  
246 al., 2009). For small trees and grasses, such as tundra, savanna, and shrubland, phenology

247 is controlled by temperature and/or soil moisture, depending on the species type and  
 248 locations of the vegetation (Delbart and Picard, 2007; Liu et al., 2013). In the YIBs  
 249 model, leaf phenology is updated on a daily basis. For the YIBs model, we build on the  
 250 phenology scheme of Kim et al. (2015) and extend it based on long-term measurements  
 251 of leaf phenology at 5 U.S. sites (Yue et al., 2015a, hereinafter Y2015) and GPP at the  
 252 145 flux tower sites. A summary of the phenological parameters adopted is listed in  
 253 Table 2.

254

### 255 **3.2.1 Deciduous broadleaf forest (DBF)**

256 We predict spring phenology of DBF using the cumulative thermal summation (White et  
 257 al., 1997). The accumulative growing degree day (GDD) is calculated for the  $n$ th day  
 258 from winter solstice if the 10-day average air temperature  $T_{10}$  is higher than a base  
 259 temperature  $T_b$ :

260

$$261 \quad GDD = \sum_{i=1}^n \max(T_{10} - T_b, 0) \quad (8)$$

262

263 Here  $T_b$  is set to 5°C as that in Murray et al. (1989). Similar to the approach outlined in  
 264 Kim et al. (2015), the onset of greenness is triggered if the GDD exceeds a threshold  
 265 value  $G_b$  and a temperature-dependent phenological factor  $f_T$  is calculated as follows:

266

$$267 \quad f_T = \begin{cases} \min\left(1, \frac{GDD - G_b}{L_g}\right), & \text{if } GDD \geq G_b \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

268

269 Following Murray et al. (1989), the threshold  $G_b = a + b \exp(r \cdot NCD)$  is dependent on  
 270 the number of chill days (NCD), which is calculated as the total days with  $< 5^\circ\text{C}$  from  
 271 winter solstice.

272

273 The autumn phenology is more uncertain than budburst because it is affected by both  
 274 temperature and photoperiod (White et al., 1997; Delpierre et al., 2009). For the

275 temperature dependent phenology, we adopted the cumulative cold summation method  
 276 (Dufrene et al., 2005; Richardson et al., 2006), which calculates the accumulative falling  
 277 degree day (FDD) for the  $m$ th day from summer solstice as follows,

278

$$279 \quad FDD = \sum_{i=1}^m \min(T_{10} - T_s, 0) \quad (10)$$

280

281 where  $T_s$  is 20°C as that in Dufrene et al. (2005). Similar to the budburst process, we  
 282 determine autumn phenological factor based on a fixed threshold  $F_s$ :

283

$$284 \quad f_T = \begin{cases} \max\left(0, 1 + \frac{FDD - F_s}{L_f}\right), & \text{if } FDD \leq F_s \\ 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

285

286 In addition, we assume photoperiod regulates leaf senescence as follows,

287

$$288 \quad f_P = \begin{cases} \max\left(0, \frac{P - P_i}{P_x - P_i}\right), & \text{if } P \leq P_x \\ 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

289

290 where  $f_P$  is the photoperiod-limited phenology.  $P$  is daylength in minutes.  $P_i$  and  $P_x$  are  
 291 the lower and upper limits of daylength for the period of leaf fall. Finally, the autumn  
 292 phenology of DBF is determined as the product of  $f_T$  (Equation 11) and  $f_P$  (Equation 12).  
 293 Both the spring and autumn phenology schemes have been evaluated with extensive  
 294 ground records over the U.S. in Y2015.

295

### 296 3.2.2 Shrubland

297 Shrub phenology is sensitive to temperature and/or water availability. We calculate  
 298 correlation coefficients between observed GPP and soil meteorology at 18 shrub sites  
 299 (Fig. 2). For 10 sites with annual mean soil temperature < 9 °C, the GPP-temperature  
 300 correlations are close to 1 while the GPP-moisture correlations are all negative (Fig. 2a),

301 suggesting that temperature is the dominant phenological driver for these plants. In  
 302 contrast, for 8 sites with average soil temperature > 14 °C, GPP-moisture correlations are  
 303 positive and usually higher than the GPP-temperature correlations, indicating that  
 304 phenology is primarily regulated by water availability at climatologically warm areas.  
 305 The wide temperature gap (9-14 °C) is due to the limit in the availability of shrub sites.  
 306 Here, we select a tentative threshold of 12 °C to distinguish cold and drought species. We  
 307 also try to identify phenological drivers based on soil moisture thresholds but find that  
 308 both temperature- and drought-dependent phenology may occur at moderately dry  
 309 conditions (Fig. 2b).

310

311 In the model, we apply the temperature-dependent phenology  $f_T$  for shrubland, if the site  
 312 has annual mean soil temperature <12 °C. We use the same  $f_T$  as that for DBF (Equations  
 313 9 and 11), due to the lack of long-term phenology measurements at the shrub sites.  
 314 However, if the soil temperature is >12 °C, the plant growth is controlled by drought-  
 315 limit phenology  $f_D$  instead:

316

$$317 \quad f_D = \begin{cases} \max\left(0, \frac{\beta_{10} - \beta_{\min}}{\beta_{\max} - \beta_{\min}}\right), & \text{if } \beta_{10} \leq \beta_{\max} \\ 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

318

319 where  $\beta_{10}$  is 10-day average water stress calculated based on soil moisture, soil ice  
 320 fraction, and root fraction of each soil layer (Porporato et al., 2001). The value of  $\beta_{10}$   
 321 changes from 0 to 1, with lower value indicating drier soil. Two thresholds,  $\beta_{\max}$  and  $\beta_{\min}$ ,  
 322 represent the upper and lower thresholds that trigger the drought limit for woody species.  
 323 The values of these thresholds are set to  $\beta_{\max} = 1$  and  $\beta_{\min} = 0.4$  so that the predicted  
 324 phenology has the maximum correlations with the observed GPP seasonality (Fig. S1a).  
 325 The shrub phenology applies for shrubland in tropical and subtropical areas, as well as  
 326 tundra at the subarctic regions, though the phenology of the latter is usually dependent on  
 327 temperature alone because the climatological soil temperature is <12 °C.

328

### 329 **3.2.3 Grassland**

330 In the model, we consider temperature-dependent phenology for grassland based on soil  
 331 temperature (ST) accumulation (White et al., 1997):

332

$$333 \quad SGDD = \sum_{i=1}^n \max(ST_{10} - ST_b, 0) \quad (14)$$

334

335 where  $ST_{10}$  is 10-day average soil temperature and  $ST_b = 0$  °C. Similar to DBF, the onset  
 336 of grass greenness is triggered if  $SGDD$  is higher than a threshold value  $SG_b$  (Kim et al.,  
 337 2015):

338

$$339 \quad f_T = \begin{cases} \min\left(1, \frac{SGDD - SG_b}{SL_g}\right), & \text{if } SGDD \geq SG_b \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

340

341 where  $SL_g$  determines the grow length of grass. Both  $SG_b$  and  $SL_g$  are calibrated based on  
 342 observed GPP seasonality at FLUXNET sites (Table 2). Grass phenology at warm sites is  
 343 also sensitive to water stress (Fig. 2c). We apply the same drought-limit phenology  $f_D$  as  
 344 shrubland (Equation 13) for grassland but with calibrated threshold  $\beta_{\max} = 0.9$  and  $\beta_{\min}$   
 345  $= 0.3$  (Fig. S1b). Different from shrubland whose phenology is dominated by drought  
 346 when  $ST > 12$  °C (Fig. 2a), grassland phenology is jointly affected by temperature and  
 347 soil moisture (Fig. 2c). As a result, the final phenology for grassland at warm regions is  
 348 the minimum of  $f_T$  and  $f_D$ .

349

### 350 **3.2.4 Other PFTs**

351 YIBs considers two evergreen PFTs, ENF at high latitudes and EBF in tropical areas.  
 352 Observations do suggest that evergreen trees experience seasonal changes in LAI,  
 353 following temperature variations and/or water availability (Doughty and Goulden, 2008;  
 354 Schuster et al., 2014). However, due to the large uncertainty of evergreen phenology, we  
 355 set a constant phenology factor of 1.0 for these species, following the approach adopted  
 356 in other process-based vegetation models (Bonan et al., 2003; Sitch et al., 2003). We  
 357 implement a parameterization for the impact of cold temperature (frost hardening) on the

358 maximum carboxylation capacity ( $V_{cmax}$ ) so as to reduce cold injury for ENF during  
359 winter (Hanninen and Kramer, 2007). EBF may experience reduced photosynthesis  
360 during the dry season through the effects of water stress on stomatal conductance (Jones  
361 et al., 2014).

362

363 Crop phenology depends on planting and harvesting dates. In YIBs, we apply a global  
364 dataset of crop planting and harvesting dates (Sacks et al., 2010; Unger et al., 2013). Crop  
365 budburst occurs at the plant date and the crop continues to grow for a period of 30 days  
366 until reaching full maturity ( $f = 1$ ). The crop leaves begin to fall 15 days prior to the  
367 harvest date, after which phenology is set to 0. A similar treatment has been adopted in  
368 CLM model (Bonan et al., 2003). Thus, crop productivity but not crop phenology is  
369 sensitive to the imposed meteorological forcings.

370

### 371 **3.3 Carbon allocation**

372 We adopt the autotrophic respiration and carbon allocation scheme applied in the  
373 dynamic global vegetation model (DGVM) TRIFFID (Cox, 2001; Clark et al., 2011). On  
374 a daily basis, the plant LAI is updated as follows:

375

$$376 \quad LAI = f \cdot LAI_b \quad (16)$$

377

378 where  $f$  is the phenological factor, and  $LAI_b$  is the biomass-balanced (or available  
379 maximum) LAI related to tree height.  $LAI_b$  is dependent on the vegetation carbon content  
380  $C_{veg}$ , which is the sum of carbon from leaf ( $C_l$ ), root ( $C_r$ ), and stem ( $C_w$ ):

381

$$382 \quad C_{veg} = C_l + C_r + C_w \quad (17)$$

383

384 where each carbon component is a function of  $LAI_b$ :

385

$$386 \quad C_l = \sigma_l \cdot LAI \quad (18a)$$

$$387 \quad C_r = \sigma_r \cdot LAI_b \quad (18b)$$

388  $C_w = a_{wl} \cdot LAI_b^{b_{wl}}$  (18c)

389

390 here  $\sigma_l$  is the specific leaf carbon density.  $a_{wl}$  and  $b_{wl}$  are PFT-specified allometric  
 391 parameters (Table 1). The vegetation carbon content  $C_{veg}$  is updated every 10 days based  
 392 on the carbon balance of assimilation, respiration, and litter fall.

393

394 
$$\frac{dC_{veg}}{dt} = (1 - \lambda) \cdot NPP - \Lambda_l$$
 (19)

395

396 The net primary productivity (NPP) is the net carbon uptake:

397

398 
$$NPP = GPP - R_a$$
 (20)

399

400 here GPP is the total photosynthesis rate integrated over LAI. Autotrophic respiration  
 401 ( $R_a$ ) is split into maintenance ( $R_{am}$ ) and growth respiration ( $R_{ag}$ ) (Clark et al., 2011):

402

403 
$$R_a = R_{am} + R_{ag}$$
 (21)

404

405 The maintenance respiration is calculated based on nitrogen content in leaf ( $N_l$ ), root ( $N_r$ ),  
 406 and stem ( $N_w$ ) as follows,

407

408 
$$R_{am} = 0.012 R_d \left( \beta + \frac{N_r + N_w}{N_l} \right)$$
 (22)

409

410 where  $R_d$  is the dark respiration of leaf, which is dependent on leaf temperature and is  
 411 integrated over whole canopy LAI. The factor of 0.012 is the unit conversion from mol  
 412 CO<sub>2</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> to kg C m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> and  $\beta$  is water stress representing soil water availability. The  
 413 nitrogen contents are given by:

414

415 
$$N_l = n_0 \cdot C_l$$
 (23a)

416 
$$N_r = n_{rl} \cdot n_0 \cdot C_r \quad (23b)$$

417 
$$N_w = n_{wl} \cdot n_0 \cdot \eta \cdot H \cdot LAI \quad (23c)$$

418

419 here  $n_0$  is leaf nitrogen concentration,  $n_{rl}$  and  $n_{wl}$  are ratios of nitrogen concentrations of  
 420 root and stem to leaves,  $\eta$  is a factor scaling live stem mass to LAI and tree height  $H$ . We  
 421 adopt the same values of  $n_0$ ,  $n_{rl}$ ,  $n_{wl}$  and  $\eta$  as that of TRIFFID model (Table 1) except that  
 422  $n_{rl}$  is set to 0.5 following observations of deciduous trees by Sugiura and Tateno (2011).  
 423 The growth respiration is dependent on the residual between  $GPP$  and  $R_{am}$  based on a  
 424 ratio  $r_g$  set to 0.2 for all PFTs (Knorr, 2000):

425

426 
$$R_{ag} = r_g \cdot (GPP - R_{am}) \quad (24)$$

427

428 The  $\lambda$  in Equation (19) is a partitioning coefficient determining the fraction of NPP used  
 429 for spreading:

430

431 
$$\lambda = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } LAI_b > LAI_{max} \\ \frac{LAI_b - LAI_{min}}{LAI_{max} - LAI_{min}}, & \text{if } LAI_{min} \leq LAI_b \leq LAI_{max} \\ 0, & \text{if } LAI_b < LAI_{min} \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

432

433 where  $LAI_{min}$  and  $LAI_{max}$  are minimum and maximum LAI values for a specific PFT  
 434 (Table 1). In the current model version, we turn off the fractional changes by omitting  
 435  $\lambda NPP$  in the carbon allocation but feeding it as input for the soil respiration. The litter fall  
 436 rate  $\Lambda_l$  in Equation (19) consists of contributions from leaf, root, and stem as follows,

437

438 
$$\Lambda_l = \gamma_l \cdot C_l + \gamma_r \cdot C_r + \gamma_w \cdot C_w \quad (26)$$

439

440 here  $\gamma_l$ ,  $\gamma_r$ , and  $\gamma_w$  are turnover rate ( $\text{yr}^{-1}$ ) for leaf, root, and stem carbon respectively.  
 441 The leaf turnover rate is calculated based on the phenology change every day. The root  
 442 and stem turnover rates are PFT-specific constants (Table 1), derived based on the meta-



443 analysis by Gill and Jackson (2000) for root and Stephenson and van Mantgem (2005) for  
444 stem.

445

### 446 **3.4 Soil respiration**

447 The soil respiration scheme is developed based on the Carnegie-Ames-Stanford  
448 Approach (CASA) model (Potter et al., 1993; Schaefer et al., 2008), which considers  
449 carbon flows among 12 biogeochemical pools. Three live pools, including leaf  $C_l$ , root  
450  $C_r$ , and wood  $C_w$ , contain biomass carbon assimilated from photosynthesis. Litterfall  
451 from live pools decomposes and transits in nine dead pools, which consist of one coarse  
452 woody debris (CWD) pool, three surface pools, and five soil pools. The CWD pool is  
453 composed of dead trees and woody roots. Both surface and soil have identical pools,  
454 namely structural, metabolic, and microbial pools, which are distinguished by the content  
455 and functions. The structural pool contains lignin, the metabolic pool contains labile  
456 substrates, and the microbial pool represents microbial populations. The remaining two  
457 soil pools, the slow and passive pools, consist of organic material that decays slowly. The  
458 full list of carbon flows among different pools has been illustrated by Schaefer et al.  
459 (2008) (c.f. their Fig. 1).

460

461 When carbon transfers from pool  $j$  to pool  $i$ , the carbon loss of pool  $j$  is:

462

$$463 \quad L_{j2i} = f_{j2i} k_j C_j \quad (27)$$

464

465 where  $C_j$  is the carbon in pool  $j$ ,  $k_j$  is the total carbon loss rate of pool  $j$ , and  $f_{j2i}$  is the  
466 fraction of carbon lost from pool  $j$  transferred to pool  $i$ . The coefficient  $k_j$  is dependent on  
467 soil temperature, moisture, and texture. Meanwhile, the carbon gain of pool  $i$  is:

468

$$469 \quad G_{j2i} = e_{j2i} \cdot L_{j2i} = e_{j2i} f_{j2i} k_j C_j \quad (28)$$

470

471 where  $e_{j2i}$  is the ratio of carbon received by pool  $i$  to the total carbon transferred from  
472 pool  $j$ . The rest of the transferred carbon is lost due to heterotrophic respiration:

473

474 
$$R_{j2i} = (1 - e_{j2i}) \cdot L_{j2i} \quad (29)$$

475

476 As a result, the carbon in the  $i$ th pool is calculated as

477

478 
$$\frac{dC_i}{dt} = \sum_{j=1}^n G_{j2i} - \sum_{k=1}^m L_{i2k} \quad (30)$$

479

480 The total heterotrophic respiration ( $R_h$ ) is the summation of  $R_{j2i}$  for all pair pools where  
 481 carbon transitions occur. The total soil carbon is the summation of carbon for all dead  
 482 pools:

483

484 
$$C_{soil} = \sum_{i=1}^9 C_i \quad (31)$$

485

486 The net ecosystem productivity (NEP) is calculated as

487

488 
$$NEP = -NEE = NPP - R_h = GPP - R_a - R_h \quad (32)$$

489

490 where NEE is the net ecosystem exchange, representing net carbon flow from land to  
 491 atmosphere. YIBs does not yet account for NEE perturbations due to dynamic  
 492 disturbance.

493

### 494 **3.5 Ozone vegetation damage effects**

495 We apply the semi-mechanistic parameterization proposed by Sitch et al. (2007) to  
 496 account for ozone damage to photosynthesis through stomatal uptake. The scheme  
 497 simulates associated changes in both photosynthetic rate and stomatal conductance.  
 498 When photosynthesis is inhibited by ozone, stomatal conductance decreases accordingly  
 499 to resist more ozone molecules. We employed an off-line regional version of YIBs to  
 500 show that present-day ozone damage decreases GPP by 4-8% on average in the eastern  
 501 U.S. and leads to larger decreases of 11-17% in east coast hotspots (Yue and Unger,

502 2014). In the current model version, the photosynthesis and stomatal conductance  
503 responses to ozone damage are coupled. In future work, we will update the ozone  
504 vegetation damage function in YIBs to account for decoupled photosynthesis and  
505 stomatal conductance responses based on recent extensive meta-data analyses (Wittig et  
506 al., 2007; Lombardozzi et al., 2013).

507

### 508 **3.6 Biogenic volatile organic compound (BVOC) emissions**

509 YIBs incorporates two independent leaf-level isoprene emission schemes embedded  
510 within the exact same host model framework (Zheng et al., 2015). The photosynthesis-  
511 based isoprene scheme simulates emission as a function of the electron transport-limited  
512 photosynthesis rate ( $J_e$ , Equation 3), canopy temperature, intercellular CO<sub>2</sub> ( $c_i$ ) and  $\Gamma^*$   
513 (Arneth et al., 2007; Unger et al., 2013). The MEGAN scheme applies the commonly  
514 used leaf-level functions of light and canopy temperature (Guenther et al., 1993;  
515 Guenther et al., 1995; Guenther et al., 2012). Both isoprene schemes account for  
516 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>-sensitivity (Arneth et al., 2007). Long-term increases (decreases) in  
517 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> decrease (increase) isoprene emissions (Unger et al., 2013). The CO<sub>2</sub>-  
518 sensitivity is higher under lower atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels than present day. Leaf-level  
519 monoterpene emissions are simulated using a simplified temperature dependent algorithm  
520 (Lathiere et al., 2006). The leaf-level isoprene and monoterpene emissions are integrated  
521 over the multiple canopy layers in the exact same way as GPP to obtain the total canopy-  
522 level emissions.

523

### 524 **3.7 Implementation of YIBs into NASA ModelE2 (NASA ModelE2-YIBs)**

525 NASA ModelE2 has a spatial resolution of 2°×2.5° latitude by longitude with 40 vertical  
526 levels extending to 0.1 hPa. In the on-line configuration, the global climate model  
527 provides the meteorological drivers to YIBs and the land-surface hydrology submodel  
528 provides the soil characteristics (Rosenzweig and Abramopoulos, 1997; Schmidt et al.,  
529 2014). Recent relevant updates to NASA ModelE2 include a dynamic fire activity  
530 parameterization from Pechony and Shindell (2009) and climate-sensitive soil NO<sub>x</sub>  
531 emissions based on Yienger and Levy (1995) (Unger and Yue, 2014). Without the YIBs  
532 implementation, the default NASA ModelE2 computes dry deposition using fixed LAI

533 and vegetation cover fields from Olson et al. (2001), which are different from the climate  
534 model's vegetation scheme (Shindell et al., 2013b). With YIBs embedded in NASA  
535 ModelE2, the YIBs model provides the vegetation cover and LAI for the dry deposition  
536 scheme. The on-line simulated atmospheric ozone and aerosol concentrations influence  
537 terrestrial carbon assimilation and stomatal conductance at the 30-minute integration time  
538 step. In turn, the on-line vegetation properties, and water, energy and BVOC fluxes affect  
539 air quality, meteorology and the atmospheric chemical composition. The model simulates  
540 the interactive deposition of inorganic and organic nitrogen to the terrestrial biosphere.  
541 However, the YIBs biosphere currently applies fixed nitrogen levels and does not yet  
542 account for the dynamic interactions between the carbon and nitrogen cycles, and the  
543 consequences for carbon assimilation, which are highly uncertain (e.g., Thornton et al.,  
544 2007; Koven et al., 2013; Thomas et al., 2013; Zaehle et al., 2014; Houlton et al., 2015).

545

#### 546 **4. Model setup and simulations**

547

##### 548 **4.1 Site-level simulations (YIBs-site)**

549 We perform site-level simulations with offline YIBs model at 145 eddy covariance flux  
550 tower sites for the corresponding PFTs (Fig. 1). Hourly *in situ* measurements of  
551 meteorology (Sect. 2.1) are used as input for the model. We gap filled missing  
552 measurements with the Global Modeling and Assimilation Office (GMAO) Modern Era-  
553 Retrospective Analysis (MERRA) reanalysis (Rienecker et al., 2011), as described in Yue  
554 and Unger (2014). All grasslands and most croplands are considered as C3 plants, except  
555 for some sites where corn is grown. Meteorological measurements are available for a  
556 wide range of time periods across the different sites ranging from the minimum of 1 year  
557 at some sites (e.g. BE-Jal) and the maximum of 16 years at Harvard Forest (US-HA1).  
558 The soil carbon pool initial conditions at each site are provided by the 140-year spin up  
559 procedure using YIBs-offline (Supplement). An additional 30-year spin up is conducted  
560 for each site-level simulation using the initial height  $H_0$  for corresponding PFT (Table 1)  
561 and the fixed meteorology and CO<sub>2</sub> conditions at the first year of observations. Then, the  
562 simulation is continued with year-to-year forcings at the specific site for the rest of  
563 measurement period. For all grass and shrub sites, two simulations are performed. One

564 applies additional drought controls on phenology as described in Sects. 3.2.2 and 3.2.3,  
565 while the other uses only temperature-dependent phenology. By comparing results of  
566 these two simulations, we assess the role of drought phenology for plants in arid and  
567 semi-arid regions.

568

#### 569 **4.2 Global off-line simulation (YIBs-offline)**

570 The global off-line YIBs applies the CLM land cover dataset (Oleson et al., 2010). Land  
571 cover is derived based on retrievals from both MODIS (Hansen et al., 2003) and AVHRR  
572 (Defries et al., 2000). Fractions of 16 PFTs are aggregated into 9 model PFTs (Table 1).  
573 The soil carbon pool and tree height initial conditions are provided by the 140-year spin  
574 up procedure using YIBs-offline (Supplement). The global off-line YIBs model is driven  
575 with WFDEI meteorology (Weedon et al., 2014) at  $1^{\circ}\times 1^{\circ}$  horizontal resolution for the  
576 period of 1980-2011. Observed atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are adopted from the  
577 fifth assessment report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)  
578 (Meinshausen et al., 2011). We evaluate the simulated long-term 1980-2011 average tree  
579 height/LAI and carbon fluxes with available observations and recent multi-model inter-  
580 comparisons. Attribution of the decadal trends in terrestrial carbon fluxes are explored in  
581 a separate follow-on companion study (Yue et al., 2015b).

582

#### 583 **4.3 Global on-line simulation in NASA ModelE2-YIBs**

584 The global land cover data is identical to that used in YIBs-offline (Sect. 4.2) based on  
585 the CLM cover. Because our major research goal is to study short-term (seasonal, annual,  
586 decadal) interactions between vegetation physiology and atmospheric chemistry, we elect  
587 to prescribe the PFT distribution in different climatic states. We perform an on-line  
588 atmosphere-only simulation representative of the present day (~2000s) climatology by  
589 prescribing fixed monthly-average sea surface temperature (SST) and sea ice temperature  
590 for the 1996-2005 decade from the Hadley Center as the boundary conditions (Rayner et  
591 al., 2006). Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is fixed at the level of the year 2000 (370  
592 ppm). In NASA ModelE2-YIBs, initial conditions for soil carbon pools and tree heights  
593 are provided by the 140-year spin-up process described in the Supplement using YIBs-  
594 offline but for year 2000 (not 1980) fixed WFDEI meteorology and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>

595 conditions. The NASA ModelE2-YIBs global carbon-chemistry-climate model is run for  
596 an additional 30 model years. The first 20 years are discarded as the on-line spin-up and  
597 the last 10-year results are averaged for the analyses including comparisons with  
598 observations and the YIBs-offline.

599

#### 600 **4.4 Ozone vegetation damage simulation (YIBs-ozone)**

601 We perform two simulations to quantify ozone vegetation damage with the off-line YIBs  
602 model based on the high and low ozone sensitivity parameterizations (Sitch et al., 2007).  
603 Similar to the set up in Yue and Unger (2014), we use off-line hourly surface ozone  
604 concentrations simulated with the NASA ModelE2 based on the climatology and  
605 precursor emissions of the year 2000 (Sect. 4.3). In this way, atmospheric ozone  
606 photosynthesis damage affects plant growth, including changes in tree height and LAI.  
607 We compare the simulated ozone damage effects with the previous results in Yue and  
608 Unger (2014) that used prescribed LAI. For this updated assessment, we do not isolate  
609 possible feedbacks from the resultant land carbon cycle changes to the surface ozone  
610 concentrations themselves, for instance through concomitant changes to BVOC emissions  
611 and water fluxes. The importance of these feedbacks will be quantified in future research  
612 using the on-line NASA ModelE2-YIBs framework.

613

### 614 **5. Results**

615

#### 616 **5.1 Site-level evaluation**

617 The simulated monthly-average GPP is compared with measurements at 145 sites for  
618 different PFTs (Fig. 3). GPP simulation biases range from -19% to 7% depending on  
619 PFT. The highest correlation of 0.86 is achieved for DBF, mainly contributed by the  
620 reasonable phenology simulated at these sites (Fig. S2). The correlation is also high for  
621 ENF sites even though phenology is set to a constant value of 1.0. A relatively low  
622 correlation of 0.65 is modeled for EBF sites (Fig. S2). However, the site-specific  
623 evaluation shows that the simulations reasonably capture the observed magnitude and  
624 seasonality, including the minimum GPP in summer due to drought at some sites (e.g.  
625 FR-Pue and IT-Lec). Predictions at crop sites achieve a medium correlation of 0.77,

626 because the prescribed crop phenology based on the planting and harvesting dates dataset  
627 matches reality for most sites with some exceptions (e.g. CH-Oe2). Measured GPP at  
628 shrub and grass sites show varied seasonality. For most sites, the maximum carbon fluxes  
629 are measured in the hemispheric summer season. However, for sites with arid or  
630 Mediterranean climate, the summer GPP is usually the lowest during the year (e.g. ES-  
631 LMa and US-Var in Fig. S2) while the peak flux is observed during the wet season when  
632 the climate is cooler and moister. Implementing the drought-dependent phenology helps  
633 improve the GPP seasonality and decrease the root-mean-square error (RMSE) at most  
634 warm climate shrub and grass sites (Fig. S3).

635

636 A synthesis of the site-level evaluation is presented in Fig. 4. Among the 145 sites, 121  
637 have correlations higher than 0.8 for the GPP simulation (Fig. 4a). Predictions are better  
638 for PFTs with larger seasonal variations. For example, high correlations of  $>0.8$  are  
639 achieved at 95% ENF and DBF sites, but only 70% for grass and 45% for EBF sites. Low  
640 relative biases (-33%-50%) are achieved at 94 sites (Fig. 4b). For most PFTs, a similar  
641 fraction (65%) of the sites have low biases falling into that range, except for cropland,  
642 where only 7 sites (45%) have the low biases. The RMSE is lower than  $3 \text{ g [C] day}^{-1}$  for  
643 107 out of 145 sites (Fig. 4c). The highest RMSE is predicted for crop sites, where the  
644 model misses the large interannual variations due to crop rotation at some sites (e.g. BE-  
645 Lon, DE-Geb, and US-Ne2). YIBs model performs simulations at the PFT level while  
646 measurements show large uncertainties in the carbon fluxes among biomes/species within  
647 the same PFT (Luyssaert et al., 2007). The simulated intraspecific variations (in the form  
648 of standard deviation) are smaller than the measured/derived values for most PFTs (Table  
649 S2), likely because of the application of fixed photosynthetic parameters for each PFT  
650 (Table 1).

651

652 Compared with GPP, the NEE simulations have smaller correlations with measurements  
653 because of the limited seasonality in the observations at most sites (Fig. S4). 74 sites  
654 (51%) have correlation coefficients higher than 0.6 (Fig. 4d) and 75 sites (52%) have  
655 absolute biases within  $\pm 0.5 \text{ g [C] day}^{-1}$  (Fig. 4e). For most ENF sites, the maximum net  
656 carbon uptake (the minimum NEE) is observed in spring or early summer, when GPP

657 begins to increase while soil respiration is still at low rate due to the cool and wet  
658 conditions (e.g. CA-Ojp and ES-ES1). Compared with other PFTs, the DBF trees usually  
659 have larger seasonality with the NEE peak in the early summer. Such seasonality helps  
660 promote correlations between model and measurements, resulting in high  $R$  ( $>0.8$ ) for 17  
661 out of 20 sites (Fig. 4d). For shrub and grass sites, the observed seasonality of NEE is not  
662 regular, though most show maximum carbon uptake in spring or early summer.  
663 Implementation of drought-dependent phenology helps improve the simulated NEE  
664 seasonality at some sites of these PFTs (e.g. ES-LMa and IT-Pia), however, such  
665 improvement is limited for others (Fig. S4). Simulated crop NEE reaches maximum  
666 magnitude in summer at most sites, consistent with observations and leading to a high  $R$   
667 ( $> 0.8$ ) for 10 out 16 sites (Fig. 4d). The RMSE of simulated NEE is larger for crop  
668 relative to other PFTs because the model does not treat crop rotation (Fig. 4f).

669

## 670 **5.2 Evaluation of YIBs-offline**

671 YIBs-offline forced with WFDEI meteorology simulates reasonable spatial distributions  
672 for tree height, LAI, and GPP, all of which show maximums in the tropical rainforest  
673 biome and medium values in the Northern Hemisphere high latitudes (Fig. 5). Compared  
674 with the satellite observations, the simulated height is underestimated by 30% on the  
675 annual and global mean basis (Fig. 5b). Regionally, the prediction is larger by only 4%  
676 for tropical rainforest and temperate DBF, but by 27% for boreal ENF, for which the  
677 model assumes a constant phenology of 1.0 all the year round. However, for the vast  
678 areas covered with grass and shrub PFTs, the simulated height is lower by 41% with  
679 maximum underestimation in Eastern Siberia, where the model land is covered by short  
680 tundra. The modeled LAI is remarkably close to observations on the annual and global  
681 mean basis (Figs. 5c-d). However, there are substantial regional biases in model LAI.  
682 Model LAI prediction is higher by  $0.8 \text{ m}^2 \text{ m}^{-2}$  (70%) for boreal ENF and by  $0.1 \text{ m}^2 \text{ m}^{-2}$   
683 (5%) for tropical rainforest. In contrast, the simulation underestimates LAI of tropical C4  
684 grass by  $0.4 \text{ m}^2 \text{ m}^{-2}$  (30%) and shrubland by  $0.2 \text{ m}^2 \text{ m}^{-2}$  (30%). The GPP simulation is  
685 lower than the FLUXNET-derived value by 5% on the global scale, which is contributed  
686 by the minor underestimation for all PFTs except for tropical rainforest, where model  
687 predicts 9% higher GPP than observations (Fig. 5f).



688

689 The model simulates reasonable seasonality for LAI and land carbon fluxes (Fig. 6). Tree  
690 height shows limited seasonal variations, especially for DBF, ENF, and EBF trees. LAI,  
691 GPP, and NPP also exhibit small seasonality over tropical areas, such as the Amazon,  
692 Central Africa, and Indonesia. However, for temperate areas, such as North America,  
693 Europe and East Asia, these variables show large seasonal variations with minimum in  
694 winter and maximum in summer. The LAI is overestimated by 20% in Amazon during  
695 the December-January-February season but underestimated by 25% in Indonesia during  
696 summer (Fig. 6b). For GPP and NPP, the positive bias in Indonesia is even larger at 45%  
697 during summer (Figs. 6c-d).

698

699 On the global scale, YIBs-offline simulates GPP of  $124.6 \pm 3.3 \text{ Pg C a}^{-1}$  and NEE of  $-2.5$   
700  $\pm 0.7 \text{ Pg C a}^{-1}$  for 1982-2011. These values are consistent with estimates upscaled from  
701 the FLUXNET observations (Jung et al., 2009; Friedlingstein et al., 2010; Jung et al.,  
702 2011) and simulations from 10 other carbon cycle models (Piao et al., 2013) (Fig. 7). The  
703 net biome productivity (NBP) is in opposite sign to NEE. Tropical areas ( $23^{\circ}\text{S}$ - $23^{\circ}\text{N}$ )  
704 account for 63% of the global GPP, including 27% from Amazon rainforest, 21% from  
705 central Africa, and 5% from Indonesia forest (Table 3). A lower contribution of 57%  
706 from tropics is predicted for both NPP and heterotrophic respiration. However, for NEE,  
707 only 40% of the land carbon sink is contributed by tropical forests and grasslands, while  
708 56% is from temperate forests and grasslands in North America, Europe, and East Asia.

709

710 We compare the simulated budburst dates with observations from satellite retrieval (Fig.  
711 8). The model captures the basic spatial pattern of spring phenology with earlier to later  
712 budburst dates from lower to higher latitudes. On average, the observed budburst date in  
713 Northern Hemisphere (NH) is 133 DOY (May 13<sup>th</sup>) and simulation is 132 DOY (May  
714 12<sup>th</sup>). Such close estimate results from the regional delay of 10 days (119 versus 129  
715 DOY) in Europe and advance of 4 days (140 versus 136 DOY) in East Asia. In Y2015,  
716 extensive (~75000 records) ground-based measurements have been used to validate the  
717 simulated spring and autumn phenology in U.S. and both the spatial distribution and  
718 interannual variation of simulation are reasonable.

719

### 720 **5.3 Evaluation of NASA ModelE2-YIBs**

721 NASA ModelE2-YIBs simulations of global land carbon fluxes show similar spatial  
722 distribution and magnitude as the YIBs-offline model (Figs. S6-S8). However, due to  
723 differences in the meteorological forcings (Figs. S9-S12), regional discrepancies between  
724 the two configurations occur. The predicted LAI with NASA ModelE2-YIBs is lower by  
725 20% in Amazon region than YIBs-offline (Fig. S6), following the similar magnitude of  
726 differences in regional GPP and NPP (Figs. S7-S8). We performed driver attribution  
727 sensitivity simulations, in which the YIBs-offline configuration is driven with the same  
728 meteorological forcings simulated by NASA ModelE2 except for one selected field from  
729 the WFDEI reanalysis. We found that the anomalously warmer climate over the Amazon  
730 in the global climate model (Fig. S9) causes the lower GPP in that region in NASA  
731 ModelE2-YIBs. The temperature optimum for C3 photosynthesis is around 30 °C, above  
732 which the maximum rate of electron transport (Equation 3) decreases dramatically  
733 (Farquhar et al., 1980). As a result, the higher NASA ModelE2-YIBs surface temperature  
734 in the tropical rainforest results in the lower photosynthesis rates there. With the  
735 exception of the Amazon, the NASA ModelE2-YIBs June-July-August GPP and NPP  
736 show low biases in central Africa and high latitudes in North America and Asia, but high  
737 biases in Europe, western U.S., and eastern China (Figs. S7-S8). The sensitivity tests  
738 attribute these discrepancies to differences in canopy humidity (Fig. S11) and soil  
739 wetness (Fig. S12). Low soil wetness decreases water stress  $\beta$ , reduces the slope  $m$  of  
740 Ball-Berry equation (Equation 6), and consequently limits photosynthesis by declining  
741 stomatal conductance in combination with low humidity. On the global scale, the  
742 ModelE2-YIBs simulates annual GPP of 122.9 Pg C, NPP of 62 Pg C, and NEE of -2.7  
743 Pg C, all of which are close to the YIBs-offline simulation (Table 3) and consistent with  
744 results from observations and model inter-comparison (Fig. 7).

745

### 746 **5.4 Assessment of global ozone vegetation damage**

747

748 Ozone dampens GPP and consequently affects tree growth and LAI. In North America,  
749 the annual average reductions range from 2% to 6%, depending on the plant sensitivity to

750 ozone damage (Table 3). Locally, average damages reach as high as 5-11% in the eastern  
751 U.S. with maximums up to 11-23% (Figs. 9a-b). These values are higher than the  
752 estimate of 4-8% (maximum 11-17%) by Yue and Unger (2014), because the latter used  
753 prescribed LAI in the simulation and did not consider the LAI reductions due to ozone  
754 damage (Figs. 9c-d). The YIBs model predicts similar magnitude of damages in Europe  
755 compared to North America, but almost doubled effects in East Asia (Table 3) due to the  
756 high ozone concentrations there, especially in boreal summer (Fig. S5). Ozone-induced  
757 GPP-reductions are limited in tropical areas (Fig. 5e) because the surface ozone levels  
758 there are very low, for example, especially over the Amazon forest (Fig. S5). The damage  
759 to LAI generally follows the pattern of GPP reductions but the response signal is weaker  
760 than that of GPP (Figs. 9c-d).

761

## 762 **6. Conclusions and discussion**

763

764 We describe and evaluate the process-based YIBs interactive terrestrial biosphere model.  
765 YIBs is embedded into the NASA ModelE2 global chemistry-climate model and is an  
766 important urgently needed development to improve the biological realism of interactions  
767 between vegetation, atmospheric chemistry and climate. We implement both  
768 temperature- and drought-dependent phenology for DBF, shrub, and grass species. The  
769 model simulates interactive ozone vegetation damage. The YIBs model is fully validated  
770 with land carbon flux measurements from 145 ground stations and global observations of  
771 canopy height, LAI, GPP, NPP, and phenology from multiple satellite retrievals.

772

773 There are several limitations in the current model set up. The vegetation parameters,  $V_{max}$   
774  $_{25}$ ,  $m$ , and  $b$  (Table 1), are fixed at the PFT level, which may induce uncertainties in the  
775 simulation of carbon fluxes due to intraspecific variations (Kattge et al., 2011). The  
776 model does not yet include a dynamic treatment of nitrogen and phosphorous availability  
777 because current schemes suffer from large uncertainties (Thornton et al., 2007; Zaehle et  
778 al., 2014; Houlton et al., 2015). Phenology is set to a constant value of 1 for ENF and  
779 EBF, which is not consistent with observations (O'Keefe, 2000; Jones et al., 2014). The  
780 ozone damage scheme of Sitch et al. (2007) considers coupled responses of

781 photosynthesis and stomatal conductance while observations suggest a decoupling  
782 (Lombardozzi et al., 2013).

783

784 Despite these limitations, the YIBs model reasonably simulates global land carbon fluxes  
785 compared with both site-level flux measurements and global satellite observations. YIBs  
786 is primed for on-going development, for example, incorporating community dynamics  
787 including mortality, establishment, seed transport and dynamic fire disturbance  
788 (Moorcroft et al., 2001). NASA ModelE2-YIBs is available to be integrated with  
789 interactive ocean and atmospheric carbon components to offer a full global carbon-  
790 climate model, for example for use in interpreting and diagnosing new satellite datasets  
791 of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. In the current form, NASA ModelE2-YIBs provides  
792 a useful new tool to investigate the impacts of air pollution on the carbon budget, water  
793 cycle, and surface energy balance, and, in turn, the impacts of changing vegetation  
794 physiology on the atmospheric chemical composition. Carbon-chemistry-climate  
795 interactions, a relatively new interdisciplinary research frontier, are expected to influence  
796 the evolution of the Earth's climate system on multiple spatiotemporal scales.

797

#### 798 **Code availability**

799

800 The YIBs model (version 1.0) site-level source code is available at  
801 [https://github.com/YIBS01/YIBS\\_site](https://github.com/YIBS01/YIBS_site). The source codes for the global off-line and  
802 global on-line versions of the YIBs model (version 1.0) are available through  
803 collaboration. Please submit request to X. Yue ([xu.yue@yale.edu](mailto:xu.yue@yale.edu)) and N. Unger  
804 ([nadine.unger@yale.edu](mailto:nadine.unger@yale.edu)). Auxiliary forcing data and related input files must be obtained  
805 independently.

806

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813

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1220 **Table 1.** Photosynthetic and allometric parameters for the vegetation model.  
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PFT <sup>a</sup>	TDA	GRAC3	GRAC4	SHR	DBF	ENF	EBF	CROC3	CROC4
Carboxylation	C3	C3	C4	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C4
$V_{cmax}^{25}$ ( $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ )	33	43	24	38	45	43	40	40	40
$m$	9	9	5	9	9	9	9	11	5
$b$ ( $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ )	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	8	2
$a_{wl}$ ( $\text{kg C m}^{-2}$ )	0.1	0.005	0.005	0.1	0.95	0.85	0.95	0.005	0.005
$b_{wl}$	1.667	1.667	1.667	1.667	1.667	1.667	1.667	1.667	1.667
$\sigma_l$ ( $\text{kg C m}^{-2}$ $\text{LAI}^{-1}$ )	0.05	0.025	0.05	0.05	0.0375	0.1	0.0375	0.025	0.05
$\eta$ ( $\text{kg C m}^{-1}$ $\text{LAI}^{-1}$ )	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
$n_0$ ( $\text{kg N [kg C]}^{-1}$ )	0.06	0.073	0.06	0.06	0.046	0.033	0.046	0.073	0.06
$n_{rl}$	0.5	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.75	0.5	1	1
$n_{wl}$	0.1	1	1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1	1
$r_g$	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
$LAI_{min}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
$LAI_{max}$	3	3	3	3	9	5	9	3	3
$\gamma_r$ (360 days) <sup>-1</sup>	0.5	0.75	0.75	0.5	0.75	0.25	0.75	0.75	0.75
$\gamma_w$ (360 days) <sup>-1</sup>	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.015	0.01	0.015	0.2	0.2
$H_0$ (m)	1	0.8	1.3	1	19	16.5	19	0.8	1.3

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1223 <sup>a</sup> Plant functional types (PFTs) are tundra (TDA), C3 grassland (GRAC3), C4  
 1224 savanna/grassland (GRAC4), shrubland (SHR), deciduous broadleaf forest (DBF),  
 1225 evergreen needleleaf forest (ENF), evergreen broadleaf forest (EBF), and C3/C4 cropland  
 1226 (CROC3/CROC4).

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**Table 2.** Phenological parameters for the vegetation model.

Variables	Description	Units	Value	Reference
$T_b$	Base temperature for budburst forcing	°C	5	Murray et al. (1989)
$a$	Parameters for budburst threshold $G_b$	Degree day	-110	Calibrated (Y2015)
$b$	Parameters for budburst threshold $G_b$	Degree day	550	Calibrated (Y2015)
$r$	Parameters for budburst threshold $G_b$	Dimensionless	-0.01	Murray et al. (1989)
$L_g$	Growing length	Degree day	380	Calibrated (Y2015)
$T_s$	Base temperature for senescence forcing	°C	20	Dufrene et al. (2005)
$F_s$	Threshold for leaf fall	Degree day	-140	Calibrated (Y2015)
$L_f$	Falling length	Degree day	410	Calibrated (Y2015)
$P_x$	Daylength threshold for leaf fall	Minutes	695	White et al. (1997)
$P_i$	Daylength threshold for full dormancy	Minutes	585	Calibrated (Y2015)
$T_d$	Threshold for drought phenology	°C	12	Calibrated (Fig. 2)
$\beta_{\min}$	Lower threshold of drought limit for shrub	Dimensionless	0.4	Calibrated (Fig. S1)
$\beta_{\max}$	Upper threshold of drought limit for shrub	Dimensionless	1	Calibrated (Fig. S1)
$ST_b$	Base soil temperature for budburst forcing	°C	0	White et al. (1997)
$SG_b$	Threshold for budburst with soil temperature	Degree day	100	Calibrated
$SL_g$	Growing length with soil temperature	Degree day	100	Calibrated
$ST_s$	Base soil temperature for senescence forcing	°C	10	Calibrated
$SF_s$	Threshold for leaf fall with soil temperature	Degree day	-80	Calibrated
$SL_f$	Falling length with soil temperature	Degree day	100	Calibrated
$\beta_{\min}$	Lower threshold of drought limit for herbs	Dimensionless	0.3	Calibrated (Fig. S1)
$\beta_{\max}$	Upper threshold of drought limit for herbs	Dimensionless	0.9	Calibrated (Fig. S1)

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**Table 3.** Summary of carbon fluxes and ozone vegetation damage in different domains and for tropics (23°S-23°N).

Regions	Amazon	North America	Central Africa	Europe	East Asia	Indonesia	Tropics	Global
GPP (Pg C a <sup>-1</sup> )	33.4	12.3	25.7	11.5	17.9	6.7	77.9	124.6
NPP (Pg C a <sup>-1</sup> )	15.5	7.5	12.1	7.3	10.3	2.9	36.8	65
NEE (Pg C a <sup>-1</sup> )	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.1	-1.0	-2.5
Ra (Pg C a <sup>-1</sup> )	17.9	4.8	13.6	4.2	7.6	3.8	41.1	59.6
Rh (Pg C a <sup>-1</sup> )	15.1	7	11.8	6.9	9.8	2.8	35.8	62.5
Low ozone damage to GPP (%)	-0.9	-2.4	-1.8	-2.5	-4.3	-3	-1.7	-2.1
High ozone damage to GPP (%)	-2.6	-5.8	-4.4	-6.1	-9.6	-7.3	-4.4	-5
Low ozone damage to LAI (%)	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.5	-0.9	-0.8	-0.5	-0.5
High ozone damage to LAI (%)	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-1.4	-2.4	-2.1	-1.4	-1.4

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1247 **Figure captions**

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1249 **Figure 1.** Distribution of 145 sites from the FLUXNET and the North American Carbon  
1250 Program (NACP) network. The duplicated sites have been removed. The color indicates  
1251 different plant functional types (PFTs) as evergreen needleleaf forest (ENF, blue),  
1252 evergreen broadleaf forest (EBF, cyan), deciduous broadleaf forest (DBF, magenta),  
1253 shrubland (SHR, yellow) grassland (GRA, green), and cropland (CRO, red). “Mixed  
1254 Forests” are classified as ENF, “Permanent Wetlands”, “Savannas”, and “Woody  
1255 Savannas” as SHR. The PFT of each site is described in supplemental Table S1.

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1257 **Figure 2.** Correlations between monthly gross primary productivity (GPP) and soil  
1258 variables at (a, b) shrub and (c, d) grass sites. For each site, we calculate correlation  
1259 coefficients of GPP-soil temperature (red points) and GPP-soil moisture (blue squares).  
1260 These correlation coefficients are then plotted against the annual mean (a, c) soil  
1261 temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or (b, d) soil moisture (fraction) at each site.

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1263 **Figure 3.** Comparison between observed and simulated monthly GPP from FLUXNET  
1264 and NACP networks grouped by PFTs. Each point represents the average value of one  
1265 month at one site. The red lines indicate linear regression between observations and  
1266 simulations. The regression fit, correlation coefficient, and relative bias are shown on  
1267 each panel. The PFTs include evergreen needleleaf forest (ENF), evergreen broadleaf  
1268 forest (EBF), deciduous broadleaf forest (DBF), shrubland (SHR), grassland (GRA), and  
1269 cropland (CRO). The detailed comparison for each site is shown in Fig. S2. Units of  
1270 GPP:  $\text{g C m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ .

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1272 **Figure 4.** Bar charts of (a, d) correlation coefficients ( $R$ ), (b, e) biases, and (c, f) RMSE  
1273 for monthly (a, b, c) GPP and (d, e, f) net ecosystem exchange (NEE) between  
1274 simulations and observations at 145 sites. Each bar represents the number of sites where  
1275 the  $R$ , bias, or RMSE of simulations fall between the specific ranges as defined by the x-  
1276 axis intervals. The minimum and maximum of each statistical metric are indicated as the  
1277 two ends of x-axis in the plots. The values of x-axis are not even. The absolute biases

1278 instead of relative biases are shown for NEE because the long-term average NEE (the  
1279 denominator) is usually close to zero at most sites. The PFT definitions are: ENF,  
1280 Evergreen Needleleaf Forest; EBF, Evergreen Broadleaf Forest; DBF, Deciduous  
1281 Broadleaf Forest; SHR, Shrubland; GRA, Grasslands; CRO, Croplands. Detailed  
1282 comparisons at each site are shown in Figs. S2 and S4.

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1284 **Figure 5.** Simulated (a) tree height, (c) leaf area index (LAI), and (e) GPP and their  
1285 differences relative to observations (b, d, f). GPP dataset is from Jung et al. (2009).  
1286 Simulations are performed with WFDEI reanalysis. Statistics are the annual average for  
1287 period 1982-2011. The boxes in (a) represent six regions used for seasonal comparison in  
1288 Fig. 6.

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1290 **Figure 6.** Comparison of annual (a) tree height and seasonal (b) LAI, (c) GPP, and (d)  
1291 net primary productivity (NPP) between simulations and observations for the six regions  
1292 shown in Fig. 5a. GPP dataset is from Jung et al. (2009). Values at different regions are  
1293 marked using different symbols, with distinct colors indicating seasonal means for winter  
1294 (blue, December-February), spring (green, March-May), summer (red, June-August), and  
1295 autumn (magenta, September-November).

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1297 **Figure 7.** Comparison of simulated global GPP and net biome productivity (NBP) from  
1298 (red) YIBs-offline and (blue) ModelE2-YIBs models with 10 other carbon cycle models  
1299 for 1982-2008. Each black symbol represents an independent model as summarized in  
1300 Piao et al. (2013). Error bars indicate the standard deviations for interannual variability.  
1301 The gray shading represents global residual land sink (RLS) calculated in Friedlingstein  
1302 et al. (2010). The green line on the top represents range of GPP for 1982-2008 estimated  
1303 by Jung et al. (2011) and the magenta line represents GPP for 1982-2011 from Jung et al.  
1304 (2009).

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1306 **Figure 8.** Comparison of simulated budburst dates in Northern Hemisphere with remote  
1307 sensing. Simulated phenology in each grid square is the composite result from DBF,  
1308 tundra, shrubland, and grassland based on PFT fraction and LAI in that grid box. Both



1309 simulations and observations are averaged for period 1982-2011. Results for Southern  
1310 Hemisphere are not shown due to the limit coverage of deciduous forests and cold grass  
1311 species.

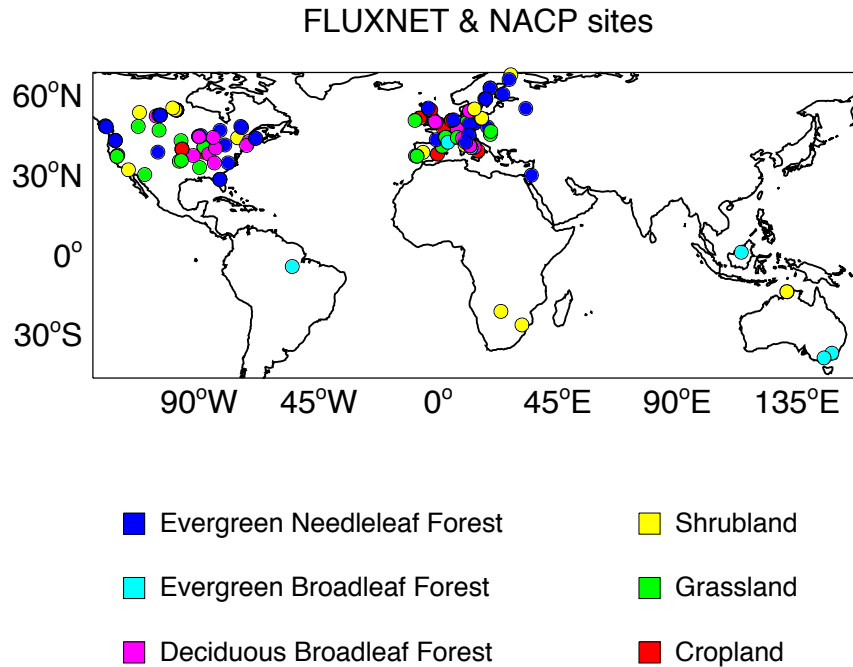
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1313 **Figure 9.** Percentage of ozone vegetation damage to (top) GPP and (bottom) LAI with (a,  
1314 c) low and (b, d) high sensitivity. Both damages of GPP and LAI are averaged for 1982-  
1315 2011. Offline surface ozone concentrations (Fig. S5) are simulated by GISS ModelE2  
1316 with climatology of the year 2000.

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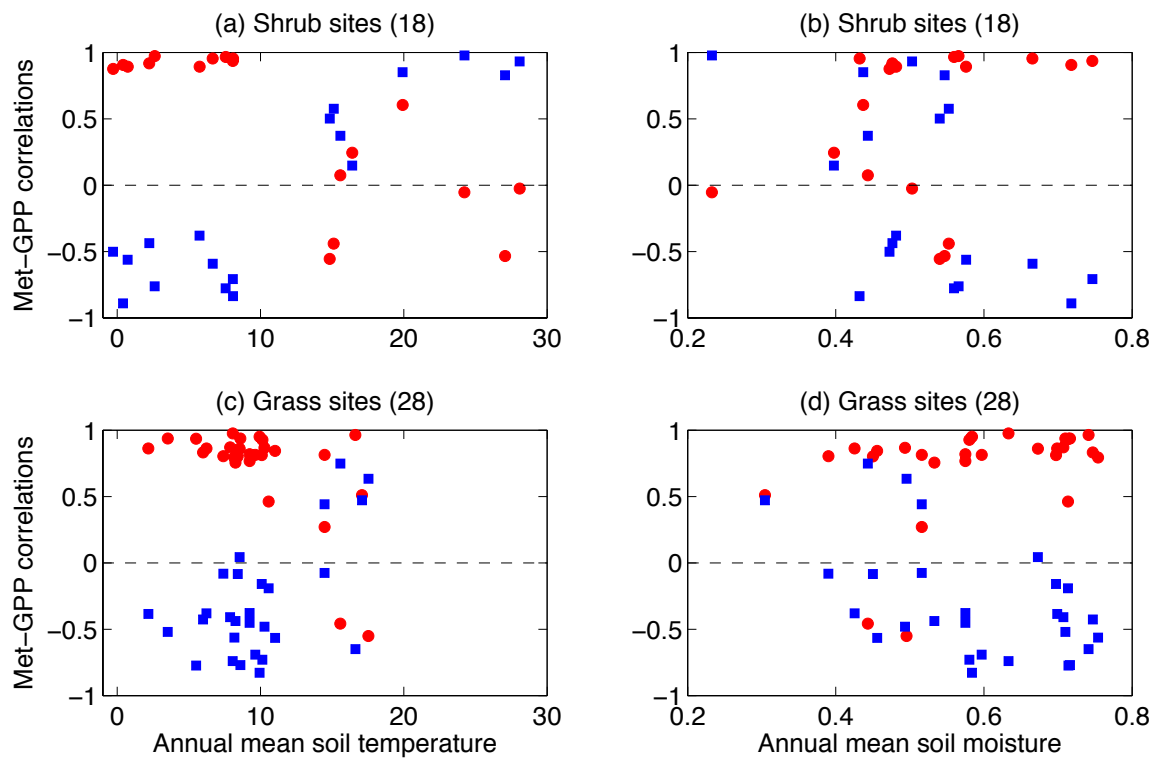
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1322 **Figure 1.** Distribution of 145 sites from the FLUXNET and the North American Carbon  
1323 Program (NACP) network. The duplicated sites have been removed. The color indicates  
1324 different plant functional types (PFTs) as evergreen needleleaf forest (ENF, blue),  
1325 evergreen broadleaf forest (EBF, cyan), deciduous broadleaf forest (DBF, magenta),  
1326 shrublands (SHR, yellow) grasslands (GRA, green), and croplands (CRO, red). “Mixed  
1327 Forests” are classified as ENF, “Permanent Wetlands”, “Savannas”, and “Woody  
1328 Savannas” as SHR. The PFT of each site is described in supplemental Table S1.  
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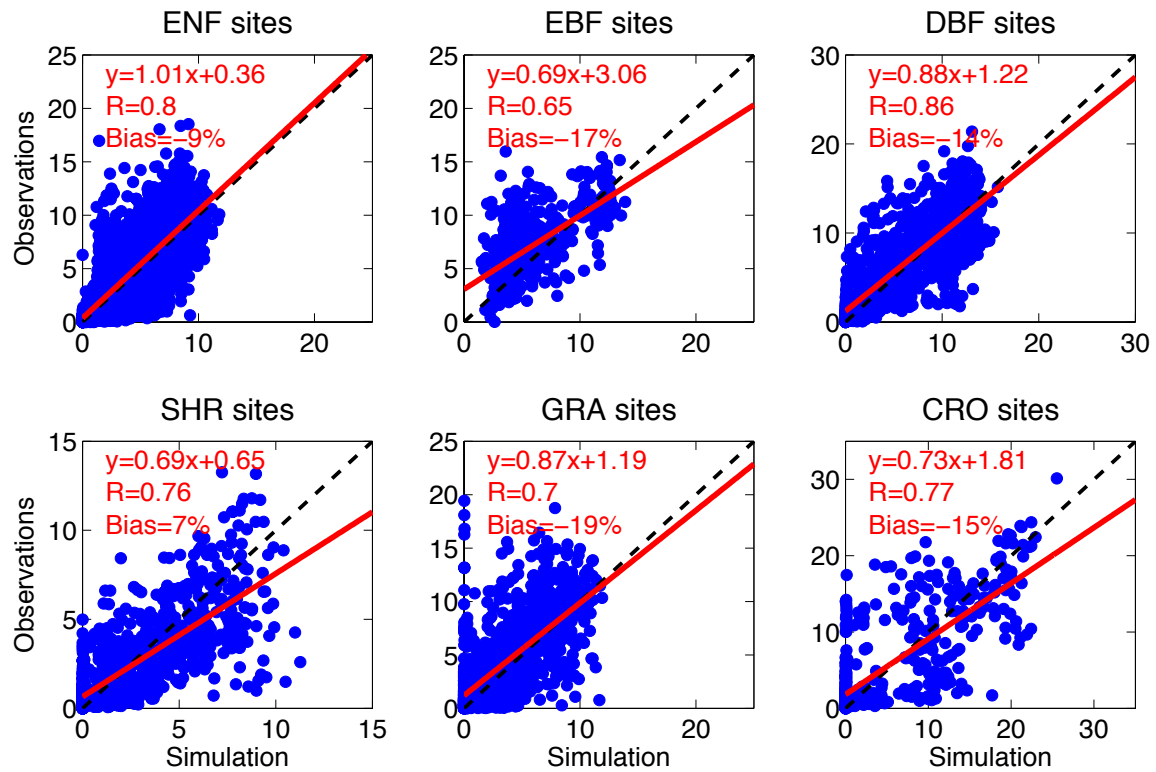
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**Figure 2.** Correlations between monthly gross primary productivity (GPP) and soil variables at (a, b) shrub and (c, d) grass sites. For each site, we calculate correlation coefficients of GPP-soil temperature (red points) and GPP-soil moisture (blue squares). These correlation coefficients are then plotted against the annual mean (a, c) soil temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) or (b, d) soil moisture (fraction) at each site.

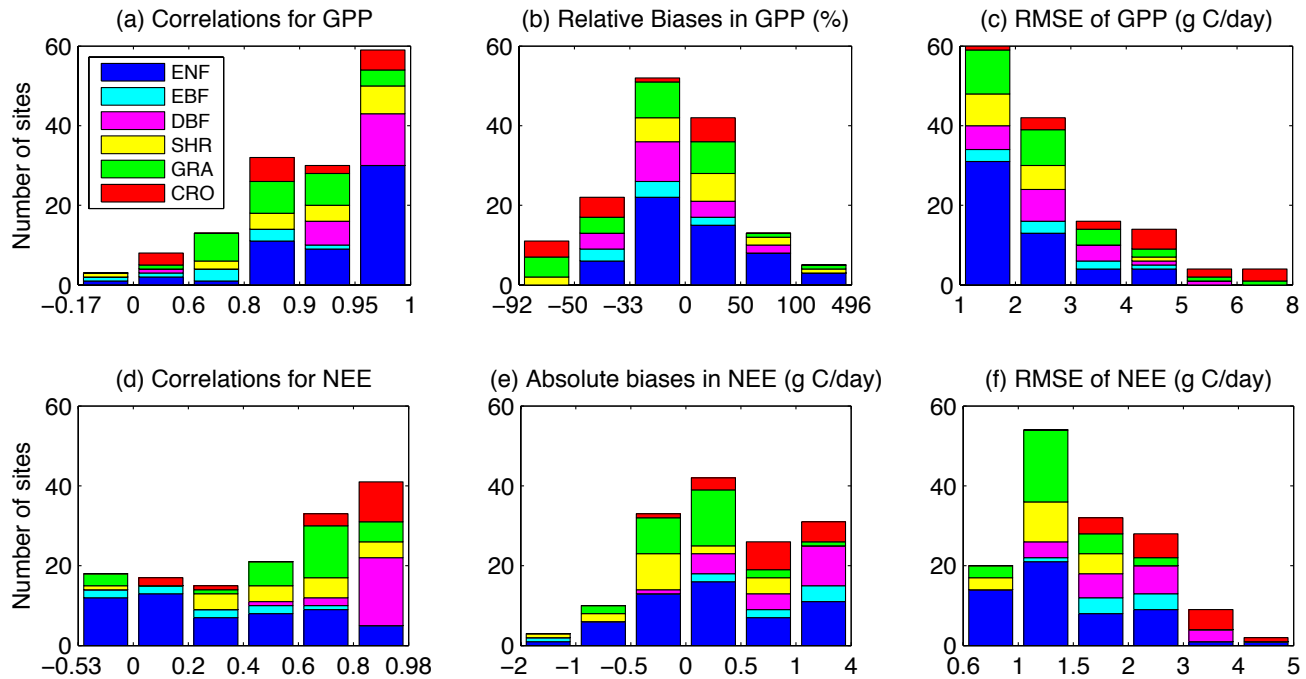
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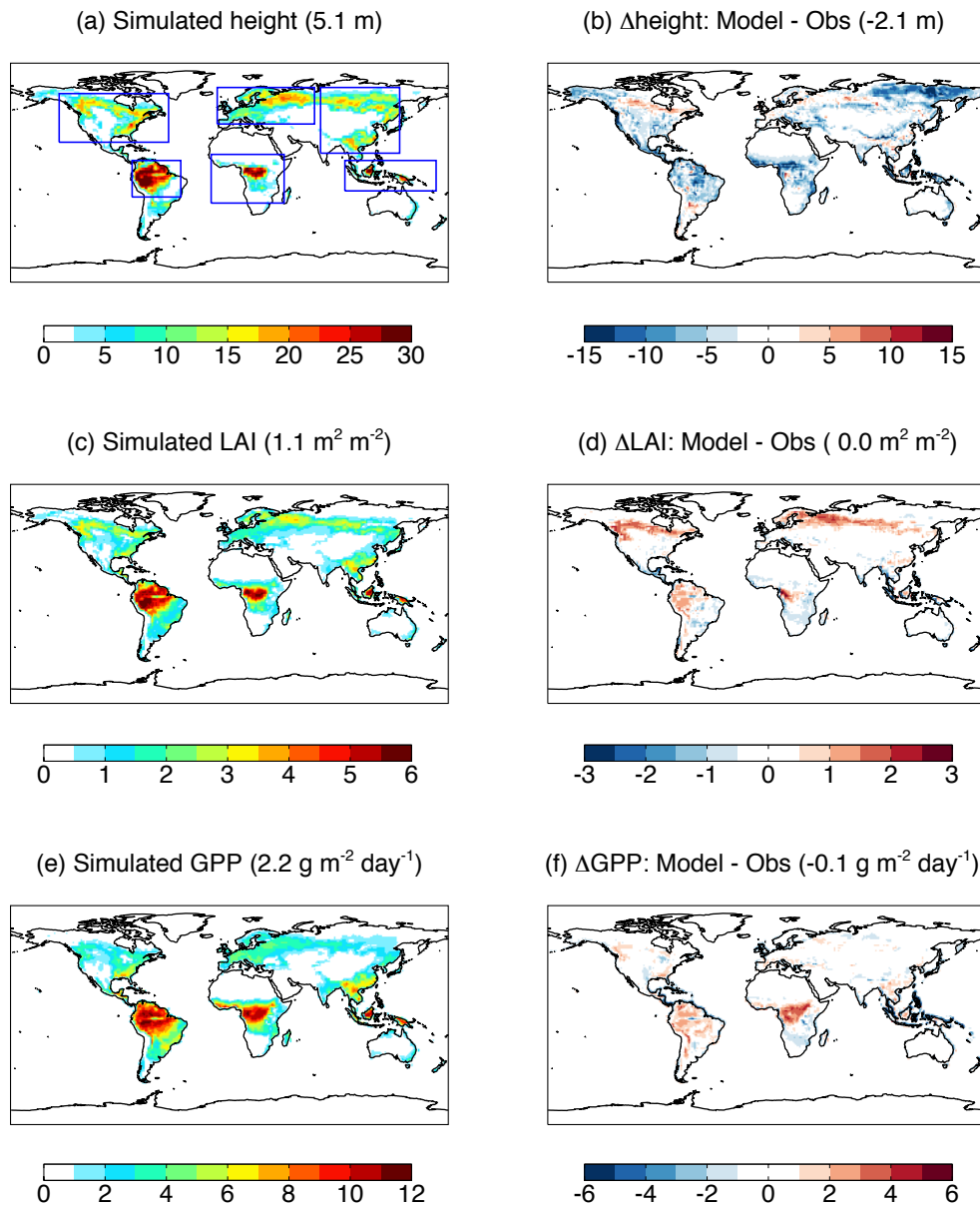
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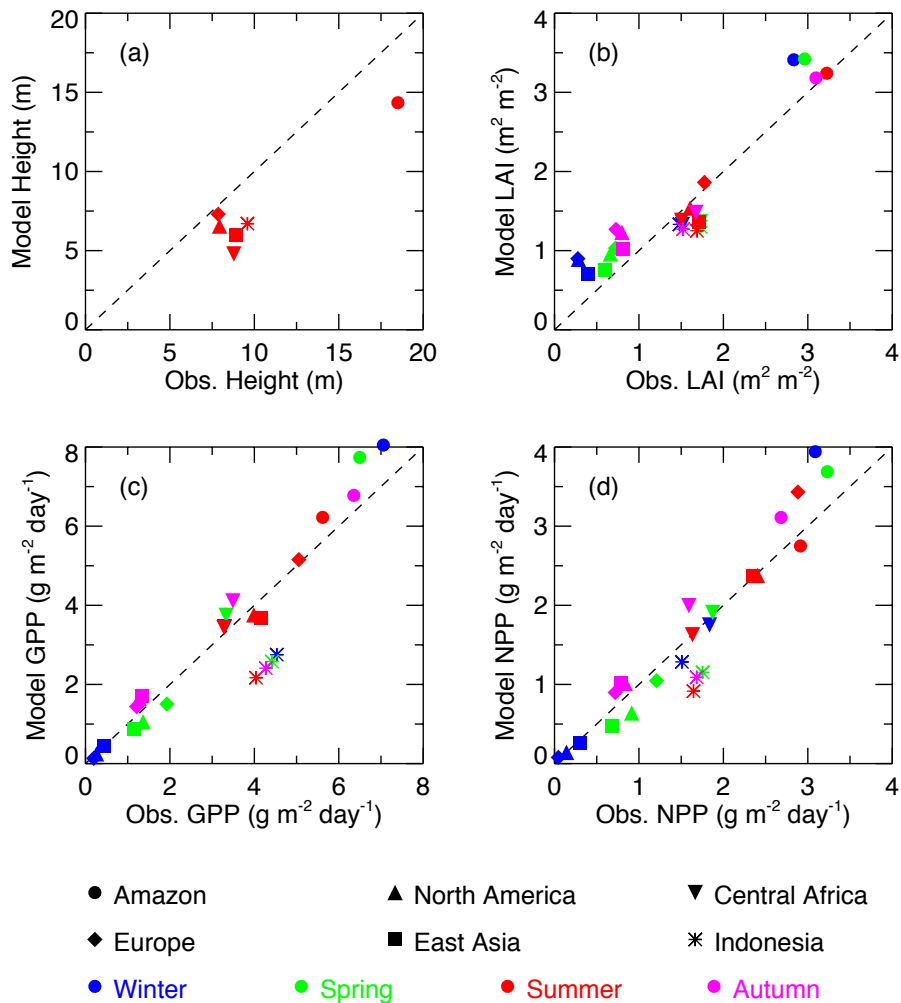
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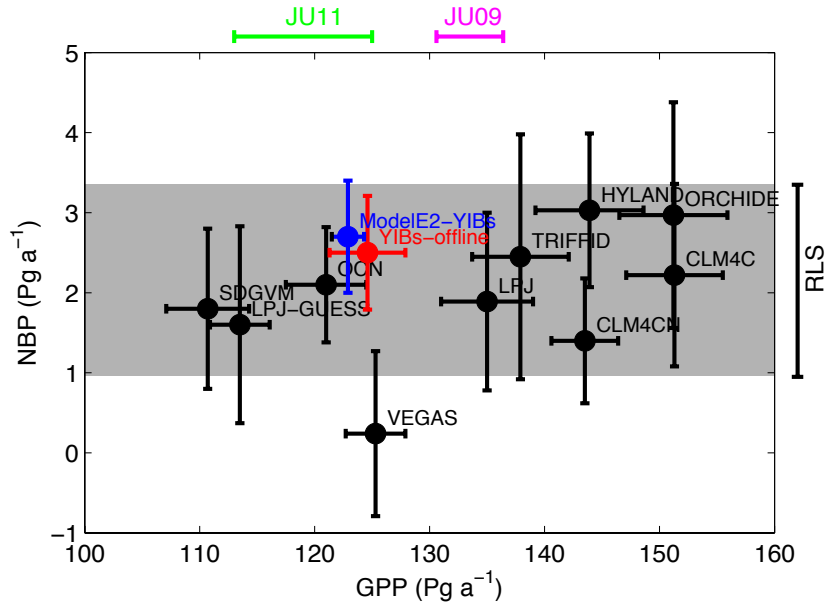
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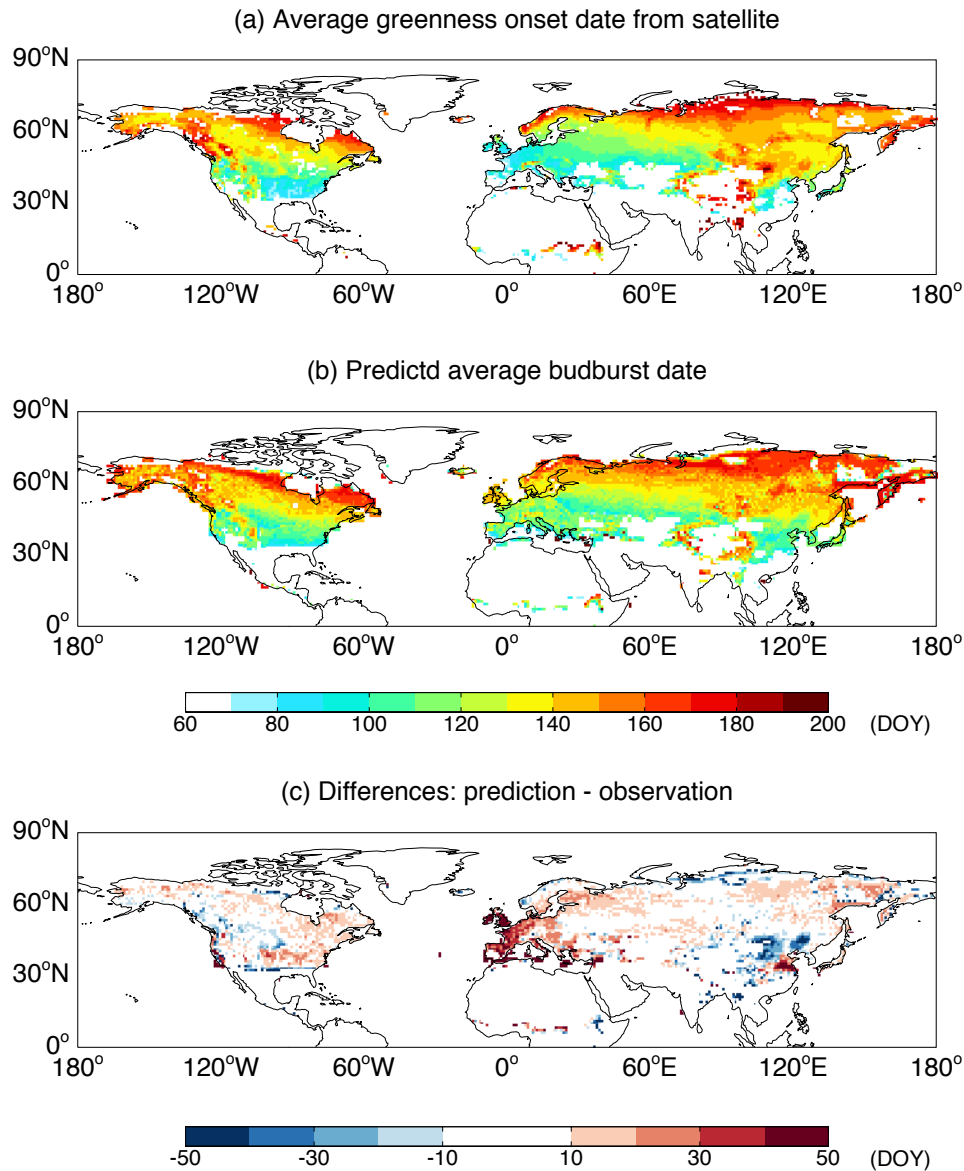
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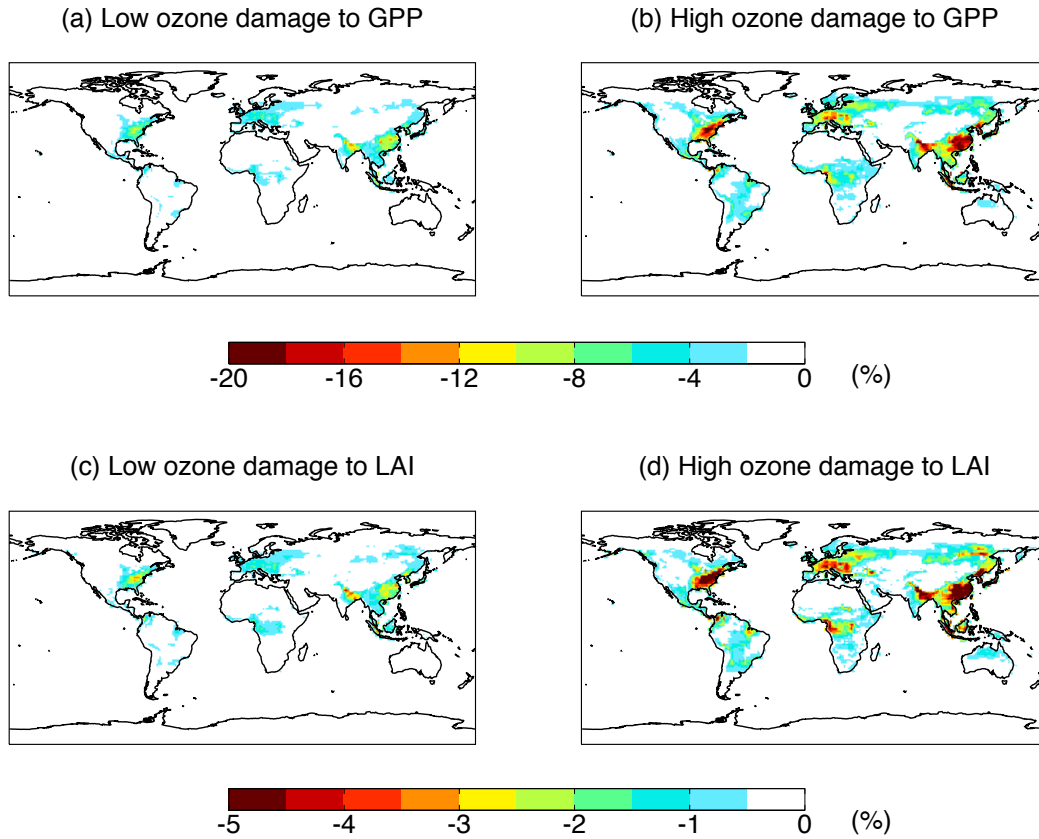




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