



*Supplement of*

## **Quantifying atmospheric nitrogen deposition through a nationwide monitoring network across China**

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1      **Sect. S1. Social-economical and geo-climatic conditions for six regions of China**

2      In this study, we divided the research area into six typical regions: North China (NC),  
3      Northeast (NE), Northwest (NW), Southeast China (SE), Southwest China (SW) and  
4      Tibetan Plateau (TP). These regions reflect different social-economical and  
5      geo-climatic conditions across China (Liu et al., 2013). Basically, NC, SE and SW  
6      represent relatively developed regions, NE and NW represent less developed regions  
7      while TP represents the least developed region in China.

8      Statistical data of the gross domestic product (GDP) for the six regions are sourced  
9      from the China Statistic Yearbook for the year 2013  
10     (<http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/ndsj/2014/indexch.htm>).

11     North China, an intensively managed agricultural region and economically developed  
12     area, comprises of Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Henan, Shandong, Shanxi and Shaanxi  
13     provinces, which is characterized by temperate monsoon climate. The region occupies  
14     10% of the total area of China, and contributes 28% of the total national China GDP.  
15     Northeast China includes Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces and the northeast  
16     area of Inner Mongolia, and is characterized by a temperate monsoon climate. The  
17     region accounts for 6% of the China's total area, and contributes 9% of the total  
18     national GDP. Northwest China consists of the northwest region of Inner Mongolia,  
19     Xinjiang, Ningxia and Gansu provinces, characterizing by a temperate continental  
20     climate. The region occupies 35% of the total area of China, but only contributes 5%  
21     of China's GDP. Southeast China covers Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Hubei,  
22     Hunan, Jiangxi, Fujian, Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and Hainan  
23     provinces: 13% of China's total area. The region contributes 46% of China's GDP and  
24     is characterized by a subtropical monsoon climate. Southwest China consists of  
25     Sichuan, Chongqing, Guizhou, Yunnan and Guangxi provinces, and is characterized  
26     subtropical and plateau monsoon climates. The region accounts for 14% of China's  
27     total area and contributes 12% of China's GDP. The Tibetan Plateau is a remote area  
28     of China that consists of Tibet and Qinghai provinces. The region is characterized by  
29     an alpine mountain climate. The region occupies 20% of the total area of China but  
30     only contributes 0.5% of China's GDP.

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35 **Section S2. Other information of the sampling sites**

36 *S2.1. Sampling sites in north China (NC)*

37 Thirteen sampling sites, including 3 urban sites (NC1, NC2 and NC3), 8 rural sites  
38 (NC4, NC5, NC6, NC7, NC8, NC9, NC10, NC11) and 2background sites (NC12 and  
39 NC13), are located in north China.

40 NC1, located at the west campus of China Agricultural University (CAU, 40.02°N,  
41 116.28°E), is near the fifth ring road in Beijing city. NC2, located at the campus of  
42 Beijing Normal University (39.96°N, 116.37°E), is near the third ring road in Beijing  
43 city. NC3 is located in the centre of Zhengzhou city, the capital of Henan province and  
44 Henan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (34.75°N, 113.63°E). These three urban sites  
45 (i.e. NC1, NC2, and NC3) are surrounded by complicated external environments, such  
46 as densely occupied residences, industry, small-scale urban agriculture, and roads.  
47 NC4 is located at Dongbeiwang village (40.04°N, 116.29°E), Xibeiwang town,  
48 Haidian District, about 20 km the northwest of Beijing city. This site could be polluted  
49 by ammonia from agricultural fields and domestic animal farms and emissions from  
50 motor vehicles on an adjacent road (c. 0.2 km). NC5 is located at Shangzhuang  
51 Agricultural Experimental Station (40.11°N, 116.20°E) of CAU, in Shangzhuang town,  
52 about 33 km northwest of Beijing city. This site is surrounded by small villages and  
53 croplands. NC6 is located at the west campus of Hebei Agricultural University  
54 (38.85°N, 115.48°E) in Baoding city, Hebei province, about 8 km southwest of the  
55 downtown area. This site is surrounded by small villages and croplands, and is close  
56 to a main road (c. 0.5 km). NC7 is located at CAU's Quzhou experimental station  
57 (36.78°N, 114.94°E) in Quzhou town, Hebei province. NC7 is a typical rural  
58 agriculture dominated site with a recently constructed industrial district. This site is  
59 surrounded by croplands and small villages. A north-south main road is located 0.5  
60 km west of the sampling site. NC8 is located at Yangqu dry farming water-saving  
61 demonstration base (38.05°N, 112.89°E), Shanxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences, in  
62 Hecun village, about 30 km northeast of Taiyuan city, Shanxi province. Hecun is a  
63 typical rural village with dryland farming. The sampling site is mainly polluted by  
64 ammonia from agricultural fields. NC9 is located at Zhumadian Agricultural  
65 Experiment Station (33.02°N, 114.05°E), Zhumadian Academy of Agricultural  
66 Sciences in Yicheng district of Zhumadian city, Henan province. This site is  
67 surrounded by croplands, small villages and small-scale livestock farming. NC10 is  
68 located at Wuquan Agricultural Experimental Base (34.31°N, 108.01°E), Northwest

69 Agriculture & Forestry University in Yangling city, Shaanxi province. This site is about  
70 8 km northwest of the downtown area, surrounding by croplands and small villages.  
71 NC11 is located at Yucheng Experimental Station (36.94°N, 116.63°E), Chinese  
72 Academy of Sciences, about 8 km southwest of Yucheng city, Shandong province.  
73 This site is surrounded by small villages and croplands. At all the above farmland sites,  
74 with the exception of NC8, the dominant cropping system is a winter wheat-summer  
75 maize rotation (two crops a year). Farmers usually apply nitrogen (N) fertilizers  
76 (mainly as urea and ammonium bicarbonate) in March-April, June-August and  
77 October to achieve high yields of maize and wheat. Typical application rates of N  
78 fertilizer are 500-600 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> at most sites except NC9, where the rate is  
79 100-150 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>. At NC8 site, the dominant cropping system is spring maize  
80 (one crop a year). In addition there is small-scale vegetable production (e.g. brussels  
81 sprouts, beans and zucchini) throughout the year. Usually, N-fertilizers (compound  
82 fertilizer, urea and ammonium bicarbonate) are applied in March-May, with annual  
83 application rates of 150-300 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>.

84 NC12 is located at Lingshandao (LSD) island (35.77°N, 120.18°E, 514 m a.s.l.) in the  
85 Yellow Sea. LSD is the biggest island in north China, about 10 km southeast of  
86 Jiaonan city, Shandong province. NC13 is located at Changdao island (37.93°N,  
87 120.75°E, 203 m a.s.l.), which is at the join of the Bohai Sea and the Yellow Sea,  
88 about 7 km north of Penglai city, Shandong province. There are almost no agricultural  
89 and/or industrial activities near these two coastal sampling sites.

#### 90 *S2.2. Sampling sites in northeast China (NE)*

91 Five sampling sites, including 1 urban site (NE1), 2 rural sites (NE2 and NE3), and 2  
92 background sites (NE4, and NE5) are located in northeast China.

93 NE1 is located at Dalian Jiaotong University (38.92 °N, 121.58°E) which lies in the  
94 Shahekou district of Dalian city, Liaoning province. Dalian is a sea town (near the  
95 Bohai Sea) and is famous for business development. The sampling site is polluted by  
96 emissions from industry and transportation. NE2 is located at an experimental station  
97 of the Soil and Fertilizer Institute (43.53 °N, 124.83°E), Jilin Academy of Agricultural  
98 Sciences, in Gongzhuling city, Jilin province. Arable land accounts for 81% of the  
99 total land area in Gongzhuling city, and the other 19% is used for residential,  
100 commercial buildings and roads. This site is surrounded by farmland and residences.  
101 NE3 is located in Sikeshu town (43.36 °N, 124.17°E), Lishu county. This site is about  
102 21 km northwest of Siping city, Jilin province. At NE2 and NE3, the sampling sites

103 are both surrounded by agricultural fields with a spring maize (single harvest per year)  
104 cropping system. Compound fertilizers are the major N source for the crops, and these  
105 are usually applied once in April-May, with an annual application rate of 400 kg  
106  $\text{ha}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$  at NE1 and 250 kg  $\text{ha}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$  at NE2. NE5 is located in a forested area in  
107 Wuying district (48.11 °N, 129.25 °E) of Yichun city, Heilongjiang province, about 50  
108 km northeast of downtown. Forest coverage reaches 93% in Wuying district. NE6  
109 (50.78°N, 121.52°E) is located in a forested region of Genhe city, Inner Mongolia,  
110 where forest cover reaches 92%. Genhe is at the north border of the Greater Hinggan  
111 Mountains, and its climate is cold temperate humid monsoon together with the  
112 characteristics of continental monsoon, which is similar to that of northeast China, i.e.  
113 temperate humid and semi-humid continental monsoon. Given this, NE5 is placed in  
114 northeast China in the present study. The forests in Wuyin and Genhe are both natural  
115 ecosystems and there are no agricultural and industrial activities near the sampling  
116 sites.

117 *S2.3. Sampling sites in northwest China (NW)*

118 Five sampling sites, including 2 urban sites (NW1 and NW2), 1 rural sites (NW3) and  
119 2 background sites (NW4 and NW5), are located in northwest China.

120 NW1 is located at Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (43.87°N, 87.57°E),  
121 Chinese Academy of Science, in the urban region of Urumqi city, Xinjiang province.  
122 This site may be polluted by emissions from motor vehicles and home heating in  
123 winter. NW2 is located at Xinjiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences, about 11 km  
124 away from NW1. This site has similar pollution sources as NW1.

125 NW3 is located in Yongchang town (38.07°N, 102.60 °E), Wuwei city, Gansu province.  
126 The sampling site is surrounded by agricultural fields, small scale livestock housing  
127 and small villages. Maize is the major crop grown. Usually cropland receives  
128 chemical N fertilizers (urea, ammonium bicarbonate and compound fertilizers) in  
129 April, June and July, with an annual application rate of 350 kg N  $\text{ha}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$ . NW5 is  
130 located at the meteorological observation site belonging to the Chinese Academy of  
131 Sciences, which is situated in temperate grassland in Duolun county (42.20°N,  
132 116.49°E), Inner Mongolia. NW6 is located at Bayinbuluke Grassland Ecosystem  
133 Research Station (42.88 °N, 83.71°E), Chinese Academy of Sciences, in the southern  
134 Tian Shan Mountains (3000-4500 m a.s.l.) of central Asia. Those two grassland sites  
135 (i.e. NW4 and NW5) are very unlikely to be subjected to influences from  
136 anthropogenic activities.

137 *S2.4. Sampling sites in southeast China (SE)*

138 Eleven sampling sites, including 2 urban sites (SE1 and SE2), 6 rural sites (SE3, SE4,  
139 SE5, SE6, SE7 and SE8), and 3 background sites (SE9, SE10 and SE11), are located  
140 in southeast China.

141 SE1 is located in the southern urban area of Nanjing city (31.84°N, 118.85°E). The  
142 sampling site is surrounded by complicated external environments, such as housing,  
143 industry, small-scale urban agriculture, and is close to a highway (c. 0.5 km). SE2 is  
144 located at Baiyun Experimental Station (23.20°N, 113.31°E), Guangdong Academy of  
145 Agricultural Sciences, in Guangzhou city, Guangdong province. This site is  
146 surrounded by densely occupied housing and traffic roads. SE3 is located at Wuxue  
147 Modern Agricultural Demonstration Base (30.01°N, 115.79°E) in Huaqiao town,  
148 about 28 km northeast of Wuxue city, Hubei province. The sampling site is  
149 surrounded by residential land and paddy fields, where the cropping system is double  
150 rice harvests per year. Compound fertilizer and urea are the major N nutrient sources  
151 for rice, and these are usually applied in May-July, at a rate of about 180 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>.  
152 SE4 is located in Santangjie town (28.61°N, 111.97°E), which is a remote rural site in  
153 Taojiang county, Hunan province. The sampling site is surrounded by mountains and  
154 paddy fields. The paddy fields are cultivated with a double rice rotation system, which  
155 receives compound fertilizer and urea twice per year (in May, June or July) at about  
156 150 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>. SE5 is located at Anhui Tobacco Institute (32.88°N, 117.56°E),  
157 Anhui Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Fengyang county, Anhui province. The  
158 sampling site is surrounded by croplands and residences. In the croplands, the major  
159 annual cropping system is a winter wheat-summer maize rotation (two crops per year).  
160 Compound fertilizer and urea are the major N nutrient sources for the croplands, and  
161 these are usually applied in April, June and October, at a rate of 380-500 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>.  
162 SE6 is located in Leizhou peninsula, Zhanjiang city (21.26°N, 110.33°E), Guangdong  
163 province. This area grows tropical fruit and farmers use urea at a rate of 400 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>  
164 yr<sup>-1</sup> for fruit production. SE7 is located on a mountain in the remote rural region of  
165 Fuzhou city (26.17°N, 119.36°E), Fujian province. This site is surrounded by some  
166 agricultural land growing tobacco and paddy rice. Usually, about 200 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>  
167 compound fertilizers are used as the major nitrogen source for the crops, applied in  
168 January-March, and July and August. SE8 is located in Chunhu town (29.61°N  
169 121.53°E), Fenghua city, Zhejiang province. The sampling site is surrounded by a  
170 residential area, a very small amount of agricultural land and mountains. SE9, located

171 in Huinong village (28.52°N, 113.41°E), Hunan province, is a rural background site.  
172 In a 2-km radius around the sampling site, there is forest and a reservoir, which  
173 contribute little to anthropogenic NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. SE10, a rural background  
174 site is located in Feiyue village (28.56°N, 113.34°E), Hunan province. There were no  
175 typical emission sources around the site in a 2 km radius except forest and a  
176 residential area. SE11 is located at the centre of a 3 km<sup>2</sup> forest in Xishan village  
177 (28.61°N, 113.31°E), Hunan province. The forest has an average elevation of 250 m  
178 and is composed of masson pine, fir and shrubs. For convenience of access (e.g., the  
179 accessibility to road and the availability of main power), N deposition monitoring was  
180 conducted in the valley between two small hills in the forest. The valley is 100 m  
181 wide and 2000 m long in the main wind direction. The sampling site was selected in  
182 the centre of the valley, without human activity and anthropogenic emission sources  
183 of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>. The nearest N<sub>r</sub> emission sources are more than 2 km away from the  
184 monitoring site, and consist of some small paddy fields distributed at the edge of the  
185 forest, accounting for no more than 5% of the total forest area.

186 *S2.5. Sampling sites in southwest China (SW)*

187 Seven sampling sites, including 1 urban site (SW1), 5 rural sites (SW2, SW3, SW4,  
188 SW5 and SW6) and 1 background site (SW7), are located in southwest China.  
189 SW1 is located in a residential area (30.55°N, 103.84°E) which lies in the Wenjiang  
190 district of Chengdu city, Sichuan province. The sampling site is surrounded densely  
191 occupied housing, roads and small-scale urban agriculture. SW2 is located at  
192 Xiangshui village (30.13°N, 104.63°E), Ziyang city, Sichuan province. This site is  
193 surrounded by paddy fields with a single rice cropping system (single harvest per year)  
194 and mountains. N fertilizers (urea and compound fertilizer) are applied mainly in June  
195 and July, at a rate of 270 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>. SW3 is located at the Purple Soil Ecological  
196 Experiment Station (31.28°N, 105.47°E), Chinese Academy of Sciences, in Yanting  
197 county, Sichuan province. Agriculture is the dominant source of N at this site. In the  
198 agricultural fields, rice-wheat and maize-oilseed rape (canola) are the major double  
199 cropping systems for the paddy and upland fields in conventional farming practice,  
200 respectively. Ammonium bicarbonate is the major N nutrient sources for the croplands,  
201 usually applied at about 300 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> for summer and winter crops together.  
202 SW4 is located in Huangzhuang village (29.06°N, 106.18°E) in Jiangjin district of  
203 Chongqing, a city characterized by heavy industry production. The sampling site is  
204 surrounded by paddy fields and dry farmland with sorghum or oilseed rape. Farmers

205 apply N fertilizers mainly in April-July, October and November. Paddy fields at this  
206 site usually receive compound fertilizers including  $180 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , whereas the  
207 dryland areas planted with sorghum usually receive ammonium phosphate and  
208 ammonium bicarbonate (altogether adding about  $200 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ), and the drylands  
209 used for oilseed rape production usually receive compound fertilizers at  $135 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1}$   
210  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ . SW5 is located in the suburbs of Kunming, a city characterized by flower and  
211 vegetable production, and about 500 m away from the Dian Lake ( $24.97^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $102.67^\circ\text{E}$ ).  
212 This site is surrounded by agricultural fields and small villages, and is near a road (c.  
213 0.2 km) with few vehicles. Leek is the most important cash crop in the region, and N  
214 fertilizer (urea) is usually applied every two months, at a rate of  $300\text{-}400 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1}$   
215  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ . SW6, located at the campus of Yunnan Agricultural University ( $25.13^\circ\text{N}$ ,  
216  $102.75^\circ\text{E}$ ), is in the northern rural area of Kunming city. This site is surrounded by  
217 housing, commercial buildings and roads without large agricultural sources. SW7 is a  
218 typical rural background site located in Kunyang town ( $24.67^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $102.61^\circ\text{E}$ ), and is  
219 surrounded by small agricultural land (c. 62 ha), phosphate fertilizer plants and  
220 mountains.

221 *S2.6. Sampling sites in the Tibetan plateau (TP)*

222 Two sampling sites, including 1 urban site (TP1) and 1background site (TP2), are  
223 located in the Tibetan plateau.

224 TP1, located at a meteorological station belonging to Xining Weather Bureau, is in the  
225 northern suburbs of Xining city, Qinghai province. Surrounding this site are schools,  
226 housing and commercial buildings. TP2 is located at an ecological experimental  
227 station belonging to the Agricultural and Animal Husbandry College of Tibet  
228 University, which lies in the wide valley area of the middle and lower reaches of the  
229 Nyi River in Linzhi county, Tibet province. TP2 (Linzhi site) is relatively  
230 undisturbed remote site, surrounded by grassland free from human activity.

231

232 **Sect. S3. Information on measuring methods, sample replications and collection**

233 *S3.1. Description of the DELTA system and the ALPHA and Gradko passive samplers*

234 The DELTA system comprises a denuder filter sampling train, a low-volume pump  
235 (D210, TCP Micropumps Ltd., UK) and a high sensitivity dry gas meter (SK25,  
236 Kimmon Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Japan). Briefly, the sampling train consists of two  
237 potassium carbonate plus glycerol (1 % (m/v)  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  + 1 % (m/v) glycerol in  
238 methanol) coated denuders in series for the simultaneous collection of  $\text{HNO}_3$ ,

239 followed by two citric acid (5% (m/v) citric acid in methanol) coated denuders for  
240  $\text{NH}_3$  and finally by a filter-pack assembly with a first  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ /glycerol impregnated  
241 filter to capture particle phase anions ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ) and cations ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  
242  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ), and a second filter coated with citric acid to collect any volatilized particulate  
243  $\text{NH}_4^+$ . The empirically determined effective size cut-off for particle sampling is of the  
244 order of 4.5  $\mu\text{m}$  (E. Nemitz, personal communication). The air was drawn through the  
245 sampling train at a rate of 0.2-0.4  $\text{L min}^{-1}$  and directly into the first denuder with no  
246 inlet line to avoid sampling losses. The total sampled air volume of the DELTA  
247 system was recorded by the gas meter which was checked every month for data  
248 reading, performance and maintenance.

249 The ALPHA passive sampler, described in detail by [Puchalski et al. \(2011\)](#) is made up  
250 of a 26 mm long, 27 mm outer diameter polyethylene tube with one open end. The  
251 open end contains a 5  $\mu\text{m}$  PTFE membrane allowing gaseous  $\text{NH}_3$  to diffuse through,  
252 which is then absorbed onto a citric acid-coated collection filter located at the other  
253 end of the diffusion path. The Gradko passive sampler consists of a 71.0 mm long  $\times$   
254 11.0 mm internal diameter acrylic tube with coloured and white thermoplastic rubber  
255 caps.  $\text{NO}_2$  is absorbed into a 20% triethanolamine/deionised-water solution coated  
256 onto two stainless steel wire meshes within the coloured cap. Both types of passive  
257 samplers at each site were installed at 2 m height above the ground and deployed as  
258 three replicates for monthly sampling. For the ALPHA passive sampler, the  $\text{NH}_3$   
259 concentration was calculated by considering a temperature dependent diffusion  
260 coefficient ([Puchalski et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2014](#)), while a constant gas diffusion  
261 coefficient based on an assumption of 25  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  was used for the calculation of  $\text{NO}_2$   
262 concentration, in accordance with the Gradko introduction manual and previous  
263 studies ([Luo et al., 2013; Shen et al., 2013](#)).

264 The DELTA sampling trains and all the passive samplers were prepared and measured  
265 in the laboratory at China Agricultural University (CAU), Beijing. The prepared  
266 samplers were sealed in individual airtight storage bags and shipped in cool boxes,  
267 sent out to the monitoring sites for monthly field exposure, then sent back in the same  
268 bags and boxes to the laboratory for extraction and analysis. All the samplers were  
269 exposed to ambient air for one month at each site and thus provided monthly mean  
270 ambient  $\text{N}_r$  concentrations. Laboratory and field (travel) blanks were prepared and  
271 transported together with the field-exposed samples. Three laboratory blanks were  
272 prepared for each batch of field exposed samples and represent extracts from samples

273 prepared in the laboratory. Three field blanks were prepared for each batch of field  
274 exposed samples and represent extracts from unexposed samplers that were  
275 transported to and from the monitoring sites with the field exposed samplers.

276 *S3.2. Description of particulate sampler*

277 For pNH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> and pNO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> sampling, particulate samplers equipped with solar panels were  
278 used to collect 7-10 days of PM<sub>10</sub> samples per month. The average of these 7-10  
279 samples is assumed to represent the monthly average concentration. The sampler was  
280 placed about 2 m above the ground and ran for 24h to obtain a particulate matter  
281 sample on 47 mm quartz filters (Whatman, Maidstone, UK). Each filter was  
282 equilibrated for 24-h in a room at 40 % relative humidity and 25 °C and then weighed  
283 on an electronic balance (Satorius, GÖTTINGEN, Germany, precision: 10 µg) before  
284 and after sampling. After collection, the loaded quartz filters were sealed in aluminum  
285 foil and stored in on-site refrigerators at about 3 °C until analysis in the coordinating  
286 laboratories of local universities or institutes. Field blank measurements were made  
287 each month at the corresponding sites.

288

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#### 312 **Sect. S4. Validation of ALPHA passive sampler**

313 The ALPHA passive samplers were used to monitor atmospheric concentrations of  
314 NH<sub>3</sub> at seven sites (NC2, NE4, NE5, SW5, SW7, TP1 and TP2) of the network at  
315 which the DELTA systems could not be used due to absence of an external power  
316 supply. To ensure that differences across sites are due to the pollution climate rather  
317 than an artifact caused by methodological choices, we performed simultaneous and  
318 continuous 1-month measurements of NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations by using ALPHA passive  
319 samplers and the active DELTA denuders at three urban (NC1, NC3 and NE1) and  
320 three rural (NC8, SE3 and SE7) sites from Nov. 2013 to Oct. 2014.

321 Monthly mean concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> provided by ALPHA passive samplers and the  
322 DELTA denuders were reasonably comparable at all site (**Fig S1a-f**), with overall  
323 averaged values of  $6.7 \pm 5.0$  (standard deviation) and  $7.0 \pm 5.1 \mu\text{g N m}^{-3}$ , respectively.  
324 In addition, the correlation between the two methodologies was highly significant  
325 ( $R^2=0.919$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Thus any differences in the data can be ascribed to the pollution  
326 climate.

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#### 328 **Sect. S5. Introduction to the calculation of $V_d$ for all $N_r$ species as well as the 329 estimation of dry deposition**

330 The model calculation of dry deposition of  $N_r$  species follows a standard big-leaf  
331 resistance-in-series model as described by Wesely (1989) for gases and Zhang et al.  
332 (2001) for aerosol.  $V_d$  is calculated as the function  $V_d=(R_a+R_b+R_c)^{-1}$  determined by  
333 local meteorological condition and surface type as described in [Zhang et al. \(2012\)](#).  
334 Here  $R_a$  is the aerodynamic resistance to turbulent transfer from the lowest model  
335 layer (70 m above the surface) to the roughness height,  $R_b$  is the boundary layer  
336 resistance to molecular diffusion, and  $R_c$  is the canopy or surface uptake resistance. In  
337 the present study we have run the model calculation of dry deposition velocities for  
338 the whole of 2012 and archived the hourly values for both gases and aerosols over the  
339 model domain. Then, the monthly  $V_d$  at each site was averaged based on the hourly  
340 dataset for further estimation of dry deposition flux of each  $N_r$  species during the

341 observation, which was statistically summarized according to land use type and is  
342 presented in **Table S3**. Annual mean dry deposition velocities of N<sub>r</sub> species for six  
343 land use types in this study, averaged from monthly mean values, were fit well into  
344 range of annual values calculated and used for similar land use types in other studies  
345 (**Table S4** of Supplement).

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375 **Figure captions**

376 **Fig. S1.** Comparison between simultaneous measurements of  $\text{NH}_3$  concentrations by  
377 ALPHA passive samplers and the DELTA systems at six sampling sites in the network  
378 (a. NC1, b. NC3, c. NE1, d. NC8, e. SE3, f. SE7, g. ALPHA\_NH<sub>3</sub> vs. DELTA\_NH<sub>3</sub>  
379 across all sites). Site names for codes can be found in Table S1.

380 **Fig. S2.** Monthly mean atmospheric concentrations of N<sub>r</sub> species (a. NH<sub>3</sub>, b. NO<sub>2</sub>, c.  
381 HNO<sub>3</sub>, d. pNH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> and e. pNO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) at the forty-three monitoring sites in China. The  
382 boundary of the box indicates the 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. The black lines and red  
383 squares within the box mark the median and the mean, respectively. Whiskers above  
384 and below the box indicate the maximum and minimum values. Site names for codes  
385 can be found in Table S1.

386 **Fig. S3.** Monthly volume-weighted N<sub>r</sub> concentrations in precipitation at the  
387 forty-three monitoring sites in China (a. NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N, b. NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N). The black lines within  
388 the box denote the median. The blue circles denote the volume-weighted mean  
389 concentrations of N<sub>r</sub> species in rainwater, calculating from the water amount and  
390 deposition fluxes of all precipitation events at each site during the sampling period.  
391 Whiskers above and below the box indicates the maximum and minimum values. Site  
392 names for codes can be found in Table S1.

393 **Fig. S4.** Relationships between monthly precipitation and volume-weighted  
394 concentrations of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> and NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> in precipitation at the sampling sites in the six  
395 regions. NC, NE, NW, SE, SW, and TP are the region codes and denote North China,  
396 Northeast China, Northwest China, Southeast China, Southwest China, and the  
397 Tibetan Plateau, respectively.

398 **Fig. S5.** Annual mean precipitation amounts at the forty-three sites in China. Site  
399 names for codes can be found in Table S1.

400 **Fig. S6.** Relationship between total annual dry N deposition fluxes and total annual  
401 atmospheric N<sub>r</sub> concentrations across all forty-three sites. The plots with same color  
402 denote the same land use type.

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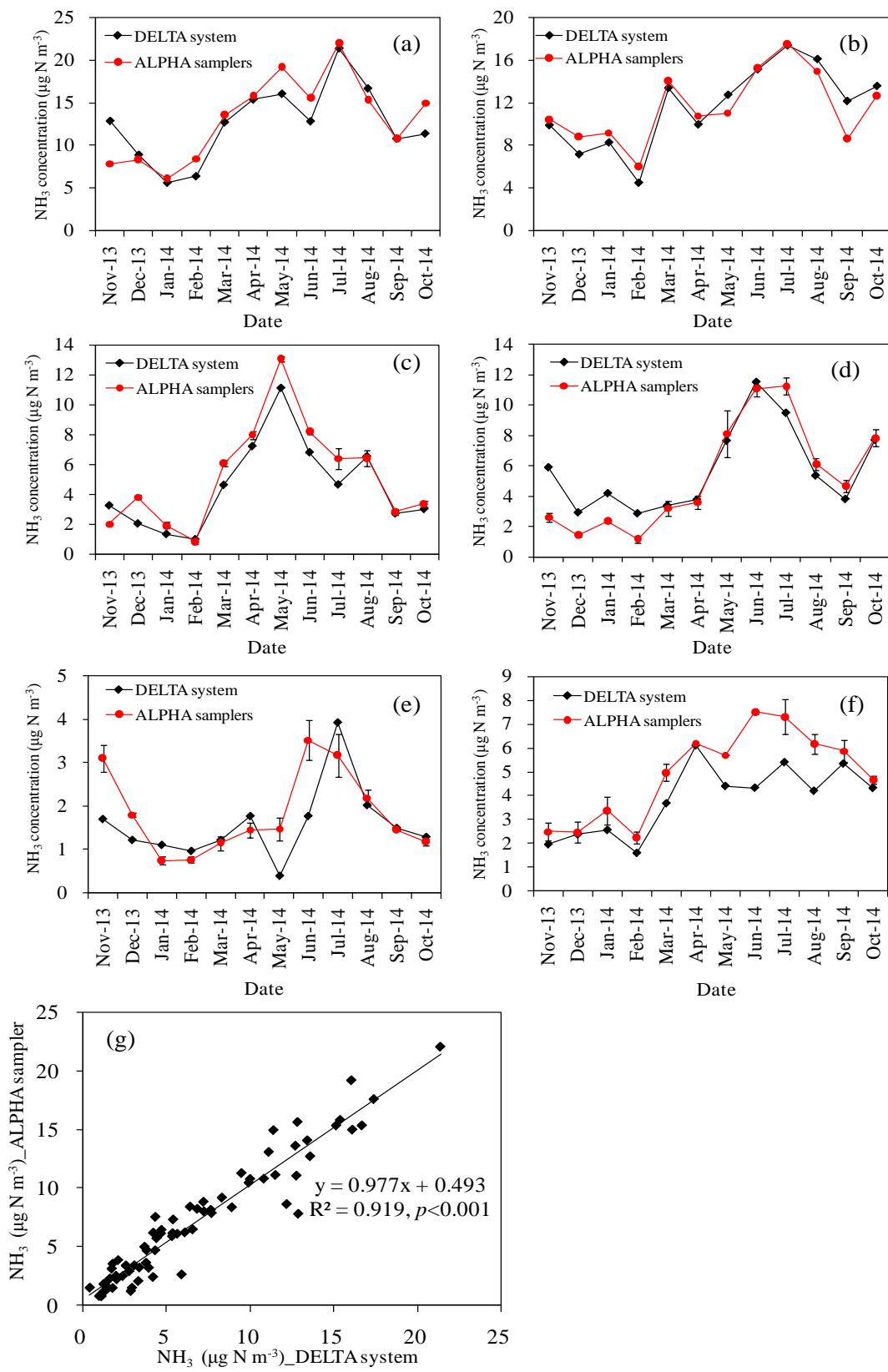
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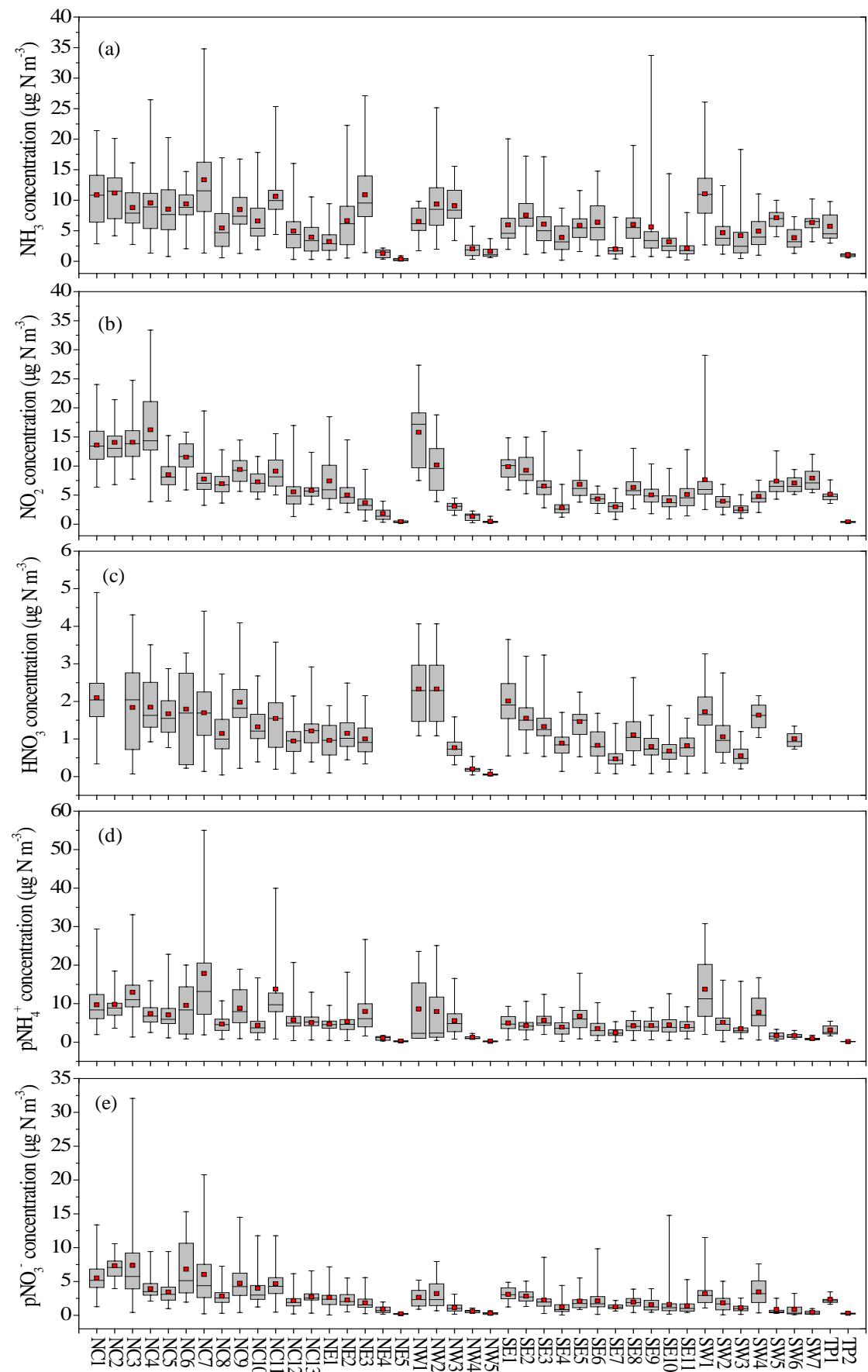
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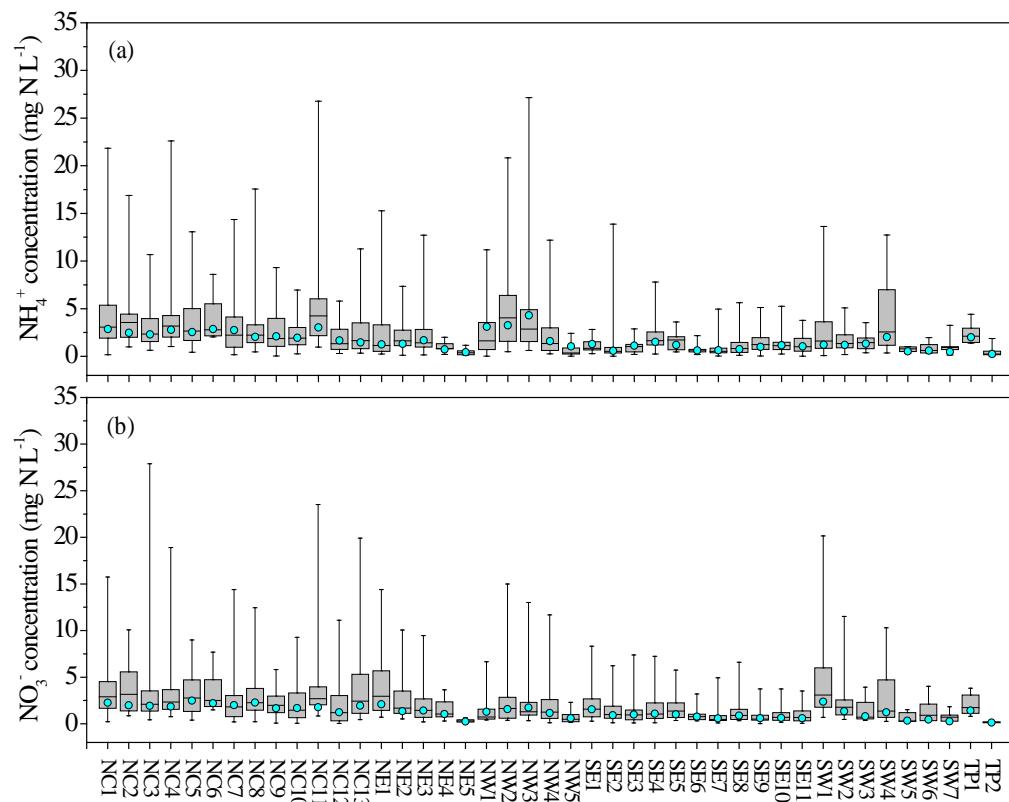
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**Fig. S1**

**Fig. S2**

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417 Fig. S3



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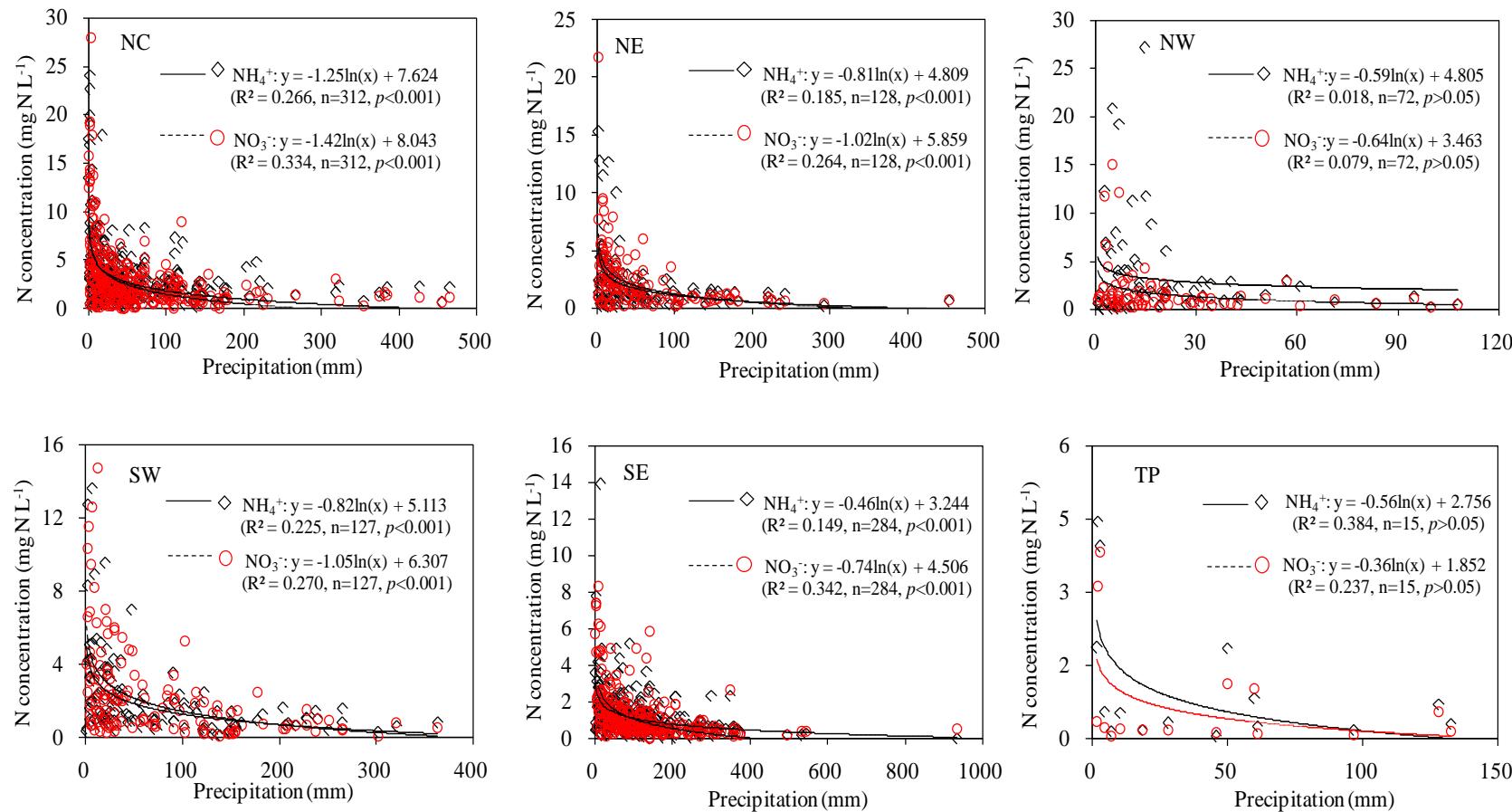
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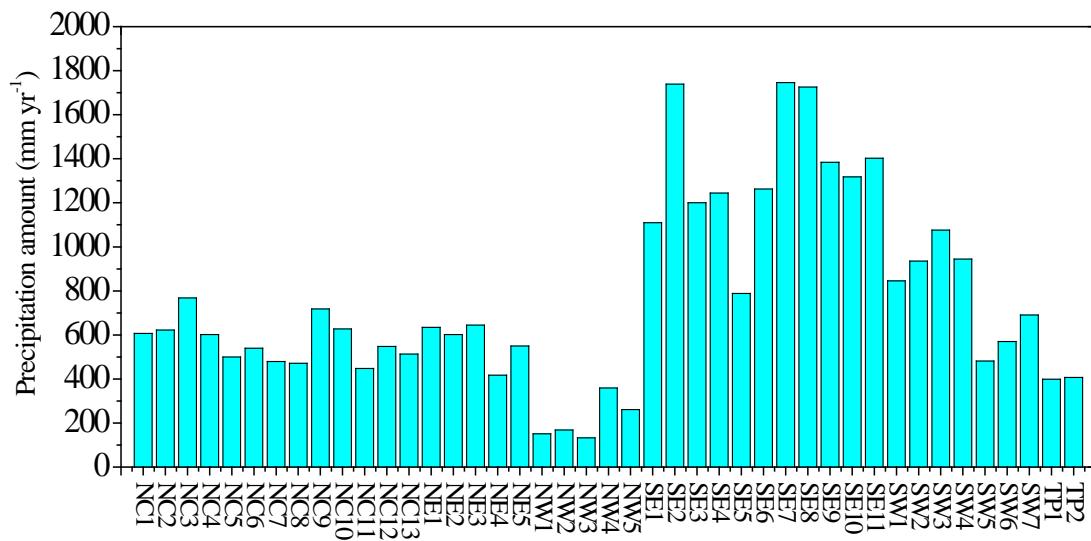
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436 **Fig. S4**

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Fig. S5



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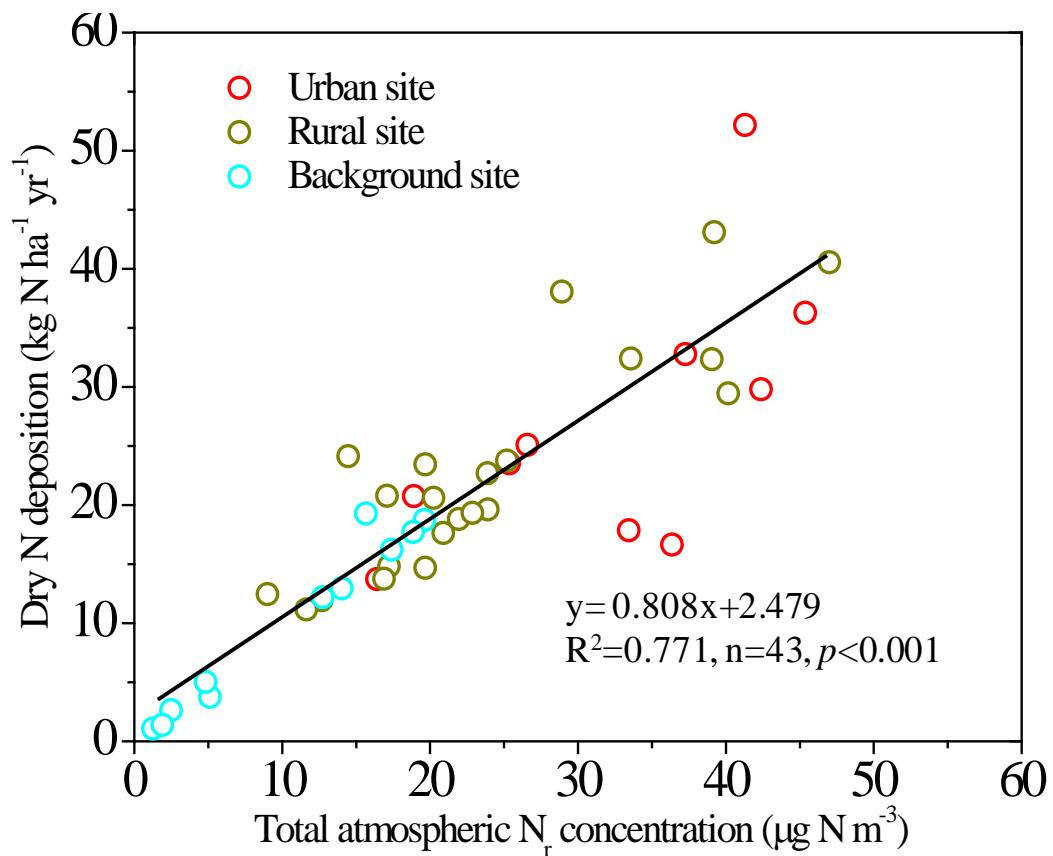
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462 **Fig. S6**

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**Table S1.** Descriptions of the forty-tree sampling sites in the Nationwide Nitrogen Deposition Monitoring Network (NNDMN)<sup>a</sup>

Site Code	Site Name	Region	Coordinate	Meteorological parameters <sup>b</sup>				Population density (persons km <sup>-2</sup> )	Land use type
				Wind speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	Rainfall (mm)	Temp. (°C)	RH (%)		
NC1	China Agric. University	NC	116.28 ° E, 40.02 ° N	2.5	556	12.4	56	7616	Urban
NC2	Beijing Normal University	NC	116.37 ° E, 39.96 ° N	2.5	556	12.4	56	7616	Urban
NC3	Zhengzhou	NC	113.63 ° E, 34.75 ° N	2.5	641	14.6	65	17069	Urban
NC4	Dongbeiwang	NC	116.29 ° E, 40.04 ° N	2.5	556	12.4	56	587	Rural
NC5	Shangzhuang	NC	116.20 ° E, 40.11 ° N	2.5	556	12.4	56	327	Rural
NC6	Baoding	NC	115.48 ° E, 38.85 ° N	2.0	519	12.9	61	3029	Rural
NC7	Quzhou	NC	114.94 ° E, 36.78 ° N	1.8	517	13.9	61	606	Rural
NC8	Yangqu	NC	112.89 ° E, 38.05 ° N	2.1	443	10.1	59	58	Rural
NC9	Zhumadian	NC	114.05 ° E, 33.02 ° N	2.3	958	15.0	72	815	Rural
NC10	Yangling	NC	108.01 ° E, 34.31 ° N	1.6	599	13.3	71	1763	Rural
NC11	Yucheng	NC	116.63 ° E, 36.94 ° N	2.5	567	13.1	64	495	Rural
NC12	Lingshandao	NC	120.18 ° E, 35.77 ° N	4.9	712	12.7	71	482	Background
NC13	Changdao	NC	120.75 ° E, 37.93 ° N	5.5	562	12.2	68	786	Background
NE1	Dalian	NE	121.58 ° E, 38.92 ° N	4.6	623	10.8	65	14280	Urban
NE2	Gongzhuling	NE	124.83 ° E, 43.53 ° N	3.8	573	5.7	63	271	Rural
NE3	Lishu	NE	124.17 ° E, 43.36 ° N	2.8	611	6.7	64	221	Rural
NE4	Wuyin	NE	129.25 ° E, 48.11 ° N	2.1	628	1.1	69	33	Background
NE5	Genhe	NE	121.52 ° E, 50.78 ° N	2.2	518	-6.2	67	5	Background
NW1	Shengdisuo	NW	87.57 ° E, 43.87 ° N	2.5	265	7.2	57	5122	Urban

NW2	Tufaisuo	NW	87.58 ° E, 43.82 ° N	2.5	265	7.2	57	236	Urban
NW3	Wuwei	NW	102.60 ° E, 38.07 ° N	1.8	170	8.2	52	58	Rural
NW4	Duolun	NW	116.49 ° E, 42.20 ° N	3.4	374	2.4	60	5	Background
NW5	Bayinbuluke	NW	83.71 ° E, 42.88 ° N	2.7	272	-4.3	70	26	Background
SE1	Nanjing	SE	118.85 ° E, 31.84 ° N	2.5	1062	15.7	75	729	Urban
SE2	Baiyun	SE	113.27 ° E, 23.16 ° N	1.8	1748	22.1	77	322	Urban
SE3	Wuxue	SE	115.79 ° E, 30.01 ° N	2.0	1418	17.3	77	469	Rural
SE4	Taojiang	SE	111.97 ° E, 28.61 ° N	1.8	1332	17.1	78	372	Rural
SE5	Fengyang	SE	117.56 ° E, 32.88 ° N	2.6	935	15.4	73	331	Rural
SE6	Zhanjiang	SE	110.33 ° E, 21.26 ° N	2.9	1678	23.2	82	639	Rural
SE7	Fuzhou	SE	119.36 ° E, 26.17 ° N	2.6	1374	20	75	97	Rural
SE8	Fenghua	SE	121.53 ° E, 29.61 ° N	2.4	1408	16.8	79	413	Rural
SE9	Feiyue	SE	113.34 ° E, 28.56 ° N	1.3	1502	16.9	81	228	Background
SE10	Huinong	SE	113.41 ° E, 28.52 ° N	1.3	1502	16.9	81	313	Background
SE11	Xishan	SE	113.31 ° E, 28.61 ° N	1.3	1502	16.9	81	313	Background
SW1	Wenjiang	SW	103.84 ° E, 30.55 ° N	1.4	939	18.6	80	1650	Urban
SW2	Ziyang	SW	104.63 ° E, 30.13 ° N	1.1	945	17.3	80	555	Rural
SW3	Yanting	SW	105.47 ° E, 31.28 ° N	1.2	879	16.4	77	253	Rural
SW4	Jiangjin	SW	106.18 ° E, 29.06 ° N	1.3	855	16.4	77	383	Rural
SW5	Dianchi	SW	102.67 ° E, 24.97 ° N	2.1	991	15.1	72	858	Rural
SW6	Yunnan Agric. University	SW	102.75 ° E, 25.13 ° N	2.1	991	15.1	72	2384	Rural
SW7	Kunyang	SW	102.61 ° E, 24.67 ° N	2.3	903	16.3	75	204	Background
TP1	Xining	TP	101.79 ° E, 36.62 ° N	1.5	387	6	56	2167	Urban
TP2	Linzhi	TP	94.36 ° E, 29.65 ° N	1.7	673	8.9	63	5	Background

481 <sup>a</sup>See Sect. S2 in the online supplement for the details of all the sampling sites in the network.

482 <sup>b</sup>There were no mean annual meteorological data for the forty-three monitoring sites; the surface climate parameters presented (1961-2012) were  
483 obtained from the nearest meteorological observation stations available on the China Meteorological Data Sharing Services website  
484 (<http://cdc.gov.cn/>).

485 <sup>c</sup> The population density was estimated by dividing population by area of the town/district/county where the monitoring site is located.

486 Population data were sourced from the sixth census of China in 2010 and can be accessed online (<http://www.stats.gov.cn>).

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**Table S2.** Monitoring periods for atmospheric N deposition and types of underlying surface at the forty-three sites in China.

Site Code	Site Name	Monitoring period		Underlying surface
		Dry deposition	Wet deposition	
NC1	China Agric. University	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NC2	Beijing Normal University	Oct. 2013-Sep. 2014	Jan. 2012-Sep. 2014	Roof
NC3	Zhengzhou	May. 2010-Sep. 2014	Jan. 2010-Dec. 2011	Vegetations
NC4	Dongbeiwang	Aug. 2006-Sep. 2008	Aug. 2006-Sep. 2008	Vegetations
NC5	Shangzhuang	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NC6	Baoding	Jan. 2011-Dec. 2011	Jan. 2011-Dec. 2011	Vegetations
NC7	Quzhou	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NC8	Yangqu	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NC9	Zhumadian	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Jan. 2011-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NC10	Yangling	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NC11	Yucheng	Sep. 2012-Sep. 2014	Jan. 2013-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NC12	Lingshandao	Feb. 2011-Sep. 2014	Feb. 2011-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NC13	Changdao	Sep. 2010-Sep. 2014	Sep. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NE1	Dalian	Sep. 2010-Sep. 2014	Sep. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NE2	Gongzhuling	Jul. 2010-Sep. 2014	Jul. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NE3	Lishu	Jul. 2010-Sep. 2014	Jul. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NE4	Wuyin	Oct. 2010-Sep. 2011	Oct. 2010-Sep. 2011	Vegetations
NE5	Genhe	Oct. 2010-Sep. 2011	Oct. 2010-Sep. 2011	Vegetations
NW1	Shengdisuo	Sep. 2009-Dec. 2011	Sep. 2009-Aug. 2010	Vegetations

NW2	Tufaisuo	Sep. 2009-Dec. 2011	Sep. 2009-Aug. 2010	Vegetations
NW3	Wuwei	Oct. 2010-Sep. 2014	Oct. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
NW4	Duolun	Jul. 2013-Sep. 2014	Jan. 2010-Sep. 2014	Grass
NW5	Bayinbuluke	May. 2010-Aug. 2011	Nov. 2010-Jun. 2012	Grass
SE1	Nanjing	Sep. 2010-Feb. 2012	Sep. 2010-Feb. 2012	Vegetations
SE2	Baiyun	May. 2010-Sep. 2014	May. 2010-Sep. 2014	Roof
SE3	Wuxue	Aug. 2011-Sep. 2014	Aug. 2011-Sep. 2014	Roof
SE4	Taojiang	Oct. 2010-Sep. 2014	Jan. 2011-Sep. 2014	Roof
SE5	Fengyang	Feb. 2013-Sep. 2014	Oct. 2013-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
SE6	Zhanjiang	Aug. 2010-Sep. 2014	Jan. 2013-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
SE7	Fuzhou	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Apr. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
SE8	Fenghua	Aug. 2010-Sep. 2014	Jan. 2011-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
SE9	Feiyue	Sep. 2010-Sep. 2014	Sep. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
SE10	Huinong	Sep. 2010-Sep. 2014	Sep. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
SE11	Xishan	Sep. 2010-Sep. 2014	Sep. 2010-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
SW1	Wenjiang	Oct. 2010-Sep. 2014	Jan. 2011-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
SW2	Ziyang	Jul. 2010-Sep. 2014	Jan. 2011-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
SW3	Yanting	May. 2011-Oct. 2013	May. 2011-Dec. 2012	Vegetations
SW4	Jiangjin	Jan. 2013-Sep. 2014	Jan. 2013-Sep. 2014	Vegetations
SW5	Dianchi	Apr. 2009-Mar. 2010	Apr. 2009-Mar. 2010	Vegetations
SW6	Yunnan Agric. University	Apr. 2009-Mar. 2010	Apr. 2010-Mar. 2010	Vegetations
SW7	Kunyang	Apr. 2009-Mar. 2010	Apr. 2009-Mar. 2010	Vegetations
TP1	Xining	Dec. 2013-Nov. 2014	Dec. 2013-Nov. 2014	Vegetations

TP2	Linzhi	Jan. 2009-Dec. 2009	Jan. 2009-Dec. 2009	Vegetations
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516 **Table S3.** Statistics of monthly mean dry deposition velocities of N<sub>r</sub> species for the  
 517 three land use types, basing on the modeled hourly values at the forty-three sites from  
 518 January 2010 to May 2013<sup>a</sup>.

Land use type		Monthly mean deposition velocities (cm s <sup>-1</sup> )				
		NH <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	HNO <sub>3</sub>	pNH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	pNO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>
Urban	N	410	410	410	410	410
	Min	0.30	0.01	0.12	0.06	0.06
	Max	1.63	0.44	5.78	0.35	0.35
	Mean	0.45	0.12	1.22	0.17	0.17
	Median	0.34	0.10	1.15	0.17	0.17
	SD	0.29	0.10	1.00	0.07	0.07
Rural	N	902	902	902	902	902
	Min	0.09	0.01	0.05	0.07	0.07
	Max	1.10	0.46	5.78	0.37	0.37
	Mean	0.40	0.17	1.49	0.18	0.18
	Median	0.35	0.16	1.49	0.18	0.18
	SD	0.16	0.12	1.10	0.06	0.06
Background	N	451	451	451	451	451
	Min	0.20	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.05
	Max	1.48	0.57	8.88	0.31	0.31
	Mean	0.47	0.17	1.78	0.16	0.16
	Median	0.43	0.13	1.48	0.16	0.16
	SD	0.22	0.15	1.66	0.06	0.06

519 <sup>a</sup> The forty-three sites consist of 10 urban, 22 rural and 11 background sites. Among  
 520 the forty-three monitoring sites, 20 farmland, 5 coastal, 6 forest and 2 grassland sites  
 521 were included in the rural and background sites.

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**Table S4.** Comparison of annual deposition velocities of nitrogen compounds on different land use types in this study with literature.

Land use type	Country	Deposition velocity (cm s <sup>-1</sup> )					References
		NH <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	HNO <sub>3</sub>	pNH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	pNO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	
Farmland	China	0.40 (0.06)	0.18 (0.08)	1.52 (0.72)	0.19 (0.03)	0.19 (0.03)	This study
		0.26	0.12	0.81	0.16	0.16	Zhu et al. (2010)
		0.74	0.59	2	0.24	0.24	Shen et al. (2009)
		0.13	0.23	—	—	—	Yang et al. (2010)
		0.18	0.10	0.76	—	0.25	Zhang et al. (2004)
		0.71	0.05	—	—	—	Pan et al. (2012)
	West Africa	0.23-0.42	0.20-0.35	0.63-0.73	—	—	Delon et al. (2012)
	Britain	—	0.16	2.06	0.10	0.26	Marner and Harrison. (2004)
	Europe	0.35-0.75	0.05-0.20	0.8-1.0	0.11-0.20	0.10-0.25	Flechard et al. (2011)
Urban	China	0.45 (0.27)	0.12 (0.06)	1.25 (0.57)	0.17 (0.04)	0.17 (0.04)	This study
		0.78	0.06	—	—	—	Pan et al. (2012)
		0.28	0.07	1.77	0.44	0.44	Li et al. (2013)
		0.50	0.60	1.1	0.24	0.24	Luo et al. (2013)
	Greece	0.81	0.26	2.4	0.1	0.2	Anatolaki et al. (2007)
	Britain	—	0.08	7.27	1.02	1.78	Marner and Harrison. (2004)
	China	0.65 (0.26)	0.16 (0.11)	1.56 (0.54)	0.13 (0.03)	0.13 (0.03)	This study
		—	—	—	0.6	1.15	Zhang et al. (2007)
		0.63	0.00534	0.63	—	—	Zhang et al. (2010)
		0.55	0.01	0.84	0.27	0.27	Zhang et al. (2004)
		—	—	—	0.019	0.088	Qi et al. (2013)

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537 **Table S4 (continued)**

Land use type	Country	Deposition velocity (cm s <sup>-1</sup> )					References
		NH <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	HNO <sub>3</sub>	pNH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	pNO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	
Forest	China	0.41 (0.05)	0.19 (0.05)	2.23 (1.28)	0.16 (0.01)	0.16 (0.01)	This study
		0.1	0.05	—	—	—	Pan et al. (2012)
		0.20	0.09-0.11	2.43-2.46	0.27-0.33	0.27-0.33	Zhang et al. (2004)
	Belgium	1.1-2.9	0.25	—	—	—	Staelen et al. (2012)
	Switzerland	2.2-3.0	0.3-0.4	1.5	0.2-0.4	0.2-0.4	Schmitt et al. (2005)
	Britain	—	0.26	7.27	1.02	1.78	Marner and Harrison. (2004)
Grassland	Europe	0.75-2.4	0.06-0.28	2.3-4.4	0.2-2.0	0.2-2.5	Flechard et al. (2011)
		0.78 (0.002)	0.15 (0.01)	1.09 (0.26)	0.194 (0.002)	0.194 (0.002)	This study
		0.23	0.13	1.16	0.28	0.28	Zhang et al. (2004)
	China	1.1	0.25	—	—	—	Staelen et al. (2012)
		—	0.16	1.39	0.06	0.15	Marner and Harrison. (2004)
		—	0.05-0.25	1.1-1.2	0.12-0.14	0.11-0.19	Flechard et al. (2011)
All land uses	The United States	0.65	0.36	2.70	0.15	0.15	Zhang et al. (2012)

538 Values in the parentheses are standard deviations of annual mean deposition velocities at sampling sites with the same land use type.

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**Table S5.** Emission inventory of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> for thirty-three provinces as well as the six regions of China in 2010 (kt)

Region	Site	Area ( $\times 10^3 \text{km}^2$ )	NH <sub>3</sub> (kt)	NO <sub>x</sub> (kt)
North China	Beijing	16.4	61.5	389.2
	Tianjin	11.9	48.4	731.3
	Hebei	188.8	904.1	1685.2
	Shandong	187.1	1027.2	1941.8
	Shanxi	156.7	322.5	779.7
	Henan	167.0	1165.4	1140.0
	Shaanxi	205.8	281.5	452.1
	Total	933.8	3810.5	7120.2
Northeast China	Liaoning	148.0	340.4	1021.6
	Jilin	190.2	329.4	474.5
	Heilongjiang	437.0	465.9	716.5
	Total	612.1	1135.8	2212.6
Northwest China	Xinjiang	1660	374.2	308.9
	Inner Mongolia	1183	380.2	660.0

	Ningxia	66.4	73.9	177.0
	Gansu	453.7	199.0	374.4
	Total	3363.1	1027.2	1520.3
Southeast China	Shanghai	6.3	55.0	1091.2
	Jiangsu	102.6	806.3	1557.0
	Zhejiang	101.8	346.6	1199.8
	Anhui	140.3	631.9	768.1
	Hubei	185.9	668.2	783.5
	Hunan	211.8	742.6	566.2
	Jiangxi	166.9	461.3	439.7
	Fujian	124.0	288.9	439.4
	Guangdong	179.8	618.1	1382.1
	Hong Kong & Macau	1.1	6.7	251.2
	Taiwan	36.2	120.0	431.9
	Hainan	35.4	92.0	89.7
	Total	1254.8	4838.8	8962.7
Southwest China	Sichuan	485.0	925.4	650.1

	Chongqing	82.4	254.3	296.4
	Guizhou	176.2	465.5	312.9
	Yunan	390.0	700.0	453.1
	Guangxi	236.7	547.8	399.5
	Total	1370.3	2893.1	2112.0
Tibetan plateau	Tibet	1200.0	172.2	85.2
	Qinghai	722.3	121.6	85.0
	Total	1922.3	293.8	170.2

588 The emission data of NO<sub>x</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> for the year 2010 are from the **GAINS (Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies)**  
 589 Model (available online: <http://www.iiasa.ac.at/>)

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