

Open access • Journal Article • DOI:10.1111/GCB.14847

Terrestrial N2O emissions and related functional genes under climate change: A global meta-analysis — Source link 🖸

Linfeng Li, Linfeng Li, Zhenzhen Zheng, Weijin Wang ...+16 more authors

Institutions: Griffith University, Chinese Academy of Sciences, University of Queensland, Agricultural Research Service ...+1 more institutions

Published on: 01 Feb 2020 - Global Change Biology (Glob Chang Biol)

Topics: Global warming, Climate change, Climate model, Terrestrial ecosystem and Tundra

Related papers:

- Effects of warming, grazing/cutting and nitrogen fertilization on greenhouse gas fluxes during growing seasons in an alpine meadow on the Tibetan Plateau
- Soil GHG fluxes are altered by N deposition: New data indicate lower N stimulation of the N 2 O flux and greater stimulation of the calculated C pools
- · Effects of multiple global change treatments on soil N 2 O fluxes
- A review of nitrogen enrichment effects on three biogenic GHGs: the CO2 sink may be largely offset by stimulated N2O and CH4 emission.
- Nitrous oxide emissions from soils: how well do we understand the processes and their controls?



1	
2	MR. LINFENG LI (Orcid ID : 0000-0001-5831-8837)
3	DR. XINGLIANG XU (Orcid ID : 0000-0003-2869-4932)
4	DR. YANBIN HAO (Orcid ID : 0000-0001-6821-0395)
5	
6	
7	Article type : Primary Research Articles
8	
9	\mathbf{O}
10	Terrestrial N_2O emissions and related functional genes under climate change: a global
11	meta-analysis
12	Running Title: climate change effects on N ₂ O
13	Linfeng Li ^{1,2,#} , Zhenzhen Zheng ^{1,#} , Weijin Wang ^{2,3,4} , Joel A. Biederman ⁵ , Xingliang Xu ⁶ ,
14	Qinwei Ran ¹ , Ruyan Qian ¹ , Cong Xu ¹ , Biao Zhang ¹ , Fang Wang ^{1,2} , Shutong Zhou ¹ , Lizhen
15	Cui ¹ , Rongxiao Che ⁷ , Yanbin Hao ^{1,8,*} , Xiaoyong Cui ^{1,8} , Zhihong Xu ² and Yanfen Wang ^{1,8,*}
16	
17	¹ College of Life Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049,
18	China;
19	² Environmental Futures Research Institute, School of Environment and Science, Griffith
20	University, Brisbane 4111, Australia;
21	³ Department of Environment and Science, Dutton Park, Brisbane, Queensland 4102,
22	Australia;
23	⁴ School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland
24	4072, Australia;
25	⁵ Southwest Watershed Research Center, Agricultural Research Service, Tucson, AZ, 85719,
26	USA;

This is the author manuscript accepted for publication and has undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the <u>Version of Record</u>. Please cite this article as <u>doi: 10.1111/gcb.14847</u>

- ⁶Key Laboratory of Ecosystem Network Observation and Modeling, Institute of Geographic
- 28 Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing
- 29 100101, China.
- ⁷Institude of International Rivers and Eco-security, Yunnan University, Kunming, Yunnan,
- 31 650091, China.
- ⁸CAS Center for Excellence in Tibetan Plateau Earth Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- 33 (CAS), Beijing 100101, China.
- [#] These authors contributed equally to this work.
- *Author for correspondence tel +86 136 6124 1601; email <u>ybhao@ucas.ac.cn;</u>
 yfwang@ucas.ac.cn

Pucas.ac.cn

37 ABSTRACT

Nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions from soil contribute to global warming and are in turn 38 substantially affected by climate change. However, climate change impacts on N₂O 39 production across terrestrial ecosystems remain poorly understood. Here, we synthesised 46 40 published studies of N₂O fluxes and relevant soil functional genes (SFGs, i.e. archaeal amoA, 41 bacterial amoA, nosZ, narG, nirK and nirS) to assess their responses to increased temperature, 42 increased or decreased precipitation amounts, and prolonged drought (no change in total 43 precipitation but increase in precipitation intervals) in terrestrial ecosystem (i.e. grasslands, 44 45 forests, shrublands, tundra and croplands). Across the dataset, temperature increased N₂O emissions by 33%. However, the effects were highly variable across biomes, with strongest 46 temperature responses in shrublands, variable responses in forests and negative responses in 47 tundra. The warming methods employed also influenced the effects of temperature on N₂O 48 emissions (most effectively induced by open-top chambers). Whole-day or whole-year 49 warming treatment significantly enhanced N₂O emissions, but day-time, night-time or short-50 season warming did not have significant effects. Regardless of biome, treatment method and 51 season, increased precipitation promoted N₂O emission by an average of 55%, while 52 decreased precipitation suppressed N₂O emission by 31%, predominantly driven by changes 53 54 in soil moisture. The effect size of precipitation changes on *nirS* and *nosZ* showed a U-shape relationship with soil moisture; further insight into biotic mechanisms underlying N2O 55 emission response to climate change remain limited by data availability, underlying a need 56 for studies that report SFG. Our findings indicate that climate change substantially affects 57 N₂O emission and highlight the urgent need to incorporate this strong feedback into most 58 climate models for convincing projection of future climate change. 59

60

61 KEYWORDS: drought, nitrous oxide, precipitation, soil N cycle, soil moisture, warming

Aut

62 INTRODUCTION

Rising atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases drive changes in both temperature 63 and the hydrologic cycle, including altered amounts and timing of precipitation. Although 64 CO₂ is the most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, the global warming potential of 65 N₂O is 265 greater than that of CO₂ (Stocker, 2014). In terrestrial ecosystems, temperature 66 and precipitation changes alter soil microclimate (Liu et al., 2016), nutrient availability (Bai 67 et al., 2013), and microbial ecology (Zhang et al., 2013), thereby impacting N₂O (Dalal & 68 Allen, 2008). Therefore our ability to predict future climate depends in part on a 69 70 comprehensive understanding of feedbacks between terrestrial N₂O emissions and ongoing climate change. 71

Taken individually, past studies of N₂O flux response to climate change show a wide 72 variety of responses such as the positive (Cui et al., 2018), neutral (Li et al., 2016) and 73 negative effects (Hu et al., 2010) on N₂O emission under experimental warming. Possible 74 reasons for such variation include differences in biome type, climate manipulation 75 76 characteristics, and experimental methods, all of which may impact the microbial communities mediating N₂O emission. Across biomes, variation in vegetation composition 77 (i.e. shrubs, graminoids and bryophytes) often moderates climate change effects on 78 79 greenhouse gas fluxes (i.e. CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O, Kuiper, Mooij, Bragazza, & Robroek, 2014; Ward et al., 2013), due to different plant and microbial traits (de Vries et al., 2012; Teuling et 80 81 al., 2010). Climate manipulation characteristics affecting N₂O emissions may include intensity, duration, and timing (seasonal and/or diurnal) of an impact. These characteristics 82 83 determine how the impact translates into soil microclimate (e.g. changes in soil moisture under different drought intensity by Li et al., 2018) and nonlinear microbial responses to 84 resultant stress (McHale, Mitchell, & Bowles, 1998). At the seasonal scale, warming outside 85 the growing season (i.e. cold season) of a peatland tended to exert greater effects on N₂O 86 87 emissions than in the growing season (Ward et al., 2013). At the diurnal scale, warming applied at different times of day may have different impacts on nitrogen pools and dynamics 88 (Bai et al., 2013). When biome type and climate impacts are consistent, differences in N_2O 89 emissions may be related to nutrient availability (Dijkstra, Morgan, Follett, & Lecain, 2013) 90 and/or microbial community composition (Bijoor, Czimczik, Pataki, & Billings, 2008) with 91 92 treatment duration. Finally, a wide variety of methods and equipment are employed in manipulative climate change experiments, potentially impacting soil microclimate, 93 microbiology and, ultimately, N₂O responses. For experimental warming, air and soil 94 temperature can be manipulated with methods including open-top chambers (OTC), heating 95

cables, infrared radiators, glasshouses and curtains. Each methodology has its specific
characteristics and limitations (Aronson & McNulty, 2009), creating different ecological
impacts on nitrogen cycling (Bai et al., 2013). Precipitation changes are most commonly
imposed using fully or partly covered rainout shelters (Hoover, Wilcox, & Young, 2018),
resulting in discrepant ecological effects (Hoover & Rogers, 2016).

101 Ultimately, the physical and biological characteristics of each experiment impact the microorganisms involved in soil N₂O production. These microbes may now be quantified 102 using recent innovations in molecular biology, providing insight into biotic mechanisms 103 104 mediating the climate-N₂O feedback (Kuypers, Marchant, & Kartal, 2018). The functional genes that encode N redox enzymes are widely used in environmental studies as gene 105 markers for nitrifiers and denitrifiers (Supporting Information, Figure S1). For example, 106 Archaeal amoA and bacteria amoA genes are used as genetic markers for AOA (ammonia-107 oxidising archaea) and AOB (ammonia-oxidising bacteria), respectively (Francis, Roberts, 108 Beman, Santoro, & Oakley, 2005). NarG is used as a gene maker for the detection of 109 microorganisms that reduce nitrate to nitrite (Kandeler, Deiglmayr, Tscherko, Bru, & 110 111 Philippot, 2006). NirS and nirK that encode cd1-NIR and Cu-NIR are used as gene makers for denitrifiers that reduce nitrite to NO (Henry et al., 2004; Kandeler et al., 2006). However, 112 113 to date, there have been no reviews on how climate change affected the soil functional genes (SFGs) involved in nitrification and denitrification, limiting our understanding of the biotic 114 drivers' impacts on responses of N₂O flux to climate change. 115

Recently, several meta-analyses have examined N2O fluxes under climate changes, but 116 these were limited in scope by a lack of data, a narrow focus on one type of climate change 117 (e.g., warming by Bai et al., 2013 or drought by Homyak, Allison, Huxman, Goulden, & 118 Treseder, 2017), or limitation to a specific biome type (e.g., Mediterranean climate cropping 119 systems by Cayuela et al., 2017). Besides, few previous meta-analyses assessed how different 120 treatment durations and intensities affected N₂O flux responses. Given the diversity of 121 biomes, climate manipulations and methods across individual site-based studies, there is a 122 need for synthesis across the rapidly growing body of site-level N₂O flux studies at a global 123 124 scale.

To address these knowledge gaps in how climate change alters N₂O flux from terrestrial ecosystems, we compiled 210 observational data points from 46 published articles (Supporting information, Table S2) to quantitatively synthesise N₂O fluxes and the relevant SFGs under climate changes, including both warming and changes in precipitation regime. The objectives of this study were to (i) identify global-scale patterns of N₂O emissions and the relevant SFG responses to various types of climate changes; (ii) relate the variability in the responses among studies to different biomes, treatment methods, treatment time, treatment season as well as treatment duration and intensity; and (iii) examine underlying biotic mechanisms for the alteration in N_2O emissions in response to climate changes.

> **Nanus** \geq Ut

134 MATERIALS AND METHODS

135 Data selection

We collected publications that reported on responses of N_2O or/and soil functional genes (i.e. 136 archaeal amoA, bacterial amoA, nosZ, narG, nirK and nirS) to experimental precipitation 137 and/or temperature manipulations in the field until November 11th, 2018 by searching Web of 138 Science using a range of search terms and wildcards (Table S1). To better represent responses 139 of N₂O and soil functional genes under natural conditions, we did not include greenhouse 140 mesocosm or laboratory experiments. Water control experiments using sewage and 141 142 wastewater, or irrigation management studies in cropland (e.g. drainage and flood irrigation) were not included. Similarly, studies on altering water table levels in wetlands or fens, 143 changes in snow cover or drying-rewetting cycles were also excluded. We limited our 144 analyses to results from plots that solely manipulated precipitation or temperature; results 145 from plots with changing precipitation or temperature combined with other resource 146 manipulations were excluded. N₂O fluxes show seasonal variations. To reduce bias caused by 147 limited sampling dates, we only included studies that measured N₂O fluxes for least three 148 149 months. If a study reported results from experiments conducted in different locations or having multiple distinct treatments, these components were treated as individual case studies. 150 151 Because effect size (natural log of the response ratio, Eq. 1) could not be calculated for those observations with zero or negative values under either control or treatments, data from studies 152 that contained zero or negative values were not included (21 out of 231 observational data 153 points). In total, our meta-analysis included 46 published papers, including 72 precipitation or 154 temperature manipulation case studies (Supporting Information, Table S2). 155

The manipulative climate change studies in the field were grouped into four types of 156 treatment: (1) increased precipitation; (2) decreased precipitation; (3) increased temperature; 157 and (4) prolonged drought (increased the intervals of precipitation but did not alter the 158 precipitation quantity). For each selected study, we collected latitude, longitude, mean annual 159 temperature (MAT) and precipitation (MAP), and one if five main biome types: forest, 160 shrubland, grassland (including grassland, lawn, meadow, prairie, steppe, and savannah), 161 cropland (including wheat, rice, maize, and apple), and tundra. The geographical locations of 162 the studies involving N₂O fluxes under climate changes spanned from 2°53' N to 56°29' N 163 (Figure 1), with the MAT ranging from -5.2 to 26.0 °C, and the MAP from 108 to 2000 mm 164 (Supporting Information, Table S2). Studies reporting SFGs were conducted at 9 165 geographically and climatically diverse sites including Inner Mongolia, Hebei, and 166

167 Guangdong in China, Iberian Peninsula in Spain, northern Minnesota in USA, Austria and168 Switzerland (Figure 1).

We also collected information on treatment time (whole-day, day-time or night-time 169 warming for increased temperature), treatment season (whole-year, growing season, winter 170 and several-day for increased temperature; whole-year and growing season for increased 171 precipitation), treatment duration, and treatment method (heating cables, infrared radiators, 172 curtains and open-top chambers (OTC) for increased temperature; exclusion (excludes all 173 ambient rainfall) or reduction (excludes a fixed proportion of the ambient rainfall) for 174 decreased precipitation) (Supporting Information, Table S2). Control and treatment means 175 (\overline{X}) , standard deviations (s), and sample sizes (n) of N₂O, SFGs and corresponding soil water 176 content and temperature were directly extracted or recalculated from digitized figures of each 177 study using Digitizer (Free Software Foundation, Inc., Boston, MI, USA). 178

179

180 Statistical analyses

Natural log of the response ratio (ln R), defined as the 'effect size', was used to assess the responses of N₂O fluxes (average or cumulative fluxes over a specific measurement period), SFGs and other variables to climate change treatments, which were calculated as:

184

$$\ln R = \ln \left(\overline{X_t} / \overline{X_c} \right) \tag{1}$$

185 with a variation (v) of :

186

$$v = \frac{s_t^2}{n_t X_t^2} + \frac{s_c^2}{n_t X_c^2}$$
(2)

where $\overline{X_t}$ and $\overline{X_c}$ are the means for the treatment and control groups, s_t and s_c are the standard deviations for all observations in the treatment and control groups, respectively; n_t and n_c are the sample sizes for the treatment and control groups, respectively.

We chose to use ln R because it is not biased by the variations among replicates within a 190 191 treatment (including control) and the absolute magnitude of N₂O fluxes among experiments and generally follows a normal distribution (Gruner et al., 2008; Vidal & Murphy, 2018). The 192 mean effect size $(\ln R)$ of all observations for a treatment was calculated from $\ln R$ using a 193 categorical random effect model. The effect sizes in different phases within the same study 194 were treated separately (e.g., one effect size per year in a multi-year study), because the mean 195 196 effect sizes based on randomly selected individual effect sizes from these multiple-phase studies were highly similar to those based on the entire effect size dataset (Table S3). This 197 198 approach was similar to past meta-analysis studies (Butler et al., 2018; Dijkstra & Adams, 2015). 199

Collectively, 98 effect sizes for N_2O were derived from 51 N_2O flux studies, including 68 effect sizes from 29 increased temperature experiments, 10 effect sizes from 7 increased precipitation experiments, and 18 effect sizes from 14 decreased precipitation experiments (Figures 2a, b and c). There was only one study with two effect sizes on N_2O fluxes under prolonged drought, and no study tested SFGs response to prolonged drought (Figure 2d).

Confidence interval (CI) of the effect size was generated using bootstrapping (9999 205 iterations). Significance of effect size was assessed with the 95% confidential interval (CI). 206 If the 95% CI of the effect size of a treatment on a variable overlapped "0", the treatment 207 208 effect was considered non-significant; otherwise, the treatment effect was significant. Categorical random effect model was used to assess whether N₂O fluxes and SFGs showed 209 different responses to climate changes among different biomes, treatment times, treatment 210 seasons and treatment methods. A significant between-group heterogeneity test (Q_b) 211 indicated a significant difference in the treatment effect between different groups (e.g., 212 exclusion vs. reduction for decreased precipitation). All statistical analyses described above 213 were performed in MetaWin 2.1. 214

To facilitate explanation, the mean effect size $(\ln R)$ was transformed back to the percentage change resulted from the treatment using the following formula:

217

$$\left(e^{\overline{\ln R}} - 1\right) \times 100\% \tag{3}$$

In addition to the meta-analysis procedure, relationships between effect size on N₂O or SFGS 218 and changes in soil condition and experimental treatment were also examined. According to 219 the principle of maximum adjusted R^2 , linear correlations were employed to examine the 220 relationships between the effect size for N₂O and changes in soil temperature, treatment 221 duration in increased temperature studies and the effect size for soil moisture in decreased and 222 increased precipitation studies. Similarly, binomial correlations were used to test the 223 relationships between the effect size of SFGs and the effect size of soil moisture across 224 decreased 225 and increased precipitation studies. D V

226 **RESULTS**

$227 N_2O flux$

On average, increased temperature and increased precipitation significantly increased N₂O emissions by 33% and 55% (95% CI: 11 - 62% and 29 - 83%), respectively, while decreased precipitation and prolonged drought supressed N₂O emissions by 31% and 25% (95% CI: -41 to -17% and -30 to -22%), respectively (Figure 2).

Different biomes showed clear differences in N₂O response to increased temperature (P <232 0.01, Table 1). Increased temperature stimulated N₂O emission by 208% in shrublands (95% 233 CI: 62 - 507%, supressed N₂O emission in tundras by 68% (95% CI: -85 to -35%), had 234 various effects in forests (95% CI: -4 to 164%). Meanwhile, increased temperature did not 235 significantly alter N₂O emissions in the biome groupings of grasslands (95% CI: -10 to 44%) 236 or croplands (95% CI: -12 to 22%) (Figure 2a). Additionally, N₂O responses to increased 237 temperature depended significantly on treatment methods (P < 0.01, Table 1). The use of 238 open-top chambers (OTCs) consistently increased N₂O emissions (mean effect size: 172%; 239 95% CI: 59 - 407%) while heating cables had no significant effect (mean effect size: 45%; 95% 240 CI: -6 to 117%). In contrast, infrared radiators and curtains did not significantly increase N₂O 241 emissions (Figure 2a). Although N₂O emission in response to increased temperature did not 242 243 significantly change with treatment time and season (P = 0.53 and 0.67, respectively, Table 1), the treatments over whole-day (mean effect size: 35%; 95% CI: 11 - 67%) or whole-year 244 (mean effect size: 38%; 95% CI: 8 - 80%) consistently had significant positive effects (Figure 245 2a). 246

Increasing soil temperature in shrubland ($R^2 = 0.43$, P = 0.03) while there were no 247 significant relationships between N₂O emissions and temperature in other biomes (Figure 3a). 248 Besides, the effect size of increased temperature on N₂O emissions increased with marginal 249 significance with treatment duration in studies with the OTC method ($R^2 = 0.17$, P = 0.07), 250 decreased marginally with the duration in studies with the heating cable method ($R^2 = 0.14$, P 251 = 0.08), but did not change significantly in studies with the infrared radiator method (Figure 252 3b). Additionally, the effect of increased temperature on N_2O emissions had a weakly 253 positive relationship with latitude (Supporting Information, Figure S2b). 254

The effects of increased precipitation on N₂O emission were consistently positive regardless of treatment seasons (P = 0.93, Table 1 and Figure 2b). Similarly, decreased precipitation reduced N₂O emission irrespective of biomes and treatment methods (P = 0.90and 0.85, respectively, Table 1 and Figure 2c). The effect size on N₂O emissions had a significant positive relationship with the effect size of soil moisture across increased and

- decreased precipitation studies ($R^2 = 0.25$, P < 0.01; Figure 3c). Additionally, the effect of decreased temperature on N₂O emissions had a significantly positive relationship with MAP, while there is no significant relationship between the effect of increased precipitation on N₂O emissions and MAP (Supporting Information, Figure S2c).
- 264

265 Soil functional genes

Increased temperature did not significantly affect abundance of archaeal amoA, bacterial 266 amoA and nosZ, but significantly decreased abundances of nirK and nirS by 26% (95% CI: -267 38 to -6%) and 31% (95% CI: -49 to -12%), respectively (Figure 4). There were no 268 significant differences in increased temperature effects on SFGs between biome, treatment 269 season and method groups (Supporting Information, Figure S3 and Table 1). Decreased 270 precipitation had few effects on abundances of archaeal *amoA*, bacterial *amoA*, *nirK* and *nosZ* 271 (Figures 4a, b, c, e and S4) but showed positive effects on abundances of *nirS* based on two 272 studies (mean effect size: 170%; 95% CI: 41 - 432%, Figure 4d). Increased precipitation had 273 little effect on abundances of archaeal *amoA*, *nirK*, *nirS* and *nosZ* (Figures 4a, c, d, e and S5) 274 while showing negative effects on abundances of bacterial amoA (mean effect size: -52%; 95% 275 CI: -64 to -35%, Figure 4b). 276

277 For increased temperature studies, there were no significant relationships between the effect size on SFGs (archaeal amoA, bacterial amoA and nosZ; nirK and nirS were not tested 278 due to limited sample size) and changes in soil temperature and treatment duration 279 (Supporting Information, Figures S6a-f). Across increased and decreased precipitation studies, 280 nirK and nosZ showed significant and marginally significant upward-convex relationships 281 with soil moisture, and were lowest when the effect size on soil moisture was about 0.2 ($R^2 =$ 282 0.60, P = 0.02 and $R^2 = 0.30$, P = 0.08, respectively; Figures 5d and e). In contrast, the 283 relationships of the effect size on archaeal *amoA*, bacterial *amoA* and *nirS* to the effect size 284 285 on soil moisture were not significant (Figures 5a-c).

Au

286 **DISCUSSION**

To our knowledge, this meta-analysis is one of the pioneering studies to provide a synthetic 287 evaluation of N₂O emissions from terrestrial ecosystems, especially relevant soil functional 288 genes, under multiple types of climate change including increased temperature, increased 289 precipitation, decreased precipitation, and prolonged drought. Compared with previous meta-290 analysis studies, this study encompasses a more extensive database (e.g. 68 vs. 26 for N₂O 291 under increased temperature (Bai et al., 2013)). In particular, this study fills a critical 292 knowledge gap on how increased precipitation affects N₂O emissions. Unfortunately, to date, 293 294 prolonged drought effects on N₂O and relevant SFGs still remain largely unclear due to insufficient studies (one study for N₂O emission and no study for SFGs, Table S2). 295

296

297 N₂O emission stimulated by increased temperature

On average, our analysis indicated that experimentally increased temperature significantly increased N₂O emission by 33% (Figure 2a). This was much higher than the non-significant increase of 14% found in an earlier meta-analysis based on 26 measurements (Bai et al., 2013), confirming that warming could increase N₂O emissions, consistent with expectations based on temperature-driven microbial kinetics.

303 There are several possible mechanisms for the positive effect of increased temperature on N₂O emissions (Figure 6). First, elevated soil temperature can speed N mineralization and 304 305 thereby inorganic N availability (Bai et al., 2013; Bijoor et al., 2008; Chen et al., 2017; Cui et al., 2018; Tu & Li, 2017), providing substrate for nitrification and denitrification. Second, 306 increased temperature may benefit plant growth including root growth and turnover (Wu, 307 Dijkstra, Koch, Penuelas, & Hungate, 2011). Labile carbon via root exudation and litter 308 decomposition would facilitate N₂O emissions (Liu et al., 2018) as denitrification is generally 309 stimulated by high availability of labile carbon as a source of energy (Kuypers et al., 2018). 310 Third, increased temperature can enhance root respiration, which consumes oxygen in soils 311 and thus promotes N₂O production through anaerobic denitrification (Saggar et al., 2013). 312 Fourth, the activity and abundance of denitrifiers and nitrifiers could be directly stimulated by 313 higher temperature to produce more N₂O (Shi, Chen, Chen, Wu, & Wu, 2012). For example, 314 warming boosted N₂O emission as a result of increased bacterial amoA abundance in a 315 boreal-temperate forest (Martins et al., 2017). Cantarel et al., (2012) suggested that increased 316 temperature had positive effects on N₂O emission due to not only greater production of N₂O 317 but also less reduction of N₂O in an upland grassland ecosystem, as demonstrated by the 318 increased abundances of bacterial amoA, nirK as well as nosZ genes. In some permafrost 319

regions, in addition to direct positive effects of increased soil temperature, soil thawing under increased temperature also further promoted N mineralization, plant growth and thus organic matter, and the activities of denitrifiers and nitrifiers, resulting in extra positive effects on N₂O emission (Chen et al., 2017; Cui et al., 2018).

With the assembled datasets presently available, we were not able to pinpoint the soil 324 microbial mechanisms underlying positive temperature effects on N₂O emission at a global 325 scale (Figure 4). The potential reasons for such disconnection between temperature effects on 326 N₂O emission and on SFGs include data limitations and possible underlying mechanistic 327 328 explanations. An important limitation of this meta-analyses is that N₂O flux and SFGs were measured independently, presenting a possible barrier to finding their relation. To date, there 329 remains a lack of sufficient field experiments measuring both N₂O emissions and SFGs (e.g. 330 there were only three studies with four observations investigating warming effects on *nirK* 331 and *nirS*). Mechanistically, if soils are dried by increased temperature, we would expect 332 333 decreased abundances of denitrifiers and nitrifiers, especially denitrifiers which are inhibited by aerobic conditions in drier soils (Waghmode et al., 2018). Additionally, enhanced plant 334 335 growth with increased temperature may increase inorganic nitrogen uptake by the plants, thereby reducing soil nitrogen availability for N₂O production through nitrification and 336 337 denitrification (Carter et al., 2012; Dijkstra et al., 2013; Dijkstra et al., 2012; Pereira et al., 2013; Zhu et al., 2015). In some cases, plants prioritize aboveground growth in the face of 338 increased temperature while reducing belowground carbon supply (Dieleman et al., 2012), 339 which may limit denitrifier proliferation and thus N₂O emissions. These mechanisms could 340 also underlie observed negative or null effects of increased temperature on N₂O emission in 341 some studies (Dijkstra et al., 2013; Hu et al., 2010; Liu et al., 2016). Overall, alteration of soil 342 temperature and moisture under experimental warming may have interactive or cascading 343 effects on plant growth and/or soil nitrogen and carbon contents, complicating relationships 344 between N₂O responses and SFGs (Figure 6). Further observational data are required. 345

346

High variation of N₂O response to increased temperature across biomes and warming methods

It should be noted that the effect sizes of increased temperature on N_2O emissions and the relationships with changes in soil temperature and treatment duration varied largely with different biomes and warming methods (Table 1, Figures 2a, 3a and b), consistent with a previous review suggesting that increased temperature had mixed effects on N_2O emission (Dijkstra et al., 2012). Shrublands showed the strongest response to experimental increased temperature among all the biomes and the positive responses to rise in soil temperature were mainly recorded in a three-year study conducted in a permafrost region, Northeast China (Cui et al., 2018). However, for extensively investigated grassland and forest ecosystems, we did not find any significant relationships between the effect size of increased temperature on N_2O emission and changes in soil temperature or warming duration. Therefore the general patterns of increased temperature effect on N_2O emissions in relation to warming intensity or duration remain largely unknown.

The OTC method appeared to be the most effective increased temperature method, 361 362 followed by heating cables, in terms of promotion of N₂O fluxes (Figure 2a). Interestingly, the effect size of increased temperature on N₂O induced by OTCs and heating cables showed 363 positive and negative relationships with treatment duration, respectively (Figure 3b). This 364 may be because the passive OTC method generally had less impacts on soil moisture when 365 the temperature was gradually but continuously increased (Bai et al., 2013), and thus the 366 direct positive temperature effect dominated among the driving factors to N₂O emissions. In 367 contrast, directly and actively heating soil with heating cables for a long time could 368 substantially reduce soil moisture (Bai et al., 2013), thereby offsetting the positive effect of 369 increased temperature on N₂O emissions. Another potential reason for the high sensitivity of 370 371 N₂O emission to the OTC warming method is that this method was mainly used in cold ecosystems (Table S2), such as a permafrost region (MAT is -3.9 °C, (Cui et al., 2018)), 372 Tibetan Plateau (MAT is -5.2 °C, (Chen et al., 2017)), and an alpine tundra (MAT is -1.6 °C, 373 (Zhou et al., 2016)). The OTCs were the most often used method to increase temperature in 374 remote or high-latitude regions where electrical supply can be problematic (Aronson & 375 McNulty, 2009). Although experimentally increased temperature could effectively ease the 376 temperature limitation to microbial activities in these areas, infrared radiation, which is the 377 best method for simulating natural warming for ecosystems (Aronson & McNulty, 2009), 378 appeared to have less influence on N₂O emissions. It might be attributed to the fact that this 379 method was widely used in various environmental conditions (e.g. a large range of ambient 380 temperature and precipitation, Table S2) and induced various effects on soil temperature as 381 382 well as soil moisture and subsequent nitrogen cycling as discussed above. As a result, the temperature effect on N₂O emission could have been offset or overshadowed by moisture 383 effect in some cases (Liu et al., 2016; Tu & Li, 2017). Besides, only whole-day and whole-384 year warming treatment significantly enhanced N₂O emission among all treatment times and 385 seasons, respectively, suggesting that continued warming had the largest impacts on N₂O 386 emissions. Therefore, the high variability in N₂O emission responses to increased temperature 387

may bring great challenges to predict N_2O fluxes under global warming and resultant future climate change at large spatial or temporal scales based on the field manipulative experiments.

391 N₂O emission under changed precipitation regimes

Overall, our estimate of N₂O emission suppression (-31%) by decreased precipitation (Figure 392 2b) is generally comparable to the recent synthesis of drought-induced decline in N₂O 393 emission (-53%) with a smaller data volume (15) and a different computing method for effect 394 sizes (Hedge's d) (Homyak et al., 2017). However, the corresponding 95% confidence 395 396 interval of estimates in this meta-analysis was much smaller than that of Homyak et al. (2017) (-0.53 to -0.19 vs. -1.38 to -0.15), providing a more well-constrained estimate of how 397 precipitation regulates N₂O production globally. In contrast to the effect of decreased 398 precipitation, N₂O emission was significantly promoted by increased precipitation (Figure 2c), 399 which is in agreement with most previous observations (Brown et al., 2011; Du, Guo, Cao, & 400 Li, 2016; Liu et al., 2015; Zhang, Hou, Guo, Li, & Xu, 2017). Together with the consistent 401 response of N₂O emission to increased and decreased precipitation regardless of biomes, 402 treatment methods and seasons (Figures 2b and c), as well as the strong positive relationship 403 between the effect sizes of N₂O vs. soil moisture (Figure 3c), we highlight that N₂O 404 405 emissions from terrestrial ecosystems were strongly regulated by soil water availability.

Generally, N₂O emissions were more affected by decreased precipitation-induced negative 406 407 effects including suppression of microorganism activities and abundances (Auyeung, Martiny, & Dukes, 2015; Shi et al., 2012), decline in nitrogen mineralization (Larsen et al., 2011) and 408 unfavourable aerobic environment for denirtifiers (Davidson, Nepstad, Ishida, & Brando, 409 2008), in comparison to the accompanying positive effects such as increase in C and N 410 substrate import (Davidson, Ishida, & Nepstad, 2004) and favourable aerobic environment for 411 nirtifiers (Carter et al., 2012). In contrast, the increased precipitation-induced positive effects 412 tended to dominate over the negative effects on N₂O emissions (Brown et al., 2011; Liu et al., 413 2015; Zhang et al., 2017). Therefore, soil moisture could be considered as an important 414 regulatory and thus predictive factor for N₂O emissions under climate change although 415 current projections about precipitation variations in response to climate change remain 416 uncertain (Lazenby, Todd, Chadwick, & Wang, 2018). 417

Interestingly, we found both effect sizes of *nirK* and *nosZ* showed U-shaped relationships with the effect size of soil moisture (Figures 5d and e), in contrast to the perception that *nirK* and *nosZ* genes may be inhibited by lower soil moisture and corresponding higher soil oxygen concentration under drought (Delgado-Baquerizo et al., 2014; Homyak et al., 2017). The increases in the abundance of these two functional genes were observed when 67% of rainfall was excluded during a dry season in a 35-year old mixed species forest study (Chen et al., 2017). More studies are required to verify the effects of decreased precipitation on denitrifiers and nitrifiers as well as N₂O emissions.

The only prolonged drought study in this meta-analysis suggested that prolonged drought 426 suppressed N₂O emissions by 25% (Fentabil et al., 2016). As with increased or decreased 427 precipitation, we assumed that prolonged drought effects on N₂O emissions should also be 428 strongly controlled by soil moisture (Figure 6). In other words, N₂O emission could be 429 430 increased by prolonged drought-induced higher-volume rainfall events necessary to accomplish the same seasonal precipitation with longer dry intervals or decreased by 431 prolonged drought-induced dry soil conditions during drought. But soil moisture response to 432 prolonged drought, both magnitude and direction, may depend on ecosystem types due to 433 habitat-specific environmental conditions (e.g. moist or dry) and annual precipitation amount 434 (Knapp et al., 2008; Thomey et al., 2011). For example, larger but fewer rain events led to 435 greater average soil moisture in a semiarid shortgrass steppe in north eastern Colorado 436 (Heisler-White, Blair, Kelly, Harmoney, & Knapp, 2009) while resulting in a lower 437 temporally averaged soil water content in a semiarid steppe in Inner Mongolia (Liu et al., 438 439 2017).

440

441 LIMITATIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

Globally, we found overall significant positive effects of experimental increased temperature 442 on N₂O emission, but there are still uncertainties across individual studies due to multiple 443 regulation mechanisms. We were unable to quantify the direct and indirect effects among soil 444 temperature, soil moisture, soil nitrate and ammonium concentrations, plant biomass (above 445 and below portion), and especially soil function genes on N₂O fluxes (for example, using 446 structural equation model method), as few studies measured many of these variables 447 simultaneously. N₂O emission was the primary targeted parameter in these studies, while the 448 corresponding SFGs were rarely measured. Such limited data of SFGs currently available 449 from several specific regions did not allow us to draw general conclusions about how 450 nitrifiers and denitrifiers respond to climate changes at a global scale. However, considering 451 soil biotic communities play direct and fundamental roles in driving soil N₂O response to 452 climate change, the SFGs responses to simulated climate change are urgently needed to 453 improve our understanding of biological mechanisms for N₂O emissions from various 454 terrestrial ecosystems. 455

Our analysis did not consider the interaction between different climate changes. Increased 456 temperature and decreased precipitation are often coupled in nature mainly through positive 457 drought-temperature feedbacks (Ciais et al., 2005; De Boeck, Dreesen, Janssens, & Nijs, 458 2010; Seneviratne, Luthi, Litschi, & Schar, 2006), while both temperature and precipitation 459 were predicted to increase in the future in some regions, such as East Africa (Stocker, 2014). 460 Effects of changes in temperature and precipitation work together and may trigger 461 unexpected outcomes. Besides, atmospheric nitrogen deposition is a primary global change 462 and nitrogen enrichment has been shown to alter N₂O response to climate changes (Brown et 463 464 al., 2011; Chen et al., 2017; Zhao et al., 2017). Evaluating interactive effects of multiple global change factors on ecosystem processes is more important for understanding ecological 465 responses than looking into a single factor alone (Luo et al., 2008; Zhu, Chiariello, Tobeck, 466 Fukami, & Field, 2016). Thus it is essential and vital to adequately assess how N₂O fluxes 467 would respond to interactions of these factors. 468

In reviewing field experiments in this meta-analysis, it became apparent that almost all 469 studies included in this meta-analysis examined the impacts of long-term chronic climate 470 change. For increased temperature studies, 16 out of 29 studies were warming throughout the 471 whole year and 12 studies were warming over the growing season or winter only, with only 472 473 one heat wave study (extreme warming for one week, (Li et al., 2016)) (Figure 2a). For increased precipitation studies, evenly increased precipitation throughout a year were tested 474 475 in all studies apart from one with randomly increased precipitation during a four-month treatment period. There is almost no study examining short-term but large increases in 476 temperature and precipitation to simulate heat waves and heavy rainfalls. Although past 477 studies have largely improved our understanding of how N₂O flux responds to changes in 478 precipitation and increases in temperature, much work is required to further our 479 understanding of the climate change effects on N₂O fluxes, as the ecological effects of 480 climate extremes and those of long-term chronic climate change were markedly different 481 (Jentsch, Kreyling, & Beierkuhnlein, 2007; Reyer et al., 2013). A typical example is the 482 application of a constant heat sum on northern red oak seedlings with different amplitudes 483 and duration, + 3 °C for four weeks, + 6 °C for two weeks and + 12 °C for one week, 484 representing warming, moderate heat wave and severe heat wave, respectively (Bauweraerts 485 et al., 2013). Interestingly, these three treatments increased, did not change and decreased 486 biomass accumulation, respectively, highlighting opposite ecosystem responses to long-term 487 warming and short-term heat waves. Therefore, we suggest that future manipulative field 488 experiments should investigate extreme climate event treatments. 489

490

491 **CONCLUSIONS**

Understanding the responses of N₂O emissions from soil under climate change is important 492 for predicting future climate and nitrogen cycling in terrestrial ecosystems. Our synthesis 493 based on an extensive new database showed that increased temperature significantly 494 stimulates N₂O emissions at a global scale, despite varying degrees of impact across different 495 biomes, treatment time and warming methods, representing a positive global warming 496 feedback. Additionally, as increased and decreased precipitation respectively promoted and 497 498 suppressed N₂O emission regardless of biomes, treatment methods and seasons, as well as the strong positive relationship between the effect sizes of N₂O vs. soil moisture, precipitation 499 amount and corresponding soil moisture could be considered as a strong regulatory and thus 500 predictive factor for N₂O emissions under future uncertain precipitation regime. To 501 accurately project future climate, climate models should incorporate N₂O feedback and field 502 manipulative studies need to focus on biotic mechanisms (i.e. SFGs) underlying N₂O 503 504 emission climate change. response in to

Author Mar

505 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 506 This project was funded by the CAS Strategic Priority Research Programme (A) (Grant No.
- 507 XDA20050103, XDA19030202) and the International Cooperation and Exchange of National
- Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 31761123001, 31761143018). Great thanks
- 509 for the help of the Inner Mongolia Grassland Ecosystem Research Station.

lanusc \geq utl

510 **REFERENCES**

- Aronson, E. L., & McNulty, S. G. (2009). Appropriate experimental ecosystem warming
 methods by ecosystem, objective, and practicality. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology*, 149(11), 1791-1799. doi:10.1016/j.agrformet.2009.06.007
- Auyeung, D. N., Martiny, J. B., & Dukes, J. S. (2015). Nitrification kinetics and
 ammonia-oxidizing community respond to warming and altered precipitation. *Ecosphere*, 6(5), 1-17. doi:10.1890/ES14-00481.1
- Bai, E., Li, S., Xu, W., Li, W., Dai, W., & Jiang, P. (2013). A meta-analysis of experimental
 warming effects on terrestrial nitrogen pools and dynamics. *New Phytologist, 199*(2),
 431-440. doi:10.1111/nph.12252
- Bauweraerts, I., Wertin, T. M., Ameye, M., McGuire, M. A., Teskey, R. O., & Steppe, K.
 (2013). The effect of heat waves, elevated [CO₂] and low soil water availability on
 northern red oak (Quercus rubra L.) seedlings. *Global Change Biology*, 19(2), 517528. doi:10.1111/gcb.12044
- Bijoor, N. S., Czimczik, C. I., Pataki, D. E., & Billings, S. A. (2008). Effects of temperature
 and fertilization on nitrogen cycling and community composition of an urban lawn. *Global Change Biology*, 14(9), 2119-2131. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2486.2008.01617.x
- Brown, J. R., Blankinship, J. C., Niboyet, A., van Groenigen, K. J., Dijkstra, P., Le Roux,
 X., . . Hungate, B. A. (2011). Effects of multiple global change treatments on soil
 N₂O fluxes. *Biogeochemistry*, 109(1-3), 85-100. doi:10.1007/s10533-011-9655-2
- Butler, O. M., Elser, J. J., Lewis, T., Mackey, B., & Chen, C. (2018). The phosphorus-rich
 signature of fire in the soil-plant system: a global meta-analysis. *Ecology Letters*,
 21(3), 335-344. doi:10.1111/ele.12896
- Cantarel, A. A. M., Bloor, J. M. G., Pommier, T., Guillaumaud, N., Moirot, C., Soussana, J.
 F., & Poly, F. (2012). Four years of experimental climate change modifies the
 microbial drivers of N₂O fluxes in an upland grassland ecosystem. *Global Change Biology*, 18(8), 2520-2531. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2486.2012.02692.x
- Carter, M. S., Larsen, K. S., Emmett, B., Estiarte, M., Field, C., Leith, I. D., . . . Beier, C.
 (2012). Synthesizing greenhouse gas fluxes across nine European peatlands and
 shrublands responses to climatic and environmental changes. *Biogeosciences*, 9(10),
 3739-3755. doi:10.5194/bg-9-3739-2012
- Cayuela, M. L., Aguilera, E., Sanz-Cobena, A., Adams, D. C., Abalos, D., Barton, L., . . .
 Lassaletta, L. (2017). Direct nitrous oxide emissions in Mediterranean climate

- 543 cropping systems: Emission factors based on a meta-analysis of available
 544 measurement data. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment, 238*, 25-35.
 545 doi:10.1016/j.agee.2016.10.006
- Chen, J., Xiao, G., Kuzyakov, Y., Jenerette, G. D., Ma, Y., Liu, W., ... Shen, W. (2017). Soil
 nitrogen transformation responses to seasonal precipitation changes are regulated by
 changes in functional microbial abundance in a subtropical forest. *Biogeosciences*,
 14(9), 2513-2525. doi:10.5194/bg-14-2513-2017
- Chen, X., Wang, G., Zhang, T., Mao, T., Wei, D., Hu, Z., & Song, C. (2017). Effects of
 warming and nitrogen fertilization on GHG flux in the permafrost region of an alpine
 meadow. *Atmospheric Environment*, 157, 111-124.
 doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2017.03.024
- Ciais, P., Reichstein, M., Viovy, N., Granier, A., Ogee, J., Allard, V., ... Valentini, R. (2005).
 Europe-wide reduction in primary productivity caused by the heat and drought in
 2003. *Nature*, 437(7058), 529-533. doi:10.1038/nature03972
- Cui, Q., Song, C., Wang, X., Shi, F., Yu, X., & Tan, W. (2018). Effects of warming on N₂O
 fluxes in a boreal peatland of Permafrost region, Northeast China. *Science of Total Environment*, 616-617, 427-434. doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2017.10.246
- Dalal, R. C., & Allen, D. E. (2008). Greenhouse gas fluxes from natural ecosystems.
 Australian Journal of Botany, 56(5), 369-407. doi:10.1071/bt07128
- Davidson, E. A., Ishida, F. Y., & Nepstad, D. C. (2004). Effects of an experimental drought
 on soil emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and nitric oxide in a
 moist tropical forest. *Global Change Biology*, *10*(5), 718-730. doi:10.1111/j.15298817.2003.00762.x
- Davidson, E. A., Nepstad, D. C., Ishida, F. Y., & Brando, P. M. (2008). Effects of an
 experimental drought and recovery on soil emissions of carbon dioxide, methane,
 nitrous oxide, and nitric oxide in a moist tropical forest. *Global Change Biology*.
 doi:10.1111/j.1365-2486.2008.01694.x
- De Boeck, H. J., Dreesen, F. E., Janssens, I. A., & Nijs, I. (2010). Climatic characteristics of
 heat waves and their simulation in plant experiments. *Global Change Biology*, *16*(7),
 1992-2000. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2486.2009.02049.x
- Delgado-Baquerizo, M., Maestre, F. T., Escolar, C., Gallardo, A., Ochoa, V., Gozalo, B., &
 Prado-Comesaña, A. (2014). Direct and indirect impacts of climate change on
 microbial and biocrust communities alter the resistance of the N cycle in a semiarid
 grassland. *Journal of Ecology*, *102*(6), 1592-1605. doi: 10.1111/1365-2745.12303

- de Vries, F. T., Liiri, M. E., Bjørnlund, L., Bowker, M. A., Christensen, S., Setälä, H. M., &
 Bardgett, R. D. (2012). Land use alters the resistance and resilience of soil food webs
 to drought. *Nature Climate Change*, 2(4), 276-280. doi:10.1038/nclimate1368
- Dieleman, W. I., Vicca, S., Dijkstra, F. A., Hagedorn, F., Hovenden, M. J., Larsen, K. S., ...
 Dukes, J. S. (2012). Simple additive effects are rare: a quantitative review of plant
 biomass and soil process responses to combined manipulations of CO₂ and
 temperature. *Global Change Biology*, *18*(9), 2681-2693. doi:10.1111/j.13652486.2012.02745.x
- Dijkstra, F., & Adams, M. (2015). Fire eases imbalances of nitrogen and phosphorus in
 woody plants. *Ecosystems*, 18(5), 769-779. doi:10.1007/s10021-015-9861-1
- Dijkstra, F. A., Morgan, J. A., Follett, R. F., & Lecain, D. R. (2013). Climate change reduces
 the net sink of CH₄ and N₂O in a semiarid grassland. *Global Change Biology*, *19*(6),
 1816-1826. doi:10.1111/Gcb.12182
- Dijkstra, F. A., Prior, S. A., Runion, G. B., Torbert, H. A., Tian, H., Lu, C., & Venterea, R. T.
 (2012). Effects of elevated carbon dioxide and increased temperature on methane and
 nitrous oxide fluxes: evidence from field experiments. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment, 10*(10), 520-527. doi:10.1890/120059
- Du, Y., Guo, X., Cao, G., & Li, Y. (2016). Increased Nitrous Oxide Emissions Resulting
 from Nitrogen addition and increased precipitation in an alpine meadow ecosystem.
 Polish Journal of Environmental Studies, 25(1), 447-451. doi:10.15244/pjoes/60860
- Fentabil, M. M., Nichol, C. F., Jones, M. D., Neilsen, G. H., Neilsen, D., & Hannam, K. D.
 (2016). Effect of drip irrigation frequency, nitrogen rate and mulching on nitrous
 oxide emissions in a semi-arid climate: An assessment across two years in an apple
 orchard. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment, 235*, 242-252.
 doi:10.1016/j.agee.2016.09.033
- Francis, C. A., Roberts, K. J., Beman, J. M., Santoro, A. E., & Oakley, B. B. (2005). Ubiquity
 and diversity of ammonia-oxidizing archaea in water columns and sediments of the
 ocean. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 102(41), 14683-14688. doi:10.1073/pnas.0506625102
- Gruner, D. S., Smith, J. E., Seabloom, E. W., Sandin, S. A., Ngai, J. T., Hillebrand, H., . . .
 Bracken, M. E. (2008). A cross-system synthesis of consumer and nutrient resource
 control on producer biomass. *Ecology Letters*, 11(7), 740-755. doi:10.1111/j.14610248.2008.01192.x

- Heisler-White, J. L., Blair, J. M., Kelly, E. F., Harmoney, K., & Knapp, A. K. (2009).
 Contingent productivity responses to more extreme rainfall regimes across a grassland
 biome. *Global Change Biology*, *15*(12), 2894-2904. doi:10.1111/j.13652486.2009.01961.x
- Henry, S., Baudoin, E., López-Gutiérrez, J. C., Martin-Laurent, F., Brauman, A., & Philippot,
 L. (2004). Quantification of denitrifying bacteria in soils by nirK gene targeted realtime PCR. *Journal of Microbiological Methods*, 59(3), 327-335.
 doi:10.1016/j.mimet.2004.07.002
- Homyak, P. M., Allison, S. D., Huxman, T. E., Goulden, M. L., & Treseder, K. K. (2017).
 Effects of drought manipulation on soil nitrogen cycling: A Meta-Analysis. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences, 122*(12), 3260-3272.
 doi:10.1002/2017jg004146
- Hoover, D. L., & Rogers, B. M. (2016). Not all droughts are created equal: the impacts of
 interannual drought pattern and magnitude on grassland carbon cycling. *Global Change Biology*, 22(5), 1809-1820. doi:10.1111/gcb.13161
- Hoover, D. L., Wilcox, K. R., & Young, K. E. (2018). Experimental droughts with rainout
 shelters: a methodological review. *Ecosphere*, 9(1). doi:02088. 10.1002/ecs2.2088
- Hu, Y., Chang, X., Lin, X., Wang, Y., Wang, S., Duan, J., . . . Zhao, X. (2010). Effects of
 warming and grazing on N₂O fluxes in an alpine meadow ecosystem on the Tibetan
 plateau. Soil Biology and Biochemistry, 42(6), 944-952.
 doi:10.1016/j.soilbio.2010.02.011
- Jentsch, A., Kreyling, J., & Beierkuhnlein, C. (2007). A new generation of climate-change
 experiments: events, not trends. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 5(7), 365374. doi:10.1890/1540-9295(2007)5[365:ANGOCE]2.0.CO;2
- Kandeler, E., Deiglmayr, K., Tscherko, D., Bru, D., & Philippot, L. (2006). Abundance of *narG*, *nirS*, *nirK*, and *nosZ* genes of denitrifying bacteria during primary successions
 of a glacier foreland. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, *72*(9), 5957-5962.
 doi:10.1128/AEM.00439-06
- Knapp, A. K., Beier, C., Briske, D. D., Classen, A. T., Luo, Y., Reichstein, M., ... Weng, E.
 (2008). Consequences of more extreme precipitation regimes for terrestrial
 ecosystems. *Bioscience*, 58(9), 811-821. doi:10.1641/b580908
- Kuiper, J. J., Mooij, W. M., Bragazza, L., & Robroek, B. J. M. (2014). Plant functional types
 define magnitude of drought response in peatland CO₂ exchange. *Ecology*, *95(1)*, 123131. doi:10.1890/13-0270.1

- Kuypers, M. M. M., Marchant, H. K., & Kartal, B. (2018). The microbial nitrogen-cycling
 network. *Nature Review Microbiology*, *16*(5), 263-276. doi:10.1038/nrmicro.2018.9
- Larsen, K. S., Andresen, L. C., Beier, C., Jonasson, S., Albert, K. R., Ambus, P. E. R., . . . 646 Stevnbak, K. (2011). Reduced N cycling in response to elevated CO₂, warming, and 647 drought in a Danish heathland: Synthesizing results of the CLIMAITE project after 648 of treatments. Global two years Change Biology, 17(5), 1884-1899. 649 doi:10.1111/j.1365-2486.2010.02351.x 650
- Lazenby, M. J., Todd, M. C., Chadwick, R., & Wang, Y. (2018). Future precipitation
 projections over central and southern Africa and the adjacent Indian Ocean: What
 causes the changes and the uncertainty? *Journal of Climate, 31*(12), 4807-4826.
 doi:10.1175/JCLI-D-17-0311.1
- Li, J., Jin, Y., Liu, Y., Zhang, Y., Grace, J., Song, Q., . . . Fei, X. (2018). Effects of
 precipitation exclusion on N₂O emissions in a savanna ecosystem in SW China. *Atmospheric Environment*, 187, 1-8. doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2018.05.035
- Li, L., Fan, W., Kang, X., Wang, Y., Cui, X., Xu, C., . . . Hao, Y. (2016). Responses of
 greenhouse gas fluxes to climate extremes in a semiarid grassland. *Atmospheric Environment*, 142, 32-42. doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2016.07.039
- Liu, L., Hu, C., Yang, P., Ju, Z., Olesen, J. E., & Tang, J. (2016). Experimental warmingdriven soil drying reduced N₂O emissions from fertilized crop rotations of winter
 wheat–soybean/fallow, 2009–2014. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment, 219*, 7182. doi:10.1016/j.agee.2015.12.013
- Liu, L., Wang, X., Lajeunesse, M. J., Miao, G., Piao, S., Wan, S., . . . Deng, M. (2016). A
 cross-biome synthesis of soil respiration and its determinants under simulated
 precipitation changes. *Global Change Biology*, 22(4), 1394-1405.
 doi:10.1111/gcb.13156
- Liu, S., Ji, C., Wang, C., Chen, J., Jin, Y., Zou, Z., . . . Zou, J. (2018). Climatic role of
 terrestrial ecosystem under elevated CO₂ : a bottom-up greenhouse gases budget. *Ecology Letters*, 21(7), 1108-1118. doi:10.1111/ele.13078
- Liu, W. J., Li, L. F., Biederman, J. A., Hao, Y. B., Zhang, H., Kang, X. M., . . . Xu, C. Y.
 (2017). Repackaging precipitation into fewer, larger storms reduces ecosystem
 exchanges of CO₂ and H₂O in a semiarid steppe. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology*,
 247, 356-364. doi:10.1016/j.agrformet.2017.08.029
- Liu, X., Dong, Y., Qi, Y., Peng, Q., He, Y., Sun, L., . . . Liu, X. (2015). Response of N₂O
 emission to water and nitrogen addition in temperate typical steppe soil in Inner

- 678 Mongolia, China. Soil and Tillage Research, 151, 9-17.
 679 doi:10.1016/j.still.2015.01.008
- Luo, Y., Gerten, D., Le Maire, G., Parton, W. J., Weng, E., Zhou, X., . . . Rustad, L. (2008).
 Modeled interactive effects of precipitation, temperature, and [CO₂] on ecosystem
 carbon and water dynamics in different climatic zones. *Global Change Biology*, *14*(9),
 1986-1999. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2486.2008.01629.x
- McHale, P. J., Mitchell, M. J., & Bowles, F. P. (1998). Soil warming in a northern hardwood
 forest: trace gas fluxes and leaf litter decomposition. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research, 28(9)*, 1365-1372.
- Martins, C. S. C., Nazaries, L., Delgado-Baquerizo, M., Macdonald, C. A., Anderson, I. C.,
 Hobbie, S. E., . . . Field, K. (2017). Identifying environmental drivers of greenhouse
 gas emissions under warming and reduced rainfall in boreal-temperate forests. *Functional Ecology*, *31*(12), 2356-2368. doi:10.1111/1365-2435.12928
- Pereira, J., Figueiredo, N., Goufo, P., Carneiro, J., Morais, R., Carranca, C., . . . Trindade, H.
 (2013). Effects of elevated temperature and atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration
 on the emissions of methane and nitrous oxide from Portuguese flooded rice fields. *Atmospheric Environment*, 80, 464-471. doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2013.08.045
- Reyer, C. P., Leuzinger, S., Rammig, A., Wolf, A., Bartholomeus, R. P., Bonfante, A., . . .
 Pereira, M. (2013). A plant's perspective of extremes: terrestrial plant responses to
 changing climatic variability. *Global Change Biology*, 19(1), 75-89.
 doi:10.1111/gcb.12023
- Saggar, S., Jha, N., Deslippe, J., Bolan, N., Luo, J., Giltrap, D., . . . Tillman, R. (2013).
 Denitrification and N₂O: N₂ production in temperate grasslands: processes,
 measurements, modelling and mitigating negative impacts. *Science of the Total Environment*, 465, 173-195. doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2012.11.050
- Seneviratne, S. I., Luthi, D., Litschi, M., & Schar, C. (2006). Land-atmosphere coupling and
 climate change in Europe. *Nature*, 443(7108), 205-209. doi:10.1038/nature05095
- Shi, F., Chen, H., Chen, H., Wu, Y., & Wu, N. (2012). The combined effects of warming and
 drying suppress CO₂ and N₂O emission rates in an alpine meadow of the eastern
 Tibetan Plateau. *Ecological Research*, *27*(4), 725-733. doi:10.1007/s11284-012-09508
- Stocker, T. (2014). *Climate change 2013: the physical science basis: Working Group I contribution to the Fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change:* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY.

- Teuling, A. J., Seneviratne, S. I., Stöckli, R., Reichstein, M., Moors, E., Ciais, P., . . .
 Wohlfahrt, G. (2010). Contrasting response of European forest and grassland energy
 exchange to heatwaves. *Nature Geoscience*, *3(10)*, 722-727. doi:10.1038/ngeo950
- Thomey, M. L., Collins, S. L., Vargas, R., Johnson, J. E., Brown, R. F., Natvig, D. O., &
 Friggens, M. T. (2011). Effect of precipitation variability on net primary production
 and soil respiration in a Chihuahuan Desert grassland. *Global Change Biology*, *17*(4),
 1505-1515. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2486.2010.02363.x
- Tu, C., & Li, F. (2017). Responses of greenhouse gas fluxes to experimental warming in
 wheat season under conventional tillage and no-tillage fields. *Journal of Environmental Science (China), 54*, 314-327. doi:10.1016/j.jes.2016.09.016
- Vidal, M. C., & Murphy, S. M. (2018). Bottom-up vs. top-down effects on terrestrial insect
 herbivores: a meta-analysis. *Ecology Letterst*, 21(1), 138-150. doi:10.1111/ele.12874
- Waghmode, T. R., Chen, S., Li, J., Sun, R., Liu, B., & Hu, C. (2018). Response of nitrifier
 and denitrifier abundance and microbial community structure to experimental
 warming in an agricultural ecosystem. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, 9, 474.
 doi:10.3389/fmicb.2018.00474
- Ward, S. E., Ostle, N. J., Oakley, S., Quirk, H., Henrys, P. A., & Bardgett, R. D. (2013).
 Warming effects on greenhouse gas fluxes in peatlands are modulated by vegetation composition. *Ecology Letters*, *16(10)*, 1285-1293. doi:10.1111/ele.12167
- Wu, Z., Dijkstra, P., Koch, G. W., Penuelas, J., & Hungate, B. A. (2011). Responses of
 terrestrial ecosystems to temperature and precipitation change: a meta-analysis of
 experimental manipulation. *Global Change Biology*, *17*(2), 927-942.
 doi:10.1111/j.1365-2486.2010.02302.x
- Zhang, L., Hou, L., Guo, D., Li, L., & Xu, X. (2017). Interactive impacts of nitrogen input
 and water amendment on growing season fluxes of CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O in a semiarid
 grassland, Northern China. *Science of the Total Environment*, *578*, 523-534.
 doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2016.10.219
- Zhang, X., Liu, W., Schloter, M., Zhang, G., Chen, Q., Huang, J., . . . Han, X. (2013).
 Response of the abundance of key soil microbial nitrogen-cycling genes to multifactorial global changes. *PLoS One*, 8(10), e76500. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0076500
- Zhao, Z., Dong, S., Jiang, X., Liu, S., Ji, H., Li, Y., ... Sha, W. (2017). Effects of warming
 and nitrogen deposition on CH₄, CO₂ and N₂O emissions in alpine grassland
 ecosystems of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau. *Science of Total Environment, 592*, 565572. doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2017.03.082

- Zhou, Y., Hagedorn, F., Zhou, C., Jiang, X., Wang, X., & Li, M. H. (2016). Experimental 746 warming of a mountain tundra increases soil CO2 effluxes and enhances CH4 and N2O 747 uptake at Changbai Mountain, China. Scientific Reports, 6, 21108. 748 doi:10.1038/srep21108 749
- Zhu, K., Chiariello, N. R., Tobeck, T., Fukami, T., & Field, C. B. (2016). Nonlinear,
 interacting responses to climate limit grassland production under global change.
 Proceeding of National Academy Sciences of the United States of America, 113(38),
 10589-10594. doi:10.1073/pnas.1606734113
- Zhu, X., Luo, C., Wang, S., Zhang, Z., Cui, S., Bao, X., . . . Zhou, Y. (2015). Effects of
 warming, grazing/cutting and nitrogen fertilization on greenhouse gas fluxes during
 growing seasons in an alpine meadow on the Tibetan Plateau. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology*, 214-215, 506-514. doi:10.1016/j.agrformet.2015.09.008

Meteorology,

Table 1 The between-group heterogeneity (Qb) of climate change effects on various resp

variables.

Manipulative	Response	Categorical variables	DF_b	Q _b	<i>P</i> -value
type	variables				
Increased	N ₂ O flux	Biomes	4	27.45	< 0.01
temperature		Treatment times	2	0.65	0.53
		Treatment seasons	2	0.50	0.67
		Treatment methods	3	21.61	< 0.01
()	Archaeal amoA	Biomes	2	0.32	0.81
		Treatment seasons	1	0.39	0.51
U		Treatment methods	1	0.12	0.72
	Bacterial amoA	Biomes	2	1.47	0.54
		Treatment seasons	1	0.04	0.84
		Treatment methods	1	< 0.01	0.97
	nosZ	Biomes	2	0.96	0.66
m		Treatment seasons	1	0.01	0.96
Increased	N ₂ O flux	Treatment seasons	1	< 0.01	0.93
precipitation	nirK	Biomes	1	0.13	0.62
	nirS	Biomes	1	4.95	0.07
	nosZ	Biomes	1	0.42	0.53
Decreased	N ₂ O flux	Biomes	2	0.29	0.89
precipitation		Treatment methods	1	0.05	0.85
\mathbf{O}	Archaeal amoA	Biomes	1	0.73	0.46
		Treatment methods	1	1.00	0.42
	Bacterial amoA	Biomes	1	1.83	0.23
		Treatment methods	1	0.97	0.36
	nosZ	Treatment methods	1	0.47	0.70
A					

Figure 1 Global distributions of experiments reporting N_2O (a) and soil function genes (b) included in this meta-analysis. Marker colours indicate four types of climate change. The size of the symbol in (a) represents the number of experiments per location. Symbol shading in (b) represents different soil functional genes at each location.

Figure 2 The mean effect sizes of experimental climate change on N_2O fluxes from soil. The variables are categorized into different groups based on the biomes, treatment times, seasons, and methods, respectively. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. The dashed line was drawn at mean effect size = 0. The effect was considered significant if the 95% CI of the effect size did not cover zero. The sample size for each variable is shown next to the point and the number of study is in the parentheses. OTC: open-top chamber.

Figure 3 Relationships between effect sizes on N₂O emission and intensity and duration of cliamet change treatment. Only significant ($P \le 0.05$) or marginally significant (0.05 < P < 0.10) relationships were shown and corresponding shaded areas represent 95% confidence intervals. The sample size for each variable is shown in parenthesis. OTC: open-top chamber.

Figure 4 The mean effect sizes of climate change on soil functional genes. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. The dashed line was drawn at mean effect size = 0. The effect was considered significant if the 95% CI of the effect size did not cover zero. The sample size for each variable is shown next to the point and the number of study shown in parenthesis.

Figure 5 Relationships between effect sizes of changed precipitation on soil functional genes and soil moisture. Only significant or marginally significant relationships (binomial relationships) were shown and the shaded areas represent 95% confidence intervals. The sample size for each variable is shown in parentheses.

Figure 6 Processes and mechanisms influencing impacts of climate change on N₂O flux. 784 Positive/enhancing impacts and negative/suppressing impacts between two variables are 785 indicated by red and blue lines, respectively, on which relative mechanism are listed. For 786 example, increased temperature treatment would heat soil temperature which may increase or 787 decrease soil aeration by enhancing respiration or by increasing soil moisture via snow 788 thawing, thereby causing positive or negative effects on denitrification, respectively. 789 Nitrification and denitrification processes are indicated by purple and yellow lines, 790 respectively, on which relative soil functional genes are listed. Black dashed lines indicate 791 equal variables. 792











