

Global heat uptake by inland waters

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Key Points:

- We use a unique combination of lake models, hydrological models, and Earth System models to quantify global heat uptake by inland waters.
- Heat uptake by inland waters over the industrial period amounts up to 2.8×10^{20} J, or 3.1% of the continental heat uptake.
- The thermal energy of the water trapped on land due to dam construction (27×10^{20} J) is ~ 9.6 times larger than inland water heat uptake.

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Abstract

Heat uptake is a key variable for understanding the Earth system response to greenhouse gas forcing. Despite the importance of this heat budget, heat uptake by inland waters has so far not been quantified. Here we use a unique combination of global-scale lake models, global hydrological models and Earth system models to quantify global heat uptake by natural lakes, reservoirs and rivers. The total net heat uptake by inland waters amounts to $2.8 \pm 4.3 \times 10^{20}$ J over the period 1900-2020, corresponding to 3.1% of the energy stored on land. The overall uptake is dominated by natural lakes (126%), followed by reservoir warming (2.6%). Rivers contribute negatively (-28.7%) due to a decreasing water volume. The heat of the water volume stored in reservoirs exceeds inland water heat uptake by a factor of ~ 9.6 . Our results underline the importance of inland waters for buffering atmospheric warming caused by enhanced greenhouse gas concentrations.

Plain Language Summary

Human-induced emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases cause energy accumulation in the Earth system. Oceans trap most of this excess energy, thereby largely buffering the warming of the atmosphere. However, the fraction of excess energy stored in lakes, reservoirs and rivers is currently unknown, despite the high heat capacity of water. Here we quantify this human-induced heat storage, and show that it amounts up to 3.1% of the energy stored on land. The increase in heat storage from 1900 to 2020 is dominated by warming of lakes. The thermal heat contained in the water added on land due to dam construction is nearly ten times smaller. Our study overall highlights the importance of inland waters – next to oceans, ice and land – for buffering atmospheric warming, especially on regional scale.

1 Introduction

Increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere cause a net heat uptake in the Earth System. Over 90% of this extra thermal energy is stored in the oceans, causing ocean warming and global sea level rise through thermal expansion (Rhein et al., 2013). The most recent estimates of heat uptake are described in the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report concludes that the ocean has taken up $4.35 \pm 0.8 \times 10^{21}$ J yr⁻¹ in the upper-700 m of water and $2.25 \pm 0.64 \times 10^{21}$ J yr⁻¹ between the depths of 700-2000 m, respectively (averages of 1998-2017 compared to 1971-1990), and attributes this increase to anthropogenic forcings (Bindoff et al., 2019). The remaining excess heat is taken up by melting sea and land ice, by specific heating and water evaporation in the atmosphere and by warming of the continents (Trenberth, 2009).

Despite the key role of heat uptake in driving Earth system response to greenhouse gas forcing, currently little is known about global-scale heat uptake by inland waters. Inland waters include natural lakes, man-made reservoirs, rivers and wetlands, with lakes covering 1.8% of the global land area (Messenger et al., 2016) and rivers 0.58% of the global non-glaciated land area (Allen & Pavelsky, 2018). However, the abundance and total area covered by inland waters (natural and/or artificial) is continuously changing (Pekel et al., 2016). For example, reservoir expansion following dam construction experienced a marked acceleration during the 1960s and 1970s, but levelled off after the 1980s, now covering 0.2% of the global land area (Lehner et al., 2011). Despite occupying <3% of the global land surface, inland waters play an important role in the climate system (e.g., Subin et al., 2012; Docquier et al., 2016; Vanderkelen et al., 2018a; Choulga et al., 2019) and are sentinels of climate change (e.g., Adrian et al., 2009; Schewe et al., 2014; O'Reilly et al., 2015; Woolway & Merchant, 2019). Compared to other types of land surfaces, water (i) has a higher specific heat capacity, (ii) typically has a lower albedo, (iii) allows

85 for radiation penetration below the surface, and (iv) seasonally mixes warmer surface
 86 masses to deeper layers. Consequently, inland waters are generally regarded as heat reser-
 87 voirs compared to adjacent land. In addition, lake surface temperatures have been ob-
 88 served to have increased rapidly in recent decades, in some locations even faster than
 89 ambient air temperatures (O’Reilly et al., 2015; Schneider & Hook, 2010). This is not
 90 only the result of an increased lake heat uptake due to increasing air temperatures, but
 91 can be attributed to an interplay between changes in ice cover duration and stratifica-
 92 tion, solar radiation and lake characteristics (Austin & Allen, 2011; Shatwell et al., 2019).
 93 Moreover, the warming rates are spatially very heterogeneous (O’Reilly et al., 2015).

94 To quantify the heat uptake by inland waters, an estimation of both the water vol-
 95 umes and evolution of water temperature profiles is necessary. Water temperature ob-
 96 servations of lakes, reservoirs, rivers and wetlands are however sparse and spatially lim-
 97 ited. So far, studies of energy fluxes and heat storage have been limited to individual lakes
 98 (Heiskanen et al., 2015; Nordbo et al., 2011; Strachan et al., 2016). To overcome this,
 99 global models are developed for estimating water temperatures on local, regional and global
 100 scales.

101 In this study, we develop the first estimate of the global-scale heat uptake by in-
 102 land waters over the period 1900-2020. To this end, we combine global lake and hydro-
 103 logical simulations from the Inter-Sectoral Model Intercomparison Project (ISIMIP) with
 104 a river temperature parameterisation and spatially-explicit data sets of lake abundance,
 105 reservoir area expansion and lake depth. This enables us to quantify the heat uptake by
 106 natural lakes, reservoirs and rivers. We do not consider the contribution of wetlands and
 107 floodplains, given their highly disperse spatial and temporal character and limited data
 108 availability. Next, we also quantify the redistribution of heat from ocean to land due to
 109 increased inland water storage as a result of the construction of reservoirs. By provid-
 110 ing a first estimate of inland water heat uptake, this study provides new advances in the
 111 quantification of the global heat budget.

112 2 Data and Methods

113 2.1 Lake and reservoir heat content

114 The ISIMIP initiative is a recent effort to provide consistent climate impact sim-
 115 ulations across different sectors which allows for the integration and comparison of global
 116 hydrological and lake model simulations (Frieler et al., 2017). For lake water tempera-
 117 tures, we used the global ISIMIP2b simulations from two one-dimensional lake models:
 118 the Community Land Model 4.5 (CLM4.5, Oleson et al., 2013) including the Lake, Ice,
 119 Snow and Sediment Simulator (LISSS, Subin et al., 2012), and SIMSTRAT-UoG, a phys-
 120 ically sophisticated k - ϵ model (Goudsmit et al., 2002, see table S1 for an overview). Fol-
 121 lowing the ISIMIP2b protocol, simulations are performed at a 0.5° by 0.5° spatial res-
 122 olution using bias-adjusted atmospheric forcing data from four Earth System Models (ESMs:
 123 GFDL-ESM2M, HadGEM2-ES, IPSL-CM5A-LR and MIROC5). SIMSTRAT-UoG does
 124 not represent human-influences, while CLM4.5 assumes that land use and human influ-
 125 ences (irrigation extent, land use, population and GDP) are constant at the 2005 level.
 126 We use ESM simulations for the historical period with historical climate and greenhouse
 127 gas conditions, ranging from 1900 to 2005 and Representative Concentration Pathway
 128 6.0 simulations for the period 2006-2020 (Frieler et al., 2017). The lake models simulate
 129 a representative lake with a constant depth in each grid cell, of which the extent is given
 130 by the lake area fraction of that grid cell. Using the four climate forcings for each lake
 131 model results in a total of 8 simulations of spatially-explicit global-scale lake tempera-
 132 tures.

133 Global lake area distribution is given by the HydroLAKES dataset (Messenger et
 134 al., 2016), containing 1.42 million individual polygons of natural lakes. This data set is

135 linked to the Global Reservoir and Dam data set v. 1.3 (GRanD, Lehner et al., 2011)
 136 consisting of 7250 reservoir polygons (Lehner et al., 2011). We convert both HydroLAKES
 137 and GRanD polygons to lake area fraction on a 0.5° by 0.5° grid to match the ISIMIP
 138 resolution. Reservoir construction is provided by GRanD, and changes in reservoir area
 139 are accounted for by creating annual lake area fraction maps, in which reservoir areas
 140 are added in their year of construction. Natural lakes which become controlled by a dam
 141 are categorized as 'natural lakes' based on information from GRanD. As GRanD pro-
 142 vides construction years up to 2017, we assume a constant reservoir area from 2017 to
 143 2020. Lake and reservoir depths are obtained from the Global Lake Database v.3 (GLDB,
 144 Kourzeneva, 2010; Choulga et al., 2014, 2019), providing estimates of mean lake depth
 145 for every land grid cell. This data is remapped from its original $30''$ (~ 1 km grid) to
 146 the 0.5° by 0.5° resolution using bi-linear interpolation.

147 Annual lake heat content Q_{lake} [J], per grid cell is calculated as

$$Q_{lake} = c_{liq} A_{lake} \rho_{liq} \sum_{n=1}^{n=nlayers} T_n d_n$$

148 with c_{liq} ($J kg^{-1}K^{-1}$) the specific heat capacity of liquid water (here taken con-
 149 stant at $4188 J kg^{-1}K^{-1}$), A_{lake} (m^2) the lake area, ρ_{liq} ($kg m^{-3}$) the density of liq-
 150 uid water (here taken at $1000 kg m^{-3}$), and the sum of annual mean temperatures T_n
 151 (K) over all lake layers, where d_n (m) is the layer thickness. As the layering of each lake
 152 model is different (table S1), lake heat per layer is rescaled by calculating the weights
 153 of the model layer depths relative to the models' grid cell lake depth. These weights are
 154 then applied on the grid cell lake depth from GLDB. This allows for a consistent vol-
 155 ume computation. To also ensure a consistent lake coverage across the different lake mod-
 156 els, the water temperatures are spatially interpolated to the lake coverage map derived
 157 from HydroLAKES using nearest neighbour remapping. The Caspian Sea is included in
 158 the analysis, as this inland sea is often not accounted for in ocean heat content estimates
 159 (e.g. Cheng et al., 2017). We define the spatial extent of natural lakes by the lake ex-
 160 tent in 1900. Heat content anomalies, hereafter denoted as heat uptake, are computed
 161 relative to the average lake heat content in 1900-1929, hereafter referred to as pre-industrial
 162 period) and represent changes in lake and reservoir temperatures. Changes in the amount
 163 of water stored on land by the construction of reservoirs are also taken into account, thereby
 164 assuming the water temperature of the constructed reservoir is given by the grid cell lake
 165 temperature. We do not consider inter-annual variations in lake and reservoir volumes.
 166 Total annual global heat uptake is calculated by summing all grid cells.

167 2.2 River heat content

168 River water mass is retrieved from the grid-scale monthly river storage ($kg m^{-2}$)
 169 given by the two Global Hydrological Models from the ISIMIP 2b global water sector
 170 providing this variable: the Minimal Advanced Treatments of Surface Interaction and
 171 Runoff (MATSIRO, N. Y. Pokhrel et al., 2015) and WaterGAP2 (Müller Schmied et al.,
 172 2016, see table S1), by multiplying with the grid cell area and taking the annual mean.
 173 Annual grid cell river water temperatures are estimated using the global non-linear re-
 174 gression model of Punzet et al. (2012) with the global coefficients and an efficiency fit
 175 of 0.87. This regression prescribes river temperatures based on monthly gridded air tem-
 176 peratures, which are given by the four different ESM forcings (GFDL-ESM2M, HadGEM2-
 177 ES, IPSL-CM5A-LR and MIROC5). River heat content, Q_{river} [J], is calculated as

$$Q_{river} = c_{liq} m_{river} T_{river}$$

178 with m_{river} (kg) the water storage in the grid cell rivers and T_{river} (K) the river
 179 temperature. As for lakes, river heat uptake is defined as the anomaly compared to the

180 average river heat content in the reference period 1900-1929 and consists of the change
 181 in temperature and the change in water stored in the rivers. This approach uses a total
 182 of 8 ISIMIP simulations to calculate river heat uptake. The set-up of the models, dictated
 183 by the ISIMIP protocol, allows the direct comparison of the resulting lake, reservoir
 184 and river heat uptake.

185 **3 Inland water heat uptake**

186 Natural lakes have taken up $2.9 \pm 2.0 \times 10^{20}$ J (\pm one standard deviation of the 8
 187 simulations used) averaged over the period 2011-2020, relative to pre-industrial times
 188 (1900-1929; Table 1) due to an increase of lake water temperatures integrated over the
 189 lake column. Lake heat uptake increased continuously from the 1980s onwards, following
 190 the trend of increasing atmospheric temperatures (Figs. 1a, S2). In the last 30 years,
 191 the mean trend in global lake heat uptake of the model simulations is 8.1×10^{18} J year⁻¹.

192 The construction of dams and the resulting artificial reservoirs have increased global
 193 lake volume by 3.2% (Messenger et al., 2016, Fig. S1b). The steep increase in reservoir
 194 heat uptake from the 1980s onwards stems from the combination of accelerated reservoir
 195 construction, making more water on land available for warming, and regional emergence
 196 of warming signals due to climate change during this period (Fig. 1b). In total,
 197 reservoirs have taken up $5.9 \pm 2.7 \times 10^{18}$ J on average in the period 2011-2020, compared
 198 to pre-industrial times (Table 1), which is about 2% of the total heat uptake by inland
 199 waters.

200 Global heat uptake by rivers encompasses large uncertainties and no detectable trend.
 201 In the late 1960s the ensemble mean heat uptake shifts to overall negative heat uptake
 202 values compared to pre-industrial values (Fig 1c). Global-scale stream temperatures show
 203 a clear positive trend, reflecting the increase in air temperatures (Fig. S3, a-d). However,
 204 global-scale river storage is marked by large inter-annual variability for both global
 205 hydrological models (Fig. S3, e-1), thereby effectively masking the positive temperature
 206 trend in the resulting river heat uptake. River storage evolution is dictated mainly by
 207 the ESM forcing, as differences in river storage between the four different ESM forcings
 208 are more pronounced than between the two global hydrological models (Fig. S3). Both
 209 GFDL-ESM2M-driven river storage simulations have higher variability compared to the
 210 other simulations. Altogether, with a heat uptake of $-0.15 \pm 2.3 \times 10^{20}$ J averaged for
 211 2011 to 2020, compared to pre-industrial times, rivers contribute negatively to total heat
 212 uptake by inland waters, but their contribution is accompanied by a large variability, as
 213 well as uncertainty originating from the spread across climate forcings.

214 The total heat uptake in inland waters is thus dominated by the heat uptake of natural
 215 lakes, accounting for 126% of the average total net increase by 2020, while reservoir
 216 heating has taken up 2.6% and rivers contributed negatively with -28.7% in 2020,
 217 but the latter with a large uncertainty (Fig. 3a).

218 Most lake heat uptake is concentrated in the major lake regions of the world. The
 219 Laurentian Great Lakes, including Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario
 220 in central North America make up 12.40% of global lake volume (Messenger et al., 2016).
 221 These lakes all demonstrate a steady increase in heat uptake from the 1980s onwards (Fig.
 222 2b), resulting in a total uptake of $1.45 \pm 0.74 \times 10^{19}$ J (5.2% of global inland water heat
 223 uptake) compared to pre-industrial times with a trend of 4.2×10^{17} J year⁻¹ over the last
 224 30 years. The spatial pattern of heat uptake is mainly dictated by the bathymetry and
 225 resulting lake volume: the deeper Lake Michigan and Lake Superior have taken up more
 226 heat compared to the other lakes, while the much shallower Lake Erie has the lowest heat
 227 uptake estimates (Fig. 2a). The warming of these seasonally-ice covered lakes, and their
 228 impact on the surrounding weather and climate has been extensively studied (e.g. Zhong
 229 et al., 2019; Gronewold et al., 2015; Austin & Allen, 2011) and recently, O'Reilly et al.

230 (2015) reported that their surface is warming faster than most other major lakes world-
231 wide.

232 The African Great Lakes region in East Africa, consisting of Lake Victoria, Tan-
233 ganyika, Kivu, Kyoga, Albert and Edward (12.38% of global lake volume Messenger et
234 al. (2016)), are known to affect the local weather and climate conditions (Thiery et al.,
235 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017; Vanderkelen et al., 2018b; Van de Walle et al., 2019) and their
236 water temperatures are observed to be warming (Katsev et al., 2014; O'Reilly et al., 2003;
237 Tierney et al., 2010). We find that the heat uptake is largest in Tanganyika, the lake with
238 the highest volume in the region (Fig. 2c). Overall, the African Great Lakes show an in-
239 crease in heat over the whole study period, of the same order of magnitude as the Lau-
240 rentian Great Lakes (Fig. 2d, a total heat uptake of $4.23 \pm 1.48 \times 10^{19}$ J, 15.1% of global
241 inland water heat uptake). The Great European lakes, including Lake Ladoga and Onega,
242 the largest lakes in Europe, show a smaller increase compared to other major lake re-
243 gions, corresponding to the smaller volume of the lakes, but the lake heat content shows
244 a sudden increase from the 1990s (Fig. 2e,f; total heat uptake of $2.20 \pm 0.91 \times 10^{18}$ J, 0.79%
245 of global inland water heat uptake). The Amazon, world's highest discharge river, de-
246 picts no temporal trend in river heat uptake, but the uncertainty is large, mainly ow-
247 ing to the diverging river mass estimations (Fig. 2h; heat uptake of $0.18 \pm 2.50 \times 10^{20}$ J,
248 6.4% of global inland water heat uptake). Heat uptake increases towards the river mouth,
249 as the water volume increases (Fig. 2g). To summarize, the global picture of positive lake
250 heat uptake is confirmed at the regional scale by all model combinations. At the river
251 basin scale, however, the uncertainties of river heat uptake are large and there is no agreed
252 signal, in line with global estimates.

253 4 Heat redistribution due to reservoir area expansion

254 In the second half of the 20th century, reservoir capacity strongly increased, rais-
255 ing the water volume stored on land and offsetting sea level rise by 30 mm (Chao et al.,
256 2008; Lehner et al., 2011, Fig. S1b). This extra water stored on land does not only in-
257 crease the potential for taking up excess atmospheric heat (Sect. 2), but also carries en-
258 ergy in itself. By constructing reservoirs, humans are thus not only redistributing mass
259 from the oceans to the land, but also the thermal energy carried within this water. This
260 heat redistribution by reservoir expansion is growing over time, following the increas-
261 ing number of reservoirs constructed (Fig. 3b). During the historical period, $27 \pm 2.1 \times 10^{20}$
262 J of heat was redistributed from ocean to land, exceeding inland water heat uptake from
263 climate change by a factor of ~ 9.6 .

264 5 Discussion and conclusions

265 Large lakes take up most heat, as they have the largest volume to warm up. The
266 increase in lake heat content complies with recent observations of increasing lake sur-
267 face temperatures and reported changes in mixing regimes (O'Reilly et al., 2015; Wool-
268 way & Merchant, 2019) and is robust for different lake regions. For lakes that are sea-
269 sonally ice-covered, lake heat uptake mainly occurs during the open water season (Mishra
270 et al., 2011). Therefore, an earlier ice break up and later ice formation could possibly
271 explain the sudden rise in lake heat in the Great European Lakes. The difference between
272 the two lake models (Fig. S2) could arise from differences in the structure of the mod-
273 els, like lake layers and internal physics.

274 River heat uptake is negative in most simulations during the second half of the 20th
275 century. This seemingly contradictory result stems from a decrease in river storage, which
276 could be attributed to less precipitation or the construction of reservoirs, lowering wa-
277 ter flow in rivers or to drying of rivers by increased land evaporation due to global warm-
278 ing or increased water use. These changes in river storage should, however, be taken with
279 care, as the uncertainties are very large. In addition, no conclusions can be made about

280 global trends in observed streamflow, because changes in streamflow and the hydrologi-
281 cal conditions causing it, are characterized by complex spatial patterns (Gudmundsson
282 et al., 2019; Müller Schmied et al., 2016).

283 The quantification of heat uptake facilitates comparison of the effects of climate
284 change on different components of the climate system. Globally, inland waters have taken
285 up $\sim 0.08\%$ of heat compared to oceans. The continental heat uptake occurs through a
286 heat flux into the solid surface of the lithosphere and has been estimated between 9.1
287 and 10.4×10^{21} J (Beltrami, 2002; Huang, 2006) for the period 1950-2000 based on bore-
288 hole temperature observations. Estimates based on the Coupled Model Intercompari-
289 son Project Phase 5 (CMIP5) are consistently lower ($1 \pm 5 \times 10^{21}$ J), mainly due to the
290 limited depth of the bottom boundary of the land surface schemes of the Earth system
291 models (Cuesta-Valero et al., 2016). Relative to the geophysical estimate reported by
292 Beltrami (2002), the share of inland waters is $\sim 3.1\%$, while inland waters cover about
293 $\sim 2.58\%$ of the global continental area. This comparison has to be taken with care, as
294 the borehole-based estimations of heat uptake are only quantified until 2000 and surface
295 air temperatures have risen at record rates since then (Rhein et al., 2013).

296 The redistribution of heat by reservoir construction, is equivalent to $\sim 38\%$ of the
297 land mass heat uptake. It increases the potential of storing extra heat on land by warm-
298 ing the water of the created reservoirs. In particular, this might cause local impacts such
299 as masking surface temperature increase over the historical period by their buffering ca-
300 pacity. In addition, the extra continental water storage by reservoir expansion could have
301 a dampening effect on local temperature extremes and could affect river temperatures
302 downstream. Furthermore, reservoirs could cause alterations in extreme precipitation (Degu
303 et al., 2011), but the physical mechanisms behind this are not yet well understood. It
304 is therefore important to account for reservoir expansion and resulting heat redistribu-
305 tion in Earth System Models, to increase our understanding of how reservoirs affect the
306 climate (Y. N. Pokhrel et al., 2016; Nazemi & Wheeler, 2015; Wada et al., 2017). Cap-
307 turing heat redistribution by reservoir expansion could also increase the quality of cli-
308 mate change projections on regional to global scales.

309 Furthermore, lakes and rivers do not only have the potential for storing heat com-
310 ing from warming by excess greenhouse gases, but they also play a role in engineered heat
311 storage. Locally, lakes may serve as a source or sink for anthropogenic heat, for instance
312 as thermal heat pumps or cooling systems (Fink et al., 2014), while rivers have been used
313 by industries for their cooling water discharge potential (van Vliet et al., 2016).

314 There are several opportunities to refine the heat uptake calculations presented in
315 this study. First, the volume calculation does not account for lake hypsometry. By us-
316 ing average lake depths to multiply with lake area, the resulting total lake volumes are
317 reasonable, as most lakes have a linear hypsometric relationship (Busker et al., 2019; Mes-
318 sager et al., 2016; Choulga et al., 2014). This rectangular hypsometry assumption results
319 in relatively higher weights for the deeper lake layers, which makes our heat uptake es-
320 timates more conservative. Second, apart from reservoir construction, the heat calcu-
321 lation does not account for variations in lake and reservoir volumes, while changes in river
322 storage are included. This could have important effects, especially for lakes with a high
323 inter-annual variability. Recent advancements in remote sensing allow mapping global
324 surface water and its temporal variations (e.g. the Global Surface Water data set; Pekel
325 et al., 2016), but these assessments are time-limited to the satellite era. Third, as reser-
326 voir operation are modelled in the same way as natural lakes, the deep withdrawals related to reser-
327 voir operation are not considered. Deep withdrawals imply higher temperatures than sim-
328 ulated in natural lakes (Moreno-Ostos et al., 2008), leading to a potential underestima-
329 tion of the heat uptake by reservoirs. Furthermore, variations in heat capacity are not
330 considered in our analysis, which could lead to a lower estimate of heat uptake as the
331 specific capacity of ice is lower than that of water ($2117 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ compared to 4188
332 $\text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$, respectively). In addition, the formation and melting of lake ice also re-

Table 1. Total heat uptake and trend for the different inland water components. Heat uptake is calculated as the average uptake during 2011-2020 relative to the reference period 1900-1929. Uncertainties are given by the ensemble standard deviation of the used simulations. Trends are calculated using a linear regression over the 30-year period 1991-2020.

	Heat uptake	Trend (1991-2020)
Natural lakes	$2.9 \pm 2.0 \times 10^{20}$ J	9.4×10^{18} J yr ⁻¹
Reservoirs	$0.059 \pm 0.027 \times 10^{20}$ J	0.19×10^{18} J yr ⁻¹
Rivers	$-0.15 \pm 2.3 \times 10^{20}$ J	2.7×10^{18} J yr ⁻¹
Uptake by climate change	$2.8 \pm 4.3 \times 10^{20}$ J	12.4×10^{18} J yr ⁻¹
Redistribution by reservoir expansion	$27 \pm 2.1 \times 10^{20}$ J	11.0×10^{18} J yr ⁻¹

333 lease and require heat, respectively. Phase changes are not considered explicitly, but they
 334 are included in the physics of the lake models and therefore in the simulated tempera-
 335 ture profiles. Next, variations in salinity of inland waters are not included. Salty water
 336 has a lower specific heat capacity than freshwater ($3986 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ for a salinity of sea
 337 water (3.5%) compared to $4188 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$, (Brewer & Peltzer, 2019)), but applying
 338 this difference falls within the uncertainty range. Furthermore, by using global lake and
 339 hydrological models driven by ESM forcings, an extra uncertainty related to climate sen-
 340 sitivity is added to the calculations. Despite these limitations, this study is the first step
 341 towards estimating heat uptake by inland waters.

342 In this study, we show that inland water heat uptake during the historical period
 343 is substantial compared to continental heat uptake, calling for inclusion of this effect in
 344 global-scale assessments of heat uptake within the Earth system. Furthermore, we high-
 345 light that by constructing reservoirs, humans have redistributed heat from the ocean to
 346 land as well as increased the potential of storing more heat on land, given the higher heat
 347 capacity of water compared to land. Compared to the other components of the Earth
 348 system, this is a small term, but locally the impacts might be large. Our results over-
 349 all underline the potential importance of inland waters for buffering atmospheric warm-
 350 ing through enhanced anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations.

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 354 is available at <https://www.hydrosheds.org/page/hydrolakes>, the GRanD data at
 355 <http://globaldamwatch.org/>, and the GLDB data at <http://www.lakemodel.net/>.
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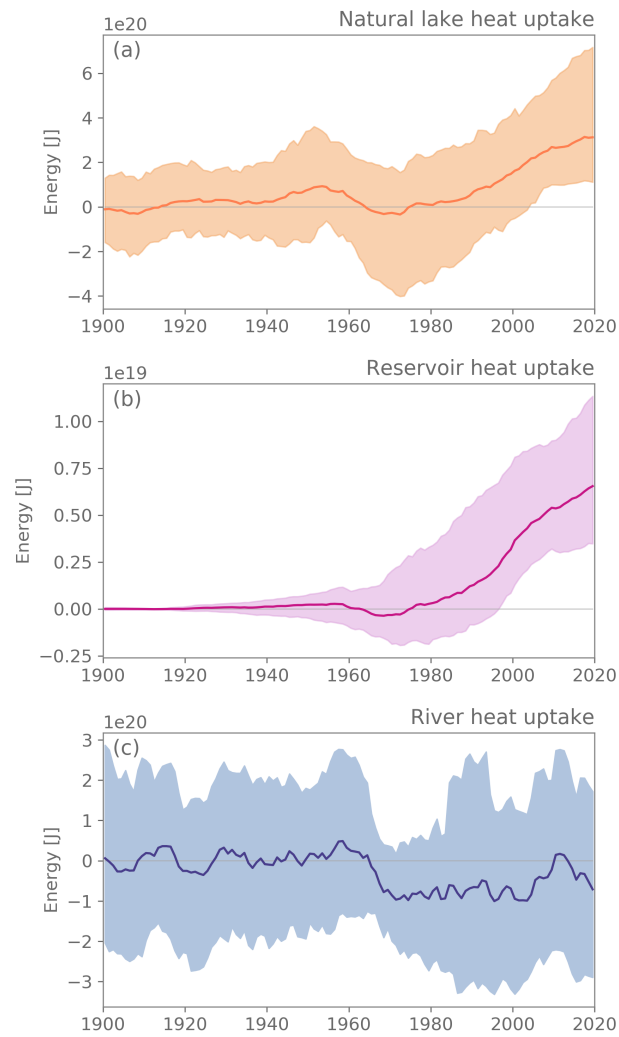


Figure 1. Heat uptake by natural lakes (a), reservoirs (b) and rivers (c). Shown are 10-year moving means relative to the 1900-1929 reference period. Note the different y-axis scales. Color shades represent uncertainty range shown as the standard deviation of the used simulations.

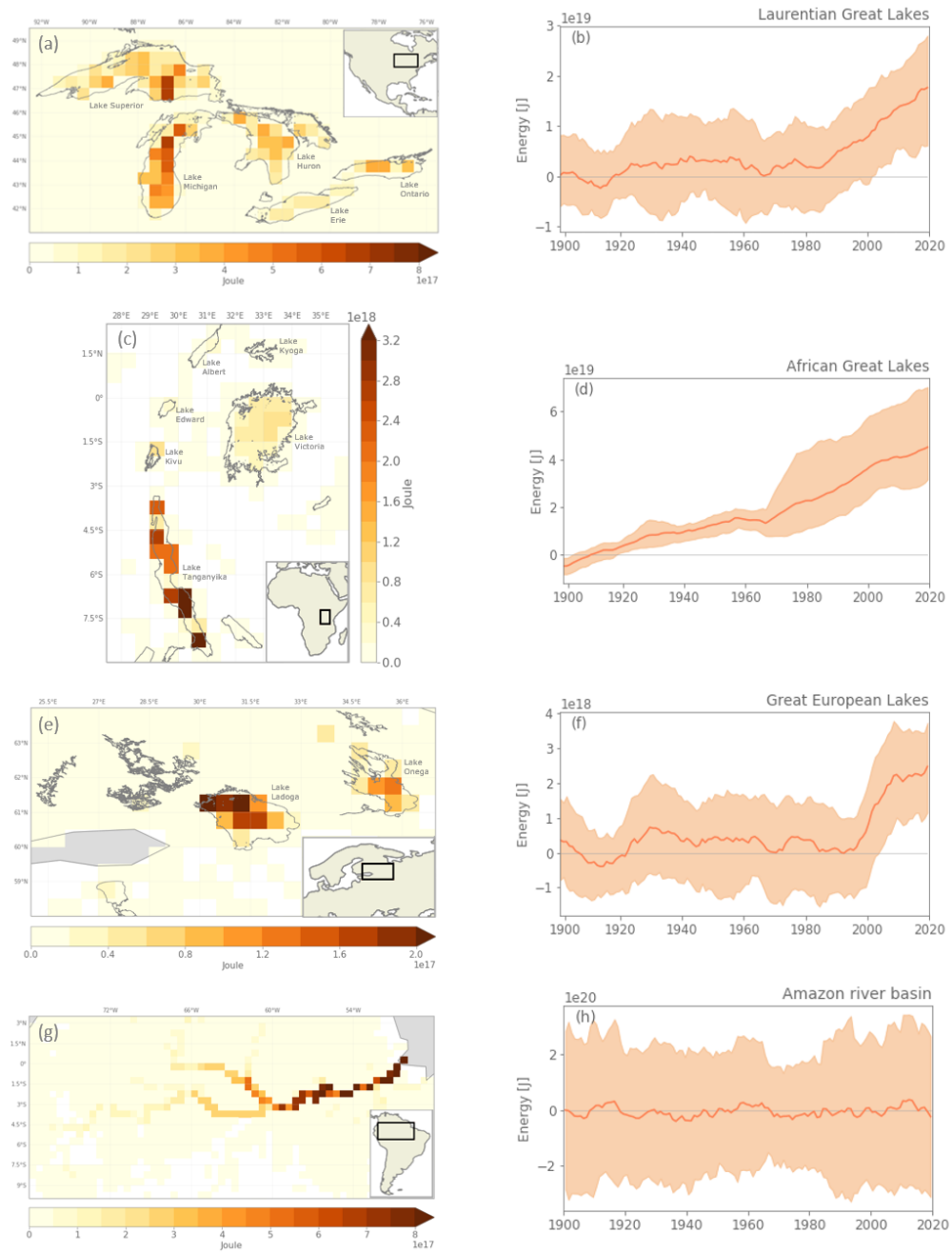


Figure 2. Heat uptake by the Laurentian Great lakes (a-b), the African Great Lakes (c-d), the Great European Lakes (e-f), and the Amazon River (g-h). The maps (a, c, e and g) represent the average heat uptake during the 2001-2020 period with the grey colors indicating ocean grid cells, and white colors grid cells without water. The graphs (b, d, f and h) show 10-year moving means, where the color shades represent uncertainty range shown as the standard deviation of the used simulations. The reference period is 1900-1929. Note the different y-axis scales.

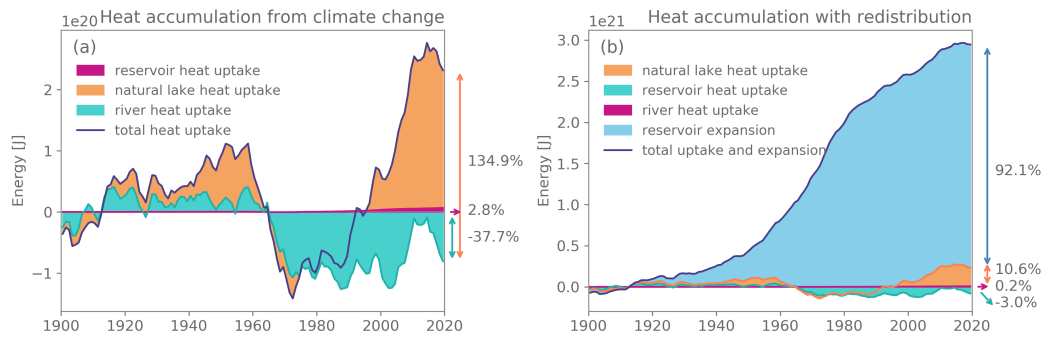


Figure 3. Inland water heat accumulation from climate change (a) and including redistribution by reservoir construction (b). Shown are 10-year moving ensemble means relative to the 1900-1929 reference period. Note the different y-axis scales.

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Supporting information for “Global heat uptake by inland waters”

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Contents of this file

1. Table S1
2. Figures S1 to S3

Introduction

This supplementary file contains 1 table and 3 figures providing extra information on the data and model results. Table T1 shows the used models from the Inter-sectoral Impact Model Intercomparison Project phase 2b (ISIMIP2b). Figure S1 shows maps of the input data used in the study: the area fraction for natural lakes (a), reservoirs (b) and the lake depth (c). Figure S2 illustrate the annual heat uptake by natural lakes for every individual simulation used in the analysis (per lake model and GCM forcing). Finally, figure S3 shows the terms used in the river heat uptake calculation and the resulting river heat uptake, all for both hydrological models and every GCM forcing.

Table S1. Overview of ISIMIP2b impact models used in this study.

Lake models	# layers	Lake depth	Reference
CLM4.5	10	Constant at 50 m	Subin, Riley, and Mironov (2012)
SIMSTRAT-UoG	1 - 13	GLDB	Goudsmit, Burchard, Peeters, and Wüest (2002)
Hydrological models	Human influences		Reference
MATSIRO	No human influences		Pokhrel et al. (2015)
WaterGAP2	Historical human influences		Müller Schmied et al. (2016)

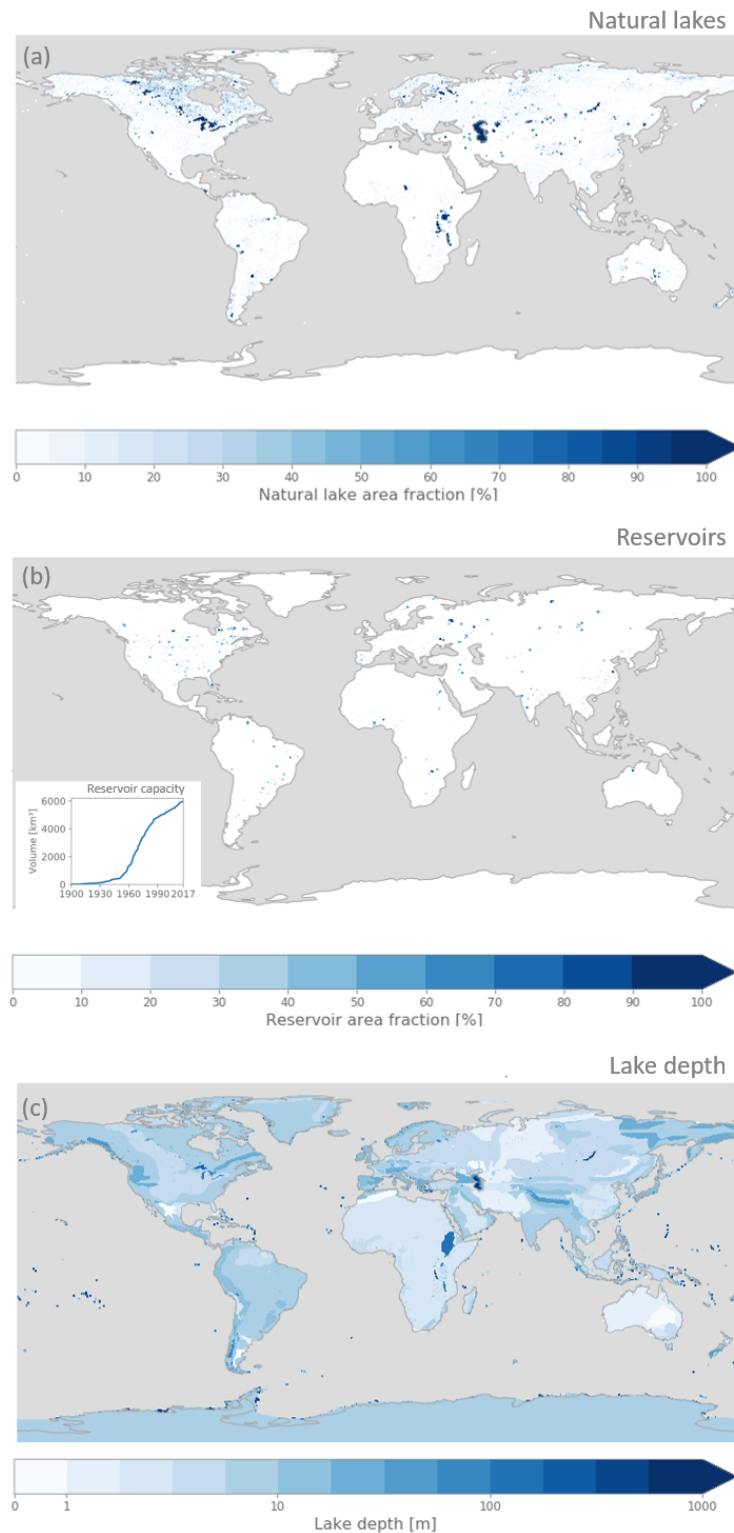


Figure S1. Lake data used in the lake heat assessment: lake area fraction, based on HydroLAKES (a; Messenger et al., 2016), reservoir area fraction map representing the reservoir expansion in the period 1900-2017, based on GRanD coupled with HydroLAKES, March 11, 2020, 8:58am inset: reservoir volume increase over time based on GRanD (b; Lehner et al., 2011; Messenger et al., 2016) and (potential) lake depth adapted from GLDB v3 (c; Choulga et al., 2019).

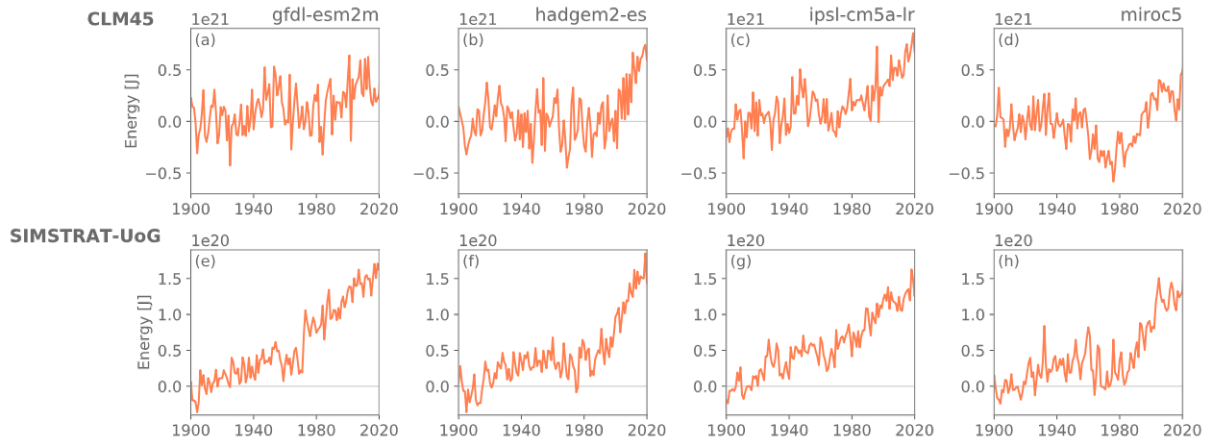


Figure S2. Annual heat uptake by natural lakes for the two different lake models (CLM45; a-d and SIMSTRAT-UoG; e-h) and ESM forcings (GFDL-ESM2M, HadGEM2-ES, IPSL-CM5A-LR, MIROC5; columns). Note the different y-axis scales.

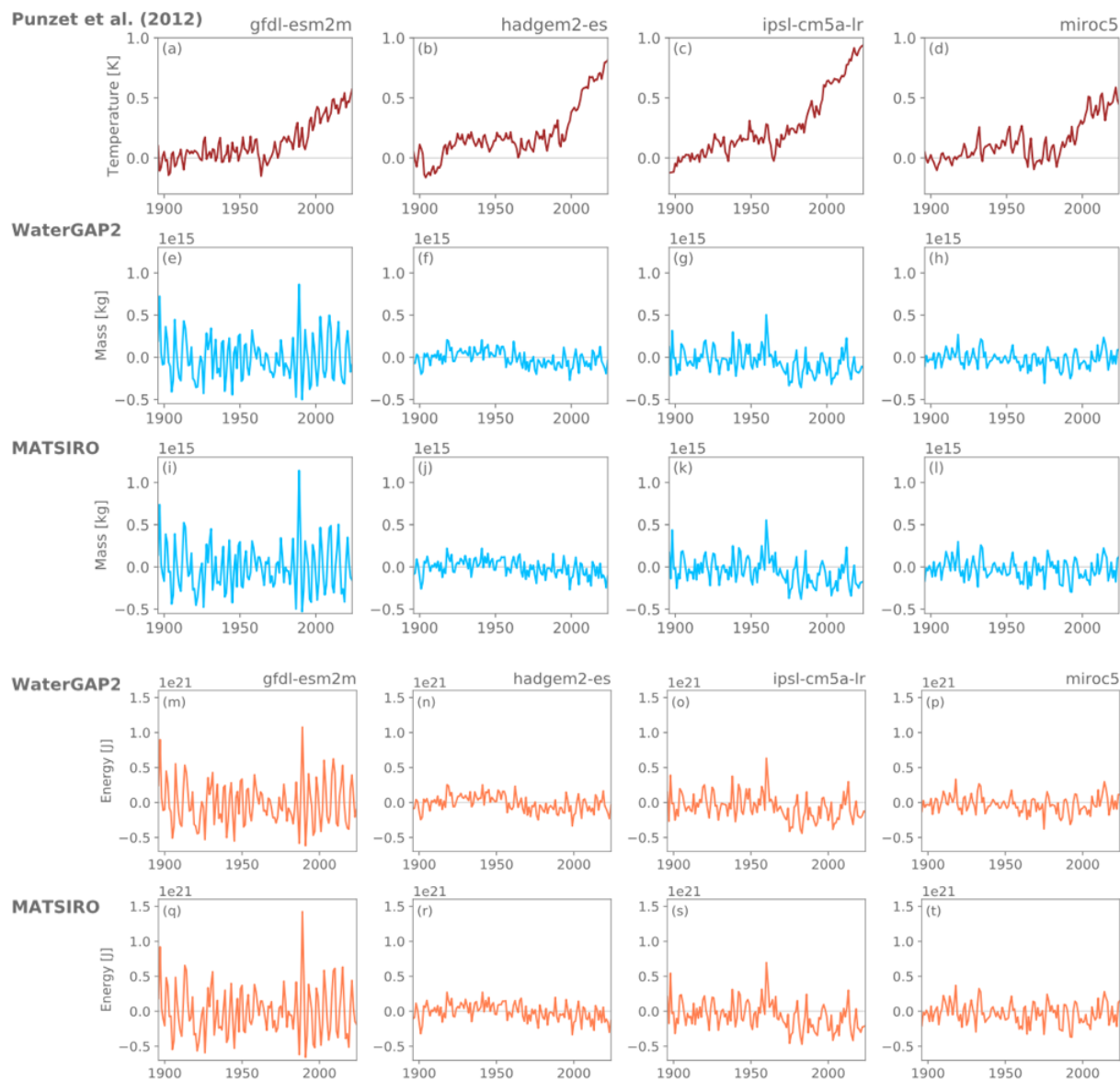


Figure S3. Global average river temperatures calculated with the parametrisation of (Punzet et al., 2012, ;a-d), global total river mass from WaterGAP2 (e-h) from MATSIRO (i-l) and resulting global river heat for WaterGAP2 (m-p) and MATSIRO (q-t), all per ESM forcing.

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