

1     **A Global Land Reanalysis System with the Norwegian Climate Prediction Model:**  
2                                    **NorCPM-Land**

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12    **Key Points:**

- 13       • We introduce a novel strategy for the development of a stochastic system for land data  
14        assimilation.
- 15       • We evaluate the impact of enhanced soil moisture states on the land-atmosphere  
16        coupling.
- 17       • Our reanalysis system provides improved long-term estimates of land water and energy  
18        balance components.

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20

## 21 **Abstract**

22 At continental mid-latitude, soil moisture (SM) is a key component of the climate systems and  
23 land surface initialization is crucial for subseasonal-to-seasonal (S2S) predictions. We introduce a  
24 new stochastic global land reanalysis system called the Norwegian Climate Prediction Model Land  
25 (NorCPM-Land), which will be used to initialize the land component of the Norwegian Climate  
26 Prediction Model (NorCPM). We assimilate the blended SM from the European Space Agency's  
27 Climate Change Initiative (ESA CCI) into a 30-member offline simulation of the land surface  
28 Community Land Model (CLM). Fluxes are provided by 30-member historical simulations of the  
29 full coupled NorCPM. The Ensemble Kalman Filter (EnKF) updates daily the soil column from  
30 the SM data using the cumulative density function matching method. The NorCPM-Land is  
31 currently produced for 40 years from 1980 to 2019. Assimilation significantly improves the land  
32 surface state variability and reduces error by 10.5% when validated using independent SM  
33 observations and by reanalysis estimates from ERA5-Land. It also yields an improvement of land  
34 surface energy, runoff and net primary production. We demonstrate that adjusting the underlying  
35 soil moisture considerably enhances the ability to simulate land surface state dynamics.

## 36 **Plain Language Summary**

37 Soil moisture (SM) is a key element of the climate system, and the initial land surface condition  
38 is important for accurate subseasonal-to-seasonal (S2S) predictions. We have developed the  
39 Norwegian Climate Prediction Model Land (NorCPM-Land), which is a new land reanalysis  
40 system providing improved land initial condition. It will be used to initialise the land part of the  
41 Norwegian Climate Prediction Model (NorCPM). We assimilate the combined SM from the  
42 Climate Change Initiative of the European Space Agency (ESA CCI) into an offline simulation of  
43 the land surface using thirty realizations of the Community Land Model (CLM). Input to the CLM  
44 are given by historical simulations of the NorCPM with all 30 members. SM data are used by the  
45 Ensemble Kalman Filter (EnKF) to update the soil column every day. This is done by matching  
46 the cumulative distribution function. The improved land condition from NorCPM-Land has been  
47 made available for the past 40 years, from 1980 to 2019. Assimilation makes a big difference in  
48 the variability of the state of the land surface and cuts error by 10.5% when validated with  
49 independent SM observations. It also leads to an improvement in land surface energy, runoff, and  
50 vegetation productivity. We show that changing the moisture of the soil makes it much easier to  
51 accurately model the state of the land surface.

## 52 **1 Introduction**

53 Subseasonal to seasonal (S2S) forecasting has substantial societal implications, especially  
54 in the water management, agribusiness, and emergency response sectors (Merryfield et al., 2020).  
55 There is, however, a considerable gap in accurate prediction at S2S range because of the chaotic  
56 processes underlying predictability sources (Meehl et al., 2021; Mariotti et al., 2018). Thus, it is  
57 essential to get better understanding of such predictability and to develop more accurate  
58 monitoring and prediction systems. It is largely accepted that the land surface is an important factor  
59 in determining the predictability and variability of the climate at S2S timescales (Koster et al.  
60 2004; Guo et al. 2011). Regional climate can change in response to alterations in land-atmosphere  
61 feedbacks and/or surface conditions (Dirmeyer and Halder, 2016). In regions where there is  
62 substantial land-atmosphere coupling, the soil moisture (SM) exerts a direct influence on the  
63 atmosphere. The exchange of latent and sensible heat fluxes in these places changes the land-  
64 atmosphere feedbacks that are influenced by SM (Koster et al. 2004). SM has also been found to

65 influence hydro-meteorological factors such as temperature and precipitation (Koster et al., 2004;  
66 Seneviratne et al., 2010; Taylor et al., 2012). Previous studies have shown that SM affects the  
67 accuracy of seasonal predictions (Fischer et al., 2007; Koster et al., 2010; Dirmeyer and Halder,  
68 2016; Dirmeyer et al., 2018; Seo et al., 2019; Seo et al., 2020). The persistence of SM anomalies  
69 over time (also known as SM memory) is stronger than that of meteorological variables, hence  
70 enhancing subseasonal forecasts (Orth and Seneviratne, 2012; McColl et al., 2017; Santanello et  
71 al., 2018). Therefore, land surface is one of the primary factors influencing S2S forecasts with a  
72 2- to 4-week lead time (Mariotti et al., 2018). Consequently, improving the initial condition of the  
73 SM is crucial for enhancing the S2S prediction capabilities.

74 In this paper, we introduce a data assimilation (DA) scheme for improving the SM  
75 initialisation in the Norwegian Climate Prediction Model (NorCPM) with the long-term aim to  
76 improve S2S predictions. NorCPM is based on the Norwegian Earth System Model version 1  
77 (NorESM1) and the Ensemble Kalman Filter (EnKF; Evensen, 2003) to provide climate reanalyses  
78 (Counillon et al., 2016) and seasonal-to-decadal climate predictions (Counillon et al., 2014, Bethke  
79 et al. 2021). The present version of NorCPM uses a closely coupled DA framework to update the  
80 states of the ocean and sea ice components (Penny et al. 2017). However, the current version of  
81 NorCPM does not update the states of the atmosphere and the land components in the DA phase.  
82 Here we build a reanalysis product to improve the NorCPM's land initialization but preserving the  
83 model climatology so that hindcast drift are minimized.

84 This study relies on the offline community land model (CLM) in NorESM to develop the  
85 new Norwegian Land Reanalysis System (NorCPM-Land). To simulate the main land surface  
86 processes, the CLM leverages water and energy balance equations (Oleson et al., 2013). Among  
87 the several land surface state variables, SM plays a vital role in regulating the exchange of water  
88 and energy between the land and atmosphere. The development of the planetary boundary layer  
89 and near-surface atmospheric fluxes are known to be affected by fluctuations in SM (Santanello et  
90 al., 2011). The prevailing SM state is characterized by a large degree of temporal and spatial  
91 variability. This is because it is profoundly affected by a wide range of factors, including  
92 precipitation, land cover, and soil texture. The CLM provides spatially and temporally continuous  
93 estimates of SM at a range of soil depths down to the water table at configurable resolutions. CLM  
94 simulation skills, on the other hand, are susceptible to uncertainty because of bias in atmospheric  
95 forcing and the inability of model physics to replicate accurate land surface processes. SM  
96 observations are frequently obtained using sparse in situ networks or satellite remote sensing, and  
97 their spatiotemporal coverage is thus limited. One of the most severe constraints is that the  
98 currently available remote sensing can only offer measurements of the surface SM. To circumvent  
99 these constraints, satellite SM measurements are integrated synergistically with a land surface  
100 model (LSM) using the DA method (Reichle and Koster, 2004; Drush et al., 2009; de Rosnay et  
101 al., 2013; Kumar et al., 2012; Nair and Indu, 2016; Nair and Indu, 2019; Nair et al., 2020). The  
102 DA method delivers improved land initial states for prediction models in several applications,  
103 including S2S forecasting. Assimilation of satellite SM estimate enhances the ability to forecast  
104 surface humidity, air temperature, geopotential height, and precipitation (Zheng et al., 2018).

105 Satellite remote sensing in the microwave range of the electromagnetic spectrum,  
106 especially in the L-band (1-2 GHz) and C-band (4-8 GHz), is ideal for SM monitoring (Carver et  
107 al., 1985). At low frequencies (1-5 GHz), the sharp difference in dielectric constant between dry  
108 soil (approximately 3) and water (approximately 80) underpins ability of microwave remote  
109 sensing to capture SM (Ulaby et al., 1996). With increasing frequency, the sensitivity of the

110 dielectric constant to SM diminishes (Hallikainen et al., 1985). Low-frequency microwave  
111 channels are also known for having less vegetation interference. A variety of satellite-borne  
112 sensors working in the passive and active microwave areas have provided near-surface SM  
113 products. Unlike passive microwave sensors, which estimate SM from the surface emitted  
114 brightness temperature, active microwave sensors offer near-surface SM at global scales by  
115 detecting the backscattered value from the surface. Some of the widely used satellite SM products  
116 stems from Advanced Scatterometer (ASCAT) aboard Meteorological Operational (METOP)  
117 satellites (Wagner et al., 2013), multi-frequency polarimetric microwave radiometer WindSat  
118 aboard Coriolis satellite (Gaiser et al., 2004), Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer Earth  
119 Observing System (AMSR-E; Njoku et al., 2003) aboard Aqua satellite, Advanced Microwave  
120 Scanning Radiometer 2 (AMSR2; Imaoka et al., 2010) aboard the Global Change Observation  
121 Mission-Water (GCOM-W) satellite, the recent satellites in L band from the Soil Moisture Ocean  
122 Salinity (SMOS) mission (Kerr et al., 2010) and the Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) mission  
123 (Entekhabi et al., 2010). The availability of these satellite missions has paved the way for different  
124 SM products from individual satellites as well as blended multi-satellite products such as the  
125 European Space Agency's Climate Change Initiative (ESA CCI). The offline assimilation system  
126 developed in this study is designed to incorporate daily SM data from the ESA CCI into the CLM  
127 using the EnKF method. In the following sections, we describe in detail the assimilation strategy  
128 utilized in this study and the assessment standards used.

## 129 **2 Land Reanalysis with the Norwegian Climate Prediction Model (NorCPM-Land)**

130 The NorCPM-Land provides daily estimates of different land surface state variables  
131 pertaining to water and energy balance, globally at a spatial resolution of  $1.9^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$  of the model  
132 and by assimilating SM data from ESA-CCI. Although direct assimilation of SM data into  
133 NorCPM would be ideal, the system is currently only working with offline assimilation - meaning  
134 that the model is stopped, the state written on disk, data assimilation applied on the files and the  
135 model restarted. The time required for initializing the model and writing the input/output is  
136 burdensome (see, e.g., Karspeck et al. 2018), and the required daily frequency for SM data  
137 assimilation is not feasible with our current configuration. Therefore, we produce a land reanalysis  
138 from the offline land component forced with atmospheric fluxes from an ensemble of historical  
139 runs of NorESM (the ESM used in NorCPM) and by assimilating daily SM data. As such the  
140 reanalysis and the model used for running the prediction are the same. This will prevent numerical  
141 shocks that can emerge when the initial state is taken from a different model system.

### 142 **2.1 Norwegian Earth System Model**

143 This study employs NorESM1-ME (Bentsen et al., 2013; Tjiputra et al., 2013). NorESM1  
144 is based on the Community Earth System Model version 1.0.3 (CESM1; Hurrell et al., 2012), with  
145 difference in the ocean component, atmospheric chemistry, and ocean biogeochemistry. The ocean  
146 component in NorESM is an updated version of the isopycnal coordinate ocean model MICOM  
147 (Bleck et al., 1992). The new model (referred to as Bergen Layered Ocean Model) includes  
148 implementation of an incremental remapping for isopycnal advection, calculation of pressure  
149 gradient force by correct vertical integration of in-situ density, changed parameterization of  
150 isopycnal and diapycnal mixing processes, and a novel split-mixed layer formulation (Bentsen et  
151 al., 2013). It uses 51 isopycnal layers and two layers for representing the bulk mixed layer with  
152 time-evolving thicknesses and densities. The ocean biogeochemistry is based on the Hamburg

153 Ocean Carbon Cycle Model (HAMOCC, Assmann et al., 2010; Tjiputra et al., 2012). The sea ice  
 154 component is a version of the Los Alamos Sea ice model (CICE4, Gent et al. 2011; Holland et al.  
 155 2012). The ocean and the sea-ice model have a horizontal resolution of approximately 1°. The  
 156 atmosphere component is a version of the Community Atmosphere Model (CAM4-Oslo, Kirkevåg  
 157 et al. 2013), which provides choices for aerosol and cloud chemistry (Kirkevåg et al.,  
 158 2013). CAM4 has a horizontal resolution of 1.9° latitude and 2.5° longitude and 26 vertical levels  
 159 in a hybrid sigma-pressure coordinate; CLM4 follows the same horizontal grid as CAM4. CLM4  
 160 is described in more details in the next section.

## 161 **2.2 Community Land Model**

162 The CLM 4.0 coupled in the NorESM is used in this work to develop an offline assimilation  
 163 system. The CLM model is an integrated land model that is based on water and energy balance  
 164 equations. Land surface in CLM 4.0 follows a subgrid hierarchy, with each grid cell consisting of  
 165 land units, columns, and plant functional types (PFTs). Grid cells can have different numbers of  
 166 land units, like lakes, glaciers, vegetation, and urban areas. Each column in the vegetated land units  
 167 has 15 layers of soil and 5 layers of snow, depending on the snow depth. The soil profile in CLM  
 168 4.5 consists of 15 strata with depths ranging from 7.100635 mm, 27.925 mm, 62.25858 mm,  
 169 118.8651 mm, 212.1934 mm, 366.0658 mm, 619.7585 mm, 1038.027 mm, 1727.635 mm,  
 170 2864.607 mm, 4739.157 mm, 7829.766 mm, 12925.32 mm in each active grid cell. The top 10  
 171 hydrologically active strata are used to compute the soil moisture. To simulate changes in canopy  
 172 water, surface water, snow water, soil water, soil ice, and water in the unconfined aquifer, the  
 173 model parameterizes interception, throughfall, canopy drip, snow accumulation and melt, water  
 174 transfer between snow layers, infiltration, evaporation, surface runoff, sub-surface drainage,  
 175 redistribution within the soil column, and groundwater discharge and recharge. In CLM the  
 176 multilayer vertical moisture and energy transfer in a one-dimensional soil model are predicted  
 177 using a modified Richard's equation. Similarly, to derive the land surface fluxes, the similarity  
 178 theory developed by Monin and Obukhov is adopted. CLM4.5 considers the spatial heterogeneity  
 179 of the land surface, and it simulates the soil moisture, soil temperature, infiltration,  
 180 evapotranspiration, sensible heat flux, latent heat flux, and soil heat flux (Oleson et al., 2013). The  
 181 soil hydraulic and thermal characteristics in CLM4.5 are derived from the pedotransfer functions  
 182 of sand and clay (Cosby et al., 1984) and organic properties of the soil (Lawrence and Slater,  
 183 2007). In this work, the CLM is configured by incorporating following components: DATM;  
 184 CLM; SICE; SOCN; RTM; SGLC; SWAV. The resolution of the model is set to f19\_g16 globally,  
 185 with a total of 288 (longitude) 192 (latitude) grid cells.

## 186 **2.3 Data Assimilation using Ensemble Square Root Filter**

187 Data assimilation system in this study is built on the Ensemble Kalman Filter (EnKF)  
 188 approach, which implies that observations are related to the true model state ( $\mathbf{x}^{\text{True}}$ ).

$$189 \quad \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}^{\text{True}} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \quad \dots (1)$$

190 The linear operator  $\mathbf{H}$  converts the model space to observations space, where  $\mathbf{y}$  is the  
 191 observation vector,  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$  is assumed to be a Gaussian random error with zero mean and observation  
 192 error covariance matrix  $\mathbf{R}$ . Similarly, the prediction for  $\mathbf{x}$  at time with mean  $\mathbf{x}^{\text{f}}$  is also assumed to

193 be an unbiased Gaussian error with error covariance matrix  $\mathbf{P}^f$ . In accordance with these postulates,  
 194 the ensemble mean can be updated as follows.

$$195 \quad \mathbf{x}^a = \mathbf{x}^f + \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}^f) \quad \dots (2)$$

196

197 where  $\mathbf{K}$  is called as Kalman gain matrix computed as in Eqn. 3

$$198 \quad \mathbf{K} = \mathbf{P}^f \mathbf{H}^T (\mathbf{H} \mathbf{P}^f \mathbf{H}^T + \mathbf{R})^{-1} \quad \dots (3)$$

199 The superscript  $f$  and  $a$  denotes the prior (forecast or background) and the analysis  
 200 (posterior) estimates.

201 We use the Ensemble Square Root Filter (EnSRF) to sequentially solve the analysis without  
 202 the need to perturb observation values, which performs more optimally than the stochastic EnKF  
 203 (Whitaker and Hamill 2002). The ensemble anomalies are computed as follows:

$$204 \quad \mathbf{x}'^a = \mathbf{x}'^f + \alpha \mathbf{K}(-\mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}'^f) \quad \dots (4)$$

205 Where  $\mathbf{x}'^a$  represents the ensemble anomaly,  $\mathbf{x}'^f$  indicates forecast ensemble anomaly and,

$$206 \quad \alpha = \left( \mathbf{1} + \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{R}}{\mathbf{H} \mathbf{P}^f \mathbf{H}^T + \mathbf{R}}} \right)^{-1} .$$

207 The term  $\mathbf{P}^f \mathbf{H}^T$  in Eqn. 3 is the cross-covariance computed from the ensemble between the  
 208 observation and the state variables updated by assimilation.

## 209 **2.4 Satellite Soil Moisture Estimates**

210 The ESA CCI SM v 06.1 incorporates over four decades of scatterometer-based active and  
 211 radiometer-based passive microwave sensors from several satellite platforms. Datasets based on  
 212 active sensors stems from the C-band (5.3 GHz) Active Microwave Instrument Wind  
 213 Scatterometer (AMI-WS ERS-1/2 SCAT, 1991–2006; AMI-WS ERS-2, 1997–2007), Advanced  
 214 Scatterometer (ASCAT), MetOp-A (2007–19), and MetOp-B (2012–19). While the passive  
 215 sensors used to generate SM are from the C-band (6.6 GHz) Scanning Multichannel Microwave  
 216 Radiometer (SMMR, 1979–87), the K-band (19.3 GHz) Special Sensor Microwave Imager  
 217 (SSM/I, 1987–2013), the X-band (10.7 GHz) Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM)  
 218 Microwave Imager (TMI, 1998–2015), the X-band (10.7 GHz) FengYun-3B Microwave Radiation  
 219 Imager (FY-3B/MWRI, 2011–19), and the X-band (10.7 GHz) Global Precipitation Measurement  
 220 (GPM, 2014–20). The Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer 2 (AMSR-2, 20012–19),  
 221 WindSat (2007–12), and the Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer for Earth Observing  
 222 System (AMSR-E, 2002–11) are three more passive platforms that measure in the X band and C  
 223 band. The Soil Moisture Active and Passive mission (SMAP, 2015–19) and Soil Moisture and  
 224 Ocean Salinity (SMOS, 2010–19) are the other two passive sensors that measure in the L band (1.4  
 225 GHz). The ESA CCI SM algorithm combines and harmonizes these many active and passive  
 226 satellite SM retrievals to provide a consistently intercalibrated and quality-controlled SM product

227 with a wider spatial and temporal coverage than any single-sensor SM products. The combined  
228 dataset, which combines both active and passive products, spans 41 years (1979–2020), has a  
229 geographical resolution of  $0.25^\circ$ , a temporal resolution of 1 day, and a perceived soil thickness of  
230 5 cm, although it does have data gaps where and when there are no measurements.

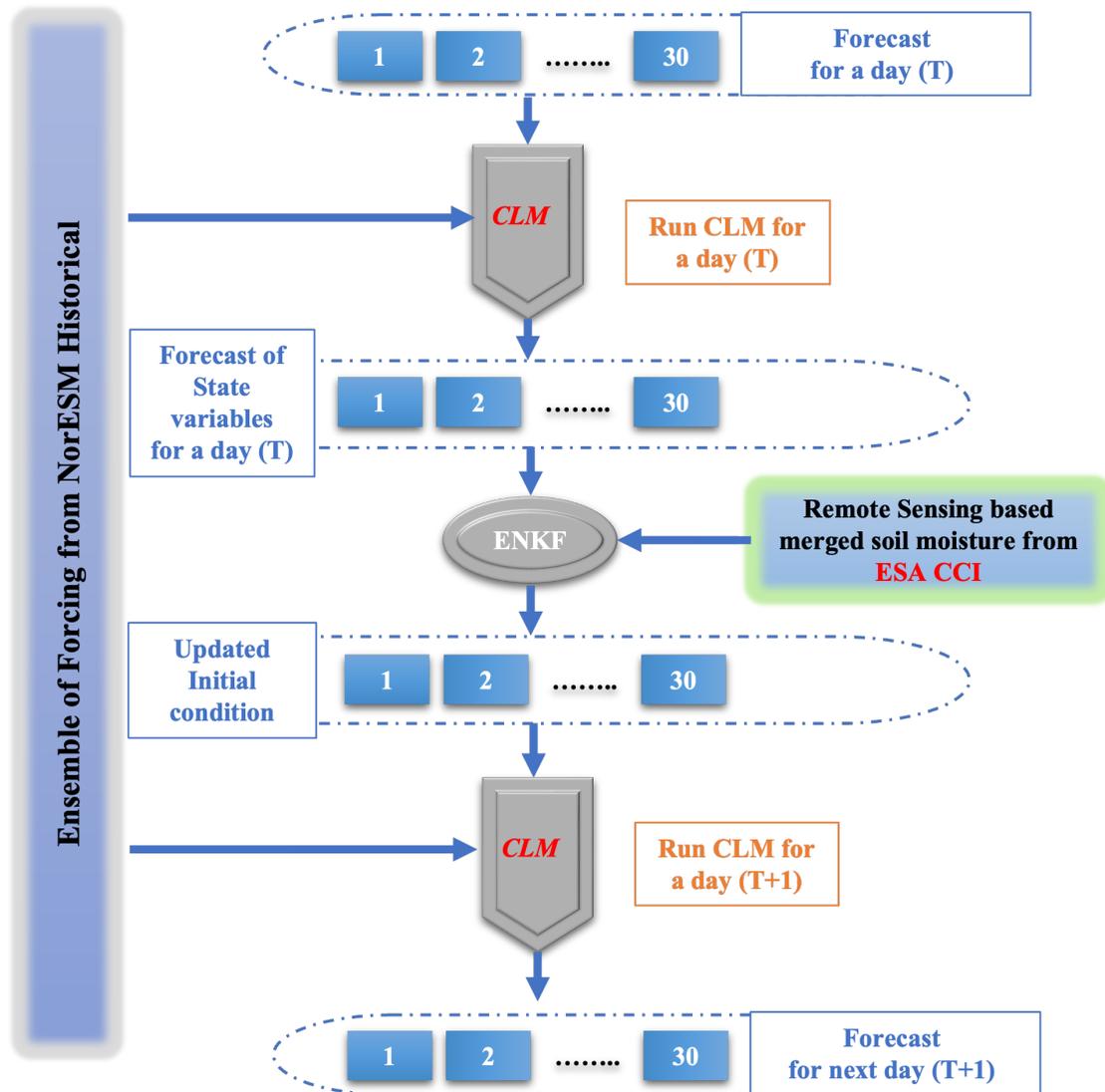
## 231 **2.5 Workflow and practical implementation**

232 The NorCPM-Land processing phase can be broken down into two distinct stages. In stage  
233 1, the ensemble of atmospheric forcing required to run the offline CLM simulation is generated  
234 using historical runs of NorESM for the period 1980 to 2019 at a temporal resolution of 3 hours.  
235 In stage 2, soil moisture from ESA CCI is assimilated daily into the offline CLM. Figure 1 shows  
236 the flowchart of NorCPM-Land processing steps.

237 In stage 1, the fully coupled NorESM generates precipitation, air temperature, humidity,  
238 pressure, and radiation forcing components at 3 hourly intervals that are needed to run offline  
239 CLM. The 30 member ensemble historical simulations are produced by selecting random initial  
240 conditions from a stable preindustrial simulation and integrating the ensemble from 1850 to 2019  
241 using CMIP5 historical forcings and there after the RCP8.5 is used (Taylor et al. 2012).

242 In stage 2, daily surface SM is assimilated daily to update CLM soil profile. The ensemble  
243 forecast,  $\mathbf{x}_t^f$  consists of the 30-model snapshot of SM from NorESM. The SM observations from  
244 ESA CCI are used to update the model SM using Eqn. (4) and (2). Only the first ten layers of the  
245 15 that comprise the CLM state are updated, while the other variables of the state vector remain  
246 intact (e.g. temperature). We update every vertical profile independently. Assimilation of SM  
247 occurs solely on land units defined by vegetation. We do not incorporate densely vegetated  
248 regions, however, due to the uncertainty in SM estimations from the ESA CCI over thick canopy  
249 cover. In addition, we exclusively update the liquid SM in soil profiles, so avoiding erroneous  
250 updates in ice SM, which are challenging to estimate by microwave remote sensing (Ulaby et al.,  
251 1992). This implies that we do not assimilate SM in the presence of snow or frozen SM. There is  
252 a very strong mismatch between SM observations from ESA CCI and the corresponding model  
253 estimates. This is handled by using cumulative distribution function (CDF) mapping (Reichle and  
254 Koster, 2004; Kumar et al., 2012). The CDF mapping is done for each calendar month and for  
255 each grid point. The CDF is computed from the daily values of the calendar month over the 40  
256 years of the observations and from the daily output of the ensemble mean of the 30 member offline

257 CLM run without assimilation. Finally, we use a small multiplicative inflation (Anderson 2001)  
 258 of 1.05 to prevent a collapse of the ensemble spread.



259

260 **Figure 1.** Flowchart of NorCPM-Land

261 **3 Validation data sets**

262 **3.1 In Situ Soil Moisture Measurement**

263 This study utilizes in situ soil moisture observations from the International SM Network  
 264 for continental domain validation (ISMN; Dorigo et al. 2011) as primary source of SM validation.  
 265 We concentrate on three locations with rather dense observational coverage. Over the CONUS,  
 266 the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM), the FLUXNET-AMERIFLUX, the Cosmic-Ray  
 267 Soil Moisture Observing System (COSMOS; Zreda et al. 2012), the Plate Boundary Observatory  
 268 (PBO H<sub>2</sub>O; Larson et al. 2008), the Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN; Schaefer et al. 2007),  
 269 the Snowpack Telemetry (SNOTEL). For validation over Europe, the FR\_Aqui (Al-Yaari et al.

270 2018), Danish Hydrological Observatory and Exploratorium (HOBE; Jensen and Refsgaard 2018),  
271 ORACLE, REMEDHUS (González-Zamora et al. 2019), the Norwegian water resources and  
272 energy directorate (NVE), the Finnish network (FMI; Ikonen et al., 2018). For validation over  
273 Asia, the central Tibetan Plateau (CTP\_SMTMN; Yang et al., 2013), MAQU (Dente et al., 2012)  
274 networks are used. This study further includes only hourly readings to a depth of 5 centimeters  
275 that are classified as "excellent quality" and concurrently measured for validation purposes. After  
276 filtering the hourly data, the daily mean soil moisture is calculated, and only locations with more  
277 than thirty percent of the validation date range are used for validation.

### 278 **3.2 ERA5-Land**

279 One of the independent data sources used to validate our reanalysis is the ECMWF ERA5-  
280 land reanalysis. The new ERA5-Land reanalysis was generated by forcing offline LSM with the  
281 ERA5 (Hersbach et al. 2020) data. Because the atmospheric analysis of ERA5 is forcing this  
282 product, the assimilated data indirectly impact simulations. The system does not assimilate SM  
283 observations explicitly. The Copernicus Climate Change Service provides it with the same  
284 temporal resolution as ERA5 (hourly resolution), but with a higher spatial resolution of  $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$ .  
285 The primary properties of this product were outlined in Müloz-Sabater et al. (2021), and it is now  
286 accessible from 1950 to the present at <https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu>. ERA5-Land is built  
287 around the ECMWF land surface model: the Carbon Hydrology-Tiled ECMWF Scheme for  
288 Surface Exchanges over Land (HTESSEL). Under the HTESSEL system, each land grid-box is  
289 subdivided into up to six fractions (tiles) (bare ground, low and high vegetation, intercepted water,  
290 shaded and exposed snow). Each fraction has features that define distinct heat and water fluxes  
291 utilized to solve an energy balance equation for the tile skin temperature. According to Müloz-  
292 Sabater et al. (2021), ERA5-Land considers grids with more than 50% of their area covered by  
293 glaciers to be glacier grids, assuming a constant snow depth of 10 m.

294 The ERA5-Land is forced by ERA5, which is produced from data assimilations and  
295 dynamic models, and integrates observations into globally comprehensive fields. ERA5  
296 assimilates additional observations and input data, which enhances the observed changes in  
297 climatic forcing compared to the preceding product (ERA-Interim) and at a higher temporal and  
298 horizontal resolution. The average number of observations absorbed by ERA5 has risen from  
299 around 0.75 million per day in 1979 to nearly 24 million per day by the end of 2018. The  
300 observation operators, which convert model values to observation equivalents, and the processing  
301 of observations in the forecast system have been vastly improved in ERA5 compared to ERA-  
302 Interim. Instead of the RTTOV-7 operator used in ERA-Interim, it employs RTTOV-11 as the  
303 observation operator for radiance data. Additionally, it assimilates several humidity-sensitive  
304 satellite channels utilizing the all-sky technique as opposed to the clear-sky strategy used by ERA-  
305 Interim. This resolves an issue with an older assimilation method of radiances under rainy  
306 circumstances that resulted in anomalous precipitation in ERA-Interim across the entire ocean in  
307 the 1990s, in addition to offering new information in overcast and precipitating locations. ERA5  
308 used multiple reprocessed satellite datasets gathered from space organizations and institutions in  
309 Europe, the United States, and Japan. These include atmospheric motion vector winds; ozone,  
310 radio occultation, and altimetry data; scatterometer soil moisture and wind data; and the SSMI  
311 record of satellite data sensitive to humidity over the ocean. In general, ERA5 has used many more  
312 observations than ERA-Interim, which cannot include data from the most recent satellite sensors,  
313 such as hyperspectral data from IASI and CrIS or ground-based radar data. ERA5 used around 24

314 million observations per day at the end of 2018, almost five times as many as ERA-Interim. ERA5  
315 relies on 4D-Var (Courtier et al., 1994) for upper air and near surface components, an optimum  
316 interpolation (OI) approach for ocean-wave and a Land Data Assimilation System (LDAS) (de  
317 Rosnay et al., 2013). The LDAS relies on a 2D-OI for the analysis of 2m temperature and relative  
318 humidity, as well as for snow depth and density, a simplified extended Kalman filter (de Rosnay  
319 et al., 2013) for soil layers and 1D-OI for soil, ice and snow temperatures respectively.

### 320 **3.3 GLDAS**

321 The third independent validation data used in this study stems from the Global Land Data  
322 Assimilation System (GLDAS) (Rodell et al., 2004) from NASA. GLDAS is an uncoupled land  
323 data assimilation system, that drives different offline LSMs. The GLDAS currently drives five  
324 different LSMs, namely Noah (Chen et al., 1996), the Community Land Model (CLM; Dai et al.,  
325 2003), the Variable Infiltration Capacity Model (VIC; Liang et al., 1994), Mosaic (Koster and  
326 Suarez, 1992), and the Catchment land surface model (CLSM; Koster et al., 2000). GLDAS  
327 version 1 (GLDAS-1) relies on the atmospheric analysis fields from the Global Data Assimilation  
328 System (GDAS) of NCEP, the NOAA Climate Prediction Center's Merged Analysis of  
329 Precipitation (CMAP) pentad dataset, and observation-based downward shortwave and longwave  
330 radiation fields derived from the AGRicultural METeorological modeling system (AGRMET).  
331 The LSMs are forced with this combination forcing (Rodell et al., 2004). In GLDAS version 2  
332 (GLDAS-2), two different forcing data are used, one is driven by Princeton meteorological forcing  
333 data (Sheffield et al., 2006), while the other is driven by a mixture of model and observation-based  
334 forcing datasets as utilized in GLDAS-1. In GLDAS-2 CMAP precipitation is replaced with a field  
335 from the Global Precipitation Climatology Project (GPCP), it also employs a better disaggregation  
336 method, and applies quality control to the AGRMET dataset. GLDAS-2 has three subcomponents:  
337 GLDAS-2.0, GLDAS-2.1, and GLDAS-2.2. GLDAS-2.0 is forced only with Princeton  
338 meteorological forcing and delivers a continuous record from 1948 to 2014. GLDAS-2.1 is forced  
339 by combined model and observation-based data from 2000 to the present. The GLDAS-2.0 and  
340 GLDAS-2.1 products do not assimilate any observations while, the GLDAS-2.2 products  
341 assimilate observations like surface temperature, snow cover, and Total Water Storage (TWS).  
342 There are many distinct GLDAS-2.2 products, each of which has its own unique selection of  
343 forcing data, as well as DA observation source, variable, and scheme. We use GLDAS-2.1 with  
344 CLSM as the LSM to evaluate NorCPM-land results along with ERA5-Land. It should be noted  
345 that even in GLDAS there is no explicit assimilation of SM observations. We utilise ERA5-Land  
346 and GLDAS as reference datasets to evaluate NorCPM-Land improvements because independent  
347 global in-situ SM measurements are sparse and not uniformly distributed.

### 348 **3.4 Surface Runoff Data**

349 Freshwater resources are extremely important to society, and understanding their  
350 variability is critical to water management in the context of climate change. To evaluate surface  
351 runoff, this study uses the global gridded monthly reconstruction of runoff (GRUN) from 1980 to  
352 2014. This data was generated by leveraging in-situ streamflow measurements to train a machine  
353 learning algorithm that forecasts monthly runoff rates based on antecedent precipitation and  
354 temperature from an atmospheric reanalysis. Cross-validation is used to check the correctness of  
355 this reconstruction, which is then compared to an independent set of discharge data for major river  
356 basins. This dataset agrees with streamflow measurements on average better than an ensemble of

357 13 state-of-the-art global hydrological model runoff simulations (Ghiggi et al., 2019). The  
358 reconstruction's temporal span provides an unparalleled perspective of large-scale runoff  
359 variability characteristics in places with low data coverage, making it a suitable independent  
360 dataset for large-scale hydro-climatic process investigations and validation. The GRUN dataset  
361 can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.9228176>.

### 362 **3.5 Net Primary Productivity**

363 The biogeophysical processes that CLM4 simulates include the interactions of solar and  
364 longwave radiation with vegetation and soil, momentum and turbulent fluxes from vegetation and  
365 soil, heat transfer in soil and snow, hydrology of vegetation and soil, and stomatal physiology in  
366 addition to photosynthesis. The carbon-nitrogen (CN) cycle model in CLM4 simulates how carbon  
367 and nitrogen are bio-geochemically arranged in plant, litter, and soil-organic matter (Thornton et  
368 al., 2007). Plants convert carbon dioxide in the air into oxygen while producing their own  
369 sustenance. Thus, plants give the energy and oxygen that most living forms on Earth require. Plant  
370 productivity also contributes significantly to the global carbon cycle by absorbing part of the CO<sub>2</sub>  
371 emitted when people consume coal, oil, and other fossil fuels. Carbon that plants consume forms  
372 a part of their leaves, roots, stalks, or tree trunks, and, eventually, the soil. The net primary  
373 productivity (NPP) is the difference between the amount of carbon dioxide vegetation absorbs  
374 during photosynthesis and the amount of carbon dioxide plants emit during respiration. A negative  
375 score indicates that breakdown or respiration exceeded carbon absorption; the plants expelled more  
376 carbon into the atmosphere than they absorbed. The improvement in SM states will be propagated  
377 into the carbon cycle and enhance NPP estimations since SM is a crucial factor in plant  
378 productivity. In this study we utilize NPP estimates from Moderate Resolution Imaging  
379 Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on board Terra satellite to validate our reanalysis results. The  
380 monthly NPP data from MODIS (MOD17A3) is used as reference in this study. These datasets are  
381 available at a spatial resolution of 1km from [https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/data\\_access/](https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/data_access/). It contains  
382 estimates of gross primary productivity (GPP), NPP and net direct quality control (NP\_QC).  
383 Previous studies have reported outstanding performance of MOD17A3 NPP dataset with the  
384 observations at the global or country scale (Turner et a., 2006; Shim et al., 2014).

### 385 **4 Metrics for skill assessment of NorCPM-Land**

386 The skill of SM assimilation is evaluated by comparing reanalysis estimates with the  
387 assimilated ESA CCI SM product and with other independent measurements (as discussed in  
388 section 3). The improvement in NorCPM-Land is quantified by comparing it with performance of  
389 30-member ensemble of offline CLM run with same initial conditions and meteorological forcing  
390 as NorCPM-Land (hereafter referred to as FREE). The ensemble-mean and reference datasets are  
391 used to calculate the performance indices. The performance indices used in this study are the Root  
392 Mean Square Error (RMSE), the anomaly correlation coefficient (ACC). Because amplitude of the  
393 seasonal changes is large and predictable, computing correlation based on estimated SM and  
394 reference data may yield misleadingly high values on the usefulness of a prediction system. As a

395 result, it is common practice to subtract the seasonal cycle from both datasets to validate the  
 396 estimated (FREE and NorCPM-Land) and reference (ERA5-Land) before computing the ACC

$$397 \quad \mathbf{RMSE} = \left[ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{X}_i - \mathbf{Y}_i)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad \dots (5)$$

$$398 \quad \mathbf{ACC} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{X}_i - \bar{\mathbf{X}})(\mathbf{Y}_i - \bar{\mathbf{Y}})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{X}_i - \bar{\mathbf{X}})^2 \sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{Y}_i - \bar{\mathbf{Y}})^2}} \quad \dots (6)$$

399 For validation we use daily as well as monthly model state estimates. Therefore,  $n$   
 400 represents the number of estimates during the 40 years study period from 1980 to 2019.  $\mathbf{X}_i$  and  $\mathbf{Y}_i$   
 401 are the daily or monthly land surface state estimates (NorCPM-Land, FREE) and independent  
 402 reference observations, respectively.  $\bar{\mathbf{X}}$ ,  $\bar{\mathbf{Y}}$  are the monthly mean of land surface state estimates and  
 403 independent reference observations respectively. It should be noted that in this study, the ACC is  
 404 calculated using monthly values. The improvement in NorCPM-land skill after DA is represented  
 405 using the reduction of RMSE (RRMSE).

$$406 \quad \mathbf{RRMSE} = \frac{\mathbf{RMSE}_{\text{FREE}} - \mathbf{RMSE}_{\text{NorCPM-Land}}}{\mathbf{RMSE}_{\text{FREE}}} \quad \dots (7)$$

407 We also investigate the reliability of NorCPM-Land. The reliability is evaluated by  
 408 examining the spatial and temporal collocation of the total DA uncertainty with the RMSE  
 409 (Counillon et al., 2016; Rodwell et al., 2016). The RMSE is calculated in this case against  
 410 imperfect observations with an error variance ( $\sigma_o^2$ ), and the overall error is the sum of the  
 411 observation and model uncertainty ( $\sigma_m^2$ ). The standard deviation of the model ensemble state  
 412 serves as a measure for model uncertainty.

$$413 \quad \mathbf{Total\ Error} = \sqrt{\sigma_o^2 + \sigma_m^2} \quad \dots (8)$$

414 The reliability of ensemble system is evaluated by dividing RMSE by the total error  
 415 (hereafter referred to as reliability index). The reliability index provides a quantitative comparison  
 416 of ensemble spread with respect to its predictive skill. A reliability index of one implies that the  
 417 spread is ideal (Fortin et al., 2014), whereas a value more than one suggests a narrow spread (under  
 418 dispersive), and a value less than one indicates a wide ensemble (over dispersive).

419 Because the primary purpose of this reanalysis approach is to improve S2S prediction  
 420 capabilities in NorCPM, it is critical to assess the influence of SM assimilation on terrestrial  
 421 atmospheric coupling. We demonstrate this using the atmospheric coupling index (ACI) (Müller  
 422 et al., 2021). This index shows whether alterations to a surface flux variable can or cannot affect  
 423 precipitation changes. The areas where the coupling between the land and the atmosphere is  
 424 strongest are known as the land-atmosphere hot spots. The ACI is computed using latent heat flux  
 425 ( $\lambda E$ ), and precipitation ( $P$ ) as in Eqn. 9.

$$426 \quad \mathbf{ACI} = \frac{\mathbf{cov}(\lambda E, P)}{\sigma(\lambda E)}, \quad \dots (9)$$

427 where  $\mathbf{cov}(\lambda E, P)$  represents covariance between latent heat flux and precipitation, while  
 428  $\sigma(\lambda E)$  represents the standard deviation along the time space. Areas where latent heat fluxes have

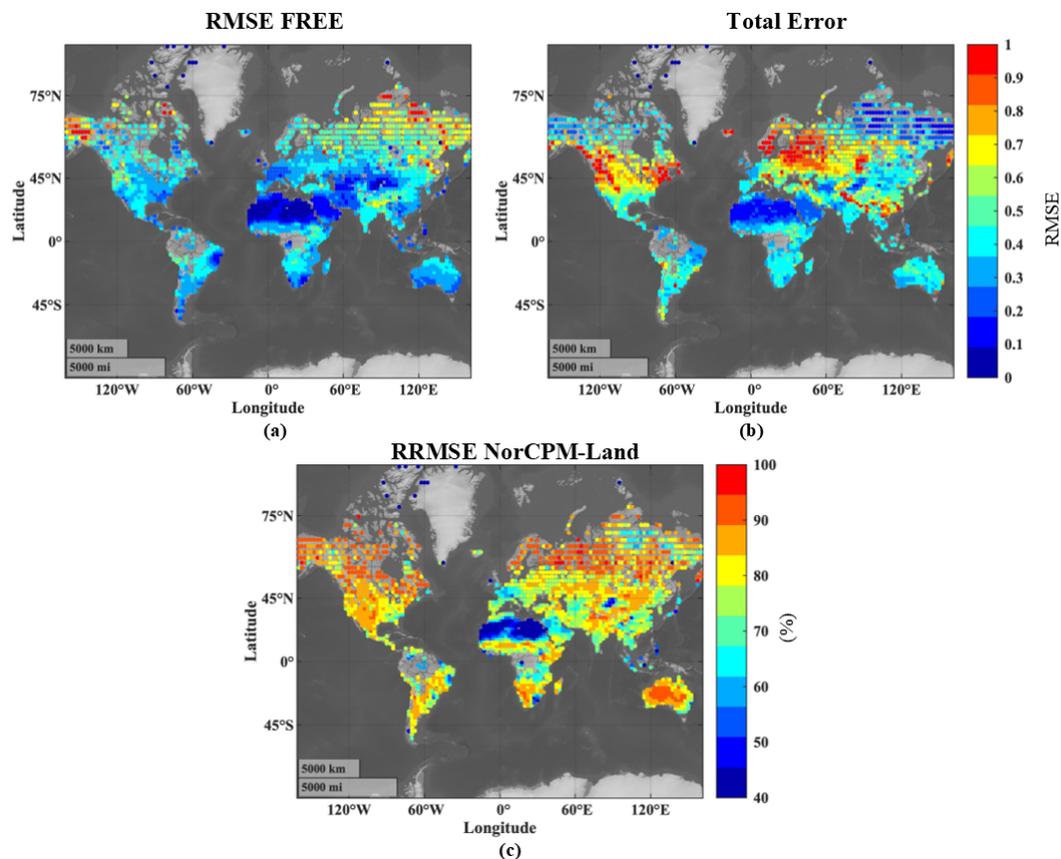
429 an impact on precipitation are highlighted by this indicator. This completes the full cycle of land-  
 430 atmosphere coupling and is a potent sign of the direct feedback from the atmosphere to the land.  
 431 The reference ACI is calculated using ERA5-Land precipitation and latent heat flux.

## 432 5 Results

### 433 5.1 Verification against assimilated SM

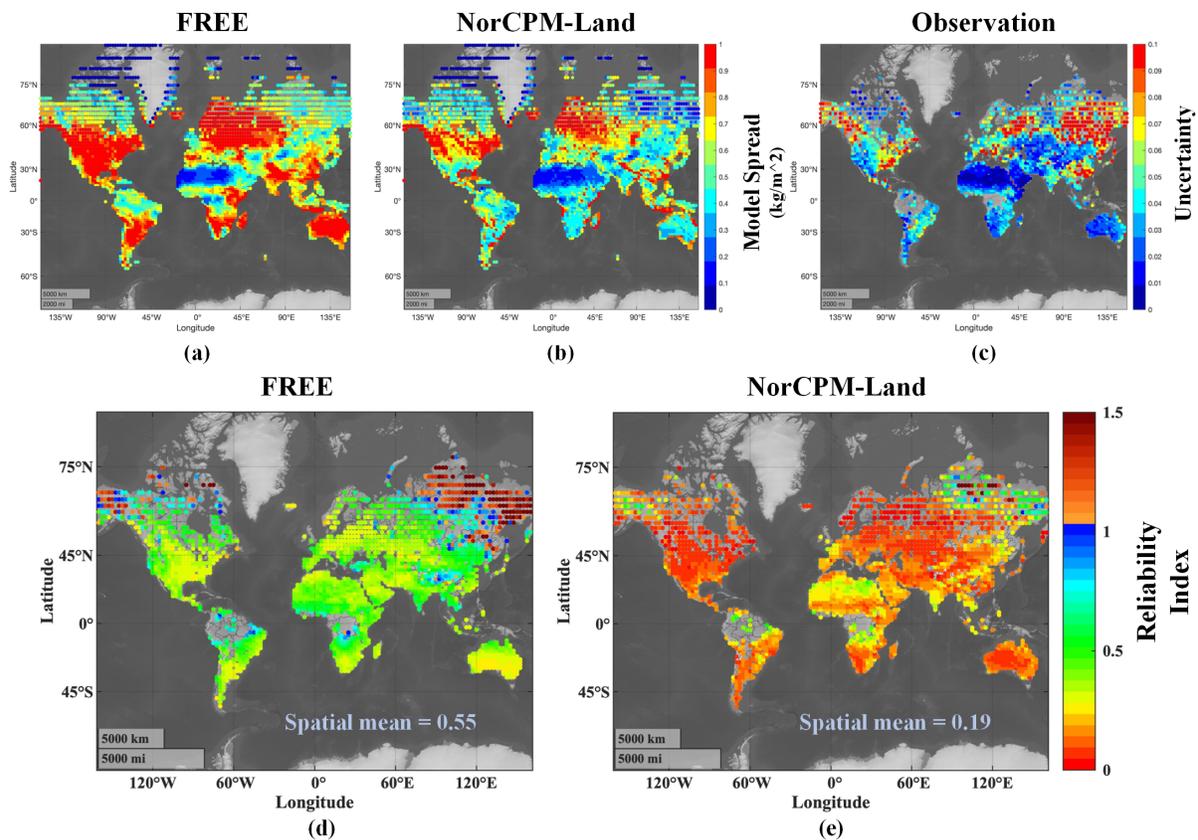
434 The accuracy of NorCPM-Land in monitoring the variability of SM is evaluated using root  
 435 mean square error (RMSE) with respect to assimilated observations (i.e., the CDF match ESA-  
 436 CCI), and the results are compared to the FREE run. Because the evaluation is performed using  
 437 the exact same assimilated ESA CCI SM data, it is anticipated that NorCPM-Land will  
 438 demonstrate a lower level of error than FREE (sanity check).

439 The RMSE in a perfectly reliable system equals the total error. Figure 2a shows the RMSE  
 440 of FREE with respect to assimilated ESA CCI SM. Error in FREE is large because internal  
 441 variability is not constrained. Similarly, Figure 2b indicates the total error in the system as defined  
 442 in Eqn 8. The reduction of RMSE (RRMSE, Eqn. 7) in NorCPM-Land from FREE is shown in  
 443 Figure 2c. There is a prominent reduction in RMSE throughout the domain as expected.



444 **Figure 2.** Depicts error indices for (a) FREE in  $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ , (b) Total model and observation error as  
 445 indicated in Eqn. 8 in NorCPM-Land in  $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ , (c) Percentage reduction in RMSE in NorCPM-  
 446 Land.  
 447

448 Figure 3 shows the reliability index for FREE and NorCPM-Land respectively. We can  
 449 notice that the system is strongly over dispersive (meaning that it overestimates its error) – most  
 450 particularly at northern hemisphere mid-latitudes (except few regions which are under dispersive  
 451 such as northeast Asia and Alaska). We can notice that FREE is already overdispersive with a  
 452 global mean value of about 0.55 meaning that the spread is nearly twice the error of the ensemble  
 453 mean - the observation error is much smaller than the ensemble spread. In the assimilation system  
 454 the reliability is degraded, reaching a global average of about 0.19. This implies that the spread is  
 455 now about 5 times larger than the error of the ensemble mean. While the spread of NorCPM-Land  
 456 is smaller than in FREE, the RMSE has reduced more. We think that the reason for this is twofold.  
 457 First, during the daily assimilation cycle, an ensemble of atmospheric fluxes (at every 3 hourly  
 458 interval) with unsynchronised internal variability provides the atmospheric fluxes. While the  
 459 ensemble mean is poorly affected by that (error of the fluxes cancels out), the ensemble spread  
 460 will grow rapidly. Second, the bias correction strategy (i.e. CDF matching) contributes actively to  
 461 the worsening of the reliability. The CDF matching function is computed a-priori from FREE,  
 462 which overestimates the spread because of the climatological fluxes. As such, using the function  
 463 as a reference during the assimilation tends to sustain a too-large spread during analysis while the  
 464 error of the mean is reduced. Therefore, in our system, assimilation reduces error in the mean more  
 465 than it reduces the spread causing a degradation in the reliability index.



466  
 467 **Figure 3.** Depicts (a) ensemble spread for FREE (b), ensemble spread for NorCPM-Land (c),  
 468 observation uncertainty (d) reliability index for FREE (e), and reliability index for NorCPM-Land.

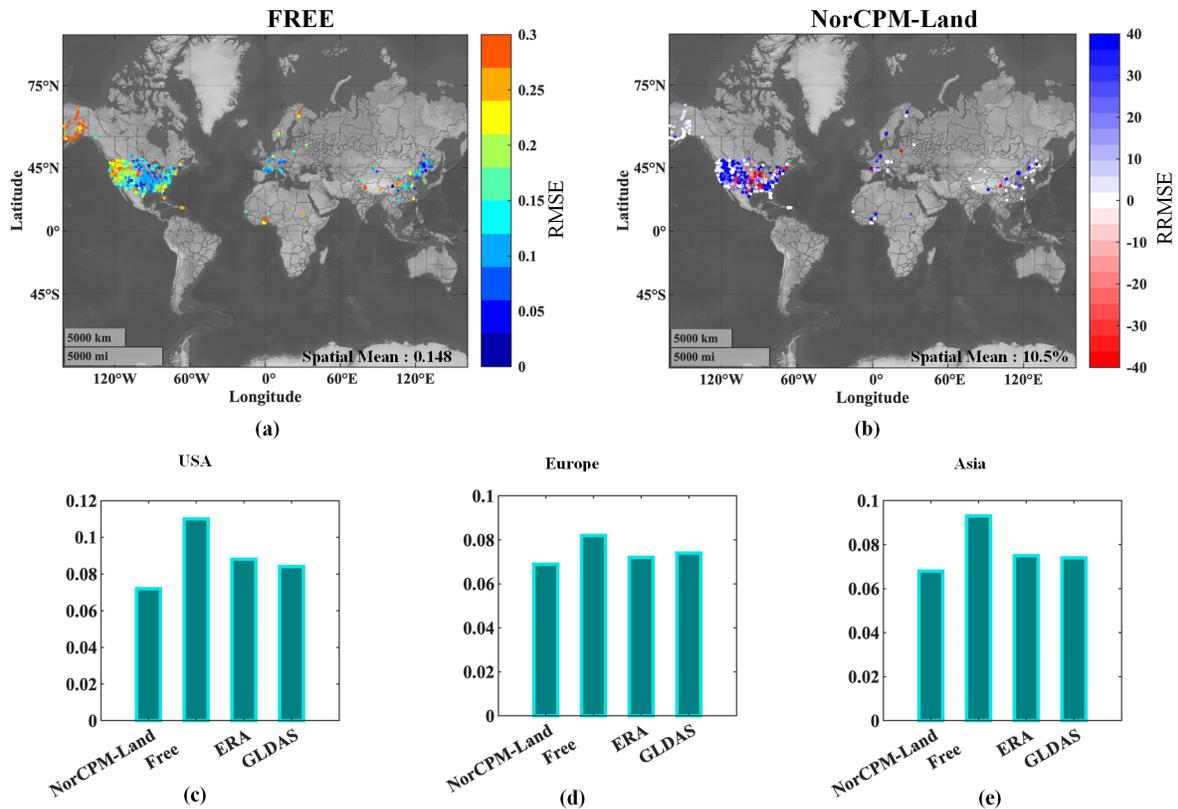
469 We foresee that in future versions of the system where fluxes will be provided by a version  
 470 of NorCPM with constrained atmospheric variability, the reliability of the FREE run would be

471 improved. If the reliability of FREE is good, then CDF matching will not cause a degradation of  
 472 reliability. If not, one may use adaptive inflation (El Gharamti, 2018), which can inflate or deflate  
 473 the spread based on reliability statistics. Another approach is to estimate the CDF function from  
 474 the evolving ensemble -also known as Gaussian anamorphosis (Bertino and Evensen 2003).

475 **5.2 Comparison with independent Soil Moisture Estimates**

476 The simulated daily average SM from NorCPM-Land is validated with independent in-situ  
 477 observations from ISMN (section 3.3.1). FREE has a large error in SM over west United states of  
 478 America and over Sahel in Africa (Figure 4a). These regions are of primary interest for improving  
 479 sub-seasonal forecast, as they have strong coupling with the atmosphere. NorCPM-Land reduce  
 480 considerably the error - overall by 10.5% globally and by 40 % over parts of USA, the Sahel along  
 481 with other regions. This accuracy is compared to two well-established land reanalysis products  
 482 which are ERA5-Land and Global Land Data Assimilation System (GLDAS). We can notice that  
 483 NorCPM-Land shows lower RMSE than both products, but it should be reminded that those  
 484 reanalyses products do not assimilate SM explicitly. The domain average of reanalysis products  
 485 and NorCPM-Land are shown in Figure 4c-e.

486

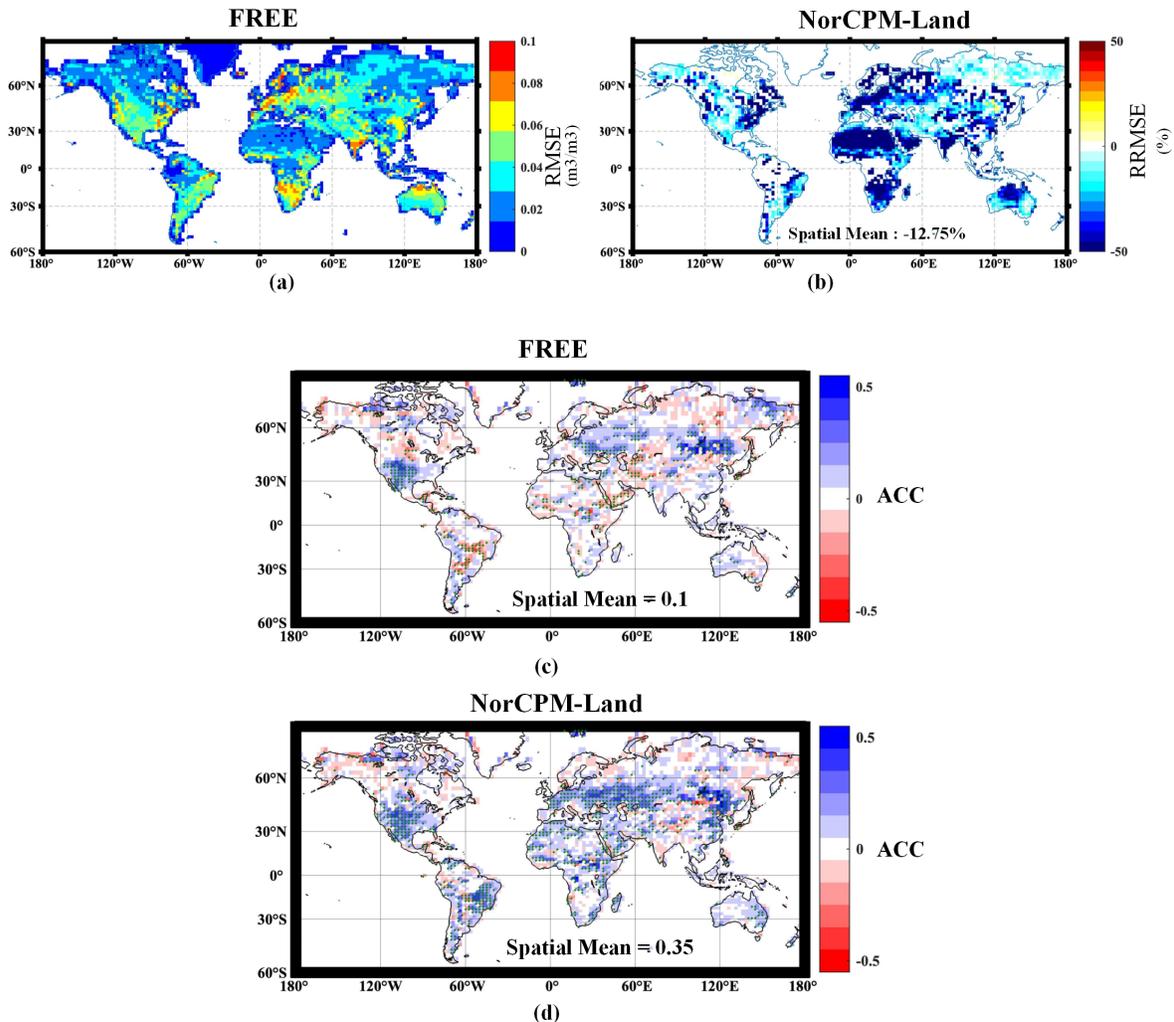


487

488 **Figure 4.** Daily average RMSE for FREE (a), RRMSE of NorCPM-Land (blue color indicates  
 489 regions with improvement), (c) domain average of RMSE over USA, (d) domain average of RMSE  
 490 over Europe, (e) domain average of RMSE over Asia

491

492 To assess performance of NorCPM-Land compared to FREE in the rest of the domain and  
 493 where independent data are not available, or for other quantity than soil moisture, we use the  
 494 ERA5-land. Figure 5a shows the pointwise RMSE of monthly average SM from FREE compared  
 495 to ERA5-L. This is computed after removing the monthly climatology (seasonal cycle) from the  
 496 simulated SM, therefore the RMSE computed here is termed as deseasoned RMSE. The  
 497 assimilation significantly improved SM (see Figure 5b) particularly, over dry regions of the  
 498 Sahara, Mexico, and Australia. The improvement in RMSE is shown in terms of RRMSE in  
 499 percentage. NorCPM-Land improves the simulation skill of SM by reducing an error of 12.75%  
 500 globally when compared to FREE run (Figure 5b).



501  
 502 **Figure 5.** Deseasoned monthly average RMSE of FREE (a), RRMSE of NorCPM-Land (b) where  
 503 cool colors indicates regions with reduced RMSE and warm color indicates degradation of regions.  
 504 ACC of monthly averaged SM with respect to ERA for (c) FREE, (d) NorCPM-Land (Grid with  
 505 significant correlation coefficient is marked with green dot)

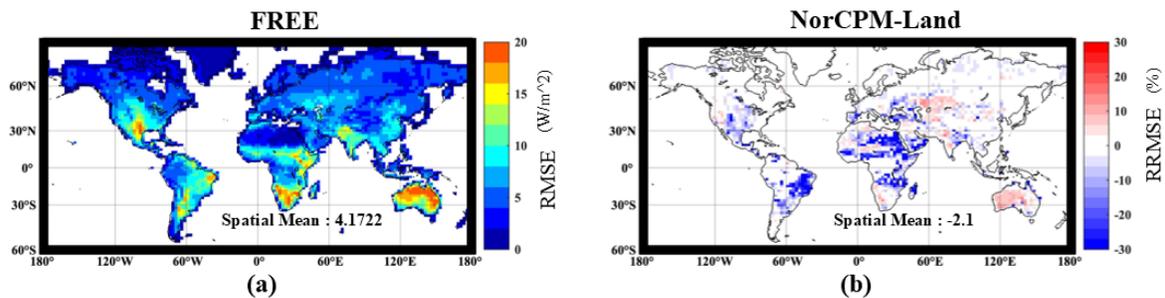
506 We analyse anomaly correlation coefficient (ACC) (see Figure 5c,d), which is computed  
 507 after removing the mean and so is not directly influenced by model bias. In FREE the 30 members

508 are only constrained by external forcing. There are some significant changes in places where trends  
 509 caused by climate change has been most noticeable. The improvement in SM estimates in  
 510 NorCPM-Land after assimilation is evident from the ACC in Figure 5d as compared to FREE  
 511 (Figure 5c). This analysis demonstrates that SM assimilation enhances ACC after assimilation,  
 512 with a global average of 0.35 for NorCPM-Land against 0.1 for FREE run. In particular, the  
 513 improvement is more noticeable across Sahel, which has demonstrated enhanced ACC and lower  
 514 RMSE (Figure 5b) in NorCPM-Land.

### 515 5.3 Improvement in Land-Atmospheric Coupling

516 The latent heat flux (LHF) in the land-atmosphere energy exchange is directly related to  
 517 evaporation, which moistens the atmosphere. Precipitation causes the atmosphere to dry by  
 518 releasing latent heat into the atmosphere, resulting in a strong heating source and moist convection.  
 519 One of the important variables influencing the latent heat flux is SM. We first evaluate the  
 520 estimates of LHF with reference to ERA5-Land data to provide a dynamical assessment on the  
 521 impact of the assimilation. This analysis will indicate the improvement in LHF following  
 522 improvement in the SM assimilation framework. Figure 6a indicates RMSE in LHF in FREE after  
 523 removing monthly climatology (deseasoned RMSE). The impact of improved SM estimates after  
 524 assimilated propagates into LHF with reduced RMSE, as shown in Figure 6b. The domain average  
 525 of reduction in LHF is 2.1% after assimilation of SM but is more evident over parts of Sahel and  
 526 USA which has strong land-atmospheric coupling and where it reaches values up to 30 %. There  
 527 are also a few regions where the error for LHF has increased following SM assimilation. However,  
 528 most of these areas exhibit lower RMSE (Figure 5b) and greater ACC (Figure 5d) than FREE run.  
 529 Therefore, these regions exhibiting deteriorating performance must be studied further to determine  
 530 the factors triggering this deterioration.

531

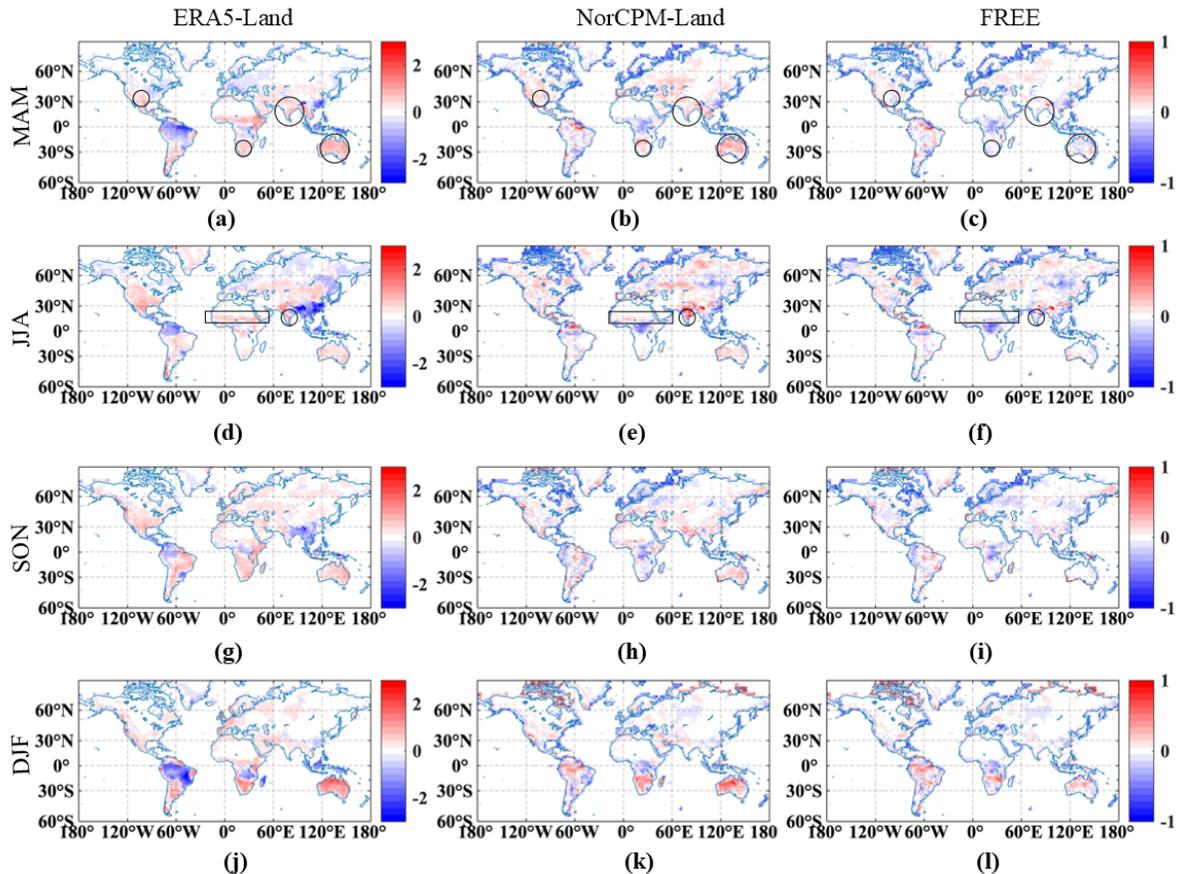


532

533 **Figure 6.** Spatial variability of monthly deseasoned LHF RMSE from FREE (a), and the reduction  
 534 of RMSE by SM assimilation in NorCPM-Land – blue color indicates regions with improvement-  
 535 (b).

536 The improvement in land-atmosphere feedback is further evaluated by computing ACI (See  
 537 Section 4, Eqn. 9). This analysis is carried out for four seasons: March to May (MAM), June to  
 538 August (JJA), September to November (SON), and December to February (DJF). During MAM  
 539 there is long precipitation season over east Africa which has a strong coupling with latent heat flux  
 540 as seen in reference ACI (Figure 7a). However, FREE (Figure 7c) does not exhibit such coupling.  
 541 The improved latent heat flux after SM assimilation Improves this coupling (Figure 7c). Some of  
 542 the major locations showing improvement in coupling after SM assimilation are highlighted by

543 circles. Similarly, During JJA there is an increase coupling strength over India after SM  
 544 assimilation (Figure 7e) matching with ERA5-Land coupling map (Figure 7d). Similarly, coupling  
 545 strength increases over Sahel (highlighted in black rectangle) during JJA. Furthermore, during  
 546 SON the influence of latent heat flux on precipitation improves with reference over the USA as  
 547 observed in Figure 7g, h. A consistent improvement is observed over Australia, particularly during  
 548 DJF (Figure 7k,j).

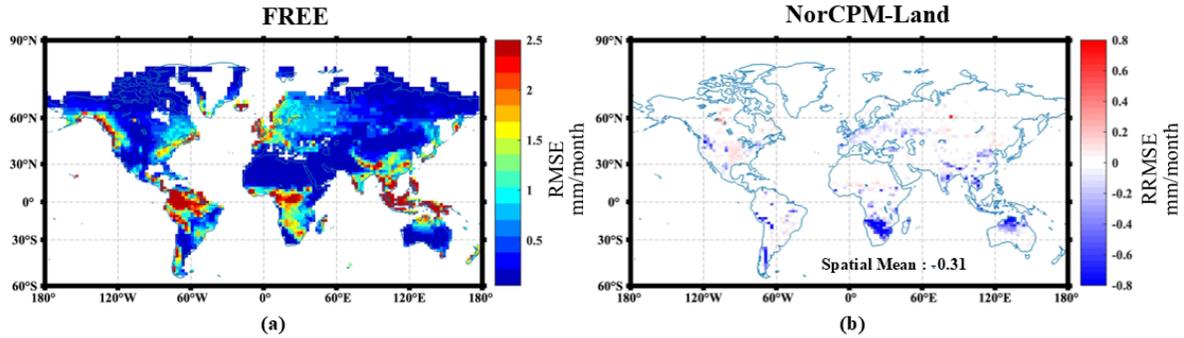


549  
 550 **Figure 7.** Atmospheric Coupling Index for ERA5-Land (a,d,g,j), (b,e,h,k) NorCPM-Land, and  
 551 (c,f,i,l) FREE for different seasons. Note different scales for ERA5-Land and the NorCPM and  
 552 FREE results.

## 553 5.4 Runoff

554 To assess the potential of improving runoff estimates by assimilating SM, nonrouted  
 555 observational gridded monthly runoff data from GRUN (details in section 3.3.3) are utilized as an  
 556 independent source of information to compare the results. To compare with GRUN runoff data,  
 557 total runoff is computed as the sum of surface and subsurface runoff for each grid cell for a duration  
 558 of 34 years from 1980 to 2014. Figure 8a indicates RMSE in runoff estimates from FREE. The  
 559 reduction in RMSE after assimilation of SM is indicated in Figure 8b. Though there is an  
 560 improvement in surface runoff estimates at global mean of 0.31mm/month, there is no large  
 561 reduction over major basins (such as Amazon, Mississippi, Congo, etc.). This is because another

562 key component influencing runoff is precipitation, which is not constrained or improved in the  
 563 historical runs of NorESM in this study.



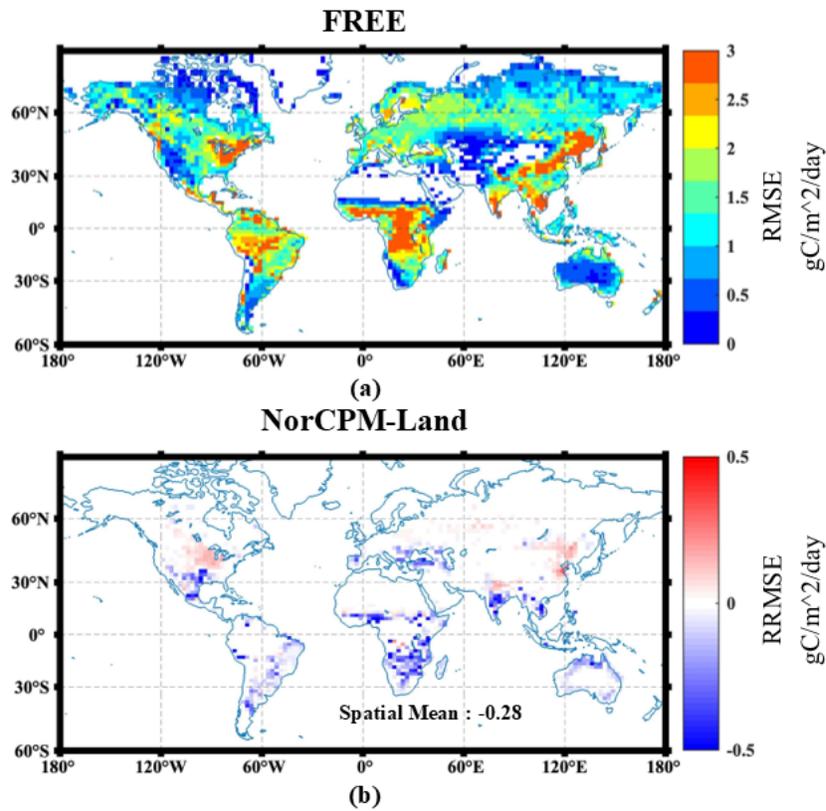
564

565 **Figure 8.** Depicts RMSE in surface runoff with reference to GRUN for (a) FREE, (b) NorCPM-  
 566 Land (blue color indicates regions with improvement)

### 567 5.5 Net Primary Productivity

568 With reference to independent measurement from satellite data (details provided in section  
 569 3.3.4), we assess the propagation of enhanced SM states in NorCPM-Land on simulating NPP. It  
 570 is well known that the availability of SM can effect plant productivity and is most frequently  
 571 employed to assess vegetation dryness stress (Liu et al., 2020). If plants are unable to sustain  
 572 turgor, decreased SM may result in biophysical drought stress, which would lower primary  
 573 production by closing stomata. Alternately, lower SM may limit nutrient mass movement in the  
 574 soil and microbial activity, reducing nitrogen mineralization and availability and thereby reducing  
 575 primary output. Figure 9a depicts the RMSE in FREE. Substantial error is detected in the tropical  
 576 rainforest of the Congo basin, as well as in other places. Improved SM condition in NorCPM-Land  
 577 minimizes inaccuracy in NPP over a few locations. Figure 9b shows that the RMSE of NPP is  
 578 reduced by SM assimilation. However, it has less of an influence on huge thick forests (such as  
 579 those in the Congo basin) since SM is not assimilated in densely vegetated areas as mentioned in  
 580 section 2.5. After SM assimilation, an overall reduction in global average NPP error of 0.28  
 581  $\text{gC/m}^2/\text{day}$  (around 9.3% reduction) is observed.

582



583

584 **Figure 9.** RMSE of monthly NPP compared to MODIS NPP for (a) FREE, (b) and reduction of  
 585 RMSE from FREE in NorCPM-Land (blue color indicates regions with improvement)

## 586 6 Summary and Conclusions

587 In this study, we developed a new global land reanalysis system (NorCPM-Land) that  
 588 simulates surface soil moisture and other land surface water and energy flux components by  
 589 assimilating daily the blended satellite SM data from ESA CCI. The merging of multi-satellite data  
 590 in the ESA CCI has enabled this study to perform daily assimilation. Assimilating SM considerably  
 591 improved the skill of CLM in simulating land surface states. The system is run offline but uses  
 592 fluxes from an ensemble of the same coupled system as used for running the NorCPM climate  
 593 predictions and uses CDF matching to handle the mismatch between the model SM and ESA-CCI  
 594 observations. As such the reanalysis can provide improved land initialization and maintains the  
 595 numerical compatibility of NorCPM-Land with NorCPM and avoids numerical shocks during  
 596 initialization of predictions with the same model.

597 Using NorCPM-Land, an improved land initial state is produced over a period of four  
 598 decades, from 1980 to 2019 inclusive. The system depends on stochastic assimilation of SM data  
 599 using the EnSRF into CLM. The system is overdispersive for SM, and the overdispersion already  
 600 present in the ensemble without assimilation is degraded. We have identified different factors that  
 601 contribute to this large ensemble spread, including (i) bias correction approach of matching the  
 602 CDF of CCI SM with FREE run prior to assimilation, (ii) adopting a constant inflation factor, and

603 (iii) unconstrained atmospheric forcing for offline CLM run. The CDF matching approach converts  
604 observations to model (FREE) climatology. After assimilation step, the analysis states are attracted  
605 to the substantial variability of the FREE ensemble spread. As a result, despite the reduction in  
606 error of the ensemble mean after assimilation, it has a higher spread than error causing over  
607 dispersive reliability index in most of the regions. The conventional CDF matching approach  
608 assumes that the model and observation biases are stationary, making it difficult to adapt to  
609 dynamic changes in the bias characteristics. To overcome this in future work we intend to adapt  
610 flow dependent bias correction techniques. We further anticipate that using adaptive inflation and  
611 adding an atmospheric constraint on the system that provide the ensemble of atmospheric flux  
612 would improve reliability in the future versions of the system.

613 In comparison to independent datasets, NorCPM-Land enhances the ability to capture the  
614 spatiotemporal dynamics of SM. Validation of results using in-situ SM data shows a 10.5%  
615 reduction in error for NorCPM-Land simulated SM compared to FREE. NorCPM-Land SM  
616 estimations consistently outperform GLDAS and ERA5-Land on a global scale. In addition, the  
617 NorCPM-Land decreases the error by 12.75 on a global scale with reference to ERA5-Land when  
618 compared to FREE SM estimations. This study also highlights the added value of improving SM  
619 estimates in other land surface state variables. The NorCPM-Land minimizes the error in latent  
620 heat flux, an important variable in the energy exchange between land and atmosphere. The  
621 enhancements in latent heat flux are most evident in midlatitudes, namely over the United States  
622 of America, Sahel, and India, which have considerable land-atmosphere coupling. When  
623 evaluating the land-atmosphere coupling of NorCPM-Land, ERA5-Land is used as a reference.  
624 The results of NorCPM-Land consistently reflect the spatial coupling pattern of ERA for all four  
625 seasons. In some regions, the improvement in SM condition substantially improves runoff  
626 estimates when compared to GRUN runoff reconstruction data, but the uncertainty in precipitation  
627 forcing limits the extent of the improvement. The improvement is also observed in interaction  
628 between SM and vegetation productivity with respect to NPP. When compared with satellite NPP  
629 as reference, NorCPM-Land indicated a reduction in error of 9.3% in comparison to FREE. This  
630 indicates the contribution of SM assimilation in improving the terrestrial carbon cycle and  
631 vegetation dynamics.

632 In conclusion, the current re-analysis system has been thoroughly validated and we will  
633 test its potential to provide land initial condition to NorCPM to enhance the skill of S2S  
634 predictions. In addition, future work will focus on integrating different data for other land surface  
635 variables, such as snow and skin temperature, as well as improved forcing data. This will aid in  
636 the improvement of high-latitude prediction skills.

637

### 638 **Acknowledgements**

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642 project no. NN9039K) and a storage grant (NORSTORE, NS9039K).

643

644

645 **Open Research**646 **Data Availability Statement**

647 The code of Norwegian Earth System Model (NorESM), Norwegian Climate Prediction Model  
 648 (NorCPM version1) are available online on the Norwegian Earth System Modeling hub  
 649 (<https://github.com/NorESMhub>). Specific details about NorCPM can be found in the website  
 650 ([https://wiki.app.uib.no/norcpm/index.php/Norwegian\\_Climate\\_Prediction\\_Model](https://wiki.app.uib.no/norcpm/index.php/Norwegian_Climate_Prediction_Model)). The ESA  
 651 CCI merged soil moisture data can be obtained from the climate change initiative website  
 652 (<https://www.esa-soilmoisture-cci.org>). The reference data from ERA-Land can be obtained from  
 653 the Copernicus web services (<https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/reanalysis-era5-land?tab=form>).  
 654 The insitu soil moisture from International Soil Moisture network can be found  
 655 at data hosting facility (<https://ismn.earth/en/>). The Global runoff dataset can be found online at  
 656 <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.9228176>. The GLDAS data can be obtained from  
 657 (<https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/datasets?keywords=GLDAS>). The Net Primary Productivity dataset  
 658 can be found online at [https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/data\\_access/](https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/data_access/).

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660 **References**

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