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1 **Title**

2 Assessing the carbon dioxide balance of a degraded tropical peat swamp forest following
3 multiple fire events of different intensities

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18 **Keywords:**

19 CO₂ flux; coarse woody debris; drainage; eddy covariance technique; El Niño drought;
20 groundwater level

21

22 **Abstract:**

23 Tropical peat swamp forest is a unique ecosystem rich in carbon and water,
24 accumulating a huge amount of carbon as peat. However, the huge carbon pool has been
25 threatened by oxidative peat decomposition and fire loss mainly because of deforestation
26 and drainage. Fire causes acute carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions through the combustion
27 of biomass and peat. Also, fire should change the CO₂ balance of postfire ecosystems.
28 Although it is crucial to quantify CO₂ balance even after a fire event to understand the
29 total fire impact, information based on field measurement is lacking. Thus, we had
30 measured eddy CO₂ flux above a repeatedly burned degraded peat forest for about 13
31 years since 2004. The site was a stable CO₂ source of 147–290 g C m⁻² yr⁻¹ for five years
32 after a stand-replacing fire in 2002. Unexpectedly, a moderate-severity fire in 2009
33 changed the site to a CO₂ sink of about –600 g C m⁻² yr⁻¹. The drastic change would have
34 been caused by a large decrease in the decomposition of plant debris, which had
35 accumulated since the 2002 fire but was burned by the 2009 fire. In contrast, gross
36 primary production (GPP) remained about the same even though vegetation was damaged,
37 mainly because year-round wet conditions caused by a La Niña event promoted the
38 regrowth of hygrophilous herbaceous plants and were favorable to their GPP. The site
39 also had a low-severity fire and was drained in 2014 but did not return to a CO₂ source.
40 However, the net ecosystem CO₂ uptake after the 2009 fire was insufficient to recover a
41 large amount of fire CO₂ emission. If CO₂ emissions from four fires in 1999, 2002, 2009
42 and 2014 are counted, the site is expected to owe an outstanding CO₂ debt of 25 kg C m⁻².
43

44

45 **1. Introduction**

46 Tropical peatlands are a huge soil carbon pool of 105 Gt C (Dargie *et al.*, 2017), of
47 which 65% have accumulated in insular Southeast Asia, coexisting with peat swamp
48 forest (Page *et al.*, 2011). In recent decades, however, peat swamp forest has experienced
49 two major disturbances: land conversion and fire. Land conversion accompanied by
50 deforestation is mainly to develop agricultural land, such as oil palm and acacia
51 plantations. In Indonesia and Malaysia, peat swamp forest decreased by 7.3 Mha from
52 1990 to 2015, and consequently plantations and small holders' farmlands occupy more
53 than 50% of tropical peatlands' area (Miettinen *et al.*, 2016). Also, vast deforested area is
54 left unused as secondary forests, shrublands and grasslands (Miettinen *et al.*, 2016).
55 Drainage is common practice in land conversion to lower the groundwater level (GWL),
56 which potentially enhances oxidative peat decomposition and increases soil carbon
57 dioxide (CO₂) efflux (e.g. Hirano *et al.*, 2009; Sundari *et al.* 2012; Wakhid *et al.*, 2017;
58 Itoh *et al.*, 2017).

59 Intact peat forest does not burn easily because of high GWL (Page and Hooijer, 2016).
60 However, peat aridification due to drainage raises the risk of peat fire, especially in the
61 dry season because dry peat is flammable. In forests on mineral soil, fire burns
62 aboveground biomass (AGB) and plant debris (flaming). Besides flaming, peat can keep
63 burning belowground (smoldering). Peat fire frequently occurs near drainages and
64 reoccur there though burned peat depth decreases with fire recurrence (Konecny *et al.*,
65 2016). In Indonesia, wildfires have occurred every year in the dry season (Gaveau *et al.*,
66 2014). The fires enlarge in area and severity when an El Niño event occurs, because the
67 event causes drought. Through biomass and peat burning, a large amount of CO₂ is
68 emitted, and smoke produces haze. Large-scale haze covers maritime Southeast Asia and

69 causes economic damage and health problems (Page and Hooijer, 2016). In addition, haze
70 diffuses and attenuates solar radiation incident on the ground, which affects gross primary
71 production (GPP) (Kobayashi et al., 2005; Hirano et al., 2012; Stiegler et al., 2019). For
72 instance, in 1997, when one of the strongest El Niño events occurred, the area of 9.7 Mha
73 burned over Indonesia, of which peatlands occupied 15% (Murdiyarso and Adningsih,
74 2007), and CO₂ of 0.81–2.57 Gt C was emitted through biomass and peat burning (Page
75 et al., 2002). In 2015, another strong El Niño year, large-scale fires burned 4.6 Mha over
76 Indonesia, of which peatlands occupied 37%, and emitted 0.24 Gt C of CO₂ (Lohberger
77 et al., 2017), accounting for 16% of the annual global CO₂ emissions through land-use
78 change (Friedlingstein et al., 2019).

79 Fires severely disturb ecosystems and consequently change their carbon balance. Thus,
80 in addition to estimating the large amount of pyrogenic CO₂ emission, it is essential to
81 quantify the carbon balance of postfire ecosystems to assess how much carbon is lost in
82 total by a fire event. Fire disturbances in peatlands include loss or degradation of
83 vegetation, change in the amount of plant debris, loss of surface peat, change in peat
84 properties and change in soil microbial community. The loss or degradation of vegetation
85 decreases GPP and plant respiration, increases soil temperature (Hirano et al., 2014) and
86 decreases evapotranspiration (Hirano et al., 2015) because of the decrease in the leaf area
87 index (LAI). The amount of plant debris increases or decreases depending on fire severity
88 and frequency (Hanula et al., 2012). When plant debris decreases, heterotrophic
89 respiration can decrease, and vice versa. Surface peat is burned and lost especially by
90 smoldering. As a result, recalcitrant deeper peat is exposed (Lupascu et al., 2020), and the
91 peat surface subsides, which relatively raises GWL (Konecny et al., 2016) and might
92 increase CH₄ emissions (Hirano et al., 2009). Thus, the peat loss potentially suppresses

93 oxidative peat decomposition. Fire burning also changes peat physicochemical properties,
94 including an increase in pH, bulk density and ash content and decrease in nitrogen and
95 organic carbon (Smith et al., 2001; Dikici and Yilmaz, 2006). The effects of these changes
96 on carbon cycles are complex and depend on fire severity and frequency (Neary et al.,
97 1999). Besides burning, fire makes soil organic matter (SOM) more stable by heating,
98 thereby reducing microbial respiration (Flanagan et al., 2020). In addition, burning affects
99 soil microbial community structure and can alter carbon-cycling processes (Ward et al.,
100 2012).

101 The overall CO₂ balance of postfire ecosystems has been measured by the eddy
102 covariance (EC) and chamber techniques, especially in mid and high latitudes. A
103 chronosequence study using EC data showed that most forests in North America changed
104 to a large CO₂ source immediately after stand-replacing fires and returned to a CO₂ sink
105 in 10 years (Amiro et al., 2010). Another chronosequence study using chamber data
106 showed that boreal bogs in Canada returned to a CO₂ sink in 13 years on average after
107 severe fires (Wieder et al., 2009). Severe fire changed forests and bogs to a CO₂ source
108 owing to a large decrease in GPP, whereas ecosystem respiration (RE) showed a small
109 change (Amiro et al., 2010; Dore et al., 2012; Wieder et al., 2009). Following gradual
110 GPP increase with vegetation regrowth after fire, net CO₂ uptake becomes positive
111 (Ueyama et al., 2019). In tropical peatland, only Hirano et al. (2012) reported the CO₂
112 balance of a burned degraded swamp forest. They showed that the degraded forest was a
113 stable CO₂ source during 1–5 years after a stand-replacing fire. However, all the above-
114 mentioned results are from stand-replacing or severe fires. Fire effects on ecosystem CO₂
115 balance should depend on combustion severity, but related information based on field
116 studies is lacking (Meigs et al., 2009).

117 We started measuring eddy CO₂ flux in a severely burned degraded peat swamp forest
118 in Indonesia in 2004 (Hirano et al.,2012). The site was burned moderately again in 2009.
119 Although many of regrowing trees survived, the measurement was forced to be suspended
120 because of fire damage to the power system. We resumed the measurement after 2.5
121 months of suspension and continued it until the end of 2016. The site was lightly burned
122 again and drained in 2014. In this study, we assessed the CO₂ balance of the degraded
123 swamp forest and investigated the effects of multiple fire events of different intensities
124 and drainage as well as El Niño / La Niña events on the CO₂ balance.

125 In Southeast Asia, it is projected that global warming will increase extreme drought
126 occurrence during this century (Cai et al., 2014; Cai et al., 2015; Cook et al., 2020). In
127 addition, human-induced disturbance on peatland hydrology will increase drought
128 severity in Indonesia (Taufik et al., 2020). These predictions indicate that fire risk will
129 increase in tropical peatlands. Thus, we must understand more about fire effects on
130 tropical peatland CO₂ balance.

131

132 **2. Materials and methods**

133 **2.1 Study site**

134 The study site (2.34°S, 114.04°E) was in tropical peatland near Palangkaraya, Central
135 Kalimantan, Indonesia, which was called DB in our previous paper (Hirano et al., 2012).
136 The site was in Block C of ex-Mega Rice Project (Page et al., 2009) and used to be a
137 selectively logged peat swamp forest with a peat depth of about 4 m but burnt repeatedly
138 in 1997, 2002, 2009 and 2014, El Niño years. The forest was severely damaged by stand-
139 replacing fire in 2002, leaving a few standing dead trees and a lot of coarse woody debris
140 (CWD) on the ground (Fig. 1a). The thickness of burned peat by the 2002 fire was 0.22

141 m on average in the study site (Hirano et al., 2014). Peat probably burned also in 1997,
142 but no data were available on the combustion thickness. A large canal was excavated in
143 1996–1997 in the area and had functioned to drain the site (Page et al., 2009).

144 A 4-m-tall tower was built at about 200 m from the canal in April 2004. Fetches for
145 the west, south, north and east directions were 250, 300, 1000 and 1000 m, respectively.
146 In April 2004, 1.5 years after the 2002 fire, ferns (*Stenochlaena*, *Blechnum* and *Lygodium*
147 spp.) and sedge (*Cyperus*, *Scleria* and *Eleocharis* spp.) plants were sparsely distributed,
148 of which *Stenochlaena palustris* was dominant. The ground was studded with fire scars
149 with water (Fig. 1b). Fern and sedge plants had grown up to 0.5 m and covered most parts
150 of the ground in June 2005 (Fig. 1c). A few young trees had regenerated, and the canopy
151 height reached 0.8–0.9 m on average in 2009 before the next fire (Fig. 1d). A fire
152 moderately burned the study site in September 2009. Although stand replacement did not
153 occur, some trees died, and others defoliated. The aboveground part of herbaceous plants
154 burnt. A considerable amount of CWD on the ground burned out. The peat surface burned
155 in spots (Fig. 1e). Power cables and ground sensors were severely damaged. After the
156 moderately-severity fire, surviving trees started to foliate under high groundwater level
157 (GWL) conditions, and ferns and sedge plants rapidly regrew and covered most of the
158 ground in December 2009 (Fig. 1f). Sparsely existing young trees, which was dominated
159 by *Combretocarpus rotundatus*, kept growing with dense understory; the canopy height
160 exceeded 2 m in 2013 (Fig. 1g). In May–June 2014, a small canal with a width of about
161 1.5 m was excavated by the local community at about 100 m north of the tower and
162 lowered GWL (Fig. 2b). The study site was burned again by a light-severity fire in
163 September 2014. Just before the fire, tree density with a diameter at breast height (DBH)
164 > 3 cm was 860 trees ha⁻¹, and aboveground biomass (AGB) was 19.0 t ha⁻¹. The fire

165 burned herbaceous plants, litter accumulation on the ground and young trees in spots,
166 though many trees survived from burning (Fig. 1h). In 2015, a strong El Niño year,
167 although some fires occurred in the area, the site did not burn but was covered with dense
168 smoke. The regrowth of herbaceous plants was slower after the 2014 fire than after the
169 2009 fire, probably because of lowered GWL by El Niño drought and canal excavation.

170 The mean annual temperature and precipitation measured at 1.5 m height for 2005–
171 2016 were $26.4 \pm 0.3^\circ\text{C}$ and 2640 ± 473 mm (mean \pm 1 standard deviation (SD)),
172 respectively. The dry season (monthly precipitation $<$ 100 mm) usually lasts for 3–4
173 months between July and October. Between 2000 and 2016, El Niño events occurred in
174 2002–2003, 2004–2005, 2006–2007, 2009–2010, and 2014–2016, whereas La Niño
175 events occurred in 2000–2001, 2005–2006, 2007–2008, 2008–2009, 2010–2012, and
176 2016 according to Oceanic Niño Index (NOAA;
177 https://origin.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensostuff/ONI_v5.php).

178

179 **2.2 Measurement of flux and environmental factors**

180 Measurement was continuously conducted from April 2004 to December 2016, though
181 flux data were available until October 25, 2016 because of sensor malfunction. Eddy CO₂
182 flux was measured using a sonic anemometer-thermometer (CSAT3; Campbell Scientific
183 Inc., Logan, UT, USA) and an open-path CO₂/H₂O analyzer (LI7500; Li-Cor Inc.) using
184 the EC technique at 3.0 m height (April 2004 to February 2011), 3.6 m (February 2011 to
185 March 2012), 7.2 m (March 2012 to December 2013) or 13.6 m (after December 2013).
186 The height was raised following tree growth. The flux sensors were separated by 0.2 m.
187 Eddy signals were collected with a data logger (CR1000; Campbell Scientific Inc.) at 10
188 Hz. CO₂ concentration was also measured at heights of 0.4, 0.7, 1.5, 2.7, 5.7 and 13.6 m

189 in rotation with a closed-path CO₂ analyzer (LI820; Li-Cor Inc.) after December 2013.
190 Sampling height was switched every 30 seconds, and the mean for the last 5 s was
191 recorded with another datalogger (CR1000; Campbell Scientific Inc.). The two CO₂
192 analyzers were calibrated every three months using two standard gases.

193 Air temperature and relative humidity were measured using a platinum resistance
194 thermometer and a capacitive hygrometer (HMP45; Vaisala, Helsinki, Finland),
195 respectively, installed in a radiation shield (DTR503A; Vaisala) at 1.5 m height.
196 Additionally, air temperature and relative humidity were measured at 7.2 m from June
197 2012 to December 2013 or at 13.6 m from December 2013 to December 2016.
198 Precipitation was measured with a tipping-bucket rain gauge (TE525; Campbell Scientific
199 Inc.) at 1.5 m. Downward photosynthetic photon flux density (PPFD) was measured at
200 3.3 m (April 2004 to March 2012), 6.8 m (March 2012 to December 2013) or 13.6 m
201 (December 2013 to December 2016) with a quantum sensor (LI-190S; Li-Cor Inc. or
202 PQS1; Kipp & Zonen, Delft, The Netherlands). Soil temperature at 5 cm depth was
203 measured at two points with thermocouple thermometers. These sensor signals were
204 collected every 10 s, and their half-hourly means were recorded with dataloggers
205 (CR1000 and CR10X; Campbell Scientific Inc.). GWL was measured half hourly with a
206 water level logger (DL/N; Sensor Technik Sirnach AG, Sirnach, Switzerland or DCX-22
207 VG; Keller AG, Winterthur, Switzerland) at a single point, avoiding fire scars. GWL was
208 relative groundwater level from the ground surface. When the water surface was
209 belowground, GWL was negative.

210 The measurement was suspended from September 20 to December 4, 2009 because of
211 power problems due to fire damage. For the suspension period, we substituted data
212 measured at the drained forest site (DF) about 600 m away from this site (Hirano et al.,

213 2012) for precipitation and PPFD, which were basically independent of ground conditions.
214 Also, vapor pressure deficit (VPD), GWL and soil temperature, which were used for the
215 gap filling of CO₂ fluxes, were estimated from the DF's data using significant linear
216 relationships ($P < 0.001$). Linear regression was conducted for the period between
217 September and December 2006 in another El Niño year; R^2 was 0.89 (VPD), 0.95 (GWL)
218 and 0.48 (soil temperature).

219

220 **2.3 Flux calculation and quality control**

221 Half-hourly eddy CO₂ flux was calculated using Flux Calculator software (Ueyama et
222 al., 2012) with the following procedures: (1) the removal of noise spikes (Vickers and
223 Mahrt, 1997); (2) double rotation for tilt angles; (3) correction for high frequency loss
224 (Massman, 2000; Massman, 2001); (4) correction for air density fluctuations (Webb et al.,
225 1980). To avoid flow distortion by the tower, data with wind directions within 20° from
226 the north were excluded; 19% of data were excluded in total. Data during rain were also
227 removed. In addition, data beyond the range of mean ± 3 SDs (> 50 or $< -50 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)
228 were screened out as outliers. We checked the stationarity for each 30-min run (Foken
229 and Wichura, 1996). We calculated difference between covariance values for the whole
230 30 min and the average of six 5-min covariance values. Data were excluded, when the
231 difference was more than 100% (Foken et al., 2004).

232 The CO₂ storage change (FS) under the flux measurement height was calculated every
233 three minutes from CO₂ concentrations measured at a height with the open-path analyzer
234 before December 2013 or CO₂ profiles after December 2013, and then their mean and SD
235 were calculated half hourly. The half-hourly mean FS was also quality-controlled using
236 the SD by the same method as in Hirano et al. (2007, 2012). Net ecosystem CO₂ exchange

237 (NEE) was calculated as the sum of the eddy CO₂ flux and FS.

238 To exclude underestimated nighttime NEE under calm conditions, we examined the
239 dependency of nighttime NEE on friction velocity (u^*) by the same method as in Hirano
240 et al. (2007). As a result, the dependence was found only during the period after July 2014,
241 probably because trees increased in height. Nighttime NEE with $u^* < 0.074 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ was
242 excluded only after July 2014, which is defined later as Period III. Through all quality
243 control procedures, $45 \pm 19\%$ and $61 \pm 7\%$ (mean ± 1 SD) of NEE data were missed in
244 the daytime and nighttime, respectively, each year.

245

246 **2.4 Gap-filling and partitioning of NEE**

247 Missing NEE data were gap-filled by the lookup table method on a half-hourly basis.
248 Lookup tables were created every two months using GWL and soil temperature for
249 ecosystem respiration (RE), and PPFD and VPD for gross primary production (GPP).
250 First, we extracted quality-controlled NEE data in the nighttime ($\text{PPFD} < 5 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$)
251 as RE, including CO₂ emissions through burning. The RE data were binned equally into
252 ten classes according to GWL, and then the data in each class were binned equally into
253 three classes according to soil temperature and averaged. Using the lookup table, RE was
254 estimated from GWL and soil temperature also in the daytime ($\text{PPFD} \geq 5 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$).
255 GPP was calculated as a difference between the measured daytime NEE and estimated
256 daytime RE (= RE – NEE). The GPP was binned equally into ten classes by PPFD and
257 then into three classes by VPD to create a lookup table. Thus, daytime NEE was gap-
258 filled as a difference of estimated RE and GPP using the look-up tables.

259

260 **2.5 Uncertainty in annual CO₂ fluxes**

261 Considering the influence of the disturbances of fire and canal excavation, we divided
262 the measurement period into three for the following analyses: Period I (before the 2009
263 fire; April 2004 to September 2009), Period II (after the 2009 fire until the canal
264 excavation; December 2009 to June 2014) and Period III (after the canal excavation; July
265 2014 to December 2016). The annual values of RE, GPP and NEE were compared among
266 three periods by one-way ANOVA and Tukey's HSD using a statistical software R
267 (version 3.6.1).

268 Uncertainties due to random errors and gap-filling in annual RE, GPP and NEE were
269 evaluated using the 24-h differencing approach (Hollinger and Richardson, 2005;
270 Richardson et al., 2006; Richardson and Hollinger, 2007). Difference (δ) between two
271 flux measurements exactly 24 hours apart was calculated as a random error (noise), if
272 environmental conditions were similar within $75 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ in PPFD, 3°C in air
273 temperature, 1 m s^{-1} in wind speed and 2 hPa in VPD. In each of the three periods, δ was
274 sorted according to NEE and binned equally into ten classes in positive and negative NEE
275 ranges, respectively, and then SD of δ ($\sigma(\delta) = \sigma(x_1 - x_2)/\sqrt{2}$) and mean NEE were
276 calculated in each bin. The $\sigma(\delta)$, which is the random measurement uncertainty, was
277 significantly correlated to mean NEE (Eq. 1) in each period ($P < 0.01$).

$$278 \quad \sigma(\delta) = a + b|NEE| \quad (1)$$

279 where a and b are fitting parameters. Using the equation, $\sigma(\delta)$ was estimated from NEE.
280 We conducted Monte Carlo simulations using R (version 3.6.1) to add a noise (δ) to each
281 of half-hourly measured NEE according to a Laplace distribution, which was
282 parameterized by β ($= \sigma/\sqrt{2}$) (Richardson and Hollinger, 2007). Using the data set of
283 noise-added measured NEE, daytime RE and GPP were estimated, and RE, GPP and NEE
284 were gap-filled by the look-up table method described above to calculate their annual

285 values. The Monte Carlo simulation was conducted 100 times, and the SD of the annual
286 values were calculated as uncertainty due to random errors.

287

288 **2.6 GPP parameters and peat decomposition**

289 To understand the interannual variation of the relationship between GPP and PPFD,
290 the following non-rectangular hyperbola (Thornley, 1976) was used as a fitting curve for
291 half-hourly measured data in each year.

$$292 \quad GPP = \frac{\alpha \cdot PPFD + GPP_{max} - \sqrt{(\alpha \cdot PPFD + GPP_{max})^2 - 4\alpha \cdot PPFD \cdot \theta \cdot GPP_{max}}}{2\theta}$$

293 (2)

294 where α is the initial slope of the fitting curve, GPP_{max} ($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$) the photosynthetic
295 capacity at light saturation and θ the degree of curvature. To reduce the number of
296 parameters, θ was set to be 0.8 (Johnson et al., 2010; Raj et al., 2016). The other two
297 parameters (α and GPP_{max}) were determined using R (version 3.6.1).

298 CO_2 emissions through oxidative peat decomposition (PD; $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$) were
299 estimated from GWL (m) using the following equation, which was determined from soil
300 chamber data at this study site (Hirano et al., 2014).

$$301 \quad PD = 1.48 \cdot \ln(1.48 - 5.96 \cdot GWL) \quad (3)$$

302

303 **2.7 Vegetation index and fire hotspots**

304 The enhanced vegetation index (EVI) in moderate resolution imaging
305 spectroradiometer (MODIS) data (MOD13Q1 Version 6) was downloaded from Land
306 Processes Distributed Active Archive Center
307 (<https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/products/mod13q1v006/>). Pixel data covering our site were used

308 as vegetation information, such as a proxy of AGB (Anaya et al., 2009; Huete et al., 2002).
309 The data were composited every 16 days at 250 m spatial resolution. Also, MODIS
310 hotspot data (MODIS Collection 6) acquired from the Fire Information for Resources
311 Management System (<https://firms.modaps.eosdis.nasa.gov/>) were used to know the fire
312 occurrence.

313

314 **3. Results**

315 **3.1 Time-series variations**

316 Precipitation showed a clear seasonal variation, except in 2008 and 2010, La Niña
317 years (Fig. 2a). Following the seasonal precipitation variation, GWL showed a negative
318 peak at the end of the dry season (Fig. 2b). The lowest monthly mean GWL was -0.92 m
319 in 2006 and -1.38 m in 2015 before and after the canal excavation (Table 1). During the
320 mid-wet season, typically between January and April, groundwater rose aboveground
321 (GWL > 0 m) until 2014. In 2010, however, there was no dry month, and consequently
322 GWL was stable at around 0 m throughout the year. In addition, GWL remained below
323 the peat surface (< -0.17 m monthly) even in the rainy season after canal excavation in
324 2014. In comparison between 2011 and 2016, which had similar annual precipitation
325 (Table 1), annual mean GWL was lower by 0.38 m in 2016 after drainage. Fire occurred
326 in the dry season when GWL lowered. Many hotspots were detected in 2002, 2009, 2014,
327 and 2015, El Niño years (Fig. 2g). The number of hotspots within a 5-km radius from the
328 tower were 442, 262, 117 and 80, respectively, in 2002, 2009, 2014 and 2015; the shortest
329 distances from the tower were 0.15 (2002), 0.19 (2009), 0.26 (2014) and 1.23 km (2015).
330 In 2002, EVI drastically decreased from 0.61 to 0.12 (Fig. 2f). EVI also dropped to 0.28
331 by the 2009 fire and had gradually recovered toward the pre-fire level of 0.51. In contrast,

332 fire decrease in EVI was temporary for about 10 months in 2014. PPFD decreased in the
333 dry seasons of 2002, 2006, 2009, 2014 and 2015 because of dense smoke emitted from
334 fires (Fig. 2c). Daytime VPD increased in the dry season every year except in 2008 and
335 2010, La Niña years (Fig. 2d). The VPD peak became high in El Niño years, especially
336 in 2009, 2014 and 2015.

337 Before the 2009 fire, RE was almost stable with small monthly fluctuations, whereas
338 GPP had gradually increased following vegetation regrowth (Figs. 2e and 2f). During the
339 period, NEE was positive except for a few months. In December 2009, 2.5 months after
340 the fire, RE decreased to less than half of the pre-fire level. By contraries, there was little
341 change in GPP even after the fire. As a result, NEE drastically changed from positive to
342 negative. Both RE and GPP were almost stable in 2010, and then started increasing
343 following gradual EVI increase (Fig. 2f). During the fire in 2014, RE showed a sharp
344 peak because of a large amount of CO₂ emission through burning in the study site (Fig.
345 1h). In contrast, GPP suddenly decreased by 2.8 g C m⁻² d⁻¹ between August and
346 November (Fig. 2e). These opposite changes resulted in a large NEE peak. After the fire,
347 RE rapidly decreased to less than the pre-fire level, whereas GPP slightly recovered,
348 resulting in a CO₂ neutral (NEE \cong 0 g C m⁻² yr⁻¹) in 2015. In 2016, NEE returned to be
349 negative (Table 1).

350

351 **3.2 Environmental responses of RE and GPP**

352 Generally, RE decreased with increasing GWL in all periods (Fig. 3a). In Period I, RE
353 showed a decreasing tendency only when GWL was positive. In contrast, RE decreased
354 with increasing GWL over the whole GWL range in Period II, though the range was
355 narrower than those of the other periods. If excluding the spiky RE during the fire in

356 September and October 2014 (Fig. 2e), RE showed a clear negative relationship with
357 GWL in Period III. To examine more about RE response to GWL, we estimated the sum
358 of autotrophic respiration and the decomposition of CWD and litter accumulation on the
359 ground by subtracting estimated PD (Eq. 2) from the measured RE (RE – PD). Positive
360 relationships were found between RE–PD and GWL in Periods I and III, if spiky fire data
361 were excluded (Fig. 3b); sensitivity to GWL was higher in Period I. RE was almost stable
362 until 2009 (Period I) in high GWL conditions ($\text{GWL} \geq -0.2 \text{ m}$) (Fig. 4). After the fire, RE
363 at high GWL decreased by half in 2010, then had increased until 2014.

364 GPP_{max} increased from 2004 to 2005, and then became almost stable until 2009 (Fig.
365 5). After the 2009 fire, GPP_{max} kept increasing until 2012 and decreased in 2015. To
366 examine the influence of VPD, light-saturated GPP at $\text{PPFD} \geq 1000 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
367 (GPP_{1000}) was plotted against VPD for the three periods under different GWL conditions
368 (Fig. 6). In Period I, GPP_{1000} decreased gently but linearly with increasing VPD regardless
369 of GWL conditions. In Periods II and III, however, GPP_{1000} started decreasing at VPD of
370 about 15 hPa. Larger data scattering at $\text{GWL} < -0.4 \text{ m}$ in Period II and $\text{GWL} \geq -0.1 \text{ m}$ in
371 Period III is due to smaller data size. The relationship of GPP_{1000} with VPD was
372 independent of GWL conditions.

373

374 **3.3 Annual NEE, RE and GPP**

375 Annual NEE was positive over $150 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ for consecutive five years until 2009
376 (Table 1). After 2010, annual NEE drastically decreased to less than $-570 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$
377 mainly because of the large decrease in RE. The fire halved annual RE from 1488 to 715
378 $\text{g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$, whereas annual GPP decreased only by $49 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ from 2008 to 2010.
379 The decrease in RE–PD ($718 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) contributed much more to the RE decrease

380 than PD decrease ($55 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$). After the fire, NEE continued to increase negatively
381 until 2013 because GPP increased more rapidly than RE; increases between 2010 and
382 2013 were 628 and $735 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$, respectively, in RE and GPP. In 2014, GWL was
383 clearly decreased by canal excavation and less precipitation, and fire occurred in the study
384 site. As a result, NEE changed to almost zero ($-28 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) because of a large increase
385 in RE and a slight decrease in GPP. The large RE increase was attributable to fire CO_2
386 emissions. The neutral NEE continued until 2015.

387 To examine the large change of CO_2 fluxes, annual values were averaged in the three
388 periods: 2005–2008, 2010–2013 and 2015–2016 (Table 2). Their interannual variations
389 (1 SD) in each period were greater than uncertainties due to random errors (Table 1).
390 Although a significant difference was not found in GPP (Table 2), RE and NEE were
391 significantly smaller or more negative in 2010–2013 ($P < 0.05$).

392 We have already reported the CO_2 balance of this site between 2004 and 2009 (Hirano
393 et al., 2012), in which annual periods began in early June. Using the same annual periods,
394 annual CO_2 fluxes were calculated and compared for five years. As a result, annual NEE
395 of this study ($277 \pm 113 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) was smaller than that of Hirano et al. (2012) by 185
396 $\text{g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ on average. This difference was mainly due to RE difference of 233 g C m^{-2}
397 yr^{-1} , which was mainly caused by data screening in the nighttime. In Hirano et al. (2012),
398 negative data or data $> 100 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ were excluded in the nighttime at the beginning
399 of quality control procedures. In contrast, screening criteria were between -50 and 50
400 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ both in the daytime and nighttime in this study. The biased screening
401 overestimated RE in Hirano et al. (2012). Thus, we can say that this study is fairer in
402 quality control and more reliable.

403

404 4. Discussion

405 4.1 Ecosystem respiration

406 The RE drastically decreased after the 2009 fire (Fig. 2e). Annual RE was smaller by
407 $773 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ in 2010 than in 2008 (Table 1). In both years, La Niña events occurred,
408 and GWL was high at around the ground surface throughout the year (Fig. 2b). As a result,
409 the difference in the annual PD was small ($55 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$). Thus, the large difference in
410 RE was due to decreases in autotrophic respiration and other heterotrophic respiration
411 from CWD and litter accumulation on the ground, which were equivalent to RE–PD. The
412 2009 fire burned most of litter and CWD produced by the previous 2002 fire (Fig. 1e),
413 leaving some charred CWD. Charred CWD is slow in decomposition (Deluca and Aplet,
414 2008; Donato et al., 2009). The RE–PD showed a large decrease after the 2009 fire at
415 high GWL (Fig. 3b). These facts indicate that CO_2 efflux through the decomposition of
416 CWD and litter accumulation sharply decreased.

417 Smoldering occurred only at some spots during the 2009 fire, but the peat surface
418 burned along with litter accumulation. Such combustion processes replace labile carbon
419 compounds with more recalcitrant charcoal (Milner, 2013). Even if peat does not burn,
420 fire can thermally alter the chemistry of SOM and increase stable soil carbon, which
421 potentially lowers the peat decomposition (Flanagan et al., 2020). Meanwhile, peat
422 combustion increases mineral nutrient, pH and bulk density (Dikici and Yilmaz, 2006;
423 Smith et al., 2001). Higher pH potentially enhances soil microbial activity and
424 consequently increases microbial respiration (Moilanen et al., 2012). The effects of these
425 pyrogenic changes in peat properties depend on fire severity and frequency (Neary et al.,
426 1999). Here, the decreasing effects possibly surpassed the increasing effects on carbon
427 emissions.

428 After 2010, RE had gradually increased until the next fire in 2014 (Fig. 2e). During
429 this period, the vegetation recovered with litter accumulation, as shown by EVI increase
430 (Fig. 2f). PD was relatively stable under continuous higher GWL conditions (Table 1, Fig.
431 2b). Thus, the RE increase was attributable to the increase in autotrophic respiration and
432 litter decomposition. GWL lowered to a large extent after 2014 because of canal
433 excavation and El Niño drought (Fig. 2b). Even in the wet season, GWL remained
434 belowground. As a result, PD increased rapidly up to 844 g C m⁻² yr⁻¹ in 2015 (Table 1).
435 Eq. 3 to estimate PD was parameterized using the data measured in 2004–2006, in which
436 GWL was higher than -0.9 m (Hirano et al., 2014). Thus, PD in 2015 with the minimum
437 daily GWL of -1.53 m was extrapolated, and the annual PD might be overestimated (Itoh
438 et al., 2017).

439

440 **4.2 Gross primary production**

441 The annual GPP decreased only by 49 g C m⁻² yr⁻¹ between 2008 and 2010 despite
442 30% decrease in EVI (Table 1). After 2010, GPP continued to increase until the 2014 fire
443 (Fig. 2e) with the rapid regrowth of fern and sedge plants dominated by *Stenochlaena*
444 *palustris*, which is typically growing in permanently damp open places (Chambers, 2013).
445 The annual GPP in 2013 was 2027 g C m⁻² yr⁻¹, which accounts for about 60% of that of
446 a nearby peat swamp forest (UF site) (Hirano et al., 2012). The rapid regrowth was most
447 probably due to limited GWL lowering (Fig. 2b). In 2010 immediately after the fire, GWL
448 remained high throughout the year because of a La Niña event; daily mean GWL lowered
449 only to -0.12 m. Thus, the hygrophilous fern and sedge plants could steadily recover with
450 little water stress under sparse overstory. The leaf color usually gets lighter in the dry
451 season because of desiccation, but little color change was found in 2010–2013. In addition,

452 wood and plant ashes would have promoted vegetation regrowth by increasing plant
453 available nutrients (Neary et al., 1999). Also, higher PPFD and lower daytime VPD
454 increased GPP and enhanced plant growth. Light-saturated GPP showed a decreasing
455 tendency with VPD when VPD was higher than 15 hPa (Fig. 6). Such a dry condition
456 occurred less frequently in 2010–2013 (Table 1). A rapid increase in GPP_{max} during this
457 period (Fig. 5) reflects the rapid vegetation regrowth and lower VPD, which was
458 favorable to GPP.

459 After 2014, canal excavation and an El Niño event dried the site, which lowered GWL
460 and raised VPD. In addition, aboveground vegetation was patchily damaged by the 2014
461 fire, and PPFD was attenuated sharply in 2015 by dense smoke emitted from surrounding
462 fires. As a result, both the annual GPP and GPP_{max} temporarily decreased in 2015, and
463 then recovered in 2016 with the disappearance of the El Niño event and vegetation
464 recovery (Table 1). The canal effect on GPP by GWL lowering was unclear because El
465 Niño drought and fire occurred concurrently.

466

467 **4.3 Fire emissions**

468 In 2014, large positive CO_2 flux had been measured for about 40 days in September
469 and October (Fig. 2e), when fire occurred in the study site. The large CO_2 efflux should
470 have included fire CO_2 emissions. The fire emissions were estimated to be 308 g C m^{-2}
471 as a difference between measured RE and estimated RE using look-up tables created
472 before and after the fire. AGB immediately before the fire was 19.0 t ha^{-1} . From an
473 emission factor (EF) of 0.45, which was an average for tropical forest (Akagi et al., 2011),
474 the fire emission of 19.0 t ha^{-1} corresponds to 36% combustion of AGB (Fig. 1h), if CWD
475 and litter did not burn. Through the fire, EVI decreased by about 40% (Fig. 2f).

476 Fire emissions were not measured in 2009, since the flux measurement was suspended.
477 We presumed that AGB before fire was almost the same in 2009 and 2014, because EVI
478 was at the same level (Fig. 2f). We also presumed that AGB burned by 50% through the
479 2009 fire, because EVI decreased by about 50%. Toriyama et al. (2014) conducted a forest
480 survey in the same area and reported that 86 t ha⁻¹ of deadwood remained on average in
481 regenerating forests after the 1997 fire. Thus, we presumed that the same amount of CWD
482 remained in the study site and all the CWD burnt out in 2009. Using the EF of 0.45, fire
483 emission was estimated to be 4.30 kg C m⁻² ($= (19 \times 0.5 + 86) \times 0.45$).

484 We also estimated fire emissions by fires in 1997 and 2002. In this area, AGB of peat
485 swamp forest was estimated to be 169 t ha⁻¹ on average (Hayashi et al., 2015). According
486 to Toriyama et al. (2014), deadwood in mature forests accounts for 15% of AGB and 86
487 t ha⁻¹ of deadwood remained after the 1997 fire. On the presumption that all the fuel mass
488 except the 86 t ha⁻¹ of deadwood was burned by the two fires, fire emission was calculated
489 to be 4.88 kg C m⁻² ($= (169 + 169 \times 0.15 - 86) \times 0.45$) using the same EF, though some
490 AGB was left unburned as CWD. Thus, the calculation should be overestimated, but it
491 can be compensated with the underestimation of the 2009 fire emissions. In addition, peat
492 was burned by 22 cm by the 2002 fire. The bulk density and carbon content of shallow
493 peat (0–25 cm) were 173 kg m⁻³ and 53.2% on average, respectively, in the study site
494 (Itoh et al., 2017). Although the peat properties were measured in 2014 after the 2009 fire,
495 these apply probably to the peat of 2002. Using another EF of 0.46 determined from
496 Indonesian peat with carbon content of 54.7% (Christian et al., 2003), CO₂ emission
497 through peat combustion was estimated to be 17.5 kg C m⁻² ($= 0.22 \times 173 \times 0.46$). The
498 sum (22.4 kg C m⁻²) of the two emissions from AGB and peat was total fire emissions.
499 The emissions accounted for about 70% of mean fire emissions from peatlands burned in

500 1997 in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia (Page et al., 2002).

501

502 **4.4 Carbon dioxide balance**

503 This study site was a constant CO₂ source until 2009 after a stand-replacing fire with
504 smoldering in 2002. Unburned forest and wetland generally change from a CO₂ sink to a
505 source by severe fire owing to the large decrease in GPP (Amiro et al., 2010; Dore et al.,
506 2012; Ueyama et al., 2019; Wieder et al., 2009). In contrast, a moderate-severity fire in
507 2009 changed this site from a CO₂ source to a net annual CO₂ sink because of a large RE
508 decrease with little GPP decrease (Table 1). The annual NEE of $-615 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ in 2010–
509 2013 (Table 2) was much more negative than that ($-403 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) of tropical humid
510 evergreen forest (Luyssaert et al., 2007).

511 A complete carbon balance assessment of tropical peatlands with high GWL requires
512 accounting for methane (CH₄) emissions. Hirano et al. (2009) measured CH₄ flux on the
513 peat surface in the same area as this study site between 2004 and 2006 by the chamber
514 method and showed a sigmoid relationship between CH₄ flux and GWL. Using the
515 equation on the assumption that parameters were unchanged even after fires and drainage,
516 we estimated CH₄ flux from GWL throughout the study period. As a result, annual CH₄
517 emissions were estimated to be 1.68 ± 0.30 , 1.90 ± 0.36 and $0.14 \pm 0.19 \text{ g CH}_4 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$
518 on average, respectively, in 2005–2008, 2010–2013 and 2015–2016, which can be
519 converted into 47.6, 53.2 and 3.9 g CO_{2eq} m⁻² yr⁻¹, respectively, using a global warming
520 potential (GWP) of 28 over a timescale of 100 years (IPCC, 2013). The result indicates
521 that CH₄ emissions did not significantly change after the 2009 fire but significantly
522 decreased ($P < 0.01$ according to Tukey's HSD) after the canal excavation in Period III
523 because of low GWL.

524 Fluvial organic carbon flux is another essential component in the carbon balance of
525 peat ecosystems. Moore et al. (2013) estimated annual fluxes of dissolved organic carbon
526 (DOC) and particulate organic carbon (POC) as the product of their concentrations and
527 discharge in canals in intact peat swamp forest and drained disturbed peat swamp forest
528 in this study area. They reported that the annual total organic carbon (DOC + POC) flux
529 depended mainly on annual discharge. Annual total organic carbon flux was larger in the
530 drained forest because of larger annual discharge, whereas mean concentrations were
531 similar in the intact and drained forests. In our site since canal excavation lowered GWL
532 in 2014 (Fig. 2), discharge should have increased, and consequently fluvial organic
533 carbon flux increased temporarily in this transitional period. Alternatively, latent heat flux
534 normalized by net radiation did not change between Period II and III (Ohkubo et al., under
535 review), indicating that evapotranspiration capacities were almost the same in both
536 periods. Thus, if GWL keeps lowering after drainage, fluvial carbon loss would increase
537 owing to discharge increase. However, if GWL remains stable even at a low level, no
538 more increase in fluvial carbon flux would occur.

539 Cumulative CO₂ emissions, including fire emissions, had been decreasing after the
540 2009 fire until canal excavation and fire in 2014 because of the large negative NEE (Fig.
541 7). However, cumulative CO₂ were not compensated in 13 years; it was still positive at
542 about 3 kg C m⁻² at the end of 2016. Although the moderate-severity fire significantly
543 changed the annual CO₂ balance of the repeatedly burned peatland, the change was
544 insufficient to recover the acute fire emissions in this period. In addition, if CO₂ emissions
545 from fires in 1999 and 2002 (22.4 kg C m⁻²) is added, cumulative CO₂ emissions increase
546 up to 25.4 kg C m⁻² at the end of 2016. If annual NEE (-615 g C m⁻² yr⁻¹) in 2010–2013
547 (Table 2) continues, the cumulative CO₂ emissions can be compensated in about 40 years,

548 but is this possible? The site has already been drained since 2014. Lowered GWL
549 potentially enhances oxidative peat decomposition and increases fire risk (Konecny et al.,
550 2016). Thus, it should be impossible for the site to recover the total CO₂ emitted by fires.
551 This site was converted to an oil palm plantation soon after the flux monitoring was closed.
552 Although fire risk is expected to be low in plantations, oil palm plantations established
553 on peat have a potential to be a large CO₂ source up to 1 kg C m⁻² yr⁻¹ because of
554 insufficient peat compaction during land preparation (Kiew et al., 2020).

555 The study area was heavily degraded by deforestation and drainage through Mega Rice
556 Project (MRP) (Page et al. 2009). After MRP was terminated at the end of the 1990s, the
557 area has been abandoned and burned repeatedly. As a result, in Block B (4490 km²) of
558 ex-MRP, non-woody vegetation area dominated by ferns like this study site occupied 36%
559 in 2005 (Hoscilo et al., 2011). Thus, this study can contribute to quantifying the CO₂
560 balance of degraded peatland on a regional scale. However, our result might not apply to
561 other degraded sites because postfire CO₂ balance depends on various conditions, such as
562 fire severity, disturbance histories and the hydrological environment. The drastic change
563 of CO₂ balance was probably caused by an appropriate combination of a moderately-
564 severity fire and consecutive year-round high GWL due to a La Niña event, which was
565 favorable to the rapid regrowth of herbaceous plants and their GPP. More field data
566 measured in various conditions are necessary in collaboration with a modeling approach
567 to robustly assess the CO₂ balance of degraded peat ecosystems.

568

569 **5. Conclusions**

570 The study site burnt two times in 2009 and 2014 and was drained by a canal excavated
571 in 2014 during the study period of about 13 years. Although fire damages were caused by

572 the El Niño drought, the second fire was probably triggered by drainage. In addition, the
573 smoke emitted by nearby fire attenuated PPF_D considerably. On the other hand, the rainy
574 weather caused by La Niña events kept GWL high around the ground surface throughout
575 the year. These human and natural disturbances affected CO₂ fluxes compositely.

576 The large decrease in RE after the 2009 fire was probably due to a large decrease in
577 heterotrophic respiration from CWD and litter accumulation. A La Niña event
578 immediately after the fire produced a favorable wet condition for herbaceous plants'
579 regrowth and prevented PPF_D attenuation due to smoke emissions from fire, which
580 increased GPP. As a result, the degraded peat swamp forest changed from a CO₂ source
581 to a sink. In 2014–2015, unfavorable events of canal construction, El Niño drought and
582 fire occurred concurrently. Consequently, GWL lowered, VPD increased, PPF_D
583 decreased, and vegetation was patchily damaged. These events changed NEE, but the
584 study site did not return to a CO₂ source. However, the net ecosystem CO₂ uptake was
585 quite insufficient to recover a large amount of fire CO₂ emissions.

586

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598

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790

791 **Figure legends**

792 Fig. 1 Time-series photos of the study site: (a) November 2002, (b) April 2004, (c) June
793 2005, (d) September 2009 before fire, (e) October 2009 after fire, (f) December
794 2009, (g) December 2013 and (h) September 2014.

795 Fig. 2 Monthly variations in (a) precipitation, (b) GWL, (c) PPF, (d) daytime (0900–
796 1500) VPD and (e) CO₂ fluxes between 2000 and 2016, along with (f) EVI at 16-
797 days intervals and (g) distance of hotspots from the flux tower within a circle of 5
798 km radius. EVI data were classified into two ranks according to reliability: useful
799 or better (solid circles) and others (open circles). The red line denotes a moving
800 average of seven consecutive solid circles. No data were available before March
801 2004 at the study site (grey area). As for precipitation and PPF, data measured at
802 a nearby forest site (DF) were shown for reference before April 2002. Dashed
803 vertical lines denote the boundaries between three periods (refer to the text).

804 Fig. 3 Relationships of (a) measured RE (nighttime NEE) with GWL and (b) difference
805 between RE and oxidative peat decomposition (PD) (measured nighttime RE –
806 estimated PD from GWL) with GWL in Period I (April 2004 to September 2009),
807 Period II (December 2009 to June 2014) and Period III (July 2014 to December
808 2016). Data in each period were binned equally into 15 classes according to GWL
809 and averaged. Data except during fire in Period III are shown as grey circles. Error
810 bars denote standard errors. Regression lines are drawn for original data if the
811 regression is significant ($P < 0.05$).

812 Fig. 4 Interannual variation in measured RE (nighttime NEE) in high GWL conditions (\geq
813 -0.2 m) between 2004 and 2016. Error bars denote standard errors.

814 Fig. 5 Interannual variation in GPP_{max} between 2004 and 2016. Error bars denote standard

815 errors.

816 Fig. 6 Relationships of light-saturated GPP at $\text{PPFD} \geq 1000 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ (GPP_{1000}) with
817 VPD in three GWL conditions in Period I (April 2004 to September 2009, a–c),
818 Period II (December 2009 to June 2014, d–f) and Period III (July 2014 to December
819 2016, g–i). Data in each panel were binned equally into 15 classes according to
820 VPD and averaged. Error bars denote standard errors.

821 Fig. 7 Cumulative CO_2 emissions including fire emissions from May 2004 to December
822 2016. Grey lines denote the events of fires and canal excavation.

823

(a) November 2002



(b) April 2004



(c) June 2005



(d) September 2009



(e) October 2009



(f) December 2009



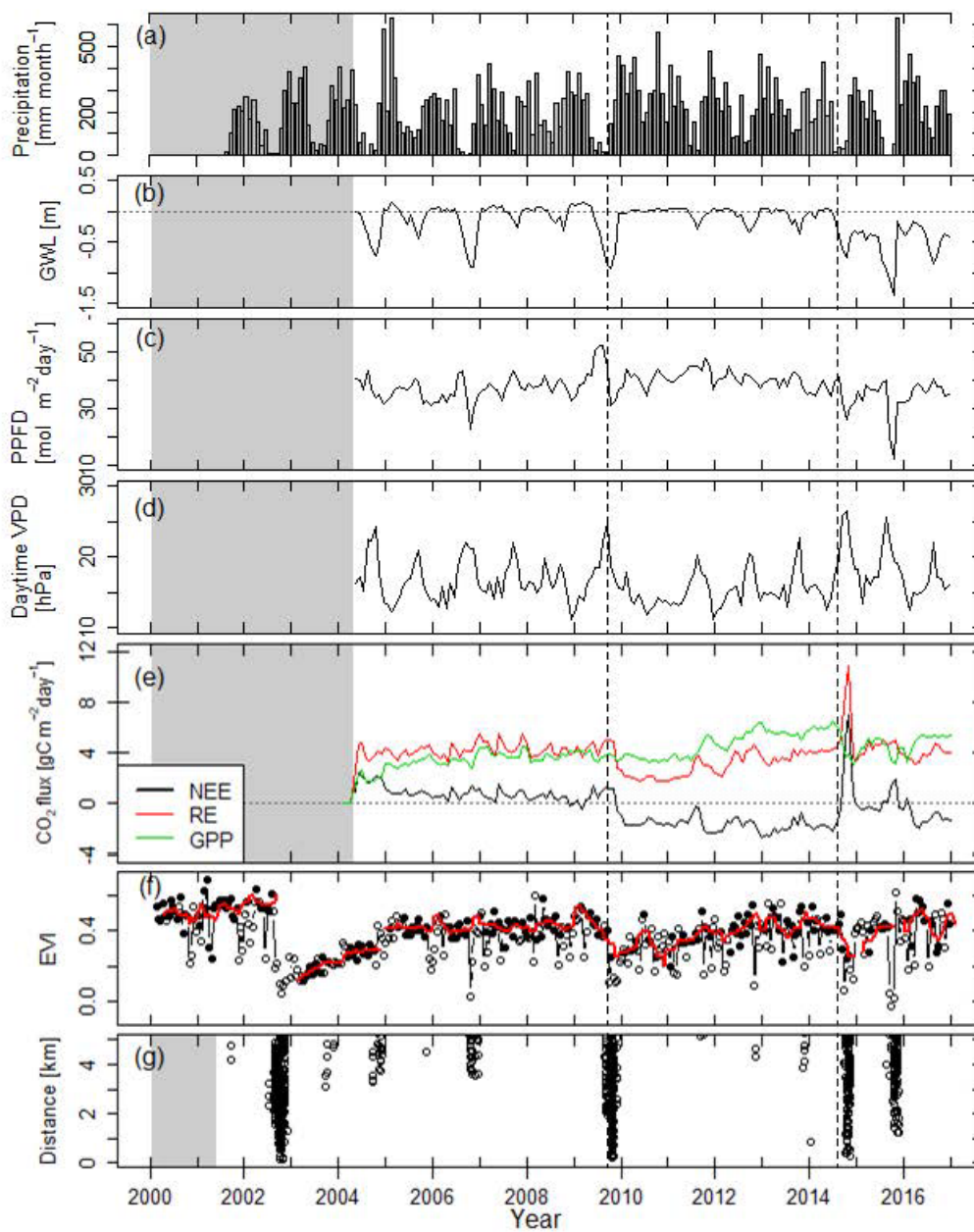
(g) December 2013



(h) September 2014



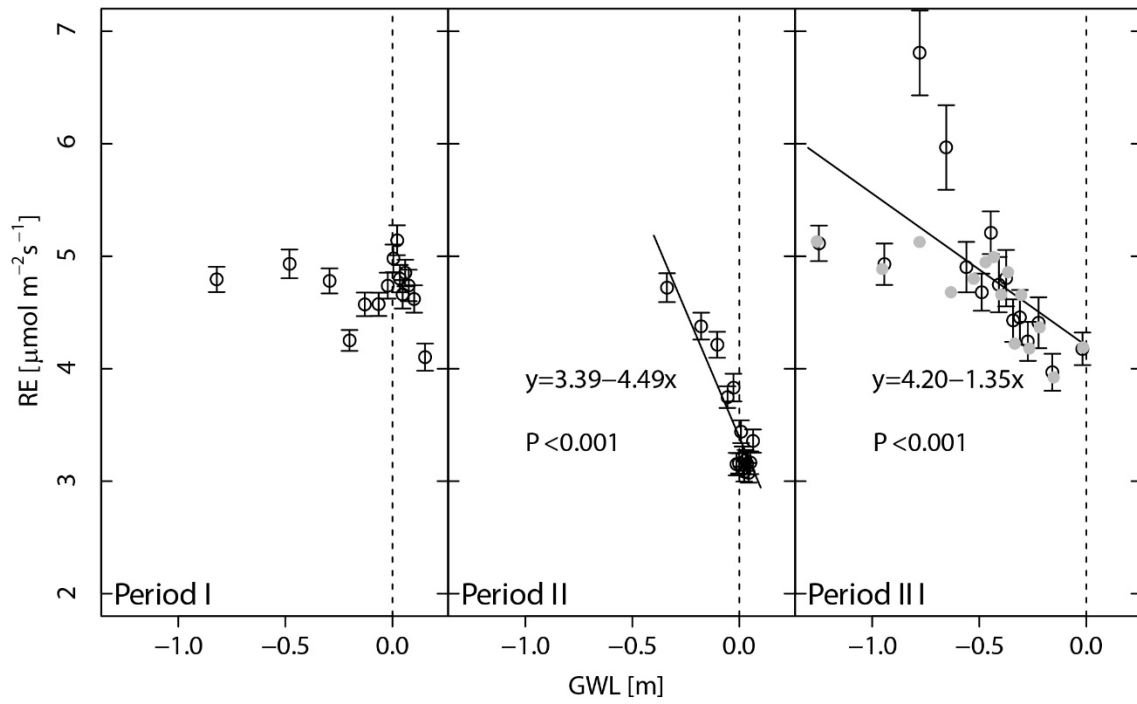
826 Fig. 2



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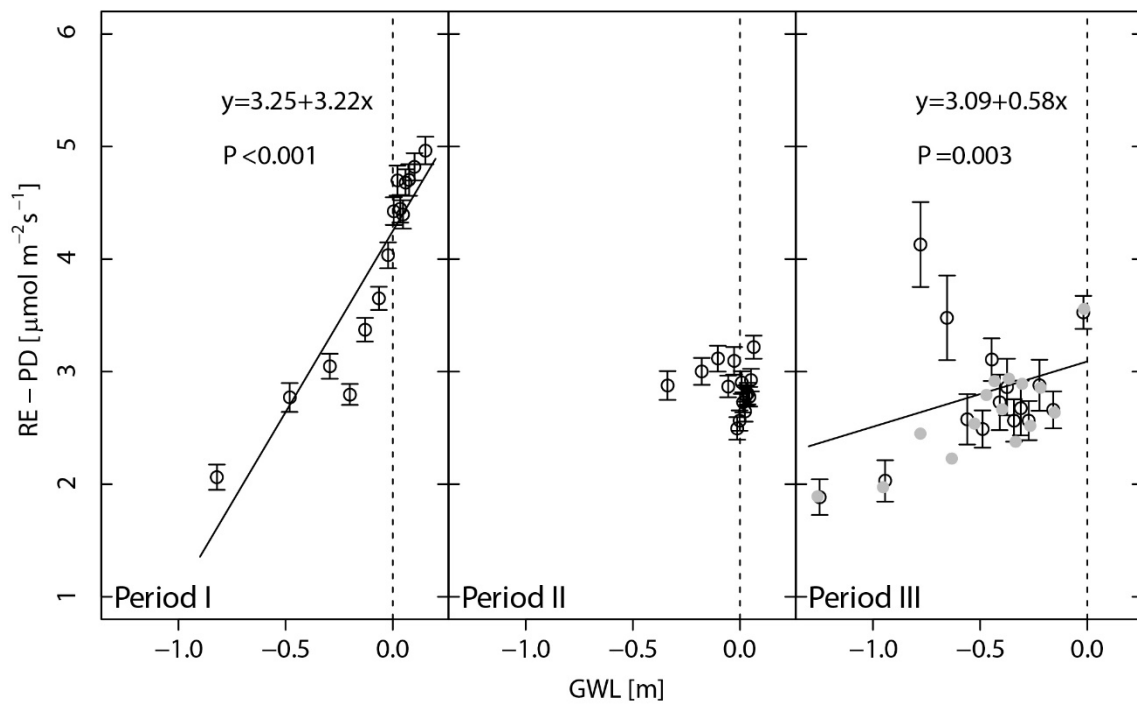
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829 Fig. 3a



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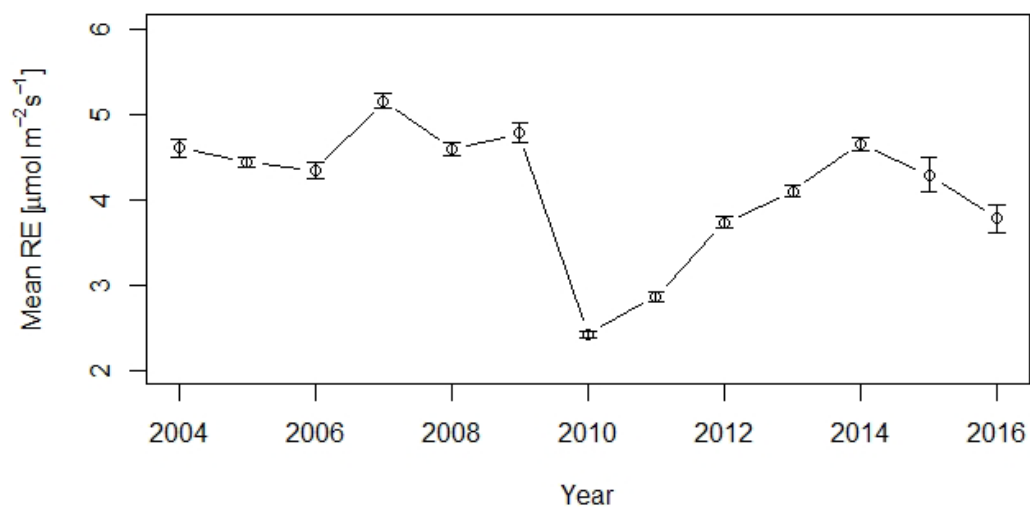
831 Fig. 3b



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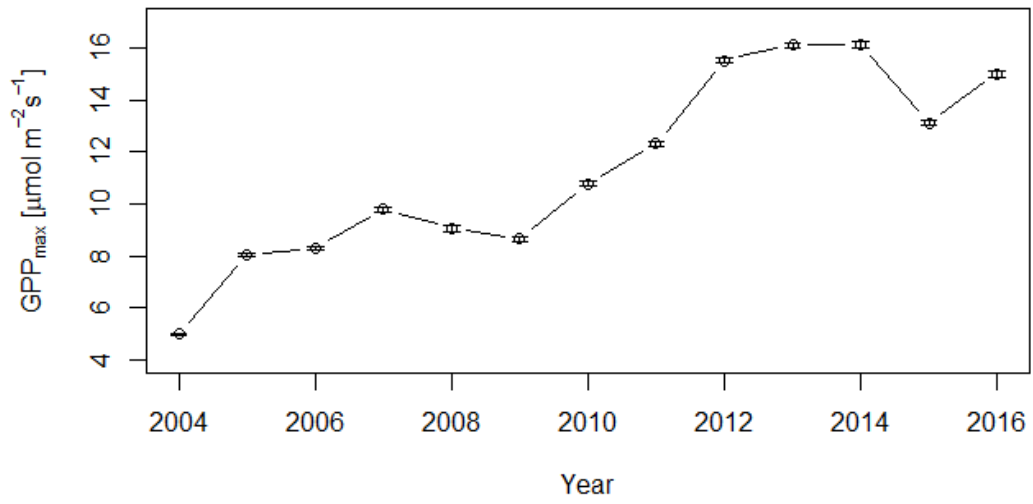
834 Fig. 4



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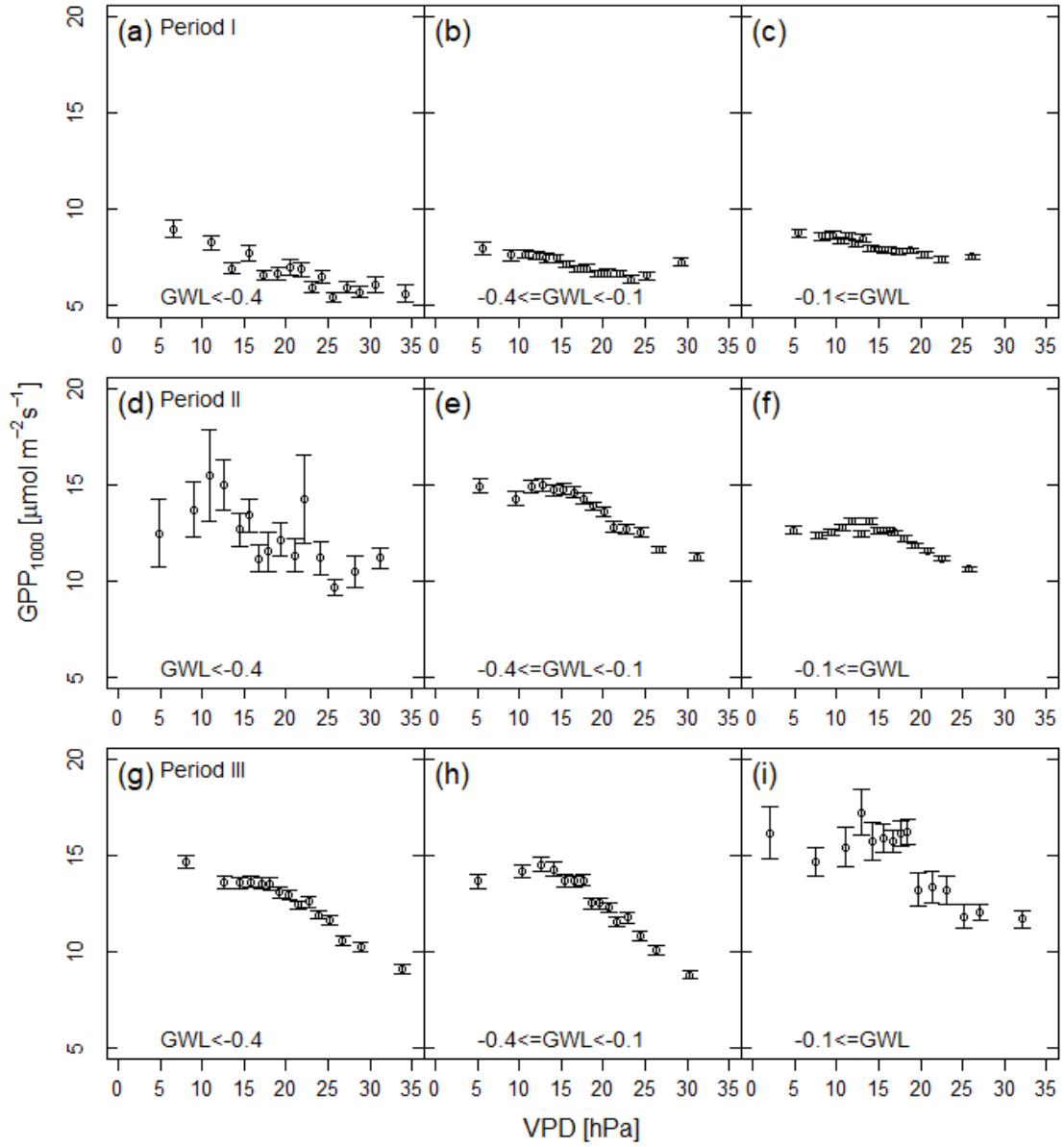
837 Fig. 5



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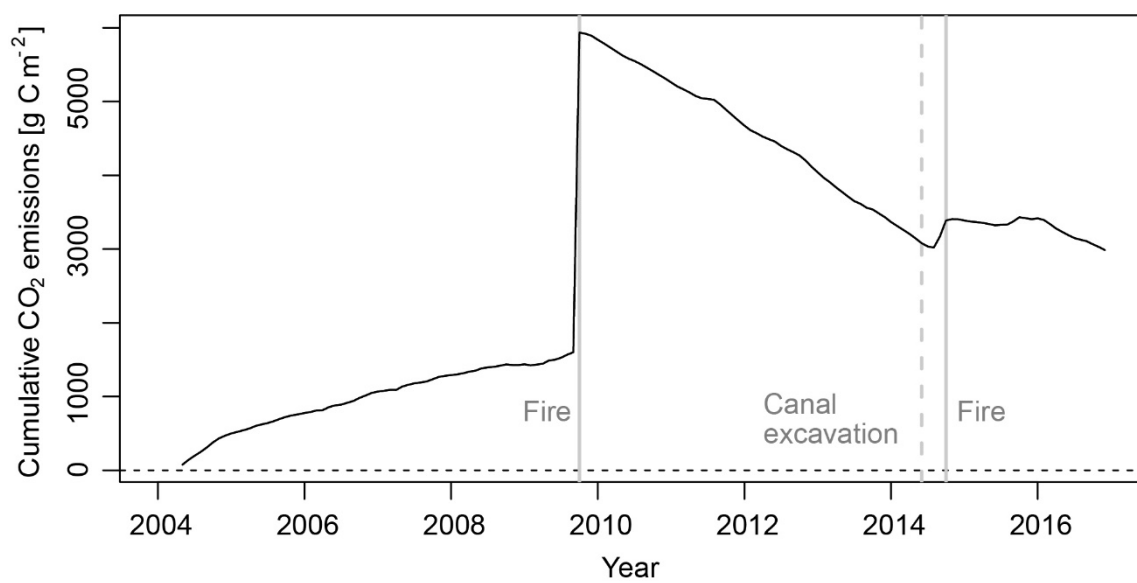
840 Fig. 6



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843 Fig. 7



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845 **Tables**846 Table 1. Annual values of CO₂ fluxes and environmental factors.

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
NEE (g C m ⁻² yr ⁻¹) ^a	290 (17)	290 (32)	231 (27)	147 (31)	163 (42)	-577 (9)	-570 (16)	-629 (14)	-684 (14)	-28 (34)	1 (18)	-381 (21)
RE (g C m ⁻² yr ⁻¹) ^a	1487 (20)	1528 (39)	1692 (24)	1488 (25)	1544 (42)	715 (13)	957 (23)	1308 (23)	1343 (22)	1870 (50)	1634 (31)	1428 (32)
PD (g C m ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	333	466	192	256	464	201	259	333	301	483	844	749
RE-PD (g C m ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	1155	1062	1500	1232	1080	514	698	975	1042	1386	790	679
GPP (g C m ⁻² yr ⁻¹) ^a	1197 (13)	1238 (23)	1461 (26)	1341 (35)	1380 (35)	1292 (10)	1527 (18)	1937 (19)	2027 (16)	1898 (25)	1633 (19)	1809 (22)
GWL (m)	-0.08	-0.25	0.00	-0.03	-0.25	0.01	-0.04	-0.08	-0.06	-0.22	-0.59	-0.43
Minimum monthly GWL (m)	-0.44	-0.92	-0.28	-0.32	-0.93	-0.03	-0.30	-0.33	-0.36	-0.74	-1.38	-0.85
Precipitation (mm yr ⁻¹)	2620	1977	2555	2603	2239	3750	3021	2460	2776	2220	2388	3077
PPFD (kmol m ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	13.0	12.5	13.8	13.9	15.1	14.7	15.6	14.9	14.4	12.8	11.9	13.4
Daytime VPD (hPa) ^b	15.6	17.2	16.8	16.2	17.5	13.9	15.3	15.5	16.0	18.1	18.8	16.0
Ratio of daytime VPD > 15 hPa ^b	0.56	0.61	0.64	0.59	0.65	0.43	0.53	0.55	0.57	0.66	0.72	0.59
EVI	0.414	0.427	0.422	0.429	0.411	0.310	0.361	0.412	0.431	0.386	0.385	0.444

847 ^aUncertainty due to random errors is shown in parentheses.848 ^bData in the daytime (0900–1500).

849 Table 2.

850 Mean values (± 1 standard deviation) of CO₂ fluxes and environmental factors in the three periods of 2005–2008, 2010–2013 and 2015–
851 2016. The *P* values of one-way ANOVA were also shown. Different letters in the same row denote significant difference among periods
852 (*P* < 0.05) according to Tukey's HSD.

Year	2005–2008	2010–2013	2015–2016	ANOVA (<i>P</i>)
NEE (g C m ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	240±68a	-615±53c	-190±270b	<0.001
RE (g C m ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	1549±97a	1081±300b	1531±146ab	0.035
PD (g C m ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	312±118a	274±57a	794±67b	<0.001
RE–PD (g C m ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	1237±188a	807±246b	735±78ab	0.031
GPP (g C m ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	1309±118a	1696±346a	1721±124a	0.106
GWL (m)	-0.09±0.11a	-0.04±0.04a	-0.51±0.11b	0.001
Minimum monthly GWL (m)	-0.49±0.29ab	-0.26±0.15b	-1.12±0.37a	0.019
Precipitation (mm yr ⁻¹)	2339±309a	3002±549a	2733±487a	0.276
PPFD (kmol m ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	13.3±0.67ab	14.9±0.51b	12.7±0.106a	0.011
Daytime VPD (hPa) ^a	16.5±0.70a	15.2±0.90a	17.4±1.98a	0.100
Daytime ratio of VPD>15 hPa ^a	0.60±0.03a	0.52±0.06a	0.66±0.09a	0.067

853 ^a Data in the daytime (0900–1500).