

**QUERCC**

**QUantifying Ecosystem Roles in the Carbon Cycle**

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**The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.**





**Quantifying and  
Understanding  
the Earth System**

## **QUERCC: QUantifying Ecosystem Roles in the Carbon Cycle**

**Overall objective: - NERC-speak.**

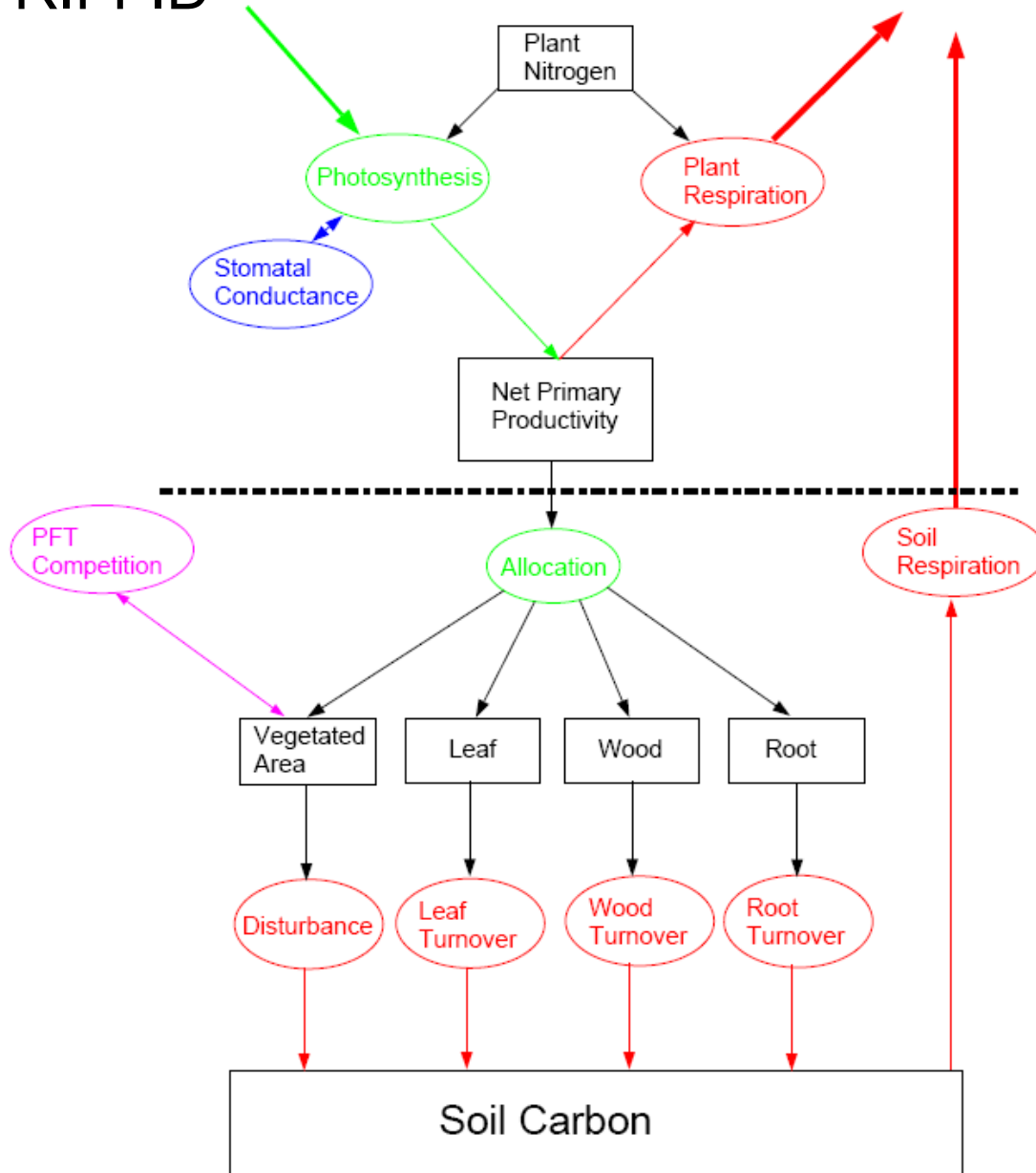
To quantify the contemporary terrestrial carbon cycle using new combinations of data and models.

This will be achieved through 4 work packages

**Overall objective: - reality?.**

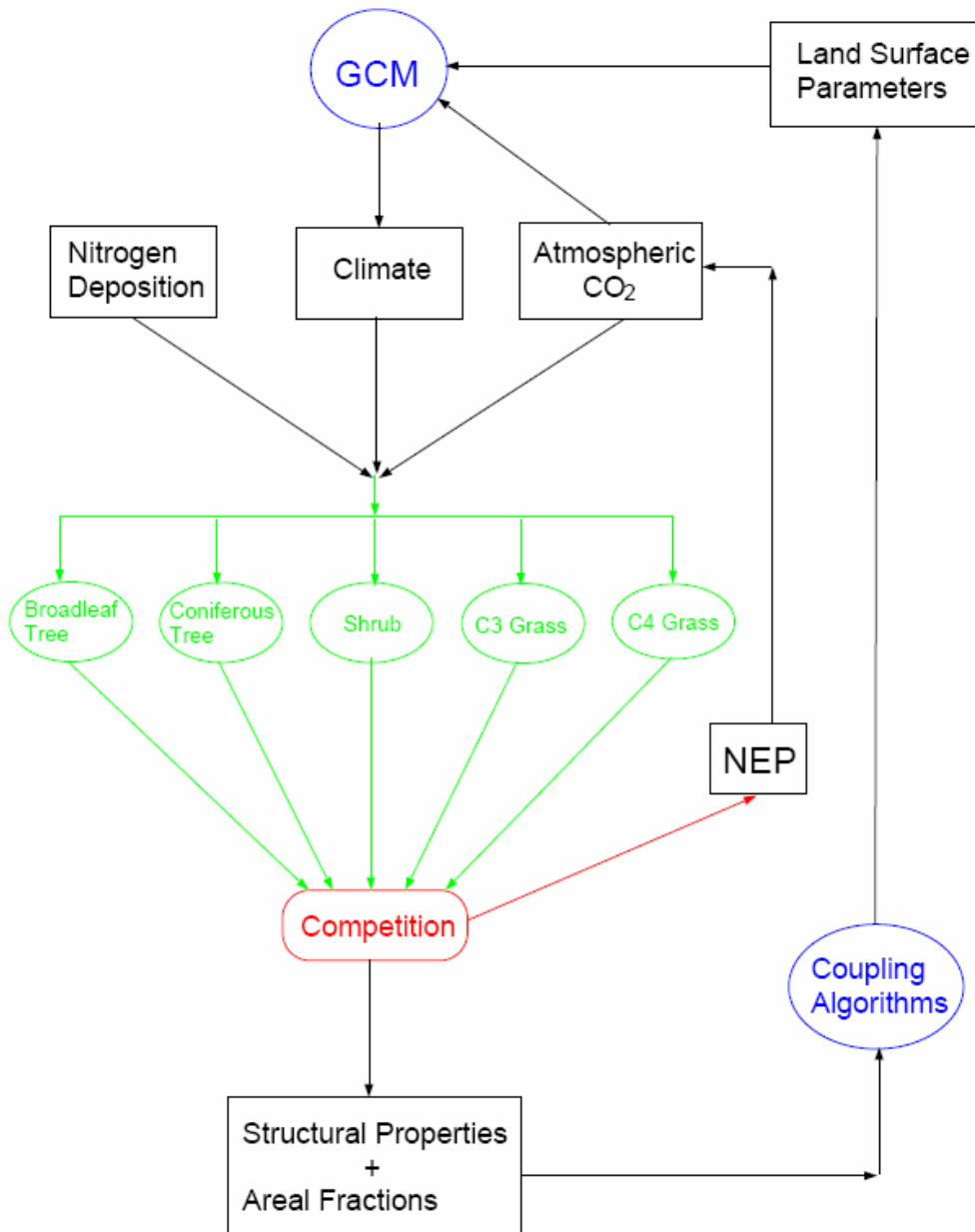
Change/replace TRIFFID components to include a nitrogen cycle, a wider range of functional types and more ecologically realistic sub-grid scale dynamics.

# TRIFFID



Schematic showing TRIFFID carbon flows for each vegetation type. Processes above the dotted line are fluxes calculated in the MOSES2 land surface scheme every atmospheric model time step ( $\approx 30$  minutes).

In dynamic mode, TRIFFID updates the vegetation and soil carbon every 10 days using time-averages of these fluxes.



## TRIFFID and GCM coupling.

Changes in the distribution and structure of five functional types feedback to climate via two routes.

1. Vegetation determines the biophysical parameters which affect fluxes of heat, water and momentum.
2. Changes in the carbon stored in vegetation and soil ( NEP) also change atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and climate.

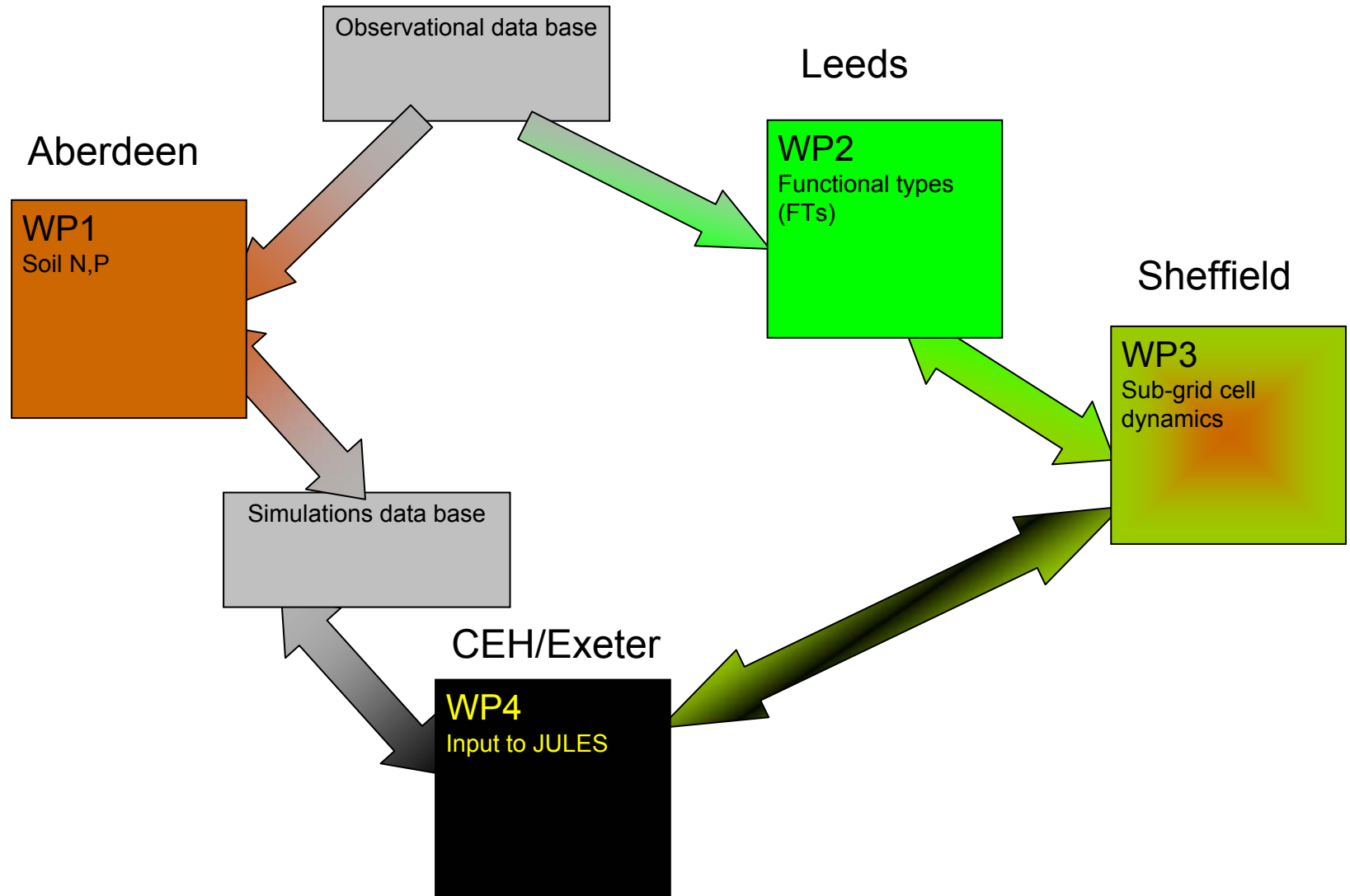
Nitrogen deposition is also shown as a driver for vegetation change, but **this** version of TRIFFID does not include an interactive nitrogen cycle.

# QUERCC: QUantifying Ecosystem Roles in the Carbon Cycle

## Work package objectives

- WP1. Develop new calibrated models of soil chemistry and nutrients that influence the carbon cycle, with particular emphasis on the N cycle.
- WP2. Develop, expand and validate descriptions of plant function.
- WP3. Create model(s) to capture sub-grid scale dynamics of vegetation behaviour.
- WP4. Combine the above models into the JULES structure and apply globally.

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# Work Package 1

## How to represent nutrient availability in models

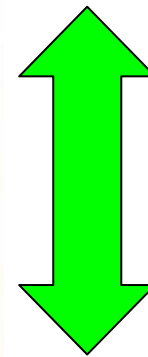
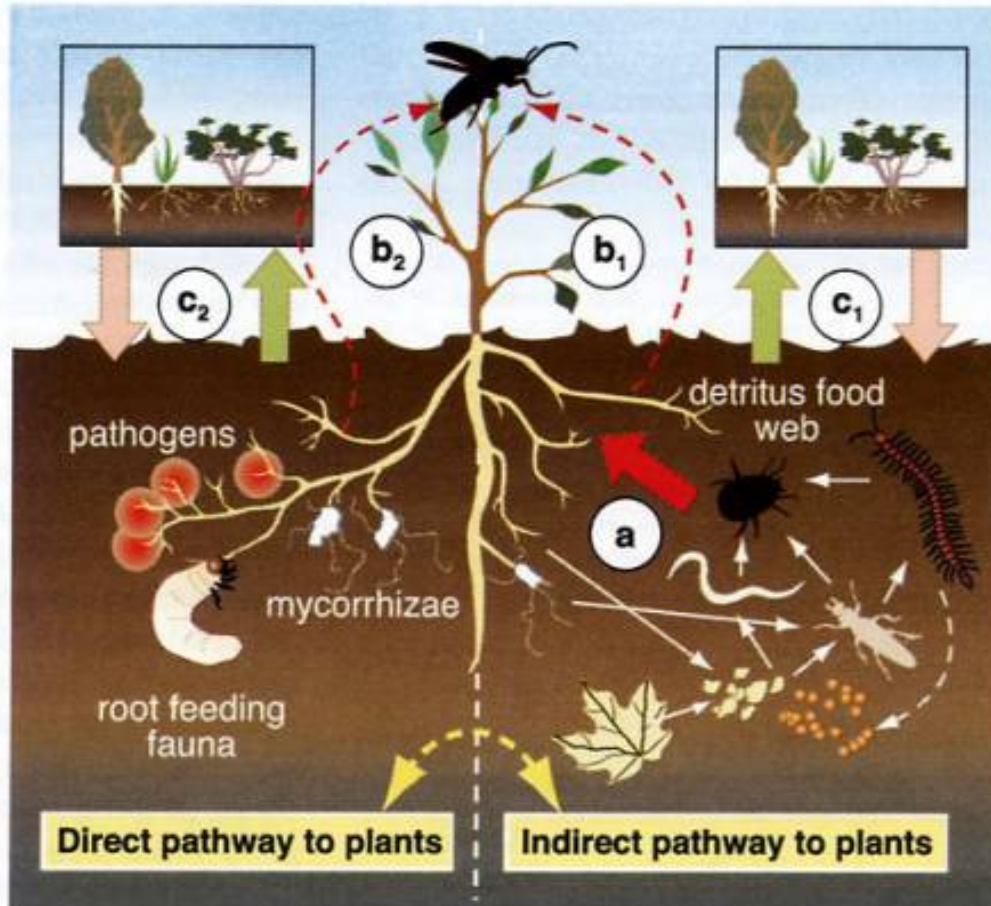
1. Temporal compartmentalisation of soil C cycling.
2. Identify the role of soil nutrient availability (N and P) on rapid and slow cycling.



# Work Package 1

## Hypothesis -

Organic matter pool turnover regulated by nutrient driven feedbacks in the short and long term

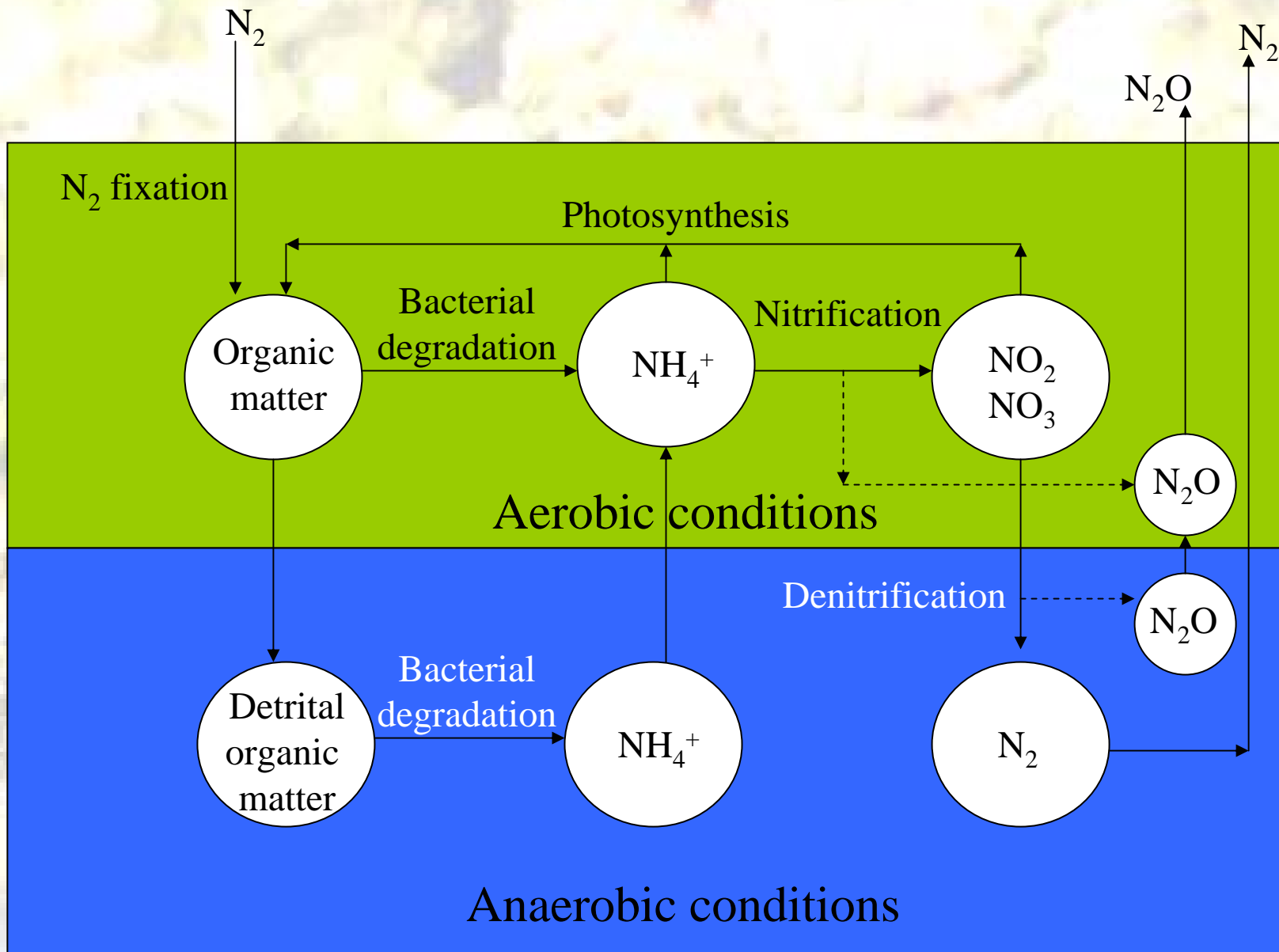


Connect the soil and vegetation models

Wardle *et al.* (2004) *Science*

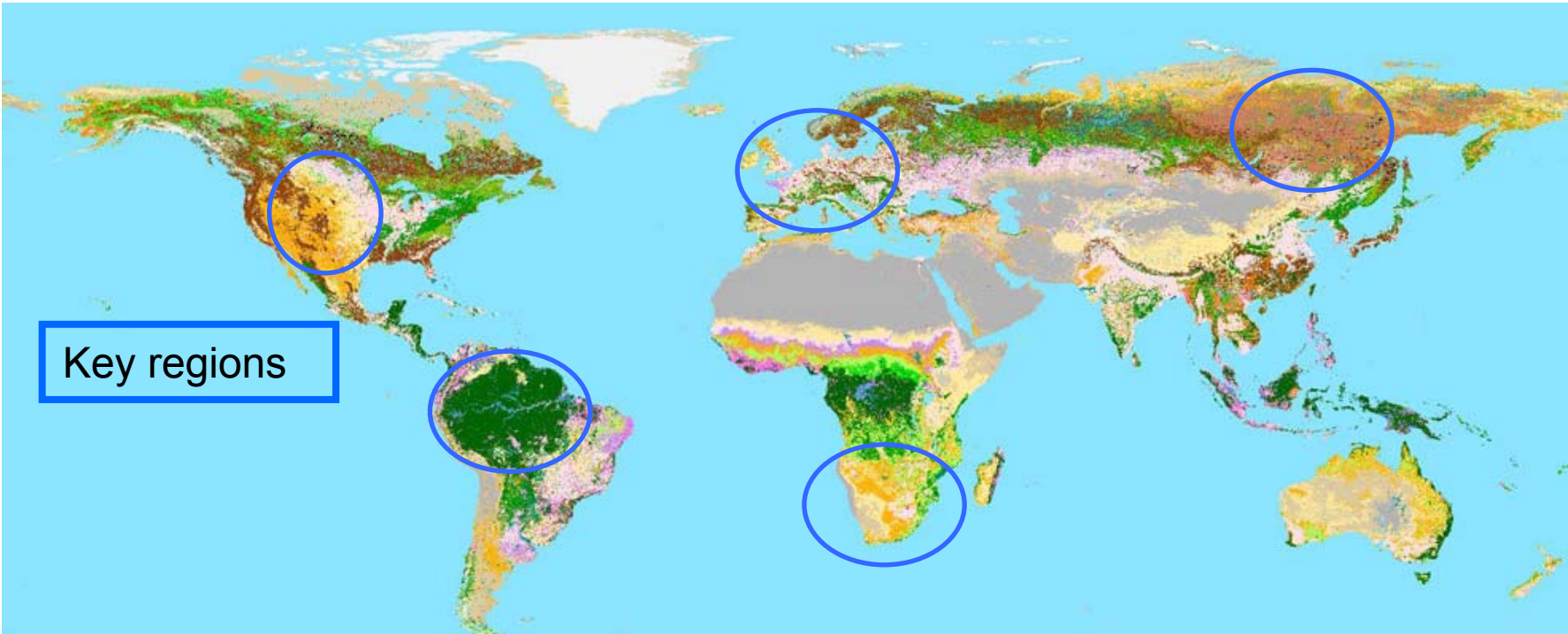
The Nitrogen cycle

Atmosphere

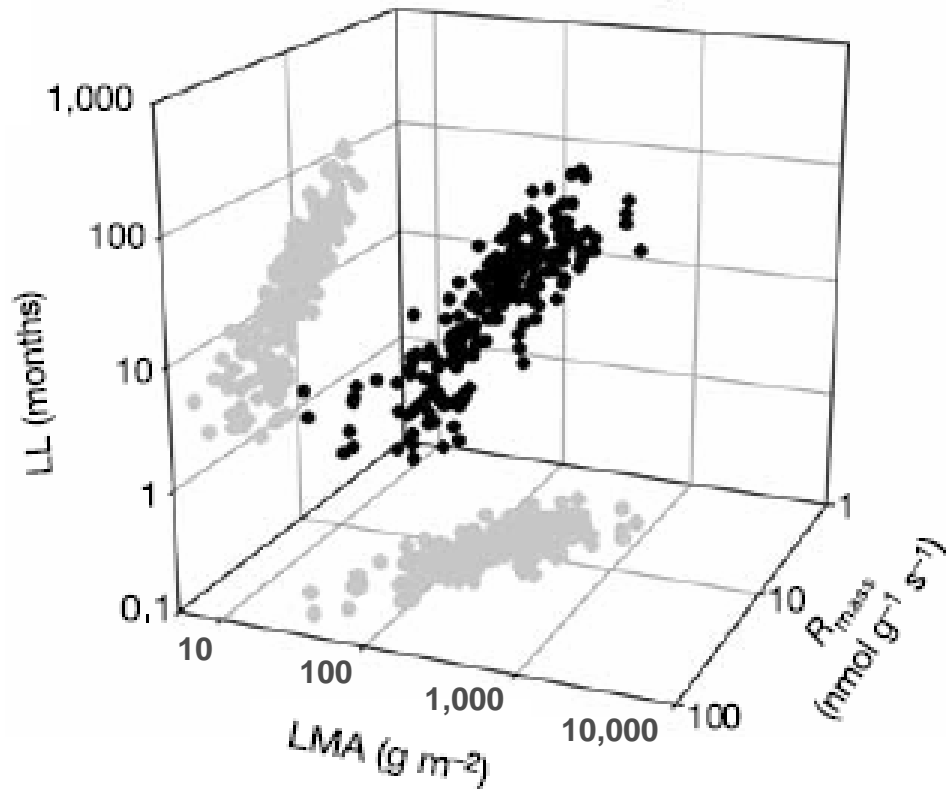


# Work Package 2

## GLC 2000 vegetation map

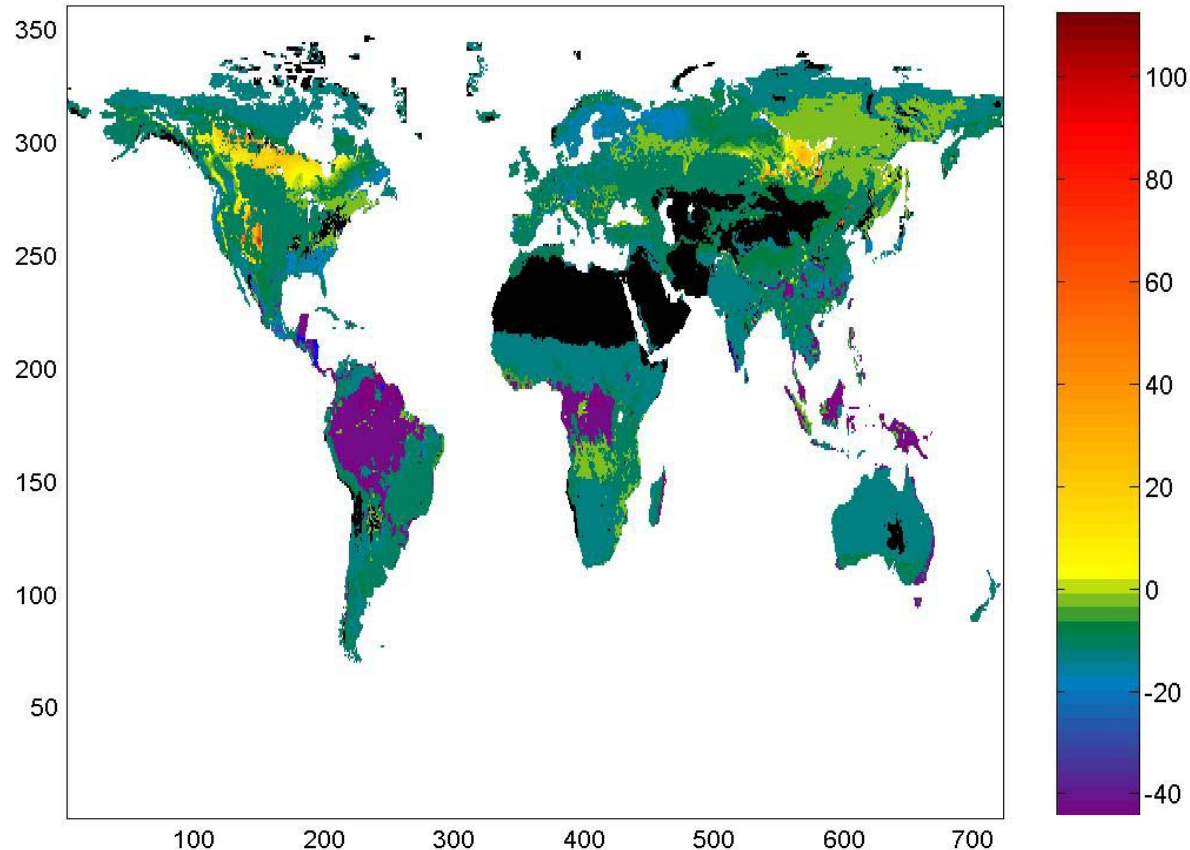


# Wright *et al.*: Major axis of leaf variation



- Major axis of variation from **fast** to **slow** living plants.
- Also correlated:
  - N content,
  - P content
  - Assimilation capacity,
  - Dark respiration

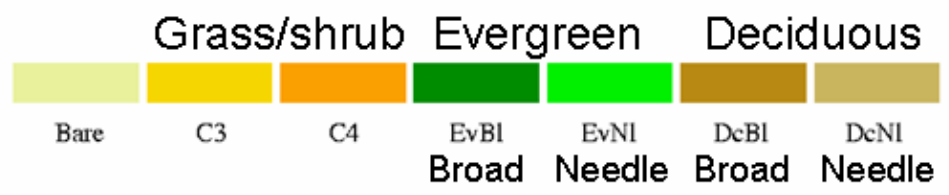
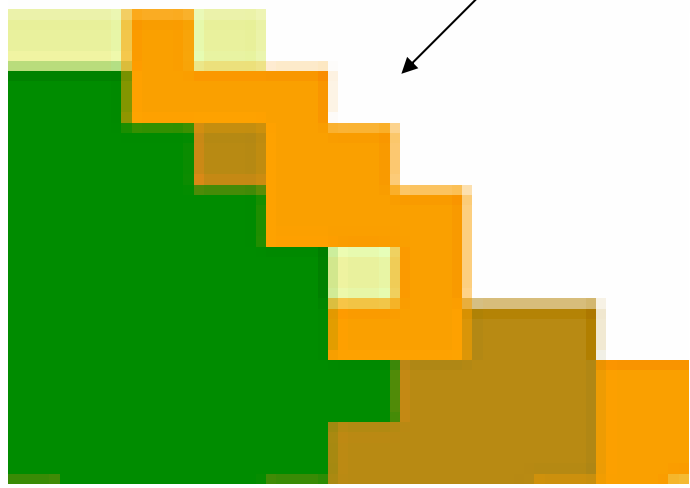
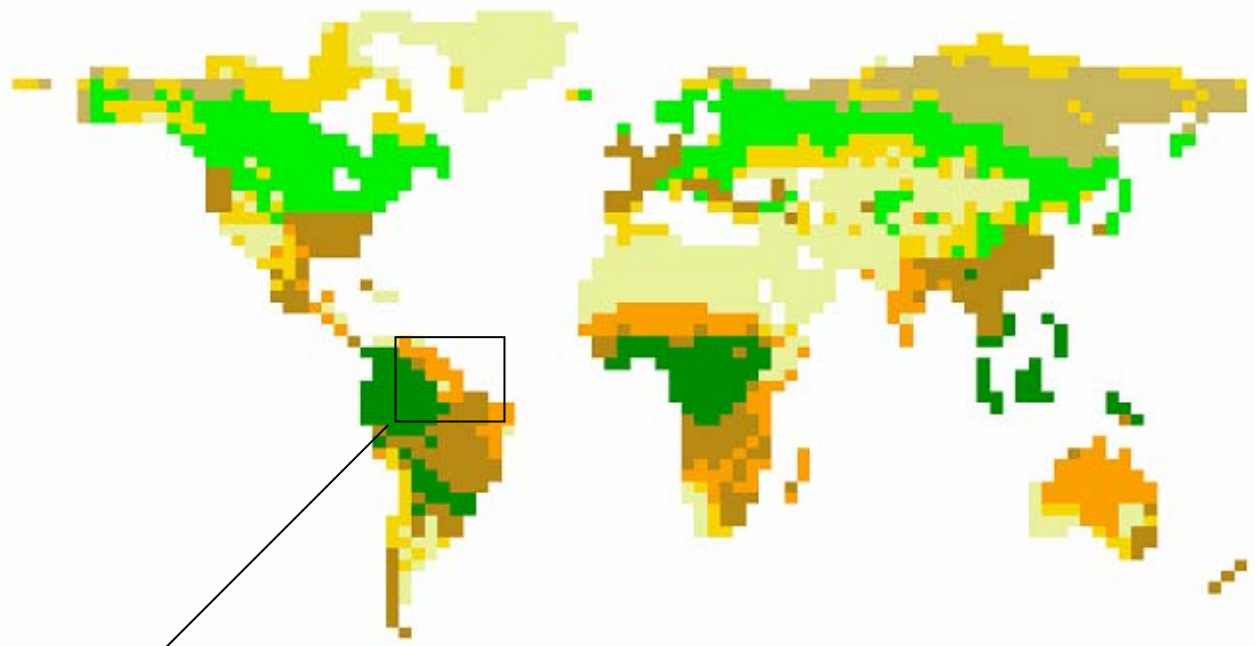
# Change in leaf longevity of dominant vegetation (months)



- Black = Outside Climatic range

# Work Package 3

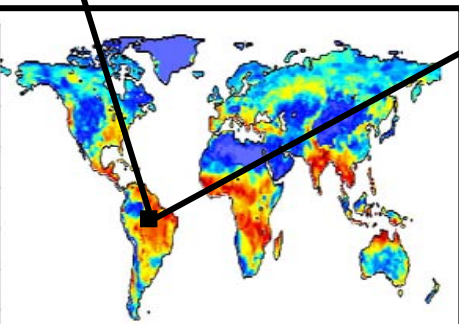
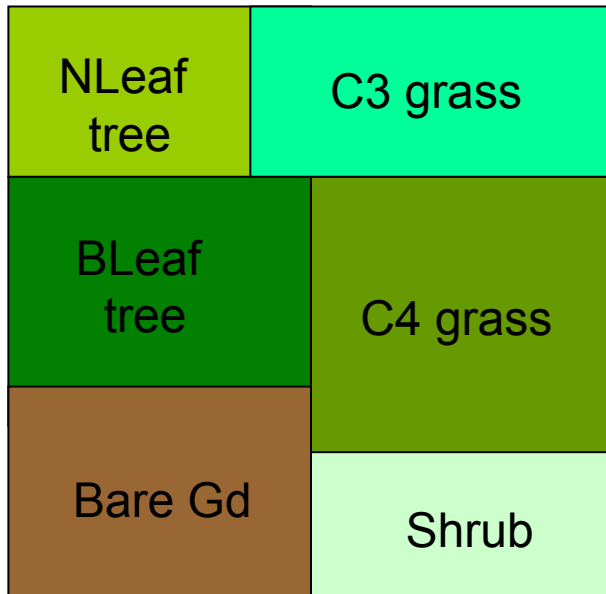
## Sub-grid scale activity



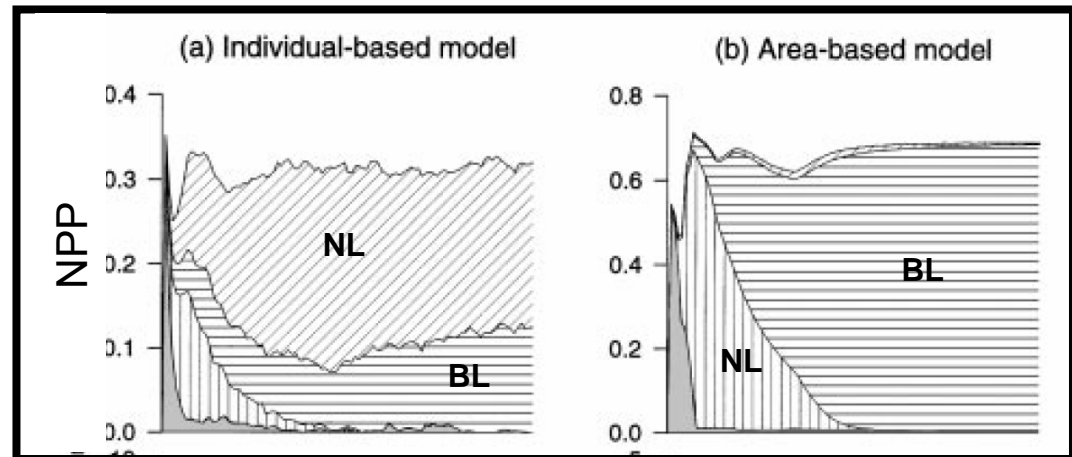
# Work Package 3

## TRIFFID/MOSES land surface scheme

Existing JULES model



- Grid cell divided into tiles.
- Each tile is one PFT
- Size of tile determined by empirical dominance hierarchy
- **Tendency for a single vegetation type to dominate**
- E.g. LPJ (Smith et al 2001)

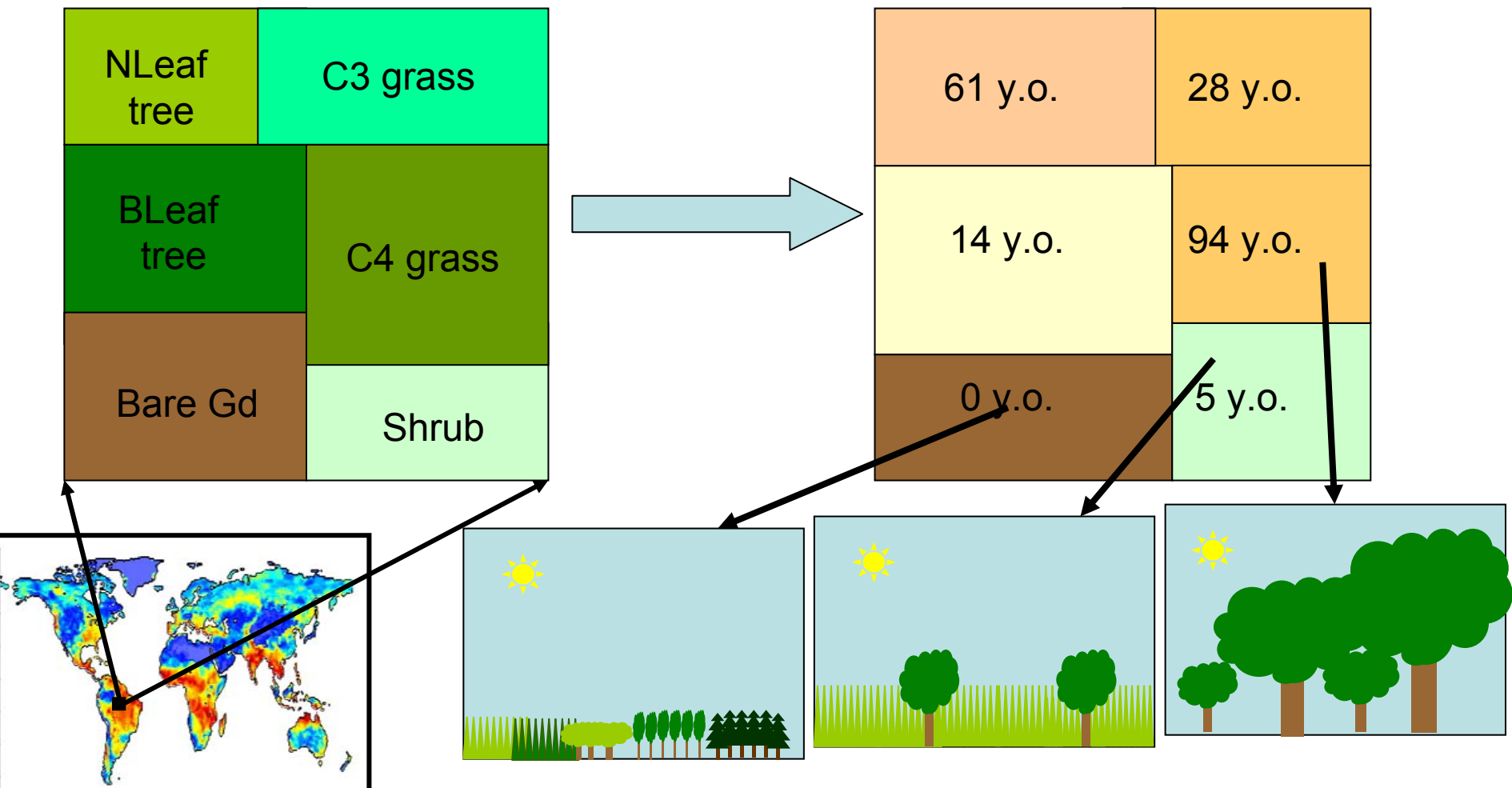


# Work Package 3

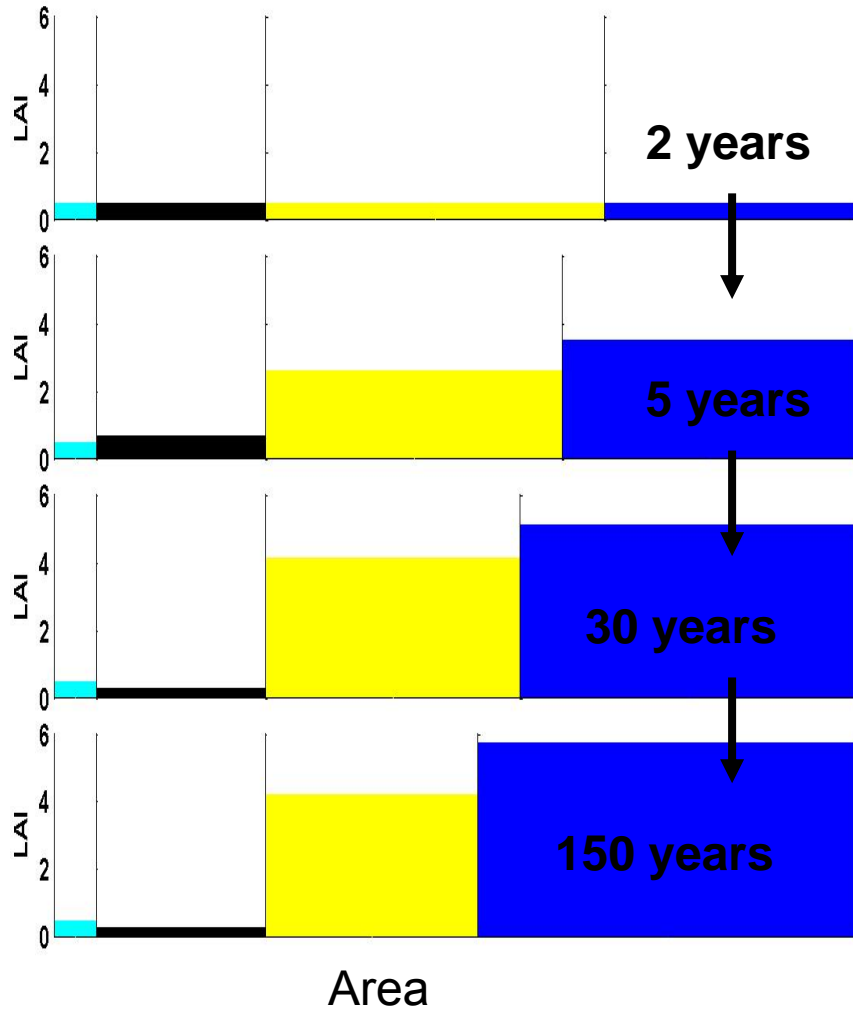
## Ecosystem Demography Model (ED)

Moorcroft et al. (2001)

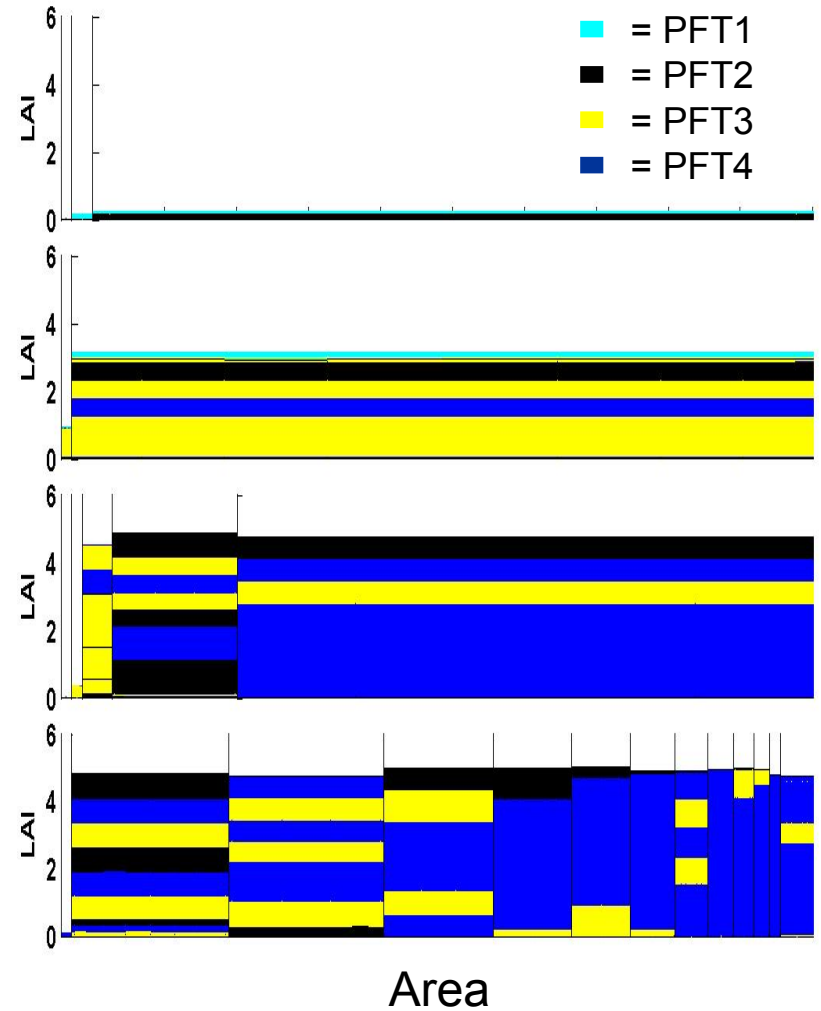
“Size and age structured approximation of an individual based model”



# TRIFFID

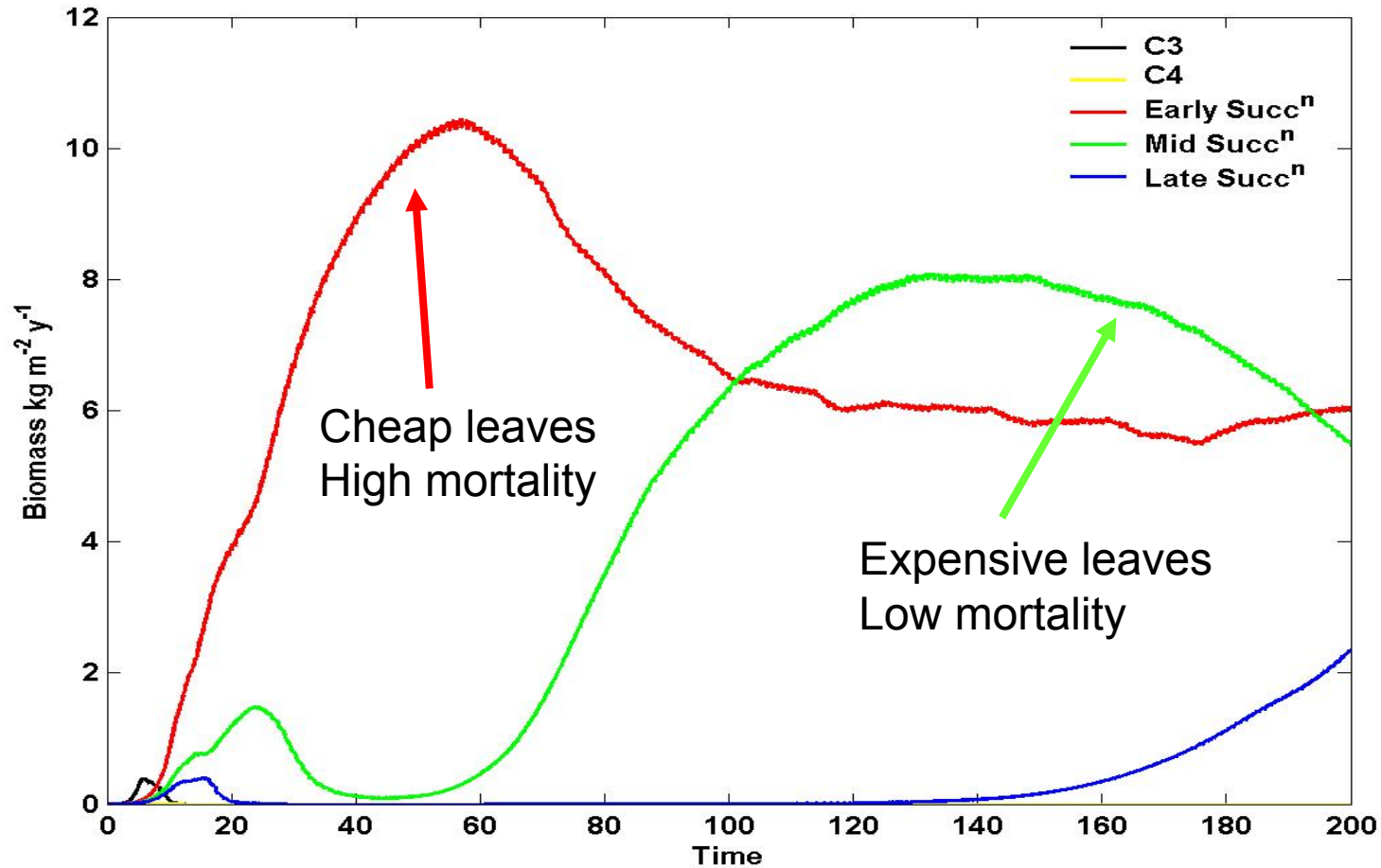


# ED



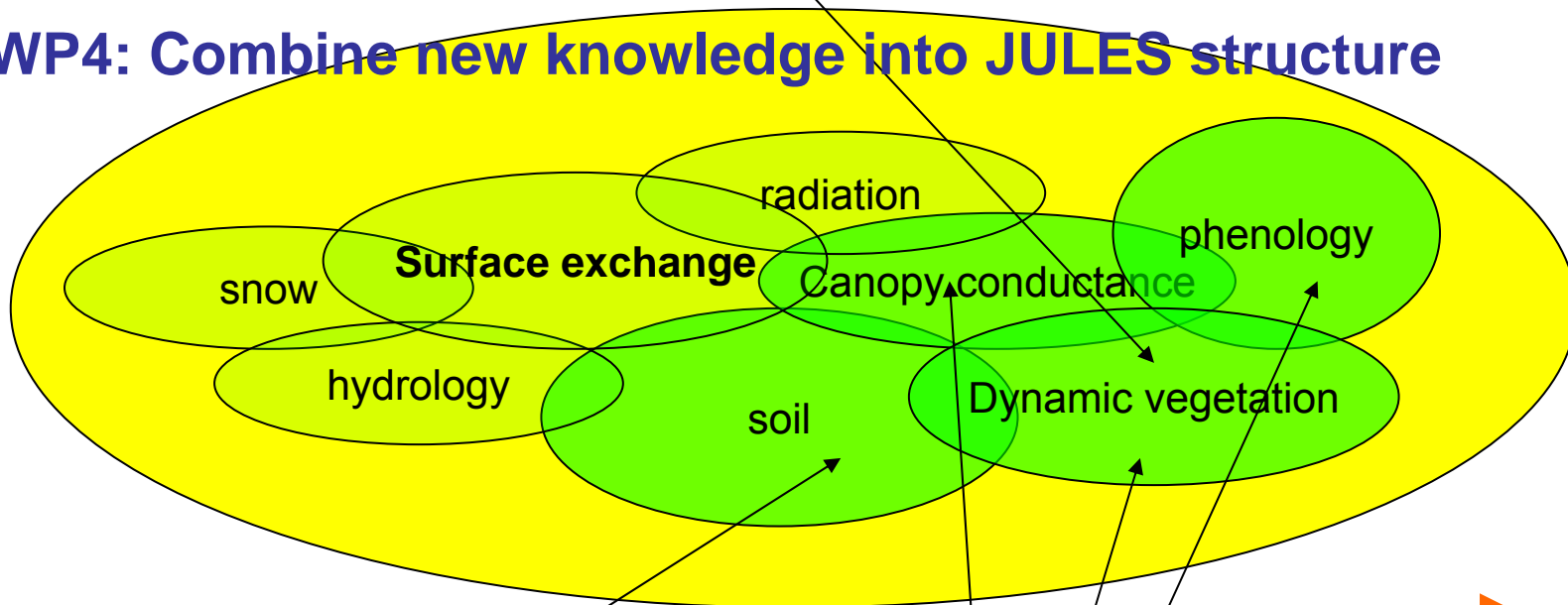
# Simulating succession in ED

## Leaf cost vs. mortality trade off



WP3: Sub-grid cell dynamics

WP4: Combine new knowledge into JULES structure



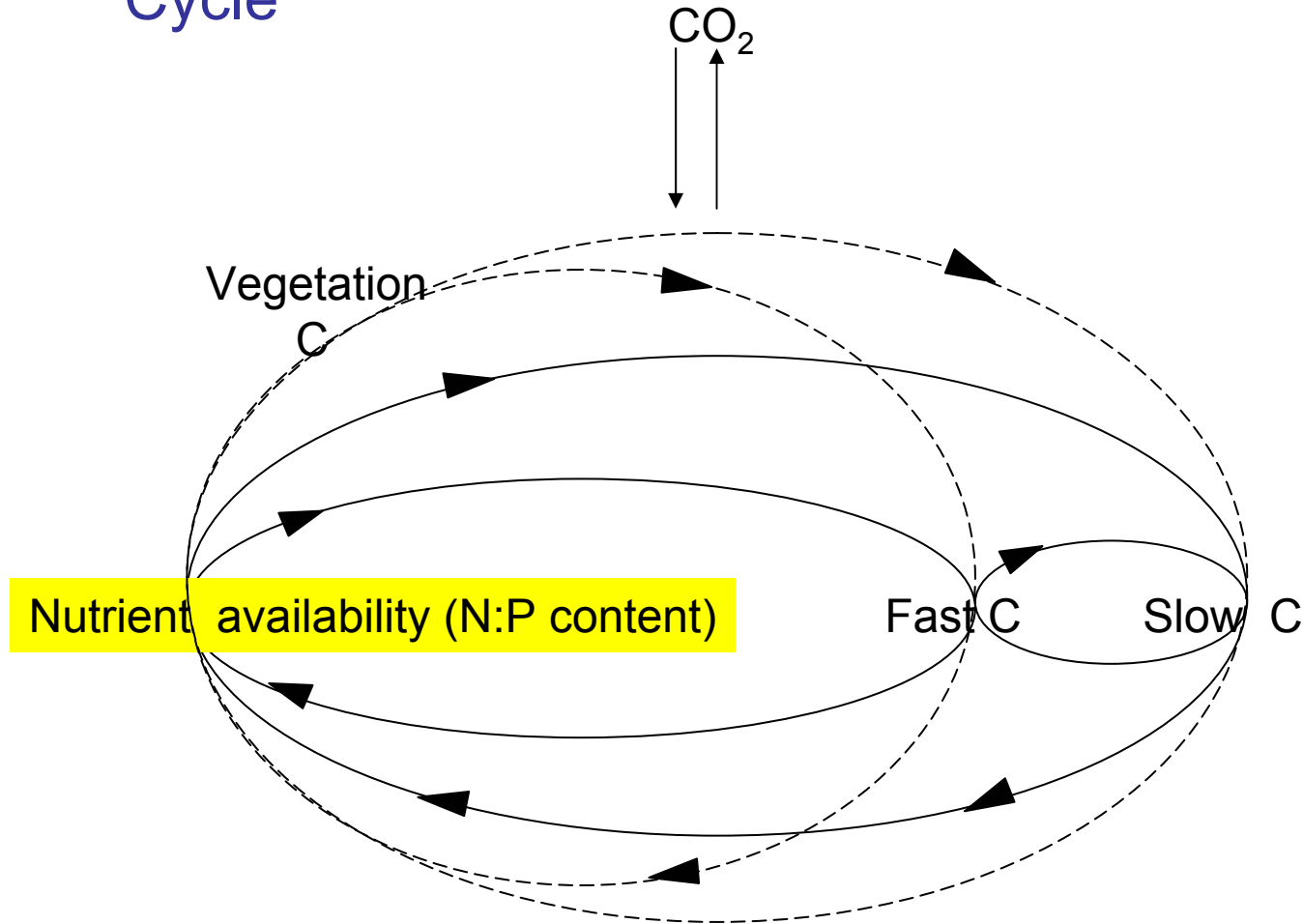
**“Newer” processes for land surface modelling**

WP1: N cycle and P response

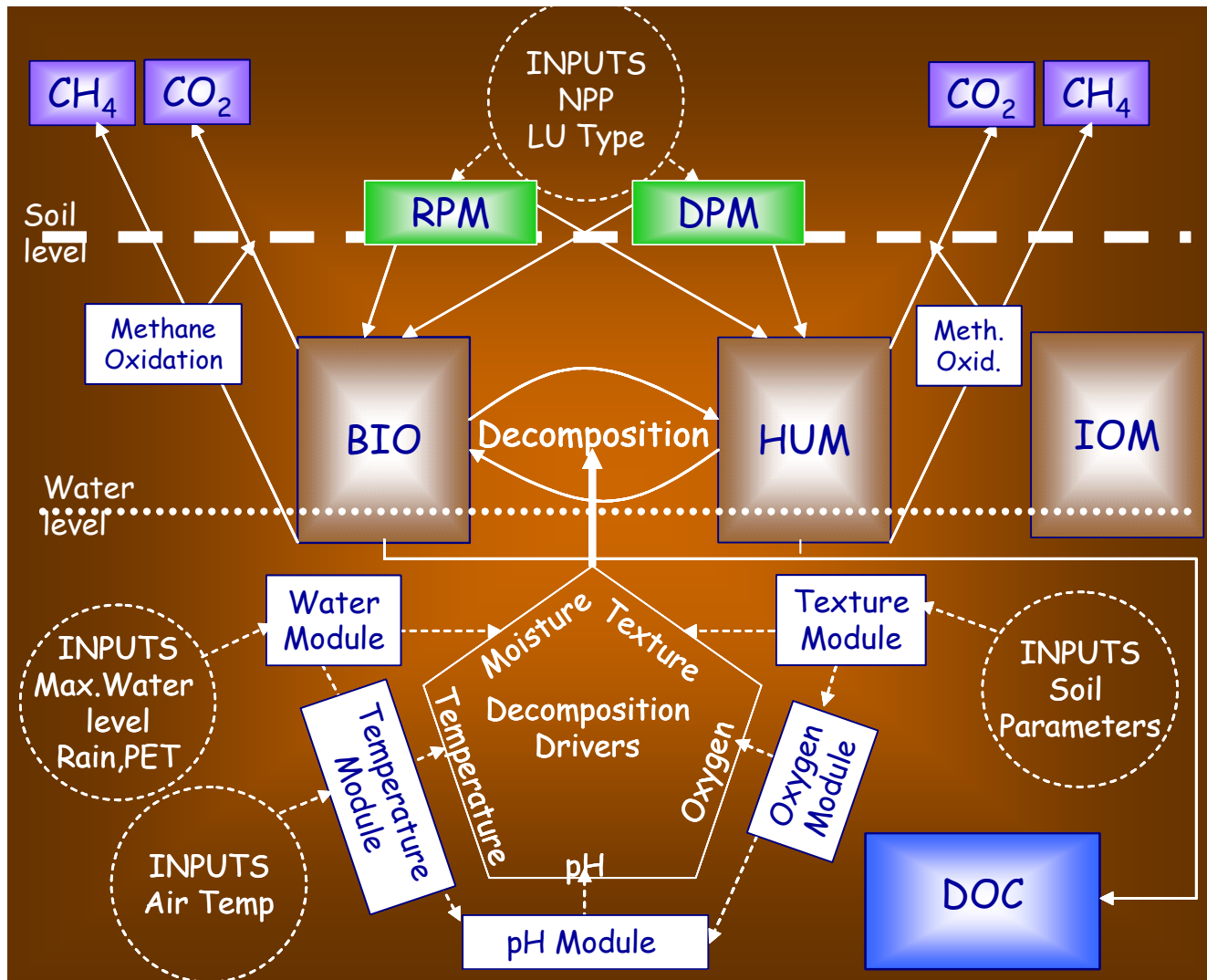
WP2: Improved characterisation of PFTs



# Soil Nutrient regulated Ecosystem Carbon Cycle



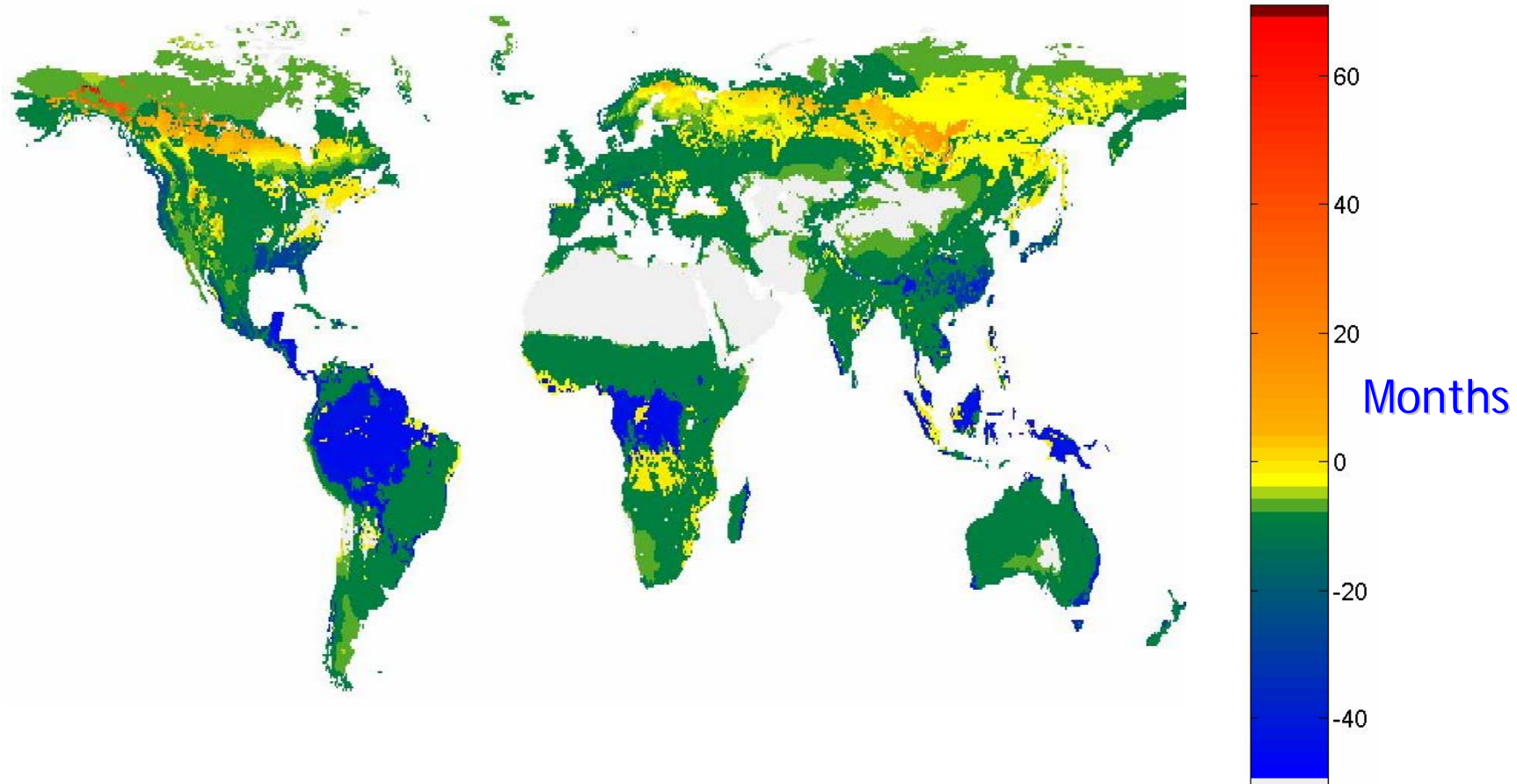
Can N and P availability be used as a predictor of Carbon cycling?



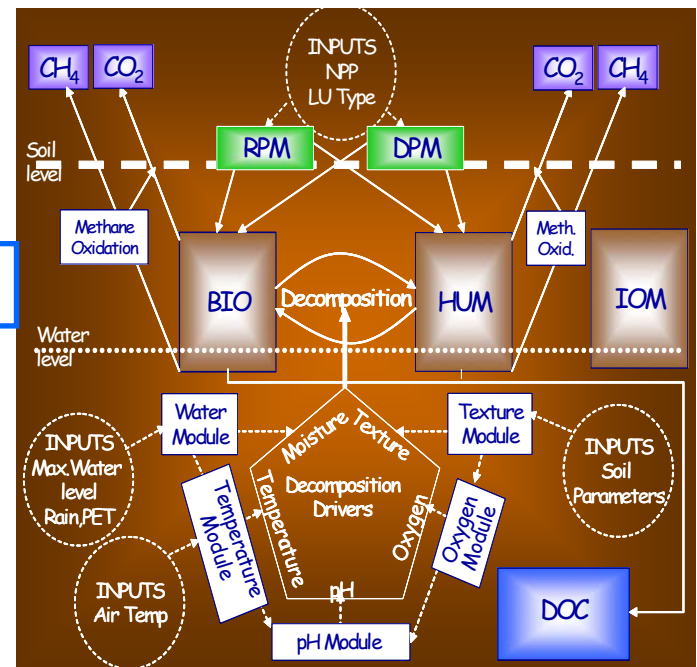
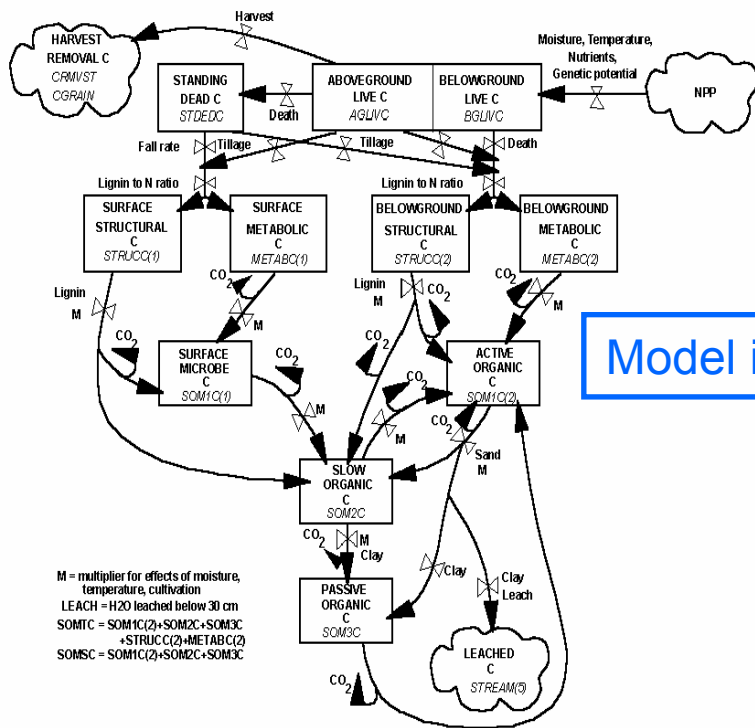
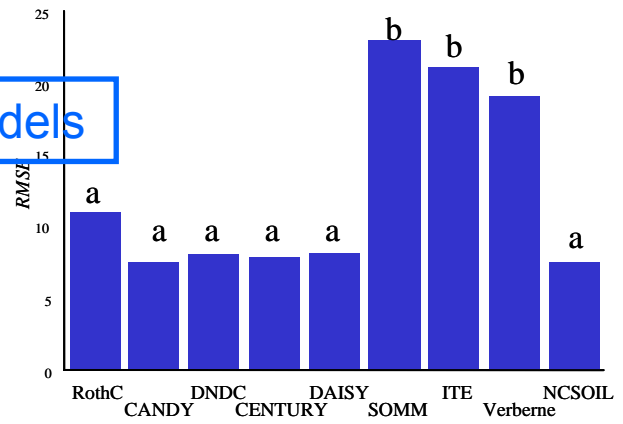
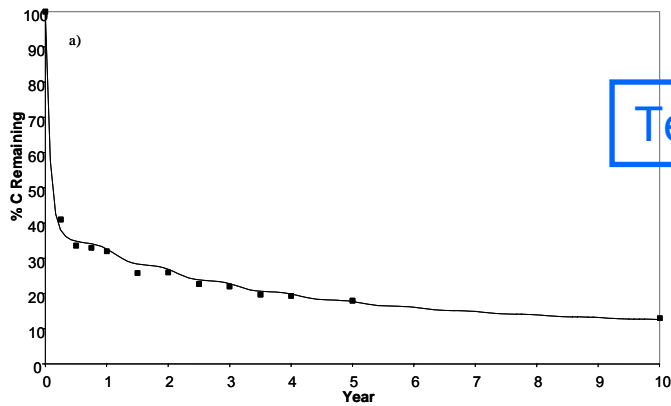
Slide from Peter Smith, Aberdeen

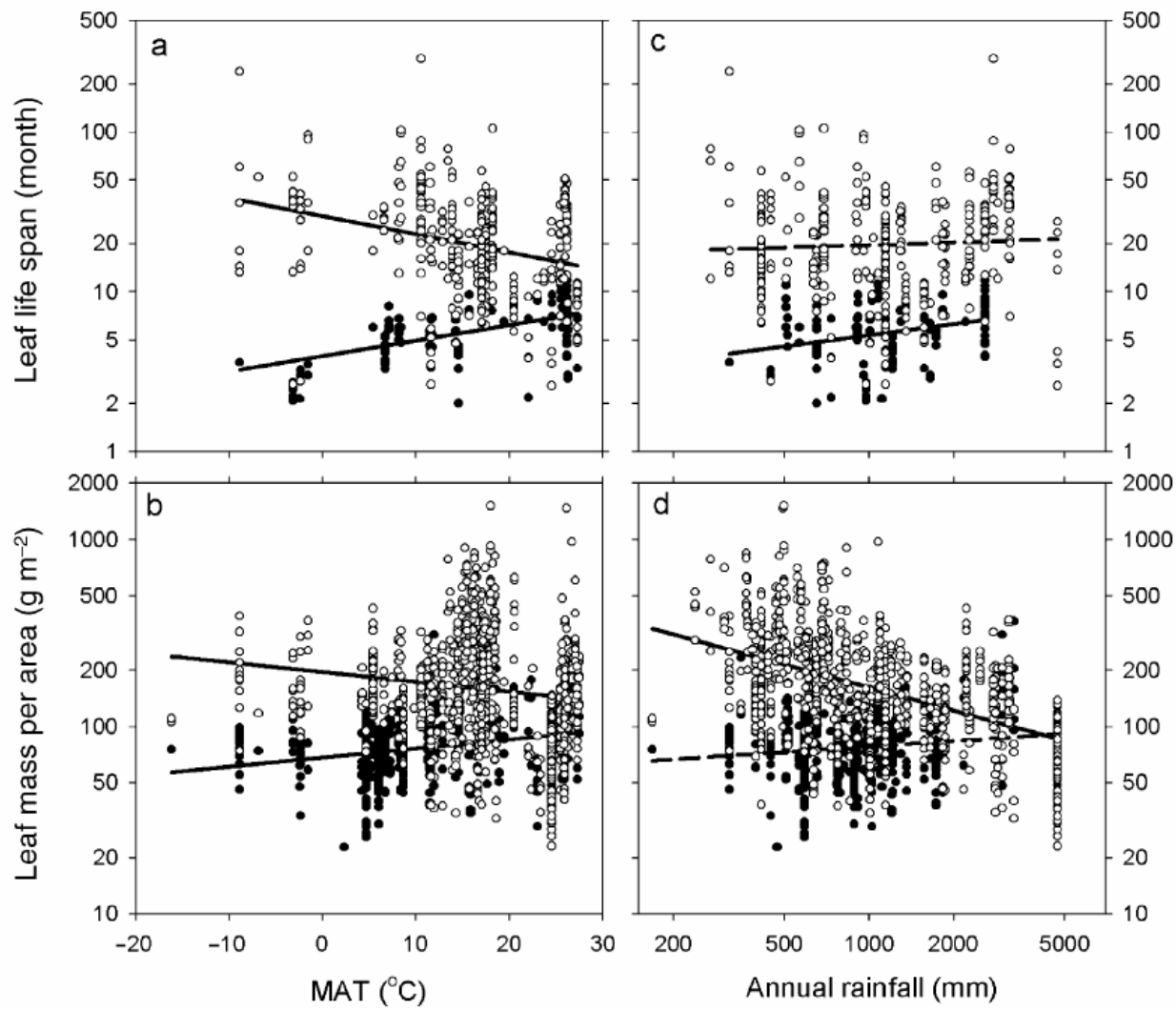
# Work Package 3

Leaf life span change from fixed per FT to Wright *et al* variable relationship with temperature and precipitation

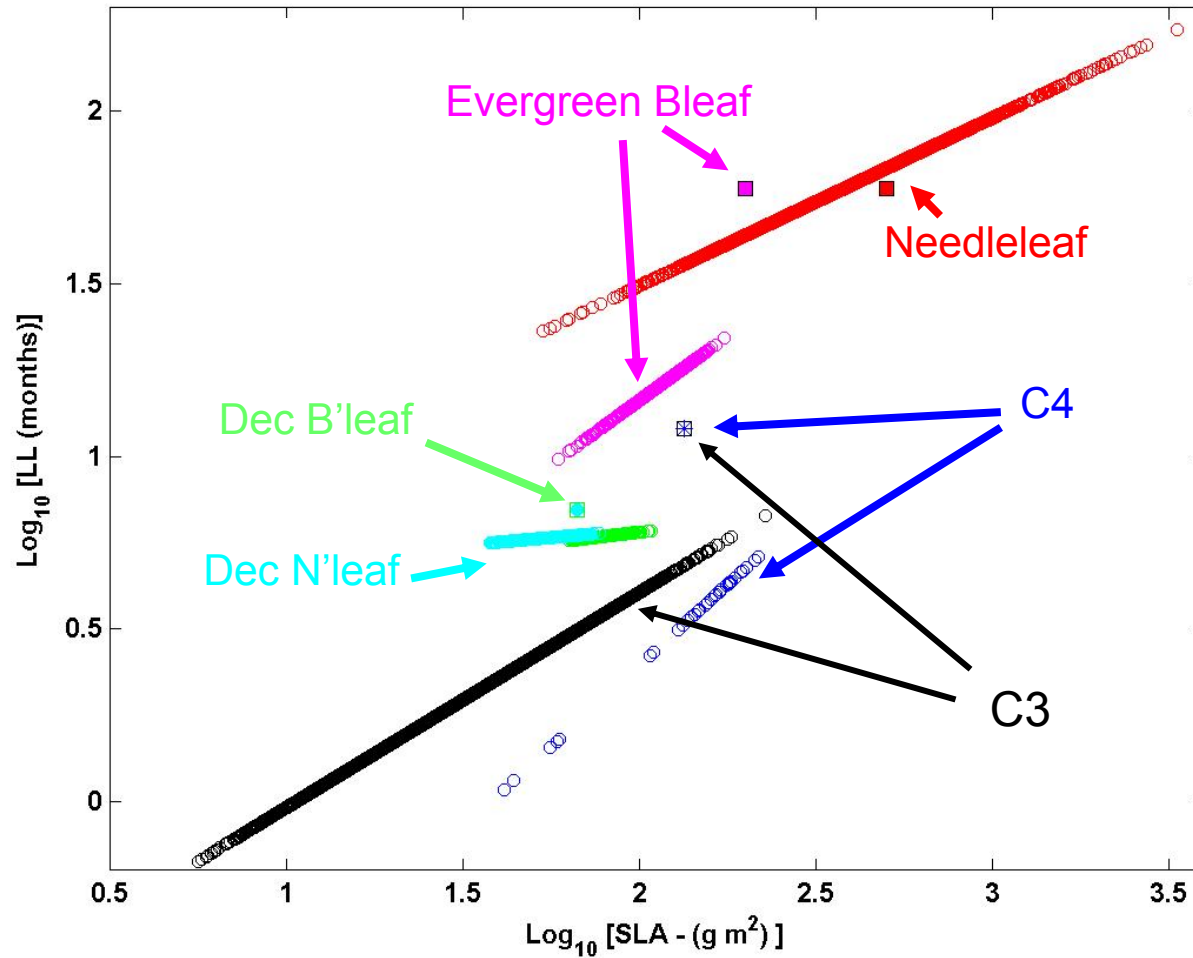


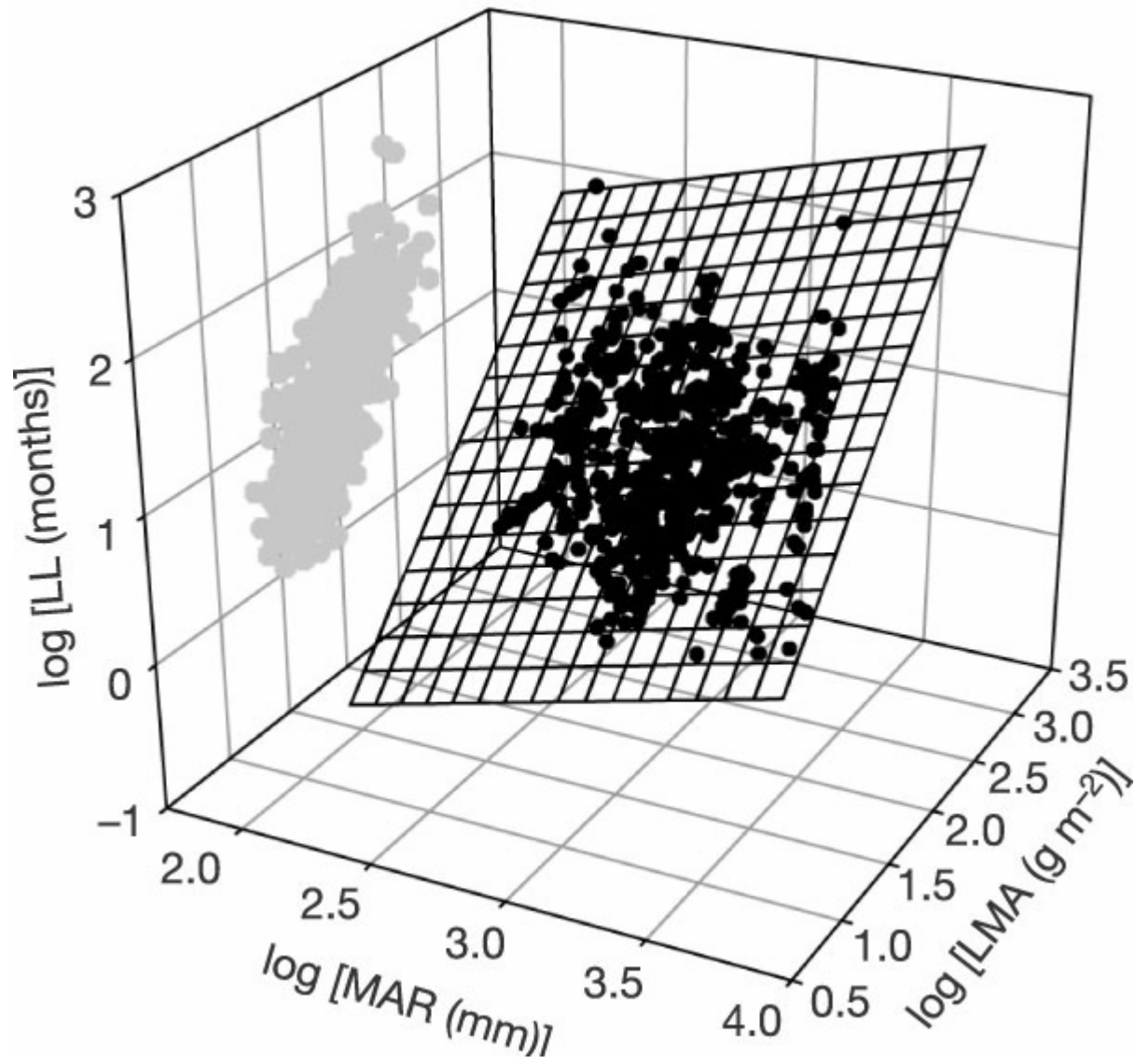
# Soil model evaluation and improved process description





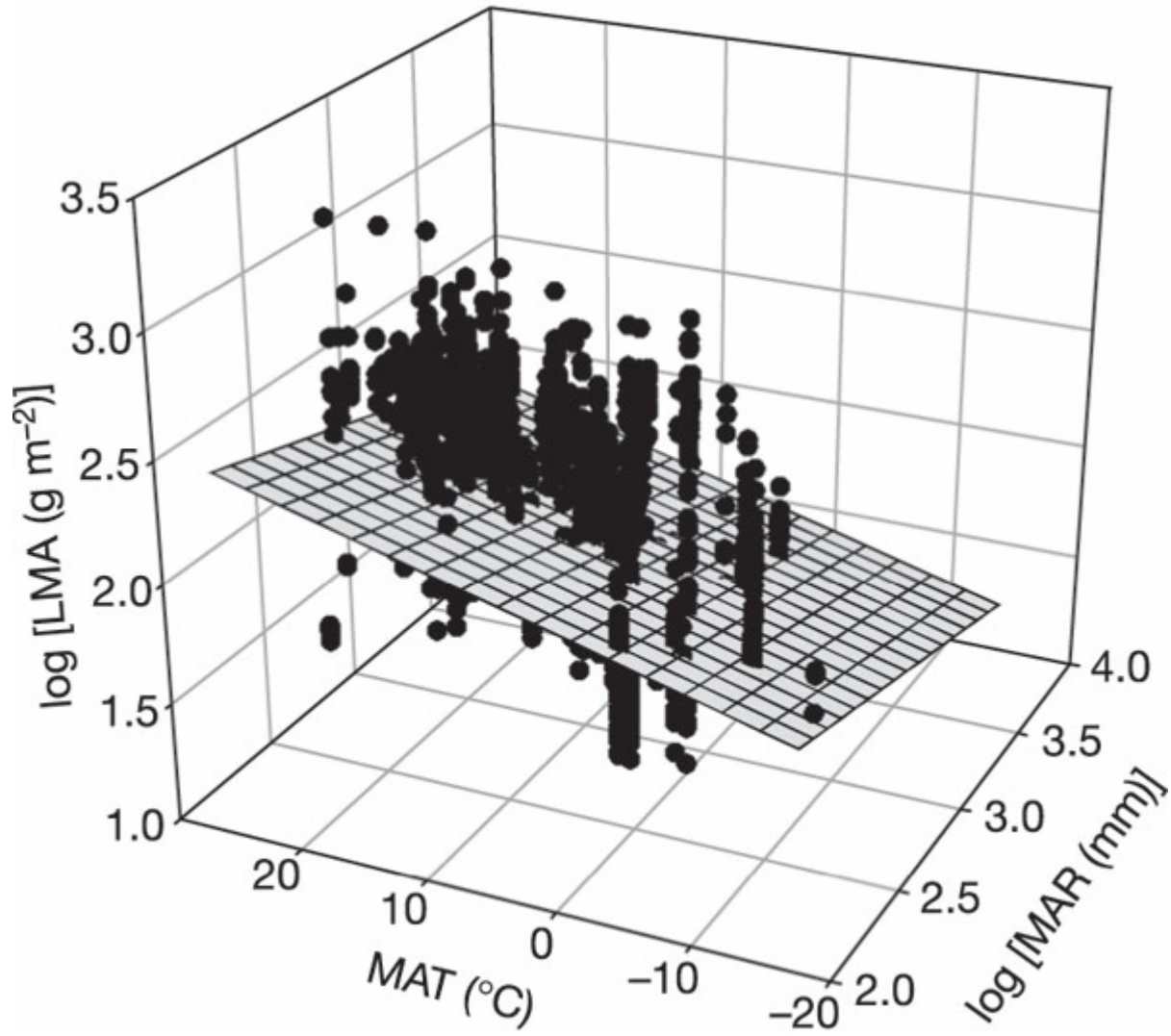
# Predicted changes in LL/SLA ratio





Wright *et al* 2004

# Work Package 3



Wright *et al* 2004

# Work Package 4

## JULES modular structure

