# Model Estimates for Contribution of Natural and Anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> Emissions into the Atmosphere from the Territory of Russia, China, Canada, and the USA to Global Climate Change in the 21st Century

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Received June 17, 2022 Revised July 12, 2022 Accepted July 14, 2022

Abstract—Model estimates of the contribution of anthropogenic and natural fluxes of greenhouse gases from the territories of different countries to global climate change in the 21st century under different scenarios of anthropogenic forcing were obtained. Quantitative estimates were made for the effect of changes in regional climatic conditions on the intensity of the greenhouse gas exchange between the atmosphere and natural ecosystems over different time horizons in comparison with anthropogenic emissions. For Russia, China, Canada, and the United States, the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake by natural ecosystems in the second half of the 21st century decreases under all scenarios of anthropogenic forcing, with a weakening of the corresponding climate-stabilizing effect. At the same time, the methane emission to the atmosphere by wetlands in the analyzed regions increases significantly in the 21st century according to the model estimates. As a consequence, the cumulative effect of natural fluxes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere for some regions may accelerate the warming.

DOI: 10.3103/S1068373922100028

*Keywords:* Carbon cycle, greenhouse gas emission, regional modeling, climate modeling, IAP RAS climate model

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The detailed and comprehensive analysis of changes in the carbon cycle in the terrestrial climate system and their effects on climate requires an adequate consideration of the carbon balance of forests, wetlands, and other natural ecosystems [1, 16, 18]. This is especially relevant in connection with the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015) concerning the problems of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and related adaptation at the national level [9, 10].

Different parameters can be used to quantify relative and absolute contributions of emissions of different greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, as well as emissions from different regions, countries, or separate sources to climate change. They are used for evaluating various factors (for example, physical ones, such as a change in temperature or sea level) over different time horizons. The climatic effect of emissions can be assessed for a specific moment or integrated over a given time interval. The most common parameters are based on the estimate of radiative forcing [8, 34], which is used for comparing the contribution of different factors affecting the Earth's radiation budget to the change in global mean surface air temperature.

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The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement use the 100-year global warming potential (GWP) calculated as integral radiative forcing over the 100-year time horizon to determine the relative contribution of anthropogenic emissions of different greenhouse gases. At the same time, the goals of the climate policy are usually formulated as some specified temperature thresholds, the exceeding of which should be avoided: for example, the limit of the global temperature rise equal to 2 or 1.5 C as stated in the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 C. Such goals require the knowledge of climate sensitivity to a single radiative forcing [35]. The global temperature change potential (GTP) is the most frequently used alternative metric [33, 34]. The GTP indicates changes in global surface air temperature over a specified time period after an emission pulse of a given gas relative to the changes resulting from a similar emission of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and, thus, takes into account the climate response along with the radiative efficiency and lifetime of the gas in the atmosphere. Such approach is much more consistent with the current goals of climatic agreements.

The present paper provides the estimates of anthropogenic and natural fluxes of carbon dioxide and methane  $(CH_4)$  for different Northern Hemisphere regions in the 21st century under different scenarios of anthropogenic forcing and their contributions to global warming.

## 2. THE MODEL AND NUMERICAL EXPERIMENTS

The climate model developed by the Obukhov Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IAP RAS) was used [11–13]. It is a global climate model of intermediate complexity [17, 21, 26, 40]. The peculiarity of the model is that the large-scale dynamics of the atmosphere and ocean (with a scale exceeding synoptic one) is described explicitly, while synoptic processes are parameterized. The latter considerably reduces the time needed to perform numerical experiments. The model contains the module carbon cycle, in particular, the methane cycle that takes into account atmospheric emissions and absorption of  $CO_2$  and  $CH_4$  by different natural ecosystems [3, 4], including wetlands [7, 14]. The  $CO_2$ emission to the atmosphere due to wildfires and deforestation [23] and the influence of different land use scenarios [22] are considered. Climate models with an interactive carbon cycle module are called the Earth system models.

The IAP RAS climate model version used in the present study has a spatial resolution of 4.5 in latitude and 6 in longitude and an integration step of 5 days. Natural  $CO_2$  fluxes between the atmosphere and ground pools are parameterized using the temperature and humidity calculated in the model taking into account the dynamics of carbon stocks in plants and soil. Other necessary parameters are either specified as constant or vary according to scenarios. Methane emissions from wet ecosystems are interactively computed in the model and depend on the temperature and carbon content in soil. The portions of the area of model cells occupied by wetlands are specified using the time-independent mask. Other methane emissions of the natural origin are comparatively small and are specified constant.

The atmospheric module of the IAP RAS climate model does not imply a scheme of photochemical transformations of the components. Global concentrations of  $CO_2$  and  $CH_4$  in it are determined by the balance equations with a time step of 1 year. At the same time, the  $CO_2$  balance is determined by annual total fluxes between the atmosphere and ground pools, by anthropogenic emissions, as well as by the exchange with the ocean depending on the global mean sea surface temperature. The concentration of  $CH_4$  in the atmosphere is determined by total natural and anthropogenic emissions and a typical lifetime of a methane molecule. More than 90% of methane contained in the troposphere is removed by chemical reactions (mainly by the oxidation by the OH radical). In [5], the numerical simulations with the IAP RAS climate model were performed for different dependences of the methane lifetime in the atmosphere on temperature. The methane lifetime related to OH was parameterized using the coefficients of sensitivity to air temperature,  $CH_4$  concentration in the atmosphere, emissions from fires, and scenarios of anthropogenic emissions of CO,  $NO_x$ , and volatile organic compounds (VOC) [25]:

$$_{\text{DH}}(t) \quad _{0} \quad 1 \quad _{i} \quad s_{i} \quad \frac{F_{i}(t) - F_{0,i}}{F_{0,i}} \tag{1}$$

where  $_{0} = 11.2$  years;  $s_i$  is the sensitivity coefficients (see Table 1);  $F_i$  is the values of the respective parameters ( $F_{0, i}$  is their values in 2000).

The IAP RAS model was used to hold numerical experiments for the period of 1850–2100 under different scenarios of anthropogenic forcing with a change in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmo-

Table 1. T	The sensitivity	coefficients f	for equation (	(1) [24]

i	Parameter	$S_i$							
Chemical and climatic effects									
1	Global temperature	-3.00							
2	Emission from fires	0.02							
3	Concentration of CH <sub>4</sub>	0.31							
Anthropogenic emissions									
4	NO <sub>x</sub>	-0.14							
5	CO	0.06							
6	VOC	0.04							

sphere, tropospheric and stratospheric volcanic aerosols, total solar radiation, and area of agricultural lands. For the period of 1850–2005, these forcings were specified in accordance to the CMIP5 Historical Simulations protocol (http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web-apps/tnt/RcpDb). For the period of 2006–2100, anthropogenic forcings were specified in accordance to the RCP 2.6, 4.5, 6.0, and 8.5 scenarios [2, 4].

The cumulative effect of anthropogenic and natural fluxes of  $CO_2$  and  $CH_4$  on the change in surface temperature since 1990 was evaluated using the cumulative temperature potential CT based on GTP, which was modified for considering changing background conditions.

## 3. CUMULATIVE TEMPERATURE POTENTIAL

The global temperature potential of gas x is the ratio of its absolute potential to that of CO<sub>2</sub>:

$$\operatorname{GTP}_{x}(H) \quad \frac{P_{x}^{(a)}}{P_{\operatorname{CO}_{x}}^{(a)}} \tag{2}$$

where the absolute potential of the global temperature change  $P^{(a)}$  is the change in the global mean surface temperature at the time moment t = H in response to the emission pulse of 1 kg of gas x at the time moment t = 0. It is usually written as the convolution of radiative forcing with the core of the climatic response  $R_T$ :

$$P_x^{(a)}(H) = \bigwedge_{0}^{H} RF_x(t)R_T(H-t)dt$$
(3)

where  $RF_x$  is the radiative forcing caused by the emission pulse of gas x;  $R_T$  is the climatic response shifted in time (until the considered time horizon).

The expression for calculating  $RF_x(t)$  can be written as the product of the radiative efficiency of gas x  $(A_x)$  by the function of the pulse response of its concentration to the emission at the time moment t = 0  $(IRF_x(t))$ . It should be noted that both  $A_x$  and  $IRF_x$  and, hence,  $P^{(a)}$  are determined for the gas emission pulse under constant background conditions, while it is necessary to evaluate the impact of emission scenarios in changing conditions in the 21st century.

For changing background conditions,  $P^{(a)}$  can be rewritten as the sum of integrals for every year:

$$P_{x}^{(a)*}(T_{0}, T_{H}) = \frac{T_{H}}{k} \frac{k}{T_{0}} RF_{x,k}(t)R_{T}(T_{H}, T_{0}, t)dt$$
(4)

where  $T_0$  is the year of emission;  $T_H = T_0 + H$ . The value of  $RF_{x,k}$  can be calculated assuming that all necessary parameters are constant for each specific year k but can vary from year to year.

For continuous emissions that started at the time moment  $T_0$ , the total effect from the source of gas x specified by the emission scenario  $E_x(t)$  at the time moment  $T_H$  can be written as the cumulative temperature potential:

$$CT_{x}(T_{0}, T_{H}) \int_{t=T_{0}}^{T_{H}-1} E_{x}(t) P_{x}^{(a)*}(t, T_{H}).$$
(5)

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**Fig. 1.** The absolute potential of global surface air temperature change  $P^{(a)}$  (the dotted line) and  $P^{(a)*}$  (the solid lines) for the horizon [1990;  $T_{H}$ ] for (a) the CO<sub>2</sub> emission pulse and (b) methane, as well as (c) corresponding relative potentials (GTP) of methane.

Figure 1a presents the values of the absolute potentials  $P^{(a)}$  and  $P^{(a)*}$  of carbon dioxide for the time period from 1990 to the year of  $T_H$  (hereinafter, [1990;  $T_H$ ]), which were obtained as a result of model experiments with the IAP RAS climate model. As mentioned above, RF for  $P^{(a)}$  is calculated assuming that background conditions at the time moment  $T_0$  remain unchangeable throughout the interval  $[T_0; T_H]$ , while for  $P^{(a)*}$ , the changes in RF resulting from changes in background conditions are taken into account. Therefore, for the time periods exceeding 10–15 years,  $P^{(a)*}$  and  $P^{(a)}$  can differ significantly. For the most aggressive anthropogenic scenario RCP 8.5 (with the greatest change in background conditions),  $P^{(a)}$  is more than twice higher than  $P^{(a)*}$  for CO<sub>2</sub> released in 1990 over the 100-year time horizon.

The potentials  $P^{(a)}$  and  $P^{(a)*}$  for methane calculated for the interval [1990;  $T_H$ ] (Fig. 1b) differ much smaller for all analyzed scenarios. For RCP 8.5, the maximum discrepancy reaches 20% for the time horizon of about 80 years and does not exceed 6% for the other scenarios. Nevertheless, if  $P^{(a)}$  is substituted by  $P^{(a)*}$  when calculating the relative potential of the global temperature change (GTP) for methane (Fig. 1c), its values for greater time intervals can be 2–2.5 times higher. For example, GTP for methane emitted in 1990 over the 100-year time horizon computed using  $P^{(a)}$  is equal to 4.1 (which corresponds to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report), and taking into account changes in background conditions, it can be equal to 5–10 depending on the anthropogenic forcing scenario (Fig. 1c).

Figure 2a demonstrates the values of the absolute potentials  $P^{(a)}$  and  $P^{(a)*}$  for CO<sub>2</sub> on the 20-year interval. The absolute potential of CO<sub>2</sub> under all scenarios except RCP 2.6 decreases during the 21st century, its value for the most aggressive RCP 8.5 scenario decreases more than twice. This is associated with an increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Under the RCP 2.6 scenario, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere in the



**Fig. 2.** The absolute potential of global surface air temperature change on the 20-year interval for the emission pulses of (a)  $CO_2$  and (b)  $CH_4$  at the time moment  $T_0$  under changing background conditions (the solid lines) and constant (the dotted lines) background conditions fixed at the moment of emission, as well as (c) the relative potential of CH<sub>4</sub> on the interval [ $T_0$ ,  $T_0$ +20].

second half of the 21st century starts decreasing. Therefore, the decrease in the potential changes into its growth. Although the rather short 20-year interval after the emission is considered, the consideration of changes in background conditions affects a change in the potential by the value up to 15%.

The values of  $P^{(a)}$  and  $P^{(a)*}$  for methane emissions in the 20-year interval vary in a similar way (Fig. 2b). In this case, the slow decrease in the potentials changes into the increase already in the first half of the 21st century for the RCP 2.6 and in the second half of the century for the RCP 4.5 and 6.0. The consideration of changes in background conditions for the 20-year period makes a smaller contribution to the methane potential, which does not exceed 3%.

A more rapid decrease in the absolute potentials  $P^{(a)}$  and  $P^{(a)*}$  for CO<sub>2</sub> leads to an increase in the relative potential on the 20-year interval for the methane GTP in the 21st century. It grows from 70 to 92–108 if changes in background conditions are not considered and from 73 to 91–119 if they are considered. In general, it may be stated that the values of the analyzed potentials are shifted in time approximately by a half of the analyzed time interval (7–13 years depending on the potential and anthropogenic forcing scenario) if changing background conditions are neglected.



**Fig. 3.** (a, c, e, g) Anthropogenic and (b, d, f, h) natural CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes from the territory of (a, b) Russia, (c, d) China, (e, f) Canada, and (g, h) the USA.

## 4. RESULTS

## 4.1. Natural and Anthropogenic Fluxes of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>

Anthropogenic emissions for Russia were computed using the RCP family scenarios for the REF region (the countries of Eastern Europe and the former USSR, http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web-apps/tnt/RcpDb) with the corresponding scaling of emissions from the territory of Russia at the moment of transition from the Historical Simulations scenario to the RCP scenarios (2000 for methane and 2005 for carbon dioxide). Anthropogenic emissions from the territory of China and North America were calculated in a similar way in accordance to the RCP scenarios for the ASIA and OECD regions, respectively. It should be noted that according to available data (https://databank.worldbank.org/data/source/world-development-indicators), anthropogenic emissions of  $CH_4$  from the territory of Russia at the beginning of the 21st century are close to the most aggressive anthropogenic scenario RCP 8.5.

The resulting estimates of modern natural  $CO_2$  fluxes for Russia (Fig. 3b) are in good agreement with the estimates [20] for process models (see Table 2) and the estimates from [39]. The  $CO_2$  uptake by terrestrial ecosystems under all analyzed scenarios increases at the beginning of the 21st century. Then, for all considered scenarios, the absorption maximum is reached, which is equal to 0.4–0.6 Pg C/year. After that, it starts decreasing. The more aggressive the anthropogenic forcing scenario is, the later it happens.

	CO <sub>2</sub> fluxes, Pg C/year							
Data	Russia	Canada	USA	China				
IAP RAS model* [36] [24]**	-0.31	-0.17 -0.15 -0.24/-0.12/-0.04	-0.14 -0.34 -0.69/-0.36/-0.3	-0.18				
[39]*** [29]** [28]	-0.32	-0.32	-0.3 -0.58	-0.35/-0.17/-0.18				
[20]**** [37] [38]	-0.65/-0.56/-0.76/-0.2		-0.64	-0.26				

Table 2. Natural CO	fluxes at the	beginning of	of the 21st	century

\* The present study, the mean for 1995–2005; \*\* inverse models/process models/inventory-based estimates; \*\*\* only Arctic tundra, 1990–2100; the estimate of –0.32 is total for Russia and Canada (i.e., for entire Arctic tundra); \*\*\*\* inverse models/eddy covariance method/inventory-based estimates/process models.

According to model estimates, natural emissions of methane from the territory of Russia (Fig. 4b) increase by the end of the 21st century by 10–200%, depending on the anthropogenic forcing scenario. Under all scenarios except the RCP 8.5, in the second half of the 21st century their value reaches the values of anthropogenic emissions of methane from the territory of Russia (Fig. 4a).

The resulting estimates of modern natural fluxes of  $CO_2$  for China are generally consistent with the estimates [29, 37]. The  $CO_2$  flux from the terrestrial ecosystems of China to the atmosphere changes in the 21st century similarly to the fluxes from the territory of Russia (and all other analyzed regions) (Fig. 3). The maximum uptake in the 21st century is 0.2–0.35 Pg C/year. It should be noted that the values of natural fluxes of greenhouse gases for China according to calculations make up 5–20% of respective anthropogenic emissions. Therefore, the contribution of China to the global temperature change is determined by anthropogenic forcing.

Natural emissions of methane from the territory of China (Fig. 4d) according to calculations will increase in the 21st century more slowly than in Russia. Only for the most aggressive anthropogenic scenario, the increase exceeds 50% by the end of the century.

The CO<sub>2</sub> uptake by the terrestrial ecosystems in North America is ~0.3 Pg C/year at the beginning of the 21st century, increases up to 0.4–0.6 Pg C/year during the century depending on the anthropogenic forcing scenario, and then starts decreasing (Figs. 3e, 3f, 3g, and 3h). The resulting estimates of modern natural CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes are consistent with the data [24, 36] for the territory of Canada. At the same time, the absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> by terrestrial ecosystems in the USA is slightly underestimated as compared both with the same data and with [28, 38]. According to calculations, natural emissions of methane from the territory of North America in the 21st century exceed the emissions from Russia by about two times but increase a bit more slowly (by 20–100% depending on the scenario). Nevertheless, they begin to exceed respective anthropogenic emissions for all scenarios except the RCP 8.5 in the second half of the 21st century. It should be noted that the main source of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases in North America is the territory of the USA. The contribution of terrestrial ecosystems in the USA and Canada to the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake is close to each other, and the main source of natural methane emissions is the territory of Canada (Fig. 4f).

# 4.2. Cumulative Temperature Potential and Its Changes

Figure 5 presents the results of calculating the cumulative potential *CT* on the interval [1990;  $T_H$ ] separately for emissions of carbon dioxide and methane in Russia, China, Canada, and the USA with the horizon  $T_H$  corresponding to 2030, 2060, and 2090. It should be noted that the anthropogenic cumulative potential (Table 3) decreases in the second half of the 21st century under the RCP 2.6 scenario (the anthropogenic potential of Russia also decreases under the RCP 4.5) and increases under the most intensive anthropogenic forcing scenarios. The anthropogenic potential of Russia decreases mainly due to the reduction of anthropogenic emissions of CH<sub>4</sub>, while the contribution of the decrease in the emission of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> is comparable for the other regions. For anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from China, there is a clear ef-



Fig. 4. The same as in Fig. 3 for CH<sub>4</sub> fluxes.

fect of considering changes in background conditions: although the  $CO_2$  emissions under the RCP 8.5 scenario throughout the 21st century are greater than under the RCP 6.0 (a figure is not presented), their total effect on climate by the end of the century is weaker due to the higher global concentrations of atmospheric  $CO_2$  (and, hence, due to the lower forcing). Thus, according to the estimates for the analyzed scenarios, only the RCP 2.6 leads to the stabilization of anthropogenic forcing on the global air temperature in the 21st century. At the same time, the stabilizing contribution of natural fluxes of greenhouse gases from terrestrial ecosystems in the 21st century increases for Russia, China, and the USA under all analyzed scenarios and poorly varies for Canada.

For Russia, natural fluxes of greenhouse gases make a significant contribution to the total changes in the global surface temperature. Their stabilizing effect on climate exceeds the total stabilizing natural effect of the other regions. For China and the USA, natural emissions are insignificant as compared to anthropogenic ones. For the United States, according to calculations, anthropogenic  $CO_2$  emissions are a dominating factor of climate forcing, compared to it, the effect of other greenhouse gas fluxes is insignificant. For Canada, according to the estimates, the main factors of climate forcing are the natural fluxes of  $CH_4$  and  $CO_2$ , which are comparable in value but are opposite in direction. Anthropogenic greenhouse gas fluxes are less significant.

In general, the total contribution of anthropogenic and natural fluxes of  $CH_4$  and  $CO_2$  to the changes in global surface air temperature from 1990 to the end of the 21st century depending on the anthropogenic forcing scenario is 0.03–0.17 K for Russia, 0.18–0.54 K for China, 0.03–0.04 K for Canada, and 0.14–0.32 K for the USA. At the same time, the total climate effect of the analyzed greenhouse gas fluxes stops growing



**Fig. 5.** The cumulative potential (mK) of (1, 2) anthropogenic and (3, 4) natural fluxes of (1, 3) CO<sub>2</sub> and (2, 4) CH<sub>4</sub> for the time intervals [1990; 2030], [1990; 2060], and [1990; 2090] from the territory of (a, b) Russia, (c, d) China, (e, f) Canada, and (g, h) the USA for (a, c, e, g) the RCP 2.6 and (b, d, f, h) RCP 8.5 scenarios.

by the end of the 21st century under all scenarios except the RCP 8.5 for Russia, only under the RCP 2.6 for China, and under the RCP 2.6 and 6.0 for North America.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

According to the results of the present study, the consideration of changes in climatic conditions in the model highly affects the ratio of natural sources and sinks of greenhouse gases and their effect on the climate system, especially for large time horizons under the most aggressive anthropogenic forcing scenarios. The quantitative model estimates were obtained for the contribution of anthropogenic and natural fluxes of greenhouse gases from the territory of Russia, China, Canada, and the USA to global climate change in the 21st century under different anthropogenic forcing scenarios. For the regions of Eurasia and North America, the model simulations revealed a decrease in the  $CO_2$  uptake by natural ecosystems in the second half of the 21st century, with a weakening of the corresponding climate-stabilizing effect under the analyzed anthropogenic forcing scenarios. At the same time, according to the model estimates, the methane emission to the atmosphere by wetland ecosystems significantly grows in the 21st century.

It should be noted that the authors' estimates did not take into account some processes: the release of methane and nitrogen dioxide from wildfires [30]; the release of  $CO_2$  and  $CH_4$  from the permafrost thaw as

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Country	$T_H$	RCP 2.6		RCP 4.5		RCP 6.0			RCP 8.5				
		Ea	En	CT	Ea	En	CT	Ea	En	CT	Ea	En	CT
Russia	2030 2050	65 68	-14 -24	51 44	73 88	-14 -25	59 63	70 81	-14 -24	56 57	83 123	-15 -26	68 97
	2075	65	-32	33	87	-35	52	87	-33	54	169	-35	134
	2100	64	-35	29	80	-41	39	91	-38	53	208	-34	174
China	2030	185	-13	172	192	-13	179	185	-13	172	215	-13	202
	2050	226	-19	207	283	-19	264	276	-19	257	329	-20	309
	2075	222	-22	200	356	-25	331	395	-24	371	466	-25	441
	2100	205	-23	182	373	-28	345	472	-27	445	565	-26	539
Canada	2030	18	11	29	19	11	30	20	11	31	20	9	29
	2050	19	10	29	23	9	32	25	9	34	27	6	33
	2075	18	10	28	25	6	31	29	7	36	33	4	37
	2100	16	11	27	26	7	33	27	8	35	37	8	45
USA	2030	153	-5	148	160	-5	155	167	-5	162	168	-6	162
	2050	170	-8	162	203	-9	192	218	-9	209	235	-10	225
	2075	162	-9	153	225	-12	213	250	-12	238	293	-14	279
	2100	150	_7	143	230	-13	217	244	-14	230	330	-15	315

**Table 3.** The anthropogenic and natural cumulative potential (mK) for the interval [1990,  $T_H$ ]

 $E_{\rm a}$  is anthropogenic emission;  $E_{\rm n}$  is natural emission.

a result of climate warming [32]; the release of  $CH_4$  and  $N_2O$  from inland reservoirs [15, 19]; the release of  $N_2O$  from terrestrial ecosystems [36]. According to the estimates, wildfires lead to the global emission of 15 3 Tg of methane and 0.9 3 Tg of nitrogen dioxide per year to the atmosphere (along with aerosol particles, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide), and the contribution of the Russian regions makes up ~10% [6]. These values are comparatively small (see Fig. 3), but in case of their consideration, individual regions may become a source of greenhouse gases and stop being their sink. There is high uncertainty in the estimates of the greenhouse gas release from inland reservoirs [19], which may be substantial when determining how much specific regions are sinks or sources of greenhouse gases.

The quantitative estimates obtained in the present study can be updated by considering the effect of  $CO_2$  and  $CH_4$  release from the soil to the atmosphere during the permafrost thaw at subpolar latitudes, from which the "old" (formed in the last interglacial periods and not decomposed due to cold conditions) carbon substrate under the RCP 8.5 scenario in the 21st century can release up to 174 Pg C of carbon as  $CO_2$  and  $CH_4$  according to [32] and up to 240 Pg C as carbon dioxide and 5300 Tg as methane according to [16]. In addition, the formation of thermokarst lakes during the permafrost thaw in terrestrial regions favors the development of lake taliks, which also contributed to the release of these greenhouse gases to the atmosphere: according to the available estimates, this may lead to the release of up to 50 Tg  $CH_4$  to the atmosphere in the 21st century under the RCP scenarios, with the greatest contribution in the first half of the century [31]. It should also be noted that the response of the characteristics of the terrestrial carbon and methane cycles on climate change depends on the interaction with the nitrogen cycle [27, 32].

When making strategic decisions in connection with climate change, it should be taken into account that the role of natural fluxes of greenhouse gases from terrestrial ecosystems to the atmosphere varies depending on the time horizon of planning. According to the model results, climate change influences the estimated contribution of different greenhouse gases to the temperature variations and their ratio. For example, under the RCP 2.6 scenario for climatic conditions of the second half of the 21st century ( $T_0 > 2050$ ), natural fluxes of greenhouse gases in the analyzed regions will totally accelerate climate warming.

# FUNDING

The research was supported by the Russian Science Foundation (grant 19-17-00240). The assessment of the features of natural fluxes of greenhouse gases for different time horizons was supported by grant 21-17-00012 of the Russian Science Foundation.

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