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Expansion of oil palm and other cash crops causes an increase of land surface temperature in Indonesia

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Abstract

Indonesia is currently one of the regions with the highest transformation rate of the land surface worldwide due to the expansion of oil palm plantations and other cash crops replacing forests on large scales. Land cover changes, which modify land surface properties, have a direct effect on the land surface temperature (LST), a key driver for many ecological functions. Despite the large historic land transformation in Indonesia toward oil palm and other cash crops and governmental plans for future expansion, this is the first study so far to quantify the impact of land transformation in Indonesia on LST. We analyse LST from the thermal band of a Landsat image and produce a high resolution surface temperature map (30m) for the lowlands of the Jambi province on Sumatra (Indonesia), a region of large land transformation towards oil palm and other cash crops over the past decades. We compare LST, albedo, Normalized Differenced Vegetation Index (NDVI), and evapotranspiration (ET) of seven different land cover types (forest, urban areas, clear cut land, young and mature oil palm plantations, acacia and rubber plantations) and show that forests have lower surface temperatures than these land cover types indicating a local warming effect after forest conversion with LST differences up to 10.09 ± 2.6 ºC (mean ± SD) between forest and clear cut land. The differences in surface temperatures are explained by an evaporative cooling effect offsetting an albedo warming effect. Our analysis of the LST trend of the past 16 years based on MODIS data shows that the average daytime surface temperature of the Jambi province increased by 1.05 ºC, which followed the trend of observed land cover changes and exceed the effects of climate warming. Our study provides evidence that the expansion of oil palm plantations and other cash crops leads to changes in biophysical variables, warming the land surface and thus enhancing the increase in air temperature due to climate change.

Keywords: Land surface temperature, albedo, NDVI, evapotranspiration, biophysical variables, oil palm, remote sensing, Landsat, MODIS, Indonesia, land-use / land cover change

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1 Introduction

Indonesia is one of the regions where the expansion of cash crop monocultures such as acacia (timber plantation), rubber, oil palm plantations and smallholder agriculture has drastically reduced the area of primary forest in the past decades (Bridhikitti and Overcamp, 2012; Drescher et al., 2016; Marlier et al., 2015; Miettinen et al., 2012; Verstraeten et al., 2005). This large scale conversion of rainforest for agricultural use has been observed on the island of Sumatra, which has experienced the highest primary rainforest cover loss in all of Indonesia (Drescher et al., 2016; Margono et al., 2012; Miettinen et al., 2011). Forest cover in the Sumatran provinces of Riau, North Sumatra and Jambi, declined from 93 to 38% of provincial area between 1977 and 2009 (Miettinen et al., 2012). These large scale transformations, observed as land cover change, and land-use intensification have led to substantial losses in animal and plant diversity, and ecosystem functions and changed microclimatic conditions (Clough et al., 2016; Dislich et al., 2016; Drescher et al., 2016). Additionally, these changes directly alter vegetation cover and structure as well as land surface properties such as albedo, emissivity and surface roughness which affect gas and energy exchange processes between the land surface and the atmosphere (Bright et al., 2015).

Replacing natural vegetation with another land cover modifies the surface albedo, which affects the amount of solar radiation that is absorbed or reflected and consequently alters net radiation and local surface energy balance. A low or high albedo results in smaller or greater reflection of shortwave radiation. As a result the higher or lower amounts of net radiation absorption may rise or lower the surface temperature and change evapotranspiration (Mahmood et al., 2014).

Changes in land cover also alter surface emissivity, i.e. the ratio of radiation emitted from a surface to the radiation emitted from an ideal black body at the same temperature following the

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Stefan–Boltzmann law. Emissivity of vegetated surfaces varies with plant species, density, growth stage, water content and surface roughness (Snyder et al., 1998; Weng et al., 2004). A change of emissivity affects the net radiation because it determines the emission of longwave radiation that contributes to radiative cooling (Mahmood et al., 2014).

Water availability, surface type, soil humidity, local atmospheric and surface conditions affect the energy partitioning into latent (LE), sensible (H) and ground heat (G) fluxes (Mildrexler et al., 2011). Surface roughness affect the transferred sensible and latent heat by regulating vertical mixing of air in the surface layer (van Leeuwen et al., 2011) thereby regulating land surface temperature (LST). Through its association with microclimate, net radiation and energy exchange (Coll et al., 2009; Sobrino et al., 2006; Voogt and Oke, 1998; Weng, 2009; Zhou and Wang, 2011) LST is a major land surface parameter that also influences habitat quality and thus the distribution of plants and animals and biodiversity.

The replacement of natural vegetation also changes evapotranspiration (ET) (Boisier et al., 2014). In case ET is decreased, surface temperatures and fluxes of sensible heat (H) increase. *Vice versa* when ET increases, increased LE fluxes lower surface temperatures and decrease H fluxes (Mahmood et al., 2014). Vegetation structure as reflected by parameters such the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), Leaf Area Index (LAI) and vegetation height is in this respect an important determinant of the resistances or conductivities to heat, moisture, and momentum transfer between the canopy and the atmosphere (Bright et al., 2015) facilitating the amounts/ratios of sensible heat to water vapour dissipation away from the surface (Hoffmann and Jackson, 2000).

Surface albedo, surface temperature, surface emissivity, and indirectly LAI and NDVI are interconnected through the surface radiation balance. When the land surface is changed feedback mechanisms involving these biophysical variables control the radiation balance and the surface temperature.

To understand the effects of land cover changes on LST, the associated biophysical variables must be evaluated. This can be done through the surface radiation budget and energy partitioning which unites these biophysical variables directly or indirectly: albedo as direct determinant of the net solar radiation, NDVI as a vegetation parameter determining the emissivity which in turn determines the amount of reflected and emitted longwave radiation, LST directly affecting the amount of emitted longwave radiation from the surface and ET affecting the amount of energy that is used for surface cooling via evaporating of water.

The effect of land cover change on LST is dependent on the scale, location, direction and type of the change (Longobardi et al., 2016). Several studies showed an increase of the LST after forest were converted: in China built-up areas and agricultural land (Zhou and Wang, 2011), and in crop land and pasture lands (Peng et al., 2014). Similar findings were reported for South American ecosystems: low vegetation such as grasslands in Argentina were warmer than tall tree vegetation (Nosetto et al., 2005). In Brazil, the surface temperature increased after the conversion of natural Cerrado vegetation (a savanna ecosystem) into crop/pasture (Loarie et al., 2011a). Similar effects were also shown for other South American biomes (Salazar et al., 2016). In a global analysis, Li et al. (2015) showed that the cooling of forests is moderate at mid latitudes and that Northern boreal forests are even warmer, an indication that the effect of land cover change on LST varies with the location of the land cover change (Longobardi et al., 2016). Similar studies on the Indonesian Islands are lacking but increases in surface temperature are expected as an effect of the expansion of oil palm and cash crop land in the recent decades.

Measuring changes in LST is critical for understanding the effects of land cover changes, but challenging. LST can be monitored with LST products retrieved from thermal infrared (TIR)

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remote sensing data e.g. the use of the thermal bands of the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectrometer (MODIS) onboard the Terra and Aqua satellite (Sobrino et al., 2008), the thermal band of the Thematic Mapper (TM) onboard the LANDSAT-5 platform (Sobrino et al., 2004, 2008) or Enhanced Thematic Mapper (ETM+) onboard the LANDSAT-7 platform. The advantage of MODIS data is the availability of readily processed products at high temporal resolution (daily) at medium (250 – 500 m) to coarse spatial resolution (1000 – 5000 m) scale; MODIS LST product (MOD11A1/MYD11A1) for example is provided at a daily temporal resolution with a spatial resolution of 1 km. Landsat data are provided at a higher spatial resolution (30 m), but its temporal resolution is however limited to 16 days and the retrieval of LST requires the correction of the satellite observed radiances for atmospheric absorption and emission (Coll et al., 2009). Besides LST, the connected biophysical variables of the energy and radiation budget can be derived from the visible and near-infrared (VIS-NIR) bands of either MODIS or Landsat, making integrated monitoring of the biophysical variables related to changing land surface possible. In Indonesia, a large proportion of the land use changes is driven by small holders (Dislich et al. 2016), thus a combination of Landsat (for a fine spatial resolution) and MODIS (for temporal developments) seems desirable.

The modification of the physical properties of the land surface influences climate/local microclimatic conditions via biogeochemical and biophysical processes. Therefore, given Indonesia's history of large scale agricultural land conversion and governmental plans to substantially expand the oil palm production, it is important to study the effect of the expansion of cash crop areas on the biophysical environment, especially on LST as a key land surface parameter. These effects have been poorly studied in this region and according to our knowledge this is the first study to quantify the effects of land use change on LST in Indonesia We focus on the province of Jambi / Sumatra as it experience large land transformation towards oil palm and other cash crops such as rubber plantations in the past and may serve as example of future changes in other regions.

Our main objective is to quantify the differences in LST across different land cover types and to assess the impact of cash crop expansion on the surface temperature of Jambi province (on Sumatra / Indonesia) in the past decades. With this study we aim to (1) evaluate the use of Landsat and MODIS satellite data as sources for a reliable estimation of the surface temperature in a tropical region with limited satellite data coverage by comparing the surface temperatures retrieved from both satellite sources to each other and against ground observations, (2) to quantify the LST variability across different land cover types and (3) the long term effects of land transformation on the surface temperature against the background of climatic changes and (4) to identify the mechanisms that explain changes of the surface temperature through changes in other biophysical variables. In this study we compare the surface temperatures of different land cover types that replace forests (i.e. oil palm, rubber and acacia plantations, clear cut land and urban areas) using high resolution Landsat and medium resolution MODIS satellite data and discuss the differences by taking into account other biophysical variables such as the albedo, NDVI and evapotranspiration (ET).

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Study area

The study was carried out in the lowlands (approx. 25 000 km^2) of the Jambi province (total area 50 160 km^2) on Sumatra, Indonesia, between latitudes 0°30´S and 2°30´S and longitudes 101°E and 104°30´E (Fig. 1). This region has undergone large land transformation towards oil palm and rubber plantation over the past decades and thus may serve as an example of expected

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changes in other regions of Indonesia (Drescher et al. 2016). The area has a humid tropical climate with a mean annual temperature of 26.7 ± 0.2 °C (1991 – 2011, annual mean ± SD of the annual mean), with little intra-annual variation. Mean annual precipitation was 2235 ± 381 mm and a dry season with less than 120 mm monthly precipitation usually occurred between June and September (Drescher et al., 2016). Details about the study area can be found in (Drescher et al., 2016).

For this study, we used two data sets of different plot sizes. For the first data set, we delineated 28 large plots (ranging from 4 to 84 km^2) of 7 different land cover types (Forest (FO), Rubber (RU), Acacia Plantation Forest (PF), Young oil palm plantation (YOP), Mature Oil Palm Plantation (MOP), Urban area (UB) and Clear Cut areas (CLC)) (Fig. 1). The delineation was based on visual interpretation in combination with information from field work, which was carried out between October – December 2013. The large size of the plots was necessary to make a comparison between MODIS and Landsat images (see section satellite data). For the second data set, we selected within and outside these 28 large plots 49 smaller plots (between 50 × 50 m and 1000 × 1000 m) (Fig. 1) which allowed us to increase the number of plots to use when analysing Landsat images. These small plots were used to extract surface temperature (LST), Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), albedo (α) and evapotranspiration (ET) from a high resolution Landsat satellite image (see section satellite data) for the 7 different land cover types of interest.

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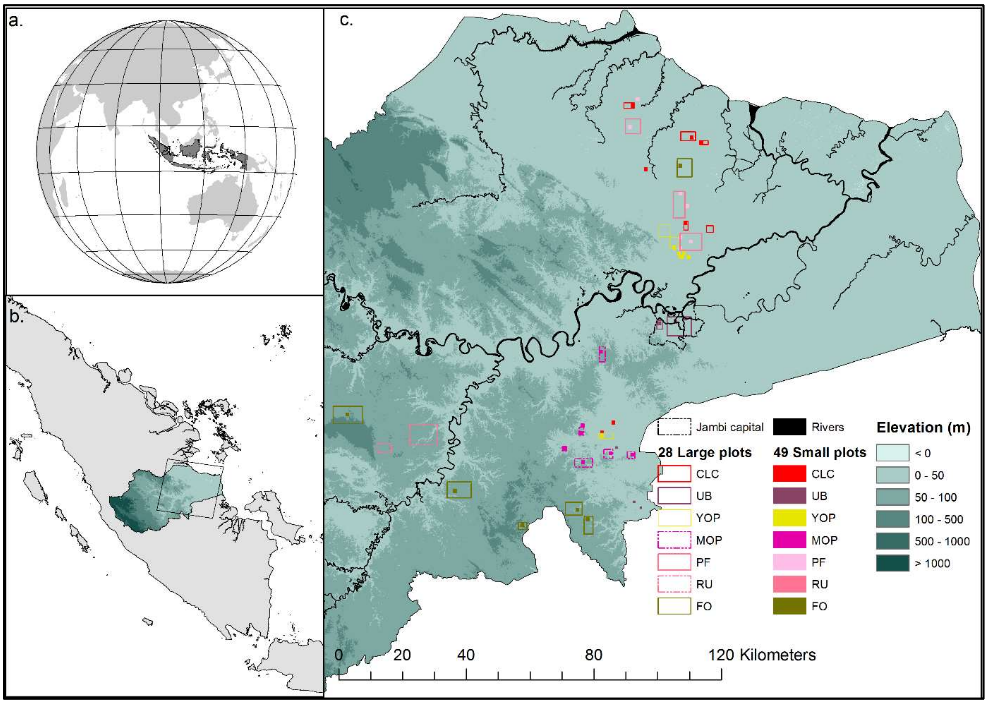

Fig. 1 Geographic location of the study area. Jambi province on the Sumatran Island of Indonesia (Figs. 1a and 1b). The background of the map (Fig. 1c) is a digital elevation model, showing that the plots are located in the lowlands of the Jambi province. The large rectangles are the 28 different land cover types (Forest, Young and Mature Oil palm, Rubber, Urban area, Acacia Plantation Forest and Clear Cut land), the small squares are the locations of the 49 small plots of the 7 different land cover types. Abbreviations: CLC = Clear cut land, UB = Urban area, YOP = Young oil palm plantation, MOP = Mature Oil Palm plantation, PF = Acacia plantation forest, RU = Rubber plantation, FO = Forest.

2.2 Meteorological data

Air temperature and relative air humidity were measured at four reference meteorological stations located in open areas within the area of study (Drescher et al., 2016), with thermohygrometers (type 1.1025.55.000, Thies Clima, Göttingen, Germany) placed at 2m height. Measurements were taken every 15 s and then averaged and stored in a DL16 Pro data logger (Thies Clima, Göttingen, Germany) as 10 min mean, from February 2013 to December 2015. We used the air temperature from the meteorological stations to compare to MODIS air temperatures (MOD07_L2). The relative air humidity was used as an input parameter for NASA's online atmospheric correction (ATCOR) parameter tool to derive parameters to correct Landsat thermal band for atmospheric effects (see Satellite data). We also used air temperature and relative humidity from two eddy covariance flux towers located in the study area (Meijide et al., 2017) one in a young oil palm plantation (two years old, S 01°50.127', E 103°17.737'), and the other one in a mature oil palm plantation (twelve years old, S 01°41.584', E 103°23.484'). At these flux towers, air temperature and relative humidity were measured above the canopy respectively with the same instruments as in the reference meteorological stations (see Meijide et al. (2017), for description of methodology). In the flux tower located in the mature oil palm plantation, we also measured surface canopy temperature between August 2014 and December 2015, which was compared to MODIS LST estimates from the same period. Measurements of canopy temperature were performed with two infrared sensors (IR100) connected to a data logger, (CR3000) both from Campbell Scientific Inc. (Logan, USA). For a regional coverage we used ERA Interim daily air temperature grids (http://apps.ecmwf.int/datasets/data/interim-full-daily/levtype=sfc/; (Dee et al., 2011) from 2000 – 2015 at 0.125 degrees resolution to study the annual air temperature trend in this period.

2.3 Satellite data

A Landsat 7 ETM+ VIS/TIR 30 m resolution surface reflectance image with low cloud cover, acquired at 10:13 hours (local time) on 19 June 2013 covering the lowland area of the Jambi province (path 125, row 61) was used in this study. Like all Landsat 7 ETM+ images acquired after 31 may 2003, the image we used was affected by a scan line error causing a data loss of about 22% (http://landsat.usgs.gov/products_slcoffbackground.php). Most selected plots were located in the center of the image and thus not affected by the data loss, e.g. the forest plots located at the edges of the scan line error zone faced minimal data loss because they were large enough.

We also downloaded the tile h28v09 of the MODIS Terra (MOD) and Aqua (MYD) daily 1km Land Surface Temperature and Emissivity products (MOD11A1 and MYD11A1 Collection-5) and MODIS 16-days 500 m Vegetation Indices NDVI/EVI product (MOD13A1 Collection-5) from 05 March 2000 till 31 December 2015 for Terra data and from 8 July 2002 till 31 December 2015 for Aqua data. We downloaded other supporting satellite data such as the MODIS Atmospheric Profile product (MOD07_L2) and the MODIS Geolocation product (MOD03). All MODIS data were reprojected to WGS84, UTM zone 48 South using the MODIS Reprojection Tool (MRT). The quality of the MODIS data was checked using the provided quality flags and only pixels with the highest quality flag were used in the analysis.

2.4 Retrieval of biophysical variables from Landsat 7 ETM+ VIS/TIR images

- *NDVI*

NDVI was derived using the reflectances corrected for atmospheric effects in the red (ρRED, band 3 Landsat 7 ETM+) and near infrared (ρNIR, band 4 Landsat 7 ETM+) bands, with:

$$NDVI = \frac{\rho NIR - \rho RED}{\rho NIR + \rho RED} \quad (1)$$

- *Surface albedo*

The surface albedo (α) was computed using the equation of Liang (2000) for estimating broadband albedo from Landsat surface reflectance bands, with:

$$\alpha = 0.3141\ \rho 1 + 0.1607\ \rho 3 + 0.369\ \rho 4 + 0.1160\ \rho 5 + 0.0456\ \rho 7 - 0.0057 \quad (2)$$

where ρ_1, ρ_3, ρ_4, ρ_5 and ρ_7 are the Landsat 7 ETM+ surface reflectance bands (corrected for atmospheric effects).

- *Surface temperature (LST)*

LST was derived following the method proposed by Bastiaanssen (2000), Bastiaanssen et al. (1998a), Coll et al. (2010) and Wukelic et al. (1989) for computing the surface temperature from the thermal infrared band (TIR, band 6) of Landsat (Supporting information, S1). The thermal infrared band (TIR, band 6) was first converted to thermal radiance (L6, $W/m^2/sr/\mu m$) and then to atmospherically corrected thermal radiance (Rc, $W/m^2/sr/\mu m$) following the method described by Wukelic et al. (1989) and Coll et al. (2010), and using the atmospheric parameters obtained on NASA's online Atmospheric Correction Calculator (Barsi et al., 2003, 2005) (supporting information, S2). The surface temperature (LST, °K) was computed through the following equation similar to the Planck equation, as in Coll et al. (2010) and Wukelic et al. (1989):

$$\mathrm{LST} = \frac{\mathrm{k2}}{\ln\left(\frac{\varepsilon \mathrm{NB} \cdot \mathrm{k1}}{\mathrm{Rc}} + 1\right)} \qquad (3)$$

where εNB is the emissivity of the surface obtained from the NDVI (Supporting information, Table S1), k1 (= 666.09 mW/cm^2/sr/μm) and k2 (= 1282.71 °K) are sensor constants for converting the thermal radiance obtained from band 6 of Landsat 7 to surface temperature. The surface temperature derived from Landsat thermal band was compared with a MODIS LST product that was acquired on the same day at 10:30 am local time. For this, the Landsat LST image was resampled to MODIS resolution to enable a pixel to pixel comparison, followed by extracting the average LST of 7 land cover types using the data set containing the large delineated plots (Fig. 1).

- *Evapotranspiration (ET)*

Based on the Surface Energy Balance Algorithm for Land (SEBAL) (Bastiaanssen, 2000; Bastiaanssen et al., 1998a, 1998b) we estimated ET (mm/hr) from latent heat fluxes (LE, W/m^2) which were computed as the residual from sensible (H, W/m^2) and ground (G, W/m^2) heat fluxes subtracted from net radiation (Rn, W/m^2) as:

$$\mathrm{LE} = \mathrm{Rn} - \mathrm{G} - \mathrm{H} \qquad (4)$$

We calculated Rn as the sum of incoming shortwave and longwave radiation, minus the reflected shortwave and longwave radiation and the emitted longwave radiation (equation 5). The surface albedo, surface emissivity and surface temperature determine the amounts of incoming and reflected radiation:

$$Rn = (1 - \alpha)\, S_d\!\downarrow + \varepsilon_a \sigma T_a^4 - (1 - \varepsilon_0)\varepsilon_a \sigma T_a^4 - \varepsilon_0 \sigma LST^4 \quad (5)$$

Where $S_d\!\downarrow$ is the incoming shortwave solar radiation (W/m^2) at the surface; α is the surface albedo (equation 2); ε_0 is the surface emissivity (-); ε_a is the atmospheric emissivity (-); σ is the Stephan-Boltzmann constant (5.67×10^{-8} $W/m^2/K^4$); LST is the surface temperature (K, equation 3); T_a is the near surface air temperature (K). The surface emissivity (ε_0) is derived from the NDVI and is described in the supporting information (Table S1). The average atmospheric emissivity (ε_a) is estimated with the model of Idso and Jackson, (1969):

$$\varepsilon_a = 1 - 0.26 \cdot \exp\{(-7.77 \times 10^{-4}) \cdot (273.15 - T_a)^2\} \quad (6)$$

Ground heat fluxes (G, W/m^2) were derived as a fraction of Rn from an empirical relationship between LST, α, and NDVI (Bastiaanssen, 2000) as:

$$G = Rn \cdot \frac{LST - 273.15}{\alpha} \cdot (0.0038\alpha + 0.0074\alpha^2) \cdot (1 - 0.98 NDVI^4) \quad (7)$$

In SEBAL Sensible heat flux (H, W/m^2) was calculated as:

$$H = \rho Cp \frac{\Delta T}{r_{ah}} = \rho Cp \frac{a\,LST + b}{r_{ah}} \quad (8)$$

Where ρ is the air density (1.16 kg/m^3); Cp is the specific heat of air at constant pressure (1004 J/kg/K); r_{ah} is the aerodynamic resistance to heat transport (s m^{-1}); *a* and *b* are regression coefficients which are determined by a hot extreme pixel (where LE = 0 and H is maximum) and a cold extreme pixel (where H = 0 and LE is maximum). The aerodynamic resistance to heat transport, r_{ah}, is calculated through an iterative process with air temperature measured at 2 m as input. SEBAL is described in Bastiaanssen (2000) and Bastiaanssen et al. (1998a, 1998b). The application of SEBAL in this research is briefly described in the supporting information (S3: ET from satellite images).

2.5 Local short term differences between different land cover types

From the created LST, NDVI, Albedo and ET images we extracted the average values of the different land cover classes. For this we used the dataset containing the small 49 delineated plots covering 7 different land cover types (Fig. 1). The average effect of land transformation, i.e. the change from forest to another non-forest land cover type, on the surface temperature was evaluated as (cf. Li et al. (2015)) :

$$\Delta LST = LST_{non\text{-}forest} - LST_{forest} \tag{1}$$

A negative ΔLST indicates a cooling effect and positive ΔLST indicates a warming effect of the non-forest vegetation compared to forest. The same procedure was applied in evaluating the effect of land transformation on the NDVI, albedo and ET.

2.6 Effects of land cover change on the provincial surface temperature in the past decades

To analyse the long term effects on the provincial scale we used the MODIS daily LST time series (MOD11A1 and MYD11A1) from 2000 – 2015. MOD11A1 provides LST for two times of the day: 10:30 am and 10:30 pm and we used the times series between 2000 and 2015. MYD11A1 provides LST for 1:30 am and 1:30 pm and is available from 8 July 2002; we used complete years in our analysis and therefore used the MYD11A1 time series from 2003 – 2015. We calculated the mean annual LST at four different times of the day (10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 10:30 pm and 1:30 am) between 2000 and 2015 for the lowland of the Jambi from the MODIS daily LST time series (MOD11A1 and MYD11A1). To do so (1) we calculated for each pixel the average LST pixel value using only the best quality pixels for every year; (2) from these pixels we made a composite image (n = 16, one for each year) for the province and (3) from each composite image we calculated the mean annual lowland provincial temperature as the average of all the pixels that are enclosed by a zone delineating the lowland of the Jambi province. We performed the same analysis with the MODIS 16-day NDVI product (2000 – 2015) and the ERA daily temperature grid (2000 – 2015) to compare the annual trends of LST, NDVI and air temperature of the province. The average provincial LST and NDVI were compared to the mean LST and NDVI of a selected forest that remained undisturbed forest during the 2000 – 2015 period.

2.7 Statistical analysis

For comparison of the Landsat derived LST and the MODIS LST we analyzed the statistical relationships with the coefficient of determination (R^2), the root mean square error (RMSE), the mean absolute error (MAE) and the bias (Bias):

$$\text{RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N}(E_i - O_i)^2}{N}} \quad (9)$$

$$\text{Bias} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N}(E_i - O_i)}{N} \quad (10)$$

$$\text{MAE} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N}|E_i - O_i|}{N} \quad (11)$$

Where O_i is MODIS LST, E_i is the Landsat surface temperature, and N is the number of pixels compared. Model type 2 linear regression was applied for fitting the relation between MODIS LST and Landsat LST.

We tested the relation between the biophysical variables LST (or L6 and Rc, both as pre- or intermediate products before obtaining LST), albedo (α), NDVI and ET with correlation analysis and a multiple linear regression was applied to analyse the effects of the biophysical variables on the LST. We used the model: LST (or Rc or L6) ~ α + NDVI + ET, and used R^2 and standardized β-coefficients to evaluate the strength of the biophysical variables in predicting the LST.

3 Results

3.1 Landsat LST compared to MODIS LST

Landsat and MODIS images showed similar spatial patterns of LST(Fig. 2). In both images the hot areas correspond to the known clear cut areas, urban areas or other sparsely vegetated areas, the cooler areas correspond to vegetated areas such as forest, plantation forests and mature oil palm plantations. The coarse resolution scale of MODIS (1000 m for LST) allows a large regional coverage of the study area but does not allow to retrieve detailed information on small patches (smaller than 1 km^2). On the other hand, Landsat 7 image allows a detailed study of patches that are small enough (as small as 30 x 30 m^2), but is affected by the scan line error causing data loss at the edges of the image. In both MODIS and Landsat images clouds and cloud shadows were removed and therefore lead to data gaps in the images.

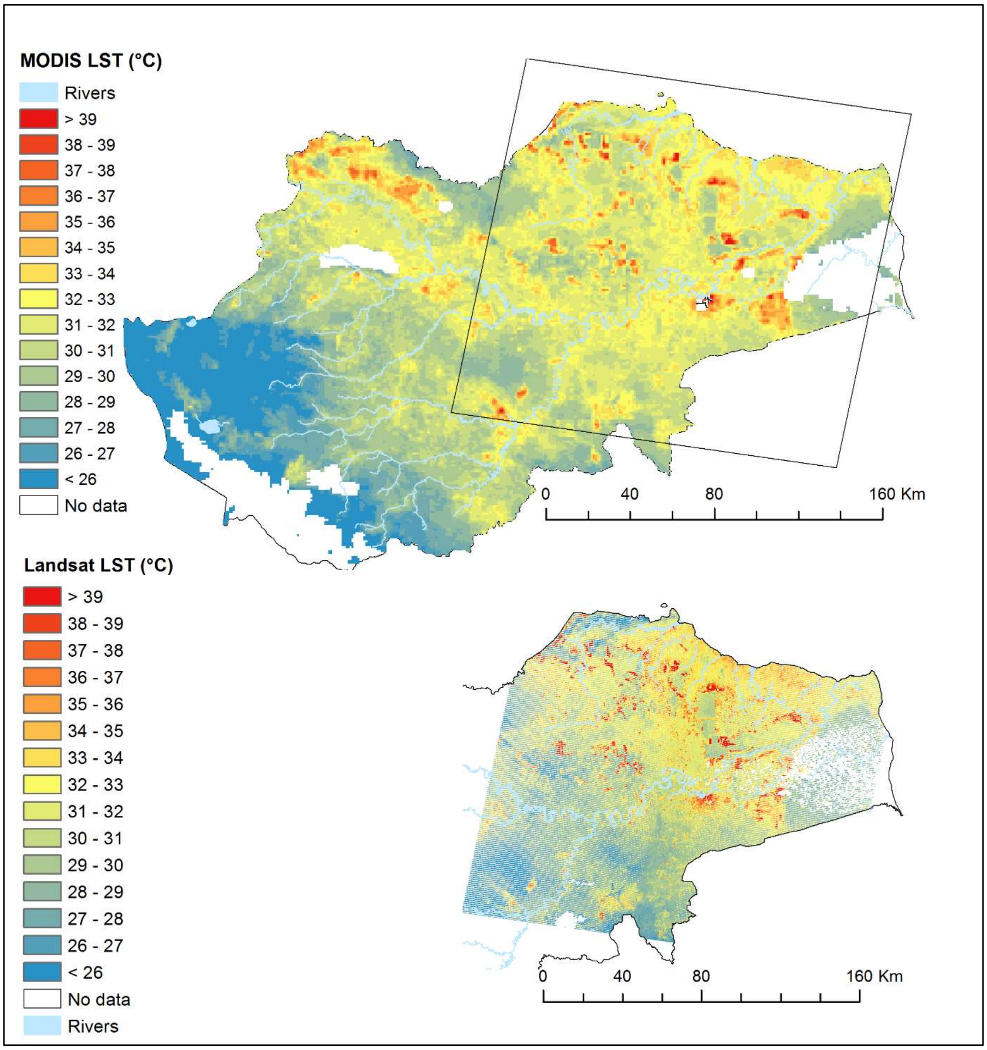

Fig. 2 MODIS LST image (top) compared with Landsat LST image (bottom). Cloud cover and cloud shadow cover resulted in data gaps (No data). The difference in acquisition time between the images is 15 minutes. The square in the MODIS image is the area that is covered by the Landsat tile (path 125, row 61). Both satellite images were acquired on 19 June 2013.

Landsat derived LST correlated well with MODIS LST ($R^2 = 0.82$; $p < 0.001$; Fig. 3) with a RMSE of 1.83 ºC. The 7 land cover types had distinctive LSTs and the observed differences

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between these land cover types were consistent in both images. The non-vegetated surfaces (Clear cut land (CLC) and Urban areas (UB)) had higher surface temperatures than the vegetated surface types (FO, YOP, MOP, PF and RU). Clear cut land had the highest surface temperature of all compared land cover types, followed by urban areas whereas the vegetated land cover types had lower surface temperatures: LST_{CLC} (39.71 ± 2.01 °C) > LST_{UB} (35.79 ± 1.26 °C) > LST_{YOP} (30.95 ± 0.72 °C) > LST_{PF} (30.25 ± 0.67 °C) > LST_{MOP} (28.98 ± 0.75 °C) > LST_{RU} (27.78 ± 0.89 °C) > LST_{FO} (27.57 ± 1.41 °C) (Landsat LST, Fig. 3). The same trend was derived from the MODIS image but with higher surface temperatures, except for CLC: LST_{CLC} (37.67 ± 1.75 ºC) > LST_{UB} (36.33 ± 1.57 °C) > LST_{YOP} (31.73 ± 0.85 ºC) > LST_{MOP} (30.67 ± 0.88 ºC) > LST_{PF} (29.92 ± 0.93 ºC) > LST_{RU} (29.60 ± 0.36 ºC) > LST_{FO} (29.21 ± 0.40 ºC) (MODIS LST, Fig. 3).

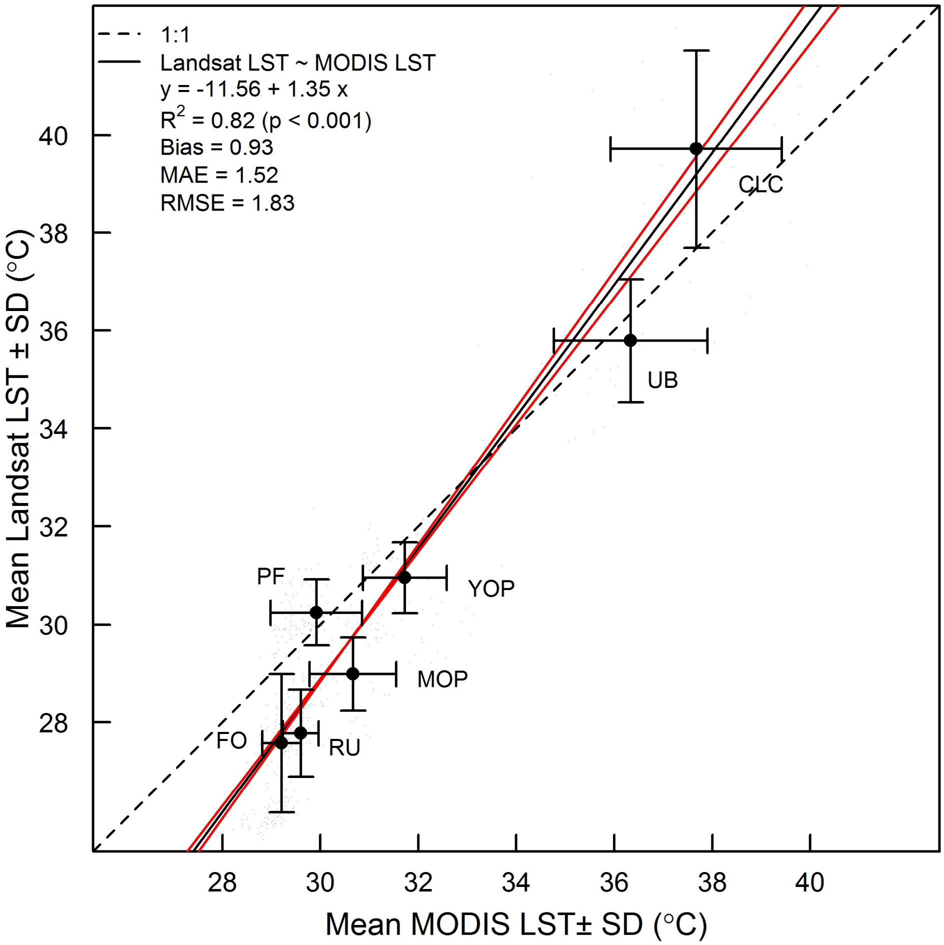

Fig. 3 Average surface temperature (LST) and standard deviation (SD) of 7 land cover types derived from Landsat thermal image compared with the mean and SD of MODIS LST. CLC = Clear cut land, UB = Urban areas, YOP = young oil palm plantation, PF = Acacia Plantation Forest, MOP = Mature Oil palm plantation, FO = Forest, RU = Rubber plantation. The dashed line is the theoretical 1:1 line, the solid lines are the Linear Model type 2 regression line (black) and the confidence limits of the regression line (red). Landsat and MODIS images were acquired on 19 June 2013, Landsat at 10:13 am local time, MODIS at 10:30 am local time. Landsat pixels (30 m) were resampled to MODIS pixel resolution (926 m) to make a pixel to

pixel comparison between the two sources possible. RMSE is the root mean squared error, MAE is mean absolute error.

3.2 Local short term differences between different land cover types

The ΔLST between RU, MOP, PF, YOP, UB and CLC land cover types and FO were all positive, meaning that all other land cover types were warmer than forests (Fig. 4a & Supporting Information S4 and S5). RU and MOP were 0.4 ± 1.5 °C and 0.8 ± 1.2 °C warmer than forest, respectively. PF and YOP were much warmer than forests (ΔLST_{PF-FO} = 2.3 ± 1.1 °C, ΔLST_{YOP-FO} = 6.0 ± 1.9 °C). The largest ΔLSTs were between forest and the non-vegetated land cover types, i.e. UB (ΔLST = 8.5 ± 2.1 °C) and CLC (ΔLST = 10.9 ± 2.6 °C). The LST differences were significant ($p < 0.05$, post-hoc Tukey's HSD test), except between RU and FO ($p = 0.78$, post-hoc Tukey's HSD test (Supporting Information S6, Table S6.1 & table S6.2).

Similar differences were found for the ΔNDVI between forest and other land covers (Fig. 4b). The negative ΔNDVI indicates that the non-forest land cover types had lower NDVI than forest. ΔNDVI between FO and RU, MOP, PF and YOP were small (between – 0.01 ± 0.02 ($\Delta NDVI_{MOP-FO}$) and – 0.12 ± 0.06 ($\Delta NDVI_{YOP-FO}$). The largest ΔNDVIs were between forest and the non-vegetated land cover types, i.e. UB and CLC (ΔNDVI = – 0.42 ± 0.11 and – 0.41 ± 0.08, respectively). All ΔNDVIs were significant ($p < 0.05$, post-hoc Tukey's HSD test).

The difference in albedo (ΔAlbedo) between forest and the other land covers was very small (Fig. 4c), with ΔAlbedo values between – 0.03 ± 0.01 ($\Delta Albedo_{PF-FO}$) and 0.03 ± 0.02 ($\Delta Albedo_{YOP-FO}$). These differences were significant ($p < 0.05$, post-hoc Tukey's HSD test). PF had a lower albedo than forest ($\Delta Albedo_{PF-FO}$ = – 0.03 ± 0.01), while the other land cover types had a higher albedo than forest.

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All land covers had lower ET than forest. RU, MOP and PF had slightly lower ET than FO ($\Delta ET_{RU\text{-}FO} = -0.03 \pm 0.04$, $\Delta ET_{MOP\text{-}FO} = -0.03 \pm 0.03$ mm/hr, $\Delta ET_{PF\text{-}FO} = -0.04 \pm 0.03$ mm/hr) (Fig. 4d). YOP, UB and CLC had much lower ET values than forests: $\Delta ET_{YOP\text{-}FO} = -0.18 \pm 0.04$ mm/hr, $\Delta ET_{UB\text{-}FO} = -0.23 \pm 0.04$ mm/hr, $\Delta ET_{CLC\text{-}FO} = -0.26 \pm 0.06$ mm/hr). The ΔETs were significant ($p < 0.05$, post-hoc Tukey's HSD test).

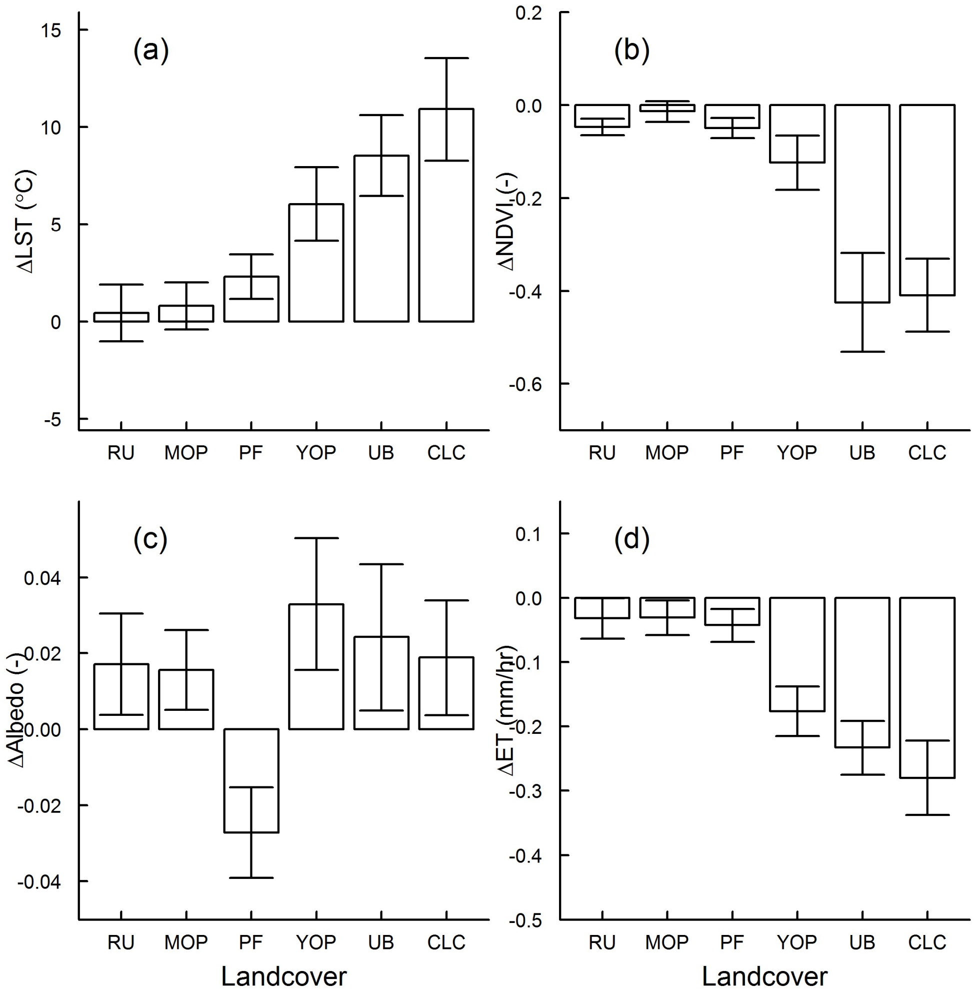

Fig. 4 Differences (mean ± SD) in surface temperature (ΔLST), normalized difference vegetation index (ΔNDVI), Albedo (ΔAlbedo) and Evapotranspiration (ΔET) between other

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land covers (RU, MOP, PF, YOP, UB and CLC) and forest (FO) in the Jambi province, derived from the Landsat LST image acquired on 19 June 2013 at 10:13 am local time.

Albedo had the weakest influence on the LST ($\rho = 0.25$, $p < 0.05$) (Table 2) than NDVI and ET. As the thermal radiance band (L6) and the atmospherically corrected thermal band (Rc) were the basis for the LST calculation, the high correlation between L6 and NDVI ($\rho = -0.87$, $p < 0.05$) and between L6 and ET ($\rho = -0.98$, $p < 0.05$) resulted in a high correlation between LST and NDVI ($\rho = -0.88$) and between LST and ET ($\rho = -0.98$). The analysis showed that albedo, NDVI and ET were all significant predictors of LST ($F_{(3, 41586)} = 1 \times 10^6$, $p < 0.05$). ET was the strongest predictor of LST (stand. $\beta = -1.11$, $p < 0.05$). Albedo (stand. $\beta = -0.19$, $p < 0.05$, resp.) and NDVI (stand. $\beta = -0.19$, $p < 0.05$) were weaker predictors of LST.

Table 2 Statistical analysis between biophysical variables (albedo (α), NDVI and ET) and Spectral Radiance band (L6), corrected thermal band (Rc) and Landsat surface temperature (LST).

Model		**ρ**	**R^2**	**β**	**Stand. β**	**Model fit (R^2)**	**F-statistics**
	α	0.26	0.05	-2.94	-0.19		F (3, 41586) =
L6 ~ α + NDVI + ET	**NDVI**	-0.87	0.10	0.23	0.11	0.99	1.10×106, ***
	ET	-0.98	1.13	-4.00	-1.16		
	α	0.25	0.05	-4.88	-0.20		F (3, 41586) =
Rc ~ α + NDVI + ET	**NDVI**	-0.88	0.04	0.16	0.05	0.99	1.79×106 , ***
	ET	-0.98	1.00	-6.21	-1.10		
	α	0.25	0.05	-34.01	-0.19		F(3, 41586) =
LST ~ α + NDVI + ET	**NDVI**	-0.88	0.05	1.30	0.05	0.99	2.3×106, ***
	ET	-0.98	1.00	-43.53	-1.11		

***: $p = 2\times10^{-16}$

LM: Multiple linear regression analysis between LST (or L6 or Rc) and 3 biophysical variables: Albedo (α), NDVI and ET. ρ = correlation coefficient; R^2: R-squared of the components; β = regression coefficient of the component; stand. β = standardized β; Model fit (R^2): overall model fit of the multiple linear regression. The values in brackets are for the analysis between the biophysical variables and the corrected thermal band (Rc).

A separate analysis (Table S6.3, Supporting information S6) showed that ET was a strong predictor of LST for each land cover type in this study and that NDVI and albedo were minor predictors of LST.

3.3 Effects of land-use change on the provincial surface temperature in the past decades

The average annual LST of the province was characterized by a fluctuating but increasing trend during daytimes (Fig. 5a and 5b) between 2000 and 2015. The average morning LST (10:30 am) increased by 0.07 ºC per year ($R^2 = 0.59$; $p < 0.0001$), the midday afternoon LST (13:30 local time) increased by 0.13 °C per year ($R^2 = 0.35$; $p = 0.02$) between 2003 and 2015. While the daytime LST showed a clear increase, the night and evening LST (10:30 pm and 1:30 am, Fig. 5c and 5d) trends were small showing a decrease of – 0.02 °C ($R^2 = 0.29$; $p = 0.02$) and – 0.01 °C ($R^2 = 0.05$; $p = 0.51$) per year, respectively. The observed LST trends resulted in a total LST increase of 1.05 °C and 1.56 °C in the morning (10:30 am) and afternoon (1:30 pm) respectively and a total decrease of the province LST of 0.3 °C (10:30 pm) and 0.12 °C (1:30 am) at night over the time period 2000 to 2015.

In order to separate the effect of land use change from global climate warming, we used a site constantly covered by forest over that period (from the forest sites we used in this study) as a reference not directly affected by land cover changes. That site showed less changes in LST than the entire province: only the mean morning LST (10:30 am) had a significant but small trend with an increase by 0.03 °C per year ($R^2 = 0.21$, $p < 0.05$) resulting in a total LST increase of the province of 0.45 °C between 2000 and 2015 (Fig. 5a). This LST warming is much smaller than the overall warming at provincial level of 1.05 °C. The LST time series at other times showed no significant trends: the mean afternoon LST (1:30 pm) with -0.05 °C per year (R^2 = 0.01, p = 0.31) (Fig. 5b), the night and evening LST with 0.01°C per year (Fig. 5c and 5d, p = 0.19 and p = 0.65, respectively).

The mean annual NDVI of the province decreased by 0.002 per year which resulted in a total NDVI decrease of 0.03 (R^2 = 0.34; p = 0.01; Fig. 5e). The NDVI of the forest showed a small but not significant increase of 0.001 per year (R^2 = 0.04, p = 0.23) (Fig. 5e) fluctuating around an NDVI of 0.84.

The mean annual midday air temperature (at 1:00 pm, local time, Fig. 5f) and the mean annual night air temperature (at 1:00 am, local time) increased every year by 0.05 °C and 0.03 °C, respectively resulting in a total air temperature increase of 0.75 °C (R^2 = 0.66, $p < 0.0001$) and 0.45 °C (R^2 = 0.32, p = 0.014) between 2000 and 2015 (Fig. 5f).

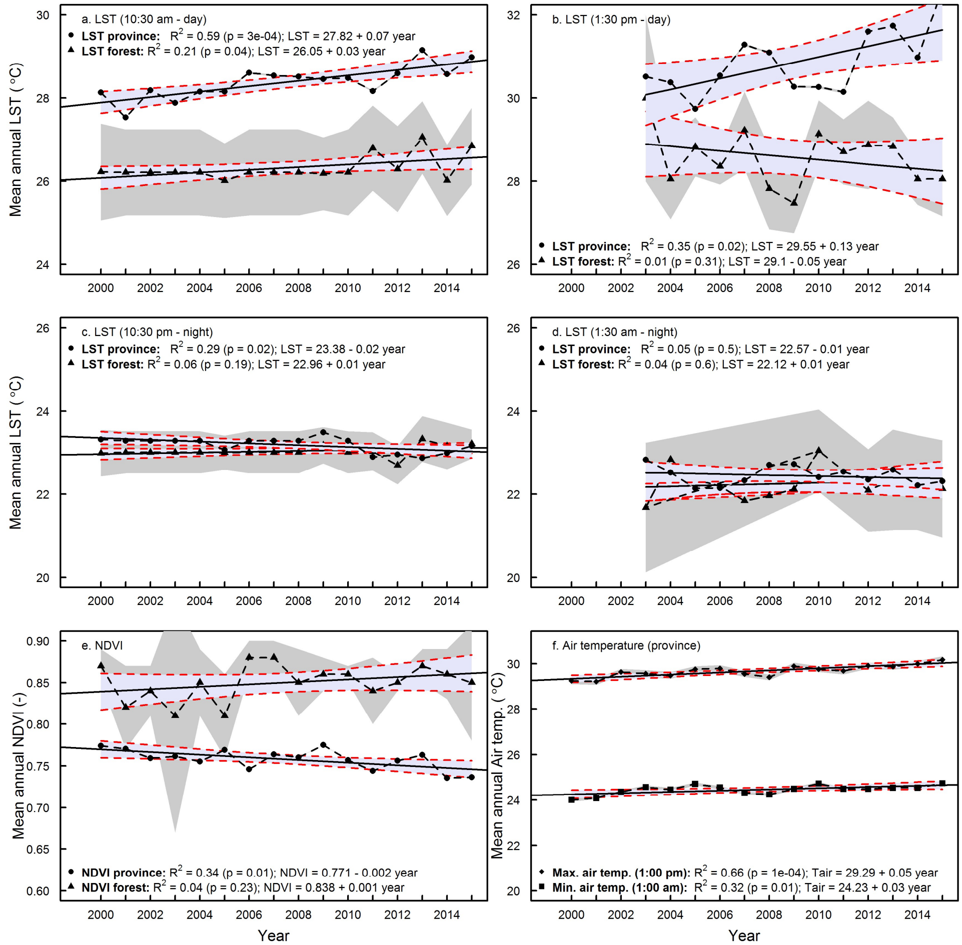

Fig 5. Mean annual LST (a – d), mean annual NDVI (e) and mean annual air temperature trends (f) in the Jambi province between 2000 and 2015 derived from MODIS LST (5a. 10:30 am, 5b. 1:30 pm, 5c. 10:30 pm and 5d. 1:30 am, local time), MODIS NDVI and ERA Interim Daily air temperature (1:00 am and 1:00 pm, local time) data sets respectively. Grey-shaded areas are the confidence intervals of the means, blue-shaded areas are the confidence intervals of the regression lines. MODIS LST time series for 1:30 pm and 1:30 am were available from the mid of 2002; for this reason we used the complete years from 2003 till 2015.

4 Discussion

4.1 Landsat LST compared to MODIS LST

In our study we retrieved the surface temperature from a Landsat image and compared this with MODIS LST. Our results showed a good agreement between both LSTs (Fig. 3), which is comparable to other studies and thus gives confidence in our analysis. Bindhu et al. (2013) found also a close relationship between MODIS LST and Landsat LST using the same aggregation resampling technique as our method and found R^2 of 0.90, a slope of 0.90, and an intercept of 25.8 for LST, compared to our R^2 of 0.8, slope of 1.35 and intercept of –11.58 (Fig. 3). Zhang and He (2013) validated Landsat LST with MODIS LST and also found good agreements (RMSD 0.71 – 1.87 ºC) between the two sensors, where we found a RMSE of 1.71 ºC. Nevertheless, there still are differences and slope versatility between the two satellite sources. These differences are typically caused by differences between MODIS and Landsat sensors in terms of (a) different sensor properties e.g. spatial and radiometric resolution and sensor calibration; (b) geo-referencing and differences in atmospheric corrections (Li et al., 2004); and (c) emissivity corrections i.e. the use of approximate equations to derive the emissivity from the NDVI from Landsat's Red and NIR bands. Li et al. (2004) and Vlassova et al. (2014) identified these same factors in their comparison of ASTER LST with MODIS LST and Landsat LST with MODIS LST, respectively. Vlassova et al. (2014) found good agreements between MODIS and Landsat LST with MODIS LST to be higher than Landsat LST, which they attributed to the delay of 15 minutes in acquisition time between MODIS and Landsat. MODIS LST is measured 15 minutes later and our results showed that MODIS LSTs were indeed higher than Landsat LST. A comparison of MODIS LST with locally measured canopy surface temperatures during the overpass time of MODIS also showed agreement (Supporting information S7, Figure S7.1). The slope was possibly due to differences in instrumentation and emissivity corrections and to scale issues, still this comparison could corroborate the quality check of MODIS LST.

As the MODIS LST product is proven to be accurate within 1 ºC (Silvério et al., 2015; Wan et al., 2004) and has been intensively validated, the use of MODIS LST was a proper way to assess the quality of our Landsat LST.

The errors from the different sources (such as atmospheric correction, emissivity correction, resampling Landsat to MODIS resolution) are difficult to quantify. When we tested the impact of atmospheric correction and emissivity errors on the LST from Landsat retrieval we found that: (a) the overall patterns across different land use types did not change, (b) emissivity was the most important factor but the effects on LST retrieval were small and (c) errors due to atmospheric correction parameters were small because there were small differences between default Atmospheric correction (ATCOR) parameters and ATCOR parameters derived with actual local conditions (relative humidity (RH), air pressure and air temperature). Following the method of Coll et al. (2009) and Jiang et al. (2015) we show that the use of the online atmospheric correction parameter calculator is a good option provided that RH, air temperature and air pressure are available. We additionally compared locally measured air temperatures with MODIS air temperature and found a good agreement (Supporting information S8, Figure S8.1), which served as a verification that we used a correct air temperature for the atmospheric correction parameter calculator.

Overall, our comparison of LST from Landsat against LST from MODIS as well as against ground observation suggests that we are able to retrieve meaningful spatial and temporal patterns of LST in Jambi province.

4.2 LST patterns across different LULC types

The land cover types in our study covered a range of land surface types that develop after forest conversion. This is the first study in this region that includes oil palm and rubber as land use types that develop after forest conversion. The coolest temperatures were at the vegetated land cover types while the warmest surface temperatures were on the non-vegetated surface types like urban areas and bare land. Interestingly, the oil palm and rubber plantations were only slightly warmer than the forests whereas the young oil palm plantations had clearly higher LST than the other vegetated surfaces. For other parts of the world, Lim et al. (2005, 2008), Fall et al. (2010) and Weng et al. (2004) also observed cooler temperatures for forests and the highest surface temperatures for barren and urban areas.

In Indonesia, land transformation is often not instantaneous from forest to oil palm or rubber plantation, but can be associated with several years of bare or abandoned land in-between (Sheil et al., 2009). Oil palm plantation typically have a rotation cycle of 25 years, resulting in repeating patterns with young plantations (Dislich et al., 2016). Given the large differences in LST between forests and bare soils or young oil palm plantations that we observed, a substantial warming effect of land transformation at regional scale is expected.

4.3 Drivers of local differences between different land cover types

All land cover types (except Acacia Plantation Forests) had a higher albedo than forest, indicating that these land cover types absorbed less incoming solar radiation than forests. Nevertheless, these land cover types were warmer than forests, suggesting that the albedo was not the dominant variable explaining LST. Indeed, the statistical analysis showed that ET ~ LST had a higher correlation than albedo ~ LST. The ΔETs were significant, underlying that despite their higher albedo all land cover types had higher LSTs than forests due to lower ET rates than forests. Vice versa, forests that absorb more solar radiation due to the lower albedo, have lower LST due to the higher ET they exhibit, hereby identifying evaporative cooling as the main determinant of regulating the surface temperature of all vegetation cover types (Li et al., 2015).

Both observational and modeling studies carried out in other geographic regions and with other trajectories support our observations. Observational studies in the Amazonia by Lawrence and Vandecar (2015) on the conversion of natural vegetation to crop or pasture land showed a surface warming effect. Salazar et al. (2015) provided additional evidence that conversion of forest to other types of land use in the Amazonia cause significant reductions in precipitation and increases in surface temperatures.

Alkama and Cescatti (2016) and earlier studies by Loarie et al. (2011a, 2011b) showed that tropical deforestation may increase LST, croplands in the Amazonian regions were also warmer than forests through the reduction of ET (Ban-Weiss et al., 2011; Feddema et al., 2005) and that the climatic response strongly depends on changes in energy fluxes rather than on albedo changes (Loarie et al., 2011a, 2011b). A study by Silvério et al. (2015) indeed found that tropical deforestation changes the surface energy balance and water cycle and that the magnitude of the change strongly depends on the land uses that follow deforestation. They found the LST over croplands 6.4 ºC higher and over pasture lands 4.3 ºC higher compared to the forest they replaced, caused by energy balance shifts. Ban-Weiss et al. (2011) and Davin and de Noblet-Ducoudré (2010) added that in addition to the reduction of ET, the reduction of surface roughness most likely enhanced the substantial local warming.

Also for non-Amazonian regions the replacement of forests by crops resulted in changes similar to our observations. In temperate Argentina, Houspanossian et al. (2013) found that the replacement of dry forests by crops resulted in an increase of albedo and still the forests exhibited cooler canopies than croplands. The cooler canopies were a result of the higher aerodynamic conductance that caused the capacity of tree canopies to dissipate heat into the atmosphere and that both latent and sensible heat fluxes operate simultaneously cooling forest canopies Houspanossian et al. (2013).

In a global analysis Li et al. (2015) showed that tropical forests generally have a low albedo, but still the net energy gain caused by solar energy absorption is offset by a greater latent heat loss via higher ET and that in the tropical forests the high ET cooling completely offsets the albedo warming. For China, this cooling effect was also shown by Peng et al. (2014) who compared LST, albedo and ET of plantation forests, grassland and cropland with forests.

For the USA, Weng et al. (2004) and for China, Yue et al. (2007) used NDVI as a vegetation abundance indicator and also found areas with a high mean NDVI to have lower LST than areas with a low mean NDVI, all suggesting that vegetation abundance is an important factor in controlling the LST through higher ET rates. Our result support their assumptions by showing the high correlation between NDVI – LST and ET – LST.

Our findings are also supported by modelling studies. Beltrán-Przekurat et al. (2012) found for the Southern Amazon that conversion of wooded vegetation to soy bean plantations caused an increase of the LST due to decreased latent heat and increased sensible heat fluxes. Climate models also show the same warming trends and land surface modelling also project an increase in surface temperatures following deforestation in the Brazilian Cerrado (Beltrán-Przekurat et al., 2012; Loarie et al., 2011b). In a global analysis, Pongratz et al. (2006) showed the LST increase of forest to cropland or pasture transitions, also driven by reduced roughness length, increased aerodynamic resistance, and that the temperature response is intensified in forest to clear land or bare land transitions (1.2 ºC increase). Similar to observational studies, the

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modelling results of Bathiany et al. (2010) show that ET is the main driver of temperature changes in tropical land areas.

In understanding the effects of deforestation on biophysical variables in Indonesia, our study identifies the following mechanisms: (a) reduction of ET decreases surface cooling, (b) reduced surface roughness reduces air mixing in the surface layer and thus vertical heat fluxes, (c) changes in albedo change the net radiation, (d) changes in energy partitioning in sensible and latent heat and heat storage. The effect is an increase of the mean temperatures leading to warming effects in all tropical climatic zones (Alkama and Cescatti, 2016). We point here that our study (1) included a ground heat flux, but did not take into account the storage of heat in the soil and the release of stored heat out of the soil during the daily cycle and (2) that the Landsat satellite image was obtained under cloud free conditions with high shortwave radiation input and low fraction of diffuse radiation. Therefore, the LST retrieved on cloud free days might be overestimated compared cloudy days where the differences in LST between land uses are supposed to be less when diffuse radiation increases.

Our study is the first to include the oil palm and rubber expansion in Indonesia. In Indonesia, smallholders take 40% of the land under oil palm cultivation for their account (Dislich et al., 2016). Since the landscape in the Jambi province is characterized by small-scale smallholder-dominated mosaic including rubber and oil palm monocultures (Clough et al., 2016), studies using medium to coarse resolution data are not able to capture the small scale changes and processes at the small-scale level. By using high resolution Landsat data we were able to also include the effects of land use change on biophysical variables and the underlying processes of the small scale holder agriculture.

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4.4 Effects of land use change on the provincial surface temperature in the past decades

The mean surface temperature of the Jambi province increased stronger during the morning (10:30 am) and afternoon (1:30 pm) than during the evening (10:30 pm) and night (1:30 am). Given that our results show a decrease of the NDVI in the same period, this suggests that the observed increased trend of the day time province LST can be attributed to land cover changes that occurred. Our assumption that the observed decreasing NDVI trend is caused by land conversions is supported by two different studies which reported that in the Jambi province between 2000 and 2011 (Drescher et al., 2016) and between 2000 and 2013 (Clough et al., 2016) the forest area decreased and that the largest increases were for rubber, oil palm, and agricultural and tree crop areas. The class 'other land use types' which includes urban areas showed a minor increase (around 1%) which suggests that the decrease in NDVI was most likely caused by forest cover loss and not by urban expansion (see Supporting information, Table S9). The same observations on LULC change in Indonesia were also supported by Lee et al. (2011), Margono et al. (2012, 2014), Paterson et al. (2015) and Luskin et al. (2014). Luskin et al. (2014) showed that in the period 2000 – 2010 forests decreased by 17%, oil palm and rubber area increased by 85% and 19%, respectively, in the Jambi province.

Given these trends in LULC changes, the observed LST trends were most likely caused by gradual decrease of forest cover loss at the expense of agriculture and croplands. Our assumptions are supported by findings of Silvério et al. (2015), Costa et al. (2007), Oliveira et al. (2013), Spracklen et al. (2012) and Salazar et al. (2015) which indicate that land use transitions in deforested areas likely have a strong influence on regional climate. Alkama and Cescatti's (2016) analysis show that biophysical effects of changes in forest cover can substantially affect the local climate by altering the average temperature, which is consistent with our observations and can be related to the observed land use change in the Jambi province.

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As Indonesia has undergone high rates of forest cover loss from 2000 to 2012 (Margono et al., 2014), these findings support our assumptions that the observed LST increase in the Jambi province was most likely caused by the observed land use changes.

To separate the effect of global warming from land-use change induced warming, we considered areas with permanent and large enough forests as reference where changes are mainly due to global warming. We find that LST of forests show either no significant trends (at 1:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 1:30 am) or just a clearly smaller increase of 0.03 °C per year at 10:30 am. The difference between the LST trend of the province and of the forest at 10:30 am was 0.04 °C per year, resulting in a ΔLST of 0.6 °C between the province and forest in the period 2000 and 2015. Using the warming effects we found between forest and other land cover types (ΔLST, Fig. 4a) and the observed land cover changes by Clough et al. (2016), Drescher et al. (2016) (Supporting Information S9, table S9.1 and S9.2) we estimated the contribution of all land cover types (except forest) to the ΔLST of the province between 2000 and 2015 to be 0.51°C out of 0.6°C observed above, which also supports our assumption that the increase of the province LST was by 85% driven by land cover changes (see Supporting Information 9, Table S9.1 & S9.2: Land use change analysis), with clear cut areas having a large contribution as they have the largest warming effect.

The observed small, but significant increase in LST of forests by 0.03 °C per year at 10:30 am reflects a LST change independent to land cover changes as the forest remained unchanged over that time period. Potential driver of that LST increase is the general global air temperature trend due to changes in radiative forcing or border effects (advection from warmer land uses), which is similar to the 1994 - 2014 time series analysis of Kayet et al. (2016) – who showed a LST increase for all land cover types ranging from wasted land, agriculture land, open forest, dense forest, water bodies, built up.

The observed trends of province air temperature (Fig. 5f) were significant, suggesting that a general warming due to global and regional effects contributes to the observed warming at province level during day and night time, but is smaller than the land cover change induced effects (Supporting Information S9, Table S9.1 & S9.2) at provincial level (Fig. 5a and 5b).

In our long term analysis on the regional effects of land use change we observed an increase in the mean LST and mean air temperature in the 2000 - 2015 period, concurrent to a decrease of the NDVI. The warming observed from MODIS LST data and from the air temperature obtained from the independent ERA Interim Reanalysis in the Jambi province are most likely caused by the observed decrease of the forest area and an increase oil palm, rubber and other cash crop areas in the same period, with other effects such as radiative forcing changes and additional natural effects playing a smaller role. Given the plan of the Indonesian governmental to substantially expand oil palm productivity with an projected additional demand of 1 to 28 Mha in 2020 (Wicke et al., 2011), the strong warming effect we show for Jambi province may serve as an indication of future changes in LST for other regions of Indonesia that will undergo land transformations towards oil palm plantations.

The observed effects of land use change on the biophysical variables may have implications for ecosystem services in the Jambi province beyond a pure warming effect. The high precipitation in this region in combination with the reduced vegetation cover of bare land and young oil palm plantations impose risks of soil erosion caused by surface run off. Less water infiltrates in the soil, thereby decreasing the soil water storage that may lead to low water availability in the dry season (Dislich et al., 2016; Merten et al., 2016). High surface temperatures in combination with low water availability may make the vegetation and the surroundings more vulnerable for fires.

5 Conclusion

In summary, we showed the importance of forests in regulating the local and regional climate. We derived biophysical variables from satellite data, analyzed the biophysical impacts of deforestation and on a local scale we found a general warming effect after forests are transformed to cash or tree croplands (oil palm, rubber, acacia) in the Jambi province of Sumatra. The warming effect after forest conversion results from the reduced evaporative cooling, which was identified as the main determinant of regulating the surface temperature. On a regional scale, we saw that the effects of land cover changes are reflected back in changes of the LST, NDVI and air temperature of the Jambi province. The warming effect induced by land cover change clearly exceeded the global warming effect. Understanding the effects of land cover change on the biophysical variables may support policies regarding conservation of the existing forests, planning and expansion of the oil palm plantations and possible afforestation measures.

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Author contributions. Clifton R. Sabajo conducted the research, fieldwork an analysis and prepared the manuscript, which was reviewed by Guerric le Maire, Tania June, Ana Meijide, Olivier Roupsard and Alexander Knohl. Ana Meijide and Alexander Knohl provided the meteorological data.

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

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