



# Competing effects of nitrogen deposition and ozone exposure on northern hemispheric terrestrial carbon uptake and storage, 1850–2099

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**Abstract.** Tropospheric ozone ( $O_3$ ) and nitrogen deposition affect vegetation growth and, thereby, the ability of the land biosphere to take up and store carbon. However, the magnitude of these effects on the contemporary and future terrestrial carbon balance is insufficiently understood. Here, we apply an extended version of the O–CN terrestrial biosphere model that simulates the atmosphere to canopy transport of  $O_3$ , its surface and stomatal uptake, the  $O_3$ -induced leaf injury, and the coupled terrestrial carbon and nitrogen cycles. We use this model to simulate past and future impacts of air pollution against a background of concurrent changes in climate and carbon dioxide concentrations ( $CO_2$ ) for two contrasting representative concentration pathway (RCP) scenarios (RCP2.6 and RCP8.5).

The simulations show that  $O_3$ -related damage considerably reduced northern hemispheric gross primary production (GPP) and long-term carbon storage between 1850 and the 2010s. The simulated  $O_3$  effect on GPP in the Northern Hemisphere peaked towards the end of the 20th century, with reductions of 4 %, causing a reduction in the northern hemispheric carbon sink of  $0.4 \text{ Pg C yr}^{-1}$ . During the 21st century,  $O_3$ -induced reductions in GPP and carbon storage are projected to decline, through a combination of direct air pollution control methods that reduce near-surface  $O_3$  and the indirect effects of rising atmospheric  $CO_2$ , which reduces stomatal uptake of  $O_3$  concurrent with increases of leaf-level water use efficiency. However, in hot spot regions such as East Asia, the model simulations suggest a sustained decrease in GPP by more than 8 % throughout the 21st century.

$O_3$  exposure reduces projected carbon storage at the end of the 21st century by up to 15 % in parts of Europe, the US, and East Asia. Our simulations suggest that the stimulating effect of nitrogen deposition on regional GPP and carbon storage is lower in magnitude compared to the detrimental effect of  $O_3$  during most of the simulation period for both RCPs. In the second half of the 21st century, the detrimental effect of  $O_3$  on GPP is outweighed by nitrogen deposition, but the effect of nitrogen deposition on land carbon storage remains lower than the effect of  $O_3$ . Accounting for the stimulating effects of nitrogen deposition but omitting the detrimental effect of  $O_3$  may lead to an overestimation of projected carbon uptake and storage.

## 1 Introduction

Productivity and carbon storage in many northern hemispheric terrestrial ecosystems are affected by the limited availability of nitrogen (N; Vitousek and Howarth, 1991; LeBauer and Treseder, 2008; Zaehle, 2013). As a side effect of air pollution, increased deposition of reactive nitrogen from, e.g., anthropogenic fossil fuel burning and increased soil emissions associated with fertilizer use (Galloway et al., 2004) have the potential to fertilize these N-limited ecosystems and, thereby, enhance productivity and carbon storage (Norby, 1998; Zaehle et al., 2011; Thomas et al., 2010). However, oxidized forms of reactive nitrogen in the atmosphere (collectively referred to as  $NO_y$ ) are also

a precursor of tropospheric ozone ( $O_3$ ). Ozone ( $O_3$ ) is a toxic air pollutant that enters plants primarily through the leaves' stomata where it can induce cellular damage (Fiscus et al., 2005; Tausz et al., 2007; McAinsh et al., 2002). Commonly observed effects are visible injury (Langebartels et al., 1991; Wohlgenuth et al., 2002) and reductions in photosynthetic capacity (Tjoelker et al., 1995; Wittig et al., 2007) and growth or yield (Grantz et al., 2006; Hayes et al., 2007; Feng and Kobayashi, 2009; Wittig et al., 2009; Leisner and Ainsworth, 2012). Ozone-induced plant damage can reduce the terrestrial carbon uptake and storage and, through this, cause an increase in atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentrations and an intensification of climate change (Sitch et al., 2007; Ainsworth et al., 2012). Ozone mixing ratios in Europe have approximately doubled during the 20th century (Cooper et al., 2014). The anthropogenic increase in  $NO_y$  emissions primarily from combustion sources has been identified as being the major cause for the increasing near-surface  $O_3$  concentrations between 1970–1995 in the midlatitudes of the Northern Hemisphere (Fusco and Logan, 2003). Ozone levels are projected to decline until the end of the 21st century due to assumed stringent air pollution policies, but future climate conditions with increasing temperatures and reduced cloudiness and precipitation will tend to increase  $O_3$  formation, with increasing daily  $O_3$  peaks and average concentrations in summer (Meleux et al., 2007; van Vuuren et al., 2011). The application of the representative concentration pathway (RCP) scenarios (Moss et al., 2010; van Vuuren et al., 2011) in 14 global chemistry transport models results in the projection of declining annual global mean surface  $O_3$  concentrations in most regions of the globe, except South Asia, where increases are simulated (Wild et al., 2012). Projections of nitrogen deposition in the 21st century suggest little change across all scenarios of the RCPs, despite notable regional differences (Lamarque et al., 2013). A small decline in deposition rates is proposed only under the scenario RCP2.6.

Simulations with nitrogen-enabled terrestrial biosphere models suggest that N deposition may be responsible for 10 % to 50 % of the global residual land carbon uptake (Zaehle et al., 2011; Quéré et al., 2018). Several models, including the  $O_3$  effect on the carbon cycle, suggest that simulated present-day and future  $O_3$  exposure can reduce regional- and global-scale productivity (Felzer et al., 2005; Sitch et al., 2007; Franz et al., 2017; Lombardozzi et al., 2015; Oliver et al., 2018). For instance, modeling studies by Sitch et al. (2007) and Oliver et al. (2018) suggest a reduction in  $O_3$ -induced damage of gross primary production (GPP) by 4 %–15 % and an associated reduction in land carbon storage by 3 %–10 %, where Sitch et al. (2007) simulated global  $O_3$  impacts between 1901–2100, and Oliver et al. (2018) focused on a European-scale damage between 1901–2050.

Here, we assess the combined effect of  $O_3$  and nitrogen deposition on the northern hemispheric terrestrial biosphere against the background of simulated changes due to increas-

ing atmospheric  $CO_2$  and climate change. Elevated levels of atmospheric  $CO_2$  stimulate leaf photosynthesis and reduce stomatal conductance (Medlyn et al., 2001; Ainsworth and Long, 2005) and, therefore, can increase plant growth and plant nitrogen limitation (Oren et al., 2001; Norby et al., 2009; Zaehle et al., 2014). However, reductions in stomatal conductance reduce the leaf-level uptake of air pollutants like  $O_3$  and, thereby, have the potential to restrict  $O_3$ -induced damage to plants (Paoletti and Grulke, 2005; Barnes and Pfirrmann, 1992; Isebrands et al., 2001; Talhelm et al., 2014; Zak et al., 2011; Noormets et al., 2010).

We analyze the response of the northern hemispheric carbon cycle to changes in climate, atmospheric  $CO_2$ , and  $O_3$ , as well as N deposition for the historical period (1850–2005) and two future scenarios (2006–2099), i.e., a high and low climate change mitigation scenario (RCP2.6 and RCP8.5, respectively). In a factorial analysis, we investigate the impact of the single drivers ( $O_3$ ,  $CO_2$ , and N deposition) and their interaction (specifically, the interaction between  $O_3$  and  $CO_2$  and  $O_3$  and N deposition) on plant growth and terrestrial carbon storage. We employ a significantly enhanced version of the O–CN terrestrial biosphere model (Zaehle and Friend, 2010), which explicitly accounts for the  $O_3$  transport and deposition from the free troposphere into the stomata, as well as  $O_3$  removal by other processes (such as soil and leaf surface uptake; Franz et al., 2017). This model has been evaluated against biomass damage relationships observed in a range of fumigation and/or filtration experiments with European tree species (Büker et al., 2015; Franz et al., 2018).

## 2 Methods

Simulations are conducted with the O–CN terrestrial biosphere model (Zaehle and Friend, 2010; Franz et al., 2017), version  $tun_{VC}$ , where  $O_3$  damage is calculated based on injury functions to the maximum carboxylation capacity of the leaf  $V_{cmax}$  (Franz et al., 2018). The  $tun_{VC}$  injury functions were calibrated to reproduce observed biomass damage relationships of experiments with a range of European tree species in fumigation and/or filtration experiments (Franz et al., 2018; Büker et al., 2015).

The O–CN model includes an  $O_3$  deposition scheme that explicitly accounts for the  $O_3$  transport and deposition from the free troposphere into the stomata (Franz et al., 2017). Here, we use the ozone deposition scheme referred to as the D model in Franz et al. (2017), contrary to Franz et al. (2018) where the  $O_3$  deposition scheme was turned off.

### 2.1 The O–CN model

O–CN (Zaehle and Friend, 2010) is a further development of the land surface scheme of ORCHIDEE ((Organizing Carbon and Hydrology In Dynamic Ecosystems; Krinner et al., 2005), and it simulates the coupled terrestrial carbon (C), ni-

trogen (N), and water cycles for 12 plant functional types. The model accounts for the effects of nitrogen availability on growth, root–shoot allocation, litter, and soil organic matter decay, and represents a comprehensive nitrogen cycle, including process-oriented formulations for nitrogen leaching and gas losses, and its ability to reproduce N fertilization experiments has been evaluated by Meyerholt and Zaehle (2015). O–CN compares well to a range of regional to global terrestrial biosphere benchmarks (Quéré et al., 2018). O–CN is driven by climate data, N deposition, atmospheric composition, including the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations, and land use information.

O–CN simulates a multilayer canopy with up to 20 layers (each with a thickness of up to 0.5 leaf area index), where net photosynthesis is calculated for shaded and sunlit leaves, with consideration of the light profiles of diffuse and direct radiation on the aerodynamic resistance (Kull and Kruijt, 1998; Friend, 2001; Zaehle and Friend, 2010). Stomatal conductance to water, CO<sub>2</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> is calculated, coupled to net photosynthesis, following a Ball–Berry-type formulation (see Sect. 2.2). Leaf nitrogen concentration and leaf area determine the photosynthetic capacity, which are both affected by ecosystem-available N. The maximum carboxylation capacity ( $V_{\text{cmax}}$ ) and electron transport capacity ( $J_{\text{max}}$ ) of the leaf increases with an increased leaf nitrogen concentration, leading to an increase in the maximum net photosynthesis and stomatal conductance per unit leaf area (Zaehle and Friend, 2010). The highest leaf N content is simulated at the top of the canopy and exponentially decreases with increasing canopy depth (Friend, 2001; Niinemets et al., 2015). Following this, the net photosynthesis, stomatal conductance, and O<sub>3</sub> uptake are generally highest at the top of the canopy and lowest at the bottom of the canopy. Changes in stomatal conductance affect transpiration rates and estimates of O<sub>3</sub> uptake and O<sub>3</sub> damage.

## 2.2 Ozone injury calculation in O–CN

Leaf-level O<sub>3</sub> uptake is determined by stomatal conductance and atmospheric O<sub>3</sub> concentrations, as described in Franz et al. (2017). In contrast to Franz et al. (2017), the stomatal conductance  $g_{\text{st}}$  is calculated based on the Ball–Berry formulation (Ball et al., 1987) as follows:

$$g_{\text{st},1} = g_0 + g_1 \times \frac{A_{\text{n},1} \times \text{RH} \times f(\text{height}_1)}{[\text{CO}_2]}, \quad (1)$$

where RH is the atmospheric relative humidity,  $f(\text{height}_1)$  is the water transport limitation with canopy height,  $[\text{CO}_2]$  is the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration,  $A_{\text{n},1}$  is the net photosynthesis,  $g_0$  is the residual conductance when  $A_{\text{n}}$  approaches zero, and  $g_1$  is the stomatal-slope parameter, as in Krinner et al. (2005). The index “1” indicates that  $g_{\text{st}}$  and  $A_{\text{n}}$  are calculated separately for each canopy layer.  $A_{\text{n},1}$  is calculated, as described in Zaehle and Friend (2010), as a function of the leaf internal partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub>, absorbed photosynthetic

photon flux density on shaded and sunlit leaves, leaf temperature, the nitrogen-specific rates of maximum light harvesting, electron transport ( $J_{\text{max}}$ ), and carboxylation rates ( $V_{\text{cmax}}$ ).

The stomatal conductance to O<sub>3</sub>  $g_{\text{st},1}^{\text{O}_3}$  is calculated as follows:

$$g_{\text{st},1}^{\text{O}_3} = \frac{g_{\text{st},1}}{1.51}, \quad (2)$$

where the factor 1.51 accounts for the different diffusivity of O<sub>3</sub> from water vapor (Massman, 1998).

For each canopy layer, the O<sub>3</sub> stomatal flux ( $f_{\text{st},1}$ , nmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) is calculated from the canopy O<sub>3</sub> concentration ( $[\text{O}_3]^{\text{can}}$ ), and  $g_{\text{st},1}$  is calculated as follows

$$f_{\text{st},1} = ([\text{O}_3]^{\text{can}} - [\text{O}_3]^i) g_{\text{st},1}^{\text{O}_3}, \quad (3)$$

where the leaf internal O<sub>3</sub> concentration ( $[\text{O}_3]^i$ ) is assumed to be zero (Laisk et al., 1989).

The O<sub>3</sub> deposition module calculates  $[\text{O}_3]^{\text{can}}$  from the O<sub>3</sub> concentration at 45 m height ( $[\text{O}_3]^{\text{atm}}$ ), which represents the lowest-level O<sub>3</sub> concentrations in the forcing data (Franz et al., 2017). Based on the constant flux assumption,  $[\text{O}_3]^{\text{can}}$ , in units of nmol m<sup>-3</sup>, is calculated as follows:

$$[\text{O}_3]^{\text{can}} = [\text{O}_3]^{\text{atm}} \left( 1 - \frac{R_a}{R_a + R_b + R_c} \right), \quad (4)$$

with  $R_a$  being the aerodynamic resistance,  $R_b$  being the canopy-scale, quasi-laminar layer resistance, and  $R_c$  being the compound surface resistance to O<sub>3</sub> deposition.  $R_c$  is calculated as being the sum of the canopy-scale stomatal resistance and the non-stomatal resistance to O<sub>3</sub> uptake (Franz et al., 2017). The non-stomatal resistance is defined by the O<sub>3</sub> destruction on the leaf surface, within-canopy resistance to O<sub>3</sub> transport, and ground surface resistance (Franz et al., 2017).

Without the application of the O<sub>3</sub> deposition module, the O<sub>3</sub> uptake inside the leaves would be calculated based on the near-surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations from the forcing data, without accounting for the turbulent transport between the lower troposphere and the leaves, and the deposition and destruction of ozone on other surfaces.

The accumulation of O<sub>3</sub> fluxes into the leaves above a threshold of X nmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> ( $f_{\text{st},1}$ , nmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) with the following:

$$f_{\text{st},1}(X) = \max(0, f_{\text{st},1} - X), \quad (5)$$

gives the CUOX<sub>1</sub>. Summing CUOX<sub>1</sub> over all canopy layers gives the canopy value of CUOX (Franz et al., 2017). In this study, a flux threshold of 1 nmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, i.e., CUO1, is applied to account for the plant’s ability to detoxify part of the taken-up O<sub>3</sub> (Franz et al., 2018; LRTAP-Convention, 2017; Bükér et al., 2015). The cumulative uptake of O<sub>3</sub> without detoxification, i.e., a threshold of zero, is represented by CUO0.

Emerging leaves are assumed to be undamaged and accumulate CUOX during the growing season. The CUOX<sub>l</sub> is reduced by the fraction of the newly developed leaves per time step and canopy layer. Deciduous plant functional types (PFTs) shed all CUOX at the end of the growing season and grow uninjured leaves the next spring. Evergreen PFTs shed proportionate amounts of CUOX during the entire year when new leaves or needles are grown or old foliage is replaced.

The O<sub>3</sub> injury fraction ( $d_1^{O_3}$ ) is calculated as a linear function of CUO1<sub>l</sub> as follows:

$$d_1^{O_3} = 1 - b \times \text{CUO1}_l, \quad (6)$$

where the slope of the injury function ( $b$ ) is set to 0.075 for broadleaf species and 0.025 for needleleaf species (Franz et al., 2018).  $d_1^{O_3}$  is calculated separately for each canopy layer  $l$ , according to the specific accumulated O<sub>3</sub> uptake of the respective canopy layer (CUO1<sub>l</sub>), and takes values between 0 and 1. Within-canopy gradients in stomatal conductance and photosynthetic capacity cause variations in CUO1<sub>l</sub> and, hence,  $d_1^{O_3}$  between canopy layers.

The effect of O<sub>3</sub> injury on plant carbon uptake is calculated by the following:

$$V_{\text{cmax},l}^{O_3} = V_{\text{cmax},l}(1 - d_1^{O_3}), \quad (7)$$

with the maximum carboxylation capacity of the leaf in the respective canopy layer ( $V_{\text{cmax},l}$ ), which is used in the calculation of  $A_{n,l}$ .  $J_{\text{max},l}$  is reduced in proportion to  $V_{\text{cmax},l}$ , such that the ratio between both is maintained.

Ozone-induced reductions in  $A_{n,l}$  cause a decline in  $g_{\text{st},l}$  as both are tightly coupled. Lower values of  $g_{\text{st},l}$  diminish the O<sub>3</sub> uptake into the plant ( $f_{\text{st},l}$ ) and slow the increase in CUO1<sub>l</sub> and, hence, O<sub>3</sub>-induced injury.

### 2.3 Model forcing

The model is driven by climate model output of the Institute Pierre Simon Laplace (IPSL) general circulation model IPSL-CM5A-LR (Dufresne et al., 2013), which is bias-corrected according to the Inter-Sectoral Impact Model Intercomparison Project (ISIMIP; Hempel et al., 2013). The applied meteorological forcing for near-surface conditions comprises the daily data of specific humidity, incoming long-wave radiation, incoming shortwave radiation, cloudiness, wind speed, maximum temperature, minimum temperature, and total precipitation, which are disaggregated to the 30 min time step of the model using a statistical weather generator (Krinner et al., 2005). Reduced and oxidized monthly mean nitrogen deposition in wet and dry form and monthly mean near-surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations are provided by CAM, the community atmosphere model (Lamarque et al., 2010; Cionni et al., 2011). Land cover, soil, and N fertilizer application are used as in Zaehle et al. (2011) and kept at 2000 values throughout the simulation. Data on atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are obtained from Meinshausen et al. (2011).

Through all simulations, present-day land use information is applied for the year 2000 (Hurt et al., 2011).

Figure 1 provides an overview of the scenarios applied in this study. Note that there are important regional patterns behind the changes in N deposition and near-surface O<sub>3</sub> which are shown in the Supplement (Figs. S1 and S2).

### 2.4 Modeling protocol

The model is run at a spatial resolution of 1° × 1° and operates on a 30 min time step. As the injury functions developed by Franz et al. (2018) are based on exposure experiments with boreal and temperate European tree species, the simulation domain is restricted to the temperate and boreal region of the Northern Hemisphere (≥ 30° N).

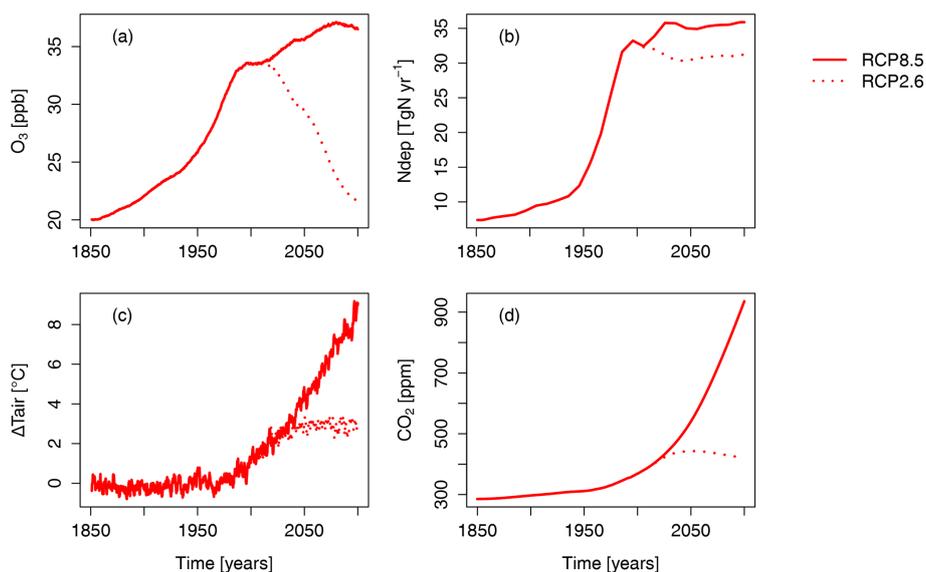
To achieve equilibrium in terms of the terrestrial vegetation and soil carbon and nitrogen pools, O–CN is run for 1291 years (including 10 iterations of 1000 years of soil biogeochemistry and 100 years of vegetation and soil biogeochemistry) by using the forcing data of the year 1850 data. Prior to the year 1901, climate years are randomly iterated from the period of 1901 to 1930, as 1901 is the first year of the climate data set.

From this equilibrium, five factorial simulation runs are simulated, where key drivers of plant growth and carbon sequestration (CO<sub>2</sub>, climate, nitrogen deposition, and O<sub>3</sub>) are simulated either as fixed to the reference year or transient (i.e., progressively changing within the simulation period; see Table 1). These simulations run from the year 1850 to 2099. The period up to the year 2005 is simulated as being identical for both RCP scenarios. From 2006 until 2099, simulations are run using the forcing according to either the RCP2.6 or the RCP8.5 forcing scenario (Moss et al., 2010; van Vuuren et al., 2011).

To investigate the impact of the O<sub>3</sub> deposition scheme on the simulation results, the factorial runs are repeated with a model version in which the O<sub>3</sub> deposition scheme is turned off (see the ATM model version in Franz et al., 2017). In simulations where the O<sub>3</sub> deposition module is turned off, the canopy O<sub>3</sub> concentration equals the O<sub>3</sub> concentration at 45 m above the surface, which is the height of the lowest level of the forcing data.

### 2.5 Factorial analysis

The impact of a single forcing driver on the simulation results can be approximated by subtracting the simulation results of suitable combination of factorial runs from one another (see Table 2). In the following, the term forcing driver is used to refer to the input variables of the conducted simulations, and single driver refers to the approximated impact of a single forcing driver on the simulation results. The described approach is an approximation of the impact of the single drivers and assumes that the effects on the analyzed output variables are additive. The assumption of additive effects is a neces-



**Figure 1.** Time series of the terrestrial northern hemispheric ( $\geq 30^\circ \text{N}$ ) mean (a) near-surface  $\text{O}_3$  concentration, (b) summed nitrogen deposition, (c) air temperature at 2 m height, and (d) atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration according to the RCP2.6 and RCP8.5 emission scenario. For visual clarity, the effect of the seasonal cycles of near-surface  $\text{O}_3$  and N deposition are smoothed by a moving average of 12 months. See Figs. S1 and S2 for spatial patterns of nitrogen deposition and near-surface  $\text{O}_3$ .

**Table 1.** Forcing setting of the factorial runs. Climate forcing for the years prior to 1901 is always drawn from the same random sequence of years between 1901 and 1930.

Factorial run	$\text{CO}_2$	Climate	Nitrogen deposition	$\text{O}_3$
S1	1850–2099	1901–1930	1850	1850
S2	1850–2099	1901–1930	1850	1850–2099
S3	1850–2099	1901–2099	1850	1850–2099
S4	1850–2099	1901–2099	1850–2099	1850
S5	1850–2099	1901–2099	1850–2099	1850–2099

sary simplification to restrict the number of simulations and computation time (Zaehle et al., 2010). For  $\text{O}_3$ , a main driver of interest, two different approaches for calculating the single driver were realized. In one approach, the  $\text{O}_3$  impact is calculated from the two factorial runs, with only one or two transient drivers (simulations S1 and S2), and a second time from the factorial runs, where all and all but one driver (simulations S5 and S4, respectively) is simulated transient. The comparison of these two approaches for calculating the single driver might indicate the extent of the impact of interacting forcing drivers on the estimate of the  $\text{O}_3$  single driver. The relative changes between two simulation runs, SX and SY, are calculated as  $(\text{SX} - \text{SY})/\text{SY}$ .

### 3 Results

The simulations show a strong increase in gross primary production (GPP) in the Northern Hemisphere ( $\geq 30^\circ \text{N}$ ) between the years 1850 and 2099 with all forcings considered in this study (S5; Fig. 2). In simulations based on the

**Table 2.** Calculation of the single driver effects ( $\text{CO}_2$ , climate, nitrogen deposition, and  $\text{O}_3$ ) from the conducted simulations.  $\text{S1}_{\text{ref}}$  refers to the mean of the years 1850 to 1859 of the S1 simulation. See Table 1 for information on the forcing setting of the factorial runs S1–S5.

Attributed single driver	Simulations
$\text{CO}_2$	S1– $\text{S1}_{\text{ref}}$
$\text{O}_3$ approach 1	S2–S1
$\text{O}_3$ approach 2	S5–S4
Climate	S3–S2
Nitrogen deposition	S5–S3

RCP8.5 scenario, GPP increases throughout the 21st century, roughly doubling by the year 2099 relative to 1850 values. In the RCP2.6 scenario, the simulated increase in GPP levels off in the 2040s at approximately one-third of the simulated increase at the end of the 21st century in the RCP8.5 sce-

nario. The changes in terrestrial carbon storage reflect these changes in GPP (see Fig. 2d).

Concurrent with the strong increase in GPP is an increased foliar uptake of  $O_3$ , which parallels the increase in near-surface and canopy air  $O_3$  concentrations (Fig. 3). Simulated changes in the cumulative  $O_3$  uptake without a flux threshold (CUO0; see Sect. 2) strongly follow changes in the  $O_3$  concentrations during the entire simulation period. Accounting for the ability of leaves to detoxify part of the  $O_3$  taken up, the cumulative canopy  $O_3$  uptake above a flux threshold of  $1 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (CUO1) does not remain at relatively constant values during the 21st century under RCP8.5. Instead, it reaches a maximum at the end of the 20th century and steadily declines afterwards. This difference between CUO0 and CUO1 for simulations based on RCP8.5 implies that the frequency at which the detoxification threshold is exceeded gradually declines during the 21st century. This results from a decline in peak uptake rates ( $F_{st}$ ) in the 21st century (Fig. 3b) despite fairly constant near-surface  $O_3$  concentrations (Fig. 3a). The decline in peak uptake rates is the consequence of the reduced ratio of stomatal conductance to net photosynthesis under high atmospheric  $CO_2$ .

### 3.1 Factorial analysis

We next decompose the simulations into the effects of the different model drivers with a special focus on the effects of  $O_3$  and nitrogen deposition. In all five factorial runs, the simulated GPP increases strongly between 1850 and 2099 and approximately doubles for the S5 run based on RCP8.5 (see Fig. 2a). The primary cause for this simulated increase is the  $CO_2$  fertilization effect induced by increasing atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentrations (see Fig. 4c and Table 3). Climate change is the second most important factor for the simulated increase, whereas the positive effect of N deposition is less pronounced. Ozone injury causes a modest decrease in productivity, which manifests strongest during the 1990s. During the 20th century, the decline gradually reverses. The land carbon sink strongly responds to elevated levels of  $CO_2$  (see Fig. 4f), whereas climate change induces a varying impact on the land carbon sink. During the second half of the 21st century, the effect of climate mainly causes a reduction in the simulated land carbon sink.

### 3.2 Magnitude of nitrogen deposition impact

Nitrogen deposition has a positive effect on the simulated carbon uptake, storage, and  $O_3$  uptake and accumulation in plants, but the magnitude varies between the different scenarios. N deposition increased summed regional GPP by about 2.1 % ( $0.7 \text{ PgCyr}^{-1}$ ) at the beginning of the 21st century compared to preindustrial values (see Figs. 5 and S3 and Table 4). At the end of the 21st century, GPP is increased by approximately 2.5 % under both RCPs.

Carbon stored in vegetation (vegetation C) is increased by nitrogen deposition by about 2 % ( $2.1 \text{ PgC}$ ) at the beginning of the 21st century and by approximately 3 % ( $4.4$  and  $6.1 \text{ PgCyr}^{-1}$  for RCP2.6 and RCP8.5, respectively) at the end of the 21st century. This positive effect of N deposition keeps growing in East Asia until the end of the 21st century (see Table 4), whereas in Europe and in the temperate North America, the GPP and vegetation C enhancement by nitrogen deposition peaks around the mid-21st century and declines thereafter. The soil C is less affected by nitrogen deposition, and maximal increases of  $\approx 1$  % ( $6 \text{ PgC}$ ) compared to preindustrial values are simulated at the end of the 21st century. Nitrogen deposition enhances the simulated land carbon sink (land C flux) most in the period between 1950 and 2050 by 5 %–25 % ( $-0.02 \dots -0.15 \text{ PgCyr}^{-1}$ ) compared to preindustrial values.

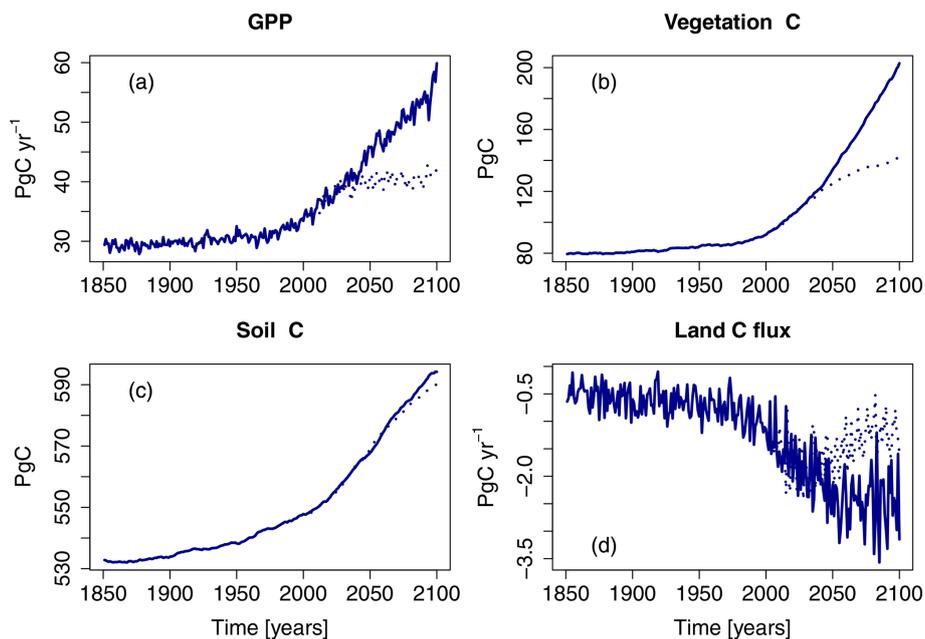
Nitrogen deposition steadily increases plant nitrogen uptake until the middle of the 21st century, with maximum simulated increases of about  $40 \text{ TgNH}_4\text{yr}^{-1}$  or 9 % (see Figs. 6 and S4). Concurrently, N deposition increases  $N_2O$  emissions by  $0.7 \text{ TgN}_2\text{Oyr}^{-1}$  (20 %), and  $NH_4$  leaching of  $10 \text{ TgNH}_4\text{yr}^{-1}$  (100 %), compared to preindustrial values, are simulated.  $NO_3$  leaching increases until the end of the 20th century by  $6 \text{ TgNO}_3\text{yr}^{-1}$  (80 %), compared to preindustrial values, and declines again afterwards.

### 3.3 Magnitude of $O_3$ deposition impact

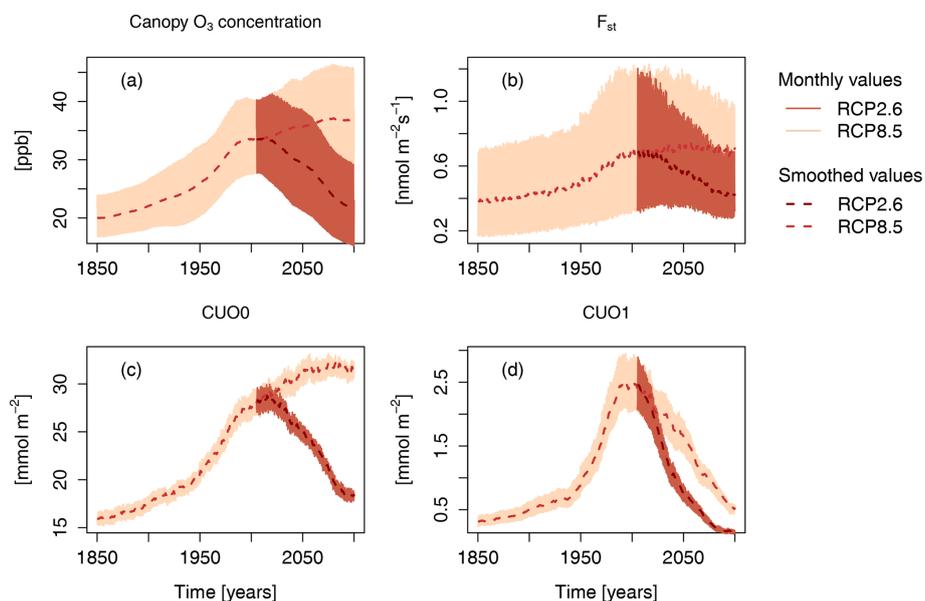
#### 3.3.1 Ozone uptake

Projections of  $O_3$  uptake and damage are primarily controlled by the scenarios of near-surface  $O_3$  (Fig. 4a, b). The simulated mean  $O_3$  uptake ( $F_{st}$ ) due to changes in near-surface  $O_3$  concentration increases by approximately  $0.27 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (70 %) between the preindustrial period and the year 2000 (see Fig. 7a). Under the RCP8.5 scenario,  $F_{st}$  increases until the end of the 21st century, reaching more than a 90 % increase compared to preindustrial times. Conversely, in simulations based on RCP2.6,  $F_{st}$  declines strongly, and by the end of the 21st century, comparable values to simulations, based on preindustrial  $O_3$  concentrations, are reached. The mean CUO1 increases by approximately  $2.3 \text{ mmol O}_3 \text{ m}^{-2}$  until the year 2000 and strongly declines until the end of the 21st century (see Fig. 7b). In simulations based on RCP2.6, the CUO1 values reach comparable values to simulations based on preindustrial  $O_3$  concentrations by 2099.

However, foliar  $O_3$  uptake is reduced by increasing atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentrations because of its effect on the relationship between stomatal conductance and net photosynthesis. The effect of  $CO_2$  can also be seen in the reduction in CUO1 during the 21st century, as shown in Fig. 3. Lower stomatal conductances reduce  $F_{st}$  and CUO1, even if the  $O_3$  concentrations slightly increase in simulations based on RCP8.5. Nitrogen deposition slightly increases  $F_{st}$  by, at



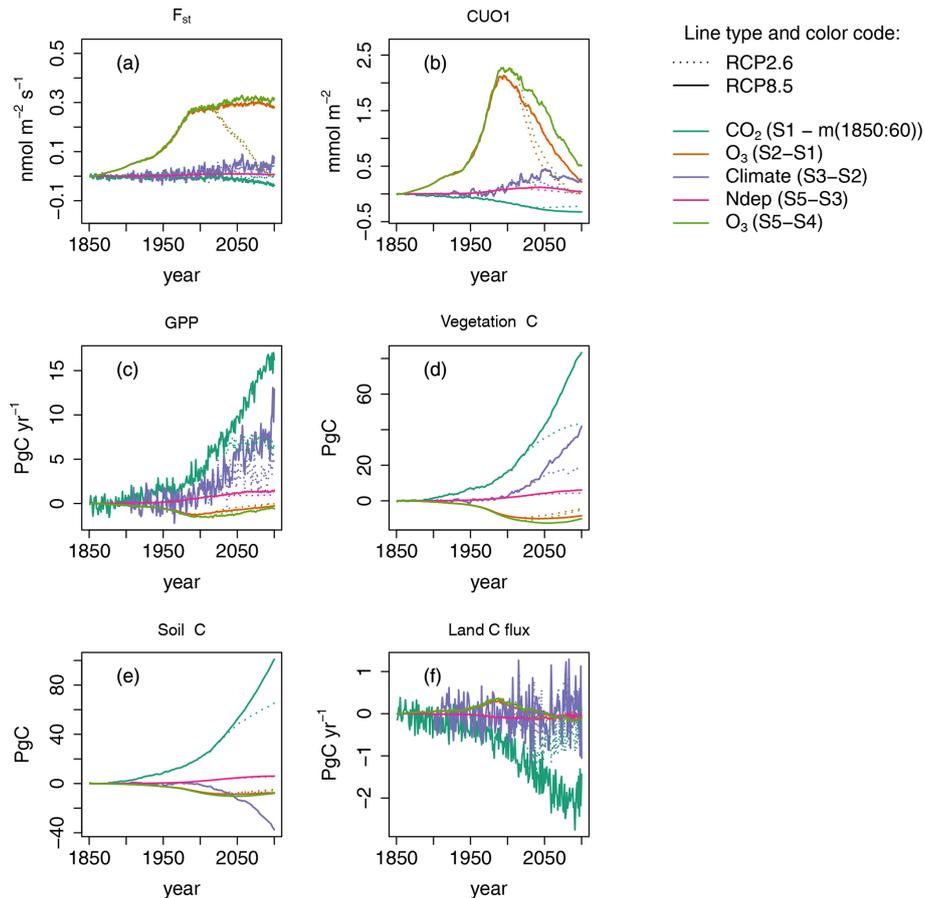
**Figure 2.** Simulated northern hemispheric gross primary production (GPP), vegetation carbon (vegetation C), soil carbon, and net land C flux of the factorial run S5 (all variables are simulated transient; see Table 1). Displayed is the period of 1850–2099 for both the RCP2.6 and RCP8.5. See also Table 3.



**Figure 3.** Simulated canopy  $O_3$  concentration,  $O_3$  uptake ( $F_{st}$ ), cumulative  $O_3$  uptake without a flux threshold (CUO0), and cumulative  $O_3$  uptake above a flux threshold of  $1 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (CUO1) of the factorial run S5 (all forcing variables are simulated transient). Displayed are monthly values and smoothed values, where the effect of the seasonal cycle is smoothed by the application of a moving average of 12 months.

most,  $0.008$  and  $0.01 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  for RCP2.6 and RCP8.5, respectively (see Fig. 5a). This relates to an increase in CUO1 of about 1%. Climate change increases stomatal  $O_3$  uptake by about  $0.04 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  during the 21st century and is considerably stronger compared to N deposition.

The two different approaches for assessing the contribution of  $O_3$  to the simulated trends in the carbon cycle, based on analyzing alternative combinations of model drivers (see Table 2), yield similar but not identical results (see Fig. 7). Typically, the differences between the two approaches do not



**Figure 4.** Single drivers obtained by subtracting factorial runs for selected output variables. Displayed are the results for simulated regional mean  $O_3$  uptake ( $F_{st}$ ), regional mean cumulative canopy  $O_3$  uptake above a flux threshold of  $1 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (CUO1), regional summed GPP, regional summed stocks of total carbon biomass (vegetation C), soil organic matter carbon (soil C), and summed land carbon flux (land C flux) for simulations based on RCP2.6 and RCP8.5. The effect of the seasonal cycle is smoothed by the application of a moving average of 12 months (a, b).

exceed 1 %, except for CUO1, where larger relative changes occur for small absolute changes (see Fig. 7b).

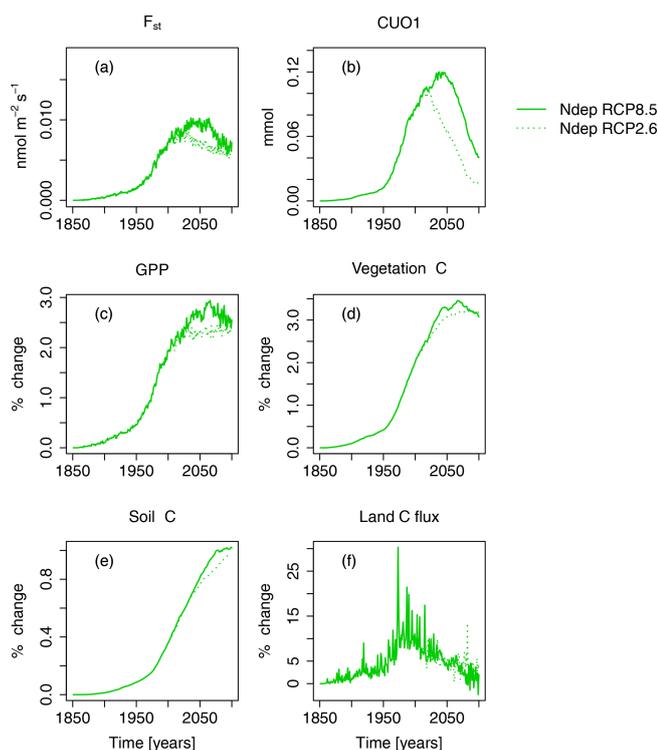
### 3.3.2 Ozone damage

In the period of 1970–1990, i.e., the time of the peak increase in near-surface  $O_3$  concentrations, the simulated detrimental effects of  $O_3$  on GPP nearly completely counteract the positive effect of rising  $CO_2$  concentrations (see Fig. 4c). The negative impact of  $O_3$  on GPP shows a maximum in the 1990s at approximately  $-1.5 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$  (4 %) compared to preindustrial values (see Figs. 7c and S5 and Table 4). In the subsequent decades, the simulated  $O_3$ -induced reduction in GPP declines to 1 % by the end of the 21st century for RCP8.5 and to close to zero for RCP2.6.

Due to the stabilization of atmospheric  $CO_2$  in the RCP2.6 scenario, the increase in GPP levels off at 2040s levels but continues to rise under RCP8.5 with increasing  $CO_2$ . The growth-stimulating effect of N deposition is smaller than the negative impact induced by  $O_3$  during the 20th century (see

Fig. 4c). This pattern is reversed during the course of the 21st century (see Sect. 3.4).

The  $O_3$  effect on GPP propagates to vegetation and, thus, considerably affects the simulated total carbon biomass in vegetation (vegetation C) and, to a limited extent, also soil C storage. In the simulations with transient  $O_3$  (S2, S3, and S5), the regionally integrated vegetation C ceases to grow in the 1950s for 30–50 years (see in Fig. 2b), causing a loss of carbon storage compared to the simulations without increasing  $O_3$  of about 8 PgC (8 %). Despite the declining effect of  $O_3$  on GPP, vegetation C remains reduced for much of the first half of the 21st century and only recovers very slowly afterwards (see Fig. 4c and d). The strongest  $O_3$ -induced reduction in mean simulated vegetation C in the simulation area occurs in the period of 2000–2020 at approximately 10 % (see Figs. 7d and S5). The  $O_3$  effect on vegetation C declines to 5 % by 2099 for RCP8.5 and 4 % for RCP2.6 (see Table 4). The soil C is less strongly impacted by  $O_3$ , with simulated maximal reductions of less than 2 % (10 PgC).

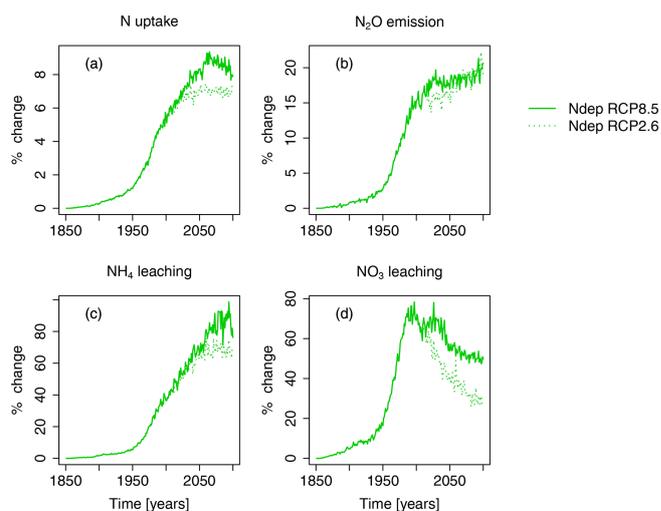


**Figure 5.** Nitrogen deposition induced absolute change in regional mean  $O_3$  uptake ( $F_{st}$ ), mean cumulative  $O_3$  uptake above a flux threshold of  $1 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (CUO1), and change in percent of summed GPP, summed carbon biomass (vegetation C), summed carbon soil organic matter (soil C), and summed land carbon flux (land C flux) compared to preindustrial values in the simulation region. The nitrogen-deposition-induced change is calculated from the simulation runs S3 and S5 (see Table 2). Solid lines indicate results from simulations based on RCP8.5, and dotted lines are results from simulations based on RCP2.6. The effect of the seasonal cycle is smoothed by the application of a moving average of 12 months (a, b).

$O_3$  impact on land C storage (land C flux) peaks at the end of the 20th century. In the 1990s, the effect of  $O_3$  on the land sink is about  $0.4 \text{ PgCyr}^{-1}$  or approximately 20%. During the 21st century, the  $O_3$  effect on the land C flux is reversed and eventually becomes positive. In the 2090s, the simulated land C flux is increased by about 4% to 7% for RCP8.5 and 16% for RCP2.6. This seemingly counterintuitive effect is the result of lower  $O_3$ -induced net primary production, which reduces the formation of soil C. The resulting lower stock in soil C in simulations accounting for  $O_3$  damage results in lower increases in heterotrophic respiration due to climate change during the 21st century, which causes the reversal of the  $O_3$  effect on the land C sink.

### 3.3.3 Regional patterns

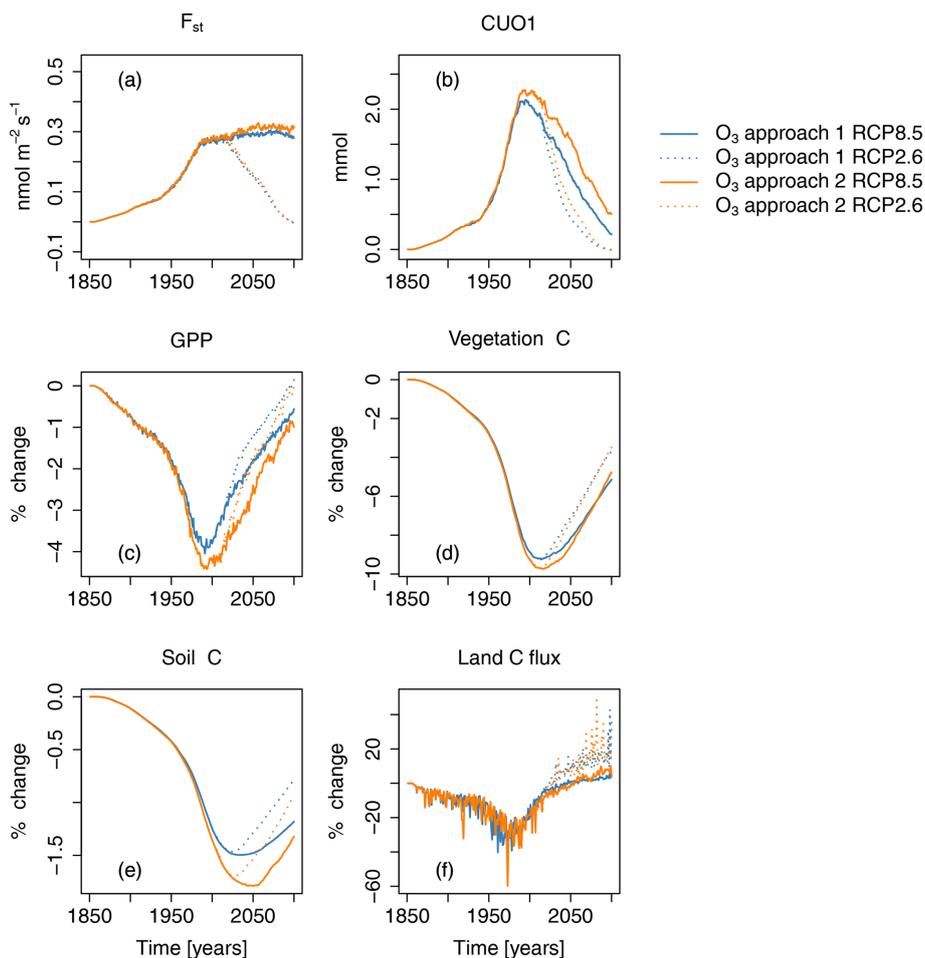
The simulated cumulative  $O_3$  uptake above a flux threshold of  $1 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (CUO1) shows a strong geographic varia-



**Figure 6.** Nitrogen-deposition-induced change in percent of total N uptake by region,  $N_2O$  emission,  $NH_4$  leaching, and  $NO_3$  leaching compared to preindustrial values in the simulation region. The nitrogen-deposition-induced change in percent is calculated from the simulation runs S3 and S5 (see Table 2). Solid lines indicate results from simulations based on RCP8.5, and dotted lines are results from simulations based on RCP2.6.

tion. Highest values of CUO1 are simulated during the 1990s in the eastern and northeastern US, large parts of central Europe, and East Asia (see Fig. S6a). Evergreen trees accumulate  $O_3$  damage over several years because of the longer lifetime of their leaves compared to deciduous trees. This can result in high values of CUO1, even if  $O_3$  concentrations are moderate. At the end of the 21st century, simulated CUO1 values reach comparable values to preindustrial times in large parts of the simulation region and slightly lower values in large parts of the US and Eurasia in simulations based on RCP2.6.

The highest  $O_3$ -induced absolute reductions in GPP occur in Europe, eastern USA and East Asia, where the respective increase in CUO1 is highest. During the 1990s, peak reductions of about  $150\text{--}220 \text{ gCm}^2\text{yr}^{-1}$  (8%–11%) are simulated in the eastern USA, southern Europe, and East Asia (see Fig. 8). Simulated  $O_3$ -induced reductions in GPP decline in the decades of 2040 and 2090 for both RCPs and in many regions, while considerable  $O_3$ -induced reductions in GPP are simulated until the end of the 21st century in East Asia. In the 2040s, under the RCP8.5 scenario, relative reductions in GPP of 4%–8% are simulated in southern Europe and parts of the eastern and western USA, while peak relative decreases of 8%–11% are simulated in East Asia. Towards the end of the 21st century  $O_3$ -induced reductions in GPP continue to decline, but reductions of above 8% are still simulated in small parts of East Asia. Slight increases in GPP are simulated in a large fraction of the eastern USA and small, scattered areas in Asia. Simulations based on RCP2.6 indicate, for the end of the 21st century, close to no  $O_3$ -induced



**Figure 7.** Ozone-induced absolute change in regional mean O<sub>3</sub> uptake ( $F_{\text{st}}$ ), mean cumulative O<sub>3</sub> uptake above a flux threshold of  $1 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (CUO1), and change in percent of summed GPP, total carbon biomass in vegetation (vegetation C), summed carbon soil organic matter (soil C), and summed land carbon flux (land C flux) compared to preindustrial values in the simulation region. Different colors indicate different approaches for calculating the O<sub>3</sub>-induced change from the factorial runs. Orange lines represent approach 1 –  $(S2-S1)/S1$ ; blue lines represent approach 2 –  $(S5-S4)/S4$ . Solid lines indicate results from simulations based on RCP8.5, and dotted lines are results from simulations based on RCP2.6. The effect of the seasonal cycle is smoothed by the application of a moving average of 12 months.

damage compared to preindustrial values over large parts of the simulation domain. Small absolute reductions are simulated in parts of Europe and small absolute increases are simulated in the eastern USA, induced by lower CUO1 values compared to preindustrial values (see Fig. S6). Increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations compared to preindustrial values reduce the stomatal conductance, restrict O<sub>3</sub> uptake, and enable the increase in GPP values.

As expected, O<sub>3</sub> impacts on vegetation C and soil C peak, later compared to GPP (see Fig. 7c–e and Table 4). For both scenarios, the strongest O<sub>3</sub>-induced absolute reductions in vegetation C of  $1400\text{--}1600 \text{ gCm}^2$  occur in the decade of 2040 in the eastern US, southern Europe, and East Asia (see Fig. 10). For both RCPs, the O<sub>3</sub>-induced vegetation C reductions exceed 20% in parts of Europe, eastern and western USA and East Asia in the middle of the 21st century. By the

end of the 21st century, the O<sub>3</sub>-induced vegetation C reduction attenuates in these hot spots for both RCPs, though it is stronger in simulations based on RCP2.6.

### 3.4 Comparative impact of N deposition and O<sub>3</sub>

The magnitude of the O<sub>3</sub>-induced damage on GPP exceeded the growth-stimulating effect induced by nitrogen deposition over large parts of the 20th century and until the beginning of the 21st century (see Fig. 4c). In contrast to the near-surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations, the regional mean nitrogen deposition does not decline during the 21st century but slightly increases in RCP8.5 and RCP2.6. The growth-stimulating effect on GPP induced by nitrogen deposition becomes higher in magnitude during the 21st century compared to the detrimental effect of O<sub>3</sub> (see Figs. 4c and S8 and Table 4).

**Table 3.** Absolute and relative change in GPP, total carbon biomass in vegetation (vegetation C), soil organic matter carbon (soil C), and land carbon flux (land C flux) induced by changing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, climate, nitrogen deposition ( $N_{\text{dep}}$ ), and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations. The differences in GPP, vegetation C, soil C, and land C flux are presented for simulations of the past years (1850 to 2005) and for the entire simulation period (1850 to 2099). The reported change refers to the change between the last and the first year of the respective time periods. The given range indicates the estimates according to both approaches for calculating the O<sub>3</sub> impact.

RCP and time span	CO <sub>2</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>	Climate	Climate	$N_{\text{dep}}$	$N_{\text{dep}}$	O <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>3</sub>
	(PgC yr <sup>-1</sup> )	(%)	(PgC yr <sup>-1</sup> )	(%)	(PgC yr <sup>-1</sup> )	(%)	(PgC yr <sup>-1</sup> )	(%)
GPP								
Past 1850–2005	3.4	11.5	3.1	9.8	0.7	2.1	−1.1...−1.5	−3.4...−4.1
RCP2.6 1850–2099	6.3	21.5	5.2	14.6	1	2.5	0...0.1	0...0.1
RCP8.5 1850–2099	16.3	55.6	12.9	28.4	1.5	2.6	−0.3...−0.6	−0.6...−1
Vegetation C	(PgC)	(%)	(PgC)	(%)	(PgC)	(%)	(PgC)	(%)
Past 1850–2005	18.3	23	4.9	5.5	2.1	2.2	−8.9...−10.1	−9.2...−9.6
RCP2.6 1850–2099	42.7	53.7	20.2	17.2	4.4	3.2	−4.5...−5.1	−3.5...−3.7
RCP8.5 1850–2099	83.8	105.4	41.9	27.1	6.1	3.1	−8.4...−10.1	−4.8...−5.1
Soil C	(PgC)	(%)	(PgC)	(%)	(PgC)	(%)	(PgC)	(%)
Past 1850–2005	23.2	4.4	−2.2	−0.4	2.3	0.4	−7.5...−8.2	−1.3...−1.5
RCP2.6 1850–2099	64.8	12.2	−8.4	−1.4	5.7	1	−4.7...−5.5	−0.8...−0.9
RCP8.5 1850–2099	100.5	18.9	−37.6	−6	6	1	−7.5...−8	−1.2...−1.3
Land C flux	(PgC yr <sup>-1</sup> )	(%)	(PgC yr <sup>-1</sup> )	(%)	(PgC yr <sup>-1</sup> )	(%)	(PgC yr <sup>-1</sup> )	(%)
Past 1850–2005	−0.5	72.9	−0.4	40.2	−0.1	8.2	0.1...0.3	−11.9...−14.6
RCP2.6 1850–2099	0.3	−39.1	−1	188	0	3.3	−0.1...−0.2	13.3...36.1
RCP8.5 1850–2099	−1.3	201.9	−1.1	51.8	−0.1	2	−0.1	3.8...5.4

The growth-stimulating effect of nitrogen deposition on vegetation C remains lower in magnitude compared to the detrimental effects of O<sub>3</sub> for both emission scenarios throughout the entire simulation period (see Fig. 4d and Table 3). However, in simulations based on RCP2.6, the O<sub>3</sub>-induced reduction on vegetation C is at the end of the 21st century only slightly higher in magnitude compared to the growth-stimulating effect induced by nitrogen deposition (see Table 4).

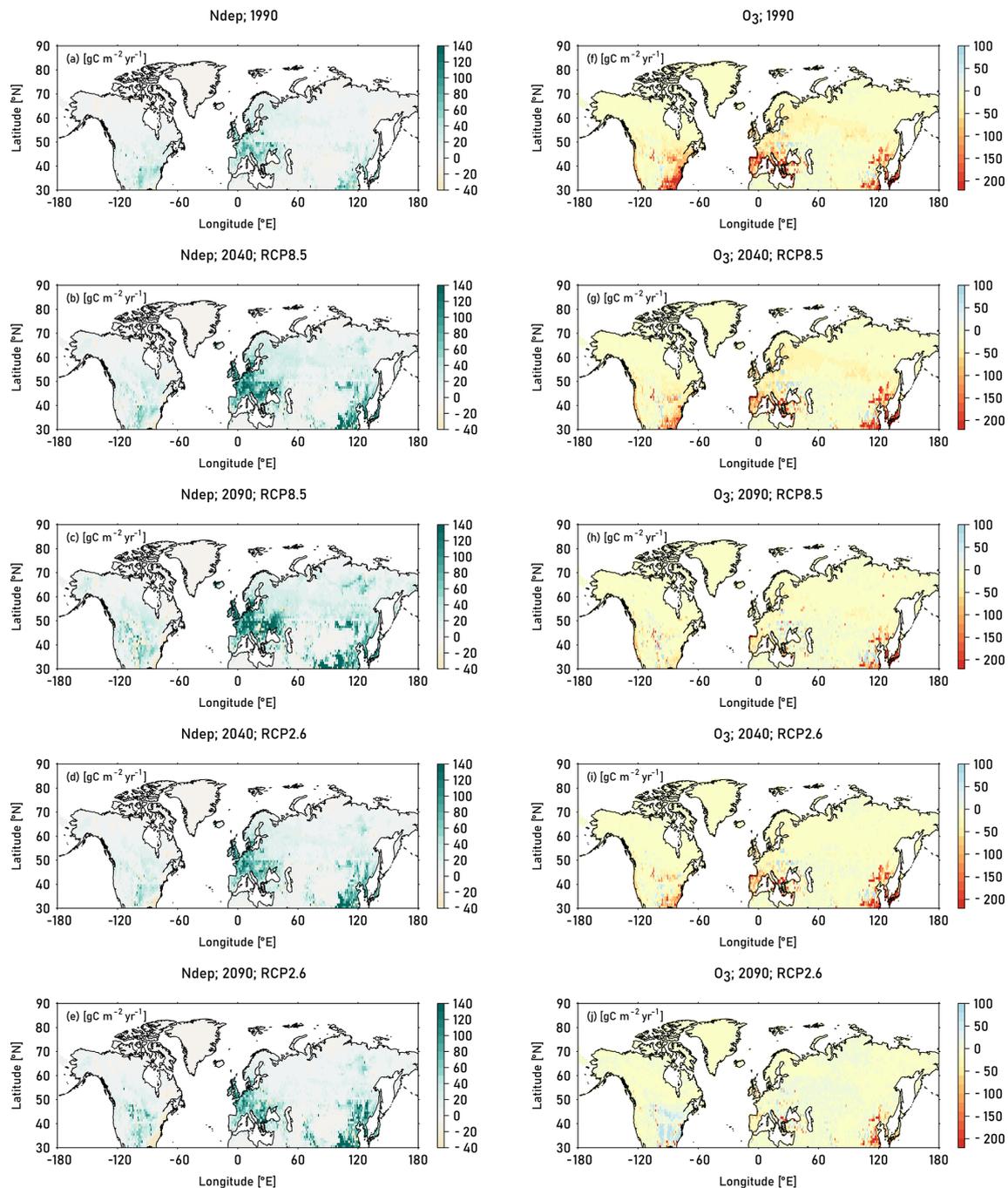
The extent of the simulated impact of O<sub>3</sub> and nitrogen deposition on the terrestrial carbon uptake (GPP) and storage (vegetation C) differs strongly within the simulated region. Nitrogen deposition stimulates GPP compared to simulations run with preindustrial deposition values mainly in Europe and East Asia. Simulated increases in GPP in these regions constitute about 80–140 gC m<sup>2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> for simulations run based on RCP8.5 (see left column in Fig. 8). In relative terms, peak increases of 10 %–16 % are found in parts of eastern, central, and northern Asia and small parts of Europe (see Fig. S7). Simulated increases in GPP are higher and hot spot areas more extended in the decade of 2090 compared to the 2040 decade for both RCPs (see Fig. S8). Simulations based on RCP2.6 exhibit similar patterns compared to simulations based on RCP8.5 but show a less strong increase in GPP induced by nitrogen deposition.

Nitrogen deposition induces peak increases in vegetation C of 500–600 gC m<sup>2</sup> compared to preindustrial values

in parts of Europe and East Asia (see Fig. 10). Highest relative increases in vegetation C of 14 %–17 % are simulated in the decades of 2040 and 2090 in regions of southern and northern Asia, where absolute changes are mostly small.

### 3.5 Impact of the O<sub>3</sub> deposition scheme

In the simulations presented in the previous sections, O–CN was applied with its O<sub>3</sub> deposition scheme turned on. To test the impact of the application of the O<sub>3</sub> deposition scheme on the estimated ozone damage, we reran the simulations with the O<sub>3</sub> deposition scheme turned off. In simulations where the O<sub>3</sub> deposition scheme is turned off, the O<sub>3</sub> is assumed to enter leaves directly, without accounting for the turbulent transport between the lower troposphere and the leaves and the deposition and destruction of O<sub>3</sub> on other surfaces. Turning off the O<sub>3</sub> deposition scheme results in considerably higher estimates of  $F_{\text{st}}$  and CUO1, resulting in higher damage estimates (see Fig. 9). In simulations where the O<sub>3</sub> deposition scheme is turned off, O<sub>3</sub>-induced reductions in GPP and vegetation C are approximately twice as high compared to simulations in which the O<sub>3</sub> deposition scheme is turned on. Peak reductions in the GPP amount are 3 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> ( $\approx$  8 %) compared to approximately 1.5 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> ( $\approx$  4 %) in simulations where the deposition scheme is turned on. At the end of the 21st century, the simulated reductions in vegetation carbon storage (vegetation C) constitute



**Figure 8.** Absolute change in GPP compared to preindustrial values induced by nitrogen deposition (left column) and  $O_3$  calculated according to approach 2 (right column). The induced change in GPP is displayed for the decades 1990 (mean of the years 1990–1999), 2040 (mean of the years 2040–2049), and 2090 (mean of the years 2090–2099). For the decades 2040 and 2090, results from simulations based on RCP8.5 and RCP2.6 are displayed. See Table 2 for details on the calculation of the single drivers.

25 PgC ( $\approx 11\%$ ) in simulations where the deposition scheme is turned off and 10 PgC ( $\approx 5\%$ ) in simulations where the deposition scheme is driven by the RCP8.5 scenario. As for GPP and vegetation C, the omission of the  $O_3$  deposition scheme causes, roughly, a doubling of the simulated damage

to soil carbon organic matter (soil C) and summed land carbon flux (land C flux).

**Table 4.** Mean percent change in GPP, total carbon biomass in vegetation (vegetation C), and land carbon flux (land C flux) induced by O<sub>3</sub> during the decades of 1990 (1990–1999), 2040 (2040–2049), and 2090 (2090–2099) compared to preindustrial values for the Northern Hemisphere north of 30°N (NH30) for Europe, USA, and China. The given range indicates the estimates according to both approaches for calculating the O<sub>3</sub> impact. The spread in the effect sizes due to interannual variability, derived from error propagation of the yearly estimates, is displayed in Table S1.

Region	Pollutant	1990	2040 RCP8.5	2040 RCP2.6	2090 RCP8.5	2090 RCP2.6
<b>GPP</b>						
NH30	O <sub>3</sub>	−3.8...−4.3	−2.0...−2.8	−1.3...−2.0	−0.7...−1.0	0...−0.2
NH30	N <sub>dep</sub>	1.8	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.4
Europe	O <sub>3</sub>	−4.5...−4.9	−2.2...−2.6	−1.4...−1.9	−0.8	−0.2...−0.3
Europe	N <sub>dep</sub>	2.7	3.8	2.9	2.9	2.5
USA	O <sub>3</sub>	−4.7...−5.0	−2.1...−2.7	−1.7...−2.1	−0.8...−1.1	0.3...1.0
USA	N <sub>dep</sub>	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.9
China	O <sub>3</sub>	−9.2...−10.1	−7.8...−10.8	−7.1...−8.6	−1.6...−2.8	−3.8...−5.7
China	N <sub>dep</sub>	2.9	5.5	6.1	6.4	7
<b>Vegetation C</b>						
NH30	O <sub>3</sub>	−8.5...−8.9	−8.4...−8.8	−7.4...−7.6	−5.1...−5.4	−3.8...−3.9
NH30	N <sub>dep</sub>	1.8	3.3	3	3.2	3.2
Europe	O <sub>3</sub>	−10.8...−11.5	−9.9...−10.6	−8.8...−9.3	−6.1...−6.4	−4.9
Europe	N <sub>dep</sub>	3.2	4.7	4.2	3.6	4
USA	O <sub>3</sub>	−11.9...−12.5	−10.8...−11.7	−9.7...−10.2...	−6.5...−6.8	−4.1...−4.3
USA	N <sub>dep</sub>	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.3
China	O <sub>3</sub>	−15.1...−15.9	−26.3...−29.3	−22.9...−24.4	−15.8...−18.5	−16.2...−16.4
China	N <sub>dep</sub>	1.6	2.8	4	3.9	6.2
<b>Land C flux</b>						
NH30	O <sub>3</sub>	−20.7...−21.2	0...−2.2	6.2...7.4	3.5...6.9	15.7...16.2
NH30	N <sub>dep</sub>	9.7	5	4.9	1.6	3
Europe	O <sub>3</sub>	−23.7...−25.6	0.4...−1.7	9...9.9	4.6...15.7	15...17.1
Europe	N <sub>dep</sub>	15.6	5.9	4.4	−6.7	−0.2
USA	O <sub>3</sub>	−18.4...−20.4	0.6...1.1	8.3...10.1	2.9...6.4	16.4...19.9
USA	N <sub>dep</sub>	4.3	0.7	−0.7	−1.9	0.9
China	O <sub>3</sub>	−58.8...−62.9	−7.3...−12.8	−1.1...−1.7	11.3...24.8	24.9...30.7
China	N <sub>dep</sub>	24.6	9.9	13.8	14.1	15.4

#### 4 Discussion

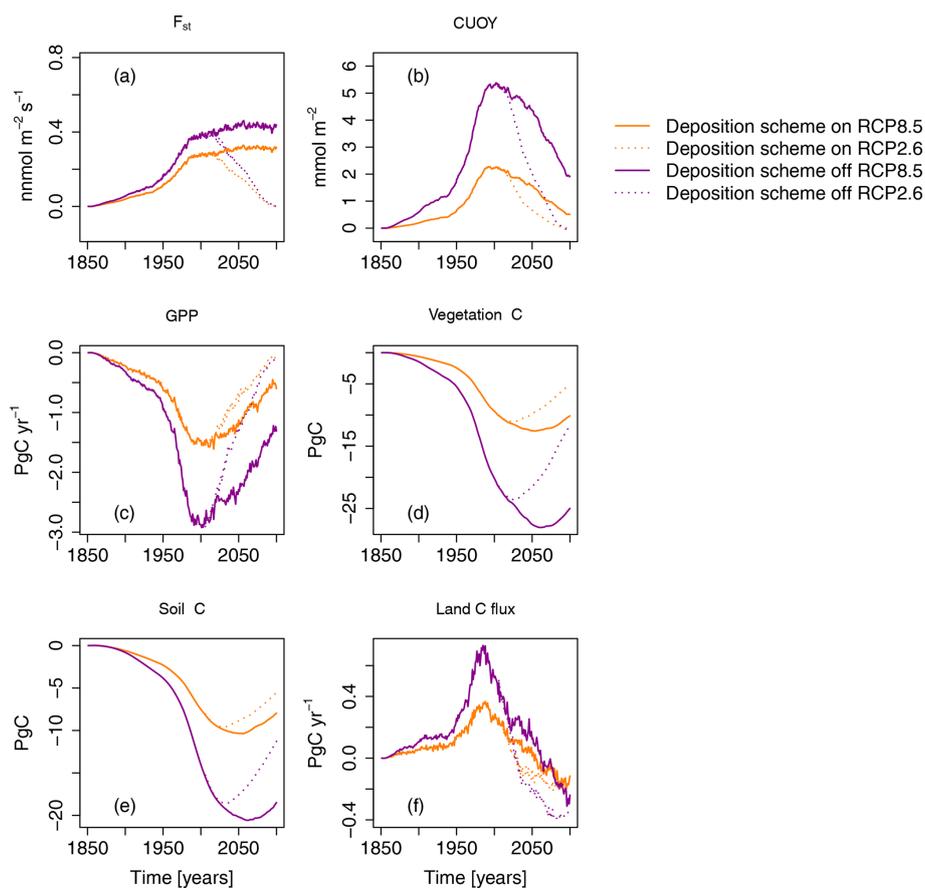
The simulations of the Northern Hemisphere biosphere from 1850–2099, according to the representative concentration pathway scenarios 2.6 and 8.5, indicate that air pollution (O<sub>3</sub> and nitrogen deposition) may have considerably affected carbon uptake and plant growth in the past and will continue to have a considerable impact during the 21st century.

In our simulations, nitrogen deposition stimulates the simulated land carbon sink of the Northern Hemisphere  $\geq 30^\circ$  N the strongest in the period between 1950 and 2050 by 5%–25% (0.02...0.15 PgC yr<sup>−1</sup>) compared to preindustrial values.

These values are broadly consistent with a meta-analysis by Schulte-Uebbing and de Vries (2018), who estimated that nitrogen stimulates the global land carbon sink in aboveground and belowground woody biomass by 0.112–0.243 PgC yr<sup>−1</sup>. Global carbon storage in forests was esti-

mated to increase by about 0.27 PgC yr<sup>−1</sup> as induced by N deposition for the period 1997–2013 in simulations based on RCP4.5 (Wang et al., 2017). Thomas et al. (2010) found that the aboveground biomass increment increased by 40% compared to preindustrial conditions in the northeastern and north-central USA during the 1980s and 1990s, from which they estimate that N deposition stimulates global tree carbon storage by 0.3 PgC yr<sup>−1</sup>.

Our simulations indicate a O<sub>3</sub>-induced reduction in the land C flux of 0.4 PgC yr<sup>−1</sup> in the decade of 1990. During the 21st century, the O<sub>3</sub> effect on the land C flux is reversed and becomes positive. This is caused by lower increases in soil respiration due to climate change as a result of O<sub>3</sub>-induced declines of net primary production and, thus, litter fall. This highlights the importance of investigating interactive processes on longer timescales together to obtain a better understanding of their net effect on the land carbon sink.



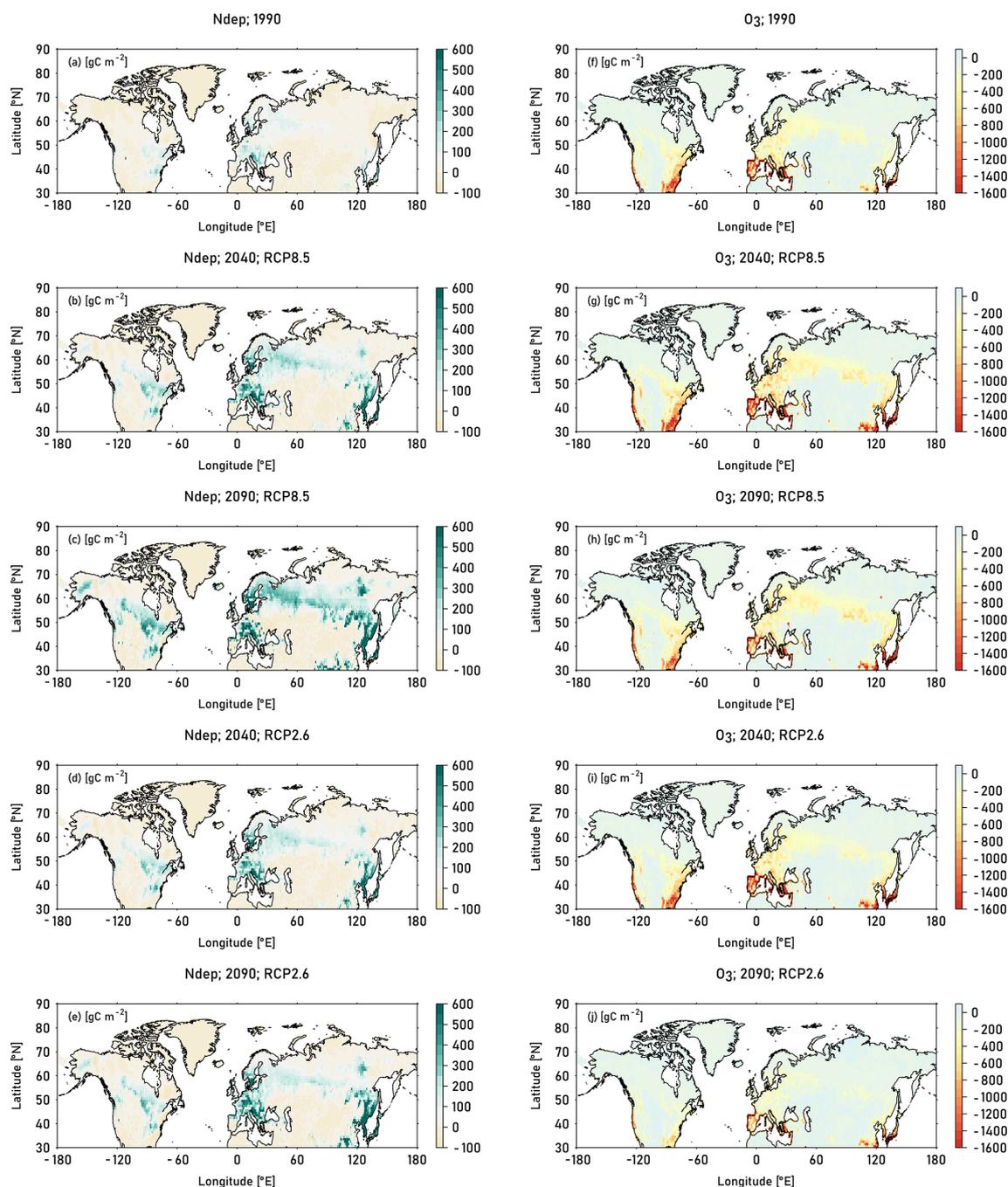
**Figure 9.** Ozone impacts on the regional mean  $O_3$  uptake ( $F_{st}$ ), mean cumulative  $O_3$  uptake above a flux threshold of  $1 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (CUO1), summed GPP, total carbon biomass in vegetation (vegetation C), summed carbon soil organic matter (soil C), and summed land carbon flux (land C flux) compared to preindustrial values in the simulation region. The displayed  $O_3$  impact is calculated based on approach 2. Orange lines indicate results based on a model version in which the  $O_3$  deposition scheme is turned on. Magenta lines indicate results based on a model version in which the  $O_3$  deposition scheme is turned off. Solid lines indicate results from simulations based on RCP8.5, and dotted lines are results from simulations based on RCP2.6. The effect of the seasonal cycle is smoothed by the application of a moving average of 12 months (a, b).

The stimulating effect of nitrogen deposition on regional mean GPP and biomass is lower in magnitude compared to the detrimental effect of  $O_3$  during most of the simulation period for both RCPs (results for RCP2.6 not shown). Both effects approximately even out in their impact on the mean regional GPP by 2030–2050. By the end of the 21st century, the stimulating effect of nitrogen deposition on GPP exceeds the negative impact induced by  $O_3$ . However, regions that experience strong  $O_3$ -induced negative effects do not always coincide with regions that benefit from the stimulating effect of nitrogen deposition (see Fig. S8).

During the 21st century, the cumulative  $O_3$  uptake above a flux threshold of  $1 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (CUO1), on which the damage calculations are based, declines due to the impact of the  $CO_2$  fertilization effect on stomatal conductance and  $O_3$  uptake. This result is in agreement with Oliver et al. (2018), who found in Europe-wide simulations that elevated future  $CO_2$  levels and reductions in  $O_3$  concentrations result in re-

duced  $O_3$ -induced damage values by 2050. Induced by the simulated decline in CUO1, the mean regional reduction in GPP decreases in the decade of 2050 to approximately 2 % in simulations based on RCP8.5 and 1 %–1.5 % in simulations based on RCP2.6. By the end of the 21st century, damage induced by elevated levels of  $O_3$  decreases to approximately 1 % in simulations based on RCP8.5 and close to zero for RCP2.6. Simulations with the Joint UK Land Environment Simulator (JULES) model estimate a 8 %–15 % reduction in global GPP between 1901–2100 (Sitch et al., 2007). A more recent version of the JULES model suggests a 4 %–9 % reduction in European GPP due to  $O_3$  between 1901 and 2050 (Oliver et al., 2018). Both estimates are higher compared to the simulation results here (see Table 4).

Our estimates of the impact of  $O_3$  on the land C sink are smaller than that of Oliver et al. (2018), who simulated a  $O_3$ -induced reduction in the land C sink by  $-0.7 \dots -1.3 \text{ PgC}$  in the decade of 1970. The simulated detrimental  $O_3$  effect



**Figure 10.** Absolute change in the total carbon biomass in vegetation (vegetation C) compared to preindustrial values induced by nitrogen deposition (left column) and  $O_3$  calculated according to approach 2 (right column). The induced change in the total carbon biomass is displayed for the decades 1990 (mean of the years 1990–1999), 2040 (mean of the years 2040–2049), and 2090 (mean of the years 2090–2099). For the decades 2040 and 2090, results from simulations based on RCP8.5 and RCP2.6 are displayed. See Table 2 for details on the calculation of the single drivers.

declines in the following decades to  $-0.3\text{...}-0.5\text{ PgC}$  in the period of 2002–2011. A possible reason for the higher estimates by Sitch et al. (2007) is the absence of a  $O_3$  deposition scheme in JULES, which might have caused higher surface  $O_3$  concentrations and, hence, increased  $O_3$  uptake and in-

duced damage. The near-surface  $O_3$  concentrations used in the simulations here to force the model report  $O_3$  concentrations at a height of approximately 45 m above the surface. The  $O_3$  deposition scheme included in O–CN uses the  $O_3$

concentration of the free troposphere to calculate the O<sub>3</sub> concentration at canopy level.

If the O<sub>3</sub> concentration from the forcing is used as if being at canopy level, the O–CN model simulates a higher O<sub>3</sub> uptake. Following this, doubly high damage values to GPP and vegetation C are calculated compared to simulations where the deposition scheme is applied to calculate the canopy level O<sub>3</sub> concentration. This highlights the importance of using canopy level O<sub>3</sub> concentrations to calculate O<sub>3</sub> uptake and damage to prevent a considerable overestimation of O<sub>3</sub>-induced damage.

#### 4.1 Air pollution impacts on GPP and total carbon biomass

The average O<sub>3</sub> effect on GPP in the Northern Hemisphere ( $\geq 30^\circ$  N) increases until the 1990s, when GPP is reduced by approximately 4 % compared to the preindustrial period. Regional hot spots in southern Europe, East Asia, and the eastern USA exhibit O<sub>3</sub> induced reductions of 8 %–11 % for the decade of 1990. In a meta-analysis by Wittig et al. (2009), net photosynthesis damage of trees grown in ambient O<sub>3</sub> concentrations vs. charcoal-filtered air is estimated to amount to 11 % and 19 % for trees grown in elevated O<sub>3</sub> concentrations vs. charcoal-filtered air. Lombardozzi et al. (2013) estimates damage to net photosynthesis of temperate deciduous trees to amount to 12 % and 16 % for temperate evergreen trees. A reduction of 28 % in net photosynthesis is estimated for woody plants grown in elevated O<sub>3</sub> compared to a control by Li et al. (2017). Simulated O<sub>3</sub> damage values in hot spot areas are close to the lower damage estimates suggested by Wittig et al. (2009) and Lombardozzi et al. (2013), while the regional means, including many areas with low O<sub>3</sub> exposure, result in lower average O<sub>3</sub> damage than estimated by these meta-analyses.

Several process-based models estimated O<sub>3</sub>-induced damage to GPP or net primary production (NPP) on global or regional scales. A mean global O<sub>3</sub>-induced reduction in NPP of 0.8 %–2.9 % from 1989 to 1993 is estimated by the Terrestrial Ecosystem Model (TEM; Felzer et al., 2005). Simulations with the community land model suggest a 10.8 % reduction in global mean GPP for present-day O<sub>3</sub> concentrations (Lombardozzi et al., 2015). A mean reduction in NPP of 4.5 % in China between 1961–2000 is estimated by a process-based dynamic land ecosystem model (Ren et al., 2007). The simulation of O<sub>3</sub> damage to China's forests suggest a 0.2 %–1.6 % decrease in NPP from the 1960s to 2005 (Ren et al., 2011). Simulations using the TEM estimate a mean reduction in NPP of 2.6 %–6.8 % in the USA for the period of the late 1980s to early 1990s (Felzer et al., 2004). The Yale Interactive terrestrial Biosphere (YIBs) model simulates a 4 %–8 % damage to GPP due to O<sub>3</sub> in the eastern USA and a 8 %–17 % damage in hot spots for the decade of 1998–2007 (Yue and Unger, 2014). In the Euro–Mediterranean region, a reduction in GPP of 22 % is estimated for the year 2002 by

the ORCHIDEE model (Anav et al., 2011). The mean GPP of the years 2001–2010 in Europe is simulated to be reduced by 7.6 % compared to not accounting for O<sub>3</sub> damage by the O–CN model (Franz et al., 2017). Here, on a regional mean basis, O<sub>3</sub>-induced reductions of about 4 % are simulated at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century compared to preindustrial values. At the end of the 21st century, close to zero O<sub>3</sub>-induced reductions in GPP are simulated by O–CN here. An exception are hot spots, like East Asia, where peak decreases of more than 8 % are simulated for both RCPs at the end of 21st century. Our damage estimates here are lower compared to at least most of the previous estimates suggested by biosphere models.

In our simulations, the O<sub>3</sub>-induced regional reduction in total carbon biomass in vegetation (vegetation C) reaches peak values of 8 %–10 % at the end of the 20th century and the first half of the 21st century. Damage values of 20 %–23 % are simulated in damage hot spots in southern Europe, East Asia, and the eastern and western USA for the decade of 1990 (see Fig. S9). A meta-analysis conducted with trees suggests a 7 % reduction in total biomass for trees grown in ambient air compared to charcoal-filtered air and a 17 % reduction for trees grown in elevated O<sub>3</sub> concentrations compared to charcoal-filtered air (Wittig et al., 2009). In a meta-analysis by Li et al. (2017), a 14 % reduction in total biomass is calculated for trees grown in elevated O<sub>3</sub> concentrations (mean of 116 ppb – parts per billion) compared to controls grown in a mean O<sub>3</sub> concentration of 21 ppb. The simulated regional mean estimate of O<sub>3</sub>-induced damage to vegetation C is higher compared to the estimate of trees grown in ambient vs. charcoal-filtered air by Wittig et al. (2009) and lower compared to trees grown in elevated O<sub>3</sub> vs. charcoal-filtered air or a mean of 21 ppb O<sub>3</sub> (Wittig et al., 2009; Li et al., 2017). Simulated damage values in the hot spots are higher compared to the estimates by the meta-analyses.

Our simulated declines in O<sub>3</sub>-induced damage to GPP and vegetation C during the 21st century generally agree with simulated reductions in potential threat to vegetation by Klingberg et al. (2014).

Klingberg et al. (2014) report that, by 2050, the O<sub>3</sub> exposure index AOT40 (Accumulated exposure Over a Threshold of 40 ppb O<sub>3</sub>) is projected to decrease over wide areas of Europe below the critical levels defined by the EU directive (2008/50/EC) and the Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) convention in simulations of the chemistry transport model, MATCH, driven by the RCP4.5 emission scenario. Their simulations suggest that the more physiologically based O<sub>3</sub> damage index POD1 (Phytotoxic Ozone Dose above a threshold of 1 nmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) declines as well; however, this is to a lesser extent compared to the AOT40 index and is not below critical levels defined for forest trees (Klingberg et al., 2014).

An ensemble of six global atmospheric chemistry transport models project improvements of the AOT40 index in the Northern Hemisphere by 2099 under RCP2.6 and RCP4.5,

while critical levels continue to be exceeded over many areas (Sicard et al., 2017). By 2099, the potential impact of O<sub>3</sub> on photosynthesis and carbon assimilation is projected to decline by 61 % under the RCP2.6 scenario, by 47 % under RCP4.5, and increase by 70 % under the RCP8.5 scenario compared to the early 2000s (Sicard et al., 2017).

#### 4.2 Interactive effects of O<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>

Elevated levels of CO<sub>2</sub> (eCO<sub>2</sub>) have the potential to induce stomatal closure (Paoletti and Grulke, 2005), which might limit O<sub>3</sub> uptake and damage. Contradictory evidence exists showing that either eCO<sub>2</sub> ameliorated the negative effects of O<sub>3</sub> on plants (Barnes and Pfirrmann, 1992; Broadmeadow and Jackson, 2000; Isebrands et al., 2001; Riikonen et al., 2004) or that there was little interaction between both gases, and the stimulating effect of eCO<sub>2</sub> on NPP persisted (Talhelm et al., 2014; Zak et al., 2011). Results from the Aspen FACE (Free-Air Carbon Dioxide Enrichment) experiment indicate that stomatal conductance and O<sub>3</sub> uptake were not reduced by eCO<sub>2</sub> in their experiment (Uddling et al., 2010) and that O<sub>3</sub> fumigation completely offset the growth enhancement observed in the eCO<sub>2</sub> treatment for O<sub>3</sub>-sensitive and O<sub>3</sub>-tolerant clones (Karnosky et al., 2003).

Several studies find species-specific positive or negative impacts of eCO<sub>2</sub> and elevated levels of O<sub>3</sub> (eCO<sub>3</sub>) on photosynthesis (Noormets et al., 2001), growth (Isebrands et al., 2001), and biomass (King et al., 2005). An amplification of the negative effects of O<sub>3</sub> under eCO<sub>2</sub> on leaf chlorophyll content, nitrogen content, and electron transport capacity ( $J_{\max}$ ) was observed in O<sub>3</sub>-sensitive and O<sub>3</sub>-tolerant aspen clones (Noormets et al., 2010). A possible reason for the amplification of O<sub>3</sub>-induced negative effects under eCO<sub>2</sub> is a possible downregulation or suppression of antioxidant production under eCO<sub>2</sub> and, hence, increased injury (Wustman et al., 2001; Karnosky et al., 2003). All in all, a clear picture of the joint effects of eCO<sub>2</sub> + eCO<sub>3</sub> on plants or plant groups is still lacking.

Terrestrial biosphere models often assume a tight coupling between net photosynthesis and stomatal conductance, which induces stomatal closure in case of simulated eCO<sub>2</sub> and restricts O<sub>3</sub> uptake and damage (Felzer et al., 2004, 2005; Sitch et al., 2007; Oliver et al., 2018; Yue and Unger, 2014). For example, Sitch et al. (2007) simulated a 6 %–9 % reduction in O<sub>3</sub>-induced damage to GPP due to elevated levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and a 5 %–10 % reduction in the ozone-related effect on land carbon storage between the years 1901 and 2100 in a scenario with strongly rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Oliver et al. (2018) simulated a 1 %–2 % decrease in O<sub>3</sub>-induced damage to GPP and land carbon storage caused by elevated levels of CO<sub>2</sub> between 1901 and 2050. The largest simulated impact of O<sub>3</sub> on the land carbon sink occurred during the 20th century when the tropospheric O<sub>3</sub> concentration rose quickly (Oliver et al., 2018). During the 21st century, simulated O<sub>3</sub> concentrations changed less, and the simulated elevated levels of CO<sub>2</sub> re-

stricted O<sub>3</sub> uptake and induced damage (Oliver et al., 2018). This agrees well with our findings here that O<sub>3</sub>-induced damage increases from preindustrial times until the end of the 20th century (GPP) or the beginning of the 21st century (vegetation C) and afterwards decreases again (see Fig. 7).

However, the simulation of reduced O<sub>3</sub> uptake and incurred damage induced by eCO<sub>2</sub> does not mirror all the effects observed in field experiments (Wustman et al., 2001; Karnosky et al., 2003; Noormets et al., 2010). Similar to other terrestrial biosphere models, O–CN does not account for observed effects like an exacerbation of O<sub>3</sub>-induced damage due to eCO<sub>2</sub> (Wustman et al., 2001; Karnosky et al., 2003) or unaltered rates of stomatal conductance and O<sub>3</sub> uptake under eCO<sub>2</sub> (Uddling et al., 2010). Following this, the presented low values of simulated future O<sub>3</sub> damage represent a possible future scenario under the assumption that the large majority of plants react to the combined exposure of elevated levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> with a reduced stomatal uptake of O<sub>3</sub> and reduced incurred damage.

#### 4.3 Limitations of comparisons between publications

When interpreting the comparison of our results and previously published simulation results, one has to keep in mind that the different modeling setups and approaches differ in several aspects that considerably affect the damage estimate. Models often apply different injury functions which relate O<sub>3</sub> uptake to plant damage (Lombardozzi et al., 2012, 2015; Franz et al., 2017; Oliver et al., 2018). However, injury functions have the potential to induce considerable over- or underestimation of simulated biomass damage compared to measured damage values (Franz et al., 2018). Simulations differ in the time period covered, e.g., Sitch et al. (2007), with 1901–2100, Lombardozzi et al. (2015), with 25 years with an average O<sub>3</sub> concentration of the years 2002–2009, Franz et al. (2017), with 1961–2011, and Oliver et al. (2018), with 1901–2050. They also differ in the forcing considered, e.g., the representation of changing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, nitrogen deposition and land cover and/or land use change. For instance, Sitch et al. (2007) simulate changing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, while Lombardozzi et al. (2015) do not; Franz et al. (2017) account for changing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and nitrogen deposition but use static land cover (kept fixed at 2005 levels), and Oliver et al. (2018) simulate changing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and a partly fixed land cover but no effect of N deposition. Furthermore, damage estimates are calculated based on different reference periods and conditions. Damage might be given as the difference between a simulation accounting for O<sub>3</sub> damage compared to a reference simulation not accounting for O<sub>3</sub> damage (Lombardozzi et al., 2015; Franz et al., 2017). Another approach is to report the damage simulated between a specific time period. Sitch et al. (2007) calculate O<sub>3</sub>-induced damage between 1901–2100 and Oliver et al. (2018) between 1901–2001 and 2001–2050.

Different modeling studies apply differing emission scenarios, e.g., Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Emission Scenarios (IPCC SRES; Sitch et al., 2007) and the RCP scenarios used here, which might impact simulated O<sub>3</sub> uptake and incurred damage. The application of the IPCC SRES scenarios, which assume a large increase in O<sub>3</sub> precursor emissions, imply an increase in annual global mean surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations by 4–6 ppb (Wild et al., 2012). Contrary to this, the application of the RCP scenarios (Moss et al., 2010; van Vuuren et al., 2011) in 14 global chemistry transport models results in the projection of declining annual global mean surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations of as much as 2 ppb by 2050 in most regions of the globe, except South Asia where increases are simulated (Wild et al., 2012). Lower projected ozone-induced damage in our study compared to Sitch et al. (2007) is therefore also a consequence of the assumed scenario.

Turnock et al. (2020) found that the sixth Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6) model overestimates observed surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations by up to 16 ppb across most regions of the globe. This will likely lead to a general overestimation of simulated O<sub>3</sub> damage by terrestrial biosphere models. However, the ozone deposition scheme included in O–CN has the potential to ameliorate this observed discrepancy. The calculation of canopy level O<sub>3</sub> concentrations from the lowest level O<sub>3</sub> concentrations of the forcing data are lower and, thus, probably closer to the observations.

A further important difference between the published results is the time resolution of the O<sub>3</sub> forcing applied in the simulations. Some studies used hourly O<sub>3</sub> forcing (e.g., Lombardozzi et al., 2015; Franz et al., 2017; Oliver et al., 2018) and others are forced by monthly diurnal mean values (e.g., Sitch et al., 2007 and the simulations here). As the formation of O<sub>3</sub> shows a pronounced diurnal cycle (Sanz et al., 2007), the use of monthly mean O<sub>3</sub> concentrations probably impacts the simulated estimates of O<sub>3</sub> uptake. However, to what extent the omission of a diurnal cycle impacts O<sub>3</sub> uptake, accumulation, and damage estimates is yet uncertain.

#### 4.4 Limits to the parameterization of O<sub>3</sub> damage in O–CN

Plants can activate defense mechanism and physiological pathways to produce protective compounds like ascorbate and polyamines which can detoxify at least part of the ozone taken up (Kangasjärvi et al., 1994; Kronfuß et al., 1998; Tausz et al., 2007). In the simulations conducted here, we account for detoxification by introducing a flux threshold but do not account for the cost for producing protective compounds like antioxidants due to the lack of suitable data. This could potentially introduce a bias towards underestimating damage to GPP if the leaf injury parameterizations are based on leaf-level data.

Ozone sensitivity is known to differ between plant groups, plant species, and between genotypes (Wittig et al., 2007;

Lombardozzi et al., 2013; Li et al., 2017; Hayes et al., 2007; Karnosky et al., 2003). The assumed injury function is a key aspect of the simulation of O<sub>3</sub> damage and has a large impact on the extent of the estimated damage (Franz et al., 2018). However, the scarcity of suitable data restricts the possibility to parameterize injury functions for all simulated PFTs (e.g., 12 PFTs in O–CN), let alone a variation of the O<sub>3</sub> sensitivity within PFTs. Furthermore, it restricts the evaluation of O<sub>3</sub> submodels and the included injury functions. The injury functions used for the simulations here are tuned to reproduce observed biomass damage from filtration and/or fumigation experiments of broadleaved and needleleaved tree species (Franz et al., 2018). The simulations are restricted to the Northern Hemisphere ( $\geq 30^\circ$  N) to limit the domain of simulation to temperate and/or boreal forests and, thus, similar species as used for the tuning of the injury functions. Due to the lack of suitable damage functions for grass species, we here applied the damage functions developed to match damage to trees. This induces a bias in the damage estimates and will likely result in an underestimation of simulated damage for example for the crop plant functional types.

The biomass damage experiments used to parameterize the injury function in O–CN were conducted with young trees grown in monocultures. The common attempt to estimate responses of adult trees grown under natural conditions by the extrapolation of results from short-term experiments with young trees is subject to several issues, e.g., due to the differing environmental conditions and changing O<sub>3</sub> sensitivities with increasing tree size or age (Schaub et al., 2005; Cailleret et al., 2018; Franz et al., 2018). It is yet uncertain if the simulation of injury to photosynthesis based on experiments with young trees can be transferred to adult trees to obtain realistic biomass damage estimates.

Differing O<sub>3</sub> sensitivities can induce changes in community composition (Barbo et al., 1998; Kubiske et al., 2007; Zak et al., 2011) and the interactive effects of changing CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations (Karnosky et al., 2003). The responses of plants grown under interspecific competition, e.g., in forests, may not be transferred from results of filtration and/or fumigation experiments (with elevated CO<sub>2</sub> and/or O<sub>3</sub>) of plants grown in monocultures (Kozovits et al., 2005). For instance, Zak et al. (2011) found that initial declines in forest productivity induced by elevated levels of O<sub>3</sub> were compensated for by the growth of O<sub>3</sub>-tolerant individuals, resulting in an equivalent NPP between ambient and elevated levels of O<sub>3</sub>. Simulations by an individual-based forest model indicate that O<sub>3</sub> damage might not reduce the carbon sequestration capacity of forests if the reduced carbon fixation of O<sub>3</sub>-sensitive species is compensated by increased carbon fixation of less O<sub>3</sub>-sensitive species at the ecosystem level (Wang et al., 2016). The simulation of community dynamics is limited in O–CN, as it does not account for species, and therefore, acclimation processes at the ecosystem level are not accounted for. The effect of interspecific competition on O<sub>3</sub> damage is not reflected in the used injury function

as the experiments are conducted with monocultures. These two factors can contribute to an overestimation of simulated damage.

The application of present-day land use information fixed to the year 2000 in our simulations may affect simulated trends of GPP, canopy conductance, and biomass production in regions where land cover and/or land use have historically changed or are projected to change during the scenario period. This can lead to a discrepancy in the simulated effect of nitrogen deposition and O<sub>3</sub> damage. For example, O<sub>3</sub> damage differs between plant functional types, and a shift to highly productive crops would result in an increase in damage.

Holding the N fertilizer application at the year 2000 levels in our simulations here imposes a bias on the simulated GPP, biomass production, and O<sub>3</sub> damage in regions where fertilizer application changed. Regions in which fertilizer application decreased would show a reduction in growth stimulation along with a reduction in O<sub>3</sub> damage. Regions exposed to increases in fertilizer application would exhibit a stimulation in growth along with an increase in O<sub>3</sub> damage.

The simulations conducted here are run offline, and following this, atmosphere and biosphere do not induce feedback on one another. Forcing variables like O<sub>3</sub> concentrations and nitrogen deposition are provided by a different model than the climate. This imposes an inconsistency between the biosphere, climate, and the abundance of the air pollutants for which the formation depends on climate variables. This contributes to unavoidable inconsistencies between the atmospheric forcing and the land fluxes when making offline simulations compared to a simulation with a fully coupled Earth system model. However, these limitations do not invalidate the simulated sensitivity of the land carbon cycle simulation to the forcing applied.

## 5 Conclusions

O<sub>3</sub> damage considerably reduced simulated carbon uptake (GPP) and storage (vegetation C) in the simulation area, where the maximal impact occurs at the end of the 20th century and beginning of the 21st century, respectively. The detrimental O<sub>3</sub> impact declines during the 21st century and reaches mean regional reductions of 0%–1% for GPP and 4%–5% for vegetation C by the end of the 21st century compared to preindustrial values. However, in hot spots, decreases in GPP of more than 8% (East Asia) and decreases in vegetation C of more than 15% (parts of Europe, eastern and western USA, and East Asia) are simulated at the end of the 21st century. Nitrogen deposition increases GPP less than O<sub>3</sub> impacts decrease it for most of the simulated period. The increasing effect of nitrogen deposition on vegetation C is lower compared to the decreasing effect of O<sub>3</sub> for the entire simulation period. Accounting for the stimulating effects of

nitrogen deposition but omitting the detrimental effect of O<sub>3</sub> can lead to an overestimation of carbon uptake and storage.

*Code availability.* We cannot make the code publicly available because part of it was not developed by the authors and is not publicly available.

*Data availability.* No original measurements were used.

*Supplement.* The supplement related to this article is available online at: <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-18-3219-2021-supplement>.

*Author contributions.* MF and SZ developed the experiment design. MF performed the simulations and analyses and led the writing of the paper.

*Competing interests.* The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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