

# Supplementary information

## The underappreciated role of agricultural soil nitrogen oxide emissions in ozone pollution regulation in North China

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### This file includes:

Supplementary information on the Berkeley-Dalhousie Soil NO<sub>x</sub> Parameterization (BDSNP)

Supplementary Figures 1-10

Supplementary Tables 1-6

SI References

## Supplementary information on the Berkeley-Dalhousie Soil NO<sub>x</sub> Parameterization (BDSNP)

The BDSNP parameterizes global soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions ( $Emis_{soil}$ ) as a function of available soil nitrogen content, climate and edaphic conditions following:

$$Emis_{soil} = A'_{biome}(N_{avail}) \times f(T) \times g(\theta) \times P(l_{dry}), \quad (1)$$

where  $N_{avail}$  represents available soil nitrogen mass,  $A'_{biome}$  denotes the biome-dependent emission factors,  $f(T)$  and  $g(\theta)$  are the temperature and soil moisture dependences, and  $P(l_{dry})$  describes the pulsed soil emissions from wetting of dry soils<sup>1</sup>. A number of 24 soil biomes are considered in BDSNP following Steinkamp and Lawrence (2011)<sup>2</sup>, and the model calculates the total emissions from all the biomes weighted by their relative fractions in the grid box.

The soil temperature and moisture term  $f(T)$  and  $g(\theta)$  is given as:

$$f(T) \times g(\theta) = e^{0.103T} \times a\theta e^{-b\theta^2}, \quad (2)$$

where  $T$  ( $0 \leq T \leq 30^\circ$ ) is the soil temperature and  $\theta$  ( $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ ) is the water-filled pore space. The exponential dependence on temperature followed the Yienger and Levy (1995) scheme<sup>3</sup>, where 0.103 is the weighted average of dependence for different biomes. Soil temperature is not available directly from the GEOS-Chem meteorological fields, instead it is converted from the surface air temperature separately for dry and wet soil and for different biomes.

The term  $g(\theta)$  describes the Poisson function scaling for soil moisture.  $\theta$  is defined as the ratio of the volumetric soil moisture content to the porosity, and is normalized by dividing by the porosity so that  $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ . It is available hourly from the GEOS-FP meteorological fields for the top 2 cm of soil, where the majority of the soil NO<sub>x</sub> release. The values of  $a$  and  $b$  are chosen such that  $g(\theta)$  maximizes when  $\theta = 0.2$  for arid soils and  $\theta = 0.3$  elsewhere according to laboratory and field measurements. As point out by Hudman et al. (2012)<sup>1</sup>, there is uncertainty on how well  $\theta$  can reflect the real-world water-filled pore space, but its use represents a mechanistic approach for soil NO<sub>x</sub> emission estimates in the atmospheric chemical model that can take advantage of available assimilated meteorological fields.

The pulsing term  $P(l_{dry})$  describes the pulsing of soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from a reactivation of water-stressed bacteria when very dry soil is wetted due to irrigation and/or rainfalls. It follows Yan et al. (2005)<sup>4</sup> and is given as:

$$P(l_{dry}) = [13.01 \ln(l_{dry}) - 53.6] \times e^{-ct}, \quad (3)$$

where  $l_{dry}$  is the length of the antecedent dry period in hours which is updated in the model based on soil moisture from the meteorological fields,  $c = 0.068 \text{ hour}^{-1}$  is a constant rate denoting the rise/fall time of the pulse, and  $t$  is the model emission time step.

The BDSNP considers available soil nitrogen content from the natural pool, fertilizer

76 application, and nitrogen deposition. Fertilizer applications are obtained from the global  
 77 gridded chemical fertilizer and manure application inventory at  $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ , in which the  
 78 chemical fertilizers were spatially disaggregated from the International Fertilizer Association  
 79 (IFA) national totals for year 2000 conditions, and the manure fertilizer were obtained from the  
 80 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Gridded Livestock of the  
 81 World (GLW) project. We find that the Chinese chemical fertilizer application (straight N  
 82 application) from IFA as used in this study gives  $19.6 \text{ Tg N a}^{-1}$  for 2000, which is close to the  
 83 estimate of  $22.2 \text{ Tg N a}^{-1}$  for 2017 from the China Statistical Yearbook  
 84 (<http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/ndsj/>). The China Statistical Yearbook estimates relatively stable  
 85 Chinese chemical fertilizer application of about 21-24  $\text{Tg N a}^{-1}$  in 2000-2017. The uncertainties  
 86 in the fertilizer input can be considered in our sensitivity simulations with different soil  $\text{NO}_x$   
 87 scenarios.

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 89 The annual fertilizer applications are then distributed over the satellite-derived growing season  
 90 at each grid, with 75% of which are distributed over the first month as a Gaussian distribution  
 91 around the green-up day, and the rest 25% are distributed evenly over the remaining growing  
 92 season. Multiple cropping or crop rotations are not considered here. The time-dependent  $N_{avail}$   
 93 from fertilizer application is then calculated following the mass-balance equation:

$$94 \quad N_{avail}(t) = N_{avail}(0)e^{-t/\tau} + F \times \tau \times (1 - e^{-t/\tau}), \quad (4)$$

95 where  $N_{avail}(0)$  is the initial state available in Hudman et al. (2012)<sup>1</sup>,  $t$  is the time,  $\tau$  is a  
 96 decay lifetime of 4 months for fertilizer nitrogen,  $F$  is the fertilizer application rate that varies  
 97 across the growing seasons as described above. We note here that daily  $N_{avail}$  from fertilizer  
 98 application is pre-calculated following the method introduced above and is a standard input for  
 99 BDSNP in GEOS-Chem.

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 101 The  $N_{avail}$  from dry and wet nitrogen deposition takes the advantages of the on-line  
 102 deposition diagnostics in GEOS-Chem for each time step and is thus coupled to the model  
 103 chemistry and deposition of reactive nitrogen compounds. BDSNP assumes 60% of deposited  
 104 nitrogen enters the soil while the remainder is lost to runoff into waterways.  $N_{avail}(t)$  from  
 105 deposition is then calculated following Eq. 4, where the decay constant  $\tau$  is chosen to be 6  
 106 months based on measurements<sup>1</sup>.

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 108 The biome emission factor  $A'_{biome}(N_{avail})$  then measures the available nitrogen in soils  
 109 (natural pools) and incorporates those from fertilizer and deposition.  $A'_{biome}(N_{avail})$  is  
 110 calculated as a function of  $A_{w,biome}$  and  $N_{avail}$ :

$$111 \quad A'_{biome}(N_{avail}) = A_{w,biome} + N_{avail} \times \bar{E}, \quad (5)$$

112 where  $A_{w,biome}$  is the wet biome-dependent emission factors from Steinkamp and Lawrence  
 113 (2011)<sup>2</sup> which were derived from measurements,  $N_{avail}$  is the available nitrogen from the sum

114 of fertilizer application and nitrogen deposition as described above,  $\bar{E}$  is the emission rate and  
115 is scaled in BDSNP so that the total global above-soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from fertilizer matches  
116 the observed estimates of 1.8 Tg N yr<sup>-1</sup> from Stehfest and Bouwman (2006)<sup>6</sup>.

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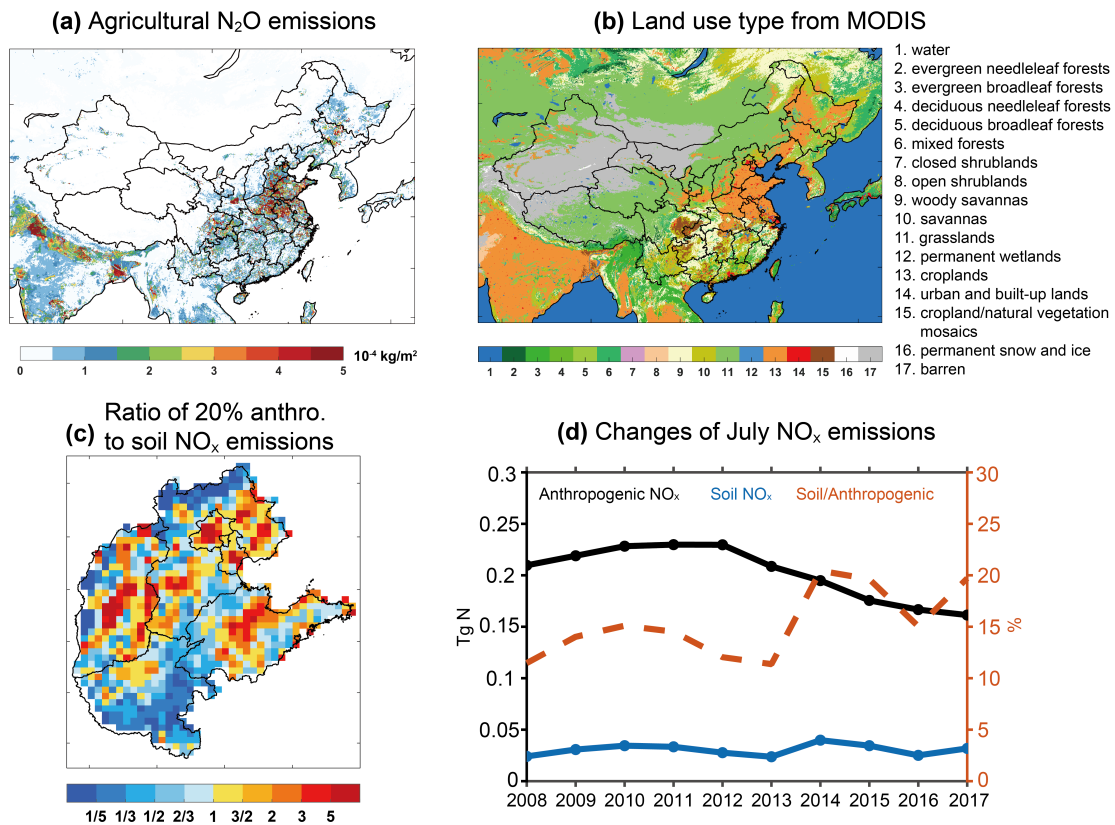
118 The above descriptions summarize how BDSNP implemented in GEOS-Chem calculates global  
119 soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions above soil at each model grid and time step as a function of available  
120 nitrogen content and meteorological conditions. Soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions above canopy  
121 ( $Emis_{soil\_above\_canopy}$ ) is then calculated as:

122 
$$Emis_{soil\_above\_canopy} = Emis_{soil} \times (1 - CRF), (6)$$

123 where CRF represents the canopy reduction factor that accounts for the fraction of the emitted  
124 soil NO<sub>x</sub> lost by deposition to vegetation during transport from the soil to canopy top as  
125 described in Wang et al. (1998)<sup>7</sup>.

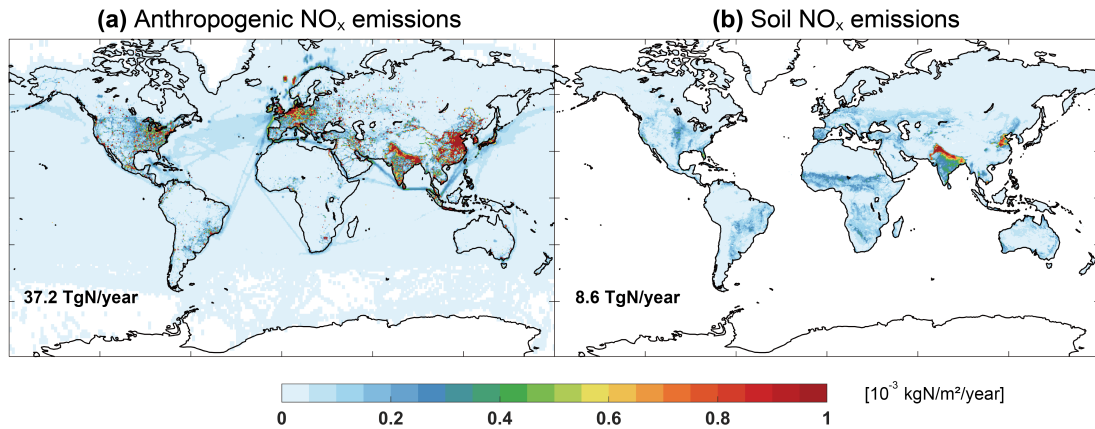
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**Supplementary Figure 1. Evidence of substantial soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions over the North China Plain (NCP).** (a) Agriculture N<sub>2</sub>O emissions averaged for 2010-2014 from croplands<sup>8</sup>. (b) Land use type in July 2017 from the Terra and Aqua combined Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) Land Cover Climate Modeling Grid (CMG) (MCD12C1) Version 6 data (<https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/products/mcd12c1v006/>). (c) Ratio of 20% anthropogenic to soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions over the NCP. Grids with the ratio greater than 2 are defined as high anthropogenic NO<sub>x</sub> emission model grids (accounting for 20% of the NCP grids), while grids with the ratio smaller than 0.5 are defined as high soil NO<sub>x</sub> emission model grids (accounting for 30% of the NCP grids). We use the emission ratio of 20% as the criteria here as the July soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in the NCP are about 20% of the anthropogenic NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (Figs 1a and 1b). (d) Time series of the total anthropogenic (black solid line) and soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (blue solid line) in the NCP in July 2008-2017. Also shown is the ratio of soil to anthropogenic NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (red dash line).

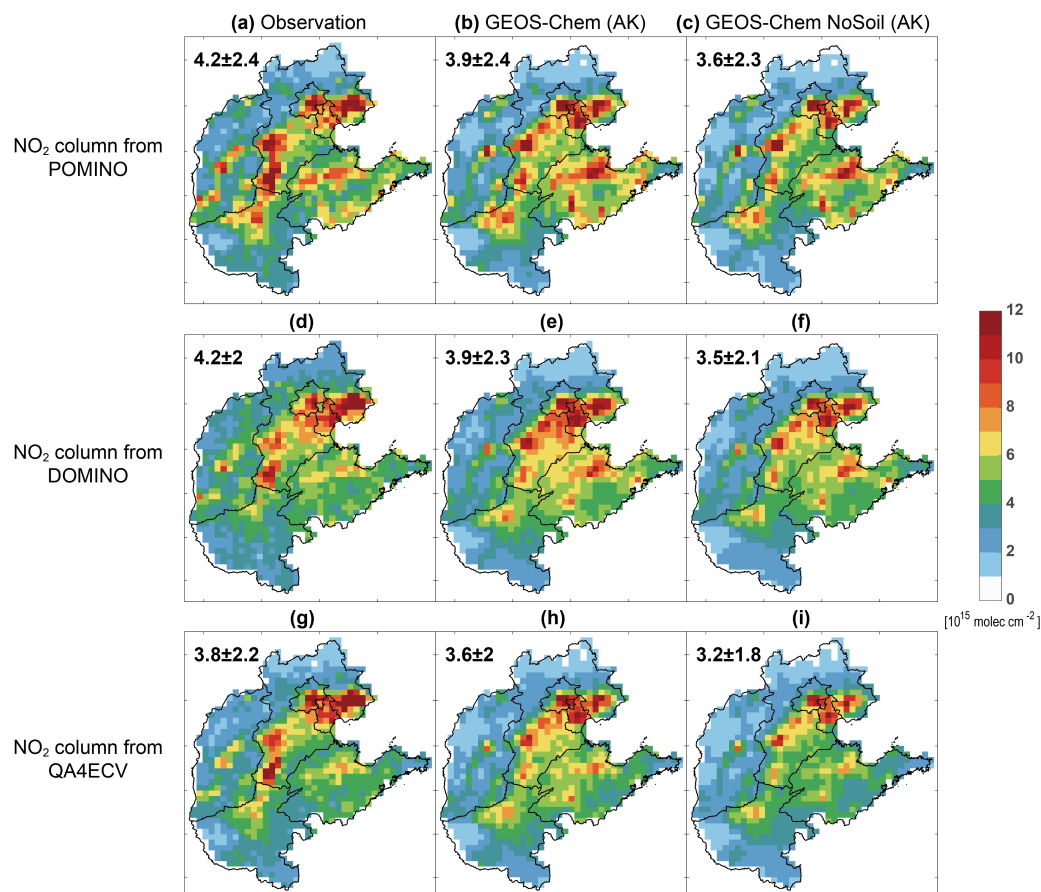


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144 **Supplementary Figure 2. Global annual (a) anthropogenic and (b) soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions**  
 145 **averaged for 2015-2017.** Anthropogenic emissions are from the CEDS<sub>GBD-MAPS</sub> emission  
 146 inventory<sup>9</sup>. Global soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are calculated using the Berkeley-Dalhousie Soil NO<sub>x</sub>  
 147 Parameterization (BDSNP) archived in Weng et al. (2020)<sup>10</sup>.

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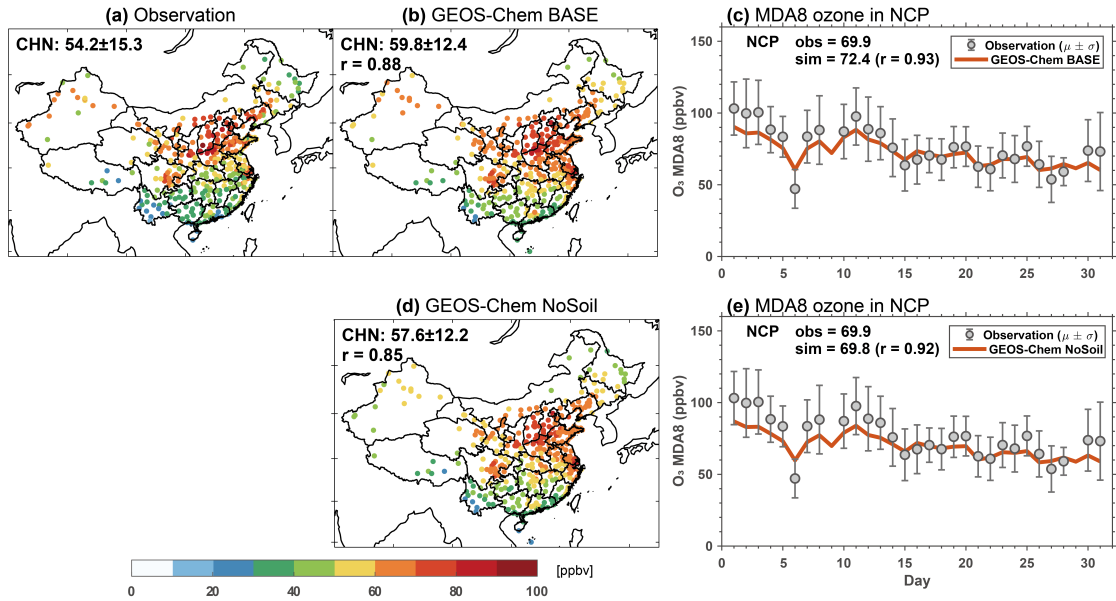
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151 **Supplementary Figure 3. Tropospheric NO<sub>2</sub> columns over the NCP from satellite products**  
 152 **and GEOS-Chem simulations.** Panels (a), (d), and (g) show the spatial pattern of tropospheric  
 153 NO<sub>2</sub> columns from the POMINO, DOMINO, and QA4ECV products, respectively. Panels (b),  
 154 (e), and (h) show the results from the GEOS-Chem BASE model simulation with corresponding  
 155 averaging kernels applied. Panels (c), (f), and (i) are the same as panels (b), (e), and (h) but  
 156 from the GEOS-Chem NoSoil simulation (soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are excluded from BASE). Mean  
 157 values ± standard deviations are shown in the inset.

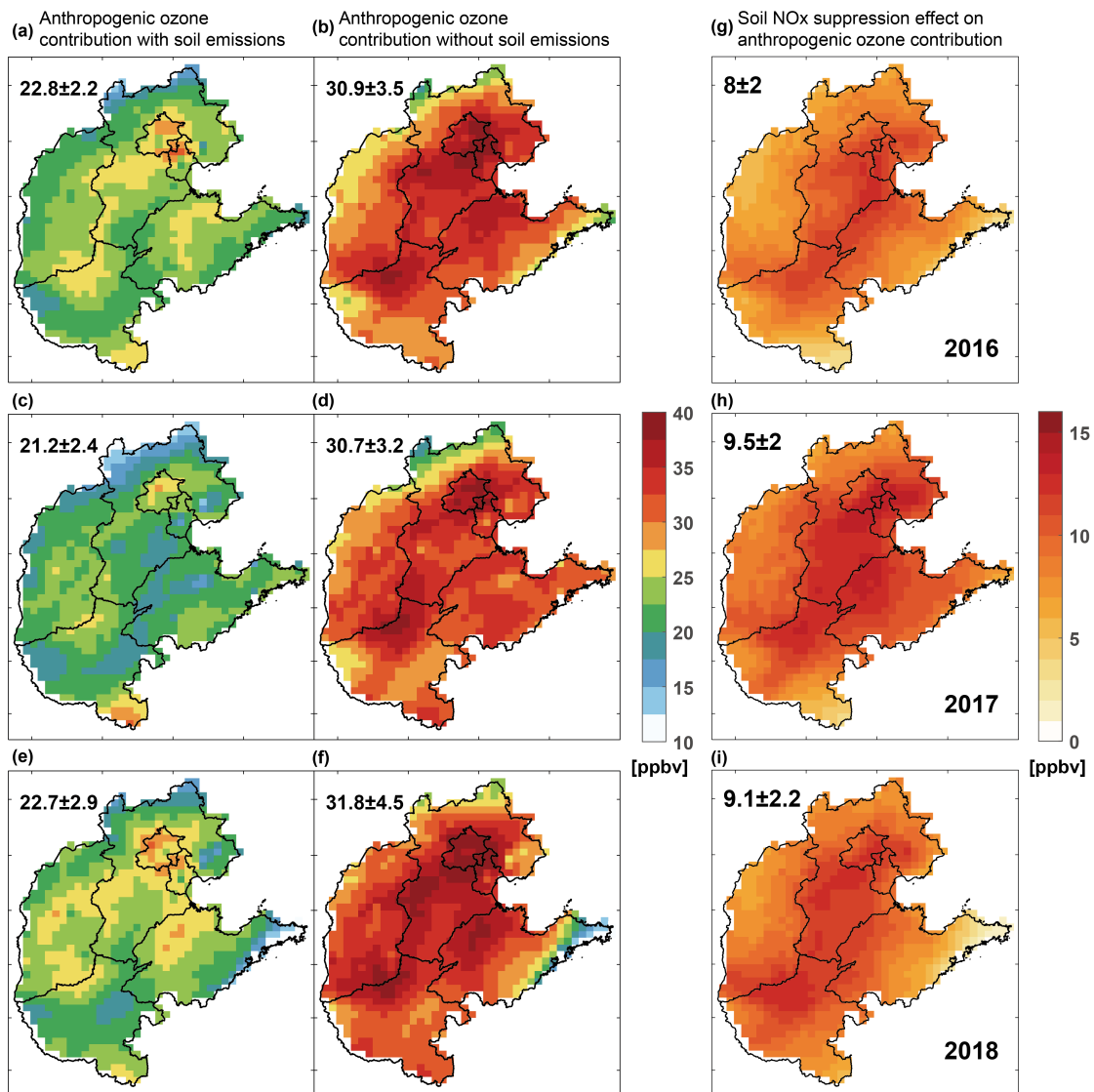
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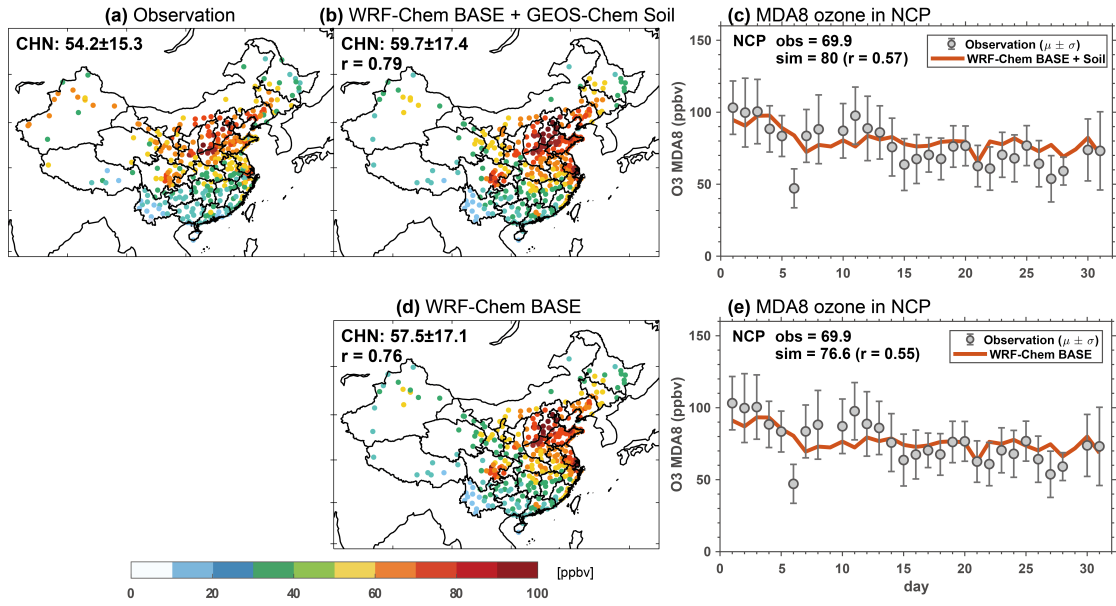
160 **Supplementary Figure 4. Evaluation of the GEOS-Chem simulated surface daily**  
 161 **maximum 8-h average (MDA8) ozone levels in Chinese urban sites in July 2017.** Panel (a)  
 162 and (b) show the spatial distribution of (a) observed and (b) simulated mean MDA8 ozone at  
 163 1633 Chinese urban sites. Mean values and their correlation coefficients ( $r$ ) are shown in the  
 164 inset. Panel (c) compares the time series of observed (grey circles, with bars representing the  
 165 standard deviation) and modeled ozone (red lines) averaged in the 55 NCP cities, with the  
 166 temporal correlation coefficients ( $r$ ) shown in the inset. Panels (d) and (e) are the same as Panels  
 167 (b) and (c), but from the GEOS-Chem NoSoil simulation.

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**Supplementary Figure 5. Soil NO<sub>x</sub> emission influences on estimated anthropogenic ozone contribution.** Panels (a) and (b), (c) and (d), and (e) and (f) are the same as Figure 2 (c) and (d) but for July 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively. Panels (g)-(i) show the difference in the estimated anthropogenic ozone contribution in the presence/absence of the soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions for individual years.

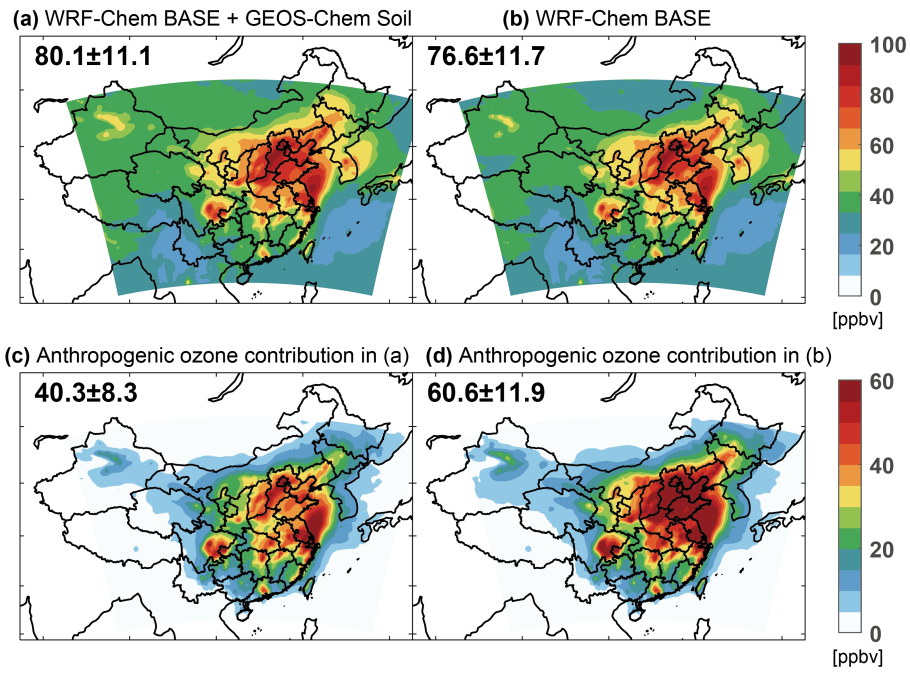


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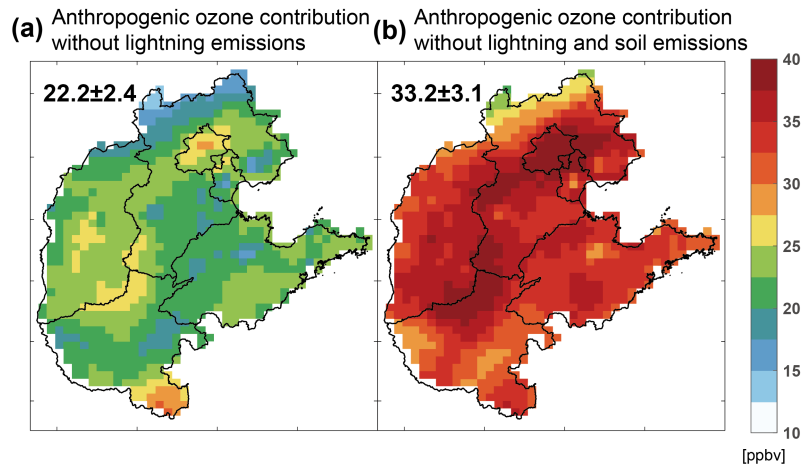
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**Supplementary Figure 6.** Same as Figure S4, but for the WRF-Chem model.



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**Supplementary Figure 7. Soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions influence the estimated anthropogenic ozone contribution in the WRF-Chem model.** Panels (a) and (b) show the WRF-Chem simulated MDA8 ozone with GEOS-Chem soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions applied and excluded, respectively. Panels (c) and (d) compare the anthropogenic ozone contributions in the WRF-Chem model in the presence and absence of soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions.



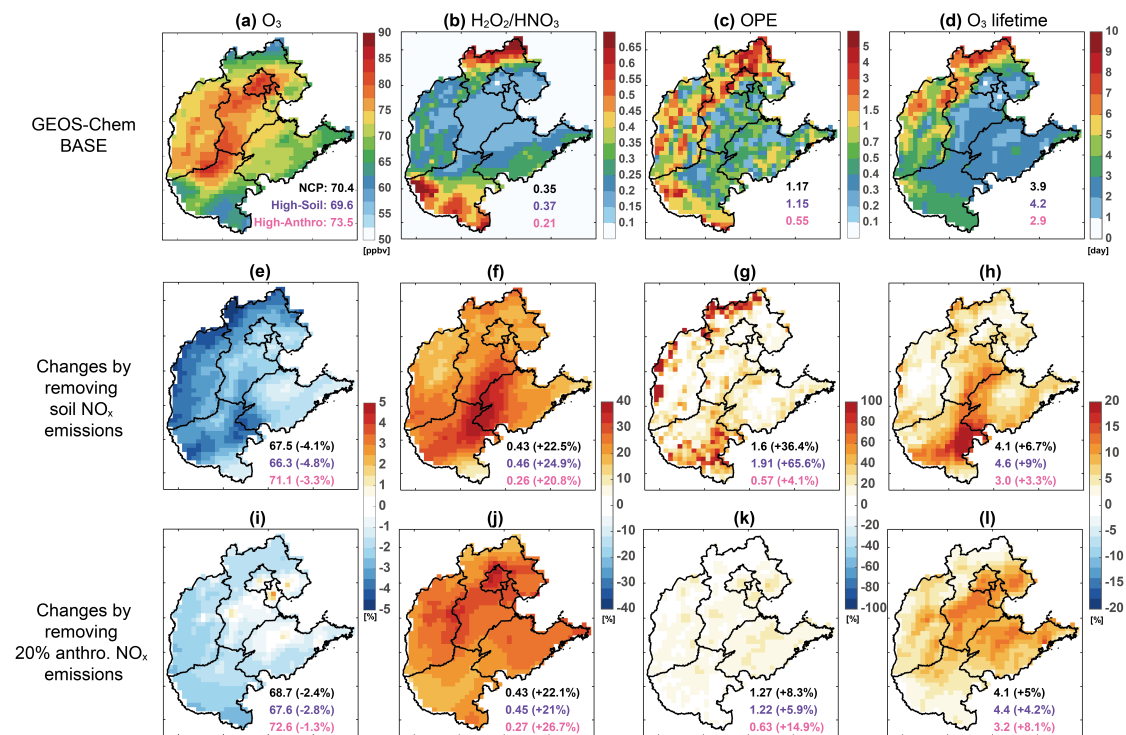
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188 **Supplementary Figure 8.** Same as Figure 2 (c) and (d), but for anthropogenic ozone  
 189 contributions in the absence of (a) lightning emissions and (b) both lightning and soil  
 190 emissions.

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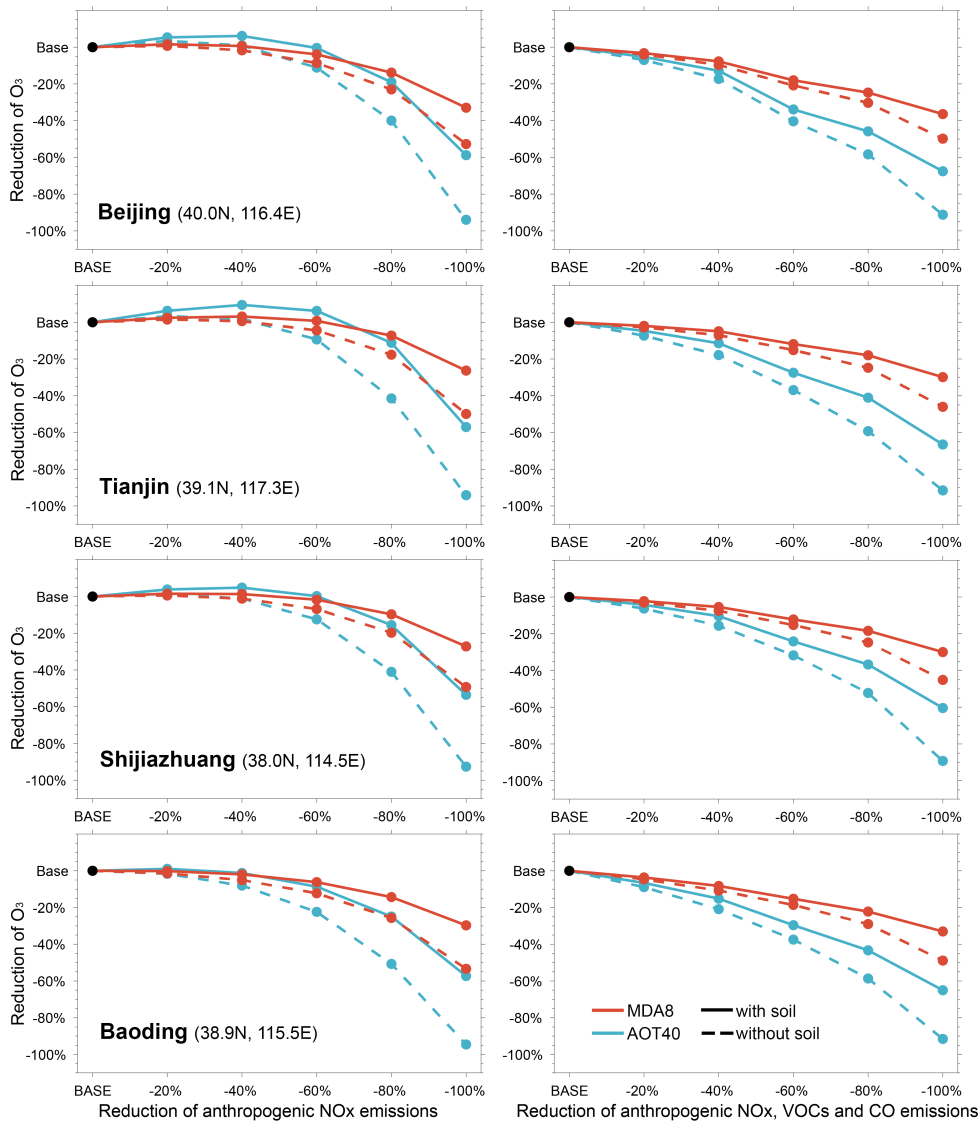


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**Supplementary Figure 9. Different influences of anthropogenic and soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions on ozone formation in the NCP.** Panels (a), (b), (c) (d) show the mean MDA8 ozone, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/HNO<sub>3</sub> ratio, ozone production efficiency (OPE, mol mol<sup>-1</sup>, defined as ozone chemical production per NO<sub>x</sub> emitted), and ozone chemical lifetime over the NCP from the GEOS-Chem BASE simulation. The mean values over all the NCP grids (black), high soil emission grids (20% anthropogenic NO<sub>x</sub> emissions/soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions < 0.5) (purple), and high anthropogenic emission grids (20% anthropogenic NO<sub>x</sub> emissions/soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions > 2) (pink) are shown in the inset. Panels (e)-(h) are the same as panels (a)-(d), but show the relative changes if soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are excluded from the model. Panels (i)-(l) are the same as panels (a)-(d), but show the relative changes if 20% anthropogenic NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are excluded from the model. We use the emission ratio of 20% as the criteria here as the July soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in the NCP are about 20% of the anthropogenic NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (Figs 1a and 1b).

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**Supplementary Figure 10. Responses of ozone MDA8 and AOT40 to the reductions of anthropogenic NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, and the joint reductions of anthropogenic NO<sub>x</sub>/VOCs/CO emissions.** Values are GEOS-Chem model simulated ozone changes at the centers of four NCP cities (Beijing, Tianjin, Shijiazhuang, and Baoding) in the presence (solid line) and absence (dashed line) of soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions.

**Supplementary Table 1. Comparison of Soil NO<sub>x</sub> emission estimates in China.**

Reference	Reference year	Above-canopy soil NO <sub>x</sub> emissions (Gg N a <sup>-1</sup> )	Description
This study	2017	770	The Berkeley-Dalhousie Soil NO <sub>x</sub> Parameterization (BDSNP) mechanistic model as described in the text and in Hudman et al. (2012) <sup>1</sup>
Wang et al. (2005) <sup>11</sup>	1999	657	An empirical modeling approach of Yienger and Levy (1995) <sup>3</sup> (hereafter YL1995), with soil emissions parameterized by soil temperature and moisture.
Tie et al. (2006) <sup>12</sup>	2004	1375	Soil emissions parameterized with an exponential dependence on soil temperature.
Yan et al. (2005) <sup>4</sup>	/	480	A statistical model of soil NO <sub>x</sub> emissions based on field measurements, considering the influences of soil organic carbon content, soil pH, land-cover type, climate condition, soil moisture, and nitrogen input.
Huang et al. (2014) <sup>13</sup>	/	1226 (95% Confidence Limit: 588 to 2132)	Upscaling the field measurements of soil NO <sub>x</sub> emissions at multiple sites to develop a national-scale inventory.
Wang et al. (2007) <sup>14</sup>	1997–1999	850 (East China only)	Using the YL1995 scheme in GEOS-Chem
Lin (2012) <sup>15</sup>	2006	380 (East China only)	Top-down estimates using satellite NO <sub>2</sub> retrievals

219 **Supplementary Table 2. Comparison of above canopy soil NO<sub>x</sub> flux from the Berkeley-**  
 220 **Dalhousie Soil NO<sub>x</sub> Parameterization (BDSNP) implemented in GEOS-Chem with the**  
 221 **field measurements over China. Historical BDSNP soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are archived in**  
 222 **Weng et al. (2020).**

Location	Year	Longitude	Latitude	Land type	Flux [kg N ha <sup>-1</sup> a <sup>-1</sup> ]		Reference
					Observation	BDSNP	
1 Beijing	2017	116.5E	39.8N	Farmland	4.8	4.6	Wu et al. (2019) <sup>16</sup>
2 Shandong	2017	119.0E	37.8N	Wetland	0.9	0.2	Wu et al. (2019) <sup>16</sup>
3 Shanxi	2007-2009	110.7E	34.5N	Wheat–maize rotation field	2.4	2.3	Liu et al. (2011) <sup>17</sup>
4 Hubei	2017	110.7E	32.1N	Farmland	0.9	0.1	Wu et al. (2019) <sup>16</sup>
5 Jiangsu, Wuxi	2002-2003	120.5E	31.6N	Rice-wheat field	0.4	0.7	Zhou et al. (2010) <sup>18</sup>
6 Jiangsu, Changshu	2005	120.7E	31.6N	Farmland	1.4	1.5	Liu et al. (2006) <sup>19</sup>
7 Zhejiang	March-June 2006	120.7E	30.8N	Agricultural lands	1.7	0.6	Fang and Mu (2007) <sup>20</sup>
8 Guangdong	2005	112.5E	23.2N	Pine forest	4.0	0.6	Li et al. (2007) <sup>21</sup>
9 Hainan	2009-2010	109.5E	19.5N	Orchard	0.1	0.7	Huo (2012) <sup>22</sup>

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224 **Supplementary Table 3. GEOS-Chem model simulations conducted in this study.**

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Simulation	Chinese Anthropogenic emissions			Soil	Lightning
	NOx	VOCs/CO	Others		
BASE	1 <sup>a</sup>	1	1	1	1
NoSoil	1	1	1	0	1
NoLight	1	1	1	1	0
NoSoilLight	1	1	1	0	0
NoAnthro	0	0	0	1	1
NoAnthroSoil	0	0	0	0	1
NoAnthroLight	0	0	0	1	0
NoAnthroSoilLight	0	0	0	0	0
Base_200%Soil	1	1	1	2	1
NoAnthro_200%Soil	0	0	0	2	1
0%AnthroNOx_200%Soil	0	1	1	2	1
Base_50%Soil	1	1	1	0.5	1
NoAnthro_50%Soil	0	0	0	0.5	1
0%AnthroNOx_50%Soil	0	1	1	0.5	1
Base_redAnthroNOx	0/0.2/0.4/0.6/0.8	1	1	1	1
NoSoil_redAnthroNOx	0/0.2/0.4/0.6/0.8	1	1	0	1
Base_redAnthroALL	0/0.2/0.4/0.6/0.8	0/0.2/0.4/0.6/0.8	1	1	1
NoSoil_redAnthroALL	0/0.2/0.4/0.6/0.8	0/0.2/0.4/0.6/0.8	1	0	1

226 <sup>a</sup>values represent the scaling ratios applied to the 2017 emission levels, i.e., the MEIC  
 227 anthropogenic emissions or soil/lightning emissions in the *BASE* simulation.

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230 **Supplementary Table 4. Responses of GEOS-Chem simulated ozone metrics to reduction**  
 231 **of anthropogenic NO<sub>x</sub>, NMVOCs, and CO levels, in the presence vs. absence of soil NO<sub>x</sub>**  
 232 **emissions.**

Reducing NO <sub>x</sub> emissions alone	With soil emissions		Without soil emissions		Jointly reducing NO <sub>x</sub> , NMVOCs, CO emissions		With soil emissions		Without soil emissions	
	<b>MDA8 [ppbv]</b>									
2017 level	72.4		69.8		2017 level	72.4		69.8		
20% Off	71.4	1.4%	68.0	2.6%	20% Off	69.4	4.1%	66.3	5.0%	
40% Off	69.4	4.1%	64.9	7.0%	40% Off	65.9	9.0%	61.8	11.5%	
60% Off	66.0	8.8%	59.7	14.5%	60% Off	61.4	15.2%	56.9	18.5%	
80% Off	60.0	17.1%	50.6	27.5%	80% Off	56.2	22.4%	49.5	29.1%	
100% Off	49.4	31.8%	33.0	52.7%	100% Off	48.0	33.7%	35.9	48.6%	
<b>NDGT70 [day]</b>										
2017 level	17.4		15.3		2017 level	17.4		15.3		
20% Off	16.6	4.6%	13.5	11.8%	20% Off	14.8	14.9%	12.1	20.9%	
40% Off	14.8	14.9%	10.8	29.4%	40% Off	11.6	33.3%	8.2	46.4%	
60% Off	11.5	33.9%	6.5	57.5%	60% Off	7.9	54.6%	4.0	73.9%	
80% Off	7.2	58.6%	0.5	96.7%	80% Off	3.8	78.2%	0.2	98.7%	
100% Off	0.9	94.8%	0.0	100.0%	100% Off	0.1	99.4%	0.0	100.0%	
<b>AOT40 [ppbv hour]</b>										
2017 level	9453		8733		2017 level	9453		8733		
20% Off	9240	2.3%	8256	5.5%	20% Off	8625	8.8%	7705	11.8%	
40% Off	8736	7.6%	7380	15.5%	40% Off	7610	19.5%	6410	26.6%	
60% Off	7775	17.8%	5866	32.8%	60% Off	6301	33.3%	4970	43.1%	
80% Off	6071	35.8%	3346	61.7%	80% Off	4806	49.2%	2956	66.1%	
100% Off	3242	65.7%	475	94.6%	100% Off	2747	70.9%	659	92.4%	

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235 **Supplementary Table 5. Parameters of the logarithmic fitting function between the MDA8**  
 236 **ozone reduction (x, ppbv) and percentage reduction of anthropogenic emissions (y, %) as**  
 237 **listed in Supplementary Table 3.**

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Logarithmic fitting function: $y = a \times \log(x+b) + c$				
Parameters	With soil emissions		Without soil emissions	
	NO <sub>x</sub> reduction alone	Joint NO <sub>x</sub> -CO-VOCs reduction	NO <sub>x</sub> reduction alone	Joint NO <sub>x</sub> -CO-VOCs reduction
a	34.06	82.77	35.36	62.72
b	1.32	10.15	2.27	8.16
c	-8.99	-192.20	-29.12	-132.70
R <sup>2</sup>	>0.99	>0.99	>0.99	>0.99

239

240

241 **Supplementary Table 6. WRF-Chem model configuration options.**

242

<b>Configuration</b>	<b>Schemes</b>
Chemical initial and boundary conditions	CAM-Chem model (The Community Atmosphere Model with Chemistry) <sup>23</sup>
Cloud microphysics	Morrison scheme <sup>24</sup>
Longwave radiation	RRTM scheme <sup>25</sup>
Shortwave radiation	Goddard shortwave scheme <sup>26</sup>
Land surface model	Noah land surface scheme <sup>27</sup>
Planetary Boundary Layer	Yonsei University PBL scheme <sup>28</sup>
Gas phase chemistry	CBMZ scheme <sup>29</sup>
Aerosol scheme	the model for simulating aerosol interactions and chemistry (MOSAIC) for aerosol <sup>30</sup>

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