

Chapter 2: Terrestrial and Freshwater Ecosystems and their Services

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1 **Executive Summary**

2
3 Chapter 2: *Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and their services* provides an assessments of observed and
4 projected impacts have been made across regions, species and whole biological systems (ecosystems),
5 highlighting processes emerging on a global scale. Where sufficient evidence exists, differences in biological
6 responses among regions, taxonomic groups or types of ecosystems are presented, particularly when such
7 differences provide meaningful insights into current or potential future autonomous or human-mediated
8 adaptations. Human interventions that might build resilience of ecosystems and minimize negative impacts
9 of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning are assessed. Such interventions include
10 adaptation strategies and programmes, adaptation for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem-based adaptation,
11 and climate resilient pathways. The assessments were done in the context of the Convention on Biological
12 Diversity (CBD) Aichi targets and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This chapter highlights both
13 success and failure of human interventions. Meanwhile, knowledge gaps and research priorities were
14 included to encourage additional solution measures and fulfill the knowledge gaps.

15
16 **For species with long-term records and in relatively undisturbed habitats, about half of species have**
17 **shifted their ranges polewards and upwards and about 2/3 of species have advanced their spring**
18 **timing, with these changes attributed to recent climate change (*very high confidence*)**. These biological
19 changes are consistent with expectations from regional or global warming processes. Coupled with an
20 understanding of underlying mechanisms, coherence of patterns at both regional and global scales, and
21 consistency with model projections of past and future trends, **this body of studies forms multiple lines of**
22 **evidence making it *very likely* that many observed range shifts and phenological changes can be**
23 **attributed to regional and global climate changes (*very high confidence*)**. {2.4.2; 2.4.5}

24
25 **Responses in freshwater species are consistent with responses in terrestrial species, including poleward**
26 **and upward ranges shifts, earlier timing of spring plankton development, earlier spawning in fish, and**
27 **extension of the growing season**. Observed changes in freshwater species are strongly related to
28 anthropogenic climate change (ACC)-driven changes in the physical environment (e.g. increased water
29 temperature and reduced ice cover). Rivers and lakes have warmed by 0.01 to 0.45°C decade⁻¹, starting in the
30 1970s. Ice coverage has reduced in length by >2 weeks. Projections indicate that 4.6% of historically ice-
31 covered lakes in the northern hemisphere could experience intermittent loss of winter ice cover under +3.2°C
32 warming. Prolonged thermal stratification, which has also been linked to ACC, has led to divergent
33 responses in lakes, with already eutrophic lakes becoming more eutrophic (*very high confidence*) and
34 nutrient-poor lakes becoming more nutrient limited (*medium confidence*). In boreal coniferous forest, there
35 has been an increase in terrestrial derived dissolved organic matter transported into rivers and lakes as a
36 consequence of climate change (that has induced increases in run-off and greening of the northern
37 hemisphere), as well as to changes in forestry practices. This has caused waters to become brown and more
38 opaque, with complex positive and negative repercussions on water temperature profiles (lower vs upper
39 water) and on primary production (*high confidence*). {2.3.1; 2.4.2; 2.4.4.1}

40
41 **New studies since AR5 document more complex responses than in prior reports, and indicate that**
42 **previous estimates of climate change impacts on wild species based on simple hypotheses have**
43 **underestimated proportion of species responding to climate change**. More complex analyses have
44 documented cases of winter warming driving delayed spring timing of northern temperate species due to
45 chilling requirements, and increased precipitation driving species' range shifts downward, eastward and
46 westward in arid regions (*high confidence*). New studies have shown that phenological changes have, in
47 some cases, successfully compensated for local climate change and reduced degree of range shifts (*medium*

¹ FOOTNOTE: In this Report, the following summary terms are used to describe the available evidence: limited, medium, or robust; and for the degree of agreement: low, medium, or high. A level of confidence is expressed using five qualifiers: very low, low, medium, high, and very high, and typeset in italics, e.g., *medium confidence*. For a given evidence and agreement statement, different confidence levels can be assigned, but increasing levels of evidence and degrees of agreement are correlated with increasing confidence.

² FOOTNOTE: In this Report, the following terms have been used to indicate the assessed likelihood of an outcome or a result: virtually certain 99–100% probability, very likely 90–100%, likely 66–100%, about as likely as not 33– 66%, unlikely 0–33%, very unlikely 0–10%, exceptionally unlikely 0–1%. Additional terms (extremely likely: 95– 100%, more likely than not >50–100%, and extremely unlikely 0–5%) may also be used when appropriate. Assessed likelihood is typeset in italics, e.g., *very likely*.

1 *confidence*). Limited number of studies of this type make it difficult to estimate the generality of these
2 effects globally. {2.4.2.3}

3
4 **There are a growing number of studies documenting genetic evolution within populations in response**
5 **to the new selection pressures that recent climate change has imposed.** To date, observed genetic
6 changes remain within the boundaries of known genetic variation for that species. Conclusions on adaptive
7 potential derived from observed responses coupled with experimental results and underlying evolutionary
8 and genetic theory are that it is *very unlikely* that evolution would prevent a species being driven extinct in
9 the event its climate space disappears globally (*high confidence*). {2.4.2.6}

10
11 **Field research since the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report has detected biome shifts at numerous sites,**
12 **poleward and upslope, that are consistent with increased temperatures and altered precipitation**
13 **patterns driven by climate change, and support prior studies that attributed such shifts to**
14 **anthropogenic climate change (*high confidence*).** These new studies help fill prior geographic and habitat
15 gaps, for example documenting upward shifts in the forest/alpine tundra ecotone in the Andes, Tibet and
16 Nepal, and northward shifts in the deciduous/boreal forest ecotones in Canada. Globally, woody
17 encroachment into open areas (grasslands, arid regions and tundra) is *likely* being driven by climate change
18 and increased CO₂ in concert with changes in grazing and fire regime (*medium confidence*). {2.4.3}

19
20 **Globally, increases in temperature, aridity and drought have increased the length of fire seasons and**
21 **doubled potentially burnable area (*medium confidence*).** Increases in area burned by fire have been
22 **attributed to anthropogenic climate change (ACC) in North America (*high confidence*).** In parts of
23 Africa, Asia, Australia, and South America, area burned has increased, consistent with anthropogenic climate
24 change, but rigorous attribution studies have not been conducted. Human activities that cause or suppress
25 fires can dominate the influence of ACC, increasing the difficulty of attribution of changes. Areas with the
26 greatest increases in fire season length include the Amazon, western North America, Iran, and the Horn of
27 Africa. Increased wildfire under continued climate change could increase risks to water supplies in
28 combination with deforestation that increases sediment flows (*medium confidence*) {2.4.4.2; 2.5.5.2}

29
30 **Continued climate change under high emissions scenarios could increase future wildfire frequency on**
31 **one-third to two-thirds of global land by 2100 and decrease fire frequency on one-fifth of global land,**
32 **with a net global fire frequency increase of ~30% per century (*medium confidence*).** For ecosystems
33 with historically low or no wildfire in which models project increased fire risk under climate change,
34 including tropical rainforests, increased drought under continued climate change increases the risk of biome
35 shifts; e.g., potentially leading to conversion of over half the area of Amazon rainforest to grassland.
36 (*medium confidence*). {2.4.4.2; 2.5.5.2}

37
38 **Anthropogenic climate change has driven increased tree mortality directly through increased aridity**
39 **or drought or indirectly through increased wildfire and insect pests (*limited evidence, medium***
40 ***confidence*).** In the northern hemisphere, tree-feeding moths and bark beetles have shifted poleward and
41 upslope and moths have become pests of new tree species. Warming winters and longer growing seasons in
42 temperate and boreal forests have driven large increases in insect pest infestations that are causing greater
43 tree damage than in the past (*very high confidence*). {2.4.4.3; 2.5.5.3}

44
45 **Terrestrial ecosystems protect globally critical stocks of carbon and provide an essential service of**
46 **sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere but are at risk of carbon losses from deforestation and**
47 **climate change (*high confidence*).** Approximately four-fifths of carbon emissions from ecosystems comes
48 from tropical deforestation, with most of the remainder from conversion of peatlands for human uses. In the
49 Arctic, increased temperatures have melted permafrost at numerous sites, some areas are drying, and wildfire
50 burns have affected some areas, resulting in soil carbon emission (*high confidence*). There is growing
51 evidence that some freshwaters are hotspots for carbon transformation, sources of CO₂ and CH₄ and, in some
52 cases, carbon sinks. {2.4.4.4; 2.5.1}

53
54 **Extreme weather events such as heatwaves, droughts, floods, storms, and tropical cyclones can have**
55 **greater consequences on natural systems than changes in climate means.** Extreme weather events have
56 *very likely* become more frequent and more intense in many regions of the world as a result of anthropogenic
57 climate change. In many cases, the magnitude of the transient changes during extreme events exceeds that of

1 projected mean changes by 2100, even under high emissions scenarios (i.e. high increase in mean
2 temperature and mean precipitation). Extreme events have resulted in significant impacts on marine,
3 terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems around the world (*very high confidence*). {2.3; Cross-Chapter Box
4 EXTREMES in this Chapter}

5
6 **Increased temperatures and changes to rainfall and runoff patterns; greater variability in
7 temperature, rainfall, river flow and water levels; rising sea-levels and increased frequency of extreme
8 events have led to greater areas of the world being exposed to climate hazards outside those to which
9 species in those habitats are adapted (*high confidence*).** It is *likely* that more frequent and intense extreme
10 events, superimposed on longer-term climate trends, is pushing ecosystems to tipping points, beyond which
11 abrupt and possibly irreversible changes are occurring. {2.3}

12
13 **Percentages of species projected to suffer extinction vary from zero to 54% with a threshold for
14 extinction of >80% of the species' climate space disappeared.** With a threshold for extinction of >50%
15 climatic range lost, under 3.2 °C warming, 49% of insects, 44% of plants, and 26% of vertebrates are
16 projected to be at risk of extinction. At 2°C, this falls to 18% of insects, 16% of plants, and 8% of vertebrates
17 and at 1.5°C, to 6% of insects, 8% of plants, and 4% of vertebrates. Differences in estimates of extinction
18 risk stemmed from differing assumptions of thresholds for extinction risk and differing emissions scenarios,
19 as well as from differing geographic regions and taxonomic groups, and differing modeling approaches.
20 {2.5.3.3}

21
22 **"Novel ecosystems" are *likely* to be increasingly common in the future, in which abiotic conditions
23 with no current analog are expected to drive new combinations of species, and hence communities,
24 with no current, and possibly no historical, equivalents.** This is *likely* to have consequences for the
25 structure, function and resilience of ecosystems, and the provision of ecosystem services. {2.3; 2.5.4}

26
27 **There is evidence of autonomous adaptation by species which reduce their vulnerability to climate
28 change (*medium evidence, medium agreement*), although this is *very unlikely* to be sufficient to prevent
29 global and local extinctions, particularly under high emissions scenarios.** Genetic evolution has potential
30 for helping local populations not already near their range boundaries to adapt to local climate change if that
31 species contains sufficient genetic variation in relevant traits {~~2.3, 2.4.xx~~}. There is also recent evidence that
32 plasticity, for example changes in phenology or behavioural changes that move an individual into cooler
33 micro-climates, may allow species to persist *in situ* for longer than might be expected from local climatic
34 changes. {2.4.2.6; 2.6.1}

35
36 **There is increasing evidence that degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems exacerbates impacts of
37 climate change (*medium evidence, high agreement*) and ecosystem restoration to build resilience is an
38 important element of adaptation strategies.** Extensive research in prior reports by the International
39 Program for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service (IPBES), and by the IPCC Special Report on Climate
40 Change and Land (SRCCL) has compared the impacts of climate change on ecosystems with those of other
41 drivers (e.g. land use change). Whilst climate change has not been the predominant influence to date, its
42 relative impact is increasing in some systems. Whilst resilience can be enhanced by restoration, it cannot
43 prevent all impacts of climate change, making it increasingly of concern for conservation planning and
44 management and many adaptation plans reflect this. {2.2; 2.6.2}

45
46 **Since AR5, a large number of adaptation plans and strategies have been developed to protect
47 ecosystems and deliver ecosystem based adaptation for people (*medium evidence, high agreement*).**
48 There is much less evidence for deployment of adaptation measures in practice, although ecosystem based
49 adaptation measures to reduce fluvial and coastal flood risk are starting to be deployed in a range of
50 countries. There is little evidence of monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of many adaptation
51 actions. This is an important evidence gap that needs to be addressed to ensure a baseline is available against
52 which to judge effectiveness and develop and refine adaptation in future. {2.6.2; 2.6.3; 2.6.4; 2.6.5}

53
54 **There is emerging evidence (*medium – high evidence*) that some land based mitigation approaches
55 (e.g., Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS), plantation forestry) present a risk of
56 maladaptation and a threat to natural and semi-natural ecosystems, especially if deployed at large
57 scale. {Cross-Chapter Box MITIG in this Chapter}.** Creating forests in non-forest biomes can be

1 damaging to species, water resources and other ecosystem services. These risks of can be minimised by
2 careful selection of locations, taking account of the natural vegetation of the region, the effects on
3 biodiversity and the range of other ecosystem services desired by people, including food supply. Restoring
4 natural and semi-natural ecosystems, such as forests, in the right locations can make a critical contribution to
5 mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity conservation and Sustainable Development Goals.

6
7 **Research gaps highlighted in prior reports have begun to be filled, but gaps still remain.** The
8 predominance of research on biodiversity and climate change in Europe and North America highlights a gap
9 in the geographic coverage of research. Potentially substantial climate change risks in tropical forests,
10 tropical mountains and freshwater systems suggest the need for greater coverage of these regions and
11 ecosystems in future research. The emergence of the use of paleoecological information to inform
12 contemporary biodiversity conservation under anthropogenic climate change suggest the need for further
13 interdisciplinary research to fill this disciplinary knowledge gap. There is a need for more studies assessing
14 the impacts of climate change on ecosystem services. Cultural services have been particularly under-
15 represented. A key research question is understanding the mechanisms of change for multiple drivers as it is
16 clear that there are strong linkages between the combined impacts of changes in climate, changes in land and
17 water use, and resulting changes in biodiversity on the future supply of ecosystem services. Assessing the
18 effectiveness of adaptation measures is essential, this requires effective monitoring of outcomes of
19 management interventions as well as impacts; it is also important to develop stronger understanding of the
20 links between human behaviour and adaptation outcomes in ecosystems. {2.7}

2.1 Introduction

Chapter 2: *Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and their services* provides an assessments of observed and projected impacts have been made across regions, species and whole biological systems (ecosystems), highlighting processes emerging on a global scale. Where sufficient evidence exists, differences in biological responses among regions, taxonomic groups or types of ecosystems are presented, particularly when such differences provide meaningful insights into current or potential future autonomous or human-mediated adaptations. Human interventions that might build resilience of ecosystems and minimize negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning are assessed. Such interventions include adaptation strategies and programmes, adaptation for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem-based adaptation, and climate resilient pathways. The assessments were done in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi targets and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This chapter highlights both success and failure of human interventions. Meanwhile, knowledge gaps and research priorities were included to encourage additional solution measures and fulfil the knowledge gaps.

The Working Group II Summary for Policy Makers of the 5th Assessment Report (WGII AR5 SPM) stated that “many terrestrial and freshwater species have shifted their geographic ranges, seasonal activities, migration patterns, abundances, and species interactions in response to ongoing climate change” (IPCC 2014). Based on long-term observed changes across the regions, they estimated that approximately 20–30% of the plant and animal species are at risk of extinction when global mean temperatures rise 2–3°C above preindustrial levels (Fischlin et al., 2007). In addition, WGII AR5 (IPCC, 2014) broadly suggested autonomous adaptation by ecosystems and wild species might occur, and proposed human-assisted adaptation to minimize negative climate change impacts.

Chapter 2: *Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and their services* has been assessed primarily based on recent scientific findings (after 2014), but includes prior literature when it was either missing in previous reports (AR4 and AR5), or when it serves to build a coherent body of evidence for developing confidence assessments. In addition, the recently published IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C warming (SR 1.5), the IPBES/Global Assessment and earlier regional assessments, and IPCC SRCCL were incorporated in this chapter. Recent climate metrics from WG1 climate Atlas of Global and Regional Climate Projections were collated to determine climate hazards on key vegetation communities, habitat ranges, biomes and ecosystem services.

The risk assessments for species, communities, key ecosystems and their services were based on the Risk Assessment Framework introduced in the IPCC AR5 (IPCC, 2014). Assessments of observed changes in biological systems emphasizes detection and attribution of climate change on evolutionary processes, freshwater ecosystems and wetlands, and wildfire and ecosystem services, which were inadequately assessed in previous reports. Where appropriate, assessment of interactions between climate change and other human activities is provided.

2.2 Points of Departure

2.2.1 Drivers of Impacts on Biodiversity, Ecosystem Functioning and Ecosystem Services

The main drivers of impacts on biodiversity, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems functioning and ecosystem services have been assessed thoroughly in recent years, e.g., in the previous IPCC reports, reports of the FAO, IPBES (global and regional assessments), and the Global Environmental Outlook (Settele et al., 2014; FAO, 2018; IPBES, 2018a; IPBES, 2018b; IPBES, 2018c; IPBES, 2018d; IPBES, 2019; UNEP, 2019). Most recently, the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL) has provided an assessment on land degradation and desertification, greenhouse gas emissions and food security in the context of global warming (IPCC, 2019).

Land-use and land cover change (LULCC), and the over-exploitation of resources from terrestrial and freshwater systems continues to be a major factor of natural ecosystem and biodiversity loss, especially in tropical forests, savannahs, rivers and lakes. [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: confidence statement and more concrete referencing to IPBES regional and global assessments and

1 upcoming SRCCL and SROCC will be added]. In many regions of the world, fertiliser input, pollution of
2 waterways, dam construction and the extraction of freshwater for irrigation put additional pressure on
3 biodiversity and alter ecosystem function (IPBES, 2019). Likewise, for biodiversity, invasive alien species
4 have been identified as a major threat, especially in freshwater systems, islands and coastal regions
5 [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: confidence statement will be added] (IPBES, 2018a;
6 IPBES, 2018d; IPBES, 2018b; IPBES, 2018c; IPBES, 2019). Increasing rates of urbanisation and built-up
7 environment, together with the loss of fertile cropland area associated with urban expansion, has been
8 identified as an additional area of concern both for biodiversity and the loss of ecosystem services (d'Amour
9 et al., 2017; van Vliet et al., 2017). This issue received little attention in AR5, but has been recognised in the
10 SRCCL [[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: citation to Chapter 5: Food Security in
11 SRCCL will be added].

12
13 Climate change has been recognised as a considerable driver of change, especially in high latitude and high
14 altitude terrestrial and freshwater systems in prior reports (Settele et al., 2014; IPCC, 2018)
15 [[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: confidence statement to be added]. Warming
16 temperatures have been attributed as causes of poleward and upward ranges shifts, advanced spring timing,
17 changes in vegetation and soil microbial activity, prolongation of terrestrial and aquatic growing seasons,
18 changes in carbon fluxes and changes specific to freshwater systems including increased water temperature,
19 decreased lake-ice, increased thermal stratification, wetland drying. CO₂ is thought to contribute to the
20 observed enhanced shrub encroachment in tropical savannahs, while current and potential future CO₂ impacts
21 on freshwater systems also have started to gain attention (Donohue et al., 2013; Hasler et al., 2016; Stevens
22 et al., 2016). Climate change and CO₂ are expected to become increasingly important as drivers of change
23 over the coming decades (Ciais et al., 2013; Settele et al., 2014; IPBES, 2019; IPCC, 2019). For all drivers,
24 and associated impacts, the treatment of freshwater systems has been relatively limited in previous
25 assessments. In particular, the interlinkages between terrestrial and freshwater processes have not been fully
26 explored (Settele et al., 2014; IPBES, 2019).

27 28 **2.2.2 Interactions between Nature-Based Adaptation Measures and Mitigation**

29
30 As demonstrated in the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C warming (SR 1.5), each half degree of warming has
31 large, negative impacts on biodiversity and the provision of many ecosystem services (Hoegh-Guldberg et
32 al., 2018). In AR5, it had already been suggested that anthropogenic emission trajectories that correspond to
33 a warming of circa 2°C (RCP 2.6) indicate a need for large-scale land based mitigation options, including
34 CO₂ uptake in afforestation and reforestation measures (AR), and the growth of bioenergy (BE) crops
35 (Settele et al., 2014; van Vuuren and Carter, 2014). The SR 1.5°C emphasises the essential role of land in
36 limiting warming to as close to 1.5 °C as possible and well under 2°C (Rogelj et al., 2018).

37
38 Large-scale mitigation efforts that rely on land have been shown to challenge the achievement of multiple
39 sustainable policy goals (Creutzig et al., 2015; Boysen et al., 2016; Fuss et al., 2018; Hof et al., 2018; Smith
40 et al., 2019). These challenges arise from the large area requirements of Afforestation/Reforestation (AR)
41 and Bioenergy crops (BECs), which can conflict with other land uses such as food and timber production or
42 conservation. Land-management intensification, including increased fertiliser and irrigation, and increased
43 freshwater exploitation also play a role (see e.g., (Hoegh-Guldberg et al., 2018; IPBES, 2019; IPCC, 2019;
44 Seddon et al., 2019). Large scale climate change mitigation measures of this sort can be either positive or
45 negative for terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, depending what measures are adopted and where they are
46 located. As such, the assessment of climate-change impacts on ecosystems is expected to increasingly
47 include both direct and indirect aspects.

48
49 Beyond AR and BECs, the SRCCL has begun to analyse the prospects of applying a larger portfolio of
50 different mitigation measures (Griscom et al., 2017; Smith et al., 2019). These measures have high potential
51 for adaptation-mitigation co-benefits since sustainable management practices in ecosystems jointly with
52 restoration efforts have been shown to be effective in adapting to impacts of climate change (IPCC, 2012). A
53 number of ecosystem-based adaptation measures, such as restoration of forests and wetlands for flood and
54 erosion control, are critical for maintaining and enhancing freshwater supply and quality. This emphasises
55 again the value of treating the interlinkages between terrestrial and freshwater systems more explicitly than
56 has been done in previous reports. However, since many potential mitigation measures remain to be

1 implemented (Arneeth et al., 2019; Smith et al., 2019) their interactions and potential co-benefits with
2 adaptation have been as yet difficult to assess.

3 4 **2.2.3 Extreme Events and their Importance for Impacts and Adaptation**

5
6 Some extreme weather and associated episodic events such as floods, droughts, wind throws, insect
7 outbreaks or fire have likely increased over recent decades, and are projected to occur with even more
8 frequency in future as the climate warms further [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT:
9 confidence statement to be added] (IPCC, 2012). These disturbances affect ecosystem functioning and
10 biodiversity but are still poorly captured in impact models, in particular, in cases where these interact such as
11 the complex interactions among drought, fire and insect outbreaks (Allen et al., 2010; Anderegg et al., 2015),
12 and hence are difficult to quantify in future projections (Handmer et al., 2012). As emphasised in the IPCC
13 Special Reports on Extremes, these extreme events also pose large challenges for ecosystem-based
14 adaptation. Ecosystem functionality that is used in such adaptation measures (“nature-based solutions”) may
15 be altered or destroyed by extreme episodic events (Handmer et al., 2012; Lal et al., 2012). [Cross-Chapter
16 Box EXTREMES in this Chapter]

17 18 **2.2.4 Ecological (Dis)equilibria**

19
20 Settele (2014) in AR5 recapitulated that even at relatively undisturbed environmental conditions (e.g., in the
21 absence of changing human influence) ecosystems are not in a static equilibrium with their environment.
22 Episodic events such as droughts, pathogen outbreaks, floods or fires are an integral part of internal system
23 dynamics. The combined degree and velocity of human-caused climate change may result in extreme events
24 that have not been observed in the past (Reu et al., 2014; Ordonez et al., 2016). Previous reports have
25 highlighted the possibility of resulting new ecosystem states stemming from shifts in thermal regimes,
26 species composition, and energy and matter flows (Settele et al., 2014; Shin et al., 2019). Projecting such
27 “tipping points” (see glossary) has been identified in previous reports as a challenge since neither monitoring
28 programmes nor field studies, nor ecosystem and biodiversity modelling tools capture the underlying
29 species-species and species-climate interactions sufficiently well to identify how biological interactions
30 within and across trophic levels may amplify or dampen shifts in ecosystem states (Settele et al., 2014; Shin
31 et al., 2019). Paleo and historical records show that flora and fauna have capability to adapt to natural
32 climate change within bounds, while human societies may have not experienced the need to adapt to
33 catastrophic climate change (see Cross-Chapter Box PALEO in Chapter 3)

34
35 Building on these previous analyses, and recent literature, chapter 2 in this AR6 provides new insights
36 compared to previous assessments by (i) emphasising freshwater aspects, and the interlinkages between
37 freshwater and terrestrial systems, (ii) assessing more clearly the link between biodiversity and ecosystem
38 functioning, (iii) assessing impacts associated with climate change mitigation scenarios versus impacts of
39 climate change, including interactions with adaptation, (iv) where possible, places findings in context of the
40 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

41 42 43 **2.3 Hazards and Exposure**

44
45 The rationale for including physical changes here is that they are fundamental drivers of all levels of
46 biological organization, from individual species to communities to whole ecosystem characteristics. Many
47 hazards specific to biological systems, particularly of freshwater systems, are not documented elsewhere in
48 WGI or WGII of this AR.

49
50 The major climate hazards at the global level are generally well understood (WGI AR6 and Atlas). Increased
51 temperatures and changes to rainfall and runoff patterns; greater variability in temperature, rainfall, river
52 flow and water levels; rising sea-levels and increased frequency of extreme events means that greater areas
53 of the world are being exposed to climate hazards outside those to which they are adapted (Figure 2.1; Figure
54 2.2; Cross-Chapter Box EXTREMES in this Chapter).

55
56 Many organisms have adapted to cope with long-term and short-term climate variability, particularly such
57 variability as has been present during their evolutionary history, but as trends in climate change have

1 increased, the magnitude and frequency of extreme events have also increased. An extreme weather event is
2 an event that is rare at a particular place and time of year, often defined as being rarer than the 10th or 90th
3 percentile of a probability density function estimated from observations (see glossary). It is *likely* that the
4 combination of internal variability, superimposed on longer-term climate trends, is pushing ecosystems to
5 tipping points, beyond which abrupt and possibly irreversible changes are occurring (Harris et al., 2018a;
6 Jones et al., 2018; Hoffmann et al., 2019; Prober et al., 2019). Increases in the frequency and severity of
7 heatwaves, droughts/aridity, floods, fire danger and extreme storms have been observed globally and these
8 trends are projected to continue.

9
10 While the major climate hazards at the global level are generally well described with high confidence, there
11 is less understanding about the importance of hazards on ecosystems when they are superimposed on each
12 other. Simultaneous or sequential events (coincident or compounding events) can lead to an extreme event or
13 impact, even if each event is not in themselves extreme. For example, the compounding effects of sea-level
14 rise, extreme coastal high tide, storm surge, and river flow can substantially increase flooding hazard
15 (Moftakhari et al., 2017); (Cross-Chapter Box SLR in Chapter 3). Risk assessments typically only consider a
16 single climate hazard, potentially underestimating risk (Sadegh et al., 2018; Zscheischler et al., 2018).

17
18 Full understanding of the effect of changes in the timing of climate hazards and changing variability is still
19 lacking for many terrestrial and freshwater systems. Understanding impacts of the rate of climate change has
20 also been identified as less developed and more uncertain than changes in mean climate. It is generally
21 assumed that the more rapid the rate of change, the greater the impact on species and ecosystems, but
22 responses are taxonomically and geographically idiosyncratic. Although events from the extreme tails of
23 probability distributions are not necessarily extreme in terms of impact, we use a percentile approach to
24 describe extreme high and low temperature and precipitation because organisms are adapted to local levels
25 of climate variability, so the magnitude of the deviation from the mean is likely to have the greatest
26 biological impact (Harris et al., 2018a).

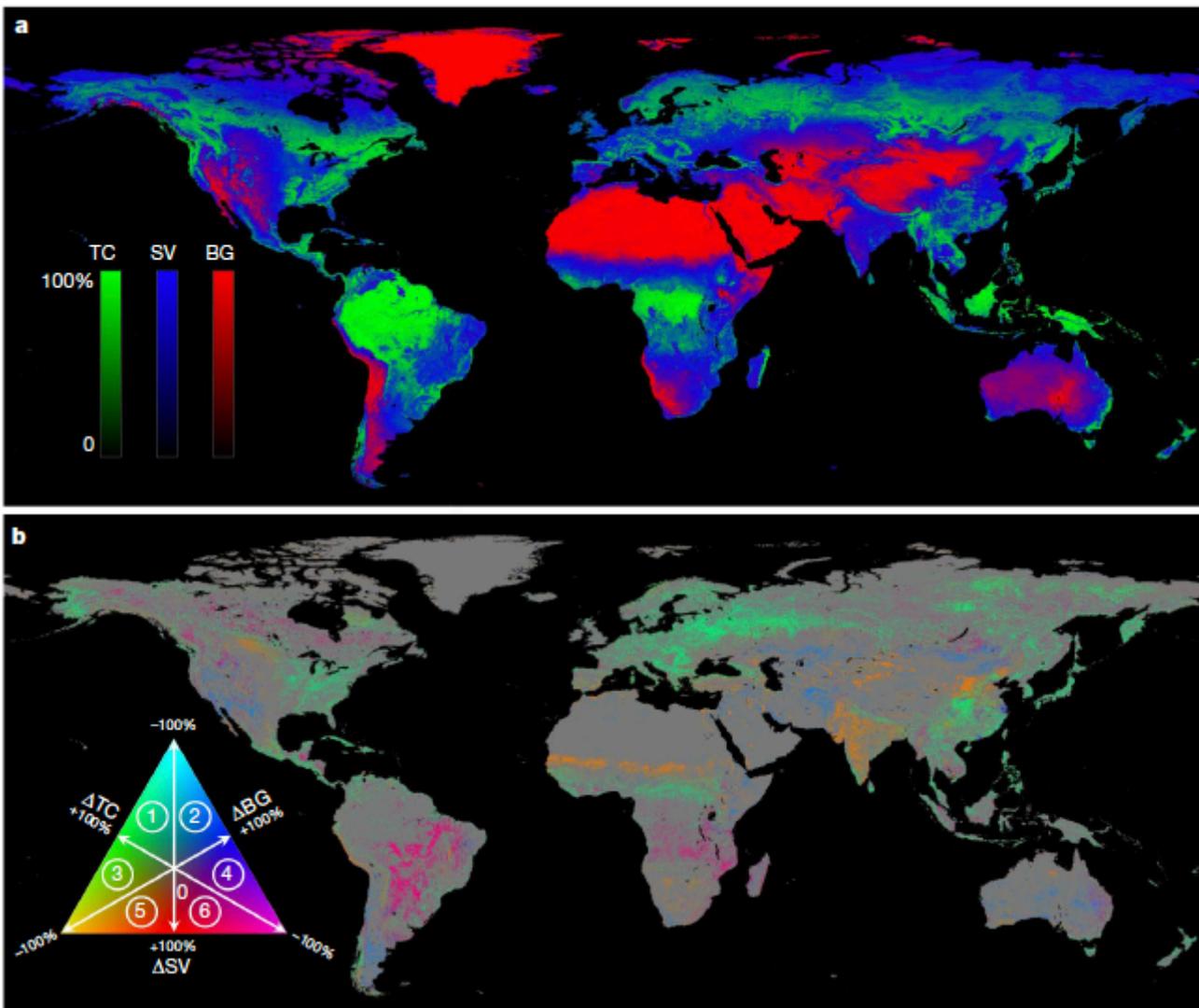


Figure 2.1: [[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: Map of non-climatic global change drivers (pollution, human population, land use changes, invasive species. Taken from (Song et al., 2018): A global map of land use change from 1982-2016. (from Song 2018, Fig. 1): "A satellite-based record of global TC, SV and BG cover from 1982 to 2016. a, Mean annual estimates. b, Long-term change estimates. Both mean and change estimates are expressed as per cent of pixel area at $0.05^\circ \times 0.05^\circ$ spatial resolution. Pixels showing a statistically significant trend ($n = 35$, two-sided Mann–Kendall test, $P < 0.05$) in either TC, SV or BG are depicted on the change map. Circled numbers in the colour legend denote dominant change directions: 1, TC gain with SV loss; 2, BG gain with SV loss; 3, TC gain with BG loss; 4, BG gain with TC loss; 5, SV gain with BG loss; and 6, SV gain with TC loss." Figure to be developed to include other drivers as well as land use change]

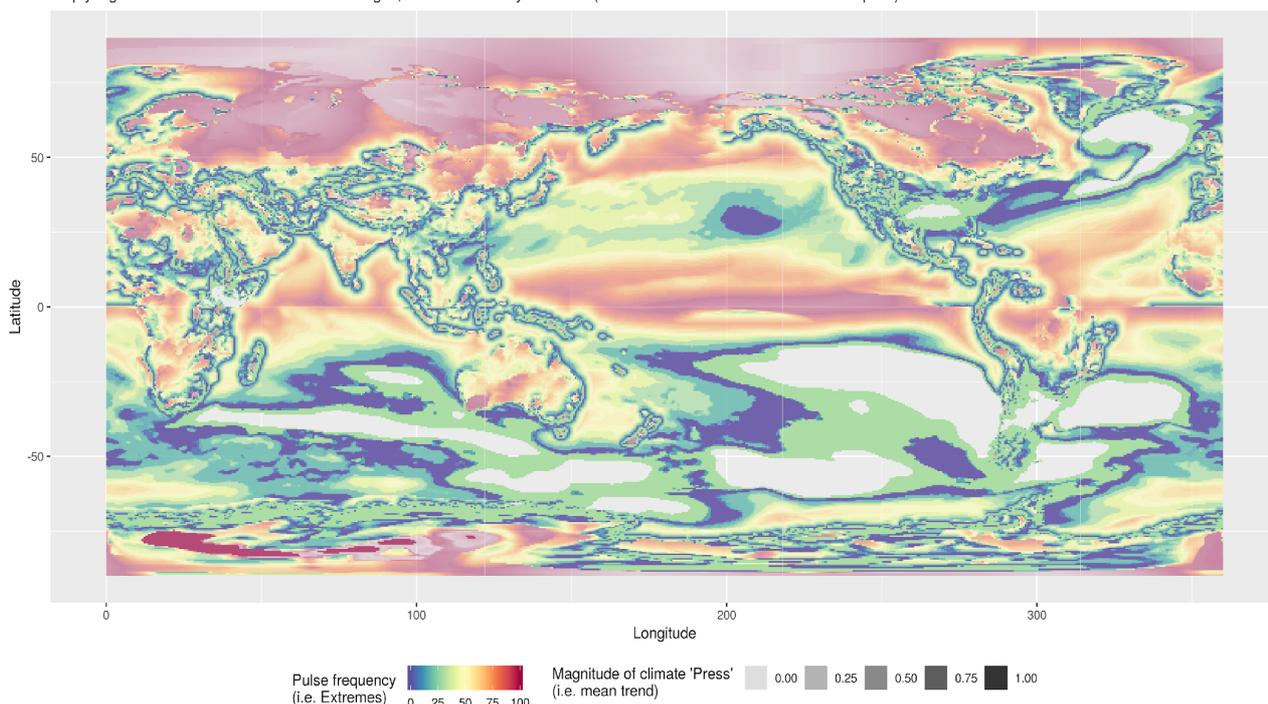
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'Press' and 'Pulse' climate features

Alpha value is the climate velocity's speed.

Fill value is the frequency of extreme events.

Empty regions are where there is no climate analogue, so climate velocity is 'infinite' (need to decide how to deal with this exception).



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Figure 2.2: Map of global hazards, showing the magnitude of the climate trend (climate velocity in $^{\circ}\text{C km}^{-1}$) overlaid by the frequency of extreme events. Climate velocity is calculated as the rate of change in mean annual temperature and mean annual aridity (Precipitation – Evaporation) between the historical (1961-1990), current (2001-2020) and end of century (2081-2100) time periods. Extremes indices will include change in duration and intensity of drought; extreme rainfall; fire weather; heatwave duration and extreme low temperature. Figure will be a two-panel figure showing a) the changes we have already experienced (change between the historical (1961-1990) and current (2001-2020) periods, and b) the changes projected for the end of century period (2081-2100) in relation to the current (2001-2020) period. [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: Figure to be updated with metrics on extremes from WGI]

Table 2.1: [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: Table to provide a list of geographic areas with multiple hazards showing large change, along with their ecoregion (maybe group ecoregions here), and possible add projections for IUCN listed species (e.g., from Pacifici, 2015 and 2017)]

2.3.1 Biologically Important Physical Changes in Freshwater Systems

2.3.1.1 Change in Thermal Habitat

The most coherent climate change-driven responses in freshwaters are related to the physical environment such as water temperature, lake stratification, water level and flowing regime, all affecting ecosystem functionality (Adrian et al., 2009; Adrian and Hessen, 2016). Global estimates of the rates of warming of lake surface waters are $0.21^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$ from 1970-2010 (Kraemer et al., 2015), 0.34 and $0.45^{\circ}\text{C decade}^{-1}$ from 1985-2009 (Schneider and Hook, 2010; O'Reilly et al., 2015). Increasing air temperature is mostly the primary driver of warming water temperature; the variability depends on combinations of seasonal air temperature trends, solar brightening, ice cover and local lake characteristics such as elevation, lake morphology, water clarity, or mixing regime (Kraemer et al., 2015; Winslow et al., 2015; Rose, 2016; Schmidt et al., 2019).

In rivers annual mean water temperature increased in 40 major streams and rivers throughout the US by 0.009 - $0.077^{\circ}\text{Cyr}^{-1}$ (Kaushal et al., 2010), typically correlated with increased air temperatures. However, the thermal regime of rivers is mediated by the overall complexity of the hydrological climate and land-use features of its watershed (flow regime, groundwater, earlier or reduced snow melt, cold water entrainment, dams, shading by vegetation) making the significance and magnitude of changes in river water temperature

1 relative to changes in air temperature inherently site-specific (Bernhardt et al., 2018) (Lisi, 2015; Piccolroaz
2 et al., 2016; Piccolroaz et al., 2018).

3
4 A direct response towards global warming has been a prolongation in thermal stratification of lakes.
5 Stratification can trap nutrients below the phototrophic zone, rendering them unavailable for phytoplankton
6 growth. In nutrient poor large lakes where internal nutrient loading via vertical mixing is often the primary
7 nutrient source it leads to a reduction in algal biomass (Kraemer et al., 2017), while global warming
8 reinforces the eutrophication of already eutrophic lakes. This trend is projected to continue with continued
9 climate change (Shatwell et al., 2019). In northern temperate lakes, stratification is beginning earlier in
10 spring and ending later in autumn than previously, resulting in an overall prolongation of stable thermal
11 stratification and a subsequent prolongation of the growing season (*very high confidence*) (Kirillin, 2010;
12 Adrian and Hessen, 2016). Prolonged thermal stratification leads to a decrease in the oxygen concentrations
13 of deep water, causing stress to zooplankton and fish (Domis)(Adrian and Hessen, 2016); *very high*
14 *confidence*). Chemical processes trigger the release of nutrients previously bound in the sediment. The
15 combination of higher water temperatures, prolonged stratification and high nutrients encourage the growth
16 of algae, thus increasing eutrophication - particularly the development of nuisance cyanobacteria blooms
17 (Domis, 2013; Adrian and Hessen, 2016) (*very high confidence*).

18
19 Variability in warming patterns across depth, area, and season causes uncertainty in how thermal habitats in
20 lakes will shift in response to climate change globally complicating projections of how organisms may shift
21 their distributions spatially or seasonally to maintain isothermal conditions in the face of lake warming. Lake
22 organisms will have to redistribute across depths and seasons in order to maintain thermal stasis in a
23 warming climate. As lakes warm, thermal specialists may shift to new environments to which they may not
24 be well-adapted. In some cases, decreases in bulk thermal habitat over specific temperature ranges could also
25 be partially offset by translocating to a different lake.

26
27 Besides changes in air temperature, river water temperatures are governed by dimensions of flow direction
28 and complex river network structures. They can be buffered by snow coverage, cold water entrainment or
29 shading. Lower flows will exacerbate stream warming during summer, particularly during heat extremes. For
30 example, Swiss lowland rivers were extremely sensitive to heatwaves while high-altitude snow-fed rivers
31 and regulated rivers receiving cold water from higher altitude showed a damped thermal response
32 (Piccolroaz et al., 2018). Because of these complexities, forecasting climate-driven thermal changes in
33 stream habitats is difficult and inherently site-specific (Ruesch et al., 2012).

34 35 2.3.1.2 Changes in Water Level

36
37 Between 1984 and 2015 permanent surface water has disappeared from an area of almost 90,000 square
38 kilometres, roughly equivalent to that of Lake Superior, and new permanent bodies of surface water covering
39 184,000 square kilometres have formed elsewhere (Pekel et al., 2016). All continental regions show a net
40 increase in permanent water, except Oceania, which has a fractional (one percent) net loss. Much of the
41 increase is from reservoir filling, although climate change is also implicated.

42
43 Loss is more geographically concentrated than gain. Over 70 per cent of global net permanent water loss
44 occurred in the Middle East and Central Asia, linked to drought and human actions including river diversion
45 or damming and unregulated withdrawal. The once extensive spring areas at Ras al Ain in Northern Syria
46 have almost completely dried out, as has the spring of the Barada River near Damascus, along with almost
47 the entire Damascus hydrological basin (Durwall, 2016). Losses in Australia and the USA linked to long-
48 term droughts are also evident (Pekel et al., 2016). Water level trends in East Asia and Africa were
49 especially variable from lake to lake. Fluctuations as high as 12m follow heavy rainfalls in lakes in the
50 Danau Sentarum National Park, a Ramsar site in Borneo (Giesen and Anshari, 2016).

51
52 More than half of the global rivers undergo periodic drying, so increased frequency and intensity of droughts
53 may cause transitions of many perennial rivers into intermittent rivers (Datry et al., 2016), and climate
54 change projections of reduced rainfall in parts of western Asia (Chenoweth et al., 2011) suggest a threat to
55 freshwater fish.

2.3.1.3 Changes in Discharge

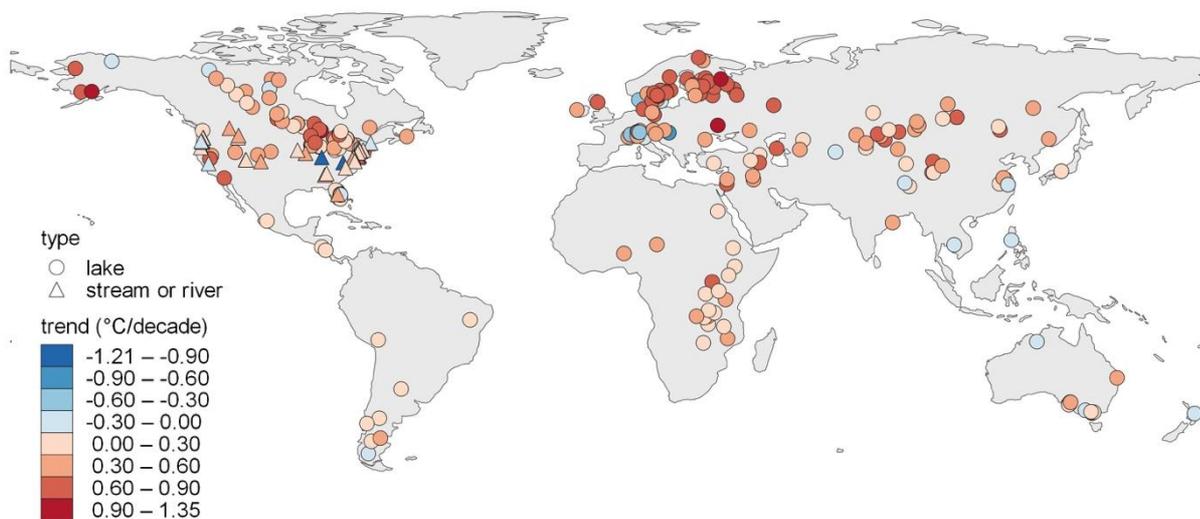
Closely related to changes in water level, reduced snowpack and earlier snowmelt, along with altered precipitation patterns attributed to climate change, have led to changes in the rate and timing of river discharge (Vorosmarty et al., 2010). Patterns in flow regimes can be directly linked to a variety of processes shaping freshwater biodiversity (Bunn and Arthington, 2002), hence any climate-change induced changes on flow regimes are likely to alter species composition (Thomson et al., 2012; Chessman, 2015; Rolls et al., 2016; Kakouei et al., 2018).

2.3.1.4 Loss of Ice

Climate warming has caused a widespread loss of lakes and rivers ice around the Northern hemisphere (Weyhenmeyer et al., 2011; Sharma et al., 2019) (Figure 2.3). Lake surfaces have been freezing later in winter and breaking-up earlier in spring – overall reducing ice duration by >2 weeks and increasing the number of ice-free years (Adrian et al., 2009; Kirillin et al., 2012; Sharma et al., 2019). The impact of climate warming on lake ice phenology will be disproportionately large in areas where winters are relatively mild and the duration of ice cover is already short or intermittent compared to areas where winters are consistently cold and ice cover periods are much longer (Weyhenmeyer et al., 2011; Adrian and Hessen, 2016). With rapidly changing winter conditions in temperate areas (Sharma et al., 2019), a global quantitative synthesis on under ice plankton composition in 101 lakes provided evidence that inter-seasonal connections are common for several plankton-associated and biogeochemical variables, linking processes in winter to both the previous and subsequent summers (Hampton et al., 2017).

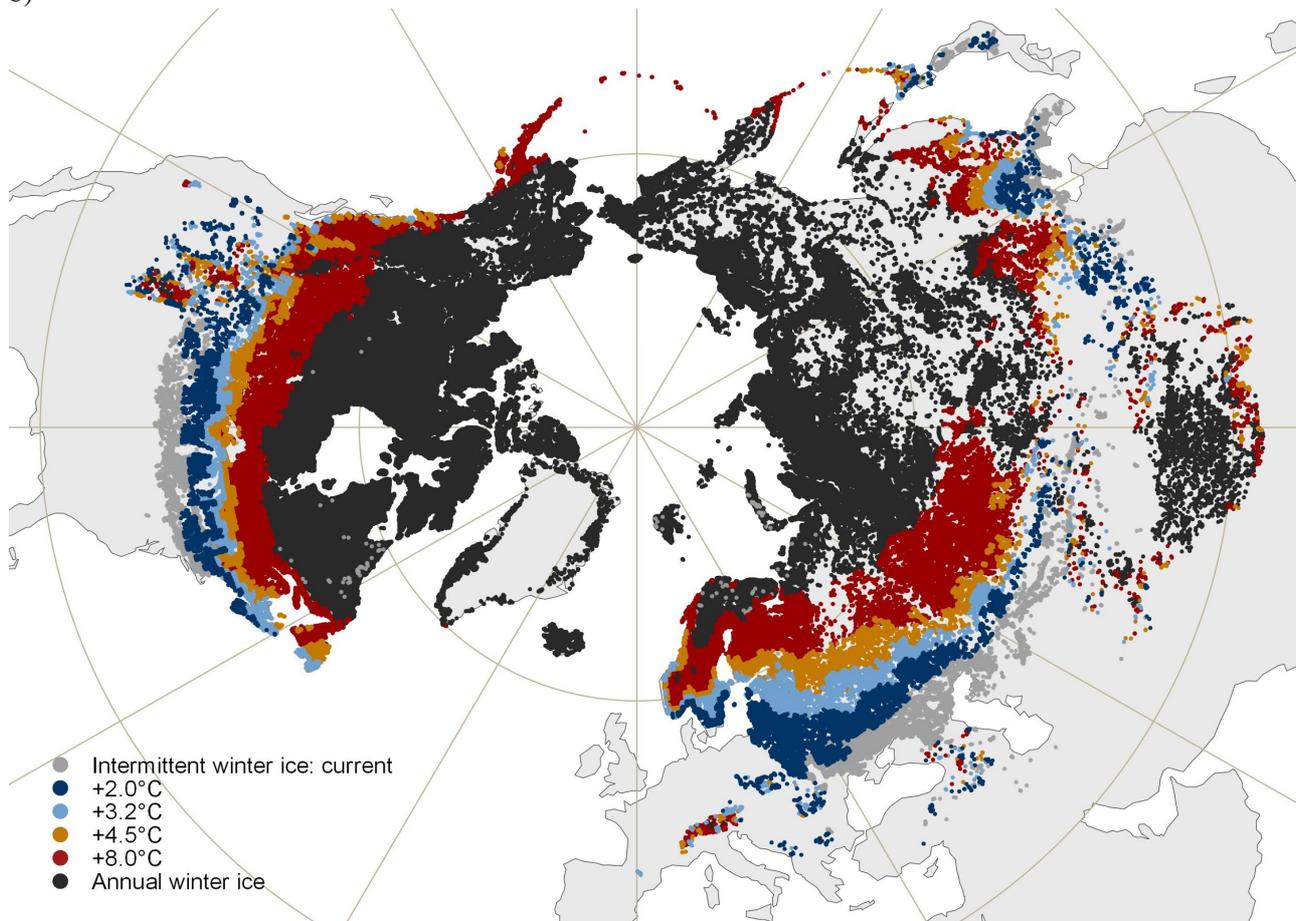
Projections revealed that 4.6% of the ice covered lakes in the northern hemisphere could experience intermittent winter ice cover under current mitigation trajectories of +3.2°C (Sharma et al., 2019). With a global rise of 2°C in air temperature, it is projected that the number of lakes with intermittent ice will double, affecting up to 394 million people who live within one hour of the shores. In a worst-case scenario (air temperatures increase of 8°C), 230,400 lakes and 656 million people in 50 countries will be impacted (Sharma et al., 2019). This high degree of warming would likely push the ice-cover zone out of the United States and into northern Canada, as well as threaten the ice cover of lakes in cold Scandinavian nations (Reid et al., 2019). Unfrozen lakes lose more water to evaporation during the winter and warm faster during the spring, which can decrease levels of water and oxygen in the lake. Loss of ice will affect local winter cultural heritage (Sharma et al., 2019).

a)



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b)



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Figure 2.3: [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: Temperature and ice cover trends globally. a) Global trends in lake (O'Reilly et al., 2015) and river water temperature in the past decades (overall period between 1922-2009) and b) spatial distribution of current and future Northern Hemisphere lakes that may experience intermittent winter ice cover with climate warming (Sharma et al., 2019). Figure to be updated into a multi-panel figure adding trends in water temperature, loss of ice cover and changes in water level from WGI]

8

9

2.3.1.5 Extreme Weather Events and Freshwater Systems

11

Besides long term warming trends, we increasingly face weather events that produce extreme wind speeds and heavy rainfall, or heat waves which affect the thermal stratification of lakes, water-sediment interaction, run-off and underwater light conditions, with implications for oxygen conditions and nutrient dynamics. Episodic events of extreme wind speed or rain events have had strong but complex impacts on thermal structure, dissolved organic matter (DOM) loading and underwater photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) levels in lakes and rivers. Depending on lake type, the severity and timing of the extreme event, and the nature of entrainment from run-off and internal loads (e.g. coloured DOM), algal biomass has been either reduced or increased (Jennings et al., 2012; Havens et al., 2016; Kuha et al., 2016; Kasprzak et al., 2017). Not all extreme events will have a biological impact (Bailey and van de Pol, 2016). For instance, an extreme wind event may have little impact on phytoplankton in a lake which was fully mixed prior to the event. Conversely, storm effects on phytoplankton communities may compound when lakes are not yet recovered from a previous storm or if periods of drought alternate with periods of intense precipitation, potentially eroding ecosystem resilience (Leonard, 2014). Hence the timing of storm events, and antecedent conditions, may greatly influence the ecological impact of storms (Perga et al., 2018).

26

Entrainment of anoxic water from deep water as a result of wind induced changes in mixing, reduction in primary productivity (change in underwater PAR) and increased mineralisation of organic carbon delivered from the catchment have caused decreases in surface dissolved oxygen levels (Jennings et al., 2012). Summer fish kills have been related to summer temperature extremes and near-bottom oxygen depletion (Kangur et al., 2016). Oxygen depletion in the cold deep water body of lakes during heat extremes has forced

31

1 fish to move upwards into the warm upper water layers (epilimnion) where thermal stress and metabolic
2 costs increase. A once in 250-year flood event in 2009 caused the water column of a large oligotrophic lake
3 to destabilise, followed by reduced primary production (de Eyto et al., 2016). Combined lower rates of gross
4 primary production and higher rates of respiration have the capacity to shift lakes towards an increased
5 degree of heterotrophy (Jennings et al., 2012). Climate change affects the light regime in rivers via longer
6 ice-free periods, earlier leaf out and later leaf fall, increased drought severity, altered timing and severity of
7 floods and earlier or reduced snow melt (Bernhardt et al., 2018). Floods deliver, bury and remove the organic
8 matter stored within river beds (Bernhardt et al., 2018).

9 10 *2.3.1.6 Projected Changes in Physical Characteristics of Lakes and Rivers*

11
12 Projections of climate drivers important for freshwater ecosystems have improved since AR5, with
13 assessments of large ensembles of GCM projections across South Asia (Zheng et al., 2018), assessments of
14 hydrological extremes (Giuntoli et al., 2015; Pechlivanidis et al., 2017), and intercomparison projects now
15 assessing future changes in runoff at unprecedented temporal (up to daily) and spatial resolution. The Inter-
16 Sectoral Impact Model Intercomparison Project (ISI-MIP) (Warszawski et al., 2014) integrated nine
17 hydrological models and five Global Climate Models to evaluate impacts and uncertainties in 12 large-scale
18 river basins covering the global range of climate, topography and continental distribution - the Rhine and
19 Tagus in Europe; Niger and Blue Nile in Africa; Ganges, Lena, Upper Yellow and Upper Yangtze in Asia;
20 MacKenzie, Upper Mississippi and Upper Amazon in America and Darling in Australia.

21
22 Future trends are difficult to project because of uncertainties in the GCMs, downscaling approaches and
23 hydrological models (Vetter, 2017). Uncertainties in precipitation projections continue to lead to a large
24 spread in projected runoff changes in many regions (Krysanova and Hattermann, 2017; Zheng et al., 2018).

25
26 Gridded general circulation models (GCM) outputs (and its dependencies with hydrological models, ISIMIP
27 (<https://www.isimip.org/>) are widely used, yet they yield uncertainties regarding our understanding as to how
28 future climate change would impact freshwater species and communities. We still lack a comprehensive
29 overview of freshwater habitats worldwide at a relevant spatial grain that is crucial to detect changes in
30 species and community composition. Valuable data sets mapping the distribution have been developed very
31 recently (e.g. rivers up to 60°N latitude (Lehner et al., 2008), lakes with a surface area of at least 10 ha
32 (Messenger et al., 2016), and wetlands at a 15 arc-sec spatial resolution (Tootchi et al., 2019). In riverine
33 ecosystems, small headwater streams are estimated to contribute ca. 60-70% to the entire river length
34 globally, harbouring species-rich communities. Yet, we currently lack both the high-resolution patterns of
35 how small water bodies are distributed worldwide (but see e.g. the SWOT mission <https://swot.jpl.nasa.gov/>,
36 satellite to be launched in 2021), and appropriate downscaled GCM outputs. For instance, (Isaak et al., 2016)
37 showed that small headwater streams respond slower than expected to climate velocities, i.e. they are not
38 warming as fast as expected, providing refugia for biodiversity.

39 40 *2.3.2 Basic Processes Leading to Compound Events and Feedbacks*

41
42 Understanding of the large-scale drivers and the local to-regional feedback processes that lead to extreme
43 events is still limited and projections of extremes and coincident or compounding events remain uncertain
44 (Prudhomme et al., 2014; Sillmann et al., 2017; Hao et al., 2018; Miralles et al., 2019). Extreme events are
45 challenging to model because they are by definition rare and often occur at spatial and temporal scales much
46 finer than the resolution of climate models (Sillmann et al., 2017; Zscheischler et al., 2018). Additionally, the
47 processes that cause extreme events often interact, as is the case for drought and heat events, and are
48 spatially and temporally dependent, for example, as is the case in soil moisture and temperature (Vogel et al.,
49 2017). Understanding feedbacks between land and atmosphere also remains limited. For example, positive
50 feedbacks between soil and vegetation, evaporation, radiation and precipitation are important in the
51 preconditioning of extreme events such as heatwaves and droughts (Miralles et al., 2019).

52
53 Despite recent improvements in observational studies and climate modelling (Santanello et al., 2015;
54 Stegehuis et al., 2015; PaiMazumder and Done, 2016; Basara and Christian, 2018), the potential to quantify
55 or infer formal causal relationships between multiple drivers and/or hazards remains limited (Zscheischler
56 and Seneviratne, 2017; Miralles et al., 2019). Additionally, hazards such as drought are often exacerbated by
57 societal, industrial and agricultural water demands, requiring more sophisticated modelling of the physical

1 and human systems. Observations of past compound events may not provide reliable guides to how future
2 events may evolve, because human activity and recent climate change continue to interact to influence both
3 system functioning and the climate state (Mehran et al., 2017; Wan et al., 2017).
4
5

6 **2.4 Observed Impacts of Climate Change on Wild Biological Systems**

7 **2.4.1 Overview and Methodology**

8
9
10 For biological systems we use the framework for detection and attribution outlined in AR5 in which
11 attribution of observed biological changes is made not to global, but to local or regional climate changes,
12 regardless of the underlying drivers of these changes (Parmesan et al., 2013; Cramer et al., 2014).
13

14 Data in prior reports were highly concentrated from the northern hemisphere. This bias is diminishing. Data
15 from southern hemisphere regions are being added and there is now representation from every continent.
16 However, the critique of "global" studies by Feeley (2017) argues that most of them are far from global and
17 that considerable geographic and taxonomic bias remains.
18

19 Freshwater systems are well represented with respect to basic understanding of processes related to physical
20 changes in lakes or streams, but there are relatively few long-term biological records and effects of climate
21 change are often highly confounded with those of other human drivers, particularly eutrophication and
22 invasive species (see Sections 2.1 and 2.3). For terrestrial systems, global meta-analyses in AR3 and AR4
23 concentrated on findings from relatively undisturbed areas, but more recent global and regional meta-
24 analyses have tended to include all available relevant data (AR5 and later).
25

26 For studies conducted in relatively undisturbed areas, confidence in attributing observed changes to climate
27 change is higher than for those done in areas with greater human disturbance, where the effects of local or
28 regional climate change interact with other drivers of change. Overall confidence in attribution of a
29 biological change to climate change can be increased in multiple ways (Parmesan et al., 2013). First,
30 confidence rises when the time span of biological records is long (>50 years), such that long-term trends can
31 not only be statistically distinguished from natural variability, but when decadal trends in climate match
32 decadal trends in a biological response. Second, confidence is increased when the geographic area covered is
33 large, which tends to diminish the effects of local confounding factors. Third, confidence is increased when
34 there is a large body of experimental or empirical evidence of a significant mechanistic link between
35 particular climate metrics and a biological response. Fourth, confidence is increased when particular
36 fingerprints of climate change are documented that uniquely implicate climate change as the causal driver of
37 the biological change (Parmesan and Yohe, 2003). These conditions constitute multiple lines of evidence
38 which, when they converge, can provide *very high confidence* that climate change is the causal driver of an
39 observed change in a particular biological species or system (Parmesan et al., 2013).
40

41 **2.4.2 Observed Responses by Species and Communities (Freshwater and Terrestrial)**

42
43 By the time of AR5, >4,000 species with long-term observational data had been studied in the context of
44 climate change (Parmesan, 2006; Parmesan and Hanley, 2015). Since then, hundreds of new studies have
45 been added (Scheffers et al., 2016). Global and regional meta-analyses of diverse systems, habitats and
46 taxonomic groupings document that approximately half of all species with long-term records have shifted
47 their ranges poleward and/or upward in elevation and ~2/3 have advanced their timing of spring events
48 (phenology) (Table 2.2; (Parmesan and Hanley, 2015; Parmesan, 2019). Changes in abundance tend to match
49 predictions from climate warming, with warm-adapted species significantly out-performing cold-adapted
50 species in the same habitats (Bowler et al., 2017; Hughes et al., 2018). These meta-analyses each document a
51 link between recent climate change and observed changes in natural biological systems. Attribution of
52 changes in streams and lakes is difficult, as few systems are in undisturbed states. As with terrestrial
53 ecosystems, changes in land-use and other human activities can interact with climate change, confounding
54 interpretation of observed changes. Moreover, climate change-induced indirect temperature effects through
55 changes in thermal, light and nutrient regimes along with an increase in organic matter transport via the
56 catchment (browning) are often more pronounced than responses directly related to higher temperatures.
57 Below, we give examples concentrating on freshwater systems. These have been under-represented in most

1 reviews (Table 2.2), but long-term data sets, coupled with laboratory and field experiments, are now
2 documenting the importance of the physical/hydrological environment in structuring lake and stream
3 biogeochemistry and communities.

4 5 2.4.2.1 Range Shifts and local population extinctions

6
7 Globally, about half of species with sufficient long-term data and with minimal influence of confounding,
8 non-climatic factors have shifted their ranges poleward and upward (Table 2.2; section 2.4.2). Ranges shifts
9 stem from local extinctions along warm-range-boundaries, as well as from colonization of few regions at
10 cold-range-boundaries. Local extinctions (disappearance of local populations within a species range) have
11 been much better documented in the past than have whole species' extinctions, although attribution to
12 climate change can be difficult. Wiens (2016) published an analysis of local extinctions and found them
13 widespread among plant and animal species. Specifically he found that 47% of 976 species examined had
14 undergone local extinctions as determined by published studies on range shifts – either range contractions or
15 unidirectional shifts (local extinctions at lower elevations or on the warm edge of the species range). The
16 overall percentage was higher in tropical species, 55%, than temperate, 39% of the species that showed local
17 extinctions. Higher in animals (50%) than plants (39%) and highest in freshwater habitats (74%), then
18 marine (51%) and finally terrestrial (46%). The difference between animals and plants is opposite the
19 projections of which taxa may be more susceptible to range shifts in a warming climate (Warren et al.,
20 2018). This may be due to a number of reasons. For example, the number of animals (760) showing range
21 shifts in the literature was much greater than the number of plants (216). Furthermore, many plants are long-
22 lived, and/or have large seed banks in the soil, making contractions far more difficult to detect than
23 expansions. Finally, many animals are more mobile (have greater dispersal capabilities) than plants making it
24 more likely that these shifts will be more detectable (Warren et al., 2018).

25
26 Cold water fish, such as coregonids and smelt have been negatively affected at the southern borders of their
27 distributions (Jeppesen et al., 2012). Systematic shifts towards higher elevation and upstream were found for
28 32 stream fish species in France following geographic variation in climate change (Comte et al., 2013).
29 These shifts have resulted in range contractions of cold-adapted species living at high elevations. Bull trout
30 (*Salvelinus confluentus*) in Idaho (USA), were estimated to have lost 11–20% (8–16% decade⁻¹) of the
31 headwater stream lengths that were cold enough for spawning and early juvenile rearing, with the largest
32 losses occurring in the coldest habitats (Isaak et al., 2010). Likewise, the distribution of the stonefly *Zapada*
33 *glacier*, endemic to alpine streams of Glacier National Park in Montana (USA), has been reduced over
34 several decades by upstream retreat to higher, cooler sites as water temperatures have increased and glacial
35 masses decreased (Giersch et al., 2015).

36
37 In contrast warm-adapted species have invaded habitats that were formerly too cool for them. An invasive
38 freshwater cyanobacterium, *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* originated from the tropics, has spread to
39 temperate zones over the last few decades due to climate change-induced earlier increase of water
40 temperature in spring (Wiedner et al., 2007). In general, Cyanobacteria, which exhibit optimal growth at high
41 water temperature and profit from stable thermal stratification and high nutrient concentrations, are on the
42 rise (Domisch et al., 2013; Adrian and Hessen, 2016) as climate change indirectly affects both thermal and
43 nutrient regimes in their favour (*very high confidence*).

44
45 Range-shift responses have led to predictable changes of community composition in freshwater systems
46 (Barry et al., 1995; Devictor et al., 2012). For example, a gain in warm water habitat and loss in cold water
47 habitat has affected the relative fish species composition in Lake Superior (Cline et al., 2013). A long-term
48 study of 24 European lakes revealed a decline in the abundance of the cold–stenothermal Arctic charr
49 (*Salvelinus alpinus*) and an increase in eurythermal fish species (e.g. the thermo-tolerant carp *Cyprinus*
50 *carpio*, common bream, pike perch, shad). Observed long-term trends in stream macroinvertebrates have
51 also shown that changes in species composition and community structure can be attributed to climate change,
52 e.g., in France over a 20 year period (1985–2004) triggered by hydroclimatic changes (Daufresne et al.,
53 2007) and in Australia over a 13 year period (1994–2007) (Chessman, 2009), where species likewise
54 responded to hydroclimatic changes with significant changes attributed to thermophily and rheophily of
55 individual species.

2.4.2.2 Phenological Responses

In freshwater communities, phenological changes have been related to changes in the physical environment as water temperature has risen, ice cover has been reduced and thermal stratification prolonged in lakes. There has been earlier timing of spring phytoplankton and zooplankton development and the earlier spawning by fish, as well as extension of the growing season (Adrian et al., 2009; Domis, 2013; Adrian and Hessen, 2016) (*very high confidence*). Thackeray (2010) found a trophic level asynchrony in rates of phenological change, with timing of phytoplankton bloom showing the slowest rate of advance, followed by invertebrates and vertebrates. Whether those phenological shifts cause mistiming in interaction is under debate (Singer and Parmesan, 2010; Straile et al., 2012). The median return time of Atlantic salmon among rivers in Newfoundland and Labrador advanced by 12- 21 days over the past decades, associated with overall warmer climatic conditions. Warming-induced accelerated ontogenetic development may enable the production of additional generations within a year, as has been shown for copepods (Winder et al., 2009b; Adrian et al., 2012).

2.4.2.3 Complex Phenological Responses

Early meta-analyses tested the straightforward hypotheses that warming should shift timing earlier and ranges poleward. Once these trends had been established, exceptions to them became foci of study. For example, some plants in northern regions of the northern hemisphere were busily retarding their spring flowering instead of advancing it as expected with warming. These turned out to be species requiring vernalization (winter chilling) to speed spring development. For these plants, phenological changes result from combined effects of advancement caused by spring warming and retardation caused by winter warming. Incorporating this level of complexity into analyses revealed that a greater proportion of species were responding to climate change than estimated under the simple expectation that warming should always cause advancement (Cook et al., 2012).

Animal species can show vernalization equivalent to that in plants (Stålhandske et al., 2017). However, a semi-global meta-analysis across terrestrial animals failed to detect delaying effects of warming winters (Cohen et al., 2018). The same animal-based meta-analysis contrasted phenological changes in temperate-zone animals, which are principally explained by changes of temperature, with those at lower latitudes, which follow changes of precipitation (Cohen et al., 2018). Precipitation has also been implicated in exceptions to the rule that ranges should be shifting to higher elevations. In dry climates, increases of precipitation accompanying climate warming can facilitate downslope range shifts (Tingley et al., 2012).

[INSERT TABLE 2.2 HERE]

Table 2.2: Global Fingerprints of Climate Change Impacts across Wild Species. Updated from Parmesan and Hanley 2015 [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: update still in progress]. For each dataset, a response for an individual species or functional group was classified as (1) no response (no significant change in the measured trait over time), (2) if a significant change was found, the response was classified as either consistent or not consistent with expectations from local or regional climate trends. Percentages are approximate and estimated for the studies as a whole. Individual analyses within the studies may differ. The specific metrics of climate change analysed for associations with biological change vary somewhat across studies, but most use changes in local or regional temperatures (e.g., mean monthly T or mean annual T), with some using precipitation metrics (e.g. total annual rainfall). E.g. a consistent responses would be poleward range shifts in areas that are warming. Probability (P) of getting the observed ratio of consistent: not consistent responses by chance was $<10^{-6}$ for Parmesan & Yohe 2003, Root 2003, Root 2005 and Poloczanska 2013, and was <0.001 for Rosenzweig 2008 (source=publication) (Parmesan and Yohe, 2003; Root et al., 2003; Root et al., 2005; Rosenzweig et al., 2008; Poloczanska et al., 2013). Test were all binomial tests against $p=0.5$, performed by Parmesan

[START FAQ 2.1 HERE]

FAQ2.1: Are wild species able to move to new locations where the climate is becoming more suitable?

[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]

1 [END FAQ 2.1 HERE]

2 3 4 2.4.2.4 *Changes in Body Size*

5
6 In addition to changes in phenology and distribution, a decrease in body size has been suggested as a general
7 response of species to climate change in freshwater species given the temperature related constraints of
8 metabolism with increasing body size. Reduced body size in response to global warming has been
9 documented for freshwater bacteria, plankton and fish, as well as a shift towards smaller species (Daufresne
10 et al., 2009; Winder et al., 2009a). Observations of the Lake Erie yellow perch, *Perca flavescens*, showed
11 that following short winters with higher spring water temperatures, females produced smaller eggs than
12 females exposed to long winters and colder spawning waters (Farmer et al., 2015).

13
14 Evidence is weak for a consistent reduction in body size across taxonomic groups in terrestrial animals
15 (Siepielski et al., 2019). Changes to fundamental ecological characteristics such as body size (and length of
16 appendages) have been documented in terrestrial ecosystems in response to changing climate, but trends are
17 not always linear or consistent across taxonomic groups or geographic regions (Gibson et al., 2011; Gotanda
18 et al., 2015). Decreased body size is expected based on biogeographic rules such as Bergmann's Rule, but
19 both increases and decreases have been documented in mammals, birds and invertebrates and attributed to
20 climate change (Teplitsky and Millien, 2014; Gotanda et al., 2015). Evidence is strongest for birds (Yom-
21 Tov, 2001) and for some mammals (Yom-Tov and Yom-Tov, 2004) but contrasting patterns have been
22 found in ectotherms (Chamaille-Jammes et al., 2006). Contrasting patterns may be due to short-term
23 modifications in selection pressures (e.g., changes to predation and competition), variation in life histories or
24 a result of interactions with climate variables other than temperature (e.g., changes to food availability with
25 rainfall changes) and other disturbances (Yom-Tov and Yom-Tov, 2004) or body size shapes (linear vs.
26 volumetric dimensions). A comparison between phytoplankton and tree size revealed that individual body
27 masses in tree and phytoplankton communities followed power-law distributions. However, the average
28 exponents of these individual size distributions differed. Phytoplankton communities showed an average
29 individual size distribution exponent consistent with three-quarter-power scaling of metabolism with body
30 mass while tree communities deviated from this pattern in a manner consistent with equivalence in energy
31 use among diameter size classes. The divergent aspects of body size (volumetric vs. linear dimensions)
32 shapes the ecological outcome of metabolic scaling in forest vs. pelagic ecosystems.

33 34 2.4.2.5 *Chytrid Fungus and Climate Change*

35
36 Infection by the chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (subsequently Bd), can cause a disease,
37 chytridiomycosis. Bd is widely-distributed both in the Americas and in Australia. It successfully
38 accompanied and caused disease in high-elevation Andean frogs as they expanded their ranges to reach
39 5,200-5,400m (Seimon et al., 2017). Bd has been associated with severe declines of tropical frogs, and early
40 work argued that chytridiomycosis was the sole cause of these declines. However, the 1980's extinction of
41 the Golden Toad, *Incilius periglenes*, in Costa Rica occurred in the apparent absence of Bd (Pounds et al.,
42 2006), and the fungus has been recorded as endemic in frog populations that did not suffer disease, where it
43 may be commensal rather than parasitic (Retallick et al., 2004; Daskin et al., 2011; Puschendorf et al., 2011;
44 Zumbado-Ulate et al., 2014). These findings have stimulated laboratory experiments and intensive analyses
45 of observed patterns of infection and disease in nature, leading to the developing consensus that the
46 interaction between chytrids and frogs is climate-sensitive, and that both climate change and Bd were
47 involved in global amphibian declines (Puschendorf et al., 2011; Cohen et al., 2019a). More specifically,
48 (Cohen et al., 2019b) give evidence supporting their "thermal mismatch hypothesis," which expects that
49 vulnerability to disease should be higher at warm temperatures in cool-adapted species and higher at cool
50 temperatures in warm-adapted species.

51 52 2.4.2.6 *Evolutionary Responses*

53
54 Prior sections document species' tendencies to retain their climate envelopes by some combination of range
55 shift and phenological change. However, this tracking of climate change may be incomplete, causing species
56 or populations to experience hotter conditions than those to which they are adapted and to thereby incur
57 "climate debts" (Devictor et al., 2012). The importance of population-level debt is illustrated by a study in

1 which estimated debt values were correlated with population dynamic trends in a North American migratory
2 songbird, the Yellow Warbler, (*Setophaga petechia*). Debt values were obtained from genomic analyses
3 independent of the population trends, and were distributed across the species' range in a mosaic, not simply
4 concentrated at a range margin, rendering the results robust to being confounded broad-scale geographical
5 trends (Bay et al., 2018).

6
7 In the absence of evolutionary constraints, climate debts might be cancelled by evolutionary increases in
8 thermal tolerance and in ability to perform in high ambient temperatures. In species already showing local
9 adaptation to climate, it is expected that populations currently living at relatively cool sites can evolve to
10 adopt traits of those currently at warmer sites, as their experience of climate changes (Singer, 2017; Socolar
11 et al., 2017). However, this does not mean that populations at warm range limits will be able to track climate
12 change in situ by evolving to survive outside the species' traditional climate envelope (Singer, 2017);
13 whether or not they can do so depends on the level of "niche conservatism" operating at the species level.
14 This topic was reviewed in the context of climate change by (Lavergne et al.).

15
16 As expected, an increasing number of studies documents evolutionary responses to climate change in
17 populations that are not at warm range limits (Franks and Hoffmann, 2012). Small organisms with short
18 generation times should have higher capacity to genetically track climate change than species with long
19 generation times, such as mammals (Boutin and Lane, 2014). Indeed, observed evolutionary impacts have
20 been mainly documented in insects (freshwater and terrestrial). These changes include rapid evolution at
21 expanding range margins, reviewed by (Chuang and Peterson, 2016), increased dispersal abilities at
22 colonizing wavefronts (Thomas et al., 2001) and changes of host specialization at the same expanding range
23 margins (Bridle et al., 2014).

24
25 Away from range margins, individual populations experiencing regional warming have been evolving in
26 diverse traits related to climate adaptation. For example, pitcher-plant mosquitos in the northwest USA have
27 evolved to wait for shorter daylengths before initiating diapause, allowing them to respond to lengthening
28 summers by delaying their overwintering stage until later in the autumn and adding an extra generation each
29 year (Bradshaw and Holzapfel, 2001). Among 26 populations of *Drosophila subobscura* studied on three
30 continents, 22 experienced climate warming across two or more decades, and 21 of those 22 showed
31 increasing frequencies of chromosome inversions characteristic of populations adapted to hot climates
32 (Balanya et al.).

33
34 If a species' whose range limits have been determined by climate finds itself completely outside its
35 traditional climate envelope, extinction is expected in the absence of "evolutionary rescue" (Bell and
36 Gonzalez, 2009; Bell et al., 2019). To investigate the potential for evolution that could enable a species to
37 survive in a novel climate entirely outside its traditional climate envelope, experiments have been carried out
38 on poikilotherms to test thermal performances, thermal tolerances, and their evolvabilities (Castaneda et al.,
39 2019; Xue et al., 2019). Tests of thermal performance have not been simple, since the subjects tend to show
40 both long-term acclimation and transgenerational effects (Sgro et al., 2016). However, the results to date
41 have been consistent. Despite the widespread existence of local adaptation to climate across species' ranges,
42 substantial constraints exist to the evolution of greater stress tolerance (e.g. high temperatures and drought)
43 at warm range limits (Hoffmann and Sgro, 2011; MacLean et al., 2019). For example, as temperature was
44 experimentally increased, the amount of genetic variance in fitness of *Drosophila melanogaster* decreased,
45 so in hot environments the flies had low evolvability (Kristensen et al., 2015). The hypothesis that tolerance
46 of heat stress is evolutionarily constrained is further supported by experiments in which 22 *Drosophila*
47 species drawn from tropical and temperate climes were subjected to extremes of heat and cold. They were
48 found to differ as expected in cold tolerance, but not in heat tolerance or in the temperature of optimal
49 performance (MacLean et al., 2019).

50
51 Plasticity, for example in acclimating to thermal regimes, can help organisms adapt to environmental change
52 and the form and extent of plasticity can vary among populations that experience different climates (Kelly,
53 2019). Plasticity may, in response to novel extreme environments, generate phenotypic values that lie outside
54 the prior range for the species, but plasticity itself has not been observed to evolve in the context of climate
55 change (Kelly, 2019). In the light of these experimental results, it is not surprising that, to date, relevant
56 genetic changes in nature (e.g. affecting heat tolerance) have not taken any species out of the boundaries of
57 known previously-existing variation. Evolutionary rescue has not yet been observed in nature.

1
2 Episodes of hybridization between closely-related species have increased in recent decades as one species
3 shifts its range boundaries, bringing it into greater contact with close relatives. For example, hybrids between
4 polar bears and brown bears have been documented in northern Canada (Kelly et al., 2010). In North
5 American rivers, hybridization between invasive rainbow trout and native cutthroat trout has increased in
6 frequency as the invasive species expanded into warming waters (Muhlfeld et al., 2014). Whether climate-
7 changed induced hybridizations can generate novel climate adaptations remains to be seen.

8
9 In sum, with present knowledge, evolution is *very unlikely* to be sufficient to prevent whole species'
10 extinctions if a species' climate space disappears (*high confidence*).

11 **2.4.3 Observed Changes in Vegetation/Communities/Biomes**

12 **2.4.3 Detection and Attribution for Biome Shifts**

13
14 Attribution for biome shifts embodies the complexities of attribution for range shifts of individual species
15 and, because of the extensive spatial scale of biomes, which can cross entire continents (Whittaker, 1975)
16 (Olson et al., 2001; Woodward et al., 2004), non-climate factors assume greater importance in influencing
17 spatial distributions of biomes (Ellis and Ramankutty, 2008). The most robust attribution studies focus on
18 data from individual locations for which confounding factors are minimal, particularly recent land use
19 change, and scale up by analyzing multiple locations across a long zone between biomes, and, as with
20 individual species, multiple lines of evidence increase confidence (Hegerl et al., 2010; Parmesan et al.,
21 2013). Multivariate statistical analyses may help assess relative weights among factors, including variables
22 related to climate change, when multiple factors act together (Gonzalez et al., 2012). However, in ecological
23 systems drivers are often acting in strong, significant interactions with each other, making quantitative
24 assessment of strength of individual drivers difficult (Parmesan et al., 2013). In these cases, manipulative
25 experiments are critical in assessing attribution to climate change drivers.

26
27
28
29
30 Certain biomes exhibit a relatively stronger relationship to climate, for example, arctic tundra, which
31 generally shows a distinct ecotone with boreal conifer forest (Whittaker, 1975). In these areas, attribution of
32 biome shifts to climate change can be relatively straightforward, if human land use change is minimal.
33 However, other biomes, such as many grassland systems, are not at equilibrium with climate (Bond et al.,
34 2005) and present a more complex challenge. In these systems their evolutionary history (Keeley et al.,
35 2011; Strömberg, 2011; Charles-Dominique et al., 2016), distribution, structure and function have been
36 shaped by interactions between climate and disturbances like fire and herbivory (Bakker et al., 2016) (Staver
37 et al., 2011; Lehmann et al., 2014; Pausas, 2015; Malhi et al., 2016). Variability in disturbances are an
38 inherent characteristic of these systems and a “control” situation is seldom available in nature. Furthermore,
39 due to the integral role of disturbance in these biomes they have been widely affected by long-term and
40 widespread shifts in grazing regimes, large scale losses of mega-herbivores and policies of fire suppression
41 (Archibald et al., 2013; Malhi et al., 2016; Hempson et al., 2017). This inherent characteristic of these
42 biomes makes it necessary to conduct climate change attribution on a case by case basis, and such
43 assessments are complex as it is hard to separate out direct climate change impacts from either inherent
44 variation within disturbance regimes or directional changes in background disturbances (detailed in section
45 2.3.4.3). Confidence in assessments will be increased when observed trends are supported by a mechanistic
46 understanding of the response as identified by physiological studies, manipulative field experiments,
47 greenhouse studies and lab experiments.

48 **2.4.3.2 Global Patterns of Biome Shifts**

49
50
51 Previous assessments found that field research on vegetation at the biome level detected latitudinal and
52 elevational biome shifts at 19 sites in boreal, temperate, and tropical ecosystems and attributed the shifts to
53 anthropogenic climate change (Gonzalez et al., 2010b), Figure 4.1 and Table 4.1 in (Settele et al., 2014)).
54 Field research since the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report has detected additional biome shifts at numerous
55 sites, upslope or latitudinal. While the shifts found in recent research efforts are consistent with the increased
56 temperatures and altered precipitation patterns of climate change, they have not been attributed to

1 anthropogenic climate change since the research efforts were not designed or did not conduct analyses
2 necessary for attribution.

3
4 The biome shift detected over the longest period of time occurred on Chimborazo, a mountain in the Andes
5 in Ecuador where Alexander von Humboldt surveyed 51 plant species in 1802 and researchers conducted a
6 re-survey in 2012 (Morueta-Holme et al., 2015). During that period, temperature increased 1.7°C and the
7 upper limit of alpine tundra shifted upslope 500 m (Morueta-Holme et al., 2015). Other additional cases of
8 upslope biome shifts that have been detected by field research and are consistent with climate change include
9 upslope shifts of boreal conifer forest into alpine tundra in the Altai Mountains, Russia, 150 m from 1954 to
10 2006 (Gatti et al., 2019), in the Himalayas, Nepal, 50 m since ca. 1860, (Sigdel et al., 2018), in the Changbai
11 Mountains, China, 33 m from 1985 to 2014 (Du et al., 2018), in the Great Basin mountains, USA, 19 m from
12 1950 to 2016 (Smithers et al., 2018), and across the mountains of Tibet, 300 m since ca. 1910 (Liang et al.,
13 2016), shifts of temperate conifer forest into alpine tundra in British Columbia, Canada, from 1962 to 2005
14 (Jackson et al., 2016) and into subalpine grassland in California, USA since ca. 1920 (Lubetkin et al., 2017),
15 an upslope shift of temperate deciduous into temperate conifer forest in Switzerland from 1983 to 2003
16 (Rigling et al., 2013), and an upslope shift of temperate shrubland and retraction of temperate conifer forest
17 in Yellowstone, USA, ~150 m from 1988 to 2012 (Donato et al., 2016). Cases since the IPCC Fifth
18 Assessment Report of poleward biome shifts that have been detected and are consistent with climate change
19 include northward shifts of deciduous forest into boreal conifer forest in Québec, Canada, 5 km from 1970 to
20 2012 (Sittaro et al., 2017) and 20 km from 1970 to 2014 (Boisvert-Marsh et al., 2019). A network of
21 vegetation plots at 117 tundra sites across the Arctic and mountain areas found a statistically significant
22 increase of plant height from 1989 to 2015, a possible signal of more widespread biome shifts (Bjorkman et
23 al., 2018).

24
25 In Europe, increased woodiness of open areas has been attributed to regeneration of vegetation after
26 abandonment of agriculture, livestock grazing, timber cutting, and other local human land-use changes.
27 Abandonment of traditional farming (haymaking) and livestock grazing has driven reforestation of alpine
28 grassland, observed as an upward shift of treeline, at numerous sites across Europe (Ameztegui et al., 2016;
29 Cudlin et al., 2017; Vitali et al., 2017). Likewise, increased use of fire to clear alpine pastures in Peru is
30 facilitating upslope shifts of fire-tolerant shrubland (Bush et al., 2015).

31
32 In other systems (e.g. in the USA and Africa), research has detected biome shifts of grassland to woodland or
33 forest but attribution is complex, as these systems are inherently driven by interactions of climate,
34 atmospheric CO₂ levels, grazing, and/or fire. These biomes have been widely impacted by long-term and
35 widespread shifts in grazing regimes, large scale losses of mega-herbivores and policies of fire suppression
36 (Archibald et al., 2013; Malhi et al., 2016; Hempson et al., 2017). Human settlement has added an additional
37 disturbance axis. For example, westward expansion of human settlement in the central U.S. may be
38 contributing to westward shifts of eastern deciduous forest into grassland (Hanberry and Hansen, 2015).

39
40 In these systems, the role of climate change is assessed through inductive reasoning that relies on
41 experimental manipulations and comparative approaches across landscapes to determine whether or not there
42 may be a climate change signal, in concert with other drivers, that is shaping observed long-term changes
43 (Potts et al., 2015). Attribution, then, relies on the synthesis of multiple results from experiments, field
44 observations from natural and semi-natural sites to assess whether the observed trends are in line with
45 projected outcomes of climate change. Experiments at field sites and in greenhouses in the USA, Australia
46 and South Africa indicate that observed woody-encroachment into grasslands in those regions is consistent
47 with effects of climate change and increased CO₂ in controlled experiments (Ellis and Ramankutty, 2008;
48 Nackley et al., 2018; Manea and Leishman, 2019). Globally, woody encroachment into open areas
49 (grasslands, arid regions and tundra) is *likely* being driven by climate change and increased CO₂ in concert
50 with changes in grazing and fire regime (detailed in section 2.4.3.3).

51 2.4.3.3 Non-Forested Ecosystems

52
53
54
55 **Figure 2.4:** [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: Figure to show woody encroachment in open systems.
56 Woody expansion into open ecosystems from 2000. Non-forested ecosystems have experienced a significant increase in
57 tree and shrub cover at the expense of open areas. Light green circles will indicate increases in shrub cover, dark green

1 will indicate increases in tree cover. Only studies where change is attributed to climate change related processes or a
2 combination of climate change and land-use change will be presented in this map.]

3 4 5 2.4.3.3.1 *Arid Regions*

6 Projections for deserts and xeric ecosystems predict that higher temperatures, lower rainfall and an increase
7 in evaporation will cause a decline in soil moisture, causing a decline in plant growth and an expansion of
8 arid vegetation, reduced ground cover and general aridification. Field studies in the Namib desert indicate an
9 increase in woody plant cover in most localities, and a shift of mesic species into more arid environments
10 (Rohde et al., 2019), with the trends being attributed to an increase in the amount of precipitation (including
11 fog) (Gonzalez et al., 2010b) due to a westward expansion of convective rainfall in the arid-savanna –Namib
12 transition and the eastern grass/shrublands. These findings accord with projected effects of global warming
13 on the Benguela upwelling system (Haensler et al., 2011).

14
15 Arid grasslands and shrublands are experiencing changes in vegetation structure and function. Woody plant
16 encroachment into arid shrublands in N. America (Caracciolo et al., 2016; Archer et al., 2017) and
17 encroachment into arid shrublands, arid savannah and desert in Southern Africa is occurring (du Toit and
18 O'Connor, 2014; Ward et al., 2014; Masubelele et al., 2015a; Masubelele et al., 2015b; Hoffman et al., 2019;
19 Rohde et al., 2019) (*robust evidence, high agreement*) with recent research indicating that this trend is also
20 occurring in Central Asia (Li et al., 2015) (*low evidence, low agreement*). In North American sagebrush
21 steppe changes have been attributed to increases in temperature and earlier snowpack melt (Wuebbles et al.,
22 2017; Mote et al., 2018; Snyder et al., 2019). Additional lines of evidence indicate that warming and shifts in
23 rainfall seasonality, and elevated CO₂ interact with land-use (fire, and grazing/browsing regimes) to cause
24 this trend with their relative importance and interaction strength differing markedly among locations (for
25 review see Donohue et al., 2013; Caracciolo et al., 2016; Archer et al., 2017; Hoffmann et al., 2019; Rohde
26 et al., 2019). Rising concentration of CO₂ is an important agent of change in arid areas as it acts to improve
27 plant water use efficiency, which can benefit shrubs (*medium evidence, medium agreement*) (Polley et al.,
28 1997; Morgan et al., 2004; Donohue et al., 2013).

29
30 Shifts in grass abundance have been documented in N. America, and a dominant grass species of the
31 Chihuahuan desert has expanded into arid grassland (Collins and Xia, 2014; Rudgers et al., 2018). The
32 sagebrush steppes (cold deserts) in N. America are being invaded by non-native grasses (Chambers et al.,
33 2014) with the invasion likely driven by an increase in favourable climates, particularly warmer
34 temperatures, which benefit these grasses (Bradley et al., 2016; Hufft and Zelikova, 2016). In the South
35 African semi-desert (Karoo), multiple lines of evidence indicate that the eastern semi-desert (Karoo) has
36 experienced an increase in grassiness with arid grasslands expanding into semi-desert shrublands (du Toit et
37 al., 2015; Masubelele et al., 2015a; Masubelele et al., 2015b). There is *robust evidence* that that these
38 patterns have been caused by a significant increase in annual rainfall and a shift in rainfall seasonality (du
39 Toit and O'Connor, 2014) but it is not certain if this change is from long-term climate cycles or
40 anthropogenic climate change.

41 42 2.4.3.3.2 *Grasslands*

43 Grasslands occur across a broad range of climatic conditions but water is generally limiting for some part of
44 the year, and most grasslands experience periodic droughts and a dormant season based on seasonal dry or
45 cold conditions. Grazing, fire and climate are also important in determining the structure and function of
46 grasslands (Blair et al., 2014).

47
48 The global extent of grasslands has experienced significant climate change related declines. Advances in
49 treelines across the world continue to be documented (Song et al., 2018) with warming causing upslope
50 increases in tree cover in mountain systems and an accompanying loss in montane grassland extent (Silva et
51 al., 2016; Andela et al., 2017; Song et al., 2018; Aide et al., 2019). Since 1982 grassland in and around
52 temperate continental forest has declined by 14% since 1982, boreal coniferous forest by 10% and
53 subtropical humid forest by 9% (Song et al., 2018). Large amounts of grassland loss within temperate,
54 mostly forested areas, can be attributed to land abandonment, forest recovery, increasing number of
55 plantations and large-scale reforestation and afforestation programs (Song et al., 2018).

1 Climatic drivers of woody expansion in temperature limited grasslands, particularly alpine grasslands is most
2 frequently attributed to warming (*robust evidence, high confidence*) (Venter et al., 2018; Brandt et al., 2019),
3 increase in water and nutrient availability from thawing permafrost (Zhou et al., 2015; Silva et al., 2016)
4 (*medium evidence, high agreement*) and rising CO₂ (Frank et al., 2015; Aide et al., 2019) (*medium evidence,*
5 *medium agreement*). Similarly, the widely documented shrub expansion in arid grasslands (du Toit and
6 O'Connor, 2014; Archer et al., 2017) is likely being facilitated by warming through reducing frost effects ,
7 accelerating growth rates and extension of the growing season (*medium evidence, high agreement*) (du Toit
8 and O'Connor, 2014; Saintilan and Rogers, 2015; Archer et al., 2017) and the role of CO₂ in improving
9 water use efficiency and hence water availability in arid systems (Donohue et al., 2013; Saintilan and
10 Rogers, 2015; Archer et al., 2017). Additional drivers like altered fire regimes and modification of grazing
11 regimes may further exacerbate these trends (Archer et al., 2017; Hoffman et al., 2019).

12
13 Remote sensing shows overall increasing trends in both the annual maximum NDVI and annual mean NDVI
14 grasslands ecosystems between 1982-2011 (Gao et al., 2016b). Other remote sensing studies confirm an
15 increasing trend in grassland NPP in China and Australia, but decreasing in trend Europe and North America
16 from 1981 to 2010 (Gang et al., 2015). Multiple lines of evidence indicate that changes in grassland
17 productivity are positively correlated with increases mean annual precipitation. A global review of
18 experimental rainfall manipulation studies show that increases in precipitation amount increases grassland
19 annual net primary productivity (ANPP), most notably in drier grasslands, whilst reductions in water
20 availability reduced ANPP, both aboveground and belowground biomass (Wilcox et al., 2017). These
21 observations are confirmed in field studies where reductions in grassland productivity occur during droughts
22 and increases in summer aridity (Hoover et al., 2014; Brookshire and Weaver, 2015; Gang et al., 2015; Gao
23 et al., 2016b; Wan et al., 2018).

24
25 Whilst grassland productivity is sensitive to changes in water availability, grasslands response to warming is
26 variable. Studies on warming in N. American grassland productivity is not directly sensitive to warming, but
27 instead the indirect effects of warming (greater evaporative demand and lower soil moisture) which
28 exacerbate drought responses (Hoover et al., 2014). Remote sensing studies indicate that that increasing
29 temperatures have a positive impact on grassland production and biomass most specifically in temperature
30 limited regions (Piao et al., 2014; Gao et al., 2016b), although this evidence indicates that this relationship
31 maybe weakening (Piao et al., 2014). Grasslands in hot areas are expected to show decreased production
32 with increases in temperature (Gang et al., 2015) (*limited evidence, low agreement*). Climate warming effects
33 plant community productivity, composition, diversity and phenology. On the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau,
34 warming increased deep-rooted, drought resistant plants and reduced dominant species growth, resulting in
35 rapid species losses on alpine grasslands. Generally, increasing temperature had a negative effect on species
36 diversity in alpine grasslands on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau. Experimental warming of 2.5°C, and 20%
37 increase in precipitation (Wan et al., 2018) enhanced the positive effect of warming on community diversity
38 and biomass, and offset the negative effect of warming on gross ecosystem productivity and net ecosystem
39 exchange (Wan et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2018)

40
41 Evidence indicates that grassland responses to warming and drought are being ameliorated by increasing CO₂
42 and associated improved water use efficiency (Roy et al., 2016). For example in a cool temperate grassland
43 experimental warming led to a longer growing season and elevated CO₂ further extended growing by
44 conserving water, which enabled most species to remain active longer (Reyes-Fox et al., 2014), although
45 these effects are most likely to be strongest in drier regions (Hovenden et al., 2014) (*medium evidence,*
46 *medium agreement*).

47 2.4.3.3 Savanna

48 Remote sensing studies demonstrate widespread woody encroachment and forest expansion in water-limited
49 savannas in Central and West Africa forest expansion and woody encroachment with increases in
50 precipitation and atmospheric carbon dioxide likely determinants of change (Venter et al., 2018; Brandt et
51 al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2019). Extreme high-rainfall anomalies also contributed to the greening of the Sahel
52 (Brandt et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2019). Regional studies, remote sensing and repeat aerial photo-analysis all
53 demonstrate that a global trend of woody encroachment in open grassy ecosystems is occurring tropical
54 savannas with an 8% increase per decade in South America, a 2.4% increase in African savannas and 1%
55 increase per decade in Australia savannas (O'Connor et al., 2014; Espírito-Santo et al., 2016; Skowno et al.,
56 2017; Stevens et al., 2017; McNicol et al., 2018; Venter et al., 2018; Rosan et al., 2019), and temperate (most
57

1 notably N. American) savannas (reviewed in Archer et al., 2017) (*high agreement, robust evidence*).
2 Additionally forest expansion into mesic savannas is occurring widely in Africa, South America and SE Asia
3 (Marimon et al., 2014; Keenan et al., 2015; Baccini et al., 2017; Ondei et al., 2017; Stevens et al., 2017;
4 Aleman et al., 2018; Rosan et al., 2019)

5
6 Widespread woody biomass increases are attributed to an interaction with global drivers like atmospheric
7 CO₂ (*high agreement, medium evidence*) (Stevens et al., 2016; Stevens et al., 2017; Nackley et al.,
8 2018), altered rainfall amount and intensity (Venter et al., 2018; Xu et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2019) (*high*
9 *agreement, high evidence*) and warming (Lehmann et al., 2014; Venter et al., 2018) (*medium agreement, low*
10 *evidence*) interacting with local land use drivers of fire suppression (*high evidence, high agreement*), heavy
11 grazing (*high agreement, high evidence*) (for reviews see Archibald, 2016; Archer et al., 2017; Venter et al.,
12 2018), removal of native browsers (*high agreement, medium evidence*) and loss of mega-herbivores in Africa
13 (Asner et al., 2016b; Daskin et al., 2016; Stevens et al., 2016; Bakker and Svenning, 2018; Davies et al.,
14 2018) (*high agreement, high evidence*).

15
16 As savannas structure and function are shaped by interactions between fire, herbivory and climate (Lehmann
17 et al., 2014), any changes in these drivers will impact the savanna biome.

18 19 2.4.3.3.4 Tundra

20 Arctic ecosystems are warming more than twice as rapidly as other regions of the planet with on average 2°C
21 warming since 1950 (IPCC AR6 WGI) (*robust evidence, high agreement*). The warming at high latitudes is
22 leading to earlier snow and sea ice melt and longer growing seasons (WGI AR6) which are altering plant
23 communities with feedbacks across tundra food webs (Post et al., 2009; Gauthier et al., 2013) (*medium*
24 *evidence, high agreement*). Satellite data and repeat photographs indicate wide-spread greening of tundra
25 vegetation, though there is complexity around the interpretation of satellite data in high latitude ecosystems
26 (Phoenix and Bjerke, 2016). Tundra ecosystem hydrology, soil moisture, permafrost, carbon storage and
27 nutrient cycling could influence the changing climate conditions thus potentially altering the trajectories for
28 tundra ecosystem with warming (Sistla et al., 2013; Crowther et al., 2016; Salmon et al., 2016; Wik et al.,
29 2016). An estimate of methane emissions from 733 lakes above 50°N latitude of 16.5 Tg CH₄ Yr⁻¹ constitutes
30 roughly two-thirds of all natural methane sources in the region (Wik et al., 2016). Changes to Arctic marine
31 ecosystems as a result of declining sea ice extent have repercussions in coastal regions and on land and vice
32 versa in the Arctic (Kerby and Post, 2013; Post et al., 2013; Bhatt et al., 2014).

33
34 Three decades of experiments and monitoring indicate that climate warming is causing increases in shrub,
35 grass and sedge species abundance, density, frequency and height, with decreases in mosses and/or lichens at
36 some tundra sites (Myers-Smith et al., 2011; Bjorkman et al., 2018; Bjorkman et al., 2019) (*robust evidence,*
37 *high agreement*). Shrub growth is climate sensitive with greater annual growth in years with warmer growing
38 seasons (Myers-Smith et al., 2015). Multiple lines of evidence indicate increases in plant species that prefer
39 warmer conditions (Elmendorf et al., 2015; Bjorkman et al., 2018). Bare ground is decreasing as plant cover
40 increases in long-term monitoring plots (Bjorkman et al., 2019; Myers-Smith et al., 2019a). Animal species
41 such as moose, beavers and songbirds may already be responding to this vegetation change by expanding
42 their ranges northward or upslope into shrub tundra (Boelman et al., 2015; Tape et al., 2016a; Tape et al.,
43 2016b; Tape et al., 2018). In addition to direct warming responses, thawed permafrost, altered hydrology and
44 soil moisture conditions and enhanced nutrient cycling are indirect climate change mechanisms likely
45 leading to pronounced vegetation change (Schuur et al., 2009; Natali et al., 2012) (*medium evidence, medium*
46 *agreement*) as soil moisture status influences the temperature sensitivity of plant growth and canopy heights
47 (Myers-Smith et al., 2015; Ackerman et al., 2017; Bjorkman et al., 2018). Vegetation change may be
48 influenced by permafrost thaw and increasing active layer depths in tundra soils (Natali et al., 2012; Myers-
49 Smith et al., 2015; Keuper et al., 2017; Myers-Smith et al., 2019b). Below-ground plant growth dynamics
50 may be decoupled from above-ground dynamics in tundra ecosystems with below-ground root growth
51 continuing until soils refreeze in autumn (Iversen et al., 2015; Blume-Werry et al., 2016; Radville et al.,
52 2016).

53 54 2.4.3.3.5 Mediterranean-Type Ecosystems

55 All five Mediterranean-Type Ecosystems (MTEs) of the world have experienced extreme droughts in the
56 past decade, with South Africa and California reporting the worst on record (Diffenbaugh et al., 2015;
57 Williams et al., 2015; Otto et al., 2018; Sousa et al., 2018). These droughts have been linked to climate

1 change and are expected to become more frequent and severe (AghaKouchak et al., 2014; Otto et al., 2018).
2 Ecosystems across the MTEs have shown a range of direct responses to various forms of water deficit, but
3 have also been affected by increasing fire activity linked to drought, and interactions between drought or
4 extreme weather and fire, affecting post-fire ecosystem recovery. In general, responses include one or more
5 of: shifts in functional composition and state shifts, decline in vegetation health, decline or loss of dominant
6 or characteristic species, shifts in composition towards more drought- or heat-adapted species and declining
7 diversity. Many studies documenting type conversions or shifts in composition report increasing prevalence
8 or dominance by invasive alien species, consistent with the expectation that invasive species are likely to
9 benefit from climate change and colonize affected sites more readily than hot- and/or drought-adapted
10 indigenous species.

11
12 Remote sensing approaches have shown a drought associated decline in canopy health in forests within MTE
13 in the Southern Afrotropical Forests of South Africa and a decline in canopy water content in forests in
14 California (Asner et al., 2016a). Several studies reported climate associated responses of dominant or
15 charismatic species; in the Fynbos of South Africa a high mortality in the Clanwilliam Cedar over the period
16 1931-2013 occurred in individuals at lower, hotter elevations. Portuguese shrublands have experienced a loss
17 of deciduous and evergreen oaks to pyrophytic xeric trees. In California, there has been high canopy foliage
18 die-back in the Giant Sequoia over the 2012-2015 drought (Stephenson et al., 2019) and increasing
19 dominance of oaks relative to pines due to increases in climatic water deficit and large-scale mortality due to
20 the interaction between drought in insect outbreaks (McIntyre et al., 2015; Fettig et al., 2019).

21
22 In the Great Basin, USA, a small part of which has a climate with Mediterranean characteristics, two conifer
23 species shifted upslope 19 m from 1950 to 2016 (Smithers et al., 2018). Reduced winter precipitation in a
24 Californian grassland has caused long-lasting and potentially unidirectional reductions diversity through the
25 loss of native annual forbs. Diversity declines also occurred in the Fynbos of South Africa, (Slingsby et al.,
26 2017) due to increasing prevalence of extreme hot and dry weather during the post-fire regeneration phase.
27 In particular they found that graminoid species (Poaceae, Cyperaceae and Restionaceae) and species that
28 resprout after fire were worst affected (Slingsby et al., 2017).

29
30 In California, USA, numerous factors, including climate, wildfire, land-use change, invasive species, and
31 nitrogen deposition have contributed to conversion of some areas of forest, woodlands, or shrublands to
32 grasslands (Abelson et al., 2015; Jacobsen and Pratt, 2018; Park et al., 2018; Park and Jenerette, 2019;
33 Syphard et al., 2019). Climate change has caused observed increases in fuel aridity and area burned by
34 wildfire across the western U.S. from 1985 to 2015 (Abatzoglou and Williams, 2016). Local and global
35 climatic variability led to a 4-year decrease the average fire return time in Fynbos, South Africa when
36 comparing fires recorded between 1951-1975 and 1976-2000 (Wilson et al., 2010). The effects of climate
37 change on heat, fuel, and ignition limitations of wildfire shows spatial and temporal variation (Section
38 2.3.6.1).

39 40 2.4.3.4 Forests

41 42 2.4.3.4.1 Tropical forest

43 Tropical forests cover has declined (Hansen et al., 2013; Kohl et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2015; Baccini et al.,
44 2017), with forest declines outweighing gains by 3.6 times (Hansen et al., 2013), driven by primarily by
45 deforestation (Lewis et al., 2015). Expansion of tropical forest cover and extent into savannas and grasslands
46 have occurred in Africa (Baccini et al., 2017; Aleman et al., 2018), South America and Australia (Marimon
47 et al., 2014; Ondeï et al., 2017; Stevens et al., 2017; Rosan et al., 2019). Upslope range shifts of tropical
48 deciduous forest into alpine grassland in the Andes mountains in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Argentina
49 has been recorded (Fadrique et al., 2018; Aide et al., 2019) (*high evidence, high agreement*). These shifts are
50 likely driven by interactions between changing land-use like fire suppression and climate changes like
51 increased rainfall, warming and elevated CO₂ either through CO₂ fertilisation or increases in water-use
52 efficiency (Cernusak et al., 2013; Yang et al., 2016) (Van Der Sleen et al., 2015) (*robust evidence, medium
53 agreement*).

54
55 An extensive decline in tropical forest area is primarily driven by deforestation and land conversion, but
56 climate change is contributing to forest degradation by reducing the resilience and health of forests (Malhi et
57 al., 2014). Although data since AR5 from long-term monitoring plots and remote sensing continues to

1 confirm aboveground biomass increases in intact tropical forest in the Amazon (Gatti et al., 2014; Brienen et
2 al., 2015; Baccini et al., 2017), Africa and SE Asia (Qie et al., 2017), most likely elevated CO₂ (Ballantyne et
3 al., 2012; Brienen et al., 2015; Sitch et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2016; Mitchard, 2018) (*high evidence, medium
4 agreement*), these gains have been declining over the past two-decades and with the in the Amazon (Brienen
5 et al., 2015), SE Asia (Qie et al., 2017) and potentially in Central Africa. Declines in productivity are most
6 strongly associated with warming, reduced growth rates during droughts (Bennett et al., 2015; Bonal et al.,
7 2016; Corlett, 2016), drought related mortality (Brando et al., 2014; Zhou et al., 2014; Brienen et al., 2015;
8 Corlett, 2016; McDowell et al., 2018) and fire (Liu et al., 2017), with mechanisms being identified through
9 long-term monitoring and field experiments (Bonal et al., 2016) (*robust evidence, high agreement*). The
10 interaction of increases in frequency and severity of droughts and shorter tree residence times due to
11 increases in growth rates caused by elevated CO₂ maybe an additional interactive factor increasing tree
12 mortality (Malhi et al., 2014; Brienen et al., 2015). However, not all tropical forests have exhibited
13 increasing mortality (McDowell et al., 2018; Meakem et al., 2018). The vulnerability to drought varies
14 between tree species and tree size with large long lived trees are at risk for highest rates of mortality (Bennett
15 et al., 2015). Vulnerability to mortality also varies between forest types with aseasonal forest appearing to be
16 most vulnerable to drought impacts (Corlett, 2016). Additionally there is emerging evidence that there is a
17 shift in species composition in Neotropical forests and West Africa with *low-medium evidence* indicating
18 that changes are associated with intensification of dry spells and drought (Corlett, 2016; Van der Sande et al.,
19 2016; Aguirre-Gutiérrez et al., 2019; Esquivel-Muelbert et al., 2019).

20
21 Drought, warming and increases in forest fragmentation have interacted to increase the prevalence of fires in
22 tropical forest (*medium evidence, high agreement*). Warming interacts with forest plants by increasing water
23 stress in trees (Corlett, 2016). Warming and forest fragmentation dramatically increases dry-season
24 desiccation of forest canopies and deforestation leads to hotter and drier regional climates (Malhi et al.,
25 2014; Lewis et al., 2015). Deforestation and fragmentation promote invasion of grasses into forest edges
26 which promotes the spread of fire (Baccini et al., 2017). This risk is intensified with warming and drought
27 (Brando et al., 2014; Balch et al., 2015; Lewis et al., 2015). Droughts and fires have additive effects on tree
28 mortality. Evidence mostly from the Amazon indicates that droughts and fires have additive effects on
29 increasing mortality, reducing canopy cover and aboveground biomass (Brando et al., 2014; Balch et al.,
30 2015; Lewis et al., 2015).

31 2.4.3.4.2 Temperate forests

32 [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]

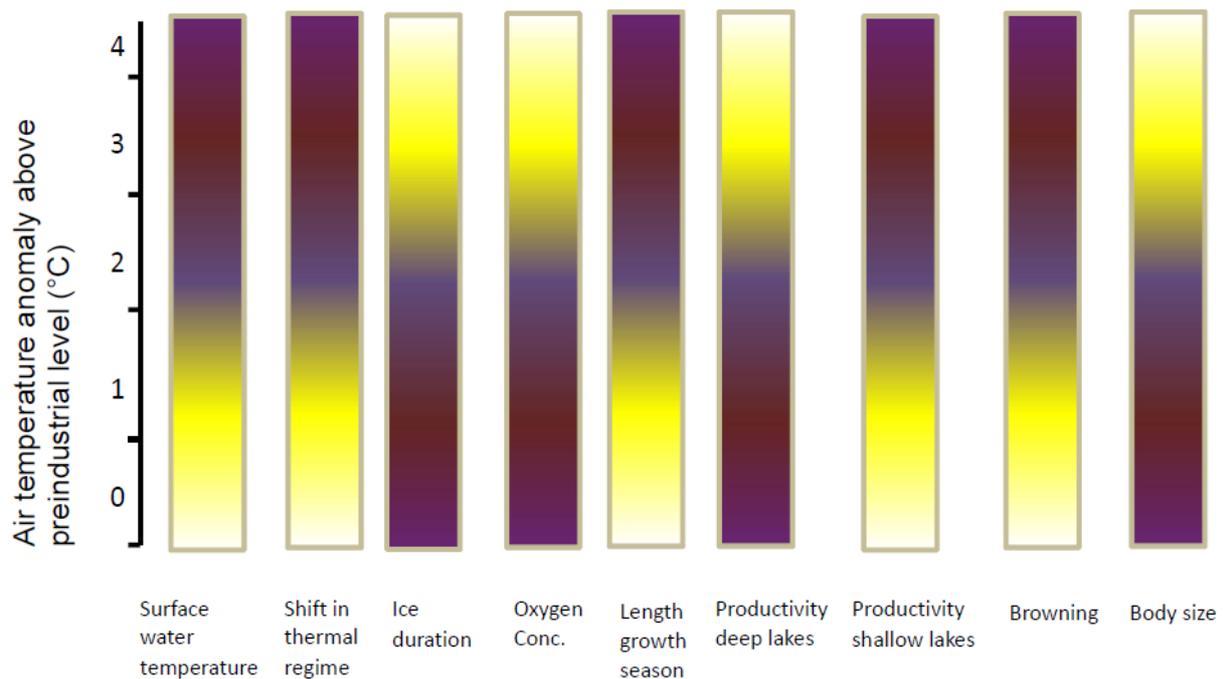
33 2.4.3.4.3 Boreal forests

34 [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]

35 2.4.4 Observed Changes in Ecosystem Processes and Services

36 2.4.4.1 Browning of Rivers and Lakes

37
38 In boreal, coniferous areas there has been an increase in terrestrial derived dissolved organic matter (DOM)
39 transport into rivers and lakes that causes a change in the optical properties of water (generally increased
40 opacity) and a shift toward a brown colour. This is a consequence of climate change induced hydrological
41 intensification, climate change-driven greening of the northern hemisphere, and changes in forestry practices
42 (Finstad et al., 2016; Creed et al., 2018; Hayden et al., 2019) (*high confidence*). Number of days above 0°C
43 or a moderate increase in temperature of 2°C has the potential to increase DOM export into freshwater
44 (Weyhenmeyer and Karlsson, 2009). Browning creates a positive feedback by absorbing photosynthetically
45 active radiation resulting in an acceleration of upper water (epilimnetic) warming (Solomon et al., 2015).
46 Browning of lakes leads to shallower and more stable thermoclines and thus to an overall cooling of deep
47 water temperatures (driven by an increase in the relative volume of deeper waters - the hypolimnion)
48 (Solomon et al., 2015; Williamson et al., 2015). Brownification can provoke a transition of the seasonal
49 mixing regime from a mixed lake (polymictic) to one that is seasonally stratified (Kirillin and Shatwell,
50 2016). Browning can drive a shift from auto- to heterotrophic-based production with a subsequent decline in
51 energy transfer efficiency and a reduction of biomass at higher trophic levels (Ellison et al., 2017). Browning
52 may also accelerate primary production through input of nutrients associated with DOM in nutrient poor
53 lakes (Thrane et al., 2014; Seekell et al., 2015; Ellison et al., 2017).

1
2

3
4 **Figure 2.5:** Large scale climate induced changes in freshwater ecosystems in relation to air temperature anomalies
5 above pre-industrial level. Colour gradients from light to dark depict increasing ranges of positive respectively negative
6 relationship between temperature anomalies and the response variables.
7

8 9 2.4.4.2 Wildfire

10
11 Wildfire is a natural and essential component of many forest, shrubland, and grassland ecosystems.
12 Anthropogenic climate change can increase wildfire by exacerbating its three principal driving factors – heat,
13 fuel, and ignition (Stephens et al., 2014; Jolly et al., 2015). At the same time, non-climate factors exacerbate
14 wildfire, with farmers and livestock herders in tropical regions intentionally setting fire to clear lands and
15 secondary forest for agricultures and governments in temperate zone countries implementing policies to
16 suppress fires, even those naturally ignited (Andela et al., 2017; Lasslop and Kloster; Aragao et al., 2018).
17 Fire suppression produces unnatural densities of understory trees and accumulations of coarse woody debris,
18 the major fire fuels (Ruffault and Mouillot, 2015; Hessburg et al., 2016; Kelley et al., 2019).
19

20 Since the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, four published research efforts have detected wildfire increases,
21 analyzed the contribution of climate factors, and attributed the wildfire increases mainly to anthropogenic
22 climate change (Abatzoglou and Williams, 2016; Holden et al., 2018; Kirchmeier-Young et al., 2019;
23 Mansuy et al., 2019). These cases of detection and attribution all concern wildfire in North America. Across
24 the western United States, increases in vegetation aridity due to hotter temperatures from anthropogenic
25 climate change doubled burned area from 1984 to 2015, compared to what would have burned without
26 climate change (Abatzoglou and Williams, 2016). In addition, the hotter temperatures of anthropogenic
27 climate change combined with statistically significant decreases of summer rainfall from 1979 to 2016 to
28 increase burned area across the western United States (Holden et al., 2018). In British Columbia, Canada, the
29 hotter maximum temperatures of anthropogenic climate change increased burned area in the fire season of
30 2017 to seven to eleven times the area that would have burned without climate change (Kirchmeier-Young et
31 al., 2019). In protected areas of Canada and the United States, climate factors explained the majority of
32 burned area from 1984 to 2014, with climate factors (temperature, precipitation, relative humidity,
33 evapotranspiration) outweighing local human factors (population density, roads, and built-area) (Mansuy et
34 al., 2019).
35

1 Globally, 4.2 million km² of land per year burned on average from 2002 to 2016 (Giglio et al., 2018) with the
2 highest fire frequencies in the Brazilian Amazon, African deciduous tropical forest and savanna in wide
3 latitudinal zones north and south of the Congo rainforest, northern Australia, and Kazakhstan (Earl and
4 Simmonds, 2018; Andela et al., 2019). For global terrestrial area as a whole, average fire frequency
5 increased slightly from 1900 to 2000, but the change was not statistically significant, based on spatial
6 analyses (Gonzalez et al., 2010b) of field estimates of fire area (Mouillot and Field, 2005). Global average
7 fire frequency was 4 ± 6 fires per century, corresponding to a fire return interval of 27 ± 17 years. Fire
8 frequency increased on two-fifths of global land, slightly less than the area of decrease. Fire increased across
9 the tropics of Africa, Asia, and South America, due to increased burning to clear agricultural fields, while
10 fire decreased across Australia, North America, and Russia due to extensive suppression (Gonzalez et al.,
11 2010b).

12
13 Global burned area decreased at a statistically significant rate of $-1.4 \pm 0.49\%$ per year from 1998 to 2015
14 (Andela et al., 2017), based on spatial analyses of the Global Fire Emissions Database (Giglio et al., 2013),
15 which combines remote sensing data from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS),
16 the Along-Track Scanning Radiometer (ATSR), and the Visible and Infrared Scanner (VIRS). In contrast,
17 spatial analyses of Global Fire Emissions Database burned area from 1996 to 2015 using linear quantile
18 regression found a lower rate of decrease, 0.7% per year, that was not statistically significant (Forkel et al.,
19 2019). Because the remote sensing time series is short, the high interannual variability of fire makes trends
20 sensitive to the years chosen for the start and end of the analysis (Forkel et al., 2019). Much of the
21 decreasing trend derives from two years: 1998 with high burned area and 2013 with low burned area.
22 Furthermore, the fire reduction effect of reduced vegetation cover following expansion of agriculture and
23 livestock herding can counteract the fire increasing effect of increased heat of climate change (Lasslop and
24 Kloster, 2017; Arora and Melton, 2018; Forkel et al., 2019). The reduction of burning needed after the initial
25 clearing for agricultural expansion drives much of the decline in fire in the tropics (Andela et al., 2017; Earl
26 and Simmonds, 2018; Forkel et al., 2019). In the Serengeti-Mara savanna, Kenya and Tanzania, burned area
27 decreased 40% from 2001 to 2014, but the change was not statistically significant (Probert et al., 2019).
28 Nevertheless, an increase in domestic livestock could have caused the numerical reduction of burned area,
29 with grazing reducing the grass cover that fuels wildfires in the savanna (Probert et al., 2019).

30
31 From 1998 to 2015, burned area increased significantly in African deciduous tropical forest and savanna
32 south of the Congo rainforest, northern Australia, and the Cerrado of Brazil, but decreased significantly in
33 African deciduous tropical forest and savanna north of the Congo rainforest, central Australia, and
34 Kazakhstan (Andela et al., 2017). In the Amazon, wildfire has increased since 1973, with deforestation as the
35 main cause (van Marle et al., 2017; da Silva et al., 2018). From 2003 to 2015, deforestation in the Amazon
36 showed a statistically significant decline, but burned area showed no statistically significant change (Aragao
37 et al., 2018). Deforestation in the Amazon fragments the rainforest and increases the flammability of
38 vegetation (Alencar et al., 2015). In Africa, recent decreases in wildfire occurred in areas of precipitation
39 increase (Zubkova et al., 2019). In the area around Sierra de Gredos, Spain, small wildfires increased from
40 1979 to 2008 but were related more to local human land use change than to climate change (Viedma et al.,
41 2018). Across Southern Hemisphere Mediterranean ecosystems in Australia, Chile, and South Africa,
42 wildfire increased from 1958 to 2014, correlated most to the Southern Annular Mode, which is partly driven
43 by anthropogenic climate change (Mariani et al., 2018). In Australia, the warm phase of the El Niño-
44 Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which is not primarily driven by climate change, increases fire risk (Dowdy,
45 2018). Repeated anthropogenic peatland fires annually occur in Southeast Asia, particularly in Sumatra,
46 Kalimantan and Malay Peninsula, and these underground fires become severe, causing toxic haze pollution
47 to human and wildlives and large carbon emission, during the occurrence of ENSO and Indian Ocean Dipole
48 (IOD) (Hoscilo et al., 2011; Page and Hooijer, 2016; Erb et al., 2018b; Wijedasa et al., 2018; Uda et al.,
49 2019).

50
51 In North America, long time series of field observations have facilitated analyses of time series longer than
52 the global remote sensing analyses. Anthropogenic climate change has increased wildfire significantly in
53 western North America (Abatzoglou and Williams, 2016; Holden et al., 2018; Kirchmeier-Young et al.,
54 2019; Mansuy et al., 2019), where ecosystems are relatively drier and more sensitive to increases in aridity
55 under climate change. In California, burned area increased ~500% annually and ~800% in summer from
56 1972 to 2018 (Williams et al., 2019) and the upper elevation of fire occurrence shifted upslope ~300 m from
57 1908 to 2012 (Schwartz et al., 2015). In Arizona and New Mexico, the area of high severity fire increased

1 from 1984 to 2015 (Singleton et al., 2019). Across the western U.S., the area burned by fires > 4 km² tripled
2 from 1984 to 2011 (Dennison et al., 2014) and increased ~1300% from 1972 to 2012 (Westerling, 2016). In
3 Alaska, burned area doubled from 1943 to 2012 (Calef et al., 2015) while, in the interior of Alaska, a region
4 that is sparsely inhabited where climate factors outweigh local human factors in causing wildfires, lightning-
5 ignited burned area increased ~500% from 1975 to 2015, a trend (Veraverbeke et al., 2017). Across Canada,
6 burned area doubled from 1959 to 2015, with natural ignitions increasing, but human ignitions not changing
7 (Hanes et al., 2019).

8
9 The global increases in temperature of anthropogenic climate change and increases in aridity and drought
10 due to climate change have increased the length of the fire weather season on one-quarter of global vegetated
11 area, increased average fire season length by one-fifth, and doubled global burnable area affected by a fire
12 season >1 standard deviation above the mean, from 1979 to 2013 (Jolly et al., 2015). Areas with the greatest
13 increases in fire season length include the Amazon, western North America, Iran, and the Horn of Africa.
14 Climate variability explained approximately one-third of inter-annual variability in burned area from 1997 to
15 2016 (Abatzoglou et al., 2018). In forest areas, the relationship of burned area is strongest to fuel aridity, a
16 function of temperature; in non-forest areas the relationship of burned area is strongest to high precipitation
17 in the previous year, which can produce high grass fuel loads (Abatzoglou et al., 2018). Globally, vegetation
18 and moisture dominate other factors in controlling burned area, ignitions are particularly important in
19 savannas and boreal forest, and human fire suppression dominates other factors in agricultural areas (Kelley
20 et al., 2019).

21
22 The use of fire in agriculture and livestock raising has generated a second fire season on approximately one-
23 quarter of global land with fire activity, based on spatial analyses of bi-modal fire areas and neighbouring
24 uni-modal areas that shows more intensive land use and sub-optimal fire climate in the bi-modal areas
25 (Benali et al., 2017). These areas include parts of Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Kazakhstan, Russia, and
26 the US. The intense human influence on fire occurrence reveals itself in lower fire frequencies on Sundays
27 and Fridays in parts of the world where those are traditional religious days of rest (Earl et al., 2015).

28
29 The increased temperature and aridity of climate change have driven post-fire changes in plant regeneration
30 and species composition in South Africa (Slingsby et al., 2017) and tree regeneration in the western U.S.
31 (Davis et al., 2019). In the unique Fynbos vegetation of the Cape Floristic Region, South Africa, heat and
32 drought in the year following a fire and legacy effects of eradicated exotic species reduced native plant
33 species regeneration, reducing richness 12% from 1966 to 2010 and shifting the average temperature
34 tolerance of species upward by 0.5°C (Slingsby et al., 2017). During that time, annual average temperature
35 had increased significantly 1°C and the maximum number of consecutive dry days increased significantly
36 from four to six days per year. In areas across the western U.S. that burned in wildfires, the increasing heat
37 and aridity of climate change from 1979 to 2015 pushed low-elevation ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
38 and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forests across critical thresholds of heat and aridity that reduced
39 post-fire tree regeneration by half (Davis et al., 2019). In the Rocky Mountains, mean summer temperature
40 was the most important factor determining post-fire regeneration of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir trees
41 (Kemp et al., 2019), post-fire drought caused sharp declines in post-fire tree seedling establishment in
42 subalpine forest, and the number of sites with no post-fire tree regeneration doubled in one sample from
43 1988 to 2011 (Stevens-Rumann et al., 2018). On south-western U.S. sky islands, high-severity fires
44 converted some forest patches to shrublands, a biome shift, by killing pines and leaving oaks to re-sprout
45 (Barton and Poulos). In California, frequent fires converted temperate conifer to temperate broadleaf forest, a
46 biome shift, but this was a restoration of vegetation after a century of unnatural fire suppression (Nemens et
47 al., 2018).

48
49 In addition to the carbon emissions from fires (see section 2.4.4.4), increased wildfire causes other self-
50 reinforcing feedbacks to climate change. In Siberia boreal forest, reduced evapotranspiration following fire
51 increased summer temperature 0.07-0.3°C from 2005 to 2014, but increased albedo led a slight winter
52 cooling, lower in magnitude than the summer warming (Liu et al., 2018). In the western U.S., reduced albedo
53 following fire caused snowmelt to advance five days from 1999 to 2018, an effect that persisted more than a
54 decade following fire (Gleason et al., 2019). From 1984 to 2012, earlier snowmelt showed a significant
55 correlation to burned area (O'Leary et al., 2016). Earlier snowmelt in turn contributes to vegetation aridity
56 (Westerling, 2016). It is also important to note that evapotranspiration rate of feather moss peatlands after

1 severe wildfires increased 400%, which leads to high vulnerability to future warm climate (Kettridge et al.,
2 2019).

3 4 2.4.4.3 *Tree Mortality*

5
6 Anthropogenic climate change can directly cause tree mortality through increased aridity or drought or
7 indirectly through wildfire and insect pests. Catastrophic failure of the plant hydraulic system, in which a
8 lack of water causes the xylem to lose hydraulic conductance, is the principal mechanism of drought-induced
9 tree death (Anderegg et al., 2016; Adams et al., 2017; Anderegg et al., 2018; Choat et al., 2018). Previous
10 assessments have shown widespread cases of tree mortality detected in boreal, temperate, and tropical
11 ecosystems, mainly from drought that is consistent with climate change (Allen et al., 2010; Settele et al.,
12 2014). Only a few cases, however, have been formally attributed to anthropogenic climate change, in
13 western North America (van Mantgem et al., 2009), the African Sahel (Gonzalez et al., 2012), and North
14 Africa (le Polain de Waroux and Lambin).

15
16 Since the Fifth Assessment Report (Settele et al., 2014), research has documented numerous additional cases
17 of drought-induced tree mortality around the world. Many of these have been included in five efforts to
18 update a previous meta-analysis of drought-induced tree mortality (Allen et al., 2010) with additional cases
19 (Allen et al., 2015; Bennett et al., 2015; Martinez-Vilalta and Lloret, 2016; Greenwood et al., 2017;
20 Hartmann et al., 2018). These reviews indicate more rapid mortality (Allen et al., 2015), rising background
21 mortality rates (Allen et al., 2015), mortality increasing with tree size (Bennett et al., 2015), one-fourth of
22 mortality cases leading to a vegetation shift (Martinez-Vilalta and Lloret, 2016), and multiple non-climate
23 factors contributing to tree mortality, including timber cutting, grazing, and local air pollution (Martinez-
24 Vilalta and Lloret, 2016). Furthermore, the logarithmic mortality response of trees to drought is consistent
25 across biomes and functional groups, although tree species with denser wood and lower specific leaf area
26 showed lower mortality (Greenwood et al., 2017).

27
28 In Amazon rainforest, where annual average temperature has increased ~1.2°C from 1950 to 2018, (Marengo
29 et al., 2018), biomass mortality in a set of 310 field plots increased ~40% from 1983 to 2011, leading to a
30 decline of the standing carbon stock of the Amazon during that period (Brienen et al., 2015). In another
31 sample of Amazon rainforest plots, however, tree mortality did not show a statistically significant change
32 from 1965 to 2016, but rose abruptly in severe drought years, mainly years of negative anomalies in the El
33 Niño-Southern Oscillation (Aleixo et al., 2019). Nearly half the area of the Amazon has experienced
34 extremely dry conditions during El Niño, which can cause extensive wildfire (Anderson et al., 2018).
35 Wildfire can increase tree mortality rates by >600% above rates in non-burned areas, with the higher
36 mortality persisting a decade after a fire (Silva et al., 2018). Experimental burns in Amazon rainforest found
37 abrupt doubling and quadrupling of tree mortality in drought years in plots burned annually and every three
38 years, compared to background mortality (Brando et al., 2014).

39
40 In Africa, recent research in the African Sahel has continued to detect substantial tree mortality (Kusserow;
41 Brandt et al., 2018; Trichon et al., 2018) and declines in tree biodiversity (Hanke et al., 2016; Kusserow,
42 2017; Ibrahim et al., 2018). Across southern Africa, nine of the 13 oldest known baobab trees (*Adansonia*
43 *digitata*) have died since 2005 (Patrut et al., 2018). In South Africa, savanna trees experienced an order of
44 magnitude increase in mortality following two years of half the average rainfall (Case et al., 2019).

45
46 In the United States, research since the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report shows that tree mortality has
47 continued to increase in areas of increasing temperature. In California, the most severe drought in a century
48 of weather station measurements occurred from 2012 to 2016 due to record heat and extremely low
49 precipitation and analyses attributed one-tenth to one-quarter of the 2012-2014 period of the drought to
50 anthropogenic climate change (Williams et al., 2015). The resulting subsurface moisture exhaustion and soil
51 drying became so severe that anthropogenic climate change increased tree mortality in Sierra Nevada
52 temperate conifer forests by one-quarter from 2012 to 2015 (Goulden and Bales, 2019). In one network of
53 long-term monitoring plots, nearly one-quarter of trees died from 2014 to 2017, with mortality rates of
54 ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) increasing up to 700% of pre-drought
55 rates (Stephenson et al., 2019). Across the Sierra Nevada, ponderosa pine and large old trees of most species
56 experienced the greatest mortality during the California drought (Fettig et al., 2019; Stephenson et al., 2019).
57 Mortality was most severe at the lowest, hottest elevations, indicating species sensitivity to heat, and in plots

1 with high tree density, indicating tree competition for water (Paz-Kagan et al., 2017; Young et al., 2017b;
2 Restaino et al., 2019). In other parts of the western U.S. experiencing drought, lodgepole pine (*Pinus*
3 *contorta*) mortality increasing 700% from 2000 to 2013 (Anderegg et al., 2015) and piñon pine (*Pinus*
4 *edulis*) experiencing over 50% mortality from 2002 to 2014 (Redmond et al., 2018). In boreal North
5 America, bark beetles have caused extensive mortality of white spruce (*Picea glauca*) (Hansen et al., 2016).
6 In addition, the boreal species yellow-cedar (*Callitropsis nootkatensis*) has experienced up to 70% mortality
7 in much of its range due to a reduction of snow cover from the increased winter temperatures of climate
8 change, which has reduced protective insulation and led to freezing and death of fine roots (Hennon et al.,
9 2012; Buma et al., 2017).

10
11 In California and across the western U.S., drought first weakens trees, then infestations of bark beetles are
12 what most often kills them (Anderegg et al., 2015; Kolb et al., 2016; Lloret and Kitzberger, 2018; Redmond
13 et al., 2018; Stephens et al., 2018; Fettig et al., 2019; Restaino et al., 2019; Stephenson et al., 2019). The
14 increased heat of climate change has allowed bark beetles to move farther upslope and north than before and
15 to survive through the winter, when they would previously die (Raffa et al., 2008; Bentz et al., 2010; Jewett
16 et al., 2011; Macfarlane et al., 2013; Raffa et al., 2013; Hart et al., 2017).

17
18 Across the western U.S., bark beetles caused mortality of 7%, of forest area from 1984 to 2012, fire caused
19 mortality of 6%, and timber harvesting caused mortality of 12% (Hicke et al., 2016; Berner et al., 2017),
20 although these studies did not quantify tree mortality directly caused by drought. As described in this section
21 above, field evidence shows that the increased heat of climate change has driven bark beetle infestations. As
22 described in the section on fire above, analyses have attributed recent increases in wildfire in western North
23 America mainly to anthropogenic climate change (Abatzoglou and Williams, 2016; Holden et al., 2018;
24 Kirchmeier-Young et al., 2019; Mansuy et al., 2019). So, the second and third major causes of tree mortality
25 in the western U.S. are tied to climate change.

26
27 Field research has documented tree mortality in the past decade from insect infestations related to hotter
28 temperatures on trees in other countries, including cork oak (*Quercus suber*) in Tunisia (Bellahirech et al.,
29 2019) and Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) across nine countries in Europe (Marini et al., 2017; Mezei et al.,
30 2017). Increasing temperatures have caused a range expansion of bark beetles from glacial refugia in the
31 Alps northward up to Scandinavia (Okland et al., 2019).

32 33 2.4.4.4 Terrestrial carbon stocks and changes

34
35 Terrestrial ecosystems contain stocks of 450 Gt (380-540 Gt) carbon in vegetation, 1700 ± 250 Gt carbon in
36 soils, and $1400 \text{ Gt} \pm 200 \text{ Gt}$ carbon in permafrost (Hugelius et al., 2014; Batjes, 2016; Jackson et al., 2017;
37 Strauss et al., 2017; Erb et al., 2018a) (IPCC AR6, Working Group 1, Chapter 5). These stocks substantially
38 exceed the ~ 900 Gt in unextracted fossil fuels (IPCC AR6, Working Group 1, Chapter 5). Land use change
39 in terrestrial ecosystems, including agriculture, forestry, and other land use, emitted carbon to the atmosphere
40 at a rate of $1.5 \pm 0.7 \text{ Gt y}^{-1}$ from 2008 to 2017, $\sim 14\%$ of combined anthropogenic emissions from land use
41 change, fossil fuel combustion, and cement production (Le Quéré et al., 2018). Terrestrial ecosystems
42 naturally removed carbon from the atmosphere at a rate of $-3.2 \pm 0.7 \text{ Gt y}^{-1}$. Therefore, they comprised a net
43 sink at a rate of $-1.7 \pm 1.8 \text{ Gt y}^{-1}$ from 2008 to 2017 for the world (IPCC AR6, Working Group 1, Chapter 5).
44 Because most deforestation occurs in tropical forests, they comprise a net source of carbon to the atmosphere
45 at a rate of $0.4 \pm 0.09 \text{ Gt y}^{-1}$, with removals of $-0.4 \pm 0.03 \text{ Gt y}^{-1}$ out-balanced by emissions of $0.9 \pm 0.08 \text{ Gt y}^{-1}$
46 (Baccini et al., 2017). Three-quarters of the net emissions from tropical forests come from the Americas. In
47 contrast, boreal and temperate forests comprised net sinks of $\sim 1 \text{ Gt y}^{-1}$ and 0.7 Gt y^{-1} , respectively, from 1993
48 to 2012 as tree growth outbalanced losses (Liu et al., 2015).

49
50 Thus, terrestrial ecosystems protect globally critical stocks of carbon and provide an essential service of
51 sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere but are at risk of carbon losses from deforestation and climate
52 change. IPCC AR6, Working Group 1, Chapter 5 examines the biogeochemistry of the ecosystem parts of
53 the carbon cycle. This section provides information on ecological aspects of carbon stocks and flows.

54
55 The ecosystem that attains the highest aboveground carbon density in the world is forest dominated by coast
56 redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), in California, USA, with $2600 \text{ t ha}^{-1} \pm 100 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ (Van Pelt et al., 2016). Coast
57 redwood is the species with the tallest tree in the world with a height of 115 m (Sillett et al., 2015). The tree

1 species with the most massive individual trees in the world is giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), in
2 California, USA, with a tree of 580 t dry mass (Sillett et al., 2015). The ecosystem with the second highest
3 documented carbon density in the world is forest dominated by mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) in
4 Victoria, Australia, with ~1900 t ha⁻¹ (Keith et al., 2009). Because coast redwood and mountain ash forest do
5 not cover extensive areas (coast redwood ~17 000 km² (Fernandez et al., 2015); mountain ash ~2500
6 km² (Volkova et al., 2018)), their total carbon stocks are not large. Tropical forests, which cover ~25 million
7 km² (Saatchi et al., 2011), contain the largest ecosystem carbon stock in the world, with 180-250 Gt in above-
8 and belowground biomass (Saatchi et al., 2011; Baccini et al., 2012; Avitabile et al., 2016). Half of the
9 tropical forest carbon stock grows in the Americas, ~30% in Africa, and ~20% in Asia (Baccini et al., 2012).
10 Within the tropics, tropical evergreen broadleaf forests (rainforests) in the Amazon, the Congo, and
11 Indonesia attain the highest carbon densities, reaching a maximum of 230 t ha⁻¹ in the Amazon (Mitchard et
12 al., 2014) and the Congo (Xu et al., 2017). The Amazon contains a carbon stock of 45-60 Gt (Baccini et al.,
13 2012; Mitchard et al., 2014; Englund et al., 2017), with differences in estimates arising from different
14 satellite data sources and methods for calibrating remote sensing data with field measurements of biomass.

15
16 The ecosystem with the highest soil carbon density in the world is the Congo Cuvette Centrale swamp forest
17 peatlands, with an average of ~2200 t ha⁻¹ (Dargie et al., 2017). Other ecosystems with high soil carbon
18 densities are Arctic tundra, with an average of ~900 t ha⁻¹ (Tarnocai et al., 2009), and the mangrove forest
19 peatlands of Kalimantan, Indonesia, with an average of 850 ± 320 t ha⁻¹ (Murdiyarso et al., 2015). Arctic
20 tundra, which covers 18 million km², contains the largest soil carbon stock in the world, 1400 Gt ± 200 Gt
21 carbon in permafrost to below 3 m depth (Hugelius et al., 2014 2015). Global peatlands contain 530 to 600
22 Gt carbon (Hodgkins et al., 2018). Tropical peatlands, which cover 440 000 km² (Page et al., 2011), contain a
23 substantial soil carbon stock of 100 ± 30 Gt (Dargie et al., 2017). Half of this stock is in the peatlands of
24 Indonesia (Page et al., 2011), one-third is in the Congo, and the rest is in the South and Central America, and
25 in the Pacific (Dargie et al., 2017).

26
27 National parks and other protected areas, which cover 20 million km², 15% of global terrestrial area (UNEP-
28 WCMC et al., 2018), contain ~90 Gt carbon in vegetation and ~150 Gt carbon in soil, ~20% and 9% of
29 global stocks, and remove carbon from the atmosphere at a rate of 0.5 Gt y⁻¹, ~16% of global removals
30 (Melillo et al., 2016). So, protected areas protect a disproportionate share of global vegetation carbon but
31 account for a proportionate share of sequestration. Protected areas at the strictest level of conservation
32 contain carbon at higher densities and the subset of these in tropical ecosystems contain an aboveground
33 stock of 36 ± 16 Gt C (Collins and Mitchard, 2017).

34
35 High biodiversity and ecosystem carbon occur together, with rainforests in the Amazon, the Congo, and
36 Indonesia containing the largest carbon stocks (Saatchi et al., 2011; Baccini et al., 2012; Avitabile et al.,
37 2016) and the highest vascular plant species richness (Kreft and Jetz, 2007) in the world. In tropical old-
38 growth forests, aboveground carbon and tree species richness are correlated for plots of 0.1 ha within a
39 continent (Poorter et al., 2015). Aboveground carbon and tree species richness are not correlated for plots of
40 1 ha or for plots across continents (Poorter et al., 2015; Sullivan et al., 2017), although aboveground carbon
41 and genus richness are correlated globally (Cavanaugh et al., 2014). Higher species richness tends to increase
42 the variation in plant traits in a community, leading to niche complementarity, higher and more efficient use
43 of sunlight, water, nutrients and other resources, causing higher productivity (Poorter et al., 2015). It may
44 also have a selection effect, an increase in the probability of including a particular species that is highly
45 productive (Poorter et al., 2015). Across the Amazon, approximately 1% of tree species contain 50% of the
46 aboveground carbon (Fauset et al., 2015). The effects of higher species richness may diminish with larger
47 plot size because of species redundancy (Poorter et al., 2015) and not hold globally because of overriding
48 edaphic or climatic factors.

49
50 Aboveground carbon in tropical forest shows correlations to vertebrate species richness but probability
51 values of the correlations are not reported (Deere et al., 2018; Di Marco et al., 2018). In logged and burned
52 tropical forest in Brazil, species richness of plants, birds, and beetles increased with carbon density only up
53 to ~100 t ha⁻¹ (Ferreira et al., 2018). In temperate zone ecosystems in the lower 48 U.S. states, the relationship
54 of tree species richness to aboveground carbon density was linear and positive for arid and semi-arid
55 climates but increased at low densities and decreased at high densities in dry sub-humid and humid zones
56 (Fei et al., 2018).

1 Approximately four-fifths of the 1.5 ± 0.7 Gt y^{-1} of carbon emissions from ecosystems (2008-2017) comes
2 from tropical deforestation with most of the remainder from conversion of peatlands (Houghton and
3 Nassikas, 2017; Le Quéré et al., 2018). In tropical forests, $\sim 40\%$ of the aboveground carbon loss from 2000
4 to 2012 came from managed forests, including plantations and agroforestry areas (Tyukavina et al., 2015). In
5 the Amazon, $\sim 70\%$ of cleared forest from 1990 to 2005 was converted to livestock pasture (De Sy et al.,
6 2015). While carbon emissions from national parks and protected areas, 38 ± 17 Mt y^{-1} , comprise only 1-4%
7 of global emissions, from 15% of global land, a small subset of 10 protected areas produces one-third of all
8 protected area carbon emissions (Collins and Mitchard, 2017).

9
10 A dynamic global vegetation model estimated that old-growth forests removed carbon from the atmosphere
11 at a rate of 0.8 Gt y^{-1} (0.7-1 Gt y^{-1}) from 2001 to 2010 and that re-growth of secondary forests removed 1.3 Gt
12 y^{-1} (1-2 Gt y^{-1}) (Pugh et al., 2019), lower than a previous estimate based on national forest cover reports
13 (Houghton et al., 2012). Modeling suggests that the reduction of global burned area from increasing cropland
14 area and fire suppression have increased removals of carbon from the atmosphere 0.1 Gt y^{-1} from 1960 to
15 2009, one-fifth of total removals from global vegetation (Arora and Melton, 2018).

16
17 Total greenhouse gas emissions from fires (2007-2016) was 2.2 Gt y^{-1} (1.8-3.0 Gt y^{-1}) (van der Werf et al.,
18 2017). Of these fire emissions, 0.6 Gt y^{-1} came from forest fires and peat burning (van der Werf et al., 2017),
19 contributing to the global total of 1.5 ± 0.7 Gt y^{-1} carbon emissions (Houghton and Nassikas, 2017; Le Quéré
20 et al., 2018), 0.1-0.4 Gt y^{-1} converted to charcoal and other forms of pyrogenic carbon (Santín et al., 2016;
21 Jones et al., 2019), and the remainder was considered balanced by short-term regrowth of grasses (van der
22 Werf et al., 2017). Burning experiments at 48 forest and savanna sites around the world found that burned
23 plots contained $36 \pm 13\%$ less soil carbon than unburned plots 64 years later, with the greatest losses in
24 savanna and broadleaf forest (Pellegrini et al., 2018).

25
26 The Amazon was a net carbon emitter of ~ 0.2 Gt y^{-1} from 2003 to 2005 (Exbrayat and Williams, 2015) and
27 0.3 ± 0.2 Gt y^{-1} from 2005 to 2008 (Yang et al., 2018), following a severe drought in 2005, and accounted for
28 most of the net carbon emissions of 0.3 ± 0.1 Gt y^{-1} from Neotropical forest from 2003 to 2014 (Baccini et al.,
29 2017). In the Amazon, two-thirds of the carbon emissions from 2003 to 2014 came from increased tree
30 mortality, fire damage, decreased growth, and other forms of tropical forest degradation in the fragments of
31 forest that were not cut (Baccini et al., 2017). Degraded forest can contain carbon at half the density of intact
32 forest, a condition that can persist after 15 years of regrowth (Rappaport et al., 2018). Furthermore, the
33 abundance of tall trees, full canopy, and other forest structure attributes critical for conserving biodiversity
34 recover even more slowly than carbon stocks (Rappaport et al., 2018). Carbon density after drought-induced
35 wildfire can be 60-80% of unburned forest 15 years after burning (Longo et al., 2016) and just 75% after 30
36 years (Silva et al., 2018). Deforestation and degradation reduce the potential for natural regeneration of
37 forest. Remote sensing of Amazon rainforest regeneration and modelling of potential maximum biomass
38 suggests that forests lost one-third of their regeneration potential from 1993 to 2012 (Exbrayat et al., 2017).
39 In contrast, analysis of field plots at 45 sites across Neotropical forests found that secondary forest
40 regenerated to 90% of its old-growth carbon density in 66 years (Poorter et al., 2015).

41
42 In Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo, peatlands emitted ~ 2.5 Gt carbon from 1990 to 2015 in slow
43 oxidation due to draining for agriculture, converting the peatlands in that time from a sink to a source
44 (Miettinen et al., 2017). Deforestation of mangrove forests emitted 0.07-0.2 Gt y^{-1} of carbon from 1980 to
45 2005, 10-30% of emissions from deforestation in the country (Donato et al., 2011; Murdiyarso et al., 2015).
46 Across global grasslands, climate controlled NDVI increases across one-third of the area from 1982 to 2011
47 (Gao et al., 2016b; Gao et al., 2016c).

48
49 In Australia, fires consumed nearly one-tenth of net primary productivity (NPP) of natural vegetation from
50 2000 to 2017 with most in the tropical savannas of northern Australia, where fires consumed nearly half of
51 NPP (Murphy et al., 2019).

52
53 In Canada, the USA, and Mexico, wildfire emitted 0.1 ± 0.02 Gt y^{-1} of carbon from 1990 to 2012, but
54 modelling indicates that regrowth balanced this out and produced a net ecosystem carbon balance of 26 ± 5
55 Mt y^{-1} of carbon (Chen et al., 2017). In California, USA, two-thirds of the carbon emissions from natural
56 ecosystems from 2001 to 2010 came from the 6% of the area that burned (Gonzalez et al., 2015). Carbon

1 emissions of $90 \pm 20 \text{ Mt y}^{-1}$ exceeded the $-20 \pm 5 \text{ Mt y}^{-1}$ of carbon removals by growth, making California
2 ecosystems a net emitter (Gonzalez et al., 2015).

3
4 In the Arctic, increased temperatures have melted permafrost, significantly reducing soil carbon at one
5 tundra site in Alaska $5\% \text{ y}^{-1}$ from 2009 to 2013 (Plaza et al., 2019). While soil carbon changes have not been
6 quantified across the entire Arctic, a network of boreholes has found an average permafrost temperature
7 increase of $0.39^\circ \pm 0.15^\circ\text{C}$ from 2007 to 2016 (Biskaborn et al., 2019) and individual high Arctic sites have
8 recorded increases from 2000 to 2018 of $0.4\text{-}0.7^\circ\text{C}$ in Alaska, USA, $0.7\text{-}0.9^\circ\text{C}$ in Canada, and $0.1\text{-}0.8^\circ\text{C}$ in
9 Russia (Romanovsky et al., 2019), signalling melting and possible carbon losses. Wildfires burning in tundra
10 across Canada and the USA are melting permafrost, up to 0.5 m in depth in Alaska 1930 to 2010 (Brown et
11 al., 2015), exposing the peatland carbon (Brown et al., 2015 2018). Wildfires in the Northwest Territories,
12 Canada, in stands younger than the historic 60-year fire return interval, have begun to consume legacy soil
13 carbon, deposits laid down up to 1600 years ago (Walker et al., 2019). For the State of Alaska as a whole,
14 carbon losses from fires and permafrost melting from 1950 to 2009 were lower than increased vegetative
15 growth, producing a weak carbon sink of 0.4 Mg y^{-1} , although methane emissions caused a net increase in
16 radiative forcing (McGuire et al., 2018).

17
18 In Africa, carbon removals from tree growth in miombo tropical dry forest outbalanced emissions from
19 deforestation, producing a weak sink in Zambia from 2000 to 2014 (Pelletier et al., 2018). In the African
20 Sahel, vegetation growth at one semi-arid savanna site in Senegal balances emissions from subsistence
21 pastoralism with livestock at a low density, leading to a neutral carbon balance (Assouma et al., 2019).
22 Drought across sub-Saharan Africa drylands caused tree mortality and vegetation loss with carbon emissions
23 of 50 Mt y^{-1} from 2010 to 2016 (Brandt et al., 2018).

24
25 Because of extensive deforestation, forests globally experienced a net loss in total area from 2010 to 2015
26 (Keenan et al., 2015). Reforestation and afforestation, including establishment of rubber plantations totaled
27 1.1 million km^2 in the period, with most of this from reforestation in China (Keenan et al., 2015). Six national
28 programs of ecological restoration of forests, shrublands, and grasslands in China covered 1.5 million
29 km^2 and sequestered $0.8 \pm 0.08 \text{ Gt C}$ in biomass and soil from 2000 to 2010 (Lu et al., 2018).

30 31 *2.4.4.5 Primary productivity*

32
33 Anthropogenic climate change can increase vegetation primary productivity through carbon dioxide
34 fertilization and increases in the length of the growing season, as assessed by previous IPCC reports. IPCC
35 WGI AR6 Chapter 5 assesses the place of net primary productivity (NPP) in global biogeochemical cycles.
36 This section assesses ecological aspects of NPP.

37
38 Vegetation and soils have removed more CO_2 from the atmosphere by photosynthesis than the emissions
39 from deforestation and other land use change since the period 1970-1979, according to carbon accounting,
40 and since the 1990-1999 according to atmospheric inversion models (Le Quéré et al., 2018). This net carbon
41 sink has since been increasing, according to dynamic global vegetation models (Huntzinger et al., 2017; Liu
42 et al., 2019b) and atmospheric inversion models (Peylin et al., 2013; Ciais et al., 2019), and both types of
43 models indicate that increasing atmospheric CO_2 is the primary cause of the increase (Schimel et al., 2015b;
44 Fernandez-Martinez et al., 2019), although no formal attribution analysis has been conducted.

45
46 Analysis of eddy covariance flux data indicated that global gross primary productivity (GPP) was $123 \pm 8 \text{ Gt}$
47 y^{-1} from 1998 to 2005, that tropical forests produced one-third, and that precipitation primarily controlled
48 NPP (Beer et al., 2010). Analysis of near infrared remote sensing indicated GPP of 147 ± 16 from 2003 to
49 2015 (Badgley et al., 2019). The difference, between the two estimates does not indicate a temporal trend,
50 but a difference in methods.

51
52 The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is a remotely-sensed indicator of green leaf surface
53 area that is correlated with net primary productivity in vegetation with one canopy layer (Tucker, 1979).
54 Analysis of NDVI from 1982 to 2009 indicates that global average leaf area index increased in the period, a
55 greening that is consistent with CO_2 fertilization (Zhu et al., 2016). The global NDVI time series only
56 increased in the first part of the remote sensing time series, however, from 1982 to 1998, and stay flat from
57 1999 to 2015 (Yuan et al., 2019). During the second period, an increase in the atmospheric vapour pressure

1 deficit signalled an increase in aridity that constrained NPP. Globally, water availability (Jung et al., 2017),
2 terrestrial water storage (Humphrey et al., 2018), and drought (Yu et al., 2017b) drive interannual changes in
3 GPP. Free-air CO₂ enrichment and chamber experiments indicate that nitrogen and phosphorus constrain CO₂
4 fertilization (Terrer et al., 2019). In the Amazon, phosphorus availability constrains plant response to CO₂
5 fertilization (Fleischer et al., 2019).

6
7 The increase in NDVI from 1982 to 2012 suggests a 16% decline in global vegetated area where growth is
8 limited by temperature (Keenan and Riley, 2018). NDVI increased in boreal tundra in Russia (Miles et al.,
9 2019), across China from 1982 to 2009 (Piao et al., 2015), and at the boreal forest-tundra treeline in Canada
10 (Bolton et al., 2018).

11
12 NDVI did not increase at other sites around the world. In southwest Australia, NDVI in Mediterranean
13 vegetation declined from 2000 to 2011, particularly at the shrub-tree ecotone, indicating a potential biome
14 shift driven by wildfire (Brouwers and Coops, 2016). In France, beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) forest showed
15 decreased enhanced vegetation index (EVI) for three years following severe drought (Vicca et al., 2016). In
16 addition, field-measured growth in temperate mixed forest in the eastern U.S. did not show the climate and
17 CO₂ sensitivities of the NPP models (Rollinson et al., 2017). In the Cerrado savanna of Brazil, agricultural
18 abandonment or expansion could explain approximately half the area of EVI increase from 2001 to 2015
19 (Rosan et al., 2019).

20
21 Primary productivity has also changed in lakes. As metabolic costs increase at higher water temperatures,
22 primary production should decrease with climate warming. However, global warming reinforces the
23 eutrophication of already eutrophic lakes through the prolongation of thermal stratification, particularly the
24 development of nuisance cyanobacteria blooms (Domis, 2013) (Adrian and Hessen, 2016). Moreover, nutrient
25 depleting in the upper layers (epilimnion) can be compensated for by a shift towards buoyant cyanobacteria
26 species capable of nitrogen fixation (Huber et al., 2012). Conversely, in nutrient-poor large lakes, where
27 internal nutrient loading via vertical mixing is often the primary nutrient source, warming-induced prolonged
28 thermal stratification can lead to a reduction in primary production (Kraemer et al., 2017). Within-lake
29 variability in algal biomass in 18 globally distributed lakes increased with increasing variability in wind
30 speed (Rusak, 2018). This overall increase in variability in algal mass production related to climate change
31 impacts decreases the predictability of the services lakes provide.

32 33 **2.4.5 Conclusions on Observed Impacts**

34
35 The consistency of patterns of biological change with expectations from regional or global warming
36 processes, coupled with an understanding of underlying processes, the coherence of these patterns at both
37 regional and global scales, all form multiple lines of evidence (Parmesan et al., 2013) that it is *very likely* that
38 observed range shifts and phenological changes in individual species can be attributed to regional and global
39 climate changes (*very high confidence*) (Table 2.2) (Parmesan et al., 2013).

40
41 New studies since AR5, with more sophisticated analyses designed to capture complex responses, indicate
42 that past estimates of the proportion of species impacted by recent climate change have been underestimated
43 due to their unspoken assumptions that local or regional warming should lead solely to poleward/upward
44 range shifts and advancements of spring timing (Duffy et al., 2019). More complex analyses have
45 documented cases of winter warming driving delayed spring timing of northern temperate species due to
46 chilling requirements, and increased precipitation driving species' range shifts downward, eastward and
47 westward in arid regions (*high confidence*). Further new studies have shown that phenological changes have,
48 in some cases, successfully compensated for local climate change and reduced degree of range shifts
49 (*medium confidence*). Limited number of studies of this type make it difficult to estimate the generality of
50 these effects globally.

51
52 Responses in freshwater species are consistent with responses in terrestrial species, including poleward and
53 upward ranges shifts, earlier timing of spring plankton development, earlier spawning in fish, and extension
54 of the growing season. Observed changes in freshwater species are strongly related to anthropogenic climate
55 change (ACC)-driven changes in the physical environment (e.g. increased water temperature and reduced ice
56 cover). Prolonged thermal stratification, which has also been linked to ACC, has led to divergent responses
57 in lakes, with already eutrophic lakes becoming more eutrophic (*very high confidence*) and nutrient-poor

lakes becoming more nutrient limited (*medium confidence*). In boreal coniferous forest, there has been an increase in terrestrial derived dissolved organic matter transported into rivers and lakes as a consequence of climate change (that has induced increases in run-off and greening of the northern hemisphere), as well as to changes in forestry practices. This has caused waters to become brown and more opaque, with complex positive and negative repercussions on water temperature profiles (lower vs upper water) and on primary production (*high confidence*).

Field research since the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report has detected biome shifts at numerous sites, poleward and upslope, that are consistent with increased temperatures and altered precipitation patterns driven by climate change, and support prior studies that attributed such shifts to anthropogenic climate change (*high confidence*). These new studies help fill prior geographic and habitat gaps, for example documenting upward shifts in the forest/alpine tundra ecotone in the Andes, Tibet and Nepal, and northward shifts in the deciduous/boreal forest ecotones in Canada. Globally, woody encroachment into open areas (grasslands, arid regions and tundra) is *likely* being driven by climate change and increased CO₂ in concert with changes in grazing and fire regime (*medium confidence*).

[INSERT TABLE 2.3 HERE]

Table 2.3: Confidence in detecting and attributing observed changes in terrestrial and freshwater species and systems to climate change. [[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: table to be expanded with continued literature search]. Summary table is fully detailed in Table 2.A.1. Lines of evidence for attribution of observed changes to climate change and increased CO₂ are used to support stated confidence in attribution of key statement on observed biological changes to climate change and increased atmospheric CO₂. Icons represent lines of evidence.

2.5 Risk Assessments for Species, Communities, Key Ecosystems and their Services

The Risk Assessment Framework was recently introduced in the IPCC AR5 (2014) but not defined in IPCC AR4 (2007). Risk means the probability of harmful consequences resulting from climate change. Risk results from the interaction of vulnerability, exposure, and hazard (see Chapter 1). Risk is often represented as the probability of occurrence of hazardous events or trends multiplied by the impacts if these events or trends occur (IPCC, 2014).

Using the risk assessment framework above, this chapter defines vulnerability as a pre-existing condition, incorporating the extent to which biodiversity is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, the adverse effects of climate change related to spatially explicit effects. Adaptive capacity, then, includes consideration of multiple traits at the species level, including physiological constraints, capacity for behavioural adaptation, potential for genetic change, dispersal abilities, capacity for distributional change, and resource constraints.

2.5.1 Observed and Projected Feedbacks Between Climate and Ecosystems

The possibility of feedbacks and interactions between climate drivers and biological systems or ecological processes was identified as a significant emerging issue in AR5. It is virtually certain that land cover changes affect regional and global climate through changes to albedo, evapotranspiration and roughness (*very high confidence*) (Perugini et al., 2017). There is growing evidence that biosphere-related climate processes are being affected by climate change in combination with disturbance and land use change (*high confidence*). It is virtually certain that land surface change caused by disturbances such as forest fire, hurricanes, phenological changes, insect outbreaks and deforestation affect carbon, water, and energy exchanges, thereby influencing weather and climate (*very high confidence*) (Bright et al., 2013; Brovkin et al., 2013; Naudts et al., 2016; Právělie, 2018) (Table 2.4, Figure 2.6).

Feedbacks among climate warming, permafrost thaw, nutrient dynamics and carbon cycling are complex, but have the potential to accelerate vegetation change and influence the global climate system (Myers-Smith et al., 2011; Loranty and Goetz, 2012; Pearson et al., 2013; Crowther et al., 2016; Grosse et al., 2016; Turetsky et al., 2019) (medium evidence, high agreement). Tundra canopy heights are increasing (Bjorkman et al., 2018), which could result in albedo, soil temperature and permafrost thaw feedbacks (Sturm et al., 2005; Myers-Smith et al., 2011; Loranty and Goetz, 2012; Pearson et al., 2013; Frost et al., 2018; Addis and Bret-

1 Harte, 2019). Increased plant litter deposits into soils from increasing tundra plant biomass could influence
2 tundra carbon cycling and storage (Cornelissen et al., 2007; Buckeridge et al., 2010; Myers-Smith et al.,
3 2019a). With up to 80% of tundra biomass found below-ground (Iversen et al., 2017), below-ground
4 vegetation and microbial responses may determine tundra soil carbon dynamics and the resulting soil carbon
5 feedbacks (Sistla et al., 2013; Crowther et al., 2016; Xue et al., 2016; Van Gestel et al., 2018). Recent
6 increases in high latitude and tundra fires and the charcoal record in lake sediment showing high fire
7 frequency during warmer periods over the past 10,000 years suggest that fires may become more common in
8 future tundra ecosystems (Mack et al., 2011; Hu et al., 2015). Ecological feedbacks that further accelerate
9 the terrestrial carbon cycle in the Arctic could make substantial contributions to carbon emissions and global
10 climate warming (Mack et al., 2011; Hugelius et al., 2013; Pearson et al., 2013; Crowther et al., 2016; Xue et
11 al., 2016; Turetsky et al., 2019).

12
13 There is growing evidence that freshwaters are hotspots for C transformation, sources of CO₂ and CH₄ and, in
14 some cases, carbon sinks (Bastviken et al., 2004; Battin et al., 2009; Tranvik et al., 2009; Aben et al., 2017;
15 Li et al., 2018a; Bartosiewicz et al., 2019; Jansen, 2019; Marcé et al., 2019). This is particularly so for highly
16 polluted lakes, dried river beds, reservoirs and farmland ponds, which are now being recognised as very
17 large sources of methane due to significant organic loadings from sewage and agriculture and enhanced
18 microbial activity in rewetted river beds (Badiou et al., 2019; Beaulieu et al., 2019; Marcé et al., 2019;
19 Ortega, 2019). As aquatic productivity increases with ongoing climate change and population pressure,
20 increases in CH₄ emissions from freshwater systems are expected (Tranvik et al., 2009; DelSontro et al.,
21 2018; Bartosiewicz et al., 2019; Beaulieu et al., 2019).

22
23 Feedbacks from terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to atmospheric CO₂ concentrations and the interactions
24 between climate drivers and human disturbance contribute substantial uncertainty to projections of future
25 climate (Brovkin et al., 2013; Schimel et al., 2015b; Berzagli et al., 2018; Marcé et al., 2019; Scharfenberger
26 et al., 2019). These feedbacks can be positive or negative feedbacks (i.e. climate cooling effects) (Lemordant
27 and Gentine, 2019), vary spatially and seasonally (Duveiller et al., 2018), and act over large geographic areas
28 and long time periods, making them difficult to observe and quantify directly (Schimel et al., 2015a). The
29 relative magnitudes of the feedbacks remain uncertain (Lorantý et al., 2014; Alkama and Cescatti, 2016),
30 while the regional effects of disturbance are increasingly being studied (e.g. REFS), the strength of
31 biophysical feedbacks at the global scale remain uncertain (Keenan and Riley, 2018; Liu et al., 2019b). As a
32 result, projections of the atmosphere–land CO₂ flux into the future are highly uncertain, with no agreement
33 even on the sign of the flux by the end of the century (Friedlingstein et al., 2014; Sitch et al., 2015; Bonan
34 and Doney, 2018).

35
36 For example, changes in vegetation phenology and productivity associated with global warming and CO₂
37 fertilization effects (Mao et al., 2016), in combination with land management (Wang et al., 2018), have
38 important implications for the terrestrial water cycle (Zeng et al., 2018a; Zeng et al., 2018b), ecosystem
39 functioning and global carbon cycling. Observed global vegetation changes (“global greening”) has been
40 associated with increased global evapotranspiration, a key component of the global water cycle and energy
41 balance which influences global rainfall, temperature, and atmospheric motion (Zeng et al., 2017). Similarly,
42 large-scale tree mortality associated with high temperatures, water stress and/or insect outbreaks (e.g.
43 Mountain pine beetle, *Dendroctonus ponderosae*; Asian longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)) alter
44 biogeochemical and biogeophysical processes in forests (Landry et al., 2016), by decreasing leaf area index
45 and gross primary productivity, leading to reduced evapotranspiration and increased land surface
46 temperature (Bright et al., 2013). Insect outbreaks reduce terrestrial carbon uptake and storage (Arora et al.,
47 2016) and have consequences for surface albedo, although some impacts may be counteracted by long-term
48 forest regrowth (Ghimire et al., 2015).

49
50
51 [INSERT TABLE 2.4 HERE]

52 **Table 2.4:** Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystem feedbacks which affect the Earth's climate system dynamics; following
53 (Právělie, 2018).

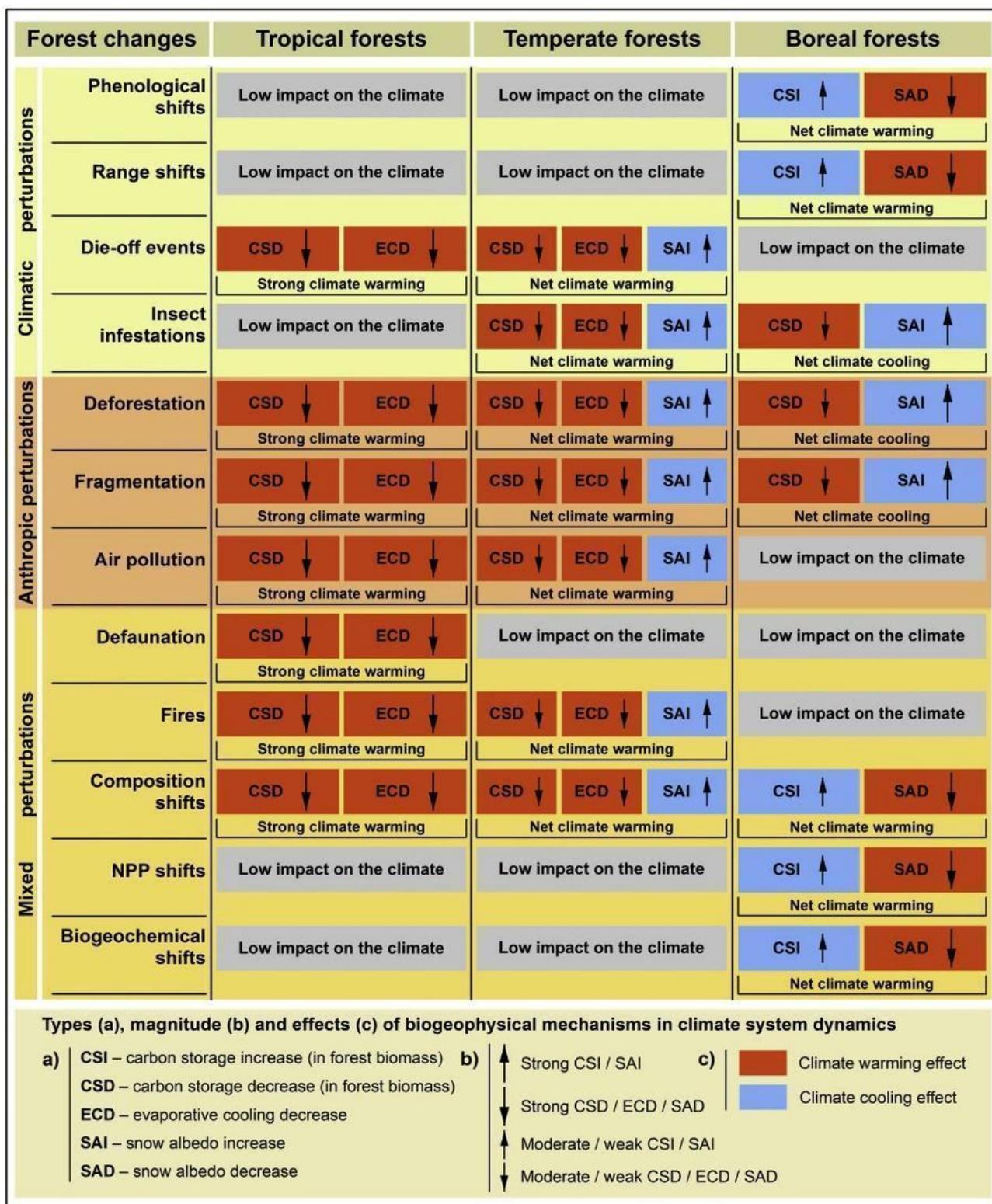


Figure 2.6: Perturbations and examples of implications (biogeophysical mechanisms) on climate system dynamics (warming/cooling) for the three global forest biomes - (adapted from Fig. 5, (Právělie, 2018)). [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: open ecosystems and freshwater ecosystems to be added]

2.5.2 Protected Areas

National parks and other protected areas conserve the most intact ecosystems in the world, with the global system of protected areas now covering 15% of global terrestrial area (UNEP-WCMC et al., 2018). These areas are threatened by deforestation, agricultural expansion, and urbanization to the extent that one-third of global protected land is under intense human pressure (Jones et al., 2018). Gaps in the global system of

1 protected areas leave mountain elevational gradients, which are key to facilitating upslope shifts of species
2 and biomes under climate change, insufficiently protected, with protection absent in 40% of mountain ranges
3 (Elsen et al., 2018). Mountain ranges in Africa and Asia are least protected (Elsen et al., 2018).
4

5 Climate change exposes protected areas to potentially higher levels of hazard. In the United States, spatial
6 analyses of 1895-2010 climate trends show that anthropogenic climate change has disproportionately
7 exposed the U.S. National Park System to hotter and drier conditions, with temperatures increasing at twice
8 the national rate and precipitation decreasing on 12% of the area, compared to 4% for the U.S. as a whole
9 (Gonzalez et al., 2018). For the protected areas of Mexico, U.S., and Canada, over half the current protected
10 area does not have a climate analogue under RCP8.5 that is also protected and only 6-8% of the total
11 protected area is located in refugia (Batllori et al., 2017). Across North and South America, the protected
12 areas in the equatorial zone are exposed to the highest climate velocities under emissions scenario A2
13 (Carroll et al., 2015).
14

15 Nevertheless, protected areas can occupy a key position in a landscape under climate change. Across North
16 America, protected areas cover just one-tenth of the land, but conserve one-quarter of climate refugia
17 (Michalak et al., 2018). The protected areas of Québec, Canada, would be the recipients of substantial
18 numbers of plants and animals whose range would shift north under climate change, with half of the
19 protected areas potentially experiencing >80% species turnover under emissions scenario A2 (Bertheaux et
20 al., 2018). In the protected areas of Finland, spatial analysis of the southern edge of the range of bird species
21 shifting north from the 1970s to the 2000s and the northern edge of species shifting from the south showed
22 that bird abundance was higher inside protected areas than outside, indicating that the areas may be
23 effectively facilitating range shifts under climate change (Lehikoinen et al., 2019).
24

25 **2.5.3 Projected Impacts at Species and Community Levels**

26 *2.5.3.1 Assessment of models and sources of uncertainties*

27 A wide range of methods have been developed for projecting the impacts of climate change on biodiversity
28 into the future. They can be classified into three main approaches: 1) statistical models (e.g. species
29 distribution models, (Elith and Leathwick, 2009)); 2) mechanistic / process-based models; and 3) trait-based
30 (Pacifiçi et al., 2015).
31
32

33 The species distribution models (SDMs) or niche-based models predict the potential geographic areas of
34 suitable climate for the species in historical, current, and as its future climate preferences (Trisurat, 2018;
35 Vieira et al., 2018). There are limitations in all models and it is critical that modellers understand the
36 assumptions, proper parameterization of the model, and the limitations of whichever model technique is
37 used. This includes a sound understanding of the differences in the climate models, emission scenarios or
38 representative concentration pathways, and what baseline was used. As there are limitations in the
39 biodiversity modelling techniques, there are also limitations in what one can (and should not) do with
40 climate model data, especially in terms of understanding bias correction and downscaling limitations.
41
42

43 There are several systems that automate the development of species distribution models and projections into
44 the future (e.g., (Hallgren et al., 2016)) as well as various R packages and libraries. There is also an
45 increasing amount of guidance on how to select statistical models (Beaumont et al., 2016), other model types
46 (Foden et al., 2019) and on how to properly use climate model data (Suggitt et al., 2017). Buisson 2010
47 (Buisson et al., 2010) found that model algorithms explain most of the model deviance, followed by GCMs
48 across 2020, 2050 and 2080. Standards to apply in species distribution modelling have also been put forward
49 (Araujo et al., 2019). For freshwater systems, SDMs require a specific design to be used that accounts for the
50 longitudinal connectivity and up/downstream processes along the water network. However, only recently
51 have freshwater-specific network-based models been more widely used (Peterson et al., 2013), superseding
52 grid-based (and spatially-implicit) versions that originated from the terrestrial realm.
53

54 It is important to consider that none of these modelling techniques are predictions of the future, they are
55 projections of possible futures. Perhaps the best way to think about the outputs of all impact models is that
56 they are hypotheses of what a future world might look like if the climate in the climate models come to pass.
57 As most published results are for an ensemble of projections then they will be an approximation for a mid-

1 point of a range of models. Computational limits, basic ecological understandings of interactions and funding
2 limit how far and how fast these modelling techniques can advance.
3

4 Many of the limitations of the models are well known, including the absence of interactions from many
5 models, as well as the sometimes limited inclusion of traits in species distribution models. These can play an
6 important role in shaping species' sensitivity and adaptive capacity to climate change (Dawson et al., 2011).
7 Suggestions have been made on how to start bringing more biotic interactions in species distribution models
8 have recently been published (Early and Keith, 2019). However, this assumes that detailed knowledge of
9 how species interact is known. In addition, these models perform poorly for endemic and restricted species,
10 which are normally listed as threatened species (Platts et al., 2014).

11
12 Species traits alone have been used to estimate potential climate change impacts (Foden et al., 2013;
13 Cizauskas et al., 2017). Many species distribution models bring in some traits in explicitly like dispersal
14 (Warren et al., 2018). What is less well understood is that statistical species distribution modelling
15 techniques incorporate some traits implicitly. All SDMs work off of occurrences of a species at a series of
16 points. What is being modelled is the relationship between the points and the climate estimated at those
17 points. While there is an assumption that this is some measure of the physiology/physiological limits of the
18 species (and, in many cases, may very well be) it is also a proxy for everything else at that point (e.g.,
19 habitat, food resources). Failure to understand this can lead to model errors – for example, when the
20 vegetation and species are both modelled at a single point in the same model. Traits, such as where a species
21 is normally located (canopy, mid-storey, understorey) are all captured in implicitly in the model as the
22 species occurrence was likely from that location. Thus the difference between the understorey and the
23 canopy in terms of climate would implicitly be differentially in the model (including shading effects). Thus,
24 when increases shading is brought up as a potential adaptation for a species, or when statements are made
25 about canopy species being more exposed to the climate, they are missing the point that these 'partials' are in
26 the overall model, they just cannot be parsed out in normal techniques.
27

28 Statistical models are independently tested as part of the model development process. However, in terms of
29 considering any model output as a hypotheses, tests should also be made against observations of changes in
30 range (for example). Climate changes in many parts of the world are such that it should be possible to test
31 model projections against observations. One problem with this is that many biodiversity model projections
32 have been for higher levels of climate change. It is only recently that models have been developed looking at
33 smaller amounts of climate change, like 1.5°C (Hoegh-Guldberg et al., 2018; Warren et al., 2018). However,
34 there have still only been a few studies looking at how well models are performing in terms of observations,
35 and many of these have been on islands which increase the difficulty in assessing model performance
36 (Fordham et al., 2018).
37

38 Mechanistic approaches, also known as process-based models predict species' responses to changing
39 environmental conditions by explicitly incorporating known biological processes, thresholds and interactions
40 (Morin and Thuiller, 2009; Maino et al., 2016). Input data for the mechanistic niche models are typically
41 obtained from laboratory and field observations or from mathematic equations. Mechanistic models are able
42 to accommodate a broad range of climate change impact mechanisms and include species-specific
43 characteristics such as dispersal distances, longevity, fecundity, genetic evolution, phenotypic plasticity.
44 However, physiological, demographic and distribution knowledge is restricted to only a few well-studied
45 species.
46

47 Most models are at large scales (20km–50km) with some local smaller scales. However, within these larger
48 areas there will be areas that become warmer sooner, and others that will remain cooler, longer (e.g., higher
49 elevations, near water, shaded hillsides). Studies have shown that, locally, micro-refugia can offset some
50 levels of warming (Suggitt et al., 2015; Suggitt et al., 2018).
51

52 2.5.3.2 Risk Assessment as Applied to Biodiversity

53

54 For risk assessment at the species and community levels, non-modeling approaches based on known
55 underlying biological traits or processes, as well as expert opinion are used to temper model outputs with
56 ground-based validation, adding realism and reliability to risk assessments. Trait-based assessment
57 approaches use species' biological characteristics as predictors of extinction risk due to climate change

1 biological characteristics to predict species' sensitivity and adaptive capacity to climate change. Climate
2 exposure can be estimated using GIS-based modelling, statistical programs or expert judgment (Chin et al.,
3 2010). The trait-based approaches are widely applied to all taxonomic groups and across the regions and are
4 useful for broad-scale conservation because they do not require modelling expertise (Pacifci et al., 2015;
5 Willis et al., 2015). Limitations include the difficulty in knowing where to set thresholds for all assessed
6 species and not knowing which traits are the most important. Furthermore, most methods don't allow direct
7 comparison of vulnerability and risk among taxonomic groups and remain largely unvalidated.

8
9 Recent studies combined either two or three approaches for climate change risk assessment of biodiversity in
10 order to capture the advantages of each and avoid the limitations. (Warren et al., 2013) used combinations of
11 SDMs and trait-based approaches to estimate the proportions of species losing their climatically suitable
12 range under the various future climate and dispersal rate scenarios. Similarly, Garcia (2014) combined the
13 spatial projections of climate change exposure with traits to assess vulnerability of sub-Saharan African
14 amphibians. Laurance (2012) combined 31 functional groups of species and 21 potential drivers of
15 environmental change to assess both the ecological integrity and threats for tropical protected areas on a
16 global scale. Keith (2014) used the combination of three approaches (SDMs-trait-mechanistic) to determine
17 how long before extinction a species would become eligible for listing as threatened based on the IUCN Red
18 List criteria. The results show that the combined approaches were more sensitive to climate change than
19 using a single criterion.

20 21 *2.5.3.3 Risk of Species' Extinctions*

22
23 This assessment of current findings is of studies across a range of taxa and using as many modelling
24 techniques as possible to allow for a better synthesis of results. [[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER
25 DRAFT:: findings will be updated with continued literature search].

26 27 *2.5.3.3.1 Overview*

28 Extinction risk estimates whether or not a particular species may be at risk of extinction over the coming
29 decades if climatic trends continue. There is often a delay between environmental conditions deteriorating
30 and a species going locally extinct, particularly for long-lived species such as many large mammals, some
31 fish, and trees. Individuals can continue to survive long after conditions for successful reproduction are gone,
32 a state termed "extinction debt". This is sometimes termed "climate debt" when climate change is implicated
33 in degradation of the affected species' habitat.

34
35 Since the AR5 there have been 2,959 papers that had the words "extinction" and "climate change" in their
36 title, abstract or keywords (Web of Science search, 17 April 2019 for the years starting in 2014). The number
37 of papers on the topic have increased from 486 published in 2014 to 634 published in 2018.

38 39 *2.5.3.3.2 Projections for Freshwater Biodiversity*

40 Freshwater comprises only 0.01% of the water on earth and freshwater wetlands encompasses about 5.4-
41 6.8% of the global surface area (Lehner and Doll, 2004), but hold 9.5% of the Earth's described animal
42 species (Freshwater Animal Biodiversity Assessment; (Balian et al., 2008). More than 29% of the 25,007
43 freshwater species assessed on the IUCN Red List (www.iucnredlist.org) are globally threatened with
44 extinction (Baillie and Butcher, 2012). Amphibians and freshwater fish are among the groups most
45 threatened to go extinct, with climate change cited as a primary factor through changes in water
46 temperatures, stream flow, loss of cold water habitat, increased variability of precipitation, and increased
47 disease risk from warming temperatures (Reid et al., 2019). These add to stresses from changes in land use
48 (affecting run-off and material transfers from land to water) and overexploitation (IPBES, 2019). Global
49 scenarios of freshwater fish indicate that by 2075, global climate change and its associated impacts on
50 hydrology may lead to loss of local fish biodiversity of up to 75% (Xenopoulos et al., 2005).

51
52 Biogeography of fish is strongly linked to local climatic conditions, given their ectothermic (none heat-
53 producing) nature. Climate change potentially threatens ~50% of global freshwater fish species (Durwall,
54 2016) and 33% of the European freshwater fish species (Janssen et al., 2016). Fish in Europe are especially
55 susceptible to climate change in Mediterranean regions with warmer climate and which are exposed to
56 recurrent flood and drought events and critically surpassed temperature thresholds (Santiago et al., 2016;
57 Jaric et al., 2019). Out of 20 highest ranking climate-susceptible species, 12 are endemic to Greece, one

1 endemic to Greece and southern Albania, and seven to the Iberian Peninsula (Jaric et al., 2019). A global
2 assessment of the vulnerability of freshwater fish to climate warming has been shown to be largest for fish
3 species in the northern hemisphere (Comte and Olden, 2017). The study also points to the overlap of climatic
4 and non-climatic drivers of change threatening fish species particularly located in freshwater basins in
5 southern Europe, southeast North America and central Asia (Comte and Olden, 2017).

6
7 Cold-water habitats and associated obligate species are particularly vulnerable to potential impacts of climate
8 change. Loss in cold water habitat has been documented and projected for cold water fish such as salmon
9 and salmonids (Santiago et al., 2016; Merriam et al., 2017; Fullerton et al., 2018). However, increased
10 discharge was projected to offset the effects of increased air temperature with no consistent loss of suitable
11 brook trout habitat by the end of the 21st century within the Appalachian watershed. Loss of cold water
12 habitat at the river network-scale was related to periods of low flow regimes. As such below tributary refugia
13 are essential for metapopulations (groups of individual populations connected on a decadal time scale) to
14 persist (Merriam et al., 2017). Thermal habitat in mountain streams, where water temperature is buffered
15 against increases in air temperature, are important thermal refuges for cold water species. Mountain
16 landscapes will thus play an important role in the preservation of cold water habitat (Isaak et al., 2016).

17
18 Ensemble distribution models across North America (Shah et al., 2014) indicated that stream
19 macroinvertebrate taxa (at the genus level) would track their preferred climatic conditions; models show a
20 distinct northward shift, depending on the emission scenario. Likewise, (Pyne and Poff, 2017) assessed the
21 site-specific extirpation likelihood for 88 aquatic insect taxa, and projections showed that climate-change
22 induced hydrological alteration would result in a 30–40% loss of taxa in warmer, drier ecoregions and 10–
23 20% loss in cooler, wetter ecoregions. Continental ensemble model projections across Australia indicate that
24 across 85% of all Odonates, a high degree of range contractions of 56–69% (RCP 6.0, medium emissions
25 scenario and RCP 8.5, high emissions scenario, respectively) by 2085 would be possible that can be
26 attributed to anthropogenic climate change (Bush et al., 2014).

27
28 Likewise, ensemble projections across two spatial scales and two emission scenarios with projected changes
29 temperature and precipitation until 2080 in Europe (regional (Domisch et al., 2011) and continental
30 (Domisch et al., 2013) showed that range shifts of stream macroinvertebrates may occur along the river
31 network, and into North-eastern direction, possibly leading to species turnovers and altered community
32 structures. Here, community turnovers would be expected as cold-adapted species are projected to lose,
33 while warm-adapted species are predicted to gain climatically suitable habitat (Domisch et al., 2011;
34 Domisch et al., 2013). While a number of warm-adapted species may experience range expansions, both
35 along the network and across Europe, the majority of species were predicted to lose climatically suitable
36 areas by on average 38–44%, depending on the emission scenario (A2a and B2a). Especially endemic
37 species (here: occurrence restricted to only one ecoregion) showed a distinct pattern reading possible range
38 contractions, irrespective on their temperature preference (Domisch et al., 2013).

39
40 Based on catchment-scale species data and climate projections (Markovic et al., 2014) projected a threat by
41 the 2050s for 1648 European freshwater plants, fishes, molluscs, odonates, amphibians, crayfish and turtles.
42 Climate change will most likely cause a decrease in habitat suitability across the current range area by the
43 2050s for the vast majority of studied freshwater species, combined with a north-eastward shift in species
44 distributions. Molluscs, noted for their limited dispersal capability, are predicted to be the most at risk group.
45 The negative effects of climate change are most prominent for rare species in all taxonomic groups which
46 face the ‘double jeopardy’ of being both rare and vulnerable to climate change (Jaric et al., 2019). Moreover,
47 aquatic insects (Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera) of southern European ecoregions are most
48 endangered in terms of potential vulnerability to climate change based on a study covering 23 European
49 ecoregions (Conti et al., 2014). Currently protected area in Europe are most likely not sufficient to provide
50 habitat for the majority of rare molluscs and almost half of the rare fish species (Markovic et al., 2014).

51
52 In addition, integrated protection schemes are necessary (Abell et al., 2007) that account for the longitudinal
53 connectivity of freshwater habitats. For instance, in a global assessment, (Abell et al., 2017) found that ca.
54 70% of river reaches (by length) have no protected areas in their upstream catchments, and only 11.1% (by
55 length) achieve full integrated protection. Given this point of departure, shifting climatic / hydroclimatic
56 conditions, and species tracking their climatic envelope (Parmesan and Yohe, 2003), are likely to further
57 decrease protection for threatened species.

1
2 Especially for threatened species, such as the relict Himalayan dragonfly (*Epiophlebia laidlawi*) which is
3 endemic in Asia to the Hindu Kush Himalayan region, ensemble models showed that possible range
4 contractions would be contingent on climate change (Shah et al., 2012). (Kuemmerlen et al., 2015) showed
5 with model projections of 72 stream macroinvertebrate taxa in China that it is critical to jointly account for
6 climate change and possible land use changes in the models, given that both climate change and land use
7 change would have detrimental effects on species richness and range size when viewed in isolation, but with
8 variable effects when combined.

9 10 2.5.3.3.3 Global Projections of Extinction Risk

11 Global: Over time the different assessment reports have used different criteria and confidence levels, based
12 on different bodies of literature, to estimate future extinction risk. In most of these cases the risk has been
13 assessed from the literature and based on overall range contractions. In AR4, the extinction risk was
14 carefully quantified based on the literature of the time and was projected to be “There is *medium confidence*
15 that approximately 20–30% of species assessed so far are *likely* to be at increased risk of extinction if
16 increases in global average warming exceed 1.5–2.5°C (relative to 1980 to 1999). As global average
17 temperature increase exceeds about 3.5°C, model projections suggest significant extinctions (40–70% of
18 species assessed) around the globe. While no specific amount of range contraction is tied specifically to
19 these estimates they approximately correspond to 50% reductions in range size (IPCC, 2007). In AR5, the
20 percentages were removed and the text stated “a large fraction of terrestrial and freshwater species face
21 increased extinction risk under projected climate change during and beyond the 21st century, especially as
22 climate change interacts with other pressures...(*high confidence*)” (Field et al., 2014). The confidence was
23 felt to be higher as no exact number was given and other stressors were taken into account.

24
25 A series of global analyses came out towards the end of the Fifth Assessment Report, using a variety of
26 different modelling techniques (both statistical models and trait-based approaches). These were summarized
27 by Urban (2015) who examined 131 studies modelling the potential impacts of climate change on extinction
28 risks using a range of modelling techniques (Figure 2.7). Urban found high variability among individual
29 studies, with percentages of species predicted to suffer extinction varying from zero to 54% according to the
30 geographic locations and taxonomic identities of the species included, plus the assumptions made in each
31 study about future climates, climatic debts, the thresholds of percent of range lost used for extinction risk,
32 and effectiveness of dispersal. Differences in estimates of extinction risk stemmed from differing
33 assumptions of thresholds for extinction risk and differing emissions scenarios, as well as from differing
34 geographic regions and taxonomic groups, and differing modelling approaches. Overall, approximately 5%
35 of the species were estimated to become extinct at 2°C warming, 8.5% at 3°C and 16% at 4.3°C (all relative
36 to pre-industrial) Urban (2015). These percentages seem much lower than in previous IPCC reports.

37
38 One reason for differing estimates of species' at risk of extinction may be that differing levels of climatic
39 debt were assumed in the studies. Climatic debt occurs when a species has lost so much habitat that it still
40 exists, but is doomed to extinction. The most frequent assumptions found by Urban (2015) were that
41 extinction was assumed inevitable after loss of 80%, 95%, or 100% of habitat (if 100% must be lost before
42 the species is extinct, there is no current debt). Changing the threshold from 100% to 80% increased
43 estimated extinction risk from 5% to 15%. At lower levels (e.g., 50%) the risk is even higher. In one recent
44 study examining more than 100,000 terrestrial species the percentages of species projected at risk of
45 extinction through losing more than 50% of their range was 49% for insects, 44% for plants, and 26% for
46 vertebrates at ~3°C global rise in temperature (Warren et al., 2018). Those estimates dropped considerably at
47 lower levels of warming, down to 18%, 16%, and 8% at 2°C; and 6%, 8% and 4% at 1.5°C (Warren et al.,
48 2018).

49
50 Finally, while dispersal may benefit individual species, in terms of extinction risk, it poses additional risks to
51 communities and ecosystems as interactions between species are changed or eliminated. Even a low level for
52 global extinction risk is clearly an indicator of much higher local extinction risks as species' ranges shift
53 (mostly contract) to follow their suitable climates.

Fig. 2. Predicted extinction risks from climate change accelerate with global temperature rise. The gray band indicates 95% CIs.

Preindustrial rise was calculated by using standard methods (27). Circles indicate posterior means with area proportional to log₁₀ sample size (bottom left, key). Extinction risks for four scenarios are provided: the current postindustrial temperature rise of 0.8°C (5), the policy target of 2°C, and RCPs 6.0 and 8.5.

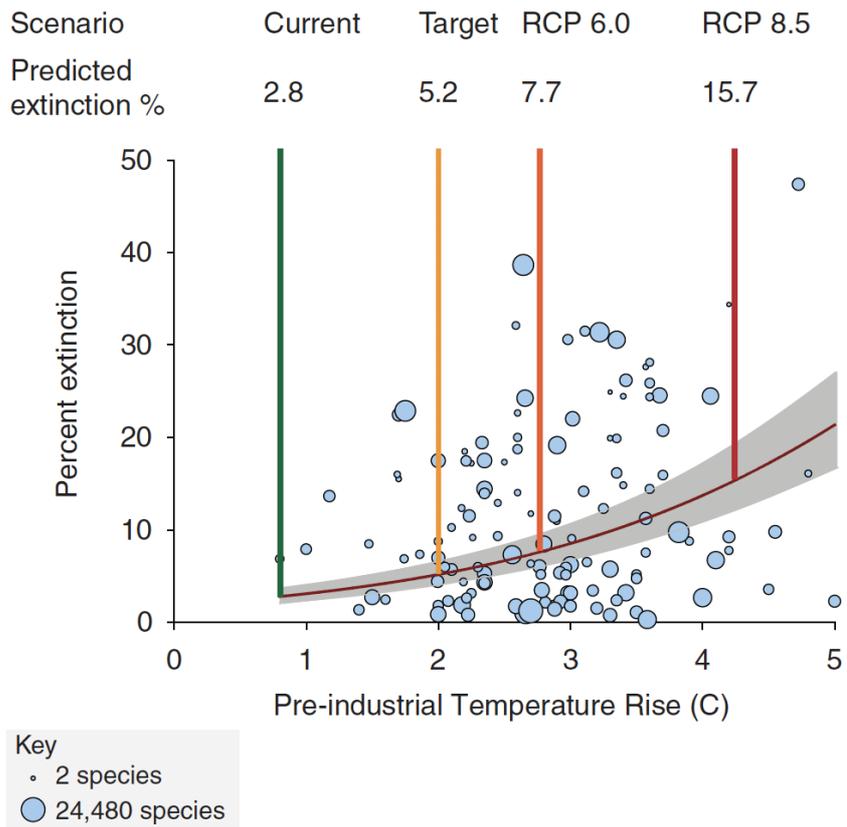


Figure 2.7: [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: to be updated with new literature. Taken from Figure 2 of Urban (2015).]

[START FAQ 2.2 HERE]

FAQ2.2: Is Climate Change driving species extinct?

[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]

[END FAQ 2.2 HERE]

2.5.4 Projected Impacts at Level of Whole Ecosystems

2.5.4.1 Global overview, assessment of models, and sources of uncertainties

There are several models used to project biome or ecosystem level changes under various climate change scenarios. Model outputs are generally in agreement in projecting broad patterns at the global scales, and vary greatly in how well model projections are in accord with recent observed changes, particularly at the local and regional scales. [[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: section to be developed. Scope: Whole-system Level Model Projections of Impacts (includes vegetation models, biome models) – discussion of uncertainty stemming from different biological models, different climate models. Comparison across models - level of model agreement (displayed in both a table and a map).]

2.5.4.2 Modelled Changes Within and Between Land-Cover Classes Globally

Climate change, change in atmospheric CO₂ levels, nitrogen (N) deposition, air pollution and land-use change will have large impacts on vegetation cover, ecosystem processes, and habitat and species composition over the next decades, with the relative importance of these drivers very likely differing

1 between biomes/regions. Most studied are the effects of future climate change (in combination with
2 atmospheric CO₂), and to a lesser degree land-use change (Pereira et al., 2010; Warren, 2011; Pecl et al.,
3 2017), while impacts on pollution effects have received little attention in large-scale projections. Global
4 vegetation and Earth system models agree on climate-change driven shifts of biome boundaries of hundreds
5 of km over the next century, but with large discrepancies (even for similar scenarios) between models and
6 between scenarios regarding the speed and overall degree of change (Gonzalez et al., 2010a; Pereira et al.,
7 2010; Pecl et al., 2017). Climate (combined with CO₂) effects result in increased global forest cover by 2050
8 and 2100, with the magnitude of the change increasing with the forcing (Davies-Barnard et al., 2015). For
9 already relatively small temperature increases (<2°C above pre-industrial) alterations of 2–47% of the areal
10 extent of terrestrial ecosystems has been projected, increasing drastically with higher-warming scenarios
11 ((Warren, 2011), and refs therein). Probabilistic methods confirm the risk of drastic changes in vegetation
12 cover (e.g., forest to non-forest or vice versa) at the end of the 21st century already being substantial for
13 <=2°C warming scenarios, especially in tundra, and in tropical forest and savanna regions, with more subtle
14 changes (within a given biome types) likely to occur in all regions (Ostberg et al., 2013).

15
16
17 **Figure 2.8:** [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: figure will portray a map that shows a range of
18 DGVMs and scenarios for the change in modelled PFT composition. Data are available from: Warlind, 2014 (LPJ-
19 GUESS) (Wärilind et al., 2014); Kim, 2018 (LPJ, LPJ-GUESS) (Kim et al., 2018); and will be possibly also available
20 from some of the ISIMIP runs/Biome sector.]

21
22
23 "Novel ecosystems" -abiotic conditions and communities made up of combinations with no current or
24 historical equivalent- will be increasingly common in the future [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER
25 DRAFT: uncertainty statement will be added] (Radeloff et al., 2015; Ordonez et al., 2016) which will require
26 new approaches to conservation that are designed to adapt to rapid changes in species composition and
27 ensuing conservation challenges. Climate change will impact biodiversity hotspots. For instance, for two
28 contrasting future scenarios, at the end of the 21st century loss of present-day climate analogues have been
29 estimated to negatively influence 25% of endemic species on average per hotspot, with largest effects in low
30 latitudes and island locations (Bellard et al., 2014). Projected future changes in species ranges, species
31 extinctions and community diversity may be under- or overestimated by models that do not explicitly
32 account for species interactions such that loss of one species would trigger loss of others (Bellard et al.,
33 2012; Schleuning et al., 2016). The use of different scenarios, different diversity metrics and different time
34 horizons make generalisations challenging. What is more, diversity loss in one habitat/region cannot be
35 compensated for by gains in another one, therefore diversity estimates have to be done on a regional scale.

36
37 Species diversity has a large influence on ecosystem function, and *vice versa*, while ecosystem functioning is
38 relevant as precursor for ecosystem services (Hooper et al., 2012; Mokany et al., 2016). For instance, it has
39 been argued that loss of global forest diversity would result in decline of productivity (Liang et al., 2016).
40 Terrestrial ecosystems contribute notably to climate regulation by removing presently around 30% of
41 anthropogenic CO₂ emissions (Le Quéré et al., 2018). However, the latest report of IPCC WG1 places low
42 confidence on how carbon stocks and fluxes will evolve over the coming decades (Ciais et al., 2013). The
43 rate and even the sign of changes in simulated trajectories of future vegetation cover and ecosystem
44 biophysical and biogeochemical exchange fluxes with the atmosphere or waterways are highly inconsistent
45 between ecosystem process models, even for a given scenario (Ciais et al., 2013; Piao et al., 2013; Friend et
46 al., 2014; Nishina et al., 2014). Large uncertainties in global projections arise from interactions of the
47 ecosystem water balance, and nitrogen (and other nutrient) availability with the carbon cycle (Ciais et al.,
48 2013; Zaehle, 2013; Wieder et al., 2015a; Pugh et al., 2016), as well as from simulated ecosystem carbon
49 residence times (Friend et al., 2014; Ahlstrom et al., 2015; Koven et al., 2015a). Likewise, for a given
50 scenario, differences in projected climate from different Earth System Models can lead to increases or
51 decreases of ecosystem functioning such as global terrestrial carbon uptake (Ahlström et al., 2012).

52 53 2.5.4.3 Conclusions Drawn from Ecosystem/Biome Level Models Of Future States

54
55 [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]

2.5.4.4 Focus on Specific Sub-Regions

2.5.4.4.1 Tropical forest

Future amount and seasonality of precipitation, increased temperatures, and prolonged droughts and droughts moderated fires are likely key factors for the distribution of tropical humid and dry forests (Bonai et al., 2016; Corlett, 2016; Anderson et al., 2018; da Silva et al., 2018; Fontes et al., 2018; O'Connell et al., 2018; Aguirre-Gutiérrez et al., 2019; Bartlett et al., 2019; Stan and Sanchez-Azofeifa, 2019). Even though at least part of the tropical forest biome is projected to shift towards warmer and drier climate, most multi-model studies assuming rapid economic growth/business-as-usual scenarios (A2, A1B, RCP8.5) show an increase in future woody biomass and areas of woody cover towards the end of the 21st century. Although substantial climate-change driven changes are projected in all studies, a forest “dieback”, as postulated in particular for the Amazon region, does not occur in the majority of simulations (Malhi et al., 2009; Poulter et al., 2010; Rammig et al., 2010; Higgins and Scheiter, 2012; Huntingford et al., 2013; Davies-Barnard et al., 2015; Wu et al., 2016). Still, uncertainties are large and some model experiments have found reduced forest area in particular in regions that are today at the dry end of tropical forest, for instance a reduction of between ca. 35-55% by 2050 was found for the Amazon for RCP2.6-8.5 (Nobre et al., 2016).

Model projections of future biodiversity in tropical forests are rare/absent. Arguably, species are most vulnerable to climate change effects in higher altitudes or at the dry end of tropical forest occurrence (Krupnick, 2013; Nobre et al., 2016; Trisurat, 2018). Tropical lowlands might lose plant species as temperatures rise above species' heat tolerance but could also lead to novel communities of heat tolerant species (Colwell et al., 2008; Trisurat et al., 2009; Trisurat et al., 2011; Krupnick, 2013). Statistical models that correlate data on species abundance with information on human pressures (such as land-use change, population density) found for tropical and sub-tropical forests that birds, invertebrates, mammals and reptiles show a decline in their probability of presence with declining forest cover, which is particularly pronounced in forest specialists or narrow-ranged birds (Newbold et al., 2014). Bird (2012) estimated that potentially >10% of Amazon avian species to be threatened by future deforestation by a business-as-usual scenario (and nearly 8% when mitigation measures are considered). Continued harvesting for tropical timber, land cover change, and extreme fires are seen as a threat to species such as dipterocarps (Koh et al., 2011; Krupnick; Gaveau et al., 2014; Miettinen et al., 2017; Lilleskov et al., 2019) while species persisting in human-modified ecosystems might increase in abundance (Newbold et al., 2014) whereas persistence of species in fragmented forested landscapes depend on existence of corridors that allow to access food sources and breeding habitats (Gardner et al., 2009). Climate change is considered to enlarge the area of suitability of the booming tree crops (e.g. oil palm, acacia, Eucalyptus, and rubber) (Cramb et al., 2015) (Koninck et al., 2011; Nath, 2016; Hurni et al., 2017; Varkkey et al., 2018) in south-east Asia and shift environmental suitability for mammals to either higher altitudes or the existing forest remnants. As a consequence the suitable area for mammals is reduced by between a median of 47.7% (RCP 2.6) and 67.7% (RCP8.5) by 2070, with large variability depending on the different species (Brodie, 2016). The area under rubber plantations had increased from 1536 km² (8%) of Yunnan province in China in 2002 to 4242 km² (22%) in 2010 and potentially increases pressure on remaining biodiversity both within and outside of protected areas (Zomer et al., 2014) (see also Cross-Chapter Paper Tropical Forests).

2.5.4.4.2 Tundra ecosystems and permafrost/northern peatlands

Arctic tundra is one of the few terrestrial ecosystems where climate change impacts are already clearly visible and climate change is the dominant driver of changes in biodiversity and ecosystem (Settele et al., 2014; Uboni et al., 2016). Research on the plausible futures of Arctic tundra has focused on climate change as the sole, or dominant direct driver of change. This focus is coherent with the very large projected changes in climate combined with the relatively modest projected changes in other direct drivers such as land use change, overexploitation or pollution. Climate models project that warming for the Arctic tundra is likely to continue at about double the global rate. Wintertime warming, for example, is projected to exceed 8°C for much of Arctic tundra by the end of the century for scenarios of high greenhouse gas emissions and 2°C for scenarios of low greenhouse gas emissions (as compared to the period 1986-2005, (*in SOD: cite IPCC WGI – latest updates*)). The Arctic is also projected to have among the largest increases in precipitation globally, although there is high uncertainty in these projections. In contrast to climate change, land use change is projected to be very low in Arctic tundra systems (van Asselen and Verburg, 2013).

1 Models of the response of tundra species to future climate change have focused on several well-studied
2 animal species such as polar bears, seals, fox, caribou and birds (Settele et al., 2014). Polar bears have
3 received considerable attention because populations have been rapidly declining in several regions with
4 climate change as one of the likely drivers (Settele et al., 2014). Recent projections of polar bear population
5 dynamics have added considerably to the understanding of the underlying mechanisms (Atwood 2016, Lunn
6 2016, Dey 2017), and these projections are in agreement with previous work indicating projected negative
7 impacts of future climate change on polar bears in most regions. Atwood (2016) found that climate change
8 had projected negative effects on polar bear populations via its effects on sea ice (see also Lunn 2016), and
9 that these were much more important determinants of bear population dynamics than being hunted or other
10 interactions with people. Dey (Dey et al., 2017) found that a shift from seal to bird nest predation by polar
11 bears as a mechanism of adaptation to climate change is projected to be insufficient to halt the decline of
12 bear populations. Several other tundra dependant species show contrasting projected responses to climate
13 change. Increases in shrub dominance due changes due to climate warming, are projected to have uncertain
14 or widely varying effects on tundra plant species, ground squirrels and birds (Mod and Luoto, 2016;
15 Thompson et al., 2016; Wauchope et al., 2017). For example, many more bird species are projected to profit
16 from than decline due to modest increases in shrubs, while large shifts in shrub dominance are projected to
17 have negative effects on most bird species (Thompson et al., 2016).

18
19 Models of plant functional types and vegetation response to climate project that the observed increases in
20 shrub dominance and in boreal forest encroachment driven by recent warming (Settele et al., 2014) are to
21 continue over the next century and accelerate under the higher greenhouse gas emissions scenarios leading to
22 a shrinking of the area of tundra globally (Mod and Luoto, 2016; Gang et al., 2017). These changes in
23 vegetation, when combined with warming and increased precipitation effects on soil thawing and carbon
24 cycling, are projected to modify greenhouse gas emissions and have biophysical feedbacks to regional and
25 global climate. Recent studies have provided important additional insights into projections since the latest
26 IPCC report. Multi-model comparisons using dynamic vegetation models show that Arctic tundra
27 ecosystems are generally projected to continue to sequester carbon throughout most of the 21st century. But
28 there is much higher uncertainty than previously recognized with some models indicating a shift to very
29 large carbon sources by the end of the century, and that the bulk of this uncertainty arises from differences
30 between the vegetation models rather than from differences in climate models or greenhouse gas emissions
31 scenarios (Nishina et al., 2015; Ito et al., 2016). Additional mechanisms, when taken account in models,
32 suggest that climate change may strongly interact with other factors, such as fire, to even further increase
33 uncertainty in projections of tundra ecosystem function (Jiang et al., 2017). A model recently developed
34 specifically for Arctic tundra ecosystems suggests that the paradigm of increasing shrub domination due to
35 climate change should also be nuanced, because this response appears to depend heavily on concurrent
36 changes in precipitation as well as the dynamics of local thawing of the permafrost (van der Kolk et al.,
37 2016).

38 39 2.5.4.4.3 *Savannahs*

40 Worldwide, woody cover has been observed to increase in savannas (Buitenwerf et al., 2012; Donohue et al.,
41 2013), as a result of enhanced levels of CO₂ combined with changed grazing impacts. Especially in warm and
42 dry environments, elevated CO₂ fosters plants with C₃ photosynthesis (often woody plants) in contrast to C₄
43 species (Moncrieff et al., 2014; Midgley and Bond, 2015; Knorr et al., 2016a). Future fire spread is expected
44 to be reduced when ecosystems become increasingly woody-dominated (Knorr et al., 2016b) which then
45 provides a further positive feedback on shrub and tree growth.

46
47 Those dynamic vegetation models that account realistically for mechanisms of plant growth, competition and
48 demography have been shown to reproduce savanna distribution and fire-vegetation interactions
49 satisfactorily (Baudena et al., 2015; Moncrieff et al., 2016), suggesting that statistical distribution models
50 will not provide a complete picture of future ecosystem functioning and diversity in tropical grassy biomes.
51 Given that on different continents the relative importance of climate, fire and other factors in shaping
52 savanna vegetation and distribution varies, models that incorporate specific intercontinental differences are
53 superior compared with models that seek to model savanna distribution with a single, global
54 parameterisation (Moncrieff et al., 2016). For future climate change and CO₂ concentrations (RCP4.5),
55 savanna expanse declined by around 50% by 2070 in Africa and South America; changes were small in
56 Australia (Moncrieff et al., 2016). A broad range of future climate and CO₂ changes were found to enhance
57 vegetation C storage in Australian savannas. The effect was smallest when precipitation when rainfall

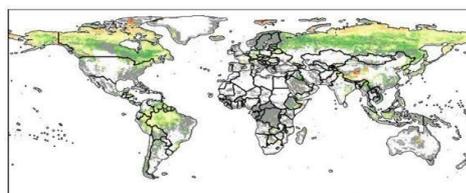
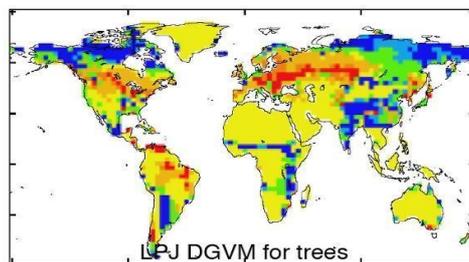
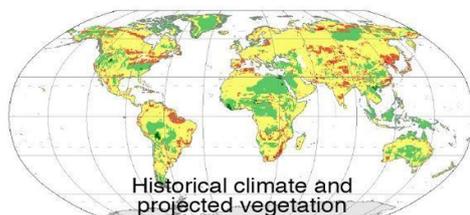
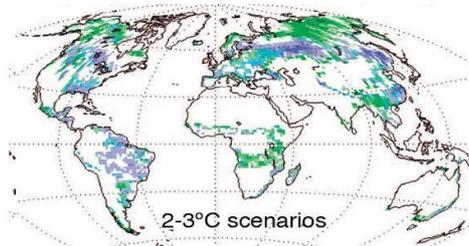
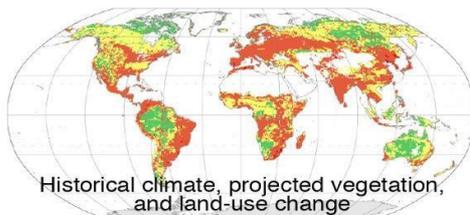
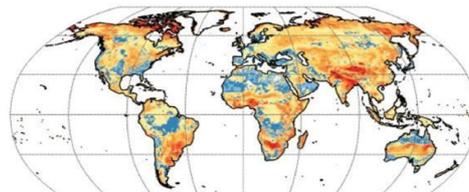
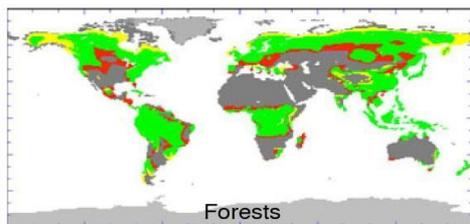
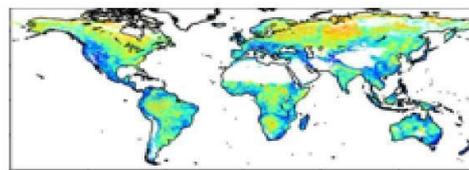
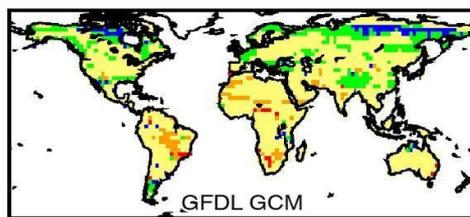
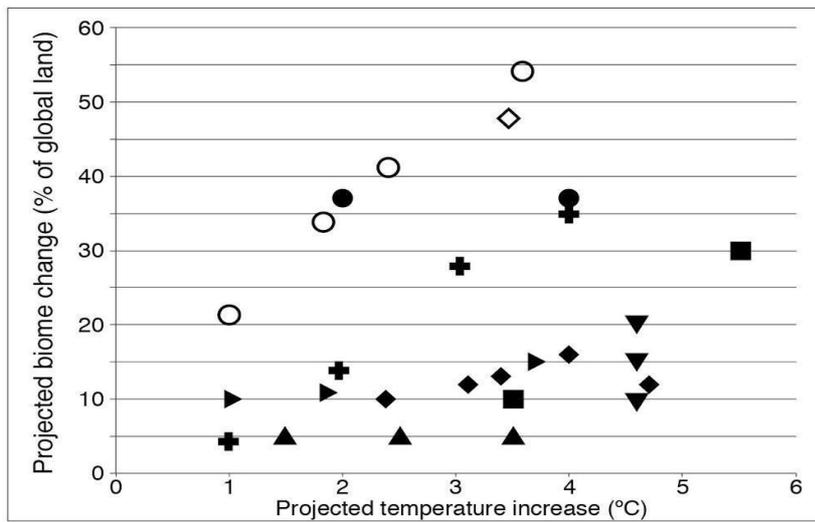
1 seasonality was largest (and growing season length shortest) but the enhanced woody cover was not
2 sufficient to suppress grass growth and fire (Scheiter et al., 2015) Increases in woody vegetation in what is
3 now grass-dominated would possibly come with a carbon benefit, but is expected to decrease biodiversity.

4
5 About 50% of Brazilian Cerrado has been transformed to agriculture and pastures (Lehman and Parr, 2016),
6 and African savannas have been proposed to follow a similar tropical agricultural revolution pathway in
7 order to enhance agronomical prosperity (Ryan et al., 2016). Given projected large population increases in
8 many regions of Africa for all SSPs (Knorr et al., 2016b) pressure towards land conversion together with
9 intensification on existing grazing and croplands will increase, with large uncertainty arising from assumed
10 socio-economic development. Assumptions about large agricultural technological and knowledge advances
11 tend to result in crop/pasture area being stable or even declining in future despite of population growth or
12 dietary changes. For Africa, such a scenario led to even an increase in average mean species abundance by
13 2050 (Alkemade et al., 2013). Managing land for climate change mitigation will enhance already existing
14 pressures on land resources in future. In an Integrated Assessment Model analysis, implementation of a
15 global forest conservation policy under a RCP 2.6 framework that mimics a REDD scenario led to expansion
16 of agricultural land into what is currently grasslands and savannas by 2050 and 2100, with associated loss of
17 carbon (and inferred loss of biodiversity (Popp et al., 2014; Searchinger et al., 2015)). Upon implementing a
18 tax on all terrestrial carbon emissions this “spill-over” was stopped and very little land-use change was found
19 overall in 20150 and 2100 compared to the present – an effect that was possible by at the same time allowing
20 for assumption of large technology increases regarding food production to compensate for the low crop and
21 pasture area changes. Land-cover change projections under the RCP 2.6 and 4.5 scenarios, combined with a
22 “random forest model” resulted in a decline in grassy biome habitat loss in parts of sub-Saharan Africa by
23 2070, but in different regions for the RCP2.6 and 4.5 case (Aleman et al., 2016; Aleman et al., 2017),
24 reflecting differences in the underlying socioeconomic assumptions.

25
26 Land-use change effects in tropical grassy ecosystems must be viewed with respect to their interactions with
27 fire. Longer fire return interval enhances woody cover in Australian savannas (under SREAS A1B climate
28 and CO₂ (Scheiter et al., 2015)). Population growth and has also been shown to decrease annual burned area
29 through factors such as fire suppression, controlled burning and/or fire suppression (Archibald et al., 2013).
30 Population scenarios, including different degrees of urbanisation, were found to have equally large effects on
31 projected burnt area than different climate and CO₂ scenarios (Knorr et al., 2016a). When human effects were
32 included in simulations, burnt area declined in most cases, dominated by the African continent due to its
33 large contribution to global burnt area. Still, human fire risk does not decline if people move into
34 increasingly fire-prone regions.

35
36
37 [INSERT TABLE 2.5 HERE]

38 **Table 2.5:** Projected vulnerabilities and risks of ecosystems to biome shifts from spatial analyses of vegetation
39 biogeography.



1
2 **Figure 2.9:** Projected vulnerabilities and risks of ecosystems to biome shifts from spatial analyses of vegetation
3 biogeography. Open symbols denote combined risk from climate change and land-use change.

[START BOX 2.1 HERE]

Box 2.1: Assessing Past Projections of Change

To understand how climate change is going to impact us into the future we use models to project what the future impacts of climate change will be. However it is vital to continually assess the accuracy of our past projections against new evidence so as to understand where our future projections of change are accurate and where they need more work. One way to do this is to look back in the past at models that projected change and compare the projections with the observed changes that have occurred. This offers us a very powerful approach to assess the models. We can tell which regions were predicted well and where predictions did not line up with impacts. This allows us to understand what type of models work well and what changes we need to make to improve future models.

We use this approach in this assessment to assess a model from the Fourth Assessment report (AR4). In AR4 the authors took a Dynamic Global Vegetation Modelling (DGVM) approach to project changes in potential vegetation in 2100 under emissions scenarios B1 and A2. The model presented future changes as shifts in key functional groups e.g., trees, shrubs and grasses. Here we compare vegetation changes up through ~2017 due to climate and non-climate factors with the AR4 projections for 2100. To do so we collated data from existing review papers and papers published in the last 15 years. From these papers we recorded the geographical location of a functional type change and noted the causes, whether climate or non-climate. We plotted each of these changes onto the geographical output form the model in AR4 (Figure Box 2.1.1).

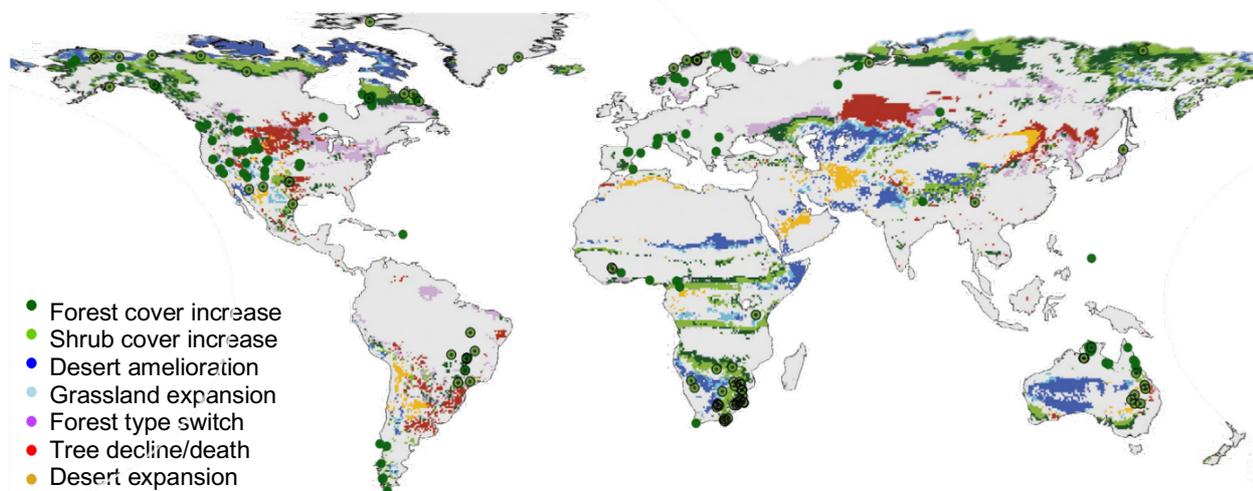


Figure Box 2.1.1: Projections of potential future biome shifts in 2100 under emissions scenario B1 from AR4 are presented as broad bands of colour with the colour representing potential changes in biome distributions. Each biome/functional type is presented as a different colour. The observed changes through ~2017 are presented as coloured dots with the colour of each dot matching the functional type change that has occurred. The observations are due to a mix of factors, climate and non-climate, whereas the AR4 model only included climate factors.

Table Box 2.1.1: Comparison of projections on biome change from AR4 with observed trends since AR4.

Key Projections for AR4 Model	Observed Recent Trends
Boreal forest and Arctic tundra ecosystems would show increased growth due to longer and warmer growing seasons	Observations confirm projection and tree cover and shrub cover densification has occurred widely across these regions
Woody boreal vegetation expected to spread into tundra at higher latitudes and higher elevations	Widespread observations confirming this projection
Contraction of boreal forest at southern ecotone with continental grasslands	
Increase in tree mortality in temperate forests	

Uncertain for the Sahel and other semi-arid regions of increasing drought and aridification vs models projecting more greening due to CO₂ driven increases in water-use efficiency

Extensive greening and encroachment across semi-arid regions of the world. Increase in tree and grass growth across most of the Sahel

In savannas, woody encroachment is projected to be a consequence of enhanced water-use efficiency and increased precipitation in some regions.

Extensive woody encroachment across savannas of the world

The moderate drying, including desert amelioration, was projected in southern Africa, the Sahel region, central Australia, the Arabian Peninsula and parts of central Asia due to a positive impact of rising atmospheric CO₂

Observed – grassland expansion into desert and increase in woody cover in Southern Africa. Increase in greening in Sahel and central Asia.

A general increase of deciduous at the expense of evergreen vegetation is predicted at all latitudes

Increased tree mortality in forests in both the eastern USA and eastern Asia due to drought stress

[END BOX 2.1 HERE]

2.5.5 Risk Assessment of Ecosystems and Related Services

2.5.5.1 Biome shifts

Previous spatial analyses of potential future vegetation under climate change have indicated that one-fifth to one-quarter of global terrestrial area is highly vulnerable to biome shifts by 2100 (Scholze et al., 2006; Alo and Wang; Sitch et al., 2008; Gonzalez et al., 2010a). Since the Fifth Assessment Report, at least three additional publications projected potential future global vegetation, estimating that up to one-third of global terrestrial area is highly vulnerable to biome shifts by 2100 due to climate change under high emissions (SRES A2, RCP8.5) (Warszawski et al., 2013; Park et al., 2015; Li et al., 2018a) (Figure 2-N, Table 2-N). At least seven publications since the Fifth Assessment Report have projected potential biome shifts for particular regions (Chakraborty et al., 2013; Langdon and Lawler; Moncrieff et al., 2015; Boit et al., 2016; Lyra et al., 2016; Rasquinha and Sankaran, 2016; Rowland et al., 2016), projecting biome changes on one-tenth to four-fifths of regional areas due to climate change under high emissions (SRES A2, RCP8.5). Global and regional biome projections consistently indicate potential biome shifts upslope or towards the Poles or the Equator. Generally, projections indicate high risks of biome shifts on ~5-10% of global terrestrial area under RCP2.6, increasing as a function of temperature to high risks on ~10-35% of global terrestrial area under RCP8.5 (Figure 2-N, Table 2-N). Models project high risks of poleward shifts of boreal conifer forest into tundra across the Arctic, upslope shifts of forest biomes into alpine biome areas of mountains, and dieback and shifts of Amazon tropical rainforest to shrubland or grassland (Figure 2-N). The globally high biodiversity in tropical forests (Kreft and Jetz, 2007) and on mountains (Rahbek et al., 2019) suggest that biome shifts may disproportionately affect biodiversity. Relatively slow rates of soil development at high-elevations, however, may constrain the pace of upslope biome shifts on mountains (Rahbek et al., 2019). The current sharp transitions at both the northern and southern limits of boreal conifer biome, to temperate woodland in the south and tundra in the north, suggest an abrupt tipping point for potential boreal biome shifts under climate change (Scheffer et al., 2012).

Previous research has identified massive forest dieback and a biome shift to grassland as a serious risk to the integrity of Amazon rainforest and its humid climate (Oyama and Nobre, 2003; Lenton et al., 2008; Nepstad et al., 2008; Salazar and Nobre, 2010; Settele et al., 2014). Increased temperature, increased fire from climate change and local human action, combined with extreme aridity in drought years would drive the Amazon forest dieback. Abrupt tipping points could occur at 4°C for the biome shift (Salazar and Nobre, 2010) and 40% deforestation for the humid climate (Sampaio et al., 2007). Research since the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report has continued to indicate high risks of Amazon forest dieback from continued climate change and deforestation, acting through wildfire and drought (Anadon et al., 2014; Lyra et al., 2016; Nobre et al., 2016; Boulton et al., 2017; Zemp et al., 2017; Marengo et al., 2018). Under RCP8.5, half of Amazon tropical evergreen forest could shift to grassland, but lower emissions (RCP4.5) could limit the loss to ~5% (Lyra et al., 2016). Precipitation declines from reduced evapotranspiration inputs after forest loss and other vegetation-atmosphere feedbacks could cause additional Amazon forest loss of one-quarter to one-third

1 (Zemp et al., 2017). More dieback could occur after 2100 than before (Boulton et al., 2017). Experimental
2 burns in Amazon rainforest found abrupt doubling and quadrupling of tree mortality in drought years in plots
3 burned annually and every three years, compared to background mortality (Brando et al., 2014). Flammable
4 grasses invaded burned areas and forest edges. This experiment provides a field example of what vegetation
5 models project.

6
7 Due to the coarse resolution of global data, most global models omit island areas. A review of temperature
8 sensitivities of tropical montane cloud forests on 93 islands around the world indicates an elevated risk that
9 climate change could lift the condensation level and the lower range limit on island cloud forests but would
10 affect a smaller area than deforestation and plant species invasions (Pouteau et al., 2018).

11
12 Biome shift projections come from equilibrium models, which analyze risk through static representations
13 based on thresholds of vegetation to climate and edaphic factors, or dynamic global vegetation models,
14 which dynamically calculate interactions of biogeography, nutrient cycling, and fire (Sitch et al., 2008). The
15 main limitations of both of these types of models include coarse spatial scale made necessary by the
16 computing power needed to run complex models, reference vegetation data often affected by human land use
17 change and other non-climate factors, and difficulties in accurately modelling dispersal or other ecosystem
18 processes that do not have comprehensive global databases. Many authors publish only maps of their results
19 and do not report the fraction of surface area at different levels of vulnerability or risk.

20
21 Research since the Fifth Assessment Report has explored new approaches to analyzing the combined risk of
22 biome shifts due to climate change and habitat fragmentation due to human land use change (Eigenbrod et
23 al., 2015; Boit et al., 2016; Ostberg et al., 2018). These analyses indicate that agriculture, urbanization, and
24 roads generate barriers to dispersal that can hinder shifts of natural vegetation. Consequently, the fraction of
25 area at high risk to biome shifts from climate change and land use change combined can increase to double
26 or triple the risks from climate change alone (Figure 2-N). Analysis of the combined risk of biome shifts and
27 low national economic activity indicates that less materially wealthy countries in southern Africa may
28 experience biome shifts earlier than materially wealthier countries in other parts of the world (Park et al.,
29 2015). Biome shifts and wildfire under emissions scenario A2 generate a high risk of establishment of
30 invasive species on one-sixth of global terrestrial land (Early et al., 2016).

31 32 2.5.5.2 *Wildfire*

33
34 Continued climate change under high emissions (SRES A2) could increase future wildfire frequency on one-
35 third to two-thirds of global land by 2100 and decrease fire frequency on one-fifth of global land, with a net
36 global fire frequency increase of ~30% per century (Gonzalez et al., 2010a; Moritz et al., 2012). Since the
37 IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (Settele et al., 2014), additional modelling of indicators of wildfire activity
38 other than fire frequency projects increases at the global level (Flannigan et al., 2013; Knorr et al., 2016a;
39 Burton et al., 2018; Abatzoglou et al., 2019). Under RCP8.5, increases in extreme fire weather days
40 (Canadian Forest Fire Weather Index) due to anthropogenic climate change emerge from natural variability
41 for one-third to two-thirds of burnable global land by 2050 (Abatzoglou et al., 2019). Under emissions
42 scenario A2, the potential for severe fire (Cumulative Severity Rating) could increase across approximately
43 four-fifths of global land and not decrease anywhere (Flannigan et al., 2013). Under RCP2.6, the potential
44 for severe fire (McArthur Forest Fire Danger Index) could increase for approximately half of global land but
45 decrease on approximately one-tenth of global land (Burton et al., 2018). Under RCP8.5 and shared socio-
46 economic pathway (SSP3 - high population growth, slow urbanization), the number of people living in fire-
47 prone areas could increase by three-quarters, to 720 million people in 2100, in a global population of 12.4
48 billion people (Knorr et al., 2016a). Lower greenhouse gas emissions under RCP4.5 could reduce the number
49 of people at risk by 70 million people. Those projections indicate, however, that human exposure to wildfires
50 results from human population growth more than increase in burned area (Knorr et al., 2016b).

51
52 Geographic areas of high fire risk differ among the various global analyses. Some regions identified at high
53 risk by multiple analyses include: Amazon (Gonzalez et al., 2010a; Knorr et al., 2016a; Burton et al., 2018;
54 Abatzoglou et al., 2019), Mediterranean Europe (Gonzalez et al., 2010a; Burton et al., 2018; Abatzoglou et
55 al., 2019), southern Africa (Gonzalez et al., 2010a; Burton et al., 2018; Abatzoglou et al., 2019), Tibet
56 (Moritz et al., 2012; Flannigan et al., 2013; Abatzoglou et al., 2019), tundra (Moritz et al., 2012; Flannigan et

1 al., 2013), western Australia (Gonzalez et al., 2010a; Burton et al., 2018; Abatzoglou et al., 2019), western
2 US (Gonzalez et al., 2010a; Moritz et al., 2012; Knorr et al., 2016a).

3
4 In some regions of high risk, higher-resolution spatial analyses have projected wildfire patterns under
5 climate change. In the Brazilian Amazon, climate change under RCP8.5 and high deforestation could double
6 the area with high fire relative probability (Fonseca et al., 2019), increase burned area 400% to 2800% by
7 2100 (Le Page et al., 2017), and increase fire intensity 90% (De Faria et al., 2017). Lower greenhouse gas
8 emissions (RCP4.5) and reduced deforestation could substantially reduce fire risk to a one-fifth increase in
9 the area with high fire relative probability (Fonseca et al., 2019) and a 100% to 500% increase in burned area
10 by 2100 (Le Page et al., 2017). Fire is the mechanism for potential biome shifts of half of Amazon rainforest
11 to grassland (Lyra et al., 2016; Zemp et al., 2017). Experimental burns in Amazon rainforest found abrupt
12 tree mortality in drought years in frequently burned plots and extensive invasion of burned areas and forest
13 edges by flammable grasses (Brando et al., 2014). In the Bolivian Amazon, burning experiments found a
14 substantial shift of species composition from fire-intolerant to fire-tolerant tree species (Devisscher et al.,
15 2016).

16
17 In the Brazilian Cerrado, climate change under RCP8.5 could double burned area by 2100 while emissions
18 reductions to meet the Paris Agreement goal (RCP2.6) could cause a one-tenth reduction of burned area from
19 2050 to 2100 (Silva et al., 2019). In Mediterranean Europe, climate change of 3°C could double or triple
20 burned area but keeping the temperature increase to 1.5°C could limit the burned area increase to 40-50%
21 (Turco et al., 2018). The most severe increases could occur in Spain and Portugal. Severe fire followed by
22 drought could cause Mediterranean biome shifts of forest to non-forest (Batllori et al., 2019). In Australia,
23 climate change under RCP8.5 increases risks of pyroconvective fire by 20 to 40 days in rangelands of
24 Western Australia, South Australia, and the Northern Territory (Dowdy et al., 2019). Pyroconvective fire
25 conditions could reach into the more populated areas of New South Wales, Australia, particularly in
26 November and December, the start of austral summer (Di Virgilio et al., 2019). Increases in heat and
27 potential increases in wildfire threaten the existence of temperature montane rainforest on Tasmania,
28 Australia (Mariani et al., 2019). In India, increases in wildfire could substantially reduce the range of three
29 tree species endemic to the Himalayas (Chitale and Behera, 2019). In boreal ecosystems, climate change
30 under RCP8.5 could double the number of fires in Finland (Lehtonen et al., 2016), increase lightning-driven
31 burned area by one-third in the Northwest Territories, Canada, and by half in Alaska, USA, by 2100
32 (Veraverbeke et al., 2017), push half of the area of tundra and boreal forest in Alaska, above the burning
33 threshold temperature, and double burned area in Alaska (Young et al., 2017a). Increased fire in Alaska
34 could reduce the extent of lichen tundra by up to one-quarter under RCP 8.5 (Pastick et al., 2017), reduce
35 lichen tundra habitat for caribou up to one-fifth under emissions scenario A1B (Gustine et al., 2014), and
36 increase deciduous forest area 200% to 600% (Pastick et al., 2017).

37
38 For the U.S., climate change under RCP8.5 could increase the number of fires with an area >50 km² by 300-
39 400% by 2070 in the lower 48 U.S. states (Barbero et al., 2015). For the western U.S., burned area in
40 climate-limited ecosystems, mainly forests, could double by 2080 under emissions scenario A1B (Littell et
41 al., 2018), climate change under RCP8.5 makes one-quarter of forest area highly vulnerable to burning
42 (Buotte et al., 2019). In Rocky Mountain forests in the U.S., climate change under RCP8.5 increases the risk
43 of fire-facilitated conversion of ~7% of forest to non-forest by 2050 (Parks et al., 2019). In California,
44 climate change under emissions scenario A2 could double fire frequency in some areas (Mann et al., 2016),
45 but emissions reductions (emissions scenario B1) could keep fire frequency from increasing (Westerling et
46 al., 2011). In the Sierra Nevada, California, climate change under RCP8.5 could double fire frequency (Parks
47 et al., 2018; Syphard et al., 2018), although topography and winds could foster cold air pools that would
48 serve as refugia from fire (Wilkin et al., 2016). Higher fire frequencies in the Mediterranean ecosystems of
49 southern California could cause a biome shift of chaparral (evergreen temperate woodland) to coastal scrub
50 (deciduous temperate shrubland) (Lippitt et al., 2013). Carbon dioxide fertilization and warmer conditions
51 could increase invasive grasses and wildfire in desert ecosystems of the south-western United States where
52 wildfire has historically been absent or infrequent, increasing mortality of any sparse tree cover (Horn and
53 St. Clair, 2017; Klinger and Brooks, 2017; Syphard et al., 2017; Moloney et al., 2019; Sweet et al., 2019).

54
55
56 [START FAQ 2.3 HERE]
57

FAQ2.3: Is climate change increasing wildfire?

[END FAQ 2.3 HERE]

2.5.5.3 Tree Mortality

Globally, the risk of drought-induced mortality is similar in magnitude for angiosperms and gymnosperms (Anderegg et al., 2016). Boreal and temperate forests possess greater diversity of physiological traits related to plant hydraulics, so they are more buffered against drought than tropical forests (Anderegg et al., 2018).

This lack of buffering capacity for plant moisture during drought increases the risk of tree mortality in Amazon rainforests and the possibility of a tipping point of massive mortality and conversion to grassland (Oyama and Nobre, 2003; Lenton et al., 2008; Nepstad et al., 2008; Salazar and Nobre, 2010) (described in more detail above in section 2.4.3.3.1, biome shifts). Under RCP8.5, half of Amazon tropical evergreen forest could shift to grassland through drought-induced tree mortality and wildfire, but lower emissions (RCP4.5) could limit the loss to ~5% (Lyra et al., 2016). Precipitation declines from reduced evapotranspiration inputs after forest loss and other vegetation-atmosphere feedbacks could cause additional Amazon forest loss of one-quarter to one-third (Zemp et al., 2017). Similarly, in Guinean tropical deciduous forest in Africa, climate change under RCP8.5 could increase mortality 700% by 2100 or 400% under lower emissions (RCP4.5) (Claeys et al., 2019).

For temperate conifer forests, drought-induced tree mortality from climate change under RCP8.5 could cause the loss of half of Northern Hemisphere conifer forest area by 2100 (McDowell et al., 2016). For the western U.S., one-tenth of forest area, including conifer and broadleaf forests, is highly vulnerable to drought-induced mortality under RCP8.5 by 2050 (Buotte et al., 2019). In California, increased evapotranspiration in Sierra Nevada conifer forests increases the potential fraction of the area at risk of tree mortality 15-20% per degree Celsius (Goulden and Bales, 2019). In Alaska, U.S., fire-induced tree mortality from climate change under RCP8.5 could reduce the extent of spruce forest (*Picea sp.*) 8-44% by 2100 (Pastick et al., 2017). In Alaska, U.S., and British Columbia, Canada, yellow-cedar (*Callitropsis nootkatensis*) could lose half of its suitable climate (Buma et al., 2017). In Sonoran Desert ecosystems in the U.S., climate change could cause substantial mortality even of drought-adapted tree and shrub species (Munson et al., 2012; Munson et al., 2016).

In Tasmania, Australia, projected increases in wildfire (Fox-Hughes et al., 2014) increase the risks of mortality in mesic vegetation (Harris et al., 2018b) and threaten the disappearance of the long-lived endemic pencil pine (*Athrotaxis cupressoides*) (Holz et al., 2015; Worth et al., 2016) and temperate montane rainforest (Mariani et al., 2019). The area began moving 4000 years ago out of a climate suitable for temperate rainforest (Mariani et al., 2019) and the most severe fires in 250 years burned in 1960-1961 (Holz et al.) and 2016 (Worth et al., 2016). Fire intolerant tree and shrub species, particularly in Australia, are at risk of an interval squeeze resulting from imposition of increased fire frequency on reduced reproductive success from more frequent fire (Enright et al., 2015; Henzler et al., 2018).

2.5.5.4 Terrestrial Ecosystem Carbon Stocks

Continued climate change increases risks of crossing tipping points of conversion of Amazon rainforest to grassland and melting of Arctic permafrost (Settele et al., 2014) that could release substantial amounts of ecosystem carbon to the atmosphere. IPCC AR6, Working Group 1, Chapter 5 examines the projections of these and other changes in global biogeochemistry. IPCC AR6, Working Group 3, Chapter 7 examines potential carbon sequestration measures in agriculture, forestry, and other land use. This section provides information on ecological aspects of projected changes in carbon stocks and flows.

A temperature increase of 2°C could melt 8 ± 2 million km³ of permafrost globally, 40% of the total extent (Chadburn et al., 2017). Since the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, more projections indicate that continued melting of Arctic tundra permafrost could release substantial carbon emissions (Koven et al., 2015b; Schuur et al., 2015; Comyn-Platt et al., 2018; Gasser et al., 2018). Under RCP8.5, models project potential permafrost carbon losses by 2100 of 28-113 Gt (Koven et al., 2015b), 11-143 Gt (Gasser et al., 2018), 42-

1 141 Gt (von Deimling et al., 2015), 37–170 Gt (Schuur et al., 2015), or 35–205 Gt (Schaefer et al., 2014),
2 potentially increasing global average temperatures $0.29 \pm 0.21^\circ\text{C}$ (Schaefer et al., 2014). Limiting the global
3 temperature increase to 2°C could reduce projected permafrost losses by 2100 to 20–58 Gt (von Deimling et
4 al., 2015), 46–51 Gt (Comyn-Platt et al., 2018), 27–100 Gt (Schaefer et al., 2014). Globally, most soil carbon
5 emissions would come from Arctic tundra, with climate change under RCP8.5 causing a soil carbon loss of
6 55 ± 50 Gt by 2050, increasing atmospheric CO_2 by 25 ppm (Crowther et al., 2016). Ultimate carbon losses
7 from permafrost could total 160–310 Gt by 2300 under RCP8.5 or 40–100 Gt under RCP2.6 (von Deimling et
8 al., 2015). The potentially abrupt nature of this and its fundamental impact on global biogeochemistry mark
9 the melting of permafrost as a tipping point (Schaefer et al., 2014).

10
11 Despite the projected permafrost losses, models project that increased shrub growth from increased
12 temperatures that could maintain a net sink in the North American Arctic through 2100 (McGuire et al.,
13 2018; Mekonnen et al., 2018).

14
15 The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report estimated that, in the Amazon, continued deforestation and tree mortality
16 from drought and wildfire could reduce forest area by half and release 20 ± 10 Gt carbon (Settele et al.,
17 2014), a substantial portion of the current carbon stock of 45–60 Gt (Baccini et al., 2012; Mitchard et al.,
18 2014; Englund et al., 2017). This could cross a tipping point of self-reinforcing feedbacks between reduced
19 vegetation and reduced precipitation (described in more detail in section 2.4.3.2 and 2.5.5.1), leading to an
20 additional forest loss of one-quarter to one-third (Zemp et al., 2017). No new estimate has been published of
21 the ecosystem carbon loss from a climate change-induced dieback of Amazon tropical evergreen forest.
22 Under RCP8.5, carbon emissions from Amazon wildfire could double by 2100 (De Faria et al., 2017). In the
23 Pastaza-Marañon peatland in the Peruvian Amazon, climate change under RCP8.5 could shift the ecosystem
24 from a carbon sink to a source of 0.4 ± 0.1 Gt yr^{-1} by 2100, but emissions reductions under RCP2.6 could
25 keep the system a sink of 70 ± 30 Mt yr^{-1} (Wang et al., 2018). In Indonesia, future clearing of peatland for
26 agriculture could emit 1.2–3.1 Gt C by 2130 (Wijedasa et al., 2018).

27
28 Modelling indicates that the current climate allows a potential carbon stock in global vegetation of 920 Gt,
29 double the current stock (Erb et al., 2018a). This difference indicates a potential opportunity to increase
30 ecosystem carbon removals from the atmosphere through afforestation, reforestation, and other land
31 management actions, which could sequester 6.5 Gt y^{-1} of carbon (5.5–10 Gt y^{-1}) (Griscom et al., 2017).
32 Theoretically, enough land exists for restoring 99 million km^2 of forest containing 200 Gt carbon (Bastin et
33 al., 2019). Active reforestation, depending on species and methods, could cause serious environmental and
34 social impacts (Heck et al., 2018; Krause et al., 2018) (see Cross-Chapter Box MITIG in this Chapter).

35
36 Reduced deforestation and degradation could sequester 1.5 Gt y^{-1} , totalling 130 Gt by 2100 (Le Quéré et al.,
37 2018). Improved fire management, including prescribed burning in North America to facilitate growth of
38 large native trees (Hurteau, 2017) and prescribed burning in Australia earlier in the dry season (Lipsett-
39 Moore et al., 2018) could substantially reduce the 0.6 Gt y^{-1} of net carbon emissions from wildfires.

40
41 For protected areas, climate change under a scenario of no emissions reductions could reduce the rate of
42 carbon storage 40%, but removal of protected status from one-third of the area to meet expanded land needs
43 for agriculture and livestock could nearly convert the system of protected areas from a sink to a source
44 (Melillo et al., 2016).

45
46
47 [START FAQ 2.4 HERE]

48 **FAQ2.4: Will planting trees stop climate change?**

49
50
51 [END FAQ 2.4 HERE]

52 53 54 *2.5.5.5 Primary Productivity*

55
56 Analyses of atmospheric inversion model output and spatial climate data indicate a sensitivity of net
57 ecosystem productivity to CO_2 fertilization of 3.1 ± 0.1 to 8.1 ± 0.3 Gt per 100 ppm CO_2 ($\sim 1^\circ\text{C}$ increase) and

1 a sensitivity to temperature of -0.5 ± 0.2 , to -1.1 ± 0.1 Gt per degree Celsius (Fernandez-Martinez et al.,
2 2019). These indicate that CO₂ enhances the terrestrial sink but temperature increases constrain it. Climate
3 change under RCP8.5 could reduce by 90% global vegetated area where growth is limited by temperature,
4 mainly at high latitudes (Keenan and Riley, 2018). Under RCP8.5, land-use change could reduce projected
5 carbon increases ~25% (Quesada et al., 2018). Furthermore, emerging nitrogen and phosphorus constraints
6 on growth may slow down CO₂ fertilization to the extent that drought and aridity would limit NPP (Penuelas
7 et al., 2017; Zhou et al., 2019).

8
9 An additional risk that CO₂ fertilization poses to ecosystems is an increase in invasive alien plant species,
10 which, under experimental conditions, perform better under increased CO₂ and higher temperatures than do
11 native plant species (Liu et al., 2017).

12 2.5.5.6 *Climate Regulation*

13
14 In addition to comprising a principal component of the global carbon cycle, ecosystem serve to regulate
15 climate by providing moisture inputs for precipitation across long distances from vegetation transpiration
16 and by moderating local temperatures in tropical and temperate areas through the cooling effect of
17 transpiration. Due to vegetation-atmosphere feedbacks, reductions of vegetation cover in one region can
18 reduce evapotranspiration inputs to the atmosphere, leading to drier conditions elsewhere, often in drylands
19 (Avisar and Werth, 2005; Devaraju et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2015; Swann et al., 2018). The long-term
20 decline of rainfall in the African Sahel was initiated by warmer sea surface temperatures due to
21 anthropogenic climate change (Giannini et al., 2003; Shanahan et al., 2009; Suarez-Moreno et al., 2018;
22 Villamayor et al., 2018), while reduction of vegetation cover in Guinean forests, Sudanian woodland, and
23 Sahel savanna amplify the decline via reduced evapotranspiration (Zeng et al., 1999; Yu et al., 2017a; Liu et
24 al., 2019a) and increased albedo (Charney et al.; Yosef et al., 2018). Across Africa, actions that increase
25 forest cover could store carbon and moderate projected future temperature increases (Wu et al., 2016; Diba et
26 al., 2018). In another case, tree death in the Sierra Nevada, California, USA, attributed to anthropogenic
27 climate change (van Mantgem et al., 2009), can reduce water to the atmosphere, reducing vegetation growth
28 on the other side of North America (Swann et al., 2018). Research has demonstrated the local cooling effect
29 of forests through transpiration (Ellison et al., 2017) across the northern mid-latitudes (Lejeune et al., 2018),
30 in Brazil (Cohn et al., 2019), and the Czech Republic (Hesslerova et al., 2018). In Brazil, the local heating
31 effect of deforestation extends outward 50 km Brazil (Cohn et al., 2019).

32
33 Projections of the global change in evapotranspiration under climate change, however, do not agree (Doll et
34 al., 2016). Increasing atmospheric CO₂ produces counteracting effects, namely, reduced transpiration due to
35 increased water use efficiency or increased transpiration due to increased plant growth (Doll et al., 2016).

36 2.5.5.7 *Freshwater Supply from Ecosystems*

37
38 The provision of freshwater as habitat for aquatic plants and animals and as drinking water for people
39 depends on climate and vegetation cover (Ellison et al., 2017). Forest ecosystems and freshwater wetland
40 ecosystems maintain water underground in the saturated zone for runoff into streams and rivers and recharge
41 of groundwater aquifers over time. This delayed water release provides the baseline flow in dry seasons.
42 Globally, 4 billion people depend on forested watersheds for drinking water (Mekonnen and Hoekstra,
43 2016). IPCC AR6 Chapter 4 assesses the physical science aspects of water supply, including precipitation,
44 runoff, and hydrology, and social aspects of human water use. This section assesses ecological aspects of
45 risks to freshwater supply, particularly the integrity of watersheds under continued climate change.

46
47 Reduction of vegetation cover can either decrease or increase the water yield of a watershed, depending on
48 local geology and water storage (Evaristo and McDonnell, 2019) and increase sediment flows from erosion,
49 degrading drinking water quality. Increased wildfire under continued climate change could increase these
50 risks to water supplies. Under current fire conditions, almost one-half of global area is at moderate to high
51 risk of water scarcity due to earlier runoff and increased sediment after wildfires, including India, northeast
52 Brazil, Ethiopia, the African Sahel, Spain, Turkey, Russia, and Canada (Robinne et al., 2018). In the arid
53 south-western U.S., projected increases of wildfire due to climate change under RCP8.5 could convert forest
54 to non-forest cover at one site to the extent that the vegetation change alone could reduce runoff up to 10%
55 by 2100 (O'Donnell et al., 2018). Across the western U.S., post-fire erosion under emissions scenario A2
56
57

1 could double sedimentation in one-third of watersheds by 2050, degrading drinking water quality (Sankey et
2 al., 2017). In Oaxaca, Mexico, the combination of climate change under RCP8.5 and conversion of forest to
3 urban land could decrease groundwater stocks more than projected recharge could maintain them (Olivares
4 et al., 2019). In a watershed in southern Thailand, half of which is protected by a national park, the
5 combination of conversion of forest to rubber plantations outside the park and a one-third increase in
6 rainfall could increase erosion and sediment load 15%, degrading water quality for drinking and irrigation
7 (Trisurat et al., 2016). In a watershed in northern Thailand, even though precipitation did not increase from
8 1975 to 2015, low-flow discharge increased, possibly reflecting 40% deforestation (Tebakari et al., 2018).

9 10 2.5.5.8 Risk to Ecosystem Services from Freshwater Systems

11
12 Climate-change has direct and indirect impacts on freshwater ecosystem services (or nature's contribution to
13 people (Woodward et al., 2010; IPBES, 2019). Projected increases in water temperature and prolongation of
14 thermal stratification periods will promote algal blooms dominated by cyanobacteria thereby reducing
15 biodiversity in temperate productive lakes (Domis, 2013) (Adrian and Hesse, 2016). Given that
16 eutrophication of Central European lakes have wiped out a significant proportion of the endemic fish fauna
17 (Vonlanthen et al., 2012) climate induced further eutrophication may put additional threat on the fish fauna.

18
19 Direct effects of warming have been shown to affect terrestrial community trends, while the effects in
20 aquatic communities (freshwater, marine) were more variable (Bowler et al., 2017). Such variable effects in
21 freshwaters can be attributed to the paucity of data regarding temperature measurements across the range-
22 wide distribution of species (as opposed to e.g. remotely-sensed land surface temperatures for terrestrial
23 ecosystems, often requiring estimates based on literature (Comte and Olden, 2017).

24
25 Warming temperatures and altered precipitation patterns across the globe, depending on the region, result in
26 an increased frequency of floods and extended drought periods (Milly et al., 2005). Increased
27 evapotranspiration rates have shown to increase the risk of reduced (ground) water levels, stream drying and
28 stream intermittencies, having direct effects on ES such as water provisioning (Woodward et al., 2010),
29 navigation, and food security through cascading effects in food webs and community turn-over due to
30 exceeding organisms physiological tolerances and range shifts of organisms (Daufresne et al., 2004). Such
31 ecological impacts on ecosystem services, and especially those of changing biodiversity have shown to have
32 indirect impacts on ES through altering ecosystem processes (Chapin et al., 2000). For instance, changes in
33 species population dynamics, species interactions, and the introduction and persistence of non-indigenous
34 species have shown to change freshwater ecosystem characteristics e.g. by replacing or introducing new key
35 or keystone species (Chapin et al., 2000), e.g., mussels in the genus *Dreissena*). Such altered ecosystem
36 processes not only impact biodiversity *per se* but can have impacts on ecosystem services that are contingent
37 on biodiversity (while effects are dependent on the regional context (IPBES, 2018a; IPBES, 2018b; IPBES,
38 2018c; IPBES, 2018d).

39
40 While biodiversity and several ecosystem services can be considered synergistic (food webs, tourism,
41 aesthetical / spiritual value (Langhans et al., 2019), others can be considered antagonistic in case of a strong
42 ecosystem service demand (such as water abstraction, water use, food security in terms of over-exploitation).
43 Here the balance between biodiversity and ecosystem services is key; (spatial prioritization (Langhans et al.,
44 2019).

45 46 2.5.5.9 Risk to Ecosystem Services from Changes in Carbon Fluxes via the Terrestrial/Freshwater 47 Interface

48
49 Changes in climate and land use modulate the close interactions between terrestrial and freshwater carbon
50 transport and their role as carbon sink or source to the atmosphere. Lakes and rivers bury more carbon than
51 the world's oceans combined. According to metabolic theory of ecology, respiration increases more than
52 photosynthesis with rising temperature. As a result CO₂ emissions from terrestrial soils and freshwaters are
53 likely to increase with global warming. While estimations of global carbon fluxes have been refined in the
54 past decade, especially with respect to the so far underestimated role of freshwaters as substantial sinks and
55 sources of carbon at a global scale, uncertainty in the quantity of carbon fluxes between terrestrial and
56 freshwater ecosystems and subsequent emissions remain very high (Tranvik et al., 2009; Drake et al., 2018;
57 Seekell et al., 2018; Sanches et al., 2019). The mechanism by which moisture controls gaseous C fluxes is a

1 trade-off between stimulation of microbial respiration and limitation of gas diffusivity (Gomez-Gener et al.,
 2 2016). In lakes a shift toward heterotrophy would imply a reduction in the carbon sequestration capacity –
 3 and thereby a reduction of lakes acting as carbon sinks. Given the exponential response of metabolic rate to
 4 temperature (Jackson et al., 2017) found that warming had a greater direct effect on lake metabolism in
 5 tropical as compared to lakes in temperate / mid elevation and lakes in arctic / high elevation areas. How
 6 much warming a lake can tolerate before it switches from net autotrophy to net heterotrophy depends on
 7 trophic state; lower under mesotrophic than under eutrophic conditions (Scharfenberger et al., 2019).

8
 9 The exposure of lake and river sediments during droughts reactivates decomposition of buried organic
 10 carbon (Tesi et al., 2016). For dry river beds mineralization of buried organic matter as anoxic sediments are
 11 oxygenated during drydown along with pulses of microbial activity following rewetting of desiccated
 12 sediment are likely to increase with CC (Bernhardt et al., 2018). Conservative estimates indicate that adding
 13 emissions from exposed sediments of dry inland waters to current global estimates of CO₂ emissions from
 14 inland waters could result in a 10% increase of total inland water CO₂ emission rates covering streams and
 15 rivers (334 mmol m₂ day⁻¹), lakes and reservoirs (320 mmol m₂ day⁻¹) and small ponds (148 mmol m₂ day⁻¹).
 16 CH₄ fluxes from exposed sediments of dry inland waters are low (Marcé et al., 2019).

17
 18 Methane (CH₄) emissions in freshwaters mainly originate from lakes particularly from ebullition in shallow
 19 lakes (bubble flux from sediments) (Sanches et al., 2019). In 297 lakes distributed globally, CH₄ emissions
 20 were lowest in lakes of boreal and north temperate zones whilst higher values were found in the tropics and
 21 the south temperate zones, probably related to temperature (Sanches et al., 2019). Aben (2017) found a strong
 22 relationship between CH₄ ebullition and temperature across a wide range of shallow freshwater ecosystems
 23 on different continents using multi-seasonal CH₄ ebullition data from the literature. Freshwaters with high
 24 primary production and those that receive substantial loads of allochthonous carbon turned out more likely to
 25 have high CH₄ ebullition rates. In combination with controlled year round mesocosm experiments their
 26 findings suggest that global warming will strongly enhance freshwater CH₄ emissions through a
 27 disproportionate increase in ebullition by 6–20% per 1 °C increase in water temperature (Aben et al., 2017).
 28 It can be expected that ongoing eutrophication enhanced by climate change-related increases in sediment
 29 nutrient release and organic carbon and nutrient loading from catchments (see 3.2.1; 2.3.5.3) will enhance
 30 CH₄ ebullition at a global scale (Aben et al., 2017; Sanches et al., 2019). Given that small ponds and shallow
 31 lakes, are the most abundant freshwaters globally they may become hot spots of CH₄ ebullition in the future
 32 (Aben et al., 2017). Uncertainty in CH₄ flux estimates stem from different measuring techniques - as such
 33 lake CH₄ flux measurement techniques require thorough re-evaluation (Sanches et al., 2019).

34
 35
 36 **Figure 2.10:** [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: burning embers figure of key risks - summary will
 37 feed into Chapter 16 burning embers figure]

38
 39
 40 **Table 2.6:** [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: Summary of key risks for terrestrial and freshwater
 41 ecosystems. [This table is based on the structure of IPCC AR5, Table 4-3, page 302, which IPCC AR6, Chapter 16;
 42 additional key risks will be added as literature review continues and evidence base builds]

Confidence, Evidence, Agreement	Climate factors	Non-climate factors	Already Detected and Attributed	Adaptation options	Risk with current adaptation	Risk with high adaptation
Species extinctions. Estimates of risk of species' extinctions from model projections varies considerably (0-54%), but some species are already showing severe declines as well as high risk of extinction from projected loss of climate space and/or habitat, making some level of species' extinctions inevitable. Higher rates of extinctions may be avoided through adaptation measures at low emissions scenarios, but limits to adaptation will become increasingly dominate with higher emissions scenarios (see Sections 2.4.2.6; 2.5.3.3; 2.6.1; 2.6.3)						
<i>High, high, medium</i>	Shifts in geographic placements of climate space; loss	land use change, habitat degradation from	Yes	Habitat restoration, habitat creation, increased	[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]	[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]

of climate space globally; emergence of non- analogue climates, increases in extreme climate events	pollution, fertilization, invasive species	connectivity of habitats and protected areas, increase in protected areas, assisted colonization
---	---	--

Tree mortality from drought, wildfire, and pest infestations. Increased drought, wildfire, and pest infestation, due to anthropogenic climate change, and deforestation, forest degradation, and wildfires, due to human land use change, have caused tree mortality in tropical, temperate, and boreal ecosystems. Under continued climate change, models project more extensive mortality in tropical rainforests and temperate conifer forests, releasing carbon dioxide, degrading habitat for plant and animal species, and reducing water supplies for people (see Sections 2.3.6; 2.4.3.2).

<i>High, High, High</i>	Heat, drought, aridity	Deforestation, land-use change	Yes	Reduce deforestation, reduce use of fire in tropical forests, use prescribed burning in fire-dependent temperate forests	Today: medium 2°C: high 4°C: high	Today: medium 2°C: medium 4°C: high
-------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------------	-----	--	---	---

Ecosystem carbon loss. Tropical forests and Arctic tundra permafrost contain the greatest stocks of aboveground and belowground ecosystem carbon, respectively. Tropical forests currently emit more carbon to the atmosphere than they remove due to deforestation and forest degradation. Under continued climate change, models project possible tipping points of conversion of Amazon rainforest to grasslands and melting of Arctic permafrost that would release enough carbon dioxide to substantially exacerbate climate change. (see Sections 2.3.6.3; 2.4.3.3.4)

<i>Medium, Medium, High</i>	Heat, drought, aridity	Deforestation, land-use change	No	Reduce deforestation, reduce use of fire in tropical forests	Today: low 2°C: medium 4°C: high	Today: low 2°C: low 4°C: high
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[START FAQ 2.5 HERE]

FAQ2.5: How do climate-related changes in wildlife affect society and human well-being?

[END FAQ 2.5 HERE]

2.6 Climate Change Adaptation for Terrestrial and Freshwater Ecosystems

This section focuses on human interventions to build the resilience of ecosystems or to adjust management to climate change, in the context of climate resilient pathways and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2.6.1 Limits to Autonomous (Natural) Adaptation

1 Natural ecosystems often have a high degree of resilience and can to some extent adjust to change; species
2 can adjust through evolutionary adaptation, distribution change, behavioural change and developmental
3 plasticity. There are, however, limits to autonomous adaptation, both because of intrinsic limitations and the
4 degraded state of many ecosystems.

5
6 None of the evolutionary changes either documented or theorized would enable that species to survive and
7 reproduce in climate spaces that it does not already inhabit. Evolutionary responses are *very unlikely* to
8 prevent species extinctions in the case of that species losing its climate space entirely on a regional or global
9 scale (Parmesan and Hanley, 2015). At highest risk are the world's most cold-adapted species (whose
10 habitats are restricted to sea ice, high boreal and high mountaintop areas). Examples include the polar bear
11 (Regehr et al.), "sky-island" plants in the tropics (Kidane et al., 2019), mountain-top amphibians in Spain
12 (Enriquez-Urzelai et al., 2019), mountain-top lichens in the Appalachians (USA) (Allen and Lendemmer,
13 2016), and silverswords in Hawaii (Krushelnycky et al.).

14
15 However, there is a conservation potential for using evolutionary changes to enhance the adaptive capacity
16 of target species, such as is being done in the Great Barrier reef by translocating symbionts and corals that
17 have survived recent intense heat-induced bleaching events into areas that have had large die-off (Rinkevich,
18 2019). Hoffman and Sgro (Ratnam et al., 2011; Sgro et al., 2011) assessed when and how evolution might be
19 able to help wild species adapt to climate change.

20
21 Some of the reasons cited in the literature as limits to autonomous adaptation are:

- 22
23 1) Genetic changes in populations require many generations and for many species operate on longer time
24 scales than those on which the climate is currently changing.
- 25
26 2) Many species are moving to higher latitudes as the climate warms, but not all are keeping pace with
27 changes in suitable climate space (Valladares et al., 2014; Mason et al., 2015). Such climate debt indicates an
28 inability for non-genetic autonomous adaptation (e.g. evidence limited ability for plastic responses, such as
29 stemming from dispersal limitations, or behavioural restrictions, or physiological constraints).
- 30
31 3) Some species have low capacity for dispersal, which, combined with increased fragmentation of habitats,
32 creates barriers to range shifts to match climate warming. Studies have shown that changes in distribution of
33 species and composition of communities are limited by the presence of intensively managed agricultural land
34 fragmenting natural habitats (Oliver et al., 2017).

35 36 **2.6.2 Adaptation Strategies and Programmes**

37
38 Ecosystems are specifically included in the adaptation goals set out in the Paris agreement and are addressed
39 in most national adaptation programmes. There are also now a large number of adaptation programmes and
40 plans for local governments and governmental and non-governmental organisations working on ecosystems.

41
42
43 In the context of this chapter there is an important distinction to be made between adaptation measures to
44 maintain biodiversity and ecosystems in their own right and what is often termed Ecosystem-based
45 Adaptation (EbA). EbA is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation
46 strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change (CBD, 2009). EbA aims to maintain
47 and increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and people in the face of the adverse
48 effects of climate change (Vignola et al., 2009). EbA can contribute to many aspects of sustainable
49 development (Figure 2.11)

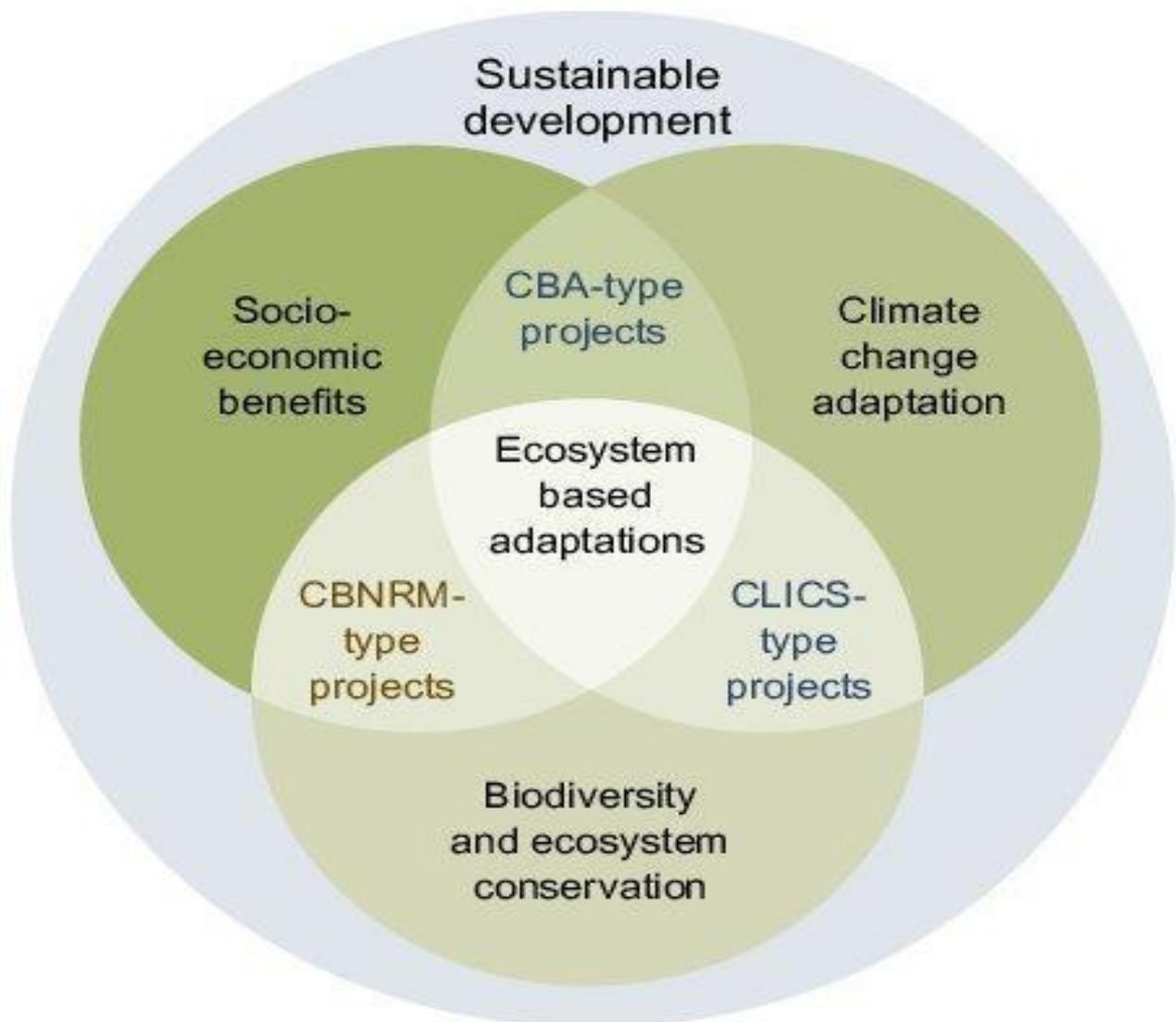


Figure 2.11: Figure adapted from Midgley (2012). Adaptation options relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation within the broader context of sustainable development. CBNRM refers to community based natural resource management [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: citation], while CLICS refers to climate change integrated conservation strategies.

Seddon (2016) reported that of the 162 Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (covering 189 countries) submitted to the United Nations at the time of the research, 109 indicate ‘ecosystem-orientated visions’ for adaptation, although only 23 use the term ‘ecosystem based adaptation.’

Since AR5 a number of studies have considered the wider factors that are important for adaptation programmes and projects. These include:

- 1) Integration of adaptation planning with other sectors, including agriculture and water resources
- 2) Partnership working with diverse stakeholders and local communities
- 3) Good monitoring and evaluation. See the following for a synthesis of 170 case studies:

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/docs/2015/sbsta/eng/04.pdf>

Adaptation is usually context specific and a one size fits all approach is not ideal e.g. forest restoration can be beneficial in forest biomes but not in open grassy ecosystems (see Cross-Chapter Box MITIG in this Chapter).

Better integration of traditional, local & indigenous knowledge & capacity will increase chances of community acceptance and success.

2.6.3 *Adaptation for Biodiversity Conservation*

A variety of approaches have been identified as potential adaptation measures, over the last 3 decades. Heller and Zavaleta (2009) (quoted in AR5) identified 113 categories of recommendation for adaptation from a survey of 112 papers and reports (Heller and Zavaleta, 2009). Since this time the scientific literature on adaptation for ecosystems has increased dramatically (as illustrated by the fact that Heller and Zavelleta has been cited 1381 times; Google Scholar, 5 April 2019).

The early scientific literature on adaptation was based on ecological theory rather than observations or practical experience. A number of studies since AR5 have investigated the extent to which adaptation has been integrated into conservation planning and is being implemented (e.g. (Macgregor and van Dijk, 2014) (Prober et al., 2019)). There are however relatively few assessments of progress compared to the number of adaptation plans and programmes which have been produced in the academic literature. A recent review (Prober et al., 2019) concluded that out of 473 papers on adaptation, only 16% presented new empirical evidence and there are very few indeed which assess the effectiveness of interventions. There are very few instances where the effect of a planned intervention on the climate sensitivity of an ecosystem is monitored from the start and compared to a control. Nevertheless, since AR5, there have been an increasing number of analyses of how different land use and management influences the vulnerability of species and habitats on the basis of empirical data. This allows at least some of the proposed adaptation measures to be tested for their likely effectiveness. Table 2.7 summarises the evidence that supports the main categories of adaptation measures which have been proposed. We have taken a broad approach and included studies that address extreme weather events such as droughts, which may be exacerbated by climate change as well as long term changes in climate variables. We have not distinguished between studies in which climate change adaptation was an explicit focus and those in which lessons for adaptation can be learnt from studies conducted for other reasons but inform the assessment impacts of actions identified as potential adaptation measures.

[INSERT TABLE 2.7 HERE]

Table 2.7: Evidence to support proposed climate change adaptation measures for biodiversity.

Table 2.7 reflects the fact that adaptation for ecosystems is a broad concept, including a wide range of different actions. It includes targeted interventions to change the microclimate for particular species (for example by shading) through to changing national conservation objectives to take account of changing distributions of species and communities. It includes targeted actions specifically addressing climate change but also protection and restoration of ecosystems, with multiple additional benefits including reducing vulnerability to climate change. As climate change often interacts with other factors including ecosystem degradation and fragmentation (Oliver et al., 2015b), actions to address these other interacting factor is expected to build resilience to climate change. Whilst the evidence base to identify these interactions, for example to show the circumstances in which vulnerability to climate change, or extreme weather events, is reduced, there are few studies testing whether a change in these factors has caused a change in vulnerability. This remains an important evidence gap. There is also a major limitation in the available evidence in that those studies which have been published testing adaptation measures, whether directly or indirectly (through contrasting impacts in different areas) are predominantly from Europe, North America and Australasia.

Many of the actions to adapt to climate change for biodiversity operate at the landscape scale. The total area of habitat, how fragmented it is, the size of habitat patches and the connectivity between them are interlinked properties at this scale. A growing number of studies have investigated how these properties affect species ability both to persist in situ and colonise new areas. Overall larger areas of semi-natural habitat are associated with both increased resilience to ongoing climate change and extreme events and the capacity to colonise new areas (Haslem et al., 2015; Oliver et al., 2017; Papanikolaou et al., 2017). A larger area of habitat enables greater connectivity between patches and / or larger patches and individual patch size and connectivity can also be identified. Large patch size has been found to increase resilience of some populations of species to extreme events such as droughts (Oliver et al., 2015b).

1 The most consistently cited climate change adaptation measure for species is increasing connectivity to
2 facilitate colonisation of new areas with suitable conditions and there have been advances and innovations in
3 modelling techniques to support this (Littlefield et al., 2019). This reflects the fact many species' habitats are
4 highly fragmented which prevents them naturally changing their range to tracking changing climatic
5 conditions. There is evidence from empirical as well as modelling studies that species can disperse more
6 effectively in better connected areas in terrestrial habitats (Keeley et al., 2018). There are a variety of
7 different approaches to increasing connectivity ranging from increasing overall area of suitable habitat
8 through to 'corridors' and 'stepping stones', with different strategies likely to be more effective for different
9 species and circumstances (Keeley et al., 2018). Connectivity can also be important in increasing resilience
10 of populations to extreme climatic events (Newson et al., 2014; Oliver et al., 2015b). If fluvial corridors are
11 not connected migrating fish populations are not surviving even without climate change but with climate
12 change however connectivity is even more important for organisms to migrate further upstream to colder
13 areas. Connectivity is also important for benthic invertebrates to be able to drift downstream, hence to
14 disperse (Brooks et al., 2018). For adults of benthic invertebrates, a variety of different riparian and
15 terrestrial habitat features can potentially affect dispersal.

16
17 The evidence for microclimatic refugia has demonstrated the potential to incorporate this into conservation
18 planning (Jones et al., 2016; Morelli et al., 2016) and this is starting to happen, for example in targeting
19 management actions (Sweet et al., 2019). It is also possible to manipulate microclimate for example by
20 creating shelters for nests (Patino-Martinez et al., 2012) or planting trees to shade water courses (Thomas et
21 al., 2016).

22 23 **2.6.4 Ecosystem Based Adaptation**

24
25 Restoration and better management of ecosystems can help people to adapt to climate change as well as the
26 ecosystems themselves. At the same time many of the pressures on ecosystems which prevent adaptation are
27 the result of human activities, so EbA offers the potential to benefit both people and nature. EbA includes a
28 range of different approaches which can benefit both people and nature, examples include restoring coastal
29 and river systems to reduce flood risk and the creation of urban green space to reduce temperatures through
30 shading and evaporative cooling. Since AR5 the evidence base to support ecosystem based adaptation has
31 increased and it is closely linked with a variety of other concepts such as ecosystem services, natural capital
32 and nature-based solutions. Table 2.13 presents an assessment of the evidence supporting the main EbA
33 approaches.

34
35
36 [INSERT TABLE 2.8 HERE]

37 **Table 2.8:** Examples of widely advocated Ecosystem Based Adaptation measures with assessments of confidence.

38
39
40 Ecosystem based adaptation was becoming a well recognised concept at the time of AR5 but implementation
41 was still at an early stage in many cases. Since then pilot studies have been assessed and EbA projects have
42 been initiated around the world. The evidence base continues to grow (Table 2.8) and this has consequently
43 led to increasing confidence in approaches which have been shown to work leading to further expansion.

44
45 The risks of flooding have increased with climate change as a result of more intense rain storms, hurricanes
46 and rising sea levels and restoring coasts, rivers and wetlands to reduce flood risk have probably seen the
47 largest investment in EbA. This encompasses a wide range of techniques. In tropical and sub-tropical areas,
48 the restoration of mangroves to reduce the risk of coastal flooding is a widely advocated approach supported
49 by evidence (for example (Høye et al., 2013; Sierra-Correa and Kintz, 2015; Powell et al., 2019)). In
50 temperate regions salt marsh is a similarly important habitat (Spalding et al., 2014). Both provide buffering
51 against rising sea levels and storm surges. In river systems (Jacob et al., 2014), the management of
52 catchments and the channel itself is important: restoring natural meanders in canalised water courses and
53 allowing the build up of woody debris can slow flows rates; creating wetlands can store water during flood
54 events.

55
56 There are a variety of circumstances in which microclimate and local climate temperatures can be lowered
57 using ecosystem based approaches (Table 2.8) and these techniques are starting to be used more widely. In

1 both urban and agricultural shade trees are a traditional technique which can be applied to contemporary
2 climate change adaptation. Similar shading of water course can lower temperatures to support continuation
3 of important fisheries, including those of Salmonid fish. Within cities, green space, including parks, local
4 nature reserves and green roofs can also provide cooling as a result of evapo-transpiration.

5
6 Despite the growth in EbA applications there remain constraints (Nalau et al., 2018) to wider use of it,
7 including in terms of knowledge, governance and integration with society and it is important to approach
8 EbA in the wider context of sustainable development.

9 10 **2.6.5 Adaptation in Practice: Case Studies and Lessons Learned**

11
12 Adaptation plans for biodiversity and EbA have been adopted in many countries and by a variety of
13 organisations, land owners and managers; it is however difficult to get a systematic overview of adaptation
14 that is taking place from the academic literature. We have therefore reviewed a sample of case studies,
15 chosen to cover different regions, address a range of issues and at different scales from local to national and
16 using published material in both the journal literature and reports, combined with updates from authors. We
17 present 9 of these case studies below to illustrate the breadth of adaptation and some key issues.

18
19 These case studies range from specific local interventions to national strategies and international initiatives.
20 Action on the ground often depends on all of these, for example international funding, directed by a national
21 strategy to support a local project. Within the city of Durban (Roberts and O'Donoghue, 2013), partnership
22 between local communities, local authorities and the academic community were found to be essential,
23 together with an international context. Nevertheless there are examples of local communities using
24 traditional or local knowledge to adapt to changing circumstances as they find them, with little or no external
25 input e.g. (Harvey et al., 2017).

26
27 Adaptation for biodiversity conservation ranges from small targeted projects to strategies to integrate
28 adaptation into wider conservation planning. Small scale projects which are specifically adaptation focussed,
29 as for example the transplantation of butterflies in response to shifting ranges or protection of climate
30 sensitive species (Harris, 2018), are rare. However, in countries where nature reserves are actively managed
31 or where ecosystem restoration projects are progressing, local practitioners may well use local knowledge to
32 adapt to weather conditions and their associated effects (fire or water shortage for example). Whilst this is
33 good practice, there is a risk that this will not be sufficiently proactive to address likely future changes in
34 climate. Training and resources to support conservation practitioners in climate change adaptation (for
35 example the Climate Change Adaptation Manual produced by Natural England and the RSPB) are becoming
36 available to help address this.

37
38 Adaptation is widely recognised as important for national conservation policy and is being considered in a
39 variety of countries as evidenced by the UK and Thailand being considered in a strategic way in developing
40 protection for National Parks, as shown by the case studies in South Africa and the USA. Adaptation in this
41 strategic context includes a variety of decisions about the selection and objectives for protected areas, for
42 example identifying places where the climate is likely to remain suitable for threatened species, which can
43 act as refugia. It can also mean recognising where a protected area remains important but will support
44 different species or habitats compared to those for which it was originally designated. This is important in
45 terms of directing resources to the places where they can be most effective and ensuring that site
46 management is appropriate in a changing climate. There are however often significant uncertainties and the
47 need for more radical measures will depend on success in reducing greenhouse gas emissions globally. A
48 global rise of 1.5–2 °C would require relatively incremental adjustments to conservation management and
49 spatial targeting of interventions in many parts of the world, but a 3–4°C rise would require radical,
50 transformational changes in approach to maintain many species and habitats and the services they provide to
51 people.

52
53 Whilst adaptation strategies for conservation are relatively common, at least at an outline level,
54 implementation is slow in most places. This may partly reflect lack of resources for conservation in many
55 parts of the world, however, one barrier to considering adaptation is that conservationists, local communities
56 and visitors value protected sites in their present form and with their current species. Actions which might
57 jeopardise this are inevitably a last resort. A pathways approach in which alternative adaptation strategies

1 can be adopted with decision points recognised, may be helpful in addressing this but there is little evidence
2 that this approach is being adopted. Initiatives to engage wider communities in discussions about climate
3 change are rare in conservation but are likely to be essential in gaining support for such an approach.
4

5 We have distinguished EbA from adaptation for biodiversity alone, but it is important to recognise that the
6 two are intrinsically linked and the largest scale interventions for adaptation in ecosystem have tended to
7 bring together both elements. This is particularly true in the case adaptation to reduce flood risk by habitat
8 creation and using natural processes, including increased risks of coastal flooding from storm surges in
9 relation to rising sea levels and flooding in river systems resulting from more intense storms (Cross-Chapter
10 Box SLR in Chapter 3). Integrating natural ecosystem processes into wider flood risk management, for
11 example by re-naturalising straightened river systems or creating wetlands for water storage (Cross-Chapter
12 Box WATER in Chapter 3), offers the potential more effectively to meet multiple objectives, including
13 nature conservation and has increased overall funding available for ecosystem restoration. Natural flood
14 management has achieved a wide level of acceptance across different countries although it is still used less
15 widely than engineered solutions. Managed realignment projects at the coast and river system restoration are
16 some of the largest adaptation projects in terms of area covered, financial investment and the number of
17 parties involved. They are also often the projects with the most rigorous monitoring and evaluation of
18 effectiveness, this can be done empirically in the case of current conditions and by modelling for potential
19 future impacts. Natural flood management requires a combination of expertise and knowledge on climate,
20 ecology and hydrology together with good local knowledge as many solutions are place specific. This
21 requires interdisciplinary partnership and partnership between scientists, policy makers and practitioners,
22 together with local communities.
23

24 EbA also includes a wide range of other solutions to different climate related issues, including providing
25 local cooling for people, crops and livestock. In many farming systems, farmers use local and indigenous
26 knowledge to take advantage of the benefits of shade trees for example in central America (Harvey et al.).
27 This is a relatively straight forward approach with wide potential applicability and there is good potential for
28 knowledge exchange between farmers. There is also the potential to adopt systems like agro-forestry in areas
29 where it has not previously been practised and there are examples of this being trialled. Within urban
30 systems there is increasing interest in the potential for EbA to protect against natural hazards such as
31 drought, flood and heatwave whilst at the same time improving the quality of life. There are examples from
32 cities around the world, such as Durban where this approach is being used.
33

34 Across all these areas of adaptation, there is an urgent need for more systematic monitoring and evaluation to
35 allow lessons to be learnt and good practice shared.
36

37 *2.6.5.1 Case study: Climate Change Adaptation in Conservation in the UK*

38
39 Scale: National

40 Issue: Nature conservation (overarching approach)
41

42 Climate change poses a number of threats to biodiversity in the UK including: range retraction of cold
43 adapted species, increased coastal erosion and changes in habitats resulting from changing rainfall patterns.
44 All of these are exacerbated by human actions: ecosystems have been heavily modified in the UK with
45 habitats fragmented, land often drained and natural roll back of the coast prevented by hard sea defences.
46

47 There is a strong statutory framework for adaptation and the natural environment is a major element of the
48 National Adaptation Programme. Awareness of the need for adaptation to climate change is well established
49 in the UK conservation community, with research on ecosystems and climate change going back to the
50 1980s, research on adaptation since the 1990s and climate change adaptation principles have been recognised
51 since 2007 (Hopkins et al., 2007). Different conservation agencies cover the different component nations of
52 the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland). All have recognised the need for
53 climate change adaptation and have produced extensive information, evidence and resources to support
54 adaptation. For example Natural England has published a Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2015), an
55 Adaptation Manual jointly with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds – a major conservation NGO
56 (Natural England and RSPB, 2015) and spatial mapping tool for climate change vulnerability (Taylor et al.,
57 2014). The NGO community similarly recognises the need for adaptation.

1
2 Surveys by Burch (2014) and (Macgregor and van Dijk, 2014) indicate that in many cases there is an
3 awareness of the need for climate change adaptation amongst conservation practitioners and policy makers,
4 but relatively actions tend to focus on 'low regrets' measures which deliver a number of benefits including
5 building resilience to climate change. Nevertheless there are some examples of adaptation in action in the
6 UK, for example managed realignment of the coastline to remove hard sea defences create new coastal
7 habitats. Using natural flood management on river systems is being used in a number of local studies,
8 normally on a pilot study basis. Both of these examples have normally been funded largely on the basis of
9 reducing flood risk to people, in ways that also deliver biodiversity benefits and a growing evidence base to
10 support their effectiveness

11 ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/654440/
12 Working_with_natural_processes_one_page_summaries.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/654440/Working_with_natural_processes_one_page_summaries.pdf)). There has also been restoration of wetlands,
13 especially peatlands which would be expected to build resilience to climate change. Broader adoption of
14 climate change adaptation within conservation is however proceeding more slowly. Approaches include
15 integration within the development of a new Nature Recovery Network encompassing both core
16 conservation sites and small scale habitat patches, increasing connectivity and restoring natural processes;
17 this is still at the planning stage. There is a recognition that it will be necessary to change management
18 objectives of protected sites to reflect changing species distributions and unavoidable changes in vegetation
19 but so far this is at a preliminary stage.

20 21 2.6.5.2 Assisted Colonization / Managed Relocation in Practice

22
23 Scale: global

24 Issue: helping species move to track shifting climate space

25
26 Managed relocation (assisted migration, assisted colonization) is the movement of species, populations, or
27 genotypes to places outside the areas of their historical distributions to maintain biological diversity or
28 ecosystem functioning with changing climate (Hoegh-Guldberg et al., 2008). It requires careful
29 consideration of scientific, ethical, and legal issues between the object of relocation and the receiving
30 ecosystem (Hoegh-Guldberg et al., 2008; Richardson et al., 2009; Schwartz et al., 2012).

31
32 Among species that risk losing their climate spaces if they remain in situ, those least likely to achieve the
33 needed range shifts under their own power are the most obvious candidates for assisted migration. However,
34 even species that are physically capable of long-distance dispersal, such as butterflies, may fail to do so
35 across human-dominated landscapes (Daily and Ehrlich, 1996), in which case expected loss of climate space
36 requires assisted migration or provision of corridors. Because of the number of stepping-stones required for
37 construction of corridors, assisted migration was judged the less expensive of the two options for grassland
38 butterflies in Finland (Tainio et al., 2016).

39
40 Since assisted migration beyond current range limits introduces species to habitats where they have not
41 previously been recorded, the potential for negative effects has raised ethical questions (Minteer and Collins,
42 2010). In ethical support of assisted migration, Siipi and Ahteensuu (2016) defend the moral value of helping
43 species to attain their "natural" ranges in a shifting climate. Lunt (2013) point out that assessments of costs
44 and benefits should include expected positive effects of species translocated poleward in maintaining
45 ecosystem function when they replace other species that are leaving the same communities, while (Thomas,
46 2011) opines that negative effects are likely to be minimal. Overall, a majority of Conservation biologists
47 have supported incorporating assisted migration into their repertoire of tools, while assessing both the need
48 for it and its expected likelihood of success (Hallfors et al., 2017).

49
50 Individual cases show that assisted migration can be successful. Anich & Ward (2017) extended the
51 geographic breeding range of a rare bird, Kirtland's warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*), by 225km by using song
52 playbacks to attract migrating individuals. Wadgymar (2015) successfully transplanted an annual legume,
53 *Chamaecrista fasciculata*, to sites beyond its current poleward range limit, while Liu (2012) found that all
54 but one of 20 orchid species survived when transplanted to higher elevations than their current range limits.
55 After introducing two British butterfly species to sites ~65 and ~35 km beyond their poleward range
56 margins, Willis (2009) observed that both introduced populations grew, expanded their ranges and survived
57 for at least 8 years.

1
2 Butterflies have been favoured subjects for assisted migration in response to regional climate warming, since
3 they are easy to move and their range dynamics have been extensively studied. The Chequered Skipper
4 butterfly (*Carterocephalus palaemon*) became locally extinct in England in the 1970's, in an area not close to
5 either the species' poleward or equatorial range limits. Nonetheless, Maes (2019) consider climate a crucial
6 parameter for re-introduction, using SDMs both for choosing the source population in Belgium and for
7 predicting that the species should increase at the introduction site between the present and 2070.

8
9 Overall, success of assisted migration for conservation purposes has been variable. Bellis (2019), using their
10 own criteria of success, identified 56 successes and 33 failures among 107 translocations of insects that had
11 been undertaken explicitly for Conservation purposes. A useful conclusion from their meta-analysis is that
12 failure was most strongly associated with low numbers of individuals released. Another potential source of
13 failure is local adaptation: there is good evidence that adaptive differences among potential source
14 populations can be important. For example, the transplants of *C. fasciculata* were more successful when
15 sourced from the most poleward existing sites, while individuals from more equatorial habitats performed
16 poorly even when artificially warmed (Wadgymar et al., 2015).

17 18 2.6.5.3 Case Study: Conservation of climate change refugia for the Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) in 19 Joshua Tree National Park, California, USA

20
21 Scale: Local

22 Issue: Possible extirpation of a plant species within its projected area

23
24 Increased aridity with continued climate change under RCP8.5 (Sweet et al., 2019) or A1B (Cole et al.,
25 2011) could nearly eliminate suitable habitat for the Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), a unique Mojave Desert
26 plant, from Joshua Tree National Park, established for the conservation of the species. Joshua Tree National
27 Park staff have adapted conservation of the Joshua tree by using spatial analyses of suitable habitat under
28 climate change to identify and protect potential refugia for the species (Barrows and Murphy-Mariscal, 2012;
29 Sweet et al., 2019). Climate refugia are locations that potentially retain suitable conditions for a species
30 under climate change. Joshua Tree National Park prioritizes the refugia for control of invasive species and
31 suppression of wildfires in an ecosystem where wildfire, which can kill Joshua trees, has been absent.

32 33 34 2.6.5.4 Case Study: Effects of Climate Change on Tropical High Andean Social Ecological Systems

35
36 Scale: local

37 Issue: complex ramifications of glacial retreat on vegetation, animals and herders

38
39 Climate change is transforming high elevation tropical landscapes. Accelerated warming is swiftly reducing
40 tropical glaciers, at rates unseeing since the middle of the Little Ice Age (Thompson et al., 2017). The retreat
41 of the tropical Andes, between 1976 and 2010, is estimated at -0.76 m water equivalent (Vuille et al., 2018).
42 Glacial area in the Cordillera Blanca has shrunk from 723 km² to 482 km² from 1970s to 2010 (Mark et al.,
43 2017). Large declines in Andean glacier mass and extent have altered surface and ground water flows (Mark
44 et al., 2017). Warming and glacier retreat allow colonization of plants and upward shifts in vegetation
45 communities (Zimmer et al., 2018). In the Andes, the climate-driven upward migration of species has
46 modified its distribution and richness, and the community composition along the Andes altitudinal gradient
47 (Carilla et al., 2018) (Seimon et al., 2017; Zimmer et al., 2018). Drying wetlands has modified alpine plant
48 communities, which are relevant to storing carbon, regulating water, and providing food for local livestock.
49 Glacier retreat substantially impacts water resources and other hydrological ecosystem services including
50 both urban and rural populations, and multiple forms of water use, ranging from human and livestock
51 consumption, to farming, mining and industry (Vuille et al., 2018; Orlove et al., 2019). Less available water
52 has negatively impacted irrigation, and the increasing variability of precipitation has compromised rain-fed
53 agriculture and power generation, particularly in the dry season (Bradley et al., 2006; Bury et al., 2013;
54 Buytaert et al., 2017).

55
56 At higher altitudes, climate-driven glacier retreat impacts Andean pastoralists (Postigo, 2013; López-i-Gelats
57 et al., 2016). This retreat has increased meltwater flow regimes (runoff and groundwater) in the short-term

1 (Polk, 2016) (Young et al., 2017c), with an initial increase in water flow following the glacier melting.
2 However, water flow is already decreasing in some basins and diminishing flows are expected in the near
3 future in many other basins (Baraer et al., 2011) (Vuille et al., 2018; Somers et al., under review). Wetlands
4 are mimicking the pattern of water fluctuation, initially growing and then contracting, leading to negative
5 impacts on herders' livelihoods (Dangles et al., 2017) (Polk et al., 2017). Vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) and
6 alpaca (*Vicugna pacos*) are two key elements of these livelihoods because their fibers are the main income
7 sources for the peasant communities and the households respectively. Climate-driven impacts on wetlands,
8 however, are differently affecting the wild vicuña and the domesticated alpaca. The former is adjusting its
9 feeding behaviour to new plant communities and, likely, shifting its spatial distribution as vegetation
10 migrates upwards. In doing so, its vulnerability increases as vicuñas may end up roaming outside the
11 boundaries of the protected areas designed for its conservation and protection from illegal poaching. The
12 alpaca's responses are driven by the Andean herders. Pastoralist households have been responding to the
13 drying up of grazing areas due to climate change by increasing livestock mobility within their pastures,
14 creating and expanding wetlands through building of several kilometers long irrigation canals, limiting the
15 allocation of wetlands to new households, and sometimes actually cultivating grasses (Postigo, 2013)
16 (López-i-Gelats et al., 2015). These responses, though enabled by adaptive local Andean institutions, are
17 severely compromised by other socio-economic pressures on the resources and capabilities needed for
18 adapting (Valdivia et al., 2010; Postigo, 2019). For instance, mining concessions (<30% and <55% above
19 4000 m a.s.l. and 3000 m a.s.l. respectively) on the headwaters of the watersheds threaten the quality and
20 limit the access and control over water (Bebbington and Bury, 2009). Further, there is competition for water
21 that is desired for irrigation of agribusiness on the lowland coastal desert (Mark et al., 2017).

22 23 2.6.5.5 Case Study: Protecting Gondwanan refugia against fire in Tasmania

24
25 Scale: local

26 Issue: protection of rare endemic species

27
28 The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) has a high concentration of 'paleo-endemic'
29 plant species restricted to cool, wet climates and fire free environments, but recent wildfires have burnt
30 substantial stands, which are unlikely to recover (Harris et al., 2018b). The fires led to government inquiries
31 and a fire-fighting review, which have suggested changes on the assumption that climate change will make
32 such fires likely to keep happening. During fires in 2019, significant effort and resources were spent trying to
33 protect the remaining stand, including by installing dripline irrigation around stands of the relictual
34 vegetation – an interesting case study because it raises the question of management intervention in
35 wilderness areas and an example where changing policy and planning can be definitely linked to climate
36 change. Could also be linked to indigenous knowledge as there is an ongoing discussion of using Aboriginal
37 burning techniques in the wilderness area.

38
39 The TWWHA is managed as a Wilderness Zone, where management is carried out in manner that allows
40 natural processes to predominate. The exclusion of fire from stands of fire-sensitive trees such as the Pencil
41 pine (*Athrotaxis cupressoides*) is part of this management strategy. However, in recent years, the threat
42 posed by extensive and repeated wildfires, and an increasing awareness that fire risk is likely to continue
43 increasing with climate change (Fox-Hughes et al., 2014; Turco et al., 2018) have meant that more direct
44 management intervention has been implemented. There has been a realisation that a "hands-off" approach to
45 managing the threat will not be sufficient to protect the paleo-endemics. Not only is fire-fighting difficult in
46 the remote wilderness area, but limited resources mean that fire managers must prioritise where fires will be
47 fought when many fires are threatening towns and lives across the state simultaneously. After wildfires in
48 2016 caused extensive damage, new approaches were used in 2019, including the strategic application of
49 long-term fire retardant and the installation of kilometres of sprinkler lines, approaches which are thought to
50 have been effective at halting the fire and protecting the high value vegetation. Impact reports are currently
51 being finalised to quantify the extent of fire-sensitive vegetation communities that have been affected.
52 However, there is concern that these interventions may have adverse effects on the values of the TWWHA if
53 applied widely, so while research is ongoing, these will only be applied in strategic areas (e.g., fire retardant
54 is not being applied to some areas).

55
56 The TWWHA Management Plan (2016) emphasises Aboriginal fire management as an important value of
57 the TWWHA, along with their knowledge of plants, animals, marine resources, minerals (ochre and rock

sources), and their connection with the area as a living and dynamic landscape. Fire management planning aims to protect important sites from fire and ensure that management does not impact Aboriginal cultural values. Increasingly, there is an acknowledgement that the cessation of traditional fire uses has led to changes in vegetation and a call to incorporate Aboriginal burning knowledge into fire management of the TWHHA.

2.6.5.6 Case Study: Protected areas planning in response to climate change in Thailand

scale: national
issue: protected area network planning

The existing protected areas in Thailand cover approximately 21% of the country land area, which is greater than the average percentage of protected areas of in ASEAN countries (13%). In addition, it is one of the few tropical countries that quantitatively passes the Aichi Target 11 of at least 17% of the terrestrial area protected. However, most protected areas were established on an *ad hoc* basis to protect remaining forest cover, therefore they may not be resilient to the interacting impacts of land use and climate change by 2050. Recent research conducted in northern Thailand indicated that the existing protected areas (31% of the region area) cannot secure viability of many medium-and large-mammal species. Most species would substantially shift their current distributions and will have higher risk to extinction. The model results based on the spatial distribution model and network flow determined there was a need for expansion areas of 5,200 km² or 3% of the region to substantially minimize the risk level and increase the average coping capacity of the protection of suitable habitats from 82% as the current plan to 90% (Trisurat, 2018).

A similar approach was also conducted in Yunnan, China (Zomer et al., 2014) and in three tropical biogeographic realms (Neotropics; Afrotropics; Indo-Malayan tropics) regional and global level under the Spatial Planning for Protected Areas in Response to Climate Change (SPARC) project executed by the Conservation International (CI). These two studies also indicated that future climate change (2050) will decrease the effectiveness of existing protected areas network.

2.6.5.7 Case Study: Ecosystem based adaptation in Durban, South Africa

Scale: local
Issue: Ecosystem based adaptation in a city and surrounding area

Durban was an early pioneer of EbA in a city context, establishing a Municipal Climate Protection Programme (MCP) in 2004 (Roberts et al., 2012). Durban has a population of approximately 3.5 million, which is growing rapidly and experiences a variety of serious challenges including high rates of poverty, unemployment and health problems (Roberts and O'Donoghue, 2013). The adaptation work stream within the MCP is composed of three separate components: municipal adaptation (adaptation activities linked to the key line functions of local government); community-based adaptation, focused on improving the adaptive capacity of local communities and a series of urban management interventions that address specific challenges associated with climate change such as the urban heat island, increased stormwater runoff, water conservation and sea-level rise. EbA elements are included in all of these elements. An approach. The approach which has been taken has had a philosophy of 'learning by doing'. Local governments, including Durban do not typically have all of the necessary skills to implement EbA and partnerships have been essential, including with the local university. Roberts (Roberts et al., 2012) noted that 'While EBA may provide a cost-effective approach to climate change adaptation, some level of capital and operational funding is still required' and that 'the protection of the required ecosystems will necessitate tough decision-making and significant political and administrative will'. Evidence of the success of green infrastructure measures included measurements showing green roof reduces stormwater run-off by approximately 60 ml/m²/minute during a rainfall event, releases water slowly over time and reduces temperature on the surface of the roof by up to 30°C (Roberts et al., 2012). Despite being one of the better examples of monitoring and evaluation, (Roberts et al., 2012) still note the need for better monitoring of the effectiveness of adaptation measures. The engagement of the local community is a key element of EbA in the city and the concept of Community Ecosystem Based Adaptation has been developed.

2.6.5.8 Case Study: Adaptation Management in South African National Parks

Scale: national

Issue: adaptation planning across national park network

South African National Parks have recorded mean temperature increases in excess of 1.5°C over the last 60 years, and the number of days in which temperatures exceeded 35°C and fell lower than 0°C have markedly increased and decreased respectively (van Wilgen and Wannenburgh, 2016). Understanding how such climatic changes are impacting their effectiveness, and how negative implications can be minimised is recognised as essential.

A framework for climate change adaptation planning is being developed for South African National Parks. An iterative process guides setting objectives, assessing vulnerabilities (based on predicted exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity), designing adaptation strategies, implementing and reviewing them. To date, SANParks' assessment of protected area vulnerability has focused on three approaches. Firstly, current and predicted climate change have been quantified within each national park and how these interact with other global change drivers has been assessed. Secondly predictions of species and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change have been developed through Spatial Planning for Protected Areas Species in Response to Climate Change (SPARC) project. This has included species distribution models, dynamic global vegetation models, trait-based assessments and network flow. Thirdly, park-level climate change vulnerabilities have been assessed, including consideration of climate change impacts on biodiversity, infrastructure and tourism/income generation, as well as on park-specific adaptation capacity. Several key vulnerabilities have been identified including biodiversity losses, bush encroachment, infrastructure at risk from floods, revenue loss and possible increases in human-wildlife conflict.

SANParks has begun using these vulnerability assessments and consultation with park management to prepare a draft climate change preparedness strategy (van Wilgen and Wannenburgh, 2016). The potential actions being explored include improving landscape connectivity, minimising non-climatic stressors on climate change vulnerable species, disaster risk planning and management, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, assisted translocation and minimising greenhouse gas emissions. Since effectiveness of both novel and existing management approaches is unknown in the climate change context, empirical assessment and knowledge-sharing of their impacts and effectiveness is essential. Through proactive planning for climate change, SANParks hopes to minimise negative impacts, seize emerging opportunities, and pave the way for protected area custodians to prepare for climate change.

2.6.5.9 Cross Cutting Themes

Adaptation is taking place in a wide variety of contexts for a wide variety of reasons. This includes actions focussed on biodiversity and ecosystem based adaptation. Adaptation can take place at a range of scales with specific projects nested within overarching national strategies. Small scale projects can be largely adaptation focussed, but in larger scale projects, adaptation is often integrated into wider restoration or environmental land management objectives. To be effective both approaches are likely to be necessary. Ecosystem based adaptation often focuses on flooding issues. Integrating environmental land and catchment management into wider flood management offers the potential to use resources more effectively to meet multiple objectives. This has increased overall funding available for ecosystem restoration.

Adaptation often requires a combination of expertise and knowledge on climate, ecology and hydrology together with good local knowledge as many solutions are place specific. This requires interdisciplinary partnership and partnership between scientists, policy makers and practitioners. There is an urgent need to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions as adaptation measures. This needs to cover a range of outcomes for species, ecosystems and species and include assessments of costs and benefits.

2.6.6 Limits to Adaptation

Much emphasis has been given to building resilience to reduce vulnerability of ecosystems to climate change. However some changes are inevitable and as described above have already happened (*strong evidence, high agreement*). An important element of adaptation is therefore to recognise inevitable change

1 and incorporate it into planning conservation and land management. The extent to which this has happened is
2 not known.

3
4 There is a conservation potential for using evolutionary changes to enhance the adaptive capacity for target
5 species, such as is being done in the Great Barrier reef by translocating symbionts and corals that have
6 survived recent intense heat-induced bleaching events into areas that have had large die-off. However,
7 known limitations to genetic adaptation preclude species-level adaptation to climates beyond their ecological
8 and evolutionary history (see Sections 2.2.4.6; 2.6.1)

9 10 **2.6.7 Climate Resilient Pathways**

11
12 The interactions between social and ecological systems is essential for developing climate resilient pathways
13 and progressing towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

14
15 In addition to the direct effects of climate change on ecosystems there are a wide range of human responses
16 to climate change that will have an impact of ecosystems, some positive, some negative.
17 If mitigation or adaptation are approached in a siloed way, there is the potential for maladaptation with
18 adverse consequences for ecosystems and people. For example the use of ‘hard’ engineering to reduce flood
19 risk in response to increasing storm events, may prevent river systems from naturally adapting, leading to a
20 loss of biodiversity and not prove effective in the long-term as climate change progresses. As discussed
21 above EbA which works with natural processes is increasingly widely advocated as an alternative, although
22 knowledge gaps remain as to the extent to which this can deliver effective flood protection (Ngai et al.,
23 2017).

24
25 To keep global temperature rise well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C, it will almost certainly
26 be necessary to take advantage of the potential for ecosystems to sequester carbon. However, the way in
27 which this is done will make a big difference to natural and semi-natural ecosystems. Most scenarios for
28 meeting the Paris Agreement targets include the deployment of Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage
29 (BECCS) whilst this both replaces fossil fuels and removes carbon from the atmosphere, it will increase
30 pressure on land which could alternatively be used to grow food or provide other ecosystem services. It may
31 also directly or indirectly lead to the cultivation of natural areas which support biodiversity. Similarly
32 plantation forest managed for high timber productivity will contribute to mitigation goals but support less
33 biodiversity than more natural forests. It is important that decision making takes account of the full range of
34 ecosystem services and the benefits which protection and restoration of natural forests and other carbon rich
35 ecosystems can have for climate change mitigation (Lewis et al., 2019) (Griscom et al., 2017). It is also
36 important to ensure that forests are planted in naturally forested biomes – the effects of afforestation in
37 savannah can be very maladaptive with adverse consequences for biodiversity and people (Cross-Chapter
38 Box MITIG in this Chapter). As well as forest, peatlands are particularly important because of the high
39 amount of carbon they store and are priorities for protection and restoration (Leifeld and Menichetti, 2018).
40 There is increasing evidence that intertidal habitat restoration as well as providing adaptation through
41 reducing coastal flood protection also sequesters carbon (Burden et al., 2019) and provides a range of
42 benefits for local communities.

43
44 There is a linkage between many of these restoration approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation
45 and the concept of rewilding. The concept of rewilding is very broad, including the restoration of natural
46 hydrological processes in coastal and river system wetlands. There is also emerging evidence of a range of
47 benefits from rewilding approaches involving the reintroduction of megafauna. For example large-scale
48 megafugivore rewilding programmes in forests can support the recruitment of many hardwood forest
49 species is dependent on large mammals for dispersal and seed germination (Blake et al., 2009; Cromsigt et
50 al., 2018). The loss of these hardwood species would cause carbon losses as large as 2–12% in the majority
51 of the world's tropical forests. Studies from a rewilding project in the Russian Arctic by Zimov (2009) show
52 that restoring the megafauna of the far north reduce woody encroachment, keeping albedo low and reducing
53 melting of permafrost and preventing carbon emissions (te Beest et al., 2016; Buotte et al., 2017; Cromsigt et
54 al., 2018).

55
56
57 [START BOX 2.2 HERE]

Box 2.2: Risks to Biodiversity of Mitigation

[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: new literature to be added]

Many of the models showing pathways to reach global temperatures not exceeding 1.5°C require large amounts of bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (IPCC 1.5). This sets up a competition between land for bioenergy, food, and biodiversity (Smith et al., 2018).

Article 2 compliant mitigation is defined as mitigation that does not interfere with the efforts to reach a global temperature level “within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner” (Smith et al., 2018). However, studies of the potential competition between land for bioenergy, food and biodiversity show that biodiversity is impacted. One study that examined the combined impacts of climate change and land use change for bioenergy on biodiversity found that larger proportions of species, and smaller range species would be impacted more than by climate change alone (Hof et al., 2018). A study on the potential impacts of bioenergy production and climate change on European birds found that land conversion for biodiversity to meet a 2°C target would have greater impacts on species range loss than a global temperature increase of 4°C, if bioenergy were the only mitigation option (Meller et al., 2015).

[END BOX 2.2 HERE]

2.7 Research Gaps and Priorities

The detection of changes in biodiversity and ecosystems and their attribution to anthropogenic climate change comprised a substantial gap in ecological research identified in the Fifth Assessment Report (Cramer et al., 2014; Settele et al., 2014) and the Special Report on 1.5°C Warming (Hoegh-Guldberg et al., 2018). While many changes in biodiversity and ecosystems are well-documented, attribution to anthropogenic climate change remains an important research need, particularly since many effects are caused by deforestation, agricultural expansion, urbanization, overfishing, and human actions other than climate change (Jones et al., 2018). A meta-analysis of published species range shifts suggests that extirpations of populations of over 400 species were related to climate change (Wiens, 2016). Projections of species extinctions under projected future climate change have been quantified (Urban, 2015; Warren et al., 2018). This reflects a general abundance of research on future vulnerabilities and risks of ecosystems to climate change relative to research on historical impacts.

There are a number of research shortfalls based on current state of the art methods relating to distributions of species range shifts under climate change for both flora and fauna such as: investigation on distribution changes in tropical lowlands and tropical waters; investigation of lowland range shifts of terrestrial plants; investigation of distribution changes of prokaryotes; use of multi-faceted approaches for more comprehensive assessments, only 10% have used a multidimensional approach focusing on at least two geographical dimensions (e.g. latitude and elevation), to assess distribution shifts or abundance changes; use of local climate velocities to improve expectations for biological shifts (Lenoir and Svenning, 2015). Tree mortality presents another area of ecology exhibiting a research gap in detection and attribution. While drought-induced tree mortality has become widespread (Allen et al., 2010; Hartmann et al., 2018), just a few cases, in western North America (van Mantgem et al., 2009), the African Sahel (Gonzalez et al., 2012), and North Africa (le Polain de Waroux and Lambin, 2012), have been formally attributed to anthropogenic climate change. Global trends in tree mortality and their potential to have ecological and climatological consequences remain highly uncertain at both community levels and relevant temporal scales (hundreds of years for trees) (Hartmann et al., 2018).

Due to climate change, insect pests are likely to increase, resulting in crop loss (Deutsch et al., 2018) and decrease in native biodiversity. However, most of the studies research has been restricted to aboveground pests, whereas little attention has been given to potential impact of climate change on below-ground process including soil-borne pests (Pritchard, 2011; Chakraborty et al., 2013; Juroszek and Von Tiedemann, 2013).

1 There were multiple gaps in the body of literature assessing the impacts of climate change on ecosystem
2 services. Cultural services were particularly under-represented. Although uncertainty was usually
3 incorporated, there were substantial gaps with respect to underlying causes, along with the methods used to
4 incorporate them (Runting et al., 2017). A key research question is understanding the mechanisms of change
5 for multiple drivers as linkages between the combined impacts of changes in climate, land-water use, and
6 biodiversity on the future supply of ecosystem services remain largely unknown (Elmhagen et al., 2015).
7 Other questions included evaluating the extent and trend of climate change impacts on ES considering
8 different climate change scenarios; assessing vulnerability of important ES that are likely to be sensitive to
9 climate change and; developing ecosystem and ES-specific adaptations to climate change that involve
10 different stakeholders (Alamgir et al., 2014).

11
12 The challenges included low availability of data at matching temporal and spatial scales and; uncertainties in
13 future projections, in particular connected to uncertainties regarding future local-to-global social-ecological
14 development (Elmhagen et al., 2015). There are few studies relating to integrated decision making, and even
15 fewer studies aimed to identify solutions that were robust to uncertainty (Runting et al., 2017).

16
17 The predominance of research on biodiversity and climate change in Europe and North America highlights a
18 gap in the geographic coverage of research (Tydecks et al., 2018). Potentially substantial climate change
19 risks in tropical forests (Cusack et al., 2016) and tropical mountains (Cronin et al., 2014; Costion et al.,
20 2015) suggest the need for greater coverage in future research. Impact of climate change on interaction
21 between the variability of groundwater and ecosystem productivity of tropical forests is not known.

22
23 The response of plant transpiration to increased CO₂, climate warming and changes in soil moisture and
24 groundwater elevation must be understood and included in recharge models. Most studies of climate change
25 effects on surface hydrology in alpine, mountainous and snow-dominated regions do not explore subsurface
26 hydrological responses. The impacts of frost on soil hydraulic conductivity and recharge are large, but not
27 fully understood. The quantification of climate change impacts on groundwater and groundwater dependent
28 ecosystem can be explored by running groundwater models with future meteorological boundary conditions
29 (Kløve et al., 2014).

30
31 The emergence of the use of paleoecological information to inform contemporary biodiversity conservation
32 under anthropogenic climate change suggest the need for research to fill this disciplinary knowledge gap
33 (Barnosky et al., 2017; Nolan et al., 2018). Moreover, since the case of rapid evolution of one owl species in
34 Finland in response to climate change (Karell et al., 2011), not much research has examined genetic
35 adaptation to climate change.

36
37
38 [INSERT TABLE 2.9 HERE]

39 **Table 2.9:** Proposed research priorities terrestrial ecosystems in the face of global change.

40
41
42 Economic losses from weather extremes are particularly in the spotlight. Over the last decades, losses from
43 natural disasters including those from events related to extreme weather have strongly increased (Mechler
44 and Bouwer, 2015). There is a need for better assessment of global adaptation costs, funding and investment
45 (Micale et al., 2018). Potential synergies between international finance for disaster risk management and
46 adaptation have not yet been fully realized. Few researchers have paid attention in incorporating the climate
47 risks factor in the spatial development planning; i.e. many efforts have been made towards the climate-
48 change hazard modeling but limited research in the risk analysis and adaptation strategy (Zhou et al., 2019).
49 Research has almost exclusively focused on normalizing losses for changes in exposure, yet not for
50 vulnerability, which appears a major gap given the dynamic nature of vulnerability (Mechler and Bouwer,
51 2015).

52
53 Decision makers need updated results of scientific studies on certain species or ecosystems of societal value.
54 Observational studies and experiments are indispensable, but they can hardly cover the entire diversity and
55 space. In consequence, research activities have to concentrate on key taxa, ecosystems, and processes.
56 Conceptual links to future modelling approaches would be helpful as only models can deliver rapid

1 approximations of ecological climate change impacts and therewith the identification of adaptation needs
2 (Karell et al., 2011; Anja, 2014; Micale et al., 2018).

3
4
5 [START CROSS-CHAPTER BOX MITIG HERE]

6 7 **Cross-Chapter Box MITIG: Forests as Mitigation: Positive and Negative Consequences for** 8 **Adaptation**

9
10 **Authors:** Nicola Stevens, Mike Morecroft, Camille Parmesan, Dave Schoeman, Aditi Mukherji, Timon
11 McPhearson, Chris Trisos, Brendan Mackey, Daniela Schmidt, Jeff Hicke, Polly Buotte, Rodol Lasco, Lisa
12 Schipper, Minal Pathak

13
14 Natural ecosystems are important contributors to climate change adaptation and mitigation (Griscom et al.,
15 2017; Lewis et al., 2019)(IPCC Land report, 2019) and many future terrestrial emission reduction scenarios
16 include reduced deforestation (Griscom et al., 2017), large-scale reforestation and afforestation efforts
17 (Laestadius et al., 2011; Griscom et al., 2017; Bastin et al., 2019). Protecting existing forests and preventing
18 further degradation is a key starting point: the IPCC Special Report on Land (IPCC, 2019) reported that this
19 had the potential to reduce global emissions by 0.4-5.8 Gt CO₂ yr⁻¹. There is also significant potential for
20 forest restoration, reforestation and afforestation: IPCC (2019) estimated the potential carbon uptake as 1.4-
21 10.1 GtCO₂e yr⁻¹ for restoration and reforestation and 0.5-8.9 Gt CO₂ yr⁻¹ for afforestation of previously
22 unforested land. There are already programs including The Bonn Challenge, which propose to reforest
23 degraded and deforested lands in biomes around the world. There are potential co-benefits to woodland
24 creation for adaptation in many cases, including soil stabilisation (Thomas et al., 2016) and reducing flood
25 risk through slowing water flow (Dixon 2016).

26
27 However, for these adaptation benefits to be realised it is important to locate appropriate types of forest in
28 the right places as forestation can be maladaptive. Not every site identified for reforestation is similarly
29 suitable (Veldman et al., 2017; Bond et al., 2019). Many areas of low tree cover are classified as ‘deforested’
30 and ‘degraded’ which have been identified by comparing the vegetation biomass climatic potential of a
31 system against the actual vegetation biomass. Regions where actual biomass is below the potential are
32 regarded as degraded/deforested (Laestadius et al., 2011; Veldman et al., 2017). This bioclimatic type
33 approach assumes low tree cover is evidence of deforestation/degradation and mistakenly misidentifies ~ 1
34 billion hectares of the world’s grassy biomes as products of recent anthropogenic origin (Veldman et al.,
35 2017; Aleman et al., 2018) and therefore suitable for “reforestation”. Instead these are ancient non-forested
36 landscapes which support important biodiversity and ecosystem services (Veldman et al., 2015c; Murphy et
37 al., 2016). If these regions erroneously earmarked for tree planting programs and widespread afforestation
38 the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services of the landscapes could be profound (Veldman et al., 2017;
39 Bond et al., 2019).

40
41 We highlight that before implementing widespread reforestation/afforestation plans, trade-offs between
42 adaptation and mitigation need to be considered. Increasing the area of forests will have impacts, and we
43 highlight that impacts on albedo, biodiversity, water balances, other ecosystem services, and land-ownership
44 need to be considered to ensure co-benefits to both adaptation and mitigation.

45 46 47 ***When does forestry as mitigation to support positive adaptation measures? Avoiding forest loss***

48
49 Preventing forest loss and managing existing forest serve as a win-win for both adaptation and mitigation.
50 Primary forests harbour irreplaceable biological diversity(Gibson et al., 2011), regulate hydrological regimes
51 (Ellison et al., 2017), moderate regions against climate change impacts (Locatelli et al., 2015; Ellison et al.,
52 2017) and critically stabilize the terrestrial carbon sink (Pan et al., 2011; Mackey et al., 2013). Prioritising
53 the principle of avoided forest lost will maximise benefits to adaptation and biodiversity

54 55 ***Reforestation***

1 Reforestation, especially in areas that retain existing native forest fragments, offers multiple synergistic
2 benefits with adaptation and mitigation. Reforestation options extend the range from natural regeneration,
3 assisted restoration, enrichment planting, native tree plantations, commercial plantations, and agroforestry
4 systems in areas that have been deforested. Arguments indicate that reforestation of native forest, as opposed
5 to commercial plantations, can result in the highest in accumulation of carbon. Additionally it can promote
6 biodiversity recovery (Lewis et al., 2019), enhance hydrological processes (Ellison et al., 2017) particularly
7 through improved water filtration, and groundwater recharge (Ellison et al., 2017) and can reduce risk of soil
8 erosion and flood risk [[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: List of chapter boxes that
9 contain examples to be included] and enhance other ecosystem services (Locatelli et al., 2015). In these
10 cases management of reforestation the case for incorporating a climate-smart reforestation strategy has been
11 highlighted. This process involves planting a species mix to minimise impacts of future climate change on
12 reforestation success (Locatelli et al., 2015).

13
14 In urban contexts, where adaptation is needed to protect some of the most vulnerable human populations,
15 forests including street trees are important for climate adaptation in urban contexts especially for providing
16 local cooling through shading and evapotranspiration. Shading reduces mean radiant temperature, which is
17 the dominant influence on outdoor human thermal comfort under warm, sunny conditions (Weydmann et al.,
18 2018). Apart from lowering temperature, urban trees may also contribute to lower energy costs by reducing
19 demand for conventional sources of cooling (e.g. air conditioning), especially during peak- demand periods.
20 Homes with shade trees that are located in cities where air conditioning systems are common can save over
21 30% of residential peak cooling demand, reducing energy use. However, local cooling by urban trees
22 depends on regional climate context, geographic setting of the city, urban form, the density and placement of
23 the trees, in addition to a variety of other ecological, technical, and social factors. For example, forest
24 fragments less than 0.5-2.0 ha may have negligible cooling effects, beyond the shaded area itself.

25 26 ***Water implications of afforestation and reforestation***

27
28 Afforestation and reforestation (A/R) are often considered one of the most cost effective ways of storing
29 carbon (Hoegh-Guldberg et al., 2018; Smith et al., 2018; Bastin et al., 2019); and as a result, current
30 discourses on A/R has been centered around carbon storage and sequestration. Yet, the water benefits (both
31 water quantity and quality) and water footprint (water costs) of A/R are not always considered. A new global
32 assessment on forest-water interactions underscored that forests influences the entire water cycle at local,
33 regional and global scales-- both downstream -- through rainfall-evapotranspiration (ET)-runoff dynamics;
34 and downwind via recycled rainfall effects (Creed and van Noordwijk, 2018). The downstream impacts of
35 forests, particularly native forests, on local hydrology are relatively well understood, and comprises of
36 reduction in surface runoff in the immediate vicinity of the forests; more infiltration to groundwater and
37 improved water quality (Bruijnzeel, 2004; Zhou et al., 2015; Ellison et al., 2017; Alvarez-Garreton et al.,
38 2019; Evaristo and McDonnell, 2019). The science of downwind impacts of forests in terms of moisture
39 recycling is still being explored and recent evidence shows that downwind precipitation depend on upwind
40 ET from forests and other vegetation (Keys et al., 2016; Ellison et al., 2017). An important implication of
41 both downstream and downwind influence of forests on local hydrology and global/regional water cycle is
42 that this knowledge can be used to influence the location of AR interventions. Sites where water supply is
43 abundant (to reduce negative local impacts on reduced streamflow) or where transpired water can be
44 recirculated as rainfall due to downwind effect (Creed and van Noordwijk, 2018).

45 46 ***When do forestry approaches as mitigation result in maladaptation?***

47
48 Many of the targeted areas for tree planting programs (see <http://www.wri.org/applications/maps/flr-atlas/#>.
49 Bastin (2019)) erroneously assume that low tree cover, in climates that can support forests, are deforested
50 and 'degraded' (Figure MITIG1). This misreading of the landscape means that many of the world's grassy
51 ecosystems (grasslands, savannas, shrublands and woodlands) are earmarked for afforestation. Afforestation
52 of grasslands prioritises carbon sequestration services at the cost of multiple ecosystem services that
53 grasslands provide (water, grazing land, nature based tourism, biodiversity). These grassy ecosystems are
54 ancient (Bond and Zaloumis, 2016) with an evolutionary history shaped by interactions between grasses,
55 fires, and herbivores (Scheiter and Higgins, 2009; Maurin et al., 2014; Charles-Dominique et al., 2016).
56 They already are threatened by policies of fire exclusion (Durigan and Ratter, 2016; Abreu et al., 2017) and
57 will be severely impacted by tree planting efforts. Carbon-focused tree planting will exacerbate biodiversity

1 threats and result in widespread biodiversity losses, particularly of species adapted to open environments
2 (Bremer and Farley, 2010; Veldman et al., 2015a; Veldman et al., 2015b; Murphy et al., 2016; Abreu et al.,
3 2017; Veldman et al., 2017). These efforts also threaten important ecosystem service provision like forage
4 for livestock on which many people rely (Parr et al., 2014; Veldman et al., 2015c; Ryan et al., 2016).
5 Converting grassy ecosystems to forests, most of which are in worlds drylands, will reduce stream flow and
6 deplete ground water (Jackson et al., 2005; Cusack et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2016; Veldman et al., 2017).
7 Swapping grassy ecosystems for forests may also serve to change the albedo and contribute to warming as
8 forests absorb more incoming radiation than grasslands (Creutzig et al., 2015; Baldocchi and Penuelas,
9 2019). Aside from the negative impacts to adaptation it is also questionable just how much carbon can be
10 sequestered in these landscapes (Baldocchi and Penuelas, 2019). Afforestation of grassy ecosystems can
11 reduce carbon gains (Veldman et al., 2015b; Veldman et al., 2017) as grassy ecosystems make a significant
12 contribution to the carbon sink and have high rates of belowground carbon sequestration (Veldman et al.,
13 2015b; Zaloumis and Bond, 2016). Furthermore a high belowground carbon store prevents carbon loss to fire
14 in these fire-prone environments.

15
16 As with forests, we propose that a win:win outcome in terms of both positive adaptation and positive
17 mitigation can be achieved in these grassy ecosystems by taking a restoration approach and actively restoring
18 degraded grassy ecosystems. As with the restoration of forests, restoration efforts in grassy ecosystems can
19 recreate vegetation structure (i.e. historical tree density and herbaceous ground cover), but species-diverse
20 plant communities, including endemic species, are slow to recover restoration. Restoration approaches that
21 have been most successful include: 1) removal of invasive and alien trees, 2) management of woody plant
22 encroachment (widespread removal of trees), 3) reintroduction of a prescribed burning regime, 4) grazing
23 management, 5) reseeding of grassy species, and 6) soil management following soil disturbance. These
24 activities have the benefit of improving biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem service provision and contributing
25 to the global carbon store.

26 27 *Considerations for tree planting schemes*

28
29 1) Using maps of global biomes or maps of distribution of grassy ecosystems (Figure MITIG1) determine if
30 the region of interest falls into what is defined as a forest or a grassy ecosystem.

31
32 2) In cities and urbanized systems, locations for planting new trees for both mitigation and local adaptation
33 depends strongly on local social and infrastructural factors that determine where trees can be added. Choice
34 of species is critical given the combination of pressures on urban trees from insect herbivory, disease,
35 changing climate conditions, and direct human impact.

36
37 3) Is there a high level of diversity and endemism in the region?

38
39 4) What do the plant traits of the system tell you: In grassy ecosystems look for a suite of traits that indicate
40 if the system is a fire maintained system or is a fire sensitive close forest (Ratnam et al., 2011) (for a full list
41 see Ratnam et al., 2011). As an example these traits include thick bark, open canopied trees, large
42 underground storage

43
44 5) Are open environment specialists present: Many open environments across the world are host to light
45 loving plants which contribute to a rich biodiversity in the region. It is helpful to assess what open
46 environment specialists occur in the area. Open areas can be characterised by a high diversity of forbs. In
47 meadows a high number of orchids may occur. In tropical grassy plants with specialised growth forms may
48 also occur e.g. underground trees and forbs and bulbs with well-developed underground storage systems

49
50 6) Consider water implications downstream and downwind impacts of forests on local, regional and global
51 water cycles, which also provides guidance on best possible sites for A/R interventions.

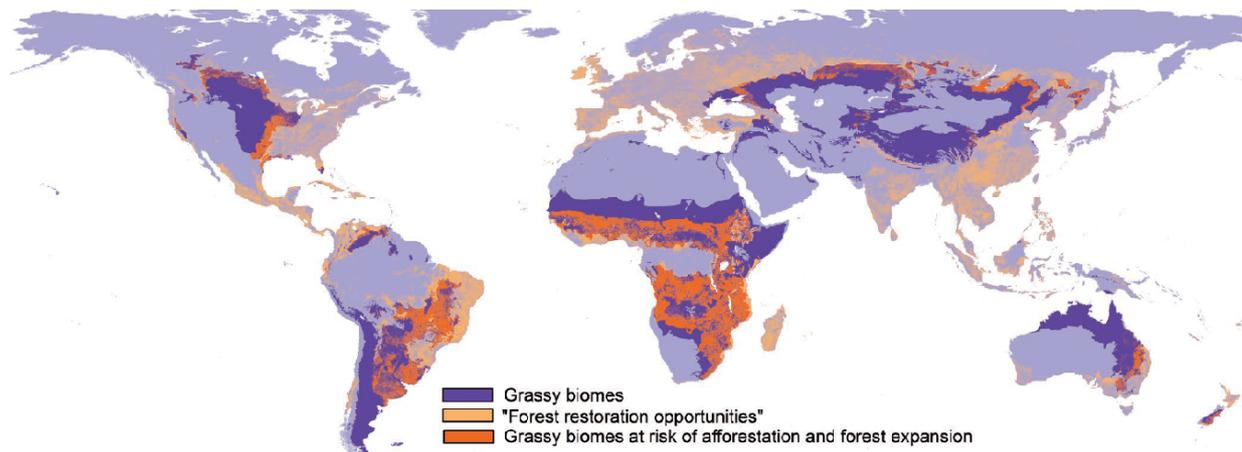


Figure MITIG1: A global map highlighting where open grassy ecosystems are at risk from “reforestation” and “afforestation” activities (Adapted from Veldman et al., 2015b)

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51
52 [END CROSS-CHAPTER BOX MITIG HERE]

53
54
55 [START CROSS-CHAPTER BOX EXTREMES HERE]

56
57 **Cross-Chapter Box EXTREMES: Ramifications of Climatic Extremes for Marine, Terrestrial and**
58 **Freshwater Systems**

59
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61 Camille Parmesan, Marie-Fanny Racault, Bjoern Rost, David Schoeman

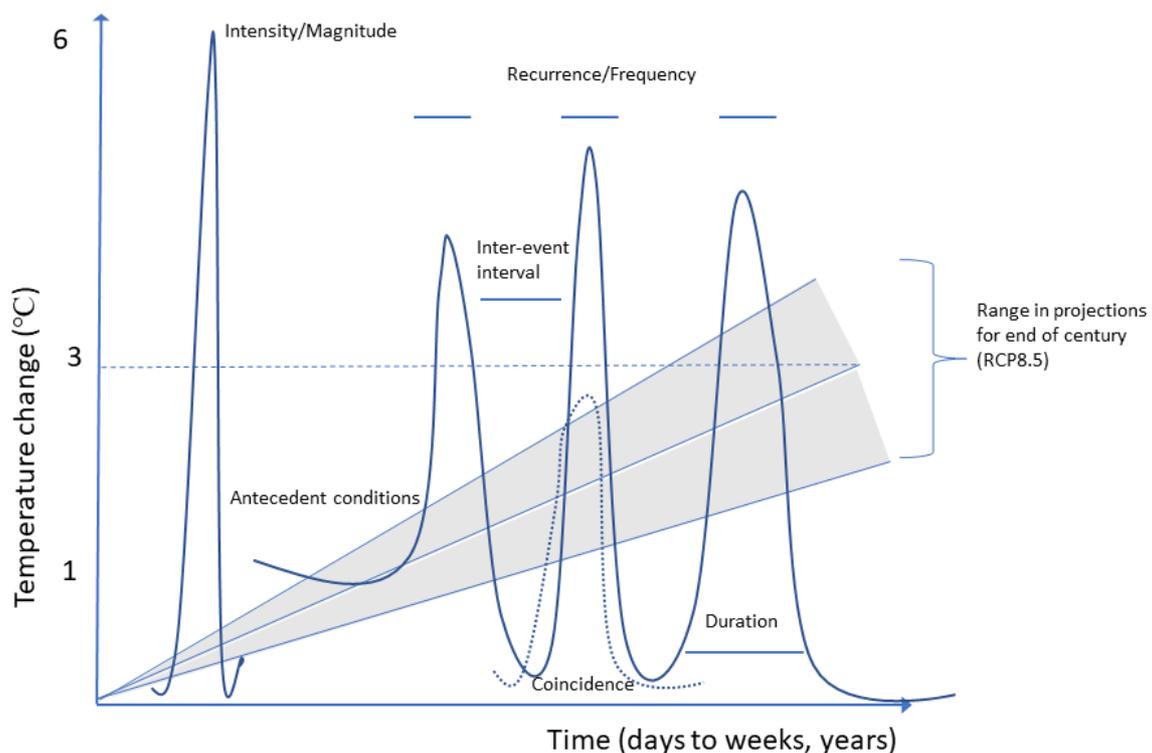
1
2 Extreme weather events (events that are rare within their statistical reference distribution at a particular place
3 (IPCC, 2014) such as heatwaves, droughts, floods, storms, and tropical cyclones have become more frequent
4 and more intense in many regions of the world as a result of anthropogenic climate change (Seneviratne et
5 al., 2012; Ummenhofer and Meehl, 2017) [[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: see WG1
6 AR6 Chapter 9)]. This trend is projected to increase (e.g., Section 3.2.2.1, Cross-Chapter Box SLR in
7 Chapter 3, link to chapters).

8
9 In recent years there has been a rash of extreme weather events that have resulted in serious and wide-
10 ranging ramifications on marine (Holbrook et al., 2019), terrestrial (Thornton et al., 2014) and freshwater
11 (Huber et al., 2012; Kuha et al., 2016) systems. It has been suggested that it is the combined impact of long-
12 term climate trends and episodic extreme weather events that is responsible (the ‘press and pulse’ framework
13 (Harris et al., 2018a). The most well-known examples include the northeast Pacific ‘Blob’ and the Great
14 Barrier Reef bleaching, but strong biological responses to extreme events are now being recorded in almost
15 all ecosystems of the world (Harris et al., 2018a; Marcé et al., 2019; Maxwell et al., 2019; Smale et al.,
16 2019).

17
18 In many cases the magnitude of the transient changes in extreme events exceeds that of projected mean
19 changes for the year 2100, regardless of emissions scenario (Figure EXTREMES1). For example, sea surface
20 temperatures (SSTs) up to 6°C warmer than the long-term mean have been recorded in the North Pacific
21 ‘blob’. Between 1982–2016 the number of days with marine heatwaves has doubled (Frolicher and
22 Laufkotter), even though the ocean warmed only by ~0.42°C on average (Huang et al.). Extremes may
23 therefore ‘short-circuit’ longer-term projected change. Although basic research demonstrates that extreme
24 events are drivers of major changes in abundances in wild species (Parmesan et al., 2000), most models of
25 species and ecosystem responses to climate change are based on mean climate conditions and do not
26 consider the combined effects of extremes and changes to the background climate. Model projections may
27 therefore substantially underestimate the potential for biological responses. This has implications for the
28 future condition of marine, terrestrial and freshwater life (e.g., Chapter 2, Sections 3.4.2.1, 3.4.2.3, 3.4.2.5,
29 3.4.4.1), their ability to adapt, biogeochemical feedbacks and human adaptation to such events.

30
31 Recent observed responses to extremes have widespread ramifications for biodiversity, tourism, fisheries,
32 forestry and ecosystem services, such as erosion control, carbon storage, nutrient cycling and water quality.
33 For example, there has been a proliferation of extreme events in the ocean, such as marine heatwaves, in
34 some cases resulting in the tropicalisation of food webs (ref, Section 3.4.2.7, (Hidalgo et al., 2018). In
35 terrestrial systems there is evidence of the role of droughts and extreme floods on the C cycle (i.e., flood
36 events and transport of matter into rivers; dry river beds as carbon dioxide emitters associated with riverine
37 systems (Marcé et al., 2019). Warming induced temperature stress and loss of aerobic habitat has caused fish
38 kills in rivers and lakes. Extremely hot summers have led to unprecedented outbreaks of food poisoning and
39 bacterial infections in Alaska and Fenno-Scandia (see Cross-Chapter Box ILLNESS in Chapter 3). Increased
40 frequency and magnitude of high latitude storms and tropical cyclones over the oceans and land have also
41 had major consequences for ecosystems and livelihoods.

42
43 Extreme events are identified as key determinants of change in many (all?) Sectoral and Regional Chapters
44 due to their importance in the marine, terrestrial and freshwater realms and in all regions of the world. This
45 Cross-Chapter Box explores the convergences and divergences in our understanding of how extreme events
46 evolve and propagate, and how biota in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems respond to these
47 events. The aim is to describe the main features of extreme events that influence biological responses and
48 suggest common metrics of extremes – such as timing, duration, intensity, geographical extent – that will
49 bring together our knowledge from the land, freshwater and ocean systems. It will serve as a common
50 conceptual starting point, pointing to Sections in individual Chapters for further detail.



1 **Figure EXTREMES1:** Metrics observed for three extreme events that have led to extreme biological responses in
 2 marine, terrestrial and freshwater systems. The marine example is the North Pacific Blob, where temperatures of 6°C
 3 above mean conditions have been recorded. The terrestrial example could be repeated fires in obligate seeder forests.
 4 The freshwater example could be an episodic storm or flood event (hours to days), a heatwave (weeks to months), or an
 5 ice free winter in the Northern Hemisphere (months) in relation to the mean global projections for 2100. Temperature is
 6 used to illustrate the concepts, but the same metrics apply to other extremes such as drought, wind storms and floods.
 7 [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: This conceptual figure will be replaced with one based on
 8 observed metrics for each case study. Figure EXTREMES1 will describe the characteristics of three extreme events that
 9 have led to biological responses (1 marine, 1 terrestrial and 1 freshwater example) in relation to the mean global
 10 projections for 2100. It will highlight the fact that the magnitude of recent extreme events exceeds the conditions that
 11 are projected to occur by the end of the century under the high emissions scenario and the characteristics of extreme
 12 events that are associated with increased impact on natural systems.]
 13
 14
 15

16 The impact of an extreme event is a function of the characteristics of the event as well as those of the
 17 ecosystem being exposed to the event. So the timing, frequency, intensity and geographic extent of the
 18 extreme event, relative to the lifecycle, resistance and resilience of the natural abiotic and biotic systems, all
 19 determine the severity of the biological response (Hillebrand et al., 2018). These concepts are equally
 20 applicable to human systems, offering opportunities to elucidate some of the hidden limits to adaptive
 21 capacity in social systems.
 22

23 There are many features in common across the marine, terrestrial and freshwater realms. Parallels in the
 24 observed responses of biota and ecosystems across the three systems allow the identification of
 25 characteristics that may be associated with greater vulnerability. These include the spatial scale of the
 26 ecosystem and dispersal ability of species relative to the extreme event and connectivity, which influence
 27 recolonization and recovery; the level of habitat or diet specificity in the community and the complexity of
 28 the food web; and the taxonomic, phylogenetic and functional diversity and redundancy of the system, which
 29 affect key functions such as habitat provision and trophic flow (e.g., few species at critical mid-trophic levels
 30 in pelagic systems). In all systems, impacts on engineering species (e.g., kelp, corals in the marine realm;
 31 dominant tree species in the terrestrial; keystone species such as filter feeders or picivorous fish,
 32 macrophytes in lakes) and interactions between invasive and range-shifting species affect recovery, and can
 33 lead to ecosystem tipping points, beyond which the system may not recover. [Section 2.5.3; SROCC Chapter
 34 6; AR6 sectoral chapters].
 35

1 Finally, in all systems, it is possible to generalise about the factors that increase the likelihood of adverse
2 impacts on natural systems. Impacts appear to be greater [add confidence statement] when i) extreme events
3 occur with greater frequency, particularly when the interval between events is insufficient to allow recovery
4 to previous population sizes (e.g., frequent fire, even when populations are adapted to cope with fire, or
5 frequent bleaching, in the case of corals); ii) events occur over large spatial areas, reducing the potential for
6 recolonization from nearby populations (e.g., regional droughts that cause large declines in most
7 populations); iii) the magnitude of an extreme event exceeds historical levels, so organisms are less likely to
8 be adapted to them; iv) several extremes coincide (e.g., low sea level, high surface and sea water
9 temperatures, drought) (add refs to seagrass and mangroves in W Australia); v) ecosystems are already under
10 stress or disturbed by habitat fragmentation, land use change, nutrient pollution or water extraction from
11 river systems; vi) extreme events coincide with vulnerable life cycle stages; vii) cascading interactions and
12 feedbacks occur within a system (e.g., range shifting leads to changes to competitive interactions; run-off
13 pulses from the watershed leads to changes in competitive interaction in lake phytoplankton due to changes
14 in light (browning) and nutrient ratios; (Adrian and Hessen, 2016); extreme events occur near range edges,
15 where species are already close to one limiting factors (Arafah-Dalmau et al., 2019) and viii) fundamental
16 physiological thresholds are exceeded (e.g., during heat events) (refs to be added for each).

17
18 Extreme events are defined in all systems in both absolute and relative terms. The number of days exceeding
19 a physiological threshold is useful when the thermal tolerance of species is known (e.g., 42°C for flying
20 foxes (Welbergen et al., 2007), but such tolerances are not often known. Definitions in relative terms are
21 useful because organisms are adapted to local levels of climate variability, so the magnitude of the deviation
22 from the mean has the greatest biological impact.

23
24 While many similarities exist in the characteristics of extreme events and biological systems across the
25 realms, there are also differences that affect sensitivity to extremes and our understanding and ability to
26 predict responses. Heatwaves are the most commonly recorded extreme in marine ecosystems, with a few
27 instances of corrosive ocean acidification extremes. In contrast, on land there is a wider range of extreme
28 event types reported in addition to heatwaves, such as wildfire, drought and cyclones, while freshwater
29 systems are heavily impacted by heat waves, storms, drought and floods, which tend to interact with non-
30 climate drivers such as eutrophication and storms (sections 2.3.1, 2.3.5). As a result, there is a greater range
31 in extreme event indices and methods to assess extreme events against the background of climate trends and
32 variability in the terrestrial and freshwater worlds. Similar metrics are applied across the realms for
33 heatwave, although the terrestrial may be more embedded because the fire literature has developed many of
34 the concepts (e.g., inter-fire interval, intensity).

35
36 In lakes, heat waves cause extended and more stable thermal stratification with subsequent oxygen depletion
37 in the deep water and subsequent release of nutrients from the sediments. Storm events cause changes in the
38 depth of the thermocline causing nutrient entrainment from the deep water body to the upper water body. In
39 both cases nutrient pulses are likely to positively affect algal growth (Adrian and Hessen, 2016). Coastal
40 areas are also facing strong and interacting stressors, including wastewater discharge, chemical pollution and
41 habitat degradation, which, in combination with floods and cyclones, are causing extreme responses in
42 coastal systems (through river runoffs, mixing of sediments).

43
44 The relative importance of local, regional and global drivers of extreme events differs across marine,
45 terrestrial and freshwater systems, affecting the predictability of potential biological impact. The marine
46 system is more integrated at the global scale, with greater inertia in the drivers related to oceanic forcing
47 compared to atmospheric forcing, and substantially longer lag times. In contrast, freshwater systems are
48 more likely to be affected by regional drivers, and, depending on the characteristics of the waterbody (e.g.,
49 depth, size), may respond on shorter timescales (e.g., Kuha et al., 2016).

50
51 Large scale extremes in climatic signals such as the North Atlantic Oscillation and El Niño Southern
52 Oscillation have been shown to synchronize changes in spring phenology in marine and freshwater (Adrian
53 and Hessen, 2016; Racault et al., 2017a). Such synchrony is not found for weather extremes. Marine
54 ecosystem responses to extreme types of El Niño (Canonical and Modoki) are observed worldwide but with
55 considerable and sometimes opposing regional effects (Racault et al., 2017b). However, extreme events are
56 coupled across realms. For instance, marine heatwaves and associated atmospheric pressure systems have

1 contributed to severe droughts, extreme precipitation, flooding and increased cyclone intensity (SROCC
2 chapter 6).

3
4 While our understanding of the propagation of extreme events is improving, our ability to predict where and
5 when an extreme biological response might occur remains limited. Recent events have improved our
6 understanding of extreme responses in natural systems. However, it remains challenging to predict which
7 systems are most at risk to extreme events, for several reasons. First, extreme weather events result in abrupt
8 ecosystem changes over short response times, which can be highly nonlinear when compared with responses
9 to the ongoing climate trend (Harris et al., 2018a; Beaugrand et al., 2019). Recovery times can be very long
10 and there is the potential for lag and legacy effects in ecosystem processes. Finally, responses are
11 taxonomically and geographically idiosyncratic, and often there is a lack of biological understanding of the
12 mechanisms driving the responses. Resistance, resilience and recovery times to extreme events is influenced
13 by biological characteristics such as dispersal ability, competitive advantages, reproduction, functional
14 redundancy and growth, as well as general health of the systems (i.e., degraded systems are be more
15 vulnerable to extreme events). However, data to back these general assumptions is not always available, and
16 there are documented exceptions to many of them. The potential for ecological and biogeochemical
17 feedbacks and mechanisms underlying the responses (e.g., individual, coupled or clustered) is also still often
18 not well understood.

19
20 Further, not all extreme events have a biological impact (Bailey and van de Pol, 2016). For instance, an
21 extreme wind event may have little impact on phytoplankton in a lake which was fully mixed prior to the
22 event, whereas storm effects on phytoplankton community assembly may compound when lakes are not yet
23 recovered from a previous storm or if periods of drought alternate with periods of intense precipitation,
24 potentially eroding ecosystem resilience. Hence the timing of storm events, and antecedent conditions, may
25 greatly influence the ecological impact of storms (Perga et al., 2018).

26
27 Identifying key precepts of the responses to extreme events in marine, terrestrial and freshwater systems and
28 consolidating common concepts, definitions and examples may improve the ability to identify susceptible
29 ecosystems and appropriate management responses.

30
31
32 **Table EXTREMES1:** State of knowledge of extreme events in marine, terrestrial and freshwater systems. References
33 are grouped as M, marine, T, terrestrial and F, freshwater.

Property	Marine	Terrestrial	Freshwater	Notes/refs
Definition	>5 days duration > 90th percentile of temperature	Absolute and relative indices (> 90*/95* or <10*/5* percentiles) of temperature and precipitation	Absolute and relative indices (> 90*/95* or <10*/5* percentiles) of temperature, wind precipitation, shear stress, sediment resuspension	M: (Hobday et al., 2016) F: (Jennings et al., 2012; Havens et al., 2016) T: to be added
Altered properties	Marine heatwaves, episodic upwelling of corrosive low pH waters; low O ₂ levels caused by interaction of biotic and abiotic conditions (e.g., “black tides”); mean changes versus variability	Heatwaves, wildfires, drought, wind, high and low precipitation	Water temperature, light, mixing regime, nutrient dynamics in lakes; flow dynamics, matter transport, metabolism in rivers	M: (Holbrook et al., 2019; Oliver, 2019) F:(Jennings et al., 2012; Bernhardt et al., 2018). T: to be added
Drivers	Climate mode phases (internal variability) for heatwaves (T); coastal upwelling (OA)	Climate mode phases (internal variability) for heatwaves and drought, fire weather	Air temperature-, wind, precipitation- extremes	M: (Holbrook et al., 2019) F: (Jennings et al., 2012; Bernhardt et al., 2018) T: to be added

Predictability	Predictability of (influential) climate modes	Predictability of (influential) climate modes	Predictability of (influential) climate modes	M: (Gauthier et al., 2013; Zhang and Ren, 2017)
Unknowns	Interactions of multiple climate modes; interplay of local and large-scale events; interaction between biotic and abiotic conditions (e.g., “black tides”: link between extreme rainfall/ heatwaves, bacterial and plankton growth)	Interactions of multiple climate modes and with other human drivers; physiological thresholds for most species; differences in resilience for degraded vs healthy systems	Role of timing, magnitude, frequency of events and pre-and post event conditions for resistance and resilience in response; interaction of multiple environmental modes	M: (Holbrook et al., 2019) F: (Hampton et al., 2017)

1
2
3
4
5

Table EXTREMES2: Characteristics of extreme events that determine biological responses. References are grouped as M, marine, T, terrestrial and F, freshwater. Assessment will incorporate relevant literature and table will be formatted to highlight the commonalities and differences across the realms once assessment is completed.

Property	Marine	Terrestrial	Freshwater	Notes/refs
Magnitude of the extreme		Relative to historical distribution to incorporate local adaptation	Relative to historical mean and magnitude	
Abruptness of event onset		Not generally considered		
Duration of event	Days to months to years	Days exceeding physiological threshold (eg. flying fox T) or arbitrary temperature	Hours to months to years (storms, precipitation, droughts)	M: (Smale et al., 2019) T: to be added F: (Jennings et al., 2012)
Spatial extent	Coastal regions to ocean basins Vicinity of ‘warm range edges’ of resident biota (T)	Potential for recolonization; vicinity of ‘warm range edges’ of resident biota	Across lake area and depth, across river catchments and river beds	M: (Smale et al., 2019) T: to be added F: (Jennings et al., 2012; Marcé et al., 2019)
Intermittency/heterogeneity of the event (composite metric to capture recurrence and magnitude)	Environmental Heterogeneity of marine heatwave		Intermittency/heterogeneity is the rule rather than the exception	M: to be added T: to be added F: to be added
Recurrence	Increasing frequency in some regions, e.g., the Mediterranean, Back to back heatwaves in GBR	Increased frequency of fire, flood	Frequent storm-precipitation, hot-extremes	M: (Hughes et al.; Hobday et al., 2018; Hughes et al., 2018) T: to be added F: (Perga et al., 2018)
Interval between occurrence	Years	Recovery from the event (obligate seeders and recurrent fires)	Recurring extreme events may erode ecosystem resilience	F: (Perga et al., 2018) M:(Hobday et al.)
Timing of event		Important in relation to life history, phenology,	Change in flood timing, reduction in ice	

	determines susceptibility	development - ice free winters in north temperate zone	
Seasonality – winter versus summer extremes and their implications	Vulnerability of life stages	Loss of ice in winter causes change in phytoplankton trait composition, more intense stratification in summer causes algal bloom formation, propagating effects from winter conditions into the following summer	M: to be added T: to be added F: (Huber et al., 2012; Jennings et al., 2012; Ozkundakci et al., 2016; Hampton et al., 2017)
Coincidence of >1 extreme	Drought, high SST, air temperature and low sea level (e.g., Mangroves);	Storms associated with short term run-off events and physical mixing of water column	M: to be added T: to be added F: to be added
Interactions and feedbacks	With other stressors and disturbance	With other stressors and disturbance (mixing/flow regime, nutrient loads)	
Intensity	Link to thresholds		
Antecedent conditions	Fire weather, Drought leading to dry soils	Freshwater stratification	

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48 [END CROSS-CHAPTER BOX EXTREMES HERE]
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Large Tables

Table 2.2: Global Fingerprints of Climate Change Impacts across Wild Species. Updated from Parmesan and Hanley 2015 [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: update still in progress]. For each dataset, a response for an individual species or functional group was classified as (1) no response (no significant change in the measured trait over time), (2) if a significant change was found, the response was classified as either consistent or not consistent with expectations from local or regional climate trends. Percentages are approximate and estimated for the studies as a whole. Individual analyses within the studies may differ. The specific metrics of climate change analysed for associations with biological change vary somewhat across studies, but most use changes in local or regional temperatures (e.g., mean monthly T or mean annual T), with some using precipitation metrics (e.g. total annual rainfall). E.g. a consistent responses would be poleward range shifts in areas that are warming. Probability (P) of getting the observed ratio of consistent: not consistent responses by chance was $<10^{-3}$ for Parmesan & Yohe 2003, Root 2003, Root 2005 and Poloczanska 2013, and was <0.001 for Rosenzweig 2008 (source=publication) (Parmesan and Yohe, 2003; Root et al., 2003; Root et al., 2005; Rosenzweig et al., 2008; Poloczanska et al., 2013). Test were all binomial tests against $p=0.5$, performed by Parmesan

Study	N: total numbers of species and functional groups (n of studies)	Species in given system (%) Terrestrial (T) Marine (M) Freshwater (F)	Breakdown of types of change (% of species or studies in each category)	In each category, % (n) of species showing significant change	Changes consistent with local or regional climate change (% of all species that showed change regardless of type of change, e.g. includes phenological changes)	Geographical region	Study designed for attribution to climate change
(Parmesan and Yohe, 2003)	1598	T: 85.2% M: 13.5% F: 1.3%	58% distribution/abundance changes (n=920); 42% phenology (n=678)	Distribution/abundance: 50% (n=460/920); Phenology 87% (n=423)	84%	global	Yes
(Root et al., 2003)	1468	T: 94% M: 5.4% F: 0.6%	58% on dist/abundance (n=926)	52 % of distribution (n=483/926)	82.3%	global	yes
(Rosenzweig et al., 2008)	55 studies (~100-200 species)	T: 65% M: 13% F: 22%	33% (n=18 studies)		90%	global	
(Poloczanska et al., 2013)	857 = 1,735 sp x trait combinations ^a	T: 0% M: 100% F: 0%	80% (n=1060/1323 total distributions + abundances)	63% (279/446 total for distributions)	83%	global	yes
(Bowler et al., 2017)	1,167	T 680 M 216 F 271	abundance; population trends	T: 48% M: 61% F: 35%	n/a	Europe	

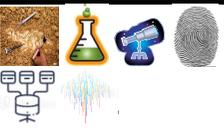
(Cohen et al., 2018)	127 studies	T 100% (animals)	phenology	not given	81% of 127 studies of animals show phenological change in direction of earlier spring. Some studies were multi-species	Europe North America Australia Japan	n/a
(Thackeray et al., 2010)	726 taxa: vertebrates invertebrates plants	T not given M not given F not given	phenology	not given	83.8% of species 92.5% T plants 62.2% F plants	UK	n/a
(Chen et al., 2011)	24 taxonomic group x region combinations for latitude, 31 for elevation	T >264 M >10 F >34	range shifts: elevation and latitude	not given	not given	global	no
(Ficetola and Maiorano, 2016)	n= 66 studies temperature effects; 15 precipitation	T/F 100% (amphibians)	phenology and abundances	not given	not given	global	n/a
(Mason et al., 2015)	16 taxonomic groups	T inverts & herptiles F (caddisflies, aquatic bugs)	range shifts/ 2 time periods	not given (can't access supplemental data tables)	not given	UK	yes
(Halupka and Halupka, 2017)	54 species	T 100% (birds)	phenology: Length of breeding season		shows differences in sign of response between single & multi-broods & migrant vs resident	northern hemisphere	yes
(Kharouba et al., 2018)	108 species in 54 pair-wise interactions	Not given	phenology of predator/prey interactions		86% of 108 species with phenological advance, 1% no change, 14% retarding	global	partial: assumes asynchrony should increase

(Pacifi et al., 2017)	70 studies of 120 mammals; 66 studies of 569 birds	T 100% (birds and mammals)	multiple: range change, abundance, reproductive rate, survival, body mass	not given	aim is to ask whether impacts are negative in any sense, including range contraction and/or reduced reproductive rates, or other measures of fitness estimates past change for IUCN threatened sp based on actual obs change in more common sp;	global for bird; mammals N America	unclear - complex methods
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1 **Table 2.3:** Confidence in detecting and attributing observed changes in terrestrial and freshwater species and systems to climate change. [[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER
 2 DRAFT: table to be expanded with continued literature search]. Summary table is fully detailed in Table 2.A.1. Lines of evidence for attribution of observed changes to climate
 3 change and increased CO₂ are used to support stated confidence in attribution of key statement on observed biological changes to climate change and increased atmospheric CO₂.
 4 Icons represent lines of evidence.

5 Lines of evidence: Paleo data: ; Experiments: ; Long-term observations: ; Fingerprint of climate change response: ; Models ; Complex statistical analysis:
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Key statement	Region	Period	Lines of evidence	Climate change attribution
About half of all species where land use change has been minimal have shifted their ranges, with 80-90% of movements being in the direction expected from regional warming trends - i.e. poleward and upward.	Global	Range 20 - 260 years		<i>high evidence high agreement very high confidence</i>
Downward shifts and east-west shifts (shown for trees and birds) have been associated with regional increases in precipitation where precipitation has been shown to be the principle driver of a range boundary	USA	~ 40-60 years		<i>low evidence, high agreement, medium confidence</i>
About 2/3 of all species with long-term (>20 years) records have shifted the timing of spring events in directions expected from regional winter and spring warming.	Global	Varies by study. Range: 20 - 400 years		<i>high evidence high agreement very high confidence</i>
Winter chilling-dependent species have delayed or not changed spring events despite spring warming countered by winter warming. When these species are taken into account, it is estimated that 92% of species in these studies have responded to regional warming trends	Northern Europe and USA	Varies by study. Range = 26-46 years		<i>medium evidence high agreement high confidence</i>

Wildfire expansion due to climate-driven increased aridity	Western North America	1979-2017		<i>high evidence</i> <i>high agreement</i> <i>high confidence</i>
Tree mortality caused by climate-driven (increases in temperature and reduced precipitation) increasing aridity	North America and Africa	ca. 1945-2007		<i>medium evidence</i> <i>high agreement</i> <i>medium confidence</i>
Biomes have shifted upwards in latitude and elevation at 19 sites in boreal, temperate, and tropical ecosystems	Global	1500-2008		<i>high evidence</i> <i>high agreement</i> <i>high confidence</i>
Beetles & moths shifting poleward and upward has brought new pest species into some forests; warming winters and longer growing season has increased destructive outbreaks of beetles and moths in temperate and boreal forests	North America, Europe	Varies by study		[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]
Exotic species are responding differently from native species in both abundance changes and phenological changes, but not in a consistent fashion	North America			<i>low/medium evidence</i> <i>low agreement</i>
The polar bear has shown range contractions, population declines and increased hybridization with the brown bear driven by declines in sea ice and related prey species [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: in process of gathering literature for other species that are most cold-adapted - e.g. sea-ice dependent, mountain-top restricted, upper headwaters, coldest lakes]	Arctic			[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]
chytrid fungus has been impacted by climate change and has locally increased or decreased depending upon local climatic conditions and recent climate trends [PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: to be expanded to other diseases of wildlife, with potential for human disease risk where appropriate]	Global			[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]

Warming has amplified the trophic state lakes are already in. Eutrophic lakes have become more productive while oligotrophic lakes have become more nutrient limited	Global	Varies by study. Range 20-50 years		<i>High evidence high/medium confidence</i>
Forest biome shifts. Boreal forests have shifted into arctic tundra, treeline has shifted upward into alpine tundra, temperate deciduous shrubs and forests moved upwards into conifer forest	Global	year 1500 to 2008		<i>high evidence, high agreement, high confidence</i>
Woody encroachment into open (grassland, desert) systems has occurred, with climate change as one of the primary drivers -	Global			[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]
Browning of boreal lakes has been driven by rising temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns that have increased dissolved organic matter (DOM) concentrations in freshwater systems	Boreal	past decades		<i>high evidence high confidence</i>

1 **Table 2.4:** Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystem feedbacks which affect the Earth's climate system dynamics; following
 2 (Prävālie, 2018).

Perturbation	Implications for Warming/Feedback Mechanism the Earth's Climate System Dynamics
Phenological change	Increased primary productivity and plant growth with CO ₂ fertilization (Mao et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2018) Increasing growing season length (Peñuelas et al., 2009; Barichivich et al., 2013) vegetation greening reduces diurnal temperature range through evapotranspiration (mid-latitudes) and albedo (high latitudes) (Jeong et al., 2011); CO ₂ storage in biomass (cooling) (Keenan et al., 2014); Reduced albedo in snow-covered regions as canopies become taller and darker; increased evapotranspiration, a key component of the global water cycle and energy balance which influences global rainfall, temperature, and atmospheric motion (Zeng et al., 2017).
Insect outbreaks	Reduced carbon uptake and storage; Increased surface albedo (cooling) (Landry et al., 2016); increased CO ₂ emissions leading to net warming; decreased leaf area index and gross primary productivity (Ghimire et al., 2015) leading to reduced evapotranspiration and increased land surface temperature (Bright et al., 2013).
Range shifts	Reduced albedo in snow-covered regions as trees expand poleward (Chae et al., 2015); enhanced permafrost thawing; expansion of insect outbreak range increases forest impact (Pureswaran et al., 2018); biome dependent changes in albedo and evapotranspiration regimes (Naudts et al., 2016).
Die-off and large-scale mortality events	Decreased Gross primary productivity (GPP); decline in carbon storage; increased CO ₂ emissions; increased solar radiation, reduced soil moisture, higher surface runoff; albedo effects (Lewis et al., 2011; Prävālie, 2018)
Deforestation	Reduced carbon storage (Pugh et al., 2019); increase in (regional) surface air temperature due to reduced evaporation (less cooling); increased albedo in high-latitude systems (regional radiative cooling) (Lorantý et al., 2014); increased air temperature and diurnal temperature variation (Alkama and Cescatti, 2016), locally and globally (Winckler et al., 2019); reduced precipitation (Perugini et al., 2017)
Forest degradation	Reduced carbon storage (de Paula et al., 2015; Bustamante et al., 2016; de Andrade et al., 2017; Mitchard, 2018)
Fragmentation	Carbon losses because biomass is less developed in forest edges (Pütz et al., 2014; Chaplin-Kramer et al., 2015; Haddad et al., 2015)
Air pollution	Decreased plant productivity, transpiration and carbon sequestration in forest with lower biomass due to ozone toxicity (Sitch et al., 2007; Ainsworth et al., 2012); increased productivity due to increase in diffuse solar radiation caused by terrestrial aerosols
Declining populations of megafauna	Changes to physical and chemical properties of organic matter, soils and sediments influence carbon uptake and storage (Schmitz et al., 2018); increased or decreased carbon storage biomass and carbon storage, with differences across biomes determined by floristic structure and animal size (Bello et al., 2015; Osuri et al., 2016; Peres et al., 2016; Berzaghi et al., 2018; Schmitz et al., 2018; He et al., 2019)
Fire	Increased carbon and aerosol emissions (van der Werf et al., 2017); surface warming (Liu et al., 2019c); albedo effect dependent on ecosystem and species-level traits (Rogers et al., 2015; Chen et al., 2018) (initial albedo decrease post-fire; increased albedo where snow exposure is increased by canopy removal and species composition change during recovery); black carbon deposition on snow and sea ice (short-term) (Randerson et al., 2006); indirect increases in carbon emissions due to soil erosion (Caon et al., 2014)
Change in forest composition	Reduced carbon storage due to decline in biomass (McIntyre et al., 2015)
Woody encroachment in non-forested ecosystems	Reduced production, enhanced water use, reduced albedo and altered land-atmosphere feedbacks. Uncertain feedbacks to C cycle (some suggest it is an increase, others suggest a decrease)
Net Primary Productivity (NPP) shifts	Reduced albedo following high-latitude expansion of trees caused by photosynthetic enhancement of growth; increase photosynthesis and net ecosystem production (NEP) (Fernandez-Martinez et al., 2019); increased NPP in N-limited ecosystems due to increased nitrogen deposition from agriculture and combustion (Du and de Vries, 2018; Schulte-Uebbing and de Vries, 2018); Nutrient limited lakes are likely to become less productive,

	while nutrient rich lakes are likely to become more productive due to warming induced prolongation of stable stratification (Adrian and Hessen, 2016; Kraemer et al., 2017).
Biogeochemical shifts	Decline in carbon storage due to nitrogen limitation (Reich et al., 2014; Wieder et al., 2015b); Increased carbon storage (Peñuelas et al., 2013); Increase CO ₂ emissions from dried river beds or lake shores caused by extended droughts (Marcé et al., 2019).

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Table 2.5: Projected vulnerabilities and risks of ecosystems to biome shifts from spatial analyses of vegetation biogeography, in order by type of analysis, analysis area, and projected change in temperature. This table updates the assessment in Betts (Betts et al., 2015). Gonzalez (Gonzalez et al., 2010a) and Eigenbrod (Eigenbrod et al., 2015) conducted analyses on equal-area spatial data; others did not analyze pixels of equal area. Authors generally reported biome change estimates directly as fraction of land area; for authors that did not directly report the biome change, changes are estimates from authors' maps and are indicated by a tilde (~). Authors generally analyzed changes from ~1990 to 2100, except for Heubes (2011) and Li (Li et al., 2018b), who projected changes from 2000 to 2050, and Aleman (Aleman et al., 2017) and Rasquinha and Sankaran (Rasquinha and Sankaran, 2016), who projected changes from 2000 to 2070.

Area	ΔT (°C)	Emissio ns scenario	GC Ms	Vegetation model	biomes	Spatial resolution (km)	Biome change, fraction of area (%)	Criterion	Ref.
Dynamic global vegetation models									
World	1	RCP2.6	3	Hybrid, JeDi, JULES, LPJmL, ORCHIDE E, SGVM, VISIT	5-14	~50	~4	Gamma >0.3	(Warszawski et al., 2013)
World	1.5	1.5° C	16	LPJ	2	~150	~5	P >0.80	(Scholze et al., 2006)
World	≤2	B1	12	LPJ	8	~50	7	lchangel >30%	(Park et al., 2015)
World	2.4	B1	3	MC1	13	50	10	confidence >0.8	(Gonzalez et al., 2010a)
World	2.5	+2-3° C	16	LPJ	2	~150	~5	P >0.80	(Scholze et al., 2006)
World	2	RCP4.5	3	Hybrid, JeDi, JULES, LPJmL, ORCHIDE E, SGVM, VISIT	5-14	~50	13	Gamma >0.3	(Warszawski et al., 2013)
World	3	RCP6.0	3	Hybrid, JeDi, JULES, LPJmL, ORCHIDE E, SGVM, VISIT	5-14	~50	28	Gamma >0.3	(Warszawski et al., 2013)

World	2.5-3.5	A1B	18	LPJ	8	~50	10	lchangel >30%	(Park et al., 2015)
World	3.4	A1B	3	MC1	13	50	13	confidence >0.8	(Gonzalez et al., 2010a)
World	3.5	3.5° C	16	LPJ	2	~150	~5	P >0.80	(Scholze et al., 2006)
World	≥3.5	A2	18	LPJ	8	~50	13	lchangel >30%	(Park et al., 2015)
World	4	A2	3	MC1	13	50	16	confidence >0.8	(Gonzalez et al., 2010a)
World	3.1-4.7	historical climate and B1, A1B, A2	3	MC1	13	50	12	confidence >0.8	(Gonzalez et al., 2010a)
World	~3.5-5.5	A1B	8	CLM	5	~280	~10-30	range of GCMs	(Alo and Wang, 2008)
World	4	RCP8.5	3	Hybrid, JeDi, JULES, LPJmL, ORCHIDE E, SGVM, VISIT	5-14	~50	35	Gamma >0.3	(Warszawski et al., 2013)
World	4.6	A1FI	1	HyLand	2	~250-375	~10	lchangel >50%	(Sitch et al., 2008)
World	4.6	A1FI	1	LPJ	2	~250-375	~20	lchangel >50%	(Sitch et al., 2008)
World	4.6	A1FI	1	ORCHIDE E	2	~250 x 375	~10	lchangel >50%	(Sitch et al., 2008)
World	4.6	A1FI	1	TRIFFID	2	~250 x 375	~15	lchangel >50%	(Sitch et al., 2008)
Africa	-	A1B	1	aDGVM	5	~30	~26	change in one GCM	(Scheiter and Higgins, 2009)
Asia - Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau	1.5	RCP4.5	1	LPJ	19	~50	55	change in one GCM	(Gao et al., 2016a)
Asia - Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau	4.2	RCP8.5	1	LPJ	19	~50	70	change in one GCM	(Gao et al., 2016a)

Asia - Siberia	2	+2.6° C after 130 y	-	FAREAST	2	372 sites	~5	lchange1 >50% of area	(Shuman et al., 2011)
Europe	2.9- 4.9	A2	2	LPJ- GUESS	13	~12 x 18	~30-40	change in one GCM	(Hickler et al., 2012)
South America - Amazon	2	A2	1	HadCM3L C	2	~250 x 375	~30	change in one GCM	(Jones et al., 2009)
South America - Amazon	~3	RCP4.5	1	Inland	15	~190 x 125	~50	change in one GCM	(Lyra et al., 2016)
South America - Amazon	~6	RCP8.5	1	Inland	15	~190 x 125	~80	change in one GCM	(Lyra et al., 2016)

Equilibrium models

World	1	RCP2.6	10	vulnerabilit y index	14	~10	10	vulnerability index >0.7	(Li et al., 2018a)
World	1.8	RCP4.5	10	vulnerabilit y index	14	~10	12	vulnerability index >0.7	(Li et al., 2018a)
World	3.7	RCP8.5	10	vulnerabilit y index	14	~10	15	vulnerability index >0.7	(Li et al., 2018a)
World	2-4	A1B	10	EVE	5	~100	37	average of GCMs	(Bergengren et al., 2011)
Africa - South		A1B	1	aDGVM	7	~20	50	change in one GCM	(Moncrieff et al., 2015)
Africa - West		A2	17	GAM	5	~10	~50	weighted average of GCMs	(Heubes et al., 2011)
Asia - India	3	+3°C, +15% precipitat ion	1	Minimum distance supervised classificatio n	7	1	~25	change in one scenario	(Chakraborty et al., 2013)

Asia - India		RCP4.5	19	RF	11	~10	14	agreement >0.75	(Rasquinha and Sankaran, 2016)
Asia - India		RCP8.5	17	RF	11	~10	18	agreement >0.75	(Rasquinha and Sankaran, 2016)
North America - Northwest		Historical climate and A2	2	Rehfeldt	33	~1	50-57	change in one GCM	(Langdon and Lawler, 2015)
North America - Yukon	3.9-6.9	A2	5	SNAP-EWHALE	25	~18	50	two projected changes in biome	(Rowland et al., 2016)
South America		A2	14	CPTEC-PVM2	13	~170	~5-40	confidence >0.75	(Lapola et al., 2009)
Tropical forests	2	+2° C	16	MWCD	2	~100	<5	P >0.80	(Zelazowski et al., 2011)
Tropical forests	4	+4° C	16	MWCD	2	~100	~5	P >0.80	(Zelazowski et al., 2011)

Combined climate change and land use change

World	1	RCP2.6		LPJmL	9	~50	22	Gamma >0.3	(Ostberg et al., 2018)
World	1.8	RCP4.5		LPJmL	9	~50	34	Gamma >0.3	(Ostberg et al., 2018)
World	2.2	RCP6.0		LPJmL	9	~50	41	Gamma >0.3	(Ostberg et al., 2018)
World	3.7	RCP8.5		LPJmL	9	~50	54	Gamma >0.3	(Ostberg et al., 2018)
World	3.1-4.7	historical climate and B1, A1B, A2		MC1	13	48	48	confidence >0.8	(Eigenbrod et al., 2015)
Latin America	1	RCP2.6	5	LPJmL	9	~50	8-14	average of GCMs	(Boit et al., 2016)

Latin America	3.7	RCP8.5	5	LPJmL	9	~50	10-15	average of GCMs	(Boit et al., 2016)
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5**Table 2.7:** Evidence to support proposed climate change adaptation measures for biodiversity.

Proposed Adaptation Measures for Biodiversity	Confidence Assessment (tentative - to be reviewed for SOD)	Comment	Selected References
Increase connectivity in terrestrial habitats – corridors, stepping stones	<i>Medium evidence Medium agreement</i>	Good evidence that some species move more quickly in more connected landscapes. However, not all species do and some species that benefit are invasive / pest / disease species.	(Keeley et al., 2018)
Increase connectivity in river networks	[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]		(Abell et al., 2017; Brooks et al., 2018)
Increase habitat patch size and expand protected area	<i>Limited evidence High agreement</i>	Generally increase resilience because of functioning natural processes, large species populations and refugial areas	(Eigenbrod et al., 2015; Oliver et al., 2015a)
Increase replication and representation of protected areas	<i>limited evidence, high agreement</i>	Various benefits inferred, including, wider range of climatic and other conditions, less risk of extreme events affecting many rather than few areas. More sites available for colonisation by range expanding species and better conditions to maintain species in situ under range contraction.	(Mawdsley et al., 2009; Thomas et al., 2012; Virkkala et al., 2014; Gillingham et al., 2015)
Protect microclimatic refugia	<i>Medium evidence High agreement</i>	Locally cool areas can be identified and there is evidence species can survive better in such areas.	(Haslem et al., 2015; Suggitt et al., 2015; Morelli et al., 2016; Bramer et al., 2018; Suggitt et al., 2018)
creating shade to lower temperatures for vulnerable species	<i>limited evidence, high agreement</i>		(Broadmeadow et al., 2011; Lagarde et al., 2012; Patino-Martinez et al., 2012; Thomas et al., 2016)

Restoring hydrological processes of wetlands and rivers, including by raising water tables and restoring original channels of watercourses,	[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]	Wetland restoration is well established as a conservation measure in some countries. Can reduce vulnerability to drought with climate change but getting evidence to demonstrate effectiveness as an adaptation measure evidence requires long term monitoring of a range of sites. Little restoration of degraded tropical peatlands to date	(Timpane-Padgham et al., 2017; Moomaw et al., 2018)
Reinstating natural fire regimes	[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]		
Trophic rewilding	[[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]	Reduce large scale woody encroachment of savannahs	(Stevens et al., 2016; Bakker and Svenning, 2018; Olofsson and Post, 2018)
Reduce non-climatic stressors to increase resilience of ecosystems	<i>limited evidence Medium agreement</i>	As a general principal climate change is recognised as a ‘threat multiplier’ but specific details are often unclear	(Oliver et al., 2017)
Increase water supply for ecosystems by improved irrigation and abstraction regimes	[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]		
Woody encroachment control in savannah areas	[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]	e.g., using goats to control woody encroachment`	(Coffman et al., 2014; Valkó et al., 2014; Batáry et al., 2015; Smit et al., 2016; Fulbright et al., 2018)
Replace livestock with native ungulates (particularly non-ruminants) to promote biodiversity	[[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]		(Hempson et al., 2017; Cromsigt et al., 2018)
Assisted translocation and migration of species	<i>Limited evidence</i>		(Brooker et al., 2018)
Intensive management for specific species	<i>Limited evidence</i>	A variety of approaches including manipulating microclimate and competition between species.	(Greenwood et al., 2016)
Ex-situ conservation (seedbanks/genetic stores, etc.)	Not possible to assess effectiveness at the present time	Seed banks have been established but long term effectiveness could only be evaluate at a later point.	(Christmas et al., 2016)

adjusting conservation objectives of protected areas to reflect changing species distributions and habitat characteristics

Limited evidence

(Rannow et al., 2014)

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Table 2.8: Examples of widely advocated Ecosystem Based Adaptation measures with assessments of confidence.

Ecosystem Based Adaptation Measures	[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: Confidence Assessment]	Ecosystem Service	Climate Change Impact	Social Benefits	Comment / Applicable Biome / Ecosystem	Selected References
Natural Flood risk management in river systems – restoring wetlands, restoring natural river courses (removing canalisation) planting of trees – to slow flow and store water out of urban areas	<i>Medium evidence medium agreement</i>	Flood regulation through restoring riparian/wetland integrity	Increase rainfall intensity	Reduction of damage from flood		(Iacob et al., 2014)
Planting shade trees and restoration to maintain cool areas of rivers to maintain fisheries	[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT]	food provision	warmer water temperatures	food supply, rural economy		(Broadmeadow et al., 2011) (Isaak et al., 2015) (Thomas et al., 2016)
Creation of sponge cities	[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: Still needs testing]	Flood regulation through implementation of sponge infrastructure to soak up excessive rain water	Increased rainfall intensity or reduced rainfall intensity	Runoff retention, flood control, groundwater recharge, stormwater reuse		(Liu, 2016)
Managed realignment of coastlines, re-establishing coastal habitats including mangroves, salt marsh.	<i>Robust evidence High agreement</i>	coastal flood protection	rising sea level and increasing storm energy	protection of life, property and livelihoods		(Spalding et al., 2014) (Høye et al., 2013) (Powell et al., 2019)
Use of shade trees in agriculture	<i>medium evidence, medium agreement,</i>	local climate regulation for agriculture	high temperature	food supply		(Verburg et al., 2019) (Nesper et al., 2019) (Blaser et al., 2018)

Urban green space – trees, parks, local nature reserves - to provide urban cooling	<i>robust evidence, high agreement</i>	local climate regulation	higher temperatures and heatwaves	cooler microclimates for people		(Aram et al., 2019) (Norton et al., 2015)
Rewilding to reduce intense fires	<i>High evidence, medium confidence</i>	Using biomass removal by herbivores to reduce extreme fire events, whilst restoring natural fire regimes	Mega-fires from increases in drought/heat	Reduce infrastructure damage from fires/ prevent loss of life	Flammable ecosystems with historic herbivore presence	(Johnson et al., 2018) (Waldram et al., 2008)
Alien plant control to improve water security	<i>High evidence, high agreement</i>	Water provision	Increasing droughts	Job creation through clearing, improved water security	Water scarce regions prone to an increase in droughts	(van Wilgen and Wannenburgh, 2016)
Woody plant control (of encroaching biomass) in open grassy ecosystems	<i>Medium evidence, medium agreements</i>	Grass biomass/ Grazing creation through removal of encroaching trees which causes a loss of grazing (outshading of grass)	Elevated CO ₂ increasing tree growth/ increases in rainfall promoting tree growth	Improved income through bush clearing, fuelwood supplies, restore grazing	Rangelands	(Hausmann et al., 2016)

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Table 2.9: Proposed research priorities for terrestrial ecosystems in the face of global change (Doblas-Miranda et al., 2015).

Effects of the interactions between drivers of global change on ecosystem functioning

- 1 To establish the role of the landscape mosaic on fire spread
 - 2 To further research the combined effect of different drivers on biological invasions and pest expansion
 - 3 To address the interaction between drivers of global change and recent forest management practices
-

Monitoring and data assessment of ecosystem response to global change

- 4 To obtain more realistic information, at larger temporal and spatial scales, of the impacts of global change and ecosystem services to be used in models
 - 5 To assess forest mortality events associated with climatic extremes (particularly drought)
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Managing ecosystems to enhance resilience

- 6 To focus global change research on identifying and managing vulnerable areas

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- 7 To use the functional and life-history traits concepts to study resilience and community assembly after disturbance
 - 8 To promote cross-disciplinary research to study the relationship between genotypic and phenotypic diversity as a source of forest resilience
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Embracing the link between ecosystem functions and services

- 9 To understand how forest management affects the balance between C storage and water resources at large spatial and temporal scales
 - 10 To analyse the interplay between landscape-scale processes and biodiversity conservation along wide gradients of landscape complexity
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Scaling ecosystem dynamics in space and time under different scenarios

- 11 To refine predictive models by including interactions between global change drivers and socio-economic contexts
 - 12 To use manipulative, interdisciplinary and multiscale experiments to understand forest–atmosphere feedbacks
 - 13 To improve the representation of key mechanisms linking plant hydraulics with landscape hydrology
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Appendix 2.A: Supplementary Material

Table 2.A.1: Attribution and assessment of uncertainties associated with key statements on observed impacts. [[PLACEHOLDER FOR SECOND ORDER DRAFT: Lines of evidence to be added with new literature]

			Evidence for non-climate/CO2 drivers		LINES OF EVIDENCE for climate change (including increased atmospheric CO2) as primary driver of observed change								Agreement for climate change attribution	Confidence level	References
Key statement	Geographic region	Period	Non-climate/CO2 Driver Land Use Change: Evidence for changes in land use as driver of observed change	Non-climate/CO2 Driver: Other: Evidence for changes in other drivers as driver of observed change	TYPE = Paleo data	TYPE = Experiments	TYPE = Long-term Observations	TYPE = a Fingerprint of climate change response	TYPE = Outputs of models of expected current climate change response match observed trends; OR models with and without CC - which match observed best? ; outputs of models project future impacts that are consistent with observed changes	TYPE = Change in climate variable at relevant scale has been linked to GHG forcing	TYPE = multivariate statistical analysis	TYPE = Meta-analyses			
About half of all species where land use change has been a minimal driver and with longterm (>20 years) of records have shifted their ranges, with 80-90% of movements being in the direction expected from regional warming trends -	Global	Varies by study. Range = 20 - 250 years, mean = xx years	Minimized by study designs (1)		Polewards and upward ranges shifts have been common responses to past major climatic shifts (2)	Translocation of temperature-limited species outside the historic range boundaries has been unsuccessful in the absence of warming and successful during	Yearly variability in polewards range boundaries for mobile birds and butterflies highly significantly correlated with annual temperature variability (4)	Very long-term records (>50 years) demonstrate "sign-switching" (5) in which a species poleward boundary shifts polewards during warming periods and towards the equator during	species distribution models, Phenological models, and other process-based models driven by climate parameters have high predictive power in back-casting observed	Yes. Warming seasonal and annual temperatures have been linked to GHG forcing at both regional and global scales (8)		multiple global meta-analyses of xx- xx species show from 40% to 60% of species in a given region or taxonomic group having shifted their poleward range boundary further poleward over	high level of evidence, high agreement,	very high confidence	(1) {Parmesn, 2003}; (2) {Coope, xx}; (3){refs}; (4) {refs}; (5){ }, (6) {Parmesan, 2003}, (7) {Hill, xx}, {Chuine, xx}, (8) {WGI}; (9) {Parmesan, 2003}, {Root, 2003}, {Rosenzweig, 2008}, + refs in section 2.2.4

<p>i.e. poleward and upward. Conclusions from prior ARs are further supported with new literature for butterflies, birds, xxx. New studies document that other taxa are also exhibiting consistent responses, including for freshwater fish, xxxxx</p>						warming periods (3)		cooling periods (6)	distributional changes (7)			the past 20-120 years (9)				
<p>Where precipitation has been shown to be the principle driver of a range boundary, regional increases in precipitation have been associated with downward shifts and east-west shifts (shown for trees and birds)</p>	<p>USA, other?</p>															<p>refs in section 2.4.2.1</p>
<p>About 2/3 of all species with long-term (>20 years) of records have shifted the timing of spring events in directions expected from regional winter and spring warming.</p>	<p>Global</p>	<p>Varies by study. Range = 20 - 400 years, mean = xx years</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Photoperiod is an important cue for some species, which would show up as either no change in phenology over time, or where both photoperiod and temperature are drivers, photoperiod cues may tend to counter temperature cues (1)</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Controlled experiments demonstrate that temperature has large effects on timing of spring events for many species (2)</p>	<p>Yearly variability in appearance times of birds and butterflies highly significantly correlated with spring temp variability (3)</p>	<p>Very long-term records (>50 years) demonstrate "sign-switching" (4) in which a species shifts to earlier spring events during warming periods and later spring events during cooler periods (5)</p>	<p>Phenological models based on temperature have high predictive power in back-casting observed phenological change (6)</p>	<p>Yes. Warming spring temperatures have been linked to GHG forcing at both regional and global scales (7)</p>		<p>multiple global meta-analyses all show from xx% to xx% of species in a given region or taxonomic group having shifted towards earlier spring timing in recent decades (8)</p>	<p>high level of evidence, high agreement,</p>	<p><i>very high confidence</i></p>	<p>(1){refs}; (2) {refs}; (3) {Sparks}, (4) {Parmesan, 2003}, (5)Crefs); (6) {refs}; (7) {WGI}; (8) {cohen, 2018}, {Parmesan, 2003}, {Root, 2003}, {Rosenzweig, 2008}, Freshwater: {Blenckner et al, 2007}, {Adrian et al, 2006}, {Adrian et al, 2009} + refs in section 2.4.2.2</p>	

<p>New studies that were not designed for CC attribution are consistent with earlier studies on attribution in demonstrating general poleward and upward shifts of species' ranges and earlier spring events in regions with significant warming. These changes have been documented in both plants and animals, in terrestrial, lake and rivers systems</p>	<p>Global</p>	<p>Varies by study. Range = xx - xx years, mean = xx years</p>	<p>Not assessed</p>										<p>yes (1)</p>			<p>(1) {Chen, 2011}, {Thackeray, 2012},</p>
<p>For species that require winter chilling, winter warming has countered spring warming, resulting in either delayed spring events or no change. When these species are taken into account, it is estimated that 92% of species in these studies have responded to regional warming trends</p>	<p>Northern Europe and USA</p>	<p>Varies by study. Range = xx-xxx years.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Photoperiod and vernalization requirements interact add details) (1)</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>orange tip, vernalization of plants (UEA group) - demonstrate high heritability (strong genetic basis). Metabolic pathways understood for some species (2)</p>	<p>Yearly variability in break of diapause and dormancy highly significantly correlated with variability of fall and winter temperatures (3)</p>		<p>Models based on seasonal temperature sensitivities of individual species have high predictive power in back-casting observed phenological change (4)</p>	<p>Yes. Fall and winter warming has been linked to GHG forcing at both regional and global scales (5)</p>		<p>none to date</p>	<p>medium evidence, high agreement</p>	<p><i>high confidence</i></p>		<p>(1) {Gill, 2015}; (2) {Stohlhanski, }, {UEA group}; (3) {Gotthard, }, {Cook, 2012}, {Cook, 2013}; (4) {Cook 2012}, {Cook, 2013}; (5) {WGI} + refs in section 2.4.2.3</p>
<p>Field and remote sensing measurements have detected increases in the area burned by wildfire in western North America, analyzed the contribution of the principal climate and non-climate factors, and attributed the wildfire increases mainly to increased aridity caused by anthropogenic climate change.</p>	<p>western North America</p>	<p>1979-2017</p>	<p>population density, roads, built area, analyzed but less important</p>				<p>Field and remote sensing measurements of burned area, weather station measurements of climate. Significant temperature increase, summer precipitation decrease.</p>		<p>Numerical models of wildfire as a function of climate and non-climate variables, calibrated by historical data, run for actual observed values and compared to model runs in which temperature remains unchanged. Western US - anthropogenic</p>	<p>Increases in temperature and decreases in summer precipitation detected and attributed to anthropogenic greenhouse gases</p>	<p>Correlation of burned area to climate variables (temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, evapotranspiration) outweighed local human factors (population density, roads, and built-area)</p>		<p>high evidence, high agreement</p>	<p><i>high confidence</i></p>		<p>Abatzoglou and Williams 2016, Holden et al. 2018, Kirchmeier-Young et al. 2019, Mansuy et al. 2019 + refs in section 2.4.4.2</p>

									climate change burned area 200%., British Columbia - 2017 burned area 700-1100%					
Increases in aridity due to increases in temperature and reduced precipitation caused by anthropogenic climate change have caused tree mortality at sites in North America and Africa. [Numerous other cases around the world have been detected, but not formally attributed]	North America and Africa	ca. 1945-2007	multivariate and bivariate statistical analyses of population density, roads, timber harvesting, livestock grazing, increased tree density, fire suppression, toppling of large trees, analyzed but less important				Field surveys of trees, weather station measurements of climate; western U.S. - tree mortality doubled, African Sahel tree mortality 20%, Morocco tree mortality 45%; significant increases in temperature and decreases in precipitation			Correlation of climate factors significant, non-climate factors non-significant; canonical correlation analyses of climate and non-climate factors		medium evidence, high agreement	<i>medium confidence</i>	van Mantgem et al. 2009, Gonzalez 2001, Gonzalez et al. 2012, le Polain de Waroux and Lambin 2012 [many other cases detected (Allen et al. 2010, Allen et al. 2015, Bennett et al. 2015, Martínez-Vilalta and Lloret 2016, Greenwood et al. 2017, Hartmann et al. 2018) but not formally attributed + refs in section 2.4.4.3
Field surveys of vegetation at the biome level detected latitudinal and elevational biome shifts at 19 sites in boreal, temperate, and tropical ecosystems and attributed the shifts mainly to anthropogenic climate change	Global	1500-2008	some research conducted multivariate statistical analyses, population density, roads, other non-climate factors analyzed but less important; some research conducted in sites with no recorded human land use change				Field surveys of vegetation species and densities, significant temperature increases and precipitation changes			Increases in temperature and changes in precipitation detected and attributed to anthropogenic greenhouse gases	canonical correlation analyses of climate and non-climate factors	high evidence, high agreement	<i>high confidence</i>	Beckage et al. 2008, Brink 1959, Danby and Hik 2007, Devi et al. 2008, Dial et al. 2007, Gonzalez 2001, Gonzalez et al. 2010, Gonzalez et al. 2012, Kirilyanov et al. 2012, Kullman and Öberg 2009, Leonelli et al. 2011, Lloyd and Fastie 2003, Luckman and Kavanagh 2000, Millar et al. 2004, Payette and Fillion 1985, Payette 2007, Peñuelas and

															Boada 2003, Settele et al. 2014, Suarez et al. 1999, Walther et al. 2005, Wardle and Coleman 1992 + refs in sections 2.4.3.2; 2.4.3.3; 2.4.3.4
beetles & moths shifting poleward and upward has brought new pest species into some forests	North America, <i>other?</i>	Varies by study. Range = xx=xx years.	Not directly assessed, but occurring in both areas of high LUC and protected areas			-		-	-	-	-	-			refs in section 2.4.3.3
shift in forest composition has occurred due to species-specific differences in response to increasing drought															{Anderegg, 2016}
Increased tree mortality has occurred globally, in boreal, temperate and tropical systems, in response to increased drought, wildfire and insect pest outbreaks	Global	Varies by study. Range = xx=xx years.	For many studies, land use change is an important driver. For some studies, LUC is minimal (1)	pest outbreaks are important drivers, but impacts have been exacerbated by heat/drought induced tree stress (2)	tree-rings show xxx (3)	controlled temperature experiments link warming winters to lower insect mortality, and increased growing season length to increased number of generations per year, which leads to large increases in insect abundances in late growing season (4)	yes - add detail (5)	??? can this be deduced from records > 50 years? Eg. evidence for tree mortality being higher than past 100 years? (6)	yes - add detail (7)	true for some studies, not others? Ie probably true for large regional studies, but not very local ones (8)		????	high evidence, high agreement	<i>high confidence</i>	refs in section 2.4.4.3

exotic species are responding differently from native species in both abundance changes and phenological changes, but not in a consistent fashion													low/medium evidence, low agreement		{Primack, },
The most-cold-adapted species have shown the large range contractions and population declines (Sea-ice dependent, mountain-top restricted, upper headwaters, coldest lakes)															
body size changes						-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
diseases wildlife/humans															
taxonomic-specific statements				n		-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Warming has amplified the trophic state lakes are already in. Eutrophic lakes will become more productive while nutrient limitation will increase in oligotrophic lakes.	global	Varies by study. Range 20-50 years	agriculture, urbanisation			whole lake experiments, enclosure experiments	monitoring data past>40 years, remote sensing data	in nutrient poor lakes prolongation of thermal stratification limits nutrient entrainments via vertical mixing which leads to a reduction in algal biomass, while global warming reinforces eutrophication of already eutrophic lakes via oxygen depletion in the sediment near water layers which triggers release of nutrients previously bound in the sediment.	yes				high	high / medium confidence level	{Mooij et al. 2007}; {Adrian et al. 2009}, {De Somerpond Domis et al. 2013} {Kraemer et al. 2017}
Whole biome shifts have occurred. Boreal forests have shifted into arctic tundra, treeline	Global		Mixed. add detail												

has shifted upward into alpine tundra, temperate deciduous shrubs and forests upwards into conifer forest, xx															
Woody encroachment into open (grassland, desert) systems has occurred globally, with climate change as one of the primary drivers	global		yes - loss of browsing herbivores; fire suppression . Reviews of long term experiments demonstrate impacts (1)	yes - (2)	yes - emergence of grasslands after CO2 came down below ~500ppm (3)	Experiments manipulating CO2 benefit woody plants (4)	yes -Long-term fire and grazing trials show woody encroachment occurs even when land use is held constant or accounted for indicating a global driver. (5)		yes - indicating co2 driven increase in woody cover (6)	yes - add detail (7)		yes - consistent encroachment across all savannas (8)	<i>In development: high evidence that CC is one of the primary drivers, but LUC also primary driver. High amount of evidence (lots of studies) but medium agreement on CC attribution because of complex drivers</i>	<i>medium</i>	(1){Bakker et al 2016} {Bond and Midgley 2012} {Smit et al 2010} (3) { Ehleringer and Ceerling 2002}{Beerling and Osborne 2008}(4) {Kgope et al 2010}{Bond and Midgley 2000}{Polley et al 1997}{Hoffman et al 2000}{Quirk et al 2019}(5) {Buitenwerf et al 2012}{Zhang et al 2019}{Venter et al 2018} (6){Scheiter et al 2018}{Moncrieff et al 2014}{Higgins and Scheiter et al 2009} (8) {Stevens et al 2017}
High arctic and high mountain tundra systems have generally experienced greater warming than adjacent regions - statement on impacts in development															
Widespread greening and shrubbification of tundra	High arctic and mountain tundra	1900-				yes - network of warming experiments link warming to increases in shrub, grass and sedge species (4)	yes - satellite and long term repeat photos (5)			yes - IPCC		yes - widespread shrubbification (8)	high	<i>high</i>	(4) {Elmendorf et al. 2012a, 2012b, 2015}{Bjorkman et al. 2018, 2019} {Myers-Smith et al 2019}(5) {Tape et al. 2006}{ Phoenix and Bjerke 2016}

															(8) {Myers-Smith et al 2011}
Tropical forests															
Drought and warming induced diversity shifts in Mediterranean type ecosystems	Mediterranean ecosystems		insect outbreaks associated with drought (1); loss of fish species				yes - Field surveys of long term monitoring show reduced diversity or shift in functional due to increasing prevalence of extreme hot and dry weather often the post-fire regeneration phase(5)			yes - increase in extreme droughts in regions (8)			medium evidence changes are mediated by an increase in extreme droughts. Changes are not always direct but interact through altering the fire regime and post-fire recovery		(1) {Fettig et al. 2019}{McIntyre et al. 2015}(5) {Fettig et al. 2019}{McIntyre et al. 2015}{Stephenson et al. 2018} {Slingsby et al 2017}{Harrison, LaForgia, and Latimer 2018}. {Smithers et al 2018} (8) {F. E. Otto et al. 2018}{Sousa et al. 2018} {AghaKouchak et al. 2014} {Robeson 2015}
deserts															
Med shrublands shifting to grasslands	Med ecosystems, arid shrublands		Human driven fragmentation and nitrogen deposition benefits grasses (1)				Long-term								(1) {Lambrinos 2006}{Fenn et al. 2010}
terrestrial carbon stocks							Long term monitoring and remote sensing show grass invasions (5)								(5) {Young et al. 2019; Syphard, Brennan, and Keeley 2019, Jacobsen et al 2018}
Climate change leads to shifts in thermal regime of lakes	global	Varies by study. past >40 years	yes, trophic state, ice formation can affect mixing regime of lakes				monitoring data past>40 years	temperate polamictic lakes may become dimictic more frequently, dimictic lakes may become monomictic, monomictic lakes tend to become oligomictic	yes; see Kirillin 2010, Kirillin & Shatwell, 2016			high evidence that CC is one of the primary driver. Planktonic events can contribute to polymictic-dimictic regime shifts in temperate lakes	medium	{Kirillin,2010}, {Kirillin & Shatwell, 2016}, {Shatwell et a, 2016}	

Rising temperatures and changes in precipitation pattern are key drivers of DOC concentrations in freshwater which cause browning in boreal lakes.	Boreal	past decades		ecosystem responses to enhanced DOC act in concert with atmospheric deposition of nitrogen and sulphur		strong hydrological modelling tools	monitoring data past decades		Analysis of a large dataset of boreal Norwegian watersheds indicated that a moderate increase in temperature (2°C average, downscaled Hadley scenario) with associated increase in precipitation and vegetation density increases DOC export substantially.				high evidence that CC is one of the primary driver. Planktonic events can contribute to polymictic-dimictic regime shifts in temperate lakes	<i>high</i>	{Weyhenmeyer et al, 2009}, {Larsen et al, 2011}, {Finstad et al, 2016}, {Creed et al, 2018}
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