

How vegetation phenology impacts regional water balance in tropical forests

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Beijing Normal University
Zoom meeting, China-Brazil
2021-11-23

Outlines

- 1. Introduction: myself and group**
- 2. Vegetation phenology vs. water balance**
- 3. Potential collaborative research**

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- 1. Introduction: myself and group**
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1. Short introduction



2007-2012年: **Antwerp University, Global change ecology**

Prof. Ivan Janssens (phenology response to CC)



2012-2016年: **Peking University, Postdoc, Phenology vs. Carbon cycle**

Prof. Shilong Piao (phenology affects on carbon cycle)



2016-2017年: **Antwerp University, Marie Curie research fellow**

Prof. Ivan Janssens (phenology affects on carbon and water cycle)



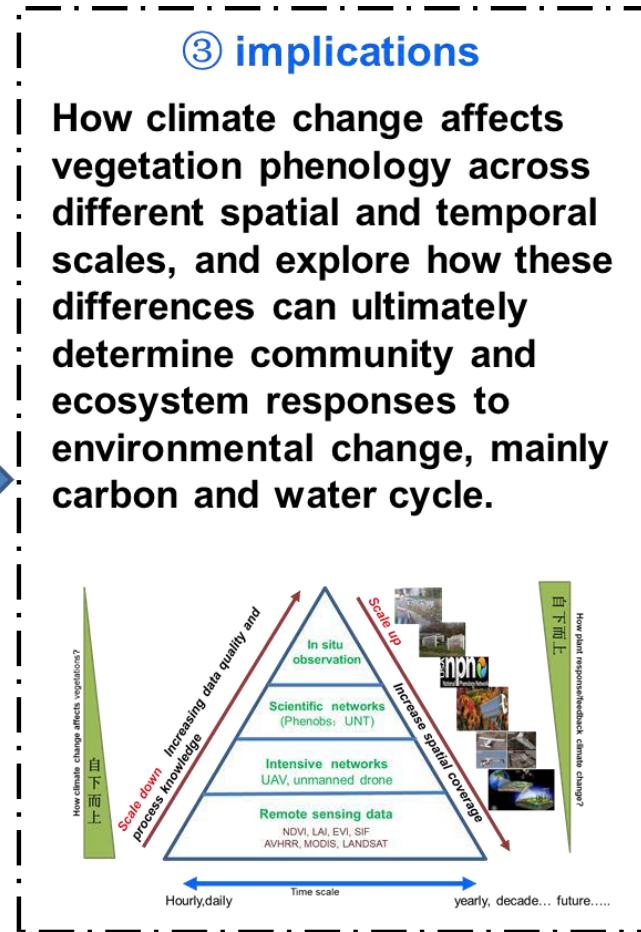
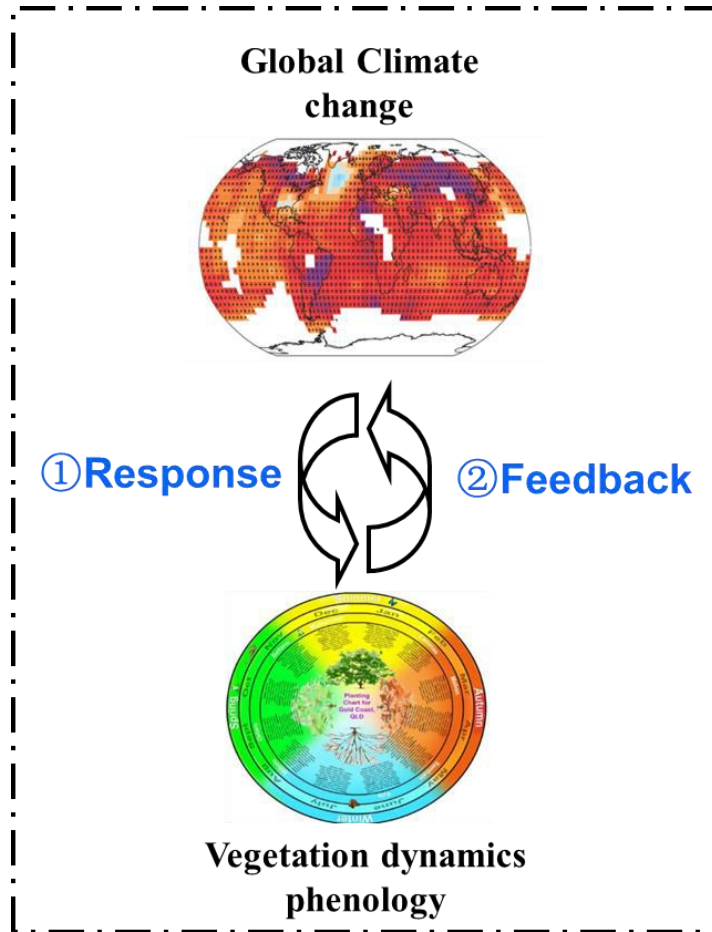
2017- Beijing Normal University, Full professor

2019- Antwerp University, Guest Professor (research leader)

Interest fields: vegetation dynamics and its ecological implications

1. Short introduction

- Interests: **Focusing on vegetation phenology and its feedback on terrestrial carbon and water cycles**

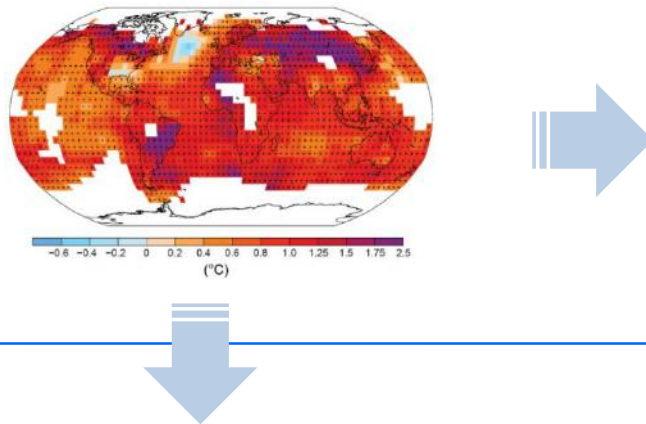


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2. Phenology vs. water balance

■ Vegetation is very sensitive to climate change, called “footprint” of CC



nature.com review article

The projected timing of abrupt ecological disruption from climate change

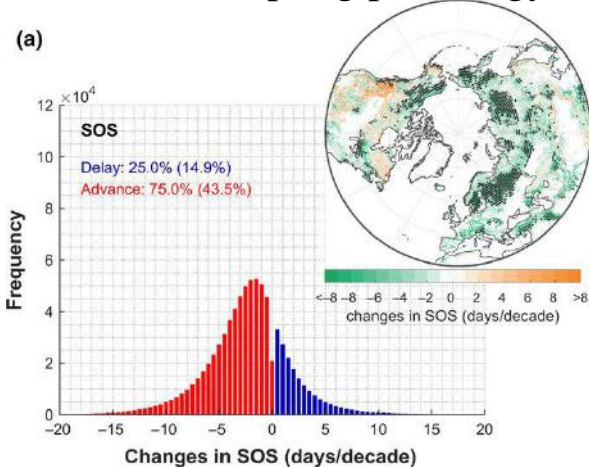
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2169-9> Christopher H. Truesdel^{1,2}, Dory Mearns³ & Alex L. Pigot^{4*}

Received: 12 January 2020
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Published online: 8 April 2020

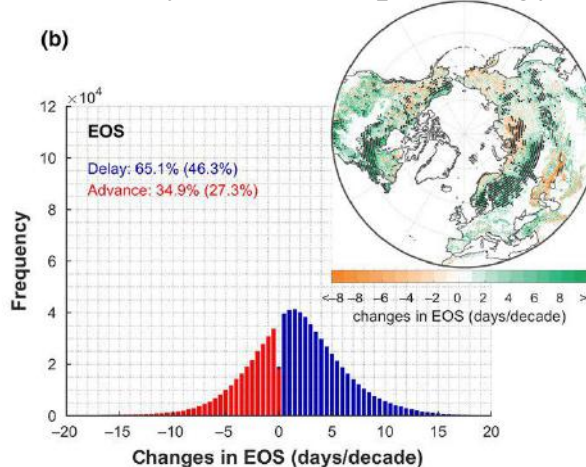
Check for updates

As anthropogenic climate change continues, the risks to biodiversity will increase over time, with future projections indicating that a potentially catastrophic loss of global biodiversity is on the horizon^{1,2}. However, our understanding of when and how abruptly this climate-driven disruption of biodiversity will occur is limited because biodiversity forecasts typically focus on individual snapshots of the future. Here we use annual projections (from 1850 to 2100) of temperature and precipitation across the ranges of more than 30,000 marine and terrestrial species to estimate the timing of their exposure to potentially dangerous climate conditions. We project that future disruption of ecological assemblages as a result of climate change will be abrupt, because within any given ecological assemblage the exposure of most species to climate conditions beyond their realized niche limits occurs almost simultaneously. Under a high-emissions scenario (representative concentration pathway, RCP8.5), such abrupt exposure events begin before 2030 in tropical oceans and spread to tropical forests and higher latitudes by 2050. If global warming is kept below 2 °C, less than 2% of assemblages globally are projected to undergo abrupt exposure events of more than 20% of their constituent species; however, the risk accelerates with the magnitude of warming, threatening 15% of assemblages at 4 °C, with similar levels of risk in protected and unprotected areas. These results highlight the impending risk of sudden and severe biodiversity losses from climate change and provide a framework for predicting both when and where these events may occur.

advanced spring phenology



delayed autumn phenology

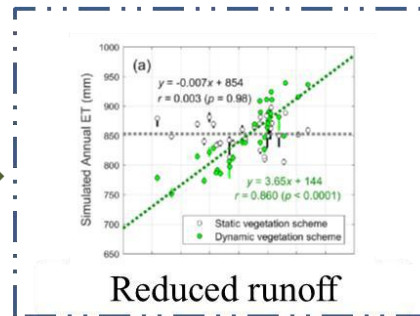
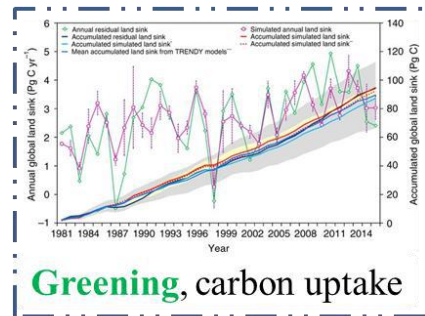
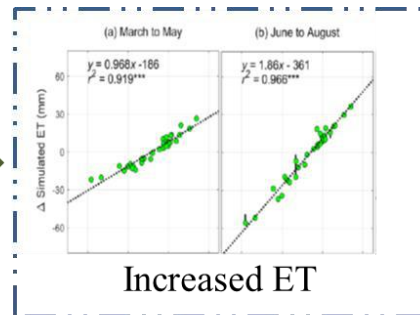
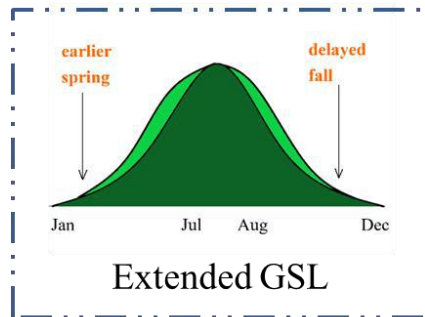


Extended vegetation growing season length by **5d/decade** since 1980s.

Fu et al., 2014 GEB
Piao & Fu et al. 2019 GCB

2. Phenology vs. water balance

■ Shifted vegetation phenology affects local water flux



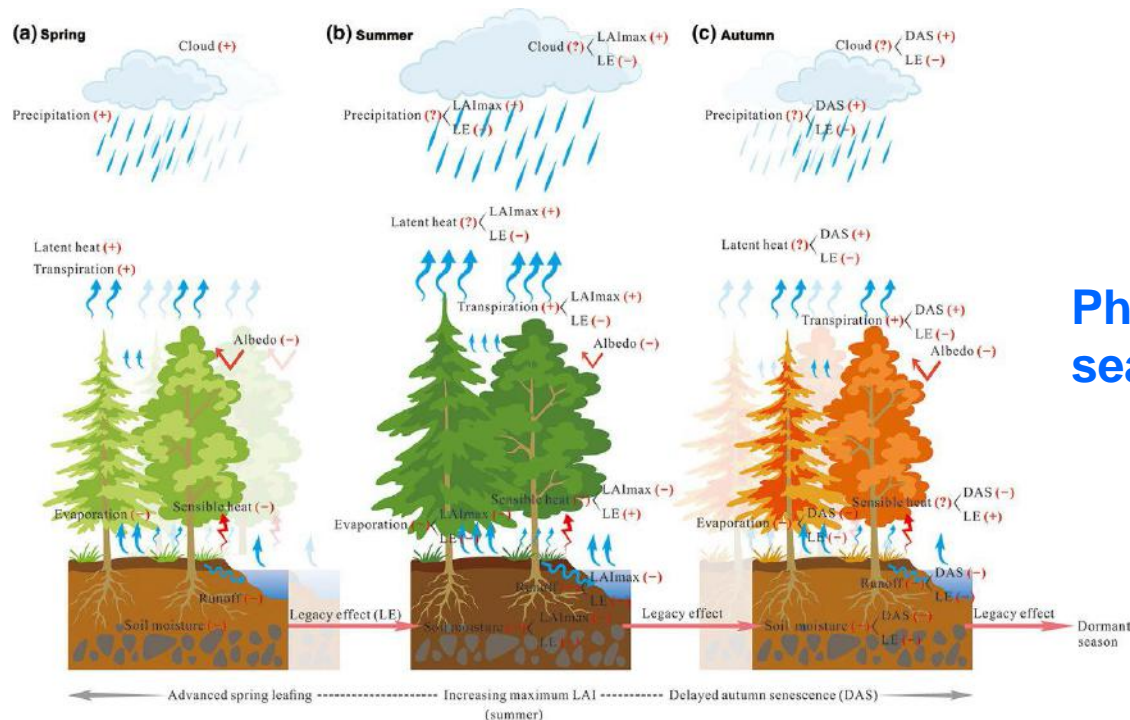
1. Richardson et al, 2013, GCB
2. Piao, S. et al, 2007, GBC
3. Hwang et al., 2018 WRR
4. Geng, Fu*, 2020 JH

Phenology affects local water balance

One days extension in GSL increase forest carbon uptake (GPP) by **0.5-1.0%**; and increased ET by **0.2-1.0 %** in temperate forest (watersheds at the upper Yadkin basin (inset) in North Carolina, USA)

2. Phenology vs. water balance

■ Vegetation phenology affects seasonal local water balance



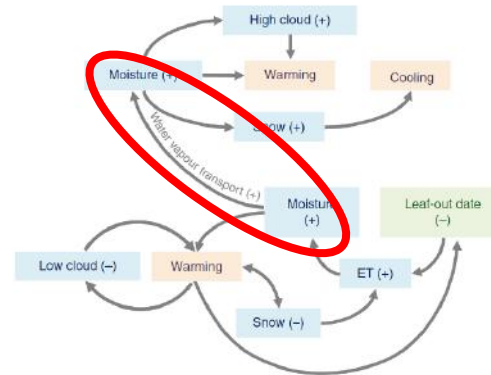
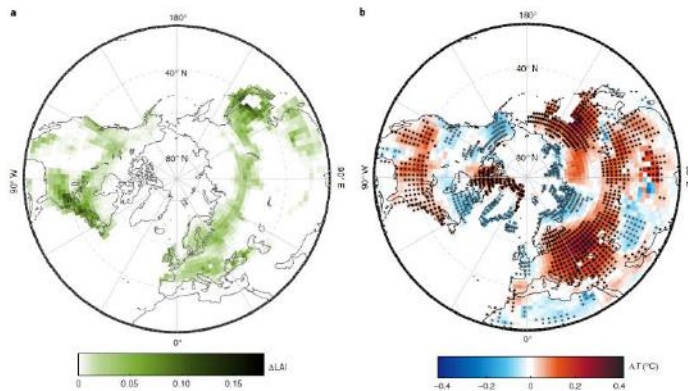
Legacy effect

Phenology affects seasonal water balance

- The timing of leaf phenology affects seasonal water flux, early growing season onset (SOS) may increase ET and reduce runoffs in spring, and reduce soil moisture and increase the water stress in summer.

2. Phenology vs. water balance

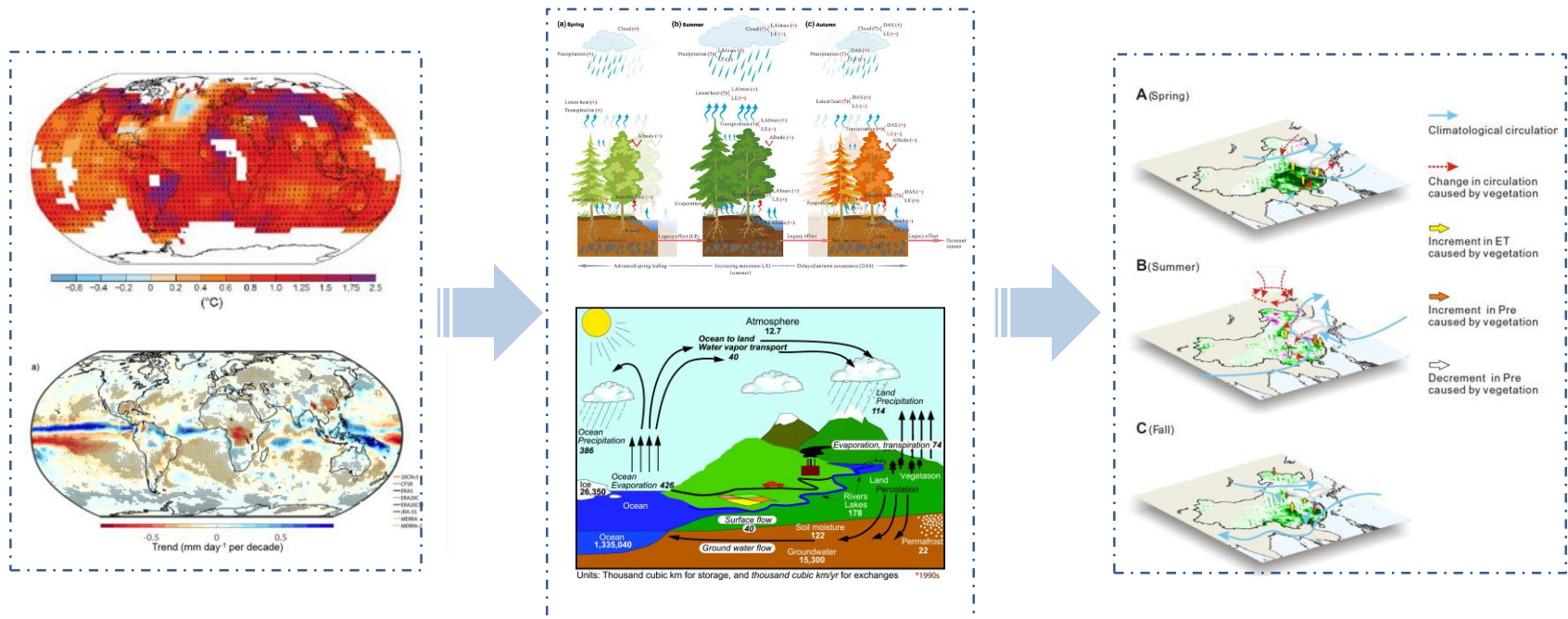
- Earlier spring vegetation phenology affects regional water flux



Phenology affects regional water balance

Early spring phenology at middle latitudes enhanced warming at high latitudes, which was related to indirect water vapor, cloud and snow-albedo radiative feedbacks through intensified poleward water vapor transport.

2. Phenology vs. water balance

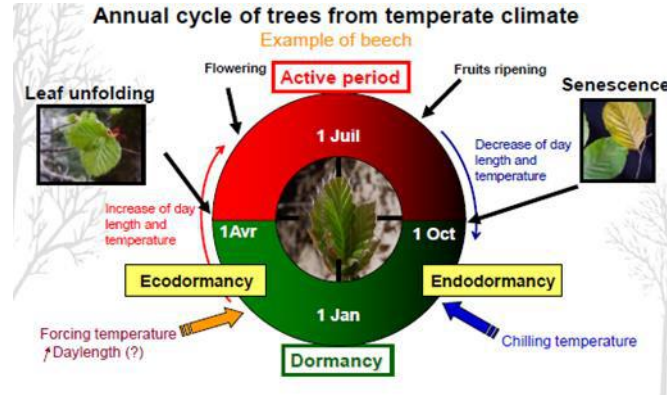


- The vegetation spring phenology affected the water balance of temperate forests in northern China, how about the **tropical forests**?
- How vegetation phenology (different phenological events) affects large-scale water balance by altering **seasonal vapor transport**?

Outlines

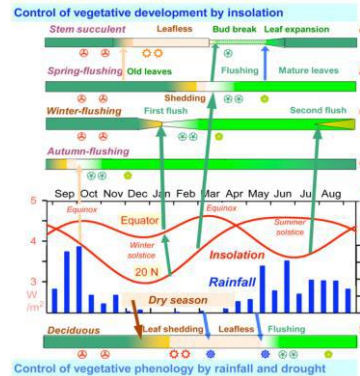
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2. Potential collaborative research



Phenology Under Global Warming
Christian Körner, et al.
Science 327, 1461 (2010);
DOI: 10.1126/science.1186473

Temperate and boreal forest



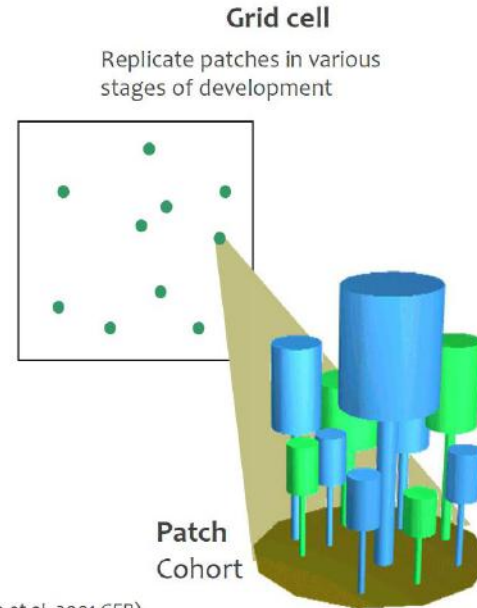
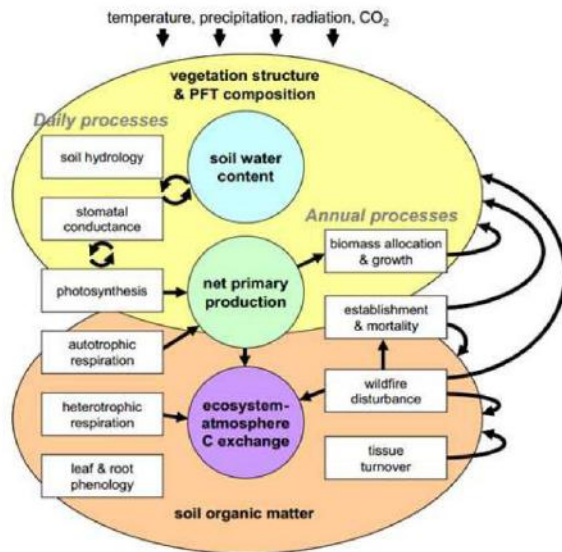
UNCLEAR

Tropical monsoon forest?

- The phenological processes has been well investigated in temperate trees, but the processes of tropical phenology is still largely unclear!

2. Potential collaborative research

■ Regional water balance study: dynamics global vegetation model



(Smith et al. 2001 GEB)

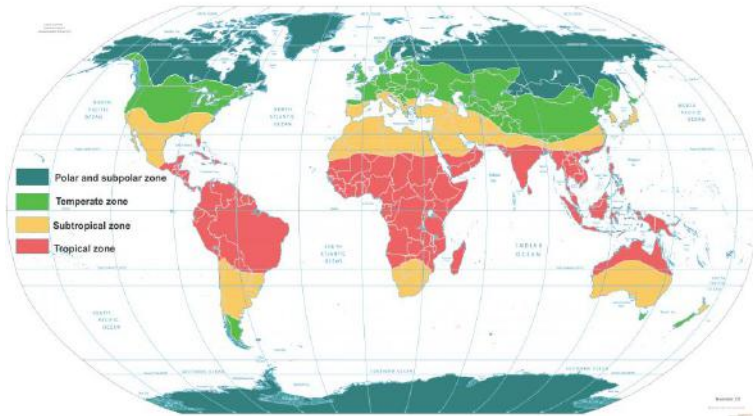
LPJ-GUESS is a process-based dynamic vegetation-terrestrial ecosystem model designed for regional or global studies.

■ Phenology module: simple temperature dependent model, i.e. degree-days-chilling approach

Smith et al. 2001 GEB & Sitch et al., 2003, GCB

2. Potential collaborative research

Political Map of the World, November 2011

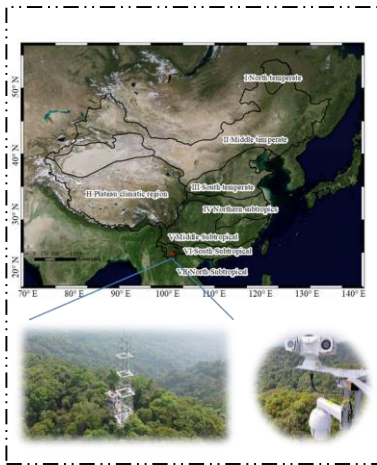


Climate Zone	LPJ	LPJ_BNU
Polar and subpolar	$Phe = \times$ (no corresponding vegetation type)	$Phe = \mathcal{F}(\text{Temperature})$
Temperate	$Phe = \mathcal{F}(\text{Temperature})$	$Phe = \mathcal{F}(\text{Temperature}, \text{Photoperiod})$
Subtropical and Tropical	$Phe = \mathcal{F}(\text{Temperature}, \text{soil moisture})$	$Phe = \mathcal{F}(\text{Radiation}, \text{Precipitation}) = \mathcal{F}(\text{Photoperiod}, \text{Light intensity}, \text{VPD}, \text{soil moisture})$

- LPJ-guess model will be updated by coupling the process-based phenology modules

2. Potential collaborative research

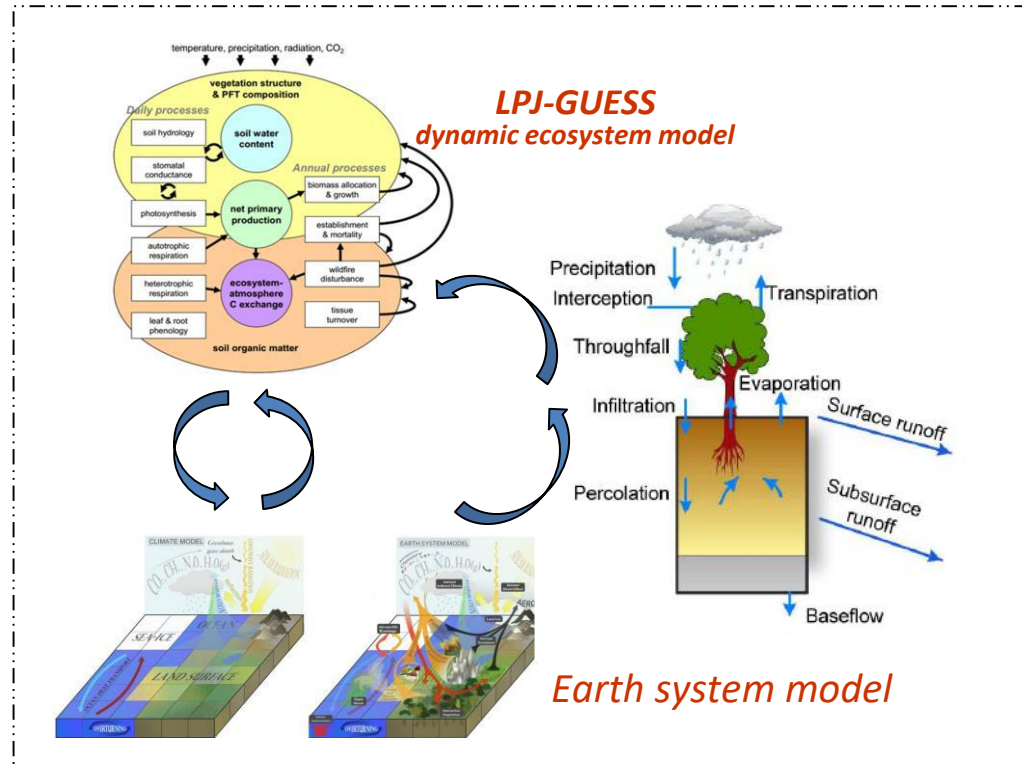
collaborative research



Coupling

- Phenology processes study in tropical forests

Pu'er flux tower in tropical forest China



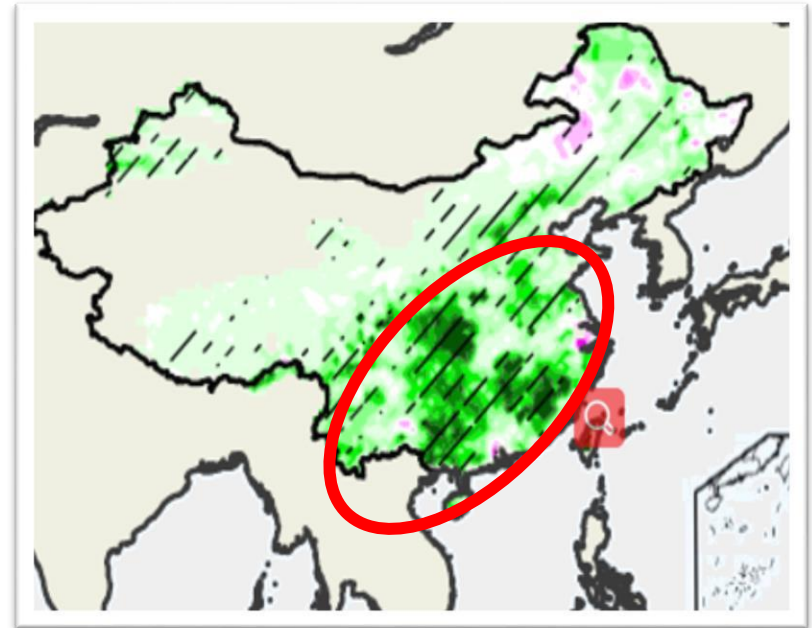
- Coupling phenological processes into the LPJ-guess model to explore the vegetation effect on local water transport?
- How vegetation phenology affects seasonal water balance by coupling water transport in ESM and LPJ-guess?

2. Potential collaborative research

collaborative research



Amazon rainforest, [deforestation](#)



Subtropical rainforest, [afforestation](#)

- How the **human activity impacts the phenology-water balance relationship** in tropical forests?
- What's the fundamental role of vegetation in water resource? (SDG06)

Thanks for your attention!



BNU Welcome you!

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