



# Regional non-reversibility of mean and extreme climate conditions in CMIP6 overshoot scenarios linked to large-scale temperature asymmetries

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## Abstract.

Overshoot scenarios, in which the forcing reaches a peak before starting to decline, show non-symmetric changes during the CO<sub>2</sub> increasing and decreasing phases, producing persistent changes on climate. Non-reversibility mechanisms, associated among others with lagged responses of climate components, changes in ocean circulation and heat transport and changes in the ice cover, bring hysteresis to the climate system. These mechanisms generally have an impact in global scales, potentially generating hemispheric temperature changes and alterations of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). This work analyzes simulations from the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6) to explore the relevance of these mechanisms in overshoot scenarios with different forcing conditions (SSP5-3.4OS and SSP1-1.9) and the impact of these large-scale mechanisms on regional climates, with a particular focus on the degree to which changes in regional extremes are reversible. Results show that non-reversibility of temperature and precipitation extremes mostly occurs during the transition period around the global temperature maximum, when a decoupling between regional extremes and global temperature generates persistent changes at regional level. These changes mainly impact temperature extremes in extratropical regions and precipitation extremes in tropical regions around the ITCZ. In scenarios with strong forcing changes like SSP5-3.4OS, regional non-reversibility can be mostly linked to a temperature asymmetry between Northern and Southern Hemisphere, associated with ITCZ shifts. This asymmetry may be associated with persistent changes in the heat transport and with a different thermal inertia depending on the region, leading regionally to a different timing of the temperature maximum. In scenarios with lower forcing changes like SSP1-1.9, the contribution of this mechanism is more limited and other factors like ice melting may also have a relevant role.

## 1 Introduction

The Paris Agreement of 2015 included an objective to limit the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C (United Nations / Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2015). However, considering the delay of effective and consequent mitigation measures (IPCC, 2022), there is an increasing probability to exceed these temperature targets (Rafferty et al., 2017). In this scenario, global average temper-



25 ature might overshoot the targets of the Paris Agreement and net-negative emissions would be needed to reduce global CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and bring temperatures back to a level consistent with the targets (Gasser et al., 2015).

To address questions related to such delayed climate action, there is an increasing interest in scenarios with forcing pathways that reach a peak before starting a forcing decline, also known as overshoot scenarios. The Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6; Eyring et al., 2016) included two scenarios with these characteristics in the ScenarioMIP (O'Neill et al., 2016): SSP5-3.4OS, which follows the unmitigated scenario SSP5-8.5 up to 2040 and starts an aggressive mitigation afterwards; and SSP1-1.9, that includes mitigation actions to meet the 1.5°C target from the Paris Agreement (Tebaldi et al., 2021). These scenarios allow investigating potentially irreversible changes in the climate system as a result of a cycle of increasing and decreasing forcing (IPCC, 2022), considering that even in case global temperatures revert, the impact on regional climates, and in particular in regional temperature, precipitation and climate extremes, may remain for decades (Pfleiderer et al., 2024).

35 The analysis of non-reversibility mechanisms has been mostly based on idealized CO<sub>2</sub> ramp-up and ramp-down experiments: Zickfeld et al. (2016) show that the proportionality between global mean temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions does not persist during periods of net negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, mostly due to a different behavior of ocean and land, while Boucher et al. (2012) show that certain climate components like clouds and ocean stratification respond with a lag with respect to temperatures, generating a hysteresis behavior. Hysteresis, understood as the dependence of the climate system not only on the current CO<sub>2</sub> concentration but on the CO<sub>2</sub> pathway, is also found in carbon sinks (Jeltsch-Thömmes et al., 2020), surface air temperatures (Jones et al., 2016), melting of ice sheets (Bochow et al., 2023), and ocean carbon cycle feedbacks (Schwinger and Tjiputra, 2018), with an impact in the ocean circulation and sea level changes (Palter et al., 2018). Hysteresis also appear in the location of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ; Kug et al., 2022), changing minimally during the ramp-up period but experiencing a relevant southward displacement during the ramp-down. Kug et al. (2022) associate this hysteresis in the position of the ITCZ with a delayed energy exchange between the tropics and extratropics, linked to changes in the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) and in the temperature of the Southern Ocean.

In general, changes in the position of the ITCZ can be explained by temperature asymmetries and changes in the meridional heat transport (Donohoe et al., 2013). These changes are particularly relevant over oceans (Chiang and Bitz, 2005), with a northward displacement of the Pacific ITCZ in response to the cooling of the eastern Pacific (Takahashi and Battisti, 2006) or with a southward shift of the Atlantic ITCZ linked to the cooling of the northern Atlantic (Vellinga and Wood, 2002). Temperature asymmetries behind these changes have been associated to changes in the AMOC (Moreno-Chamarro et al., 2020), changes in the ice cover (Chiang and Bitz, 2005), alterations of the Thermohaline Circulation (THC; Zhang and Delworth, 2005), and the asymmetry introduced by orography (Takahashi and Battisti, 2006). In larger timescales, changes in the position of the ITCZ have been found in simulations of the Last Glacial Maximum (Chiang et al., 2003), linked to an asymmetric cooling between the Northern Hemisphere (NH) and the Southern Hemisphere (SH) generated by a change in the amount of polar sea ice, variations in surface albedo, and changes in the THC (Lohmann, 2003), as well as during the Last Millennium (Roldán-Gómez et al., 2022), induced both by external forcing and internal variability.



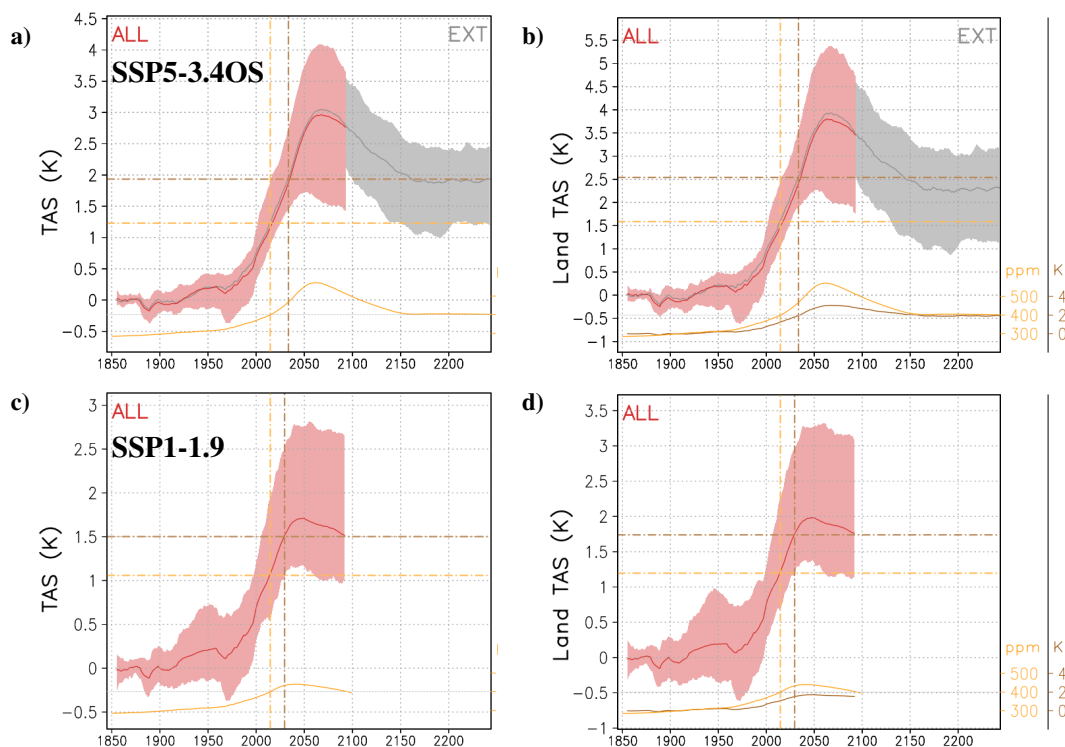
**Table 1.** Climate models analyzed, available simulations for the experiments SSP5-3.4OS and SSP1-1.9 considered in this work, number of latitude and longitude levels of each model and associated references. For the SSP5-3.4OS, the number of simulations covering the extended period (up to 2300) is also included in the column (EXT).

Model	SSP5-3.4OS	(EXT)	SSP1-1.9	N Lon	N Lat	References
ACCESS-CM2	1	0	0	192	144	Ziehn et al. (2021)
CanESM5	5	1	50	128	64	Swart et al. (2019a, b)
CMCC-ESM2	1	0	0	288	192	Lovato et al. (2021)
CNRM-ESM2-1	1	1	1	256	128	Voltaire (2019a, b)
EC-Earth3	0	0	6	512	256	Döscher et al. (2022); EC-Earth-Consortium (2019a, b, c)
FGOALS-g3	1	0	1	180	80	Li (2019, 2020)
GFDL-ESM4	0	0	1	288	180	John et al. (2018)
IPSL-CM6A-LR	1	1	6	144	143	Boucher et al. (2019a, b)
MIROC6	0	0	50	256	128	Shiogama et al. (2019)
MIROC-ES2L	0	0	10	128	64	Tachiiri et al. (2019)
MPI-ESM1-2-LR	0	0	30	192	96	Schupfner et al. (2021)
MRI-ESM2-0	1	1	5	320	160	Yukimoto et al. (2019a, b)
UKESM1-0-LL	5	0	5	192	144	Good et al. (2019a, b)

Despite their characterization with idealized experiments, the relevance of these hysteresis mechanisms in more plausible scenarios is not evident. Scenarios with net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions show temperature asymmetries between continental areas and the Southern Ocean, with changes that persist well beyond the stabilization (King et al., 2024), as well as a larger incidence of warm extremes in regions of the south and cold extremes in regions of the north (Cassidy et al., 2024). For the SSP5-3.4OS scenario, Melnikova et al. (2021) found carbon cycle feedbacks over land and ocean, and Pfeleiderer et al. (2024) showed regional changes in areas of Western and Central Africa consistent with ITCZ shifts. However, the analyses from Walton and Huntingford (2024) do not show a relevant hysteresis on regional precipitation. This shows the need of further analyzing the role of hysteresis mechanisms in shaping regional climates in overshoot scenarios, including both temperature and precipitation extremes.

Both observational (Donat et al., 2013; Dunn et al., 2020) and simulated data (Sillmann et al., 2013) show relevant changes in climate extremes in a context of global warming, with human activities contributing to changes of temperature (Kim et al., 2016) and precipitation extremes (Zhang et al., 2013; Min et al., 2011). Seneviratne et al. (2016) showed that the evolution of regional temperature and precipitation extremes is mostly proportional to the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and to the increase of global temperatures, with a different sensitivity depending on the region. However, the presence of this proportionality in a context of decreasing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and decreasing global temperatures has not been analyzed.

This work analyzes overshoot scenarios from CMIP6 (SSP5-3.4OS and SSP1-1.9) to investigate how global changes in temperature and precipitation during the overshoot explain regional non-reversibility, understood as a post-overshoot state dif-



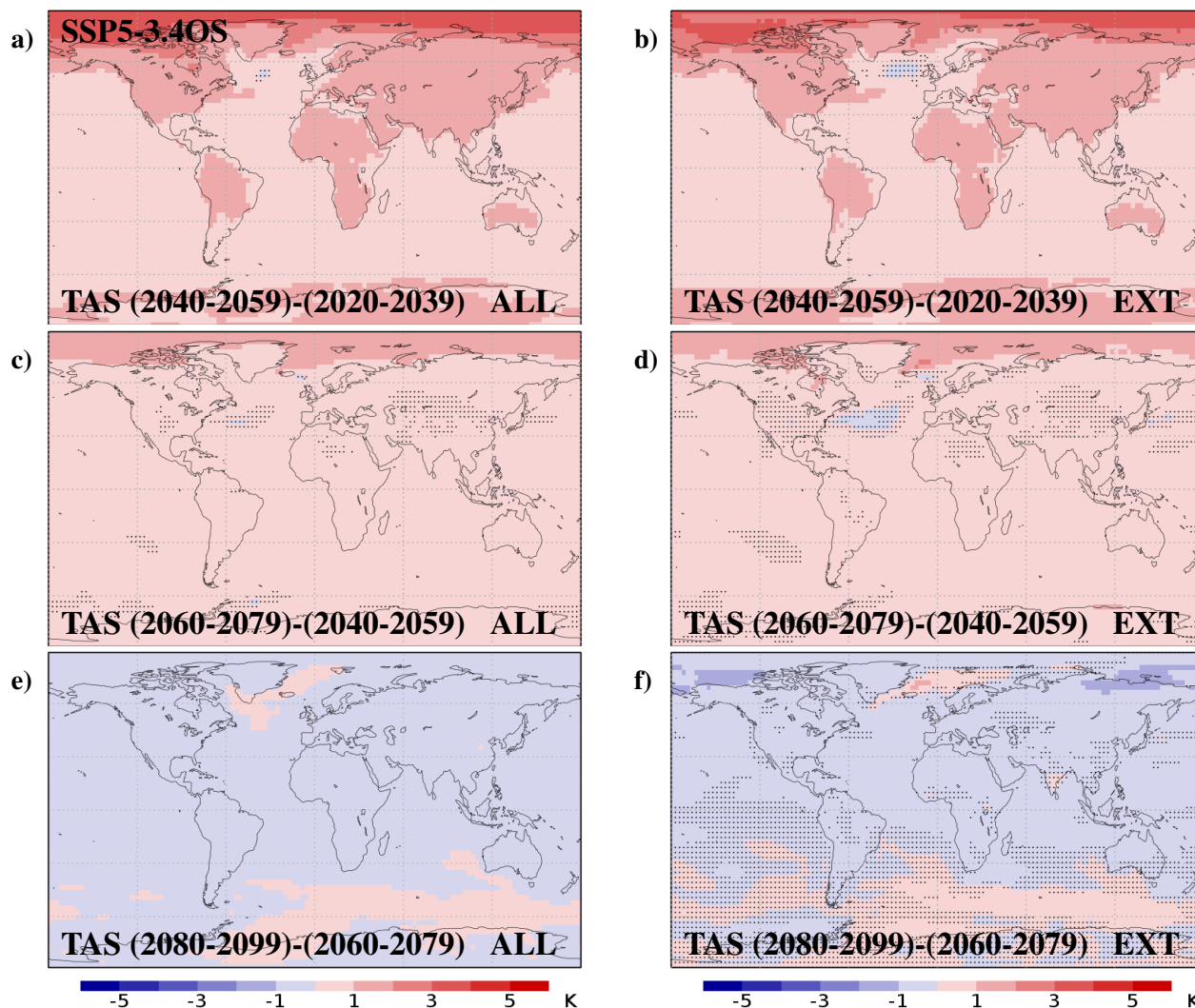
**Figure 1.** (a,c) Global and (b,d) land-only average of surface air temperature (TAS) anomaly with respect to 1861-1880 obtained from the CMIP6 simulations of experiments (a,b) SSP5-3.4OS and (c,d) SSP1-1.9, considering the average of all the models (ALL) and, for SSP5-3.4OS, the ensemble of simulations covering up to 2300 (EXT). The dispersion of individual simulations within each ensemble is included with a shading. Yellow and brown curves in the lower part of each panel respectively show the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration from Meinshausen et al. (2020) and the global temperature obtained with the ALL ensemble for SSP1-1.9 and the EXT ensemble for SSP5-3.4OS. The vertical lines show the year before the overshoot with the same CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and global temperature as at the end of the run (2100 for the ALL ensemble of SSP1-1.9 and 2300 for the EXT ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS), while the horizontal lines represent the value of temperature in the ALL ensemble for SSP1-1.9 and in the EXT ensemble for SSP5-3.4OS for those years.

75 ferent from the pre-overshoot state, and including then continued, partially reversed and overcompensated behaviors (Pfleiderer et al., 2024). This analysis, including mean and extreme climates, allows for identification of those regions more impacted by non-reversibility and of the mechanisms explaining different regional behaviors.

## 2 Methods

The analyses have been focused on the overshoot scenarios from CMIP6 (SSP5-3.4OS and SSP1-1.9). For that, the simulations  
80 in Table 1 have been considered. It should be noted that for SSP1-1.9 all the simulations are run up to 2100, while for SSP5-3.4OS some extended simulations, expanding up to 2300, are also available. These extended simulations have been considered





**Figure 2.** Difference between the ensemble mean, temporal average values of surface air temperature (TAS) for the periods (a,b) 2040-2059 and 2020-2039, (c,d) 2060-2079 and 2040-2059, and (e,f) 2080-2099 and 2060-2079, obtained with the (a,c,e) ALL ensemble and the (b,d,f) EXT ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS simulations. Stippling indicates locations where the differences are not significant (t-test with  $p < 0.05$ ).

for a better characterization of the state after stabilization. Results are presented both for the ensemble of all simulations (ALL) and, for the case of SSP5-3.4OS, for the ensemble of extended simulations (EXT). As shown in Table 1, for the case of SSP5-3.4OS the ALL ensemble is based on eight models and 16 simulations, while the EXT ensemble is only based on four models, with only one simulation per model. To validate the representativity of the EXT ensemble with respect to the ALL ensemble, the results up to 2100 have been obtained with both the ALL and EXT ensembles.



As shown in Table 1, each model has a different resolution, ranging from 128 to 512 longitude levels and from 64 to 256 latitude levels. To allow for combined analyses, all the simulations have been interpolated to a common grid resolution of  $2.8125^\circ \times 2.8125^\circ$ , the coarsest among the analyzed climate models. The ensemble average has been computed by averaging all the simulations of each model to obtain a per-model average in a first step and by averaging all the models in a second step. To analyze the dispersion among the models and within a single model, results are also presented in Appendix A for the ensemble of each individual model providing several simulations (CanESM5 and UKESM1-0-LL for SSP5-3.4OS and CanESM5, EC-Earth3, IPSL-CM6A-LR, MIROC6, MIROC-ES2L, MPI-ESM1-2-LR, MRI-ESM2-0, and UKESM1-0-LL for SSP1-1.9).

Analyses have been based on temperature and precipitation annual and seasonal averages, as well as on extreme indices, including the warmest day (TXx) and the coldest night (TNn) of the year, the percentage of time when the daily maximum temperature is above the 90th percentile (TX90p) and when the daily minimum temperature is below the 10th percentile (TN10p), and the annual maximum consecutive 5 day (Rx5day) and 1 day (Rx1day) precipitation total (Zhang et al., 2011). This set of indices allows for a characterization of both precipitation (Rx5day and Rx1day) and temperature extremes, including both warm (TXx and TX90p) and cold (TNn and TN10p) extremes, and considering both the absolute value (TXx and TNn) and the distribution (TX90p and TN10p). To remove short-term variability, analyses have been based on comparisons of 20 year periods and temporal evolutions filtered with a 10 year moving average.

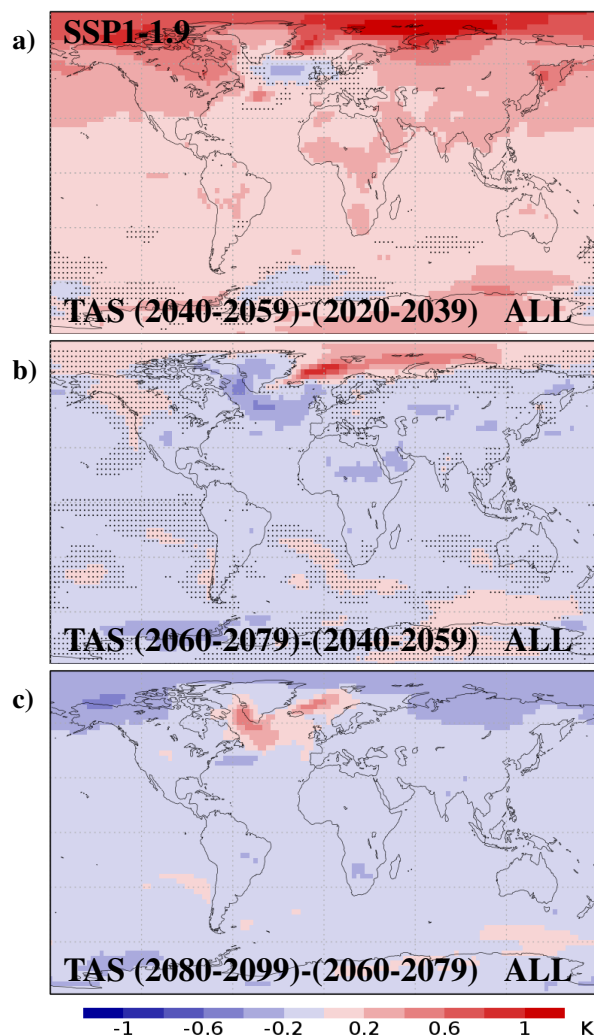
The situation after stabilization has been compared with the situation before the overshoot with the same  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration, as provided by Meinshausen et al. (2020), reached in 2015 both for SSP5-3.4OS and SSP1-1.9. It has been also compared with the situation with the same global temperature, reached in 2034 for SSP5-3.4OS and in 2030 for SSP1-1.9. Considering these dates and to use a reference period large enough to remove interannual variability, the period from 2020 to 2039 has been considered as pre-overshoot reference period for most of the analyses.

The regional climate conditions have been analyzed with the averages for extratropical areas of the NH and SH, extratropical mid and high latitudes, and tropical areas to the north and to the south of the ITCZ, as well as by considering the updated IPCC climate reference regions from Iturbide et al. (2020) (see Appendix B). The ITCZ has been characterized with the precipitation centroid of the area between  $20^\circ$  S and  $20^\circ$  N, except for the Pacific basin, in which the southern branch of the ITCZ (Tian and Dong, 2020) has been removed by limiting the computation to the area between  $0^\circ$  and  $20^\circ$  N. To analyze changes in the position of the ITCZ, a comparison between the precipitation centroid before and after the overshoot has been performed.

### 3 Results

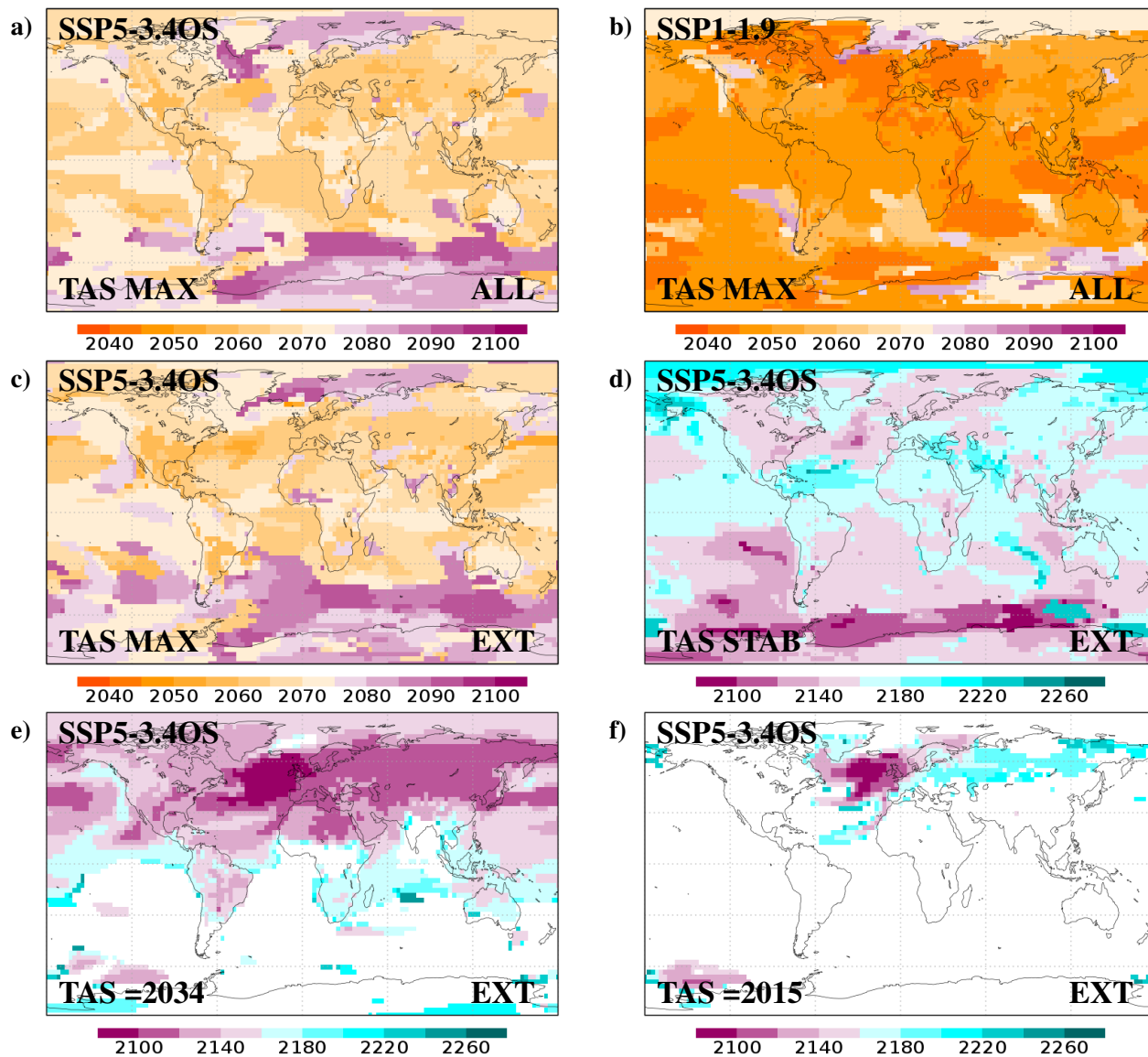
#### 3.1 Maximum and stabilization of global mean temperatures

Figure 1a,c shows the global average of temperature for the experiments SSP5-3.4OS and SSP1-1.9. In both cases, the global average reaches a maximum (in 2068 and 2050 respectively) and start to decrease afterwards. For the case of SSP5-3.4OS (Fig. 1a), the global average of the EXT ensemble, containing simulations extending up to 2300, shows a stabilization before the end of the scenario. For the SSP1-1.9 experiment (Fig. 1c) and the ALL ensemble of the SSP5-3.4OS (Fig. 1a), for which only

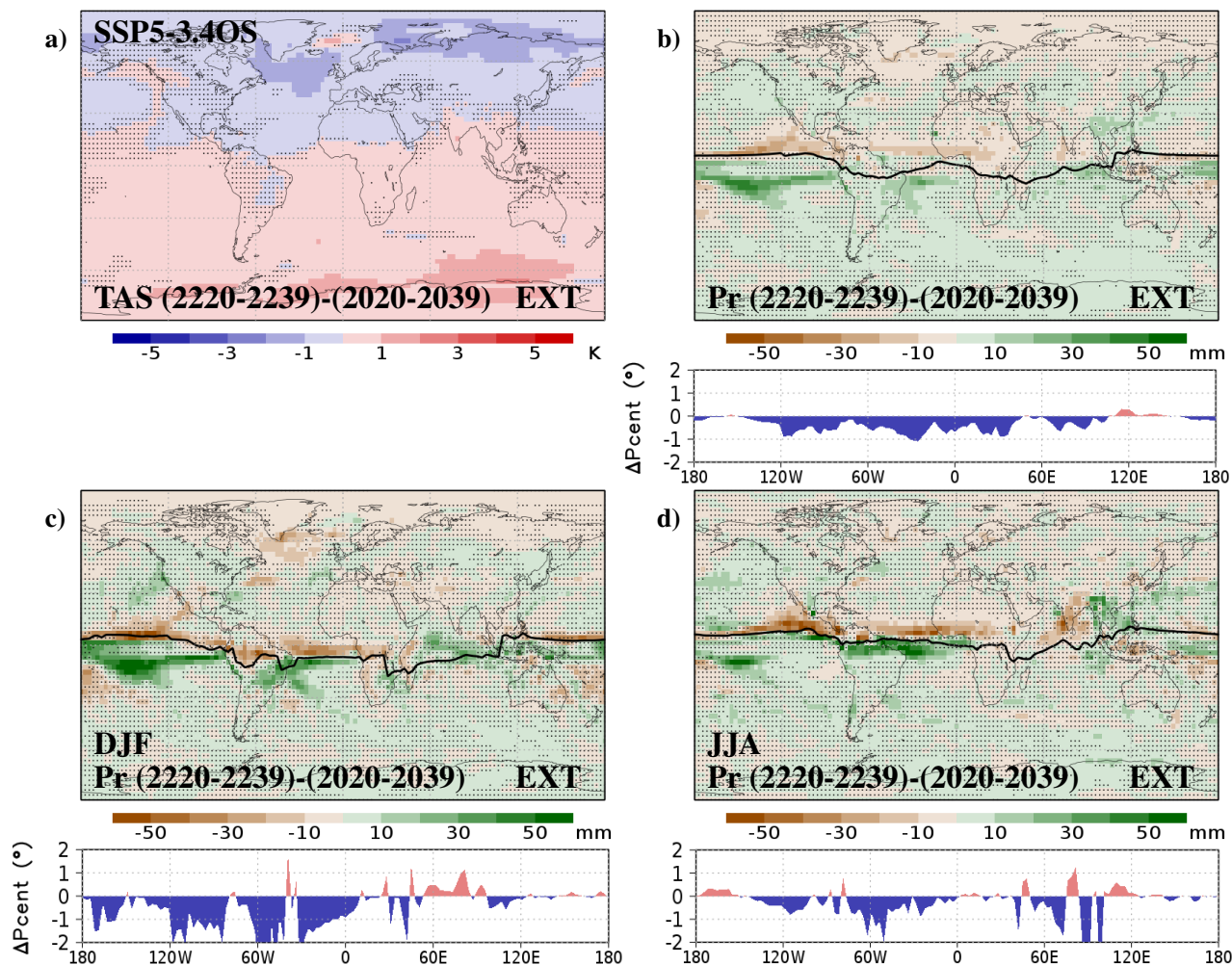


**Figure 3.** Difference between the ensemble mean, temporal average values of surface air temperature (TAS) for the periods (a) 2040-2059 and 2020-2039, (b) 2060-2079 and 2040-2059, and (c) 2080-2099 and 2060-2079, obtained with the ALL ensemble of SSP1-1.9 simulations. Stippling indicates locations where the differences are not significant (t-test with  $p < 0.05$ ).

120 simulations up to 2100 are available, the global average of temperature is still decreasing by the end of the simulations. The average of temperature anomalies only for land areas (Fig. 1b,d) is in general higher than the global average, consistent with a larger sensitivity of continental areas to changes in the forcing (Bindoff et al., 2013), and while the global average for the EXT ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS stabilizes to the same value as in 2034 (brown line in Fig. 1a,b), the average for land areas stabilizes to a lower value (Fig. 1b), suggesting a different behavior during the overshoot for oceanic and continental regions.



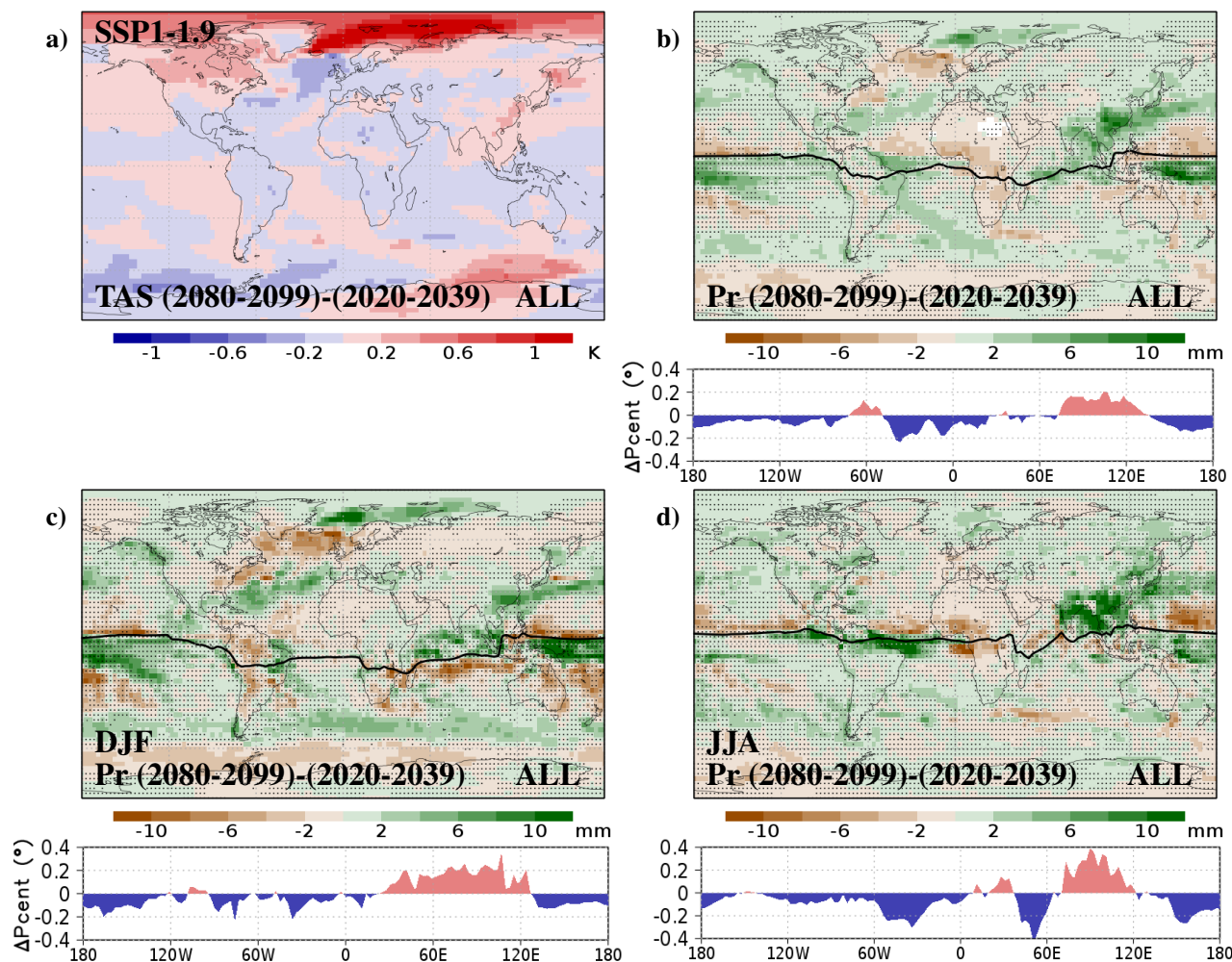
**Figure 4.** (a) Year of maximum surface air temperature (TAS) for the ALL ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS. (b) Year of maximum surface air temperature (TAS) for the ALL ensemble of SSP1-1.9. (c) Year of maximum surface air temperature (TAS) for the EXT ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS. (d) Year of stabilization of surface air temperature (TAS) for the EXT ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS, obtained as the year after the maximum in which temperature reaches the same value as in the period 2290-2300. (e,f) Year after the maximum in which surface air temperature (TAS) for the EXT ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS reaches the same value as in (e) 2034 (year before the overshoot corresponding to the same global temperature as in 2300) and (f) 2015 (year before the overshoot corresponding to the same CO<sub>2</sub> concentration as in 2300). Blank grid points indicate locations where the value is not reached before 2300.



**Figure 5.** (a) Difference between the ensemble mean, temporal average values of surface air temperature (TAS) for the periods 2220-2239 and 2020-2039, obtained with the EXT ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS simulations. (b) Difference between the ensemble mean, temporal average values of annual precipitation (Pr) for the periods 2220-2239 and 2020-2039, obtained with the EXT ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS simulations. The ITCZ for the period 2020-2039, computed with the precipitation centroid, is included within the map, and difference between the precipitation centroid in 2220-2239 and 2020-2039, expressed in degrees of latitude, is included below. Stippling indicates locations where the differences are not significant (t-test with  $p < 0.05$ ). (c) Same as (b), but for DJF. (d) Same as (b), but for JJA.

125 When analyzing the spatial patterns before and after the maximum of SSP5-3.4OS (Fig. 2), a first period with a strong increase of temperatures over continental and polar regions and a moderate increase over ocean is found (Fig. 2a,b). During this period, most regions show an increase of temperature, except for certain areas of the northern Atlantic, impacted by melting, changes in ocean heat transport and cloud feedbacks (Keil et al., 2020). The warming is more limited starting from





**Figure 6.** (a) Difference between the ensemble mean, temporal average values of surface air temperature (TAS) for the periods 2080-2099 and 2020-2039, obtained with the ALL ensemble of SSP1-1.9 simulations. (b) Difference between the ensemble mean, temporal average values of annual precipitation (Pr) for the periods 2080-2099 and 2020-2039, obtained with the ALL ensemble of SSP1-1.9 simulations. The ITCZ for the period 2020-2039, computed with the precipitation centroid, is included within the map, and difference between the precipitation centroid in 2080-2099 and 2020-2039, expressed in degrees of latitude, is included below. Stippling indicates locations where the differences are not significant (t-test with  $p < 0.05$ ). (c) Same as (b), but for DJF. (d) Same as (b), but for JJA.

2060 (Fig. 2c,d), showing an impact of the mitigation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions considered in the SSP5-3.4OS experiment. During the  
 130 last 20 years of the century (Fig. 2e,f), temperatures start to decrease for most continental and tropical oceanic areas, while they  
 continue to increase for some areas of the Southern Ocean and the northern Atlantic, potentially explained by ice melting and  
 the inertia of ocean during the warming and cooling phases. Despite some minor differences, like a less widespread cooling



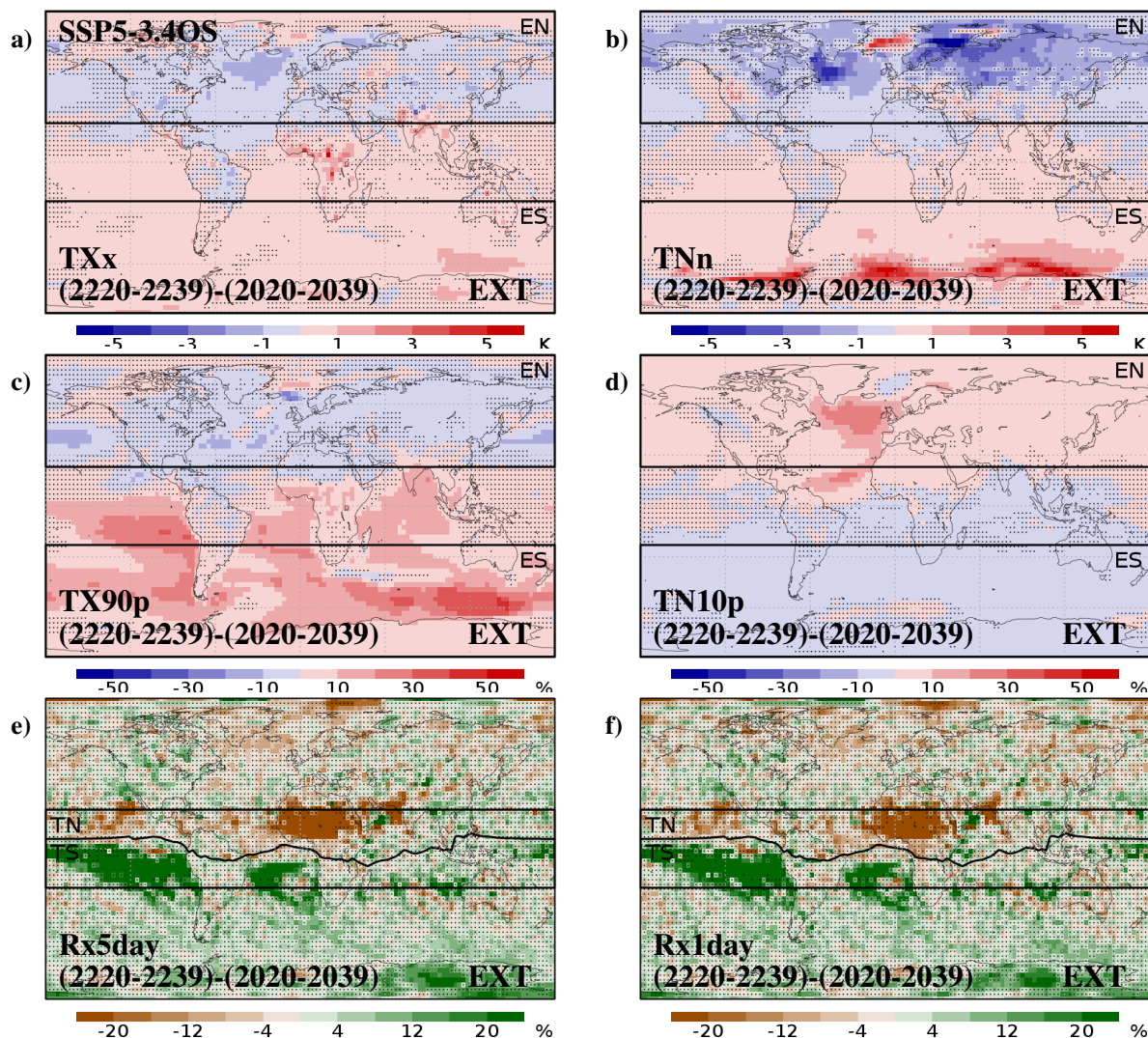
between 2060 and 2099 over the SH and a more widespread cooling between 2040 and 2079 in areas of the northern Atlantic, the EXT ensemble generally shows a similar behavior to that of the ALL ensemble, both in terms of global averages (Fig. 1a,b) and spatial patterns (Fig. 2), showing that even if based on a limited number of simulations the EXT ensemble provides robust results.

For the case of SSP1-1.9, the lower forcing changes are associated with a more limited increase of temperatures (Fig. 3). The period from 2040 to 2059 (Fig. 3a) shows a relevant increase in temperatures with respect to the previous 20 years for most continental areas, while a decrease is found in some particular oceanic areas of the northern Atlantic and the Southern Ocean. Starting from 2060 (Fig. 3b), a decrease of temperatures is found for most regions, with the exception of polar areas of the NH, some continental areas like northwestern North America, and large areas of the Southern Ocean. The pattern of increasing and decreasing temperatures obtained with SSP1-1.9 (Fig. 3b) resembles that of SSP5-3.4OS (Fig. 2e,f), in particular for the opposition between cooling in continental areas of the NH and persistent warming in areas of the Southern Ocean. However, Fig. 3b shows a persistent warming in most polar areas of the NH and cooling over the western Southern Ocean. The timing for both scenarios also differs, with most regions starting the decrease of temperatures before 2060 for SSP1-1.9 (Fig. 3b) and before 2080 for SSP5-3.4OS (Fig. 2e,f). This is also evident in the date of the maximum, which is reached for most regions before 2050 in the SSP1-1.9 experiment (Fig. 4b), and between 2060 and 2070 in the SSP5-3.4OS experiment (Fig. 4a). For certain areas of the Southern Ocean and polar areas of the NH the maximum is delayed, after 2080 in SSP1-1.9 and even after 2090 in SSP5-3.4OS.

As shown in Fig. 4, areas with a delayed maximum temperature (Fig. 4a) are not necessarily those with the latest stabilization (Fig. 4d). While the polar and oceanic areas tend to reach the maximum later, the tropical and continental areas are those showing the longest stabilization, with certain areas in the Caribbean, tropical Atlantic, eastern Mediterranean and the Indian basin not stabilizing before 2200 for the SSP5-3.4OS experiment (Fig. 4d). This may be linked to the presence of long-term mechanisms explaining changes in the tropics, like persistent alterations in the position of the ITCZ (Kug et al., 2022). Despite the fact that the global average of temperature reaches the same value as in 2034 after stabilization (Fig. 1a), this is mainly limited to the NH and some tropical areas of the SH, with most of the SH stabilizing to higher temperatures (Fig. 4e). The temperatures of 2015, year with the same CO<sub>2</sub> concentration before the overshoot, are only recovered before 2100 in the northern Atlantic and before 2300 in some continental areas of Europe and central Asia (Fig. 4f).

The results from Fig. 4 indicate that after the overshoot the climate stabilizes to a situation that differs from that of before. As shown in Fig. 5a, for SSP5-3.4OS the situation after stabilization is characterized by a colder NH and a warmer SH compared to the pre-overshoot climate, with the largest negative and positive differences obtained for the highest latitudes. This asymmetry in temperature explains differences in the spatial distribution of precipitation, as shown in Fig. 5b. Precipitation after stabilization tends to be higher for areas south of the annual mean ITCZ and lower for areas to the north, indicating a southward shift of the ITCZ. This shift reaches at certain longitudes 1° for the annual ITCZ, and more than 2° when considering the ITCZ for December-January-February (DJF; Fig. 5c) and June-July-August (JJA; Fig. 5d). The southward shift is particularly strong over the Atlantic and the eastern Pacific, while the Indian and western Pacific present more limited shifts, and even northward shifts at certain longitudes.





**Figure 7.** Difference between the ensemble mean, temporal average values of extreme indices (a) TXx, (b) TNn, (c) TX90p, (d) TN10p, (e) Rx5day and (f) Rx1day for the periods 2220-2239 and 2020-2039, obtained with the EXT ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS simulations. Precipitation indices (Rx5day and Rx1day) are expressed in percentage of variation with respect to 1861-1880. Stippling indicates locations where the differences are not significant (t-test with  $p < 0.05$ ). Extratropical areas of the NH (EN;  $23^{\circ}$  N -  $90^{\circ}$  N) and extratropical areas of the SH (ES;  $90^{\circ}$  S -  $23^{\circ}$  S) used in Fig. 8 are highlighted in the TXx, TNn, TX90p and TN10p maps. Tropical areas north of the 2020-2039 ITCZ (TN; ITCZ -  $23^{\circ}$  N) and tropical areas south of the 2020-2039 ITCZ (TS;  $23^{\circ}$  S - ITCZ) used in Fig. 8 are highlighted in the Rx5day and Rx1day maps.

For SSP1-1.9 there is no evident temperature asymmetry between NH and SH by the end of the 21st century (Fig. 6a). Instead, higher temperatures are found on polar areas of the NH and in the eastern Southern Ocean. On the contrary, lower



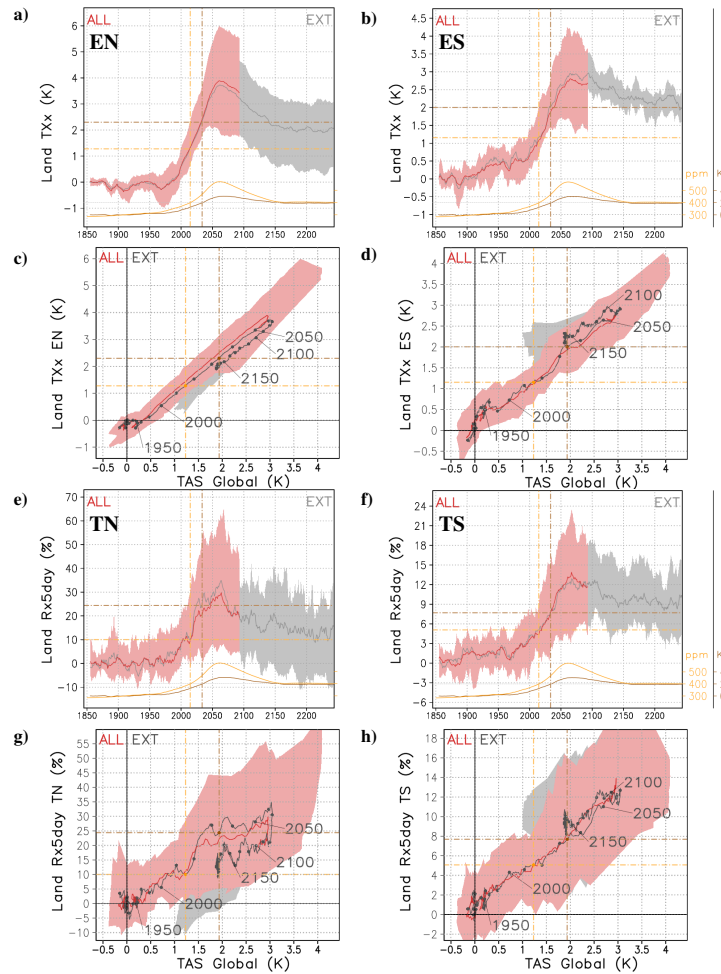
170 temperatures are found around West Antarctica, known to be impacted by ice melting even under low forcing conditions  
(Naughten et al., 2023). The forcing conditions of SSP1-1.9 are then characterized by an opposition between high and mid  
latitudes rather than an opposition between NH and SH, potentially due to a delayed recovery of sea ice (Bauer et al., 2023).  
The changes for SSP1-1.9 are in general more limited than those observed for SSP5-3.4OS (Fig. 5), mostly due to a much  
weaker overshoot, but also to the fact that for SSP1-1.9 there are no simulations extending up to 2300 and the stabilization is  
175 not fully reached by 2100. The limited temperature asymmetry between NH and SH explains more limited ITCZ shifts (Fig.  
6b-d), only reaching 0.2° for some areas of the Atlantic and Indian basin. For this scenario, the ITCZ shifts are to the south in  
the Pacific and Atlantic basin and to the north in the Indian basin (Fig. 6b).

### 3.2 Regional changes in extreme climate indicators

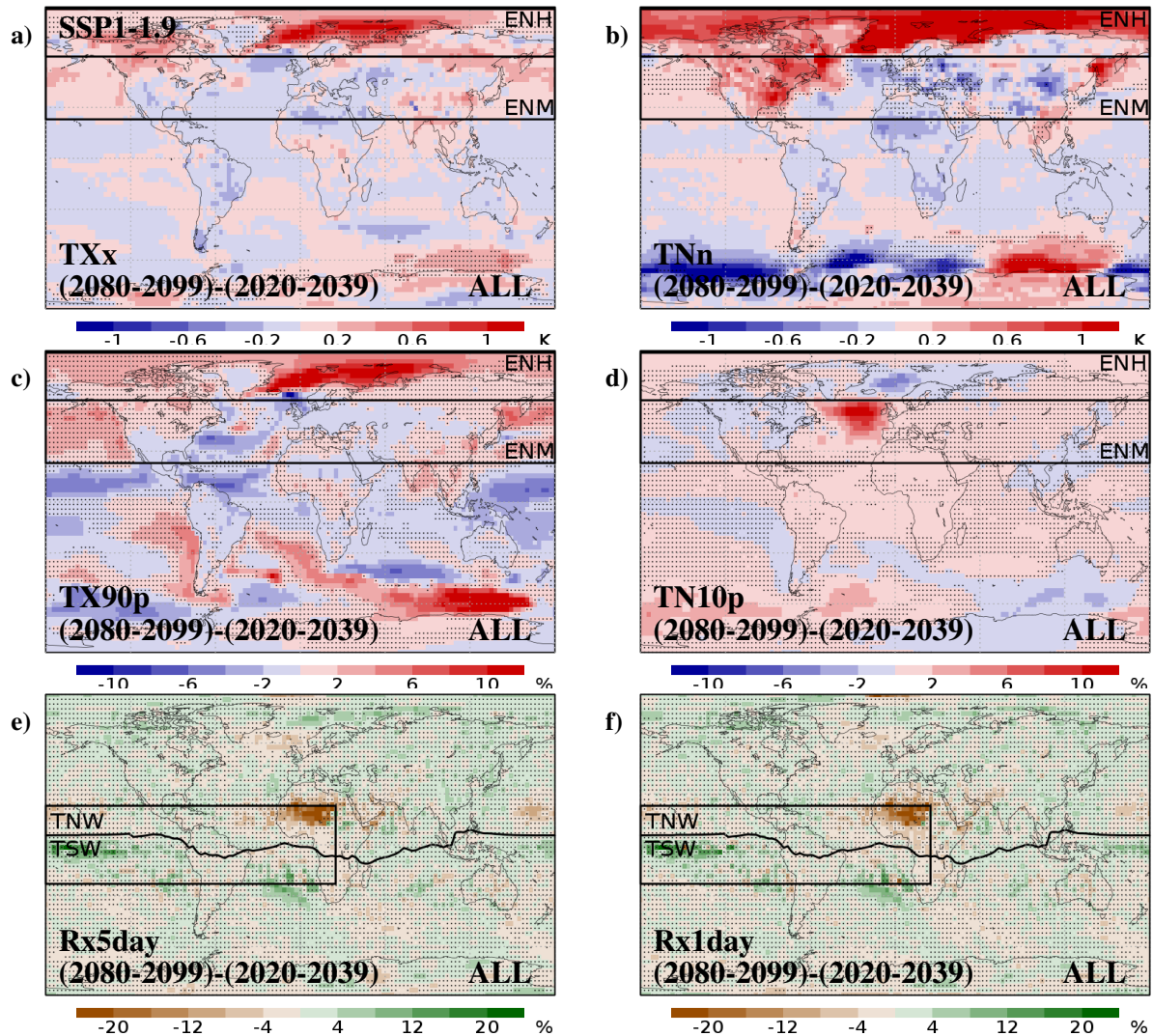
Considering that a moderate impact on global climate may have a strong impact on regional extremes (Seneviratne et al., 2016),  
180 it could be expected that the persistent large-scale changes in temperature and precipitation found in SSP5-3.4OS and SSP1-  
1.9 scenarios significantly alter the extremes in certain regions. Changes in the extreme indices TXx, TNn, TX90p, TN10p,  
Rx5day, and Rx1day between the situation before and after the overshoot of SSP5-3.4OS are shown in Fig. 7. Temperature  
extremes (Fig. 7a-d) show an opposite behavior between regions in the NH and SH, consistent with the opposite behavior of  
average temperatures shown in Fig. 5a. Increase in intensity and frequency of the warmest temperatures is particularly relevant  
185 in areas of Western and Central Africa and India (WAF, CAF and SAS; see Appendix B), while an important decrease of  
colder temperatures is found in continental and high-latitude areas of Europe and Asia (NEU, EEU, WSB, ESB, and RAR; see  
Appendix B), associated with a more frequent occurrence of cold extremes like TN10p (Fig. 7d). Even if changes in average  
temperatures are generally limited to 2°C, changes in TXx reach 3°C and, for some high-latitude regions, changes in TNn  
reach 5°C with respect to the pre-overshoot situation. This opposite behavior between extratropical areas of NH and SH is  
190 evident in Fig. 8a-b, where the average of the EXT ensemble stabilizes to a warmest temperature lower than that of 2034 (year  
before the overshoot corresponding to the same global temperature as in 2300) for the extratropical areas of the NH (EN; Fig.  
8a,c), and higher for the extratropical areas of the SH (ES; Fig. 8b,d)

Figure 8c-d show that the relationship between global temperature and regional TXx remains the same before and after  
the overshoot, being persistent changes mostly produced around the maximum. From 2000 to 2060, TXx increases linearly  
195 with respect to the global average of temperature, both for EN (Fig. 8c) and EH (Fig. 8d). From 2060 to 2080, there is a  
transition period in which TXx is decoupled from the global temperature. During this period, TXx decreases for EN (Fig.  
8c) and increases for ES (Fig. 8d), potentially linked to the timing of the regional maximum of temperature, reached before  
the global maximum for most continental areas of the NH and after the global maximum for large areas of the SH (Fig. 4a).  
The coupling is recovered afterwards, and starting from 2100 TXx decreases linearly with respect to the global average of  
200 temperature, both for EN (Fig. 8c) and EH (Fig. 8d), with a slope similar to that of the increasing phase between 2000 and  
2060.

Consistent with changes in mean precipitation, precipitation extremes (Fig 7e-f) are impacted by the ITCZ shifts found in Fig.  
5b. Areas north of the ITCZ, like Western and Central Africa (WAF and CAF; see Appendix B) show a decline of precipitation

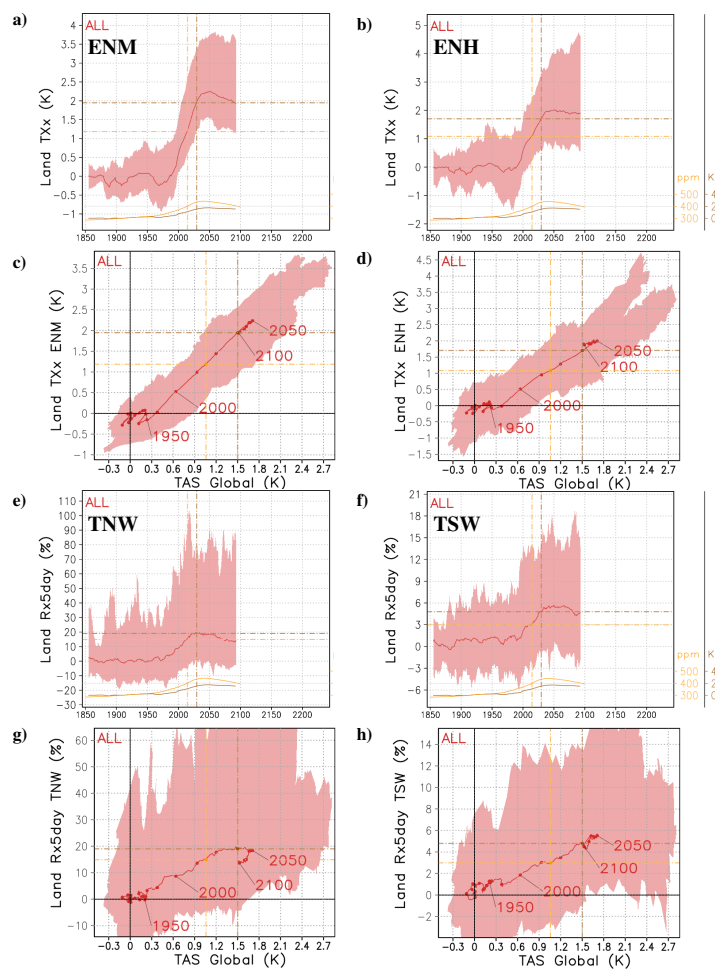


**Figure 8.** (a) Average of TXx anomaly with respect to 1861-1880 obtained from the SSP5-3.4OS simulations for the extratropical areas of the NH (EN;  $23^{\circ}$  N -  $90^{\circ}$  N). Yellow and brown curves in the lower part of the figure respectively show the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration from Meinshausen et al. (2020) and the global temperature obtained with the EXT ensemble. The vertical lines show the year before the overshoot with the same CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and global temperature as at the end of the run (2300 for the EXT ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS), while the horizontal lines represent the value of the average TXx in the EXT ensemble for those years. (b) Same as (a), but for the extratropical areas of the SH (ES;  $90^{\circ}$  S -  $23^{\circ}$  S). (c) Average of TXx anomaly with respect to 1861-1880 obtained from the SSP5-3.4OS simulations for EN with respect to the global average of surface air temperature (TAS). Yellow and brown lines show the values of TXx and global TAS in the years before the overshoot with the same CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and global temperature as at the end of the run (2300 for the EXT ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS). (d) Same as (c), but for ES. (e) Same as (a), but for Rx5day percentage of variation with respect to 1861-1880 for the tropical areas north of the 2020-2039 ITCZ (TN; ITCZ -  $23^{\circ}$  N). (f) Same as (a), but for Rx5day percentage of variation with respect to 1861-1880 for the tropical areas south of the 2020-2039 ITCZ (TS;  $23^{\circ}$  S - ITCZ). (g) Same as (c), but for Rx5day of TN. (h) Same as (c), but for Rx5day of TS.



**Figure 9.** Difference between the ensemble mean, temporal average values of extreme indices (a) TXx, (b) TNn, (c) TX90p, (d) TN10p, (e) Rx5day and (f) Rx1day for the periods 2080-2099 and 2020-2039, obtained with the ALL ensemble of SSP1-1.9 simulations. Precipitation indices (Rx5day and Rx1day) are expressed in percentage of variation with respect to 1861-1880. Stippling indicates locations where the differences are not significant (t-test with  $p < 0.05$ ). High-latitude extratropical areas of the NH (ENH; 60° N - 90° N) and mid-latitude extratropical areas of the NH (ENM; 23° N - 60° N) used in Fig. 10 are highlighted in the TXx, TNn, TX90p and TN10p maps. Tropical areas north of the 2020-2039 Atlantic and eastern Pacific ITCZ (TNW; ITCZ - 23° N; 180° W - 25° E), and tropical areas south of the 2020-2039 Atlantic and eastern Pacific ITCZ (TSW; 23° S - ITCZ; 180° W - 25° E) used in Fig. 10 are highlighted in the Rx5day and Rx1day maps.





**Figure 10.** (a) Average of TXx anomaly with respect to 1861-1880 obtained from the SSP1-1.9 simulations for the mid-latitude extratropical areas of the NH (ENM; 23° N - 60° N). Yellow and brown curves in the lower part of the figure respectively show the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration from Meinshausen et al. (2020) and the global temperature obtained with the ALL ensemble. The vertical lines show the year before the overshoot with the same CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and global temperature as at the end of the run (2100 for the ALL ensemble of SSP1-1.9), while the horizontal lines represent the value of the average TXx in the ALL ensemble for those years. (b) Same as (a), but for the high-latitude extratropical areas of the NH (ENH; 60° N - 90° N). (c) Average of TXx anomaly with respect to 1861-1880 obtained from the SSP1-1.9 simulations for ENM with respect to the global average of surface air temperature (TAS). Yellow and brown lines show the values of TXx and global TAS in the years before the overshoot with the same CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and global temperature as at the end of the run (2100 for the ALL ensemble of SSP1-1.9). (d) Same as (c), but for ENH. (e) Same as (a), but for Rx5day percentage of variation with respect to 1861-1880 for the tropical areas north of the 2020-2039 Atlantic and eastern Pacific ITCZ (TNW; ITCZ - 23° N; 180° W - 25° E). (f) Same as (a), but for Rx5day percentage of variation with respect to 1861-1880 for the tropical areas south of the 2020-2039 Atlantic and eastern Pacific ITCZ (TSW; 23° S - ITCZ; 180° W - 25° E). (g) Same as (c), but for Rx5day of TNW. (h) Same as (c), but for Rx5day of TSW.



extremes compared to the pre-overshoot situation, while areas south of the ITCZ, like Madagascar and the southern part of  
205 Indonesia (MDG and SEA; see Appendix B) show an increase. This opposite behavior between areas north and south of the  
ITCZ is summarized in Fig. 8e-f, where the average of the EXT ensemble stabilizes to Rx5day values lower than those of  
2034 (year before the overshoot corresponding to the same global temperature as in 2300) for the areas north of the ITCZ  
(TN; Fig. 8f,h), and higher for the areas to the south (TS; Fig. 8e,g). As for the case of TXx, the relationship between global  
temperature and regional Rx5day remains the same before and after the overshoot but the trajectory is shifted up (TS) or down  
210 (TN) compared to the pre-overshoot period (Fig. 8g-h), with the persistent changes mostly cumulated during the transition  
phase (from 2060 to 2080).

For the case of SSP1-1.9, changes in temperature extremes with respect to the pre-overshoot situation only reach 1°C for  
certain high-latitude regions (Fig. 9a), consistent with the higher average temperatures found after overshoot for these areas  
(Fig. 6a). The higher TXx compared to the pre-overshoot situation is particularly relevant in northern North America and  
215 northern Asia (NWN, NEN, and RAR; see Appendix B), while TNn increases the most in areas of northern and central North  
America and northeastern Asia (NWN, NEN, CNA, ENA, and RFE; see Appendix B). Conversely, a decrease of TXx and  
TNn compared to the pre-overshoot situation is found in mid-latitude regions like the Sahara and eastern Europe (SAH and  
EEU; see Appendix B). This opposition between high and mid latitudes is illustrated in Fig. 10a-d, where the TXx for the ALL  
ensemble reaches in 2100 values that are below those of 2030 (year before the overshoot corresponding to the same global  
220 temperature as in 2100) for mid latitudes (ENM; Fig. 10a,c) and above for high latitudes (ENH; Fig. 10b,d). These results are  
however limited by the fact that simulations of SSP1-1.9 only extend up to 2100, not reaching stabilization.

For precipitation extremes, Fig. 9e-f show that ITCZ shifts, even if smaller than those of SSP5-3.4OS, also explain changes  
in Rx5day and Rx1day in SSP1-1.9. Areas north of the Atlantic ITCZ like Western and Central Africa (WAF and CAF; see  
Appendix B) show a decline of precipitation extremes with respect to the pre-overshoot climate. The fact that the Atlantic and  
225 Pacific ITCZ shifts to the south while Indian ITCZ shifts to the north (Fig. 6) makes the behavior not so clear for Southeast  
Asia. On regions around the Atlantic and Pacific ITCZ, the ALL ensemble reaches in 2100 values that are below those of 2030  
(year before the overshoot corresponding to the same global temperature as in 2100) for areas to the north (TNW; Fig. 10e,g)  
and similar values to those of 2030 for areas to the south (TNS; Fig. 10f,h), consistent with a southward shift of the ITCZ.  
As for the case of temperature extremes, these results are limited by the fact that for most regions precipitation is not fully  
230 stabilized by 2100.

#### 4 Discussion and Conclusions

Our analysis of CMIP6 overshoot scenarios show a relevant impact of large-scale mechanisms on generating non-symmetric  
changes at regional scales during global temperature increases and decreases. This impact is particularly strong under strong  
forcing conditions like those of SSP5-3.4OS, but is also relevant in weaker overshoots like that of SSP1-1.9. For both scenarios,  
235 the situation after the overshoot differs from that of before in a significant way, both in terms of temperature and precipitation  
spatial distributions.



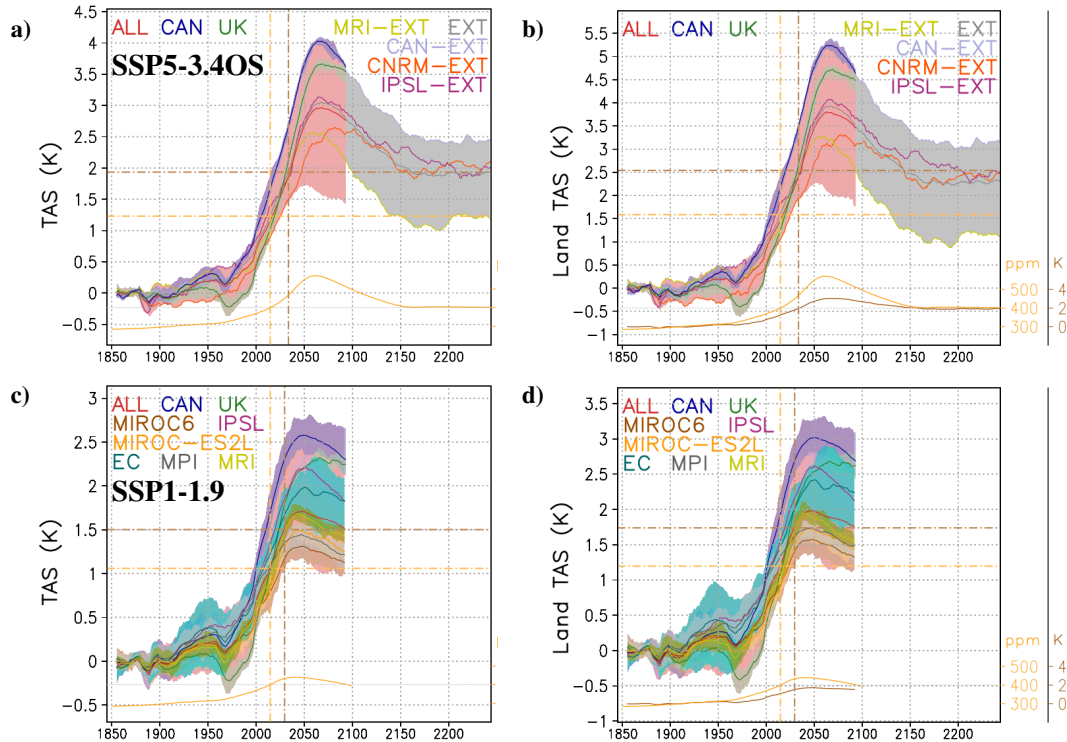
For SSP5-3.4OS, the situation after the overshoot is characterized by a colder NH and a warmer SH, associated with a southward shift of the ITCZ, in line with the results in idealized experiments (Kug et al., 2022). The fact that the maximum of regional temperatures is reached before 2070 for most continental areas and after 2090 for the Southern Ocean suggests a relevant role of the inertia of the ocean, experiencing warming and cooling phases delayed with respect to those of continental areas. However, other mechanisms like changes in the AMOC (Moreno-Chamarro et al., 2020) or changes in sea ice (Li et al., 2020) may also contribute.

The analysis of SSP1-1.9 is limited by the period covered by simulations. Even if the maximum of temperature for this experiment is reached for most regions before 2050, the climate is not fully stabilized by 2100, when the simulations end. Even with that, the analysis of the final state shows significant differences with respect to the situation before the overshoot, with higher temperatures for polar regions of the NH and for certain areas of the Southern Ocean, and with ITCZ shifts, to the south over the Pacific and Atlantic basin and to the north over the Indian basin. This situation, with less asymmetry between NH and SH than for the case of SSP5-3.4OS and a more intense contrast between high and mid latitudes, may be linked to a more relevant role of ice melting, generating persistent changes in polar regions during the overshoot.

Changes in temperature and precipitation during the overshoot explain relevant changes and hysteresis in regional extremes. These changes mainly take place during the transition period around the global temperature maximum (from 2060 to 2080 for SSP5-3.4OS and from 2040 to 2060 for SSP1-1.9), while the relationship between global mean temperatures and regional extremes remains similar for the periods before and after the overshoot. The evolution of regional extremes is mostly coupled to the evolution of the global temperatures during the periods of increasing and decreasing global temperature, but it is decoupled during the transition period around the maximum, generating region-dependent persistent changes. Warmest regional temperatures after overshoot exceed those obtained at the same global average temperature before the overshoot for most tropical and extratropical regions of the SH in SSP5-3.4OS and for high-latitude regions both of the NH and SH in SSP1-1.9. This is consistent with, and can explain, the partially reversed behavior found by Pfeleiderer et al. (2024) in 2100 for the TXx of RAR, NEU, GIC, NEN, NZ, and SSA (Fig. B1). The persistent changes are even larger for the coldest temperatures, showing a significant decline in many continental regions of the NH both for SSP5-3.4OS and SSP1-1.9. This was also found by Pfeleiderer et al. (2024) for the TNn of WCA, SAH, and TIB (Fig. B1), with a partially reversed behavior in 2100, but not so clearly for other regions like MED, WCE, and EEU (Fig. B1), where the stabilization is reached after 2100 (Fig. 4d). Despite the minor role of hysteresis found by Walton and Huntingford (2024) for the regional precipitation of tropical areas, a relevant role is found in regions around the ITCZ. Precipitation extremes for these regions are impacted by ITCZ shifts, with both experiments showing a decline in the intensity of extreme precipitation in regions to the north of the ITCZ, like Western and Central Africa, in line with the overcompensated behavior found by Pfeleiderer et al. (2024) for these regions.

These persistent changes may be linked to a different timing of the regional temperature maximum. Areas with an anticipated maximum, like most continental areas of the NH, tend to show mitigated warm extremes and more intense cold extremes, and conversely for areas with a delayed maximum, like the Southern Ocean and some land areas of the SH. The results of this work allow for a better understanding of the non-reversibility of regional extremes, by linking it to large-scale mechanisms like temperature asymmetries and ITCZ shifts. They also allow identifying those regions more impacted by non-reversibility





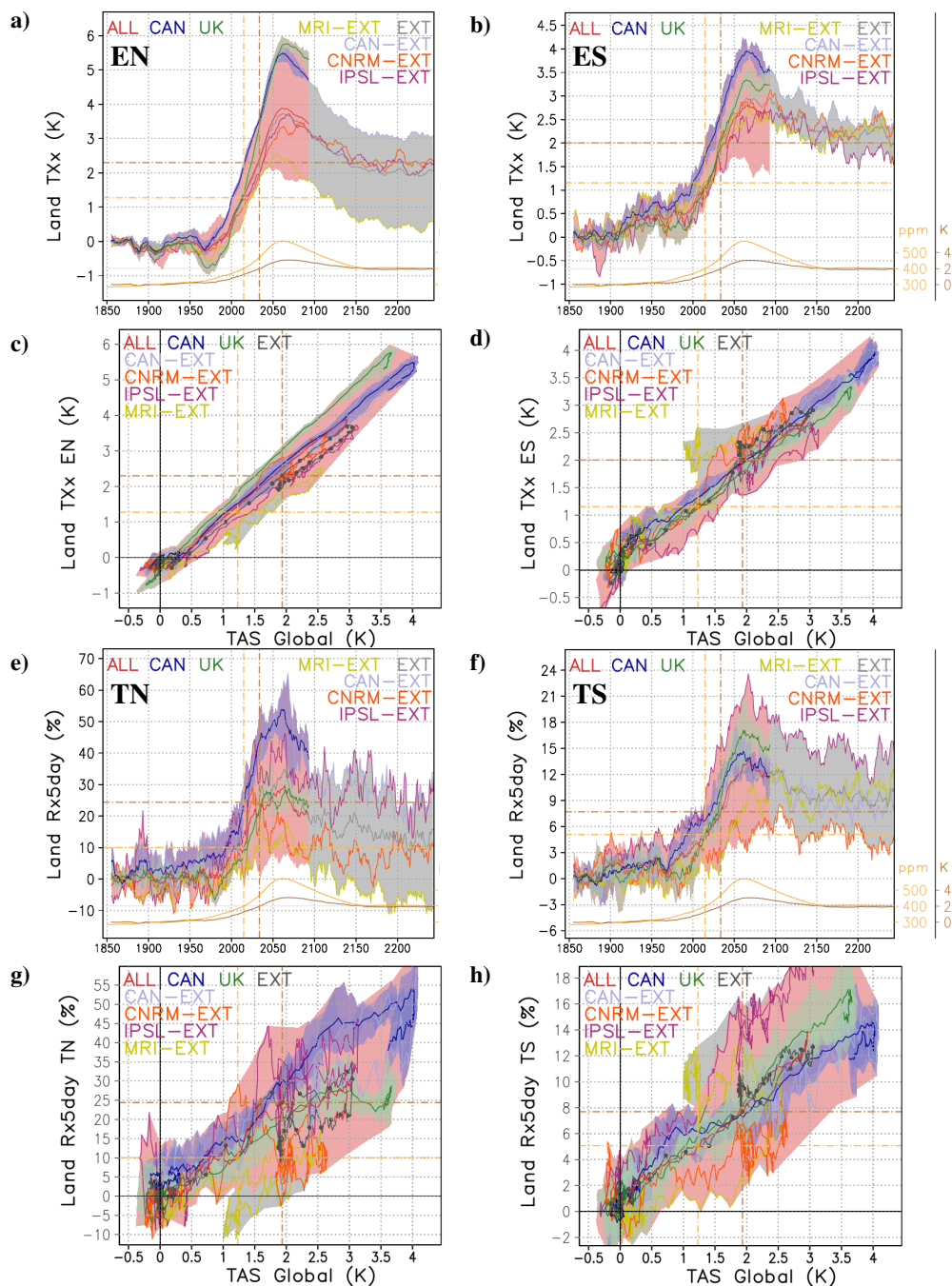
**Figure A1.** Same as Fig. 1, but including the average of the ensembles from CanESM5 (CAN), UKESM1-0-LL (UK), MIROC6, MIROC-ES2L, IPSL-CM6A-LR (IPSL), EC-Earth3 (EC), MPI-ESM1-2-LR (MPI), and MRI-ESM2-0 (MRI), and, for SSP5-3.4OS, the extended simulations of CanESM5 (CAN-EXT), CNRM-ESM2-1 (CNRM-EXT), IPSL-CM6A-LR (IPSL-EXT), and MRI-ESM2-0 (MRI-EXT).

processes, including those around the ITCZ, with particular impacts on precipitation extremes, and those in extratropical areas like North America, Europe and central Asia, with particular impacts on temperature extremes.

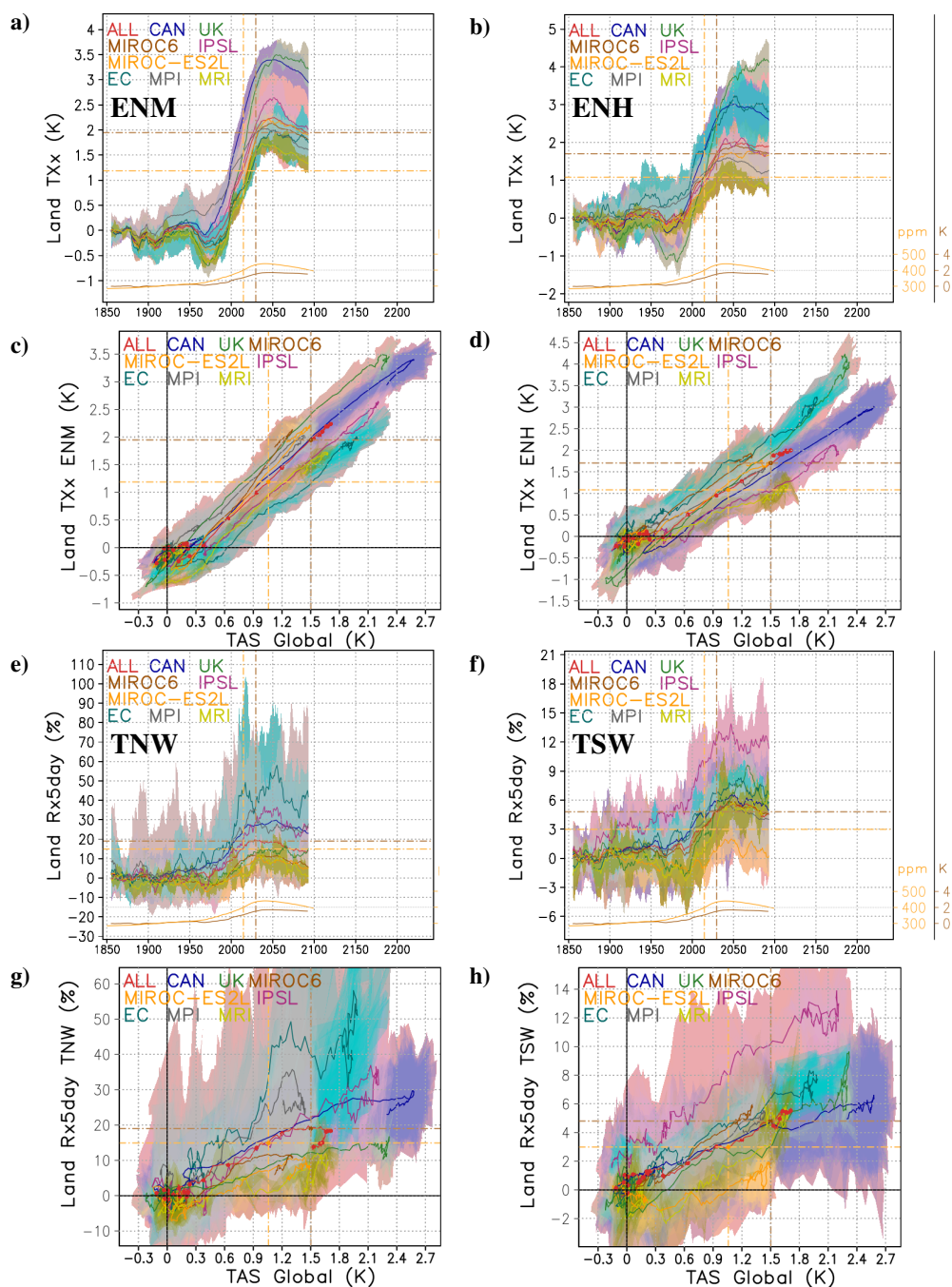
### Appendix A: Differences across models

275 Figure 1, 8, and 10 show results based on the average of ALL and EXT ensembles. The dispersion of individual simulations is also included as a shading, but to analyze if this dispersion is due to differences across models or to internal variability, the results are also presented for the ensemble mean of each individual model in Fig. A1, A2, and A3. For this, all the models providing several simulations has been considered, including CanESM5 and UKESM1-0-LL for SSP5-3.4OS and CanESM5, EC-Earth3, IPSL-CM6A-LR, MIROC6, MIROC-ES2L, MPI-ESM1-2-LR, MRI-ESM2-0, and UKESM1-0-LL for SSP1-1.9.  
 280 For SSP5-3.4OS, the individual simulations covering the period up to 2300 have been also included.

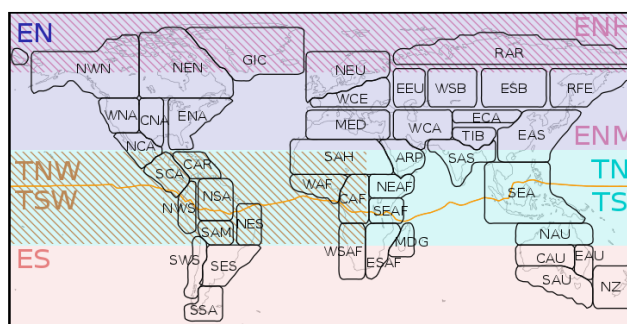
Figure A1 shows that each model simulates a different level of temperature change during the overshoot. Both for SSP5-3.4OS and for SSP1-1.9, CanESM5 and UKESM1-0-LL tend to show a temperature response larger than that of the ALL



**Figure A2.** Same as Fig. 8, but including the average of the ensembles from CanESM5 (CAN) and UKESM1-0-LL (UK), and the extended simulations of CanESM5 (CAN-EXT), CNRM-ESM2-1 (CNRM-EXT), IPSL-CM6A-LR (IPSL-EXT), and MRI-ESM2-0 (MRI-EXT).



**Figure A3.** Same as Fig. 10, but including the average of the ensembles from CanESM5 (CAN), UKESM1-0-LL (UK), MIROC6, MIROC-ES2L, IPSL-CM6A-LR (IPSL), EC-Earth3 (EC), MPI-ESM1-2-LR (MPI), and MRI-ESM2-0 (MRI).



**Figure B1.** Regions considered for the analysis of extremes, including IPCC climate reference regions, as defined in Iturbide et al. (2020), extratropical areas of the NH (EN; 23° N - 90° N), high-latitude extratropical areas of the NH (ENH; 60° N - 90° N), mid-latitude extratropical areas of the NH (ENM; 23° N - 60° N), extratropical areas of the SH (ES; 90° S - 23° S), tropical areas north of the 2020-2039 ITCZ (TN; ITCZ - 23° N), tropical areas south of the 2020-2039 ITCZ (TS; 23° S - ITCZ), tropical areas north of the 2020-2039 Atlantic and eastern Pacific ITCZ (TNW; ITCZ - 23° N; 180° W - 25° E), and tropical areas south of the 2020-2039 Atlantic and eastern Pacific ITCZ (TSW; 23° S - ITCZ; 180° W - 25° E).

ensemble, while other models like MPI-ESM1-2-LR and MIROC6 show a more mitigated response. Despite these differences in the level of temperature response, all the models show a similar temporal evolution of the global average of temperature, 285 confirming their suitability for being combined in a single ALL ensemble.

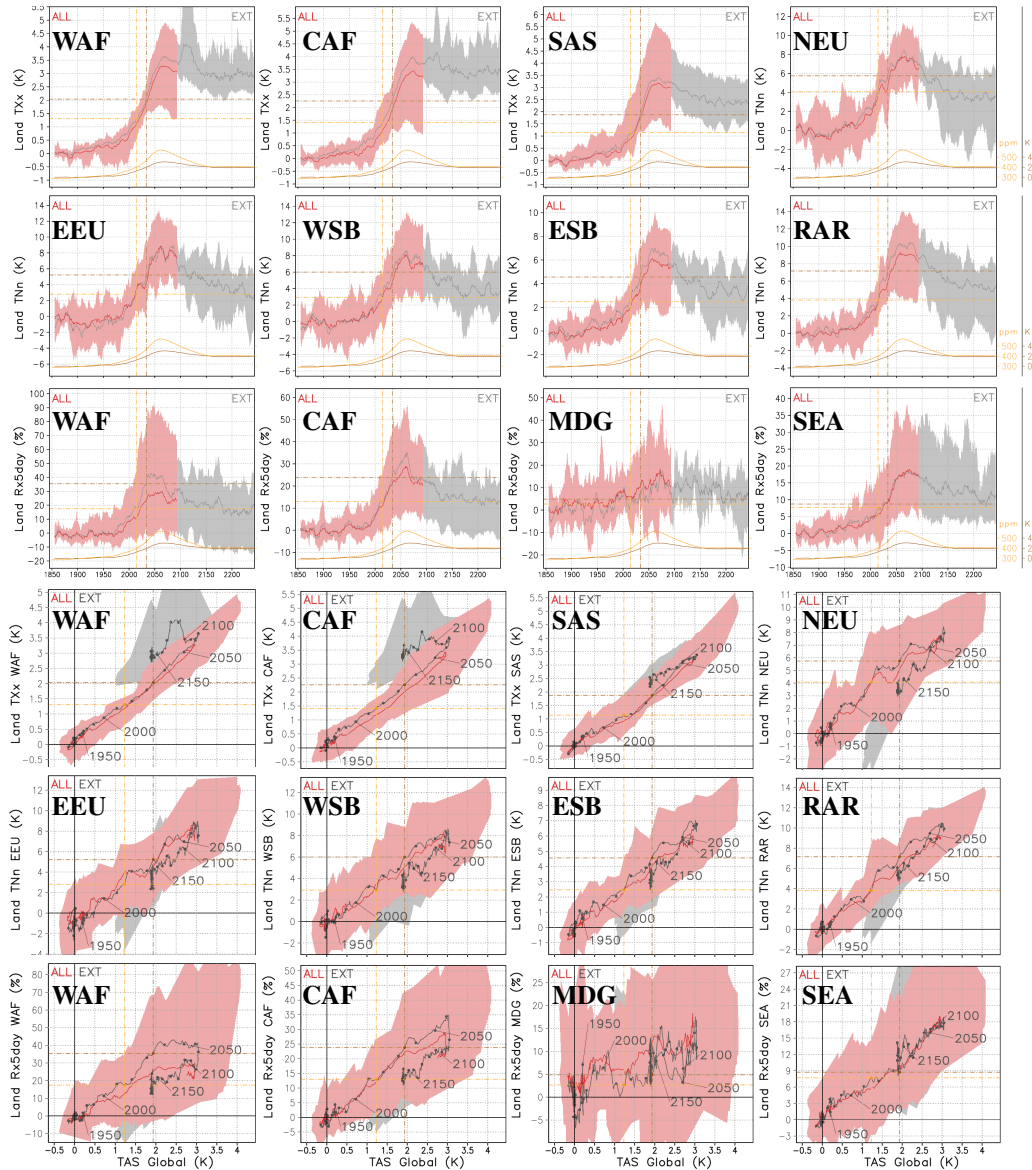
Regarding the regional extremes, the differences across models for TXx (Fig. A2a-d and Fig. A3a-d) are similar to those obtained for the global average of temperature (Fig. A1), and generally larger than the dispersion within the simulations of a given model, showing a relatively small contribution of internal variability. For Rx5day the difference across models and within the simulations of a given model is more important (Fig. A2e-h and Fig. A3e-h), showing both a larger contribution of 290 internal variability and larger differences in the modelling of regional precipitation.

## Appendix B: Extreme indices for IPCC reference regions

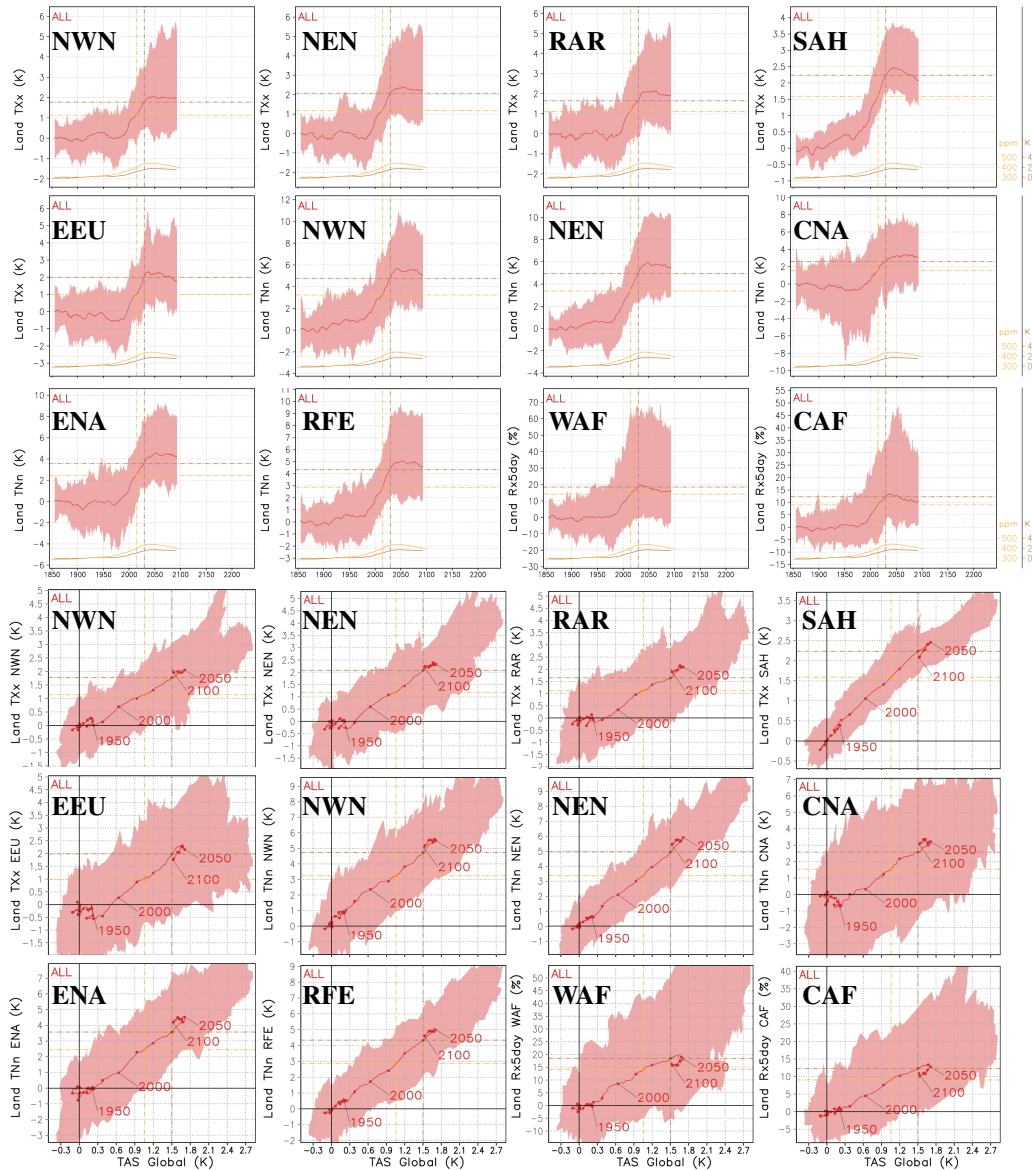
As shown in Fig. 8 and 10, regions more impacted by non-symmetric changes are mainly extratropical areas in the NH and SH for the case of temperature extremes and tropical areas around the ITCZ for the case of precipitation extremes. A focus on some of these regions, based on the IPCC reference regions defined by Iturbide et al. (2020) and reproduced in Fig. B1, is 295 included in Fig. B2 for SSP5-3.4OS and in Fig. B3 for SSP1-1.9.

For SSP5-3.4OS (Fig. B2), regions in the south like WAF, CAF, and SAS stabilize after the overshoot with warmest temperatures up to 1°C higher than those of 2034 (year before the overshoot corresponding to the same global temperature as in 2300). On the contrary, regions in the north like NEU, EEU, WSB, ESB, and RAR show coldest temperatures up to 3°C lower





**Figure B2.** Regional average of TNn and TXx anomaly and Rx5day percentage of variation with respect to 1861-1880, over time (top 3 rows) and with respect to the global average of surface air temperature (bottom 3 rows), obtained from the SSP5-3.4OS simulations for a set of IPCC reference regions, including TXx for WAF, CAF, and SAS; TNn for NEU, EEU, WSB, ESB, and RAR; and Rx5day for WAF, CAF, MDG, and SEA. Yellow and brown curves in the lower part of each figure respectively show the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration from Meinshausen et al. (2020) and the global temperature obtained with the EXT ensemble. The vertical lines show the year before the overshoot with the same CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and global temperature as at the end of the run (2300 for the EXT ensemble of SSP5-3.4OS), while the horizontal lines represent the value of the average index in the EXT ensemble for those years.



**Figure B3.** Regional average of TNn and TXx anomaly and Rx5day percentage of variation with respect to 1861-1880, over time (top 3 rows) and with respect to the global average of surface air temperature (bottom 3 rows), obtained from the SSP1-1.9 simulations for a set of IPCC reference regions, including TXx for NWN, NEN, RAR, SAH, and EEU; TNn for NWN, NEN, CNA, ENA, and RFE; and Rx5day for WAF and CAF. Yellow and brown curves in the lower part of each figure respectively show the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration from Meinshausen et al. (2020) and the global temperature obtained with the ALL ensemble. The vertical lines show the year before the overshoot with the same CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and global temperature as at the end of the run (2100 for the ALL ensemble of SSP1-1.9), while the horizontal lines represent the value of the average index in the ALL ensemble for those years.



than those of 2034, consistent with a temperature asymmetry between NH and SH. Areas north of the ITCZ like WAF and  
300 CAF clearly show less intense precipitation extremes after the overshoot, while areas south of the ITCZ like MDG and SEA  
(considering that this region also includes areas north of the ITCZ) tend to show more intense precipitation extremes.

For SSP1-1.9 (Fig. B3), regions in high latitudes like NWN, NEN, and RAR present a situation after overshoot characterized  
by higher warmest temperatures. This increase is even larger for coldest temperatures, extending also to other regions like CNA,  
ENA, and RFE. On the contrary, regions in mid-latitudes like SAH and EEU show warmest temperatures after the overshoot  
305 lower than those of 2030 (year before the overshoot corresponding to the same global temperature as in 2100). Even if changes  
are less intense than for SSP5-3.4OS, certain regions north of the ITCZ like WAF and CAF also show a decline of precipitation  
extremes.

*Author contributions.* PJRG contributed with conceptualization of the study, data processing, discussion of results, and writing of the paper.  
PDL contributed with data processing and discussion of results. RB contributed with discussion of results. MGD contributed with conceptu-  
310 alization of the study, discussion of results, and writing of the paper.

*Competing interests.* The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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