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► To cite this version:

Goulven G. Laruelle, Vincent Roubex, Agata Sferratore, B. Brodherr, D. Ciuffa, et al.. Anthropogenic perturbations of the silicon cycle at the global scale: Key role of the land-ocean transition. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, 2009, 23, pp.GB4031. 10.1029/2008GB003267 . hal-01071335

HAL Id: hal-01071335

<https://hal.science/hal-01071335>

Submitted on 3 Oct 2014

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1 **Anthropogenic perturbations of the silicon cycle at the global scale: the key role of the**
2 **land-ocean transition**

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26 FOR SUBMISSION TO

27 *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*

28 June 2009

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1 **Abstract**

2 Silicon (Si), in the form of dissolved silicate (DSi), is a key nutrient in marine and continental
3 ecosystems. DSi is taken up by organisms to produce structural elements (e.g., shells and
4 phytoliths) composed of amorphous biogenic silica (bSiO₂). A global mass balance model of
5 the biologically active part of the modern Si cycle is derived based on a systematic review of
6 existing data [regarding terrestrial and oceanic](#) production fluxes, reservoir sizes, and residence
7 times [for DSi and bSiO₂](#). The model [demonstrates](#) the high sensitivity of biogeochemical Si
8 cycling in the coastal zone to anthropogenic pressures, such as river damming and global
9 temperature rise. As a result, [further significant changes in](#) the production and recycling of
10 bSiO₂ in the coastal zone are to be expected over the course of this century.

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1 **1. Introduction**

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3 Silicon (Si) is the second most abundant element in the [Earth's](#) crust after oxygen.
4 Most Si, however, is bound in the form of quartz and silicate minerals, and is therefore
5 unavailable for uptake by organisms. [Thus](#), despite its abundance, Si is a major limiting
6 element in many aquatic systems (Conley and Malone, 1992; Egge and Aksnes, 1992;
7 Paasche, 1980; Leynaert et al., 2001), and [is also](#) an essential nutrient for the growth of many
8 terrestrial plants (Epstein, 1999; Datnoff et al., 2001). Key aspects of the global
9 biogeochemical silicon cycle remain poorly [understood](#), [such as](#) the biological cycling of Si
10 on the continents (Conley, 2002a), the role of the coastal zones in regulating the transfer of
11 reactive Si from land to the open ocean (Conley, 1997; DeMaster, 2002), the fate of biogenic
12 silica produced in oceanic surface waters and its decoupling from carbon during sinking
13 (Nelson et al., 1995; Ragueneau et al., 2002, 2006a), and ongoing [changes to](#) the Si cycle by
14 human activities (Chauvaud et al., 2000; Conley et al., 1993; Friedl and Wuest, 2002; Friedl et
15 al., 2004; Humborg et al., 2000, 2006; Ragueneau et al., 2005, 2006b, 2006c, Conley et al.,
16 2008).

17 Global scale studies of the biogeochemical Si cycle have focused mainly on the marine
18 [aspect](#). An important landmark in the assessment of Si fluxes in the world ocean is the work
19 of Tréguer et al. (1995). These authors, however, provide no estimates of the amounts of
20 biogenic silica stored in the oceans and underlying sediments. Furthermore, only a crude
21 representation of the land-ocean interface is included in their global Si budget. In this respect,
22 the current state of knowledge and modeling of global carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus and
23 sulfur [cycles](#) (Mackenzie et al., 1993, 1998; Ver, 1998; Rabouille et al., 2001) are
24 significantly more advanced than for silicon.

1 In this study, we provide global scale estimates of reservoir sizes and fluxes of reactive
2 Si on the continents in the ocean and at the continent-to-ocean transition. Emphasis is placed
3 on the biogeochemical dynamics of Si at the Earth's surface, from the recent past to the end of
4 the 21st century. We therefore do not explicitly represent the long-term endogenic Si cycling,
5 but rather include the Earth's lithosphere as the ultimate source and sink of reactive Si. The
6 two forms of reactive Si considered are dissolved silicate (DSi) and biogenic silica (bSiO₂).
7 The main transformation processes in the global biogeochemical Si cycle are uptake of DSi
8 followed by biomineralization as bSiO₂ in terrestrial plants and aquatic organisms, and the
9 dissolution of bSiO₂ into DSi.

10 The resulting mass balance model is used to explore the sensitivity of the global Si
11 cycle and gain insight into its function. Special attention is paid to the role of the coastal zone
12 and continental shelves on the coupling of terrestrial and oceanic Si dynamics. In addition, the
13 response of the global biogeochemical Si cycle to two anthropogenically-driven forcings is
14 analyzed: global temperature rise and river damming. These forcings are selected because
15 both siliceous production and bSiO₂ dissolution are sensitive to temperature (Wollast 1974;
16 Cossins and Bowler, 1987; Rickert, 2000; Van Cappellen et al., 2002), while increased river
17 damming, especially since the 1950's, has considerably modified the reactive Si delivery to
18 the oceans (Conley, 2002b, Humborg et al., 2006).

19

20 **2. Global biogeochemical Si model**

21 **2.1 Water cycle**

22 The Earth's surface environment is divided into four compartments (Figure 1):
23 continents (box 1), proximal (box 2) and distal (box 3) coastal zones, and the open ocean (box
24 4). The proximal and distal coastal zones are those proposed by Rabouille et al. (2001). As
25 shown by these authors, this division of the global coastal zone provides a more realistic

1 representation of the role of continent to ocean transition in the biogeochemical cycling of
2 carbon and nutrients. The proximal zone consists of large bays, the open water parts of
3 estuaries, inner deltas, inland seas and coastal marshes (Woodwell et al., 1973). The distal
4 zone comprises the rest of the continental margins up to the shelf break.

5 These compartments are linked to one another via the water cycle (Figure 1). Water on
6 the continents is subdivided into an aquatic reservoir, which comprises exorheic rivers and
7 lakes including their floodplains (Box 1a), and a groundwater reservoir (Box 1b). The open
8 ocean is by far the largest compartment, with a mean water depth of 3600 m and covering
9 92% of the world ocean (Tréguer et al., 1995). Three vertical subcompartments of the water
10 column are considered: a 100 m thick surface layer where photosynthesis takes place (Box
11 4a), mesopelagic oceanic waters (100-1000 m depth) (Box 4b) and deep waters (Box 4c).

12 Water fluxes (W) considered in the baseline scenario are based on the simplified
13 steady-state water cycle summarized in Table 1. It should be noted that a contribution from
14 subsurface groundwater discharge to the proximal coastal zone is explicitly considered (W_{1b-2} ,
15 Slomp and Van Cappellen, 2004). The combination of water reservoir sizes with water fluxes
16 yields water residence times that agree well with previous studies (Garrels and Mackenzie,
17 1971; Broecker and Peng, 1982; Macdonald, 1998).

18

19 **2.2 Reactive Si reservoirs**

20 The DSi and bSiO₂ reservoir masses are time-dependent variables of the Si cycle
21 model (Figure 2). DSi mainly consists of undissociated monomeric silicic acid, Si(OH)₄, and
22 represents the main form under which silicon can be assimilated by organisms (Del Amo and
23 Brzezinski, 1999). Organisms use DSi to build structural elements made of amorphous,
24 hydrated silica, part of which is preserved after the death of the organisms (Simpson and
25 Volcani, 1981; Conley and Schelske, 2001). Here, bSiO₂ includes the amorphous silica in

1 both living biomass and biogenic detritus in open waters, soils and sediments. It should be
2 noted that bSiO₂ may undergo significant chemical and mineralogical changes (Van
3 Cappellen et al., 2002), even including a complete diagenetic transformation of the opaline
4 silica into alumino-silicate minerals (Michalopoulos et al., 2000).

5 In marine environments, the major producers of bSiO₂ are diatoms, although other
6 organisms, such as radiolarians, sponges, and chrysophytes, may locally be important sources
7 of bSiO₂ (Simpson and Volcani, 1981). On land, large quantities of DSi are fixed by higher
8 plants and deposited as amorphous silica in so-called phytoliths (Piperno, 1988). The
9 significant contribution of phytolith production and dissolution in the global Si cycle has only
10 recently been highlighted (Bartoli, 1983; Meunier et al., 1999; Conley, 2002a).

11 Estimations of DSi and bSiO₂ reservoir sizes in the four earth surface compartments
12 are summarized in Table 2. Reservoir masses are mostly derived from estimates of the
13 average DSi or bSiO₂ concentrations and the volumes of the corresponding reservoirs. In
14 some cases, however, the reservoir mass is calculated from flux estimates, assuming steady-
15 state conditions. For example, the mass of DSi in the water column of the distal coastal ocean
16 (72 Tmol Si) is obtained from the export flux of DSi and the water flux to the open ocean
17 (Table 2). This estimate, combined with the reservoir volume (3600 Tm³, Figure 1), then
18 yields an average DSi concentration of the distal ocean of 20 μM, which can be compared to
19 the wide range of observed, depth-integrated DSi concentrations in shelf waters from <5μM
20 (Alvarez-Salgado et al., 1997; Gibson et al., 1997, Lacroix et al., 2007) to ~ 15μM (Heiskanen
21 and Keck, 1996) to >30μM, (Serebrennikova and Fanning, 2004; Zhang, 2002).

22 The ultimate source of DSi for the global Si cycle is chemical weathering of silicate
23 rocks of the continental and oceanic crust (Gerard and Ranger, 2002). The total mass of
24 silicate rock exposed at the Earth's surface largely exceeds that of the reactive DSi plus bSiO₂
25 reservoirs. Thus, on the time scales investigated (years to centuries), the reservoir size of

1 silicate rocks remains essentially unchanged. A large fraction of DSi released by weathering is
2 converted by plants into phytoliths and temporarily stored in soils (Saccone et al., 2008;
3 Figure 2). A rough estimate of the reservoir mass of bSiO₂ in soils is obtained based on
4 average phytolith concentrations for different types of soils (Conley et al., 2002b), the average
5 soil bSiO₂ concentration, and the global volume of soils. The latter is derived from the FAO
6 world soil map (FAO/UNESCO, 1986), assuming a mean soil depth of 1 meter (Pouba, 1968;
7 Batjes, 1997).

8 The sediment reservoirs correspond to the topmost layers where decomposition of
9 biogenic constituents drives the return of dissolved nutrient species to the water column
10 (including DSi). The corresponding volumes (VS, Table 2) are estimated by assigning a mean
11 thickness of 10 cm to the active layer of aquatic sediments on the continents and in the
12 proximal coastal zone (Heinze et al., 1999), and 20 cm for distal coastal zone and deep sea
13 sediments (De Master, 2002). An average porosity of 0.7 and an average dry density of 2.5 g
14 cm⁻³ are assumed for all sediments (Maher et al., 2004). The calculated sediment volumes of
15 boxes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are 1.73, 0.18, 5.5 and 75 Tm³, respectively.

16

17 **2.3 Reactive Si fluxes**

18 The fluxes of reactive Si are obtained from the literature, or constrained by assuming
19 that the Si cycle is initially at **steady-state** (Table 3). The assumption of an initial **steady-state**
20 is a common practice in the modeling and budgeting of global elemental cycles (e.g.,
21 Mackenzie et al., 1993; Tréguer et al., 1995; Yool and Tyrrell, 2003). It is most likely that,
22 given the oceanic residence time of reactive Si is 15000-17000 years (Tréguer et al., 1995),
23 the marine Si cycle was not at steady state prior to 1950, due to glacial-interglacial changes.
24 **Nonetheless**, considering the time scales investigated in the simulations (≤ 150 years), these

1 much longer term changes have little effect on the system's response to the imposed
2 perturbations.

3 The fluxes include the sources and sinks of reactive Si for the Earth's surface
4 environment (Figure 2). The sources are chemical weathering on land (F_w) and flux of DSi to
5 the oceans resulting from basalt-seawater interactions (F_{hyd}). The sinks are burial of bSiO₂ in
6 sediments ($F_{C5-burial}$, $F_{P4-burial}$, $F_{S4-burial}$, $F_{O8-burial}$), and removal of DSi due to reverse weathering
7 reactions in shelf sediments (F_{S3rw} , Mackenzie and Garrels, 1966; Michalopoulos and Aller,
8 1995, 2004). Note that, because we assume an initially steady-state Si cycle, the sinks and
9 sources of reactive Si balance each other exactly.

10 All other fluxes either transform or transport reactive Si within the Earth's surface
11 environment and are thus internal fluxes. Si fluxes are represented by the symbol "F"
12 followed by a subscript that identifies the initial (source) and final (sink) reservoir. The
13 reservoir symbols are listed in Tables 1 and 2, for water and reactive Si reservoirs,
14 respectively. Fluxes describing the uptake of DSi by organisms to produce bSiO₂ (F_{C1C2} ,
15 F_{C3C4} , F_{P1P2} , F_{S1S2} , F_{O1O2}) scale to the primary production rates in the various compartments of
16 the earth surface environment (Table 3). Most bSiO₂ is efficiently recycled via dissolution in
17 the water column (F_{C4C3} , F_{P2P1} , F_{S2S1} , F_{O2O1} , F_{O4O3} , F_{O6O5}), soils (F_{C2C1}) and sediments (F_{C5C3} ,
18 F_{P4P3} , F_{S4S3} , F_{O8O7}). The accumulation of DSi in the pore waters of sediments and progressive
19 loss in the reactivity of biogenic silica surfaces (ageing) ultimately allows a small fraction of
20 bSiO₂ production to be buried and preserved in sediments (Van Cappellen et al., 2002).

21 The groundwater discharge flux of DSi to the coastal zone (F_{C1P1}) is derived from the
22 corresponding water flux (W_{1a-2} in Figure 1) and the average DSi concentration in
23 groundwater. The riverine supply of DSi to the proximal zone (F_{C3P1}) is derived by averaging
24 the estimated river DSi delivery fluxes computed for 150 coastal segments in the GEMS-
25 GLORI (Meybeck and Ragu, 1995) and GEMS-PRISRI (Meybeck et al., 2003) databases,

1 under pristine conditions, that is, prior to human perturbation (Dürr et al., submitted). The
 2 estimated river DSi flux (6.2 Tmol y^{-1}) thus implicitly corrects for the drop in DSi
 3 concentration in the downstream reaches of rivers that has accompanied the extensive
 4 building of dams since the 1950s (Humborg et al., 2006). Note that, while the main source of
 5 reactive Si for the oceans is in the form of DSi, the contribution of riverine bSiO₂ delivery
 6 (F_{C4P2}) is far from negligible (Conley et al., 2000). Reactive Si is also supplied to the oceans
 7 via the atmosphere with eolian dust (F_{C2O2}), although this flux is most likely very small
 8 (Tréguer et al. 1995) and its origin (biogenic vs. mineral) remains poorly know (Cole et al.,
 9 2009; Dürr et al., submitted).

10 Transport fluxes of DSi into the ocean (F_{P1S1} , F_{S1O1} , F_{O3S1} , F_{O3O1} , F_{O5O3}), as well as
 11 export fluxes of bSiO₂ from the proximal zone to the distal zone (F_{P2S2}) and from the distal
 12 zone to the open ocean (F_{S2O2}), are assumed to be directly coupled to the water cycle. That is,
 13 the flux of DSi or bSiO₂ exiting the reservoir is related to the mass of DSi or bSiO₂ in that
 14 reservoir according to:

$$15 \quad \frac{F_{ij}}{S_i} = \frac{Q_{ij}}{V_i} \quad (1)$$

16 where F_{ij} and Q_{ij} are, respectively, the fluxes of reactive Si and water from reservoir i to
 17 reservoir j , S_i is the mass of DSi or bSiO₂ in reservoir i , and V_i is the volume of the reservoir.

18 The remaining transport fluxes correspond to sedimentation (F_{O2O4} , F_{O4O6}) and
 19 deposition of bSiO₂ (F_{C4C5} , F_{P2P4} , F_{S2S4} , F_{O6O8}), and the efflux of DSi from sediments (F_{C5C3} ,
 20 F_{P3P1} , F_{S3S1} , F_{O7O6}). In the marine realm, these fluxes are relatively well constrained by
 21 observations. Sedimentation rates and DSi fluxes from sediments can be determined directly
 22 with sediment traps and benthic chambers, respectively (Koning et al., 1997; Rao and Jahnke,
 23 2004). Furthermore, numerous estimates of benthic DSi efflux have been calculated from
 24 measured pore water profiles (Rabouille et al., 1993; Dixit and Van Cappellen, 2003).

1 A widely used approach in biogeochemical box modeling is to relate the reservoir
2 sizes and fluxes via linear expressions,

$$3 \quad F_{ij} = k_{ij} S_i \quad (2)$$

4 where k_{ij} is a first order rate constant (Lasaga, 1981; Chameides and Perdue, 1997; Mackenzie
5 et al., 1998). Values of k_{ij} range from values of 1 y^{-1} , for example for biological DSi uptake
6 and bSiO₂ dissolution in aquatic environments, to values of 10^{-3} y^{-1} or less for groundwater
7 transport of DSi or burial of bSiO₂ in the deep-sea sediments.

8

9 **2.4 Model simulations**

10 The mass balance equations for the various reactive Si reservoirs, based on the linear
11 flux equations (2), are solved in MATLAB using Euler's method. The steady-state silica cycle
12 represented in Figure 2 is taken as the initial condition. After verifying that the state variables
13 exhibit no drift under time-invariant conditions, a time-dependent change in forcing is
14 imposed, as detailed below. The system behavior is monitored for a period of 150 years, using
15 an integration time step of 0.01 y. The starting time of the imposed perturbations is nominally
16 set to 1950.

17 To simulate the response of the Si cycle to a global temperature increase, three
18 different time-courses for mean surface air temperature are considered (low, medium and
19 high; Figure 3), based on projections of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
20 (IPCC, 1995). The three scenarios diverge after the year 2000. For simplicity, linear functions
21 are used to describe the rising air-temperature. Temperatures of surface waters (Box 1a, Box
22 2, Box 3 and Box 4a) are assumed to follow air temperature, while the magnitude of the
23 temperature rise of the intermediate oceanic waters is four times lower (Levitus, 2000). The
24 initial temperature of the intermediate water is set to 5°C (Yool and Tyrell, 2003).

1 The processes that are directly affected by temperature in the simulations are
2 biological DSi uptake, bSiO₂ dissolution and chemical weathering. The model assumes that,
3 at the spatial and temporal scales resolved, an increase (decrease) in siliceous phytoplankton
4 production results in an increase (decrease) in DSi fixation. In particular, we assume that a
5 temperature-dependent change in primary production by diatoms causes a proportional change
6 in DSi uptake. The temperature dependence of DSi uptake in continental and marine
7 environments is described by the Eppley function (uptake rate $\propto e^{(0.07 \cdot T)}$, where T is
8 temperature in °C, Eppley, 1972). This exponential function is widely used to describe the
9 response of planktonic communities to temperature variations, except under extreme
10 temperature conditions (Pasquer et al., 2005). This formulation implies the assumption that
11 changes in DSi uptake linearly follow diatom growth. In the absence of relationships
12 specifically describing the temperature dependence of DSi uptake by higher plants on land,
13 we opt for a simple Q₁₀ function, whereby the uptake rate doubles with every 10°C
14 temperature increase (Winkler et al., 1996). The Arrhenius equation is used to correct the rates
15 of bSiO₂ dissolution and silicate weathering (Lasaga, 1998). Reported activation energies for
16 the dissolution of framework silicates and bSiO₂ fall mostly in the range 25-90 kJ mol⁻¹ (Blum
17 and Stillings, 1995; Van Cappellen et al., 2002). Here, a single Arrhenius activation energy of
18 60 kJ mol⁻¹ is imposed, to account for the effect of temperature changes on both silicate rock
19 weathering and bSiO₂ dissolution.

20 Another major effect of human activity on the cycling of reactive Si at the [Earth's](#)
21 surface is the construction of dams, known to trap large quantities of bSiO₂ (Conley et al.,
22 2000; Humborg et al., 2006). To test the sensitivity to damming, a correction coefficient is
23 added to the flux equation describing bSiO₂ accumulation in sediments on the continents
24 (F_{C4C5}). [This](#) coefficient is assigned a value of 1 at the start of the simulation and afterwards
25 varies proportionally with changes in the number of dams. Gleick (2003) has projected future

1 damming pressure over the next 25 years by relating global water use to the number of new
2 dams (Rosenberg et al., 2000). Based on this work, and the assumption that global water use
3 is proportional to the world's population, we estimate that the number of dams should
4 increase by 20% with an increase of the world's population by 1.9 billion people. Three
5 damming scenarios are then considered, based on three projections for the change in the world
6 population until the year 2100 (UN, 2005). The low, medium, and high damming scenarios
7 are shown in Figure 4.

8 Additional effects of anthropogenic modifications of the earth surface environment are
9 likely to affect Si cycling along the land-to-ocean continuum. On the time scales considered
10 here (≤ 150 years), shifts in precipitation patterns and vegetation, changes in land-use and
11 erosion will affect the cycling of Si on land and the delivery of reactive Si to the oceans
12 (Conley et al., 2008). On even longer time scales, changes in thermohaline circulation
13 accompanying a warming of the surface ocean will modify the exchanges of DSi between the
14 surface and deeper parts of the oceans, thereby affecting marine biosiliceous productivity (see,
15 e.g., Yool and Tyrell, 2005). A complete assessment of the response of the biogeochemical Si
16 cycle to human-induced global change will thus require further work.

17

18 **3. Results and Discussion**

19 **3.1 The global silica cycle**

20 Most previous global scale mass balance studies of the Si cycle have focused on the
21 oceans (Tréguer et al., 1995; De Master, 2002; Ragueneau et al., 2002; Yool and Tyrell, 2003,
22 2005; De La Rocha and Bickle, 2005). A novelty of the Si cycle presented here is that it
23 includes an explicit representation of DSi and bSiO₂ cycling on the continents. *Nevertheless*,
24 due to the relative scarcity of data, the estimates of the continental reservoir masses and fluxes
25 have large uncertainties associated with them. For instance, the calculation of bSiO₂ stock in

1 soils assumes an average concentration of 5 mg phytoliths per g of soil. While the latter value
2 is consistent with the bSiO₂ determinations in soils that have been made so far (Alexandre et
3 al., 1997; Conley, 2002b; Clarke, 2003; Sferratore et al., 2006), it remains to be seen how
4 representative the relatively limited set of existing measurements is for the global soil
5 reservoir.

6 According to our estimates, phytoliths in soils and living terrestrial biomass constitute
7 the largest fraction (65%) of the continental reactive Si reservoir. The amount of Si fixed by
8 terrestrial and aquatic organisms on the continents on a yearly basis is estimated to be 89
9 Tmol y⁻¹. This value lies within the range of 60-209 Tmol y⁻¹ given in the literature (Conley,
10 2002b) and is of the same order of magnitude as the rate of Si fixation in the oceans (244
11 Tmol y⁻¹). Thus, Si biomineralization on the continents is an important component of
12 biological Si cycling on [Earth](#) (Conley, 2002a). As in the marine realm, siliceous productivity
13 on the continents relies on the efficient regeneration of nutrient DSi through bSiO₂
14 dissolution. In our budget, 80% of the continental bSiO₂ produced is recycled, while the
15 remainder accumulates in lacustrine sediments and in soils (Kendrick and Graham, 2004), or
16 is exported to the oceans. Based on the estimates in Figure 2, the residence time of reactive Si
17 on the continents is estimated to be 775 years.

18 Most reactive Si is delivered to the oceans by rivers under the form of DSi (F_{C1P1}; 6.2
19 Tmol y⁻¹). Nonetheless, the alternative supply routes of riverine bSiO₂ delivery (F_{C4P2}; 1.1 ±
20 0.2 Tmol y⁻¹), submarine groundwater discharge (F_{C1P1}; 0.4 ± 0.4 Tmol y⁻¹) and atmospheric
21 transport (F_{C2O2}; 0.5 ± 0.5 Tmol y⁻¹), together contribute about 25% of the transfer of reactive
22 Si from the continents to the oceans. When hydrothermal inputs are also included (F_{hyd}; 0.6 ±
23 0.4 Tmol y⁻¹), we estimate the total reactive Si delivery to the ocean to be 8.8 ± 1.5 Tmol y⁻¹.
24 In comparison, Tréguer et al. (1995) estimated the total reactive Si supply to the oceans to be
25 6.7 ± 1.5 Tmol y⁻¹. These authors, however, did not account for the reactive Si input from

1 groundwater discharge and riverine bSiO₂. It should further be recognized that all regional
2 sources of Si may **not** have been identified **yet**. For example, the venting of crustal fluids in
3 the North Pacific has only recently been suggested to contribute as much as $1.5 \pm 0.5 \text{ Tmol y}^{-1}$
4 to the global oceanic Si budget (Johnson et al., 2006).

5 Assuming **an** initial **steady**-state, the sum of the inputs to the ocean is balanced by that
6 of the outputs, and thus burial and reverse weathering should together yield a total removal
7 flux of 8.8 Tmol y^{-1} . This value falls within the range for total reactive Si removal from the
8 ocean of 8.4 to 9.4 Tmol y^{-1} , obtained when combining the estimated sediment burial fluxes of
9 biogenic Si of DeMaster (2002; $7.4 - 8.4 \text{ Tmol y}^{-1}$) with that for reverse weathering (1.0 Tmol
10 y^{-1}).

11 The explicit consideration of the proximal coastal zone enables us to account for the
12 important filter function of estuaries, lagoons and embayments in nutrient cycles (Rabouille et
13 al. 2001; Wollast, 1993; Seitzinger, 1996; Mackenzie et al., 2000). Significant Si processing
14 decreases the DSi/bSiO₂ ratio from around 3 in rivers to 1.2 in the proximal zone. A net
15 transformation of DSi into bSiO₂ is commonly observed in nearshore environments and
16 causes a large fraction (43%, according to our model) of reactive Si to be delivered from the
17 proximal to the distal coastal zone in the form of bSiO₂.

18 The fluxes in Figure 2 emphasize the role of the continental margins in removing
19 reactive Si by sediment burial. Although the proximal and distal zones are only responsible
20 for about 18% of the total biological fixation of DSi in the oceans, they may account for 40%
21 of the total marine bSiO₂ burial, in line with the assessment of DeMaster (2002). The sum of
22 the bSiO₂ burial fluxes in the proximal and distal coastal zones in our budget (3.1 Tmol y^{-1})
23 corresponds to the maximum of the range estimated by DeMaster (2002) for bSiO₂ burial
24 along the continental margins ($2.4 - 3.1 \text{ Tmol y}^{-1}$). It should be noted, however, that
25 DeMaster's oceanic silica budget **omits** riverine supply of bSiO₂ and groundwater DSi

1 discharge. Our relatively high estimate for bSiO₂ accumulation in coastal sediments is
2 consistent with the inclusion of these additional reactive Si inputs to the coastal zone, as well
3 as the upward revision of the riverine DSi supply (6.2 versus 5.6 Tmol y⁻¹). The preferential
4 burial of bSiO₂ in nearshore and shelf sediments is **not only** due to the relatively high
5 sedimentation rates, but also to enhanced preservation resulting from interactions between
6 deposited bSiO₂ and constituents solubilized from lithogenic minerals and the formation of
7 new aluminosilicate phases (Van Cappellen et al., 2002; Dixit and Van Cappellen, 2003;
8 Michalopoulos and Aller, 1995, 2004). In the proximal zone and especially in deltaic settings,
9 there is a tight coupling between biogenic Si burial and reverse weathering, and analytical
10 procedures for the measurement of biogenic silica account for reverse weathering products
11 (Michalopoulos et al, 2000, Michalopoulos and Aller 1995, 2004., Presti and Michalopoulos
12 2008). Thus, the Si burial flux used here for the proximal zone may include reverse
13 weathering products.

14 The main inflow of DSi to the distal zone is caused by coastal upwelling, which is
15 estimated to be on the order of 10 Tmol y⁻¹ (Figure 2). The intermediate water masses of the
16 open ocean (100-1000 m water depth) are assumed to be the source region for coastal
17 upwelling. This assumption is consistent with mesopelagic DSi concentrations (25-30 μmol
18 kg⁻¹; Dittmar and Birkicht, 2001; Brezinski et al., 1997), and Si/N ratios close to one (Hill and
19 Wheeler, 2002; Brzezinski et al., 1997) reported for coastal upwelling waters. Deeper source
20 regions (i.e., >1000 m) would yield higher DSi concentrations and Si/N ratios between 2 and
21 3 (Sverdrup et al., 1942).

22 Tréguer et al. (1995) estimated the whole-ocean residence time of reactive Si to be **on**
23 the order of 15000 years. The latter value likely represents a lower limit, however, as these
24 authors excluded the active surface layer of marine sediments in their calculation. According
25 to the reservoir masses considered here, reactive Si in the water column and surface sediments

1 of the proximal coastal zone, distal coastal zone, plus the open ocean amounts to 149927
2 Tmol. The removal rate of reactive Si through burial and reverse weathering of 8.8 Tmol y^{-1}
3 then implies a whole-ocean residence time of 17037 years. If the proximal coastal zone is
4 excluded, the oceanic residence time of reactive Si is 20245 years. Estimated residence times
5 for various marine reservoirs and their combinations are summarized in Table 4.

6 Interestingly, the residence times of reactive Si in the open ocean (10104 years) and
7 the distal coastal zone (141 years) alone are significantly lower than the whole-ocean
8 residence time (17037 years). This reflects the large exchange fluxes of reactive Si between
9 the continental margins and the open ocean. For the distal zone in particular, these exchanges
10 dominate the inputs and outputs of reactive Si and, hence, explain the relatively short
11 residence time of reactive Si on the continental shelves.

12 Water column residence times of reactive Si are somewhat shorter than the
13 corresponding water residence times (Table 4), because sinking of bSiO_2 by sedimentation
14 decouples the Si cycle from the water cycle. Nonetheless, they are significantly lower than the
15 values obtained when including sediments. The relative differences are particularly large for
16 the proximal and distal coastal zone, because of the importance of benthic exchange fluxes of
17 reactive Si. This is especially the case in the distal coastal zone, where benthic regeneration of
18 silica accounts for nearly one-third of the reactive Si influx and is, therefore, a major source of
19 reactive Si sustaining siliceous productivity in the overlying water column (Ragueneau et al.,
20 2005).

21

22 **3.2 Sensitivity analysis**

23 To identify the most sensitive processes controlling Si cycling across the continent-
24 ocean transition, we compute the relative changes in water column DSi and bSiO_2
25 concentrations of the coastal proximal and distal zones, induced by varying the rate constants

1 k_{ij} in the flux equations (Equation 2). In each simulation the value of one rate constant is
2 increased by 50%, while all other model parameters remain unchanged. The sensitivity of the
3 model to continental rock weathering (F_w) is similarly tested by increasing the value of F_w by
4 50%. Sensitivities are expressed as relative changes in DSi and bSiO₂ concentrations after 150
5 years of simulation time, relative to the initial, [steady](#)-state values.

6 The rate constants included in the sensitivity analysis correspond to the reactive Si
7 fluxes that are not directly coupled to the water cycle via Equation (1). These fluxes include
8 uptake and biomineralization of DSi, dissolution, sedimentation, and burial of bSiO₂, plus DSi
9 efflux across the sediment-water interface. In addition, on the time scale considered (150
10 years), Si cycling in the proximal zone is not affected by processes occurring in the
11 downstream distal coastal zone and open ocean reservoirs. Hence, the sensitivity analysis for
12 the proximal zone is further limited to rate constants k_{ij} corresponding to processes occurring
13 in the upstream, continental reservoir or within the proximal zone itself. In contrast, Si cycling
14 in the distal coastal zone may also be affected by processes in the downstream open ocean
15 reservoir, because of the return of oceanic waters onto the shelves via coastal upwelling.

16 The results of the sensitivity analysis are summarized in Table 5. DSi and bSiO₂
17 concentrations of proximal coastal waters are most sensitive to chemical weathering of
18 continental rocks (F_w), terrestrial (F_{C1C2}), riverine (F_{C3C4}) and proximal coastal siliceous
19 production (F_{P1P2}), and bSiO₂ dissolution on the continents (F_{C2C1} , F_{C4C3} , F_{C5C3}). Overall,
20 enhanced production and sedimentation [lead](#) to lower DSi and bSiO₂ concentrations, while
21 increased dissolution results in larger stocks of reactive Si in the water column. The main
22 difference in [the](#) sensitivity of DSi and bSiO₂ concentrations in the proximal zone is related to
23 the deposition of bSiO₂ in nearshore sediments (F_{P2P4}). While increasing k_{P2P4} causes a
24 significant drop (-15%) of the bSiO₂ concentration in proximal waters, the DSi concentration
25 is hardly affected. The latter reflects the fact that internal recycling of DSi via dissolution of

1 bSiO₂ within the proximal zone (F_{P2P1}, F_{P4P3}) is much less important than continental DSi
2 input (Figure 2). Thus, with the exception of nearshore siliceous production, reactive Si
3 dynamics in the proximal zone are primarily controlled by processes taking place on the
4 continents.

5 The sensitivity analysis reveals a different picture for the distal coastal zone (Table 5).
6 DSi and bSiO₂ concentrations in the distal coastal waters are most sensitive to internal
7 processes. These include DSi uptake and bSiO₂ dissolution in the water column (F_{S1S2}, F_{S2S1}),
8 as well as deposition (F_{S2S4}) and dissolution of bSiO₂ in the sediments (F_{S4S3}). Among the
9 sensitive upstream processes, those on the continents, especially terrestrial bSiO₂ production
10 and dissolution (F_{C1C2}, F_{C2C1}) and weathering (F_w), are more important than those in the
11 adjacent proximal coastal zone, although absolute changes larger than 4% are not observed.
12 Reactive Si cycling in the distal coastal zone is also sensitive to downstream processes,
13 foremost open ocean water column dissolution and sinking of bSiO₂ (F_{O4O3}, F_{O4O6}), as these
14 processes control the accumulation of DSi in the source waters of coastal upwelling.

15 On the time scale investigated, permanent removal of reactive Si through burial plays
16 a minor role in Si cycling at the Earth's surface. This contrasts with the dominant role of
17 sedimentary burial in the global biogeochemical Si cycle on geological time scales (De
18 Master, 2002; Van Cappellen, 2003). Nonetheless, even on the time scale of decades and
19 centuries, benthic-pelagic coupling is crucial to Si cycling in distal coastal waters (Conley,
20 1997; Ragueneau et al., 2002, 2005), as indicated by the high sensitivities to the deposition
21 (F_{S2S4}) and subsequent benthic dissolution of bSiO₂ (F_{S4S3}).

22 Changes in Si cycling at the land-ocean transition may also be caused by changes in
23 the water cycle. Nevertheless, reliable scenarios for the future evolution of the water cycle are
24 difficult to constrain. In addition to bSiO₂ retention, river damming causes a decrease of net
25 river flow to the oceans. In the proximal coastal zone, a reduction by 20% of the river

1 discharge (W_{1a2}) to the oceans results, after 150 years, in a relatively small decrease (4 %) in
2 the concentration of DSi, but no change in that of bSiO₂. For the distal coastal zone, the
3 corresponding changes are 3 and 4 % reductions in the concentrations of DSi and bSiO₂. The
4 latter concentrations are further reduced (by 5 and 4 %, respectively) when the decrease in
5 river discharge by 20% is accompanied by a 20% reduction in the coastal upwelling water
6 flux (W_{43}). On longer time scales, changes in the water cycle (e.g., upwelling) may have
7 significantly larger effects on global Si cycling (e.g., Yool and Tyrell, 2005).

8

9 **3.3. Applications**

10 **3.3.1. Temperature rise**

11 The three temperature scenarios yield the same general trends, but with different
12 magnitudes (Figure 5). Except for open surface ocean DSi, increasing temperatures result in
13 higher water column DSi and bSiO₂ concentrations. bSiO₂ concentrations in sediments of the
14 continents and deep-sea are hardly affected, while they show opposite trends in the proximal
15 (increase) and distal coastal ocean (decrease).

16 Rising concentrations of DSi and bSiO₂ in the continental aquatic environment (Box
17 1a, Figure 2) reflect enhanced DSi fluxes from weathering and bSiO₂ dissolution in soils. In
18 combination with the relatively small volume of the aquatic environment, this causes
19 significant, and parallel, increases in the DSi and bSiO₂ concentrations. Because of more rapid
20 bSiO₂ dissolution kinetics, the additional reactive Si mobilized does not accumulate in
21 sediments and soils, but is exported to the ocean.

22 Increased continental supply of reactive Si enhances siliceous productivity in proximal
23 and distal coastal ecosystems. The largest relative change is observed in the bSiO₂
24 concentration of nearshore waters. That is, increased temperatures further decrease the water
25 column DSi/bSiO₂ ratio of the proximal zone. The higher deposition flux of bSiO₂ offsets the

1 faster bSiO₂ dissolution kinetics, resulting in a net increase in the bSiO₂ concentration of
2 proximal coastal sediments. Sediment bSiO₂ concentrations in the distal coastal zone show an
3 opposite response, reflecting the very different recycling efficiencies of reactive Si in the two
4 coastal systems (Figure 2). The latter is also reflected in the relative increases in water column
5 DSi and bSiO₂ concentrations. In the proximal zone, rising temperatures cause a larger
6 relative increase in bSiO₂, compared to DSi, while the reverse is observed for the distal zone.
7 Possible indicators of a global warming effect on the Si cycle thus include opposite changes
8 of water column DSi/bSiO₂ ratios and sediment bSiO₂ accumulation rates in proximal *versus*
9 distal coastal environments.

10 Because of its much larger volume and of the buffering effect of the coastal zone, the
11 open ocean exhibits much smaller modifications in Si cycling. The most pronounced changes
12 are in the surface ocean, as it directly experiences changes in air temperature. Both DSi uptake
13 and bSiO₂ dissolution rates are enhanced by rising temperature, resulting in faster Si turnover
14 in the upper ocean. For the model structure and parameter values used here, the net effect is a
15 slight increase in the bSiO₂ standing stock, at the expense of the DSi pool.

16

17 **3.3.2. River damming**

18 River damming leads to opposite trends of DSi and bSiO₂ concentrations compared to
19 those of temperature rise, with the exception of bSiO₂ in distal coastal sediments (Figure 5,
20 broken lines). Predicted concentration changes also imply that damming should increase water
21 column DSi/bSiO₂ ratios in continental aquatic systems and the proximal coastal zone. A
22 number of studies have indeed reported measurable increases in DSi/bSiO₂ ratios of riverine
23 and nearshore waters (Conley 1997, 2002b; Friedl and Wuest, 2002).

24 As expected, the sedimentary bSiO₂ pool on the continents increases as biosiliceous
25 debris accumulates behind the growing number of dams. The decreased continental supply of

1 reactive Si causes a relative drop in sediment bSiO_2 in nearshore marine sediments and an
2 increase on the continents. It should be borne in mind, however, that the reservoir size of
3 proximal coastal zone sediment bSiO_2 (110 Tmol Si) is much smaller than that of continental
4 sediments (1417 Tmol Si). At the scale investigated in our simulations, damming causes more
5 bSiO_2 to be trapped in continental sediments than lost from proximal sediments.

6 A general feature of the response of Si cycling to changes in damming is the “dilution”
7 of the relative effects from rivers to the open ocean (Figure 5). Typically, the largest changes
8 in reactive Si concentrations are observed in aquatic systems on land and in the proximal
9 coastal zone, while the open ocean system experiences little changes. For example, the open
10 ocean surface DSi concentration is predicted to change by less than 1% after 150 years, even
11 for the highest damming scenario.

12 According to the damming scenarios, the largest increase in the number of dams
13 should have taken place between the 1950s and the present. After 2000, the different
14 damming scenarios hypothesize the same decreasing damming pressure until 2025, after
15 which the three scenarios diverge (Figure 4). The time-dependent features imposed to the
16 damming scenarios are recorded nearly instantaneously by the water column DSi and bSiO_2
17 concentrations in the continental aquatic system and the proximal coastal zone, because of the
18 correspondingly very short residence times of reactive Si (2.1 and 0.7 years, Table 4). This is
19 not the case for the sediment bSiO_2 concentrations in the same reservoirs. Because of much
20 longer residence, and hence response times, the initial trends (i.e., for the period 1950-2000)
21 are projected into the future with still little differentiation in sediment bSiO_2 concentrations
22 among the scenarios by the year 2050.

23

24

25

1 3.3.3. Combined river damming and temperature rise

2 A set of nine permutations of the three temperature and three damming scenarios were
3 run. The results are illustrated in Figure 6 for the intermediate temperature rise plus maximum
4 damming scenario. This particular scenario was selected because it exhibits the main features
5 observed in all the various simulations. The comparison between Figures 5 and 6 suggests that
6 river damming is driving the changes in Si cycling in the combined scenario, particularly
7 during the initial period (1950-2000). On the continents, the results of the combined
8 simulation closely follow those of the damming-only simulation, except for the slight rise in
9 water column DSi concentration simulated beyond 2050. The slowing down of dam
10 construction after 2000 and continued rise in temperature cause much more pronounced
11 reversals in the water column DSi concentrations of the coastal ocean. By the end of the
12 simulation, the DSi concentration in the proximal zone has returned to within 2% of its
13 starting value, while in the distal zone the DSi concentration increases above the initial value.

14 The water column bSiO₂ concentration in the proximal coastal zone mainly records the
15 changing damming pressure. This is no longer the case for the distal coastal zone, since
16 reactive Si cycling in this reservoir is largely driven by internal recycling, via temperature-
17 dependent DSi uptake and bSiO₂ dissolution. Thus, as far as the water column DSi and bSiO₂
18 concentrations are concerned, when moving from the continents to the open ocean, the
19 relative influence of changes in river damming decreases, while that of global warming
20 increases.

21 Changes in sediment bSiO₂ concentrations in the combined scenario are essentially the
22 same as in the damming-only scenario, for all reservoirs. The lack of temperature-induced
23 changes reflects the much longer residence times of reactive Si in the sediment reservoirs,
24 relative to the water column. That is, over the 150 years of simulation time, the sediments
25 only record the initial rapid growth in the number of dams after the 1950s. The observed loss

1 of sediment bSiO₂ in coastal environments over the simulation period is therefore mainly due
2 to reactive Si retention by dams.

3 The results presented in Figures 5 and 6 illustrate the complex response of Si cycling
4 to human influences. In particular, the temporal trends in DSi and bSiO₂ concentrations in the
5 combined damming plus temperature rise scenario are not simply the sum of the individual
6 responses to the two perturbations. **Nonetheless**, the results also indicate that by combining
7 temporal trends in DSi and bSiO₂ concentrations in multiple reservoirs it may become
8 possible to **extricate** the relative effects of the different anthropogenic forcings acting on the
9 biogeochemical Si cycle.

10 **4. Conclusions**

11 Silicon is a key nutrient whose biogeochemical cycling is closely coupled to those of
12 carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, iron and trace compounds. Large amounts of dissolved Si (DSi)
13 are biologically fixed annually as biogenic silica (bSiO₂), both on land (89 Tmol y⁻¹) and in
14 the oceans (240 Tmol y⁻¹). The estimated residence time of reactive Si on the continents (775
15 years), however, is about 20 times smaller than for the oceans (17037 years), reflecting the
16 much larger marine reservoir of reactive Si.

17 While reactive Si is mainly exported from the continents as riverine DSi (6.2 Tmol y⁻¹)
18 ¹), a non-negligible fraction is delivered to the oceans as bSiO₂ in river suspended matter and
19 in eolian dust deposits (1.6 Tmol y⁻¹), and as DSi in submarine groundwater discharge (0.4
20 Tmol y⁻¹). Because of the net transformation of DSi into bSiO₂ in nearshore waters, nearly
21 half (43%) of land-derived reactive Si reaching the distal coastal zone is in the form of bSiO₂.
22 **Nevertheless**, the major input of reactive Si to the continental shelves is via coastal upwelling.

23 The coastal ocean represents a dynamic interface between the continents and the open
24 ocean. Although coastal and shelf environments account for only 18% of all biological Si
25 fixation in the oceans, an estimated 40% of all marine bSiO₂ burial takes place in nearshore

1 and shelf sediments (3.2 Tmol y^{-1}). Nearshore ecosystems also attenuate the downstream
2 propagation of land-based perturbations of the Si cycle that results from damming of rivers or
3 land-use changes.

4 The biogeochemical Si cycle is currently undergoing significant modifications due to
5 human activities. The proposed model can help delineate the expected changes, through
6 sensitivity analyses and scenario simulations. A major difficulty is that multiple
7 anthropogenic perturbations are simultaneously acting on the Si cycle. The results presented
8 here, and observed changes in rivers and nearshore waters, indicate that riverine export of
9 reactive Si, and the riverine bSiO_2/DSi ratio, are likely to continue to drop in the near future,
10 as a result of reactive Si retention by dams. However, enhanced bSiO_2 dissolution due to
11 global warming may ultimately allow coastal siliceous productivity to recover from the
12 downward trend caused by river damming.

13 Our work represents a first step towards modeling the global biogeochemical Si cycle
14 along the entire land to ocean continuum. Further progress will rely especially on the
15 increased understanding and characterization of the spatial heterogeneity of continental Si
16 cycling, caused by differences in lithology, vegetation, land-use and hydrology. This
17 information is needed to account for the regional variability in reactive Si delivery to the
18 coastal zone by rivers and submarine groundwater discharge.

19

20 **Acknowledgements**

21 This project was initiated during the 2004 Summer School of the EU-funded Research
22 Training Network SiWEBS (contract number HPRN-CT-2002-000218). Further work on the
23 project was made possible by financial support from the EU (SiWEBS), Utrecht University
24 (High Potential project G-NUX to C.P. Slomp) and the Netherlands Organisation for

1 Scientific Research (NWO Pioneer grant to P. Van Cappellen). We thank the editor and the
2 anonymous reviewers for their useful and constructive comments.

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1

Table 1. Calculations and references used to constrain the water fluxes in the model.

Flux	Value (Tm ³ y ⁻¹)	Calculation	Reference
W _{1b-1a}	39	-	(1)
W _{1a-2}	39	W _{4a-1} - W _{1b-2}	-
W _{1b-2}	2	-	(2)
W ₂₋₃	41	W _{1a-2} + W _{1b-2}	-
W ₃₋₄	441	W ₂₋₃ - W ₄₋₃	-
W ₄₋₃	400	-	(3,4,5)
W _{4a-4b}	3800	W _{4b-4a} + W ₃₋₄ - W _{4a-1}	-
W _{4b-4a}	3400	-	(6)
W _{4b-4c}	472	-	(6)
W _{4c-4b}	472	W _{4b-4c}	-
W _{4a-1b}	41	-	(7)

2 (1) Fekete et al., 2002; (2) Slomp and Van Cappellen, 2004; (3) Brink et al., 1995; (4) Ver, 1998 ; (5) Rabouille

3 et al., 2001 ; (6) Deduced from residence time in Broecker and Peng, 1982; (7) Anikouchine and Sternberg

4 (1981);

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6

Table 2. Reservoir sizes of dissolved silicate (DSi) and biogenic silica (bSiO₂) in the model. V(x) and VS(x) refer to the volume x as described in Figure 1. The porosity ($\phi = 0.7$) and the density ($\rho = 2.5 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$) of the sediments are taken from Mah

for the atomic mass of Si and molar weight of SiO₂ respectively.

Reservoir	Size (Tmol Si)	Calculation
Continents		
C1 Terrestrial DSi	3060	$200 \mu\text{mol Si L}^{-1(a)} \times V(1b)^{(b)}$ a- average DSi concentration in ground waters b- volume of ground waters
C2 Terrestrial bSiO ₂	8250	$0.42 \text{ g Si}^{-1(a)} \times 0.005 \text{ g g}^{-1(b)} \times (75.10^{18} \text{ m}^2)^{(c)} \times 1 \text{ m}^{(d)} \times 2.65 \text{ g.cm}$ a- mass of Si per gram of phytoliths b- average mass of phytoliths per gram of soil c- global surface area covered by soils d- assumed global average soil depth e- average dry density of soils f- solid fraction of soils
C3 Aquatic bSiO ₂	3.6	-
C4 Aquatic DSi	20.5	$(9.3 \text{ mg Si L}^{-1(a)} \times V(1b)^{(b)})/M(\text{Si})$ a- average DSi concentration in rivers b- global volume of lakes and floodplains
C5 bSiO ₂ in river and lake sediments	1416	$50 \text{ mg SiO}_2 \text{ g sediment}^{-1(a)} / M(\text{SiO}_2) \times VS(1)^{(b)} \times (1 - \phi) \times \rho$ a- average bSiO ₂ content of river sediments b- volume of lake plus river sediments
Proximal Coastal Zone		
P1 DSi in the water column	3.2	$F_{\text{P1Si}} \times V(2)/W_{2,3}$
P2 bSiO ₂ in the water column	2.4	$F_{\text{P2Si}} \times V(2)/W_{2,3}$
P3 pore water DSi in sediments	0.2	$300 \mu\text{mol Si L}^{-1} \times VS(2) \times \phi$
P4 bSiO ₂ in sediments	110	$0.02 \text{ g Si g}^{-1(a)} \times VS(2) \times (1 - \phi) \times \rho / M(\text{Si})$ a- mass of Si as bSiO ₂ in proximal coastal sediments (2 wt%)

Table 2 (continued)

Reservoir	Size (Tmol Si)	Calculation	
Distal Coastal Zone			
S1	DSi in the water column	72	$F_{SiO1} \times V(3) / W_{3-4a}$
S2	bSiO ₂ in the water column	32	$F_{SiO2} \times V(3) / W_{3-4a}$
S3	pore water DSi in sediments	1	$300 \mu\text{mol Si L}^{-1} \times VS(3) \times \phi$
S4	bSiO ₂ in sediments	2190	$0.03 \text{ g Si g}^{-1(a)} \times VS(3) \times (1 - \phi) \times \rho / M(\text{Si})$ a- mass of Si as bSiO ₂ in distal coastal sediments (3 wt%)
Open Ocean			
O1	DSi in the surface ocean	187	$5 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \times V(4a)$
O2	bSiO ₂ in the surface ocean	37	$1 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \times V(4a)$
O3	DSi in intermediate waters	8438	$25 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \times V(4b)$
O4	bSiO ₂ in intermediate waters	170	$0.5 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \times V(4b)$
O5	DSi in deep sea	87750	$100 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \times V(4c)$
O6	bSiO ₂ in deep sea	290	$0.1 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \times V(4c)$
O7	pore water DSi in sediments	17	$300 \mu\text{mol Si L}^{-1} \times VS(4) \times \phi$
O8	bSiO ₂ in sediments	50625	$0.05 \text{ g Si g}^{-1(a)} \times VS(4) \times (1 - \phi) \times \rho / M(\text{Si})$ a- mass of Si as bSiO ₂ in deep sea sediments (5 wt%)

Sources : (1) J.-D. Meunier, comm. pers. ; (2) Berner and Berner, 1996 ; (3) Conley, 2002b ; (4) FAO/UNESCO soil map of

(6) Conley, 1997 ; (7) Dürr et al., submitted ; (8) Conley, 1988 ; (9) Jahnke et al., 1982; (10) Ledford-Hoffman et al., 1986

Tyrell, 2003; (13) Conkright et al., 1994 ; (14) Dittmar and Birkicht, 2001 ; (15) Hill and Wheeler, 200

Table 3. Silicon fluxes in the model. V and VS refer to the volumes of water and sediment reservoirs, respectively, Si/C is the molar

M(Si) and M(C) stand for the atomic mass of Si and C respectively.

Flux	Flux (Tmol y ⁻¹)	Calculation or explanation
Continents		
F _w Weathering	14.6	$F_{C1C2} - F_{C2C1} + F_{C1C3} + F_{C1P1}$
F _{C2-burial} Terrestrial bSiO ₂ burial	3.6	25% of F _w
F _{C1C2} Terrestrial DSi uptake	80	reported range: 60 to 200 Tmol Si y ⁻¹
F _{C1C3} DSi export from box 1b to box 1a	7.8	
F _{C1P1} DSi export from box 1b to box 2	0.4	$W_{1b-2} \times 200 \mu\text{mol Si L}^{-1}$ in ground waters
F _{C2C1} Terrestrial bSiO ₂ dissolution	73.6	92% of F _{C1C2}
F _{C2O2} Eolian silica export	0.5	
F _{C2C4} bSiO ₂ export to rivers	2.3	
F _{C3C4} DSi uptake in rivers	9.3	61% ^(a) of carbon primary production $\times 17.10^{12} \text{ m}^2$ ^(b) $\times 13.5 \text{ g C}$ a- fraction of primary production due to diatoms in fresh water b- surface of rivers and lakes c- Average riverine primary production in carbon d- molar Si to C ratio of 0.79±0.43
F _{C3P1} DSi export from box 1a	6.2	
F _{C4C3} bSiO ₂ dissolution	6.3	
F _{C4C5} bSiO ₂ Sedimentation in rivers	4.2	$F_{C2C4} + F_{C3C4} - F_{C4P1} - F_{C4C3}$
F _{C4P2} bSiO ₂ export from box 1a	1.1	
F _{C5C3} Sediment bSiO ₂ dissolution	1.4	
F _{C5-burial} Aquatic bSiO ₂ burial	2.8	$F_{C4C5} - F_{C5C3}$
Proximal Coastal Zone		
F _{P1P2} DSi uptake	4.5	75% ^(a) of carbon primary production (40 Tmol C y ⁻¹ ^(b)) \times (Si/C) a- fraction of primary production due to diatoms in the coastal b- primary production in the proximal coastal zone in carbon c- molar Si to C ratio of 0.15
F _{P1S1} DSi export from box 2	3.6	$P1 \times W_{2-3}$
F _{P2P1} bSiO ₂ dissolution	0.9	$F_{P1P2} + F_{C4P2} - F_{P2S2} - F_{P2P4}$
F _{P2P4} Sedimentation	2	$F_{P4P3} + F_{P4-burial}$
F _{P2S2} bSiO ₂ export from box 2	2.7	$F_{P1P2} - F_{P2P4} - F_{P2P1}$
F _{P3P1} DSi efflux	0.6	Within the range of $0.8 \pm 0.4 \text{ Tmol Si y}^{-1}$ given by $3.6 \text{ Tm}^2 \times 2$
F _{P4P3} Sediment bSiO ₂ dissolution	0.6	F_{P3P1}
F _{P4-burial} bSiO ₂ Burial	1.4	$P4 \times 0.13 \text{ cm y}^{-1}$ ^(a) / 10 cm ^(b) (and so that $F_{P4-burial} + F_{S4-burial}$ a- sediment accumulation rate in the proximal coastal zone b- depth of the active sediment layer in the proximal coastal zone)

Table 3 (continued)

	Flux	Flux (Tmol y ⁻¹)	Calculation or explanation
Distal Coastal Zone			
F _{S1S2}	<i>DSi uptake</i>	40	[18% ^(a) of global siliceous primary production (240 Tmol Si y ⁻¹) a- fraction of the global marine primary production occurring in the distal coastal zone b- estimate of the global marine siliceous production
F _{S2S1}	<i>bSiO₂ dissolution</i>	31	
F _{S1O1}	<i>bSiO₂ export from box3</i>	9.6	$F_{S2S1} + F_{S3S1} + F_{O3S1} + F_{P1S1} - F_{S1S2}$
F _{S2S1}	<i>bSiO₂ dissolution</i>	31	$F_{S1S2} + F_{P2S2} - F_{S2S4} - F_{S2O2}$
F _{S2S4}	<i>Sedimentation</i>	7.7	$F_{S4-burial} + F_{S4S3}$
F _{S2O2}	<i>bSiO₂ export from box3</i>	4	assuming the same export rate as organic carbon, 10% of F _{S1S2}
F _{S3S1}	<i>DSi efflux</i>	5	within the range of 6 ± 3 Tmol Si y ⁻¹ given by 27 Tm ^{3(a)} × 0.2L a- surface area of the distal coastal zone b- estimate of benthic efflux rate for the continental shelf
F _{S3-rw}	<i>Reverse weathering</i>	1	
F _{S4S3}	<i>bSiO₂ dissolution</i>	6	$F_{S3-rw} + F_{S3S1}$
F _{S4-burial}	<i>bSiO₂ Burial</i>	1.7	$S4 \times 0.016 \text{ cm y}^{-1 (a)} / 20 \text{ cm}^{(b)}$ (so that F _{P4-burial} + F _{S4-burial} = 3) a- sediment accumulation rate in the proximal coastal zone b- depth of the active sediment layer in the proximal coastal zone
Open Ocean			
F _{O1O2}	<i>DSi uptake</i>	200	240 Tmol Si y ⁻¹ - F _{S1S2}
F _{O2O1}	<i>bSiO₂ dissolution</i>	104.9	within the range of 100 - 120 Tmol Si y ⁻¹ (50 ^(a) to 60 ^(b) % of F _{O1O2}) a- fraction of bSiO ₂ production preserved in the water column b- fraction of bSiO ₂ production preserved in the water column
F _{O2O4}	<i>Sedimentation</i>	99.1	$F_{O1O2} + F_{am} - F_{O2O4}$
F _{O3S1}	<i>Coastal upwelling</i>	10	$[O_3 / V(4b)] \times W_{4,3}$
F _{O3O1}	<i>Oceanic upwelling</i>	85	$F_{O4O3} + F_{O5O3} - F_{O3S1}$
F _{O4O3}	<i>bSiO₂ dissolution</i>	52.5	$(F_{O6O5} + F_{O4O3} = 38\% \text{ of } F_{O1O2}^{(1)})$
F _{O4O6}	<i>Sedimentation</i>	46.6	$F_{O2O4} - F_{O4O3}$
F _{O5O3}	<i>Deep upwelling</i>	42.5	$F_{O6O5} + F_{O7O5}$
F _{O6O5}	<i>bSiO₂ dissolution</i>	22.6	$(F_{O6O5} + F_{O4O3} = 38\% \text{ of } F_{O1O2}^{(1)})$
F _{O6O8}	<i>Sedimentation</i>	24	12% of F _{O1O2}
F _{O7O5}	<i>DSi efflux</i>	19.9	within the range of 23 ± 15 Tmol Si y ⁻¹
F _{O8O7}	<i>Sediment bSiO₂ dissolution</i>	19.3	$F_{O7O5} - F_{hyd}$
F _{O8-burial}	<i>bSiO₂ burial</i>	4.7	within the range of 4.1-4.3 Tmol Si y ^{-1 (a)} and 6 Tmol Si y ^{-1 (b)} a- estimate of bSiO ₂ preservation in marine sediments b- assuming 3% preservation of opal in marine sediments
F _{hyd}	<i>Hydrothermal input</i>	0.6	

(1) Alexandre et al., 1997; (2) Conley, 2002b; (3) Appelo and Postma, 1996 ; (4) Tréguer et al., 1995; (5) Arhonditsis a
1996 ; (7) Garnier et al., 2002 ; (8) Conley et al., 1989 ; (9) Dürr et al., submitted ; (10) Nelson et al., 1995 ; (11) Ra
1987 ; (13) De Master, 2002 ; (14) Heinz et al., 1999 ;(15) Biscaye et al., 1994 ; (16) Wollast, 1991 ; (17) Mi

Table 4. Reactive silica contents and residence times in the various compartments of the earth surf

	<i>DSi + bSiO₂ (Tmol Si)</i>	<i>Export + Burial (Tmol Si y⁻¹)</i>	<i>Residence time (y)</i>	<i>U_{Si}</i>
Continents (box1)				
Terrestrial	11310	14.6	775	0.
Rivers and Lakes	24.1	10.1	2.1	5.
River and Lakes + Sediment	1441.1	10.1	143	-
Proximal Coastal Zone (box 2)				
Water Column	5.6	7.7	0.7	0.
Water Column + Sediment	115.6	7.7	15	-
Distal Coastal Zone (box 3)				
Water Column	104	16.3	4.9	2.
Water Column + Sediment	2295	16.3	141	-
Open Ocean (box 4)				
Water Column	96875	14.6	6635	1.
Water Column + Sediment	147517	14.6	10104	-
World Ocean (box 2+3+4)				
Water Column	96984.6	8.8	11021	2.
Water Column + Sediment	149927.8	8.8	17037	-

Table 5. Sensitivity analysis: % change in DSi and bSiO₂ concentrations in proximal (Box 2) and distal coastal zone (Box3) 150 years after increasing the corresponding flux or rate constant by 50%.

Modified parameter	Type of process	% DSi in box 2	% bSiO ₂ in box 2	% DSi in box 3	% bSiO ₂ in box 3
Fw	Weathering	7	6	2	2
k _{C1C2}	Uptake	-13	-11	-3	-4
k _{C2C1}	Dissolution	14	12	3	4
k _{C3C4}	Uptake	-15	-9	-3	-4
k _{C4C3}	Dissolution	13	8	3	3
k _{C4C5}	Sedimentation	-10	-13	-3	-4
k _{C5-burial}	Burial	-1	-1	0	0
k _{C5C3}	Dissolution	5	5	1	1
k _{P1P2}	Uptake	-21	15	-2	-1
k _{P2P1}	Dissolution	5	-4	0	0
k _{P2P4}	Sedimentation	0	-15	-2	-2
k _{P3P1}	Efflux	0	0	0	0
k _{P4-burial}	Burial	-2	-2	-1	-1
k _{P4P3}	Dissolution	3	3	1	1
k _{S1S2}	Uptake	-	-	-25	11
k _{S2S1}	Dissolution	-	-	21	-10
k _{S2S4}	Sedimentation	-	-	-9	-17
k _{S3-rw}	Reverse weathering	-	-	-2	-2
k _{S3S1}	Efflux	-	-	2	2
k _{S4-burial}	Burial	-	-	-1	-1
k _{S4S3}	Dissolution	-	-	10	9
k _{O1O2}	Uptake	-	-	0	0
k _{O2O1}	Dissolution	-	-	0	0
k _{O4O3}	Dissolution	-	-	1	1
k _{O6O5}	Dissolution	-	-	0	0
k _{O6O8}	Sedimentation	-	-	0	0
k _{O7O5}	Efflux	-	-	0	0
k _{O8-burial}	Burial	-	-	0	0
k _{O8O7}	Dissolution	-	-	0	0

Figure Captions

Figure 1. Global Water Cycle with water masses in Tm^3 and water fluxes (W) in $\text{Tm}^3 \text{y}^{-1}$. $V =$ volume and $\tau =$ residence time.

Figure 2. Steady state biogeochemical cycle of silicon, with reservoirs in Tmol Si and fluxes in Tmol Si y^{-1} . Shaded squares represent bSiO_2 reservoirs, open squares represent DSi reservoirs. The steady state cycle of Si is used as initial condition (nominally 1950) in the perturbation simulations.

Figure 3. Temperature scenarios for surface and intermediate waters used as forcing functions in the simulations.

Figure 4. River damming scenarios used in the simulations. The three curves represent the relative change in damming pressure, relative to 1950, for low, medium and high damming scenarios.

Figure 5: Relative changes in DSi (top), water column bSiO_2 (middle) and sediment bSiO_2 (bottom) reservoir sizes versus time for the three different temperature (continuous lines), and damming (dashed lines) scenarios. In black, the high temperature or damming scenario, in gray the medium temperature or damming scenario, and in light gray the low temperature or damming scenario.

Figure 6: Relative changes in DSi (top), water column bSiO₂ (middle) and sediment bSiO₂ (bottom) reservoir sizes versus time for the combined scenario with high damming and medium temperature forcing.

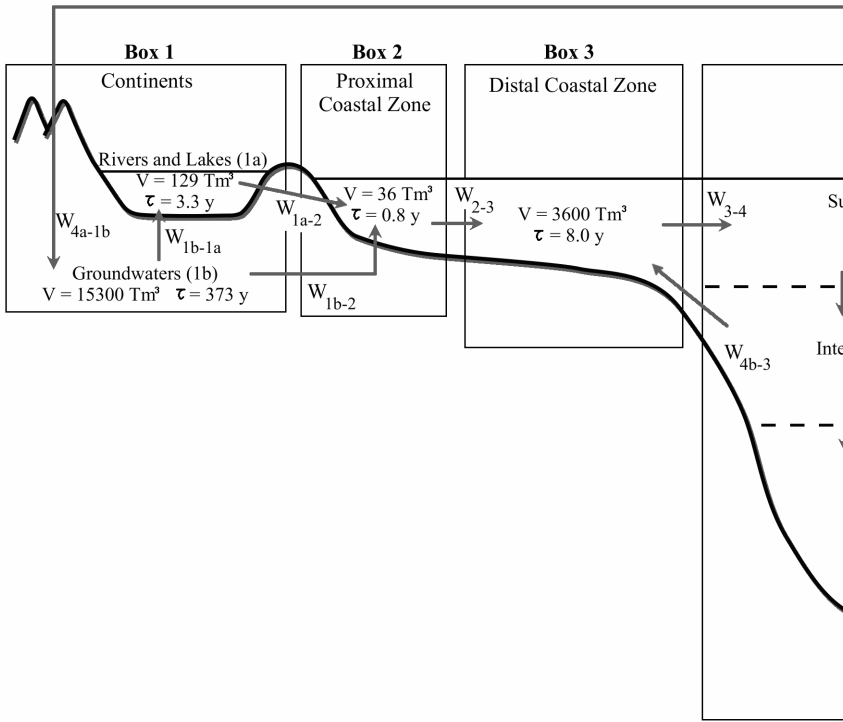


Figure 1.

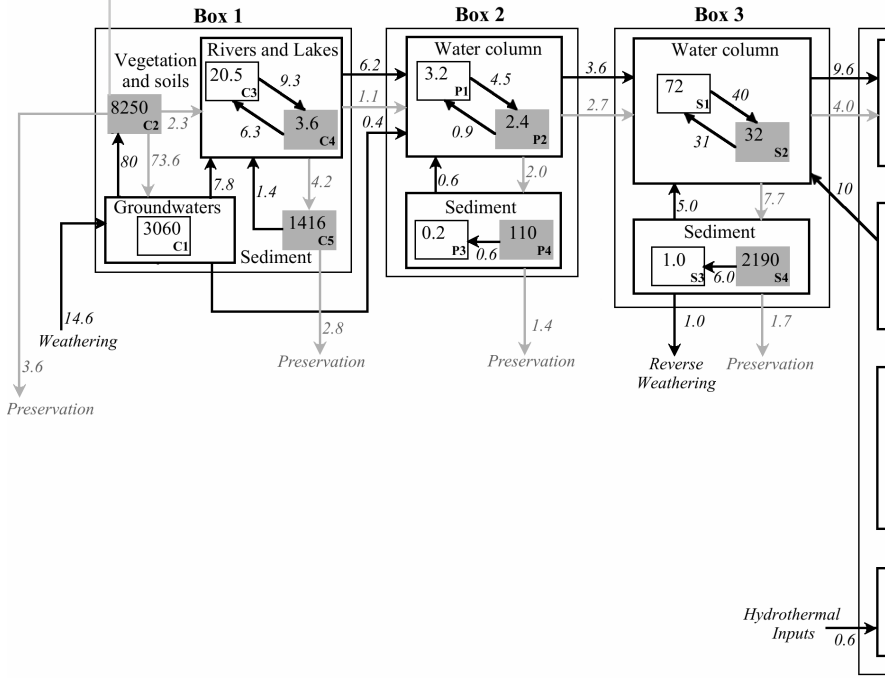


Figure 2.

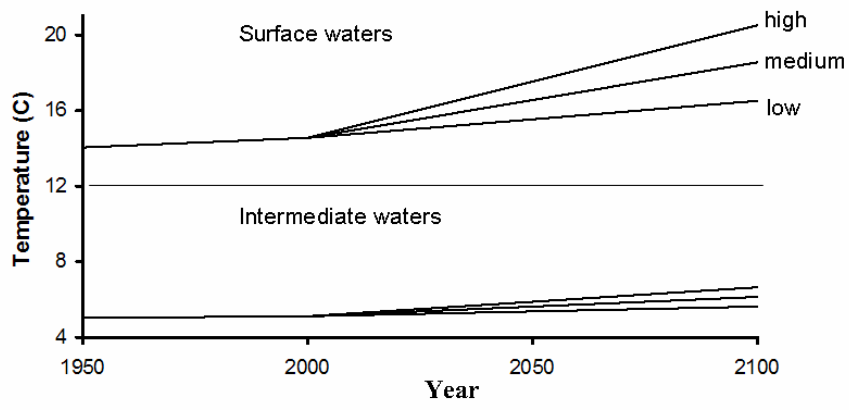


Figure 3.

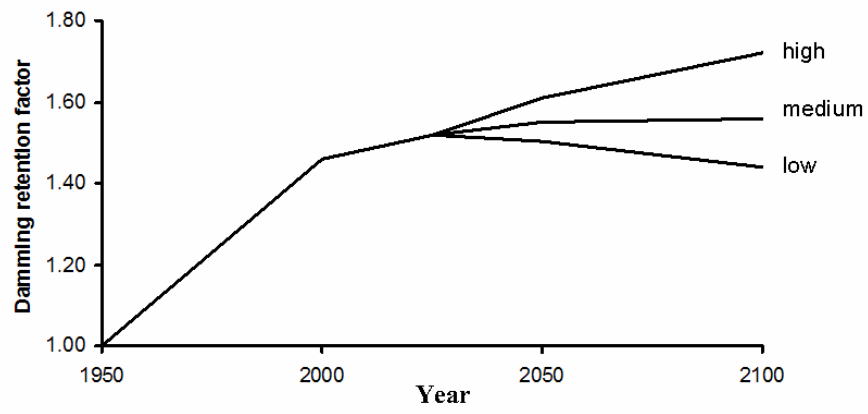


Figure 4.

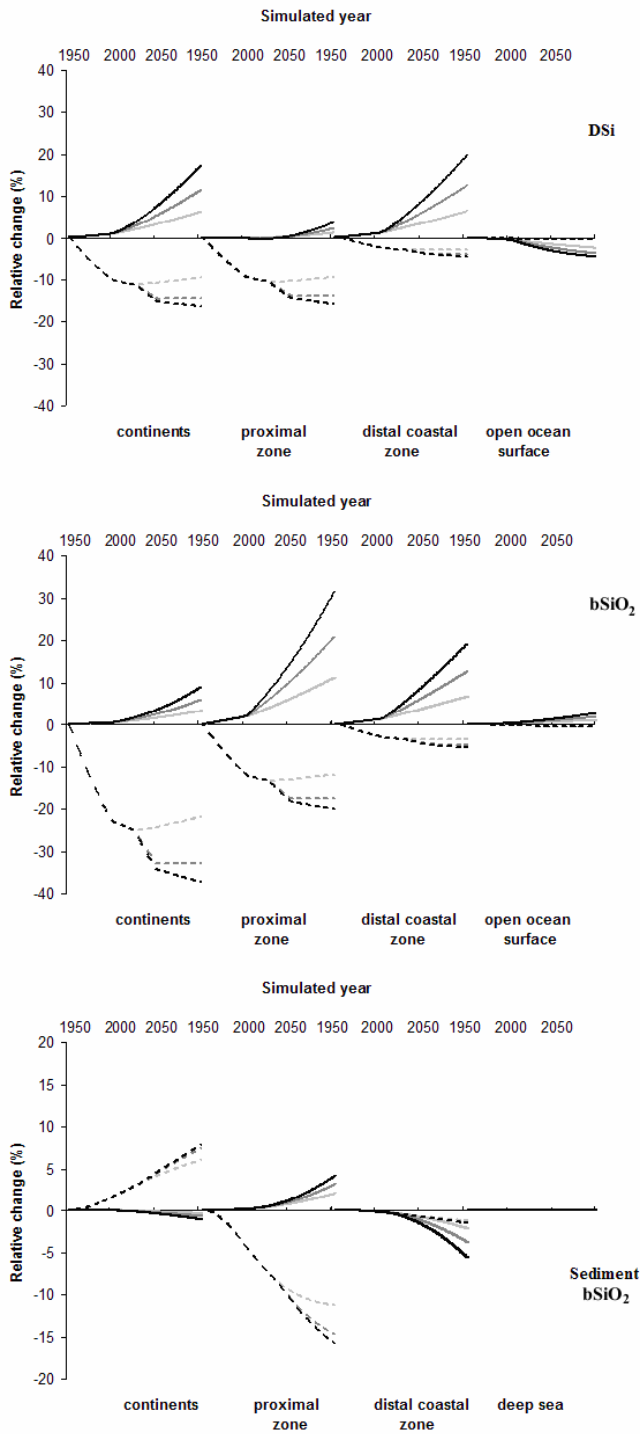


Figure 5.

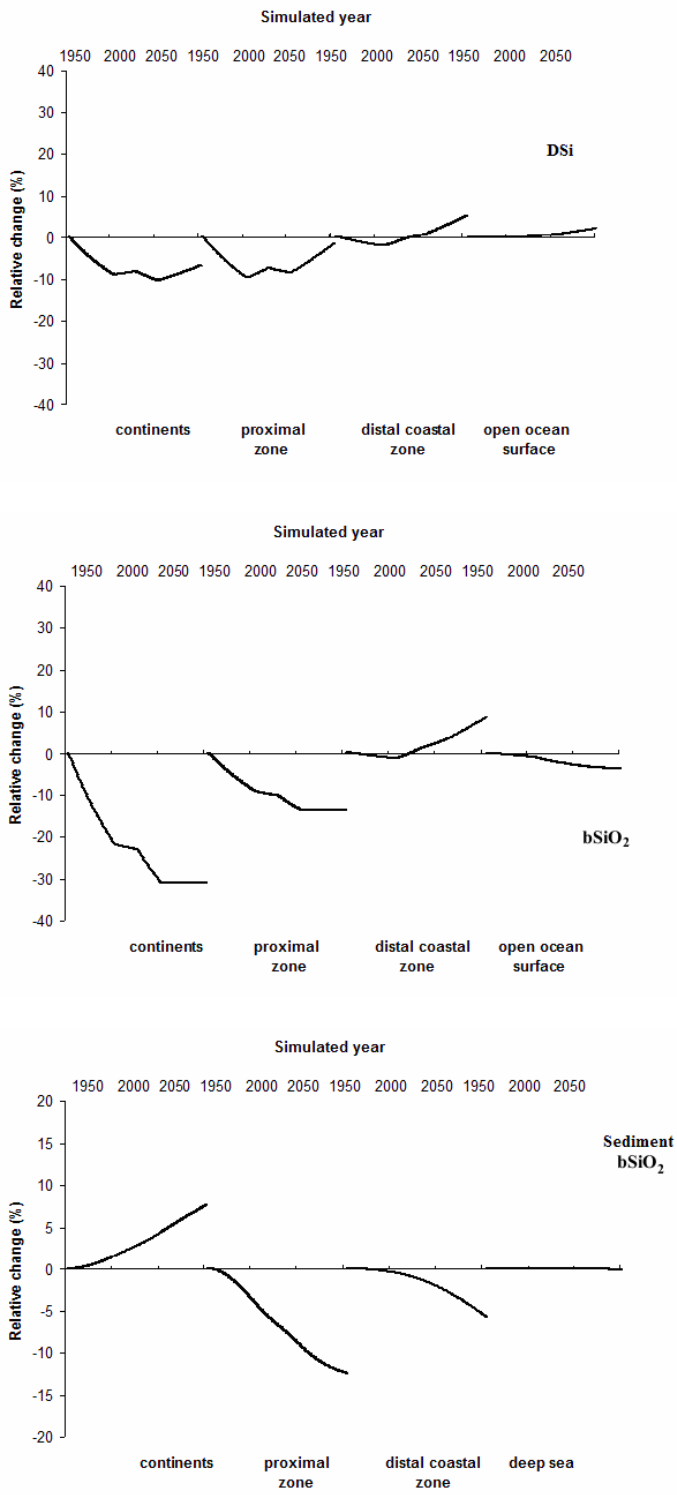


Figure 6.