

**Effects of Ozone Pollution and Climate
Variability/Change on Spatial and Temporal Patterns
of Terrestrial Primary Productivity and Carbon
Storage in China**

By

Wei Ren

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Approved by

Hanqin Tian, Chair, Alumni Professor of Ecology
Art Chappelka, Professor of Forest Biology
Luke Marzen, Associate Professor of Geography
Ge Sun, Research Hydrologist

Abstract

Over the past several decades, China's terrestrial ecosystems have experienced severe air pollution and other environmental changes. Quantifying how these environmental changes have affected carbon (C) fluxes and storage in China's terrestrial ecosystems is crucial to understanding the global C cycle as well as China's sustainability. Using an improved Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM), I assessed the spatial and temporal patterns of net primary productivity (NPP) and C storage in China's terrestrial ecosystems in response to tropospheric ozone (O₃) pollution and historical climate variability/ change in the context of multi-factor global change during 1961-2005. An overall evaluation has been implemented to investigate how elevated O₃ in combination with climate variability has affected the C cycle in terrestrial ecosystems of the nation. The modeled results showed that during 1961-2005, elevated O₃ resulted in a mean 4.5% loss in NPP and a 0.9% reduction in total C storage for China's terrestrial ecosystems as a whole, which has reduced the magnitude of terrestrial C sink during the same period. The reduction of C storage among different terrestrial ecosystems varied from 0.1 Tg C to 312 Tg C (1 T = 10¹²) with a decreasing rate ranging from 0.2% to 6.9%. For example, China's grassland ecosystems, distributed mainly in arid and semi-arid regions of North China, were the most vulnerable in response to climate variability/ change and elevated O₃. The effect of O₃ pollution on China's forest ecosystems could be accelerated by climate extreme events such as drought. For agricultural ecosystems, some rain-fed

cropland areas in arid and semi-arid regions of North China, which experienced high O₃ levels and frequent drought events, acted as a C source. However the effect of O₃ pollution and climate variability/change on C storage in cropland could be modified by land management (e.g. irrigation and fertilizer). Results from this study indicate that improved air quality could significantly increase productivity and C storage in China's terrestrial ecosystems and that optimized land management options could enhance the adaptation of terrestrial ecosystem to climate variability/change and air pollution.

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Table of Contents

Abstract	ii
Acknowledgments	iv
List of Tables	xi
List of Figures	xiv
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
1. Objectives	5
2. Approaches	7
3. Dissertation structure	9
Chapter 2 Literature Review	13
1. Carbon cycling, climate change and environmental problems	13
2. Net Primary Productivity (NPP), carbon storage and carbon sink in terrestrial ecosystems	16
3. Factors influencing carbon sink in the terrestrial ecosystems	19
4. Ecosystem complexity and ecosystem modeling approach	23
Chapter 3 Terrestrial ecosystems, ozone pollution – Effects of tropospheric ozone pollution on net primary productivity and carbon storage in terrestrial ecosystems of China	28
Abstract	28
1. Introduction	29

2. Methods	35
2.1. The Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM)	35
2.2 Input data	39
2.3. Simulation design	47
3. Results and analysis	48
3.1. Overall change in Net Primary Productivity and Carbon Storage	48
3.2. Spatiotemporal variations of C Flux and C Storage	54
4. Discussion	58
4.1. Comparison with estimates of ozone damage from other research in China	58
4.2. Ozone and its interactive effects on net primary productivity and carbon storage	59
4.3. Uncertainty and future work	63
5. Conclusions.....	65
Chapter 4 Grassland ecosystem, ozone pollution, climate variability/change	
– Influence of ozone pollution and climate variability on grassland ecosystem productivity across China	67
Abstract	67
1. Introduction	68
2. Materials and methods	70
2.1. The Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM) and input data	70
2.2 Experimental design	71
3. Results and discussions	73

3.1. Tropospheric ozone concentrations and climate variability in China	
during the past decades	73
3.2. Spatiotemporal variations in carbon flux and storage as influenced	
by increasing ozone pollution.....	75
3.3. Combination effects of ozone with changing climate on carbon	
flux and storage	79
3.4. Simulation results comparison.....	82
4. Conclusions.....	83
Chapter 5 Forest ecosystem, ozone pollution, and climate change – Influences of	
ozone pollution and climate variability on forest ecosystems’ productivity and	
carbon storage in China	85
Abstract.....	85
1. Introduction.....	86
2. Materials and methods	89
2.1. The Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM) and input data	89
2.2 Experimental design.....	91
3. Results.....	92
3.1. Temporal variations of annual NPP and carbon storage	92
3.2. Spatial variations of annual NPP and carbon storage	95
3.3. Biome analysis of annual NPP and carbon storage	96
3.4. Relative contributions of ozone pollution and climate change on NPP	
and carbon storage	97
4. Discussion	100

4.1. Comparisons of simulated net primary productivity (NPP) with other studies ..	100
4.2. Comparison with estimates of ozone damage from other studies.....	101
4.3. Uncertainty analysis and future work	102
5. Conclusions.....	102
 Chapter 6 Agricultural ecosystem, ozone pollution, climate change, multiple stresses –Responses of net primary productivity and soil organic carbon storage to multiple.....	
Abstract	104
1. Introduction	105
2. Materials and methods	109
2.1. The Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM) and its agricultural module.....	109
2.2. Input data	113
2.3. Experimental design.....	118
3. Results.....	119
3.1. Spatial and temporal variations in NPP and carbon storage	124
3.2. Environmental controls on NPP.....	124
3.3. Environmental controls on soil carbon storage.....	126
4. Discussion	132
4.1. Estimation of NPP and Soil Organic Matter Content (SOC) in China’s croplands.....	126
4.2. Contributions of multiple environmental changes to NPP and SOC	126
4.3. Other environmental factors	128
4.4. Interactive effects of multiple factors	128

5. Conclusions	130
Chapter 7 Model validation and uncertainty analysis – Sensitivity analysis and comparisons with field measurements, remote sensing observations, and ecosystem modeling.....	132
Abstract	132
1. Introduction	133
2. Materials and methods	134
2.1. The Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM) and input data.....	134
2.2. Field observation.....	134
2.3. Survey-based data	135
2.4. Remote sensing	135
2.5. The Terrestrial Ecosystem model (TEM)	135
3. Experimental design.....	136
4. Results and discussion	137
4.1. Sensitivity analysis.....	137
4.2. Model validation and comparison.....	140
4.3. Comparisons of two models.....	143
5. Conclusions.....	146
Chapter 8 General Conclusion and future research recommendation	147
References.....	151
Appendix I	195
Appendix II	198

List of Tables

Table 3-1 Experimental arrangement including CO ₂ , climate, land use and land management (fertilizer and irrigation)	49
Table 3-2 Overall changes in carbon fluxes and pools during 1961-2000	49
Table 3-3 The Accumulated net carbon exchange (NCE) of different plant functional types under three scenarios including O ₃ only, CLC, OCLC and the difference between CLC and OCLC from 1961 to 2000.....	52
Table 4-1 Experimental arrangement including O ₃ , climate, CO ₂ and land use.....	71
Table 4-2 Overall changes in net primary productivity (NPP) between 1990s and 1960s and carbon pools including vegetation carbon (VC), soil carbon (SC) and total carbon (TC) between 2000 and 1961	76
Table 4-3 Overall changes in net primary productivity (NPP) between 1990s and 1960s and carbon pools including vegetation carbon (VC), soil carbon (SC) and total carbon (TC) between 2000 and 1961 under scenarios of ozone effect with climate change (OClm) and without climate change (O)	76
Table 4-4 Estimates on Carbon storage in vegetation of grasslands in China.....	83
Table 5-1 Experimental arrangement including O ₃ , climate, nitrogen deposition, CO ₂ and land use	91

Table 5-2 Decadal mean and change rates of average annual NPP and NCE in the 1960s, 1990s, and recent five years (2000-2005) under the combined effects with and without ozone pollution	92
Table 5-3 Changes of average annual net primary productivity (NPP) and carbon storage in different forest types during the period 1961-2005 across China's forest ecosystems under the scenarios of the combined effects with (All) and without ozone pollution (All_O ₃).	96
Table 5-4 Estimations of mean NPP, total NPP, and carbon sequestration rate in different forest types and the whole forest ecosystems using models, inventory-based and RS methods	100
Table 6-1 Input data description including time step, unit and reference information....	114
Table 6-2 Simulations including climate, carbon dioxide (CO ₂), nitrogen deposition (NDEP), ozone (O ₃), land-cover and land-use (LUCC).....	118
Table 6-3 Decadal mean carbon fluxes and carbon pools	120
Table 6-4 Decadal mean carbon flux and carbon pool in five regions	123
Table 6-5 The relative contribution of each factor to the total increase of net primary production (NPP) and soil carbon storage (SOC) estimated by DLEM-Ag	125
Table 7-1 Comparisons of soil carbon change and net primary productivity (NPP) at the national level and different cropping systems between 1961 and 2000 among ecosystem modeling, inventory estimate	142

Table 7-2 Changes of ozone pollution (AOT40) and the responses of total net primary productivity (NPP) loss and unit NPP loss to increased ozone (AOT40) between the 1960s and the 1990s at biome level145

List of Illustrations

Figures 1-1 Framework of the research	12
Figures 3-1 Framework of the Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM).....	34
Figures 3-2 Annual monthly AOT40 (ppb-hr) mean from 1961 to 2000 (a) and Monthly AOT40 (ppb-hr) in 1961, 1980 and 2000 (b)	42
Figures 3-3 Average monthly AOT40 in spring(a) summer (b) autumn(c) and winter (d) from 1990 to 2000 in China (unit:1000 ppb-hr or ppm-hr).....	43
Figures 3-4 Contemporary plant functional types classified based on potential vegetation map and land use types in 2000 in China	44
Figures 3-5 Variations in mean annual atmospheric CO ₂ concentration (a); mean annual temperature (b); annual precipitation (c); annual precipitation anomalies (d) and annual temperature anomalies (e) (relative to 1961-1990 normal period) from 1961 to 2000	45
Figures 3-6 Variations of land use (a) and irrigation area (10 ¹⁰ m ²) and fertilizing amount (10 ¹⁰ kg) (b).....	46
Figures 3-7 Difference in (a) cumulative net carbon exchange (NCE) and (b) net primary productivity (NPP) in 1990s between CLC with O ₃ and without O ₃ (g m ⁻²).....	51
Figures 3-8 Annual net primary productivity (NPP) under 6 influencing factors from 1961 to 2000	55

Figures 3-9 Change rate of average annual net primary productivity (NPP) from 1960s to 1990s under different influencing factors related to O ₃ (%).....	57
Figures 3-10 Annual changes in terrestrial carbon storage in China from 1961 to 2000 under four influencing factors	60
Figures 4-1 Map of grassland distribution in China (a) and maps of anomalies in the 1990s (relative to the average for 1961-1990) for (b) annual average AOT40 (ppm-hr), (c) precipitation (mm), and (d) temperature (°C)	72
Figures 4-2 Changes in tropospheric ozone and climate across grassland areas of China: (a) annual average monthly AOT40 (ppm-hr/month), (b) precipitation (mm) and (c) mean annual temperature (°C) for the grassland area in China.....	73
Figures 4-3 Carbon source and sink during 1961-2000 across China's grassland area as a simulation result of combined effect of climate, land use, O ₃ and CO ₂ by DLEM.....	77
Figures 4-4 Net primary productivity (NPP) change rate (%) between 1990s and 1960s in (a) O ₃ only and (b) O ₃ _Climate, showing the different effects of ozone alone and combination effects of ozone and climate change on NPP of China's grassland during the past four decades.	77
Figures 4-5 NCE responses from 1961-2000, showing the effect of ozone and climate disturbance (Pg C yr ⁻¹), O (O ₃), C (climate), OC (O ₃ _climate) and OCImLC (O ₃ _Climate_Lucc_O ₃).....	78

Figures 5-1 Map of forests distribution in China (a) and maps of anomalies in the 1990s (relative to the average for 1961-1990) for (b) annual average AOT40 (ppm-hr), (c) precipitation (mm).....	90
Figures 5-2 Changes of annual net primary productivity (NPP) (a) and net carbon exchange (NCE) (b) (Pg C/year) from 1961 to 2005 under different scenarios	93
Figures 5-3 Decadal mean NPP (g C/m ² /year) in the 1960s (a) and 1990s (b).....	94
Figures 5-4 The total accumulated net carbon exchange (carbon storage) (g C/m ²) in forest ecosystems during the period 1961-2005.....	94
Figures 5-5 Annual changes in relative contributions of ozone pollution, climate change and interaction to (a) annual net primary productivity (NPP) and (b) net carbon storage (Tg C/year)	97
Figures 5-6 Net primary productivity (NPP) change rate (%) between 1990s and 1960s under scenarios of (a) O ₃ only and (b) O ₃ + Climate; difference of annual mean NPP between under the effects of O ₃ pollution combined with climate change and the effect of climate only in wet year 2002 (c) and in dry year 1986 (d).....	99
Figures 6-1 Framework of the Agricultural module of the Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM-Ag).....	110
Figures 6-2 Changes of multiple environmental stresses in annual mean average temperature (A), precipitation (B), AOT40 (C), total cropland area (D), nitrogen fertilizer application (E), and nitrogen deposition (F) in five regions of China during the period 1961-2005	115

Figures 6-3 Cropping systems in China.....	116
Figures 6-4 Annual changes of different carbon pools in China's agriculture ecosystems during 1961-2005	120
Figures 6-5 Change rates in net primary productivity (NPP) and soil organic carbon (SOC) between 1990s and 1960s	122
Figures 6-6 Changes in (A) net primary productivity and (B) soil carbon storage (Tg C) resulted from multiple factors including climate, CO ₂ , O ₃ , Nitrogen deposition, Land-cover and land-use change (LCLUC)	125
Figures 6-7 (A) Annual changes to previous year in net primary productivity (NPP) and nitrogen fertilizer application; (B) Annual soil carbon storage (SOC) and NPP (g C/m ²) in China's croplands from 1961 to 2005	127
Figures 6-8 Annual changes in net primary productivity (NPP) (Tg C/yr) due to the effects of single factor and the effects of single factor plus the interactive effects with other factors	129
Figures 7-1 Responses of annual crop yield to the changes in annual temperature (°C), precipitation (mm), fertilizer (g N/m ²) and O ₃ (ppm-hr) in dry farmland and rice paddy field. (Note: left axis represents environmental factors and the right axis is the changes in crop yield carbon (g C/m ² /yr).....	137
Figures 7-2 Daily reductions of (A) net primary productivity (NPP) and (B) leaf area index (LAI) in response to four different ozone treatments (AOT40: I500, II1000, III3000, IV5000), background data in	

Yucheng Integrated Agricultural Experimental Station (116.6°, 36.7°)	138
.....	138
Figures 7-3 Comparison of DLEM-estimated CO ₂ and CH ₄ fluxes	
with field observations	139
Figures 7-4 Changes in annual net primary production (NPP) of China's	
croplands estimated by DLEM-Ag model, GLO-PEM model,	
AVHRR, and MODIS database during 1981-2005	142
Figures 7-5 National estimations of annual NPP under three scenarios (A) and	
regional estimations of decadal mean annual NPP (B) simulated	
from the TEM and DLEM models	145

Chapter I

Introduction

Terrestrial ecosystems constitute a major player in the system of carbon- cycle- climate feedbacks by releasing or absorbing relevant greenhouse gases and controlling exchanges of energy, water and momentum between the atmosphere and the land surface (Heimann and Reichstein, 2008). Carbon in terrestrial ecosystems is gained through photosynthesis and is lost primarily as CO₂ through respiration in autotrophs (plants and photosynthetic bacteria) and heterotrophs (fungi, animals and some bacteria), and non-CO₂ losses such as methane or dissolved carbon. The net amount of carbon captured by plants through photosynthesis, defined as Net Primary Productivity (NPP), is of fundamental importance to human society, given that the largest portion of our food supply depends on productivity of plant life on land, as does our need from wood for construction and fuel. Carbon can be stored in trees for several hundreds of years and in soils for thousands of years (carbon storage, C storage), depending on the turnover time. The capacity of C storage in different carbon pools and its temporal and spatial patterns are mainly controlled by environmental change, including climate change, which is characterized as global warming induced by increasing atmospheric CO₂ concentration, and human activities, such as land use change and agricultural land management (Melillo et al., 1993, 1996; Vitousek et al., 1997; Tian et al., 1998, 1999, 2003; Cao and

Woodward, 1998; White et al., 1999; Falkowski et al., 2000; Chapin et al., 2002; Houghton, 2003, 2007; Grace, 2004; Field et al., 2007; Luo, 2007). Consequently, quantifying NPP and C storage (both interannual variations and spatial patterns) in terrestrial ecosystems is crucial for the assessment of ecosystem services and global carbon budget.

The carbon cycle in terrestrial ecosystems is influenced by a number of processes and environmental factors at different time-scales. During the last two centuries, atmospheric CO₂ concentrations have dramatically increased by 31 percent (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, 2007) due to the large amount of CO₂ released through human activities (e.g. fossil combustion, cement production, intensive farming and vast deforestation) (e.g. Ramankutty and Foley, 1999; Tilman et al., 2002). The global air temperature has increased at an unprecedented rate (Hansen et al., 2006); this is generally believed to be caused mainly by greenhouse gases (GHGs), with CO₂ as the major contributor. As the globe has continued to get warmer, precipitation trends have varied widely by regions and over time and the frequency and intensity of extreme climate events have increased (IPCC, 2007; Severinghaus et al., 2009). In addition to rapid changes in climate systems, atmospheric composition changes (e.g. nitrogen deposition, O₃, and aerosol) have received increased attention in the past decades (e.g. Akimoto, 2003; Galloway et al., 2003), and in recent years, elevated tropospheric O₃ has been generally recognized as one of the dominant pollutants at a global scale (Ashmore, 2005).

Evidence shows that the changing climate system and other environmental factors have significantly influenced the carbon cycle in terrestrial ecosystems; this includes positive effects, such as CO₂ fertilization stimulating plant growth and enhancing CO₂ accumulation (Free Air CO₂ Enrichment, FACE Projects), and negative effects such as O₃ pollution reducing carbon sinks (European OTC program, EOTC). However, environmental stresses usually do not operate independently, but often interact to produce combined impacts on ecosystem functioning (Schindler, 2001). For example, recent work indicates that the combined effects of O₃ pollution and its influence on the climate system could reduce the capacity of land-carbon sink (Sitch et al, 2007), which will eventually threaten environmental sustainability and economic development. Consequentially, it is necessary to conduct an integrated assessment on terrestrial ecosystem production and carbon sequestration capacity in response to both global climate change and environmental changes.

Due to the high spatial heterogeneity and the complex structures and feedbacks of terrestrial ecosystems in response to multiple environmental stresses, it is challenging to realistically quantify the magnitude, patterns, and variation of NPP and C storage in the context of global change. Understanding the underlying mechanisms at regional level through traditional controlled experiments, surveys, and empirical statistical models is especially difficult. An integrated process-based ecosystem model, which includes the biogeochemical and physiological responses of ecosystems to atmospheric and climate changes, has proved a powerful tool in such multiple stress studies, especially over large regions (Tian et al., 1998, 2003, 2008; Karnosky et al., 2005). An integrated

process-based ecosystem model is necessary to capture or characterize the response of carbon dynamics in terrestrial ecosystems to main environmental changes (such as elevated tropospheric O₃, climate variability/change, increasing atmospheric CO₂ concentration, nitrogen deposition, and land cover/use change).

China, home of more than 1.3 billion people and the 3rd largest country in the world, has seen great economic development and rapid industrialization over recent decades. In late 2006, China overtook the United States as the world's largest producer of CO₂, the chief greenhouse gas (Gregg et al., 2008). China's terrestrial ecosystems have experienced substantial changes in climate (Cao et al., 2003; Tian et al., 2003; Chen et al. 2006), atmospheric chemical compositions (e.g. O₃ pollution, nitrogen deposition) (Felzer et al. 2005, Lu and Tian 2007; Ren et al., 2007a, b), and land-use and land-cover (Liu et al., 2005a,b; Tian et al., 2003). Air pollution and its close correlation with economic development - primarily the burning of fossil fuels (coal, gasoline, etc.) has been one of the most pressing environmental concerns in China over the recent decades (Liu and Diamond, 2005). Site-level monitoring, remote sensing and models show that the concentrations of ground-level O₃ have significantly increased in past decades (Wang et al., 2007) and will continue to increase in the coming years, with a peak concentration 150 ppb level of O₃ in some locations (Elliot et al., 1997; van Aardenne et al., 1999). The effects of air pollution on ecosystems, including human health and natural ecosystems, are diverse and numerous. Studies have suggested that terrestrial ecosystems have distinct responses to elevated ozone and climate variability/change, because of their distinct structure and functioning characters within each functional type, also because of their

complex environmental and management conditions. The effects of O₃ on the terrestrial carbon budget are not well understood in China (Felzer et al., 2005; Ren et al., 2007a, b). Though several experiments investigating O₃ effects on croplands have been carried out in China for around 20 years (e.g. Wang et al., 1995, 2002; Guo et al., 2001; Bai et al., 2003), few have focused on the impacts of O₃ pollution on the carbon budget at national scale. Furthermore, China is dominated by a monsoon climate and climate variability/change has exerted significant impact on carbon dynamics in China's terrestrial ecosystems (Cao et al., 2003; Tian et al., 2003; Fang et al., 2007). To illustrate the O₃ effects on a continental scale, therefore, it is necessary to consider the interactive effects of O₃ and other environmental factors and the resulting impact on terrestrial ecosystem production and carbon storage.

In order to investigate the magnitude and variation of NPP and C storage in terrestrial ecosystems across China in responses to multiple environmental stresses during the period 1961-2005, this study applied an improved integrated process-based ecosystem model and refined gridded regional database. Emphasis is placed on examining the influences of O₃ pollution and climate variability/change, and the sensitivities of different functional types to these factors.

1. Objectives

The overall goal of this study is to examine the response of the terrestrial carbon cycle in China to tropospheric O₃ pollution and climate variability/change during the period 1961-2005. It is hypothesized that the carbon fluxes (i.e. NPP) and carbon pools (carbon storage in vegetation and soil pools) have been influenced by global change,

particularly the increasing tropospheric O₃ concentrations and climate variability/change; the responses in different terrestrial ecosystems (grass, forest and agriculture) have varied. The study is organized by several interlinked questions and hypotheses relating to O₃ pollution, climate change, and carbon cycle responses:

Question 1: What were the changes in tropospheric O₃ and climate in China over the past decades (1961-2005)?

Hypothesis: Tropospheric O₃ and climate variability/change show substantial spatial and temporal variations due to regional differences in economic development and environmental conditions.

Question 2: How has air pollution and climate variability/change affected the terrestrial carbon cycle in China over the past decades (1961-2005)?

Hypothesis: Direct and indirect effects of O₃ pollution and climate variability/change have resulted in NPP reduction and carbon loss from the terrestrial ecosystems since 1961.

Question 3: How have the carbon cycles of different functional types changed in response to O₃ pollution and climate variability/change?

Hypothesis: Natural (forest and grassland) and managed ecosystems (cropland) in the context of global environmental change have had different responses to O₃ pollution and climate variability/change.

Our strategy for answering these questions involves the following tasks:

- i. Examine the spatial and temporal characteristics of tropospheric O₃ and climate variability/change;
- ii. Assess the impacts of the tropospheric O₃, climate variability/change, combined with other changing environmental factors, on terrestrial carbon cycle in China;
- iii. Further examine the impacts of changes in tropospheric O₃ and climate on different ecosystems including grassland, forest, and cropland.

2. Approaches

To address these objectives and answer the above questions, the study is conducted by applying process-based model simulation driven by refined gridded regional database. Two components are necessary: 1) the integrated ecosystem model, which can simulate the underlying mechanisms of the impacts of elevated O₃ concentrations, increasing temperature, and precipitation change on the carbon cycle; 2) the long term and regional database as inputs for the model, including historical information on O₃ pollution, climate variability/change and other environmental factors such as land cover/use change, land management (application of fertilizer and irrigation, harvest, rotation), and increasing CO₂. The study is carried on using the following steps and tasks:

- Model development
 - 1) Improve the process-based ecosystem model, Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM), by developing a O₃ sub-model;

- 2) Develop an agricultural version of Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM-Ag), by including agronomic practices that distinguish the natural and managed ecosystems;
 - 3) Calibrate, parameterize and validate the model at the site and regional levels
- Data collection, development, application, and analysis
 - 1) Collect basic information and observed database at site level and regional level;
 - 2) Develop regional datasets such as irrigation, rotation maps and historical fertilizer applications;
 - 3) Apply and analyze the O₃ pollution, temperature and precipitation database
 - Model application and regional assessment
 - 1) Assess NPP and C storage in responses to the combined effects of O₃ pollution, climate variability/change and other environmental factors for all the terrestrial ecosystems across China
 - 2) Explore the spatio-temporal variations of NPP and C storage in natural and managed ecosystems
 - 3) Examine the sensitivities of NPP and C storage, including their responses to the single effects of O₃ pollution and climate variability/change as well as combined effects through experimental simulations
 - Model uncertainties analysis
 - 1) Examine the model responses to multiple environmental changes through conducting sensitivity experiments
 - 2) Validate the modeled results at site level

- 3) Compare the modeled results with historical survey records and contemporary observations from remote sensing at the regional level
- 4) Compare the modeling results from DLEM and TEM models

3. Dissertation Structure

Chapter 1 gives an introduction of the background, research questions and hypotheses, study objects and tasks, and approaches used in this study.

Chapter 2 presents a detailed literature review on multiple environmental factors and their impacts on the carbon cycle in terrestrial ecosystems. It emphasizes the significant impact of increasing O₃ concentrations on terrestrial ecosystem carbon sequestration in China over multiple decades, and points out the importance of assessing NPP and C storage and considering tropospheric O₃ pollution, climate variability/change and other environmental factors in the context of global change. It also points out that due to complex ecosystem feedbacks and the interactions among different environmental controls, large uncertainties exist in current assessments that use traditional methods. Finally, this chapter describes the advantages of process-based model simulation and its application in regional carbon cycle studies.

Chapter 3-6 includes four sections for the assessments of NPP and C storage in different ecosystems. It first makes the general assessment of NPP and C storage in the terrestrial ecosystems in China as a whole, considering tropospheric O₃ pollution in the context of global change. It further investigates the impact of tropospheric O₃ pollution and climate variability/change in combination with other environmental factors on natural

ecosystems (e.g. grasslands, forests) and managed ecosystem (croplands) across China. The general description of the process-based ecosystem model and all the input datasets are presented in Chapter 3, and the development of the model and refined databases are individually described in the following chapters. In Chapter 3, the DLEM model and the long-term high resolution gridded dataset are applied to assess the magnitude and variations of NPP and C storage across China's terrestrial ecosystems in responses to both O₃ effects and no O₃ effects, which helps to explore the different sensitivities of each ecosystem to O₃ pollution and promote further investigation of these three ecosystems. Chapter 4 and chapter 5 investigate the impacts of O₃ pollution combined with climate variability/change on natural ecosystems (grasslands and forests) in China. Without too much disturbance derived from human activities, it helped to examine the spatial-temporal variations of NPP and C storage in responses to a single O₃ influence and the combined effects of O₃ pollution and climate variability/change at regional level. Chapter 6 conducts a synthetic simulation study on the impact of multiple stresses including O₃ pollution, climate change/variability, land management and other environmental factors on croplands in China. This chapter also develops the agricultural version of the ecosystem model (DLEM-Ag) as well as the relevant input database (e.g. cropping system map, irrigation and fertilizer dataset) consistent with the complex characteristics of agricultural ecosystems. The effects of O₃ pollution and climate variability/change on crop NPP and soil carbon storage, and the interactive effects involved in land management were also investigated.

Chapter 7 validates the model results and analyzes the uncertainties in this study. This chapter presents the general responses of the model to environmental changes and particularly examined the sensitivity of our model to O₃ exposure through conducting sensitivity experiments. Potential problems contributing to uncertainties in the assessments in this study were also analyzed and quantified through comparing the simulated results with the measurements at site level, survey records and observations from remote sensing.

Chapter 8 summarizes the overall findings in the dissertation, and assesses uncertainties and proposes directions for future work.

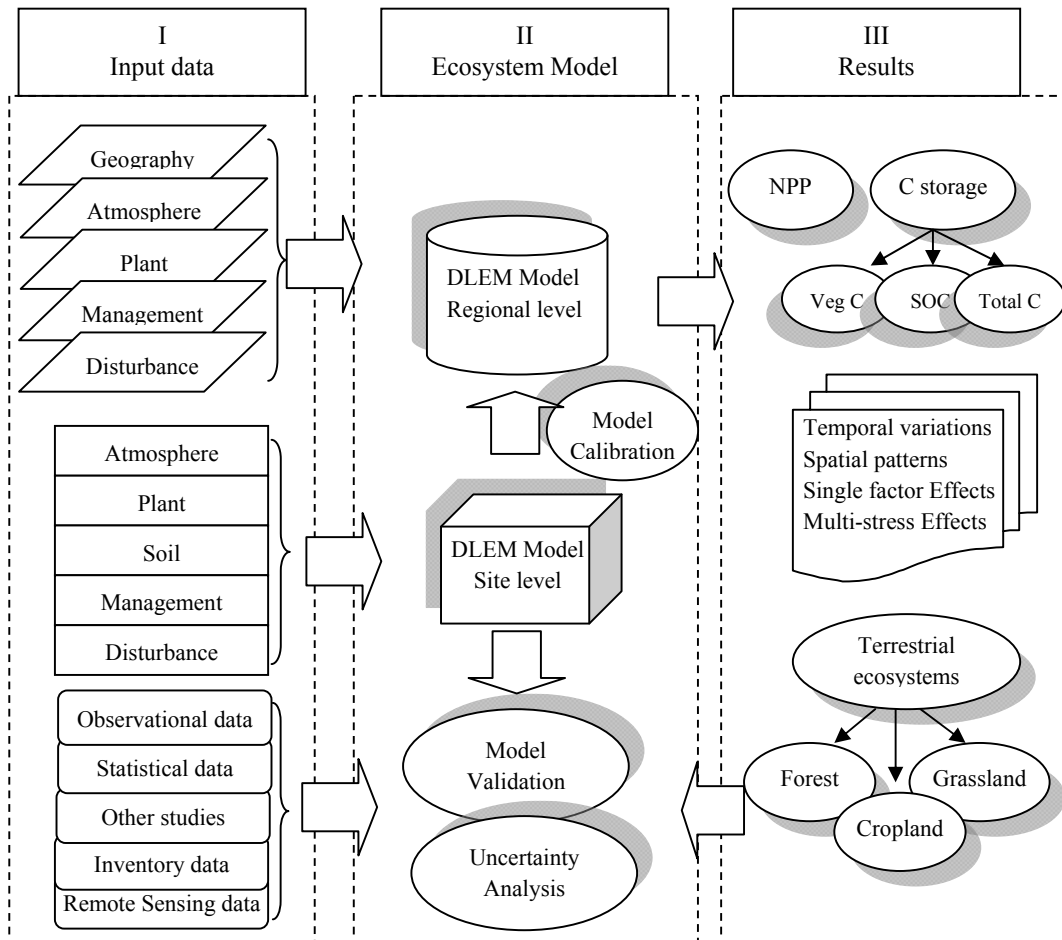


Figure 1-1 Framework of the research

Chapter 2

Literature Review

1. Carbon cycling in terrestrial ecosystems, climate change and environmental problems

1.1 Carbon cycling

Carbon is one of the most abundant elements in the universe and provides the structural basis for all known life forms. The carbon cycle in the terrestrial biosphere is a crucial biogeochemical cycle, providing basic food production, influencing climate regulation, and supporting other nutrient cycles, etc (Schimel et al., 2001). Carbon dioxide (CO₂), the major component of the carbon cycle, not only affects the rate of key ecological processes, such as plant photosynthesis and respiration, but as one of the most important green house gases (GHGs), also strongly affects the heat insulating capability of the atmosphere. The carbon cycle is changing rapidly as a result of human activities, substantially altering the Earth's climate (e.g. atmospheric temperature) and human living environments (atmosphere components). It has been reported that global warming and looming environmental problems (e.g. air pollution, water quality etc.) are among the major threats to human society, and both of these are closely related to the carbon cycle (Melillo et al., 1993, 1996; Tian et al., 1998, 2003; Cao and Woodward, 1998; White et al., 1999; Chapin et al., 2002; Field et al., 2007; Luo, 2007).

1.2 Climate change

Global warming has been attracting more and more attention since the 1980s. Average global temperatures increased by 0.74 ± 0.18 °C (1.33 ± 0.32 °F) during the 20th century, with the rate of 0.2 °C per decade since 1976 (Hansen et al. 2006). A further 1.1 to 6.4 °C (2.0 to 11.5 °F) increase in the global surface temperature during the twenty-first century was reported in the latest IPCC, based on climate models (IPCC, 2007). The IPCC (2007) report concludes that increasing GHGs concentration resulting from human activities such as fossil fuel burning and deforestation (Marland et al. 2002; Houghton and Hackler et al., 2003) caused a significant perturbation in the natural cycling of carbon between land, atmosphere and oceans, and is therefore responsible for most of the observed temperature increase since the middle of the 20th century. For example, every 1 ppm (10^{-6}) increase in atmospheric CO₂ concentration can increase global mean temperatures by about 0.01 °C (Prentice et al., 2001). By 2100, atmospheric CO₂ concentration will have risen from its current value of 380 ppm to between 500 and 1000 ppm; global mean temperatures would then rise by 1.5 °C to 5.8 °C due only to this change in CO₂.

1.3 Air pollution

Changes in atmospheric chemistry (e.g. increasing CO₂, N, and tropospheric O₃) have not only contributed to climate change but have resulted in increased air pollution, which is one of the most pressing environmental problems worldwide. Ozone (O₃) is the third most important greenhouse gas after CO₂ and CH₄ and is now also becoming a poisonous gas to human beings and plants as its concentrations in the troposphere

increase. It is reported that the tropospheric O₃ level has increased on multiple scales - local, national, continental, and even global (Akimoto, 2003). Streets and Waldhoff (2000) suggested that tropospheric O₃ levels might increase substantially in the future. Advection from the Asian continent increases pollutant levels over the Pacific Ocean (Jacob et al., 1999; Mauzerall et al., 2000), and will eventually influence North America and Europe by intercontinental transport (Jaffe et al., 2003; Wild and Akimoto, 2001). O₃ can influence both ecosystem structures and functions (e.g. Heagle, 1989, 1999; Ashmore, 2005; Muntifering et al., 2004). Over 90% of the damaging effects of air pollution on ecosystems on a regional basis may be the result of tropospheric O₃ (Adams et al. 1986), which can cause up to a 30% reduction in crop yield and forest production (Adams et al., 1989). Approximately 50% of global forests might be exposed to higher O₃ levels (>60 ppb, a value that has been employed in impact assessment research in USA) by 2100 (Percy et al. 2003). Consequently, the need to investigate the adverse effects of O₃ on terrestrial ecosystem production is urgent.

1.4 Environmental changes in China

China has experienced extensive environmental changes over the past four decades, including climate change, increasing O₃ pollution and land use change (Tian et al., 2003; Chen et al. 2006; Felzer et al. 2005; Liu et al. 2005; Liu et al., 2005a, b; Liu and Diamond 2005; Lu and Tian 2007; Ren et al., 2007a, b). Global warming and air pollution have become the most pressing environmental concerns in China in recent decades (Chen et al., 2005; Liu and Diamond, 2005). Chen et al., (2006) found that China experienced a large increase of 0.23°C and 10.6 mm per decade for average air temperature and precipitation, respectively. But these variations in temperature and

precipitation had distinct regional differences (Sha et al., 2002; Zuo et al., 2003; Qian et al., 2009). The rate of change in air temperature in China was significantly higher than the corresponding global average during the same time period (about 0.1 °C increase per decade from 1961 to 2005, Brohan, et al. 2006; IPCC 2007). Documented evidence suggests that ground O₃ concentration increased significantly in three decades in China, based on site measurements, observations from remote sensing and simulated results (Feng et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2007); other studies predict that ground O₃ will continue to increase in the coming years with a peak concentration of 150 ppb in some locations (Elliot et al., 1997; von Aardenne et al., 1999). All the impacts of these environmental changes on China's terrestrial carbon cycle areas yet unknown (Fu et al., 1999; Cao et al., 2003; Tian et al., 2003; Felzer et al., 2005; Chen et al., 2006; Ren et al., 2007a, b).

2. Net primary productivity, carbon storage and carbon sink in terrestrial ecosystems

2.1 Carbon cycling and terrestrial ecosystems

Documented evidence shows that the terrestrial ecosystems can respond rapidly to an altered carbon cycle. Land and oceans absorbed more than 50% of atmospheric CO₂ released from human activities and fossil fuel burning in the past two decades (IPCC 2007). The terrestrial biosphere interacts strongly with the climate, providing both positive and negative feedback. Carbon sink (carbon uptake and storage processes) can provide a negative feedback to the altered carbon cycle, maintaining the stability of the global ecosystem, atmosphere system and climate system (Pacala et al. 2007). Net primary productivity (NPP) is regarded as an important variable to measure energy input

to the biosphere and terrestrial CO₂ assimilation, and carbon storage in different pools (vegetation and soil) is generally used to measure the magnitude of carbon stored in different ecosystems. Both variables indicate the potency of the carbon sinks in terrestrial systems. The need to assess and understand the variability and controls of carbon sinks in responses to the combined effects of climate change induced by human disturbances and other environmental stresses, such as atmospheric components changes (e.g. increasing O₃ pollution), land-use change and land management, is becoming increasingly important in the 21st century (Denman et al., 2007).

2.2 Carbon sinks in terrestrial ecosystems

Ciais et al (1995) suggests that there was a significant land sink in the Northern Hemisphere. A net sink of 1-2.5 Pg C/yr was estimated to be distributed evenly between North America and Eurasia (Prentice et al., 2001, Schimel et al. 2001, Gurney et al., 2002). However, the magnitude, geographical distribution, and causes of a northern, mid-latitude terrestrial carbon sink are uncertain (Houghton and Hackler, 2003).

Agriculture and forestry are in a unique position due to their positive role in helping reduce the buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere through sequestering or storing carbon in perennial vegetation (such as plant residues and wood) and by increasing soil carbon in the form of soil organic matter in croplands with conservation practices. For example, the introduction of conservation tillage in the USA is estimated to have increased soil organic matter (SOM) stocks by about 1.4 Pg C over the last 30 years.

Schimel et al. (2000) suggested that U.S. agriculture could remain a modest sink for decades to come with the best management practices. Regional studies have confirmed that forest re-growth is one of the strongest mid-latitude sinks for C. Both data from the

eddy flux tower network (Curtis et al., 2002; Hollinger et al., 2004) and forest inventory (Pacala et al., 2001; Woodbury et al., 2007) showed that forests on long-abandoned former agricultural lands and in industrially managed forests take up significant amounts of carbon every year.

2.3 Carbon sinks in China

China has the third largest land area in the world, most of it within northern mid-latitudes. Studies suggest that China's terrestrial ecosystems have contributed to global carbon sinks in the past two decades (1980-2000). A mean annual carbon sequestration rate in forests was estimated to range from 57.7 g C/m² to 62.3 g C/m² with a total of 0.068 to 0.075 Pg C for the period 1981-2000 based on forest inventory data (Pan et al., 2004; Fang et al., 2007). Fang et al (2007) also estimated an annual carbon sequestration rate in grassland ecosystems of 2.1 g C/ m²/yr or a total of 0.007 Pg C for the same period. Using field inventory data, Huang et al (2006) found 0.018-0.022 Pg carbon per year has been sequestered in the upper 20 centimeters of soil in China's croplands since the 1980s. Annual crop NPP was estimated to continue to increase in the second half of the 20th century, going from 146 Tg C/yr in the 1950s to 513 Tg C/yr in the 1990s, which implied that the increasing crop residues could be attributed to soil organic carbon (Huang et al., 2007). The estimation of annual forest NPP was 0.59 Pg per year based on the inventory data (Fang et al., 1996), and modeled results showed different estimations of annual NPP ranging from 0.76 Pg/yr to 3.01 Pg/yr (Xiao et al., 1998; Feng et al., 2004; Tao et al., 2006). In addition, due to differences in research methods (e.g. NDVI-biomass, forage yield, biomass and carbon density, inventory, ecosystem models), the assessment of vegetation carbon storage (0.13-4.66 Pg C in

grasslands, and 4.38- 57.9 Pg C in forests) varied significantly among different studies (Fang et al., 1996, 2001; Ni, 2001, 2004; Piao et al., 2004, 2005; Peng and Apps, 1997; Liu, 2001; Wang et al. 2002). All the studies mentioned above suggest that China's terrestrial ecosystems have great potential for carbon sequestration, especially in agricultural ecosystem and forest ecosystems. The assessments of NPP and carbon storage in vegetation and soil pools in China's terrestrial ecosystems are helpful in recognizing the role of worldwide agriculture, forest and grassland in the global carbon budget. However, discrepancies in the results of various studies which used different methods indicate that further work need to be done to reduce the uncertainty of assessing NPP, carbon storage and carbon sink; these uncertainties are largely due to a lack of informative databases or a poor understanding of the mechanisms of carbon sink in the terrestrial ecosystems.

3. Factors influencing carbon sink in the terrestrial ecosystems

3.1 Main drivers and their effects on carbon sink in terrestrial ecosystems

Since carbon sink in terrestrial ecosystems has complex feedbacks to climate systems, it is critical that we understand the underlying mechanisms for carbon uptake and what is likely a trend in changing carbon uptake, which are of great importance for reasonable future prediction. Basically, the carbon cycle in terrestrial ecosystems is driven by the direct impacts of climate change (temperature, precipitation, and radiation regime etc.), atmospheric composition (e.g. increasing CO₂, nitrogen deposition, pollution damage), land use/cover change (deforestation, agricultural practices, and their legacies over time), and disturbances derived from nature and human activity (e.g. wild/

prescript fire, flooding, hurricane) (IPCC, 2007). Those drivers can directly, indirectly and interactively affects the carbon cycle and could cause carbon release and carbon uptake in the terrestrial ecosystems.

More than 50% of the terrestrial vegetation carbon is stored in forest ecosystems (Dixon et al., 1994) and boreal forests soils account for about 26% of the total terrestrial carbon stock. It has been suggested that forest re-growth is the major contribution to the land carbon sink (e.g. Pacala et al., 2001; Schimel et al., 2001; Hurtt et al., 2002). The 20th century trend of increasing forest area at middle and high latitudes has led to carbon sequestration by re-growing forests. Forest area in China accounts for approximately 18.2% of total national land area, which has continually increased during the 1990s, even as total global forest area has decreased during the same period (FAO, 2005). Consequently, land use change induced by human activity does directly influence the carbon cycle by changing land cover area and land use cover category. In addition, intensive land management, including fertilizer/irrigation, harvest, tillage, can also enhance carbon accumulation in vegetation while stimulating green house gas emissions from soil respiration (e.g. Cole et al., 1996; Smith et al., 1997). Climate change has both positive and negative effects on the vegetation carbon balance. Warming trends could lengthen growing seasons, thus increasing plant productivity (Nemani et al. 2003), and accelerating soil decomposition resulting in carbon release instead of carbon accumulation (Hobbie and Chapin 1998; Oechel et al., 2000; Rustad et al., 2001; Melillo et al., 2002). Changes in atmospheric compositions, such as increasing CO₂ and nitrogen deposition, were found to stimulate carbon assimilation and sequestration (e.g. Cramer et

al., 2001; Oren et al., 2001; Luo et al., 2004; DeLucia et al., 2005; Mellio and Gosz, 1983; Schindler and Bayley, 1993; Gifford et al., 1996; Holland *et al.*, 1997; Neff *et al.*, 2000; Matson *et al.*, 2002); however, their “fertilizer effects” may have been exaggerated by some models, as much smaller changes of NPP in response to increased CO₂ and nitrogen saturation and even NPP reductions were also observed (e.g. Nowak et al., 2004; Emmett et al., 1996; Magill et al., 2000; Guan et al., 2004).

3.2 Tropospheric O₃ and its effects on carbon sink in terrestrial ecosystems

Tropospheric O₃ is a major secondary air pollutant and a rapidly changing atmospheric component, whose level has been increasing across a range of scales - local, national, continental, and even global (e.g. Akimoto, 2003; Jacob et al., 1999; Mauzerall et al., 2000; Streets & Waldhoff, 2000; Jaffe et al., 2003). Documented evidence from numerous field experiments indicates that O₃ has significant adverse effects on plant growth, at the cell level, and on carbon sink, at the ecosystem level. O₃ pollution can directly and indirectly reduce the photosynthesis rate by injuring leaf structure and mesophyll tissue and influencing RubP and plant growth substances (Farage et al., 1991; McKee et al., 1995; Pell et al., 1997). O₃ pollution can also change stomatal conductance (either increasing or decreasing), which then alters stomatal response to irradiance, vapor pressure deficit (VPD) and internal carbon dioxide concentrations (C_i) (Tjoekler et al., 1995; Grulke et al., 2002). Increasing carbon allocation to leaves rather than roots may have been an attempt to maintain photosynthesis, but it also reduced water and nutrient uptake due to decreasing ground biomass (Woodbury et al., 1994; Bergman et al., 1995; grantz & Yang, 2000; Oksanen & Rousi, 2001; Karlsson et al., 2003b). In addition, O₃ can decrease soil decomposition by influencing enzyme and microbe activities and

changing the litter fall characteristics (Kim et al., 1998; Islam et al., 2000; Olszyk, 2001; Pregitzer & King, 2004). Therefore, increased tropospheric O₃ pollution can inhibit both plant productivity and soil respiration (Adams et al. 1986; Reich 1987; Chappelka and Samuelson 1998; Booker et al., 2009).

O₃ damage to crops and forests has been documented in North America and Europe in the past two decades (Heck, 1984, 1988; Heagle, 1989; Skelly et al, 1999; Fumigalli et al., 2001; Emberson et al., 2001; Orendovici et al., 2003; Chappelka et al., 2002, 2003; Vollenweider et al, 2003; Mills et al., 2007). In China, similar studies have been conducted to investigate crop response to O₃ pollution since the 1990s (Wang et al, 1995; Ji and Feng, 2001; Bai et al.,2002; Guo et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2006), though study of O₃ effects on forests and grasslands has been limited. Regional studies have indicated that the detrimental effects of tropospheric O₃ on plant growth may reduce carbon sequestration (Ollinger et al., 2002b; Felzer et al, 2004, 2005; Ren et al., 2007a, b). Felzer et al, (2004) estimated that CO₂ sequestration in the USA was reduced by 18 – 20 Tg C/yr possibly due to increasing ground O₃ concentrations since 1950. To reduce uncertainty, O₃ pollution should not be ignored when estimating the carbon budget between the atmosphere and the terrestrial ecosystems in climate system studies. However, the current generation of coupled carbon-climate models doesn't account for air pollution effects.

In China, few studies have been conducted to examine the impacts of O₃ on regional estimation of NPP, C storage and net carbon sinks; however, several field

experiments on O₃ effects in croplands have been carried out for about 20 years (Wang et al., 1995, 2002; Guo et al., 2001; Bai et al., 2003). Furthermore, China is characterized by a monsoon climate and the impacts of climate variability/change on carbon dynamics in terrestrial ecosystems are large (Tian et al., 2003; Cao et al., 2002; Fang et al., 2007). Therefore, to illustrate O₃ effects at a continental scale, it is necessary to consider the interactive effects of O₃, climate change and other environmental factors on terrestrial ecosystem production and carbon storage.

4. The ecosystem complexity and ecosystem model approach

Due to complex ecosystem responses to changing environmental factors (sunlight, temperature, soil moisture) (Clark, 2002; Ciais et al., 2005b; Dunn et al., 2007), large uncertainties still exist in assessing the terrestrial carbon budget, even though experiments and model simulations have been designed to study a wide variety of factors in the terrestrial cycles (Schlesinger 1997; Chapin III et al. 2002). There are several aspects of ecosystem complexity. Firstly, a single environmental factor can have positive, negative or both effects on ecosystems. For example, global warming can enhance carbon sequestration in mid-latitude temperate forests through increasing soil nitrogen mineralization rate (Melillo et al., 2002); however, it can also reduce the carbon accumulation in arid regions by reducing available water (Melillo et al. 1993). Secondly, environmental stresses usually interact to produce a combined impact on ecosystem functioning instead of operating independently (Schindler 2001). For instance, the adverse effects of elevated O₃ pollution can be offset by increasing CO₂ through reduced stomatal conductance; O₃ uptake can also be accelerated by drought and fertilizer application (Ollinger et al., 2002; Felzer et al., 2005). Accordingly, ecosystem response to

multifactor environmental changes is the result of a complex combination of effects rather than simply the accumulation of the effects of a single factor (Norby and Luo 2004). In addition, inherent heterogeneity of the landscape at spatial scales ranging from microns to thousands of kilometers is a problem that can hardly be solved by field experiments. Accurate assessments and predictions of the carbon cycle in terrestrial ecosystems in responses to global changes, therefore, depends on the successful integration of a range of processes and time scales, using an ecosystem model, rather than traditional statistics and controlled experiments (Ollinger et al., 2002a; Hui and Luo 2004).

Quantitative assessments of NPP, carbon storage and carbon sinks in terrestrial ecosystems and their responses to increasing O₃ pollution in the context of global change are in need of O₃ concentration databases and process-based models that are able to address the mechanisms of effects within the ecosystems. Among the various indices used to determine O₃ effects (e.g. AOT40, SUM00, SUM60, W126, details in Mauzerall and Wang, 2001), AOT40 is widely used to define the critical level of O₃ exposure within ecosystems in terms of the hourly accumulated exposure over a threshold of 40 ppb. In Europe, however, there has been intensive debate about replacing the AOT40 index with modeled cumulative flux or uptake for regional risk assessment (Fuhrer et al., 1997). However, AOT40 is used since they can provide broad-scale assessments of the impact of O₃, and associated databases have been developed in past decades at multiple scales from local, regional to a global level (Felzer et al., 2004, 2005). For example, in China, some sites have included O₃ concentration observations and related field experiments have

been conducted since the 1990s (e.g. Wang et al., 2007). Therefore, the simulated AOT40 database derived from chemical-transport models is practical for regional assessment (Ren et al., 2007a).

Ecosystem-level models are another necessary tool for quantitative assessments on the carbon cycle in terrestrial ecosystems in response to O₃ pollution. An ecosystem model allows researchers to conceptualize and measure a complex system and to predict the consequences of an action that would be expensive, difficult, or destructive to an ecosystem (Haefner, 2005). Ecosystem modeling aims to pursue the integration of natural processes rather than isolate a particular component as traditional field control experiments tend to do. Also, ecosystem modeling is able to study complex systems involving many nonlinear interactions among multiple subsystems over long period of time. Both traditional and ecosystem modeling are necessary because ecosystem modeling relies on traditional field work that can provide both basic phenomenon observation and quantitative mechanisms. For example, the quantitative relationship of O₃ effects on photosynthesis was first incorporated into the ecosystem model based on sustainable field studies (e.g. Reich, 1987). The final modeled outputs of NPP, carbon storage and other variables are controlled by the type of ecosystem due to the diverse sensitivity of different functional types to O₃ effects, and environmental conditions such as light, temperature, water and nutrient supply from plant and soil. Therefore, the ecosystem model is a powerful tool to investigate the interactions among ecosystem components.

Since the 1980s, O₃ studies have been conducted using empirical or process-based dynamic simulations (Ren and Tian, 2007). Among well-documented empirical models, Weibull function, based on exposure indices and corresponding exposure-response relationships, has been used to assess crop and forest production loss, as well as economic losses (e.g. Heck et al., 1984; Heggstad et al.,1990; Chameides et al., 1994; Aunan et al., 2000; Kuik et al., 2000; Wang and Mauzerall, 2004). Several process-based models have attempted to study the effects of O₃ on vegetation and have begun regional assessments of carbon storage (eg. Reich, 1987; Ollinger et al., 1997, 2002a; Martin, 2001; Felzer et al., 2004, 2005). Reich (1987) modeled an empirical linear model that describes the response of crops and trees to O₃ and argued that crops were more sensitive to O₃ than other functional types. Ollinger (1997) used O₃-response relationships with the PnET-II model to simulate tree growth and ecosystem functions and addressed the combined effects of CO₂, O₃, and N deposition along in the context of historical land-use changes, but only focused on hardwoods in northeastern U.S. Martin et al. (2001) incorporated O₃ effects on photosynthesis and stomatal conductance into the functional-structural tree growth model ECOPHYS by using O₃ flux data; however, it is difficult to scale this up to an ecosystem study. Felzer et al. (2004, 2005) first incorporated algorithms from Reich et al. (1987) and Ollinger et al. (1997) for hardwoods, conifers, and crops into a biogeochemical model TEM (Terrestrial Ecosystem Model); while this model is lacking mechanisms of O₃ response to the links between photosynthesis and stomatal conductance, and the agriculture module is too simple to address the responses of crop types. In addition, it is important to conduct synthetic studies, assessing the dynamic responses of the carbon in terrestrial ecosystems to O₃

pollution combined with other environmental stresses (e.g. changing CO₂, climate) in the context of global changes. The model-based analyses of Ollinger et al. (2002a) and Hanson et al. (2005) indicate that the complex interactions between O₃ and other environmental factors could lead to great uncertainty for multivariate predictions of ecosystem response.

Chapter 3

Terrestrial Ecosystems, Ozone Pollution –

Effects of Tropospheric Ozone Pollution on Net Primary Productivity and Carbon Storage in Terrestrial Ecosystems of China

Abstract

We investigated the potential effects of elevated ozone (O_3) along with climate variability, increasing CO_2 , and land-use change on net primary productivity (NPP) and carbon storage in China's terrestrial ecosystems for the period 1961-2000 with a process-based Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM) forced by the gridded data of historical tropospheric O_3 and other environmental factors. The simulated results showed that elevated O_3 could result in a mean 4.5% reduction in NPP and 0.9% reduction in total carbon storage nationwide from 1961 to 2000. The reduction of carbon storage varied from 0.1 Tg C to 312 Tg C (a decreased rate ranging from 0.2% to 6.9%) among plant functional types. The effects of tropospheric O_3 on NPP were strongest in east-central China. Significant reductions in NPP occurred in northeastern and central China where a large proportion of cropland distributed. The O_3 effects on carbon fluxes and storage are dependent upon other environmental factors. Therefore, direct and indirect effects of O_3 , as well as interactive effects with other environmental factors, should be taken into account in order to accurately assess the regional carbon budget in

China. The results showed that the adverse influences of increasing O₃ concentration across China on NPP could be an important disturbance factor on carbon storage in the near future, and the improvement of air quality in China could enhance the capability of China's terrestrial ecosystems to sequester more atmospheric CO₂. Our estimation of O₃ impacts on NPP and carbon storage in China, however, must be used with caution because of the limitation of historical tropospheric O₃ data and other uncertainties associated with model parameters and field experiments.

Keywords: air pollution; carbon storage; China; climate change; net primary productivity; tropospheric ozone.

1. Introduction

The tropospheric ozone (O₃) level has been increasing across a range of scales - local, national, continental, and even global (e.g. Akimoto, 2003). Tropospheric O₃ levels might increase substantially in the future (Streets and Waldhoff, 2000). Advection from the Asian continent increases pollutant levels over the Pacific Ocean (Jacob et al., 1999; Mauzerall et al., 2000), and eventually influences North America and Europe by intercontinental transport (Jaffe et al., 2003; Wild and Akimoto, 2001). O₃ can influence both ecosystem structure and functions (e.g. Heagle, 1989, 1999; Ashmore, 2005; Muntifering et al., 2006). Over 90% of vegetation damage may be the result of tropospheric O₃ alone (Adams et al. 1986), and it could cause reductions in crop yield and forest production ranging from 0% - 30% (Adams et al., 1989). Approximately 50% of forests might be exposed to higher O₃ level (>60 ppb) by 2100. Therefore, there is an urgent need to investigate the adverse effects of O₃ on terrestrial ecosystem production.

Air pollution is one of the most pressing environmental concerns in China (Liu and Diamond, 2005). The rapid urbanization and industrialization, and intensive agricultural management in the past decades, are closely related to increasing fossil fuel combustion and fertilizer application. Between 1980 and 1995, fertilizer use in China was 36% higher than the average in developed countries (where fertilizer use has been decreasing), and 65% higher than the average in developing countries (Aunan et al., 2000). Both fossil fuel consumption and N-fertilizer application will highly contribute to total emissions of NO_x , a main O_3 precursor, and consequently result in increased atmospheric O_3 concentration. It was estimated that China's emissions of NO_x might increase by a factor of four towards the year 2020, compared to the emissions in 1990 under a non-control scenario (von Aardenne et al., 1999), which would lead to a much larger increase of surface O_3 with 150 ppb level of O_3 in some locations (Elliot et al., 1997). Consequently, it is important to study the impacts of O_3 on terrestrial ecosystems in China. Although studies on O_3 have been carried out in China for about 20 years, observations of O_3 concentrations are still limited, and the records of most sites are discontinuous (eg. Chameides et al., 1999; Liu et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2007). Several experiments demonstrated the interaction of O_3 and CO_2 on locally grown species and cultivars in China (e.g. Wang et al., 1995, 2002; Guo et al., 2001; Bai et al., 2003). However, these studies rarely involved other plant functional types (PFTs), such as forests and grassland. An assessment of O_3 effects on different PFTs at regional level over a long-time period has not been done yet. To illustrate the O_3 effects at a continental

scale, it is necessary to consider interactive effects of O₃ with other environmental factors on terrestrial ecosystem production and carbon storage.

Quantitative assessment of O₃ effects on terrestrial ecosystem production has been conducted since the 1980s based on empirical or process-based dynamic simulations (Ren and Tian, 2007). Well-documented empirical models, such as the Weibull function, are based on exposure indices and corresponding exposure-response relationships, and have been used to assess crop and forest production loss, as well as economic losses (e.g. Heck et al., 1984; Heggstad et al., 1990; Chameides et al., 1994; Aunan et al., 2000; Kuik et al., 2000; Mauzerall and Wang, 2004). Process-based models allow plant growth responses to vary with dynamic environments, such as high O₃ concentration, elevated CO₂ concentration, and climate change (Tian et al. 1998a). Several process-based models have attempted to study the effects of O₃ on vegetation (eg. Reich, 1987; Ollinger et al., 1997, 2002; Martin, 2001; Felzer et al. 2004, 2005). Reich's (1987) model is not actually a process-based model, but he generalized a linear model to describe the response of crops and trees to O₃ and argued that crops were more sensitive to O₃. Ollinger (1997) used O₃-response relationships with the PnET-II model to simulate tree growth and ecosystem functions. These models can apply the dynamic O₃ damage mechanisms in seedling and mature trees from leaf level to canopy level. Ollinger and his colleagues (2002) applied the model to study the effect of O₃ on NPP for specific sites within the northeastern U.S. (a reduction in NPP of between 3 and 16%) and the combined effects of CO₂, O₃, and N deposition along with the context of historical land-use changes for hardwoods in the northeastern U.S. with a new version of PnET

(PnET-CN). Felzer et al. (2004, 2005) incorporated the algorithms from Reich et al. (1987) and Ollinger et al. (1997) for hardwoods, conifers, and crops into a biogeochemical model (i.e., TEM). Their study across the conterminous U.S. indicated a 2.6-6.8% mean reduction in annual NPP in the US during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Unlike Ollinger's and Felzer's work, in which the effects of O₃ on stomatal conductance were not considered, Martin et al. (2001) incorporated O₃ effects on photosynthesis and stomatal conductance into the functional-structural tree growth model ECOPHYS (<http://www.nrri.umn.edu/ecophys>) by using O₃ flux data. Not only did they combine the well-accepted equations from mechanistic biochemical models for photosynthesis (e.g., equations from Farquhar et al., 1980; Caemmerer and Farquhar, 1981) and the equations from phenological models for stomatal conductance (Ball et al., 1987, adapted by Harley et al., 1992), but also explored the underlying mechanisms of O₃-inhibited photosynthesis models. They found that O₃ damage could reduce both protective scavenging detoxification system ($V_c \max$) and light-saturated rate of electron transport ($J \max$) by the accumulated amounts of O₃ above the threshold of damage entering the inner leaves. Considering the advantages and disadvantages of different models in simulating O₃ effects, a coupled mechanistic model that fully couples energy, carbon, nitrogen, and water, as well as vegetation dynamics is needed in the near future (Tian et al. 1998a).

In this research, we used a highly integrated process-based model called Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM) (detail description of this model can be found in Tian et al. 2005). The dynamic O₃ damage mechanisms were extrapolated from a small spatial scale (leaf level) and a short-term scale into the corresponding long-term mechanism at

the ecosystem scale. The O₃ module was primarily based on the work of Ollinger et al. (1997). The equations from Farquhar (1980) and Ball and Berry (1987) were used to simulate photosynthesis and stomatal conductance, similar to Martin et al. (2001). This module simulated O₃ damage on plant photosynthesis and NPP. We also developed the spatial datasets including historical climate, soil information, and land use change across China over a long period. The O₃ sensitivities for different PFTs including crops, coniferous trees, hardwoods, and other vegetation types, were based on the Reich's compilation of OTC experiments in the U.S., which we assume to be applicable to China as well.

More O₃ pollution in China is closely related to domestic food security and the global environment in the future (eg., Chameides et al., 1999; Akimoto, 2003). Unlike other studies in China (Aunan et al., 2000; Wang and Mauzerall, 2004; Felzer et al., 2005), we try to illustrate the effects of tropospheric O₃ pollution on terrestrial ecosystem productivity throughout the country between 1961 and 2000. We focus on the analysis of O₃ effects on NPP and carbon storage in the context of multiple environmental stresses including increasing O₃, changing climate, elevated CO₂, and land-use changes (including nitrogen fertilization and irrigation on croplands) across China. In this paper, we first briefly describe our model development, data preparation, and the experimental design, and then examine the relative effects of O₃ and other environmental factors on the spatiotemporal changes of total carbon sequestration across the country. The sensitivity of different PFTs to O₃ pollution is also examined. Finally, we discuss and analyze the simulation results and their uncertainty.

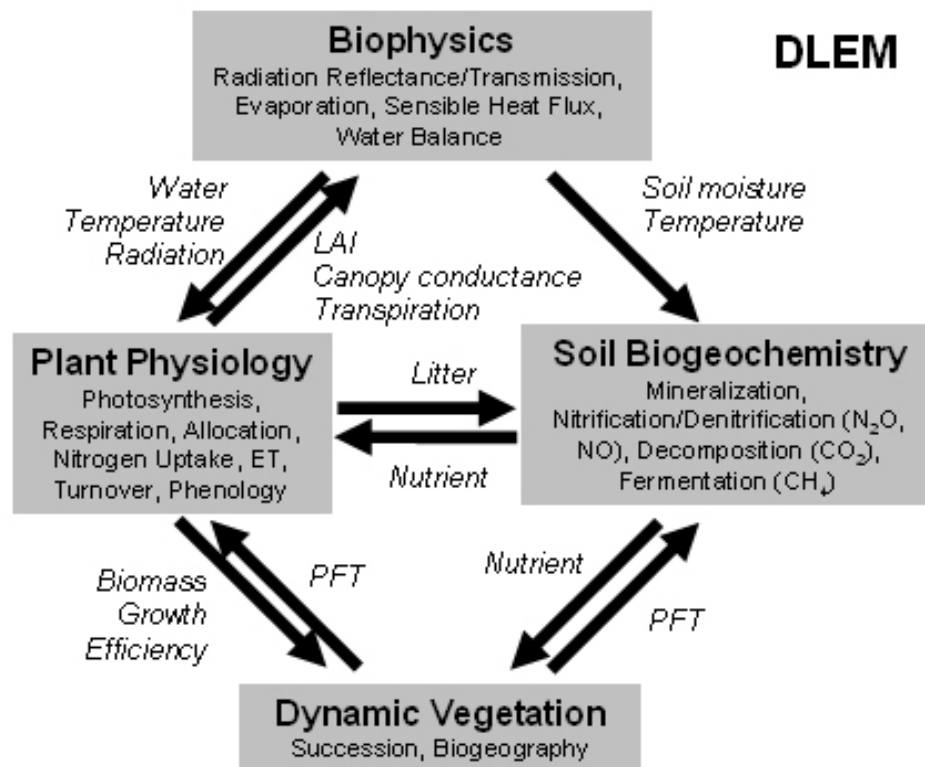


Figure 3-1 Framework of the Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM). The DLEM model includes five core components: 1) biophysics, 2) plant physiology, 3) soil biogeochemistry, 4) dynamic vegetation and 5) land use and management (Tian et al., 2005). The DLEM is a process-based model which couples biophysical processes (energy balance), biogeochemical processes (water cycles, carbon cycles, nitrogen cycles, and trace gases (NO_x , CH_4)-related processes), community dynamics (plant distribution and succession), and disturbances (land conversion, agriculture management, forest management, and other disturbances such as fire, pest etc.) into one integral system. DLEM can simulate the complex interactions of multiple stresses such as climate change, elevated CO_2 , tropospheric O_3 , N deposition, human disturbance, and natural disturbances. (See detail structure of DLEM in appendix II, Table 1)

2. Methods

2.1. The Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM)

The DLEM couples major biogeochemical cycles, hydrological cycle, and vegetation dynamics to generate daily, spatially-explicit estimates of water, carbon (CO₂, CH₄), and nitrogen fluxes (N₂O) and pool sizes (C and N) in terrestrial ecosystems (See Figure 3-1). DLEM includes five core components: 1) biophysics, 2) plant physiology, 3) soil biogeochemistry, 4) dynamic vegetation, and 5) land use and management. The biophysical component includes the instantaneous exchanges of energy, water, and momentum with the atmosphere. It includes aspects of micrometeorology, canopy physiology, soil physics, radiative transfer, hydrology, surface fluxes of energy, moisture, and momentum influences on simulated surface climate. The component of plant physiology in DLEM simulates major physiological processes, such as photosynthesis, autotrophic respiration, carbon allocation among various parts (root, stem, and leaf), turnover of living biomass, nitrogen uptake and fixation, transpiration, phenology, etc. The component of soil biogeochemistry simulates N mineralization, nitrification/denitrification (Li et al., 2000), NH₃ volatilization, leaching of soil mineral N, decomposition and fermentation (Huang et al. 1998). Thus, DLEM is able to simultaneously estimate emissions of multiple trace gases (CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O) from soils. The dynamic vegetation component in DLEM simulates two kinds of processes: the biogeographical redistribution when climate changes, and the plant competition and succession during vegetation recovery after disturbances. Like most DGVMs (Dynamic Global Vegetation Models), DLEM builds on the concept of PFT (Plant Functional Type) to describe vegetation distributions (figure 3-4). The DLEM has also emphasized the

simulation of managed ecosystems, including agricultural ecosystems, plantation forests, and pastures. The DLEM 1.0 version has been used to simulate the effects of climate variability and change, atmospheric CO₂, tropospheric O₃, land-use change, nitrogen deposition, and disturbances (e.g., fire, harvest, hurricanes) on terrestrial carbon storage and fluxes in China (Tian et al. 2005). This model has been calibrated against field data from various ecosystems including forests, grassland, and croplands. The simulated results with DLEM have also been evaluated against independent field data (Tian et al. 2005).

In DLEM, the carbon balance of vegetation is determined by the photosynthesis, autotrophic respiration, litterfall (related to tissue turnover rate and leaf phenology), and plant mortality rate. Plants assimilate carbon by photosynthesis, and use this carbon to compensate for the carbon loss through maintenance respiration, tissue turnover, and reproduction. The photosynthesis module of DLEM estimates the net C assimilation rate, leaf daytime maintenance respiration rate, and gross primary productivity (GPP, unit: g C/m²/day). The photosynthesis rate is first calculated on the leaf level. The results are then multiplied by leaf area index to scale up to canopy level (Tian et al. 2005; Chen et al., 2006; Ren et al. 2007a, b; Zhang et al. 2007). Photosynthesis is the first process by which most carbon and chemical energy enter ecosystems so it has critical impacts on ecosystem production. The GPP calculation can be expressed as:

$$GPP_i = (A_i + Rd_i) \times LAI_i \times dayl \quad (1)$$

$$A_i = f(PPFD_{leaf_i}, g_i, leafN_i, T_{day}, Ca, dayl) \quad (2)$$

where GPP ($g\ C/m^2/day$) is the gross primary productivity of ecosystems for leaf type i ; i is leaf type (sunlit leaf or shaded leaf); A ($g/s/m^2$ leaf) and Rd ($g/s/m^2$ leaf) are daytime photosynthesis rate and leaf respiration rate respectively; LAI is leaf area index; $dayl$ (s) is the length of daytime; $PPFD$ ($\mu mol/m^2/s$) is the photosynthetic photon flux density; g (m/s) is the stomatal conductance of leaf to CO_2 flux; T_{day} ($^{\circ}C$) is daytime temperature; Ca (ppmv) is the atmospheric CO_2 concentration; $leafN$ ($g\ N/m^2$ leaf) is the leaf N content.

Based on the “strong optimality” hypothesis (Dewar, 1996), DLEM allocates the leaf N to sunlit fraction and shaded fraction each day according to the relative PPFD absorbed by each fraction, to maximize the photosynthesis rate. In this study, NPP in an ecosystem and annual net carbon exchange (NCE) of the terrestrial ecosystem with the atmosphere were computed with following equations:

$$NPP = GPP - R_d \quad (3)$$

$$NCE = NPP - R_H - E_{NAD} - E_{AD} - E_P \quad (4)$$

Where NPP is the net primary productivity, Rd is the plant respiration, R_H is soil respiration, E_{NAD} is the magnitude of the carbon loss from a natural disturbance and is assigned as 0 here due to the difficulty of being simulated at present conditions, E_{AD} is carbon loss during the conversion of natural ecosystems to agricultural land, and E_P is the sum of carbon emission from the decomposition of products (McGuire et al., 2001;

Tian et al. 2003). For natural ecosystems, E_P and E_{AD} are equal to 0, and so NCE is equal to net ecosystem production (NEP). Unlike the other models which estimate the cropland C cycle based on the simulation of potential vegetation type replacing the agricultural grids (McGuire et al., 2001), the agricultural ecosystems in DLEM are not based on natural vegetation, but parameterized against several intensively studied agricultural sites in China (<http://www.cerndata.ac.cn/>).

To simulate the detrimental effect of air pollution on ecosystem productivity, an O_3 module was developed based on previous work (Ollinger et al., 1997; Felzer et al., 2004, 2005), in which the direct effect of O_3 on photosynthesis and indirect effect on stomatal conductance by changing intercellular CO_2 concentration were simulated. Here the ratio of O_3 damage to photosynthesis is defined as O_{3eff} , similar to Ollinger et al. (1997), and the sensitivity coefficient α for each different plant functional type is based on the work of Felzer et al. (2004). The range of α is $2.6 \times 10^{-6} \pm 2.8 \times 10^{-7}$ for hardwoods (based on the value used by Ollinger et al., 1997), $0.8 \times 10^{-6} \pm 3.6 \times 10^{-7}$ for conifers (based on pines), and $4.9 \times 10^{-6} \pm 1.6 \times 10^{-7}$ for crops which was calculated from the empirical model of Reich (1987). The errors are based on the standard deviation of the slope from the dose response curves and the standard error of the mean stomata conductance.

$$GPP_{O_3} = GPP \times O_{3eff} \quad (5)$$

$$O_{3eff} = 1 - (\alpha \times g_s \times AOT_{40}) \quad (6)$$

$$g_s = f(GPP_{O_3}) \quad (7)$$

Here, GPP_{O_3} is limited GPP due to O_3 effect; g_s is the stomatal conductance (mms^{-1}); AOT40 is a cumulative O_3 index (the accumulated hourly O_3 dose over a threshold of 40 ppb in ppb-hr), and in this study we use a monthly accumulative index as in Felzer et al., (2004). The AOT40 index has often been used to represent vegetation damage due to O_3 (Fuhrer et al., 1997). Because of limited O_3 data throughout China, we use the model-developed AOT40 values from Felzer et al. (2005).

Our photosynthesis module, based on Farquahar model (Farquahar 1980), has the potential ability to use O_3 concentration as input, similar to Martin et al. (2001), if the O_3 flux data are available in the future. In DLEM, the leaf C: N ratio is also affected by O_3 . We do not use this mechanism in the current study due to the ambiguous role of O_3 on plant C:N ratio (Lindroth et al., 2001).

2.2. Input data

Input datasets include: 1) elevation, slope, and aspect maps which are derived from 1 km resolution digital elevation dataset of China (<http://www.wdc.cn/wdcdrre>); 2) soil datasets (pH, bulk density, depth to bedrock, soil texture represented as the percentage content of loam, sand and silt) which are derived from the 1:1 million soil map based on the second national soil survey of China (Wang et al. 2003; Shi et al., 2004; Zhang et al. 2005; Tian et al. 2006); 3) vegetation map (or land cover map) from the 2000 land use map of China (LUCC_2000) which was developed from Landsat Enhanced Thematic Mapper (ETM) imagery (Liu et al., 2005a); 4) potential vegetation map, which is constructed by replacing the croplands of LUCC 2000 with potential vegetation in

global potential vegetation maps developed by Ramankutty and Foley (1998); 5) standard IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) historical CO₂ concentration dataset (Enting et al. 1994); 6) AOT40 dataset (see below for detail information) (Figure 3-4); 7) long-term land-use history (cropland and urban distribution of China from 1661-2000) which is developed based on three recent (1990, 1995 and 2000) land-cover maps (Liu et al., 2003, 2005a, 2005b) and historical census datasets of China (Ge et al., 2003; Xu, 1983); and 8) daily climate data (maximum, minimum, and average temperature, precipitation, and relative humidity). Seven hundred and forty six climate stations in China and 29 stations from surrounding countries were used to produce daily climate data for the time period from 1961 to 2000, using an interpolation method similar to that used by Thornton et al. (1997). To account for cropland management, we also used data from the National Bureau of Statistics of China, which recorded annual irrigation areas and fertilizer amounts in each province from 1978 to 2000 (Figure 3-6b). We did not construct an irrigation dataset due to lack of data. We simulated the effects of irrigation by refilling the soil water pool to field capacity whenever cropland soil reached wilt point. All datasets have a spatial resolution of 0.5°×0.5°, and Climate and AOT40 datasets have been developed on daily time step while CO₂ and land-use datasets on yearly time step.

2.2.1 Description of Ozone Data

The methods used for monitoring O₃ vary among the limited ground O₃ monitoring sites in China (Chameides et al., 1999; Chen et al., 1998), Therefore, it is difficult to spatially develop a historical AOT40 dataset based on the interpolation of site-level data like Felzer et al. (2004) for the U.S. In this study, the AOT40 dataset was derived from the global historical AOT40 datasets constructed by Felzer et al (2005).

This AOT40 index is calculated from combining geographic data from the MATCH model (Multiscale Atmospheric Transport and Chemistry) (Lawrence et al., 1999; Rasch et al., 1997; and von Kuhlmann et al., 2003) with hourly zonal O₃ from the MIT IGSM (Integrated Global Systems Model). The average monthly boundary layer MATCH O₃ values for 1998 are scaled by the ratio of the zonal average O₃ from the IGSM (Integrated Global Systems Model), which are 3-hourly values that have been linearly interpolated to hourly values, to the zonal O₃ from the monthly MATCH to maintain the zonal O₃ values from the IGSM (Wang et al., 1998; Mayer et al., 2000a). This procedure was done for the period 1977-2000. From 1860-1976, the zonal O₃ values were assumed to increase by 1.6% per year based on Marengo et al. (1994).

The AOT40 (Figure 3-2) shows significant increase of O₃ pollution in the past 40 years, and the trend accelerated rapidly since the early 1990s, possibly due to the rapid urbanization during that period in China (Liu et al., 2005b). The dataset shows seasonal variation of AOT40, with the first peak of O₃ concentration occurring in early summer and the second in September. Both peaks appear approximately at the critical time (the growth and harvest seasons) for crops in China. Thus, O₃ pollution may have significant impacts on crop production in China.

Although the AOT40 generally increased throughout the nation, the severity of O₃ pollution varied from region-to-region and from season-to-season (Figure 3-3). The central-eastern section of north China experienced severe O₃ pollution, especially in spring and summer. The greatest increase of AOT40 appeared in winter of north-west

China, probably due to the rapid industrialization and the transport of air pollution from Europe (Akimoto, 2003). In contrast, the change of AOT40 in south China is relatively low despite the large urban population and rapid industrial development in this region.

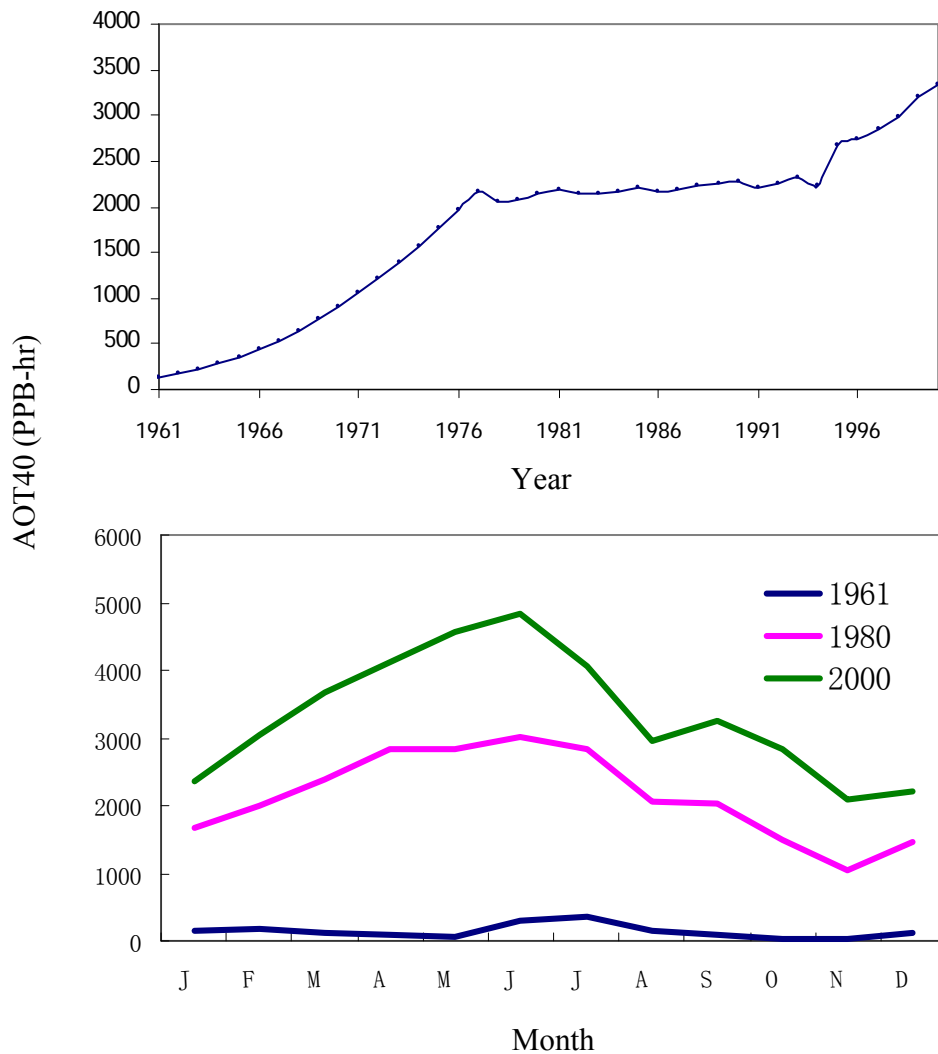


Figure 3-2 Annual monthly AOT40 (ppb-hr) mean from 1961 to 2000 (a) and Monthly AOT40 (ppb-hr) in 1961, 1980 and 2000 (b)

Note: From atmospheric chemistry model, MATCH (Multiscale Atmospheric Transport and Chemistry) (Lawrence et al., 1999; Mahowald et al., 1997; Rasch et al., 1997; and von Kuhlmann et al., 2003) and IGSM (Integrated Global Systems Model)(Wang et al., 1998; Wang and Prinn, 1999; Mayer et al., 2000a).

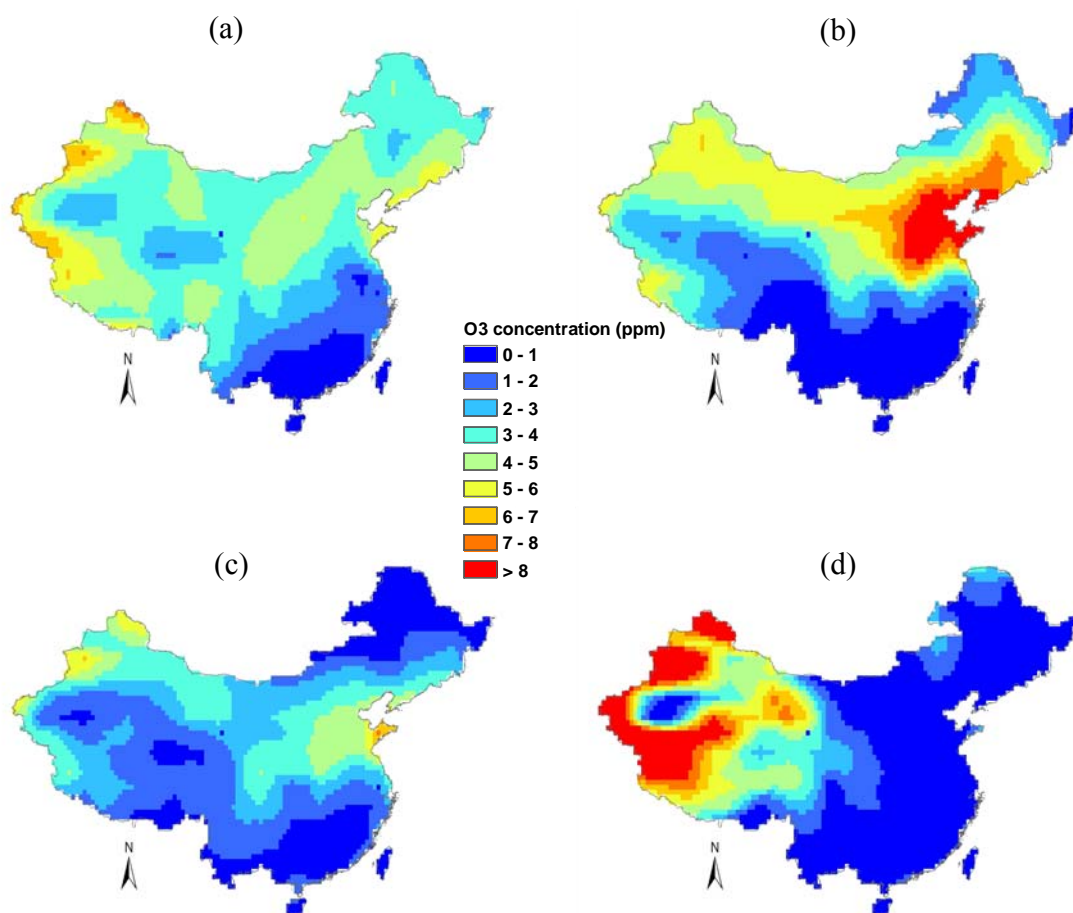


Figure 3-3 Average monthly AOT40 in spring(a) summer (b) autumn(c) and winter (d) from 1990 to 2000 in China (unit:1000 ppb-hr or ppm-hr)

Note: From atmospheric chemistry model, MATCH (Multiscale Atmospheric Transport and Chemistry) (Lawrence et al., 1999; Mahowald et al., 1997; Rasch et al., 1997; and von Kuhlmann et al., 2003) and IGSM (Integrated Global Systems Model)(Wang et al., 1998; Wang & Prinn, 1999; Mayer et al.,2000a).

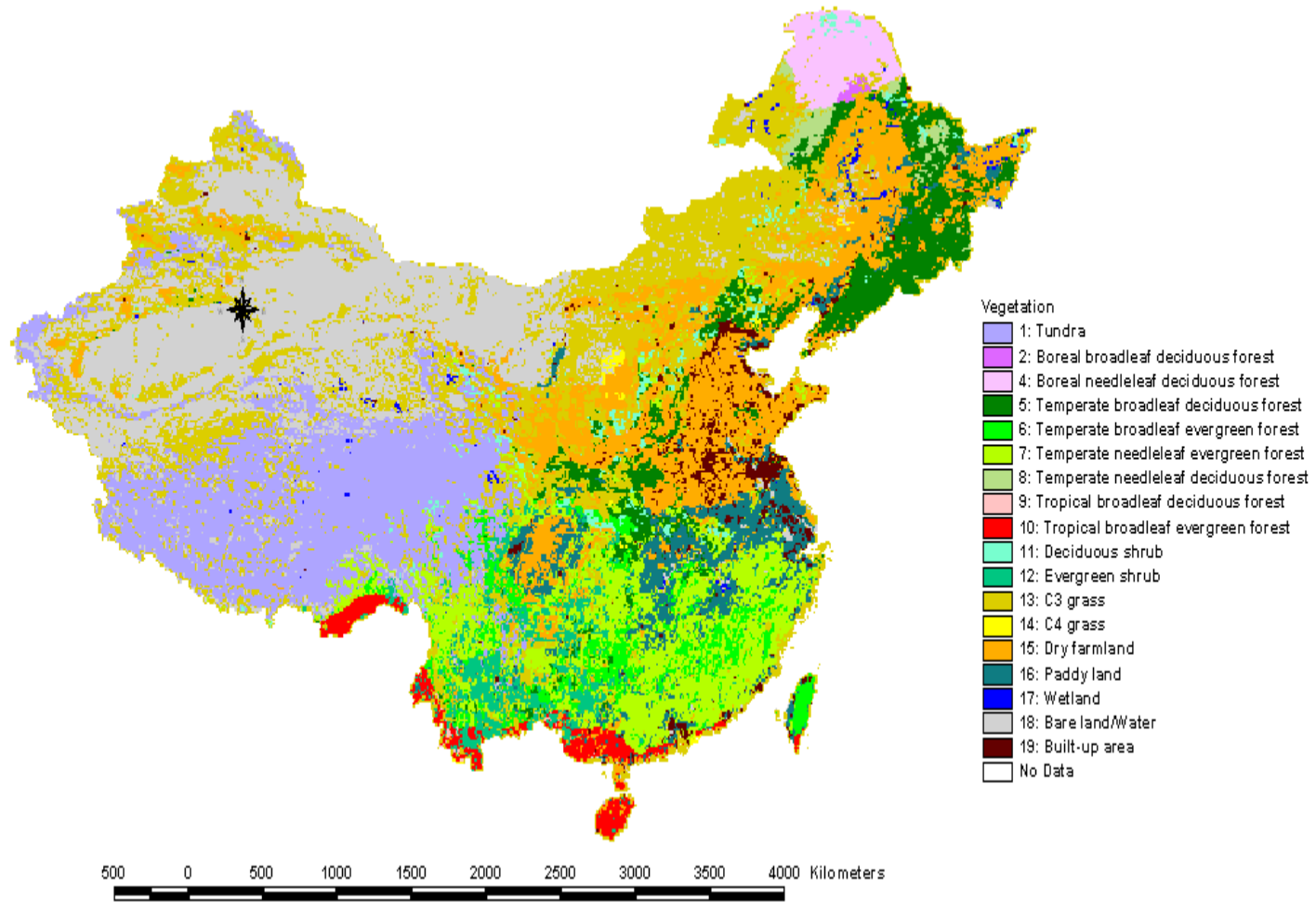


Figure 3-4 Contemporary plant functional types classified based on potential vegetation map and land use types in 2000 in China

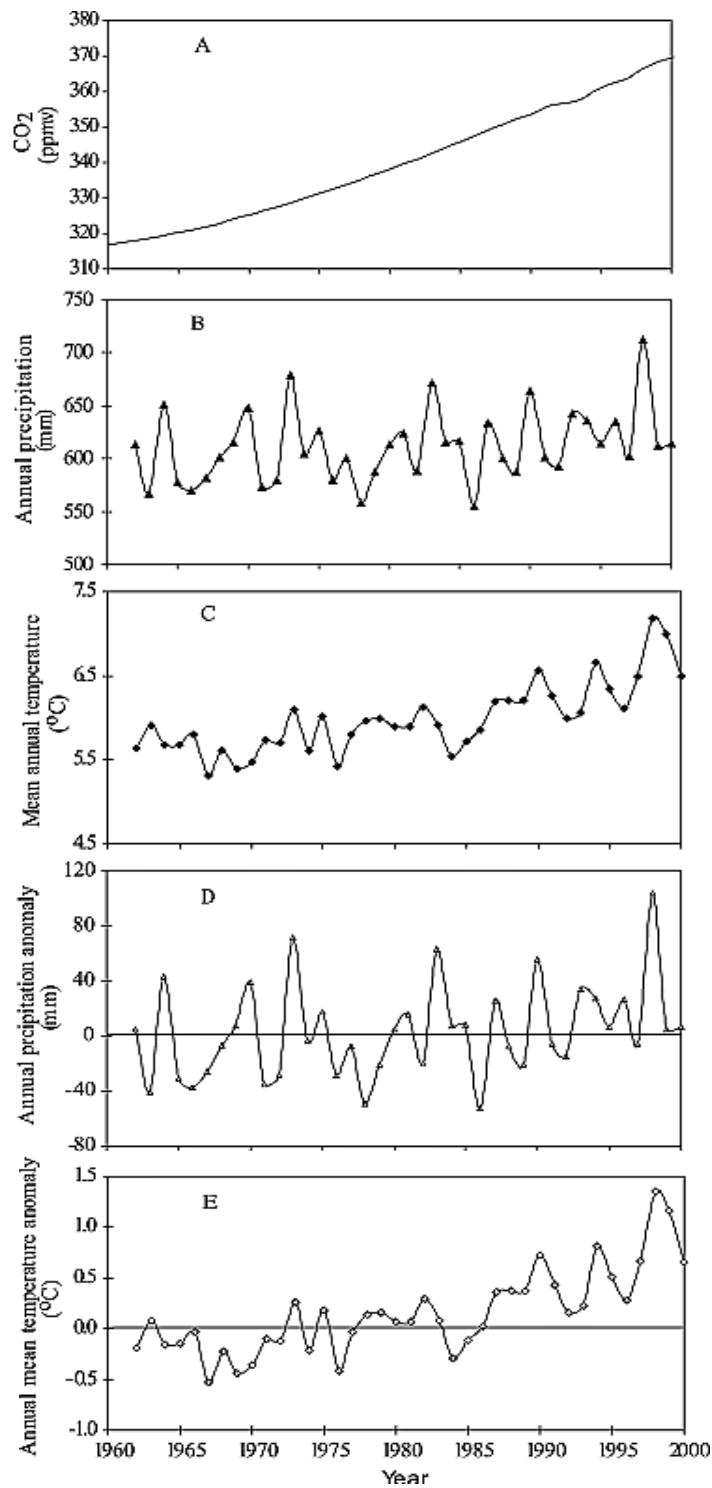


Figure 3-5 Variations in mean annual atmospheric CO₂ concentration (a); mean annual temperature (b); annual precipitation (c); annual precipitation anomalies (d) and annual temperature anomalies (e) (relative to 1961-1990 normal period) from 1961 to 2000

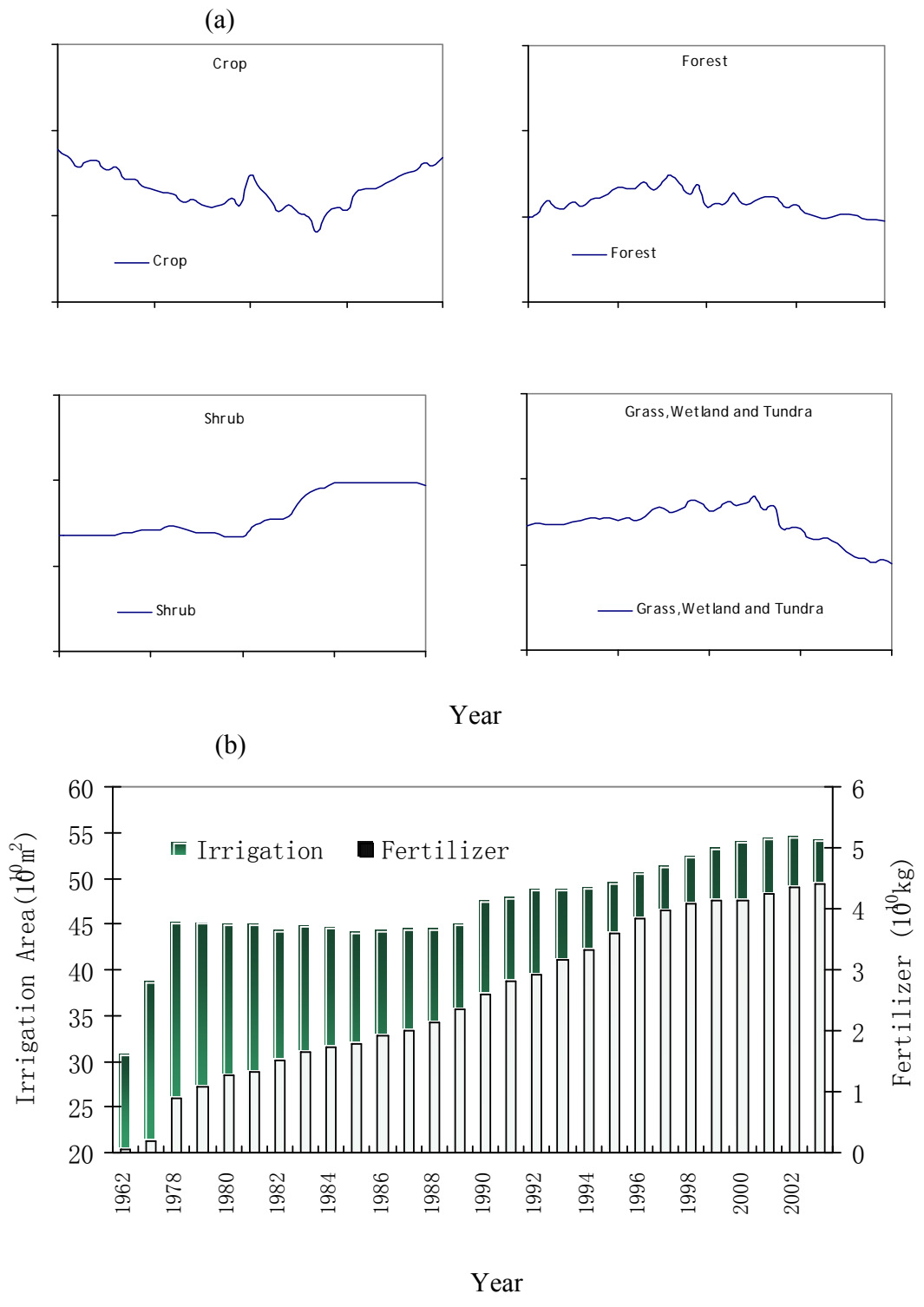


Figure 3-6 Variations of land use (a) and irrigation area (10^{10}m^2) and fertilizing amount (10^{10}kg) (b)

2.2.2. Description of Other input data

From 1961 to 2000, the CO₂ concentration steadily increased from 312 ppmv to 372 ppmv (Figure 3-5a), while temperature and precipitation fluctuated substantially (Figure 3-5b, c). Since the mid-1980s, China experienced an observable climate warming. The annual precipitation in the 1990s was higher than that in the 1980s. There was a relatively long dry period between 1965 and 1982, except for high annual precipitation in 1970 and 1974 (Figure 3-5c, e). Figure 3-6a shows that since the late 1980s, cropland expanded, while forestry and other land areas gradually decreased.

2.3. Simulation Design

In this study, six experiments were designed to analyze the effects of O₃ on NPP, NCE, and carbon storage in terrestrial ecosystems of China (table 3-1). Experiment I was used to examine the impact of transient O₃ on terrestrial ecosystem productivity while holding other environmental factors constant. Experiments II and III were used to analyze the combined effects of O₃ and CO₂ fertilization and of O₃ and climate change. Both experiments can help better determine the relative impacts of O₃, CO₂ and climate on the ecosystem. Experiments IV simulated the overall effect of climate change, atmospheric change, and land-use change. Experiment V was set up to study the overall combined effect without irrigation. The final experiment VI without O₃ effects is used for comparison against the other experiments.

The model simulation began with an equilibration run to develop the baseline C, N, and water pools for each grid. A spin-up of about 100 years was then applied if the

climate change was included in the simulation scenario. Finally, the model ran in transient mode driven by the daily or/and annual input data.

3. Results and analyses

3.1. Overall Change in Net Primary Productivity and Carbon Storage

In the simulation experiments, there were negative effects of O₃ on total average NPP and carbon storage during the study period (1961-2000). Average annual NPP and total C storage from the 1960s to 1990s in China increased by 0.66% and 0.06%, respectively, under the full factorial (climate, land use, CO₂, and O₃ were changed, hereafter referred to as OCLC), while they increased by 7.77% and 1.63%, respectively, under the scenario without O₃ (hereafter CLC) (Table 3-2). This difference indicates that under the full factorial, O₃ decreased NPP (about 1.64% in 1960s and 8.11% in 1990s) and total C storage (about 0.06% in 1960s and 1.61% in 1990s) in China's terrestrial ecosystems. Although NPP and total C storage in both scenarios increased over time, the soil and litter C storage decreased (-0.18% and -0.67%, respectively) under the full factorial, while they increased by 0.30% and 1.63%, respectively, under the scenario without O₃. Therefore O₃ reduced soil and liter C storage by about 0.03% and 0.16% in the 1960s and 0.52% and 1.84% in the 1990s, respectively, in China.

The model results show that NPP and carbon storage, including vegetation carbon, soil carbon, and litter carbon, decreased with O₃ exposure, and the reduced NPP was more than the decrease in carbon storage. The changing rates in the 1960s and 1990s indicate that increasing O₃ concentrations could result in less NPP and carbon storage,

Table 3-1 Experimental arrangement including CO₂, climate, land use and land management (fertilizer and irrigation)

Scenarios	O ₃	Climate	CO ₂	Land use	Fertilizer	Irrigation
Balance	0	Constant	Constant	Constant	0	0
I O ₃ only	Histroical	Constant	Constant	Constant	0	0
II O ₃ _CO ₂	Histroical	Constant	Histroical	Constant	0	0
III O ₃ _Climate	Histroical	Histroical	Constant	Constant	0	0
IV O ₃ _Climate_Lucc_CO ₂	Histroical	Histroical	Histroical	Histroical	Histroical	Histroical
V O ₃ _Climate_Lucc_CO ₂ _N	Histroical	Histroical	Histroical	Histroical	Histroical	0
VI Climate_Lucc_CO ₂	0	Histroical	Histroical	Histroical	Histroical	Histroical

Note: Climate_lucc_CO₂: CLC O₃_climate_lucc_CO₂: OCLC

Table 3-2 Overall changes in carbon fluxes and pools during 1961-2000

Scenarios	O ₃ _Climate_Lucc_CO ₂			Climate_Lucc_CO ₂			Difference with O ₃ and without O ₃	
	1960s (Pg)	1990s (Pg)	Net change (%)	1960s (Pg)	1990s (Pg)	Net change (%)	1960s (%)	1990s (%)
NPP	3.04	3.06	0.66	3.09	3.33	7.77	-1.64	-8.11
Veg C	26.02	26.32	1.15	26.03	27.38	5.19	-0.04	-3.87
Soil C	59.79	59.68	-0.18	59.81	59.99	0.30	-0.03	-0.52
Litter C	19.32	19.19	-0.67	19.35	19.55	1.03	-0.16	-1.84
Total C	105.14	105.2	0.06	105.2	106.92	1.63	-0.06	-1.61

which further implies that under the influence of O₃ alone, China's soil ecosystem would be a net C source, while without O₃, it would have been a net C sink (Table 3-2).

The results of the accumulated NCE across China under three simulation experiments, including O₃-only, combined effects without O₃ (CLC) and with O₃ (OCLC) from 1961-2000, indicate that O₃ effects could cause carbon release from the terrestrial ecosystem to the atmosphere (Table 3-3). The accumulated NCE was -919.1 Tg C under the influence of O₃ only, 1,177.4 Tg C under the combined influence of changed climate, CO₂ and land use (CLC), and 677.3 Tg C under the full factorial (OCLC). These values imply that China was a CO₂ source when influenced only by O₃, but it was a sink under the influence of both CLC and OCLC scenarios. The accumulated NCE influenced by OCLC was 620.4 Tg C less (OCLC-CLC) than that influenced by CLC, implying that the interactions between O₃ and other factors (CO₂, climate, or land use change) were very strong. These interactions decreased the emissions of CO₂ from terrestrial ecosystems. For the 1990s, a period with rapid atmospheric O₃ change, our simulated results show that the cumulative NCE under the full factorial (OCLC) throughout China decreased, compared to the results without O₃ influence (CLC) (Table 3-2 & Figure 3-7). In the central-eastern China and northeastern China, some places even released 150 g/m² more C into the atmosphere under O₃ influences during the 1990s.

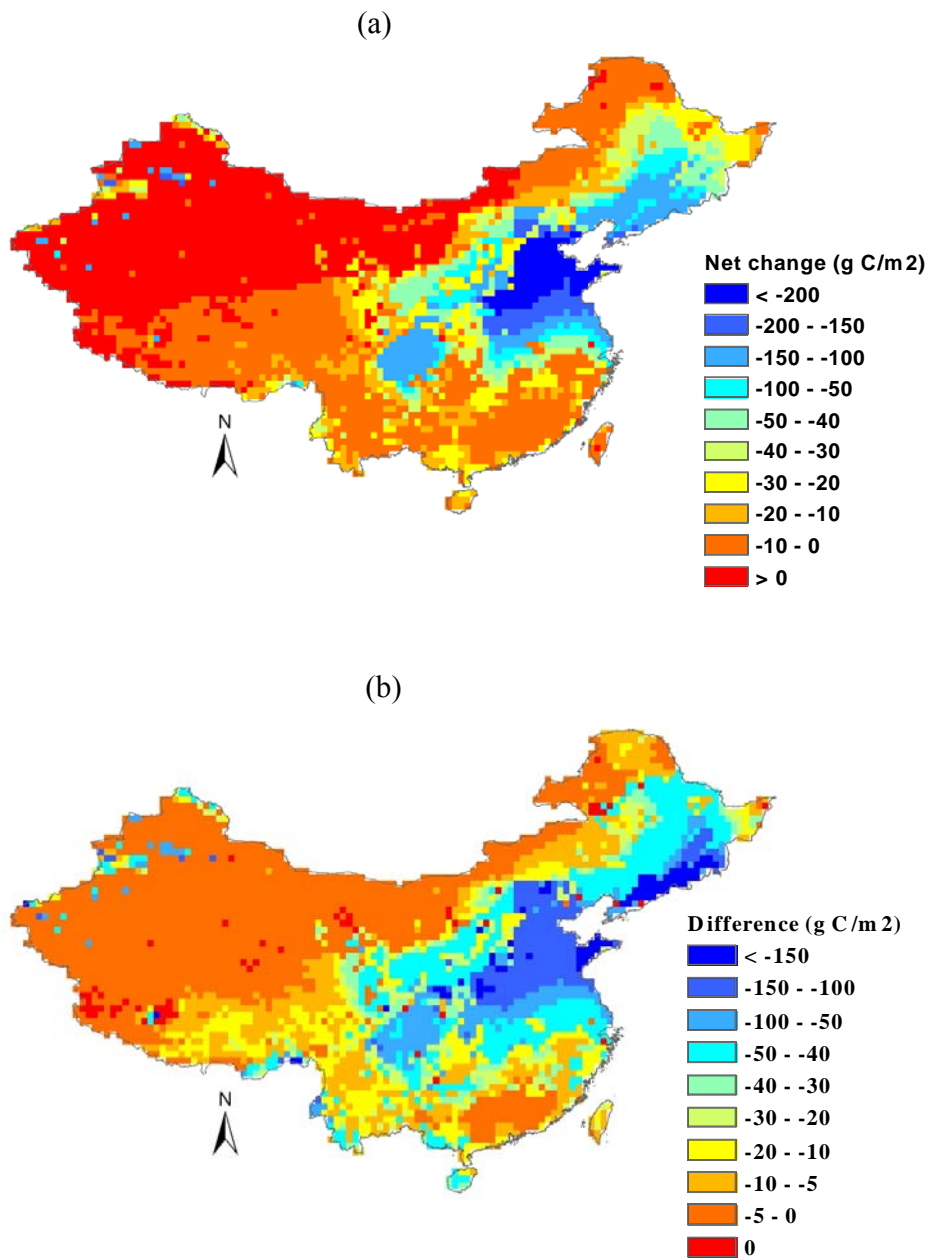


Figure 3-7 Difference in (a) cumulative net carbon exchange (NCE) and (b) net primary productivity (NPP) in 1990s between CLC with O₃ and without O₃ (g m⁻²)

Table 3-3 The accumulated NCE of different plant functional types under three scenarios including O₃ only, CLC, OCLC and the difference between CLC and OCLC from 1961 to 2000

Plant functional types	Scenarios			
	O ₃ only	CLC	OCLC	OCLC-CLC
	Tg C(10 ¹² C)			
1: Tundra	-30.6	-67.7	-130.2	-62.5
2: Boreal broadleaf deciduous forest	-1.2	-17	-18.3	-1.3
4: Boreal needleleaf deciduous forest	-9.9	94.9	85.1	-9.7
5: Temperate broadleaf deciduous forest	-615.9	-225.8	-547.0	-321.3
6: Temperate broadleaf evergreen forest	-26	231.8	206.5	-25.3
7: Temperate needleleaf evergreen forest	-72.1	720.4	720.4	43.2
8: Temperate needleleaf deciduous forest	-5.7	14.9	14.9	-4.0
10: Tropical broadleaf evergreen forest	-19.7	-48.1	-48.0	-19.8
11: Deciduous shrub	-4.9	17.9	17.9	-5.8
12: Evergreen shrub	-11.5	37.1	37.1	13.6
13: C ₃ grass	-120.6	301.6	301.6	-136.9
14: C ₄ grass	-0.9	24.4	3.8	-4.0
15: Wetland	-0.1	96.7	93.7	-30.1
16: Dry farmland		-3.6	-50.1	-46.5
17: Paddy farmland		-0.1	-10.1	-10.0
Total accumulated NCE since 1961	-919.1	1177.4	677.3	-620.4

Note: There is no dry farmland and paddy farmland under the scenario of O₃ only
Climate_lucc_CO₂: CLC; O₃_climate_lucc_CO₂: OCLC

Accumulated carbon storage of different PFTs under the three simulation experiments indicate that PFTs respond very differently to increasing O₃ concentration and its interaction with other environmental factors (Table 3-3). From 1961 to 2000, the accumulated NCE for different PFTs with O₃ exposure decreased by only 0.1 Tg C in wetlands up to 615.9 Tg C in temperate broadleaf deciduous forests. Accumulated NCE under influences of CLC for different PFTs ranged from a decrease of 67.7 Tg C (Tundra) to an increase of 720.4 Tg C (temperate needleleaf evergreen forest), while accumulated NCE under influences of OCLC ranged from a decrease of 547.0 Tg C (temperate broadleaf deciduous forest) to an increase of 720.4 Tg C (temperate needleleaf evergreen forest). This range implies that temperate broadleaf deciduous forest was the biggest C source under the full factorial and that temperate needleleaf evergreen forest was the biggest C sink from 1961 to 2000. Compared with the combined effect with O₃ (OCLC) and without O₃ (CLC), the O₃-only scenario releases more C for all different PFTs. Compared with the combined effect without O₃ (CLC), the combined effect with O₃ (OCLC) resulted in less accumulated NCE for temperate broadleaf deciduous forest (321.2 Tg C) and dry farmland crops (46.5 Tg C) than other PFTs, which means that temperate broadleaf deciduous forest and dry farmland were more sensitive to O₃ than other PFTs. In general, we found that C₃ grass was more sensitive than C₄ grass to O₃, dry farmland was more sensitive than paddy farmland, and deciduous forest was more sensitive than needleleaf forest.

Overall results indicate that O₃ has negative impacts on terrestrial ecosystem production (Figure 3-2 and Table 3-2), and the negative effects become severe because

the O₃ concentration increased across China in the past decades, especially after the 1990s (e.g. Aunan et al., 2000). Biomes had complicated responses of carbon storage to O₃ because of the different sensitivities of each PFT as well as different environmental conditions. For example, some arid sites exhibit small O₃ effect on photosynthesis because low stomatal conductance in arid plants leads to relatively low O₃ uptake. Some other studies showed that O₃-induced reductions in photosynthesis were accompanied by decreased water use efficiency (WUE), however, resulting in even larger reductions in productivity, particularly at arid sites (Ollinger et al., 1997). This fact may be the reason that wetlands show relatively low reduction in carbon storage (Table 3-3), and dry farmland crops are more sensitive to O₃ than paddy farmland crops. This might be also because parameters of crops in the Reich model (Reich, 1987) are more sensitive to O₃ than those in deciduous and coniferous forests. In addition, in response to elevated O₃ concentration, plants allocate more carbon to leaves and stems than roots due to increased defense mechanisms (e.g., Younglove et al., 1994; Piikki et al., 2004). This effect may result in higher carbon storage loss in broadleaf deciduous forests than in evergreen forests. It is clearly needed to address variations in biome-level responses to O₃ pollution.

3.2. Spatiotemporal Variations of C Flux and C Storage

Mean annual NPP changes from the 1960s to the 1990s under the O₃-only scenario showed a significant spatial pattern (Figure 3-9). The mean annual NPP decreased the most in the eastern China partially because the eastern China has experienced faster development in urbanization, industrialization, and agricultural intensification in the past several decades, than remote areas in the western China (Aunan, 2000; Wang et al., 2004; Liu et al., 2005). This development is closely related to an

increased use of fossil fuels and fertilizer. The imbalance of regional O₃ concentrations could also result in fluctuations of annual NPP.

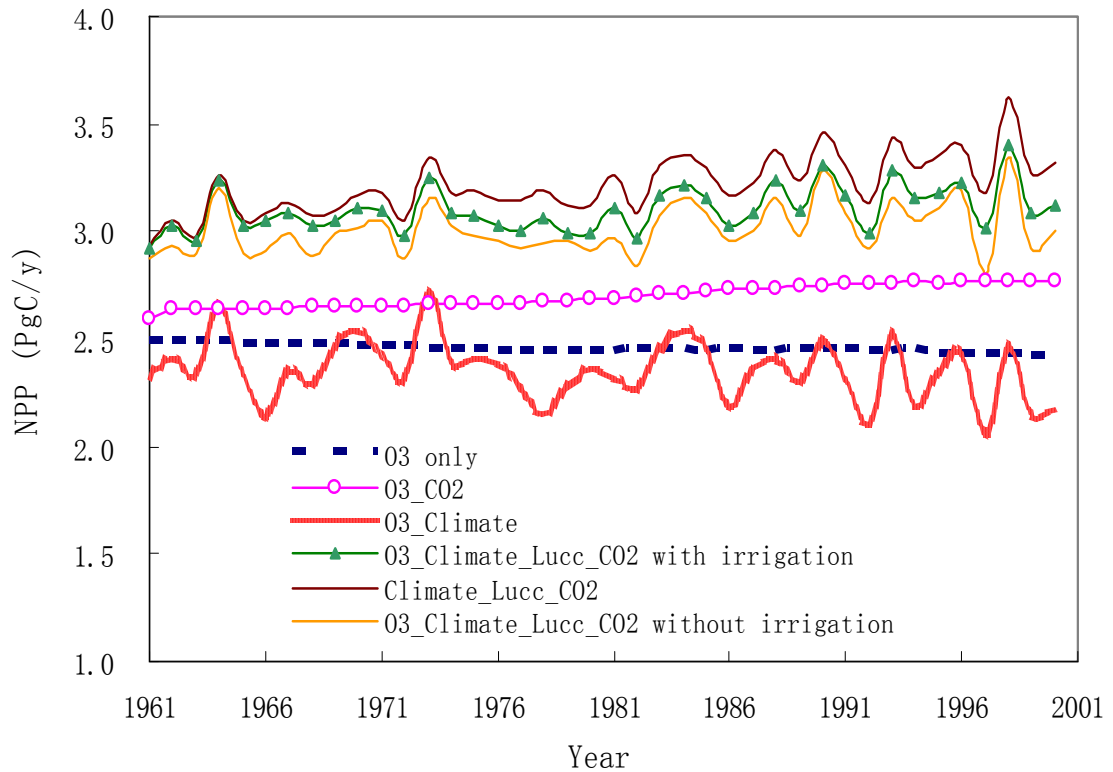


Figure 3-8 Annual net primary productivity (NPP) under 6 influencing factors from 1961 to 2000

Under the influence of O₃ and CO₂, the simulation results illustrate that mean annual NPP in the 1990s increased by 140.6 Tg C compared to the 1960s (Figure 3-8 and Figure 3-9); the total carbon storage increased by 46.3Tg over the past 40 years because of the accumulative increase in vegetation and soil C storage (Figure 3-10). The increased C storage may be attributed to the direct effects of increasing atmospheric CO₂ (Melillo et al., 1996; Tian et al., 1999, 2000), however, O₃ can partially compensate for the positive effects of CO₂ fertilization.

DLEM estimates that the total carbon storage for potential vegetation under O₃ and climate influences decreased by 15.9 Tg C. This decrease could mainly be attributed to the large decrease in soil C storage while vegetation C decreased relatively little from 1961 to 2000 (Figure 10). The interannual variation of NPP had a similar trend with the historical annual precipitation from 1961 to 2000 (Figure 3-8 and figure 3-5c). For example, annual NPP decreased as less precipitation occurred in the late 1960s and the 1970s (Figure 3-8). From 1961 to 2000, due to the influence of the monsoon climate, precipitation and temperature in China exhibited large interannual variability during the study period. The results indicate that NPP was more sensitive to changes in precipitation than in temperature, while soil carbon storage was more closely linked to temperature through decomposition responses. In addition, the changing pattern of mean annual NPP from the 1960s to 1990s indicates that NPP in the areas of the eastern and northern China decreased more than other areas over the same time period (Figure 3-9b). Those variations might be related to the magnitude and spatial distribution of rainfall from seasonal to decadal (Fu and Wen, 1999; Tian et al., 2003). Therefore, the combined effects of changes in air temperature and precipitation with increasing O₃ concentration are complex, and the NPP loss might result from the balance among O₃, CO₂ and water uptake through changing stomatal conductance due to the combined effects of O₃, temperature and CO₂.

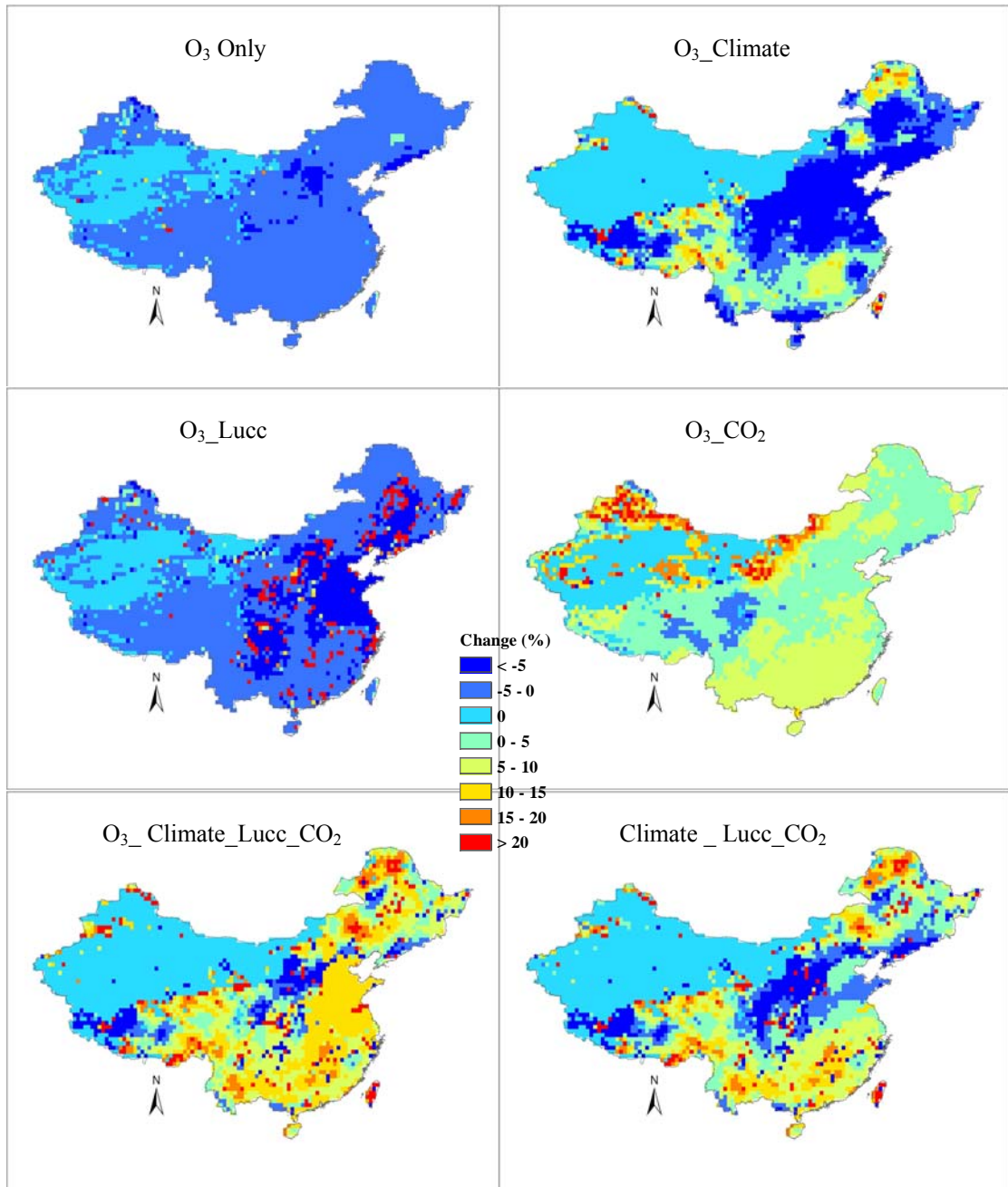


Figure 3-9 Change rate of average annual net primary productivity (NPP) from 1960s to 1990s under different influencing factors related to O₃ (%)

The above analyses address the response of potential terrestrial ecosystems to historical O₃ concentration, changing climate, and atmospheric CO₂ concentration. Land-use change as well as management, however, has substantially modified land ecosystems across China in the past 40 years (e.g. Liu et al., 2005). Based on the DLEM simulation, the total terrestrial carbon storage in China increased by 16.8 Tg C during 1960-2000 (Figure 3-10). Annual NPP over time in the OCLC (simulation experiment IV) increased slightly (mean 0.1%), and the variation of interannual NPP is similar to the result from climate change (Figure 3-8). The distribution of the annual NPP difference between the 1960s and the 1990s in OCLC scenario indicates that the NPP changes were smaller than in the O₃-only scenario, which could be caused by the modification of the interactive effects of changing climate, increasing CO₂, and land-use change. Compared with the effects of OCLC with irrigation and without irrigation (Figure 3-8), there was a mean 3% reduced rate of annual NPP over the time period from 1961 to 2000. The result implies that water conditions could alter the O₃-induced damage.

4. Discussion

4.1 Comparison with Estimates of Ozone Damage from Other Research in China

Research of O₃ effects on crop growth and yield loss in China has been conducted since 1990 by using field experiments and model simulations. Field studies have shown that O₃ exposure could result in crop yield reductions of 0%-86% under different experimental treatments with varying O₃ concentrations and duration (e.g. Wang and Guo, 1990; Huang et al., 2004). Estimates of crop yield loss on the regional scale, such as the Yangtze River Delta and national level, were established (Feng et al., 2003; Wang and

Mauzerall, 2004; Aunan et al., 2000) , and results indicate crop loss of 0-23% from historical O₃ in China at with potential future increases ranging from 2.3%-64% (Wang et al.,2007). Felzer et al. (2005) found that crops were more sensitive to O₃ damage at low O₃ levels both in China and Europe than in the U.S. All the above crop studies and assessments of yield loss were based on empirical exposure-response relationships for crop yield and O₃. However, there are few studies based on process-based ecosystem models to estimate the effects of O₃ damage on diverse PFTs on a national level. In our study, the DLEM model was used to address the influence of O₃ concentration on NPP and carbon storage across China during the past forty years from 1960-2000, and we estimated the influence of historical O₃ on different PFTs. Similar to previous studies, there was a reduction of NPP when considering O₃ effects. Also the O₃ effects on terrestrial ecosystem across China was consistent with the study of Felzer et al. (2005), that spatial variations were largely due to varied O₃ concentration, climate change and other stress factors. The large damage peaked in the eastern China with the greatest reduction in NPP over 70% for some places. Furthermore, our work shows different sensitivities for different PFTs, in part because we incorporated the Reich et al. (1987) dose-response functions into DLEM. Deciduous forests and dry farmland crops are relatively sensitive to O₃ than other PFTs. Dry farmland showed more reduction in yield than paddy farmland. It indicates an important need to further study variations among PFTs and the underlying mechanisms.

4.2 Ozone and its interactive effects on net primary productivity and carbon storage

In our study, average annual NPP decreased 0.01PgC/yr and accumulated NCE was -0.92PgC (Figure 3-8 and Table 3-3) from 1961 to 2000 with the effect of O₃ only.

Similar to most field experiments in US, Europe and China and other model results (e.g. Heagle, 1989 and references therein), our results show that O₃ has negative effects on terrestrial ecosystem production due to direct O₃-induced reductions in photosynthesis .

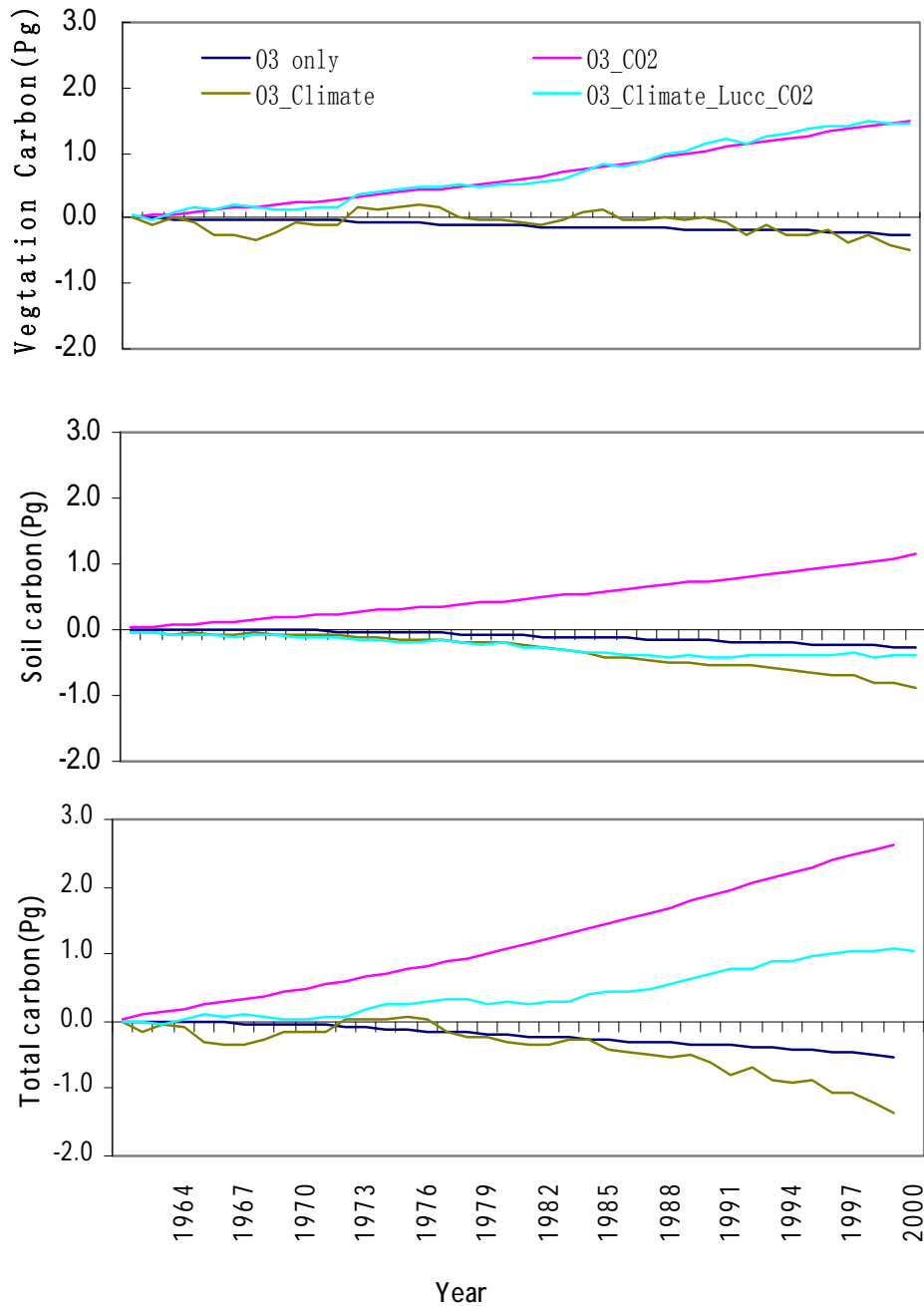


Figure 3-10. Annual changes in terrestrial carbon storage in China from 1961 to 2000 under four influencing factors

The combined effects of O₃, CO₂, climate, and land use show very different results. O₃ may compensate for CO₂ fertilization and result in NPP losses in different plant types over time across China (Figure 3-8, 3-9 and 3-10). Climate variability increased the O₃-induced reduction of carbon storage and led to substantial year-to-year variations in carbon fluxes (NPP and NCE). These results are consistent with many previous studies (e.g. Cao and Woodward, 1998; McGuire et al., 2001; Tian et al., 1999; 2003). There is a direct positive effect of elevated CO₂ on photosynthesis and biomass production (e.g. Agrawal and Deepak, 2003), as well as reduced stomatal conductance. Climate warming increased decomposition, resulting in continuous loss of soil and total carbon storage (Figure 3-10b, c) since 1990, although annual precipitation was substantial during this period (Figure 3-5c,d). China is influenced by a monsoon climate so that summer monsoons bring most of the annual precipitation (Fu and Wen, 1999). The combined effects of changes in O₃ concentration and climate warming in arid areas may result in larger variability in productivity.

Similarly, the contribution of land-use change to the terrestrial carbon budget varied over time and in different ecosystem types (e.g. Houghton and Hackler, 2003). In our study, we took into account the combined effects of land-use change with historical O₃ concentration, atmospheric CO₂ concentration, and climate variability. When considering the effects of land use with O₃, three aspects need to be addressed. First, transformations of different land use types, such as the conversion from forest to crop and regrowth of natural vegetation after cropland abandonment, could result in carbon loss or carbon uptake (e.g. Tian et al., 2003). The other two are the sensitivities of different

biomes to O₃ exposure and agriculture management. The former results in different carbon loss rates; however, the latter's effects combined with O₃ pollution on carbon storage are related to changing soil environment such as water and nitrogen conditions. In addition, dry farmland and C₃ grass are more sensitive than paddy farmland and C₄ plant types, which could better explain the field study results of the relationship between O₃ effects and photosynthesis and stomatal conductance. Reich's (1987) study indicated that a secondary response to O₃ is possibly a reduction in stomatal conductance, as the stomata close in response to increased internal CO₂. Tjoekler et al., (1995) found a decoupling of photosynthesis from stomatal conductance as a result of long-term exposure to O₃. Such a decoupling implies that O₃-induced reductions in photosynthesis would also be accompanied by decreased water use efficiency (WUE), resulting in even larger reductions in productivity, particularly at arid sites, although many studies indicate that drought-induced stress could reduce O₃ stress (Smith et al, 2003). Unlike C₄ photosynthesis, which adds a set of carbon-fixation reactions that enable some plants to increase photosynthetic water use efficiency in dry environments, C₃ grass and dry farmland in China are always water limited and are more sensitive to O₃ exposure. In addition, the modeling studies of Felzer et al. (2004) indicated that O₃ pollution can reduce more NPP with fertilizer application. In contrast to land-use change in the eastern U.S. (Felzer et al., 2004), it is necessary to consider how to manage irrigation in arid areas because there are a lot of moisture-limited regions that require irrigation in China. Reasonable irrigation management can both enhance the water use efficiency and modify the O₃ damage.

Besides the environmental factors discussed above, recent reviews of the global carbon budget also indicate that terrestrial ecosystem productivity could be affected by other changes in atmospheric chemistry, such as nitrogen deposition and aerosols (e.g. Pitcairn et al., 1998; Birgin et al., 2001; Lu and Tian, 2007). These changes can directly change carbon storage. For example, aerosols and regional haze may also reduce ecosystem productivity by decreasing solar radiation and changing climate conditions (e.g. Huang et al., 2006). Nitrogen deposition could also affect terrestrial carbon storage in a complex way (Aber et al., 1993). For example, many terrestrial ecosystems in middle and high latitudes are nitrogen limited (e.g. Melillo et al, 1995), and the increasing effect of elevated CO₂ on photosynthesis could be decoupled by limited nitrogen concentration. However, increasing nitrogen deposition could reduce total plant phosphorus uptake (e.g. Cleland, 2005) and nitrogen deposition can bias the estimates of carbon flux and carbon storage either high or low depending on the nature of the interannual climate variations (Tian et al., 1999). In this study, we ran the model with a closed nitrogen cycle because a database containing a time series of nitrogen deposition was not available for our transient analyses. To completely understand the effects of air pollution conditions on terrestrial ecosystem productivity, future work should take these atmospheric chemistry factors into account.

4.3 Uncertainty and future work

An integrated assessment of O₃ impacts on terrestrial ecosystem production at regional level basically requires the following types of information: (1) O₃ dataset that reflects the air quality in the study area and other environmental data such as climate (temperature, light and precipitation), plant (types, distribution and parameters) and soil

(texture, moisture, etc.) information; (2) mechanisms of O₃ impacts on ecosystem processes, which describe relationships between air-pollutant-dose and eco-physiological processes such as photosynthesis, respiration, allocation, toleration, and competition; and (3) an integrated process-based model, which is able to quantify the damage of O₃ on ecosystem processes. To reduce uncertainty in our current work, future work needs to address the following: First, we used one set of O₃ data from a combination of global atmospheric chemistry models, which have not been validated well against field observations because of limited field data. We found that the seasonal pattern of our simulated O₃ data (AOT40) was the same as the limited observation data sets (Wang et al., 2007), with the highest O₃ concentrations in summer. However, we still need observed AOT40 values to calibrate and validate our O₃ data set in the future. Second, the O₃ module in our DLEM focuses on the direct effects on photosynthesis and indirect effects on other processes, such as stomatal conductance, carbon allocation, and plant growth. The quantitative relationship between O₃ and these processes remains untested by field studies. Third, in our simulations, we simulate land-use change accompanying optimum fertilization and irrigation management. It is hard to separate the contributions of land-use change from their combination with fertilizer and irrigation. Especially, according to the studies of Felzer et al. (2004, 2005), the O₃ effect with fertilizer management could increase the damage to ecosystem production. However, irrigation management in dry lands could reduce the negative effect of O₃ (Ollinger et al., 1997). In our model, crops were classified as dry farmland and paddy farmland which improved the crops' simulation compared to previous process-based models, but different crop types, such as spring wheat, winter wheat, corn, rice, and soybean, have large differences in

sensitivity to O₃ and could result in different ecosystem production changes due to the effects of O₃ (eg. Heck, 1988; Wang et al., 2007). It is needed to improve the agricultural ecosystem module by including different crop types and varied managements (fertilizer, irrigation, tillage, and so on) to study the O₃ effect.

To accurately assess impacts of O₃ and other pollutants on NPP and carbon storage on a regional scale, it is needed to improve both observation data in China and ecosystem model. So the future research may focus on the following: (1) validation of simulation results with site data; (2) refinement of present O₃ data with field observations and comparison of present O₃ data with other simulated O₃ data; (3) development of the O₃ module by coupling the effects of O₃ on LAI and stomatal conductance; (4) improvement of the process-based agricultural ecosystem model to study the effects of air pollutants on different crop types; and (5) inclusion of other air pollutants (e.g., aerosols and nitrogen deposition) in the model.

5. Conclusions

This work investigated tropospheric O₃ pollution in China and its influence on NPP and carbon storage across China from 1961 to 2000 by using the Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM). Our simulated results show that elevated tropospheric O₃ concentration has led to a mean 4.5% reduction in NPP nationwide during the period of 1961–2000. Our simulations suggest that the interactions of O₃ with increasing CO₂, climate change, land use and management are significant, and that the interaction of O₃ with the climate and land use change can cause terrestrial ecosystems to release carbon to the atmosphere. O₃ effects on NPP varied among plant functional types, ranging from

0.2% to 6.9% during 1961 to 2000. Dry farmland, C₃ grasses, and deciduous forests are more sensitive to O₃ exposure than paddy farmland, C₄ grasses, and evergreen forests. In addition, following O₃ exposure experiments, we allowed crops to be more sensitive than deciduous trees and deciduous trees to be more sensitive than coniferous trees, and therefore had the highest mean reduction (over 14.5%) since the late 1980s. Spatial variations in O₃ pollution and O₃ effects on NPP and carbon storage indicate that eastern-central China is the most sensitive area. Significant reduction in NPP occurred in north-east, central, and south-east China where most crops are planted. Direct and indirect effects of air pollutants on ecosystem production, especially on agriculture ecosystem carbon cycling, should be considered in the future work in China. Lack of O₃ observation data sets and sensitivity experiments of different PFTs could result in uncertainties in this study. To accurately assess the impact of elevated O₃ level on NPP and carbon storage, it is necessary to develop an observation network across China to measure tropospheric O₃ concentration and its effects on ecosystem processes, and then to enhance the capacity of process-based ecosystem models by rigorous field data-model comparison.

Chapter 4

Grassland Ecosystem, Ozone Pollution, Climate Variability/Change – Influence of Ozone Pollution and Climate Variability on Grassland Ecosystem Productivity across China

Abstract

Our simulations with the Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM) indicate that the combined effect of ozone (O_3), climate, carbon dioxide and land use have caused China's grasslands to act as a weak carbon sink during 1961-2000. This combined effect on national grassland net primary productivity (NPP) and carbon storage was small, but changes in annual NPP and total carbon storage across China's grasslands show substantial spatial variation, with the maximum total carbon uptake reduction of more than 400 g/m^2 in some places of northeastern China. The grasslands in the central northeastern China were more sensitive and vulnerable to elevated O_3 pollution than other regions. The combined effect excluding O_3 could potentially lead to an increase of 14 Tg C in annual NPP and 0.11Pg C in total carbon storage for the same time period. This implies that improvement in air quality could significantly increase productivity and carbon storage in China's grassland ecosystems.

Keywords: Carbon storage, China, Climate variability; Grassland ecosystem; Net primary production (NPP); ozone (O_3)

1. Introduction

Increasing air pollution by tropospheric O₃ is occurring globally. It has been documented by many researchers that elevated O₃ can reduce vegetation productivity (Heagle, 1989; Mauzerall and Wang, 2001; Ashmore, 2005). Our understanding of potential adverse effects of O₃ on semi-natural vegetation such as grasslands is relatively limited compared with many studies on growth and yield of cropland and forested ecosystems (e.g. Ollinger et al., 1997; Barnes and Wellburn, 1998; Felzer et al., 2004). The few available studies regarding O₃ impacts on natural grasslands, however, have indicated that O₃ can induce visible injury and detrimental effects on growth, reproductive development, and competition among different grass species (Farage et al, 1991; Davison & Barnes, 1998; Fuhrer and Booker, 2003; Bassin et al., 2006). Grassland ecosystems may be more vulnerable than agricultural and forested ecosystems to O₃ due to their distribution in more extreme climate zones, and the absence of intensive human management which occurs in agriculture, and long-term adaptation to environmental stresses in forests (Fuhrer and Booker, 2003). Most grassland regions are noted by substantial climatic variability and high frequency of drought events. Therefore, from the perspective of environmental policy and management, it is imperative to explore how net primary production and carbon storage of grassland ecosystems have been influenced by elevated tropospheric O₃ concentrations, and its combined effects with other factors of climate change, such as temperature, increases in CO₂ concentrations and alterations in rainfall patterns.

China's grasslands account for about 40% of the total land area in the country. As one of the major terrestrial ecosystems, grasslands play an important role in the carbon cycle in China. Most of China's grassland ecosystems are distributed in the arid and semi-arid areas of North China (Yang et al., 2002; Liu et al. 2005; Jin et al., 2005) where O₃ pollution has been documented (Aunan et al., 2000; Akimoto, 2003; Wang and Mauzerall, 2004; Felzer et al., 2005). Thus, grassland ecosystems in China are experiencing multiple stresses, including O₃ pollution and drought. Although research on O₃ pollution effects (e.g. Aunan et al., 2000) and the carbon cycle in grassland ecosystems (Xiao et al., 1995) have been carried out by either field experiments or model simulations, few studies have been conducted to assess the combined effects of elevated O₃ and climate variability on grassland ecosystems at the regional level. To address the complexity of O₃ effects on grassland ecosystem productivity at the national scale, we need to use spatially-explicit process-based ecosystem models with an O₃ sub-model to analyze the history and forecast the future of grassland productivity.

Based on many field experiments and observations, several process-based models have been developed to study O₃ effects on vegetation productivity by extrapolating its effects on individual plants to a plant community, an ecosystem and even a region (eg. Reich, 1987; Ollinger et al., 1997, 2002; Martin et al., 2001; Felzer et al., 2004). O₃ can affect ecosystem productivity through influencing leaf photosynthesis, respiration, stomatal conductance, carbon allocation, litter decomposition, water cycling and community properties such as species diversity, functional types and dominant vegetation

types (Neufeld et al., 1992, 2006; Chappelka et al., 2002, 2003; Fuhrer and Booker, 2003; Matyssek and Sandermann, 2003; Ashmore, 2005).

To assess the effects of O₃ on vegetation productivity, many process-based models simplify the influence mechanisms and focus on the fact that elevated O₃ exposure reduces CO₂ assimilation by either direct or indirect effects on photosynthesis and stomatal conductance (Pell et al., 1997; Torsethaugen et al., 1999; Fiscus et al., 2005). We followed these ideas and integrated a sub-model of the O₃ effect into the DLEM model, a highly integrated process-based model (Tian et al., 2005).

Our objectives in this study are: 1) to illustrate the effects of tropospheric O₃ pollution in combination with climate variability on productivity of China's grassland ecosystems from 1961 - 2000; 2) to distinguish the contributions of the main driving environmental factors; 3) to examine the temporal-spatial patterns of carbon pools and fluxes in China's grassland ecosystems from 1961 to 2000; and finally 4) to identify the uncertainties of present simulations and point out future directions and improvements for simulating O₃ effects.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. The Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM) and input data

The same method as the description in detail in chapter 3 was used in this study.

2.2. Experimental design

In our study, we designed five simulation experiments to analyze the effects of O₃ only or climate only, and the combined effects of O₃ and climate on NPP, NCE and carbon storage in the grassland ecosystems of China (Table 4-1). In experiment I, we tried to examine the sole extent of O₃ impacts while other environmental factors were constant. In experiments II and III, we analyzed the contribution of climate variability only and the combined effect with O₃, respectively. The other two simulation experiments IV and V were designed to simulate a relatively realistic scenario to explore the effects of O₃ on ecosystem production. Here the important environmental factors, including climate variability, increasing CO₂, and land use change were considered.

Table 4-1 Experimental arrangement including O₃, climate, CO₂ and land use

	Scenarios	Environmental Factors		
		O ₃	Climate	CO ₂ & Land use
I	Only O ₃ (O)	H	C	C
II	Only Climate (Clm)	0	H	C
III	O ₃ _Climate (OCIm)	H	H	C
IV	Climate_Lucc_CO ₂ (ClmLC)	0	H	H
V	O ₃ _Climate_Lucc_CO ₂ OCImLC)	H	H	H

Note: H is historical data, 0 means no data and C is constant data. Here we use CO₂ concentration (296ppm) in 1900 and mean climate data sets in 30 years from 1960 to 1990 and potential vegetation map as constant value.

The model simulation began with an equilibrium run to develop the baseline C, N, and water pools for each grid. Then a spin up of about 100 years was applied if climate variability is included in the simulation scenario. Finally, the model ran in transient model driven by transient data of climate, O₃, CO₂, and land use.

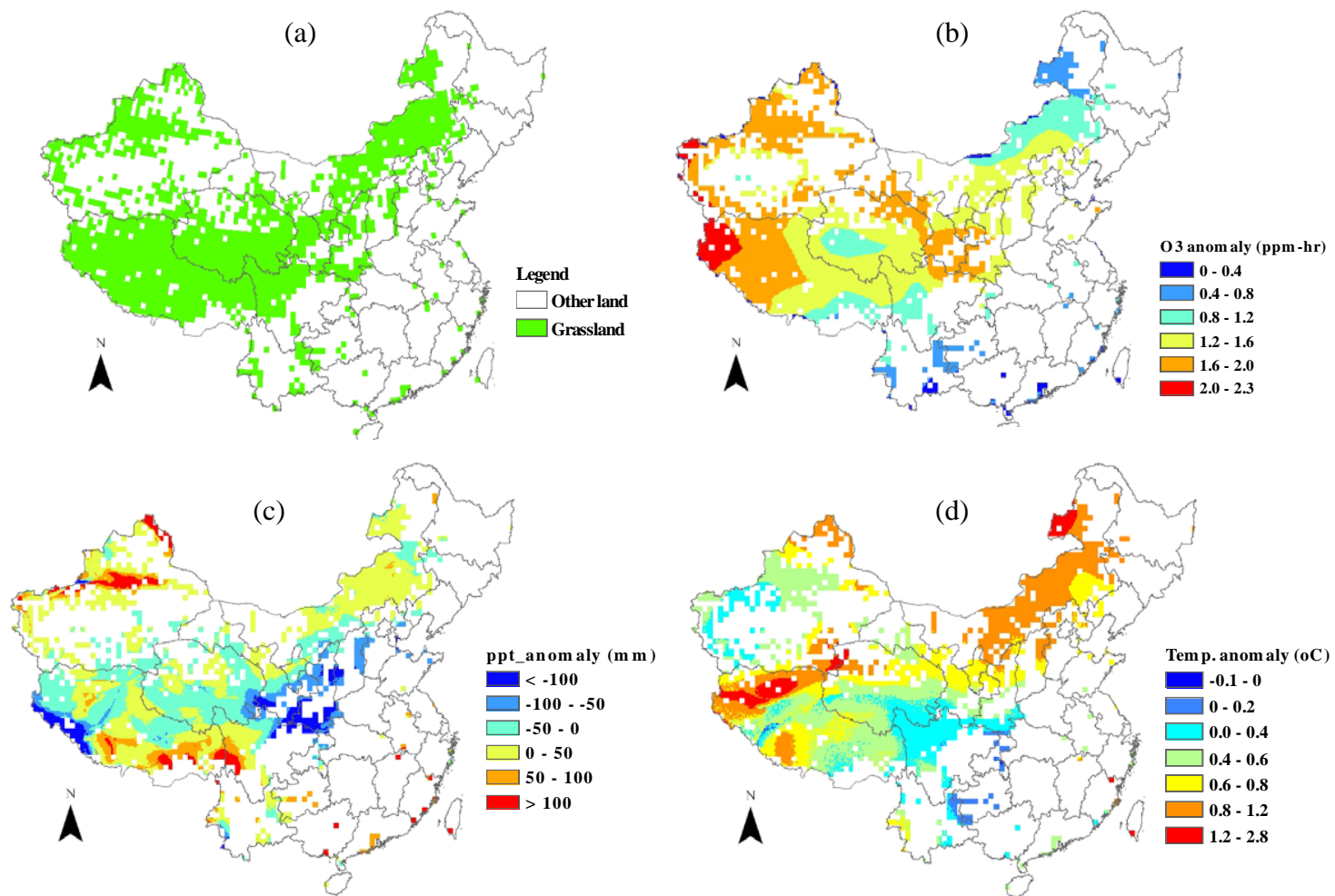


Figure 4-1 Map of grassland distribution in China (a) and maps of anomalies in the 1990s (relative to the average for 1961-1990) for (b) annual average AOT40 (ppm-hr), (c) precipitation (mm), and (d) temperature (°C).

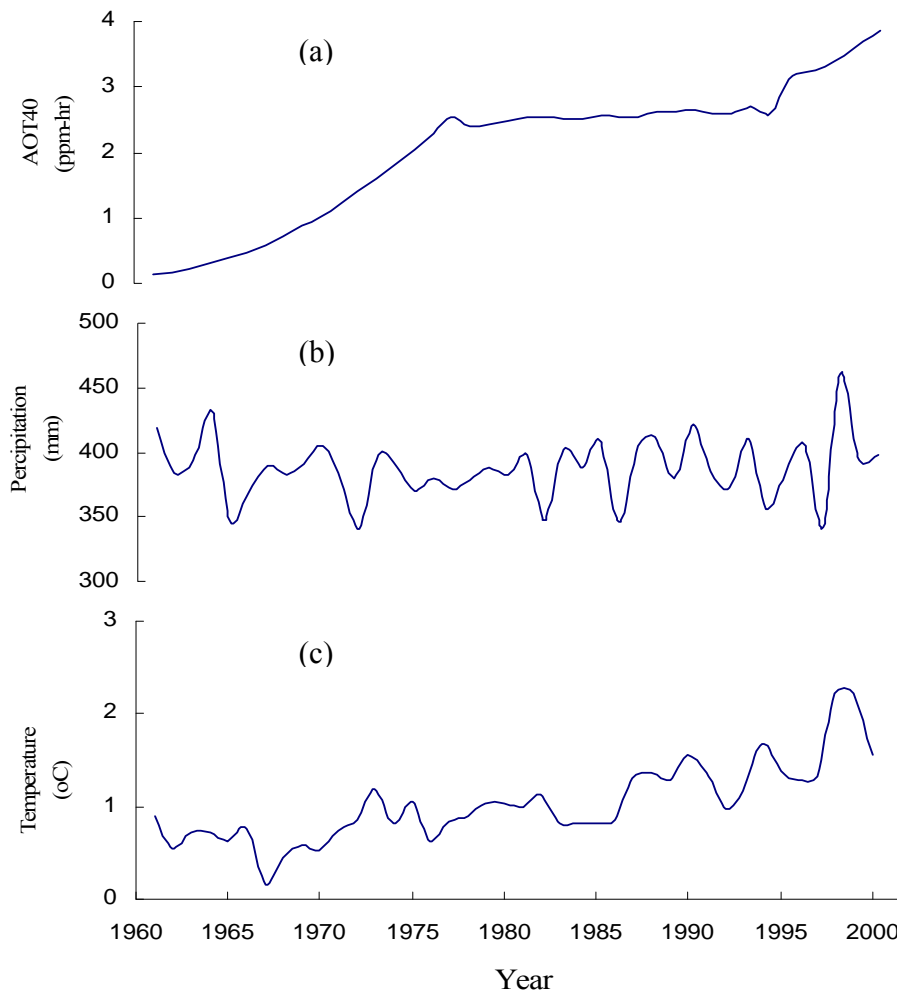


Figure 4-2 Changes in tropospheric ozone and climate across grassland areas of China: (a) annual average monthly AOT40 (ppm-hr/month), (b) precipitation (mm) and (c) mean annual temperature (°C) for the grassland area in China.

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Tropospheric O₃ concentrations and climate variability in China during the past decades

The simulated AOT40 data set (Figure 4-2a) shows that from 1961 to 2000, O₃ concentrations have significantly increased across the entire grassland area of 327×10^6 ha as estimated in this study (Figure 4-3a). The most rapid increases occurred during

1970s and 1990s, which might be partly due to accelerated industrialization and urbanization in these two time periods (Liu et al., 2005b). From the map of spatially distributed annual average AOT40 (Figure 4-3b), we find an increasing trend of O₃ concentrations throughout the entire grassland area. The greatest rate of increase occurred in the Central North of China while the greatest increase of AOT40 values was in North-West China, probably due to the rapid industrialization in North China and the transport of pollutants from Europe (Akimoto, 2003). On the contrary, AOT40 was relatively low in the southeast of China, which might be that the area is small in the SE portion of China, and the way the data were derived by the model could result in lower than expected AOT40 values. So much monitoring data are needed in these sensitive areas in the near future.

Annual mean precipitation and temperature show substantial interannual and decadal variations (Figure 4-2b, c; Figure 4-3c, d). Since the late 1980s, the mean annual temperatures in the grassland ecosystems of North China have risen rapidly with the highest increasing rate of more than 2.8°C in some arid regions in western China and semi-arid regions in the west part of the northeastern China. Since 1990, annual precipitation has increased with a maximum of 461 mm in 1998 (Figure 4-2b). In addition, although annual average precipitation increased since 1990 in most northern and southern grassland areas, precipitation significantly decreased in some arid areas in the south of western China (Figure 3c) and in the semi-arid areas of central China, with a reduction of more than 100 mm/yr (the maximum decrease is 331 mm). These climate change patterns are consistent with some recent studies on climate variability in China

(Yang et al., 2002; Li et al., 2004). Over two-thirds of China's grasslands are located in temperate regions where the precipitation is extremely low, air temperature variation is greater and O₃ concentrations, except for Tibet are much higher compared to other grassland regions in China.

3.2 Spatiotemporal variations in carbon flux and storage as influenced by increasing O₃ pollution

Under the influences of the combined environmental factors of O₃, climate, land use and CO₂ (OCImLC) (Table 4-2), the total grassland productivity during the past 40 years changed only slightly, with an average increase of mean annual NPP from 400.5 Tg C/yr in the 1960s to 400.8 Tg C/yr in the 1990s. Ecosystem carbon pools including vegetation carbon (VC), soil carbon (SC) and total carbon (TC) increased 0.04Pg C (6.1%), 0.03Pg C (0.1%) and 0.07Pg C (0.3%), respectively from 1961 to 2000.

Through comparing the effects of OCImLC with ClmLC (Table 4-2, Figure 4-4 and Figure 4-5), we find that increasing O₃ concentrations could lead to a general decrease in NPP and total carbon storage, and these negative effects might continue to increase because of the rapid increase in O₃ concentrations since the 1990s (e.g. Elliot et al., 1997; Sims, 1999; Aunan et al., 2000). From the 1960s to the 1990s, with O₃ included in the model (OCImLC scenario), grassland NPP increased only 0.3Tg C, while without O₃ (under ClmLC scenario), NPP increased about 14.3Tg C, which indicates a net reduction of 14.0 Tg C in NPP induced by elevated O₃ (Table 4-2). The VC, SC and TC, accordingly, were about 0.03 Pg C, 0.08Pg C and 0.11Pg C lower, respectively from the 1960s to the 1990s.

Table 4-2 Overall changes in net primary productivity (NPP) between 1990s and 1960s and carbon pools including vegetation carbon (VC), soil carbon (SC) and total carbon (TC) between 2000 and 1961

	Scenarios									
	CImLC				OCImLC				OCImLC-CImLC	
Carbon Flux (Tg C)	60s	90s	90s-60s	%	60s	90s	90s-60s	%	90s-60s	
NPP	403.2	417.4	14.3	3.5	400.5	400.8	0.3	0.1	-2.2	
Carbon Pool (Pg C)	1961	2000	2000-1961	%	1961	2000	2000-1961	%	2000-1961	
VC	0.69	0.76	0.07	10.1	0.69	0.74	0.04	5.8	-0.02	
SC	22.67	22.78	0.11	0.5	22.67	22.7	0.03	0.1	-0.34	
TC	23.36	23.54	0.18	0.8	23.36	23.43	0.07	0.3	-0.36	

76

Table 4-3 Overall changes in net primary productivity (NPP) between 1990s and 1960s and carbon pools including vegetation carbon (VC), soil carbon (SC) and total carbon (TC) between 2000 and 1961 under scenarios of O₃

	Scenarios									
	O				OCIm				OCIm-O	
Carbon Flux(Tg C)	60s	90s	90s-60s	%	60s	90s	90s-60s	%	90s-60s	
NPP	346.2	337.7	-8.5	-2.5	463.0	452.3	-10.7	-2.3	-2.2	
Carbon Pool(Pg C)	1961	2000	2000-1961	%	1961	2000	2000-1961	%	2000-1961	
VC	0.29	0.26	-0.03	-10.3	0.03	-0.02	-0.05	-166.7	-0.02	
SC	25.58	25.54	-0.04	-0.2	23.05	22.67	-0.38	-1.6	-0.34	
TC	25.88	25.80	-0.07	-0.3	23.07	22.64	-0.43	-1.9	-0.36	

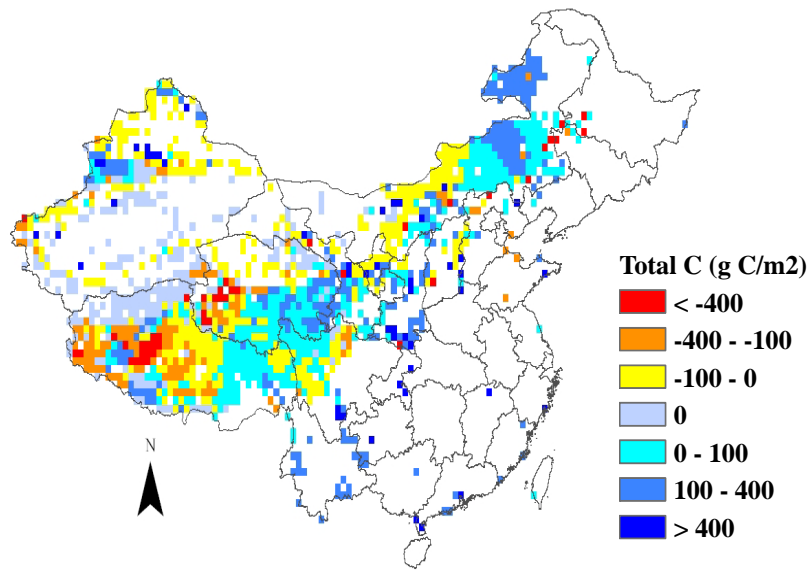


Figure 4-3 Carbon source and sink during 1961-2000 across China's grassland area as a simulation result of combined effect of climate, land use, O₃ and CO₂ by DLEM (g/m²)

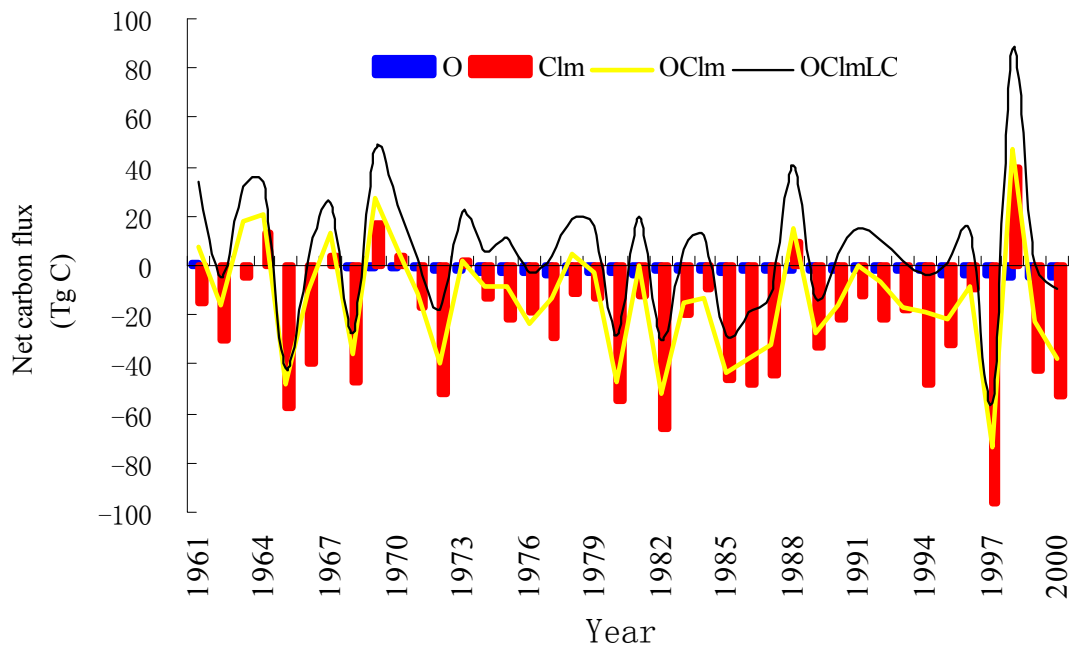


Figure 4-5 NCE responses from 1961-2000, showing the effect of ozone and climate disturbance (Pg C yr⁻¹), O (O₃), C (climate), OC (O₃_climate) and OClmLC (O₃_Climate_Lucc_O₃).

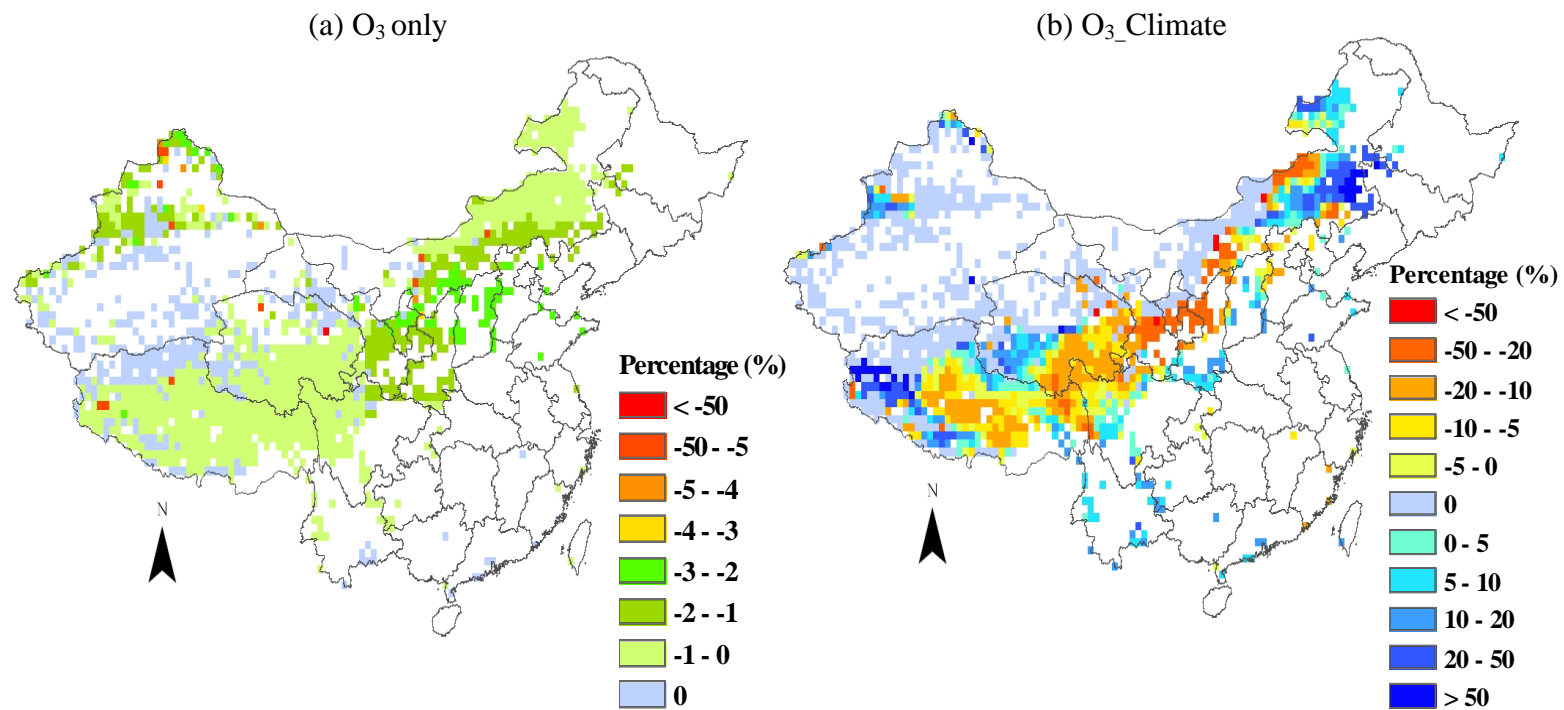


Figure 4-4 Net primary productivity (NPP) change rate (%) between 1990s and 1960s in (a) O₃ only and (b) O₃_Climate, showing the different effects of ozone alone and combination effects of ozone and climate change on NPP of China's grassland during the past four decades.

Although the temporal changes in TC were small at the national level (0.07Pg C increase in TC) from the 1960s to the 1990s under OCImLC (Table 4-2), significant spatial variability in TC is observed in some grassland areas (Figure 4-4). We found that total carbon storage decreased in most of the grassland areas in the southwestern and the northwestern portions of China, with a maximum carbon release of more than 400 g/m² in the places of southwestern China. Total carbon storage increased in most of the grassland areas in the west of northeastern China and the east of southwestern China. Some areas in these regions showed a maximum carbon sink of more than 400 g/m². By comparing the spatial pattern of O₃ (Figure 4-2b) and accumulated NCE (Figure 4-6), we found that the influence of O₃ was compounded by other environmental factors (e.g. climate, land use change and CO₂ change).

3.3 Combination effects of O₃ with changing climate on carbon flux and storage

Since grasslands are mostly located in arid and semi-arid regions, climate thus becomes a main limiting factor in controlling net primary production and carbon storage of grassland ecosystems. To study the effects of O₃ pollution under climate constraints on China's grassland ecosystem production, we conducted factorial analyses with three scenarios, including O₃ only (O), climate only (CIm), and the combination of O₃ and climate variability (OCIm). In response to a combination of historical O₃ and climate variability including air temperature and precipitation (Table 4-3), the average annual NPP across China's grasslands from the 1960s to the 1990s decreased by 10.7 Tg C, The VC, SC and TC were reduced by 0.05 Pg C, 0.038 Pg C and 0.43 Pg C, respectively from 1961 to 2000. The OCIm scenario resulted in 2.2 Tg C more NPP loss than that under the O scenario from the 1960s to the 1990s. The VC, SC and TC of the OCIm scenario were

0.02 Pg C, 0.34Pg C and 0.36Pg C lower, respectively, than the results of the O scenario. We also found that spatial and temporal patterns of NPP under combined factors were consistent with those resulting from climate change alone, which indicates that most of the interannual variation in NPP was due to climate variability. We further found that spatial and temporal patterns of annual NPP were strongly controlled by the precipitation pattern (Figure 4-2b). Our results are consistent with other studies as reported by Tian et al. (1999; 2003). In addition, interannual variability in NPP and R_H led to substantial interannual variability in net carbon exchange between the atmosphere and grassland ecosystems (Figure 4-6). For all those three scenarios (Clm, OCIm and OCImLC), there was a maximum carbon release in 1997 when precipitation was relatively low and a maximum carbon sink in 1998, the year having the highest precipitation (Figure 4-2a, b).

The effects of O_3 and climate on NPP varied from region to region under the O scenario (Figure 4-5a) and OCIm scenario (Figure 4-5b) from the 1960s to the 1990s. We found a mean reduction of 2-3% in NPP in the entire grassland under the influence of O_3 alone (experiment I); however, when adding the climate change scenarios (experiment III), a mean reduction of 10-20% in NPP was found, with a maximum reduction rate of more than 50% in some places. Under both scenarios, the greatest reduction in NPP occurred mostly in central China, which possibly was due to the unique environment in central China where O_3 concentrations are higher (Figure 3b), denser grass coverage, higher productivity, and significantly changed climatic conditions than other grassland areas (Yang et al., 2002; Liu et al., 2005; Piao et al., 2004). The most rapid rate change

also occurred in the east of southwestern China, which was induced primarily by climate change rather than O₃.

We found that vegetation carbon (-10.3%) is more sensitive than soil carbon (0.2%) in response to elevated O₃ (O and OClm, Table 4-3). This response may be due to the fact that O₃ and climate have greater effect on the living vegetation than the decomposition and accumulation of soil organic matter. In terms of previous studies, soil carbon storage is mainly controlled by the combined effects of O₃, soil moisture and nitrogen (Nussbaum et al., 2000). In other field observations it was reported that soil moisture has been decreasing in the past 100 years, despite increased precipitation in these areas (Li et al., 2004). Thus, soil carbon storage has decreased less than vegetation carbon due to the lower respiration rate caused by both drought stress and O₃ in the arid and semi-arid grassland areas. Although it was suggested that O₃ stress was less significant in arid environments due to decreasing stomatal conductance (Ollinger et al., 1997), it is well known that the ratio of shoot to root could increase and reduced root biomass can result in serious drought stress with the decline of water uptake (Cooley and Manning, 1987). In addition, recent reports (Grulke et al., 2007; McLaughlin et al., 2007a) suggest that O₃ may be causing stomatal sluggishness in certain species. This factor could have a profound influence on plant water relations and future modeling efforts (McLaughlin et al., 2007b). Further physiological studies regarding stomatal response to O₃ in grassland species is warranted.

Our results indicate that interannual variation in net carbon flux during 1961-2000 is primarily controlled by climate variability while O₃ leads to an increasing reduction of NCE (Figure 4-6). However, the combined effects of O₃ and climate cannot explain all of the variation in net carbon flux, which implies roles for CO₂, land use and grassland management.

3.4 Simulation results comparison

Similar to most field experiments (e.g. Heagle, 1989; Davison and Barnes, 1998; Fuhrer and Booker, 2003; Bobbink, 1998; Mclaughlin and Percy, 1999; Volk et al., 2006) and other regional model simulations (Ollinger et al., 1997; Felzer et al., 2004), our results show that O₃ has negative effects on semi-natural grassland ecosystem production. Due to differences in research methods (e.g. NDVI-biomass, forage yield, biomass and carbon density) as well as grassland area estimates (from 299 to 570 10⁶ ha), the assessment of vegetation carbon storage (0.13-4.66 Pg C) and carbon density (0.06-1.15Pg C) vary significantly among different studies (Fang et al., 1996b; Ni, 2004; Piao et al., 2004) as shown in Table 4-4. Our estimates on vegetation carbon and carbon density are close to two recent analyses of Piao et al. (2004) and Ni (2004), but much lower than other previous studies (Fang et al., 1996b; Ni, 2001).

Uncertainties, including input data sets and model parameters, might result in imprecise estimation of the effects of O₃ and climate variability on grassland ecosystems. To better estimate regional carbon budgets and to better understand the underlying mechanisms, it is essential to examine how the structure and function of grassland ecosystems have changed as a result of multiple stresses, and interactions among those

stresses, including land-use change, climate variability, atmospheric composition (carbon dioxide and tropospheric O₃), precipitation chemistry (nitrogen composition), and fire frequency. Model estimates along with spatial and temporal patterns of carbon fluxes and storage need to be further evaluated through comparisons with the results of field studies, vegetation and soil inventories within China's grasslands.

Table 4-4 Estimates on Carbon storage in vegetation (VC) of grasslands in China

Source	Area (10 ⁶ ha)	VC (Pg C)	Carbon density (g C/m ²)	Method
This study	327	0.69-0.74	0.21-0.23	Process-based modeling
Piao et al. (2004)	331	1.04	0.31	NDVI-biomass
Ni (2004)	299	0.13	0.06	Forage yield
Ni (2002)	299	3.06	1.15	Carbon density
Ni (2001)	406	4.66	1.15	Carbon density
Fang et al.(1996b)	570	1.23	0.22	Biomass

4. Conclusions

We studied the influences of elevated O₃ and climate variability on grassland ecosystem productivity across China from 1961 to 2000 by applying a process-based dynamic land ecosystem model. In this study, the analysis of temporal and spatial changes under different scenarios explains the contributions of O₃ and changing climate. Our results showed that with the combined effects of elevated O₃ concentrations and other environmental factors, including climate, land use and CO₂, the total grassland ecosystem productivity across China during the 1960s-1990s had a small increase (0.3Tg C) in annual NPP, and carbon storage in vegetation, soil and the total ecosystem from

1961 to 2000 increased 0.04 Pg C, 0.03 Pg C and 0.07 Pg C, respectively, indicating that China's grasslands acted as carbon sinks during the past 40 years . The results of simulation experiments indicate elevated O₃ leads to a general decrease in NPP and carbon storage, and these negative effects became more evident since the 1990s. Due to spatial heterogeneity in O₃ and climate distribution, simulated results show some places were a carbon source while other places were a carbon sink during the past four decades. Our simulation experiments indicate that China's grasslands could potentially increase annual NPP by 14 Tg C and total carbon storage by 0.11 Pg C.

Most of China's grasslands are located in arid, semi-arid areas and in the Tibetan plateau, where they have experienced significant environmental changes including elevated O₃ and substantial climate variation in the last 40 years of the 20th century. To accurately estimate response of carbon dynamics in these areas, future O₃ monitoring stations need to be established. Experiments on the effects of O₃ and climate variability on diverse grass species are required to be conducted. In addition, the model needs to be improved to simulate the mechanisms of ecosystem response to multiple stresses.

Chapter 5

Forest Ecosystems, Ozone pollution, Climate Variability/Change – Influences of Ozone Pollution and Climate Variability on Forest Ecosystems' Productivity and Carbon Storage in China

Abstract

We investigated the potential effects of elevated ozone (O_3) along with climate variability on net primary productivity (NPP) and carbon storage in China's forest ecosystems for the period 1961-2005, using the Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM). Simulated results showed that elevated O_3 could result in a 0.2%-1.6% reduction in total NPP and a 3.5%-12.6% reduction in carbon storage, respectively. Interannual variations and spatial patterns of annual NPP and carbon storage across China's forestlands were controlled by climate variability/change, and the combined effects of O_3 pollution with extreme dry conditions could lead to more carbon loss. The reduction rates of NPP and carbon storage ranging from 0.1% - 2.6% and from 0.4% - 43.1%, respectively, indicated varied sensitivity and vulnerability to elevated O_3 pollution among different forest types. Our preliminary results imply that improvement in air quality could significantly enhance the adaptation and reduce the vulnerability of forests in China to climate variability/change.

Keywords: China; Climate variability; Carbon storage; Forest ecosystem; Net primary production (NPP); ozone (O₃)

1. Introduction

China has experienced one of the most rapid environmental changes in the past three decades and is likely to undergo further rapid development in the coming years. However, severe air pollution and frequent droughts have been the most serious environmental problems that have threatened the sustainability of China's ecosystems as well as its economy (China's National Climate Change Programme, 2007). Between 1980 and 1995, fertilizer use in China was 36% higher than the average in developed countries (where fertilizer use has been decreasing), and 65% higher than the average in developing countries (Aunan et al., 2000). Both fossil fuel consumption and N-fertilizer application will be major contributors to total emissions of NO_x, a main O₃ precursor, and consequently result in increased atmospheric O₃ concentration. It was estimated that China's emissions of NO_x might increase by a factor of four as the year 2020 approaches, compared to the emissions in 1990 under a noncontrol scenario (van Aardenne et al., 1999); this would lead to a much larger increase in surface O₃ with a 150 ppb level of O₃ in some locations (Elliott et al., 1997). In addition, the accelerated global warming has become a challenge faced by scientists, policy makers and public in every nation. China has experienced clear warming trends in the past two decades, and the 1990s was one of the warmest decades in the last 100 years with the large temporal and spatial variations of temperature and precipitation (Sha et al., 2002; Zuo et al., 2003; IPCC, 2007).

Forest ecosystems play dominant roles in the terrestrial carbon budget because they store a large amount of carbon in vegetation and soil, and its interactions with climatic change and atmospheric process (Goodale et al. 2002). Forest productivity, governed by both natural factors (e.g. climate, succession, and disturbance etc.) and human activities, is regarded as a key indicator of changes in forest ecosystem structure and function (Brown et al., 1999). Many studies have been conducted to estimate vegetation/soil carbon stock, biomass, NPP, and NEP, including inventory-based methods in China (e.g. Zhao et al., 2004; Feng et al., 1980; Li et al., 1981; Kang et al., 1996; Ma et al., 1996; Fang et al., 1996a, b; Luo et al., 1998;1999; Fang, 2000; Wang et al., 2001a; 2001b), process-based models (Xiao et al. 1998; Ni J, 2001; Pan et al., 2001; Li and Ji., 2001; Cao et al. 2003; Zhang et al., 2003; Feng, 2004; Tao, 2005; Huang et al. 2006), and remote sensing-based methods (e.g. Gong et al. 2002; Piao et al.,2005) at different spatial and temporal scales. Most studies indicated that NPP in China's forest ecosystems, including plantation and natural forests, experienced an continually increasing trend over past decades. Climate change could increase forest NPP (Tao, 2005) and would have the most obvious impact on the geographical distribution of NPP (Liu et al., 1998). Many studies showed that water regimes could be the key factor controlling forests NPP variations under the background of climate change (Zhou and Zhang, 1996; Liu et al. 1998; Gong et al. 2002; Cao et al. 2003). Gong et al. (2002) and Liu et al. (2000) estimated that China's forest ecosystems served as a carbon source of 0.03 Pg C from 1982 to 1998 and a carbon source of 0.06 Pg C in the period 1982-1988. The estimations of forest carbon sink in the 1990s varied from 0.039-0.068 Pg C based on model simulation (Tao, 2005) and inventory data (Pan et al., 2004).

Recent negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC) have focused considerable attention on forests in the context of climate change (IISD, 2001). Forest both influence and are influenced by climate change, and play an important role in the global carbon cycle. More than 50% of terrestrial vegetation carbon is stored in forest ecosystems (Dixon et al., 1994) and boreal forests soils account for about 26% of total terrestrial carbon stock. Meanwhile, forest structure, function, and distribution could significantly affect the course of global warming in the 21st century. Recently more and more studies have focused on the impacts of potential climate change on forests ecosystem and feedback between climate and forests (Gate, 1990; Bonan et al., 1992; Mellilo et al., 1993; Smith et al., 1995; Joyce et al., 1995; Braswell et al., 1997; Shafer et al., 2001; Hansen et al., 2001; Logan et al., 2003; Hogg et al., 2005; Biosvenue and Running, 2006). In China, approximately 18.21% of the landbase is forested as reported in the 6th National Forest Resources Inventory, 1999-2003 (Xiao, 2005), which makes forest ecosystems prominent natural resources that contribute to biodiversity, absorbing air pollutants, and carbon sequestration. Most of the forested areas are distributed in the Monsoon climate zone with high O₃ pollution in some places. However, little is known about how elevated O₃ concentrations and drought stress derived from global warming have influenced China's forest ecosystems. Therefore, understanding the responses of China's forest ecosystems to climate change and air pollution in the context of global change is of great significance to regional sustainable development.

In this study, we investigated the potential effects of elevated O₃ along with climate variability on net primary productivity (NPP) and carbon storage in China's forested ecosystems for the period 1961-2000 by using a process-based Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM). In addition to historical information concerning O₃ pollution and climate change, we considered the major environmental factors as model input, including atmosphere CO₂, nitrogen deposition, land use change and regrowth in the context of global change to reduce the uncertainties. Our objectives in this study are: 1) to illustrate the effects of tropospheric O₃ pollution in combination with climate variability on productivity and carbon storage of China's forest ecosystems from 1961 - 2000; 2) to look into the temporal-spatial patterns of carbon pools and fluxes in China's forest ecosystems from 1961 to 2000; 3) to examine the varied sensitivities of different forest types in response to O₃ pollution ; 4) and to investigate the effects of O₃ pollution combined with extreme climate conditions (wet and drought) on forest NPP and carbon storage.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. The Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM) and input data

The same method and input data as the detailed in the description in chapter 3 were used in this study (Figure 5-1). The refined nitrogen deposition data has been applied to the study.

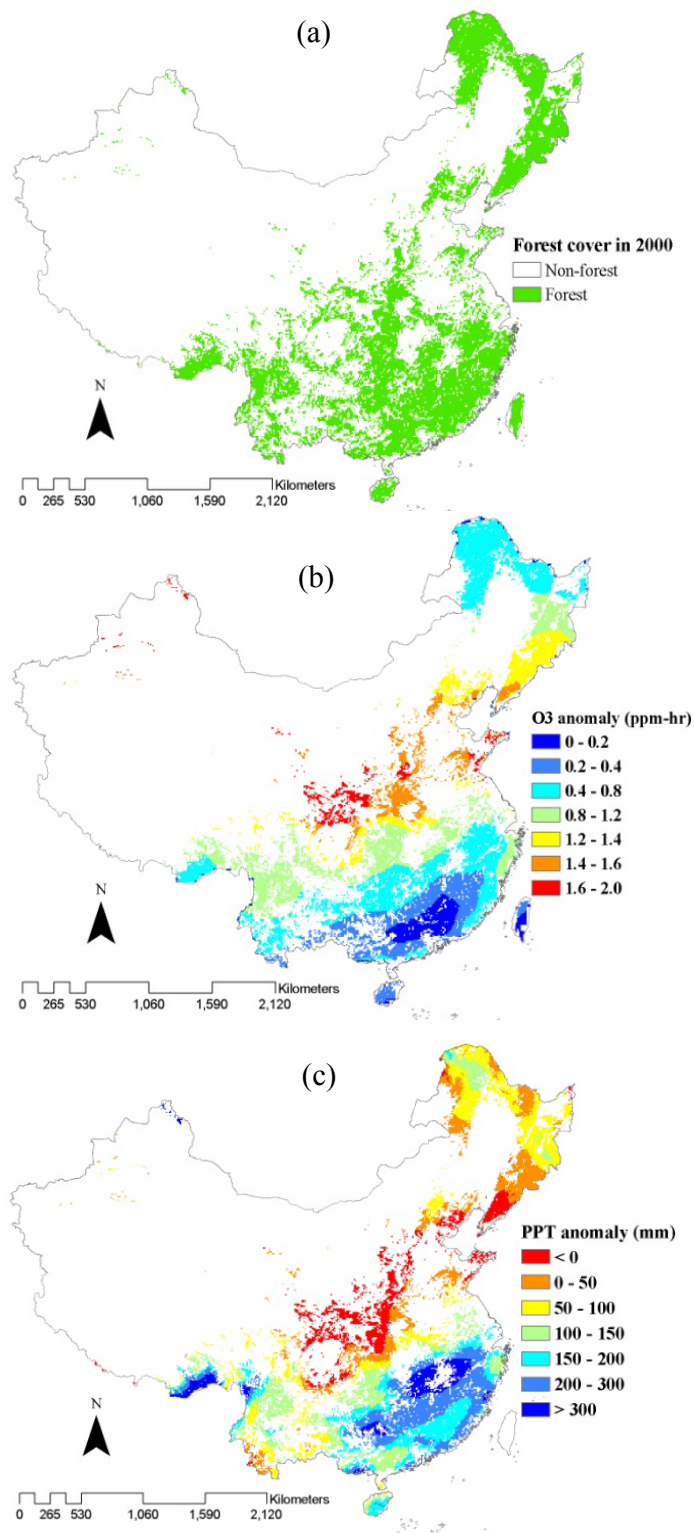


Figure 5-1 Map of forests distribution in China (a) and maps of anomalies in the 1990s (relative to the average for 1961-1990) for (b) annual average AOT40 (ppm-hr), (c) precipitation (mm).

2.2. Experimental design

Table 5-1 Experimental arrangement including O₃, climate, nitrogen deposition, CO₂ and land use

Scenarios		Environmental Factors		
		O ₃	Climate	CO ₂ ,Ndep & Land use
I	Only O ₃ (O ₃)	H	C	C
II	Only Climate (Climate)	0	H	C
III	O ₃ _Climate (Clm_O ₃)	H	H	C
IV	Climate_Lucc_Ndep_CO ₂ (All_O ₃)	0	H	H
V	O ₃ _Climate_Lucc_Ndep_CO ₂ (All)	H	H	H

Note: H is historical data, 0 means no data and C is constant data. Here we use CO₂ concentration (296ppm) in 1900 and mean climate data sets in 30 years from 1960 to 1990 and potential vegetation map as constant value.

In our study, we designed five simulation experiments to analyze the effects of O₃ only and climate only, and the combined effects of O₃ and climate on NPP and carbon storage in the forest ecosystems of China (Table 5-1). In experiment I, we tried to examine the sole extent of O₃ impacts while other environmental factors were constant. In experiments II and III, we analyzed the contribution of climate variability only and the combined effect of climate variability and O₃, respectively. The other two simulation experiments IV and V were designed to simulate a relatively realistic scenario to explore the effects of O₃ on ecosystem production. In these simulations, the important environmental factors, including climate variability, increasing CO₂ and nitrogen deposition, and land use change were considered.

The model simulation began with an equilibrium run to develop the baseline C, N, and water pools for each grid. Then a spin up of about 100 years was applied if climate

variability was included in the simulation scenario. Finally, the model ran in transient model driven by transient data of climate, O₃, CO₂, nitrogen deposition and land use.

3. Results

3.1 Temporal variations of annual NPP and carbon storage

Table 5-2 Decadal mean and change rates of average annual NPP and NCE in the 1960s, 1990s, and recent five years (2000-2005) under the combined effects with and without ozone pollution.

	NPP (Tg C/yr, 10 ¹² g C/yr)				Carbon storage (Tg C/yr, 10 ¹² g C/yr)			
	O ₃	All	All_O ₃	(All-All_O ₃)%	O ₃	All	All_O ₃	(All-All_O ₃)%
1960s	1296.2	1438.8	1442.0	-0.2	-3.9	81.0	83.9	-3.5
1970s	1288.5	1474.6	1484.2	-0.6	-10.2	90.1	98.4	-8.4
1980s	1291.3	1534.0	1544.1	-0.7	-6.3	108.7	116.2	-6.4
1990s	1287.4	1598.7	1613.9	-0.9	-8.4	112.2	122.7	-8.6
00-05	1280.4	1668.0	1694.8	-1.6	-18.4	120.9	138.2	-12.6
90s-60s%	-0.7	11.1	11.9		-116.3	38.6	46.3	
05-60s%	-1.2	15.9	17.5		-371.8	49.3	64.8	

In the simulation experiments, there were significant negative effects of O₃ on total NPP and carbon storage during the study period from 1961-2005 (Table 5-2). With the O₃ only effects, annual total NPP and carbon storage from the 1960s to the 1990s decreased by 0.7% and 116.3%, respectively. When considering other environmental factors of climate change, land cover and land use, nitrogen deposition and CO₂ together with O₃ pollution (All), the total forest NPP was estimated as 1438.8 Tg C/yr, 1474.6 Tg C/yr, 1534.0 Tg C/yr, 1598.7 Tg C/yr, and 1668.0 Tg C/yr in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and recent five years (2000-2005), respectively, with the rates increasing 11% in the 1990s and 15% from 2000-2005 compared to the 1960s. The annual variations of

NPP under different scenarios indicate that O₃ pollution has uniform negative effects on forest production (Figure 5-2a); total NPP could be reduced 0.2% to 1.6% from the 1960s to five recent years. Climate is the dominant factor controlling the interannual changes in total NPP (Figure 5-2a).

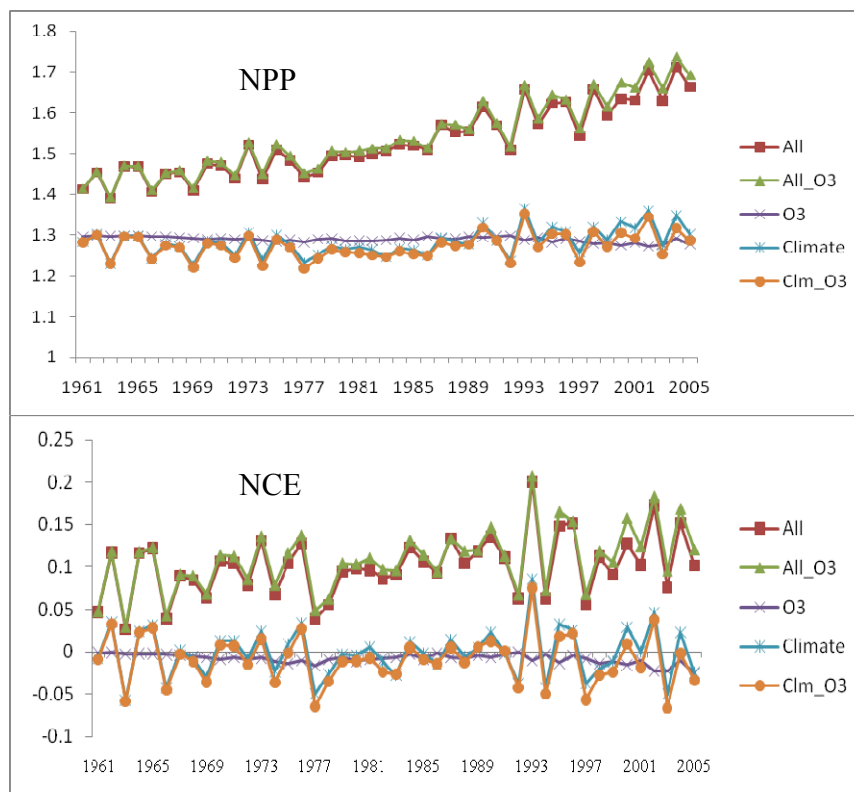


Figure 5-2 Changes of annual net primary productivity (NPP) (a) and net carbon exchange (NCE) (b) (Pg C/yr) from 1961 to 2005 under different scenarios

With O₃ only effects, there was continuous carbon release from the 1960s to five recent years (2001-2005) in China's forest ecosystems ranging from 3.9 Tg C per year to 18.4 Tg C per year (Table 5-2). Under the combined influences (All), China's forest ecosystems were simulated as carbon sinks over the past forty five years and carbon

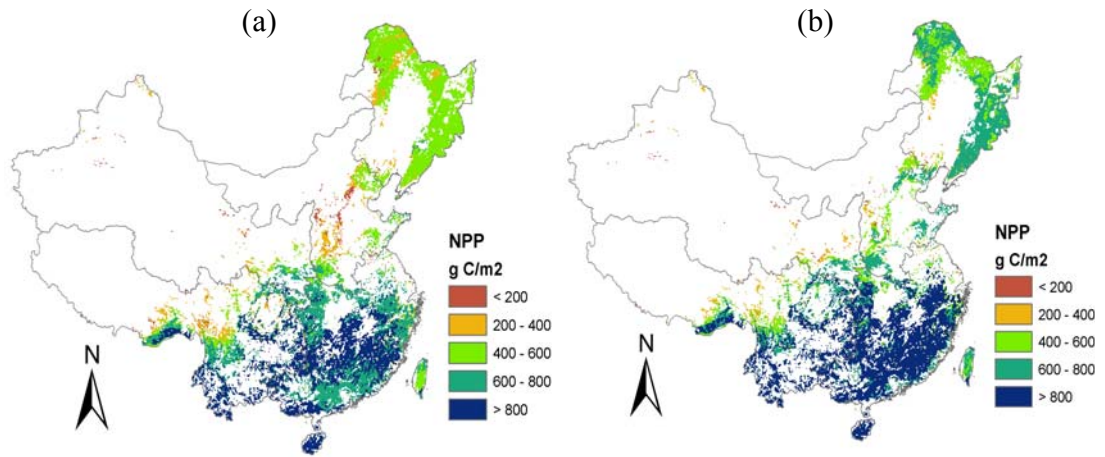


Figure 5-3 Decadal mean net primary productivity (NPP) (g C/m²/yr) in the 1960s (a) and 1990s (b)

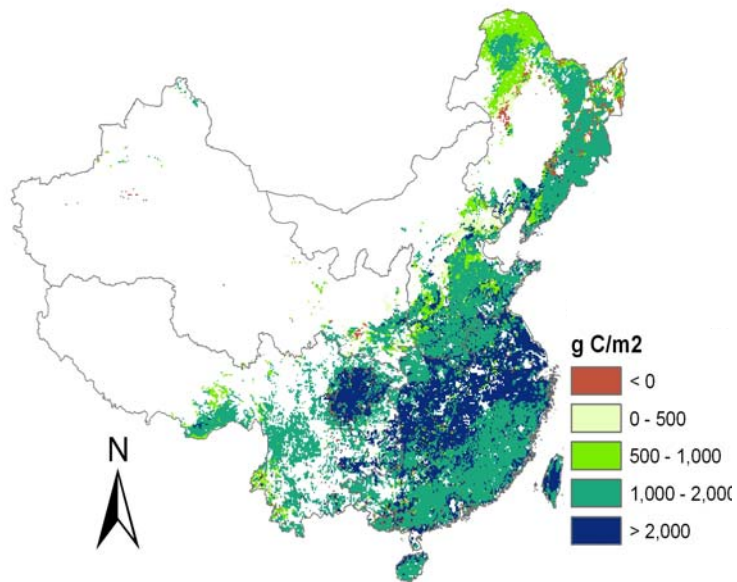


Figure 5-4 The total accumulated net carbon exchange (carbon storage) (g C/m²) in forest ecosystems during the period 1961-2005.

uptake increased from 81.0 Tg C per year in the 1960s to 90.1, 108.7, 112.2, 120.9 Tg C per year in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and the most five recent years, respectively, with rates increasing 38.6% in the 1990s and 49.3% from 2000-2005 compared to the 1960s. Similarly, O₃ pollution had negative effects on carbon uptake and led to carbon storage reduction of about 3.5% in the 1960s to 12.6% in five recent years, respectively. Climate could cause carbon uptake or release, and resulted in interannual changes of net carbon exchange (NCE) (Figure 5-2b).

3.2 Spatial variations of annual NPP and carbon storage

Since forestlands are mostly located in the SE, SW and NE regions across China, monsoon climate in most areas and severe air pollution in part of those regions resulted in large spatial variations of NPP and carbon storage of forest ecosystems (Figure 5-3 and Figure 5-4). The highest NPP occurred in Southeast (SE) China with the highest NPP of more than 1500 g C/m²/yr occurring in some areas. Annual NPP increased across China's forest ecosystems in the 1990s compared to NPP level in the 1960s with the largest increase occurring in the SE forest area and then in the NE region (Figure 5-3a,b). However, the spatial distribution of NPP in the 1990s and 1960s showed that NPP was very low (less than 200 g C/m²/yr) in some places in the Mid-north (MN) where these areas experienced frequent drought and high air pollution. Across China's forest ecosystems, the SE had the largest carbon storage with a carbon uptake of more than 2000 g C/m²/yr between 1961 and 2005, followed by the NE. However, carbon release appeared in some places of the NE and SW regions (Figure 5-4).

3.3 Biome analysis of annual NPP and carbon storage

Table 5-3 Changes of average annual net primary productivity (NPP) and carbon storage in different forest types during the period 1961-2005 across China's forest ecosystems under the scenarios of the combined effects with (All) and without ozone pollution (All_O₃).

	NPP	Carbon storage
	All-All_O ₃ (%)	All-All_O ₃ (%)
Boreal broadleaf deciduous forest	-1.1	-21.8
Boreal needleleaf deciduous forest	-0.3	-5.2
Temperate broadleaf deciduous forest	-2.3	-21.1
Temperate broadleaf evergreen forest	-0.6	-7.6
Temperate needleleaf evergreen forest	-0.1	-0.4
Temperate needleleaf deciduous forest	-0.4	-6.2
Tropical broadleaf deciduous forest	-2.6	-43.1
Tropical broadleaf evergreen forest	-0.6	-9.6

Annual mean NPP and carbon storage of different PFTs under the two simulation experiments indicated that forest types responded differently to an increasing O₃ concentration and its interaction with other environmental factors (Table 5-3). From 1961 to 2005, the reduction rates of annual mean NPP for different forest types with and without O₃ exposure ranged from 0.1% in temperate needleleaf evergreen forest to 2.6% in the boreal broadleaf deciduous forest, while the reduction rates of annual carbon sequestration rates ranged from 0.4% in temperate needleleaf evergreen forest to 43.1% in tropical broadleaf deciduous forest. This range implies that tropical broadleaf deciduous forest could be the largest carbon source under the full factorial effects, while the temperate needleleaf evergreen forest was less sensitive to O₃ pollution.

3.4 Relative contributions of O₃ pollution and climate change on NPP and carbon storage

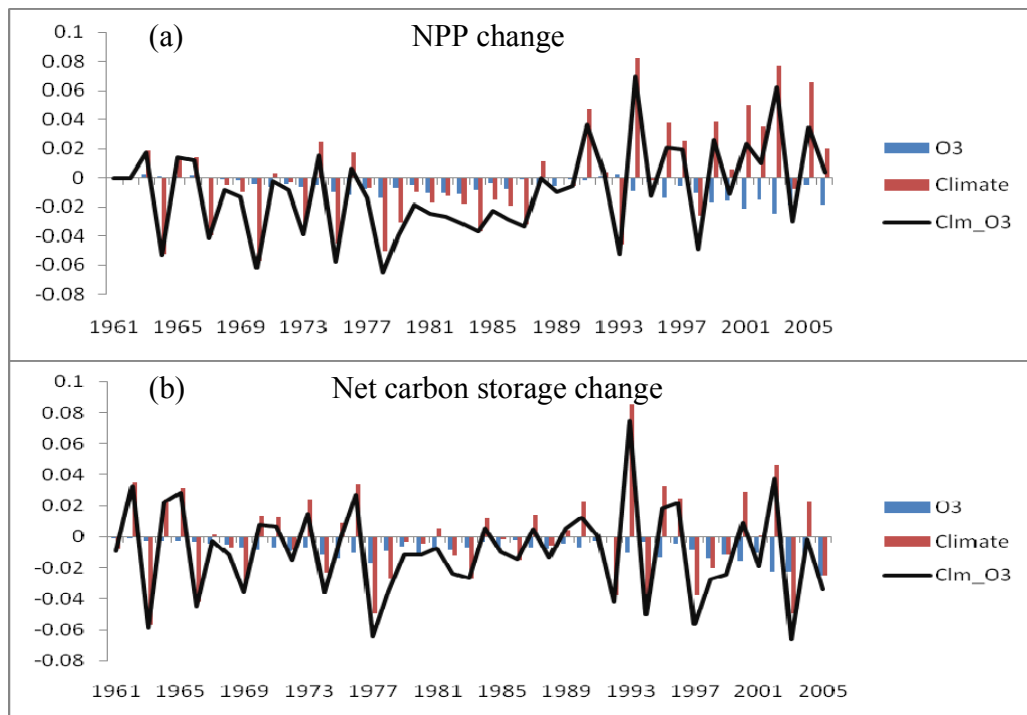


Figure 5-5 Annual changes in relative contributions of ozone pollution, climate change and interaction to (a) annual net primary productivity (NPP) and (b) net carbon storage (Tg C/yr)

Temporal variations of relative contributions (Figure 5-5) indicated that O₃ pollution had negative effects on both NPP and carbon storage during the period 1961-2005, with two periods (between the late 1970s and the early 1980s and after the 1990s) of high reduction in NPP and carbon storage. Climate change had both negative and positive effects on NPP and carbon storage, and was the major factor causing interannual variations of NPP and carbon storage. Between the late 1970s and the early 1980s, climate change had continuously reduced NPP and carbon storage, while after the 1990s it contributed much to NPP increase. The negative effects of O₃ pollution were either accelerated or offset when combined with climate change, therefore, the interactive

effects of O₃ pollution and climate change showed continuously aggregated effects on the reductions in NPP and carbon storage between the 1970s and 1990s.

Similarly, we found that spatial patterns of NPP change under only the O₃ pollution scenario between the 1990s and 1960s and varied from region to region (Figure 5-6a), with reduction rates ranging from less than -5% to 0%. Combined with climate effects, the rate of decrease was accelerated or offset, and ranged from < -10% to 10% (Figure 5-6b), which indicated that climate change was the dominant factor to control the spatial pattern. In further analysis we found that and the patterns were strongly consistent with the precipitation pattern in (Figure 5-1c), with the high NPP reduction rate of more than 15% in some place in the NE and MN regions which experienced low precipitation and high O₃ concentrations, and high NPP increase rates of more than 10% were found in some place in the SE region which experienced high precipitation and low O₃ concentrations. We examined the effects of O₃ pollution combined with climate change in extreme weather conditions including wet year and dry year, which were defined simply according to the annual total precipitation. The results indicated that O₃ pollution could result in NPP reduction in most forest areas even in extreme wet condition with high reduction rates in some parts of MN and NE regions; additionally, forest ecosystems with extreme dry conditions with a reduction rate of more than 40% (or 40 g C/m² reduction) in some places with extreme drought.

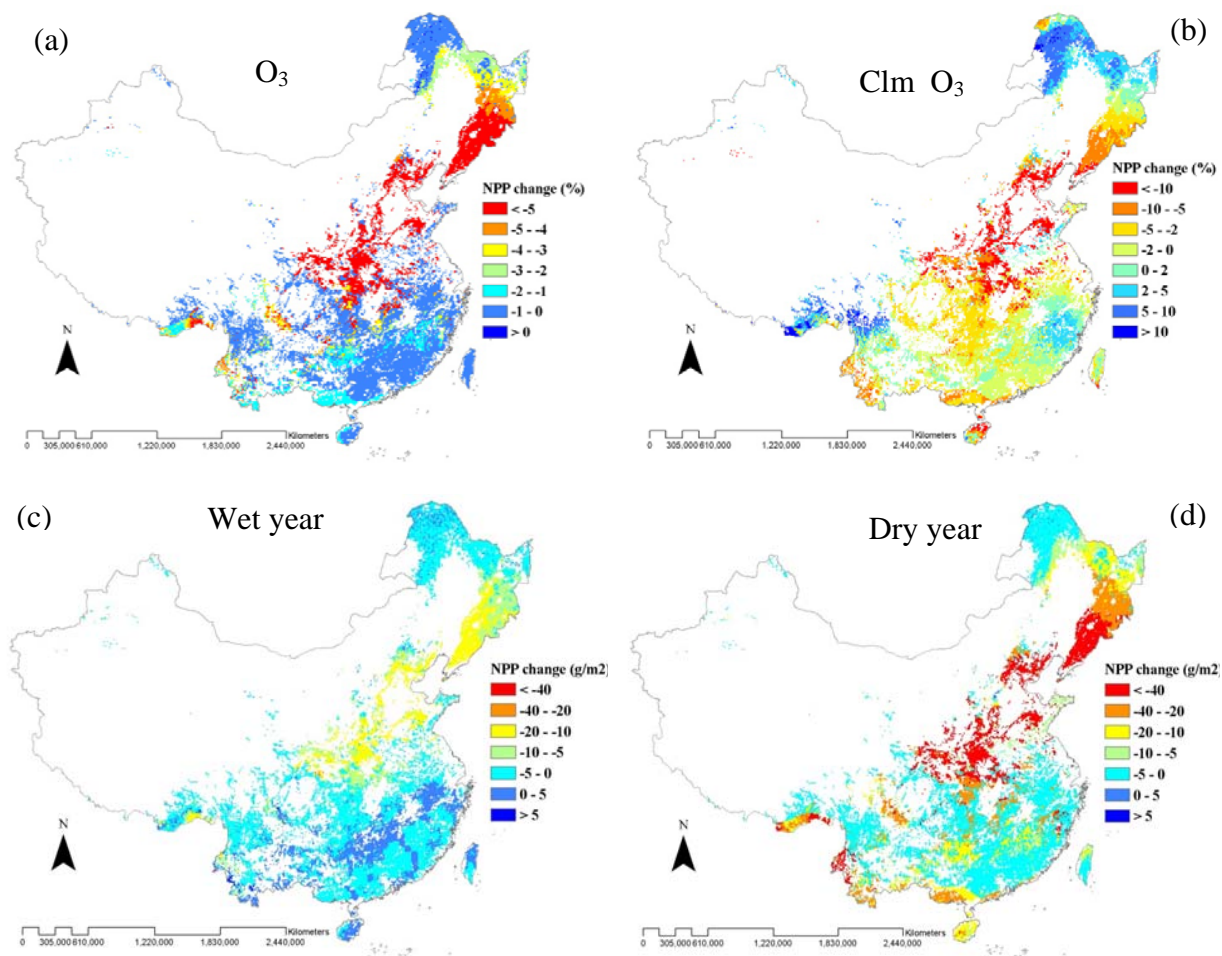


Figure 5-6 Net primary productivity (NPP) change rate (%) between 1990s and 1960s under scenarios of (a) O₃ only and (b) O₃ + Climate; difference of annual mean NPP between under the effects of O₃ pollution combined with climate change and the effect of climate only in wet year 2002 (c) and dry year 1986 (d).

4. Discussion

4.1 Comparisons of simulated net primary productivity (NPP) with other studies

Table 5-4 Estimations of mean NPP, total NPP, and carbon sequestration rate in different forest types and the whole forest ecosystems using models, inventory-based and RS methods

Reference Method	Mean NPP (Mg ha ⁻¹ year ⁻¹)			
	This study		Ni et al. 2001	Jiang et al. 1999
	DLEM model		Biomass	RS estimation
	1989-1993	1994	1989-1993	1994
Boreal broadleaf deciduous forest	4.3	4.4	5.4-15.1	6.3
Boreal needle leaf deciduous forest	5.5	5.6	5.4-15.1	6.7
Temperate broadleaf deciduous forest	8.2	8.3	8.72-23.12	9.0-12.4
Temperate broadleaf evergreen forest	8.9	9.1	8.5-13.7	10.1-17.4

Our estimations of annual mean NPP in different forest types were close to other studies from inventory-based (Ni et al., 2001) and RS estimations (Jiang et al., 1999). For example, the simulated annual NPP of 5.5 Mg ha⁻¹ year⁻¹ and 8.9 Mg ha⁻¹ year⁻¹ in boreal needle leaf deciduous forest and temperate broadleaf evergreen forest, respectively, were compared to 5.4-15.1 Mg ha⁻¹ year⁻¹ and 8.5-17.4 Mg ha⁻¹ year⁻¹ from biomass estimations (Ni et al, 2001). However, estimation of total annual NPP varied significantly among different studies ranging from 0.59 Pg per year to 3.02 Pg per year during the period 1981-2000 (Fang et al., 1996; Xiao et al., 1998; Feng et al., 2004; Tao et al., 2007). The uncertainties possibly are due to differences in research methods and forest area. For example, methods based on forestry inventory or statistical/empirical models depend on plots numbers and whether their spatial distribution is homogeneous or not,

consequently, the different estimates derived from different inventory data, regression equations, and influencing indicators.

4.2 Comparison with estimates of ozone damage from other studies

While little work has been reported in China concerning the effects of O₃, our results like those studies on O₃ effects on forests for the short-term and long term based on field experiments (e.g. Alvarado et al., 1993; Andersen et al., 1997; Saleem 2001; Kim et al., 1998; Chappelka et al., 2002; Oksanen, 2003), and model simulations at the ecosystem scale and the tree physiological scale (e.g. Ollinger et al., 1997, 2002; Felzer et al., 2004; Hanson et al., 2005; Martin et al., 2001; Yun et al., 2001) in US and Europe, show that O₃ has negative effects on forest ecosystem production and carbon storage. Only considering the combined effects of O₃ and climate at the ecosystem scale, both Ollinger et al. (1997) and Felzer et al. (2004) found an annual NPP reduction ranging from 3%-16% in the NE USA for the period 1987-1992, using PnET-II model and TEM 4.3 model, respectively. In our research using DLEM model we found an annual NPP reduction of 2%-9% for the same time period, which agreed with the findings of Ollinger et al. (1997) and felzer et al. (2004) regarding adverse effects of O₃ on forests at the ecosystem scale but our results fell in the lower begin and end of their range, that is, the lower NPP reductions derived from O₃ in China than that in US in the same study period. The discrepancy between results is possibly caused by O₃ input data and the gaps among models, although the same O₃ sensitivity coefficients were used in all models.

4.3 Uncertainty analysis and future work

Our results indicate that major input data (e.g. O₃ and climate) and key parameters such as a sensitivity coefficient (see detailed model description in Chapter 3) can lead to great uncertainties in results. In order to conduct regional database evaluation using site observations, it is critical that the amount of monitoring stations be increased. The database development of land use and land cover including natural forests and managed forests is necessary to accurately estimate the regional carbon budget in forest ecosystems. Managed forests could enhance the ability for adaption to climate change and reduce the O₃ damage through land management by altering the interactions among carbon, water, and nutrient cycles (e.g. Ollinger et al., 2002; Hanson et al., 2005; Sun et al., 2008; Felzer et al., 2009). Further evaluation of model estimates along with spatial and temporal patterns of carbon fluxes and storage is greatly needed. More specifically, there is an urgent need to conduct short-term and long-term observations on air quality in forested areas, and also to conduct field experiments to investigate the effects of O₃, climate and other factors on forests in China.

5. Conclusions

We studied the influences of elevated O₃ and climate variability on forest ecosystem productivity and carbon storage across China from 1961 to 2005 by applying the DLEM model. Our results showed that both the total NPP and carbon storage in forest ecosystems could be reduced by elevated O₃ concentrations during the study period, and that these negative effects have become more evident since the 1990s. Climate variability/change was the dominant factor controlling interannual variations and spatial

patterns of total NPP and carbon storage, which in turn could reduce or increase NPP and carbon storage in different temporal-spatial scales; the positive effects on NPP have also become more evident since the 1990s. We found that the interactive effects of climate change and O₃ pollution could reduce carbon uptake or even increase more carbon release in extreme dry conditions in forest ecosystems. Though the combined effects of climate change, O₃ pollution and other environmental factors (nitrogen deposition, increasing CO₂ and land use change) led to carbon sink in China's forest ecosystems in the past forty five years, our simulation experiments showed that China's forestlands could sequester mean 8 Tg C per year more or increase the carbon uptake rate by 7.7% across forestlands without O₃ pollution effects. The study indicates that in the future O₃ pollution should be taken into account in order to reduce the uncertainty in assessing the ecosystems vulnerability to climate change in the context of rapid climate change and frequent extreme weather. Our preliminary results also imply that improvement in air quality could significantly increase productivity and the capacity of carbon sequestration in China's forest ecosystems.

Chapter 6

Agricultural Ecosystems, Ozone pollution, Climate Variability/Change,

Multiple Stresses –

Responses of Net Primary Productivity and Soil Organic Carbon Storage to

Multiple Environmental Changes in Agricultural Ecosystems of China

Abstract

Carbon sequestration in agricultural ecosystems plays a critical role in regulating global carbon cycling and feedback to global climate change. Thus, it is important to understand the contribution of the main environmental factors to carbon flux and storage in croplands, as well as the underlying mechanisms. In this study, we quantified the changes in net primary production (NPP) and soil carbon storage (SOC) in China's croplands in responses to multiple environmental factor changes from 1961 to 2005. A process-based ecosystem model DLEM-AG and the newly developed historical database of climate variability/change, ozone (O₃) pollution, land cover and land use change(LCLUC), fertilizer application and so on with 10 km resolution were used in model simulation. Results showed that both NPP and SOC in China's croplands increased from 1961 to 2005 with rates of 0.036 Pg C a⁻¹ and 0.045 Pg C a⁻¹, respectively. These results were consistent with observation database and other studies. Between 1961 and 2005, the highest total annual NPP (on average 0.26 Pg C a⁻¹, 36.3% of the total NPP)

occurred in the Southeast (SE) region, while the largest annual soil carbon storage (mean 2.14 Pg C a⁻¹, 35.2% of the total soil carbon storage) was found in the Northeast (NE) region with an increase rate of 0.023 Pg C a⁻¹. Land cover and land use change (LCLUC) increased both NPP and soil carbon storage, accounting for more than 80% of the total increase induced by multiple environmental changes. Elevated atmospheric CO₂ and nitrogen deposition contributed 16% and 14% of the total NPP increase, and 17% and 12% of the total soil carbon storage increase, respectively. Increasing O₃ pollution caused ~9% reduction in total NPP and ~2% soil carbon loss. Climate change resulting in NPP reduction and soil carbon loss was equivalent to ~9% and ~5%, respectively.

Keywords: agroecosystems, carbon storage, China; cropland, ecosystem model, multiple stresses, net primary productivity (NPP)

1. Introduction

An increasing concern on how agricultural ecosystems respond to multiple global changes has been raised, due to its importance in global food security and global carbon cycle (Paustian et al., 1997, 1998; Lal, 2004; Janzen et al., 1998; Bondeau et al., 2007; Schimel et al., 2000; Huang et al., 2009). Crop net primary production (NPP) and soil organic carbon storage (SOC) are two important variables, which are closely related to food production and C sequestration capacity in agricultural ecosystems. Therefore, in order to assess the role of agricultural ecosystems in global food production and the carbon cycle in response to multiple global environmental changes, it is critical to estimate the magnitude and variations of crop NPP and SOC.

Many environmental factors such as climate change, atmospheric CO₂ concentration, O₃, nitrogen deposition, land cover/use and land management can influence NPP and SOC in an intricate way, because environmental stresses usually interact with each other to produce combined impacts on ecosystem functioning rather than operate independently (Schindler, 2001). For example, global warming combined with adequate rainfall could lead to carbon accumulation in the vegetation C pool through enhanced photosynthesis (Cao and Woodward, 1998), or more carbon release from soil C pool through an elevated soil respiration rate (Melillo et al, 1993; Tian et al., 1998b; Granthe and Nalder, 2000; Vukicevic et al., 2001; Scheller and Mladenoff, 2005). Land cover /land use change (LCLUC) was recognized as the most important factor in enhancing or reducing the total crop NPP and SOC by expanding or decreasing the arable land area, and changing the physical and chemical soil characteristics, ecosystem structure and functioning, and microclimate (Houghton, 1995; Post and Kwon, 2000; Heal et al.,1997; Tate et al.,2000; Islam and Weil, 2000); this could result in high carbon sequestration or increased carbon release (Cole et al., 1995; Houghton, 2001; Li et al., 2002, 2005, 2006) when combined with varied agronomic practices. Nitrogen deposition/fertilizer application could result in high NPP and C storage at the early stage when ecosystems are nitrogen limited (Melillo and Gosz,1983; Schindler and Bayley,1993;Gifford et al.,1996; Holland et al.,1997; Neff et al.,2000; Matson et al., 2002), but also a significant NPP reduction at the late stage when ecosystems are nitrogen saturated (Emmett et al.,1995; Magill et al.,2000). Similarly, elevated tropospheric O₃ concentrations could reduce crop yield and wood production through direct or indirect influences on photosynthesis and stomata conductance (e.g. Farage et al., 1991; Tjoekler

et al., 1995; Pell et al., 1997; Martin et al., 2000), or even reduce more NPP and C storage due to O₃ pollution in combination with extreme climate conditions such as drought or intensive management such as excessive fertilizer application (Ollinger et al., 2002; Felzer et al., 2005; Ren et al., 2007b). Therefore, it is important to conduct a comprehensive assessment of multiple environmental changes on NPP and C storage and explore the underlying mechanisms.

Although substantive work has been conducted to investigate the regional NPP and C storage and their responses to environmental changes (e.g. Melillo et al., 1993; Tian et al., 1998a, b, 2003; Houghton et al. 1999; Running et al., 2000, 2004; Cao et al., 2003; Fang et al., 2006; Felzer et al., 2004, 2005), most of those studies focused on natural ecosystems such as forest and grasslands but oversimplified or totally ignored agricultural ecosystems. Several recent studies have attempted to investigate the carbon dynamics in agricultural ecosystems at multiple regional scales using inventory, remote sensing and ecological models (e.g. Schimel et al., 2000; Li et al., 2003; Tao et al., 2004, 2008, 2009; Huang et al., 2006, 2007; Zhang et al., 2007; Wu et al., 2007; Bondeau et al., 2007). However, few studies have attributed the relative contributions of multiple environmental changes to NPP and SOC in agricultural ecosystems. Such work cannot be easily conducted easily using controlled experiments, survey, and statistical models due to the spatial heterogeneity, complex structure and feedbacks of terrestrial ecosystems to the multiple environmental stresses (Ollinger et al., 2002). Integrated process-based ecosystem models, which include the biogeochemical and physiological responses of ecosystems to atmospheric and climate changes, have been proved to be a powerful tool

in such multiple stress studies especially over large regions (Tian et al. 1998, 2003, 2008; Karnosky et al., 2005). Using ecosystem models to carry on the integrated study, plenty of time-series regional datasets that represent the historical information are needed and the mechanisms of important components and processes in response to environmental factors need to be coupled into ecosystem models. For example, Huang et al. (2007; 2009) and Bondeau et al. (2007)'s recent studies promoted the development of agroecosystem models; however, no work has been conducted on regional assessment of crop NPP and SOC in response to multiple stresses at the country or global level.

Agriculture in China plays a key role in both food security and global carbon cycling. With 10% of the world's arable land, China has to support 20% of the world's total population (NBS, 2005). Over the past decades, China's terrestrial ecosystems have been affected by a complex set of changes in climate, the chemical compositions of the atmosphere (e.g. O₃ pollution, nitrogen deposition), and land-use and land-cover. As one of the most intensively studied regions in the world, therefore, the substantive previous studies benefit help provide a regional database and improve our understanding of the influence mechanisms of changing environmental factors (Tian et al., 2003; Chen et al. 2006; Liu et al. 2005 a, b; Yan et al., 2007; Lu and Tian, 2007; Felzer et al., 2005). The data from these previous studies can be used as model inputs, and for model validation.

In this study, a new agricultural version of Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM-Ag) was applied to investigate the effects of multiple environmental factors on NPP and SOC in croplands in China. DLEM-Ag, coupling the processes of crop growth,

hydrological and biogeochemical cycles in agricultural ecosystems, is integrated into terrestrial ecosystems through the process of land use change. Not only is DLEM-Ag driven by natural environmental factors (climate change, atmospheric CO₂, O₃, nitrogen deposition) similar to those affecting natural functional types (grasslands and forests), but unlike the DLEM version, it has been improved to address the effects of many agronomic practices compared to the DLEM version (Tian et al., 2005; Ren et al., 2007b).

The specific objectives were: 1) estimate the magnitude of crop NPP and SOC in croplands of China; 2) analyze the spatial and temporal patterns of crop NPP and SOC in China's agricultural ecosystems; 3) attribute the relative role of environmental factors to crop NPP and SOC; and 4) identify the major uncertainties associated with this study. Through this study, we intend to provide an integrated assessment of how multiple environmental factors have affected cropland NPP and soil carbon storage in China during the past half century.

2. Materials and methods

The basic framework of Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM) has been described in detail in Chapter 3. For the study of agricultural ecosystems in response to multiple environmental stresses, an agricultural model of DLEM was developed and the newly database related agronomic practices were build up.

2.1. Introduction of the Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model and its agricultural module

The agricultural module of DLEM (DLEM-Ag) was built on the well-established DLEM (Figure 6-1) (Tian et al., 2005; 2008). By tightly coupling crop growth with soil

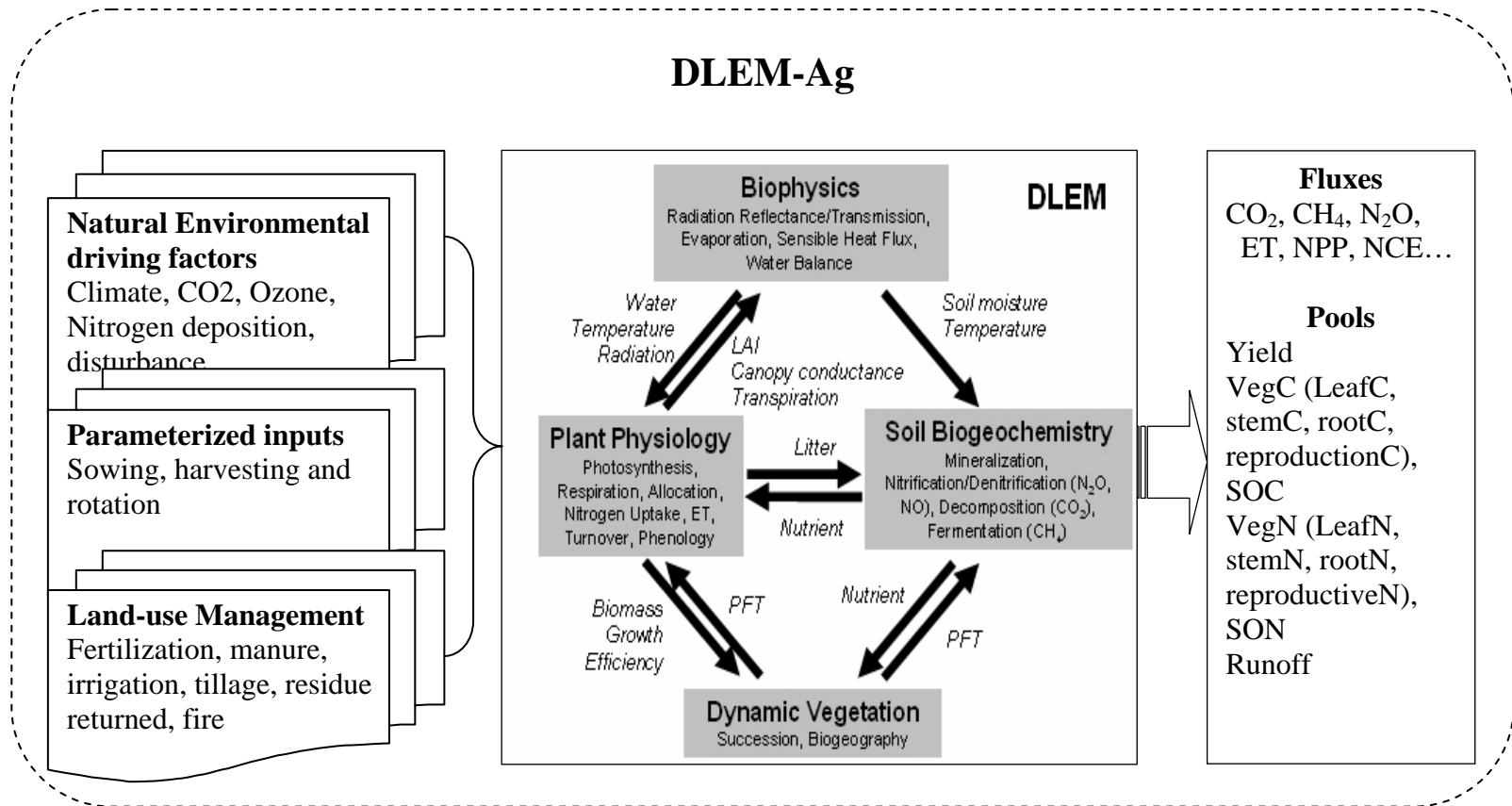


Figure 6-1 Framework of the Agricultural module of the Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM-Ag) includes four parts: 1) specific parameterized inputs 2) process-based biophysics, plant physiology and soil biogeochemistry, 3) natural environmental driving and 4) human management

biogeochemical processes and considering the changing environmental factors (climate, air pollution, disturbance etc.) and land management, the model is able to simulate carbon, nitrogen, and water cycles in an agricultural ecosystem as a relatively independent complete system but in an integrative terrestrial ecosystem. Though the processes of growth (e.g. photosynthesis, respiration, allocation) and soil biogeochemistry (e.g. decomposition, nitrification, fermentation) are simulated similarly to the natural functional types in DLEM with daily time-steps, all crops in DLEM-Ag are parameterized specifically according to each crop type. In addition to natural environmental driving factors, differing from natural functional types, the impact of agronomic practice on crops growth and soil biogeochemical cycles in cropland are simulated as the main controllers in DLEM-Ag, including irrigation, fertilization application, tillage, genetic improvement, rotation and so on.

Crop parameters and crop systems. The model structure is suitable for all crops and cropping systems. In this study, we will focus on six major agronomic crops in China representing dry farmland and paddy land, C₃ plants and C₄ plants including irrigated and nonirrigated corn, wheat, barley, soybean and rice, with three major cropping systems including single cropping system, double cropping system (corn-wheat; rice-rice), and triple cropping system (rice-rice-rice). The main crop categories in each grid were identified according to the global crop geographic distribution map with a spatial resolution of 5 minutes based on the work of Leff et al. (2004), modified with regional agricultural census data that are available for every country in FAOSTAT and local agricultural census data such as the Chinese Academy of agricultural sciences

(<http://www.caas.net.cn>). The rotation type in each grid was developed by using phenology characteristics and census data at the state and national level (Figure 6-3).

Phenology. The phenology information obtained from MODIS LAI (with a spatial resolution of 1km) was used to help identify the rotation type and was also calibrated by using census data and site data before application. For our study at the site level, we simulate phenological development based on thermal time (Richie, 1991; Jones and Kiniry, 1986) like CERES: $DR = Dtt/P_i$, where the daily development rate (Ddt) is determined by the total thermal time needed (P_i) for completing a given stage i and actual daily thermal time is Dtt . Dtt is calculated based on canopy temperature and temperature parameters for each crop type. For our historical synthesis study at regional level, we simulated crop growth according to the phenological development information, which was developed based on substantive observation in hundreds of agriculture meteorological stations and observation by remote sensing (Yan et al., 2006). The role of remote sensing in phenological studies is increasingly regarded as the key to understanding seasonal phenomena over a large area. Phenologic metrics, including the start of season, end of season, duration of season, and seasonally integrated greenness, could be obtained from MODIS time series data and Advanced Very High resolution Radiometer (AVHRR), which is very useful for studying the historical patterns at a regional level (Yu et al., 2005; Reed, 2006). We have developed the gridded phenology database according to LAI information from MODIS, which was validated and modified by field observations in different study areas. This database has been incorporated into studies on the Southeast US, North American continent and Asian area (Tian et al., 2009

a,b). In this study, due to substantial observation data from China's agriculture meteorological stations, we aggregated the inventory data to develop the phenology for each cropping system.

Agronomic practices. In this study, the major farming practices were identified and developed according to the available data sets. Fertilizer application in China increased dramatically in the 1970s, which stimulated crop yield increase and changed the soil biogeochemical cycles. The historical fertilizer information was build up based on the survey database at the county and province level. A current irrigation map was developed, and in this study, it was assumed that the soil moisture would arrive at field capacity when irrigated and that irrigation would automatically occur when the soil moisture reaches the wilting point in the identified irrigated grids. (Detail in the description of input data section). The cropping systems in China are very important and complex that directly influence estimations of crop production; therefore in this study, the rotation map was developed to catch the current spatial pattern though it is unable to represent historical change. In addition, this study considered the residue and root conversion to SOC after harvesting.

2.2. Input data

The development of input data sets is of critical importance for regional assessment. At a minimum, five types of data sets are needed (Table 6-1 and Figure 6-2): 1) dynamic crop distribution map, 2) topography and soil properties (elevation, slope, and aspect; pH, bulk density, depth to bedrock, soil texture represented as the percentage content of loam, sand and silt), 3) climate and atmospheric chemistry (e.g. surface O₃,

atmospheric CO₂, and nitrogen deposition), 4) agronomic practices (fertilization, irrigation, harvest, rotation, residue treatment).

Table 6-1 Input data description including time step, unit and reference information

Input data	Time	Unit	Description
Climate data	Daily	T: °C/d; PPT: mm/d	1961-2005
LUCC	Annual	0/1 value	1961-2005
O ₃	Daily	AOT40: ppb.h	1961-2005
Nitrogen deposition	Annual	Kg N/ha/yr	1961-2005
CO ₂	Annual	ppm/yr	1961-2005
Fertilizer	Daily	gN/m ²	1961-2005
Irrigation	Daily	mm/m ²	1961-2005
Cropping map	Annual	1-13 value	
Other dataset	Soil map, geophysical database		

Note: T means temperature including maximum, minimum and average temperature; PPT is precipitation; other dataset include soil information, vegetation

Elevation, slope, and aspect maps are derived from 1 km resolution digital elevation datasets of China (<http://www.wdc.cn/wdcdrre>). Soil data was derived from the 1:1 million soil maps based on the second national soil survey of China (Wang et al. 2003; Shi et al., 2004; Zhang et al. 2005; Tian et al. 2006). Daily climate data (maximum, minimum, and average temperature, precipitation, and relative humidity) were developed by the Ecosystem Dynamics and Global Ecology (EDGE) Laboratory based on seven hundred and forty six climate stations in China and 29 stations from surrounding countries were used to produce daily climate data for the time period from 1961 to 2000, using an interpolation method similar to that used by Thornton et al. (1997). Historical

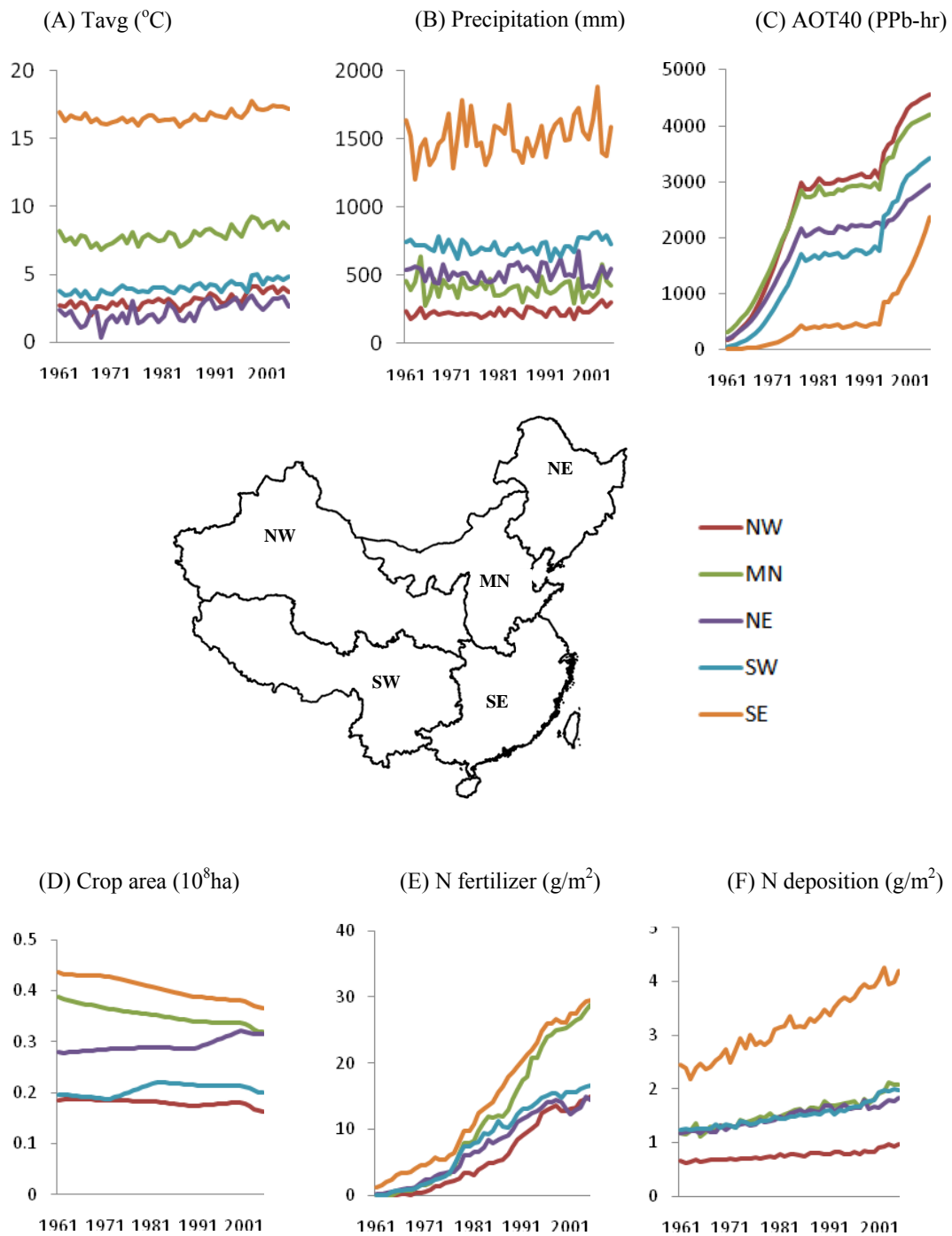
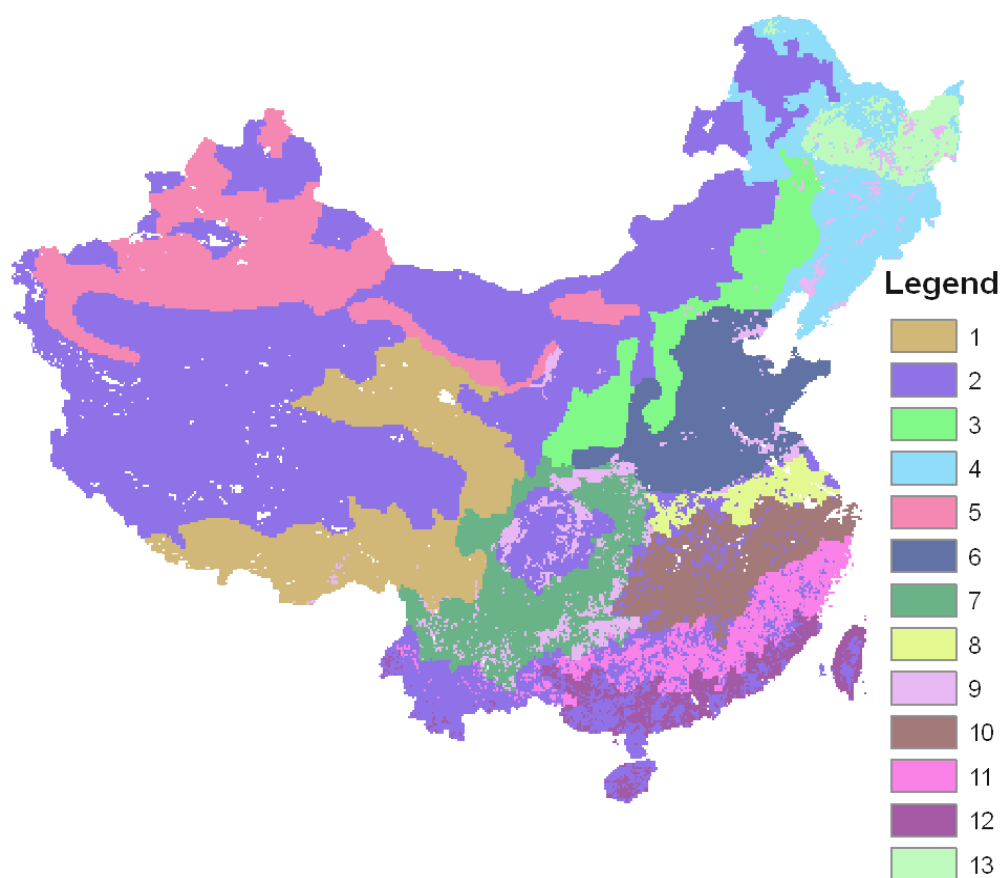


Figure 6-2 Changes in multiple environmental stresses including annual mean average temperature (A), precipitation (B), AOT40 (C), total cropland area (D), nitrogen fertilizer application (E), and nitrogen deposition (F) in five regions of China during the period 1961-2005.



Number	Name of agricultural regions	Cropping System	Crop Types
1	Tibet Region	Single	Spring wheat
2	North High Plateaus	Single	Barley
3	North Low Plateaus	Single	Spring wheat
4	Northeast Region	Single	Corn
5	Northwest Region	Single	Spring wheat
6	Huang-huai-hai Region	Double	Corn/ winter wheat
7	Southwest Region	Double	Corn/ winter wheat
8	Jiang-huai Region	Double	Rice
9	Sichuan Basin Region	Double	Rice
10	Yangtze Lower-middle Region	Double	Rice
11	Southeast Region	Double	Rice
12	South Region	Triple	Rice
13	Northeast Region	Single	Soybean

Figure 6-3 Cropping systems in China.

CO₂ concentration dataset is from standard IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) (Enting et al. 1994). The AOT40 dataset was derived from the global historical AOT40 datasets constructed by Felzer et al (2005) and was described in detail in the study by Ren et al. (2007a, b). Nitrogen deposition database was developed by Ecosystem Dynamic and Global Ecology (EDGE) Laboratory (Lu and Tian, 2007).

A crop distribution map was derived from the 2000 land use map of China (LCLUC_2000) and was developed using Landsat Enhanced Thematic Mapper (ETM) imagery (Liu et al., 2005a); our potential crop distribution map was constructed by replacing the croplands of LCLUC 2000 with potential vegetation as given in global potential vegetation maps developed by Ramankutty and Foley (1998); long-term land-use history (cropland and urban distribution in China from 1661-2000) was developed based on three recent (1990, 1995 and 2000) land-cover maps (Liu et al., 2003, 2005a, 2005b) and historical census datasets of China (Ge et al., 2003; Xu, 1983). Based on county-level census irrigation data (1990), nitrogen fertilization data from 1981 to 2005, and the provincial tabular data for 1950-2005 from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), we constructed a historical nitrogen dataset. For the irrigation strategy, because we lacked a solid database, we assumed that soil moisture arrives at field capacity when irrigated and irrigation automatically occurs when soil moisture reaches the wilting point in the identified irrigated grid. All datasets have a spatial resolution of 10km×10km, and climate and AOT40 datasets were developed on a daily time step and CO₂ and land-use datasets on a yearly time step.

2.3. Experimental design

We designed a series of eleven experiments to analyze the relative contribution of each environmental factor to the crop NPP and SOC in agricultural ecosystems in China (Table 6-2). In simulations one to six, we tried to capture both the direct effects of an environmental factor and its interactive effects with other environmental factors on NPP and SOC in croplands. We conducted five additional simulations, seven to eleven, to test the sensitivity of each factor, and allowed a particular environmental factor to change over time while we held the other environmental factors constant at the initial levels.

Table 6-2 Simulations including climate, carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrogen deposition (NDEP), ozone (O₃), land-cover and land-use (LCLUC)

	Scenarios	Climate	CO ₂	NDEP	O ₃	LCLUC
	Equilibrium	C	C	C	C	C
1	Combined	H	H	H	H	H
2	Com-Climate	C	H	H	H	H
3	Com-CO ₂	H	C	H	H	H
4	Com-O ₃	H	H	C	H	H
5	Com-Ndep	H	H	H	C	H
6	Com-LCLUC	H	H	H	H	C
7	Climate only	H	C	C	C	C
8	CO ₂ only	C	H	C	C	C
9	N deposition only	C	C	H	C	C
10	Ozone only	C	C	C	H	C
11	LCLUC only	C	C	C	C	H

Note: H means historical data are used and C means the variable(s) is set as a constant.

The model was run using a daily time scale to simulate crop development and growth. For the model run at the regional level, the model simulation began with an equilibrium run to develop the baseline carbon, nitrogen, and water pools for each grid with a maximum tolerance of 20,000 years. A spin-up of about 100 years was applied if the climate change was included in the simulation scenario, and a spin-up of about 1,000 years was used if no irrigation was applied in the simulation scenario. Finally, for the above eleven experiments, the model was run in transient driven by the daily or/and annual input data.

3. Results

3.1. Spatial and temporal variations in NPP and carbon storage

Both NPP and carbon storage in vegetation and soil carbon pools increased from 1961 to 2000, and leveled off or even slightly decreased during the latest five years 2001-2005 in China's agricultural ecosystems (Table 6-3 and Figures 6-4 & 5). The decadal mean of annual NPP increased from 0.42 Pg C/yr in the 1960s to 0.98 Pg C/yr in the 1990s. Annual NPP showed a large increase rate between the 1960s and 1980s and the highest NPP was found in the 1990s (Table 6-3, Figure 6-4C).

Regional analysis showed large spatial and temporal variations in NPP. Annual NPP in five regions increased over a 45 year period of the simulation. The range varied from 0.06 Pg C/yr (8% of total NPP) in Northwest (NW) to 0.26 Pg C/yr (36.3%) in the Southeast (SE) China. The high NPP increase occurred in the SW followed by the MN

Table 6-3 Decadal mean carbon flux and carbon pools (Pg C/yr)

	NPP	Veg C	SOC	Total C
1960s	0.418	0.30	5.63	5.93
1970s	0.599	0.45	6.08	6.53
1980s	0.876	0.65	6.42	7.07
1990s	0.978	0.74	6.87	7.61
00-05	0.961	0.70	7.08	7.78
45y-average	0.745	0.57	5.96	6.53

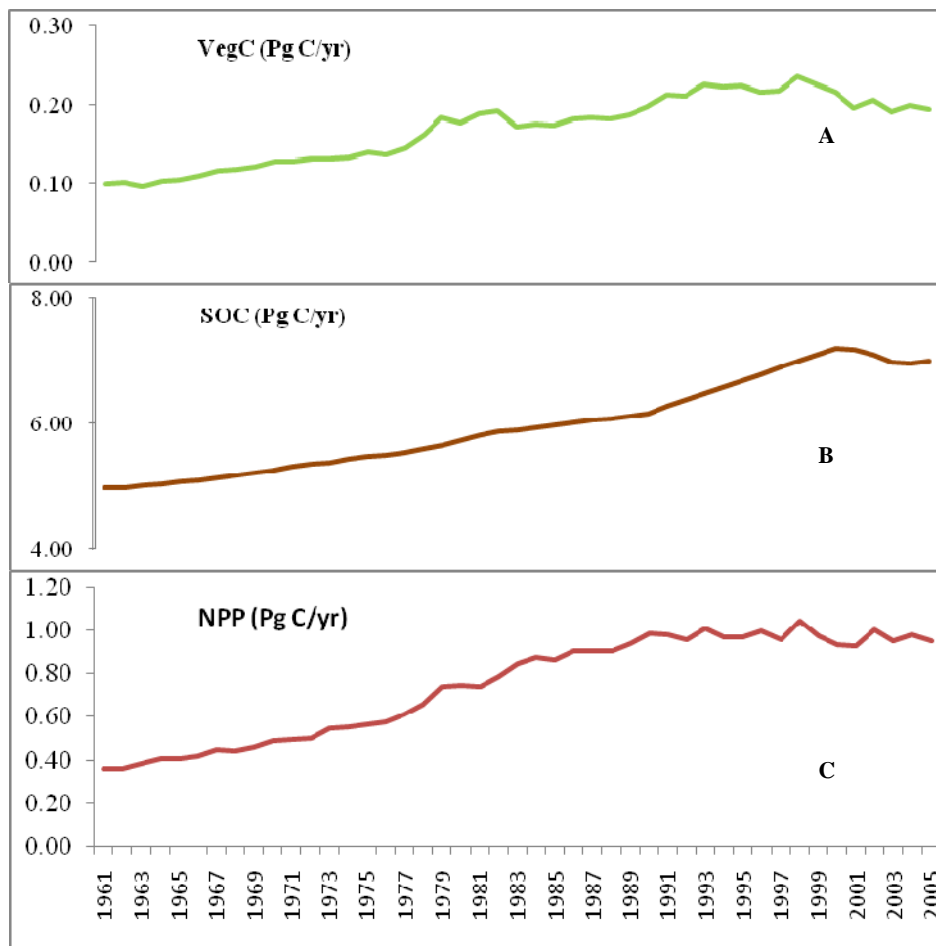


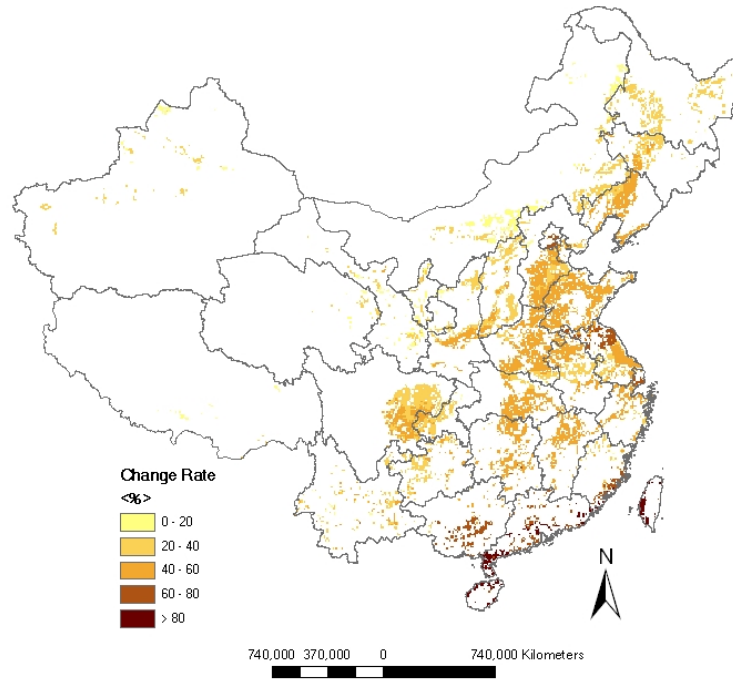
Figure 6-4 Annual changes of different carbon pools in China's agriculture ecosystems during 1961-2005.

(Table 6-4). However, the spatial distribution of the NPP difference between the 1990s and 1960s showed that NPP decreased in some places in the MN that experienced frequent drought and high air pollution (Figure 6-5).

Carbon storage in the vegetation pool increased from 0.30 Pg C/yr in the 1960s to 0.74 Pg C/yr in the 1990s, with a slightly decrease during 2001-2005 (Table 6-2). Annual vegetation carbon increased with high increase rates in the late 1970s and the late 1990s (Figure 6-4A). Among the five regions in China, the SE had the largest vegetation carbon storage with an average of 0.2 Pg C·yr⁻¹ (35%) between 1961 and 2005, followed by MN with 0.12 Pg C/yr (20.3%). Vegetation carbon reached the peak value in all regions in the 1990s. When compared to that in the 1960s, the total vegetation carbon in the 1990s increased by 1.27 times in the NW, 1.92 times in the MN, 1.18 times in the NE, 2.33 times in the SW, and 1.08 times in the SE. Most likely, the changes in the total vegetation carbon were primarily caused by the changes in crop land areas in 1990s (Table 6-3).

Soil carbon storage continued to increase during 1961-2005, ranging from 5.63 Pg C/yr to 7.08 Pg C/yr. Accordingly, the total carbon storage in agriculture ecosystems increased from 5.93 Pg C/yr in 1961 to 7.78 Pg C/yr in 2005 (Table 6-2). Unlike natural ecosystems, carbon sequestration in agriculture ecosystems mainly occurred in soil carbon pool due to annual vegetation harvest. Increased vegetation carbon could also provide more litter fall as input into the soil carbon pool, which could result finally in more soil carbon storage. Soil carbon storage in the NE was highest among the five regions, accounting for 35% of the total soil carbon storage in China's croplands.

Percentage of SOM Change between 1990s and 1960s



Percentage of NPP Change between 1990s and 1960s

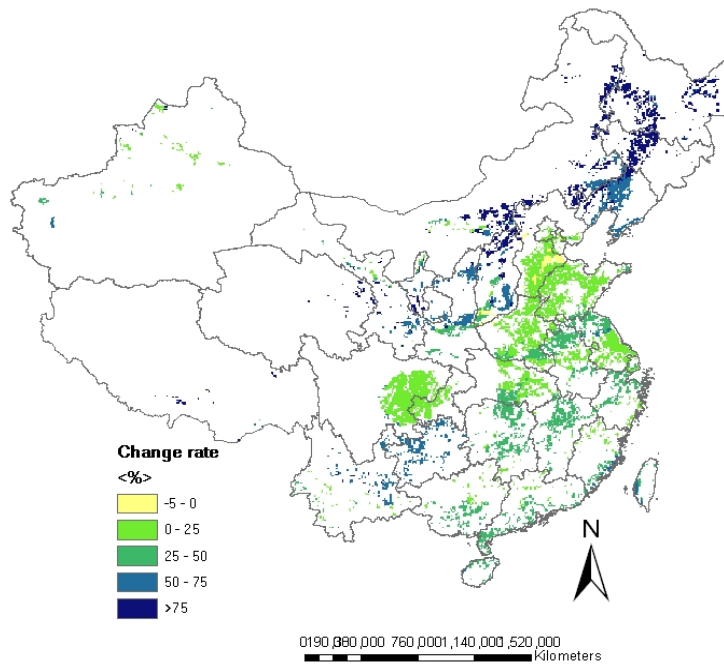


Figure 6-5 Change rates in net primary productivity (NPP) and soil organic carbon (SOC) between 1990s and 1960s

Table 6-4 Decadal mean carbon flux and carbon pools in five regions

NPP					
	NW	MN	NE	SW	SE
1960s	0.034	0.092	0.064	0.056	0.160
1970s	0.044	0.139	0.092	0.086	0.220
1980s	0.064	0.220	0.112	0.147	0.307
1990s	0.077	0.242	0.133	0.164	0.335
2000-2005	0.079	0.242	0.140	0.156	0.319
Average(%)	0.06(8.0)	0.18(25.0)	0.10 (14.5)	0.12(16.3)	0.26 (36.3)
(90s-60s)%	126.5	163.0	107.8	192.9	109.4
Vegetation Carbon					
	NW	MN	NE	SW	SE
1960s	0.030	0.052	0.062	0.039	0.121
1970s	0.039	0.086	0.087	0.073	0.166
1980s	0.056	0.138	0.103	0.122	0.230
1990s	0.068	0.152	0.135	0.130	0.252
2000-2005	0.069	0.150	0.127	0.119	0.236
Average(%)	0.05(9.2%)	0.12(20.3)	0.10(18.0)	0.10(17.0)	0.20(35.4)
(90s-60s)%	126.7	192.3	117.7	233.3	108.3
Soil Organic Carbon					
	NW	MN	NE	SW	SE
1960s	0.66	1.00	1.67	0.62	1.13
1970s	0.66	0.99	1.92	0.67	1.25
1980s	0.68	1.06	2.08	0.85	1.33
1990s	0.72	1.18	2.41	0.94	1.47
2000-2005	0.69	1.22	2.61	0.97	1.54
Average(%)	0.68(11.3)	1.09(18.0)	2.14(35.2)	0.81(13.4)	1.35(22.2)
(90s-60s)%	9.1	18.0	44.3	51.6	30.1

The SE and MN accounted for 22.2% and 18.0% of total soil carbon storage, respectively.

During the past 45 years, carbon storage in soils continued to increase in four regions in each decade, ranging from 0.99 - 1.22 Pg C in the MN, 1.67-2.61Pg C in the NE, 0.62-0.97 Pg C in the SW, and 1.13-1.54 Pg C in the NE, respectively. However, the total soil carbon storage in the NW has slightly decreased since 2000.

3.2 Environmental controls on NPP

The simulated total crop NPP under multiple environmental changes significantly increased from 1961 to 2005. Among the five environmental factors investigated in this study, land cover and land use change (LCLUC) accounted for 80.4% of the total NPP increase over a 45 year period (Table 6-4). CO₂ fertilization was the second important factor that contributed an additional 16.3% of the total NPP increase, while nitrogen deposition (NDEP) accounted for 14.3%. Both tropospheric O₃ pollution and climate variability/change decreased NPP by ~9.1% and ~2.0%, respectively. Change in annual NPP was related to all these environmental factors. LCLUC, CO₂ and NDEP had uniformly positive effects on NPP increase while O₃ pollution had an increasingly negative effect on NPP. Climate variability/change caused annual NPP variation due largely to the change in annual precipitation. LCLUC had smaller contribution to NPP increase than NDEP in the 1960s, but a much higher contribution since 1970s (Figure 6-6).

3.3. Environmental controls on soil carbon storage

Similar to total crop NPP, the simulated total SOC was influenced by the combined effects of multiple stresses. LCLUC, CO₂ fertilization, NDEP accounted for 84.3%, 17.5%, and 12.1% of the total soil carbon storage increases over the 45 years, respectively. The tropospheric O₃ pollution and climate variability/change decreased carbon storage by ~9.3% and ~4.7%, respectively (Table 6-5). CO₂ fertilization and NDEP had positive effects on annual total SOC increase while O₃ pollution and climate variability/change had negative effects on it. Unlike the effects of LCLUC on NPP which enhanced NPP continuously, LCLUC decreased soil carbon storage until the late 1980s

Table 6-5 The relative contribution of each factor to the total increase of net primary production (NPP) and soil carbon storage (SOC) estimated by DLEM-Ag

		Climate	CO2	LCLUC	Ndep	O3
NPP	1960s	-3.6	12.0	36.0	57.8	-2.1
	1990s	-3.0	20.5	89.9	4.2	-11.6
	45-average	-2.0	16.3	80.4	14.3	-9.1
(%)						
SOC	1960s	-20.2	4.1	-127.0	43.4	-0.2
	1990s	-17.9	26.1	46.3	55.5	-10.0
	45-average	-4.7	17.5	84.3	12.1	-9.3

Note: LCLUC - land cover and land use change; Ndep - nitrogen deposition.

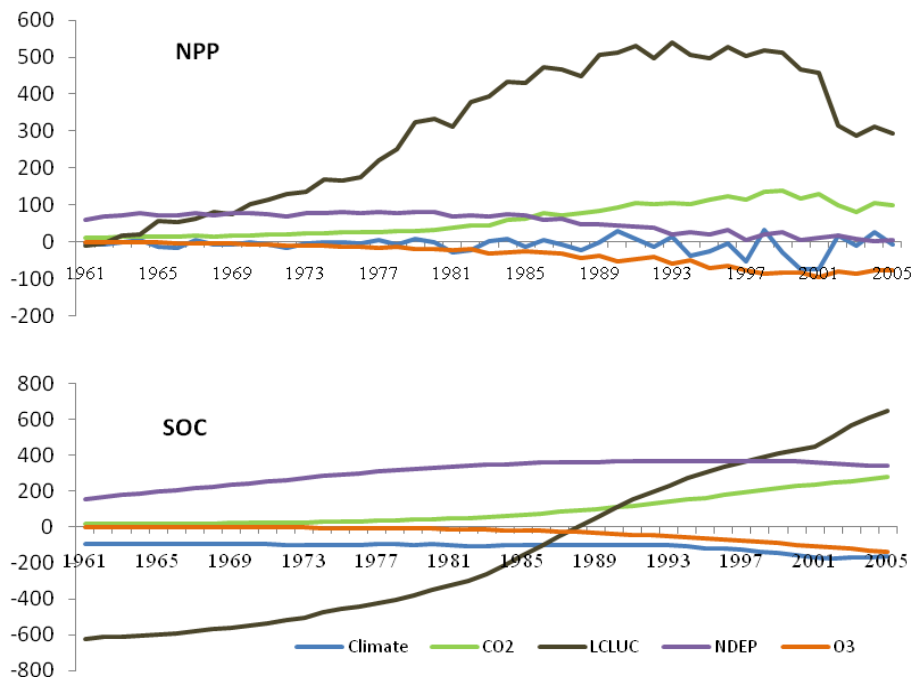


Figure 6-6 Changes in (A) net primary productivity and (B) soil carbon storage (Tg C) resulted from multiple factors including climate, CO₂, O₃, Nitrogen deposition, Land-cover and land-use change (LCLUC)

and enhanced more soil carbon sequestration since then (Figure 6-6). Among the effects of LCLUC which included land conversion and land management (e.g. nitrogen fertilizer and irrigation), nitrogen fertilizer increased soil carbon storage in China's croplands about 1.5 Pg C between 1961 and 2005, while land conversion resulted in 0.2 Pg C loss mainly due to the decreasing cropland area at the national level (Liu et al., 2006; Yang et al., 2007; Ge et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2008).

4. Discussion

4.1 Estimation of NPP and SOC in China's croplands

Carbon in agricultural ecosystems is the most active of global carbon pools due to the tremendous influences of human activities. It was reported that carbon sequestration in global agricultural soils could reach 40-80 Pg C in the coming 50-100 years (Cole, et al., 1996; Paustaiian et al.1998). The simulated SOC in China's croplands was estimated as 7.08 Pg C in recent five years 2001-2005, which accounted for 8%-17.7% of the global carbon sequestration in agricultural soils. Furthermore, the simulated continually increasing SOC since 1961 indicates that China's croplands have large potential for soil carbon sequestration. The simulated NPP in China's croplands also increased since 1961, indicating increased vegetation carbon storage and hence enhanced soil carbon storage (Table 6-2).

4.2 Contributions of multiple environmental changes to NPP and SOC

Land cover and land use change. LCLUC investigated in this study included land conversion and land management (e.g. irrigation, fertilizer application). We found that LCLUC was the dominant factor controlling the temporal and spatial variations of NPP

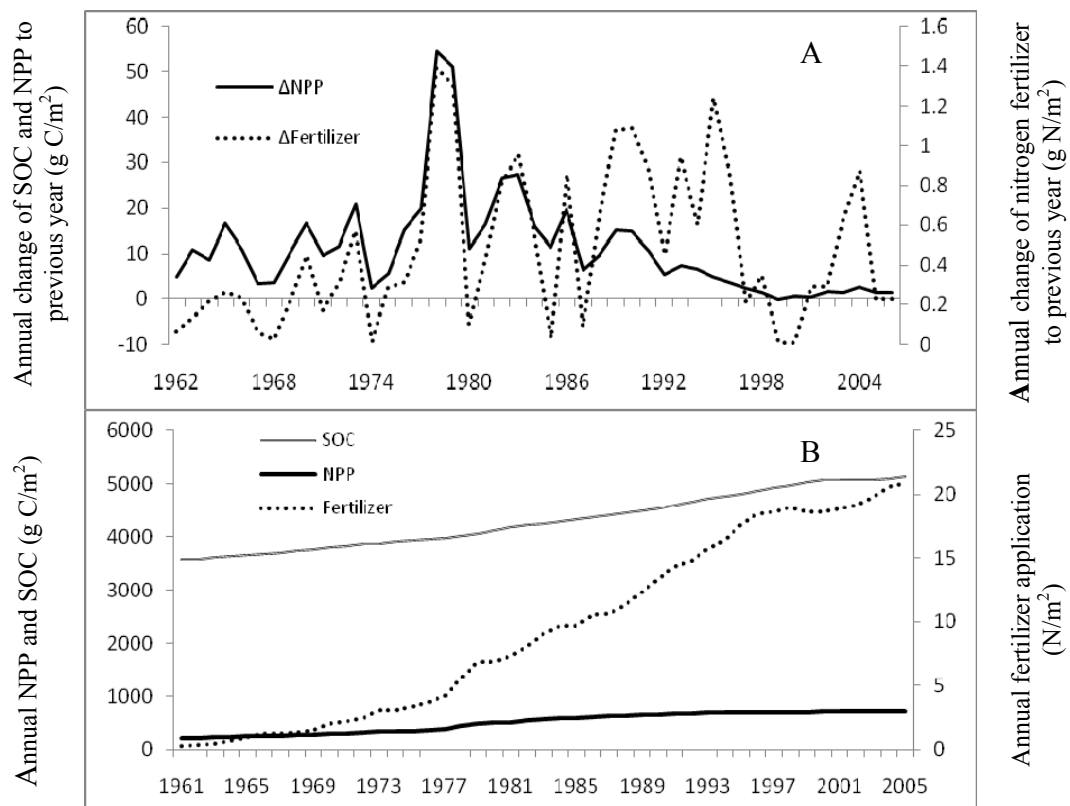


Figure 6-7 (A) Annual changes to previous year in net primary productivity (NPP) and nitrogen fertilizer application; (B) Annual soil carbon storage (SOC) and NPP (gC/m²) in China's croplands from 1961 to 2005.

and SOC in China's croplands during 1961-2005, and accounting for more than 80% of the total changes in both NPP and SOC. Similar to previous studies, we found that land conversion could lead to an increase in total NPP and SOC when land cover changed from natural vegetation into cropland (e.g. Davidson and Ackerman, 1993; Murty et al., 2002; Guo and Gifford, 2002; Houghton and Goodale, 2004), and also could result in a deduction in total NPP and SOC when cropland area decreased. Further analysis indicated that small changes in interannual variation of crop NPP were caused by fertilizer application since the late 1980s (Figure 6-7A), which indicates that agricultural

ecosystems in China may have possibly reached nitrogen saturation (Tian et al., 2009a,b), even though both the unit NPP and soil carbon density continually increased (Figure 6-7B) thanks to optimized land management (Cole et al., 1996; Yan et al., 2009; Huang et al., 2006, 2007).

4.3 Other environmental factors

Also in this study, we considered climate variability/change, atmospheric CO₂ and nitrogen deposition, and tropospheric O₃ pollution. The combined contributions of these changes to total NPP and SOC were equivalent to about 20% during 1961-2005. Both NPP and SOC show substantial interannual variation in response to climate variability, similar to the study by Tian et al. (1999). The direct positive effects of increasing CO₂ / nitrogen deposition (e.g. Tian et al., 1998; Melillo and Gosz, 1983; Schindler and Bayley, 1993; Holland et al., 1997; Neff et al., 2000) and the negative effects of elevated O₃ (Heagle, 1989; Felzer et al., 2004; Ren et al., 2007a) on NPP and SOC were consistent with previous studies. Their influences on NPP and SOC in the future could also be accelerated with increasing temperature (e.g. Tao et al., 2009), elevated CO₂, and increasing O₃ pollution (e.g. Felzer et al., 2005).

4.4. Interactive effects of multiple factors

We conducted sensitivity experiments on NPP and SOC and found that the effect of single factor could be enhanced or weakened and even the direction of the response could be reversed when it interacted with other environmental factors (Figure 6-8). For example, the effects of elevated CO₂ and nitrogen input, well recognized as fertilizers to increase carbon storage capacity, were enhanced by each other (e.g. Reich et al., 2006).

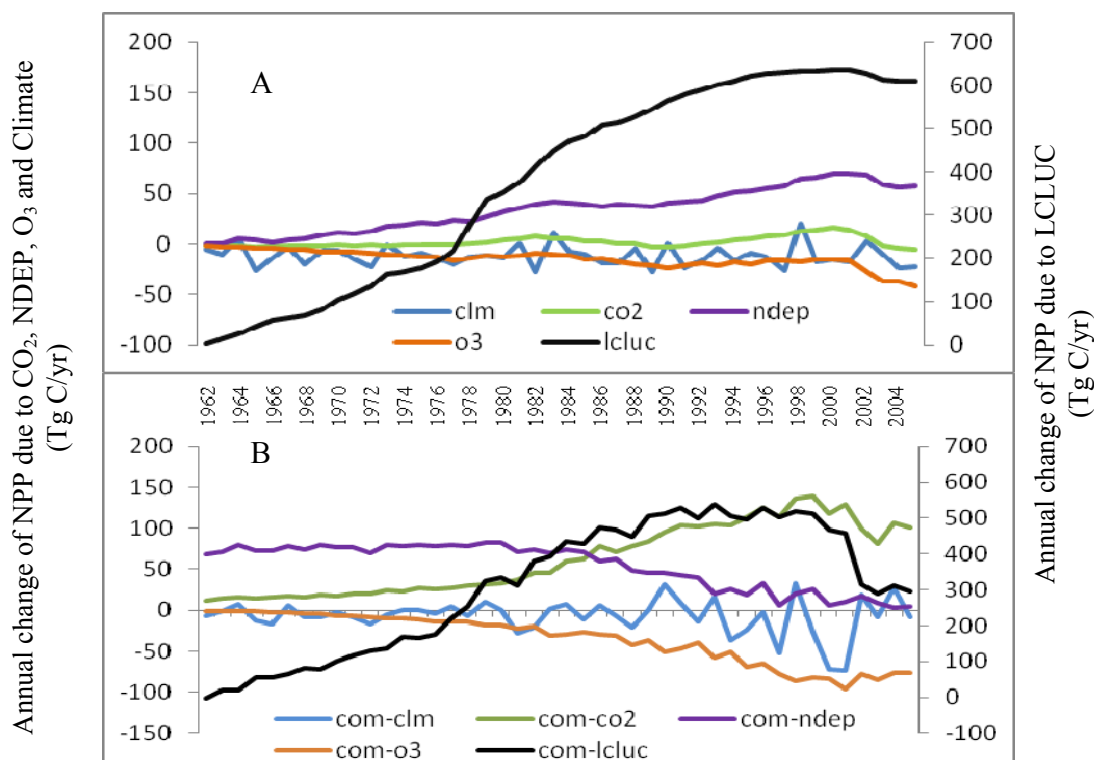


Figure 6-8 Annual changes in net primary productivity (NPP) (Tg C/yr) due to the effects of single factor and the effects of single factor plus the interactive effects with other factors.

Note: clm, co2, lcluc, ndep and o3 mean the effects of climate, CO₂, land use cover and land use change, nitrogen deposition and O₃, respectively; com- stands for the combined effects of single factor plus the interactive effects with other factors.

On average, increasing nitrogen fertilizer enhanced the CO₂ fertilization effect on carbon storage by 10 times in China's croplands. However, on average, the negative effects of elevated O₃ on crop growth were doubled when combined with drought and nitrogen fertilizer (Felzer et al., 2005; Ren et al., 2007b). The overall effects of elevated O₃, increasing CO₂ and nitrogen fertilizer on ecosystem production and carbon storage are complex effects that are related to the photosynthesis process, stomatal conductance and are dependent on nutrient and water conditions. The current version of DLEM-Ag

integrates all these processes, but does not include the direct effects of O₃ pollution on stomata conductance and uses the AOT40 index rather than O₃ flux data, which might underestimate the effects of O₃ on NPP and SOC. In spite of uncertainties in this study due to current limited conditions, the primary results highlight that it is crucial to consider the combined effects of multiple stresses and explore the underlying mechanistic links in order to better understand the role of agriculture ecosystems in the global carbon budget.

5, Conclusion

We quantified the spatial and temporal variations of NPP and SOC in China's croplands in response to multiple environmental stresses during 1961-2005 using the DLEM-Ag model. A newly developed historical information database of land cover and land use change (LCLUC), atmosphere CO₂, nitrogen deposition, tropospheric O₃ and climate variability in China was used to drive the model run. The simulation results indicated that both the total NPP and SOC in China's croplands increased by 130% and 26%, respectively, from 1961-2005. The relative contributions of main environmental factors to the total increase in NPP and SOC were very consistent. LCLUC was the dominant factor to sequester carbon in cropland soils and enhance the crop production, accounting for more than 80% of total contributions to the changes in NPP and SOC. Fertilizer application led to a 1.5 Pg carbon storage increase in soils. Contribution of nitrogen fertilizer application to NPP and SOC gradually decreased, suggesting a saturation condition where fertilizer application was beyond crop demands in croplands after the 1970s. This implies that redundant nitrogen fertilizer will lead to negative consequences such as water pollution, soil acidification, increasing N₂O emission and air

pollution. Both elevated O₃ and climate change/variability reduced total NPP and SOC in the last half 20th century. In general, DLEM-Ag has the ability to simulate the variations of agricultural carbon fluxes and pools in response to multiple historical global change factors. The estimations of crop NPP and C storage in China during 1961-2005 and their attribution analysis are the most groundbreaking part of this study, at this required applying the agricultural ecosystem model to a historical study considering multifactor interactions on the country level. To improve assessment accuracy, key processes in response to main environmental changes need to be combined into the DLEM-Ag model, such as increasing aerosol/O₃ and their effects on photosynthesis and stomata conductance. Additionally, well-established database, such as GHGs emissions monitoring and O₃ only/multiple-response derived from field controlled experiments in China, are very important for model calibration and evaluation.

Chapter 7

Model Validation and Uncertainty Analysis – Model Comparisons with Field Measurements, Remote Sensing Observations, and Other Models

Abstract

To examine model behavior and analyze the potential uncertainties in this study, in this chapter we present the following: 1) sensitivity analysis that tests model behavior in response to changing environmental factors; 2) model validation at site and regional levels; 3) a comparison of model results with other methods. Preliminary results indicate that our DLEM model has the ability to capture the response of carbon fluxes and pools to environmental changes such as elevated ozone (O_3) concentration and climate variability (precipitation and temperature). The simulated key variables (net primary productivity-NPP and net carbon exchange-NCE) are close to site level observations and the regional estimations are comparable to other studies. We found that the uncertainties in this study mainly concerned the use of different methods; parameters and input data also contributed to errors in the context of a limited database. While this analysis focuses on agricultural ecosystems and their response to O_3 exposure, future work will provide an assessment of grassland and forest ecosystems in China and model responses to other environmental factors.

Keywords: Agricultural ecosystems, CO₂ flux, Flux tower, Model validation, Ozone (O₃), Remote Sensing, Survey data, Terrestrial Ecosystem Model (TEM), Uncertainty analysis

1. Introduction

As this study demonstrates, it is important to investigate regional-scale ecosystem responses to changing environmental conditions, such as elevated O₃ concentration and dynamic climate change, both as a scientific question and as the basis for making policy decisions. Another critical question that could be raised at the same time, is, how much confidence we should have in regional model results? In general, uncertainty in modeling is caused by hypotheses and mathematical formulation, parameterization process (e.g. photosynthesis, respiration) and environmental model driving variables (e.g. vegetation type, climate, soil texture) (Haefner, 2005). The sources of uncertainty which relate to DLEM model have been evaluated in previous work (Tian et al., 2005; Chen et al., 2006; Ren et al., 2007a,b; Zhang et al., 2007; Liu et al., 2008). For regional ecosystem modeling, however, it is important to evaluate how well the predictions agree with observed data for the region. Several studies indicate that it is possible to conduct research to assess the accuracy of regional model forecasts for terrestrial carbon cycling, with the contributions of multidisciplinary development such as remote sensing observation and eddy flux tower monitoring (e.g. Nemani et al. 2003; Running et al., 2004; Heinsch et al., 2006; Scurlock et al., 1999; Rahman et al., 2001; Zheng et al., 2003; Xiao et al., 2004; Turner et al., 2005; Sims et al., 2006). The improvement of point-scale measurements and regional-scale model outputs derived from high-resolution satellite data suggest that the outputs from regional and global models agreed well with measurements undertaken at flux tower sites. However, further study is needed to validate modeled results at different scales due to the

gap in spatial scale between point-scale flux measurements and regional-scale model analyses (Sasai et al., 2007).

This analysis aims to compare model estimations of carbon fluxes among multi-scale independent model analyses with ground measurements at the site level, satellite-observation data at the regional level, and inventory data at the biome level. After investigating model sensitivities in response to main environmental factors (more specifically on dynamic O₃ concentration variations), the study conducted multi-scale comparisons of modeled carbon fluxes (CO₂, CH₄, net primary productivity-NPP) and pools (soil organic carbon-SOC), focusing on agricultural ecosystems.

2. Materials and methods

To conduct model validation and uncertainty analysis, this study used all available databases, including field measurements, survey records, remote sensing observations, ecosystem modeling, and published results in scientific journals.

2.1 The Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM) and input data

The same method was used as described in detail in Chapter 3 and Chapter 6.

2.2 Field observation

Observation data from more than thirty agrometeorology observation stations and agroecosystem synthetic observation stations in China was collected for model calibration and phenology parameterization (Table 1, appendix). An independent dataset was collected for model validation including two sites: one dry farmland (rotation of

winter wheat and summer maize in Yucheng) and one rice paddy field (three harvested rice in Qingyuan) for the model validation. Site data was retrieved from the regional dataset for model run if the inputs at these sites were unavailable.

2.3 Survey-based data

Survey data on crop yield from 1961 to 2003 from the National Agriculture Database (China Agriculture Yearbook, 2003) was collected to estimate the crop yield carbon at the province and biome levels. Datasets of crop NPP and soil carbon organic at the regional and biome level were derived from other literature reviews (Huang et al., 2006, 2007; Zhang et al., Wu et al., 2007).

2.4 Remote sensing

We compared our simulated crop NPP with a production efficiency model, GLO-PEM (Prince and Goward, 1995; Goetz et al. 2000; Cao et al. 2004), which has a spatial 8km resolution and runs at a 10-day time step. GLO-PEM was driven almost entirely by satellite-derived variables, including both the Normalized Difference Vegetation index (NDVI) and meteorological variables. We overlaid the GLO-PEM NPP images with the yearly cropland cover data that we developed and extracted from the GLO-PEM crop NPP in ArcInfo 9.2. Similarly, we derived the MOD17 MODIS NPP in China's croplands from 2002 to 2005 (Running et al. 2004; Heinsch et al. 2003).

2.5 The biogeochemistry model TEM

The Terrestrial Ecosystem Model (TEM) is a process-based biogeochemical model that uses spatially referenced information on climate, elevation, soils and

vegetation to make monthly estimates of important carbon and nitrogen fluxes and pool sizes. In TEM, the net carbon exchange between the terrestrial biosphere and the atmosphere is represented by net ecosystem production (NEP), which is calculated as the difference between net primary production (NPP) and heterotrophic respiration (RH). Net primary production is calculated as the difference between gross primary production (GPP) and plant respiration (RA). Gross primary production represents the uptake of atmospheric CO₂ during photosynthesis and is influenced by light availability, atmospheric CO₂ concentration, temperature and the availability of water and nitrogen. Plant respiration includes both maintenance and construction respiration, and is calculated as a function of temperature and vegetation carbon. The flux RH represents microbially mediated decomposition of organic matter in an ecosystem and is influenced by the amount of reactive soil organic carbon, temperature and soil moisture. The annual NEP of an ecosystem is equivalent to its net carbon storage for the year. The TEM can be used either in equilibrium mode (McGuire et al., 1992, 1995, 1997; Melillo et al., 1993; VEMAP Members, 1995) or transient mode (Melillo et al., 1996; Tian et al., 1998a, 1999; Xiao et al., 1998; Kicklighter et al., 1999; Felzer et al., 2004).

3. Experimental design

To perform the general responses of the DLEM model to multiple stresses, several simulation experiments were first designed to simulate the annual crop yield under the scenarios of O₃ only, climate only, and fertilizer only effects. To examine the sensitivities of the model to O₃ pollution in particular, sensitivity simulations were conducted using different levels of the O₃ (AOT40: accumulated O₃ exposure over a threshold of 40 parts per billion). To validate the model, the model was run to compare

CO₂ flux in dry farmland and CH₄ flux in rice paddy fields at the site level, and also to compare the regional simulations in chapter 6 using survey-based and remote sensing databases. To identify the responses of different models to O₃ exposure, the simulations were conducted and analyzed using the DLEM and TEM models driven by the same input data.

4. Results and discussion

4.1 Sensitivity analysis

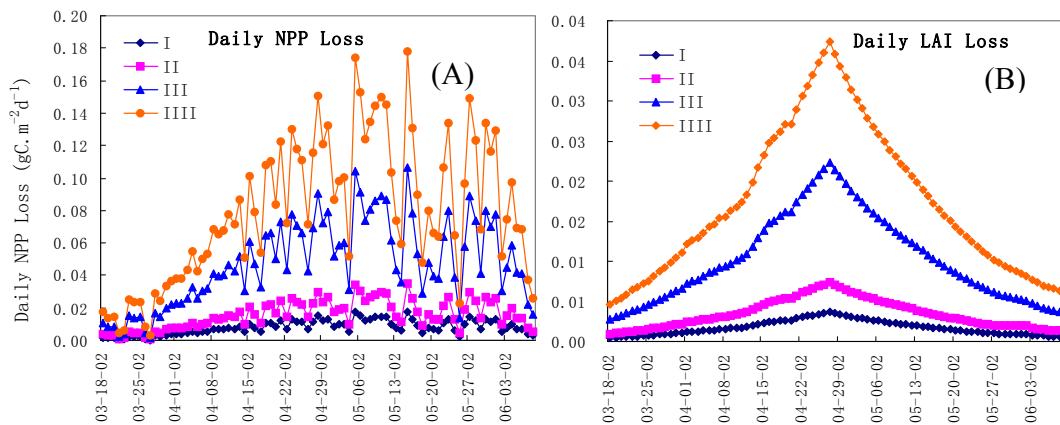


Figure 7-1 Daily reductions of (A) net primary productivity (NPP) and (B) leaf area index (LAI) in response to four different ozone treatments (AOT40: I500, II1000, III3000, IV5000), background data in Yucheng Integrated Agricultural Experimental Station (116.6°, 36.7°)

The sensitivity experiments were conducted under three scenarios in which only O₃, climate and fertilizer changed and all other factors were kept constant. Then the annual mean crop yields of dry farmland (one-harvest wheat in Gansu province) and rice paddy fields (three-harvest rice in Zhejiang province) were calculated.

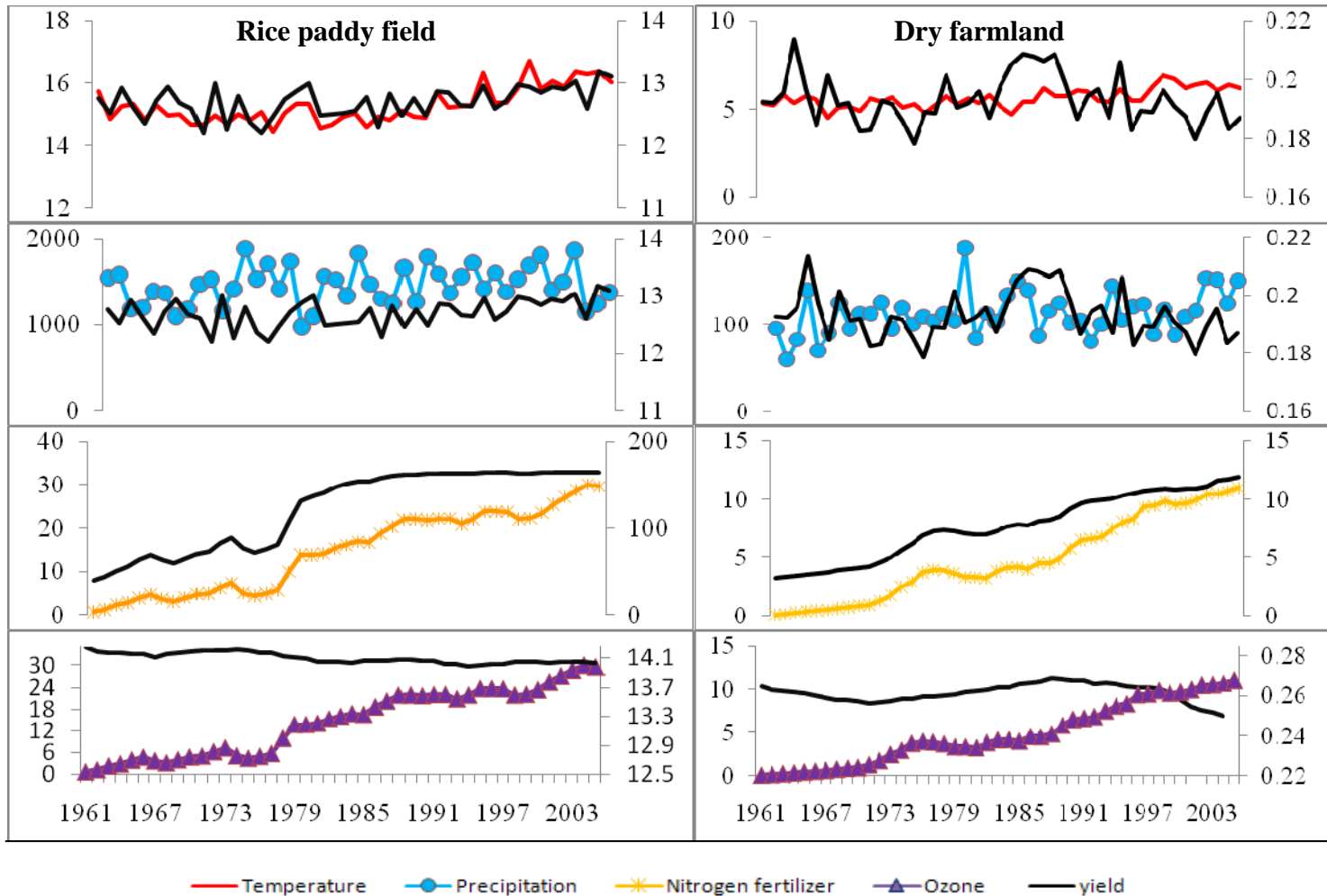


Figure 7-2 Responses of annual crop yield to the changes in annual temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), precipitation (mm), fertilizer (g N/m^2) and O_3 (ppm-hr) in dry farmland and rice paddy field. (Note: left axis represents environmental factors and the right axis is the changes in crop yield carbon, $\text{g C/m}^2/\text{yr}$).

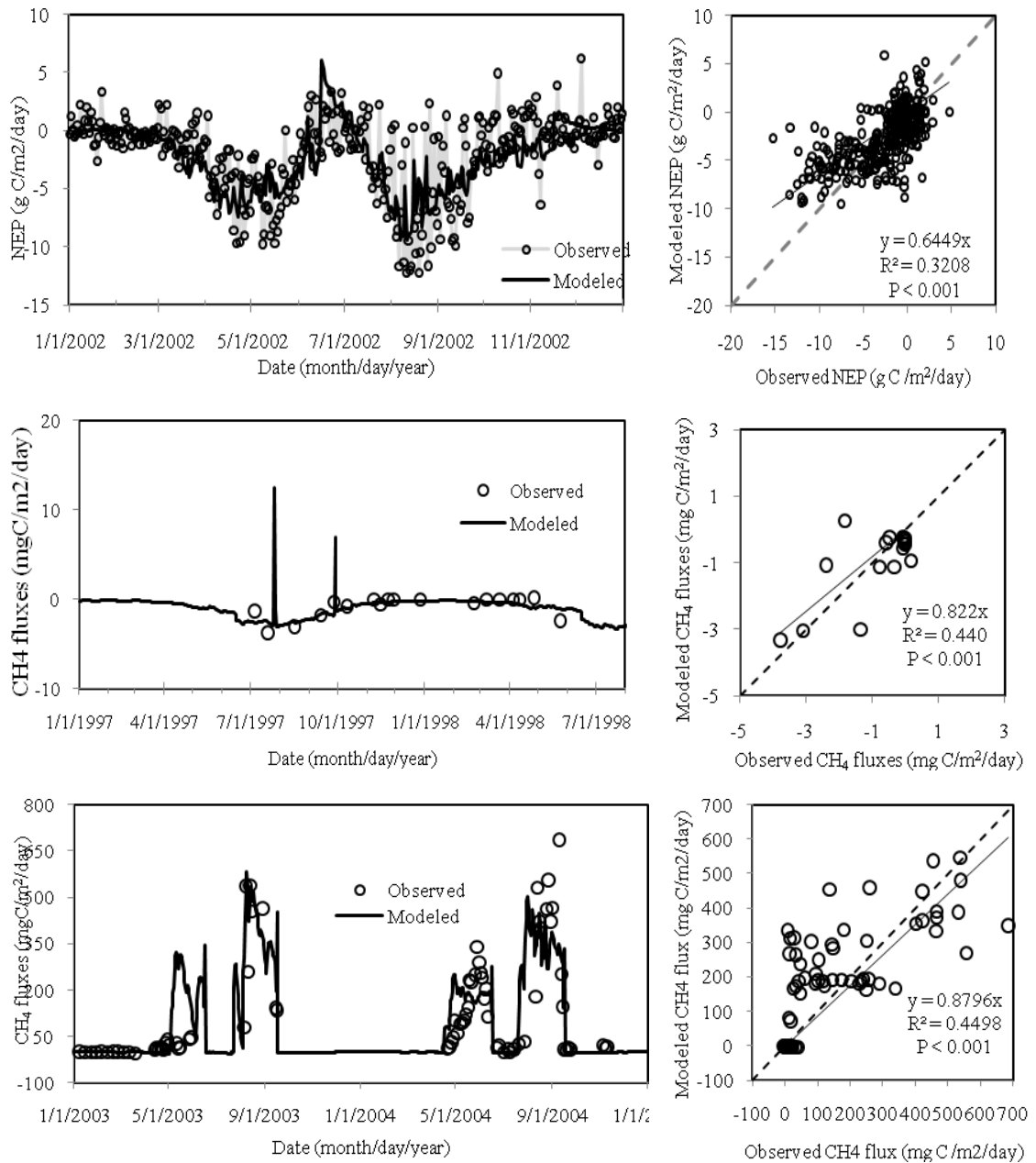


Figure 7-3 Comparison of DLEM-estimated CO₂ and CH₄ fluxes with field observations (CO₂ flux (a) and CH₄ flux (b) in Yucheng Station (116° E, 36° N); (c) CH₄ flux in Qingyuan (112° E, 23° N); the regression models validations are: (d) Observed = 1.551 * modeled; $r = 0.476$; $P < 0.001$ for CO₂ flux; (e) Observed = 1.216 * modeled; $r = 0.440$ in Yucheng; $P < 0.001$ for CH₄ flux in Yucheng)

Note: in (a) positive values indicate CO₂ emission and negative values indicate CO₂ uptake.

The results (Figure 7-2) indicate that harvested crop carbon was more sensitive to precipitation in dry farmland while more sensitive to temperature in rice paddy; crop yields increased with increasing fertilizer inputs but leveled off since the 1980s; crop yields reduced with elevated O₃ concentrations. These results are consistent with observations and other studies (e.g. Heagle et al., 1989; Tian et al., 1998; Tao et al., 2005; Huang et al., 2007). Further sensitivity analysis (Figure 7-1) showed that the continuous reductions of daily NPP and LAI were due to ideally designed increasing AOT40 levels, the underlying mechanisms of which were derived from and similar to other studies (e.g. Martin et al., 2000; Ollinger et al., 2002; Felzer et al., 2004). However, the potential uncertainties or even errors could be due to a lack of knowledge on quantifying relationships between continuously increasing O₃ concentration and plant adaptation to its exposure.

4.2 Model validations and comparisons

Two sites, including one dry farmland (rotation of winter wheat and summer maize in Yucheng) and one rice paddy field (two crops of rice Qingyuan) were selected for model validations (Figure 7-3a-f). We retrieved the site data from our regional dataset for the model run because the input data for these sites were unavailable to us. The simulated daily CO₂ flux (NEP) and CH₄ fluxes were consistent with the observational data for dry cropland in Yucheng (Figure 7-3a-d) and the rice paddy in Qingyun (Figure 7-3e, f). For CO₂ flux in the dry cropland in Yucheng, DLEM captured seasonal patterns of daily flux, but missed some pulses. Overall, the modeled annual CO₂ flux was quite close to observed NEP, -827 g C m⁻² vs. -722 g C m⁻². A comparison of modeled CH₄ fluxes with observed CH₄ fluxes in dry cropland (Figure 7-3c, d) and rice paddy (Figure

7-3e, f) demonstrated the DLEM's ability to capture not only seasonal patterns, but also the absolute values of CH₄ fluxes. However, two pulses of CH₄ flux were simulated in DLEM because of extremely high precipitation in two different time periods. Further investigation showed that the first peak in CH₄ emission was caused by a two-day strong precipitation event with a total rainfall of 69.3mm, and the second peak of CH₄ emission was associated with a strong precipitation event of 60.4 mm per day. It should be noted that the annual precipitation for Yucheng station in 1997 was 574 mm. DLEM also simulated the seasonal pattern of CH₄ fluxes from a rice paddy field in the Qingyun, Southern China (Khalil et al., 2007).

NPP and SOC simulated by DLEM-Ag were comparable with survey data and satellite products (Table 7-1 & Figure 7-4). The estimations of soil C storage by the DLEM-AG were also comparable to other studies (Table 7-1), although few of these studies were conducted at the national level or for a long historical period. It was found that C storage in the soils across China's croplands increased from 1961 to 2005. The estimations of 16 Tg C yr⁻¹ for the top 20 centimeters across China's croplands and 11.5 Tg C yr⁻¹ for the rice paddy field were comparable to Huang and Sun's survey estimation of 18 - 22 Pg C yr⁻¹ (Huang and Sun, 2006) and Zhang et al.'s simulated estimation of 4.0-11.0 Tg C yr⁻¹ (Zhang et al., 2007) between 1980 and 2000, respectively.

Table 7-1 Comparisons of soil carbon change and net primary productivity (NPP) at the national level and different cropping systems between 1961 and 2000 among ecosystem modeling, inventory estimate

	Method	Period	Other study	This study
Huang et al., 2006	Inventory	1980-2000	Increased soil organic carbon (SOC) on national scale on the top soil (0.2 m)	
			0.018-0.022 Pg C/yr	0.016 Pg C/yr
Zhang et al., 2007	Modeled	1980-2000	Increased soil organic carbon (SOC) in rice paddy field	
			0.15±0.07 Pg C	0.23Pg C
			Soil organic carbon storage (SOC) in top soil layer (1m)	
Wu et al., 2007	Inventory	1979-1985	4.4 Pg C at national level	4.8 Pg C at national level
			1.6 Pg C in rice paddy land 2.8 Pg C in dry farm land	1.2 Pg C in rice paddy land 3.6 Pg C in dry farm land
Huang et al., 2007	Inventory	1950-1999	Increased decadal mean annual Crop NPP in China (87% of total nation) between 1960s and 1990s	
			354±77 Tg C/yr	374 Tg C/yr

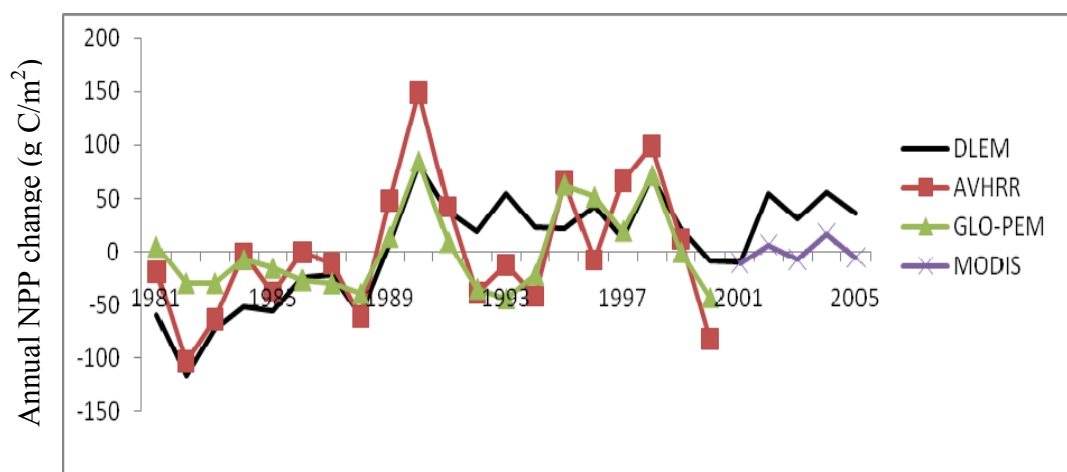


Figure 7-4 Changes in annual net primary production (NPP) (relative to the average for 1981-2005) of China's croplands estimated by DLEM-Ag model, GLO-PEM model, AVHRR, and MODIS database during 1981-2005.

The simulated crop NPP by DLEM was also compared with a production efficiency model, GLO-PEM. GLO-PEM has a spatial 8km resolution and runs at a 10-day time step). GLO-PEM was driven almost entirely from satellite-derived variables, including both the Normalized Difference Vegetation index (NDVI) and meteorological variables (Prince and Goward 1995; Goetz et al. 2000; Cao et al. 2004). The GLO-PEM NPP images were overlaid with the yearly cropland cover data that we developed and then the GLO-PEM crop NPP was extracted in ArcInfo 9.2. Similarly, the MOD17 NPP and AVHRR NPP in China's croplands from 2002 to 2005 was also derived (Running et al. 2004; Heinsch et al. 2003). The results (Figure 7-3) of annual NPP change showed that the simulated NPP by DLEM-Ag had a similar temporal pattern to that estimated by AVHRR, GLO-PEM and MODIS17, possibly because both model-based and remote sensing-based results were influenced or driven by the major environmental factor of climate change (e.g. Nemani et al., 2003).

4.3 Comparisons of two models

4.3.1 Differences between two models

The main discrepancies between those two models include (detail information in appendix I, Table 2,3): 1) temporal scale of O₃ effects (DLEM-daily; TEM-monthly); 2) effects of O₃ on ecosystem processes; 3) plant functional types (similar natural PFTs including forest and grass in three models; however, managed C₃ grass is simulated as crop in TEM, while there are managed main food crop types in DLEM ; 4) processes of land use and land cover change (one irrigation map was used in both TEM and DLEM; the date of C₃ harvest in TEM is based on degree-day simulation and prescribed no

fertilization limitation to occurs once the N fertilization was more than 100 kg N/ha, while in DLEM the harvest date and fertilization application are prescribed according to observation at agrometeorology stations (Table 1, appendix) and the Agricultural Almanac of China.

4.3.2 Simulated results comparisons

The simulated results showed that O₃ had uniform negative effects on NPP in China's terrestrial ecosystem in the past decades, as simulated by DLEM and TEM (Figure 7-5A). Both the TEM and DLEM results showed that the highest NPP reduction occurred in north China (Figure 7-5B), where most of the croplands had experienced high O₃ concentrations during growth and harvest seasons. Both models simulated a larger total NPP loss in dry farmland and deciduous forest ecosystems, which accounts for the increasing O₃ concentration in these areas (Table 7-2). Dry farmland lost more NPP due to a higher AOT40 increase and it was the most sensitive to O₃ pollution (mean -4.2Tg C / ppm-hr). Broadleaf forest was more sensitive (mean -2.4Tg C / ppm-hr) to O₃ pollution than needle leaf forest (mean -1.6Tg C / ppm-hr), despite less AOT40 increase and total NPP loss. Two models were able to capture the same temporal variations and spatial patterns of annual NPP in response to O₃ exposure, though the absolute values, which possibly were derived from the model parameterization and the inner model structures, varied greatly. For example, without calibration based on observations in China, TEM simulated a higher than actual biomass. Also, croplands in TEM were designated as C₃ grassland, which resulted in large discrepancies in estimations for croplands in both models.

Table 7-2 Changes of ozone pollution (AOT40) and the responses of total net primary productivity (NPP) loss and unit NPP loss to increased ozone (AOT40) between the 1960s and the 1990s at biome level

Biome	Δ AOT40 (ppm-hr)	DLEM		TEM	
		Total loss (TgC)	Unit loss (TgC/AOT40)	Total loss (TgC)	Unit loss (TgC/AOT40)
NEF	1.6	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-0.2
BEF	1.9	-0.4	-0.2	-1.6	-1.2
NDF	1.4	-2.8	-1.3	-4.3	-1.9
BDF	1.0	-1.3	-2.0	-2.3	-2.8
Grass	2.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dry farmland	1.8	-4.9	-2.6	-15.0	-5.8
Paddy fields	1.4	-1.9	-1.5	-6.0	-3.6

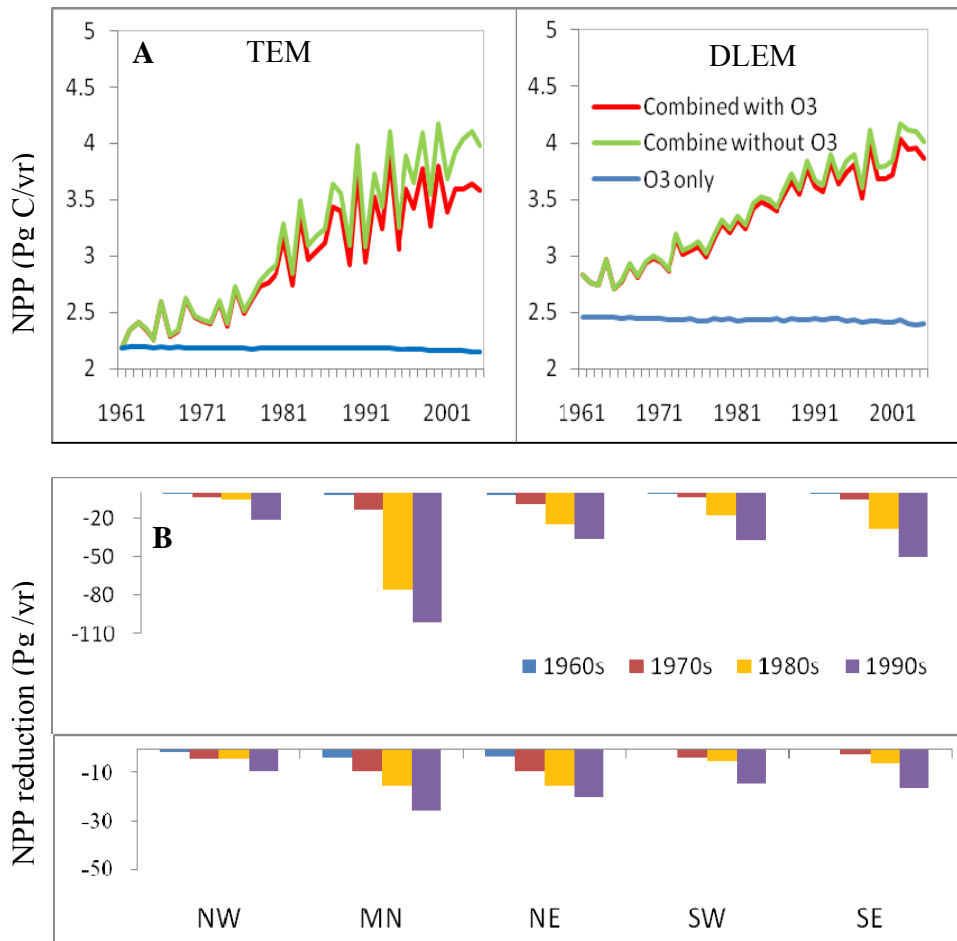


Figure 7-5 National estimations of annual NPP under three scenarios (A) and regional estimations of decadal mean annual NPP (B) simulated from the TEM and DLEM models.

5. Conclusions

In this study, sensitivity analysis, model results validations and comparisons all indicate that the DLEM model has the ability to capture variations in carbon fluxes and pools in response to multiple environmental changes, especially O₃ concentration changes. The simulated carbon fluxes (NPP, CO₂ flux, CH₄ flux) and pools (soil carbon storage) were comparable to observations at site level and surveys at the regional level. Discrepancies in the results of various studies are mainly due to input data (e.g. study area) and the gaps in different methods (e.g. model inner discrepancy). In the future, similar work needs to be conducted in grassland and forest ecosystems, and the uncertainty of absolute percentage changes in carbon flux and pools in response to O₃ pollution should be examined as the necessary database information becomes available. Also the model results need to be compared against results from other models (e.g. PnET).

Chapter 8

General Conclusion and Future Research Recommendation

It was suggested that China's terrestrial ecosystems have large potential capacity of carbon sequestration, however, over past decades China has been affected by a complex set of changes in climate, atmosphere chemical compositions (e.g. O₃ pollution), and land-use and land-cover (e.g. Chen et al., 2006; Liu et al., 2005a,b; Ren and Tian, 2007). To accurately assess the variations and the trends of carbon storage in response to the global change, both major environmental (e.g. climate change, land use/cover change) and the future factors (e.g. increasing tropospheric O₃, elevated nitrogen deposition) are necessary to be taken into account to reduce the uncertainties. Using the Dynamic Land Ecosystem Model (DLEM), the carbon storage of China's terrestrial ecosystems in the past half 20th century was assessed, focusing on its responses to elevated tropospheric O₃ concentration and historical climate change in the context of global change.

First, an overall assessment was conducted to investigate the influences of multiple stresses with or without O₃ pollution on the net primary productivity and carbon storage in terrestrial ecosystems of China: the general simulation showed that that elevated O₃ could result in a mean 4.5% in NPP and 0.9% reduction in total carbon

storage nationwide from 1961 to 2000. The reduction of carbon storage varied from 0.1 Tg C to 312 Tg C (a decreasing rate ranging from 0.2% to 6.9%) among plant functional types. Significant reductions in NPP occurred in northeastern and central China, where a large proportion of cropland is distributed. These simulation results suggest that 1) the adverse effects of elevated O₃ on carbon fluxes and pools are significant and cannot be ignored; 2) the responses to elevated O₃ varied among different ecosystems; 3) the O₃ effects on carbon storage are dependent upon other environmental factors, therefore, the effects of O₃ only and its interactive effects with other environmental factors should be considered to accurately assess the regional carbon budget in China.

In the following studies, specific analysis on the assessments of NPP and carbon storage in responses to O₃ pollution, climate change and other environmental factors among grassland, agricultural and forest ecosystems with the newly improved model and refined database based on the different features of each ecosystem were conducted. For grassland ecosystems, the results show that the combined effects including O₃ could potentially lead to an decrease of 14 Tg C in annual NPP and 0.11Pg C in total carbon storage in China's grasslands during 1961-2000 although it acted as a weak carbon sink in the same period. China's grassland ecosystems, mostly distributed in arid and semi arid regions with high O₃ concentrations, are more sensitive and vulnerable to O₃ pollution and climate change than other regions of grassland ecosystem, due to lack of the intensive human management in croplands and long-term adaptation to environmental stresses in forests. For forest ecosystems, the simulated results show that elevated O₃ could result in about a 0.2-1.6% reduction in total NPP and 3.5-12.6% reduction in

carbon storage nationwide from- 1961 to 2005. Changes in annual NPP and carbon storage across China's forestlands exhibited substantial spatial variability, and the reduction rates of NPP and carbon storage ranging from 0.1% to 2.6% and from 0.4% to 43.1% indicated varied sensitivity and vulnerability to elevated O₃ pollution among different forest types. For the agricultural ecosystems, the simulations of the multiple stresses' influences including O₃ pollution, climate change, and other stresses on crop NPP and soil carbon storage was conducted. The results suggested that both NPP and SOC in China's croplands increased from 1961 to 2005 with rates of 0.036 Pg C a⁻¹ and 0.045 Pg C a⁻¹, respectively. However, the influences of increasing O₃ pollution and climate change both caused about ~9% reduction in NPP, and ~2% and ~5% soil carbon loss, respectively. And the sensitivity experiments showed that the single negative effects of O₃ pollution and climate change were exacerbated when combining the interactive effects with other factors.

Finally, model sensitivity analysis, validations and results comparisons were conducted at site and regional levels using field measurements, remote sensing and other ecosystem models, which indicated that DLEM model was able to capture the response of carbon cycle to O₃ pollution and climate variability/change; and the simulated results of DLEM are comparable to measurements and results from other studies. In the future work, to improve the accuracy of assessment and further understand the mechanisms of carbon cycle responses to O₃ pollution, climate change and other environmental factors, it is necessary to refine or develop new input data such as O₃ flux data instead of AOT40, and address the mechanisms of O₃ flux effects on key processes such as photosynthesis

and stomatal conductance rather than using dose-response relationship. In addition, re-calibration and validation of the DLEM model are necessary in order to reduce the prediction errors and to extrapolate the model to a broad domain.

This is the first reported study investigating historical (1960-2005) temporal and spatial changes of terrestrial carbon budgets across China in response to historical O₃ pollution, climate variability/change and other multiple environmental stresses. Though there is still uncertainty due to limited conditions such as database and field experiments, the main findings in this study suggest that improvement in air quality could significantly enhance the potential of carbon sequestration in China in addition to benefits to natural resource conservation and human health. Regarding future research, several aspects are important: 1) Air quality monitoring is needed, especially in rural or remote locations of grassland and forest; emissions data such as VOCs, CO and NO_x would be helpful. 2) Ecosystem models (e.g. DLEM-Ag) need to be improved through coupling the mechanisms of O₃ pollution and its interactive effects with other environmental factors on ecosystem functioning and processes dynamically among different crop types as season changes, such as O₃ effects on stomatal conductance and carbon allocation in different growth stage. 3) Further model validation should be conducted in collaboration with O₃-response field experiments. 4) In addition, it is meaningful to select O₃-resistant crops for adaption to global environmental change and to supply needed food.

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Appendix I

Table 1 Agricultural experiment stations in China used in the study (selected)

Name	latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)	Soil type	Cropping system
Harbin(Heilongjiang)	45°45'	126°46'	142.3	black soil	soybean
Yanbian(Jilin)	42°53'	129°28'	176.8	sand soil	soybean
Jinzhou(Liaoning)	41°09'	121°10'	27.4	loam	soybean
Hulunbeier(Neimeng)	48°	122°44'	306.5	sand-loam	soybean
Zunhua(Hebei)	40°12'	117°57'	54.9	loam	rice-wheat
Xuzhou(Jiangshu)	40°12'	117°57'	637.5	loam	wheat-rice
Chenggu(Shanxi)	33°10'	107°20'	750	Sand	rice
Taizhoushi(Guizhou)	28°40'	121°26'	4.6	loam	rice-rice-rice
Huishui(Guizhou)	26°08'	106°38'	990.9	loam	rice-wheat
Dali(Yunnan)	25°42'	110°11'	1990.5	loam	soybean-rice
Guyang(Neimeng)	41°02'	110°03'	1360.4	sand-loam	spring wheat
Hami(Xinjiang)	42°94'	93°31'	737.2	sand-loam	spring wheat
Zhangbei(Hebei)	114°42'	41°09'	1393.3	loam	spring wheat
Ruomuhong(Hainan)	36°26'	96°25'	2790.4	sand-loam	spring wheat
Laiyang(Shandong)	36°58'	120°44'	675	sand-loam	wheat-maize
Yongni(Ningxia)	38°15'	106°15'	524.95	loam	spring wheat
Nenjiang(Heilongjiang)	49°10'	125°14'	242.2	loam	spring wheat
Tongzhou(Hebei)	39°55'	116°38'	43.3	sand-loam	maize-wheat
Yuncheng(Shandong)	35°03'	111°03'	365	sand	wheat-wheat
Xuzhou(Jiangshu)	34°17'	117°09'	41.2	loam	wheat-maize
Baicheng(Jilin)	45°38'	122°50'	169.9	sand	maize-maize
Chaoyangshi(Liaoning)	41°33'	120°27'	568	loam	maize-maize
Jiuquan(Gansu)	39°46'	98°29'	1477.2	loam	wheat-maize

Table 2 Comparisons of main input data, plant functional types, and land use and land cover change in two models (DLEM and TEM)

Input requirements								
	Mean temperature	Min/Max-temperature	Precipitation	Relative humidity	Solar radiation	Soil texture	Soil depth	Elevation
DLEM	D	D	D	D	D	X	X	X
TEM	M		M		M	X		X

Considered plant functional types							
	Forests	Grassland	Shrub land	Crop	Meadows	Desert	Wetland
DLEM	Yes	Yes	Yes, evergreen/deciduous	Yes	Meadow	Open shrub	Wetland
TEM	Yes	Yes	Yes, arid, Mediterranean	Yes, grass	Wet tundra	Arid shrub	

Processes of land use and land cover change							
	upland crops		paddy land	urban	crop harvest	fertilizer application	land conversion
DLEM	corn, spring wheat/winter wheat	corn, spring wheat/winter wheat	rice	lawn	prescribed	prescribed	yes natural-crop, crop-natural, urbanization
TEM	harvested C ₃ grass	harvested C ₃ grass	harvested, no water limited grass	grass	degree-day	prescribed: un-limited (>100 kg N/ha), limited <100 kg N/ha	Yes natural-crop, crop-natural, urbanization

Where, required variables are indicated with an ‘X’, except for climate variables where models required daily (D) or monthly (M) inputs; ‘yes’ means the plant functional type is included in the simulation.

Table 3 Key ecosystem processes related to ozone effects in two models

	TEM	DLEM
PET/ET	Jensen-Haise [1963]	Modified Penman-Monteith
Carbon uptake by vegetation	Multiple limitation	Farquhar
Nitrogen uptake by vegetation	Monthly	Daily
$C_i = f(C_a)$	yes	yes
Stomatal conductance = $f(C_a)$	no	yes
Vegetation C/N = $f(C_a)$	no	yes
Plant respiration Q10	1.5-2.5	
No. of soil water layer	1	3
No. of vegetation carbon/nitrogen pool	1	4
No. of litter/soil carbon/nitrogen pool	2	3
Equilibrium	Dynamic simulation (10 to 3000 years) until carbon and nitrogen pools come into balance(g.g., NEP = 0, NMIN = NUPTAKE, N input = N lost)	Dynamic simulation (500 to 3000 years) until carbon and nitrogen pools come into balance(e.g., NEP = 0, NMIN = NUPTAKE, N input = N lost)
Temporal scale	monthly	Daily/monthly/annual
Ozone input data	Monthly	Daily
Stomatal conductance		Yes
persistent damage	Yes	Yes

Appendix II

198

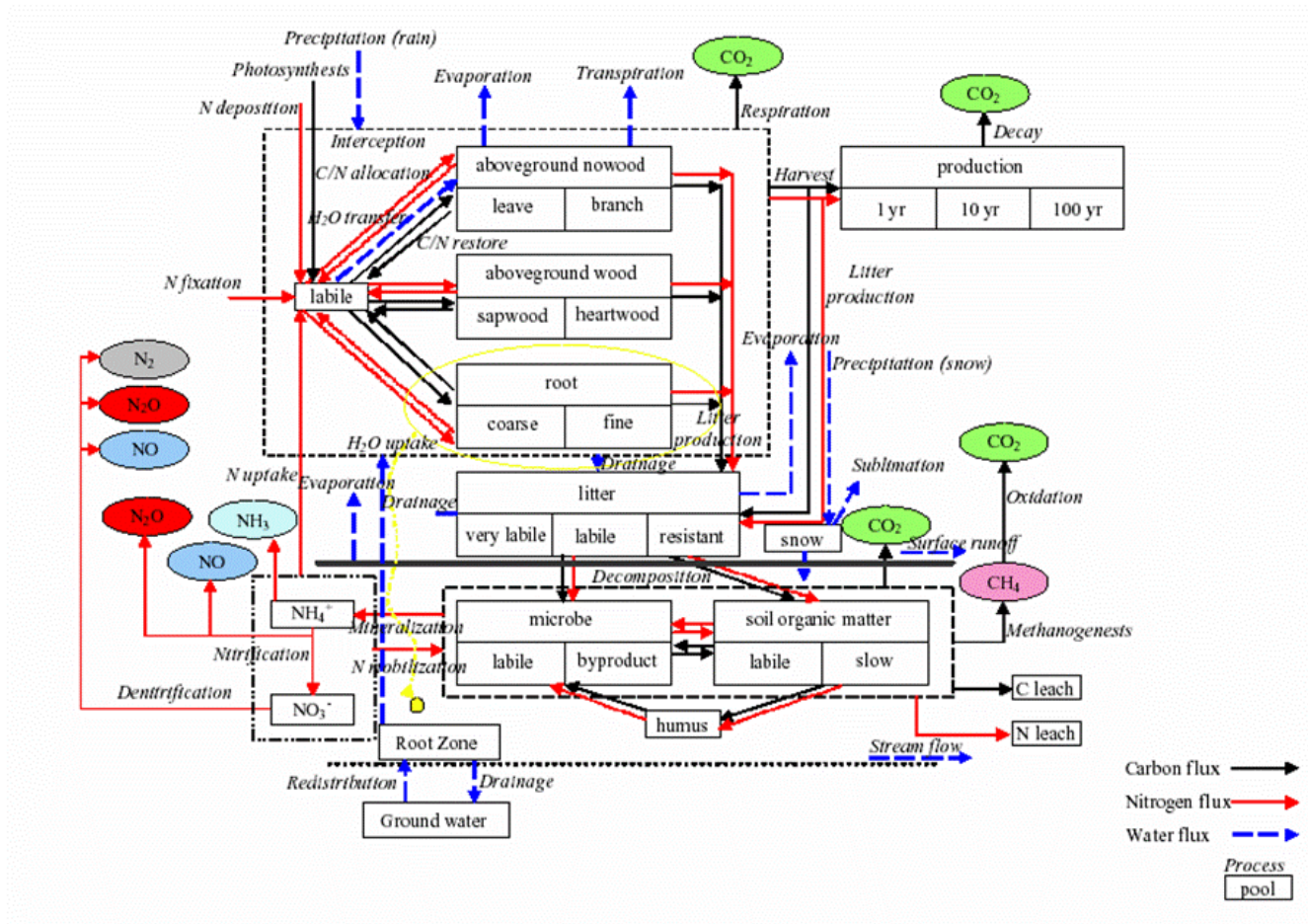


Figure 1 Structure of DLEM

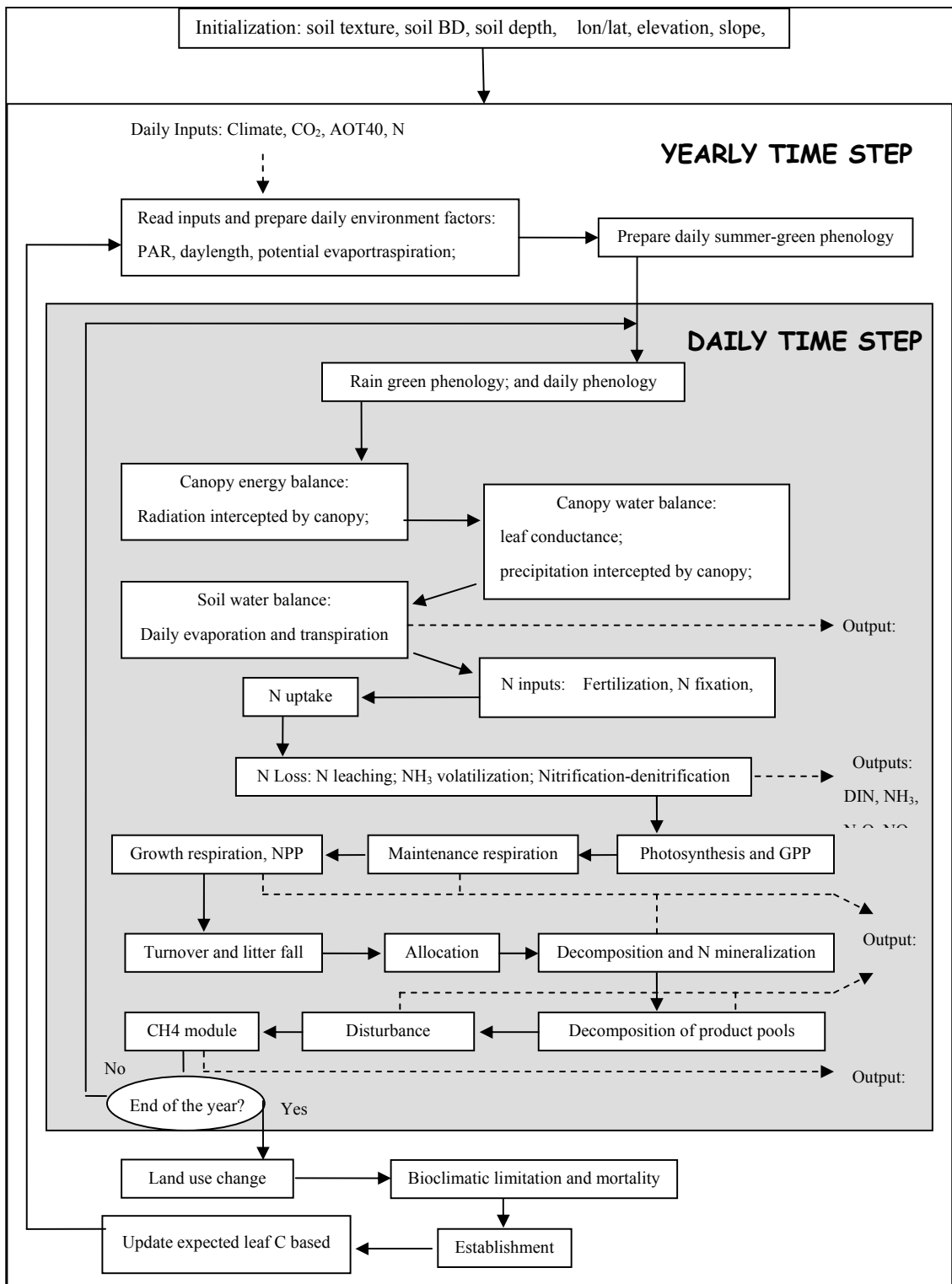


Figure 2 Flow chart of DLEM

Table 1 Some important parameters in DLEM

	Description	deciduous broadleaf	evergreen coniferous	grass	shrub	crop
Light extinction						
k_{ext}	coefficient	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.85
α_{sw}	Albedo	0.2	0.27	0.2	0.2	0.2
α_{O_3}	Ozone coefficient	2.6×10^{-6}	0.7×10^{-6}	2.6×10^{-6}	2.6×10^{-6}	3.9×10^{-6}
$R_{year,leaf}$	Residential time of leaf	1	4	1	1	1
Residential time of						
$R_{year,sapwood}$	sapwood	20	15	1	20	1
Residential time of fine						
$R_{year,fineroot}$	root	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.5	0.5
Residential time of						
$R_{year,coarseroot}$	coarse root	80	80	20	80	20
MIN_CN_{leaf}	Leaf C:N ratio	21	40	30.9	23.6	21
Fraction of carbon						
$k_{alloc,crt}$	allocated to root	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.2
$CNmrt_{leaf}$	C:N ratio of leaf litter	49	93	40	83	49
C:N ratio of fineroot						
$CNmrt_{fit}$	litter	42	60	49	60	49
CN_{swd}	C:N ratio of sapwood	50	70	40	42	62
CN_{hwd}	C:N ratio of heartwood	150	150		150	82
CN_{crt}	C:N ratio of coarseroot	73	80	60	60	28.13
CN_{fit}	C:N ratio of fineroot	40	42	35	40	28.13
C:N ratio of reproduct						
CN_{prd}	pool	40	40	30	30	30
Nitrogen uptake						
k_{nup}	coefficient	0.47	0.42	0.12	0.1	0.35
maximum CH4						
mg_0	production rate	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
maximum CH4						
O_{max}	oxidation rate	0.19	0.09	0.22	0.11	0.1
gdd_base	Leaf onset temperature	2	5	0	0	0
Maximum sum of heat						
when the leaf cease to						
$Sgdd$	grow	200	500	200	1000	700
Fraction of root in the						
$Z1$	upper soil layer	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8
Minimum temperature						
$minT$	for survive	-17	-2	--	--	--

maxT	Maximum temperature for survive	15.5	22	15.5	--	--
minGDD	Minimum annual heat accumulation for survive	1200	900	--	--	--
leafRootMax	Maximum leaf:root ratio	1	1	0.75	1	0.75
G_BL	Boundary layer conductance	0.01	0.008	0.01	0.008	0.04

Table 2 Main inputs to DLEM

Category	Symbol	Units	Explanation	Timestep
Climate	TMAX	⁰ C	Maximum temperature	Daily
	TMIN	⁰ C	Minimum temperature	Daily
	PPT	mm/day	Precipitation	Daily
	VPD	Pa	Vapor pressure deficit (optional)	Daily
	SRAD	w/m ²	Short wave radiation (optional)	Daily
Atmospheric composition	CO ₂	ppmv	Atmospheric CO ₂ concentration	Yearly
	AOT40	ppb-hr	Accumulated dose over a threshold of 40 ppb through the past 30 days @	Daily
	NH4DEP	g N/m ² /day	NH ₄ deposition	Daily
	NO3DEP	g N/m ² /day	NO ₃ deposition	Daily
Land-use	LUCC	0 / 1	Land use type: 0 means natural land type, 1 means cropland	Yearly
	IRRIG	0 / 1	Cropland irrigation: 0 means no irrigation; 1 means irrigation applied	Yearly
	FERT	0 / 1	Cropland fertilization: 0 means no fertilization; 1 means fertilization applied (i.e. no N limitation)	Yearly
Disturbances	DISTURB	Integer numbers	Disturbances. Each number is denotes a disturbance type.	Daily

Vegetation Maps	VEG, POTVEG	Index of PFTs	Required for non-dynamic mode. VEG: Potential vegetation; POTVEG: contemporary vegetation map	Initialization
Geography and topography	LAT	Degree	Latitude	Initialization
	LON	Degree	Longitude	Initialization
	ELEV	Meter	Elevation (from sea level)	Initialization
	ASPECT	degree	Aspect	Initialization
	SLOPE	Degree	Slope	Initialization
	APET	mm/yr	Long-term average potential evapor-transpiration	Initialization
	APPT	mm/yr	Long-term average precipitation	Initialization
Soil	BD	g/cm ³	Bulk density	Initialization
	DEPTH	meter	Soil thickness	Initialization
	CLAY	%	Clay content	Initialization
	SAND	%	Sand content	Initialization
	SILT	%	Silt content	Initialization
	PH	pH	Soil pH	Initialization

@ AOT40 is the sum of the differences between the hourly mean ozone concentration (ppb) and 40 ppb for each hour when the concentration exceeds 40 ppb, accumulated during daylight times.