# Role of land cover changes for atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> increase and climate change during the last 150 years

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#### **Abstract**

We assess the role of changing natural (volcanic, aerosol, insolation) and anthropogenic (CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, land cover) forcings on the global climate system over the last 150 years using an earth system model of intermediate complexity, CLIMBER-2. We apply several datasets of historical land-use reconstructions: the cropland dataset by Ramankutty & Foley (1999) (R&F), the HYDE land cover dataset of Klein Goldewijk (2001), and the land-use emissions data from Houghton & Hackler (2002). Comparison between the simulated and observed temporal evolution of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and  $\delta^{13}$ CO<sub>2</sub> are used to evaluate these datasets. To check model uncertainty, CLIMBER-2 was coupled to the more complex Lund-Potsdam-Jena (LPJ) dynamic global vegetation model.

In simulation with R&F dataset, biogeophysical mechanisms due to land cover changes tend to decrease global air temperature by  $0.26\,^{\circ}$ C, while biogeochemical mechanisms act to warm the climate by  $0.18\,^{\circ}$ C. The net effect on climate is negligible on a global scale, but pronounced over the land in the temperate and high northern latitudes where a cooling due to an increase in land surface albedo offsets the warming due to land-use  $CO_2$  emissions.

Land cover changes led to estimated increases in atmospheric  $CO_2$  of between 22 and 43 ppmv. Over the entire period 1800–2000, simulated  $\delta^{13}CO_2$  with HYDE compares most favourably with ice core during 1850–1950 and Cape Grim data, indicating preference of earlier land clearance in HYDE over R&F. In relative terms, land cover forcing corresponds to 25–49% of the observed growth in atmospheric  $CO_2$ . This contribution declined from 36–60% during 1850–1960 to 4–35% during 1960–2000. CLIMBER-2-LPJ simulates the land cover contribution to atmospheric  $CO_2$  growth to decrease from 68% during 1900–1960 to 12% in the 1980s. Overall, our simulations show a decline in the relative role of land cover changes for atmospheric  $CO_2$  increase during the last 150 years.

*Keywords:* atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentration, atmospheric  $\delta^{13}CO_2$ , biogeophysical effects, biosphere-atmosphere interaction, earth system modelling, historical land cover changes, interactive carbon cycle

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#### Introduction

Between one-third and one-half of the land surface has been directly transformed by human action (Vitousek *et al.,* 1997). Changes in land cover trigger a chain of feedbacks in the climate system. Deforestation in northern temperate and boreal regions leads to an increase in land surface albedo during snow season and

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consequent cooling (e.g. Bonan *et al.*, 1992; Claussen *et al.*, 2001; Ganopolski *et al.*, 2001). This regional cooling, amplified by the sea-ice albedo feedback, propagates to the global scale via atmospheric and oceanic responses. Through changes in transpiration, boreal deforestation affects the partitioning between sensible and latent heat, thereby increasing land surface temperature during summer (Betts, 2001; Brovkin *et al.*, 2003). In tropical regions, large-scale deforestation leads to a reduction in precipitation and an increase in land surface temperature in the deforested region

(Henderson-Sellers *et al.*, 1993; De Fries *et al.*, 2002). The effects of small-scale tropical deforestation (Avissar *et al.*, 2002), as well as the remote effects of tropical deforestation (Chase *et al.*, 2000), are not clear. Despite complex geographical patterns, the overall effect of historical land cover changes on climate has been estimated as cooling in both equilibrium (Betts, 2001) and transient (Brovkin *et al.*, 1999; Bertrand *et al.*, 2002; Bauer *et al.*, 2003) experiments using climate models.

Most of these studies highlight the biogeophysical effects of land cover change (i.e. changes in albedo, transpiration, and surface roughness) on climate. Associated biogeochemical effects, in particular direct emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from land conversion, affect atmospheric gas composition, and hence also climate (Fig. 1). Historical cumulative carbon losses due to changes in land use have been estimated to be 180-200 Pg C (House et al., 2002). Between 10% and 30% of the current total anthropogenic emissions of  $CO_2$  are caused by land-use conversion (Prentice et al., 2001). Vegetation productivity and soil decomposition respond to changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and climate patterns and, thereby, impact terrestrial carbon storage. At the same time, changes in atmospheric  $CO_2$ , sea surface temperatures, and oceanic circulation alter patterns of CO<sub>2</sub> solubility and biological productivity and, consequently, oceanic carbon storage. All these mechanisms operate under climatic and CO<sub>2</sub> perturbations induced by climatic variability and changes in natural (e.g. volcanic aerosols, solar irradiation) and anthropogenic (e.g. fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub>) forcing.

The assessment of the effects of land cover changes on the climate system requires a model capable of simulating interactions between all the necessary components of the Earth system, namely the atmosphere, land, ocean, and carbon cycle. Such models can be of different complexity, ranging from one- and two-dimensional models (Wigley & Raper, 1992; Gerber *et al.*, 2003) to full complexity models (Cox *et al.*, 2000; Friedlingstein *et al.*,

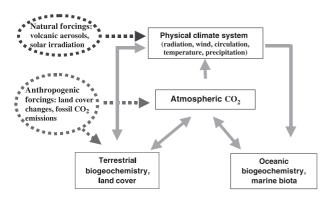


Fig. 1 External forcings and feedbacks in the climate system accounted for in the model simulations.

2001). To allow long model integrations and maintain broad-scale geographic patterns, we use an Earth system model of intermediate complexity (EMIC), CLIMBER-2 (Petoukhov et al., 2000), and study both biogeophysical and biogeochemical effects of land cover changes on climate. EMICs are simplified but geographically explicit models capable to simulate all the main processes discussed above (Claussen et al., 2002). Computational efficiency of these models allows to perform many sensitivity experiments and to investigate the influence of uncertainty in climatic forcings and process parameterizations on model results (Forest et al., 2002). In the recent IPCC assessment (Prentice et al., 2001), the role of land cover changes in the climate system has been described in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Rather than simply estimating the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, we focus directly on a relative role of land-use change for the increase of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (i.e. the primary climate forcing). We also test the uncertainty due to differences in land cover reconstructions and model parameterizations. Several reconstructions of historical land cover changes during the last 300 years are available at present: (i) cropland dataset of Ramankutty & Foley (1999) (R&F); (ii) the HYDE land cover dataset (Klein Goldewijk, 2001); and (iii) the land-use emissions dataset of Houghton et al. (1982). The latter dataset is based on a land inventory or bookkeeping approach; it has been subsequently improved and transformed into a land-use emission dataset (Houghton & Hackler, 2002) (HGT). The estimates obtained for net land-use flux during the 1980s by the Carbon Cycle Model Linkage Project (CCMLP) based on the R&F dataset are substantially smaller than the fluxes from HGT (McGuire et al., 2001). We investigate the effect of R&F, HYDE, and HGT reconstructions on atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> within the framework of a climate system model. We test uncertainty in model parameterizations by performing online simulations with a more complex biosphere dynamics model, Lund-Potsdam-Jena (LPJ) (Sitch et al., 2003). Comparison between the simulated and observed temporal evolution of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and  $\delta^{13}$ C are used to evaluate model runs.

### Methods

CLIMBER-2 is a climate system model of intermediate complexity (Petoukhov *et al.*, 2000). It includes a 2.5-dimensional dynamical–statistical atmosphere model with a coarse spatial resolution of 10° latitude and 51° longitude, a multibasin, zonally averaged ocean model, a sea-ice model with latitudinal resolution of 2.5° and a terrestrial vegetation model. Results from CLIMBER-2 compare favourably with data of the present-day climate, paleoclimatic reconstructions (Claussen *et al.*,

1999), and with results from sensitivity experiments undertaken with comprehensive models (Ganopolski et al., 2001). The model has been recently upgraded incorporating a model for oceanic biogeochemistry including a marine biota model and tested for the Holocene period (Brovkin et al., 2002). In the following simulations, the parameters of CLIMBER-2 are kept the same as in the preindustrial simulation AOVC-0K discussed by Brovkin et al. (2002).

In all simulations, atmosphere, ocean, and vegetation components are interactive, accounting for both physical and chemical feedbacks. In particular, atmospheric  $CO_2$  is interactive and resolved on an annual time step:

$$C_{\rm A}(t+1) = C_{\rm A}(t) + \beta(E(t) + F_{\rm OA}(t) + F_{\rm LA}(t)),$$
 (1)

where  $C_A$  is the atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentration (ppmv), E is the fossil fuel emission (PgCyr<sup>-1</sup>),  $F_{OA}$ and F<sub>LA</sub> are annual ocean-atmosphere and land-atmosphere carbon fluxes (PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>), respectively, and  $\beta$  is the conversion factor. As a first approximation, biogeochemical processes with time scales greater than millennia (oceanic sedimentation, weathering, peat accumulation, and mineralization) are ignored.

# **Forcings**

Two types of external forcings have been applied in the simulations: natural and anthropogenic. For the natural forcings, we employed a reconstruction of solar irradiance and volcanic forcing by Crowley (2000), both normalized to 1365 W m<sup>-2</sup>. For further details see descriptions of forcings  $S_{14}$  and V in Bauer et al. (2003). Trend in solar irradiance is important to match the observed increase in temperature during the first half of 20th century. Radiative forcing due to sulphate aerosols and non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases were neglected in the simulations; in a first approximation, these forcings are similar in amplitude but different in sign on the global scale. Solar and volcanic forcings shown in Fig. 2a are used in all simulations.

Anthropogenic forcing includes fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and historical land cover changes. The former for years 1750-1999 are taken from Marland et al. (2002) (MBA data) (Fig. 2c). Before 1750, emissions are neglected. Emission forcing is the only anthropogenic forcing in simulation E. Forcing due to historical land cover changes is explained hereafter and denoted with an H in the simulation acronym (see Table 1). For historical land cover changes we employ the R&F dataset for the years 1700-1992, except in simulations EH-HYDE and EH-HGT. Timing of land cover changes prior to 1700 is highly uncertain; for simplicity, a linear interpolation of data is used for years 1000-1700.

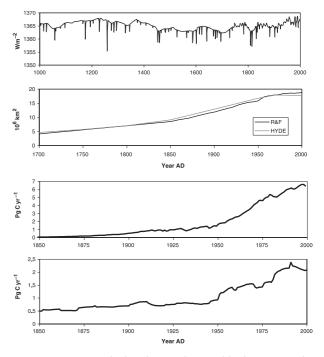


Fig. 2 Forcings applied in the simulations. (a) Changes in solar irradiation and volcanic forcing (Bauer et al., 2003); (b) decrease in globally averaged tree area in accordance with R&F and HYDE land cover datasets; (c) fossil fuel emissions from MBA; (d) land-use emission from HGT.

Between 1992 and 2000, we linearly extrapolate the R&F dataset using the trend between the 1980s and the 1970s decadal averages. The data were aggregated to the coarse spatial resolution of CLIMBER-2.

In CLIMBER-2, vegetation cover is described in terms of fractions of trees and grasses, while the R&F dataset specifies land cover changes in terms of crop fraction. We interpret changes in cropland area as changes in tree area, although, in general, deforestation and increase in crop fraction are not the same. For example, the latter might be due to conversion of grassland. Nevertheless, the historical increase in crop area is approximately equal to the decrease in forest area. Unlike R&F, HYDE explicitly resolves changes in forested area. We assume crop ecosystems function in a way similar to grasslands.

In all simulations, initial conditions at the year 1000 AD are taken as the prehistorical equilibrium simulated for present-day orbital forcing, constant insolation of 1365 W m<sup>-2</sup>, absence of volcanic eruptions and land cover changes, and atmospheric  $pCO_2 = 280 \text{ ppmv}$ . Each grid cell is divided into natural and cropland fractions. Vegetation in the natural fraction evolves freely in response to climate change. If the tree fraction is reduced, then a carbon flux associated with removal of tree biomass is emitted directly into atmosphere. This

Table 1 List of simulation experiments done for the study

Simulation	Fossil fuel CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	Reconstruction of land cover change	Terrestrial carbon flux
CONTROL	_	_	CLIMBER
E*	${ m MBA}^\dagger$	_	CLIMBER
H*	_	$R \& F^{\dagger}$	CLIMBER
$H_P^{\ddagger}$	_	R&F	_
$H_C^{\ddagger}$	_	R&F	CLIMBER
EH (baseline)	MBA	R&F	CLIMBER
EH-HYDE	MBA	HYDE <sup>†</sup>	CLIMBER
EH-HGT	MBA	HGT <sup>†</sup> (CO <sub>2</sub> flux), R&F (biophysics)	HGT + CLIMBER
E-LPJ	MBA	_	LPJ, years 1900-1992
EH-LPJ	MBA	R&F	LPJ, years 1900–1992

<sup>\*</sup>E in the simulation acronym is for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, H for historical land cover changes.

is simplified in comparison with approaches by Houghton *et al.* (1982), McGuire *et al.* (2001), and Leemans *et al.* (2002), where dynamics of forestry and agricultural products in pools with different time scales are accounted for. As a consequence, CLIMBER-2 simulations might slightly overestimate CO<sub>2</sub> flux associated with land cover change (this is different in the CLIMBER-LPJ simulations discussed below). Abandoned crop area is available for regrowth of natural vegetation. In all simulations, changes in tree cover affected climate via changes in land surface biophysics and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

# Uncertainty in land cover data

Data and models are subject to uncertainty. We used the HYDE dataset to test the effect of a different land cover dataset on atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> dynamics. HYDE specifies changes in forest (woodland) area explicitly while its temporal resolution, 50 years during 1700–1950 and 20 years during 1950–1990, is coarser than the annual resolution of R&F dataset. We used a version of HYDE with natural vegetation cover simulated by BIOME1. HYDE has discrete classes of vegetation on a spatial resolution of  $0.5^{\circ} \times 0.5^{\circ}$ ; during upscaling to coarse CLIMBER-2 resolution the data were transformed to fraction of deforested area. For the periods 1000–1700 and 1990–2000 we applied the same data interpolation as for the R&F dataset.

Besides R&F and HYDE datasets, we used HGT dataset of land-use emissions. The dataset for years 1850–2000 includes only emissions due to land conversion to agriculture. Changes in terrestrial carbon storage due to climate and CO<sub>2</sub> change are not included. In the simulation EH-HGT, we use land cover changes from R&F dataset until 1850, and HGT

land cover change CO<sub>2</sub> emissions thereafter. Changes in land carbon storage due to climate and CO<sub>2</sub> change are simulated by CLIMBER-2.

#### Uncertainty in model parameterizations

To address uncertainty in parameterizations of the vegetation model, we coupled CLIMBER-2 with LPJ-DGVM (Sitch *et al.*, 2003), which includes more mechanisms and is typically used at a higher spatial resolution than the VECODE vegetation model used in CLIMBER-2. This allows LPJ to resolve the seasonal dynamics of biogeochemical processes, including a coupled plant production-water balance scheme, resource competition, population dynamics, and fire disturbance (Thonicke, *et al.*, 2001). Vegetation is represented by a larger set of 10 plant functional types (PFTs) differentiated by physiological, morphological, phenological, bioclimatic, and fire-response attributes.

In our coupled simulations, LPJ is used with a spatial resolution of 0.5° latitude/longitude and is called at the end of the every CLIMBER-2 simulation year. CLIMBER-2 provides LPJ with monthly anomalies of surface air temperature, precipitation, and cloudiness, which are added to the background climate patterns from the CRU climate dataset of the Climate Research Unit, University of East Anglia (New *et al.*, 1999, 2000). Absolute anomalies are used for temperature and cloudiness and relative anomalies for precipitation.

Monthly land–atmosphere carbon fluxes simulated by LPJ are summed over the year and over every grid cell. This annual global sum,  $F_{LA}(t)$  is passed onto CLIMBER-2 and used to calculate atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentration for the next year, see Eqn (1). The simulated atmospheric  $CO_2$  is used as input for LPJ in calculating  $F_{LA}(t)$  in the next year, thus creating a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>MBA is for data by Marland *et al.* (2002), R&F for Ramankutty and Foley (1999), HYDE for Klein Goldewijk (2001), HGT for Houghton & Hackler (2002).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>‡</sup>H\_P, biogeophysical effects only; H\_C, biogeochemical effects only.

biogeochemical feedback between LPJ and CLIMBER-2. Biogeophysical feedback of land cover changes on climate is simulated by VECODE.

As LPJ simulates fire disturbance, it needs interannually variable climate in order to correctly simulate global vegetation. CLIMBER-2 simulates the long-term (decadal to millennia) trend in climate, but not interannual climate variability. To account for the latter in the coupled simulations, we used a cyclic replication of CRU monthly climatology for years 1901-1930 during the 1000 years spinup. The model has been initialized with land cover for the year 1901 after running for a spinup using pre-1900 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and climate patterns simulated by CLIMBER-2 from the EH simulation.

For each transient year (1901–1992), a year between 1901 and 1930 was randomly selected. The corresponding set of 12 months CRU climatology is updated with climate anomalies from CLIMBER-2 and used to drive LPJ. To yield statistically significant results, we repeated coupled simulations 40 times and calculated mean average and standard deviation of the simulation ensemble. In simulation EH-LPJ, the R&F dataset was used as the land cover forcing after the year 1901. Land carbon fluxes were calculated in accordance with the approach by McGuire et al. (2001).

#### Results

Effect of land cover changes on global temperature

Climate change in simulation H is a product of two effects, biogeophysical (changes in albedo, transpiration) and biogeochemical (changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>

concentration). To separate these effects, we performed two additional sensitivity simulations, H\_P and H\_C. In simulation H P, the radiative effect of CO<sub>2</sub> released to the atmosphere due to land cover changes is ignored (i.e. biogeophysical effect only). Changes in mean annual global temperature relative to the CONTROL simulation are presented in Fig. 3. In simulation H\_P, temperature decreases by 0.26 °C in year 2000. Before 1850, changes in temperature are rather small (-0.1 °C), and they accelerate after 1850 (Fig. 3). Temperature dynamics approximately follow the trend in deforested area (Fig. 2b). The cooling, due to biogeophysical forcing, is in line with results from other studies using General Circulation models (GCMs), (Betts, 2001) and EMICs (Bertrand et al., 2002; Matthews et al., 2003).

In simulation H\_C, the radiative effect of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted to the atmosphere due to land cover changes is accounted for while biophysical effects are neglected (i.e. biogeochemical effect only). Due to growth in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, the climate becomes warmer, with temperature increases of 0.18 °C by year 2000.

In simulation H, biogeochemically induced warming opposes biogeophysical cooling. The global mean annual temperature shows a slightly decreasing trend, with a decrease of 0.05 °C by 2000 relative to the CONTROL (Fig. 3). This temperature decrease occurs despite an increase of 18 ppmv in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in simulation H. This small net change, albeit within the natural variability of the climate system, is clearly detectable with the statistical-dynamical atmospheric module of CLIMBER-2, which averages synoptic-scale variability and allows quantification of the effect of small radiative forcings (Petoukhov et al., 2000).

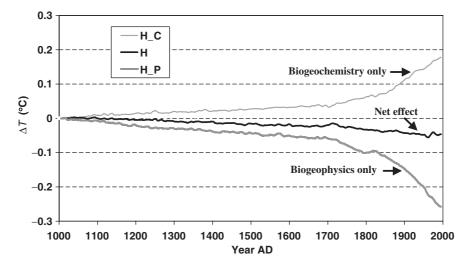
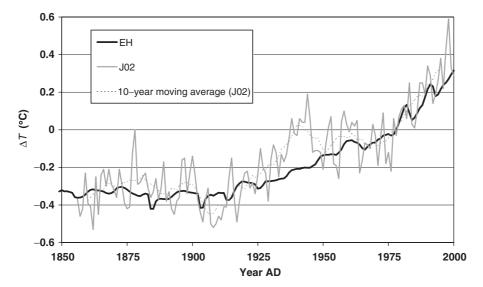


Fig. 3 Effect of historical land cover changes on global mean annual temperature: H\_P, biogeophysical effect only; H\_C, biogeochemical effect only; H, both biogeophysical and biogeochemical effects. A 10-year moving average of anomalies relative to the CONTROL simulation is shown.



**Fig. 4** Simulated global annual temperature anomalies normalized to 1961–1990. Grey solid line – observation data by Jones *et al.* (2001); grey dashed line – 10-year moving average for data by Jones *et al.* (2001); black solid line – EH simulation.

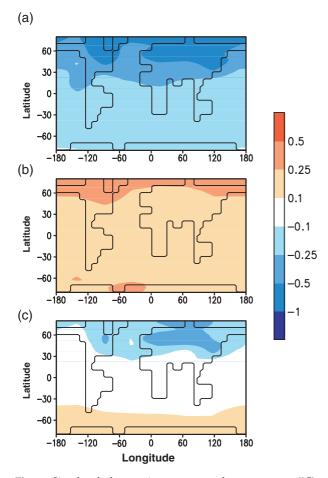


Fig. 5 Simulated changes in mean annual temperatures ( $^{\circ}$ C). (a) H\_P simulation; (b) H\_C simulation, (c) H simulation. Changes during the 1990s relative to the CONTROL simulation are shown.

Altogether, the forcings produce an increase in temperature similar to that observed over the last 150 years (Fig. 4). During the second part of the 19th century, the temperature stays nearly constant despite increases in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Here, the effect of increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> on temperature is counterbalanced by the biogeophysical effect of deforestation. Therefore, deforestation forcing might be necessary to explain and reproduce changes in temperature during the second half of the 19th century. In the 20th century, the main trend is an increase of temperature due to increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and solar irradiance. For a detailed discussion of the effects of these forcings on the climate of the last millennium using CLIMBER-2, see Bauer *et al.* (2003).

#### Regional climate changes

Geographical distribution of annual temperature changes is shown in Fig. 5. In simulation H\_P, all regions show a decrease in temperature with the largest change of over -0.5 °C in the land regions in the temperate and high northern latitudes (Fig. 5a). This is because the forcing originates in these regions and propagates to the global scale mainly through changes in sea surface temperatures and sea-ice cover. In contrast to the biogeophysical forcing, CO<sub>2</sub> forcing is not region specific but global due to the fast atmospheric mixing of emitted CO<sub>2</sub>. Increased CO<sub>2</sub> concentration leads to a global warming, which is more pronounced in the polar regions due to the sea-ice albedo feedback (Fig. 5b). The net effect of both forcings is negligible over the tropical regions but quite

significant over the extratropical regions in the Northern hemisphere, especially over Eurasia (Fig. 5c). Over the regions covered in winter by snow, the biogeophysical cooling dominates over the biogeochemical warming.

# Response of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> to the forcings

According to the Law Dome data (Etheridge et al., 1996), atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> fluctuated around the preindustrial concentration of 280 ppmv until the 19th century. By year 2000, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> reached a concentration of 369 ppmv at Mauna Loa (Keeling & Whorf, 2002). Assuming Mauna Loa is representative of the whole globe, growth in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> during the last millennium was 89 ppmv. To separate the effect of land cover changes in this CO2 growth from the role of fossil fuel emissions, we performed simulation E with emissions only, simulations H with historical land cover changes only following R&F dataset, and simulation EH with both forcings (see Fig. 6 and Table 1).

Years 1850-1940. In the Law Dome data, this period is characterized by a cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> growth of 25 ppmv, with an almost constant rate of 0.3 ppmv yr<sup>-1</sup> between 1875 and 1940. Increases in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> during this period are 10, 7, and 18 ppmv in the E, H, and EH simulations, respectively (Table 2). While cumulative emissions from MBA data are 47 PgC, or 22 ppmv in terms of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, the ocean absorbs about one-half of this amount and only 10 ppmv is left in the atmosphere in the E simulation. Land cover changes lead to an 8 ppmv growth of atmospheric CO2 (difference between the EH and H simulations). Observed CO<sub>2</sub> growth during 1850-1940 is 7 ppmv higher than in the EH simulation. Possible reasons for the too slow CO<sub>2</sub> growth in the model might be an underestimation of deforestation during this period as well as the impact of natural climate variability on the carbon cycle, which is unaccounted for in the simulations.

Years 1940-1950. The period between 1938 and 1950 is interesting because of an almost constant atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> recorded at Law Dome, despite substantial fossil fuel emissions (about  $1.3 \,\mathrm{Pg}\,\mathrm{C}\,\mathrm{yr}^{-1}$ ). In the E simulation, CO<sub>2</sub> growth during the 1940s was 2.6 ppmv. The EH simulation revealed an additional CO2 increase of 0.7 ppmv due to land cover changes (Table 2), as the R&F dataset shows slowing rate of deforestation during this decade. Since the period includes the Second World War, land-use statistics for this period may not be very reliable. Nevertheless, even without any land-use changes (E simulation), atmospheric CO2 grows at a rate comparable to previous decades. We conclude that the stalling of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> during the 1940s was unlikely to have been caused by changes in land cover, although this might be one of the contributing factors. Other factors, like internal variability of the climate system, may also be responsible (Joos et al., 1999). Better statistics for land cover changes during the 1940s would help to clarify the role of land cover changes in this period.

Years 1950-2000. Rapid CO<sub>2</sub> growth during the second half of the 20th century from 311 to 369 ppmv is mostly caused by the accelerated growth of fossil fuel emissions. The E simulation reveals a 52 ppmv increase due to fossil fuel emission. EH simulates an

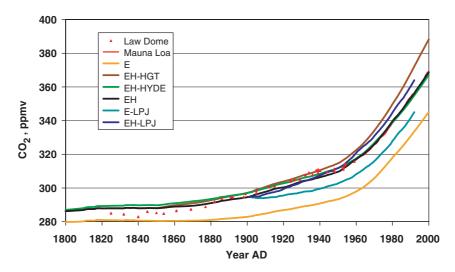


Fig. 6 Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration from the CLIMBER-2 and CLIMBER2-LPJ simulations during years 1800–2000 against Low Dome ice core data (Etheridge et al., 1996) and Mauna Loa observations (Keeling & Whorf, 2002).

Table 2 Increase in the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (ppmv), simulations against observations

Simulation/observations	Years 1000–2000	Years 1000-1850	Years 1850–1940	Years 1940–1950	Years 1950–2000
Law Dome/Mauna Loa*	89	5	25	0 ± 1	58
E	65	0	10	2.6	52
Н	18	8	7	0.2	3
EH (baseline)	89	8	18	3.3	59
EH-HYDE	87	10	19	3.4	55
EH-HGT	108	8	23	4.1	74
E-LPJ	65(76) <sup>†</sup>	8	12	3.2	42(45)
EH-LPJ	84(76)	8	20	4.2	52(45)

<sup>\*</sup>Data by Etheridge et al. (1996) and Keeling & Whorf (2002).

increase of 59 ppmv, or an additional growth of 7 ppmv due to land cover changes. While this value is almost the same as that during period 1850–1950 (9 ppmv), the relative role of land cover changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth between 1950 and 2000 is substantially lower due to growth of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. At the end of the 20th century, the terrestrial biosphere becomes a carbon sink in the model, mostly due to effect of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> concentration on plant productivity. In the EH simulation, land was a sink of 1.0 and 1.4 Pg C yr<sup>-1</sup> during the 1980s and the 1990s, respectively. Oceanic uptake was 1.5 and 1.7 Pg Cyr<sup>-1</sup> for the same periods (Table 3). These estimates are within the range given in recent studies (Prentice et al., 2001; Bopp et al., 2002; Plattner et al., 2002) (see Table 3). In the model, oceanic and land uptake during the 1980s is  $2.5 \,\mathrm{Pg}\,\mathrm{C}\,\mathrm{yr}^{-1}$ . This is larger than the observed value of  $2.1\,\mathrm{Pg}\,\mathrm{C}\,\mathrm{yr}^{-1}$  (Table 3), indicating simulated land uptake of 1.0 Pg C yr<sup>-1</sup> is too high. Nonetheless, accounting for coarse model resolution and simplified assumptions about vegetation processes, the model simulates the trend in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> during 1950–2000 surprisingly well (Fig. 6). Over the entire period 1000-1999, cumulative fossil fuel emissions are 277 Pg C from MBA, with simulated (EH) oceanic uptake of 121 Pg C, and land source of 33 Pg C. These values are very close to estimates of 280, 124, and 34 Pg C for emissions, oceanic uptake, and net land source, respectively, from House et al. (2002).

#### Simulations with HYDE, HGT datasets

In the EH-HYDE simulation, atmospheric  $CO_2$  dynamics is quite similar to the  $CO_2$  trend in the EH simulation (Fig. 6). Until 1950,  $CO_2$  concentration in the EH-HYDE is higher than in EH by up to 3 ppmv because of higher deforestation in the early period. Between 1880

and 1950, EH-HYDE is in better agreement with CO<sub>2</sub> observations than EH, presumably due to an earlier deforestation in the HYDE data. Simulated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> follows observations closely between 1950 and 1970. During the 1970s and the 1980s, simulated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth is slower than observed as well as that simulated with the R&F dataset. This is mainly due to rather high terrestrial uptake (1.3 Pg C yr<sup>-1</sup>). During the 1990s, extrapolation of the 1970-1990 trends from HYDE dataset until 2000 worked surprisingly well, resulting in terrestrial and oceanic uptake of 1.5 and 1.6 Pg C yr<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, in line with the IPCC estimates (Prentice et al., 2001). In year 2000, simulated CO<sub>2</sub> was 2 ppmv lower than observed (and the EH simulation). In comparison with R&F data, HYDE data indicates a slightly reduced role of land cover changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth, or 22 ppmv (a difference between the EH-HYDE and E simulations).

The EH-HGT simulation starts to deviate from the EH after 1850. Until 1940, simulated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> follows Law Dome data with an increase of 23 ppmv between 1850 and 1940. During the 1940s, CO<sub>2</sub> grows by 4.1 ppmv, slightly higher than 3.3 and 3.4 ppmv simulated in the EH and EH-HYDE runs, respectively. During the second half of the 20th century, CO<sub>2</sub> growth is 74 ppmv, 16 ppmv higher than observed. This growth is explained by a high release of CO<sub>2</sub> from the land in HGT data. For example, the average land-use flux in HGT dataset is 2.0 and 2.2 Pg C yr<sup>-1</sup> during the 1980s and the 1990s, respectively. Simulated carbon uptake due to CO<sub>2</sub> growth and climate change is 1.8 and 2.2 Pg C yr<sup>-1</sup> for the 1980s and the 1990s, respectively. As a result, the land is a net source of  $0.2 \,\mathrm{Pg}\,\mathrm{C}\,\mathrm{yr}^{-1}$ during the 1980s and neutral during the 1990s, while ocean uptake is 1.7 and 2.0 Pg C yr<sup>-1</sup> during these periods (Table 3).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>The values for LPJ simulations are for years 1900–1992 only; numbers in parentheses are for observed data during the same period as for LPJ.

E in the simulation acronym is for  $CO_2$  emissions, H for historical land cover changes, HYDE is for data by Klein Goldewijk (2001), HGT for Houghton & Hackler (2002); LPJ, Lund–Potsdam–Jena.

Table 3 Simulated carbon fluxes\* during 1980–1999 (PgCyr<sup>-1</sup>) and comparison with the other estimates

	Years 1980–1989		Years 1990–1999 <sup>†</sup>	ırs 1990–1999 <sup>†</sup>	
Simulation	Land	Ocean	Land	Ocean	
E	-1.5	-1.3	-1.8	-1.5	
Н	0.2	-0.2	0.1	-0.2	
EH (baseline)	-1.0	-1.5	-1.4	-1.7	
EH-HYDE	-1.3	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	
EH-HGT	0.2	-1.7	0	-2.0	
E-LPJ	-1.2	-1.3			
EH-LPJ	-0.5	-1.6			
Other estimates					
Prentice et al. (2001)	$-0.2 \pm 0.7$	$-1.9 \pm 0.6$	$-1.4 \pm 0.7$	$-1.7 \pm 0.5$	
Plattner et al. (2002)	$-0.4\pm0.7$	$-1.7 \pm 0.6$	$-0.7 \pm 0.8$	$-2.4 \pm 0.7$	
Bopp et al. (2002)	$-0.3\pm0.9$	$-1.8\pm0.8$	$-1.2\pm0.9$	$-2.3\pm0.7$	

<sup>\*</sup>In accordance with the IPCC approach (Prentice et al., 2001), negative flux values mean uptake of carbon by land (ocean), while positive value corresponds to release of land (ocean) carbon to atmosphere.

# Changes in atmospheric $\delta^{13}CO_2$

Both oceanic and terrestrial components of CLIMBER-2 simulate <sup>13</sup>C cycle (Brovkin et al., 2002). The major effect on atmospheric  $\delta^{13}CO_2$  in our simulations should come from the land cover changes and fossil fuel emissions, as both are sources of isotopically lighter CO<sub>2</sub>. Dynamics of  $\delta^{13}$ C for fossil fuel emissions are taken from Andres et al. (1996). Initial value for atmospheric  $\delta^{13}CO_2$  was chosen as -6.2% in order to be at the level of ice core data for  $\delta^{13}CO_2$  during the 18–19th centuries.

We compare simulated  $\delta^{13}CO_2$  in EH and EH-HYDE with Law Dome ice core data (Francey et al., 1999) and measurements for Mauna Loa (Keeling et al., 1989) and Cape Grim (Francey & Allison, 1998) during 1800–2000 (see Fig. 7). Both EH and EH-HYDE simulations broadly agree with the data. The main disagreement is during the 1950-1960s, then the ice core data shows  $\delta^{13}$ CO<sub>2</sub> by 0.1–0.15‰ higher than simulated. During this period, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions grew sharply, and this led to an abrupt decline of simulated  $\delta^{13}CO_2$ . This would be a general result for any carbon cycle model. Law Dome data shows this decline but with a delay of one decade. This inconsistency might be caused by inaccuracy in either fossil fuel emission statistics or ice core measurements.

EH-HYDE compares well with ice core during 1850-1950 and Cape Grim data. Over the entire period 1800-2000, EH simulation shows changes in  $\delta^{13}CO_2$  by 0.1% larger than EH-HYDE. This difference is particularly explained by different temporal evolution of the land cover changes in R&F and HYDE datasets. In both datasets, the overall changes in land cover are similar, but HYDE has earlier land clearance than R&F. Because the <sup>13</sup>C cycle is out of equilibrium, earlier release of depleted 13C by land in EH-HYDE simulation is buffered by the ocean uptake of <sup>13</sup>C. This shows that despite similar CO2 evolution in both simulations, atmospheric  $\delta^{13}$ C is affected by the temporal dynamics of land clearance. EH simulates  $\delta^{13}CO_2$  lower by 0.1‰ than Cape Grim data, but is within the range of data variability from Mauna Loa. Therefore the currently available  $\delta^{13}CO_2$  datasets are insufficient to evaluate the quality of land cover datasets.

# CLIMBER-2-LPJ simulations

Simulation E-LPJ with fossil emission forcing only underestimates the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration throughout the 20th century and by 1992, it is lower than observations by 11 ppmv (Fig. 6). In other words, without land-use emissions, the atmospheric CO2 growth cannot be explained. When considering land cover changes in the EH-LPJ experiment, simulated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> follows observations during the first half of the 20th century and deviates after 1950. In 1992, the coupled model overestimates observed CO<sub>2</sub> by 8 ppmv. Overall the effect of land cover changes on atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, i.e. the difference in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in 1992 between the EH-LPJ and E-LPJ simulations, is 19 ppmv. There are several possible explanations for the overestimated atmospheric CO2 concentration in the EH-LPJ simulation. Besides a possible too low oceanic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>Values from Bopp *et al.* (2002) averaged over the period 1990–1996.

E in the simulation acronym is for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, H for historical land cover changes, HYDE is for data by Klein Goldewijk (2001), HGT for Houghton & Hackler (2002); LPJ, Lund-Potsdam-Jena.

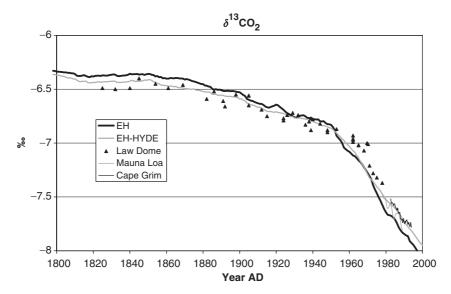


Fig. 7 Atmospheric  $\delta^{13}$ CO<sub>2</sub> from the CLIMBER-2 simulations during years 1800–2000 against Low Dome ice core data (Francey *et al.*, 1999), Mauna Loa (Keeling *et al.*, 1989), and Cape Grim observations (Francey & Allison, 1998).

carbon uptake, these include: an overestimation of land cover conversion flux and subsequent fluxes from product pools; an underestimated CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization effect; model oversensitivity to historical climate changes. An overestimation in the land cover conversion flux most likely explains the largest part of the difference. Earlier studies (McGuire et al., 2001) have shown that LPJ tends to overestimate the fluxes associated with land cover change during the 1950s, relative to other biosphere models. Whereas some of the other terrestrial biosphere models assign their vegetation types as input from datasets, LPJ simulates the potential natural vegetation and its corresponding carbon pools. In additional simulations (not shown), we found out that the overestimate in emissions is not due to LPJ simulating an incorrect grassland and savannah distribution (in particular in central Asia) and associated overestimation of biomass. Instead LPJ tends to overpredict carbon storage in the forests and woodlands of European Russia and Eastern Europe. According to the R&F data, large areas of European Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia were converted from natural vegetation into croplands during the 1950s. Thus, overprediction of carbon storage in temperate mixed and boreal forests (Venevsky, 2001) in LPJ leads to the overestimated carbon emissions (see Fig. 8).

Relative role of land cover in atmospheric CO2 growth

The influence of land cover on atmospheric  $CO_2$  can be measured in different ways. We calculate the difference in  $CO_2$  growth between the simulations with and

without land cover changes, EH and E, respectively, during a time period from  $t_1$  to  $t_2$ :

$$\Delta C_{\rm A}(E, H, t_1, t_2) - \Delta C_{\rm A}(E, t_1, t_2),$$
 (2)

where E and H represent emission and land cover forcings, respectively, and  $\Delta C_{\rm A}(x,t_1,t_2) = C_{\rm A}(x,t_2) - C_{\rm A}(x,t_1)$ . This is similar to the factor separation technique (Stein & Alpert, 1993) applied for time-series analysis. The point is that the difference between simulations is growing with time and, therefore, is time dependent. We suggest normalizing the difference with regard to observed  ${\rm CO}_2$  growth:

$$R_{1} = (\Delta C_{A}(E, H, t_{1}, t_{2}) - \Delta C_{A}(E, t_{1}, t_{2})) / \Delta C_{A}(obs, t_{1}, t_{2}).$$
 (3)

The indicator  $R_1$  shows the relative role of land cover in atmospheric CO2 growth measured in percentage of observed  $CO_2$  growth.  $R_1$  indicates the role of land cover forcing relative to fossil fuel forcing evolving through time. Because land and ocean carbon sinks are accounted for in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth, indicator R<sub>1</sub> does not indicate the individual role of land-use CO2 emissions in total  $CO_2$  emissions. Note, indicator  $R_1$  is not constrained between 0% and 100%, as it can be higher than 100% in the past as CO<sub>2</sub> growth was very small, or below 0 in the case of afforestation on abandoned cropland. To minimize the effect of climate and CO<sub>2</sub> variability, we apply the indicator for time periods with substantial growth in the observed atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. We subdivided years 1850–2000 into time intervals 1850-1900, 1900-1950, and then into decades after 1950 (see Fig. 9). During 1850-1950, all the simulations show a large role of land cover changes:

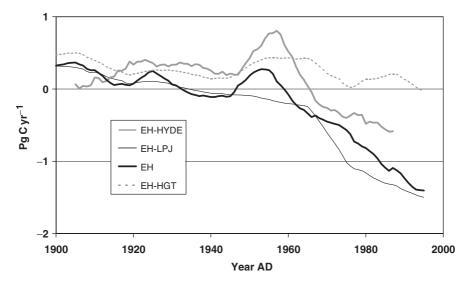
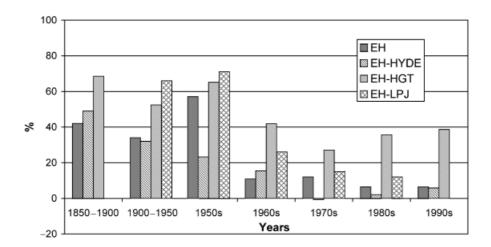


Fig. 8 Simulated net land-atmosphere flux during the 20th century.

about 30-40% for EH and EH-HYDE, 50-60% for EH-HGT and 66% for EH-LPJ, the latter for 1900-1950 as LPJ was initialized with 1900 vegetation cover. During the 1950s, EH, EH-LPJ, and EH-HGT show increase in  $R_1$  while EH-HYDE shows a small decline. In the former simulations, this is caused by an increasing deforestation rate, which is translated into an increase in the net land-atmosphere flux during the 1950-1960s (Fig. 8). A delayed response of EH-LPJ is caused by allocation of a fraction of the converted biomass into the product and litter pools, a process neglected in the EH simulation. The EH-HYDE simulation does not indicate such changes (Fig. 8). This is a clear manifestation of differences between land cover datasets during the 1950s and the 1960s, which is an interesting point for further investigation but is beyond the scope of the given paper.

During decades 1960–1990s, the relative role of land cover changes in atmospheric CO2 growth was substantially lower than in years 1850-1950 (Fig. 9). The EH and EH-LPJ simulations, which are based on the R&F dataset, show decline in  $R_1$  after a maximum in the 1960-1970s, while EH-HGT has a maximum in the 1990s. This difference may be caused by the timing of tropical deforestation, as has been mentioned by the IPCC (Prentice et al., 2001). EH-HYDE shows a minimum role of land cover change in the 1970s (-1%). This may be due to the coarser spatial resolution of the HYDE dataset with 20 years time interval time slices (1950, 1970, 1990) and increased tropical deforestation during the 1980-1990s as in the HGT dataset. During the latter half of the century, emissions from increasing tropical deforestation are compensated by



**Fig. 9** Relative contribution of land cover changes to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth,  $R_1$  (%).

forest regrowth on agriculturally abandoned land in temperate ecosystems.

Overall, the values of the indicator  $R_1$  for years 1850–2000 differ among land cover change reconstructions, but the general trend is towards a declining relative role of land cover changes in the atmospheric  $CO_2$  growth (Fig. 9). Presumably, accelerated fossil fuel emissions after the 1950s led to the dominant role of fossil fuel factor in the atmospheric  $CO_2$  growth.

#### **Conclusions**

This study presents several novelties: a comparison of biogeophysical and biogeochemical effects of historical land cover changes on climate during the last 150 years; a comparison of several datasets of land cover changes regarding their influence on atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>; and a quantitative analysis of the relative role of land cover changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth.

Anthropogenic land cover changes during the last millennium played an important and complex role in the climatic change. In H\_P and H\_C simulations with the R&F dataset, biogeophysical mechanisms on a global scale tend to decrease surface air temperature by 0.26 °C due to land cover changes, while biogeochemical mechanisms act to warm the climate by 0.18 °C. The net effect in H simulation is negligible on a global scale, but pronounced over the land in the temperate and high northern latitudes, where a cooling due to an increase in land surface albedo offsets the warming due to land-use CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Driven by R&F dataset in the baseline EH simulation, CLIMBER-2 estimates an increase in atmospheric  $CO_2$  in 2000 of 24 ppmv higher than in simulation E without land cover forcing. This increase is equally distributed during the periods prior to 1850, 1850–1940, and thereafter. Averaged over 50-year periods, absolute role of land cover changes in atmospheric  $CO_2$  growth (ppmv yr<sup>-1</sup>) increases with time. To quantify the relative role of land cover changes, we introduce an indicator  $R_1$ , which shows the effect of land cover on atmospheric  $CO_2$  measured in percentage of observed  $CO_2$  growth. In the EH simulation,  $R_1$  averaged over the last millennium is 26%. It declined from 88% between 1000 and 1850 to 6% during the 1990s.

Data and model are subject to uncertainty. Uncertainty in reconstructing land-use history was tested by applying two datasets, HYDE and HGT. The experiments reveal that during the last millennium, land cover changes led to an increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by 22–43 ppmv corresponding to 25–49% of observed CO<sub>2</sub> growth. This contribution declines from  $36\pm60\%$  during 1850–1960 to  $4\pm35\%$  during 1960–2000. In simulations of coupled CLIMBER-2 and advanced

vegetation model, LPJ, land cover contribution to the atmospheric  $CO_2$  growth decreases from 68% during 1900–1960 to 12% in the 1980s. In all simulations with  $CO_2$  emission forcing, the constant atmospheric  $CO_2$  during the 1940s inferred from the Law Dome ice core was not reproduced.

The declining relative role of land cover is not new, but here we present the first attempt to quantify this role directly in terms of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> forcing, not emissions. Additionally, we used several geographically explicit land-use datasets (R&F and HYDE). This is a clear advance on carbon cycle studies using box models, e.g. by Keeling *et al.* (1989), which do not account for numerous mechanisms in the climate-biogeochemistry system, limiting their ability to quantify land cover emissions.

In EH and EH-HYDE simulations, we calculated the dynamics of atmospheric  $\delta^{13}\text{CO}_2$ . Over the entire period from 1800–2000, EH-HYDE compares well with ice core during 1850–1950 and Cape Grim data, while EH simulation shows changes in  $\delta^{13}\text{CO}_2$ , 0.1% larger than EH-HYDE. Despite similar CO<sub>2</sub> evolution in both simulations, atmospheric  $\delta^{13}\text{CO}_2$  is affected by the temporal dynamics of land clearance: EH-HYDE has earlier land clearance than R&F. However,  $\delta^{13}\text{CO}_2$  data from EH are within the range of data variability from Mauna Loa. Therefore, given the uncertainty among  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  measurements, the  $\delta^{13}\text{CO}_2$  data cannot be used to evaluate the quality of the simulations (and land cover datasets).

In EH-HGT simulation, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth during the second part of the 20th century is 74 ppmv, 16 ppmv higher than observed. Jones et al. (2003) showed that coupled climate-carbon cycle Hadley Centre model, driven by IS92a scenario of fossil fuel and land-use emissions (HGT till the 1990s), overestimates atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in 2000 by 15 ppmv. However, the model closely follows observed CO<sub>2</sub> trend if they account for 30% reduction in land-use emissions. Their run and our EH-HGT simulation indicate that bookkeeping estimates of land-use emissions might be too high. Nonetheless, one cannot exclude the possibility that models underestimate uptake of carbon by natural vegetation since simulations do not account for some processes, for example the fertilization effect of anthropogenic nitrogen depositions (Prentice et al., 2001).

Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> changes of ca. 90 ppmv during historical period are small in comparison with expected changes of 300–400 ppmv during the 21st century (Prentice *et al.*, 2001). If fossil fuel emissions continue to grow in the future, one can expect a further decline in the relative role of land cover changes during the 21st century. However, in absolute terms, emissions due to

future changes in land cover are likely to be large but highly uncertain (House et al., 2002). Moreover, recent studies indicate that future uncertainty in tropical landuse projections are far more important than the choice of GCM climate scenario for the carbon cycle in the tropics (Cramer et al., 2004).

Reproducing historical changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is one of the few tests available, before application of coupled climate-carbon cycle models for the CO<sub>2</sub> emission and land cover scenarios. A good quality of reconstruction of historical land cover changes is important. Our simulations confirm that without accounting for the historical land cover changes, the observed atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub> growth cannot be explained.

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