

1 **Enhanced Chemical Weathering as a Geoengineering Strategy to Reduce Atmospheric Carbon**
2 **Dioxide, a Nutrient Source and to Mitigate Ocean Acidification**

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18

19 **Abstract:**

20 Chemical weathering is an integral part of both the rock and carbon cycles and is being affected by
21 changes in land use, particularly as a result of agricultural practices such as tilling, mineral
22 fertilization, or liming to adjust soil pH. These human activities have already altered the chemical
23 terrestrial cycles and land-ocean flux of major elements, although the extent remains difficult to
24 quantify. When deployed on a grand scale, Enhanced Weathering (a form of mineral fertilization), the
25 application of finely ground minerals over the land surface, could be used to remove CO₂ from the
26 atmosphere. The release of cations during the dissolution of such silicate minerals would convert
27 dissolved CO₂ to bicarbonate, increasing the alkalinity and pH of natural waters. Some products of
28 mineral dissolution would precipitate in soils or taken up by ecosystems, but a significant portion
29 would be transported to the coastal zone and the open ocean, where the increase in alkalinity would

30 partially counteract “ocean acidification” associated with the current marked increase in atmospheric
31 CO₂. Other elements released during this mineral dissolution, like Si, P or K, could stimulate
32 biological productivity, further helping to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere. On land, the terrestrial
33 carbon-pool would likely increase in response to Enhanced Weathering in areas where ecosystem
34 growth rates are currently limited by one of the nutrients that would be released during mineral
35 dissolution. In the ocean, the biological carbon pumps (which export organic matter and CaCO₃ to the
36 deep ocean) may be altered by the resulting influx of nutrients and alkalinity to the ocean.

37 This review merges current interdisciplinary knowledge about Enhanced Weathering, the processes
38 involved, and the applicability as well as some of the consequences and risks of applying the method.

39

40 **Keywords:** Enhanced Weathering, silicate, carbonate, agricultural practice, geoengineering,
41 management of global matter cycles

42

43 **1. Introduction**

44 Global biogeochemical cycles have shaped the Earth’s climate and surface environment since the
45 earliest days of the planet. A profound case in point is the consumption of CO₂ during the chemical
46 weathering of silicate rocks that has regulated the global carbon cycle, and in so doing Earth’s climate
47 over several eons [Arvidson *et al.*, 2006; Berner, 2004; Kempe and Degens, 1985; Walker *et al.*,
48 1981]. Today, when human perturbation of the global carbon cycle is putting social and economic
49 stability at risk [IPCC, 2007], these weathering processes that have operated naturally over billions of
50 years might be harnessed to mitigate this perturbation by accelerating the removal of CO₂ from the
51 atmosphere. This idea of “Enhanced Weathering” (by the application of powdered minerals to the land
52 or ocean surface to facilitate accelerated dissolution) is one of several geoengineering methods
53 gaining increasing attention as a means for avoiding potentially devastating environmental change

54 associated with anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions . Enhanced Weathering techniques
55 are already applied at restricted scales, well below that would be considered as “geoengineering”,
56 through the application of minerals to adjust soil pH or nutrient supply (e.g., phosphorous, potassium
57 or silica) in agricultural landscapes [*van Straaten, 2002*], but the potential of its wider application to
58 avoid climate change and understanding consequences for global biogeochemical cycles and
59 ecosystems is only beginning to be explored.

60 Enhanced Weathering has a number of potential advantages over other proposed geoengineering
61 schemes as a method for avoiding or decelerating climate change, although much remains to be
62 understood about how effectively it would work and what the consequences, risks and side effects
63 might be. Enhanced chemical weathering would help remove CO₂ from the atmosphere by
64 accelerating the natural geologic processes that transfer carbon and other elements from the rock and
65 atmospheric reservoirs into the biosphere and ocean over time. As such, it would not, for example,
66 require long-term storage of an enormous mass of CO₂ in the difficult to contain and potential
67 hazardous form of a gas. And, as a side effect, it would ameliorate some of the effects of ocean
68 acidification. However, it would alter biogeochemical cycling on local to global scales and the extent
69 of this alteration and any secondary effects resulting from this alteration are not yet well constrained.

70 The purpose of this publication, which considers recent work on both the Enhanced Weathering of
71 natural silicates, in which crushed rocks or minerals are applied to the land surface or to aquatic
72 systems, and of artificially-produced minerals, is to stimulate discussion and further research on
73 Enhanced Weathering. This paper begins by describing how Enhanced Weathering fits into the
74 broader context of proposals for geoengineering and of stewardship of global biogeochemical cycles.
75 It then briefly reviews the role of weathering in global biogeochemical cycles, introduces the use of
76 Enhancing Weathering for CO₂ sequestration, discusses how these may affect biogeochemical cycles
77 across a range of spatial scales (from the local or plot scale to the global scale), and explores the
78 theoretical limitations of Enhanced Weathering as a carbon sequestration method. Finally, issues
79 about managing Enhanced Weathering schemes are discussed. Through this, the paper aims to

80 identify and summarize the key unknowns where targeted research could make the most significant
81 contributions to improving our understanding of the potential effectiveness and risks of Enhanced
82 Weathering.

83 **1.1. Enhanced weathering as a geoengineering technology**

84 The CO₂ emission scenarios investigated by the IPCC suggest an impending global warming of more
85 than the 2 K suggested by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in
86 Copenhagen in 2009 as a tolerable threshold [*Joshi et al.*, 2011; *Rogelj et al.*, 2011] . The most
87 straightforward way to remain below this target would be to emit less CO₂. This would require
88 emission reductions of as much as 30% to 85% if compared to current emissions by the year 2050
89 [*Solomon et al.*, 2009], something which currently seems to be unlikely to occur. In a recent
90 incantation of emissions scenarios [*Meinshausen et al.*, 2011], the only scenario that falls short of a 2
91 K temperature increase is one that utilizes carbon dioxide removal (CDR) from the atmosphere
92 [*Friedlingstein et al.*, 2011]. Geoengineering, i.e., controlled and purposeful engineering at the scale
93 of the Earth system, if well enough understood before it is deployed, may become necessary to hold
94 global change within acceptable limits, which themselves need to be better understood and agreed
95 upon.

96 Recent proposals for geoengineering of the Earth's climate fall into the categories of (a) methods for
97 CDR (introduced above; including schemes that increase oceanic and terrestrial biomass, draw CO₂
98 directly out of the air, or enhanced weathering), and (b) solar radiation management (SRM)
99 techniques, which attempt to alter the planetary energy balance by diminishing the planet's absorption
100 of incoming solar radiation in order to optimize climate [*Crutzen*, 2006; *UK-Royal-Society*, 2009].
101 Generally speaking, SRM involves an artificial increase in extraterrestrial, atmospheric or surface
102 albedo, leading to a higher reflectivity of the Earth and therefore to a loss of incoming solar radiation
103 (ideas include space-based reflectors, cloud seeding, surface albedo manipulation by modification of
104 either human settlements or man-grown vegetation, and the injection of aerosols into the
105 stratosphere). While SRM might help to prevent excessive global warming, ignoring the effects of

106 changes in precipitation, temperature, and sunlight on plants, it leaves the carbon cycle largely
107 untouched in the first instance. CDR methods, on the other hand, would reduce atmospheric CO₂ and
108 therefore work towards curing the root cause of the global warming problem. Additionally, some
109 CDR methods, including Enhanced Weathering, would lessen ocean acidification, the “other CO₂
110 problem” [Doney *et al.*, 2009]. .

111 A more quantitative assessment of the potential of various geoengineering approaches was put
112 forward by Lenton and Vaughan [2009], although they ignored Enhanced Weathering. They
113 concluded that only “stratospheric aerosol injection, albedo enhancement of marine stratocumulus
114 clouds or sunshades in space have the potential to cool the climate back towards its pre-industrial
115 state,” though strong mitigation together with CDR techniques may be able to reduce CO₂ down to
116 pre-anthropogenic levels by the year 2100.

117 Since then, a variety of modeling studies have analyzed specific geoengineering approaches in greater
118 detail, focusing mainly on SRM [e.g., Ferraro *et al.*, 2011; Irvine *et al.*, 2010; Keith, 2010; Ricke *et*
119 *al.*, 2010] but sometimes also considering CDR [e.g., Köhler *et al.*, 2010; Oschlies *et al.*, 2010].
120 Recent research discusses not only the potential of each approach in terms of mitigating global
121 warming, but increasingly considers both positive and negative effects, especially in the case of SRM,
122 such as precipitation changes and impacts of SRM on crop yields [Hegerl and Solomon, 2009;
123 Pongratz *et al.*, 2012; Robock *et al.*, 2009]. It also considers how geoengineering be used against
124 global sea-level rise [Irvine *et al.*, 2011; Moore *et al.*, 2010], and how feedbacks between climate,
125 vegetation, and surface albedo vary over different time periods and potential vegetation disturbance
126 [e.g., O'Halloran *et al.*, 2012]. As yet, there is no synthesis that considers the potential of Enhanced
127 Weathering, as well as what the range of side-effects might be. This is the purpose of the present
128 review.

129 In addition to the growing discussion of the science of geoengineering, there is an ongoing debate on
130 the policies and politics of geoengineering [e.g., Blackstock and Long, 2010; Keith *et al.*, 2010;
131 Robock *et al.*, 2010]. The need to test the theoretical predictions of modeling studies with field

132 experiments presents the problem that the safety and effectiveness of many geoenvironmental
133 approaches can only be sufficiently tested at very large or even global scales. Understanding the
134 ethical and regulatory context is critical for advancing research in this field, and details on the
135 political and legal aspects specific to Enhanced Weathering are discussed in the supplement
136 information.

137 **1.2. Chemical weathering and Global Cycles of C & Si: The basic concepts**

138 The basic understanding of how silicate weathering acts to draw down atmospheric CO₂ has been
139 discussed at least since the work of Ebelmen [1845]. Several years thereafter, one of the first
140 compilations of the geochemical composition of rocks and the fluvial chemical fluxes that result from
141 chemical weathering was presented by Roth [Roth, 1878; 1879; 1893]. In general, the dissolution of
142 silicate minerals (Fig. 1) consumes CO₂ because it releases cations such as Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺ into
143 solution, thereby increasing total alkalinity [Wolf-Gladrow *et al.*, 2007; for the definition of total
144 alkalinity and its influence on the carbonate system, see section 2.1], drawing CO₂ into solution to
145 form carbonate ions (CO₃²⁻) and bicarbonate (HCO₃⁻). At the typical pH values of rivers, around pH 7,
146 most of the dissolved inorganic carbon, or DIC, exists as bicarbonate. The cations (Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, Na⁺
147 and K⁺) released by chemical weathering are transported via rivers to the ocean. Over geological time
148 scales, these cations either (i) lead to the precipitation of minerals, such as CaCO₃, which sequester
149 carbon in mineral form, (ii) exchange with other elements in submarine basalts, (iii) are involved in
150 chemical reactions during the diagenesis and alteration of sedimentary minerals on the seafloor, or
151 (iv) are precipitated in form of evaporites [Arvidson *et al.*, 2006; Edmond *et al.*, 1979; Elderfield and
152 Schultz, 1996; Garrels and Mackenzie, 1971; Mackenzie and Garrels, 1966; Vondamm *et al.*, 1985;
153 Wheat and Mottl, 2000]. Over the shorter time scales of decades to centuries that are most relevant to
154 the use of Enhanced Weathering for CO₂ sequestration, the released cations either remain in solution,
155 thereby increasing the alkalinity of surface waters and sequestering carbon in aqueous form (as
156 discussed at greater length in section 2), or are stored, at least temporarily, in terrestrial carbonate

157 minerals, e.g., pedogenic carbonate [Dart *et al.*, 2007; Manning, 2008; Ryskov *et al.*, 2008] or
158 adsorbed onto clay minerals and organic matter.

159 The effect of carbonate weathering on atmospheric CO₂ is slightly different than that of silicate
160 weathering. Carbonate mineral precipitation releases some of the drawn-down CO₂ back to the
161 atmosphere (Fig. 1). Carbonate weathering by carbonic acids (or organic acids derived from CO₂) can
162 be a transient CO₂ sink when solutes are transported to the marine system, providing Ca²⁺ remains in
163 solution together with bicarbonate ions, but once carbonate re-precipitates, there will be no net effect
164 on atmospheric CO₂. When carbonate weathering is driven by strong acids such as HNO₃ or H₂SO₄,
165 common anthropogenic “pollutants”, it may not act as a sink of CO₂ at all, but in fact could act as
166 source of CO₂ to the atmosphere (Fig. 1) [Calmels *et al.*, 2007; Perrin *et al.*, 2008; Semhi *et al.*,
167 2000]. In some natural environments this process can be driven by the oxidation of pyrite.

168 The total magnitude of natural weathering-associated carbon fluxes is small compared to other fluxes
169 in the modern carbon cycle (Fig. 2), particularly if recent net influx of CO₂ to the ocean and biosphere
170 (which is elevated due to the notable increase in atmospheric CO₂ concentrations over the last few
171 decades) is taken into account [Peters *et al.*, 2012]. The net carbon flux from land to the ocean via
172 rivers is ~0.8 Gt C a⁻¹, and 0.4 Gt C a⁻¹ of this flux is in the form of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC)
173 [IPCC, 2007; Ludwig *et al.*, 1996; Ludwig *et al.*, 1998]. Reported global CO₂-consumption fluxes by
174 chemical weathering range from 220 to 290 Mt C a⁻¹ [Gaillardet *et al.*, 1999; Hartmann *et al.*, 2009].
175 This is smaller than the fluxes between other reservoirs, e.g., 10 Gt C a⁻¹ are emitted to the atmosphere
176 through anthropogenic activities (Fig. 2). Note that the emissions of CO₂ from limnic systems and the
177 land-ocean transition zone are still poorly constrained and are not included in current Earth System
178 models or global carbon budgets [c.f. the budget approaches in: Aufdenkampe *et al.*, 2011; IPCC,
179 2007; Peters *et al.*, 2012]. Despite its small magnitude, the flux of DIC transported by rivers is
180 thought to be important in the transfer of CO₂ out of the atmosphere over periods of time covering the
181 glacial-interglacial cycles (100,000 years) or longer [Pagani *et al.*, 2009; Zeebe and Caldeira, 2008].

182 In addition to driving a direct drawdown of CO₂ and increase in alkalinity, silicate weathering releases
183 dissolved silicon (DSi), a portion of which is eventually transferred to the ocean [Dürr *et al.*, 2011;
184 *Laruelle et al.*, 2009; *Treguer et al.*, 1995]. Dissolved silicon is an important nutrient for diatoms,
185 which produce a silicified cell-wall termed a frustule. Diatoms carry out a significant fraction of the
186 net primary production taking place in the ocean [Nelson *et al.*, 1995; *Ragueneau et al.*, 2000;
187 *Treguer et al.*, 1995] and play a key role in the export of particulate organic matter (POM) to the deep
188 sea. Because this export removes Si from the surface ocean, DSi limits diatom production in large
189 areas of the world ocean [Dugdale and Wilkerson, 1998].

190 This stimulation of diatom growth in turn means that the supply of DSi has an important influence on
191 the marine “biological carbon pump” [Ragueneau *et al.*, 2000; *Ragueneau et al.*, 2006; *Sarmiento et*
192 *al.*, 2007], a set of processes in which carbon is incorporated into particulate organic carbon (POC)
193 through photosynthesis then exported from the surface ocean to the deep ocean before its oxidation
194 back to CO₂ [Boyd and Trull, 2007; *Buesseler and Boyd*, 2009; *De La Rocha and Passow*, in press for
195 2012; *Honjo et al.*, 2008; *Turner*, 2002; *Volk and Hoffert*, 1985]. The carbon thus concentrated into
196 the deep ocean is isolated from the atmosphere for the time it takes for the surface and deep ocean to
197 mix (~1000 years, on average). Some of this POC may even be buried in marine sediments, where it
198 can be sequestered for longer periods of time. This means that silicate weathering impacts the carbon
199 cycle not only due to direct consumption and transfer of atmospheric carbon to the ocean associated
200 with increased alkalinity (the purely chemical effects), but also potentially via silicon fertilization of
201 the oceanic biological carbon pump [Köhler *et al.*, submitted].

202 In addition, the dissolution of minerals associated with Enhanced Weathering would also be expected
203 to release a range of other elements, some of which are key biological nutrients (e.g., P, Fe) and some
204 of which are toxins at high concentrations (but sometimes nutrients at trace concentrations) (e.g., Cd).
205 The exact suite and concentration of elements released will depend on the rocks selected for
206 dissolution and clearly some caution must be exercised in this regard. The potential impacts of
207 altering elemental fluxes to terrestrial and marine systems need to be carefully considered and further

208 work on this front is needed for the full range of possible impacts (positive and negative) to be
209 understood.

210 **1.3. Proposals for Enhanced weathering**

211 Enhancing rates of weathering could remove atmospheric carbon and store it for a significant time in
212 terrestrial and oceanic systems, effectively accelerating the natural rate of transfer of carbon out of the
213 atmosphere (cf. Figure 2). However, the slow natural rates of mineral weathering are a significant
214 obstacle to overcome. The kinetics of silicate weathering per mass unit of chosen rocks can be
215 increased by 1) increasing mineral surface area (e.g., by grinding), 2) changing the pH of reacting
216 solutions, 3) increasing temperature, 4) increasing pressure, 5) choosing appropriate rocks with highly
217 reactive minerals, 6) changing the flow regime and 7) making use of biological metabolism (e.g.,
218 certain plant species remove selectively released minerals and change thus the saturation state of
219 aqueous solutions close to their root system). A strategy for Enhanced Weathering needs to make use
220 of some combination of these means for accelerating weathering rates.

221 A range of strategies for Enhanced Weathering have been discussed, including:

- 222 • Spreading finely ground silicate powder, rich in easily released cations, over the terrestrial
223 surface [*Schuiling and Krijgsman, 2006; Manning, 2008*]. This could enhance natural rates of
224 chemical weathering because the large surface area of the powdered material would result in
225 rapid dissolution of the mineral.
- 226 • Spreading artificial products like iron and steel slag and cement waste from industrial
227 processes instead of natural silicate minerals [*Renforth et al., 2009*]. These materials dissolve
228 rapidly and also have the potential to release CO₂-consuming cations. Similarly, silicate and
229 carbonate materials could be treated (e.g., through calcification) to produce metal oxides
230 (CaO, MgO) and/or carbonates which dissolve rapidly under ambient conditions [*Kheshgi,*
231 1995].

- 232 • Adding reactive minerals (e.g., olivine) to open ocean surface waters [Köhler *et al.*,
233 submitted].
- 234 • Spreading suitable material into tidal areas of coastal zones [Hangx and Spiers, 2009], where
235 wave action physically maintains fresh reactive surfaces, accelerating mineral dissolution and
236 alkalinity production. In this case, the mechanical decomposition of the grains has not
237 received much attention [Hangx and Spiers, 2009] but may be important to consider
238 [Schuiling and de Boer, 2010; 2011].
- 239 • Pumping CO₂ into mafic and ultramafic rock formations to increase chemical weathering
240 rates and the subsequent carbonation of minerals. This *in situ* approach is not discussed here
241 but has been reviewed elsewhere [Kelemen *et al.*, 2011; Oelkers *et al.*, 2008]. Attention here
242 focuses on the other low-energy, large-scale strategies for Enhanced Weathering.

243 The most suitable silicate mineral for Enhanced Weathering, given its reactivity and wide natural
244 abundance, is forsterite (Mg-olivine, Fig. 1). It is characterized by a high abiotic dissolution rate per
245 surface area when compared to other silicate minerals (Figure 3). Table 1 shows this clearly by
246 comparing the amount of time a 1-mm grain needs to dissolve in aqueous solution at pH 5 [Lasaga,
247 1995]: a 1-mm grain of forsterite dissolves within 2300 years, while an equivalent grain of quartz
248 requires 34 million years. A 1-mm grain of calcite dissolves in less than 1 year, so in this respect it
249 would be an ideal mineral. However, carbonate (e.g., calcite) dissolution, as discussed above, does not
250 necessarily lead to CO₂ sequestration (i.e., if driven by strong acids, or if it results in carbonate
251 reprecipitation). Mafic and ultramafic rocks, which are abundant across the planet, contain a high
252 proportion of olivine, as well as other minerals, such as pyroxene (enstatite and diopside in Table 1),
253 with relatively high dissolution rates. This makes these relatively abundant rock types (Figure 4) ideal
254 potential targets for Enhanced Weathering.

255 2. Theoretical Assessment of Enhanced Weathering of Olivine

256 Quantitative assessment of the scope for using Enhanced Weathering of olivine to remove CO₂ from
257 the atmosphere is a complex endeavor. Among other things, the potential scope for CO₂ sequestration
258 depends both on the effective sequestration capacity of the mineral, i.e., how much CO₂ is consumed
259 per gram of olivine weathering, and on realistic rates of mineral dissolution. It is possible to place
260 some theoretical constraints on these questions. These constraints are reviewed in this section, using
261 forsterite (Mg-olivine) as a model mineral. The approach developed here could easily be applied to
262 other natural minerals, or to artificial silicates, with broadly similar conclusions.

263 2.1. How much CO₂ is consumed per gram of olivine weathering?: Chemical basics of 264 the marine carbonate system

265 The equations shown in Figure 1 provide a succinct summary of the overall net effect of weathering
266 over the long periods of time, when carbonate precipitates locking carbon into a mineral form.
267 However, these equations do not capture the complete effect over shorter timescales, in which
268 dissolved cations from weathering contribute to the total alkalinity [TA: *Dickson, 1981; Wolf-*
269 *Gladrow et al., 2007*] of the oceans and not all cation charge supplied by weathering is balanced by
270 increased oceanic HCO₃⁻ (as illustrated in the simplified equations in Figure 1). The following
271 equations describe total alkalinity, or TA, and dissolved inorganic carbon, or DIC, of the oceans
272 [*Zeebe and Wolf-Gladrow, 2001*].

$$(1) TA = [HCO_3^-] + 2 [CO_3^{2-}] + [B(OH)_4^-] + [OH^-] + [H^+] + \text{minor compounds}$$

$$(2) DIC = [HCO_3^-] + [CO_3^{2-}] + [H_2CO_3^*]$$

273 The equilibrium constants

$$(3) K_H^* = \frac{[H_2CO_3^*]}{[pCO_2]}$$

$$(4) K_1^* = \frac{[HCO_3^-][H^+]}{[H_2CO_3^*]}$$

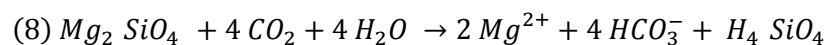
$$(5) K_2^* = \frac{[CO_3^{2-}][H^+]}{[HCO_3^-]}$$

$$(6) K_B^* = \frac{[B(OH)_4^-][H^+]}{[B(OH)_3]}$$

$$(7) K_w = [OH^-][H^+]$$

274 are functions of temperature, salinity, and pressure and thus differ between seawater and freshwater.
 275 The whole carbonate system shown above works in concert to determine the relative proportions of
 276 the different species of DIC. For present day sea surface conditions, the relative molar distribution of
 277 DIC into its three species H_2CO_3 , HCO_3^- and CO_3^{2-} is about 1:90:9. Variations in these proportions
 278 can significantly alter the effect of weathering-derived alkalinity on the amount of CO_2 uptake from
 279 the atmosphere.

280 Let's consider this in the case of Mg-olivine, forsterite (referred to as olivine in the following). This
 281 mineral dissolves in water according to the following reaction:



282 This equation seems to indicate that 4 moles of CO_2 are sequestered during the dissolution of 1 mole
 283 of olivine, equivalent to 1.25 g CO_2 (or 0.34 g C) per g olivine (the molar weight of pure Mg-olivine
 284 is 140 g mol^{-1}). However, carbonate system chemistry makes the impact of Mg-olivine dissolution on
 285 the carbon cycle more complicated than suggested by Equation. 8, because both DIC and TA are
 286 changed, leading to a new, lower, steady state CO_2 concentration. Thus the ratio of CO_2 sequestration
 287 to olivine dissolution will vary with the initial state of the ocean water and with the amount of olivine
 288 dissolved. The value of 1.25 g of CO_2 per g of Mg-olivine represents an upper theoretical limit based
 289 on the stoichiometry of Eq. 8. Seawater, assumed to be initially in equilibrium with the atmosphere,

290 will become undersaturated with respect to CO₂ by addition of TA from weathering and will slowly
291 (over weeks to months) re-equilibrate by taking up atmospheric CO₂. The amount of CO₂ taken up by
292 the ocean is a non-linear function of initial TA, pCO₂(atm), temperature and salinity [Zeebe and Wolf-
293 Gladrow, 2001]. For large amounts of olivine, it is also a function of the amount of TA added. This
294 makes the system seem to some extent complicated, although the calculation is straightforward for a
295 given initial seawater composition and a given addition of alkalinity from weathering. Typical ratios
296 of CO₂ consumption as a function of the amount of olivine-derived alkalinity added to the global
297 oceans and for different starting atmospheric pCO₂ are shown in Fig. 5. In general, for the ranges
298 modelled here, the efficiency of carbon sequestration is significantly lower than the theoretical limit
299 of 1.25g CO₂ per gram of Mg-olivine.

300 The surface ocean is supersaturated with respect to some carbonate minerals. Given this, the input of
301 additional alkalinity from Enhanced Weathering might be expected to promote carbonate precipitation
302 (see the right hand side of the carbonate equation in Figure 1), which would reduce or reverse the
303 effectiveness of Enhanced Weathering since the carbonate precipitation reaction drives CO₂ release to
304 the atmosphere. However, the abiotic rate of carbonate precipitation is limited in the surface ocean by
305 the presence of sulphate (SO₄²⁻) and phosphate (PO₄³⁻) anions (Mg²⁺ cations also inhibit calcite
306 precipitation) [Berner, 1975; Morse *et al.*, 1997; Morse *et al.*, 2007]. The limit to which the marine
307 carbonate system can be modified before driving appreciable rates of carbonate precipitation is not
308 fully understood, but is potentially large when distributed globally. Therefore, it is necessary to
309 quantify the exact saturation limit for various local surface ocean conditions at which abiotic and
310 biotic precipitation of carbonates would occur.

311 **2.2. How much can olivine weathering rates be increased?: Abiotic kinetics of** 312 **dissolution, and potential limits**

313 Natural rates of mineral weathering and alkalinity production under ambient conditions are relatively
314 slow and, as discussed in section 1, the associated CO₂ drawdown is small compared to other fluxes in
315 the global carbon cycle. However, mineral dissolution rates can vary by several orders of magnitude,

316 and facilitating rapid dissolution is a key to any Enhanced Weathering strategy. One of the most
317 important factors controlling dissolution rates is the surface area available for reaction; higher surface
318 area per unit mass means higher dissolution rates and greater alkalinity flux for a given mass of
319 mineral. However, this is not the only important factor. The range of dissolution rates for olivine as a
320 function of pH is shown in Figure 6a. There is clearly a strong dependence on pH; at low pH, olivine
321 dissolution can proceed more rapid than at high pH. The scatter around this pH-trend in Figure 6a can
322 partly be attributed to mineral composition, with the upper range of the scatter representing
323 forsterite₁₀₀, effectively pure Mg-olivine. While pH and mineralogy are important controls on
324 dissolution rate, there is still a substantial range of rates reported in the literature, even for individual
325 minerals normalized to standard pH (Figure 6b). Variability may be due to a range of additional
326 factors that influence dissolution rate, including temperature, solution composition, and potentially
327 even the age of mineral surfaces.

328 The strong effects of pH and surface area on dissolution rate mean that finely ground olivine spread
329 on soils will weather more rapidly than massive rock deposits, both because of the surface area
330 production and the low pH of soil environments. This makes this a particularly attractive strategy for
331 designing an Enhanced Weathering scheme. There is little direct experimental evidence for whether
332 spreading olivine on soils would lead to enough of an increase in dissolution rate, as discussed below,
333 but the initial indications are that this approach could work, especially if focused on humid and
334 specifically tropical regions.

335 **2.3. Estimating the potential gross global impacts of enhanced olivine weathering**

336 There are a few key theoretical considerations when assessing the broad scope for enhanced mineral
337 weathering on the land surface.

338 Dissolution kinetics and the effect of saturation state: Based on a consideration of solubility of silica,
339 the runoff water volume and the constraints placed by potential changes in pH, Köhler et al. [2010]
340 suggested roughly that the olivine dissolution technique in the moist tropics will not exceed 1 Gt C a⁻¹

341 (0.8 Pmol C a⁻¹). Over the next 50 years, this could sequester approximately 20 μatm of the projected
342 200 μatm rise in atmospheric CO₂ under the A2 emission scenario considering abiotic controlled
343 dissolution. The key theoretical limit imposed is the decrease in mineral dissolution rate as solutions
344 become progressively more concentrated. When solutions approach saturation, the kinetics of silicate
345 mineral dissolution decrease and there are certain hints in literature that dissolution approaches zero
346 or very low rates when a certain silica or ion concentrations/activities are reached [c.f. and references
347 therein: *Lasaga et al.*, 1994; *Lasaga*, 1995; *Pokrovsky and Schott*, 2000; *VanCappellen and Qiu*,
348 1997a; b]. In fact, the specific effect of saturation state, or also the precipitation of secondary
349 minerals, on forsterite dissolution rates (or other major silicate minerals) considering field conditions
350 is poorly constrained. The basic data data for the parameterization of models and budget approaches
351 for field conditions are needed to assess the full potential of Enhanced Weathering, specifically if the
352 complex hydrological conditions in the soil system (e.g. variability of soil pore water content) are
353 taken into account. While olivine is considered to be not stable under Earth surface conditions, the
354 solubility of forsterite is predicted to be 45-60 mmol m⁻³ using published constants in the LLNL,
355 Minteq, and wateq4f databases. This is considerably lower than the 2000 mmol m⁻³ limit imposed by
356 Köhler et al. [2010]. Note, this discussion considers kinetics in absence of biotic processes and
357 organic acids (c.f. discussion below).

358 Sequestering significant amounts of C through weathering in humid tropical regions would require
359 extremely high weathering fluxes from the land surface. For example, over the catchment area of the
360 Amazon, achieving sequestration of 1 Gt C a⁻¹ would mean an area-normalized alkalinity production
361 from weathering equivalent to 8.7 x 10⁶ mol CO₂ km⁻² a⁻¹ [*Köhler et al.*, 2010]. This is slightly higher
362 than the highest (to our knowledge) reported CO₂-flux measured in natural systems, of 6.4 x 10⁶ mol
363 CO₂ km⁻²a⁻¹, associated with basalt weathering on the island of Java [*Dessert et al.*, 2003]. This
364 suggests that the global limits inferred by Köhler et al. [2010] are reasonable constraints of the total
365 maximum potential of this method.

366 Other studies [*Schuiling and Krijgsman, 2006; Wilson et al., 2011*] suggest that weathering might be
367 able to exceed the proposed limits. These saturation-based limits are estimated based on laboratory
368 studies [c.f. methods used: *Berger et al., 1994; Daval et al., 2011; Lasaga et al., 1994; Lasaga, 1995;*
369 *Pokrovsky and Schott, 2000; VanCappellen and Qiu, 1997a; b*], and in principle there may be ways to
370 overcome such limits in natural settings, such as through the formation of secondary phases. It
371 remains difficult to assess these effects quantitatively since the range of biotic and abiotic controls on
372 dissolution rate is not clearly understood in the context of Enhanced Weathering (see further
373 discussion below, summarized in Table 2).

374 Nonetheless, it is clear that sustaining sufficiently high total weathering fluxes would require
375 maintaining a sufficient minimum total mineral surface area for reaction. Given that dissolution is not
376 instantaneous it might be necessary to provide a significantly larger amount of silicate powder than
377 the target annual dissolution rate. This is illustrated by further considering the case proposed by
378 Köhler et al. [2010]. They calculate that at least 3 Gt of olivine per year must be distributed over
379 tropical soils annually for Enhanced Weathering to consume 1 Gt C a⁻¹.

380 To put this into the context at a local scale, global dissolution of 3 Gt of Mg-olivine per year would
381 mean the distribution and dissolution of up to 300 g m⁻² a⁻¹ of olivine throughout the whole catchment
382 area of the Amazon. This value assumes that 100% of the olivine that is distributed actually dissolves
383 in the year it is applied, but this is not likely to be the case. Even far from saturation, dissolution rates
384 are finite. Based on results of laboratory experiments [based on data in *Pokrovsky and Schott, 2000*],
385 and assuming a grain size of 75 μm on average, at least 3000 g m⁻² a⁻¹ of olivine would need to be
386 initially applied to offer sufficient surface area of reaction to provide the required fluxes associated
387 with the 1 Gt C a⁻¹ scenario proposed by Köhler et al. [2010]. This reflects a minimum estimate
388 because it is based on weathering solutions remaining at pH 5, which is unlikely at the scale of the
389 soil pore waters, given the likely percolation speeds [*Maher, 2010*]. Such large quantities may not
390 need to be applied every year, as long as what is lost on an annual basis is replaced, but it is likely to
391 be difficult to achieve sufficient alkalinity fluxes without a substantial initial application. This is

392 clearly a very simplistic calculation, but it is valuable in demonstrating that there may be kinetic
393 controls that make it difficult to achieve a theoretical limit considering annual application rates. The
394 practicalities of these kinetic limits remain to be worked out definitively. For example, the amount of
395 olivine that would be required would decrease for smaller grain sizes, as the reactive surface area per
396 mass of mineral is increased (this is discussed in section 4.2 in detail). Biotic effects may also increase
397 reaction rates in natural environments. Moreover, these estimates are based on washed olivine grains,
398 and literature suggests that the initial dissolution should be higher associated with freshly crushed
399 minerals, due to ultra-fine fragments produced from the grinding process [Drever, 1997]. In addition,
400 the material loss due erosion by flooding or strong precipitation events needs to be considered.

401 Effect of plants: Ecosystem uptake of Si into the plant biomass as biogenic silica, BSi, [c.f. *Bartoli*
402 *and Souchier*, 1978; *Bartoli*, 1983; *Conley*, 2002; *Fulweiler and Nixon*, 2005; *Meunier et al.*, 1999;
403 *Street-Perrott and Barker*, 2008] might temporarily increase the total potential of mineral dissolution
404 while decreasing the DSi soil solution concentration by shifting soil solutions further away from
405 saturation. But the amount of Si that can conceivably be sequestered in terrestrial biomass is limited.
406 Globally, the uptake of DSi by ecosystems is currently estimated at 60-200 Tmol Si a⁻¹ globally
407 [Conley, 2002]. This would equate to uptake of the Si released from dissolution of 8.4 to 28.1 Gt a⁻¹ of
408 forsterite. While this seems large, it must be taken into account that total land area suitable for olivine
409 distribution is limited (see below). In addition, the uptake of DSi by terrestrial ecosystems is
410 counterbalanced by an equivalent loss to the soil systems, unless there is progressive accumulation of
411 BSi in the biomass reservoir. The amount of DSi that could be stored in the form of additional BSi is
412 not known and depends largely on the plant communities where Enhanced Weathering would be
413 implemented, and their capacity for silica accumulation.

414 Effects of soil processes: Further processes, like downward transport of dissolved elements in the soil
415 column (besides efflux from the soil system through surface near runoff) and precipitation of silica
416 [c.f. *Sommer et al.*, 2006] at depth in soils (i.e., below the zone where the olivine or other silicates are
417 applied), affect the dissolution rate of applied minerals. The transport of dissolved products of applied

418 minerals from upper soil layers driven by the downward percolation of water through the soils would
419 diminish the possibility of reaching saturated conditions under which mineral dissolution will no
420 longer occur at significant rates. Moreover, depending on the soil type and conditions, clay formation
421 may also depend on the DSi concentration, and could then affect the rate of applied mineral
422 dissolution. Field experiments conducted in various environments and taking biological activity into
423 consideration are needed to address such questions about this potential Si-saturation limit, and its
424 effect on the weathering of olivine or other applied silicate minerals in soil environments. The review
425 of Sommer et al. [2006] offers further detail on this topic.

426 Effects on pH of Natural Waters: Another potential limitation on olivine weathering as an Enhanced
427 Weathering technique is the need to avoid changes in soil and river pH affecting ecosystems
428 negatively. Dissolution of olivine or other cation-bearing silicates increases the pH of the surrounding
429 fluids, and both terrestrial and aquatic (freshwater and marine) ecosystems are sensitive to pH
430 variations [Doney et al., 2009; Driscoll et al., 2001; Fabry et al., 2008; Mayes et al., 2005; Rost et al.,
431 2008]. Avoiding extreme shifts in the pH of natural waters places limits on the amount of olivine
432 weathering that can be proposed for a given river basin [c.f. example calculations in Köhler et al.,
433 2010].

434 **2.4 Enhanced weathering by distribution of olivine in the open oceans**

435 The limits imposed by needing to avoid large shifts in pH in freshwater systems might be avoided by
436 dissolving olivine in the surface ocean [Köhler et al., submitted] where the concentration of DSi is
437 well below the saturation level and much larger volumes of water are involved. DSi concentrations of
438 the modern oceans are on average $\sim 5 \text{ mmol m}^{-3}$ ($5 \mu\text{M}$) in the surface ocean [Laruelle et al., 2009].
439 Even in the Southern Ocean, an exceptional region where surface water concentrations can be as high
440 as 75 mmol m^{-3} ($75 \mu\text{M}$), concentrations remain well below amorphous silica saturation [Koltermann
441 et al., 2011] of roughly $1000 \mu\text{M}$.

442 Direct dissolution of olivine in the open ocean might significantly increase the realistic scope of
443 Enhanced Weathering with olivine (or other minerals). The CO₂ sequestration potential is slightly
444 smaller if olivine is dissolved in the ocean compared to on land, but this effect is relatively small, and
445 the benefit would be a faster rise in surface ocean pH (Fig. 7 D, E), a very much welcome outcome for
446 counteracting ocean acidification [Doney *et al.*, 2009]. However, surface ocean pH is approximately
447 7.8-8.3, and dissolution would proceed at a much slower rate than in tropical soils (Fig. 6), thus
448 requiring smaller mineral grain sizes for comparable dissolution rates relative to the application of the
449 minerals onto soils). Moreover, potential complications such as the settling of grains into the deep
450 ocean prior to their complete dissolution would have to be carefully assessed. All of the simple
451 modeling scenarios presented here ignore the potential effects of Enhanced Weathering on the marine
452 and terrestrial ecosystems, including the effects on the biological carbon pump and its capacity to
453 draw down CO₂ through removal of organic biomass into the deep ocean. To the extent that it is
454 currently possible, these aspects are discussed in detail in sections 4 and 5.

455 **3. Empirical Insights into Enhanced Weathering**

456 To date, no results from field experiments exploring the weathering of fine-grained olivine added to
457 soils and the consumption of CO₂ associated with it have been published, and the authors are only
458 aware of only one study using pot-experiments (ten Berge *et al.*, 2012). However, experimental
459 evidence of studies focusing on different topics sheds light on the potential of olivine for Enhanced
460 Weathering as a geoengineering technique and the possible consequences for global biogeochemical
461 cycles.

462 **3.1. Lessons from artificial silicates**

463 One important line of evidence providing information relevant to understanding Enhanced
464 Weathering comes from studies on the dissolution of anthropogenic material (including artificial
465 silicates) and the formation of carbonate minerals within these materials in the natural environment.
466 Silicate compounds are a product of numerous human activities, including mining (quarry fines and

467 tailings), cement production and use (cement kiln dust, construction and demolition waste), iron and
468 steel production (slag), and coal combustion (fuel ash and bottom ash) [Renforth *et al.*, 2011] and
469 considerable work has been done to understand the fate and ecological impact of these byproducts on
470 the natural system. These materials are usually associated with (or wholly consisting of) amorphous
471 gels or glasses, and meta-stable crystalline phases (e.g., ‘larnite,’ Ca_2SiO_4 and ‘alite,’ Ca_3SiO_5). Given
472 the complex mineralogy of the materials used in these experiments, computation of the weathering
473 rate of artificial silicates is difficult. In addition to the work that has been done with artificial silicates,
474 a substantial number of laboratory, field, and modeling studies have investigated the mineralogy,
475 environmental chemistry, and/or carbonation of cement. These include studies of raw clinker calcium
476 silicates and hydrated calcium silicate gels [Bertron *et al.*, 2005; Chen *et al.*, 2004; Galle *et al.*, 2004;
477 Hodgkinson and Hughes, 1999; Huntzinger *et al.*, 2009; Renforth and Manning, 2011; Shaw *et al.*,
478 2000a; Shaw *et al.*, 2000b], slags and other silicate glasses [Bayless and Schulz, 2003; Fredericci *et*
479 *al.*, 2000; Gee *et al.*, 1997; Hamilton *et al.*, 2001; Harber and Forth, 2001; Huijgen *et al.*, 2005;
480 Mayes *et al.*, 2008; Mayes *et al.*, 2006; Oelkers, 2001; Oelkers and Gislason, 2001; Parsons *et al.*,
481 2001; Rawlins *et al.*, 2008; Roadcap *et al.*, 2005; Sobanska *et al.*, 2000] and ashes [Dijkstra *et al.*,
482 2006; Goodarzi, 2006; Grisafe *et al.*, 1988; Gunning *et al.*, 2010; Koukouzas *et al.*, 2006; Lee and
483 Spears, 1997]. All studies suggest elevated reactivity in comparison to fully crystalline natural
484 silicates.

485 While silicate glasses and gels are the largest component of some anthropogenic material streams (the
486 total quantity of which may be 10-20 Gt yr^{-1} ; Renforth *et al.*, 2011), they are often also associated
487 with other minerals. Free lime (CaO) and portlandite ($\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$) are typical constituents of cements,
488 slags and ashes [usually <15% w/w; Das *et al.*, 2007; Koukouzas *et al.*, 2006; Scrivener *et al.*, 2004],
489 and readily carbonate in the presence of dissolved CO_2 . Nonetheless, the majority of carbonate
490 mineral formation in these waste materials is derived from the dissolution of the poorly crystalline
491 silicate minerals. Waste materials such as these may be able to capture 190-332 Mt C a^{-1} [Renforth *et*
492 *al.*, 2011]. This total carbon capture only mitigates a fraction of the carbon emissions produced during
493 manufacturing.

494 Rapid carbonate mineral formation has been observed during field investigations of the weathering of
495 artificial silicates [*Dietzel et al.*, 1992; *Kosednar-Legenstein et al.*, 2008; *Macleod et al.*, 1991; *Mayer*
496 *et al.*, 2006; *Renforth et al.*, 2009; *Wilson et al.*, 2009] (Fig. 8). Renforth et al [2009] investigated the
497 formation of carbonate in soils formed on demolition waste and slag. Figure 8 quite visibly shows
498 carbonate formation at these sites, which is a product of rapid material weathering (equivalent to 2500
499 t C km⁻² a⁻¹). In natural soils, such carbonate formation would take 100s to 1000s of years, but the
500 rapid weathering rates of waste materials results into the observation that such a mass of carbonate is
501 forming in only tens of years. Similarly, Wilson et al. [2009] report the sequestration of atmospheric
502 CO₂ in 11 Mt of serpentine rich tailings at the Clinton Creek asbestos mine in Canada in 30 years.
503 Wilson et al. [2010] interpret the stable carbon and oxygen isotope signatures in carbonates to suggest
504 that it was the supply of carbonate ions (from the speciation of CO₂ dissolved into the aqueous phase)
505 limiting mineral carbonate precipitation, rather than the supply of Mg²⁺ from the weathering of
506 serpentine.

507 These laboratory and field investigations of artificial silicates suggest rapid weathering rates result at
508 least in part in carbonate precipitation and thus carbon dioxide sequestration. The potentially high
509 weathering rates identified for artificial silicates are more than an order of magnitude higher than the
510 rates associated with natural silicate minerals (see Figure 3) and the associated CO₂ sequestration is
511 similarly much higher than the largest identified CO₂-sequestration rates of around 75 tC km⁻² a⁻¹
512 associated with natural weathering, in Java and the Philippines [*Dessert et al.*, 2003; *Schopka et al.*,
513 2011].

514 To some extent, the chemical weathering of artificial silicates deposited on the Earth surface can be
515 considered as a practiced (albeit unintentional) application of Enhanced Weathering. Since the early
516 1800's, approximately 100 Gt of anthropogenic silicate material has been produced [*Renforth et al.*,
517 2011], and is either currently still in use or has been deposited on land (in landfills) or in the ocean.
518 Optimizing the carbonation of these materials could on its own enhance the removal of CO₂ from the
519 atmosphere, but optimization requires a better understanding of how and why carbonation rates vary

520 among materials and environmental conditions. Fortunately, the rapid rates associated with artificial
521 materials make this variability relatively easy to study, and lessons learned from such research (i.e., in
522 terms of what most effectively increases mineral dissolution and subsequent carbonation) promise to
523 have much wider applicability to Enhanced Weathering in general. This is thus an obvious priority
524 area for further work.

525 **3.2. Lessons from agriculture: Agricultural enhancement of weathering rates, and the** 526 **role of liming**

527 Additional information about Enhanced Weathering comes from our knowledge of weathering and
528 CO₂ consumption associated with agriculture. There are indications that agricultural activities enhance
529 weathering rates, even without the addition of reactive minerals as proposed in Enhanced Weathering
530 strategies, though there are only a limited number of studies that have considered the impact of
531 agricultural activities on weathering and major gaps in knowledge remain. The studies that have been
532 done converge in suggesting that agricultural use of land increases weathering fluxes. Paces [1983]
533 assessed the mass balance of solutes in two adjacent catchments in central Europe, one agricultural
534 and one forested, and found that the Na flux from the agricultural catchment was 2.6 ± 1.9 times higher
535 than the flux from the forested catchment. When accounting for differences in the exposure of the Na-
536 bearing oligoclase minerals, the dissolution rate constant in the agricultural catchment was found to be
537 approximately 4.7 times higher than in the forested catchment. Similarly, Pierson-Wickmann et al.
538 [2009] found that weathering rates under agricultural land in Brittany, France, were significantly
539 elevated relative to trends for given runoff values for other catchments from a global compilation.
540 Other evidence for the impact of agricultural activities on weathering rates can be observed in the
541 long-term (~100 a) trend of increasing DIC concentration in the Mississippi River or from
542 comparisons between forested and agricultural areas [*Barnes and Raymond, 2009; Raymond et al.,*
543 *2008*]. Besides agricultural land use and practices, urban areas add to the observed increased DIC
544 fluxes [*Barnes and Raymond, 2009; Moosdorf et al., 2011*], whereas the contribution of suggested
545 sources (enhanced weathering in urban green spaces, leaking sewer systems, contribution from

546 artificial materials, groundwater resources for water supply, a.o.) to the global C-budget remains to be
547 quantified.

548 Identifying the mechanism of agriculturally-Enhanced Weathering is not straightforward. One
549 significant effect of agricultural activity is to increase the effective discharge from streams and rivers,
550 through irrigation and a reduction in evapotranspiration [e.g., *Raymond et al.*, 2008]. Watershed-scale
551 weathering fluxes are closely related to discharge, which (especially for peak discharge) is modified
552 through irrigation and vegetation removal. Attention has also focused on agricultural acidification
553 facilitating mineral dissolution, for example associated with the nitrification of nitrogen rich fertilizers
554 [*Perrin et al.*, 2008; *Pierson-Wickmann et al.*, 2009; *Semhi et al.*, 2000]. In this case, Enhanced
555 Weathering may not always lead to the sequestration of carbon, if DIC is associated with dissolution
556 of carbonates by nitric acids (see Figure 1). There may also be significant effects on weathering rates
557 from agricultural tillage, which exposes less weathered minerals from deeper soils and may enhance
558 dissolution rates, but this latter effect is poorly quantified.

559 Together, these effects reflect incidental anthropogenic Enhanced Weathering as a side effect of
560 agricultural land use [c.f. comments of *Mayorga*, 2008, on the alteration of DIC fluxes]. Better
561 understanding of tillage and acidification as a result of N-fertilization and how they contribute to
562 carbon fluxes associated with agriculture is clearly critical to accurately assessing the potential for
563 CO₂ sequestration of adding new minerals to soils.

564 One other agricultural practice relevant to understanding Enhanced Weathering is agricultural liming.
565 Agricultural lime (which is mostly carbonate minerals from crushed limestone, but sometimes also
566 contains calcium or magnesium oxides) is often applied to buffer soil pH within a range favorable for
567 crop growth [*Hamilton et al.*, 2007] or to counteract soil/stream-water acidification [*Hindar et al.*,
568 2003; *Huber et al.*, 2006; *Kreutzer*, 1995; *Rundle et al.*, 1995]. Several studies have explored the fate
569 of agricultural lime applied to soils and tried to quantify its effect on CO₂ drawdown. Dissolution of
570 carbonate minerals in agricultural lime is effectively a kind of Enhanced Weathering (cf. equations in
571 Figure 1), where the net effect on CO₂ depends on whether dissolution is driven by carbonic acid, in

572 which case dissolution sequesters CO₂ from the atmosphere, or by other acids, such as HNO₃ of
573 H₂SO₄. Dissolution by the other acids leads to a loss of alkalinity in comparison to dissolution by
574 carbonic acid (c.f. Fig 1), and may result in the addition of CO₂ to the atmosphere [Hamilton et al.,
575 2007; Perrin et al., 2008; Semhi et al., 2000]. This makes it difficult to accurately account for the net
576 effect of liming practices, even when they can be directly attributed to measurable increases in
577 riverine element fluxes [e.g., Ca²⁺ and bicarbonate; Hartmann and Kempe, 2008; Oh and Raymond,
578 2006]. A key distinction to liming (including the application of carbonate rocks) is that Enhanced
579 Weathering would favour the use of silicate minerals, because these would not act as a direct CO₂
580 source even if they were dissolved by a strong acid (Fig. 1). Studying the effect of liming, demands in
581 further to recognize the fact that lime addition changes the capacity of soils to act as a CO₂ sink by
582 storing organic carbon in the long-term. While short-term studies provide partly contradicting results,
583 a long-term study on the application of liming (~ 100a) provides evidence for a positive effect of soil
584 organic carbon storage for grassland areas [Fornara et al., 2011]. Despite the many unresolved
585 uncertainties, the historical practice of liming provides an appealing analogue for studying Enhanced
586 Weathering, and its potential effects, and it may be fruitful to compile gained data of the many studies
587 undertaken in agricultural science with respect to identify under which conditions liming would result
588 into a net carbon sink.

589 **3.3 Need for specific experiments**

590 It should be emphasized that, although field “experiments” such as agriculturally modified
591 weathering, and the recarbonization rates of silicate materials associated with mining (as discussed in
592 section 3.1), provide some guide, it remains difficult to make reliable quantitative estimates of
593 dissolution rates associated with potential Enhanced Weathering schemes. This is because the
594 interaction of aqueous solutions, minerals, physical soil properties, plant effects and climate
595 variability is difficult to estimate or to model, specifically if relevant information about the physical
596 properties of a site are weakly defined [c.f. discussion in Godderis et al., 2006; Godderis et al., 2009].
597 Such estimates will only be possible with controlled studies considering the range of processes

598 affecting the Enhanced Weathering rate. There are several factors which complicate estimations of
599 how quickly minerals will dissolve once applied to the land surface. In agricultural areas, the material,
600 which has been applied directly to the soil surface, will be soon be displaced into the upper soil
601 horizons by tilling and other agricultural practices, or be removed due to physical erosion. At the soil
602 surface, the dissolution rate of this material will likely be controlled of the amount and chemistry of
603 rainwater. However, mineral powder tilled below the soil surface will be additionally affected by
604 organic acids present in soils, as well as by processes of ion exchange related to soil properties and the
605 metabolic activity of soil organisms. In the lower horizons of the soil, CO₂ partial pressure is
606 significantly elevated with respect to the atmosphere, due to the release of CO₂ through plant roots
607 and to aerobic respiration that occurs within the soil and can reach temporally levels of about 50 000
608 ppmv, depending on land cover, soil properties, climate and season [Flechar *et al.*, 2007; Hashimoto
609 *et al.*, 2007; Manning and Renforth, 2012]. Understanding the distribution of acids in the soil solution
610 and the coincident movement of water through the soil needs some focus in future research. All of
611 these effects will need to be carefully considered in experimental tests of Enhanced Weathering in
612 order to derive the parameters that are needed for accurate models which predict the consequences of
613 Enhanced Weathering applied at the large scale (Table 2).

614 **4. Practicalities of Enhanced Weathering on Land as a climate engineering method**

615 Few studies holistically evaluate the engineering requirements of Enhanced Weathering (including
616 mining, crushing and milling of rocks, transportation and application), though some have begun to
617 consider such practicalities; in particular, Hangx and Spiers [2009] investigated the potential of
618 spreading olivine on coastal areas, and Renforth [2012] investigated the engineering requirements of
619 deploying Enhanced Weathering at a UK national scale. Assuming optimistic weathering rates and
620 intra-national transport distances, Renforth [2012] concluded that the energy (expressed as total
621 thermal) requirements for Enhanced Weathering would be 2.9-91.7 GJ t⁻¹ of C, and potentially cost
622 between US\$ 88-2120 t⁻¹ of C. The range of the estimate is largely down to uncertainty in the grinding
623 requirements (see below). Using these figures, a global industry that sequesters 1 Gt CO₂-C per year

624 may have an energy demand equivalent to 0.7-19.4 % of global energy consumption. Here, the main
625 outcomes of these studies are reviewed together with other appropriate literature, to outline the
626 potential engineering implications of a globally operated Enhanced Weathering scheme.

627 **4.1. Resources**

628 Optimization of an Enhanced Weathering scheme requires identifying a highly suitable location for
629 mineral application and connecting it to appropriate mineral resources.

630 Application sites: Silicate mineral dissolution rates in the environment, which are key to the feasibility
631 of Enhanced Weathering, are known to depend on climate and mineral supply [*Dessert et al.*, 2003;
632 *Hartmann*, 2009; *Hartmann et al.*, 2010a; *Hartmann and Moosdorf*, 2011; *West et al.*, 2005; *White*
633 *and Blum*, 1995]. This means that optimal application sites would be: (i) warm and (ii) wet (such as in
634 the humid tropics), and (iii) have a presently limited supply of readily weatherable cation-releasing
635 minerals. Such areas with deeply weathered soils, where the upper soil is hydrologically disconnected
636 from the weatherable rock [*Edmond et al.*, 1995; *Stallard and Edmond*, 1983; 1987; *West et al.*,
637 2005], are shown in Figure 9a. In addition, practicalities, including the ease of mineral application and
638 the availability of useful infrastructure (roads, rail, inland waterways, and spreading technology for
639 mineral addition to the land), make agricultural land (Figure 9b) most feasible for use. Thus the
640 optimal locations for mineral application to soil are likely to be on agricultural land in the humid
641 tropics (see Figure 9a, b).

642 Mineral Resources: An ideal Enhanced Weathering scheme would utilize nearby sources of rapidly
643 dissolving silicate minerals. In general, mafic or ultramafic rocks, like peridotite, basalt, gabbro or
644 dunite (see Figure 4) have the highest content of silicate minerals, such as olivine, that weather
645 rapidly. Moreover, mafic and ultramafic rocks have higher cation contents than other silicate rocks,
646 like granite or rhyolite, so called felsic rock types (Table 3), and are thus the best suited for use in
647 Enhanced Weathering.

648 Mafic and ultramafic rocks are widely abundant at the Earth's surface (Figure 4), and are composed of
649 numerous minerals. Peridotite, a rock that is effectively only composed of olivine, would be the most
650 obvious candidate for use in Enhanced Weathering except that its distribution is relatively limited
651 compared to other mafic rock types. Basalts, which contain mafic minerals, are primarily composed of
652 Ca-plagioclase feldspars, pyroxene, and olivine, with minor proportions of iron (oxy)hydroxides, offer
653 a more widely available alternative. The largest areas of basalt [Oelkers et al., 2008] are the flood
654 basalts (e.g., Deccan Traps India, and Siberian Traps, Russia) cover several hundred thousand to a
655 million km² at a depth of 1-2 km.

656 The distribution and abundance of ultramafic rocks are often better known on national rather than
657 global scales. For example, Goff et al. [2000] and Krevor et al. [2009] have presented the location,
658 within the United States, of ultramafic rocks. In the US, these rocks, which turn out to total
659 approximately 200 km³ of material (see Figure 4), are predominantly confined to some mountainous
660 regions (the Appalachians in the eastern US and, in the western US, the Josephine ophiolite in
661 Southern Oregon, Trinity ultramafic sheet and parts of the Sierra Nevada in California, and Twin
662 Sisters dunite and Ingalls complex in Washington). To give another example on the national scale,
663 Koukouzas et al. [2009] have estimated the carbonation potential of ultramafic rocks in the Vourinos
664 ophiolite complex in Greece as totalling approximately 6 Gt C. Furthermore, Renforth [2012]
665 estimates that 33 Gt of ultramafic rocks are potentially extractable in the UK, which may be able to
666 capture approximately 7 Gt C. However, the amenity value of these formations suggests that only a
667 fraction of this potential is exploitable.

668 While the quantity of material available for Enhanced Weathering may not be a limiting factor,
669 getting it to a suitable location for weathering certainly could be. Efficient deployment of Enhanced
670 Weathering on a global scale, requires a global and relatively high resolution compilation of
671 geochemical rock properties that shows local and regional heterogeneities. As a starting point, global-
672 scale assessments could be facilitated by using geochemical information from the mapping of exposed
673 rocks (applying standardized sampling grids and interpolating between sampled sites, as has been

674 done for Europe by the FOREGS programme [Imrie *et al.*, 2008]), or by compiling regional and local
675 geological mapping studies and assembling the geochemical properties of the rocks based on
676 geological/lithological maps [Hartmann *et al.*, 2011; van Straaten, 2002].

677 Regardless of the distribution of minerals suitable for use in Enhanced Weathering, large scale
678 application of this geoengineering technique will require new mines; the current total global
679 production of olivine is only $\sim 8 \text{ Mt a}^{-1}$ (personal communication with the Åheim mine in Norway),
680 three orders of magnitude less than necessary for geoengineering-scale undertaking of Enhanced
681 Weathering (see section 2). The environmental costs of such substantial additional mining, through
682 such destructive procedures such as mountain top removal, need to be considered, as does the
683 mobilisation of potentially hazardous metals during the dissolution of mafic and ultramafic rocks. For
684 example, certain dunite rocks contain relatively high amounts of nickel (Ni) and cadmium (Cd)
685 [Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, 2006] and, as has been seen many times before in mine drainage,
686 if mineral weathering releases metals at high rates, they will prove harmful to nearby ecosystems
687 [Alloway, 2012]. At lower rates, however, many of the metals that would be released (e.g., Fe, Ni, Co)
688 would serve as vital nutrients for the growth of autotrophs in terrestrial and some marine ecosystems,
689 an effect discussed at greater length in sections 5 and 6. An overview of the significantly variable
690 elemental composition of rocks can be found in the GEOROC-database [Max Planck Institute for
691 Chemistry, 2006].

692 **4.2. Material Processing**

693 One of the main challenges to assessing any Enhanced Weathering strategy is determining the cost of
694 processing the material for reaction. In particular, crushing rock ('comminution') to the particle size
695 necessary for rapid dissolution is an energy-consuming endeavour. Some of the energy consumed in
696 comminution is stored as potential energy of the new surface area. However, rock comminution
697 equipment consumes substantially more energy than the theoretical free energy production of the new
698 surface, resulting in poor efficiencies [$<5\%$, Fuerstenau and Abouzeid, 2002]. Most of this energy is

699 lost in heat, vibration and noise. Improvement of energy efficiencies in comminution would improve
700 the feasibility and lower the cost of Enhanced Weathering.

701 Practical Lessons in Grinding: Rocks containing silicate minerals have long been extracted for use as
702 aggregate that is mainly used in infrastructure development (as road base, filler in concrete,
703 earthworks etc.). There is a lot of information available from the aggregate industry about the physical
704 properties (particularly the particle size distribution and shape) of the material following
705 comminution. The classic formula developed by Bond [1952], and verified by laboratory scale
706 crushing experiments, uses particle size reduction to predict energy use in comminution:

$$707 \quad W = \frac{10W_i}{\sqrt{P_{80}}} - \frac{10W_i}{\sqrt{F_{80}}} \quad (10)$$

708 where W_i is the material specific work index (kWh t^{-1}), P_{80} represents the particle diameter to which
709 80% of the product passes, F_{80} denotes the same limit in the feed. P_{80} represents a definable upper
710 limit to the particle diameter of the resultant material. Part of this size fraction is often referred to as
711 ‘fines’ (material that is too small for use as aggregate, usually $<4 \text{ mm}$), which is a substantial problem
712 in quarries. The size, and subsequent ‘quality’, of the aggregate is carefully controlled by crusher
713 operational parameters and screens that separate out the required size fraction. Efforts are made to
714 reduce the production of the waste fines, which are stockpiled and sometimes used in redevelopment
715 of the site [Woods *et al.*, 2004]. Extraction and processing of metalliferous ore is not constrained in
716 the same way, and in this case the production of fine particles ($<50 \mu\text{m}$) is desirable.

717 Processing rock for Enhanced Weathering would be done in several stages. First, low energy (mainly
718 electrical $\sim 5 \text{ kWh t}^{-1}$) blasting and primary crushing would be used. The majority of energy
719 (electrical) in comminution ($10\text{-}316 \text{ kWh t}^{-1}$; Renforth, 2012) would be used in the second step for
720 secondary or tertiary crushing/grinding to produce the small grain sizes necessary for rapid
721 dissolution.

722 Theoretical Constraints on Mechanical Grinding: Expressing energy consumption as a function of
723 surface area is particularly useful for Enhanced Weathering, because weathering rates can also be
724 expressed in terms of material surface area, so energy costs and weathering rates can be directly
725 related. There have been a limited number of studies investigating surface area changes during
726 comminution [see for example: *Axelsson and Piret*, 1950; *Balázš et al.*, 2008; *Fuerstenau and*
727 *Abouzeid*, 2002; *Haug et al.*, 2010; *Stamboliadis et al.*, 2009] (Figure 10). The relationship between
728 energy consumption (y) and the resulting surface area (x) is exponential, following (Figure 10):

$$729 \quad y \left(\frac{\text{kWh}}{\text{t}} \right) = 76.854 \pm 7.063 e^{0.09x \pm 0.002 \left(\frac{\text{m}^2}{\text{g}} \right)} \quad (r^2 = 0.995) \quad (9)$$

730 As discussed previously (section 2), the maximum carbon capture potential of olivine is 340 kg C per
731 tonne of mineral. If material other than pure olivine (e.g., ultramafic to mafic rocks such as dunite,
732 which contain a small proportion of other minerals) is used, the net efficiency will decrease (~200 kg
733 C per tonne (material) may be typical for ultrabasic rocks; Renforth, 2012; and references therein).
734 These resources have yet to be fully quantified. Therefore, a conservative feasibility analysis of
735 Enhanced Weathering must include the lower carbon capture potential. Furthermore, this carbon
736 capture potential may be reduced if there is appreciable resulting carbonate precipitation in soils or the
737 surface ocean. Fossil fuels emit approximately 0.06 to 0.27 kg C per kWh produced (0.06 kg C per
738 kWh for road fuel, 0.11 kg C per kWh for grid electricity in the UK, ~0.27 kg C per kWh for
739 electricity from coal combustion, see Renforth, 2012; and references therein). Therefore, the
740 maximum energy that can be ‘spent’ on a material (including that which is required for extraction,
741 processing, and transport) is between 740 and 3330 kWh per tonne of material (assuming the material
742 can capture ~200 kg C per tonne). Exceeding this energy budget would result in material
743 processing/transportation emissions surpassing the carbon draw-down from Enhanced Weathering.
744 The exact energy budget for Enhanced Weathering depends on site specific information including
745 extraction and application site infrastructure and technology, fuel mix, distance and transport mode
746 between extraction and application site, and comminution requirements (which requires a greater

747 understanding of weathering rates in soils). Most crushing and grinding practices use $\sim 10^2$ - 10^3 kWh
748 per tonne of material (Table 4), and are generally within the range presented above.

749 Accounting for the energy consumed in processing is a key part of robustly determining the carbon
750 capture efficiency of Enhanced Weathering strategies. This will need to be actively monitored since
751 grinding efficiency may vary for different specific materials (e.g., olivine from different dunite
752 deposits). This is important due to the trade-offs between the energy consumed in grinding, and the
753 rate of dissolution. For example, using the energy consumption described above by Equation 9, the
754 net CO₂ sequestration efficiency of olivine application to soils would be reduced by 5-10% because of
755 CO₂ emissions related to the mining and grinding of olivine [*Hangx and Spiers, 2009*], assuming the
756 use of 10 μm grain size particles. Using a 37 μm grain size would require less energy for crushing, so
757 the loss in efficiency would only be 0.7-1.5%, but the dissolution rate of such larger sized particles is
758 expected to be significantly slower, delaying the sequestration effect.

759 **4.3. Transportation and infrastructure**

760 Transportation of large quantities of milled rock requires extensive distribution networks and
761 infrastructure [*Hangx and Spiers, 2009*]. Agricultural areas in industrialized and some emerging
762 countries have existing supply channels and basic infrastructure that could be easily modified for use
763 by Enhanced Weathering programs. Some areas of Africa and South East Asia, though
764 environmentally well-suited for Enhanced Weathering, would need to build new supply channels,
765 since there is currently little use of agricultural fertilizers and little associated infrastructure that could
766 be co-opted for dispensing powdered minerals [*Hernandez and Torero, 2011; van Straaten, 2002*].

767 The amount of silicates that need to be transported and dissolved to implement Enhanced Weathering
768 on a geoengineering scale is huge and may require expansion of current infrastructure even in areas
769 where infrastructure is well developed. The olivine weathering scheme discussed here involves the
770 production, transportation, and distribution of 3 Gt olivine per year over soils. By comparison, in
771 2010, a total of 8.3 Gt of goods for international trade were loaded at the world's ports (i.e., a value

772 which does not include goods for intra-national trade [*UNCTAD*, 2011]). Thus Enhanced Weathering
773 requires a transport industry of a scale similar to that in use for international commerce.

774 **4.4. Application and monitoring**

775 The application of weatherable minerals on land would preferentially be conducted using established
776 agricultural infrastructure, including the supply chains for fertilizers. Application of ground minerals
777 to forested regions would be a challenge since application could probably only be done from the air,
778 at considerable expense, both financially and in terms of the carbon efficiency of CO₂ sequestration
779 (Table 5). Application from the air would also require new infrastructure, or adaptation of existing
780 infrastructure such as fire fighting planes, as well as a means for monitoring the amount of mineral
781 that reaches the target soil system (a certain but unknown amount will be laterally transported by
782 wind, and leave the optimal target area).

783 Indeed, independent of what minerals are used, and whether they are applied on agricultural or
784 forested land, careful monitoring will be of paramount importance. This would have to include
785 monitoring of:

- 786 • the chemical impact of the released solutes (including potential contaminants like heavy
787 metals), and shifts in pH in soils and fresh water systems,
- 788 • the physical impacts of dust particles on organisms, both in aquatic systems and in the air, and
- 789 • the dissolution of the mineral powders.

790 Although it will not be easy to monitor of any of these aspects, tracking the dissolution of the
791 minerals may be the hardest. It is currently difficult to make accurate predictions for how quickly
792 the applied minerals will dissolve, much less to monitor this effect over large areas of the land
793 surface. Any implementation of Enhanced Weathering will require the development of carefully-
794 considered monitoring techniques for efficiency and risk assessment, as well as application
795 strategies, which do not exist to date (c.f. supplement information).

796 **5. Potential Feedbacks with the Terrestrial Biosphere**

797 **5.1. Plants and weathering: Beyond abiotic kinetics**

798 In general, life across a range of scales, from microbes to forests, has been found to naturally increase
799 rates of silicate mineral dissolution and associated drawdown of atmospheric CO₂. A key question for
800 Enhanced Weathering is what impact biological activities would have on readily weatherable minerals
801 applied to soils. Biological activity might increase the dissolution rate of applied minerals on the one
802 hand, or mineral addition might reduce the biological role in weathering by altering the nutrient status
803 of ecosystems.

804 Field studies have quantified to first order how the presence of plants and associated ecosystems
805 affects mineral weathering rates. Moulton et al. [2002] compared weathering-derived element fluxes
806 from streams draining small Icelandic catchments (basalt) that were either vegetated with birch or
807 conifer, or covered only by lichens. They found elemental fluxes 2-5 times higher with forest
808 vegetation compared to lichens. Bormann et al. [1998] used a mesocosm experiment at the Hubbard
809 Brook Experimental Forest in New Hampshire, USA, where “sandboxes” with uniform granitic
810 substrate were planted with trees or left bare. They found weathering release rates were significantly
811 higher under the trees (18x higher for Mg and 10x for Ca). In experiments growing different plants on
812 basaltic substrate under laboratory conditions, Hinsinger et al. [2001] found that plants enhanced the
813 release by chemical weathering of many elements by a factor 1-5 relative to a salt solution, providing
814 experimental evidence to support the field observations from Iceland and New Hampshire. These
815 effects may differ depending on the tree species, for a variety of reasons such as differences in plant
816 uptake rates of elements, soil pH and mycorrhizal assemblages, though the relationships remain to be
817 well understood. Some studies have hinted at higher weathering fluxes associated with angiosperms
818 compared to gymnosperms, but this picture is not entirely conclusive [see compilation of data by
819 *Taylor et al.*, 2009]. There is also evidence that lichens enhance weathering rates over that of bare
820 rock, although there is a lack of well-controlled field studies to quantify this effect [c.f. *Brady et al.*,
821 1999; *McCarroll and Viles*, 1995].

822 Plants drive higher weathering rates for a number of reasons [Manning and Renforth, 2012]. In the
823 process of taking up nutrient elements, they alter soil solution chemistry and change the saturation
824 state of minerals, favouring dissolution. Through root respiration, they directly release CO₂ into soils,
825 increasing acidity and enhancing mineral dissolution rates (see Figure 11). And, through mycorrhizal
826 assemblages they release organic compounds that accelerate mineral dissolution [Leake *et al.*, 2008].

827 Some of the key mechanisms of biotic weathering enhancement involve symbiotic interactions, with
828 plant, fungus, and bacteria communities working closely in tandem with each other. Many
829 interactions specifically target the release of nutrient elements from minerals. In several studies,
830 fungal hyphae have been shown to penetrate into silicate minerals to elicit the release of Ca and P
831 from apatite [Jongmans *et al.*, 1997; Van Breemen *et al.*, 2000] which is only found in trace amounts
832 within most rocks, but contains high concentrations of these critical nutrients. Mg and Fe are also
833 important plant nutrients, but biological weathering of Mg- and Fe-bearing minerals (such as olivine)
834 has not been carefully examined. The extent to which ecosystems facilitate the weathering of minerals
835 such as olivine may depend on ecosystem nutrient status, with, for example, nutrient stress potentially
836 driving greater biological enhancement of weathering. This should be an active area of research in
837 terms of understanding how schemes for Enhanced Weathering will function in practice.

838 **5.2. Release of silicon and its effects on terrestrial ecosystems**

839 The use of silicate minerals for Enhanced Weathering will result in the production of significant
840 quantities of dissolved silicon. This excess silicon will not be confined to soil solutions, rivers, and
841 other aqueous systems, but will work its way into many other biogeochemical reservoirs, and may
842 affect a range of processes in the terrestrial silica cycle (Fig. 12).

843 Silicon is considered to be a beneficial nutrient for plants in general, and in some cases it is essential
844 for growth [Epstein, 1994; 1999; 2009]. An ample supply of usable silicon improves the water use
845 efficiency and drought stress resilience of certain plants, increases their rate of photosynthesis under
846 drought stress, and enhances resistance to certain diseases and infestations [Agarie *et al.*, 1992; Chen

847 *et al.*, 2011; *Crusciol et al.*, 2009; *Datnoff et al.*, 1991; *Datnoff et al.*, 1992; *Datnoff et al.*, 1997;
848 *Deren et al.*, 1994; *Gao et al.*, 2004; *Korndorfer et al.*, 1999; *Savant et al.*, 1997a; *Savant et al.*,
849 1997b]. This means that, in soils containing relatively low amounts of "plant-available silicon",
850 Enhanced Weathering could improve plant health and growth. Low concentrations of plant-available
851 silicon are found in highly weathered soils with low base cation contents, predominantly soils in
852 regions of the humid tropics as well as histosols with high organic matter content [*Datnoff et al.*,
853 1997; *Nanayakkara et al.*, 2008; *Savant et al.*, 1997a]. Many agricultural fields are also depleted in
854 plant-available silicon because of the repeated harvesting of crops that results in the export of the
855 silica found within plants [*Datnoff et al.*, 1997; *Nanayakkara et al.*, 2008; *Savant et al.*, 1997a].
856 Agricultural fields have often been fertilized with nitrate and phosphate fertilizers for years, but not
857 with silicate, driving these fields into silicon limitation.

858 Silicon present in dissolved form in water is absorbed by plants as monosilicic acid, $\text{Si}(\text{OH})_4$ [*Jones*
859 *and Handreck*, 1967] where, at various deposition sites within the plants, it polymerizes into a silica
860 gel that further condenses to form amorphous, hydrated silica solids known as phytoliths in land
861 plants [*Yoshida et al.*, 1962]. This biogenic silica (BSi) fulfils several functions. It contributes to
862 increases in cell wall structure, helping to defend plants against biotic stress like insect pests [*Alvarez*
863 *and Datnoff*, 2001; *Deren et al.*, 1994; *Epstein*, 1999; 2009; *Ma*, 2004]. Abiotic stress reduction seems
864 to be provided by enhancing uptake of phosphorus (in the case of rice plants), reducing toxicities
865 associated with Mn, Fe and Al, increasing the mechanical strength of stems, improving the plant
866 growth habit (overall shape, structure, and appearance of the plant), and reducing the shattering of
867 grains [c.f. references in *Nanayakkara et al.*, 2008] .

868 Some of the observed positive effects of abundant BSi within a plant might be due to the physical
869 properties of the phytoliths. Such silica nanoparticles possess a significant adsorption surface that
870 could affect the wetting properties of xylem vessels (the conduit through which water is transported
871 through vascular land plants) and thus could improve the water use efficiency of these plants [*Gao et*
872 *al.*, 2006; *Gao et al.*, 2004; *Wang and Naser*, 1994; *Zwieniecki et al.*, 2001]. Increased resistance to

873 drought has been reported for several plant species, like sorghum bicolor, maize, rye and rice, when
874 plant available silicon has been supplied [*Chen et al.*, 2011; *Gao et al.*, 2006; *Hattori et al.*, 2005;
875 *Hattori et al.*, 2009]. The addition of silicon to soils by enhanced chemical weathering may increase
876 water use efficiency by as much as 35%, depending on plant species [*Gao et al.*, 2004]. This effect
877 could mean that Enhanced Weathering, by increasing Si supply, might alter local hydrologic cycles,
878 but this has not been carefully considered. Better understanding of this effect will be important for
879 assessing the complete consequences of mineral application to soils.

880 Through the release of silicon, Enhanced Weathering could result in additional drawdown of CO₂ by
881 stimulating plant growth in non-humid areas, because of its positive effect on the water use efficiency,
882 and in areas where silicon is limiting to plant growth. The extent to which Enhanced Weathering
883 could release the terrestrial biosphere from silicon limitation is not yet known, as it has only been
884 recently recognized that land plants could be silicon limited, leaving many silicon limited regions to
885 be identified and mapped.

886 It is important to recognize that most of the studies referred to in this section focused on the effect of
887 silicon availability on agricultural ecosystems. Studies have investigated the impact of plant available
888 silicon on the development of trees and their physiological properties for only a few species.
889 However, recent evidence suggests that trees impact the local silica cycle differently than shrubs and
890 grasses [c.f. the work of Cornelis: *Cornelis et al.*, 2010a; *Cornelis et al.*, 2010b; *Cornelis et al.*,
891 2010c; *Cornelis et al.*, 2011a; *Cornelis et al.*, 2011b], perhaps in part because BSi from forests is 10
892 to 15 times more soluble than BSi from grasses, owing to its greater specific surface area [*Wilding
893 and Drees*, 1974].

894 **5.3. Release of other nutrients and effects on ecosystem productivity**

895 While dissolution of Mg-silicates like olivine will primarily supply Mg and Si to soils (Fig. 1), it will
896 also release many other elements that will have effects on ecosystems. By mass, an ultramafic rock
897 may contain up to 5% Fe, 0.06% Mn, 0.02% P, and 0.02% K [*Green*, 1964], and so weathering of 3
898 Gt per year of olivine could release 150 Mt Fe, and up to 1 Mt of Mn, P and K. This could spur plant

899 growth by providing essential nutrients, thereby driving further sequestration of carbon in the
900 terrestrial reservoir by building up standing stocks of organic carbon in biomass and soils.

901 The net impact of such mineral fertilization on the terrestrial carbon pool in agricultural ecosystems is
902 already relatively well understood [e.g., *Alvarez and Datnoff*, 2001; *Ma and Takahashi*, 1990; *van*
903 *Straaten*, 2002] because the optimization of crop yield and thus growth rates is a major objective in
904 agricultural science. For example the net rice yield by application of silicon fertilizers can be
905 increased by 10 to 50%, depending on the local conditions [c.f. in *Alvarez and Datnoff*, 2011]. The
906 application of suitable rocks for mineral fertilization has been discussed for decades [*van Straaten*,
907 2002; *Walthall and Bridger*, 1943], and the large number of studies on this topic is more than can be
908 comprehensively surveyed here.

909 Much less is known about the potential impact of Enhanced Weathering on the carbon content of
910 forested regions. Tropical forested regions contain about 25% of the total terrestrial biomass [*Jobbagy*
911 *and Jackson*, 2000] and account for at least 33% of the global terrestrial net primary production (NPP)
912 [*Beer et al.*, 2010; *Grace et al.*, 1995; *Phillips et al.*, 1998]. These forests are located in the most
913 suitable areas for carrying out Enhanced Weathering, and changes in their productivity associated
914 with increasing nutrient supply could be significant in terms of the global carbon cycle. The main
915 plant nutrients are N, P, and K, and a poor supply of any of these nutrients may limit productivity
916 [*Hyvonen et al.*, 2007; *Tripler et al.*, 2006]. The mafic and ultramafic rock powders being considered
917 for Enhanced Weathering contain minor proportions of P-rich and K-rich minerals, but little if any N,
918 though trace metals that are present in silicate rocks are required in N-fixing enzymes [*Ragsdale*,
919 2009]. If tropical forest ecosystems are P- or K-limited, then the P and K supply from Enhanced
920 Weathering should affect the carbon pool of forested ecosystems. *Cleveland et al.*[2011] conducted a
921 meta-analysis for tropical forests because some studies have suggested that NPP in tropical forests is
922 limited by P [c.f. references in *Cleveland et al.*, 2011], while others have argued that tropical forests
923 often have a labile P pool in the surface soil sufficient to avoid P-limitation of NPP in these systems.
924 The overall result was that the lack of spatially explicit knowledge of how tropical forest systems will

925 react to enhanced P-availability and possibly also K-availability [Tripler *et al.*, 2006] calls for a series
926 of large-scale nutrient manipulations experiments to clarify this issue [Cleveland *et al.*, 2011].

927 Based on this, we recommend that during Enhanced Weathering exercises, the effect on NPP and
928 biomass per unit area should be monitored so that the potential surplus in C-sequestration due to
929 biomass (and soil carbon) increase may be evaluated.

930 **5.4. Wider consequences for agricultural systems**

931 When minerals are spread on agricultural land during Enhanced Weathering, a significant additional
932 benefit may be the fertilization of crops [cf. van Straaten, 2002, outlining the concept of “rocks for
933 crops”] because silicate minerals contain most of the nutrients required by plants (with exception of
934 N). Powdered silicate rocks have even been considered as an alternative to conventional fertilization
935 in areas where fertilizers are not available or are too expensive for many farmers, and in organic
936 agriculture [Coroneos *et al.*, 1995; Leonardos *et al.*, 1987; Leonardos *et al.*, 2000; Von Fragstein *et*
937 *al.*, 1988; Walthall and Bridger, 1943]. The potential for silicates to supply K [Manning, 2010] is
938 notable because this critical nutrient is rapidly depleted from agricultural soils, particularly in the
939 tropics. Manning [2010] concludes: “the present high cost of conventional potassium fertilisers
940 justifies further investigation of potassium silicate minerals and their host rocks (which in some cases
941 include basic rocks, such as basalt) as alternative sources of K, especially for systems with highly
942 weathered soils that lack a significant cation exchange capacity”.

943 Both the time frame and exact extent of the fertilization effect of adding powdered silicate rocks to
944 agricultural lands needs to be better assessed considering this as part of the geoengineering strategy of
945 Enhanced Weathering. Many studies have concluded, for example, that slow dissolution and nutrient
946 release rates from silicate minerals limit their suitability for agricultural applications [e.g., Blum *et al.*,
947 1989a; Blum *et al.*, 1989b; Von Fragstein *et al.*, 1988], while others have concluded that in some
948 environments the relatively high dissolution rates of the minerals makes them suitable as long-term,
949 slow-release fertilizers [e.g., Leonardos *et al.*, 1987; Nkouathio *et al.*, 2008]. The key lies in

950 identifying which combinations of plants, soils, minerals, and climatic conditions result in high
951 nutrient release rates that stimulate plant growth and crop yields. Accomplishing this is made difficult
952 by mineral dissolution in soils being governed by a series of interactions that are difficult to simulate
953 in laboratory experiments [Harley and Gilkes, 2000; van Straaten, 2002]. What is clear is that targeted
954 application of silicate minerals to agricultural soils may have synergistic effects on primary
955 productivity, industrial fertilizer use, and crop yields and well-designed Enhanced Weathering
956 schemes strategies would take advantage of this.

957 **6. The coastal and the marine system**

958 **6.1. Total alkalinity and pH**

959 If Enhanced Weathering is carried out on a geoengineering scale, total alkalinity (TA; see section 2,
960 Equation 1, above) and pH in the ocean will change due to the input of the products (Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} ,
961 H_4SiO_4) from silicate rock weathering. The input of Mg^{2+} and Ca^{2+} leads to an immediate increase of
962 TA (Equation 1, section 2.1). The related change of pH can be calculated under the assumption of
963 equilibration of CO_2 partial pressures between atmosphere (a certain value given) and the ocean. The
964 “one-time-input” weathering of 10 Pg olivine (for example pure forsterite (Mg_2SiO_4): $10 \cdot 10^{15}$ g
965 forsterite-olivine * 1/140 mol/g-forsterite * 2 mol-Magnesium/mol-forsterite), would result in an input
966 of 1.4×10^{14} moles Mg^{2+} .

967 If this input were evenly distributed over the whole ocean surface (taken here as the upper 50 m of the
968 water column), the impact on TA and pH would be relatively small ($\Delta\text{TA} = 8 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$, $\Delta\text{pH} = 0.001$
969 from an initial mean state of $\text{DIC} = 2010 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$, $\text{TA} = 2280 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$, $T = 20^\circ\text{C}$, $S = 34$).
970 However, changes in TA and pH would increase over time if the same amount of olivine was
971 weathered every year over a longer period. If the “one-time-input” is restricted to a much smaller
972 volume, for example just the coastal regions, the local changes in TA and pH would be much higher
973 ($\Delta\text{TA} = 790 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$, $\Delta\text{pH} = 0.11$ for 1% of the upper ocean volume). The extent of the change in
974 TA and pH in the surface ocean over time will depend in part on circulation and mixing, and thus has

975 to be calculated using an ocean circulation model. Such detailed analysis remains to be done, so much
976 remains to be understood about how Enhanced Weathering would influence the oceanic alkalinity
977 system, and potentially offset the decreasing pH associated with ocean acidification [Köhler *et al.*,
978 submitted]. Specifically, in local coastal areas affected by “acidification” due CO₂ increase in the
979 atmosphere, the Enhanced Weathering strategy might be considered for further analysis of
980 applicability to limit the consequences of acidification.

981 **6.2 Alteration of the Si fluxes to the coastal zone and influence on the biological carbon** 982 **pump in the oceans**

983 In addition to changing alkalinity and pH, global scale application of Enhanced Weathering would
984 significantly alter dissolved silicon (DSi) fluxes to the coastal zones. Silicon released by weathering
985 on land may be transmitted, via runoff, to rivers. Some but not all of the DSi delivered to rivers is
986 likely to be taken up as biogenic silica (BSi) produced by diatoms and marshland plants in the river,
987 as well as in lakes, reservoirs, and estuaries [Humborg *et al.*, 1997; Humborg *et al.*, 2000; Ittekkot *et*
988 *al.*, 2000]. Still, a portion of the DSi is expected to make its way into the ocean [Laruelle *et al.*, 2009],
989 as recent retention of DSi in the land system is estimated to be only about 20% [Beusen *et al.*, 2009].
990 This proportion may vary locally because of varying degrees of N- and P-limitation in many large
991 river systems draining to the coastal zone, depending in part on the industrialization-stage of the
992 catchment and anthropogenic nutrient inputs [Beusen *et al.*, 2005; Harrison *et al.*, 2010; Hartmann *et*
993 *al.*, 2010b; Mayorga *et al.*, 2010]. Moreover, while it is likely that significant amounts of BSi
994 deposited in the flood plains of rivers is redissolved, a significant proportion might be stored in
995 floodplain deposits, as results from the Congo river indicate [Hughes *et al.*, 2011]. However, this
996 amount is globally uncertain and more research is needed to understand the fate of DSi during
997 transport from its point of mobilization to the coastal zones [Hughes *et al.*, 2011]. If all Si is released
998 during the dissolution of 3 Gt of olivine in humid tropical areas (based on the scenario described in
999 section 2), and if all of this Si reaches the coastal zone, then the annual DSi fluxes to the coastal zone

1000 in most humid tropical areas would increase by a factor of >5 over current values [c.f. *Diirr et al.*,
1001 2011] (see Figure 13).

1002 Several questions then arise. Will this extra DSi be entirely transmitted to and retained in nearshore
1003 sediments as BSi that has been produced by silicifying organisms (like diatoms) in the vicinity of the
1004 river plume, or will it serve as a silicon source to more distant areas of the ocean? Will this extra DSi
1005 alter marine food web structures by favoring the growth of diatoms, which, uniquely among the major
1006 marine phytoplankton, require DSi as a nutrient for growth? And, lastly, would such additional input
1007 of DSi to the ocean have any stimulating effect on the biological pumping of carbon out of the surface
1008 ocean, thereby lowering atmospheric concentrations of CO₂?

1009 There is evidence to suggest that the enhanced delivery of DSi to the ocean by rivers would result in
1010 local, if not regional increases in the inventory of DSi in surface waters. For example, the natural DSi
1011 load in the Congo River (a flux of 3.5×10^{11} mol of Si per year) is enough to raise DSi concentrations
1012 along a 1000 km stretch of coastline by 5 to 10 μM [*Bernard et al.*, 2011]. In addition, the dissolution
1013 of BSi (largely produced from river-sourced DSi) from the sediments of the Congo River fan provides
1014 a diffusive supply of DSi to this area, elevating the DSi concentration of deeper waters by several μM
1015 [*Ragueneau et al.*, 2009]. Similarly, the 1.1×10^{12} mol per year of DSi delivered by the plume from
1016 the Amazon and Orinoco Rivers is enough to raise DSi concentrations in the Caribbean by 10 μM
1017 [*Bernard et al.*, 2011]. These are extreme cases, as the fluxes are large, but they illustrate that a
1018 doubling of the silicon flux to the ocean in specific areas could have far reaching influences of DSi
1019 concentrations in surface waters- exactly where it could be used by the obligately photosynthetic
1020 diatoms to fuel their growth.

1021 In contrast to this, however, is the recent work of Laruelle et al [2009], who used a box model to study
1022 the impact of increasing temperatures (due to global warming) and the retention of BSi in terrestrial
1023 freshwater systems due to damming. The scenarios modeled, while focused on potential changes to
1024 the silica cycle in the near future, give some insight into the extent to which additional quantities of
1025 silicon from weathering can be transmitted from land to sea. In the model, increased temperatures,

1026 which resulted in higher weathering rates, led to consequently increased fluxes of reactive silicon
1027 towards the ocean in rivers. In the absence of increased damming, concentrations of DSi significantly
1028 increased in the coastal zone (although this may have been due not to the additional silicon per se, but
1029 to the higher dissolution rate of BSi at higher temperatures, decreasing the retention of BSi in
1030 estuaries). In the model, this additional silicon did not result in an increase in DSi concentrations in
1031 the open ocean, although, again this was due to the increase in temperature which, in the model, led to
1032 increased rates of production of BSi. When included, the projected increase in river damming
1033 diminished silicon fluxes to estuaries and the coastal zone even in the face of elevated weathering
1034 rates. It would be interesting to use such a model to explore the consequences of increasing
1035 weathering fluxes, independent of changes in temperature and subjected to various different damming
1036 scenarios, to see to what extent a sustained input of double the weathering flux of silicon could be
1037 transmitted to the coastal zone and open ocean.

1038 It is highly probable, however, that increasing the DSi flux in rivers may shift the ecological balance
1039 in rivers, lakes, and coastal systems back towards the "natural" order that has been disrupted by
1040 damming and agricultural runoff. The 1960s through 1980s saw an explosive growth in dam building
1041 [Rosenberg *et al.*, 2000], and now about 30% of the global sediment discharge is retained behind
1042 dams rather than being transported downstream [Vorosmarty and Sahagian, 2000]. The trapping of
1043 amorphous (including biogenic) silica, which is easily soluble, deprives downstream areas of a
1044 significant portion of their DSi supply [Humborg *et al.*, 1997; Humborg *et al.*, 2000; Ittekkot *et al.*,
1045 2000]. As a result, silicon fluxes to the ocean from rivers have been significantly diminished over the
1046 last century. At the same time, nitrate and phosphate fluxes to the coastal ocean have more than
1047 doubled due to runoff from agriculture [Meybeck, 1998]. By releasing diatoms in the coastal ocean
1048 from nitrate and/or phosphate limitation, the total amount of BSi production in coastal waters has
1049 been increased, further reducing DSi concentrations in the coastal ocean that is already being starved
1050 of silicon inputs from rivers. With lack of additional silicon input, the net result has been a shift of
1051 large freshwater systems (like the Great Lakes) and some coastal areas and seas (like the Baltic Sea
1052 and the Mississippi River plume) out of nitrogen or phosphorus limitation and into silicon limitation

1053 [Conley *et al.*, 1993; Nelson and Dortch, 1996; Turner and Rabalais, 1994] and away from diatoms as
1054 the dominant primary producers towards groups like dinoflagellates, which are more likely to be toxic
1055 and/or prone to fall into the "harmful algal bloom" (HAB) category. It would be reasonable to expect
1056 that significant extra input of DSi to lakes, rivers, and the coastal ocean would reverse the decades-
1057 long trend away from diatoms in these areas. Whether Si release associated with Enhanced
1058 Weathering would avoid dams and reach the oceans depends on the location where minerals are
1059 applied.

1060 If significant inputs of DSi into the coastal ocean and adjacent seas promote the growth of diatoms,
1061 will an increase in the pumping of carbon out of the surface ocean also occur? Our understanding of
1062 the myriad interacting processes and factors which control the production and destruction of rapidly
1063 sinking particles in the ocean is not yet at the point where we can make definitive predictions,
1064 especially for the coastal zone which would be the most direct recipient of the additional DSi. The
1065 answer will, both regionally and globally, depend on several things, including whether diatom growth
1066 is silicon limited (and thus stimulated by additional inputs of DSi). Also likely to play a key role is
1067 whether the extra diatom production occurs fairly continuously or in pulses (blooms) which stand a
1068 greater chance of forming and exporting large, rapidly sinking particles. And lastly, the extent to
1069 which additional dissolved silicon will result in enhanced particulate organic carbon (POC) flux out of
1070 the surface ocean will depend on whether the local food web structure favors export (e.g., in the form
1071 of appendicularian houses and salp fecal pellets) versus retention and recycling of POC in the upper
1072 water column.

1073 There is some evidence from the open ocean that when diatoms dominate primary productivity in the
1074 ocean, they enhance the flux of POC out of the euphotic zone and into the deep ocean. This can be
1075 seen in a comparison of POC fluxes at the Hawaiian Ocean Time series (HOT) station ALOHA in the
1076 oligotrophic subtropical Pacific central gyre and at the K2 site in the northwest Pacific subarctic gyre
1077 [Buesseler *et al.*, 2007]. At the K2 site, which was dominated by diatoms, primary production was
1078 more than two times greater than at station ALOHA and a slightly greater proportion of this primary

1079 production was exported through the base of the euphotic zone (16% versus 12%). In addition, 51%
1080 of this exported POC was transferred through 500 m depth at K2 versus 20% at station ALOHA.
1081 Similarly high export efficiencies (25-40%) have been observed between 100 and 750 m depth related
1082 to a diatom bloom in the North Atlantic [Martin *et al.*, 2011]. Although differences in seasonality and
1083 food web structure between the higher and lower exporting sites may contribute to these differences in
1084 the strength and efficiency of the biological pump, at face value they suggest that diatom-dominated
1085 systems result in enhanced export of POC out of the surface ocean. Another study, based on a greater
1086 number of sites and more deeply deployed sediment traps, has noted that the silica dominated portion
1087 of the North Pacific (e.g., sites like K2) transport, on average, 214 mmol C m⁻² y⁻¹ as POC to depths of
1088 1 km, while calcium carbonate dominated portions of the North Pacific (i.e., sites more like station
1089 ALOHA) export on average only 39 mmol C m⁻² y⁻¹ [Honjo *et al.*, 2008]. Studies incorporating
1090 plankton functional types, for what they are worth, with global circulation models suggest that
1091 diatoms are responsible for nearly the majority of POC export in the ocean [Jin *et al.*, 2006].

1092 Although the above studies have all focused on the open ocean, diatoms are also often ecologically
1093 dominant and key contributors to particle flux in coastal zones and river plumes. It is estimated that,
1094 despite their relatively small area compared to the rest of the ocean, coastal zones comprise about
1095 50% of both the production and sedimentary burial of BSi in the ocean [DeMaster, 2002; Shipe and
1096 Brzezinski, 2001; Treguer and De La Rocha, 2013 (in press)]. As continental shelves and slopes are
1097 also host to roughly 50% of the POC flux to the seabed [Dunne *et al.*, 2007], this implies a potentially
1098 strong link between diatoms and the biological carbon pump in coastal regions. That riverborne
1099 nutrients may stimulate phytoplankton growth in river plumes, not only in coastal regions adjacent to
1100 river mouths, but further at sea as well, can be seen in the elevated concentrations of BSi and
1101 significant contribution of diatoms to primary production in these plumes [e.g., Shipe *et al.*, 2006].

1102 These studies all illustrate cases where more DSi promotes more diatom growth and greater capacity
1103 and efficiency to the export of POC to the deep sea (i.e., away from the atmosphere). In contrast, there
1104 is the entirety of the Southern Ocean which clearly demonstrates that a high availability of DSi in

1105 surface waters need not necessarily result in a high flux of POC to depth. Concentrations of DSi in
1106 Southern Ocean surface waters are remarkably high (up to $75 \mu\text{M}$) due, in part, to the upwelling of
1107 subsurface waters with significantly high DSi concentrations. This excess of DSi, in conjunction with
1108 other environmental parameters, does result in a phytoplankton community largely dominated by
1109 diatoms. However, due to phytoplankton growth limitation by a combination of the low availability of
1110 trace metals like iron, the low availability of light related to the extremely deep surface mixed layers,
1111 the low temperatures, and the high grazing pressure relative to growth rates, overall primary
1112 production is low at $5 \text{ mol C m}^{-2} \text{ y}^{-1}$ [Honjo *et al.*, 2008] compared to the global ocean average of 12
1113 $\text{mol C m}^{-2} \text{ y}^{-1}$ [Field *et al.*, 1998]. Roughly 11% of this net primary production in the Southern Ocean
1114 is exported to a depth of 1 km, for a flux of $69 \text{ mmol C m}^{-2} \text{ y}^{-1}$, a value that is slightly less than half
1115 the global mean value of $120 \text{ mmol C m}^{-2} \text{ y}^{-1}$ [Honjo *et al.*, 2008], but at the same time indicative of a
1116 relatively efficient biological pump.

1117 There has also been discussion of open ocean distribution and dissolution of Si-bearing minerals as a
1118 geoengineering strategy (see section 2.4). In terms of adding DSi to the ocean, this approach would
1119 potentially overcome the bottleneck represented by river damming [Laruelle *et al.*, 2009]. Preliminary
1120 modeling results [Köhler *et al.*, submitted] with a complex ecosystem model embedded in a state-of-
1121 the-art ocean general circulation model suggest that addition and dissolution of silicate minerals in the
1122 surface ocean might change the phytoplankton species composition in the ocean towards diatoms.
1123 This study suggests that open ocean dissolution of olivine is an ocean fertilization experiment, which
1124 might also potentially have side effects typically associated with them, e.g., increase in anoxic
1125 conditions in intermediate water depths [Lampitt *et al.*, 2008].

1126 7. Conclusions

1127 The rapidly rising concentrations of atmospheric CO_2 are projected to significantly alter Earth's
1128 climate in a way that could be detrimental to human society and other sensitive ecosystems. At the
1129 same time, rising CO_2 is acidifying the oceans, causing harm to calcifying organisms and thereby
1130 disrupting marine food webs. Herein we have critically examined the geoengineering method of

1131 Enhanced Weathering that has been proposed as a means of removing CO₂ from the atmosphere. We
1132 have attempted to address the practical issues and feasibility of the technique, its potential ecological
1133 impacts (positive and negative), and the infrastructure and management structures needed to both
1134 carry it out and monitor its effects.

1135 It is worth noting that on a relatively small scale, techniques akin to Enhanced Weathering have been
1136 in use for perhaps millennia in the form of applying limestone or siliceous rock powder to condition
1137 or fertilize agricultural fields to improve productivity. These activities together with preliminary
1138 modeling and feasibility assessments suggest that Enhanced Weathering is a promising CDR (carbon
1139 dioxide removal) technique, and could be deployed as one of a portfolio of several CDR techniques to
1140 avoid or diminish impending climate change and ocean acidification.

1141 Cation rich silicates (particularly Mg²⁺ and Ca²⁺ which are most concentrated in mafic and ultramafic
1142 rocks, with exception of carbonate rocks) are most appropriate for Enhanced Weathering. Olivine in
1143 particular represents an ideal silicate mineral. As a result of weathering, CO₂ is converted to
1144 bicarbonate and carbonate ions, which increases the alkalinity and pH of rivers and the ocean (values
1145 of which have been lowered by the increase in atmospheric CO₂). Additional solutes, like Si, P, and
1146 K, as well as a suite of trace metals, are also likely to be released, in dependence of the applied rock
1147 sources. These have the capacity to act as nutrients for plant and phytoplankton growth, potentially
1148 enhancing terrestrial and oceanic net primary productivity (including crop yields). This could further
1149 reduce the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere by increasing terrestrial biomass (the amount of carbon
1150 held in plant tissues and soil organic matter). Likewise, the export of particulate organic carbon to the
1151 deep ocean and subsequent sedimentation could be increased if diatom growth was stimulated by the
1152 input of dissolved silicon to the coastal zone. However, our ability to predict these effects is far from
1153 definitive and impacts on marine ecosystems could be significant.

1154 Because purposefully lowering atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ would have world-wide impacts
1155 (just as our inadvertent increasing of them does) and because the areas where Enhanced Weathering
1156 would be most successful are concentrated in the tropics, a globally relevant management plan would

1157 be essential to applying Enhanced Weathering on the scale necessary to significantly influence
1158 atmospheric CO₂ concentrations on short timescales (decades to centuries). This would entail the
1159 creation of local and regional management structures to oversee the implementation of Enhanced
1160 Weathering and to monitor its effects carefully. Significant investment in agricultural, mining, and
1161 transportation infrastructure will be required, especially in lesser developed regions, to carry out
1162 Enhanced Weathering on a large scale. Likewise, the mass of rock powder annually requiring
1163 transportation from mines and processing centers to the fields and forests of application may require a
1164 significant increase in freight capacity. As transportation is still powered by fossil fuels, substantial
1165 transportation distances (>5000 km sea freight, >200 km land freight) might reduce the effectiveness
1166 of Enhanced Weathering. The most appropriate deployment of Enhanced Weathering may use and
1167 adapt existing infrastructure from the agricultural industry.

1168 One of the major outcomes of this review is that we do not currently know enough to be able to
1169 predict how much the fluxes of carbon and nutrients between compartments in the Earth System
1170 (soils, terrestrial biosphere, rivers, estuaries, ocean, phytoplankton, sediments) would change
1171 following geoengineering scale deployment of Enhanced Weathering. While dissolution rates of many
1172 minerals have been quantified for a wide range of environmental conditions, it is difficult to
1173 extrapolate the laboratory results to the much more complex and variable natural environment.
1174 Nonetheless, we need to improve our ability to do this, to understand the efficacy and consequences
1175 of Enhanced Weathering.

1176 The potential negative environmental impact of Enhanced Weathering is also important to consider
1177 and investigate further (Table 6). Application of rock dust to the land surface will increase the
1178 concentration of airborne dust in the local environment. The potential risk to human and animal health
1179 may limit the appropriate application sites (away from human centres or sensitive ecosystems) or the
1180 severity of comminution. This in turn will limit the efficacy and effectiveness of Enhanced
1181 Weathering. The mobilisation of potentially toxic elements contained in some silicate rocks may

1182 detrimentally effect primary production and/or accumulate in the food chain, both of which could be
1183 harmful to human populations. Therefore an assessment of usable rocks and their locations is needed.

1184 Studies that bridge the gap between laboratory results, local field sites and regional/global
1185 biogeochemical fluxes are strongly needed before any large scale Enhanced Weathering schemes
1186 could be undertaken (Table 7). While the consequences of not taking action against the current
1187 extremely rapid rise in CO₂ may become increasingly severe, research into Enhanced Weathering, as
1188 with any geoengineering strategy (or, more generally, any strategy to manage global biogeochemical
1189 cycles), need to be conducted in a transparent, rigorous manner, involving not just researchers,
1190 industry, and politicians, but the general public throughout the research process.

1191 On a final note, within the next few years to decades, it may be inevitable that Enhanced Weathering
1192 is deployed, if not for its potential to sequester CO₂, then as a means of bolstering crop growth. As
1193 human population numbers continue to exponentially increase, there is increasing demand to feed
1194 more people every year. The pressure to do so may eventually result in increased application of
1195 mineral powder as fertilizer and to increase the drought tolerance and disease resistance of crops [*van*
1196 *Straaten*, 2002; and references provided above]. If this occurs as projected, it will significantly change
1197 the fluxes of carbon, silicon, and other biogeochemically active elements between land and ocean
1198 within the next few decades (although it would not be the first agricultural or industrial practice to do
1199 so). For this reason, it would be useful to be able to predict the ecological and biogeochemical impacts
1200 of Enhanced Weathering regardless of whether it is ever carried out for the purpose of CO₂
1201 sequestration.

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1940

1941

1942

1943 **Figure captions:**

1944 **Figure 1:** Simplified equations describing reactions for the dissolution of simple carbonate and
1945 silicate minerals by different acids, illustrating the “consumption” of CO₂ during weathering by
1946 carbonic acid, as well as the contrasting role of strong acids such as HNO₃, which may derive from
1947 the application of nitrogen fertilizers. Carbonate weathering by nitric acid can be a net source of CO₂
1948 to the atmosphere [after: *Hartmann and Kempe*, 2008]

1949 **Figure 2:** Simplified schematic of the global C and Si cycle. Carbon land-atmosphere emissions
1950 (fossil fuels and deforestation: 10±0.9 Gt C a⁻¹), net ocean carbon uptake (2.4±0.5 Gt C a⁻¹) and land
1951 uptake by terrestrial ecosystems (2.6±1.0 Gt C a⁻¹) [*Peters et al.*, 2012]. The lateral land-ocean carbon
1952 fluxes are adapted from Ludwig et al. [1996; 1998] and IPCC [2007], estimates for emissions from
1953 inland waters (ranging from 1.2 to 3.2 Gt C a⁻¹) are from Aufdenkampe et al. [2011], and emissions
1954 occurring in the land-ocean transition zone from Laruelle et al. [2010]. Note that the emissions of CO₂
1955 from limnic aquatic systems and the land-ocean transition zone are still poorly constrained and are not
1956 recognized in current Earth System models [c.f. the budget approaches in: *Aufdenkampe et al.*, 2011;
1957 *IPCC*, 2007; *Peters et al.*, 2012]. Values for the silicon cycle are compiled after Dürr et al. [2011].

1958 **Figure 3:** The Goldich dissolution series, adapted from Goldich [1938], showing the variation in
1959 dissolution rates for different minerals. Rate constants in italics are from Palandri and Kharaka [2004]
1960 at 25°C in mol cm⁻² sec⁻¹ (pH 4-6); artificial silicate weathering rates are reported in Renforth and
1961 Manning [2009].

1962 **Figure 4:** Map showing identified sources of rocks with mafic minerals, like basalt or gabbro, for the
1963 American continents.

1964 **Figure 5:** The “carbon consumption efficiency” of olivine weathering, updated from Köhler et al.
1965 [2010]. (A) Amount of olivine necessary for given CO₂ sequestration; less olivine would be needed at
1966 higher CO₂ partial pressures in the atmosphere, due to the chemical speciation of the carbonate system
1967 (according to Equations 1 to 7). (B) Sequestration ratio CO₂ to dissolved olivine (Pg:Pg), which

1968 decreases with the amount of CO₂ sequestered from the atmosphere. Calculations are based on a well
1969 mixed 100 m deep surface ocean in equilibrium with the atmosphere. Theoretical limit (red line)
1970 follows the net Equation (Eq 8) of olivine dissolution without consideration of carbon cycle
1971 feedbacks.

1972 **Figure 6a:** Dependence of olivine dissolution on pH [data from: *Golubev and Pokrovsky, 2006;*
1973 *Pokrovsky and Schott, 2000; Rosso and Rimstidt, 2000; Wogelius and Walther, 1991*]. Scatter in the
1974 data partly reflects variability in experimental designs, including different proportions of Mg and Fe
1975 in the olivine used in each experiment (note that rates in this plot are normalized to surface area of the
1976 minerals). The abiotic kinetics illustrated here suggest that dissolution rate, and thus the total amount
1977 of olivine dissolution that can be expected from an Enhanced Weathering scheme, may be pH-limited
1978 (compare with the discussion about kinetic limitations in section 2.3). Biotic processes (discussed in
1979 section 5) may increase the amount of potential dissolution, for several reasons. One of these is
1980 acidity; low pH-values of 4 to 6 are most common in soil systems, such that dissolution rates are
1981 expected to be faster in this setting compared to other natural environments (note the log-scale).

1982 **6b:** Dissolution rates from a range of minerals, showing the large variability between minerals (and in
1983 some cases the same mineral) from a number of studies [*Palandri and Kharaka, 2004* and references
1984 therein].

1985 **Figure 7:** Modeling results that simulate the consequences of olivine dissolution with the BICYCLE-
1986 model, a box-model for the global carbon cycle [*Köhler et al., 2010*]. (A) The sum of anthropogenic
1987 emissions from fossil fuel combustion (1750-2000 AD) [*Marland et al., 2005*] and land use change
1988 (1850-2000 AD; before 1850 AD: linear extrapolation of land use change to zero in 1750 AD)
1989 [*Houghton, 2003*]. For 2000-2100 AD, the A2 emission scenario is used [*Nakicenovic and Swart,*
1990 *2000*]. (B) Global atmospheric CO₂, including past data from the Law Dome ice core [*Etheridge et*
1991 *al., 1996*] and instrumental measurements on Mauna Loa for 1958-2008 AD [*Keeling et al., 2009*].
1992 Forward simulation results of the A2 emission scenarios are shown with passive (constant) terrestrial
1993 carbon storage. The grey area covers the range of results from coupled carbon cycle-climate

1994 simulations for the A2 emission scenario C⁴MIP [Friedlingstein *et al.*, 2006]. (D) Impact of enhanced
1995 olivine dissolution for 2010-2060 AD on pCO₂ showing differences of simulated atmospheric pCO₂
1996 versus the A2 emission baseline ($\Delta p\text{CO}_2=0$) for three different weathering scenarios (3 or 15 Gt
1997 olivine per year dissolved on land or in the open ocean, as shown in legend). Olivine dissolution on
1998 land implies the extraction of CO₂ out of the atmosphere and the riverine input of bicarbonate into the
1999 surface ocean following Eq. 8, while in the open ocean dissolution case only an input of alkalinity into
2000 the surface ocean is generated, which changes the marine carbonate system such that CO₂ is taken up
2001 by the ocean and pH is increased. The theoretical upper CO₂ sequestration limit is indicated by gray
2002 lines in D. This limit ignores the effects of the carbonate chemistry on the olivine dissolution and uses
2003 only the net dissolution Equation (Eq. 8), which implies that 1 mol of olivine introduces 4 moles of
2004 TA and DIC into the ocean. (C, E): Mean pH of the global surface ocean for the same scenarios as in
2005 B and D, respectively. The grey box in B,C covers years 2010-2060 AD, which are in focus in D and
2006 E. Further information can be found in Köhler *et al.* [2010].

2007 **Figure 8:** (Left) A ‘hardpan’ of carbonate formed on waste slag mounds at former steelworks in
2008 Consett, United Kingdom. (Right) carbonate precipitation in waters egressing from a waste landfill in
2009 Scunthorpe steelworks (photograph courtesy of Carla-Leanne Washbourne). In both cases, rainwater
2010 has percolated through the material (dissolving Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺) and contact with DIC promotes the
2011 precipitation of carbonate.

2012 **Figure 9a:** Areas with soils of low cation content or high groundwater table and/or where the
2013 hydrologically active surface is disconnected from rock material with significant amounts of elements
2014 (Ca, Mg, K, Na) available for cation-weathering and thus CO₂-consumption. These soil types cause a
2015 shielding effect for natural chemical weathering if compared to rock surfaces in direct contact with
2016 surface hydrological processes, as for example in steep, tectonically active areas with high physical
2017 erosion rates [Hartmann *et al.*, 2010a]. These locations are well suited for applying minerals to soils
2018 for Enhanced Weathering. Soil types distinguished here are gleysols, histosols, ferrasols and other
2019 deeply weathered soil types identified in the Harmonized World Soil Data Base [FAO *et al.*, 2008].

2020 **Figure 9b:** Land cover distribution showing the boundaries of tropical regions [based on data from
2021 *Bartholome and Belward, 2005*].

2022 **Figure 10:** Crushing energy (kWh t^{-1}) against generated surface area [adapted from *Axelsson and*
2023 *Piret, 1950; Baláž et al., 2008; Haug et al., 2010; Stamboliadis et al., 2009*]. There is relatively little
2024 data for the intermediate-energy grinding ($0.1\text{-}5 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ surface area) and additional studies in this
2025 range would be a particular benefit to assessing Enhanced Weathering efficiencies. It is also possible
2026 to further increase dissolution rates with ‘mechanochemical’ activation, in which the silicate
2027 framework at the surface of the mineral is altered chemically [*Baláž et al., 2008; Haug et al., 2010*].
2028 However, the energy requirements associated with mechanochemical activation are likely to limit the
2029 feasibility for Enhanced Weathering.

2030 **Figure 11:** A broad conceptualisation of organic carbon and inorganic CO_2 dynamics in the
2031 environment. Organic carbon in the soil solution (as low molecular weight organic acids) which is
2032 exuded by soil flora and fauna contribute substantially to weathering of soil particles. Adapted from
2033 [*Jones et al., 2003*].

2034 **Figure 12:** Silicon is transferred within the terrestrial system as indicated by this figure, adapted from
2035 *Cornelis et al. (2011)* (Figure courtesy of Jean-Thomas Cornelis). The compartments of the
2036 biogeochemical Si cycle on continents were modified from *Basile-Doelsch et al. [2005]*. Solid line:
2037 transport; dashed line: dissolution; small dotted line: neoformation/precipitation; pointed-dotted line:
2038 adsorption/desorption. Numbers on arrows show inter-pool Si transfers in $10^{12} \text{ kg Si a}^{-1}$ [*Matichenkov*
2039 *and Bocharnikova, 2001; Treguer et al., 1995*].

2040 **Figure 13:** Catchments of basins contributing most of the dissolved silica fluxes to the coastal zones
2041 are located in regions favorable for the Enhanced Weathering procedure. Specifically in South East
2042 Asia a significant amount of additional dissolved silica would be most likely intercepted by closed or
2043 semi-enclosed regional seas [Figure from *Dürr et al., 2011*].

2044

2045 **Tables:**

2046 **Table 1:** Lifetime of a hypothetical 1 mm sphere in a solution at pH 5 in years for different minerals.

Mineral	Dissolution time (a ⁻¹)
Quartz	34,000,000
Kaolinite	6,000,000
Muscovite	2,600,000
Epidote	923,000
Microcline	921,000
Biotite	900,000
Albite	575,000
Andesine	80,000
Bytownite	40,000
Enstatite	10,100
Diopside	6,800
Forsterite	2,300
Dolomite	1.6
Calcite	0.1

2047

2048 Forsterite (Mg-Olivine) is one of the most abundant minerals at Earth, and in comparison to other
2049 silicate minerals it is relatively fast to dissolve at pH 5 [Lasaga, 1995; Renforth et al., 2009].

2050

2051

2052 **Table 2:** Summary of major unknowns about silicate mineral dissolution rates in the context of
2053 Enhanced Weathering

- Quantitative effect of the approach to saturation state on mineral dissolution rate (for olivine and other target minerals)
- Effect of plant uptake of Si (decreasing saturation state of fluids)
- Effect of soil processes such as secondary mineral formation, and downward transport of solutes (decreasing saturation state of fluids)
- Extent of displacement of applied minerals to depth in agricultural soils
- Distribution of acids in soil solutions with depth
- Effect of percolation of water through the soil column, and associated water residence time
- Potential ecosystem-scale feedbacks (e.g., fertilization of terrestrial biological productivity leading to intensification of hydrologic cycle?)
- Effect of soil moisture variability (e.g., drying and wetting)

2054

2055

2056

2057 **Table 3:** The geochemical composition of some igneous rocks.

Weight %	Peridotite (close to Lherzolite)	Gabbro	Granodiorite	Granite	Basalt	Andesite	Rhyolite
SiO ₂	42.43	50.34	66.07	71.20	49.11	57.71	72.70
TiO ₂	0.63	1.12	0.54	0.31	1.84	0.87	0.28
Al ₂ O ₃	4.25	15.54	15.73	14.30	15.71	16.95	13.25
Fe ₂ O ₃	3.62	3.02	1.38	1.21	3.78	3.26	1.48
FeO	6.61	7.65	2.73	1.64	7.12	4.02	1.11
MnO	0.41	0.12	0.08	0.05	0.20	0.14	0.06
MgO	31.37	7.62	1.74	0.71	6.72	3.32	0.39
CaO	5.07	9.62	3.83	1.84	9.45	6.76	1.14
Na ₂ O	0.49	2.40	3.75	3.67	2.90	3.47	3.54
K ₂ O	0.34	0.39	2.73	4.06	1.10	1.61	4.29
P ₂ O ₅	0.10	0.93	0.18	0.12	0.35	0.21	0.07
CO ₂	0.30	0.24	0.08	0.05	0.11	0.05	0.08
S	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.36	0.06
SO ₃	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.09	0.04	0.01
H ₂ O+	4.24	0.86	1.04	0.77	1.38	1.17	1.41
C	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.02
Cl	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.02	0.07	0.05	0.11
Sum	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

2058

2059 Compiled in Hartmann [2011] [data based on: *Le Maitre, 1976; Max Planck Institute for Chemistry,*
2060 *2006; Ricke, 1960; Taylor, 1964*]. From the left to the right: mafic to felsic plutonic rocks (peridotite
2061 to granite) and volcanic rocks (mafic basalt in comparison to more felsic types of volcanics like
2062 rhyolite). For igneous as well as volcanic rocks the content of Ca and Mg decreases from the left to
2063 the right.

2064

2065

2066 **Table 4:** *Typical energy requirements for various crushing technologies.*

Crushing and Grinding technology	Feed particle size (μm)	Product Particle Size (μm)	Capacity (th^{-1})	Energy Use (kWh t^{-1})
Roller mills	10^4 - 10^5	18-65	12-225	6.6-11.0
	20-30	7-12	15-65	7.6-36.0
Centrifugal mills	11	1-2		150.0
Ball / stirred media mills	150	<37	0.1-35 [§]	13.0-233.0
				20-100*
Impact crushing	10^4 - 10^5	10^3 - 10^2	130-1780*	0.6-1.5*
Cone crushing	10^5	10^3 - 10^2	80-1050*	0.3-1.5*
Jaw crushing	10^5 - 10^6	10^3	60-1600*	1.0-1.4*
*Indicative values derived from Metso technical data sheets				
§Indicative values derived from Kefid technical data sheets				
Sources: Wang and Forssberg [2003]; Lowndes and Jeffrey [2009]; Fuerstenau and Abouzeid [2002]; O'Connor et al., [2005].				

2067

2068

2069 **Table 5:** Emissions from a range of freight transport.

2070

Freight/Haulage transport method	gCO2 emission/km-tonne*
Airfreight	602
Road heavy goods vehicle	62
Diesel rail	15
Electric rail	14
Inland waterways	31
Large tanker	7
Sources: McKinnon and Piecyk [2009]; Mckinnon and Piecyk McKinnon and Piecyk [2010], Institution of Mechanical Engineers [2009].	

2071

2072

2073 **Table 6:** Summary of potential side effects of Enhanced Weathering (considering local conditions)

<p><u>Possible beneficial side-effects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing pH of ocean waters, counter-acting CO₂-induced acidification• Supply of Si to coastal oceans<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ May counter-act Si-limitation and decrease Harmful Algal Blooms○ May act as “ocean fertilization” to enhance sequestration of atmospheric CO₂ through the organic carbon biological pump• Supply of Si and other nutrients (principally Fe, Mn, P, K) to terrestrial ecosystems<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ May increase terrestrial productivity and lead to greater sequestration of CO₂ in terrestrial biomass○ May increase crop production○ May provide additional income for farmers through CO₂-certificate trading
<p><u>Possible problematic side-effects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change in pH of soils and surface waters (streams, rivers, lakes), affecting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems• Change in Si concentration of surface waters, affecting ecosystems via altered nutrient ratios• Release of trace metals associated with target minerals (particularly Ni, Cd)• Generation of dust• Socio-economic and socio-political consequences for agricultural communities of a new, large-scale industrial and financial enterprise• Environmental costs of an up three orders of magnitude increase in olivine mining globally

2074

2075

2076 **Table 7:** Key target research areas for progress in the science behind Enhanced Weathering

- Better understanding of representative dissolution rates and their controls (see Table 2 in section 3)
- Assessing effect on alkalinity and cation supply on processes controlling carbonate precipitation in coastal and oceanic water bodies
- Identification of key mineral resources and their distribution
- Optimizing techniques for grinding
- Understanding main potential side effects (see Table 6)
- Identifying and quantifying key large-scale feedbacks
 - influence of changing nutrient status on plant-weathering systems
 - changes in productivity of agricultural and terrestrial ecosystems, and effects on the hydrological cycle
 - Si and alkalinity fluxes to the oceans, and their effects (e.g., change in nutrient elemental ratios like N/Si or P/Si and altered proton fluxes (pH))
- Quantifying effects of enhanced alkalinity fluxes on the carbonate system in the coastal and open oceans
- Developing overall dose-response relationship quantifying the net “carbon consumption efficiency” of different scenarios of mineral application
- Developing techniques for being able to monitor mineral dissolution over large spatial scales accurately
- Developing effective monitoring strategies for local to regional alterations of biogeochemical fluxes, as part of building institutional structures for sustainable global management of material fluxes

2077

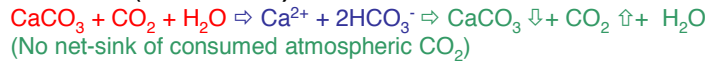
2078

2079 Figure 1:

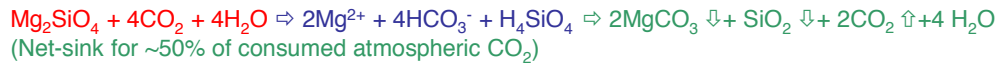
Typical mineral reactions

(educts ⇒ ions in dissolution ⇒ typical precipitation reactions in the ocean)

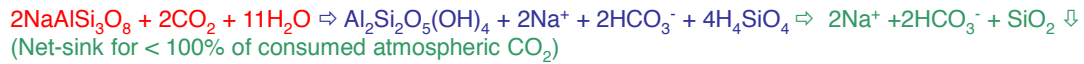
Carbonate (not a silicate)



Olivine



Albite

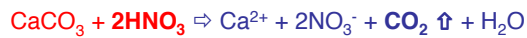
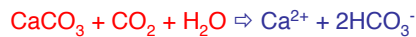


Influence of nitrogen fertilizers

K-feldspar (silicate)



Calcite (carbonate)



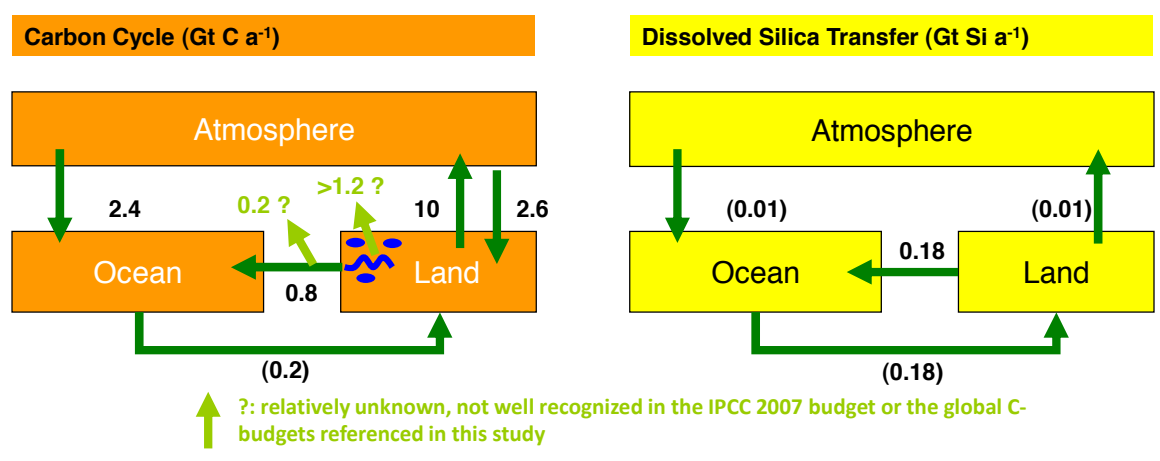
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2084 Figure 2:

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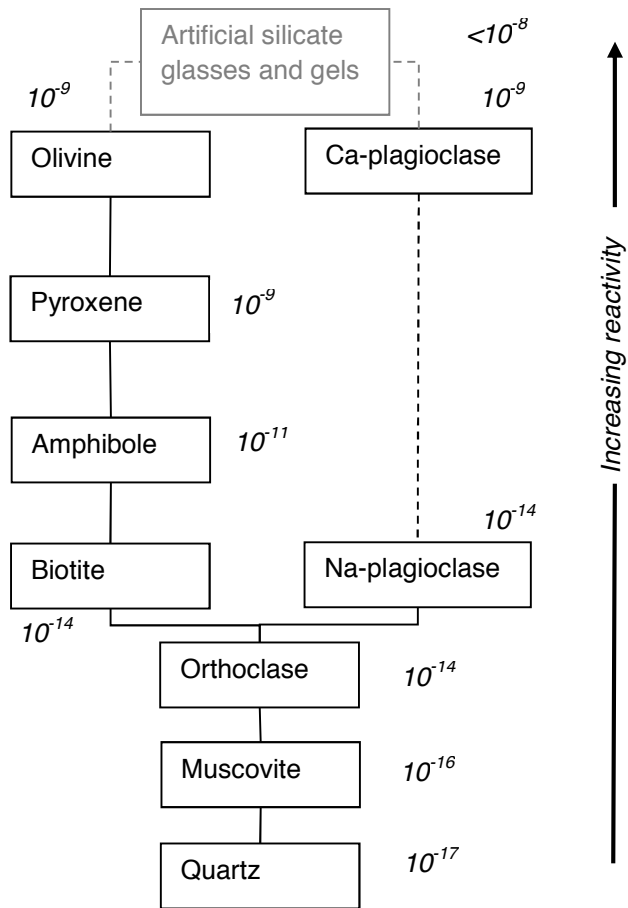


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2089 Figure 3:



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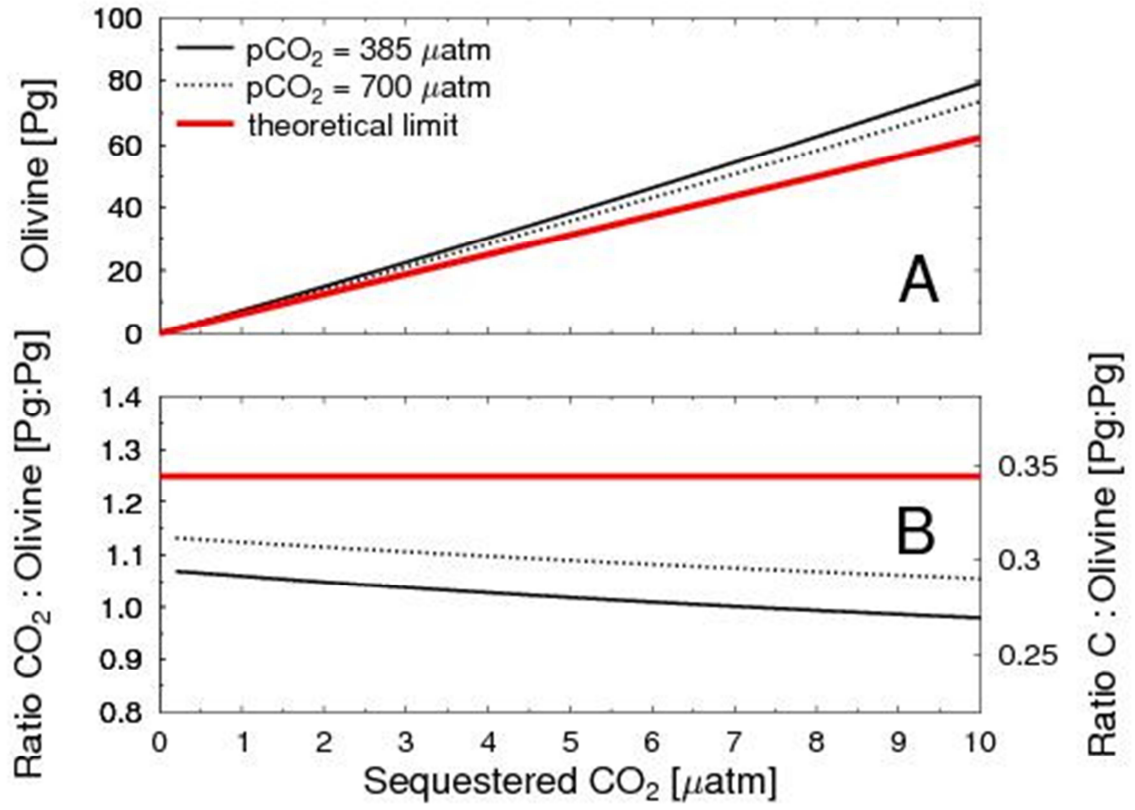
2093 Figure 4:



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2096 Figure 5:

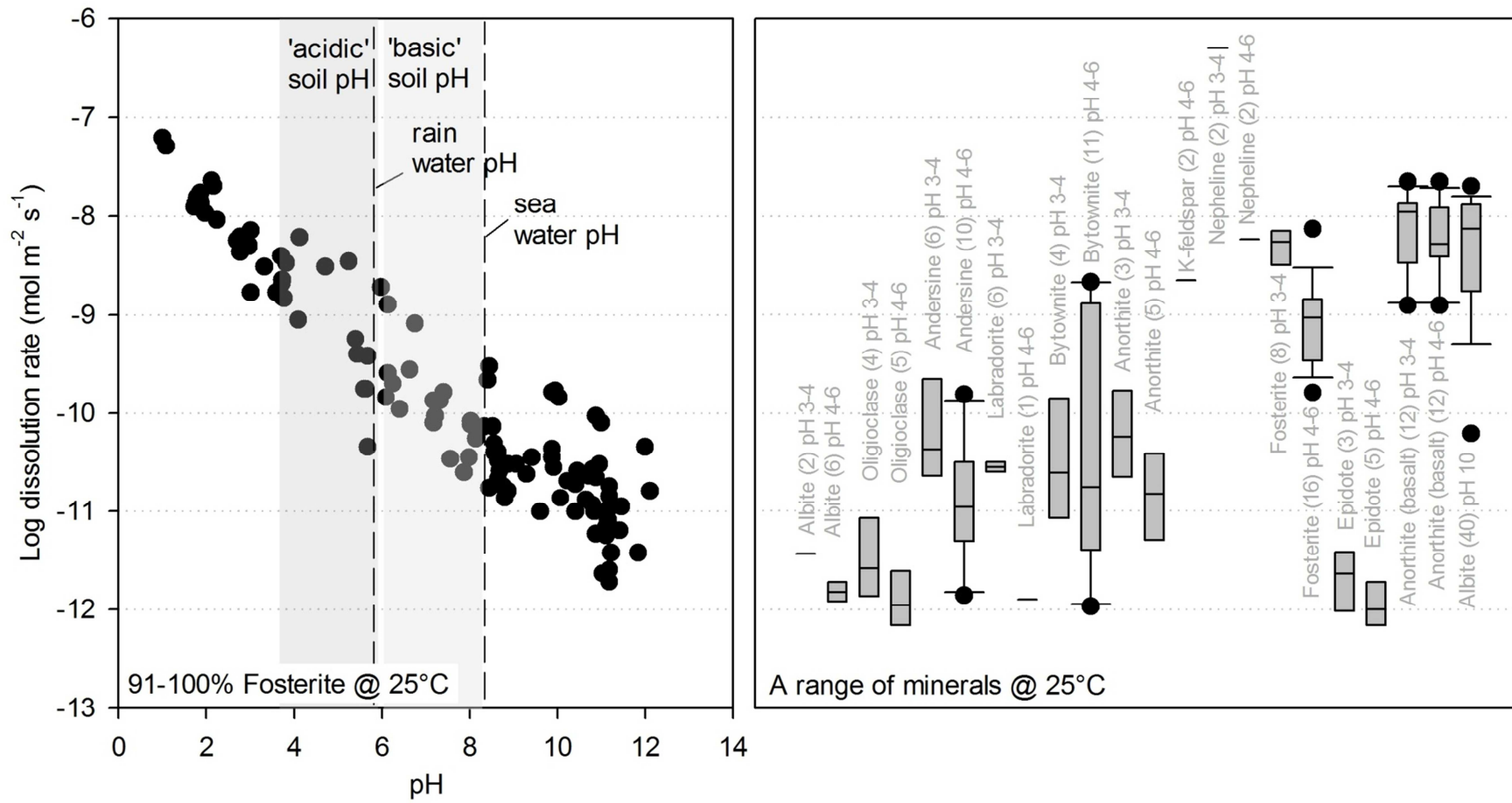


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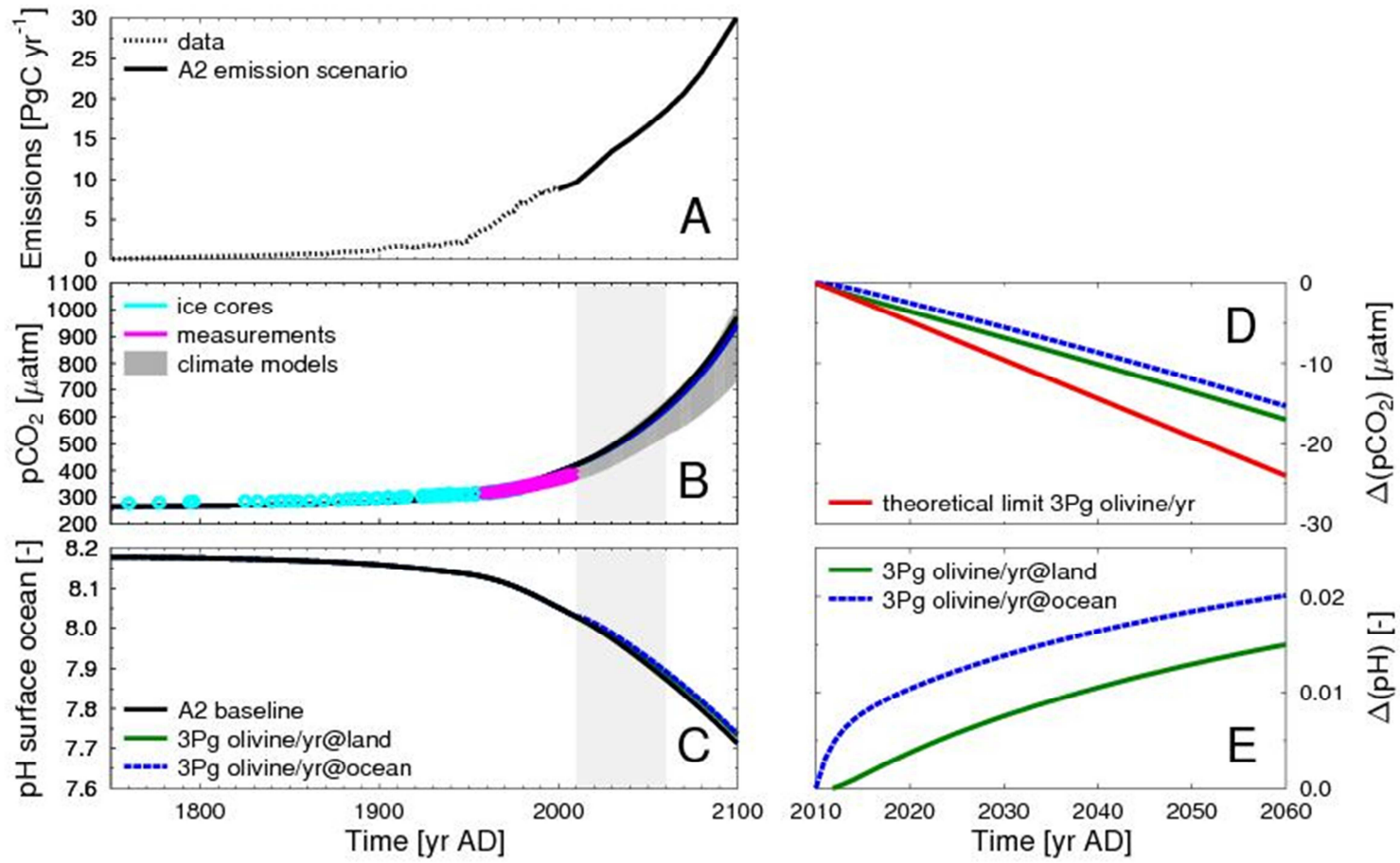
2100 Figure 6:



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2103 Figure 7



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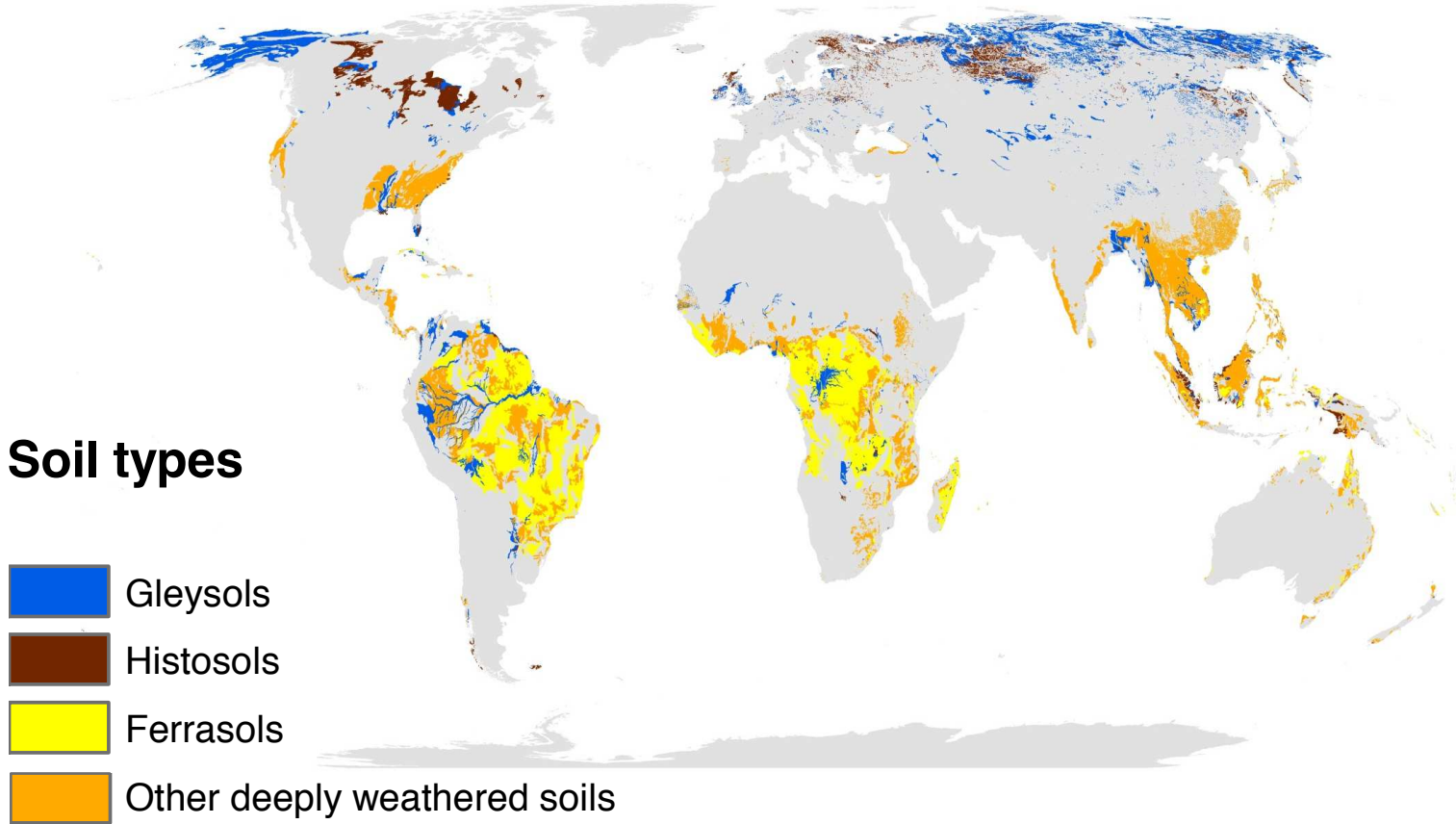
2107 Figure 8:



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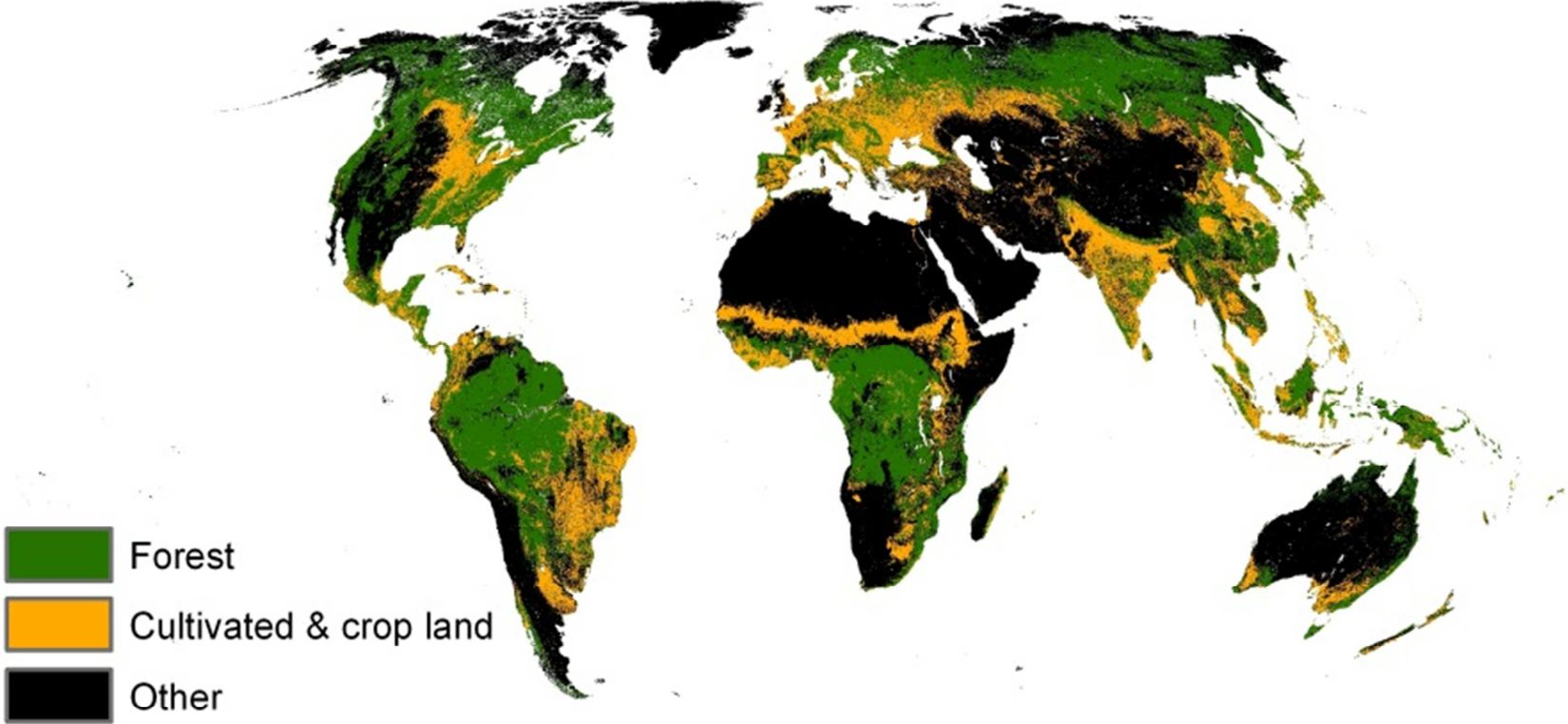
2110 Figure 9a:



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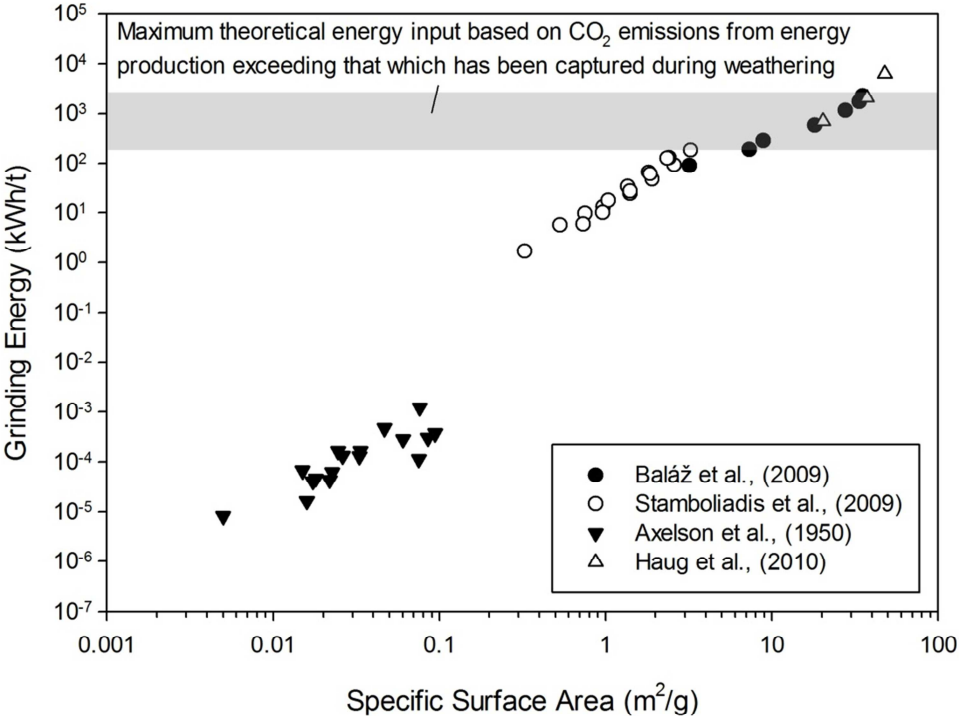
2113 Figure 9b:



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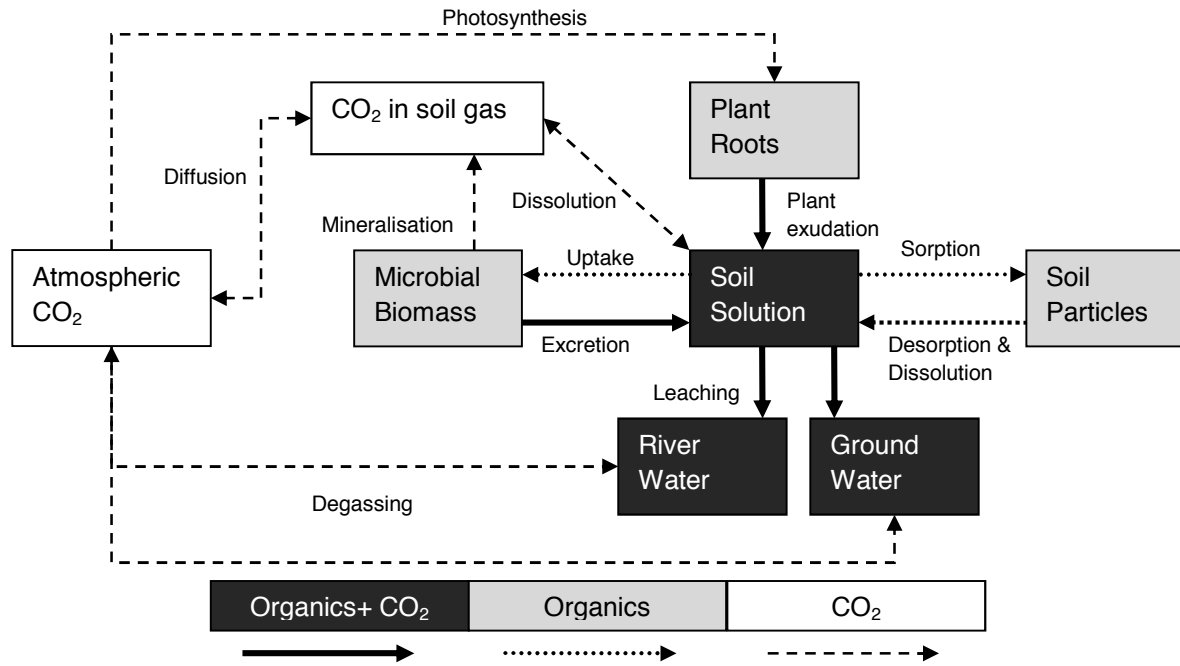
2116 Figure 10:



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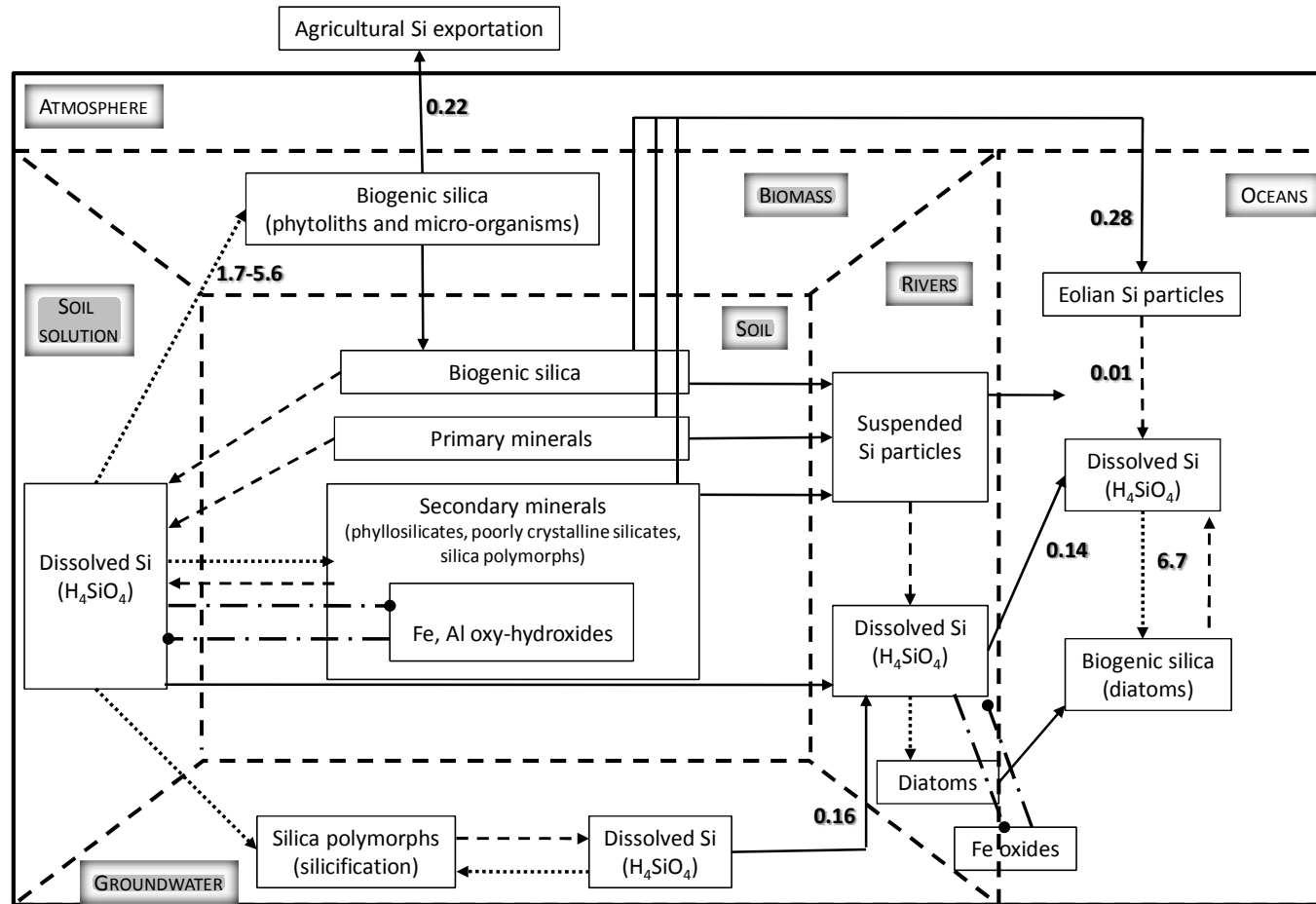
2120 Figure 11:



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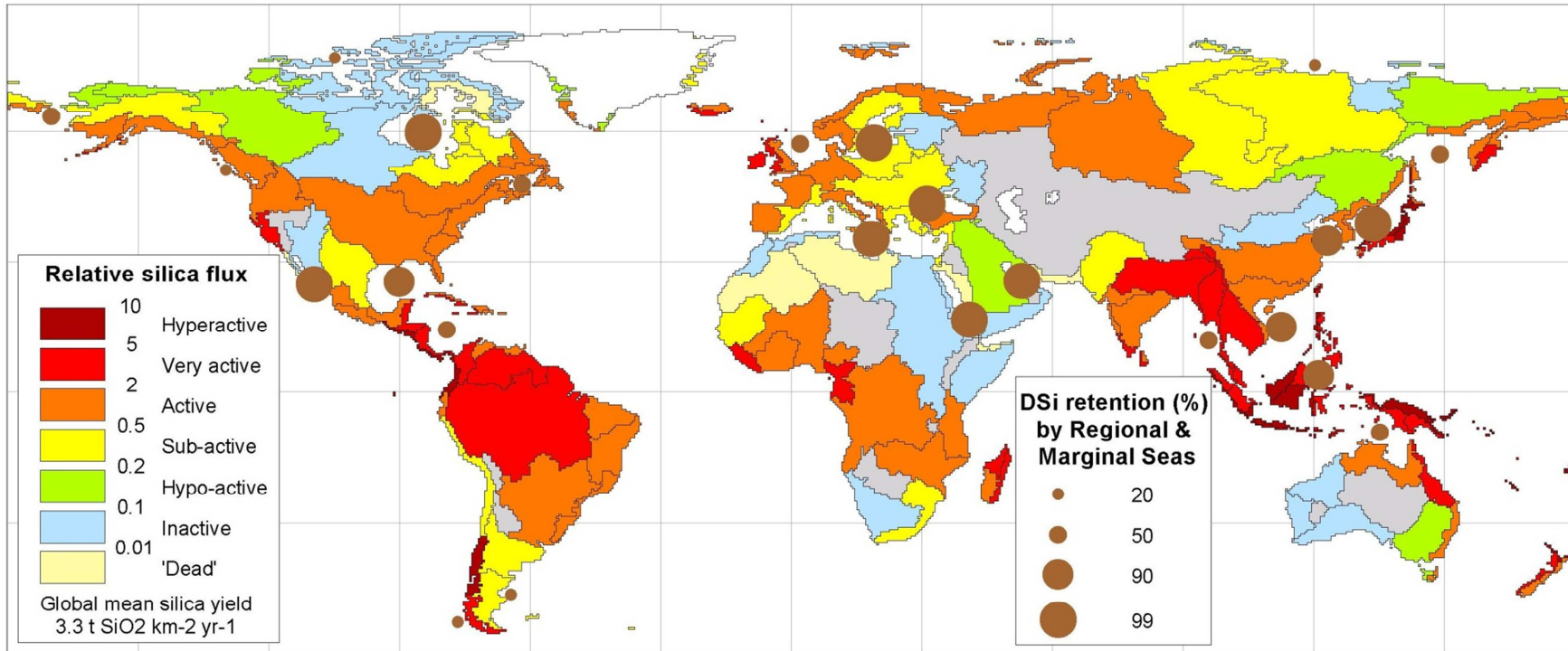
2123 Figure 12:



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2126 Figure 13:



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1 Enhanced Chemical Weathering as a Geoengineering Strategy to Reduce Atmospheric Carbon 2 Dioxide, a Nutrient Source and to Mitigate Ocean Acidification

3 Supplement Information

4 1. Management of enhanced weathering at a geoengineering scale

5 To sequester a significant amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, an Enhanced Weathering
6 program would need to process 1 Gt to 10s of Gt of rock per year. This would make it one of the
7 largest global industries. Therefore, as discussed in previous sections, it would require a well-
8 organized assessment of altered biogeochemical fluxes as well as broader environmental and other
9 consequences. In this case, attention is focused on analysing the various benefits, costs and risks of
10 technologies and pathways, taking into account multiple criteria of evaluation, including
11 environmental, agricultural, public health, and financial criteria as well as the projected magnitude of
12 CO₂ sequestration. A comprehensive diagnostic process would develop a governance and accounting
13 structure that includes local, regional and global stakeholders and decision makers, including mining
14 corporations and the minerals transport industry, farmers and forest businesses, and the civil society
15 and local stakeholders such as citizens in the vicinity of areas where Enhanced Weathering is
16 employed. Later phases would require an agency organizing the global review and monitoring in light
17 of data gathered from the various regions of application.

18 Stakeholder involvement in decision-making and management can be described as a multi-step
19 process that includes the following phases (see Figure SI-1) [based on *Scheffran, 2006*]:

20 1. *Situation and context analysis*: To assist decision makers with proactive planning and
21 management [c.f. *van Ast and Boot, 2003*], various methods from system dynamics and spatial
22 modelling would be used to study the consequences of the application of Enhanced Weathering in
23 time and space, at local and global levels. Much of the scientific analysis reviewed in this article
24 falls into this analysis, including the CO₂-sequestration mechanisms and fluxes in the respective

25 natural systems. This analysis should also include consideration of relevant social and economic
26 factors.

27 2. *Option identification and scenario generation*: In order to provide key information about the
28 various possible options for implementation, computer simulations are needed to explore selected
29 scenarios and identify the most relevant possibilities, and their consequences. These models need
30 to be able to allow comparison of greenhouse gas reductions under different actions. Spatio-
31 temporal analyses can determine the effectiveness of previous management decisions and provide
32 projections for future management choices. Modelling the alteration of material fluxes due to
33 Enhanced Weathering would demand a new generation of Earth System Models capable of
34 forecasting consequences at the regional as well as at the global scale, learning from more
35 advanced modelling approaches for solar radiation management (Kravitz et al. 2011, Schmidt et
36 al 2012).

37 3. *Assessment of consequences and criteria-based evaluation*: A systemic approach is crucial for
38 identifying the plausible causal chains and consequences which could result from the use of
39 different Enhanced Weathering techniques in particular environments, including ecological
40 impacts and other risks, as well as social effects including domestic protests and international
41 conflicts. This analysis is based on the plausibility, relevance and uncertainty of events, building
42 on principles, criteria and performance indicators defined by scientists, decision makers and other
43 stakeholders (see, for example, the criteria given in the following section). Possible guardrails and
44 critical limits could include thresholds for soil chemistry or water pH, or limitations on the
45 addition of specific elements into local aquatic-, soil- or ecosystems-systems.

46 4. *Decision-making and negotiation*: Without agreement, disputes among interest groups could block
47 decision-making and problem solving. Integrated Enhanced Weathering decision-making and risk
48 management (building on the experience from disaster risk management strategies [e.g., *Hartmann*
49 *et al.*, 2006; *Levy et al.*, 2007; *Schneider*, 2008]) can use various tools, including optimal control,
50 multi-criteria methods, agent-based modeling and experimental games. Conflict resolution,
51 participatory approaches and mediation can help to balance different interests.

52 5. *Planning and rules for action*: To implement actions on Enhanced Weathering, concrete planning
53 is required, with specific rules and regulations that need to be followed and verified. In an
54 environment with high uncertainties and rapidly changing conditions, planning needs to adapt to
55 the state of knowledge and capability. For international coordination of regional processes,
56 institutional mechanisms, governance structures and legal approaches are required that involve
57 stakeholders [c.f. *Shidawara*, 1999]. One approach is to create incentives to participate and
58 coordinate, e.g. through a global certification system and purposeful designed syndication of the
59 Earth system [*Elliott and Hanson*, 2003]. Legal instruments can apply at national and multi-
60 national levels to authorize or restrain certain Enhanced Weathering measures [UBA 2012].

61 6. *Monitoring and learning*: Continuous monitoring of the outcomes of global Enhanced Weathering
62 application is critical for learning and improvement. Key indicators about anticipated
63 consequences must be monitored, and the initial proposed environmental indicators need to be
64 continuously re-evaluated. Existing environmental monitoring programs are restricted by the
65 limited number of monitoring stations and need to be accompanied by comprehensive information
66 sources, including land use and socio-economic data [c.f. *Plate*, 2002].

67 The information gathered throughout the monitoring and learning process can then be an input for
68 further situation and context analysis (Step 1, above). These phases form a repeated cycle of multi-
69 stakeholder participation, assessment and management (see Figure SI-1). As a result of learning and
70 repetition, the assessment and management process can be made more effective. Connecting activities
71 in this cycle are the extraction of essential information, the simulation of scenarios, the data-based
72 validation of results, the evaluation of consequences, the communication of decisions and outcomes,
73 and the capacity-building of involved actors. In each of these phases, particular stakeholders can
74 participate according to their qualification, and various tools can be used for supporting the respective
75 stages as well as the interaction of stakeholders throughout the process.

76 2. Legal framework and recent developments on climate engineering with relevance for
77 Enhanced Weathering

78 Legal instruments to regulate Enhanced Weathering can apply at different levels. Individual states can
79 promote a variety of national policies and regulations to authorize or prohibit certain Enhanced
80 Weathering measures. In accordance with customary international law, states have to ensure that
81 activities within their own territory do not generate substantial adverse consequences for the
82 environment beyond their own borders. Substantial adverse effects on the environment are not
83 permitted in areas such as the high seas, the Antarctic and outer space. At present, there are no
84 effective geoengineering technologies, none binding international regulations. The proposed
85 geoengineering technique of Enhanced Weathering would also change global biogeochemical cycles,
86 not only climate, and is at a smaller scale already in practice due the unregulated changes in land use
87 or agricultural practices. While some treaties cover partial aspects, they would need to be extended to
88 be effective [see the reviews in: *Proelss and Güssow, 2011; Rickels et al., 2011; Umweltbundesamt,*
89 *2011*].

90 In particular, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) precludes dangerous
91 anthropogenic interference with the climate system, which would apply to dangerous climate change
92 as well dangerous climate engineering. To be more binding, the term “dangerous interference” would
93 have to be specified. Similarly, the 1978 Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other
94 Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD) restrains the military or other
95 hostile modification of the Earth’s environment, but it does not prohibit the peaceful use of
96 environmental modification. One example for which already some treaties could be applied is the
97 proposed use of sulphur aerosols as a geoengineering technique [*Crutzen, 2006*]: Since the release of
98 sulphur aerosols could damage the ozone layer, it could be contrary to the 1987 Montreal Protocol on
99 Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

100 Research into ocean fertilization is basically allowed by regulations, if it is ensured that hazards for
101 humans and the environment are avoided. Of particular relevance are the 1982 United Nations
102 Convention on the Law of the Sea, the 1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution

103 through Dumping of Wastes and other Matter, and the corresponding London Protocol. These should
104 equally apply to Enhanced Weathering, if minerals are to be spread near or along coastlines, or in the
105 open ocean.

106 It remains to be decided whether there should be a standardized, broad regulation on geoengineering,
107 or whether the respective international conventions should be supplemented with specific provisions
108 on geoengineering measures such as Enhanced Weathering, e.g. within the UNFCCC. Regulatory
109 questions pertain not just to the implementation of geoengineering, but also to research at the field
110 scale. Political debates are gaining in importance, with first steps being taken in the US and Great
111 Britain towards defined national research strategies and regulation requirements. The progressive
112 development, including scientific research, of any geoengineering technology needs clear political
113 regulation and coordination. This may come from a number of different directions:

114 • While the UNFCCC parties have not yet taken a stand on climate engineering, the Parties to the
115 2008 Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB) formulated a resolution whose content was virtually
116 identical to that of the 2008 London Convention and London Protocol [*IMO*, 1996]. The tenth CDB
117 on 29th of October 2010 in Nagoya recommended a moratorium on climate engineering activities.
118 Accordingly, only scientific studies small in extent and which fulfill four criteria are
119 granted/permited. Most of the recent climate engineering research is allowed (e.g., that based on
120 computer modeling), but open field experiments are prohibited.

121 • In preparation for its Fifth Assessment Report - planned for 2014 - the IPCC has decided to discuss
122 the meaning of climate engineering as a possible reaction to climate change and the possible results
123 and risks for nature and society. The IPCC arranged an expert's meeting on the subject in June, 2011
124 in Lima, Peru [*IPCC*, 2011].

125 • In a 2010 report for the U.S. House of Representatives, strategies for international coordination
126 were discussed [*CST*, 2010]. In this context the Congressional Research Service started a study on the
127 applicability of existing US laws and international arrangements on possible geoengineering tests as
128 well as larger-scale implementation [*Bracmort et al.*, 2010]. In this context, the Government

129 Accountability Office compiled an overview on climate engineering research activities of US-federal
130 institutions [GAO, 2010].

131 • In cooperation with the initiative of the U.S. House of Representatives, the *Science and Technology*
132 *Committee* of the British parliament compiled a report for a possible international regulation of
133 climate engineering [STC, 2009]. Because the technologies and procedures greatly differ between
134 different potential strategies for geoengineering, they concluded that regulation measures would need
135 to be explicitly adapted to the specific character of each approach.

136 • Non-governmental organizations are mostly critical about the idea of climate engineering, because
137 they argue that it manifests the conditions which led to the climate crises in the first place. For
138 instance, the *Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration* [ETC, 2011] pursues a public
139 anti-GE campaign against "geopiracy".

140 • On the 29th September 2011, the European parliament considered but dismissed a resolution in
141 which GE measures on a large scale would be opposed [EU, 2011].

142

143 Set within the context of this emerging regulatory debate, the various scientific-technical, economic,
144 legal and political aspects of climate engineering are increasingly the focus of academic attention [c.f.
145 the overview in *Kintisch*, 2010]. Following the Royal Society report [UK-Royal-Society, 2009],
146 related issues and questions were discussed in a number of workshops, conferences and studies:

147 • In 2009, the *International Risk Governance Council* (IRGC) and other organizations conducted a
148 workshop in Lisbon. The resulting working paper supports research on climate engineering and
149 outlines a framework for international regulation, including the definition "of permissible
150 ranges/permitted areas" of research [Morgan and Ricke, 2009].

151 • In the context of a report by the *British House of Commons*, the "Oxford Principles" were
152 formulated, to address research regulations on climate engineering [Rayner et al., 2009]. The five
153 principles suggest: (i) regulating geoengineering as a public good, (ii) letting the public take part in
154 the decision-making process, (iii) disclosing the results of research, (iv) having an independent

155 impact assessment conducted, and (v) only beginning with any implementation after a governance
156 process is completed.

157 • Corresponding proposals and recommendations were also made at the *Asilomar Conference* in
158 2010, which pleas for a responsible handling of climate engineering. Voluntary guidelines were
159 discussed, which include cooperative research that involves the public. An international climate
160 engineering regulation would be based on five principles, namely that research in this field: (i) should
161 benefit humanity and the environment, (ii) be conducted openly and cooperatively, (iii) permit an
162 independent technical assessment, (iv) define the limits of accountability in the context of new
163 governance and monitoring mechanisms, and (v) involve the public during the complete process.

164 • In the US, the “Bipartisan Policy Center“ [*BPC*, 2011] formed a task force that presented a report
165 in October 2011 on the possible effectiveness, feasibility and the consequences of climate
166 engineering technologies, as well as options for risk management. Leading experts from different
167 areas are developing recommendations for the US government with regard to the research in
168 geoengineering and supervision strategies.

169 • In the UK, a 2010 joint initiative of the *British Engineering and Physical Sciences Research*
170 *Council* (EPSRC) and the *Natural Environment Research Council* (NERC) was launched to perform
171 research and an impact analysis of geoengineering measures [*EPSRC/NERC*, 2010. Potential means,
172 efficiencies and consequences of procedures for Solar Radiation Management are being examined,
173 while maintaining the involvement of the public. NERC supports other public discourse activities
174 about geoengineering to explore public assessments and to communicate better future research
175 possibilities [*NERC*, 2011]. However, efforts focused on Enhanced Weathering have yet to emerge.

176 • Several studies and conferences in Germany in 2011 show a growing interest of scientists and
177 politicians in the subject of climate engineering, for example the study of the *German Federal*
178 *Environmental Agency* [*Umweltbundesamt*, 2011] and a scoping study by the *Kiel Earth Institute* in
179 October 2011, focused on assessing the application and the regulation of climate engineering [*Rickels*
180 *et al.*, 2011].

181 These various discussions provide valuable input towards formulating strategies for research and
182 possible implementation of any geoengineering scheme. The majority of geoengineering governance
183 discussions have focused on solar radiation management, with particular emphasis on preventing
184 adverse environmental effects. As the effectiveness of carbon dioxide removal technologies is
185 dependent on the practices used for deployment (material processing, transport, application), and the
186 size of the industry is several orders of magnitude larger than SRM, the regulatory framework is
187 likely to be substantially different. Continued efforts to understand the scope for Enhanced
188 Weathering will need to carefully adjust to this changing regulatory and ethical environment, in order
189 to legitimize the results from the ongoing research.

190

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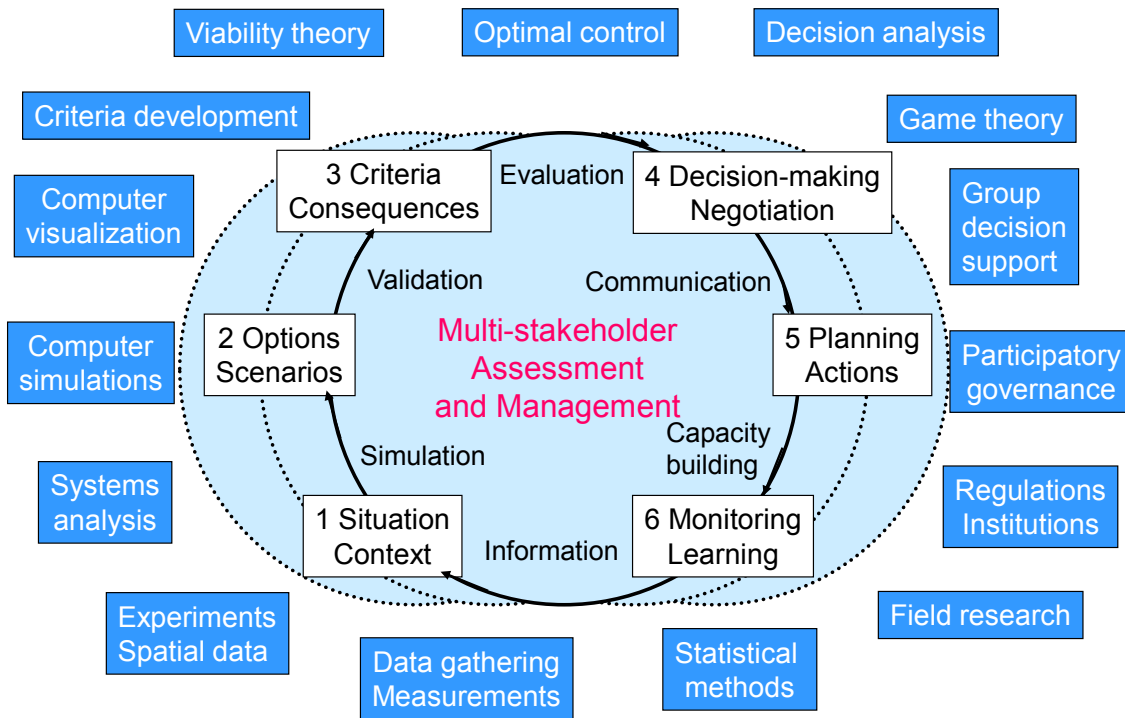
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254 Figure captions:

255 Figure SI-1: A proposed concept for multi-stakeholder assessment and management of Enhanced

256 Weathering, adapted from Scheffran (2006).



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