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*Supplement of*

**Accounting for forest age in the tile-based dynamic global vegetation model  
JSBACH4 (4.20p7; git feature/forests) – a land surface  
model for the ICON-ESM**

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## S1. JSBACH4-FF

Simulations were conducted with the git feature/forest branch (commit 77a88be0) of JSBACH4 (based on jsbach4.20p7) in standalone mode hosted within the MPI-ESM environment. We used the MPI-ESM environment revision 9585 of the mpiesm-landveg branch, which is the development branch of the department "The Land in the Earth System" of the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology.

The JSBACH4-FF code and information on how to repeat the runs is archived together with other supplementary information by the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology ([https://pure.mpg.de/pubman/faces/ViewItemFullPage.jsp?itemId=item\\_3032727](https://pure.mpg.de/pubman/faces/ViewItemFullPage.jsp?itemId=item_3032727)) and can be obtained by contacting [publications@mpimet.mpg.de](mailto:publications@mpimet.mpg.de).

## S2. Derivation of harvest maps

From the age maps derived from Poulter et al. (2018) for JSBACH's forest plant functional types (PFTs), we further derived harvest maps per PFT for each simulation year, such that the simulated age distribution conformed with the observed one in 2010. We assumed that the fractions given by Poulter et al. (2018) are equally distributed over the ten years covered by each age-class:

```
for pft in {1..4}; do
  ac=15
  countAge=1
  for year in {1861..2009}; do
    cdo -s -divc ,10 cf_age${ac}_PFT${pft}.nc tmp_y_fract.nc
    cdo -s -setyear ,${year} tmp_y_fract.nc harvest_PFT${pft}_${year}.nc
    (( countAge = countAge + 1 ))
    if [[ ${countAge} -eq 10 ]]; then
      #select the next lower age-class
      (( ac = ac - 1 ))
      countAge=0
    fi
  done
done
```

where *ac* corresponds to the age-class in the map by Poulter et al. (2018).

## S3. NRSME

A max-min normalised root mean squared error ( $\text{NRSME}_{\text{Max-Min}}$ ) was calculated as described in Section 2.4.5 in the main text. Figure S3.1 shows the  $\text{NRMSE}_{\text{Max-Min}}$  per age-class for each simulation, variable and region.

## S4. Maps

Figures S4.2-S4.4 show maps of the observation-based data for GPP, LAI and AGB scaled to JSBACH's forested area (see Section 2.4.1, main text), as well as different kinds of difference maps.

## S5. Taylor diagrams

Figures S5.5-S5.11 show Taylor diagrams for each variable, region and season (GPP and LAI only) for the simulations with pfts only (PFT) and the simulation with 10+1 age-classes and the age distribution scheme with increasing age space (IAS11). Taylor diagrams were created with python using `taylorDiagram.py` by Yannick Copin (<https://gist.github.com/ycopin/3342888>).

## References

Poulter, B., Aragão, L., Andela, N., Bellassen, V., Ciais, P., Kato, T., Lin, X., Nachin, B., Luysaert, S., Pederson, N., Peylin, P., Piao, S., Saatchi, S., Schepaschenko, D., Schelhaas, M., and Shvidenko, A.: The global forest age dataset (GFADv1.0), link to NetCDF file, <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.889943>, URL <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.889943>, 2018.

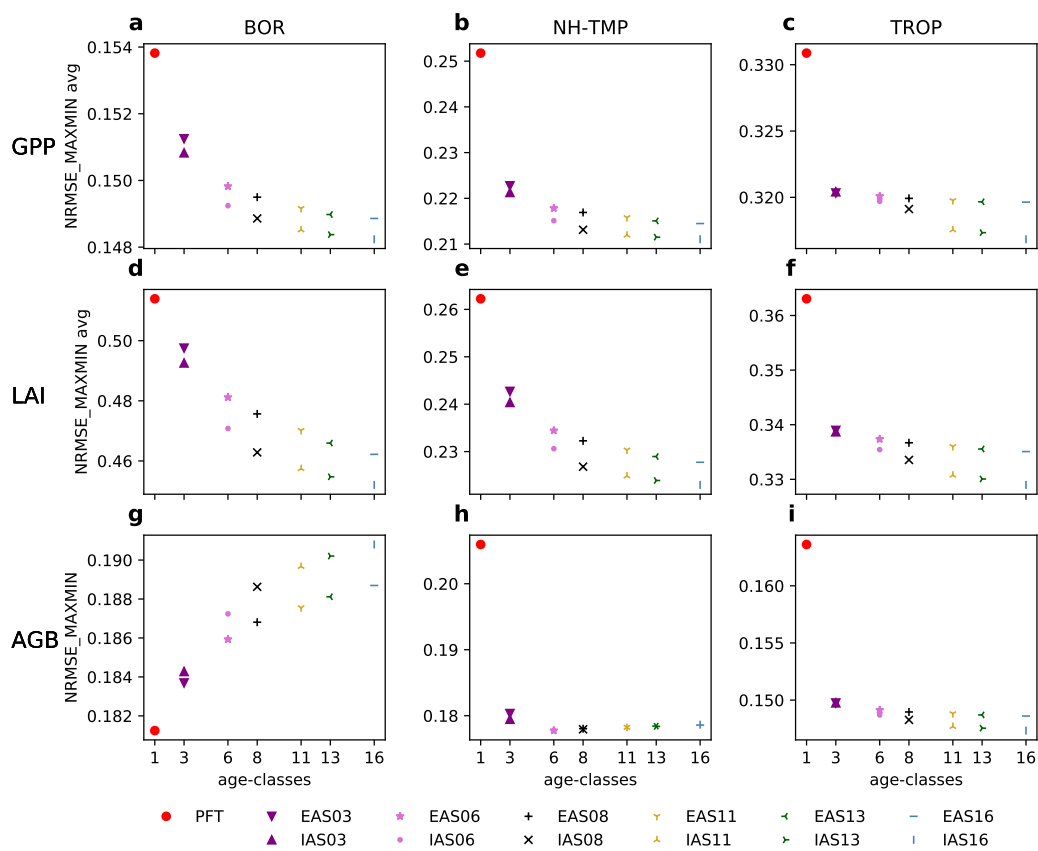


Fig. S3.1: Change in the normalised root mean squared error ( $NRMSE_{Max-Min}$ , see Section 2.4.5 and Fig. 5, main text) when increasing the number of age-classes. For gross primary production (GPP) and leaf area index (LAI), an averaging has been conducted giving equal weights to each of the four seasons (panel a to f).

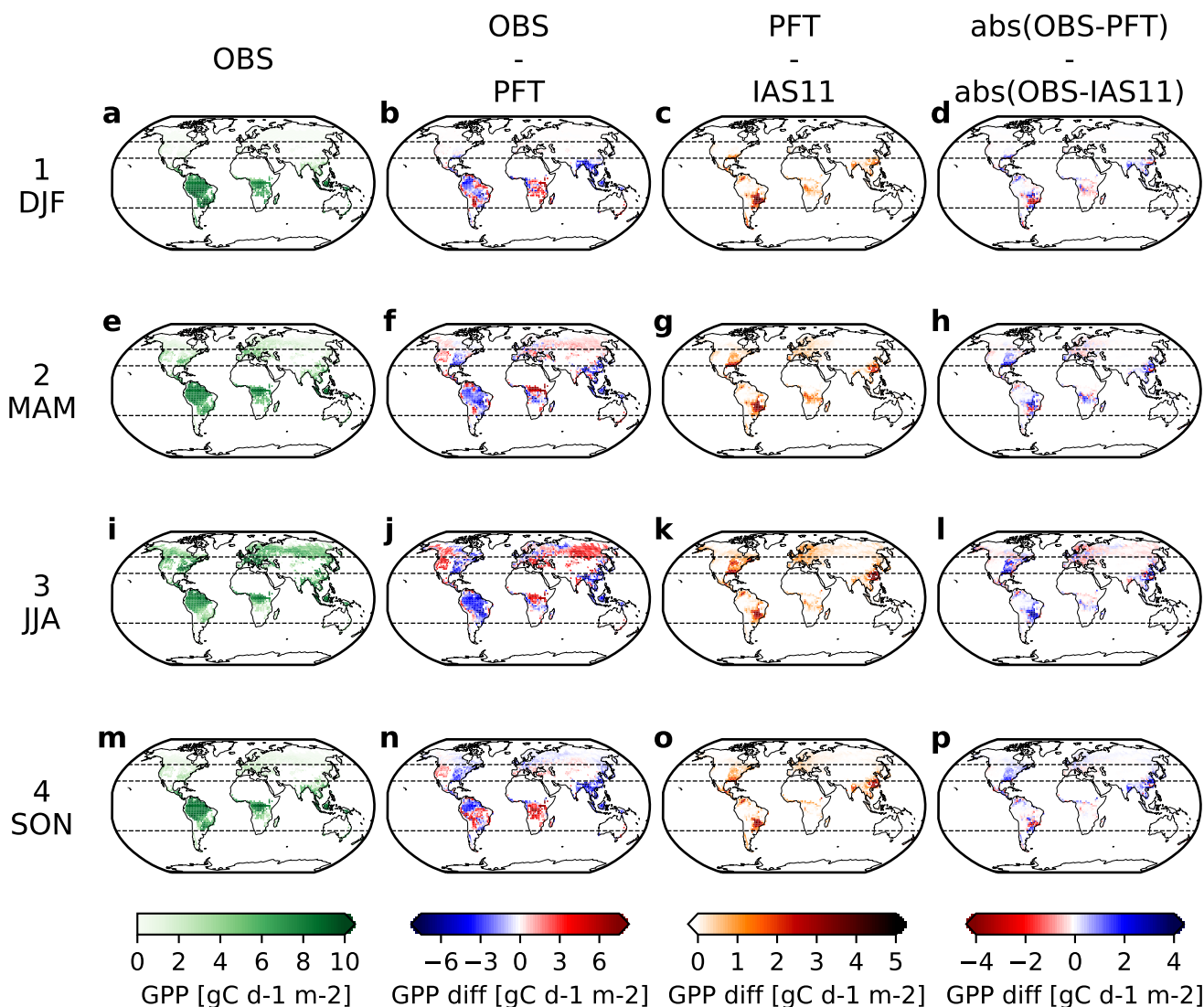


Fig. S4.2: Observation-based data scaled to JSBACH’s forested area (see Section 2.4.1, main text) and difference maps for gross primary production (GPP). Rows show the four seasons. The first column shows the observation-based data (OBS). The second column shows the difference between OBS and the 2001-2010 average of the PFT simulation results. The third column shows the difference between OBS and IAS11 and OBS and PFT simulation results (see Table 1, main text for simulation names). The difference between the differences to the observation-based data equals the difference between the simulation results ((OBS-IAS11)-(OBS-PFT) = PFT-IAS11). The fourth and last column also shows the difference, however, from the absolute differences (abs(OBS-PFT)-abs(OBS-IAS11)), i.e. it shows where the results from the simulation with age-classes deviate more (red) or less (blue) from the observation-based data than the PFT simulation results. Dashed lines mark the three selected regions – boreal, northern hemisphere temperate, and tropical (see Table 2, main text).



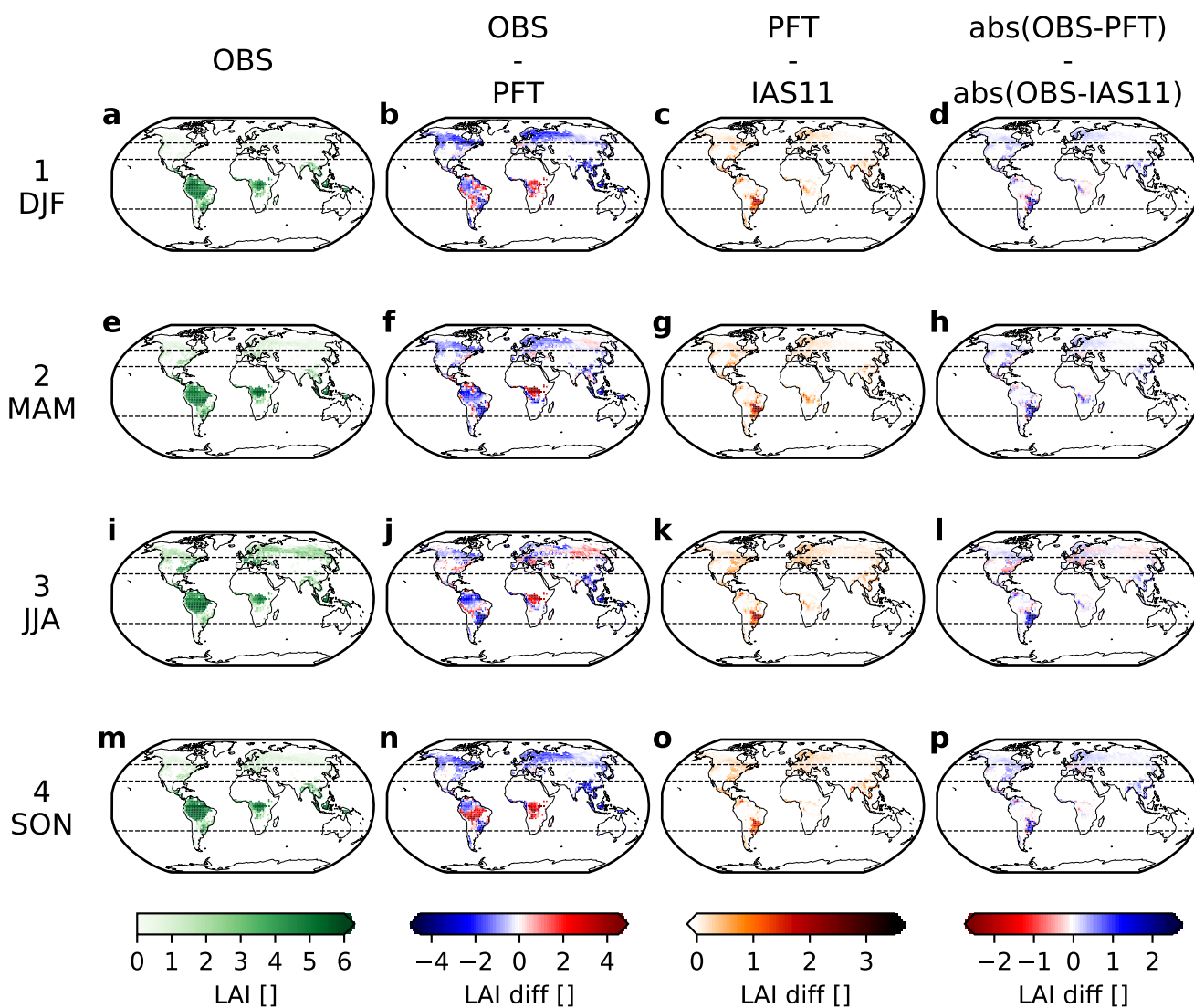


Fig. S4.3: Same as Fig. S4.2, here for leaf area index (LAI).

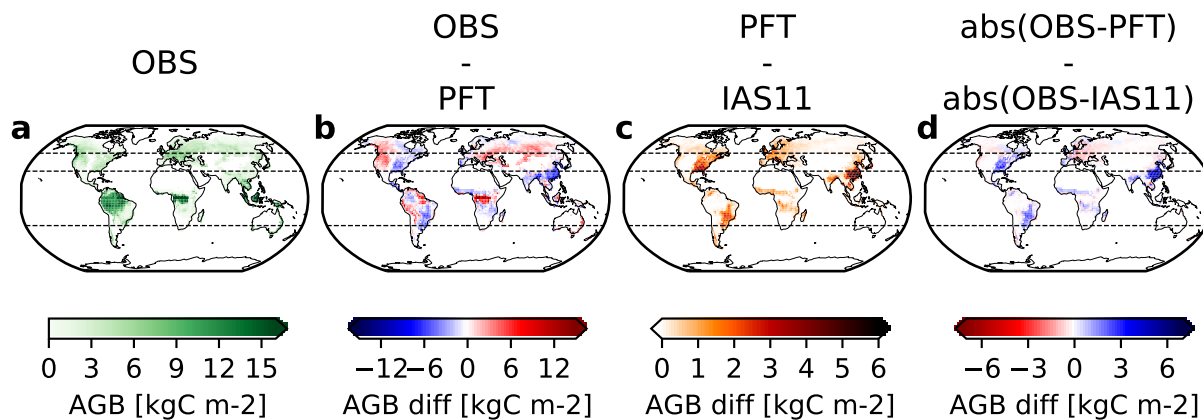


Fig. S4.4: Same as Fig. S4.2, here for above ground-biomass (AGB).

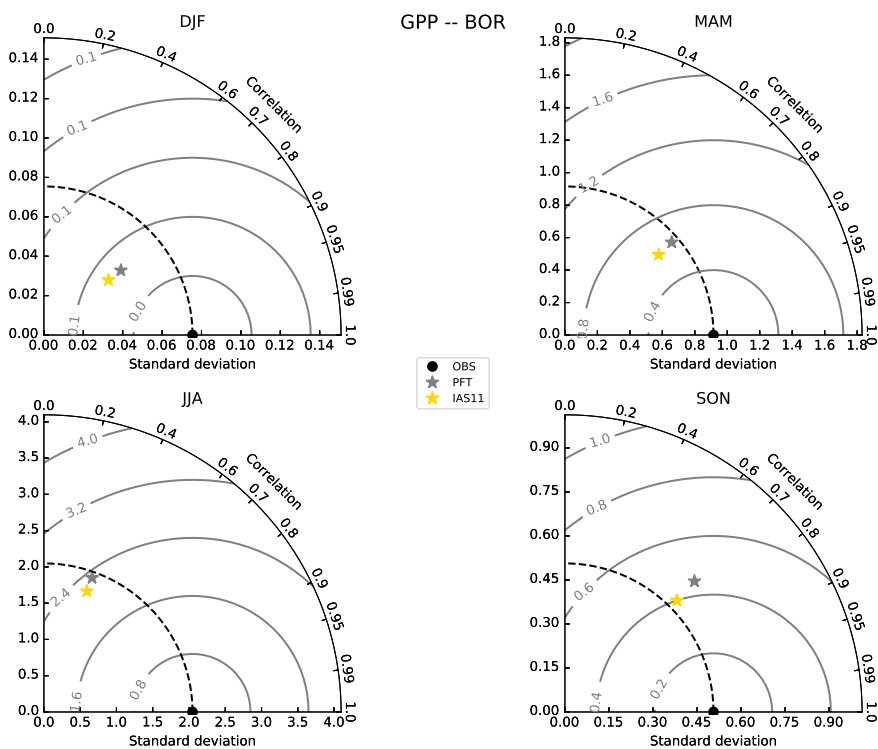


Fig. S5.5: Taylor diagram for gross primary production (GPP) when compared for the boreal region (see main text Table 2).

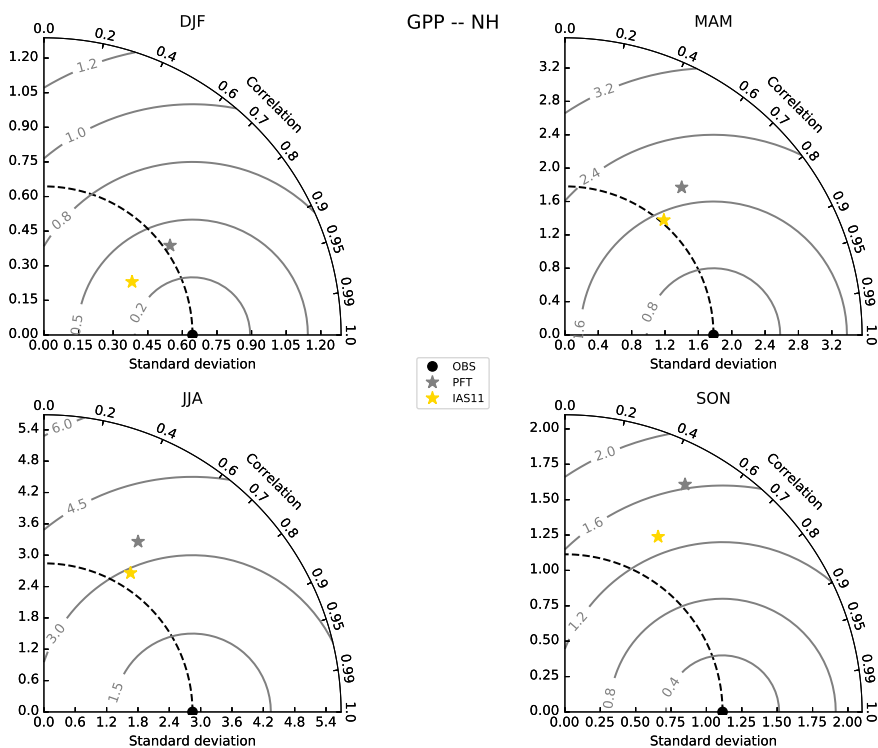


Fig. S5.6: Same as Fig. S5.5, here for the northern hemisphere temperate region.

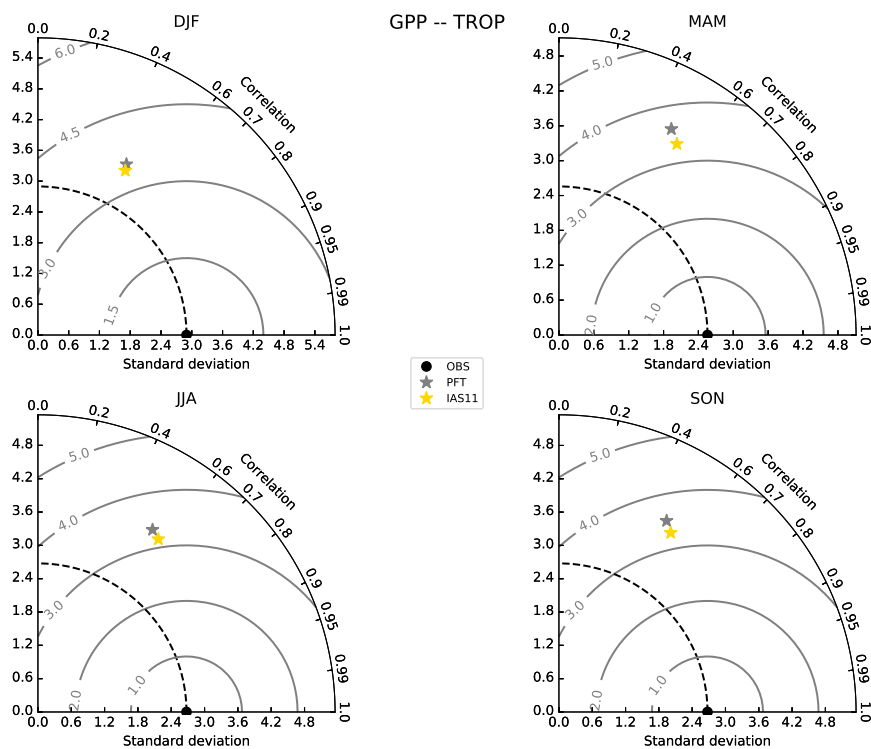


Fig. S5.7: Same as Fig. S5.5, here for the tropical region.

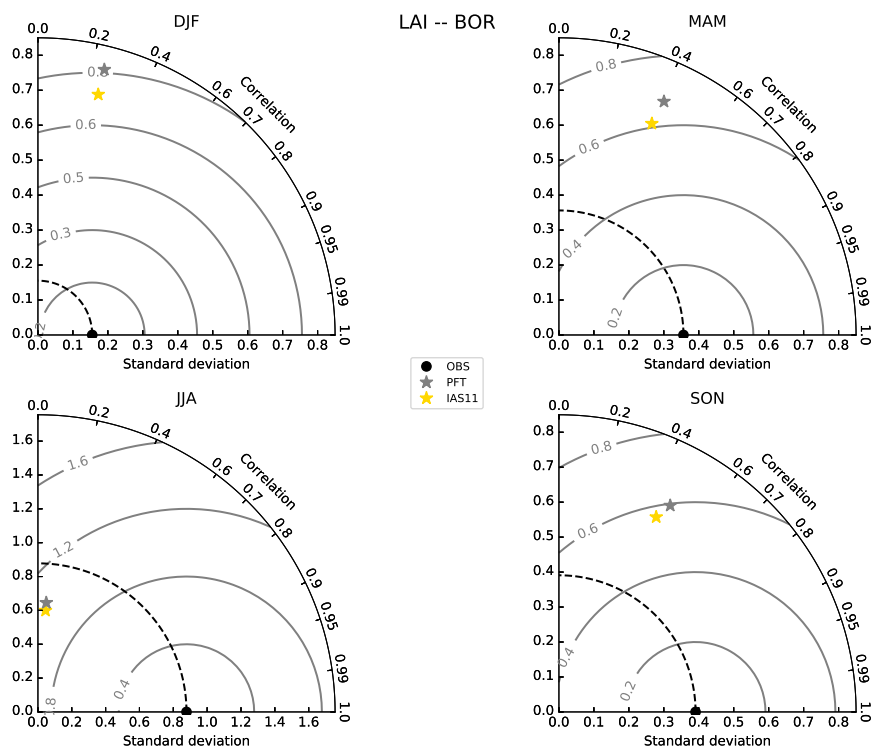


Fig. S5.8: Taylor diagram for leaf area index (LAI) when compared for the boreal region (see main text Table 2).

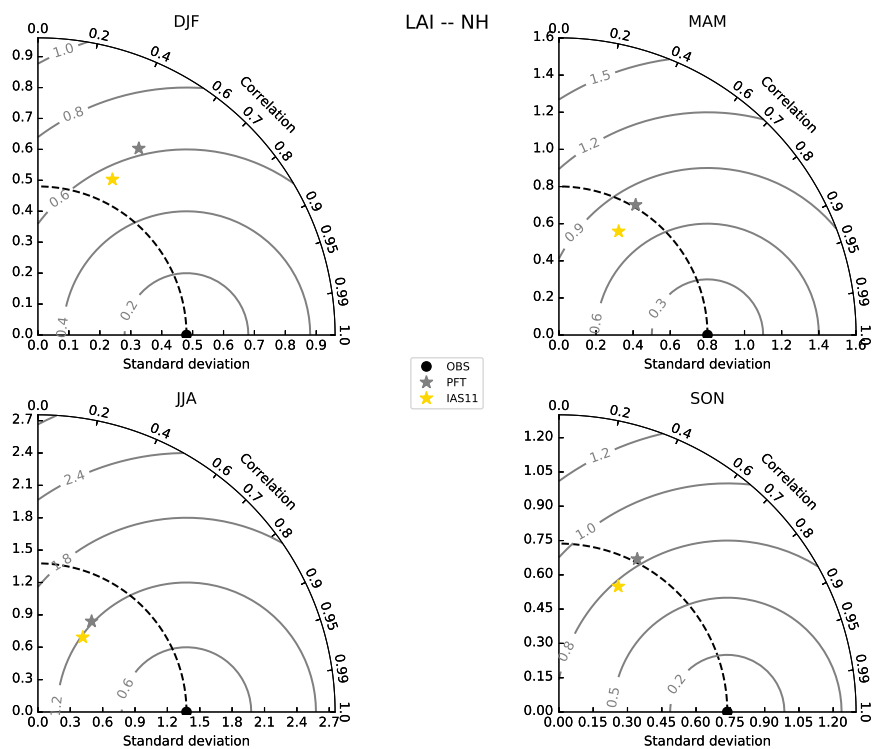


Fig. S5.9: Same as Fig. S5.8, here for the northern hemisphere temperate region.

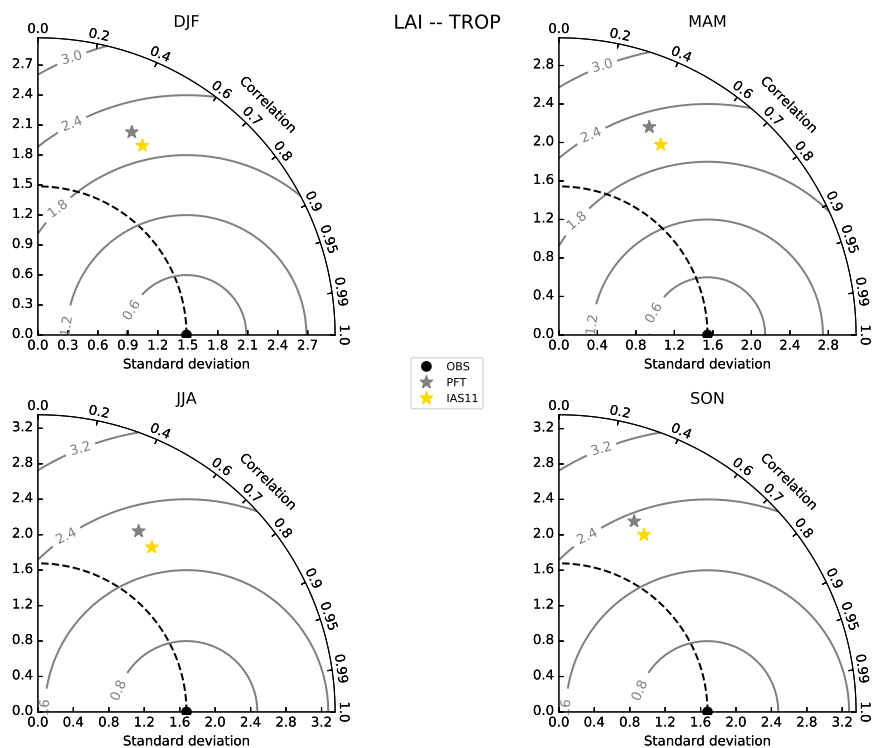


Fig. S5.10: Same as Fig. S5.8, here for the tropical region.

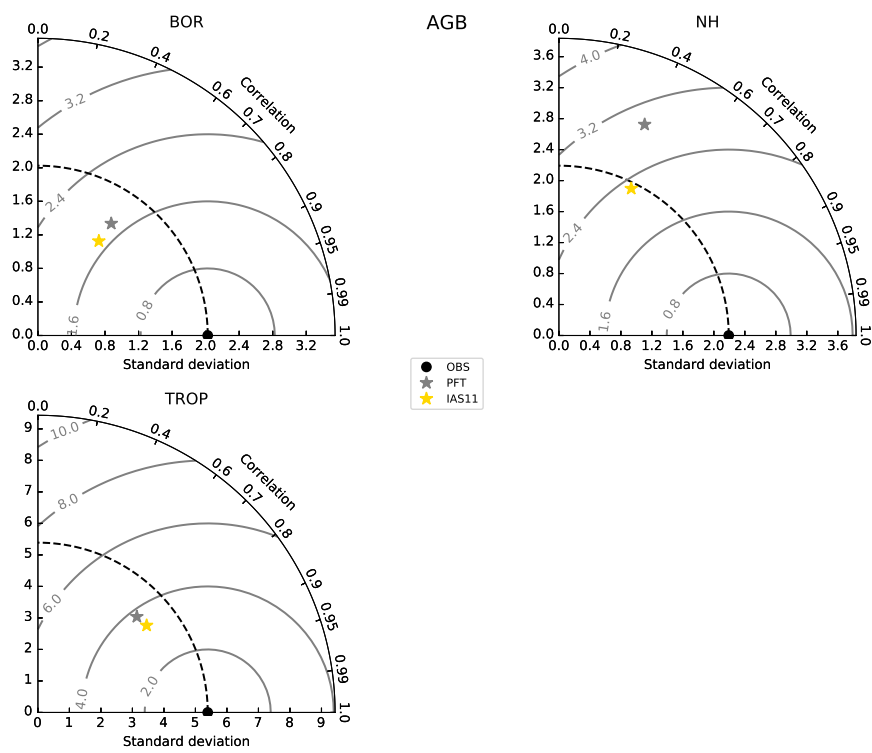


Fig. S5.11: Taylor diagram for above ground-biomass (AGB).