

## Supplementary Information for

### Changing Arctic landscapes in a changing climate: thermokarst evolution in polygonal tundra

Ahmad Jan Khattak<sup>1\*</sup> and Alexandra Hamm<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NOAA Affiliate, Office of Water Prediction, National Water Center, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Physical Geography, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

<sup>3</sup>Bolin Centre for Climate Research, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

\*Correspondence: Ahmad Jan Khattak

Email: ajkhattak@gmail.com; ahmad.jan@noaa.gov

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**Table S1.** Study regions with corresponding latitude and longitude, mean annual air temperature (MAAT), mean annual ground temperature (MAGT), mean annual precipitation (MAP), and mean annual thaw depth (MATD). The sites are listed in the decreasing order of average MAGT and MAAT to illustrate the temperature gradient. This average takes into account the effect of snow as well, as MAGT is much greater than the MAAT due to the thermal effects of snow

| Site name         | Study region             | Latitude and longitude | MAAT (°C) | MAGT (°C) | (MAAT + MAGT)/2.0 (°C) | MAP (mm)<br>(Total, rain, snow) | MATD (cm) |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Fosheim peninsula | Eureka, Canada           | (80°0'N, 84°30'W)      | -16       | -10       | -13                    | 100, 60, 40                     | 60        |
| Samoylov          | Central Siberia, Russia  | (72°22'N, 126°28'E)    | -12       | -9        | -10.5                  | 200, 130, 70                    | 50        |
| Kolyma            | Eastern Siberia, Russia  | (68°55'N, 161°30'E)    | -11       | -8        | -9.5                   | 205, 105, 100                   | 85        |
| Barrow            | Northern Alaska (USA)    | (71°17'N, 156°47'W)    | -11       | -6        | -8.5                   | 380, 130, 250                   | 35        |
| Yamal Peninsula   | Western Siberia (Russia) | (71°5'N, 66°57'E)      | -6        | -5        | -5.5                   | 390, 220, 170                   | 110       |
| Adventdalen       | Svalbard (Norway)        | (78°10'N, 16°15' E)    | -4.7      | -3        | -3.8                   | 275, 140, 135                   | 100       |

**Table S2.** Parameters used in the dynamic subgrid model. Values for intermediate-centered polygons are linearly interpolated between low-centered polygons and high-centered polygons for subsidence values of 0 to 40 cm (see Fig. S14)

| Subgrid parameters<br>Polygon type | Microtopographic relief (cm) | Soil excluded volume (cm) | Depression depth (cm) | Drag exponent (-) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Low-centered polygons              | 36.0                         | 18.0                      | 15.0                  | 7.0               |
| High-centered polygons             | 42.0                         | 23.0                      | 5.0                   | 1.0               |

**Table S3.** Subsurface physical properties used in the study for the selected sites.  $S_{uf}$  and  $S_f$  refer to saturated unfrozen and frozen soil. Porosities for the excess-ice layer are presented in Table S4 and the literature/sources from where these values are extracted are provided in Table S6.

| Soil layer<br>Parameter                                 | Organic layer                            |                           | Mineral layer              |                           |                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
|                                                         | Barrow, Fosheim,<br>Kolyma, Adventdalen* | Yamal, Samoylov           | Barrow, Fosheim,<br>Kolyma | Yamal,<br>Samoylov        | Adventdalen          |
| Soil structure thickness                                | 0.15 m                                   | 0.15 m                    | 49.85 m                    | 49.85 m                   | 49.85                |
| Porosity [-]                                            | 0.87                                     | 0.95                      | 0.56                       | 0.55                      | 0.5                  |
| Intrinsic permeability [ $m^2$ ]                        | $9.38 \times 10^{-12}$                   | $4.2 \times 10^{-11}$     | $6.0 \times 10^{-13}$      | $9.9 \times 10^{-13}$     | $10^{-12}$           |
| Residual saturation                                     | 0.0                                      | 0.0                       | 0.2                        | 0.2                       | 0.0                  |
| van Genuchten alpha [ $Pa^{-1}$ ]                       | $5.1 \times 10^{-4}$                     | $1.0 \times 10^{-4}^{**}$ | $3.3 \times 10^{-4}$       | $6.3 \times 10^{-4}^{**}$ | $8.0 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| van Genuchten m [-]                                     | $1.9 \times 10^{-1}$                     | $9.0 \times 10^{-1}$      | $2.48 \times 10^{-1}$      | $2.3 \times 10^{-1}$      | $2.0 \times 10^{-1}$ |
| Thermal conductivity ( $S_{uf}$ ) [ $W m^{-1} K^{-1}$ ] | 0.75                                     | 0.72                      | 1.1                        | 1.1*                      | 1.7                  |
| Thermal conductivity ( $S_f$ ) [ $W m^{-1} K^{-1}$ ]    | 1.3                                      | 1.92                      | 1.5                        | 1.5*                      | 1.5*                 |
| Thermal conductivity (dry) [ $W m^{-1} K^{-1}$ ]        | 0.1                                      | 0.14                      | 0.3                        | 0.3*                      | 0.27                 |

\*Jan, Coon, and Painter (2020)

\*\*Ghanbarian-Alavijeh et al. (2010)

**Table S4.** Porosities at the top and bottom of the excess ice layer. Mean annual thaw depths (MATD) for all sites are provided in Table S1. Porosities are linearly interpolated between the top and bottom locations of the ice-wedge

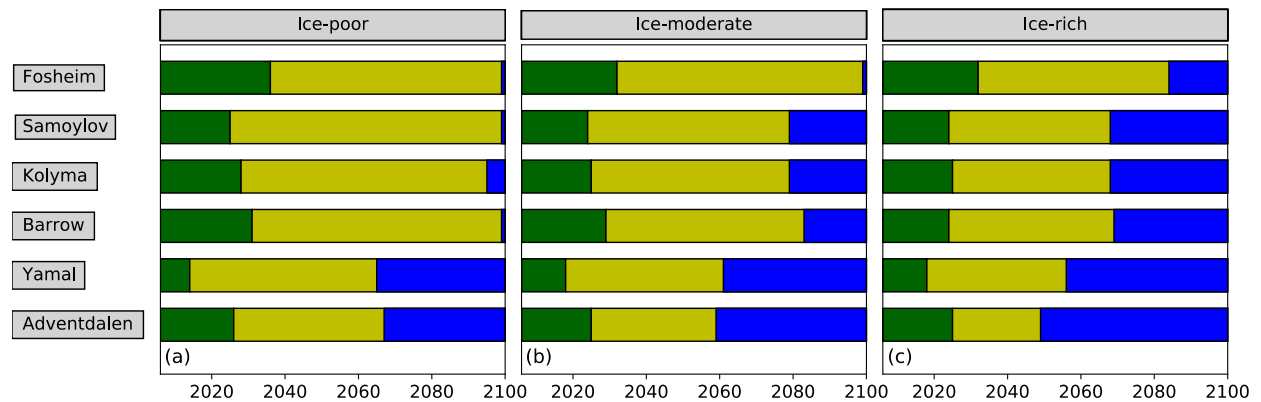
| Locations               | Depth                            | Ice-poor                      | Ice-moderate                   | Ice-rich                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Top of the ice-wedge    | About 5 cm below the MATD        | $\phi_{\text{mineral}} + 0.2$ | $\phi_{\text{mineral}} + 0.25$ | $\phi_{\text{mineral}} + 0.3$ |
| Bottom of the ice-wedge | About 3 m below the current MATD | $\phi_{\text{mineral}}$       | $\phi_{\text{mineral}}$        | $\phi_{\text{mineral}}$       |

**Table S5.** Overview of the literature. List of sources used in the study for the physical parameters, MAGT, and MATD

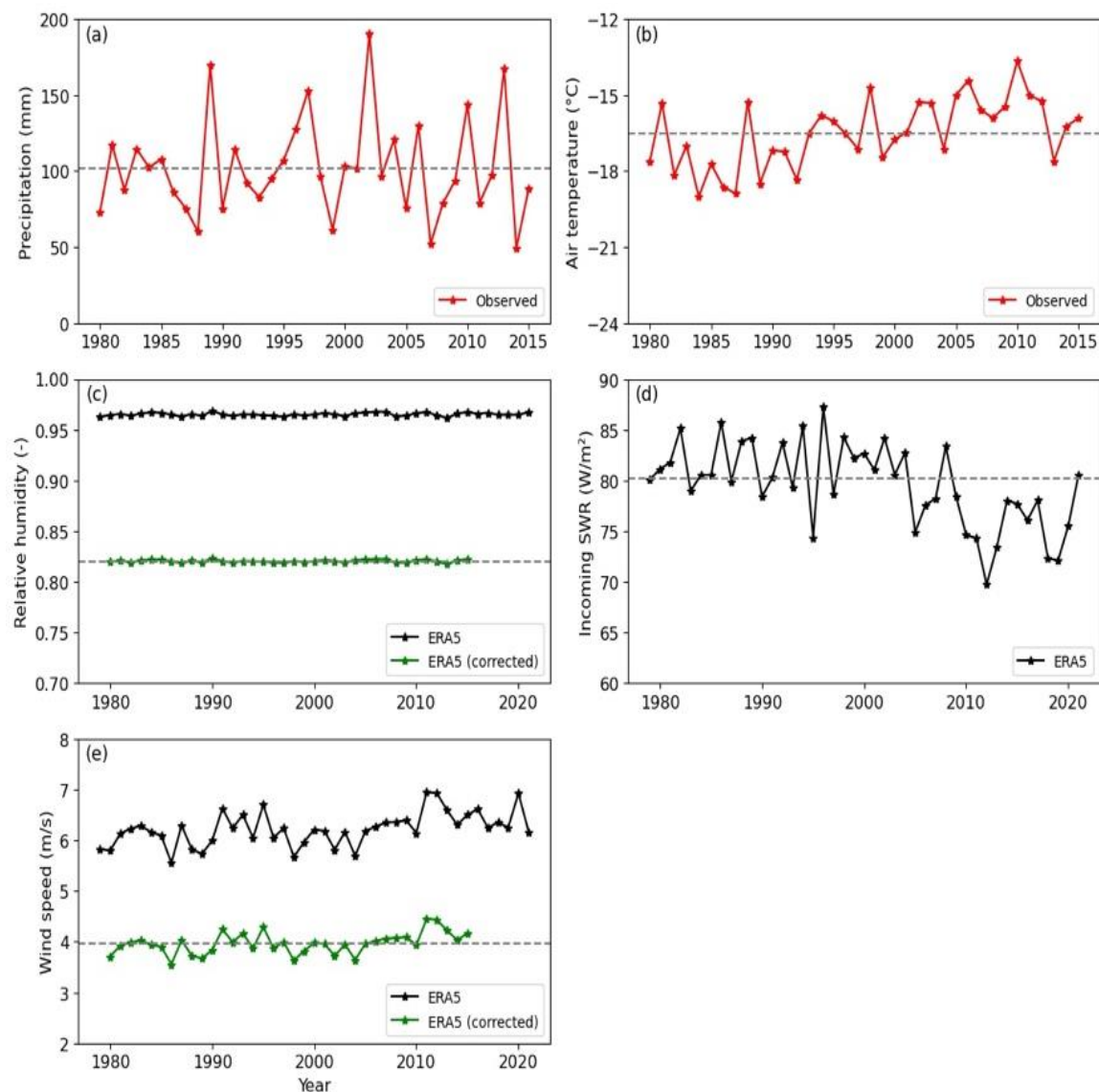
| Site name         | MAGT (°C)                                                                                                                    | MATD (cm)                                                   | Physical properties in the Table S4                                                           |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fosheim Peninsula | Pollard, Ward, and Becker (2015)                                                                                             | Nelson, Shiklomanov, and Nyland (2021)                      | Jan, Coon, and Painter (2020)                                                                 |
| Samoylov          | Boike et al. (2013); Liljedahl et al. (2016)                                                                                 | Nelson, Shiklomanov, and Nyland (2021); Boike et al. (2019) | Boike et al. (2019); (2013); Jan, Coon, and Painter (2020); Ghanbarian-Alavijeh et al. (2010) |
| Kolyma            | Obu et al. (2020); Liljedahl et al. (2016)                                                                                   | Nelson, Shiklomanov, and Nyland (2021)                      | Jan, Coon, and Painter 2020                                                                   |
| Barrow            | Romanovsky, Smith, and Christiansen (2010); Liljedahl et al. (2016)                                                          | Nelson, Shiklomanov, and Nyland (2021)                      | Jan, Coon, and Painter 2020                                                                   |
| Yamal Peninsula   | Melnikov et al. (2022) <a href="http://gtnpdatabase.org/boreholes/view/1057">http://gtnpdatabase.org/boreholes/view/1057</a> | Nelson, Shiklomanov, and Nyland (2021)                      | Boike et al. (2019); (2013); Jan, Coon, and Painter (2020); Ghanbarian-Alavijeh et al. (2010) |
| Adventdalen       | Hamm and Frampton (2021)                                                                                                     | Nelson, Shiklomanov, and Nyland (2021)                      | Hamm and Frampton (2021); Tavakoli et al. (2021); Jan, Coon, and Painter (2020)               |

**Table S6.** Literature summary. List of sources of the observed meteorological data. Dash indicates observed data was unavailable

| Site name         | MAAT                                                                                                                                                                          | MAP                                                                                                                                                                           | RH                                                                                                              | WS                                                                                                              | ISWR                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fosheim Peninsula | <a href="https://climate.weather.gc.ca/">https://climate.weather.gc.ca/</a> (station ID 1750)                                                                                 | <a href="https://climate.weather.gc.ca/">https://climate.weather.gc.ca/</a> (station ID 1750)                                                                                 | (Lesins, Duck, and Drummond 2010)                                                                               | (Lesins, Duck, and Drummond 2010)                                                                               | -                                                                                                               |
| Samoylov          | (Boike et al. 2019b)                                                                                                                                                          | (Boike et al. 2019b)                                                                                                                                                          | (Boike et al. 2019b)                                                                                            | (Boike et al. 2019b)                                                                                            | (Boike et al. 2019b)                                                                                            |
| Kolyma            | <a href="http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov">www.ncdc.noaa.gov</a><br>(Station ID 251230)                                                                                               | (Veremeeva et al. 2021)                                                                                                                                                       | -                                                                                                               | -                                                                                                               | -                                                                                                               |
| Barrow            | Jan, Coon, and Painter (2019)                                                                                                                                                 | Jan, Coon, and Painter (2019)                                                                                                                                                 | Jan, Coon, and Painter (2019)                                                                                   | Jan, Coon, and Painter (2019)                                                                                   | Jan, Coon, and Painter (2019)                                                                                   |
| Yamal Peninsula   | <a href="https://www2.gwu.edu/~calm/data/CALM_Data/Russia/West%20Siberia/r03_marre_sale/">https://www2.gwu.edu/~calm/data/CALM_Data/Russia/West%20Siberia/r03_marre_sale/</a> | <a href="https://www2.gwu.edu/~calm/data/CALM_Data/Russia/West%20Siberia/r03_marre_sale/">https://www2.gwu.edu/~calm/data/CALM_Data/Russia/West%20Siberia/r03_marre_sale/</a> | -                                                                                                               | -                                                                                                               | -                                                                                                               |
| Adventdalen       | <a href="https://www.unis.no/facilities/weather-stations/">https://www.unis.no/facilities/weather-stations/</a>                                                               | <a href="https://www.unis.no/facilities/weather-stations/">https://www.unis.no/facilities/weather-stations/</a>                                                               | <a href="https://www.unis.no/facilities/weather-stations/">https://www.unis.no/facilities/weather-stations/</a> | <a href="https://www.unis.no/facilities/weather-stations/">https://www.unis.no/facilities/weather-stations/</a> | <a href="https://www.unis.no/facilities/weather-stations/">https://www.unis.no/facilities/weather-stations/</a> |

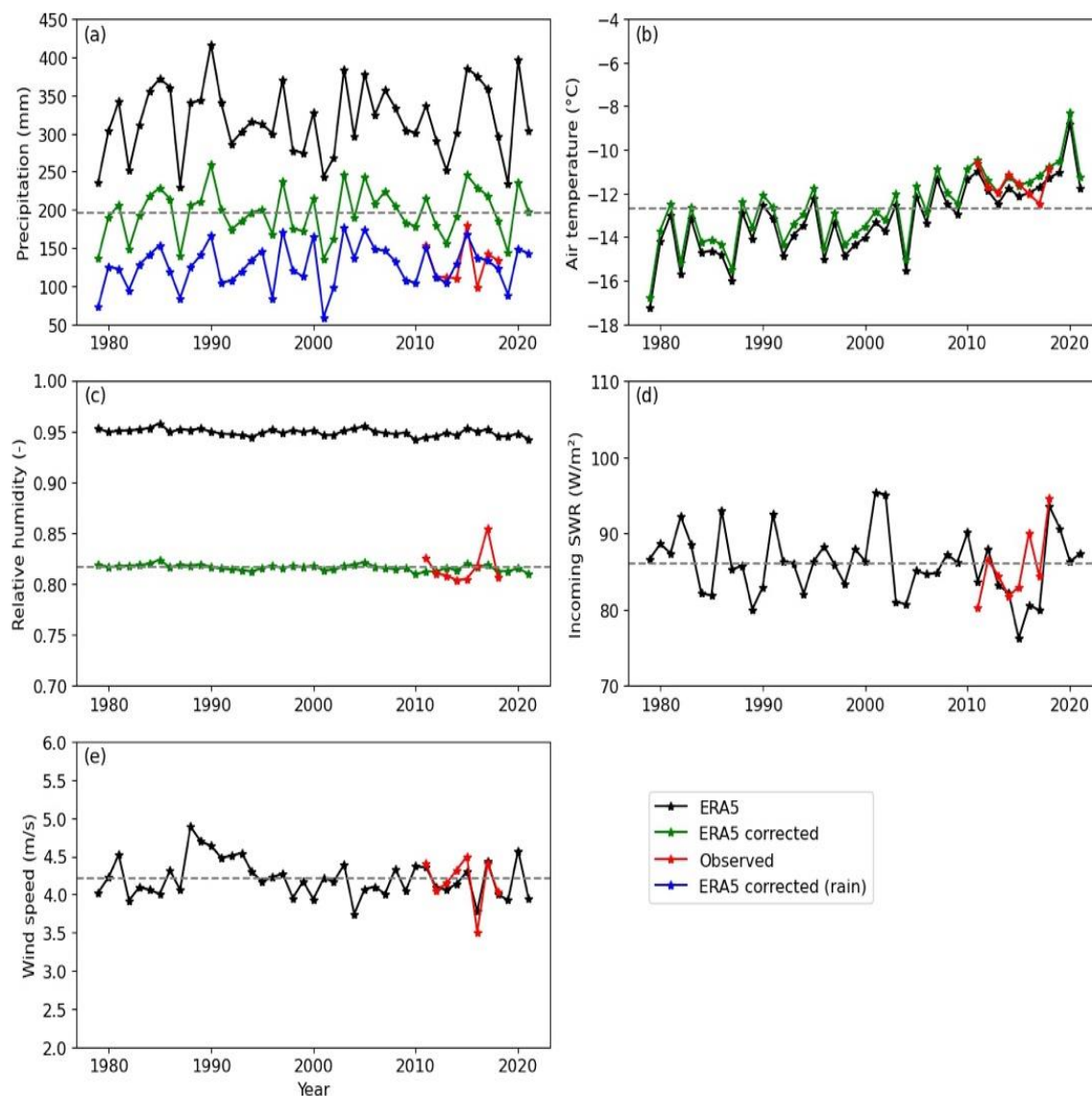


**Figure S1.** Evolution of the polygonal tundra landscapes, with initially undegraded state, under variations in the ground ice. (a) ice-poor landscapes, (b) ice-moderate landscapes, and (c) ice-rich landscapes. The colors indicate the state of the landscape: low-centered polygons (green), transitional polygons (yellow), and high-centered polygons (blue). Rows correspond to different sites. The polygon turnover time (yellow) decreases from top to bottom (colder to warmer permafrost conditions) and from left to right (ice-poor to ice-rich landscapes).

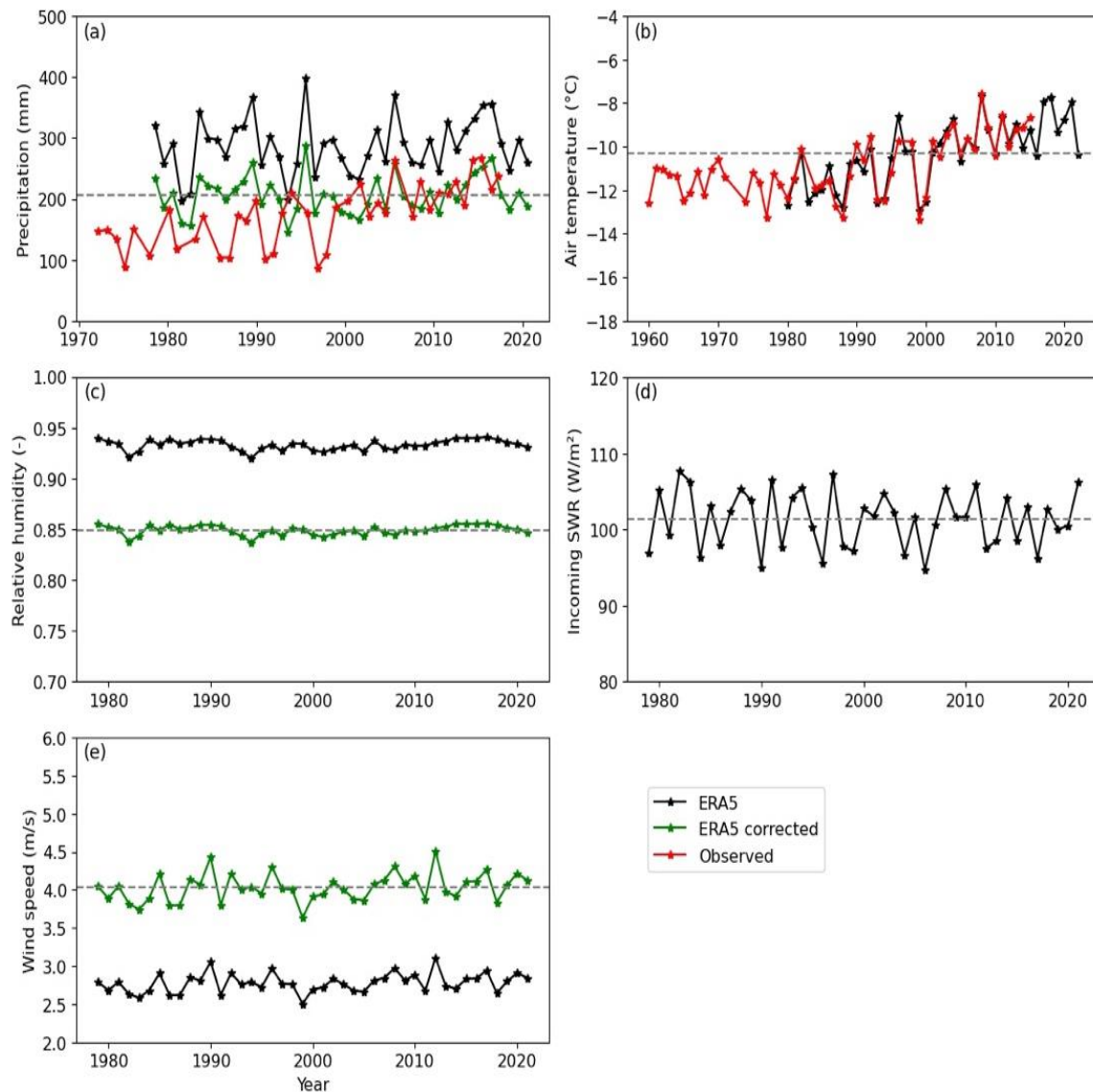


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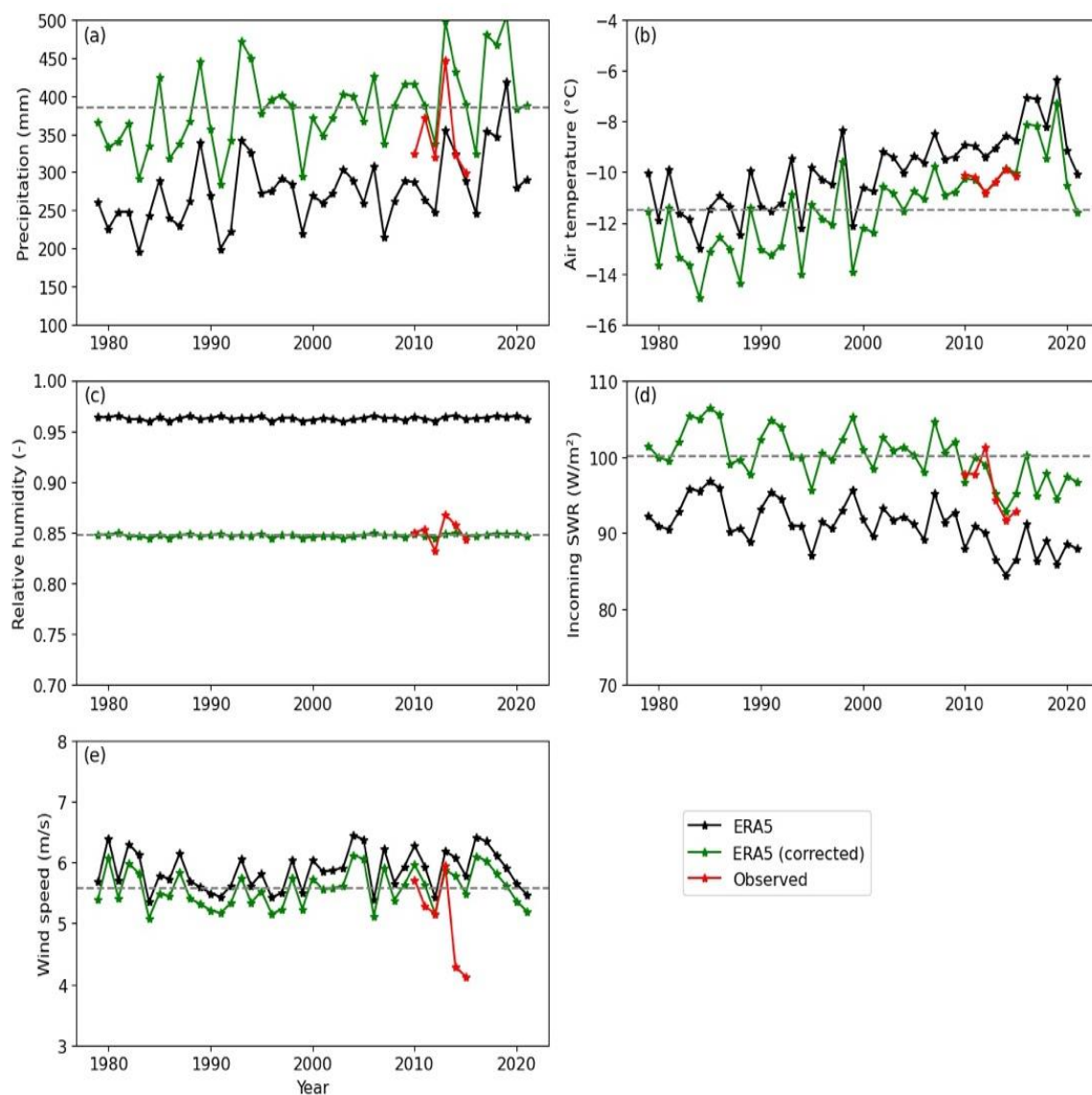




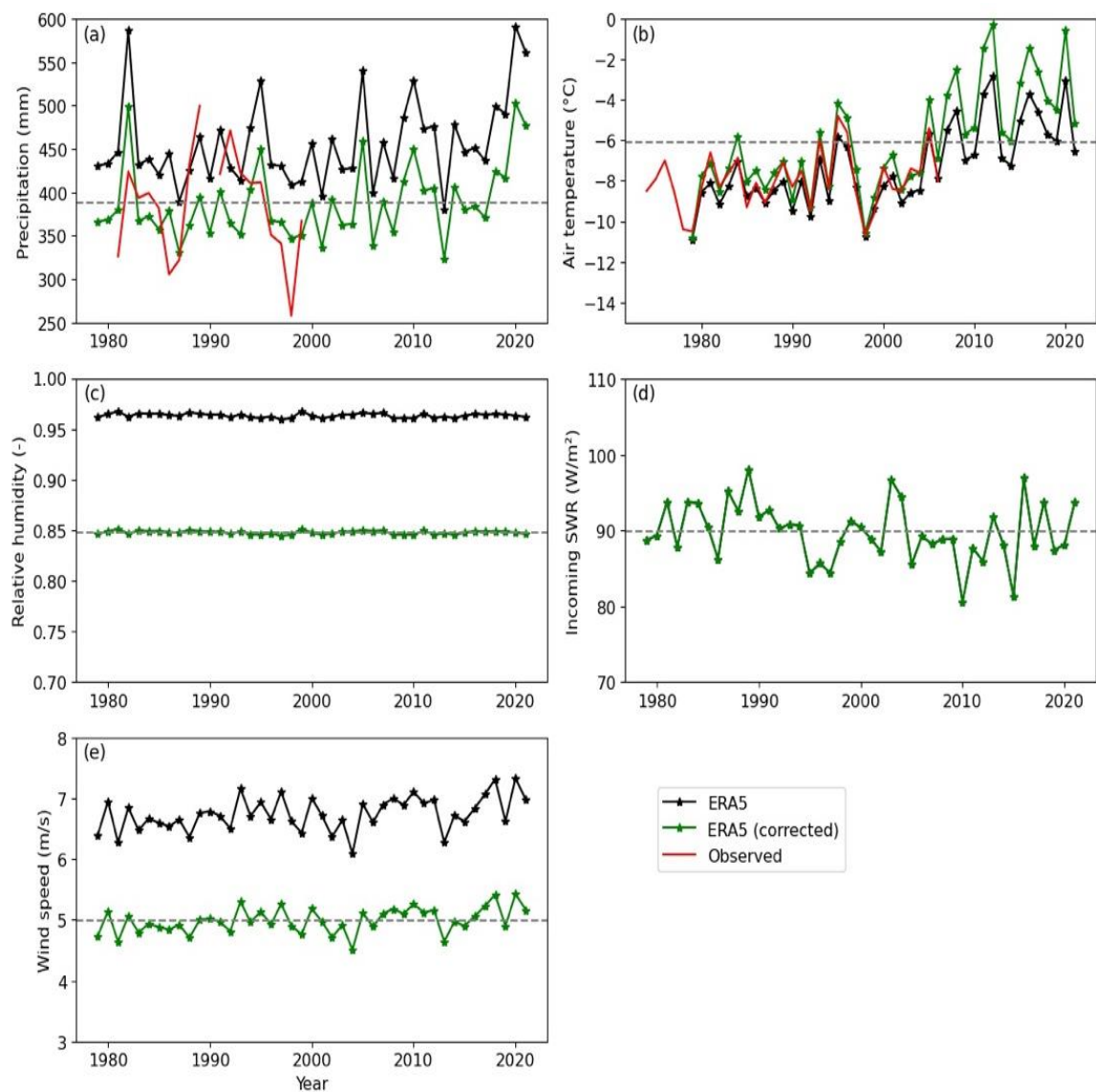
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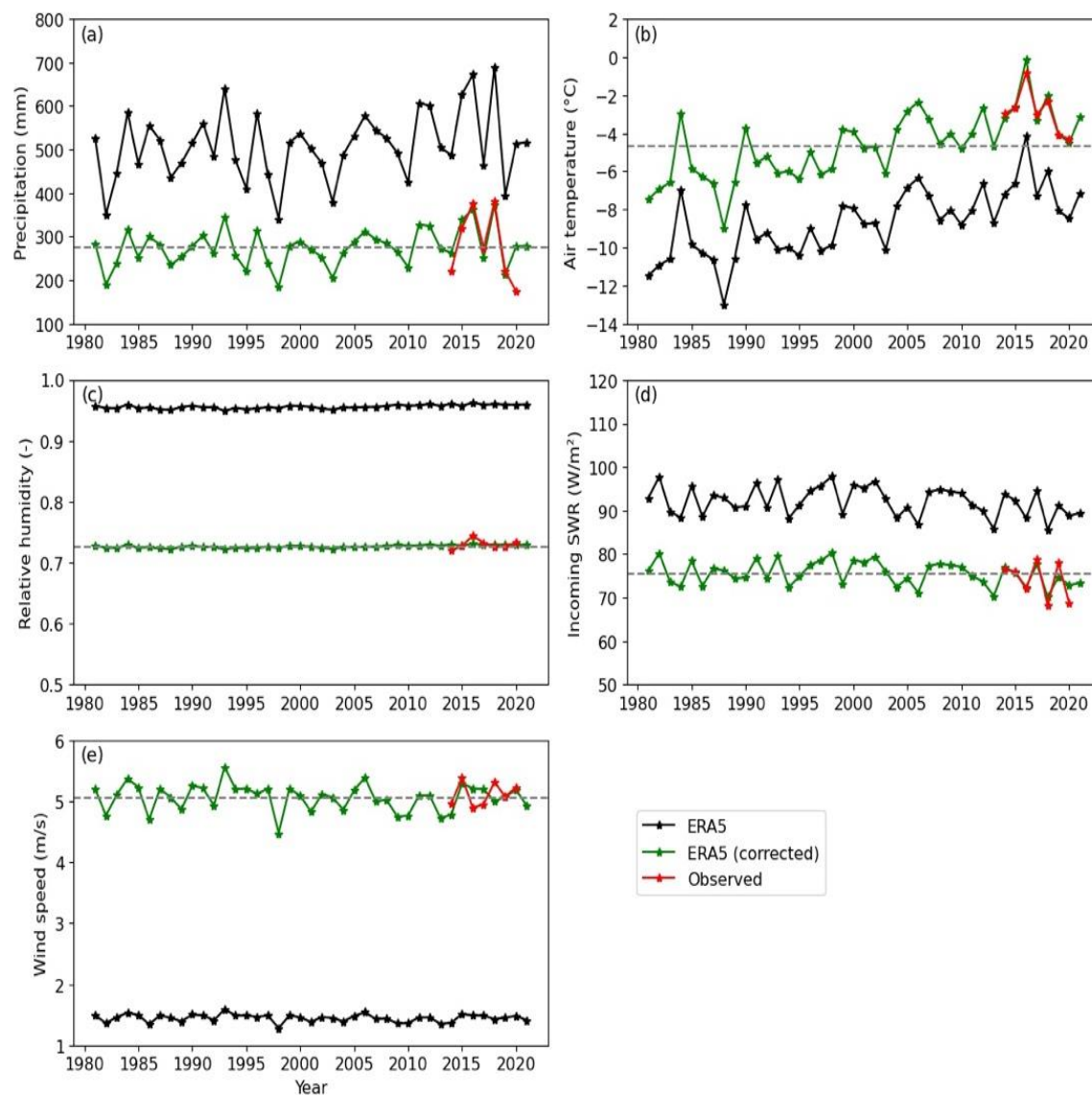
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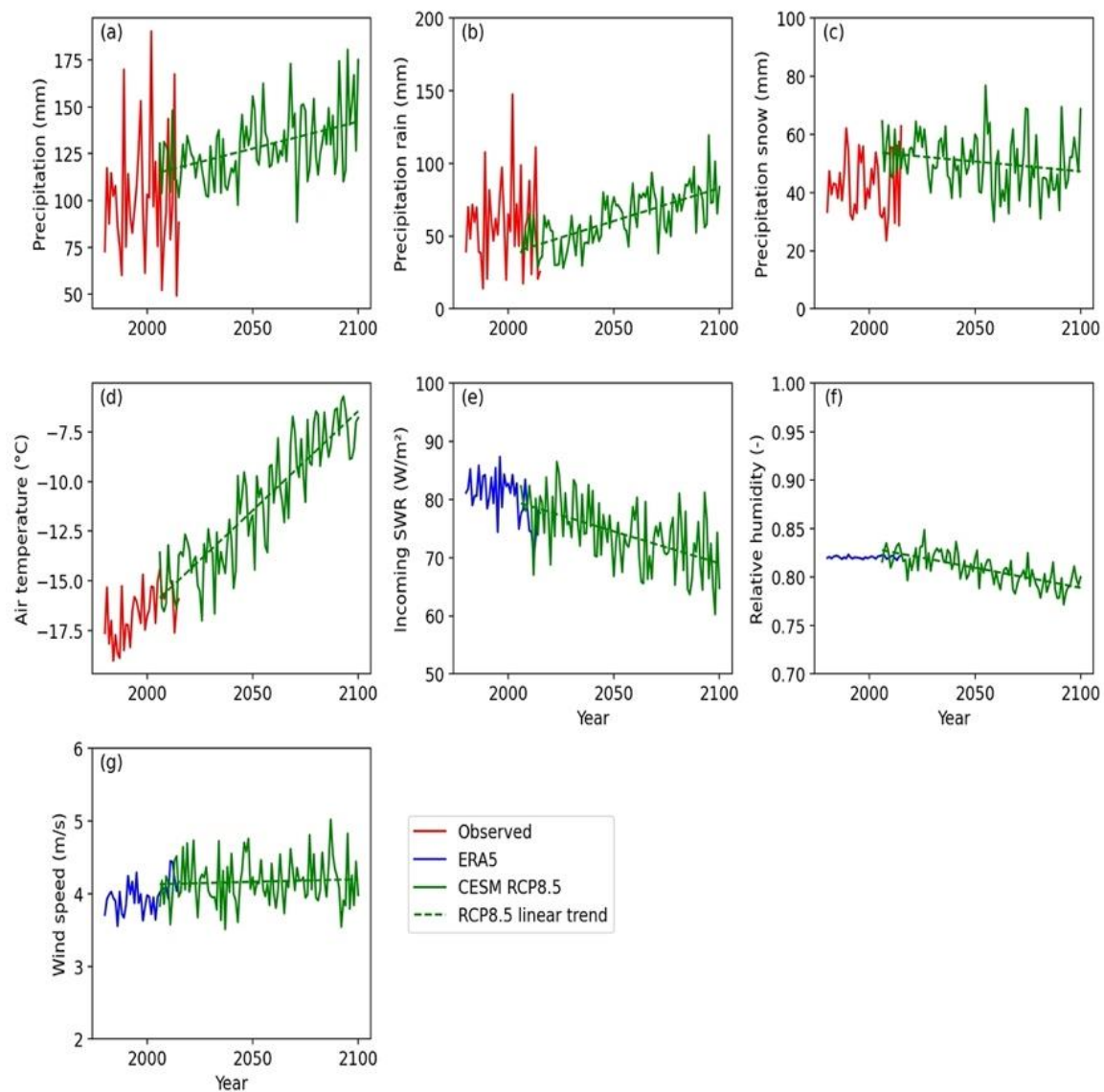
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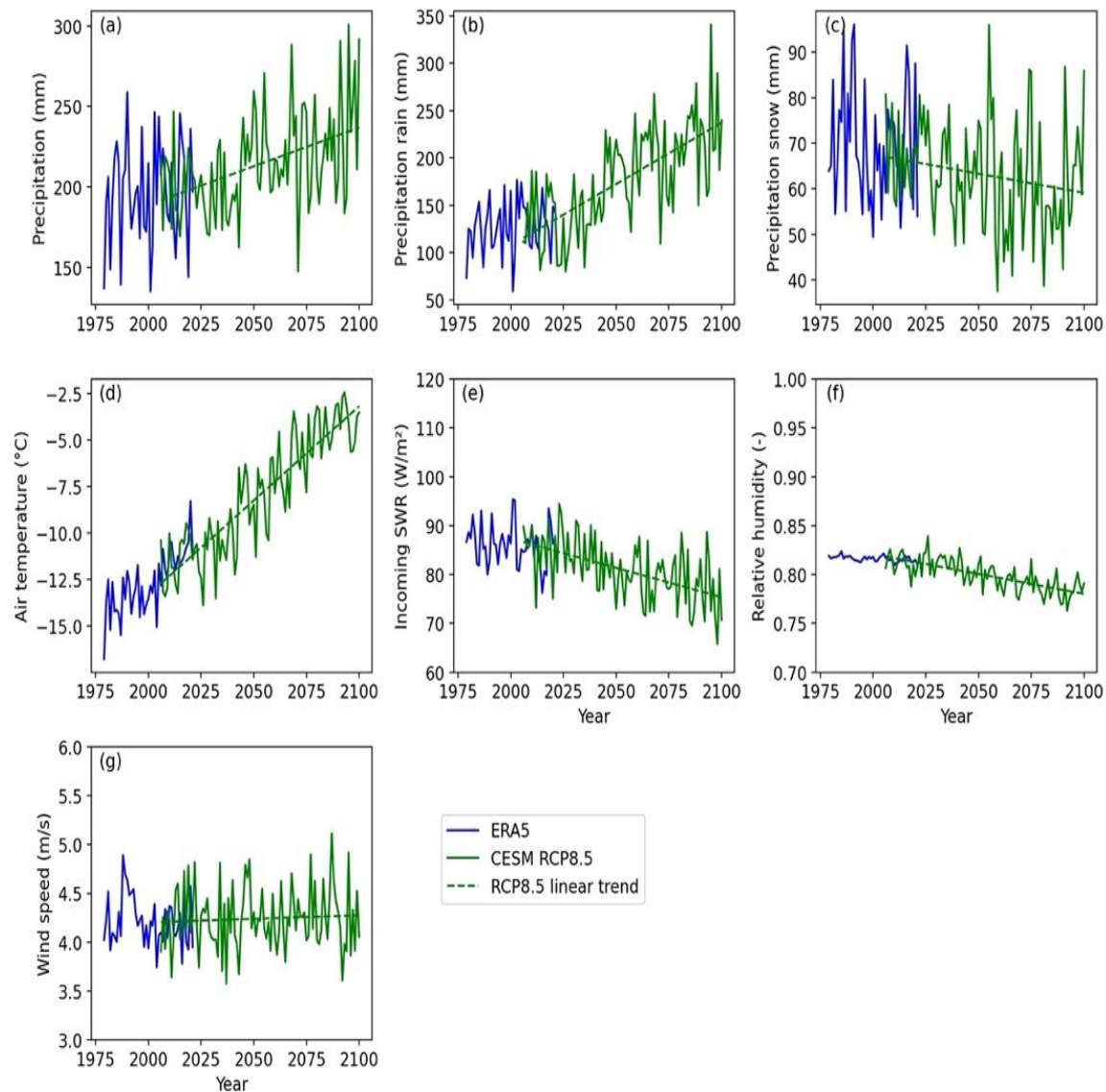


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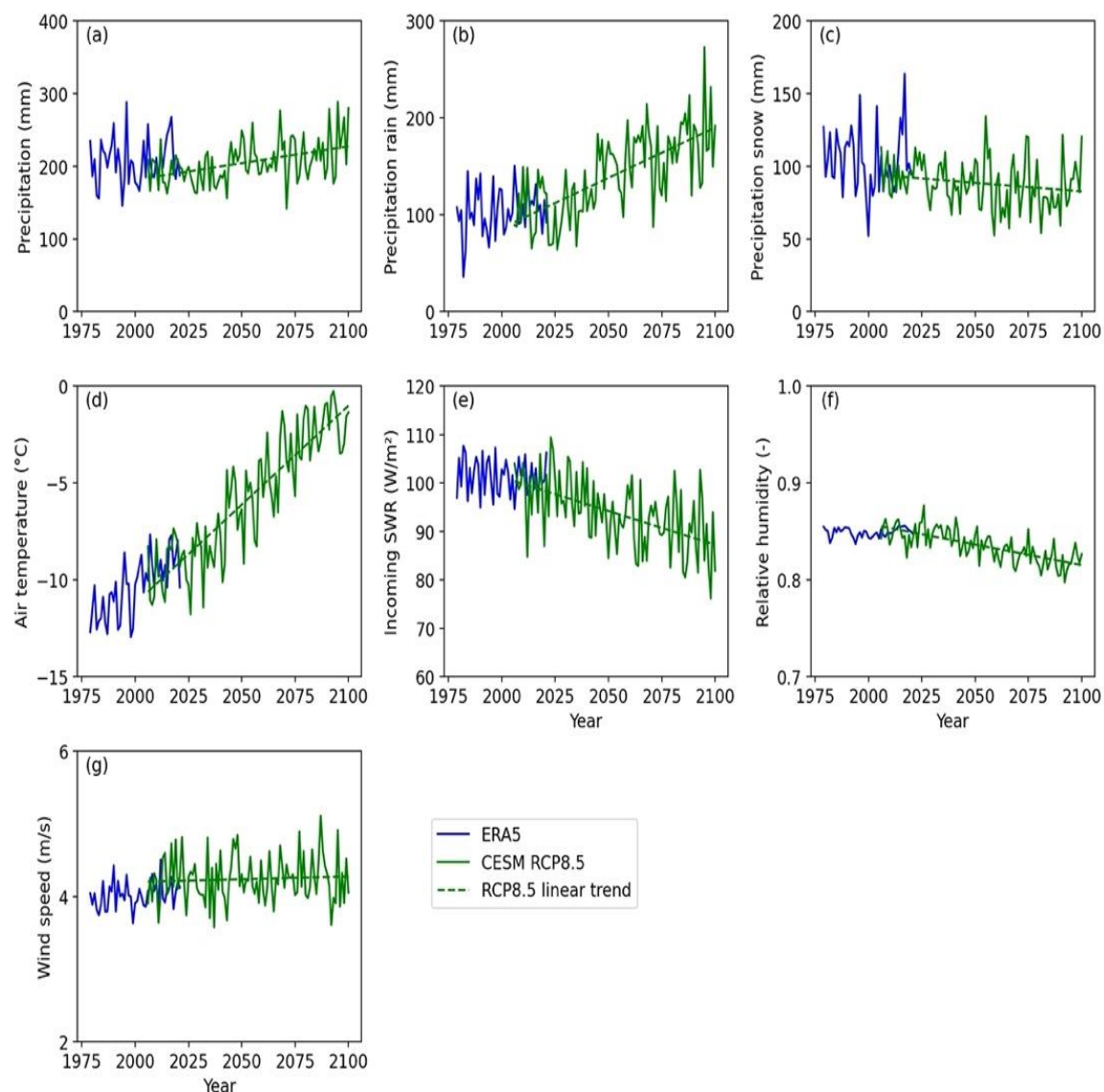


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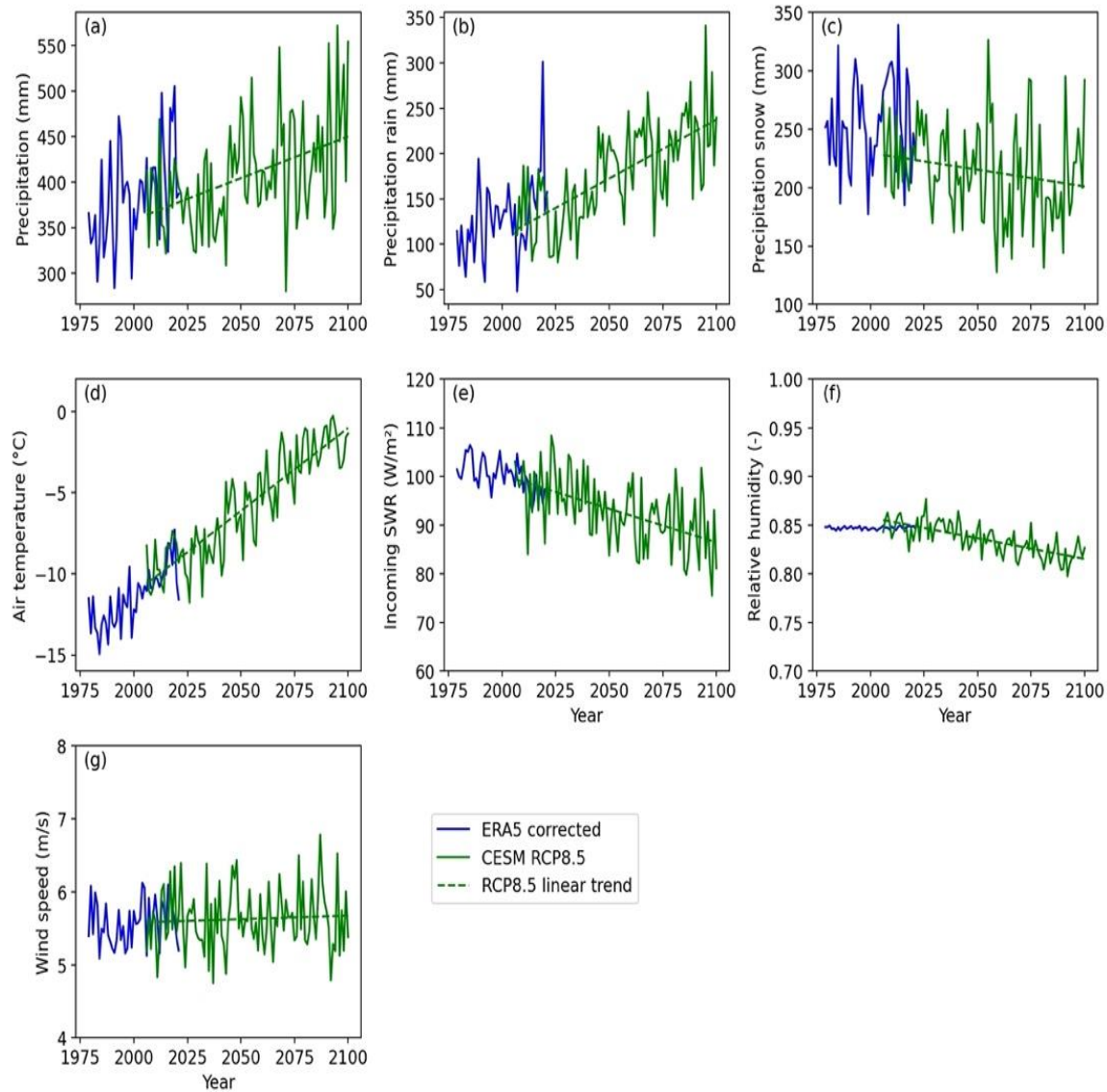


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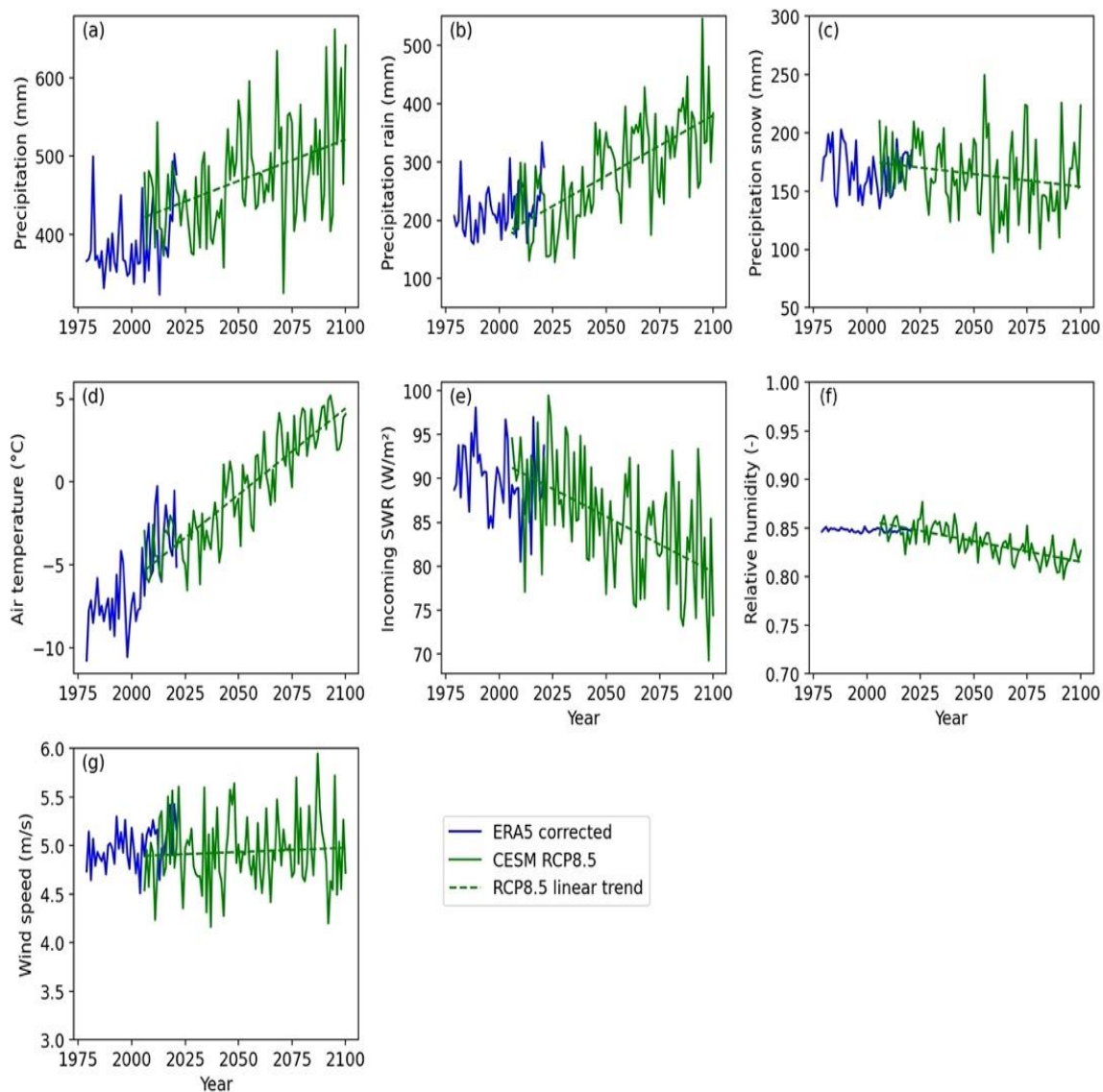


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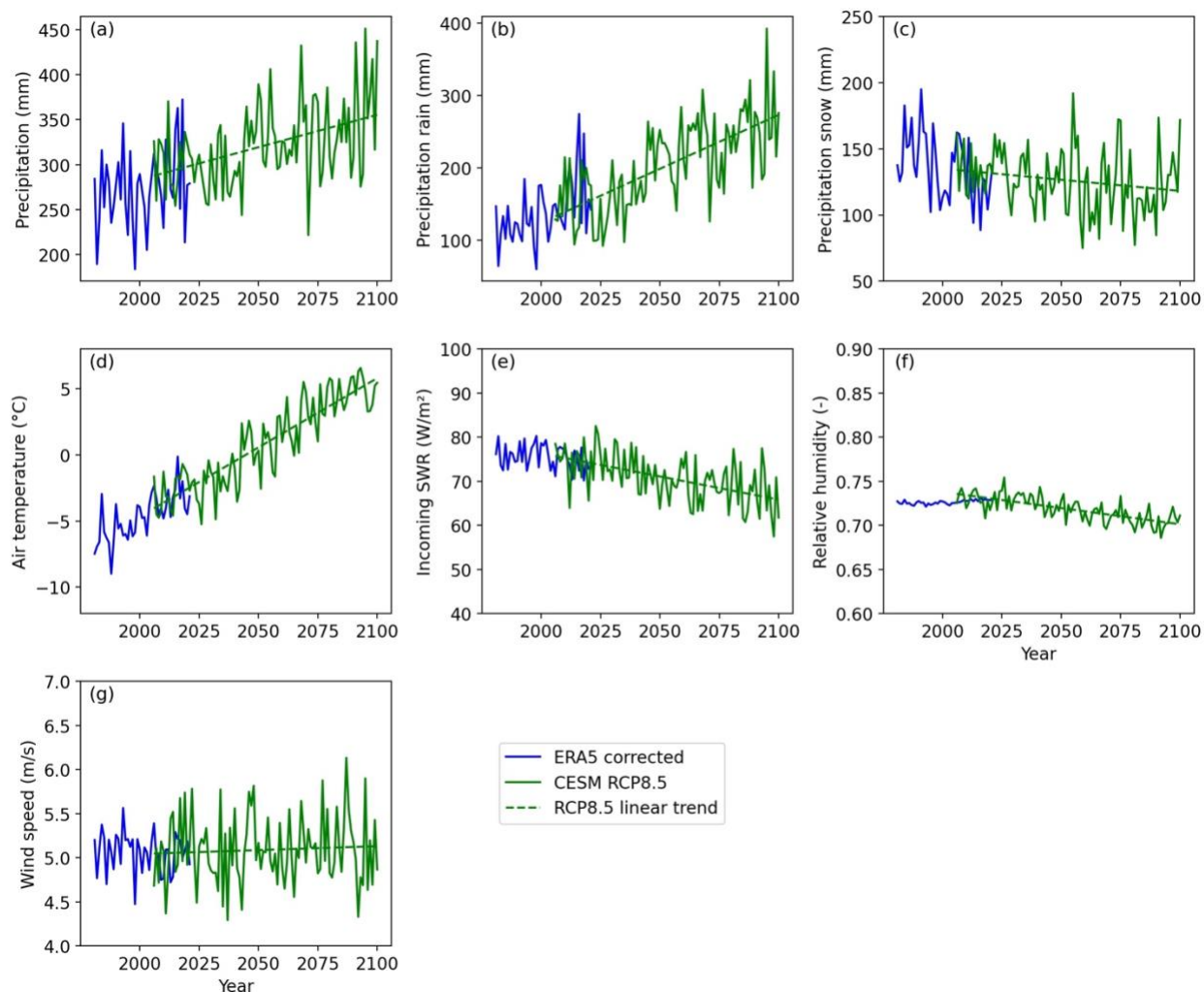




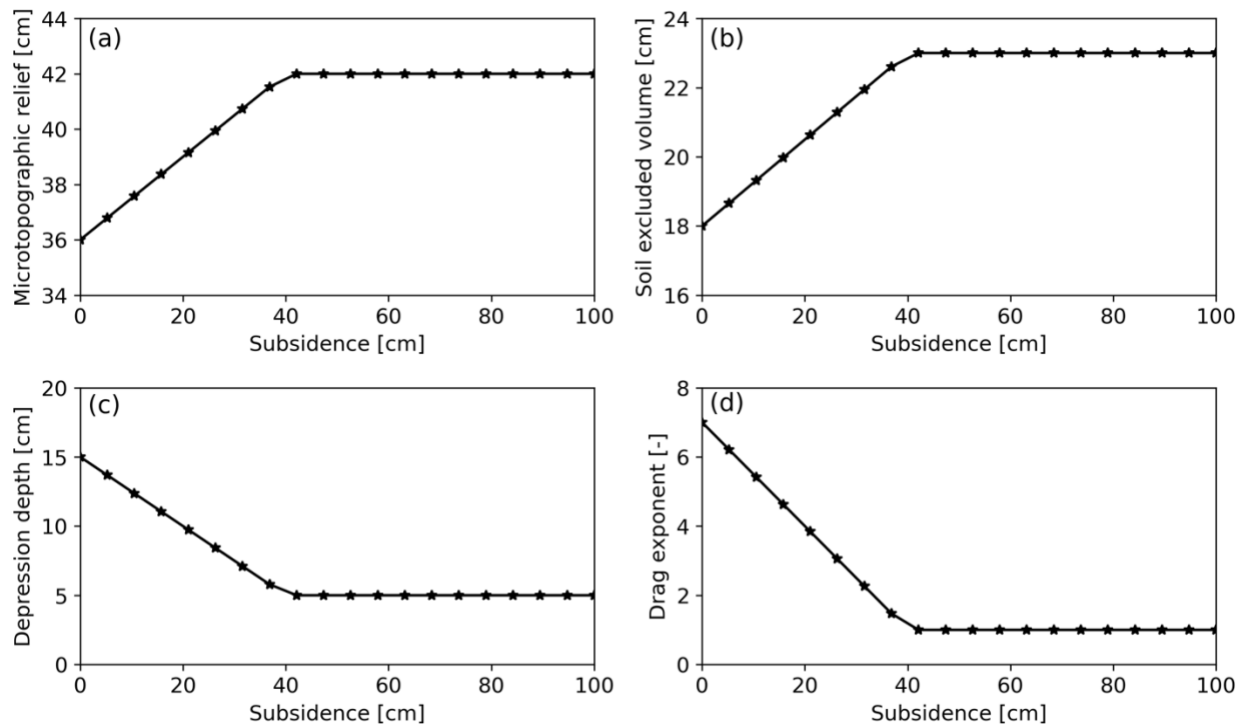
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- Boike, Julia, Britta Kattenstroth, Katya Abramova, Niko Bornemann, Antonina Chetverova, Irina Fedorova, Katrin Fröb, Mikhail Grigoriev, Maren Grüber, and Lars Kutzbach. 2013. "Baseline Characteristics of Climate, Permafrost and Land Cover from a New Permafrost Observatory in the Lena River Delta, Siberia (1998–2011)." *Biogeosciences* 10 (3): 2105–28.
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