



Impact of future land cover changes on
 HNO_3 and O_3 surface
dry deposition

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Impact of future land cover changes on HNO_3 and O_3 surface dry deposition

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Abstract

Dry deposition is a key component of surface–atmosphere exchange of compounds, acting as a sink for several chemical species. Meteorological factors, chemical properties of the trace gas considered and land surface properties are strong drivers of dry deposition efficiency and variability. Under both climatic and anthropogenic pressure, the vegetation distribution over the Earth has been changing a lot over the past centuries, and could be significantly altered in the future. In this study, we perform a modeling investigation of the potential impact of land-cover changes between present-day (2006) and the future (2050) on dry deposition rates, with special interest for ozone (O_3) and nitric acid vapor (HNO_3), two compounds which are characterized by very different physico-chemical properties. The 3-D chemistry transport model LMDz-INCA is used, considering changes in vegetation distribution based on the three future projections RCPs 2.6, 4.5 and 8.5. The 2050 RCP 8.5 vegetation distribution leads to a rise up to 7% ($+0.02 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$) in VdO_3 and a decrease of -0.06 cm s^{-1} in $VdHNO_3$ relative to the present day values in tropical Africa, and up to +18 and -15% respectively in Australia. When taking into account the RCP 4.5 scenario, which shows dramatic land cover change in Eurasia, $VdHNO_3$ increases by up to 20% (annual-mean value) and reduces VdO_3 by the same magnitude in this region. When analyzing the impact of dry deposition change on atmospheric chemical composition, our model calculates that the effect is lower than 1 ppb on annual mean surface ozone concentration, for both for the RCP8.5 and RCP2.6 scenarios. The impact on HNO_3 surface concentrations is more disparate between the two scenarios, regarding the spatial repartition of effects. In the case of the RCP 4.5 scenario, a significant increase of the surface O_3 concentration reaching locally up to 5 ppb ($+5\%$) is calculated on average during the June–August period. This scenario induces also an increase of HNO_3 deposited flux exceeding locally 10% for monthly values. Comparing the impact of land-cover change to the impact of climate change, considering a 0.93°C increase of global temperature, on dry deposition velocities, we estimate that the strongest increase over lands occurs in the North

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Hemisphere during winter especially in Eurasia, by +50 % (+0.07 cm s^{-1}) for VdO_3 and +100 % (+0.9 cm s^{-1}) for VdHNO_3 . However, different regions are affected by both changes, with climate change impact on deposition characterized by a latitudinal gradient, while the land-cover change impact is much more heterogeneous depending on vegetation distribution modification described in the future RCP scenarios. The impact of long-term land-cover changes on dry deposition is shown to be non-negligible and should be therefore considered in biosphere-atmospheric chemistry interaction studies in order to have a fully consistent picture.

1 Introduction

Amongst surface–atmosphere interactions, dry deposition plays a key role in and acts as a significant sink for several atmospheric compounds. Performing an intercomparison of 26 state-of-the-art atmospheric chemistry models, Stevenson et al. (2006) estimated the surface removal of ozone by dry deposition to be about $1000 \pm 200 \text{ Tgyr}^{-1}$ on average, with values ranging from 720 to 1507 Tgyr^{-1} amongst models, compared to 5100, 4650 and 550 Tgyr^{-1} for chemical production, chemical destruction and stratospheric input fluxes respectively. This study also underlined that although global deposition fluxes are consistent between models, locally, there is a large variability in the ozone deposition velocities (Stevenson et al., 2006). Since all these models use deposition schemes based on Wesely’s prescription, the discrepancies suggest different hypotheses for the land-type consideration. Based on satellite measurements from OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) combined with the Goddard Earth Observing System chemical transport model (GEOS-Chem), Nowlan et al., 2014 estimated dry deposition to land to be 98 % of total deposition for NO_2 and 33 % for SO_2 . This deposition fluxes over land represent 3 % of global NO_x emissions and 14 % of global S emissions. Land surfaces can therefore play a significant role on deposition, with a highly variable contribution depending on the chemical compound considered/from one chemical compound to another.

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The air–surface exchange of trace compounds has been shown to be strongly variable, especially between different types of surface vegetation and soil characteristics (Wesely et al., 2000). Regarding ozone, model data differences reported in the literature could be attributed to oversimplifications in the implementation of the dry deposition scheme (Val Martin et al., 2014).

In order to quantify the non-photochemical sink for tropospheric burden at regional and global scale, the scientific community has developed numerical dry deposition schemes calibrated with field-measurements of dry deposition velocities (Wesely et al., 1989; Zhang et al., 2002), implemented usually in chemistry-transport models. Dry deposition efficiency is influenced by multiple meteorological factors (temperature, solar radiation, humidity), chemical properties of the trace gas considered (solubility, oxidative capacity), and land surface properties (surface type, surface roughness, foliar surface and ecosystem height in the case of vegetation surfaces). Some of these factors are poorly constrained and are thus accounted for in deposition schemes in an very simplistic way. The vegetation distribution for instance is usually prescribed using maps for the region of interest that are usually kept the same for either past, present or future studies. There is therefore a lack of knowledge regarding the impact of long-term changes in vegetation distribution on dry deposition chemical compounds at the surface. Dry deposition parameters (resistances, fluxes, etc.) being especially tricky to measure, it limits the evaluation of dry deposition schemes, especially at the global scale for which a variety of surface and meteorological conditions should be documented. And yet, since the beginning of industrial era, human activities have modified the use of large surfaces, affecting significantly the vegetation distribution, especially in the northern temperate latitude regions. Land cover modifications are expected in the 21st century due to projected increases in energy and food demands. Vegetation in tropical regions in particular could undergo drastic alterations.

The objective of this study is to investigate the potential impact of land-cover changes between present-day (2006) and the future (2050) on dry deposition rates, using a modeling approach with a 3-D chemistry transport model. Changes in vegetation

a succession of resistances as follows:

$$|V_d| = [R_a + R_b + R_c]^{-1} \quad (1)$$

where R_a is the aerodynamic resistance (influenced by atmospheric stability and wind speed above the canopy), R_b is the quasi-laminar resistance (controlled by molecular diffusivity), and R_c is the bulk surface resistance (depending on both surface and trace gas properties).

The surface resistance R_c especially depends on specific surface (roughness length) (Wesely, 1989) and meteorological (temperature and solar radiation) parameters. The surface occupancy type (presence of urban sites, water, vegetation, etc.) strongly modulates those parameters. In particular vegetation surfaces cover a large area of the Earth, with a high spatial and seasonal variability due to species diversity and functioning, and are a key factor in dry deposition determination. The dry deposition scheme implemented in LMDz-INCA considers eleven surface categories: (1) urban land, (2) agricultural land, (3) range land, (4) deciduous forest, (5) coniferous forest, (6) mixed forest including wetland, (7) water, both salt and fresh, (8) barren land, mostly desert, (9) non-forested wetland, (10) mixed agricultural and range land, and (11) rock open areas with low-growing shrubs. This scheme was originally developed by Wesely (1989) and updated by Wesely and Hicks (2000) for Northern Hemisphere regions of United States and southern Canada regions. Five seasonal categories are used as proxy of vegetation growth stage (midsummer with lush vegetation; autumn with unharvested cropland; late autumn after frost, no snow; winter, snow on ground, and subfreezing; transitional spring with partially green short annuals). For global scale study purposes, the scheme in LMDz-INCA has been modified in order to represent the different seasonal cycles throughout the world. The latitude dependency of the vegetation seasonality is described by dividing the globe into three belts: Northern Hemisphere regions (latitude $> 33^\circ$ N); Tropical regions (33° S $<$ latitude $< 33^\circ$ N) and Southern Hemisphere regions (latitude $< 33^\circ$ S). Summer is considered in the tropics throughout the whole year, describing the evergreen vegetation. Two opposite seasonal cycles are taken into

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account in extra-tropical Northern and Southern Hemisphere regions, with winter being activated when snow falls. The dry deposition velocity over each grid box is eventually determined by summing deposition velocities computed over every land cover types, weighted by their respective fractional surface coverage (ranging from 0 to 1).

5 The deposition rates computed by LMDz-INCA are consistent with typical deposition velocities exposed for North America and Europe presented in Wesely and Hicks (2000) and more generally with global models with monthly values reaching up to 0.6 cm s^{-1} for ozone and up to 3 cm s^{-1} for HNO_3 over land.

2.2 Land use and land cover changes between 2007 and 2050

10 The present-day distribution of vegetation categories considered in LMDz-INCA is illustrated in Fig. 1 as dominant type, covering the largest fraction of each gridbox. Crops are dominant mainly in restricted temperate regions of North America, Central Europe, and also in India, while range lands are largely spread. Deciduous forests dominate in tropical regions of South America, Africa and Indonesia, together with Central and Southern Europe, while coniferous forests have a high occupancy in boreal regions of North America and Eurasia. The Fig. 1 also shows the 10 regions of special interest selected for this study, that will be considered in more details when analyzing our results.

15 Future maps are based on scenarios of land-cover changes derived from four different Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs; Moss et al., 2010; Van Vuuren et al., 2011) and four Integrated Assessment Models (one per RCP) (RCP 8.5, RCP 4.5 and RCP 2.6). Those maps were further harmonized to ensure smooth transitions with past/historical changes (Hurtt et al., 2011). Those datasets only provide information on human activities (crop land and grazed pastureland) in each grid-cell (at a 0.5° resolution) but do not provide any recommendation regarding the distribution of natural vegetation. We have therefore combined them with our original present-day land-cover map (Loveland et al., 2000), which already includes both natural and anthropogenic vegetation types, following a methodology described in Dufresne et al. (2013).

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2.3 Simulation strategy

In order to quantify the effects of these land cover changes on dry deposition, we carried out two sets of simulations (Table 1). The first set intends to isolate the effect of future possible land cover changes on dry deposition prior to any climate change.

5 It includes one control run (present day), using 2006 vegetation distribution (Fig. 1) and three future runs using the 2050 vegetation maps according to the RCPs 8.5, 4.5 and 2.6 scenarios. The same present-day meteorology, biogenic and anthropogenic emissions are used in these four simulations. These simulations are run for 1 year with wind and temperature fields being relaxed towards the ECMWF ERA-interim reanalysis
10 (Dee et al., 2011) with a time constant of 6 h.

Then a second set of two simulations is performed in order to investigate the effect of future climate change on deposition and compare it with the impact of future land cover change: one run for the 2000–2010 period and a second run for the 2045–2055 period. Those simulations are performed without nudging and the LMDz general circulation model requires sea surface temperature (SST), solar constant and Long-Lived
15 Green House Gases (LL-GHG) global mean concentrations as forcings. For historical simulations, we use the HADiSST for sea surface temperature (Rayner et al., 2003) and the evolution of LL-GHG concentrations compiled in the AR4-IPCC report. For future projections, we use the SST from IPSL-CM4 simulation for the SRES-A2 scenario, which induce similar climate trajectories in terms of radiative forcing than RCP8.5. We
20 use the LL-GHG concentrations distributed by the RCP database for RCP8.5 projection for the 2045–2055 period. Eleven years are run and averaged to allow smoothing of interannual climate variability. The mean surface temperature changes is 0.93 °C between future simulation and present day simulation. Both experiments use the same
25 present-day vegetation distribution, anthropogenic and biogenic emissions.

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3 Results

3.1 Present day ozone and nitric acid deposition

First of all, we present the deposition over continental regions for present-day conditions (Fig. 4) by illustrating the annual means of deposition rates, surface concentrations and deposited fluxes for O_3 and HNO_3 .

The highest ozone deposition velocities ($> 0.35 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$) are simulated over India, south-eastern Asia, western coast and center of south America, Mexico, Europe and sub saharian Africa and Australia. Hence, those areas are mainly covered by crops and grasses, where the highest VdO_3 occurs, while Europe and Southeast Asia are mainly covered by deciduous forests, with therefore lower VdO_3 . O_3 dry deposition is indeed maximal over small canopies vegetation and minimal over bare soil with deposition affinity ranging from Agriculture $>$ Grasslands $>$ Deciduous $>$ Coniferous $>$ Bare soil (see sensitivity tests in Supplement).

Temperate regions see ozone deposition velocities significantly reduced in winter (see Supplement for monthly means) whereas tropical regions, covered mainly by small canopies, are characterized by deposition rate exceeding 0.35 cm s^{-1} throughout the whole year due to the lack of seasonality in the vegetation phenology in the global model. In temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere, the highest values of deposition velocity for both ozone reaching monthly mean values of 0.4 to 0.6 cm s^{-1} for VdO_3 over Europe.

For HNO_3 , the annual mean deposition rates are maximum over Brazil, Western Europe, India, Indochinese Peninsula and South of western Africa ($> 1.6 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ in annual mean). $VdHNO_3$ reaches maximum values over deciduous and coniferous forests, due to deposition affinity ranking from: Deciduous, Coniferous $>$ Agriculture $>$ Grasslands $>$ Bare soil. This is due to the strong dependency of $VdHNO_3$ to surface roughness (Walcek et al., 1986). For temperate region and South Asia, the HNO_3 deposition is strongly affected by the vegetation cycle with maximum in

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same region. This induces a rise up to 7 % ($+0.02 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$) in VdO_3 and a decrease of -0.06 cm s^{-1} in VdHNO_3 relative to the present day values in this area. These order of magnitude and sign of changes are consistent with sensitivity tests in which we replaced totally forests by croplands inducing an increase of 0.1 cm s^{-1} in VdO_3 and a decrease of 0.5 cm s^{-1} in VdHNO_3 (during summer and winter). The strongest LCC occurs in Australia (-0.12 in forest fraction and $+0.2$ in grassland fraction in eastern Australian regions), which induces a local maximum increase of 18 % ($+0.05 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$) in VdO_3 and a maximum decrease of 15 % in VdHNO_3 (-0.1 cm s^{-1}). We find the same order of magnitude in changes induced by land cover change in Western Australia but with a different sign for VdHNO_3 changes ($+0.1 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$; $+9\%$), due to a different type of shift in surface covering ($+0.12$ in grassland fraction, -0.10 for desert).

As land cover changes are weak in the RCP 2.6 scenario, a more dispersed and weaker effect on dry deposition velocities is simulated (maximum absolute difference of 10 %).

According to the RCP 4.5 scenario, the most dramatic land cover change occurs in Eurasia where local maximum changes of up to 0.5 in fraction of vegetation are projected, involving in most cases an increase in forest surface at the expense of agricultural area. This increases VdHNO_3 by up to 20 % (annual-mean value) and reduces VdO_3 by the same magnitude in this region. The LCC impacts are stronger by a factor 4 to 6 in summer both on O_3 and HNO_3 deposition rates. This difference in deposition velocities between winter and summer were highlighted in sensitivity tests which see a strong decrease in VdO_3 during the June–August period (up to 0.15 cm s^{-1} in absolute) and a strong increase in VdHNO_3 (up to 1.5 cm s^{-1}) underlining a total conversion of croplands to forests. This is due to a higher surface roughness which enhances the deposition velocity of HNO_3 (via the reduction of the aerodynamic resistance). However, the higher input surface resistance (prescribed in the model and variable relating to season indexes) reduces VdO_3 even combined to a warmer climate which decreases the stomatal resistance.

3.3 Impact on atmospheric composition

The objective of this part is to isolate the effects of dry deposition changes due to land cover changes on the tropospheric concentration of O_3 and HNO_3 . Therefore, solely the impact of land cover changes on deposition is considered between the present-day and 2050 simulations. This impact on surface concentrations of O_3 and HNO_3 is shown in the right columns of Figs. 5 and 6.

For both the RCP8.5 and RCP2.6 scenarios, the LLC effects through deposition are lower than 1 ppb on annual mean surface ozone concentrations. In term of relative difference, only the reduction of ozone over Australia when considering RCP8.5 hypotheses is exceeding 1%, reaching up to 5% at some points. The impact on HNO_3 surface concentrations is more disparate between the two scenarios when considering the spatial repartition of effects. The RCP8.5 lead to local increase of HNO_3 due to the reduction of deposition rate. This HNO_3 increase is notable over Mexico, Brazil, western and South Africa (comprised in the 1–6% interval). Land cover change in Australia leads to an increase exceeding 7% on the eastern part and a decrease reaching 5% on the western part.

The RCP4.5 scenario induces the strongest impacts on deposition rate with a reduction of VdO_3 (-0.08 cm s^{-1}) occurring in Eurasia due a strong reduction in croplands occupancy (-0.6 in fraction of coverage) and a strong increase in forest distribution ($+0.6$ in fraction of coverage) between 2007 and 2050. It induces a significant increase of the surface O_3 concentration reaching locally up to 5 ppb ($+5\%$) on average during the June–August period. This scenario induces also an increase of HNO_3 deposited flux exceeding locally 10% for monthly values. In Eurasia and eastern North America. It thus leads to reduction in HNO_3 concentration of 0.2 ppb in Eurasia (-13%) and in North America (-8%) via changes in nitric acid vapor velocities of $+0.5 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ and $+0.2$ respectively.

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Vegetation is usually crudely described in chemistry-transport models, with leaf surface or cuticle and stomatal resistances for instance being prescribed or very simply parameterized, and lack of representation of seasonal variation or stress (water, temperature) impacts. This could lead to significant uncertainty in model representation and projections of atmospheric chemical composition and surface–atmosphere interactions. The work by Wesely and Hicks (2000) underlines that selecting proper input parameters of dry deposition scheme, such as stomatal, cuticle, and soil resistances, is crucial for a satisfactory determination of dry deposition efficiency, for both simple and multi-layers models. Investigating the impact of coupling dry deposition to vegetation phenology in the Community Earth System Model (CESM) on ozone surface simulation, Val Martin et al. (2014) shows the importance of representing the dependence of dry deposition to vegetation parameters including drivers of stomatal resistance variation (change in CO_2 , drought stress), especially when focusing on the impact of past or future changes of vegetation. Next generation of chemistry-transport models should therefore rely on online coupling with vegetation, with dry deposition schemes having a consistent and dynamic description of vegetation distribution and growth and related short-term (seasonal, annual variation) or long-term (past and future changes) evolutions.

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Table 1. Simulations performed in our study with the LMDz-INCA chemistry-climate model: set-up description.

Run objectives	Land-cover map	Climate	Duration
Control	Present-day 2000s	Winds and surface temperature nudged on ECMWF fields for 2007	1 year
Impact of future land-use changes	2050 RCP 8.5 2050 RCP 4.5 2050 RCP 2.6	Winds and surface temperature nudged on ECMWF fields for 2007	1 year
Impact of future climate	Present-day 2000s	2000–2010 fields (GCM mode) 2045–2055 fields (GCM mode)	10 years

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Table 2. Mean Effect on Annual Mean Deposition Rate (%) of climate and land cover changes of O_3 and HNO_3 averaged over homogeneous regions (values $> \pm 1.5\%$ are highlighted).

	Ozon			Nitric Acid		
	Climate Change	RCP4.5 Land cover Change	Sum of Climate and Land cover Changes	Climate Change	RCP4.5 Land cover Change	Sum of Climate and Land cover Changes
GLOBAL	0.5	-0.7	-0.2	2.2	1.2	3.4
Eurasia	2.1	-2.1	0.0	4.3	3.8	8.1
USA	1.5	-1.3	0.2	3.6	2.0	5.6
Central America	-1.1	-1.4	-2.6	1.1	1.7	2.8
Tropical Southern America	-2.3	-1.2	-3.5	1.1	2.6	3.7
Tropical Africa	-1.5	-0.8	-2.3	0.4	0.9	1.3
South Africa	-1.4	-0.6	-2.0	-0.1	0.8	0.8
West Australia	-0.4	-0.1	-0.5	-0.4	0.0	-0.4
East Australia	-0.5	-0.6	-1.1	0.2	0.5	0.7
South America	0.4	-0.7	-0.4	0.3	2.0	2.3
Tropics	-1.1	-0.6	-1.7	0.6	1.0	1.7

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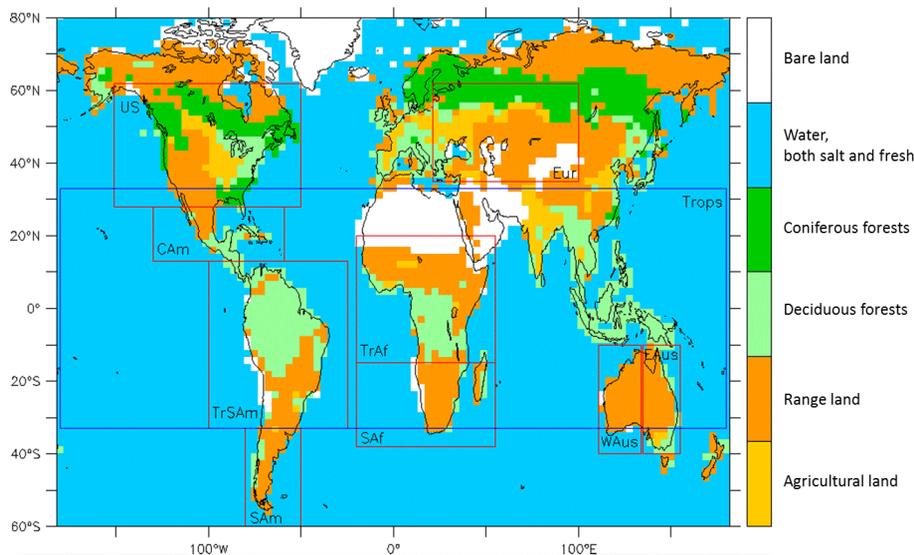


Figure 1. Surface categories considered in LMDz-INCA for dry deposition, represented as dominant coverage: agricultural land, range land, deciduous forest, coniferous forest, water, barren land, mostly desert. Regions discussed in this study are also illustrated: Eurasia, USA, Central America, Tropical Southern America, Southern America, Tropical Africa, Southern Africa, Western Australia, Eastern Australia and Tropical regions.

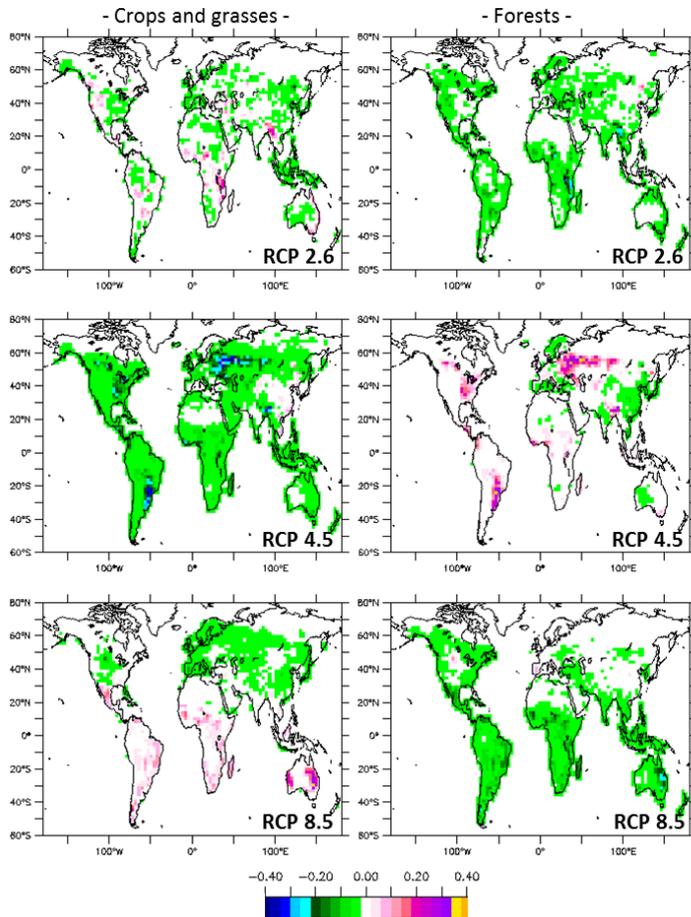


Figure 2. Vegetation fraction difference between 2050 and present-day for crops and grasses (left column), and forests (right column) according to the future RCP scenarios 2.6 (upper line), 4.5 (middle line) and 8.5 (lower line).

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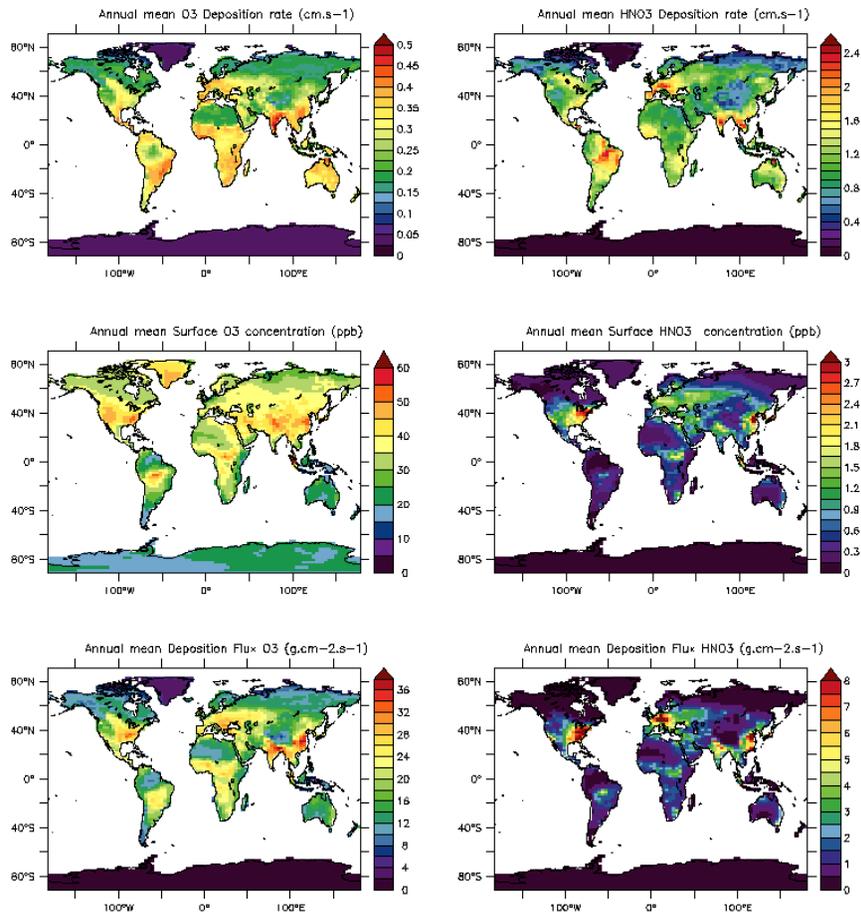


Figure 4. Annual average of dry deposition velocities (upper panel), surface concentrations (middle panel and deposition fluxes (lower panel) over continental surfaces ($\text{cm}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$) for O_3 (left) and HNO_3 (right) for present-day as simulated by LMDz-INCA.

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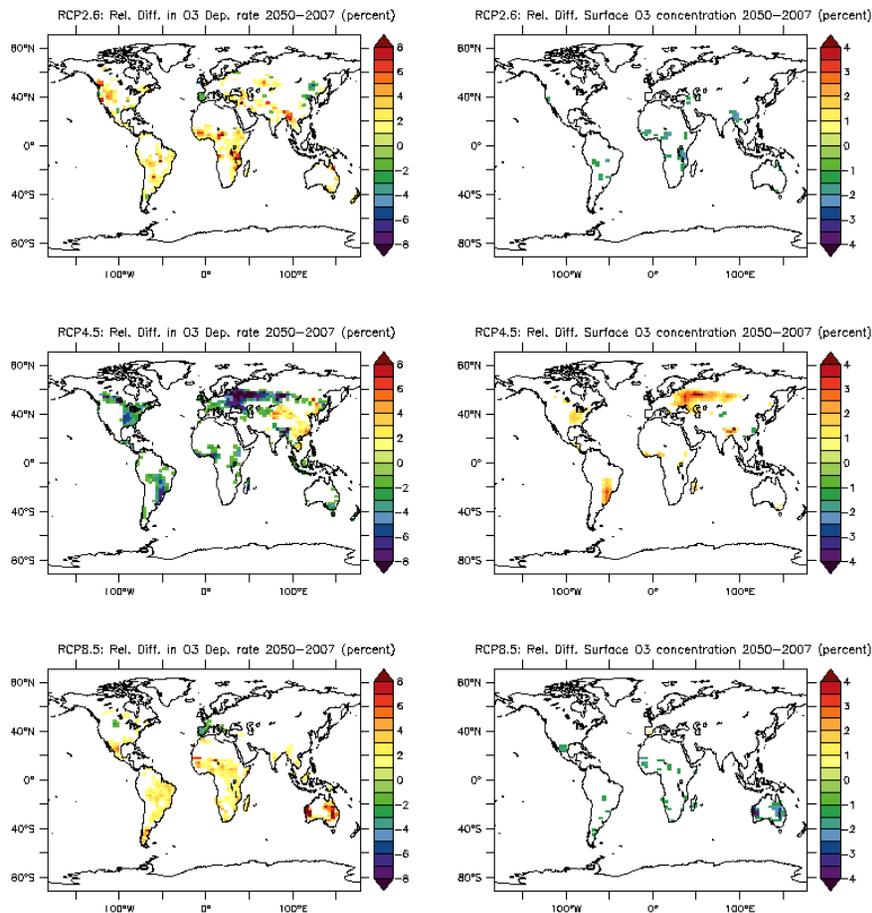


Figure 5. Annual mean changes (in relative value %) of Dry deposition velocity for O_3 between present-day and 2050 induced by the different LCC (left) and related surface ozone concentrations (right) for the three RCP scenarios. Values in the $[-1; +1]$ % interval are not shown.

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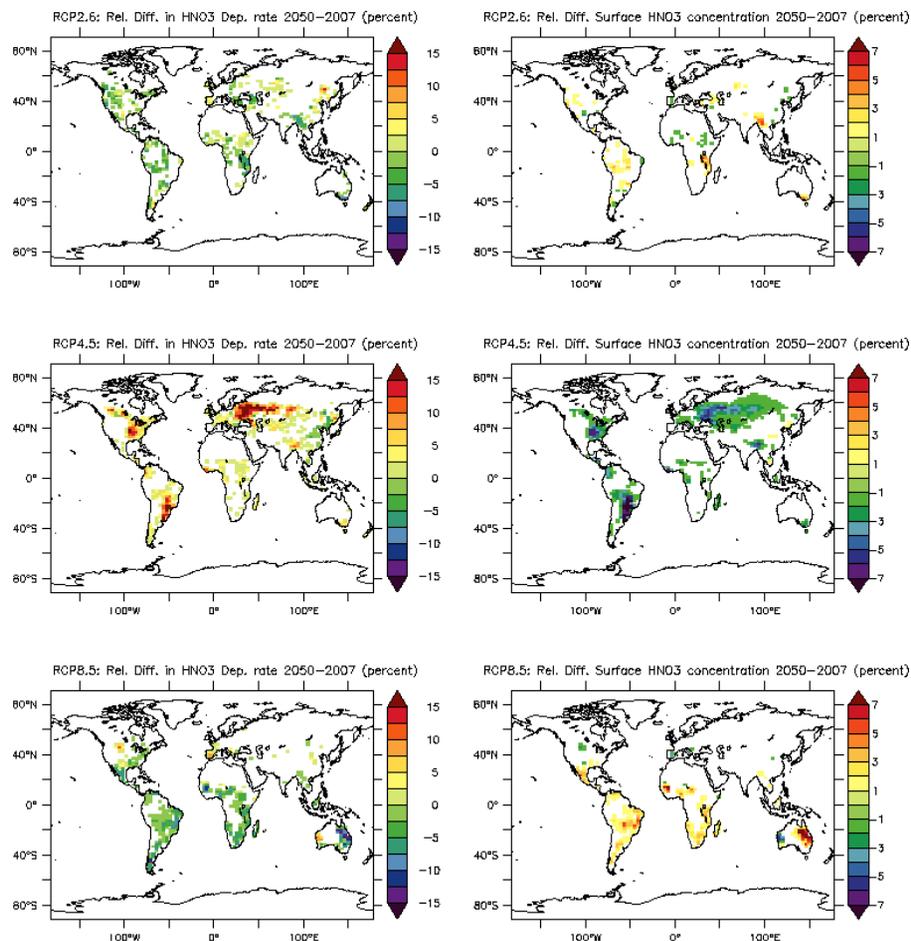
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Figure 6. Same as Fig. 5 for HNO_3 .

