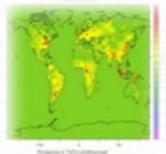
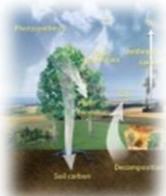


GLOBAL

CARBON  
PROJECT



# Global Methane Budget 2016

The Global Methane budget for 2000-2012

The work presented here has been possible thanks to the enormous observational and modeling efforts of the institutions and networks below

## Atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> datasets

- NOAA/ESRL (Dlugokencky et al., 2011)
- AGAGE (Rigby et al., 2008)
- CSIRO (Francey et al., 1999)
- UCI (Simpson et al., 2012)

## Top-down atmospheric inversions

- TM5-4DVAR (Bergamaschi et al., 2009)
- LMDZ-MIOP (Pison et al., 2013)
- CarbonTracker-CH<sub>4</sub> (Bruhwiler et al., 2014)
- TM5-4DVAR (Houweling et al., 2014)
- LMDZt-SACS (Locatelli et al., 2015)
- NIESTM (Saeki et al., 2013; Kim et al., 2011)
- ACTM (Patra et al., 2016)
- GELCA (Ishizawa et al., 2016; Zhuralev et al., 2013)

## Bottom-up modeling

- Description of models contributing to the Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate Model
- Intercomparison Project (ACCMIP, Lamarque et al., 2013; Voulgarakis et al., 2013; Naik et al., 2013)

## Bottom-up studies data and modeling

- CLM 4.5 (Riley et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2016)
- CTEM (Melton and Arora, 2016)
- DLEM (Tian et al., 2010; 2015)
- JULES (Hayman et al., 2014)
- LPJ-MPI (Kleinen et al., 2012)
- LPJ-wsl (Hodson et al., 2011)
- LPX-Bern (Spahni et al., 2011)
- ORCHIDEE (Ringeval et al., 2011)
- SDGVM (Woodward and Lomas, 2004)
- TRIPLEX-GHG (Zhu et al., 2014; 2015)
- VISIT (Ito and Inatomi, 2012)
- GFEDv3 (Van der Werf et al., 2010)
- GFEDv4s (Giglio et al., 2013)
- GFASv1.0 (Kaiser et al., 2012)
- FINNv1 (Wiedinmyer et al., 2011)
- IIASA (Höglund-Isaksson, 2012; Klimont et al., 2016)
- EPA, 2011; 2012
- EDGARv4.2FT 2010 and FT2012 (EDGARv4.2, 2013; 2014)
- FAO (Tubiello et al., 2013)

Full references provided in [Saunois et al. 2016, ESSD](#)

**Scientific contributors :** Marielle Saunois France | Philippe Bousquet France | Ben Poulter USA | Anna Peregon France | Philippe Ciais France | Josep G. Canadell Australia | Edward J. Dlugokencky USA | Giuseppe Etiope Italy | David Bastviken Sweden | Sander Houweling The Netherlands | Greet Janssens-Maenhout Italy | Francesco N. Tubiello Italy | Simona Castaldi Italy | Robert B. Jackson USA | Mihai Alexe Italy | Vivek K. Arora Canada | David J. Beerling UK | Peter Bergamaschi Italy | Donald R. Blake USA | Gordon Brailsford New Zealand | Victor Brovkin Germany | Lori Bruhwiler USA | Kristofer Covey USA | Cyril Crevoisier France | Patrick Crill Sweden | Kristofer Covey USA | Charles Curry Canada | Christian Frankenberg USA | Nicola Gedney UK | Lena Höglund-Isaksson Austria | Misa Ishizawa Japan | Akihiko Ito Japan | Fortunat Joos Switzerland | Heon-Sook Kim Japan | Thomas Kleinen Germany | Paul Krummel Australia | Jean-François Lamarque USA | Ray Langenfelds Australia | Robin Locatelli France | Toshinobu Machida Japan | Shamil Maksyutov Japan | Kyle C. McDonald USA | Julia Marshall Germany | Joe R. Melton Canada | Isamu Morino Japan | Vaishala Naik USA | Simon O'Doherty UK | Frans-Jan W. Parmentier Sweden | Prabir K. Patra Japan | Changhui Peng Canada | Shushi Peng China | Glen P. Peters Norway | Isabelle Pison France | Catherine Prigent France | Ronald Prinn USA | Michel Ramonet France | William J. Riley USA | Makoto Saito Japan | Monia Santini Italy | Ronny Schroeder USA | Isobel J. Simpson USA | Renato Spahni Switzerland | Paul Steele Australia | Atsushi Takizawa Japan | Brett F. Thornton Sweden | Hanqin Tian USA | Yasunori Tohjima Japan | Nicolas Viovy France | Apostolos Voulgarakis UK | Michiel van Weele The Netherlands | Guido van der Werf The Netherlands | Ray Weiss USA | Christine Wiedinmyer USA | David J. Wilton UK | Andy Wiltshire UK | Doug Worthy Canada | Debra B. Wunch Canada | Xiyan Xu USA | Yukio Yoshida Japan | Bowen Zhang USA | Zhen Zhang USA | Qian Zhu China

**Data visualisation support at LSCE :** Patrick Brockmann France | Cathy Nangini France

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 Data



## The global methane budget: 2000–2012

Marielle Saunois<sup>1</sup>, Philippe Bousquet<sup>1</sup>, Ben Poulter<sup>2</sup>, Anna Peregon<sup>1</sup>, Philippe Ciais<sup>1</sup>, Joseph G. Canadell<sup>3</sup>, Edward J. Dlugokencky<sup>4</sup>, Giuseppe Etiope<sup>5</sup>, David Bastviken<sup>6</sup>, Sander Houweling<sup>7,8</sup>, Greet Janssens-Maenhout<sup>9</sup>, Francesco N. Tubiello<sup>10</sup>, Simona Castaldi<sup>11,12</sup>, Robert B. Jackson<sup>13</sup>, Mihai Alexe<sup>9</sup>, Vivek K. Arora<sup>14</sup>, David J. Beerling<sup>15</sup>, Peter Bergamaschi<sup>16</sup>, Donald R. Blake<sup>16</sup>, Gordon Brailsford<sup>17</sup>, Victor Brovkin<sup>18</sup>, Lori Bruhwiler<sup>4</sup>, Cyril Crevoisier<sup>19</sup>, Patrick Crill<sup>20</sup>, Kristofer Covey<sup>21</sup>, Charles Curry<sup>22</sup>, Christian Frankenberg<sup>23</sup>, Nicola Gedney<sup>24</sup>, Lena Höglund-Isaksson<sup>25</sup>, Misa Ishizawa<sup>26</sup>, Akihiko Ito<sup>26</sup>, Fortunat Joos<sup>27</sup>, Heon-Sook Kim<sup>26</sup>, Thomas Kleinen<sup>18</sup>, Paul Krummel<sup>28</sup>, Jean-François Lamarque<sup>29</sup>, Ray Langenfelds<sup>28</sup>, Robin Locatelli<sup>1</sup>, Toshinobu Machida<sup>26</sup>, Shamil Maksyutov<sup>26</sup>, Kyle C. McDonald<sup>30</sup>, Julia Marshall<sup>31</sup>, Joe R. Melton<sup>32</sup>, Isamu Morino<sup>24</sup>, Vaishali Naik<sup>33</sup>, Simon O'Doherty<sup>34</sup>, Frans-Jan W. Parmentier<sup>35</sup>, Prabir K. Patra<sup>36</sup>, Changhui Peng<sup>37</sup>, Shushi Peng<sup>1</sup>, Glen P. Peters<sup>38</sup>, Isabelle Pison<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Prigent<sup>39</sup>, Ronald Prinn<sup>40</sup>, Michel Ramonet<sup>1</sup>, William J. Riley<sup>41</sup>, Makoto Saito<sup>26</sup>, Monia Santini<sup>12</sup>, Ronny Schroeder<sup>30,42</sup>, Isobel J. Simpson<sup>16</sup>, Renato Spahni<sup>27</sup>, Paul Steck<sup>28</sup>, Atsushi Takizawa<sup>43</sup>, Brett F. Thornton<sup>20</sup>, Hanqin Tian<sup>44</sup>, Yasunori Tohjima<sup>26</sup>, Nicolas Viovy<sup>1</sup>, Apostolos Voulgarakis<sup>45</sup>, Michiel van Weele<sup>46</sup>, Guido R. van der Werf<sup>47</sup>, Ray Weiss<sup>48</sup>, Christine Wiedinmyer<sup>29</sup>, David J. Wilton<sup>15</sup>, Andy Wiltshire<sup>49</sup>, Doug Worthy<sup>50</sup>, Debra Wunch<sup>51</sup>, Xiyun Xu<sup>41</sup>, Yukio Yoshida<sup>26</sup>, Bowen Zhang<sup>44</sup>, Zhen Zhang<sup>2,52</sup>, and Qian Zhu<sup>53</sup>

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Environmental Research Letters



EDITORIAL

## The growing role of methane in anthropogenic climate change

OPEN ACCESS

M Saunois<sup>1</sup>, R B Jackson<sup>2</sup>, P Bousquet<sup>1</sup>, B Poulter<sup>1</sup> and J G Canadell<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, LSCE-IPSL (CEA-CNRS-UVSQ), Université Paris-Saclay, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France  
<sup>2</sup> Department of Earth System Science, Woods Institute for the Environment, and Precourt Institute for Energy, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-2210, USA  
<sup>3</sup> Institute on Ecosystems and Department of Ecology, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717, USA  
<sup>4</sup> Global Carbon Project, CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia

E-mail: [marielle.saunois@lscce.ipsl.fr](mailto:marielle.saunois@lscce.ipsl.fr)

### Abstract

Unlike CO<sub>2</sub>, atmospheric methane concentrations are rising faster than at any time in the past two decades and, since 2014, are now approaching the most greenhouse-gas-intensive scenarios. The reasons for this renewed growth are still unclear, primarily because of uncertainties in the global methane budget. New analysis suggests that the recent rapid rise in global methane concentrations is predominantly biogenic—most likely from agriculture—with smaller contributions from fossil fuel use and possibly wetlands. Additional attention is urgently needed to quantify and reduce methane emissions. Methane mitigation offers rapid climate benefits and economic, health and agricultural co-benefits that are highly complementary to CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation.

<http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/11/12/120207>

Contact: [marielle.saunois@lscce.ipsl.fr](mailto:marielle.saunois@lscce.ipsl.fr)

The screenshot shows the Global Carbon Project website. The main header features the logo and navigation links: HOME, CARBON ATLAS, CARBON BUDGET, METHANE BUDGET, RECCAP, URBANIZATION, and SEARCH. A sidebar on the left contains a language selector and various site navigation options. The main content area is titled "Global Methane Budget" and features a large graphic for "Methane Budget 2016" with the text "An update of the global methane budget and trends". Below this, it states "Released 12 December 2016". A table provides links for Publications, Presentation, and Data. A "News" section on the right contains highlights and press releases. The footer includes copyright information for GCP 2001-2016 and contact details.

<http://www.globalcarbonproject.org/methanebudget>

The screenshot shows the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (CDIAC) website. The header includes the CDIAC logo and navigation links: About CDIAC, Data, Observing Programs, Resources, and News. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area is titled "Global Methane Budget: 2000-2012" and provides the DOI: 10.3334/CDIAC/Global\_Methane\_Budget\_2016. It features a download link for "Global Methane Budget 2000-2012 v1.0 (June 2016)" and links to data files: "GCP\_methane\_regions\_1x1.nc" and "GCP\_methane\_regions\_1x1\_ext.nc". A section titled "Data Sources and Terms of Use" explains the conditions for data use, emphasizing the need to cite original sources and respect data provider support. The footer provides further information available at <http://www.globalcarbonproject.org/methanebudget/>.

<http://cdiac.ornl.gov/GCP/methanebudget/2016/>

## Global Methane Budget Website

<http://www.globalcarbonproject.org/methanebudget>

Activity Contacts	Email
Philippe Bousquet	philippe.bousquet@lsce.ipsl.fr
Marielle Saunois	marielle.saunois@lsce.ipsl.fr
Rob Jackson	rob.jackson@stanford.edu
Ben Poulter	<u><a href="mailto:benjamin.poulter@nasa.gov">benjamin.poulter@nasa.gov</a></u>
Pep Canadell	pep.canadell@csiro.au

All data are shown in

teragrams CH<sub>4</sub> (TgCH<sub>4</sub>) for emissions and sinks  
parts per billion (ppb) for atmospheric concentrations

1 teragram (Tg) = 1 million tonnes =  $1 \times 10^{12}$ g

2.78 Tg CH<sub>4</sub> per ppb

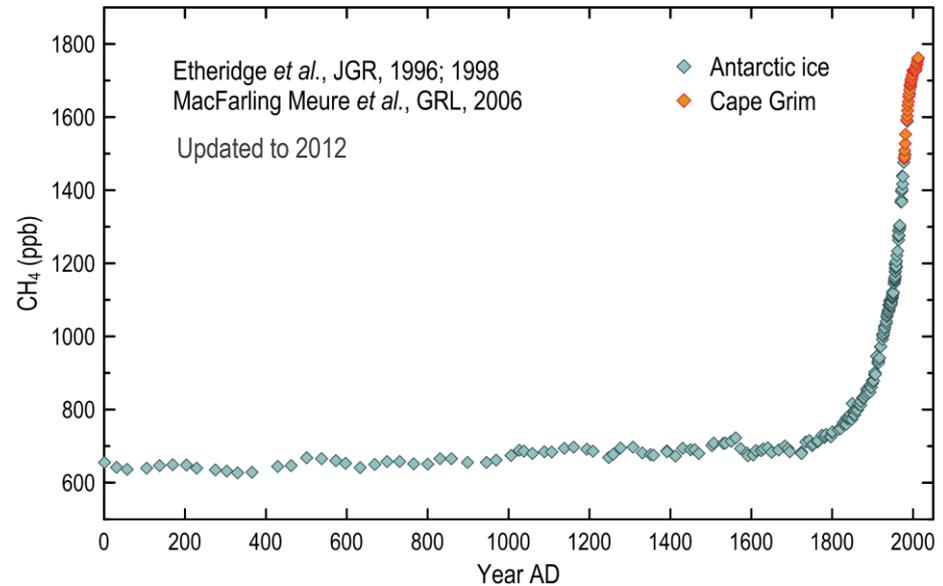
## Disclaimer

The Global Methane Budget and the information presented here are intended for those interested in learning about the carbon cycle, and how human activities are changing it. The information contained herein is provided as a public service, with the understanding that the Global Carbon Project team make no warranties, either expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of the information.

# Context & Methods

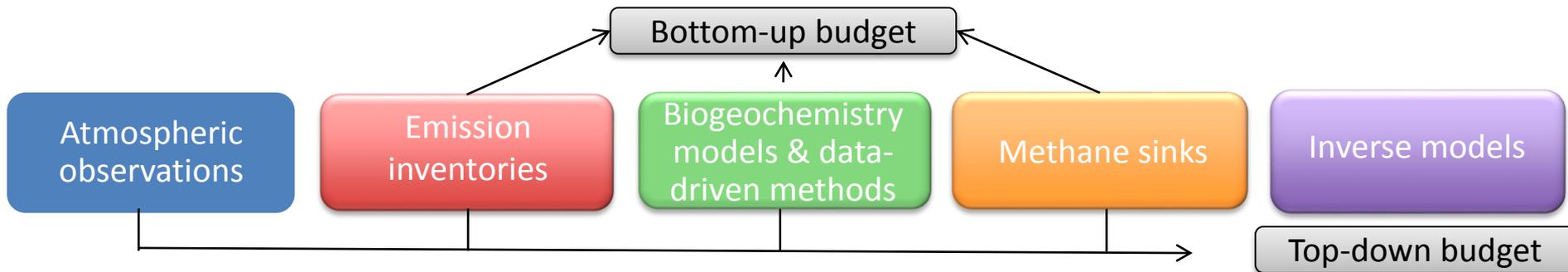
# The methane context

- After carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is the second most important greenhouse gas contributing to human-induced climate change.
- For a time horizon of 100 years, CH<sub>4</sub> has a Global Warming Potential 28 times larger than CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Methane is responsible for 20% of the global warming produced by all greenhouse gases so far.
- The concentration of CH<sub>4</sub> in the atmosphere is 150% above pre-industrial levels (cf. 1750).
- The atmospheric life time of CH<sub>4</sub> is 9±2 years, making it a good target for climate change mitigation



- Methane also contributes to tropospheric production of ozone, a pollutant that harms human health and ecosystems.
- Methane also leads to production of water vapor in the stratosphere by chemical reactions, enhancing global warming.

# An ensemble of tools and data to estimate the global methane budget



Ground-based data from observation networks (AGAGE, CSIRO, NOAA, UCI, LSCE, others).  
Satellite data (SCIAMACHY, GOSAT)

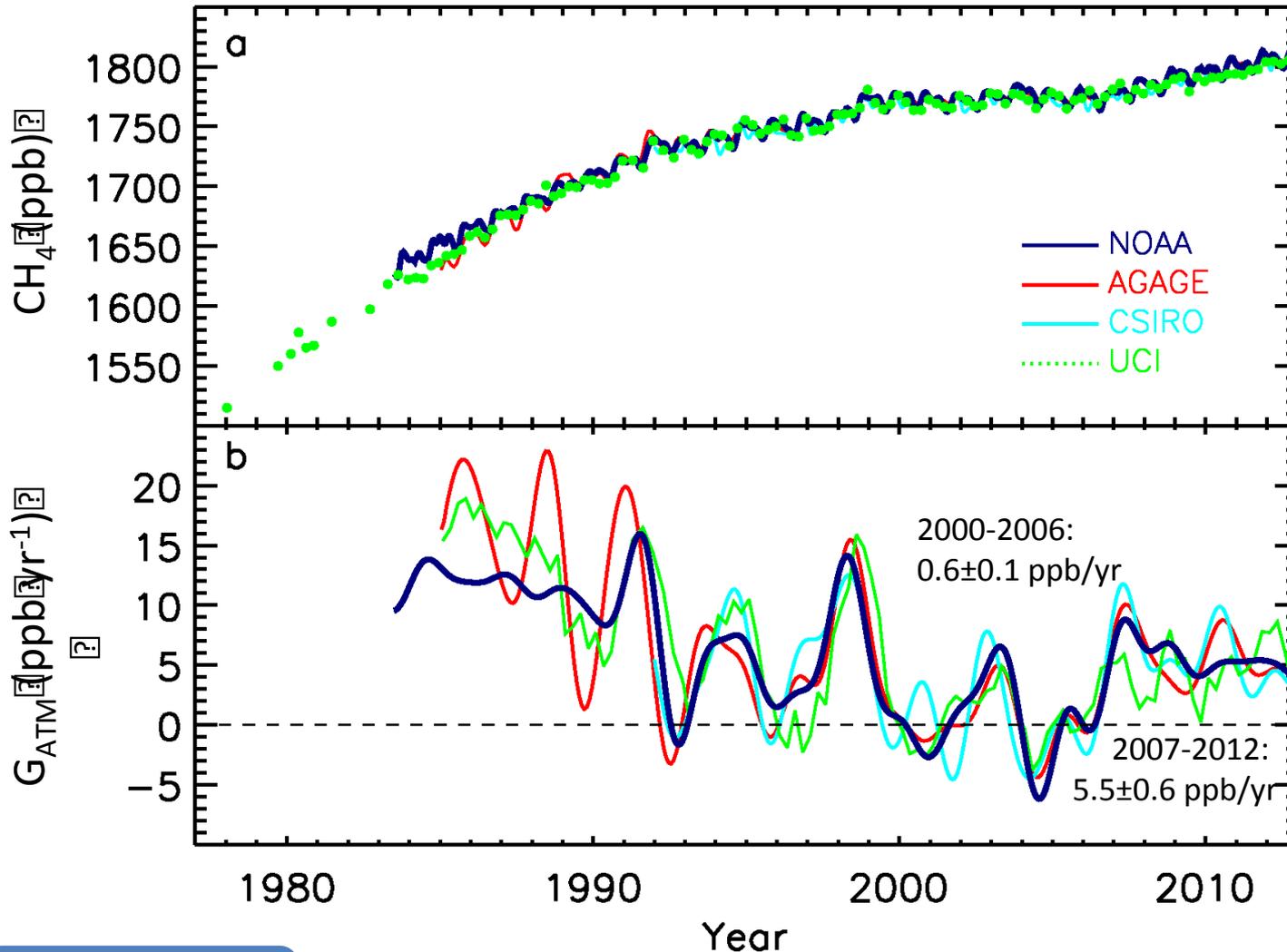
Agriculture and waste related emissions, fossil fuel emissions (EDGARv4.2, USEPA, GAINS, FAO).  
Fire emissions (GFED3 & 4s, FINN, GFAS, FAO).  
Biofuel estimates

Ensemble of 11 wetland models, following the WETCHIMP intercomparison  
Model for Termites emissions  
Other sources from literature

From Kirschke et al., (2013) Long-term trends and decadal variability of the OH sink.  
ACCMIP CTMs intercomparison.  
Soil uptake & chlorine sink taken from the literature

Suite of eight atmospheric inversion models (TM5-4DVAR (JRC & SRON), LMDZ-MIOP, PYVAR-LMDz, C-Tracker-CH<sub>4</sub>, GELCA, ACTM, TM3, NIESTM).  
Ensemble of 30 inversions (diff. obs & setup)

# CH<sub>4</sub> Atmospheric Growth Rate, 1983-2012



- Slowdown of atmospheric growth rate before 2006
- Resumed increase after 2006

Atmospheric observations

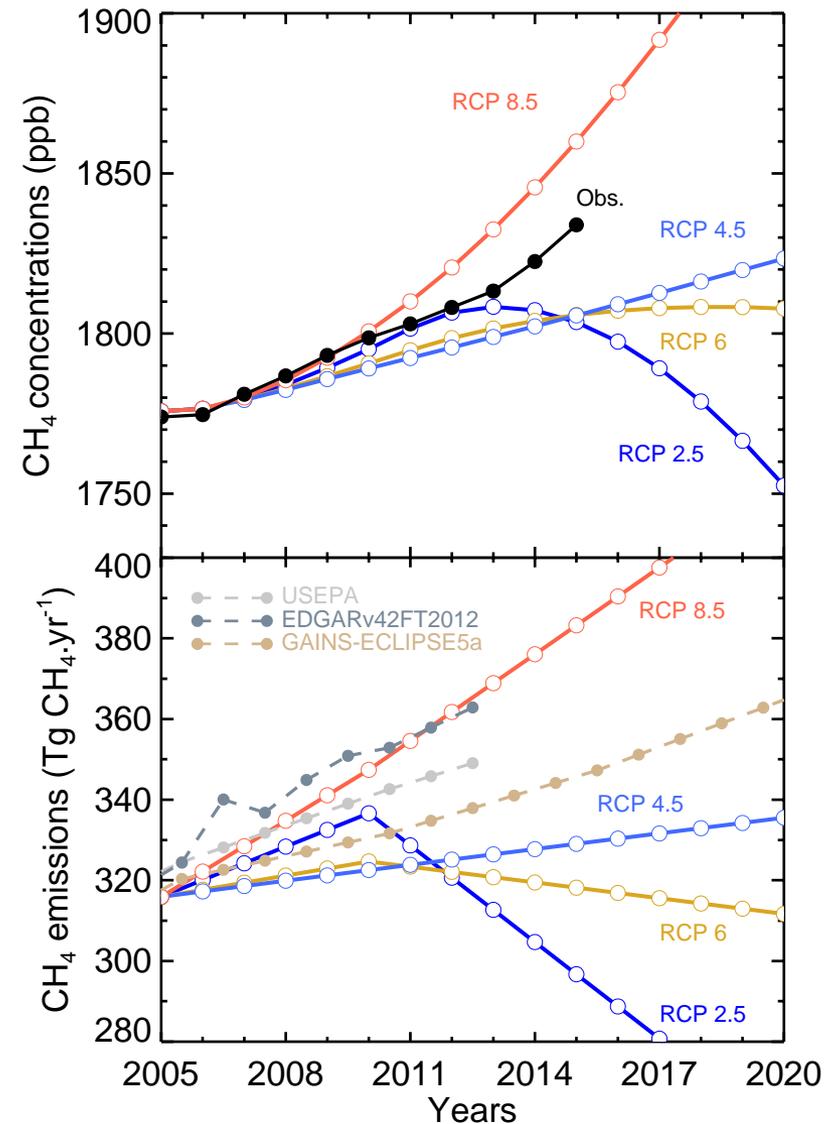
Source: Saunio et al. 2016, ESSD (Fig. 1)

## Atmospheric concentrations (top plot):

- Methane concentrations rose even faster in 2014 and 2015, more than 10 ppb/yr.
- The recent atmospheric increase is approaching the RCP8.5 scenario

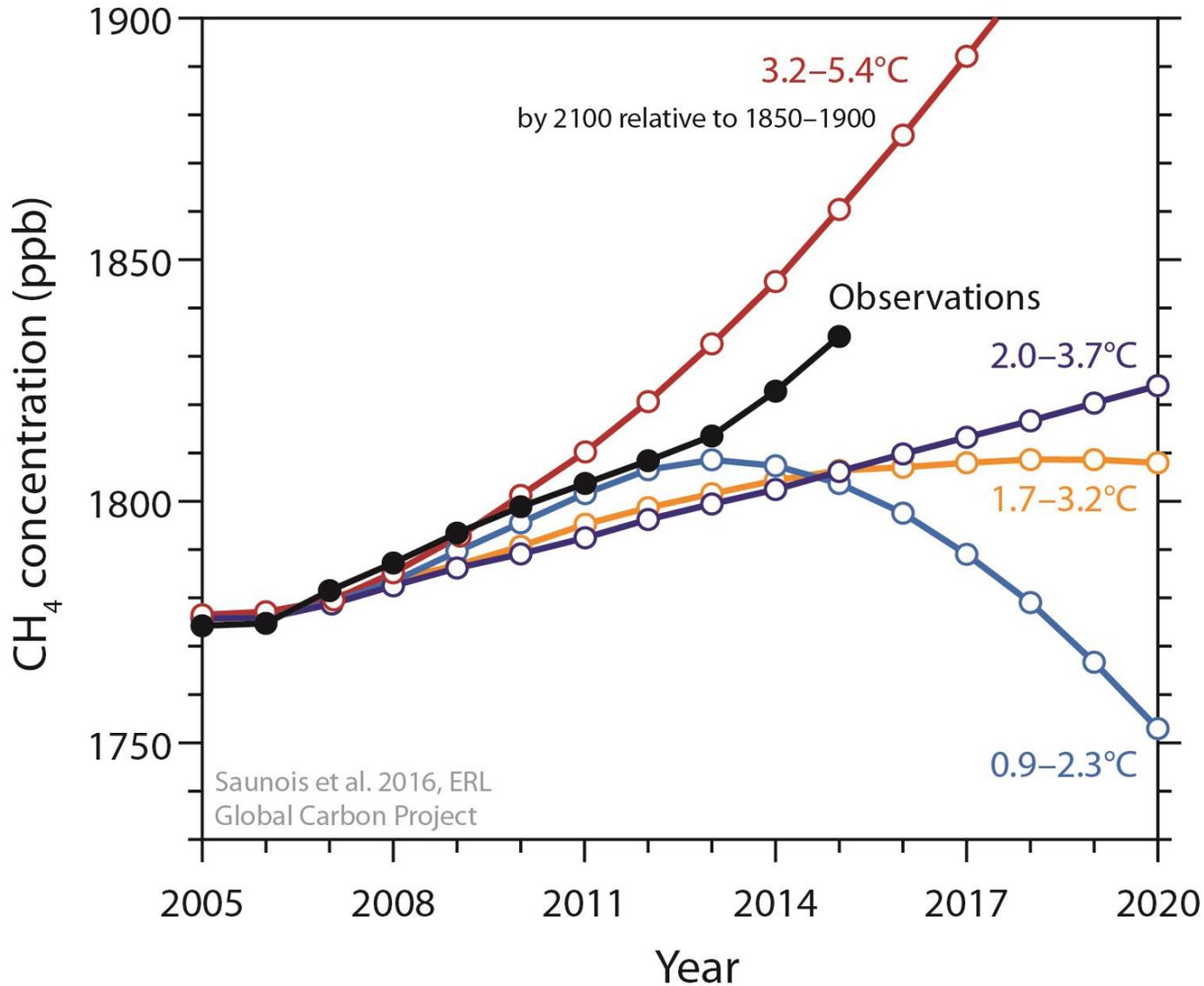
## Anthropogenic emissions (bottom plot):

- EDGARv4.2 infers an increase in emissions that is roughly twice as fast as EPA and GAINS-ECLIPSE5a before 2010
- Bottom-up inventories are higher than any RCPs scenarios, except RCP8.5



Atmospheric observations

Emission inventories



# Decadal emissions & sinks

## GLOBAL METHANE BUDGET

TOTAL EMISSIONS

558  
(540-568)

CH<sub>4</sub> ATMOSPHERIC GROWTH RATE

10  
(9.4-10.6)

TOTAL SINKS

548  
(529-555)

105  
(77-133)

188  
(115-243)

34  
(15-53)

167  
(127-202)

64  
(21-132)

515  
(510-583)

33  
(28-38)

Fossil fuel production and use

Agriculture and waste

Biomass burning

Wetlands

Other natural emissions

Geological, lakes, termites, oceans, permafrost

Sink from chemical reactions in the atmosphere

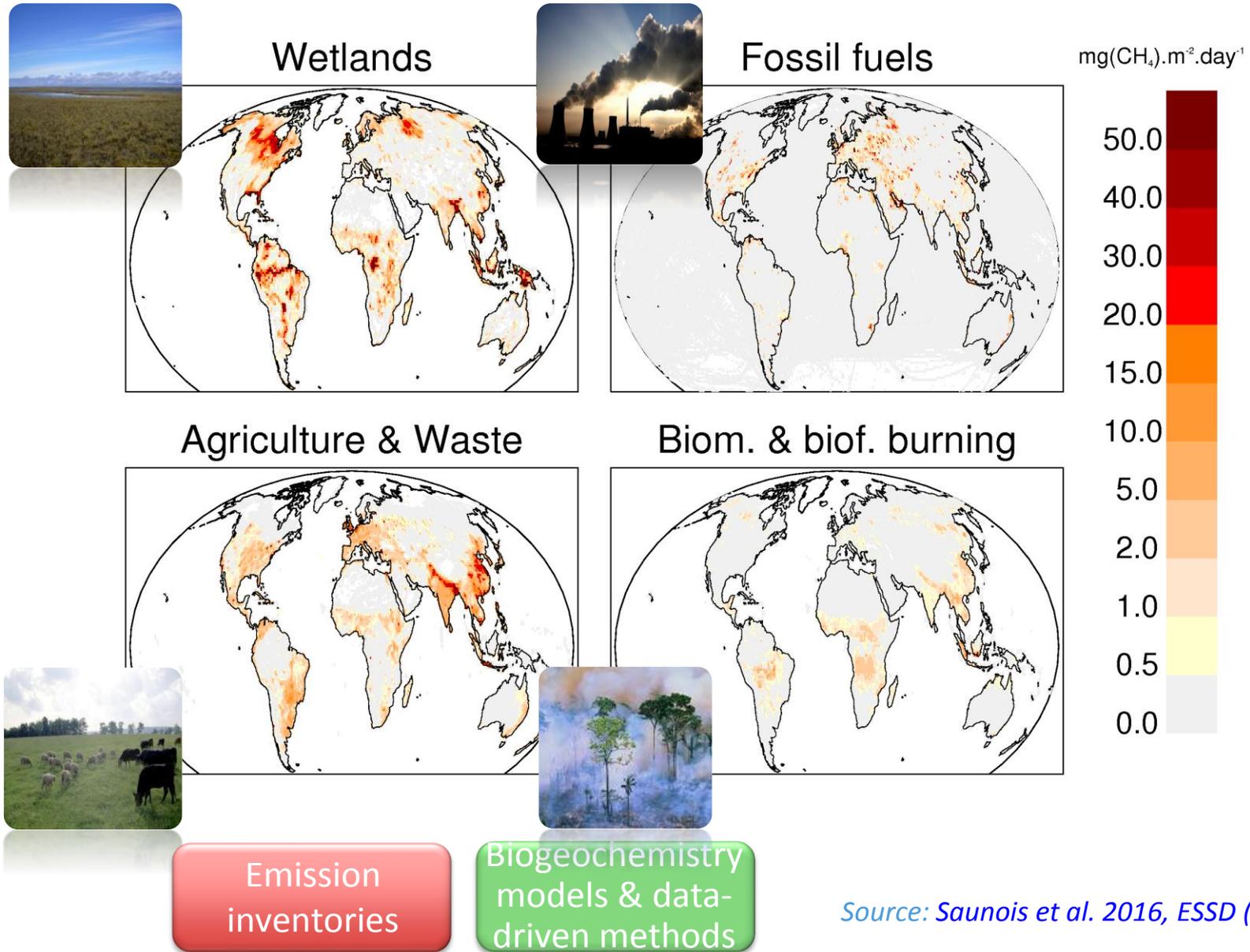
Sink in soils

### EMISSIONS BY SOURCE

In million-tons of CH<sub>4</sub> per year ( Tg CH<sub>4</sub> / yr), average 2003-2012

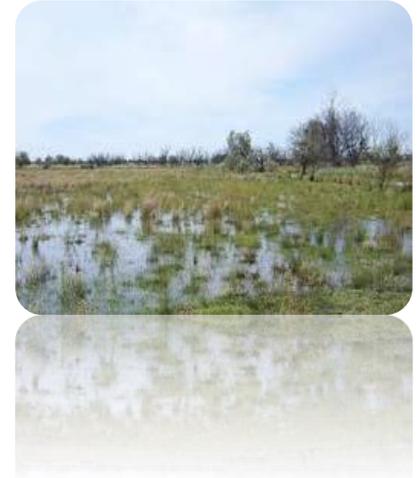
▶ Anthropogenic fluxes    
 ▶ Natural fluxes    
 ▨ Natural and anthropogenic

# Mapping of the largest methane source categories



Source: Saunois et al. 2016, ESSD (Fig 3);

- Wetlands are the largest natural global CH<sub>4</sub> source
- Emission from an ensemble carbon-cycle models constrained with remote sensing surface water and inventory-based wetland area data.
- The resulting global flux range for natural wetland emissions is 153–227 TgCH<sub>4</sub>/yr for the decade of 2003–2012, with an average of 185 TgCH<sub>4</sub>/yr.

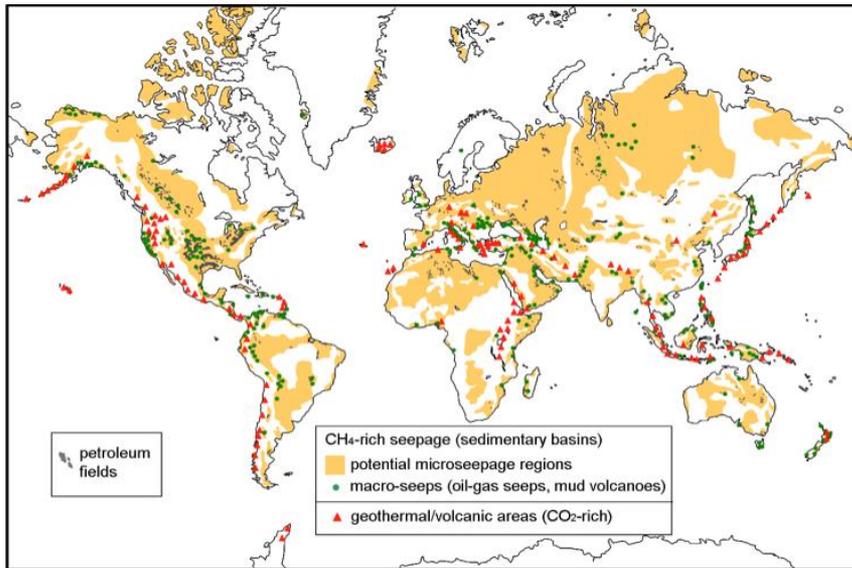


Biogeochemistry  
models & data-  
driven methods

*Source: Saunois et al. 2016, ESSD;  
Poulter et al, ERL in review*

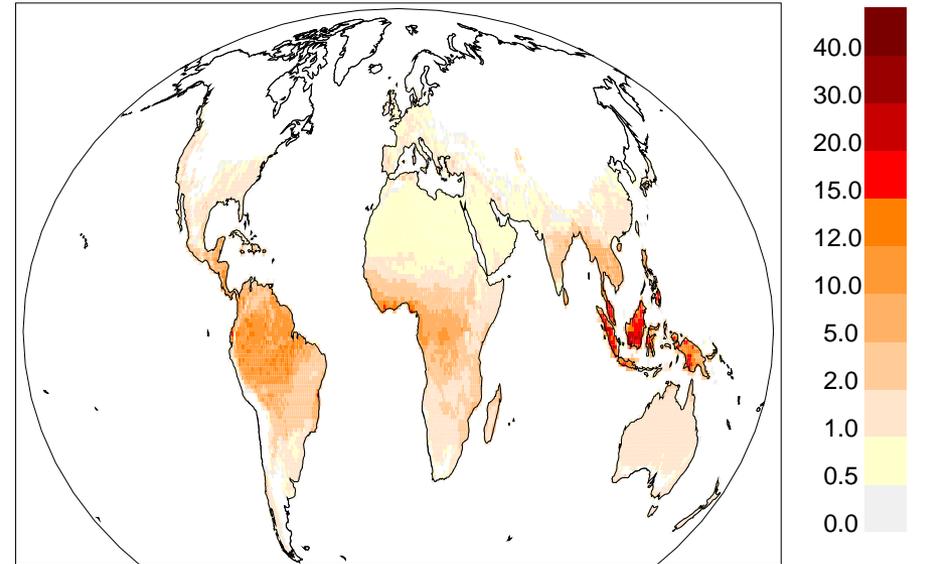
## Geological reservoirs

(a) based on a data-driven method



## Termites

(b) based on a process-based model

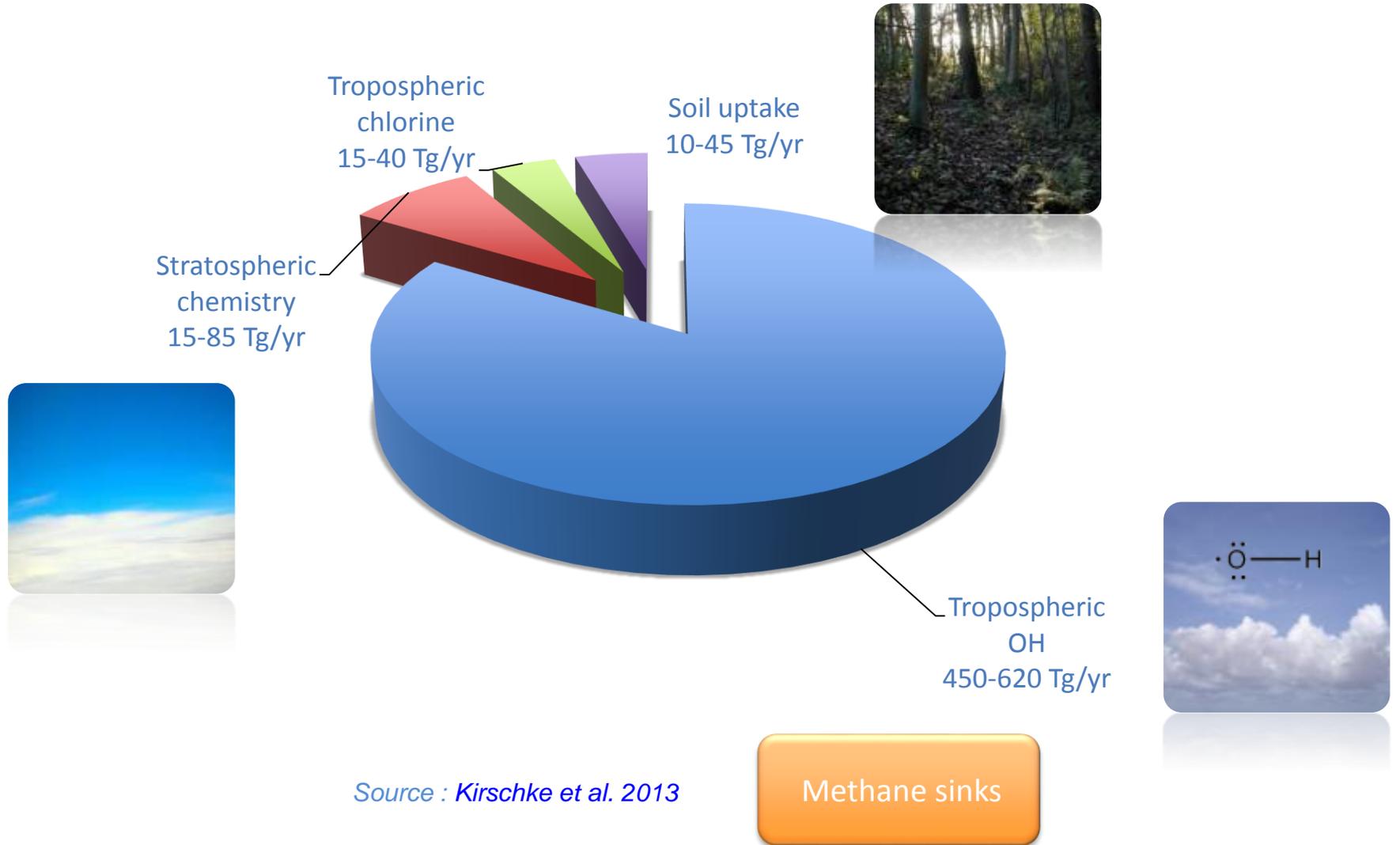


Other natural sources not mapped here are freshwater emissions, permafrost and hydrates

Biogeochemistry  
models & data-  
driven methods

Source: Sauniois et al. 2016 (Fig 4);  
 Etiope (2015), Kirschke et al., 2013)

# Methane Sinks (2000s)



# Global methane emissions 2003-2012

Bottom-up budget

(TgCH<sub>4</sub>/yr)

Top-down budget



Rice  
Enteric ferm & manure  
Landfills & waste



Coal  
Gas & oil

Fresh waters  
Wild animals  
Wild fires  
Termites  
Geological  
Oceans  
Permafrost

185 [40%]

195 [15%]

30 [10%]

106 [20%]

59 [20%]

121 [20%]

42 [80%]

79 [10%]

30 [30%]

199 [90%]

122 [100%]

10 [100%]

3 [100%]

9 [120%]

40 [50%]

3 [100%]

1 [100%]

Mean [uncertainty=  
min-max range %]

← Natural wetlands →

← Agriculture & waste →



← Fossil fuel use →



← Biomass/biofuel burning →

← Other natural emissions →



167 [80%]

188 [65%]

105 [50%]

34 [55%]

64 [150%]

Mean [uncertainty=  
min-max range %]



Bottom-up budget

Process models, inventories,  
data driven methods

734 TgCH<sub>4</sub>/yr [596-884]

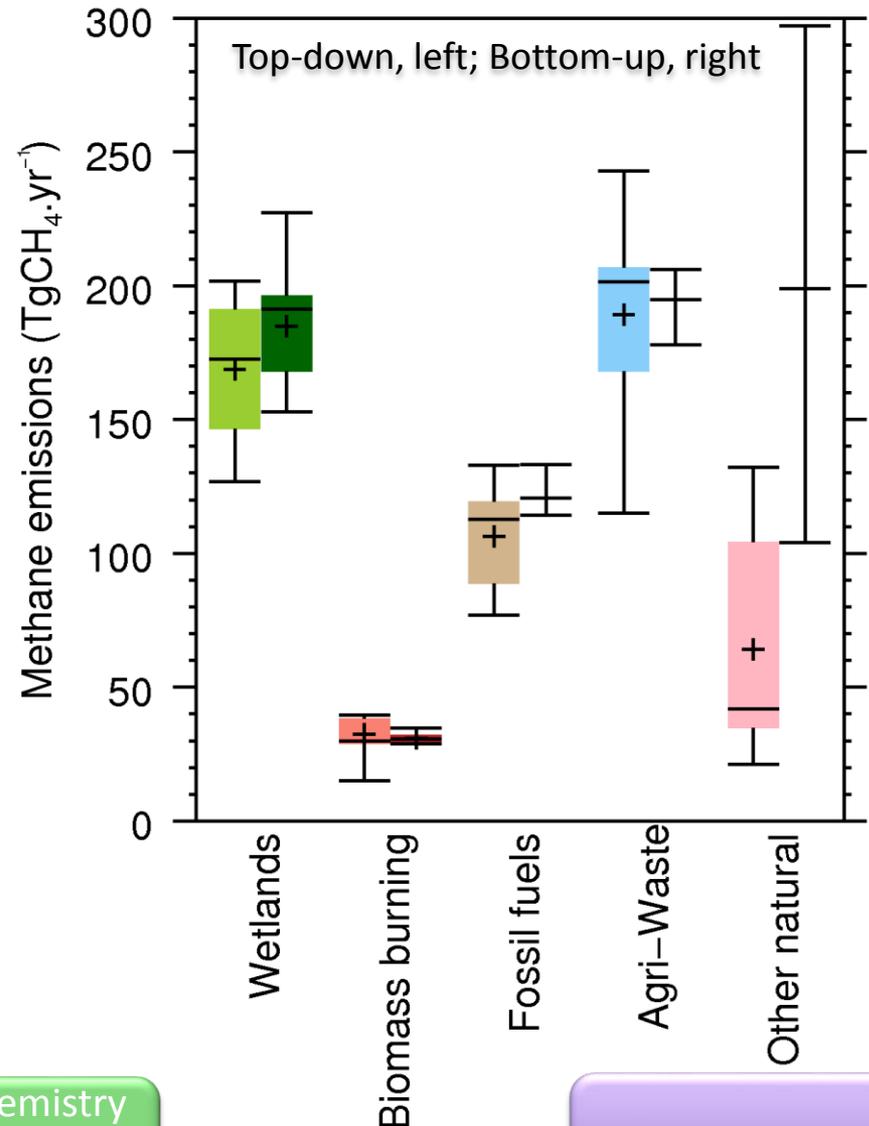
Mean [min-max range %]

Top-down budget

Atmospheric inversions

559 TgCH<sub>4</sub>/yr [540-568]

- Global emissions:  
559 TgCH<sub>4</sub>/yr [540-568] for TD  
734 TgCH<sub>4</sub>/yr [596-884] for BU
- TD and BU estimates generally agree for wetland and agricultural emissions
- Estimated fossil fuel emissions are lower for TD than for BU approaches
- Large discrepancy between TD and BU estimates for freshwaters and natural geological sources (“other natural sources”)



Source: Saunois et al. 2016, ESSD (Fig 5)

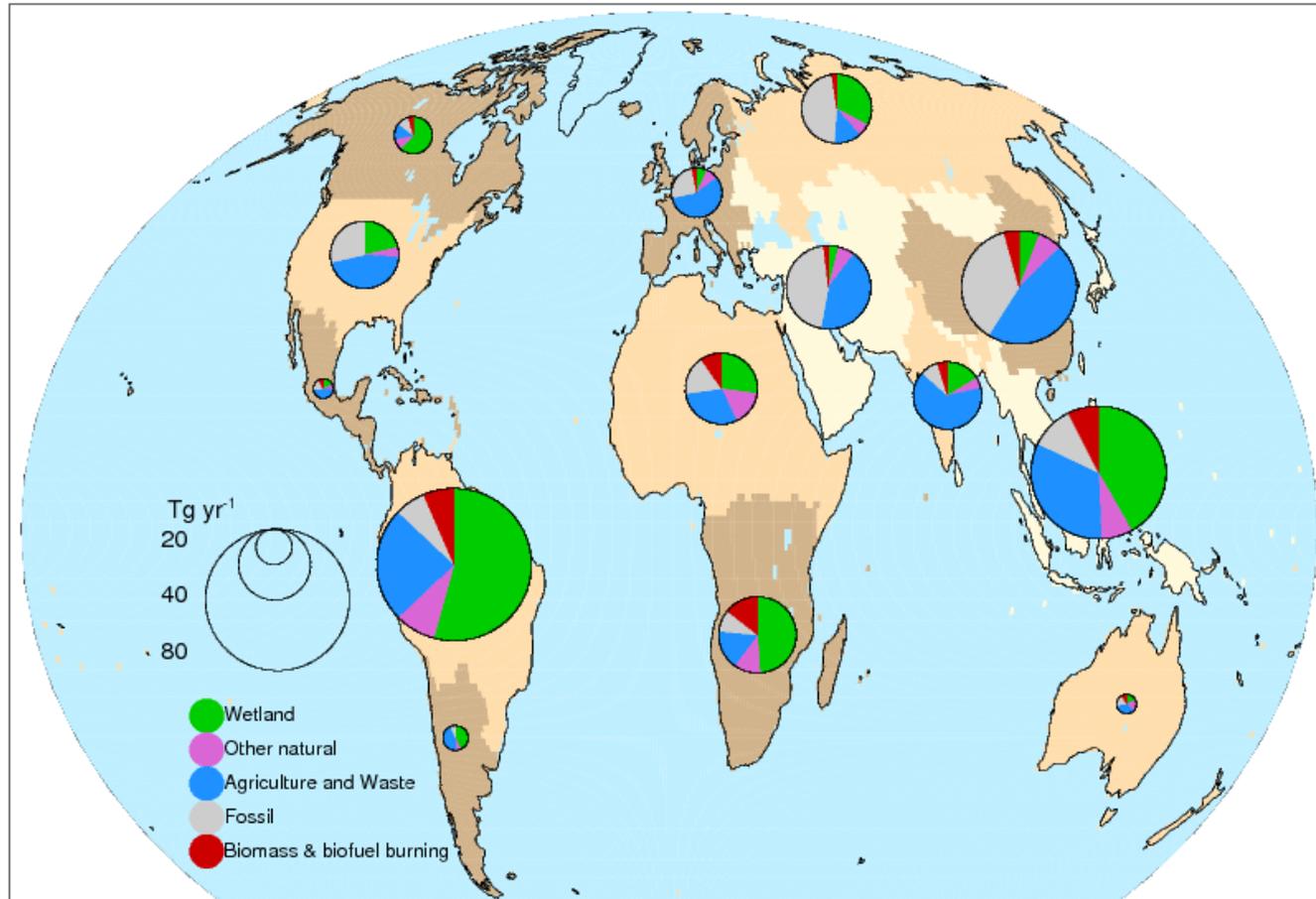
Emission inventories

Biogeochemistry models & data-driven methods

Inverse models

# Regional Methane Sources (2003-2012)

Top-down budget



- 60% of global methane emissions come from tropical sources
- Anthropogenic sources are responsible for 60% of global emissions.

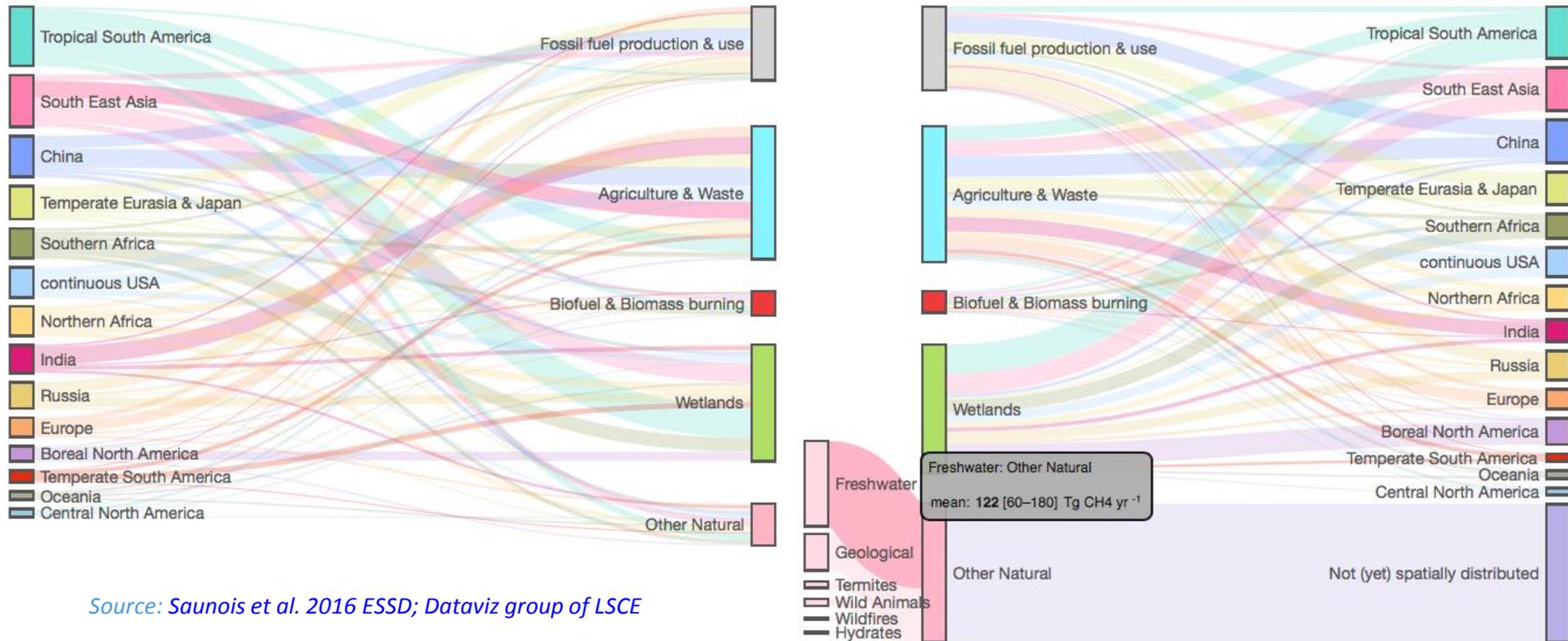
Source: Saunio et al. 2016 ERL (Fig 2)

Inverse models

LINK : <http://lsce-datavisgroup.github.io/MethaneBudget/>

Top-down budget

Bottom-up budget



Source: Saunois et al. 2016 ESSD; Dataviz group of LSCE

Emission inventories

Biogeochemistry models & data-driven methods

Inverse models

# Regional Methane Sources (2003-2012)

Source: Saunio et al. 2016 ESSD (Fig 7)

- Largest emissions in Tropical South America, South-East Asia and China (50% of global emissions)

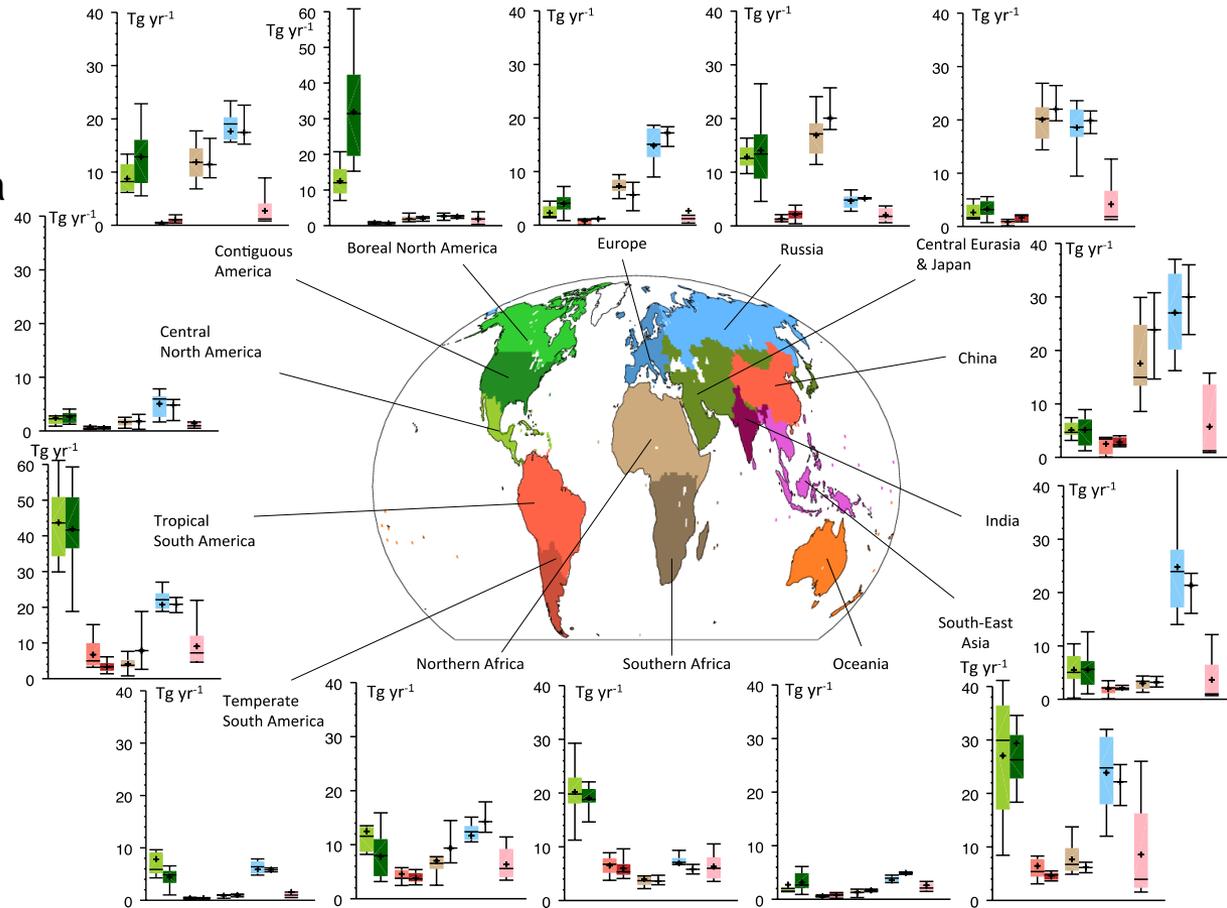
- Dominance of wetland emissions in the tropics and boreal regions

- Dominance of agriculture & waste in India and China

- Balance between agriculture & waste and fossil fuels at mid-latitudes

- Uncertain magnitude of wetland emissions in boreal regions between TD and BU

- Chinese emissions lower in TD than in BU, African emissions larger in TD than in BU



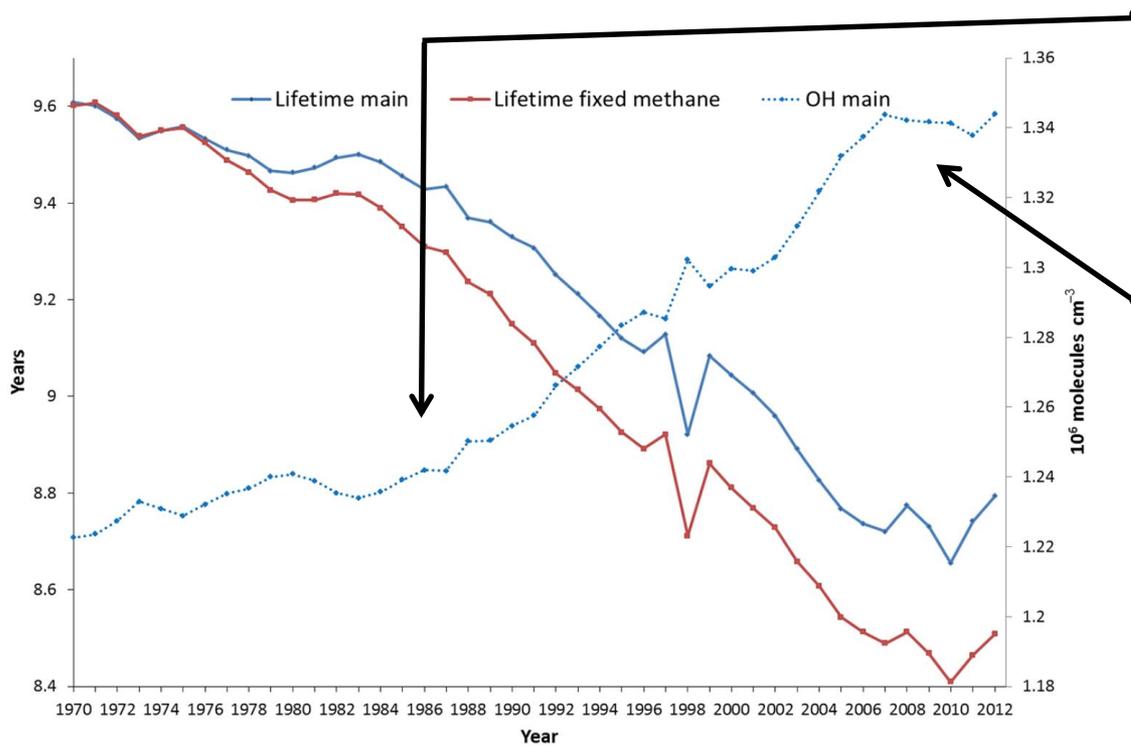
Emission inventories

Biogeochemistry models & data-driven methods

Inverse models

# Sink changes

# Impact of OH change in the methane sink ?



Sustained OH increase can contribute to explain the the stagnation of atmospheric methane (before 2007)

Stagnation or decrease in OH radicals can contribute to explain :

- the renewed increase of atmospheric methane since 2007
- The lighter atmosphere in <sup>13</sup>C isotope since 2007

Source : Dalsoren et al., 2016

**Key point: OH changes could have limited the emission changes necessary to explain the atmospheric methane variations**

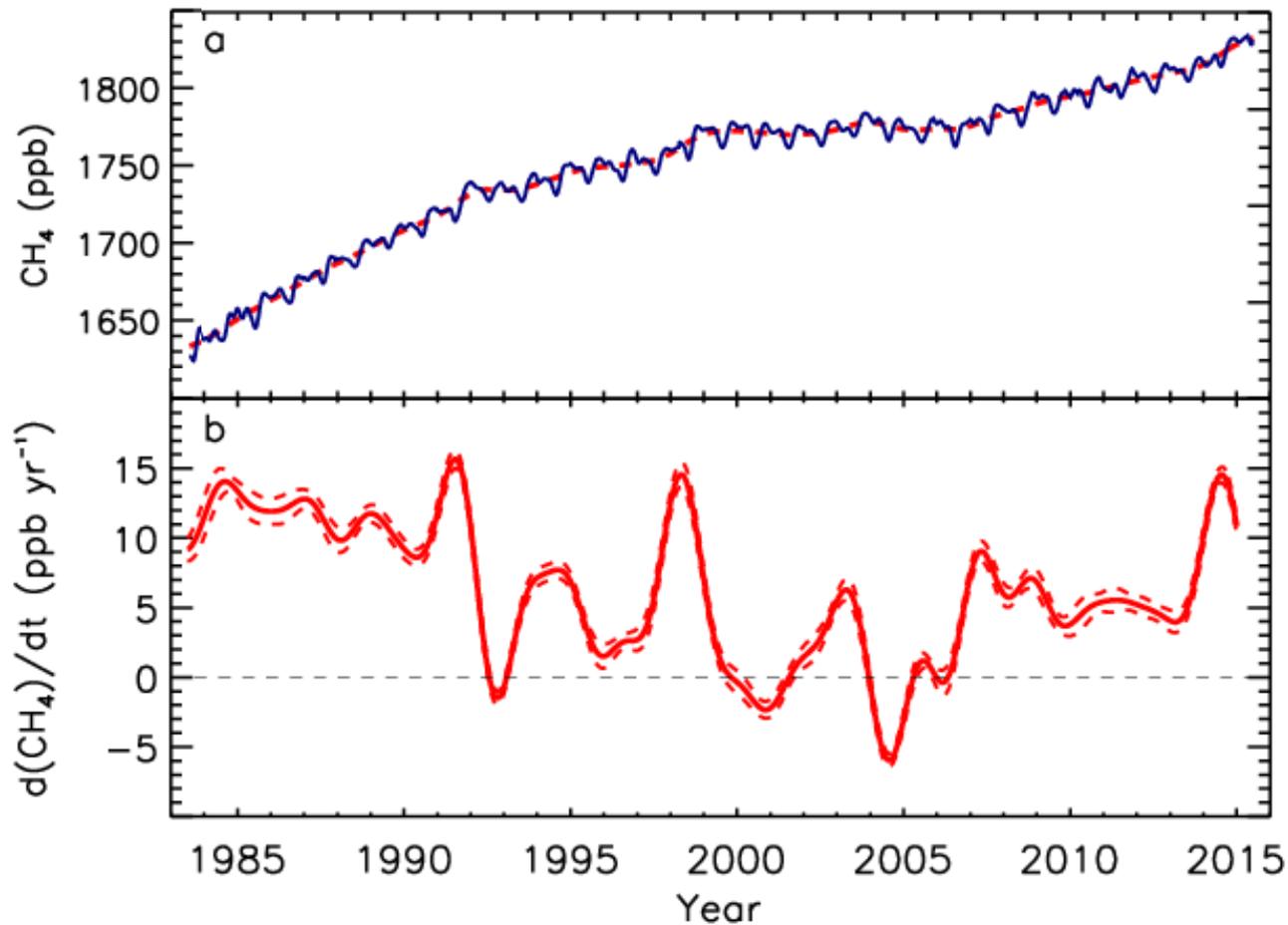
# An accelerated atmospheric increase since 2014

1830 ppb reached in 2015

+12.5 ppb/yr in 2014

+10.0 ppb/yr in 2015

**Challenging signal to analyse**



*Courtesy, Ed Dlugokencky, NOAA*

- Unlike CO<sub>2</sub>, atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations are rising faster than at any time in the past two decades and, since 2014, are now above all but the most greenhouse-gas-intensive scenarios.
- A likely major driver of the recent rapid rise in global CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations is increased biogenic emissions mostly from agriculture. Tropical regions play the most significant role as contributors to the atmospheric growth. Other sources including emissions from the use of fossil fuels have also increased.
- The role of methane sinks has to be further explored as a slower destruction of methane by OH radicals in the atmosphere could have also contributed to the observed atmospheric changes of the past decade.
- Methane global emissions were 559 TgCH<sub>4</sub>/yr [540-570] for 2003-2012 as inferred by an ensemble of atmospheric inversions (top-down approach).
- Methane mitigation offers rapid climate benefits and economic, health and agricultural co-benefits that are highly complementary to CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation.
- Emission estimates from inventories/models (bottom-up approach) show larger global totals because of larger natural emissions. Improved emission inventories and estimates from inland water emissions are needed.

Explore GHG emissions at the global and country levels, compare among countries, visualize, and download data and illustrations ('Emissions' application). Also explore 'Outreach' and 'Research'. Methane section to come.

## GLOBAL CARBON ATLAS

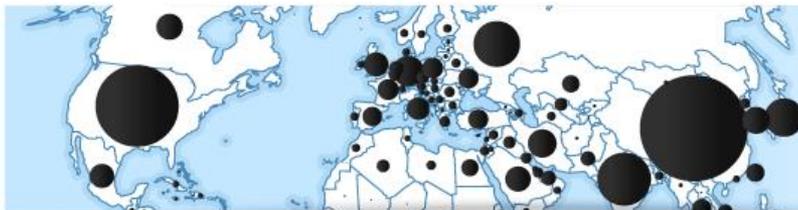
The Global Carbon Atlas is a platform to explore and visualize the most up-to-date data on carbon fluxes resulting from human activities and natural processes.

Human impacts on the carbon cycle are the most important cause of climate change.

### OUTREACH

*Take a journey through the history and future of human development and carbon*

GO



### EMISSIONS

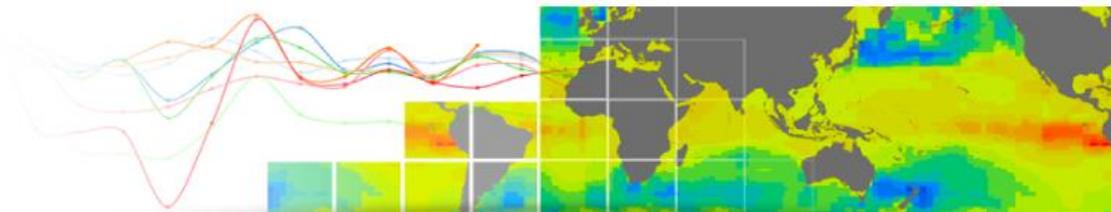
*Explore and download global and country level carbon emissions from human activity.*

GO

### RESEARCH

*Explore and visualize research carbon data, and get access through data providers*

GO



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## Global Carbon Project

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Global Methane Budget 2000-2012, data sources and data files at <http://www.globalcarbonproject.org/methanebudget/>

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