

Multi-scenario urban flood risk assessment by integrating future land use change models and hydrodynamic models

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Abstract. Urbanization and climate change are the critical challenges in the 21st century. Flooding by extreme weather events and human activities can lead to catastrophic impacts in fast-urbanizing areas. However, high uncertainty in climate change and future urban growth limit the ability of cities to adapt to flood risk. This study presents a multi-scenario risk assessment method that couples the future land use simulation model (FLUS) and floodplain inundation model (LISFLOOD-FP) to simulate and evaluate the impacts of future urban growth scenarios with flooding under climate change (two representative concentration pathways (RCPs 2.6 and 8.5)). By taking coastal city of Shanghai as an example, we then quantify the role of urban planning policies in future urban development to compare urban development under multiple policy scenarios (Business as usual; Growth as planned; Growth as eco-constraints). Geospatial databases related to anthropogenic flood protection facilities, land subsidence, and storm surge are developed and used as inputs to the LISFLOOD-FP model to estimate flood risk under various urbanization and climate change scenarios. The results show that urban growth under the three scenario models manifests significant differences in expansion trajectories, influenced by key factors such as infrastructure development and policy constraints. Comparing the urban inundation results for the RCP2.6 and RCP8.5 scenarios, the urban inundation area under the growth as eco-constraints scenario is less than that under the business as usual scenario, but more than that under the growth as planned scenario. We also find that urbanization tends to expand more towards flood-prone areas under the restriction of ecological environment protection. The increasing flood risk information determined by model simulations help to understand the spatial distribution of future flood-prone urban areas and promote the re-formulation of urban planning in high-risk locations.

1 Introduction

Climate change and urbanization are the global challenges for the 21st century (Ramaswami et al., 2016; Pecl et al., 2017). Floods have been key threats for many cities around the world driven by global climate change (Hallegatte et al., 2013; IPCC, 2014; Fang et al., 2020). Currently, more than 600 million people worldwide live in coastal cities that are less than 10 m

31 above sea level (United Nations, 2017). The United Nations reports that the global population living in cities is projected to
32 reach 6.7 billion by 2050 (United Nations, 2018), especially in low elevation coastal areas, the population density is expected
33 to be twice the current population density (Van Coppenolle and Temmerman, 2019), which means that the population of
34 coastal cities will become increasingly concentrated in the future and impervious surfaces will become more numerous
35 (Chen et al., 2020; He et al., 2021). On the other hand, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
36 report suggests that global mean sea level will rise around 0.2 m to 2.0 m by 2100 under a continuing global warming trend
37 (Parris et al., 2012). Additionally, properties and populations in many coastal areas will suffer more severely in the future if
38 the effects of land subsidence are taken into account (Vousdoukas et al., 2018).

39 However, high uncertainty in flood risk and urban growth leads to a lack of capacity of cities to respond to the flooding
40 arising from future climate change (Du et al., 2015; Tessler et al., 2015; Fang et al., 2021). Therefore, there is an urgent need
41 for specialist knowledge and techniques to address the conflict between urbanization and flood risk (Wang et al., 2015; Lai
42 et al., 2016; Bouwer, 2018; Haynes et al., 2018). Studies on urban flood risk assessment are more likely to simulate flood
43 risk using different climate change scenarios or integrating different flood sources (Huong and Pathirana, 2013; Muis et al.,
44 2015; Dullo et al., 2021). For example, Zhou et al. examine the impact of urban flood volumes and associated risks under
45 RCP2.6 and RCP8.5 scenarios (Zhou et al., 2019). Parodi et al. integrate the compound flood scenarios such as wave height,
46 storm surge, and extreme sea level due to sea level rise to assess coastal flood risk (Parodi et al., 2020). However, ignoring
47 the uncertainty of urban growth in urban flood risk assessment reduces the validity of the assessment (Gori et al., 2019), and
48 hence an increased understanding of possible urban growth scenarios is needed, otherwise there is a lack of understanding of
49 the consequences of future flooding (Zhao et al., 2017; Kim and Newman, 2020). Although there are some studies have
50 quantified urban growth and assessed flood risk, such as Chennai (Nithila Devi et al., 2019), Guangzhou (Lin et al., 2020),
51 Shanghai (Shan et al., 2022), these studies have not considered the development of urban areas under different growth
52 scenarios and the assessment of flood impacts after the implementation of these scenarios. In addition, the failure to integrate
53 with broader climate change-related scenarios and possible extreme-case flood risks has led to underinvestment in climate
54 adaptation actions by governments that do not well address the spatial consequences of future floods (Reckien et al., 2018;
55 Berke et al., 2019). Thus, there is an urgent need to adopt a more comprehensive approach to assess the complexity of
56 multiple possible scenarios of urbanization and dynamic flood risk in an integrated manner.

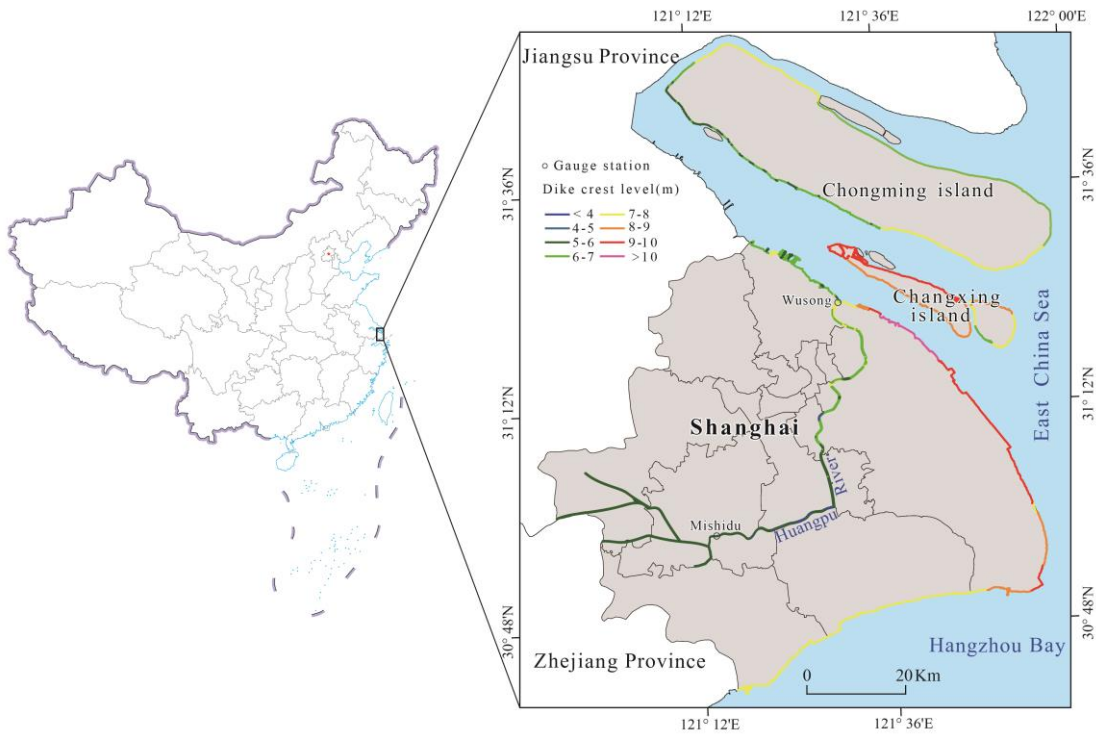
57 This paper uses the coupling of the future land use simulation model (FLUS) and the 2D floodplain inundation model
58 (LISFLOOD-FP) to explore the possible interaction between different urbanization development scenarios and climate
59 change scenarios. The FLUS model improves the simulation accuracy of the model by combining artificial neural network
60 (ANN) and Cellular automata (CA) model to simulate nonlinear land use changes while considering parameters related to
61 environment, society, climate change, etc. (Liu et al., 2017; Zhai et al., 2020). The LISFLOOD-FP model has become a
62 mature hydrodynamic model that can predict potential flood events in near real-time and is widely used in engineering
63 applications (Wing et al., 2019; Sosa et al., 2020). The coastal metropolitan Area of Shanghai in the Yangtze River Delta in
64 China, one of the fastest urbanizing cities in the world, is used as a case study.

65 The paper asks, how different urban growth scenarios combined with climate change scenario analysis may help to inform
66 preparedness for flood risks from climate change in urban flood risk assessments? To answer this question, we first assume
67 some future simulation scenario by considering the factors that influence urban growth and lead to flood risk. Secondly, we
68 coupled urban growth and flood risk scenarios and compared them using climate change scenarios from two representative
69 concentrated pathways (RCP 2.6 and 8.5) proposed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Finally, we
70 assessed the risk of flooding in different urban development scenarios. The research illustrates the importance of assessing
71 the performance of different future urban development scenarios in response to climate change, and the simulation study of
72 urban risks will prove to decision-makers that incorporating disaster prevention measures into urban development plans will
73 help to reduce disaster losses and improve the ability of urban systems to respond to floods.

74 **2 Study area and datasets**

75 **2.1 Study area**

76 As the alluvial plain of the Yangtze River Delta, Shanghai is located on the coast of the East China Sea between 30°40'–
77 31°53'N and 120°52'–122°12'E, which borders the provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang to the West (Fig. 1). It's a typical
78 middle latitude transition belt, marine land transitional zone and also a typical estuarine and coastal city with a fragile
79 ecological environment. The land area of Shanghai is about 6340.50 km², accounting for 0.06 % of the total area of China,
80 and has 213 km of coastlines. The Shanghai metropolitan area has undergone rapid urban expansion in the past decades and
81 has become one of the largest urban areas in the world in both size and population (Sun et al., 2020). However, Shanghai's
82 topography is low, with an average elevation of 4 m above sea level, and there is no natural barrier against storm surges. In
83 1905, one of the deadliest storm surges occurred in Shanghai, killing more than 29,000 people. Two years later, Typhoon
84 Winnie made landfall in Shanghai, flooded more than 5,000 households (Du et al., 2020). Additionally, due to land
85 subsidence and the increasing frequency and intensity of storm surges, Shanghai will become one of the most sensitive
86 regions due to global climate change.



87

88 **Figure 1: Location map of the study area. The main inland rivers in Shanghai flow into the East China Sea through the Huangpu**
 89 **River. The line with coloured vectors in the figure indicates the different dike crest level in Shanghai.**

90 2.2 Data

91 The research used three main categories of data, including basic data, scenarios constraints data and flood simulation data
 92 (Table 1). The basic data include land use, topography, traffic network, traffic site, socio-economic data. The land use data
 93 with a resolution of 100 m×100 m from the Resource and Environmental Science and Data Center of the Chinese Academy
 94 of Sciences is currently the most accurate land use remote sensing monitoring data product in China (Liu et al., 2014). The
 95 data for 2005 and 2010 were derived from Landsat-TM/ETM remote sensing image data respectively, and the data for 2015
 96 were interpreted using Landsat 8 remote sensing image. After the data were corrected and visually interpreted, the
 97 comprehensive evaluation accuracy of the interpretation accuracy of the first-class types of cultivated land, woodland,
 98 grassland, water area, urban land, and unused land reached more than 94.30 %, and the discrimination accuracy rate on the
 99 map patches reached 98.70 % (Xu et al., 2017). Within the allowable error range, it can be used as the basic data for
 100 analyzing land use changes.

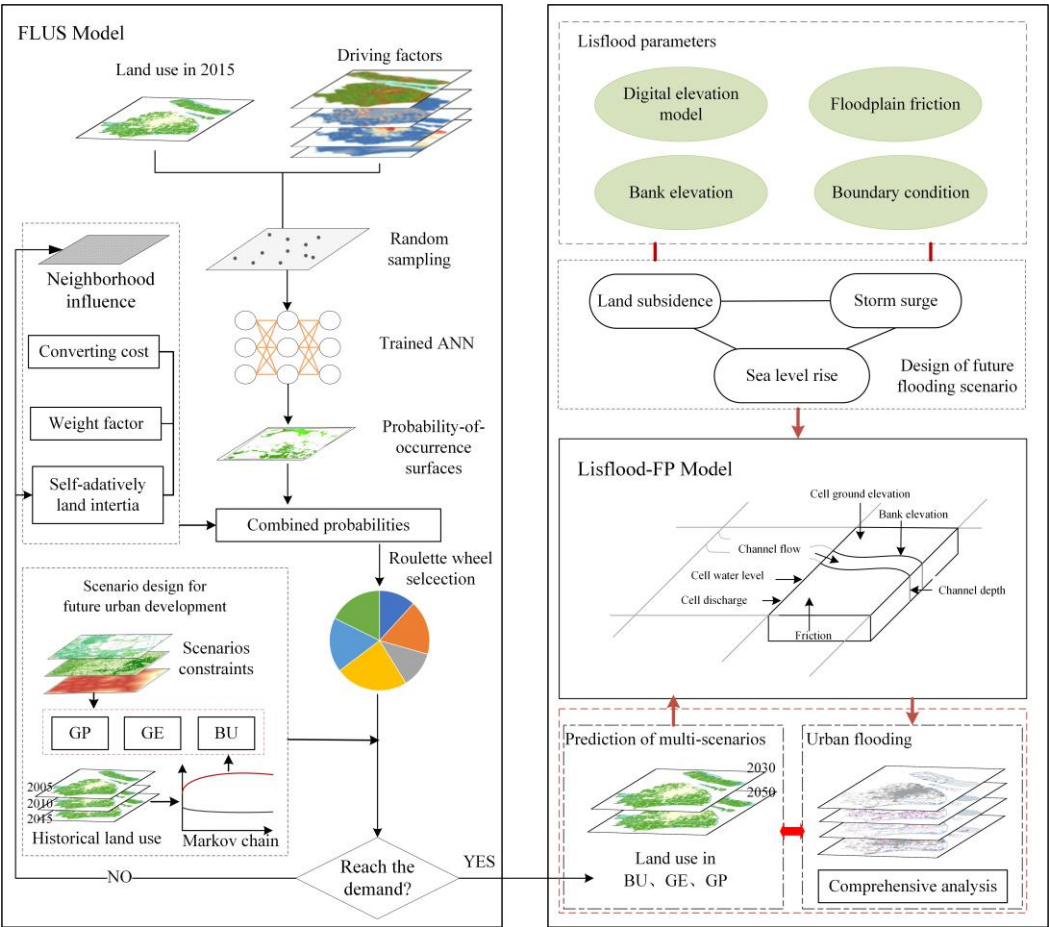
101 Topography factors (DEM, slope), traffic network factors (distance to railway, highway, subway, and main roads), traffic
 102 site factors (distance to the city center, train station, and airports) and socio-economic factors (population, GDP), etc. as well
 103 as planning constraints, were determined to be spatial influence factors of the flood risk assessment of the Shanghai area.

104 The Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) digital elevation model (DEM), which
105 has 30-meter resolution, served as the basis data for terrain heights and slopes. ASTER-DEM has been shown to be the most
106 stable data performer among six types of open access DEM products (SRTM, ASTER-DEM, AW3D, MERIT, NASADEM
107 and CoastalDEM) for flood inundation simulations with different return periods (Xu et al., 2021). Traffic network and site
108 were collected from open-source data retrieved from OpenStreetMap (OSM) and POI data were extracted from Tencent Map.
109 Euclidean distance was calculated for all vector data. The data of population and gross domestic product (GDP), were
110 provided by the Resource and Environmental Science and Data Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Xu, 2017a,
111 2017b), and their time span was consistent with the land use data. According to the simulation forecast demand, all materials
112 were converted into 100×100 m grid by resampling. The spatial limiting factors were the basic ecological control line,
113 permanent basic cropland and cultural protection control line as outlined in the 2017–2035 Shanghai City Master Plan. All
114 the impact factor data were normalized, and the range of the value is between 0 and 1 to subsequent data mining.
115 The storm surge data comes from the Global Tide and Surge Reanalysis (GTSR) dataset, which has been validated to have
116 good accuracy (Muis et al., 2016). In addition, man-made flood defenses have been considered to reasonably evaluate the
117 inundation impact of the flooding. The coastal flood protection data was obtained from the historical archival of the
118 Shanghai Water Authority for Shanghai (Yin et al., 2020). All data sources are listed in the table below.
119 **Table 1. Data required and sources. The list details the resolution and sources of the data in the study.**

Category	Data Type	Resolution	Source
Basic data	Land use	100 m \times 100m	Resource and Environmental Science and Data Center (http://www.resdc.cn)
	Topography	Vector line	ASTER GDEM (https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/)
	Traffic network	Vector line	OpenStreetMap (https://www.openstreetmap.org)
	Traffic site	Vector point	Tencent Map (https://map.qq.com/)
	Social economy	1 km \times 1 km	Resource and Environmental Science and Data Center
Scenarios constraints	Ecological control line	Vector line	《2017-2035 Shanghai City Master Plan》
	Permanent basic cropland control line	Vector line	
	Cultural protection control line	Vector line	
Flood data	Floodwalls	Vector line	Shanghai Water Authority (http://swj.sh.gov.cn/)
	Storm surge	Vector line	GTSR

120 **3 Methodology**

121 The presented approach for relative sea level rise scenario flood risk assessment is the integration of the FLUS model,
122 LISFLOOD-FP model, and Markov chain model. In the framework, the FLUS model and Markov chain model are designed
123 to stimulate complex land-use change processes in three different scenarios through 2030 to 2050, which include Business as
124 usual (BU), Growth as planned (GP), Growth as eco-constraints (GE) scenarios. A Markov chain model is used to predict
125 land-use demand in 2030 and 2050, combining planning policy factors, which is one of the crucial data inputs in the FLUS
126 model. Next, the LISFLOOD-FP two-dimensional flood model is used to explore the potential flooding areas under the RCP
127 2.6 and 8.5 scenarios in 2030 and 2050, to avoid the overestimation of the submerged range based on the GIS-based
128 elevation area method. This model also considers the compound influence of sea-level rise, storm surge, and land subsidence.
129 Finally, via ArcGIS spatial comprehensive analysis, the flooding of different land types is calculated employing different
130 flooding scenarios. The overall flow chart of research is illustrated in Fig. 2.



131
132 **Figure 2: The overall flow chart of research.**

133 3.1 Markov chain model

134 Markov chain model refers to the random transition process of state from one state to another, and its future state is only
135 related to the state at previous moment. In the study of land use change, the type of land use at a certain moment is only
136 related to the type of land use at the previous moment. Therefore, land-use change is a typical Markov process and has
137 widely used in the prediction of land-use changes (Zhou et al., 2020). We predicted future land use by Eq. (1):

$$138 S_{(t+1)} = P_{i,j} \times S_t \quad (1)$$

139 where S_t and S_{t+1} represent the land use at times t and $t+1$, and $P_{i,j}$ is a state transition matrix that land-use type i is
140 converted to land-use type j . This model has a good predictive effect on the process state (Gounaridis et al., 2019). Therefore,
141 we use the Markov chain to calculate the probability of the conversion of various land types, and then predict the number of
142 future land changes.

143 3.2 The FLUS land use simulation model

144 The FLUS model is an upgraded version of a cellular automata model (Liu et al., 2017) which can solve the complex land
145 use simulation problems by self-adaptive inertia and competition mechanism. The FLUS shows the highest current
146 performances than other simulation models such as CLEU-S, SLEUTH, and LTM and has been applied to land use change
147 simulation research at different scales and for different purposes (Liang et al., 2018; Lin et al., 2020).

148 As the most important scheme to manage the space of the urban area, an urban land use plan can reflect the general
149 arrangement of land use in the future (Xu and Yang, 2019). In this research, three categories of urban growth scenarios are
150 simulated through the FLUS model. The similarity of the three scenarios is that they use factors that affect urban
151 development and changes, such as population, GDP, traffic, and slope, as the main spatial driving factors. The difference are
152 as follows:

153 (i) Business as usual (BU): BU is natural growth without development laws and regulations. Its development is based on the
154 premise of the current urban development patterns. Therefore, the land demand predicted by Markov is used as the constraint
155 condition for the iteration of CA model in the subsequent application of the scenario.

156 (ii) Growth as planned (GP): Under the GP scenario, the urban growth projection that closely link to the master plan for
157 Shanghai in terms of quantity, reflecting how the city government prefer to develop. The master plan requires that the total
158 area of planned urban construction land does not exceed 3,200 km² in 2035. We choose an urban area of 2768 km² in 2030
159 and 3200 km² in 2050 as the constraints under the GP scenario. The reason is that the Markov chain model projections result
160 in an urban area is 2768 km² in 2030 and 3270 km² in 2050, and the total urban construction land area in 2035 of the
161 Shanghai Master Plan does not exceed 3200 km².

162 (iii) Growth as eco-constraints (GE): The GE scenario is an eco-environmental protection scenario which development is
163 limited by the ecological environment protection. Combined with Shanghai's ecological and environmental protection

164 requirements and the distribution of permanent basic farmland, sensitive areas restricted for development are identified at the
165 scenario, and we also establish a cultural protection control line for strengthening historical and cultural protection. In
166 addition, the number of areas of future urban growth in the GE scenario also combines the requirements given in the urban
167 master plan to enhance the reality of the scenario.

168 Therefore, the FLUS model is used to simulate future urban growth combining various scenarios. First, the driving factors
169 and land-use data are trained by an ANN model to obtain a probability-of-occurrence map, and then incorporate with the
170 self-adaptive land inertial, conversion cost, and neighborhood competition among the different land use types to estimate the
171 combined probability for each grid. Next, combining the number of various types of land predicted by the Markov Chain
172 model and considering the constraints of each scenario to predicted urban growth in 2030 and 2050. To better validate the
173 model before predicting future change, we compared the output with the actual land use 2015. Note that the number of
174 iterations in each scenario is set to 5000, which is much higher than the default value to show higher prediction accuracy.

175 **3.3 The LISFLOOD-FP flood inundation model**

176 LISFLOOD-FP is a 2D hydraulic model based on a raster grid (Bates et al., 2010), which can efficiently simulate the
177 dynamic propagation of flood waves over fluvial and estuarine floodplains and show real-time changes in water depth of
178 complex terrain. LISFLOOD-FP model solves the Saint-Venant equations at very low computational cost by omitting only
179 the convective acceleration term over a structured grid using a highly efficient explicit finite difference scheme to produce a
180 two-dimensional simulation of floodplain hydrodynamics (O’Loughlin et al., 2020). The model has been widely used in the
181 applications of small-scale and large-scale urban waterlogging and flooding (Hoch et al., 2019; Rajib et al., 2020; Zhao et al.,
182 2020).

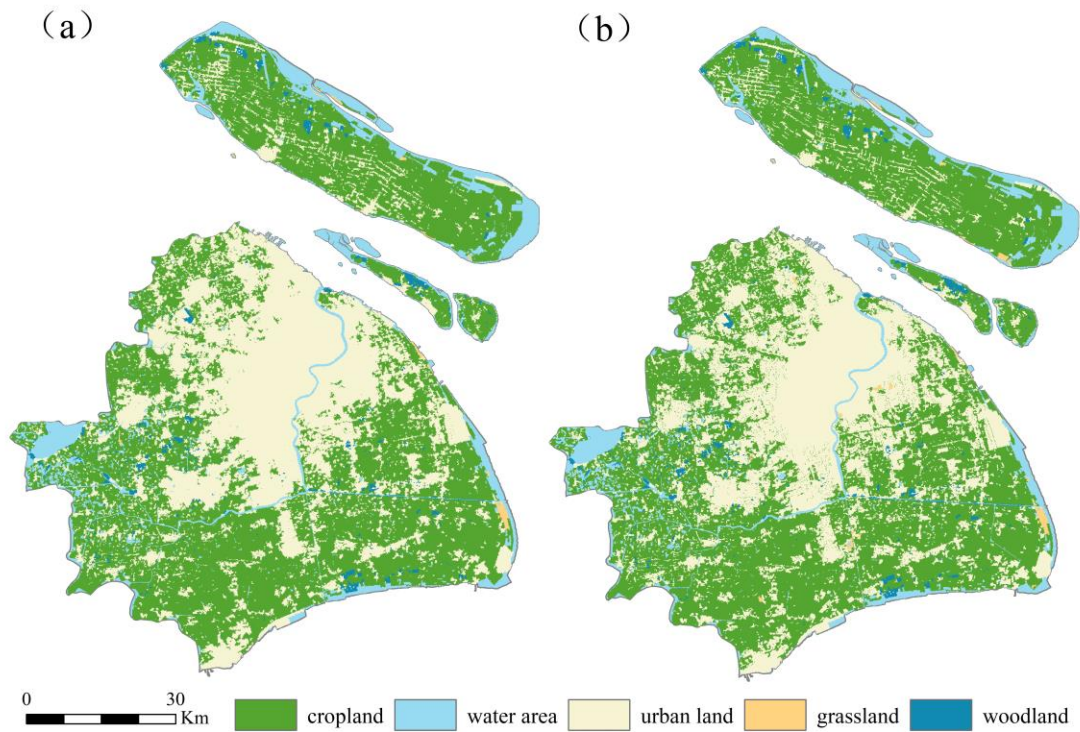
183 In the present study, the LISFLOOD-FP model is used to simulate storm surge floods along the coast of Shanghai and floods
184 along the Huangpu River. The effectiveness of the model in the study area has been verified by another article of our group
185 members and shows good simulation results(Xu et al., 2021). In the boundary control of model, hydrological stations and
186 global storm surge data are respectively employed as the input of the scenario design. However, Shanghai Geological
187 Environmental Bulletin and land subsidence control plan show that land subsidence has a significant contribution to the
188 flood hazards in Shanghai (Xian et al., 2018). Land subsidence in Shanghai is mainly caused by tectonic subsidence and
189 compaction of sediments due to geological structure conditions and human activities. With reference to the long-term
190 tectonic subsidence monitoring data of the very long baseline interferometer (VLBI) in the Sheshan bedrock and the land
191 subsidence analysis rules of Yin et al. (Yin et al., 2013). therefore, the total land subsidence is predicted to be 0.12 m and
192 0.24 m by 2030 and 2050, respectively. However, due to the uncertainty of future anthropogenic activities and spatial
193 distribution, there could be large variations in the projection. This study also combines the storyline of future scenarios of the
194 IPCC, namely the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenarios, and selects conservative (RCP2.6) and largest
195 magnitude (RCP8.5) climate-change scenarios, with values from Kopp et al (Kopp et al., 2017). For the simulation of the
196 Huangpu River flood, we conducted experiments for a 50-year return period under the RCP2.6 scenario and a 100-year

197 return period under the RCP8.5 scenario respectively during 2030 to 2050. For the 2030 and 2050, both Huangpu River and
198 the coastal floods are following the RCP2.6 and RCP8.5 scenarios. Finally, we combine land subsidence and the RCP data to
199 control the flood inundation simulation.

200 **4 Results**

201 **4.1 Model validity**

202 Model verification is the prerequisite for model operation, and the operation can only be carried out after confirming the
203 model to be valid. The applicability of the proposed model was tested by simulating land use/cover changes (LUCC) in 2015
204 at Shanghai. The spatial simulation result shows that the simulated result and the actual land use have a high consistency
205 (Fig. 3). We compared the actual land use and the simulated result pixel by pixel in our study and found the overall accuracy
206 (OA) was 93.20 %, the kappa coefficient (kappa) was 0.89. The discrepancy of the actual land use and simulated result is
207 likely due to the neighborhood interaction in the CA model, in which grid cells in more urbanized neighborhoods have a
208 higher probability to convert to urban, whereas the grid cells are less likely to change to urban in less urbanized
209 neighborhoods. Overall, the measured model accuracy outputs showed an acceptable or good level of prediction, therefore
210 the model is suitable for predicting changes in land use of the Shanghai area.



212 **Figure 3: Comparing the simulation results of Shanghai urban expansion with the actual situation, (a) simulation result in 2015; (b)**
213 **actual land use in 2015.**

214 **4.2 Future land use changes**

215 Based on the conditions under three different development scenarios, we predicted the development of future urban land use
216 change in 2030 and 2050. The prediction result shows different development patterns for each scenario (Fig. 4). Future urban
217 growth under the BU scenario is primarily located in northwestern with some development in the central regions, and under
218 the GP scenario the urban growth involves evenly distributed development. Urban growth in the GE scenario, however,
219 Chongming Island regions have seen more urban growth, and the downtown area is not fully occupied by urban expansion
220 due to restrictions.

221 Due to the impact of infrastructure construction, distance to the city center, and policy restrictions, Shanghai's overall urban
222 expansion model shows a center-peripheral expansion. The built-up land areas in 2030 and 2050 are respectively projected to
223 increase by about 6 % and 13 % as compared to 2015, the most significant reduction is found for cultivated land and
224 woodland. Specifically, the built-up land areas in 2030 are respectively projected to increase by 427.32 km², 428.27 km² and
225 429.12 km² at BU, GP and GE scenarios, the built-up land areas in 2050 are respectively projected to increase by 926.38 km²,
226 857.63 km² and 751.47 km² at BU, GP and GE scenarios. The most significant reduction is found for cropland, which is
227 predicting in 2050 to decrease by 876.97 km², 857.63 km² and 723.59 km² as compared to 2015 in BU, GP and GE scenarios.
228 The southwestern region is not suitable for large-scale urban development, since large amounts of farmland in the region are
229 listed as ecological protection areas, so the slow growth of these areas is not expected. The simulation maps show, as
230 expected, land use changes under different planning scenarios, especially the urban sprawl trend at the GE scenario, creating
231 new development areas in suburbs. To sum up, the urban expansion trajectory under BU, GP and GE shows significant
232 differences, and these changes mainly at the expense of the cropland.

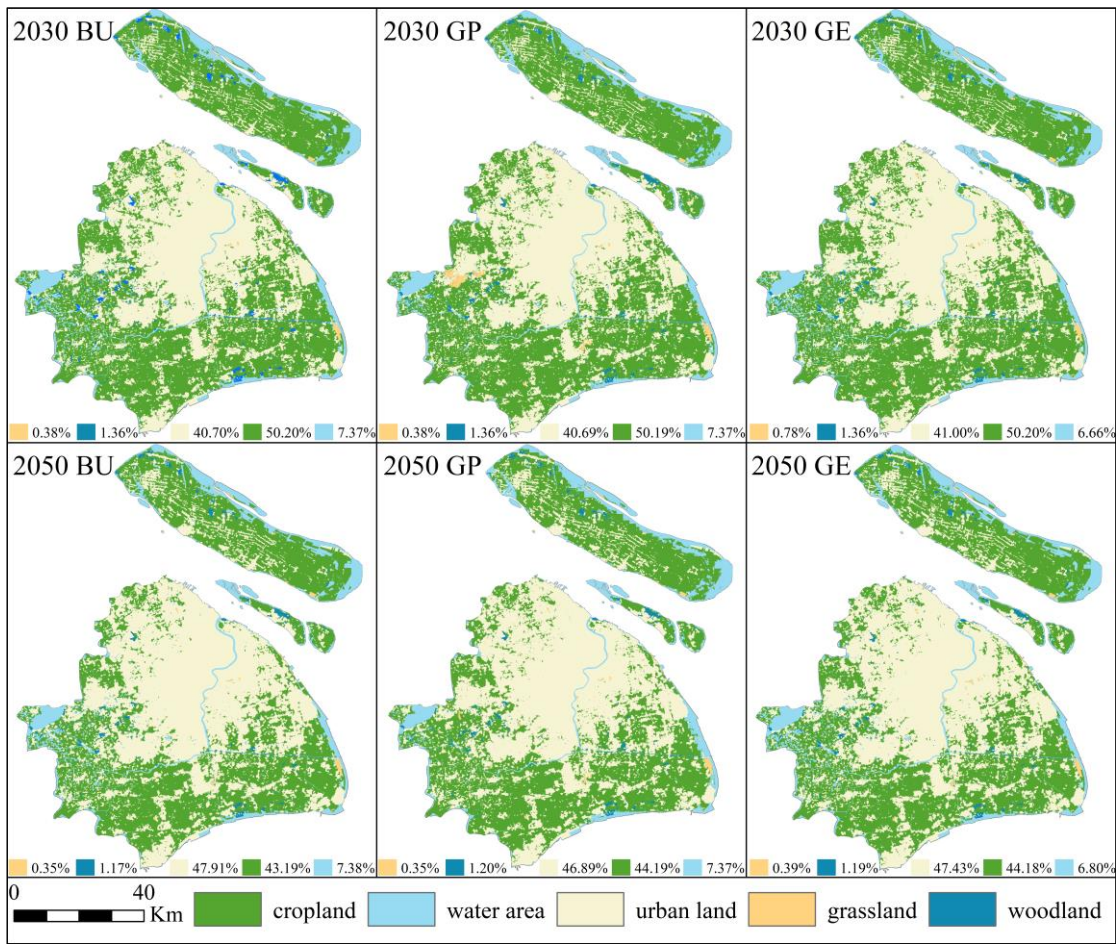


Figure 4: Simulation results of different scenarios in 2030 (top) and 2050 (bottom). Each image shows the spatial distribution and the proportion of area of different land use types in the simulated scenario.

4.3 Changing flood hazard in the future

The LISFLOOD-FP model is used to simulate the flood evolution process under RCP2.6 and RCP8.5 scenarios (the inundation results are plotted in Supplementary Figure 1), and then the submerged depth and area under different scenarios are statistically analyzed to explore the future flood risk under different RCP scenarios. First, the maximum water depth risk of the submerged area is counted, and the submerged area is divided into four depth levels: the submerged water depth is less than 0.5 m as shallow water area, water depth is 0.5-1 m as medium water area, the water depth is 1-2 m as deep water area, and submerged water depth is above 2 m as the extremely deep area. The area and proportion of each water depth level are calculated.

By comparing the scenarios in RCP2.6 and RCP8.5, it is evident that the submerged area is increasing with time (Table 2). The total flooded area increased by 162.43 km² and 189.44 km² under RCP2.6 and RCP8.5 scenarios from 2030 to 2050,

246 respectively. Additionally, the depth of submergence and the extent of submergence will gradually increase as the floodwater
247 spreads. Taking the area with submergence depth above 2 m as an example, under RCP2.6 scenario the area with
248 submergence is 353.69 km² and 401.57 km² respectively in 2030 and 2050, and under RCP8.5 scenario the area with
249 submergence is 356.28 km² and 418.36 km² respectively in 2030 and 2050. It shows that Shanghai will still face great flood
250 risk under these two scenarios.

251 **Table 2. Statistics of flood depth.**

Category	<0.5 m		0.5-1 m		1-2 m		>2 m		Total /km ²
	Area/ km ²	Ratio/ %	Area/ km ²	Ratio/ %	Area/ km ²	Ratio/ %	Area/ km ²	Ratio/ %	
2030 RCP2.6	138.61	14.54	164.07	17.21	296.98	31.15	353.69	37.10	953.35
2030 RCP8.5	137.13	14.23	169.76	17.61	300.82	31.21	356.28	36.96	963.99
2050 RCP2.6	125.04	11.21	229.81	20.60	359.36	32.21	401.57	35.99	1115.78
2050 RCP8.5	141.72	12.29	219.58	19.04	373.77	32.41	418.36	36.27	1153.43

252 **4.4 Future changes in urban flood risk**

253 The flood risk of the urban area is calculated by overlapping existing urban and projected future urban scenarios with future
254 flood risk zones. First, in the existing urban exposure to future flood risk scenarios (the upper left in Fig. 5), more urban
255 areas will be vulnerable to flood risk in the context of global climate change. The four pie charts for the EU scenarios
256 represent the proportion of the existing urban area affected by the future flood risk scenario. Under the RCP 2.6 scenario,
257 4.68 % and 5.96 % of the total existing urban areas in 2030 and 2050 would be susceptible to flood risk, respectively. In the
258 2030 and 2050 of the RCP8.5 scenarios the area of existing urban land which would be vulnerable to future flood risks are
259 110.27 km² and 146.23 km², respectively. Many urban areas will be flooded under sea level rise caused by climate change
260 even when protected by levees, and more than 5 % of urban areas in Shanghai are still in the floodplain (Fig. 5).

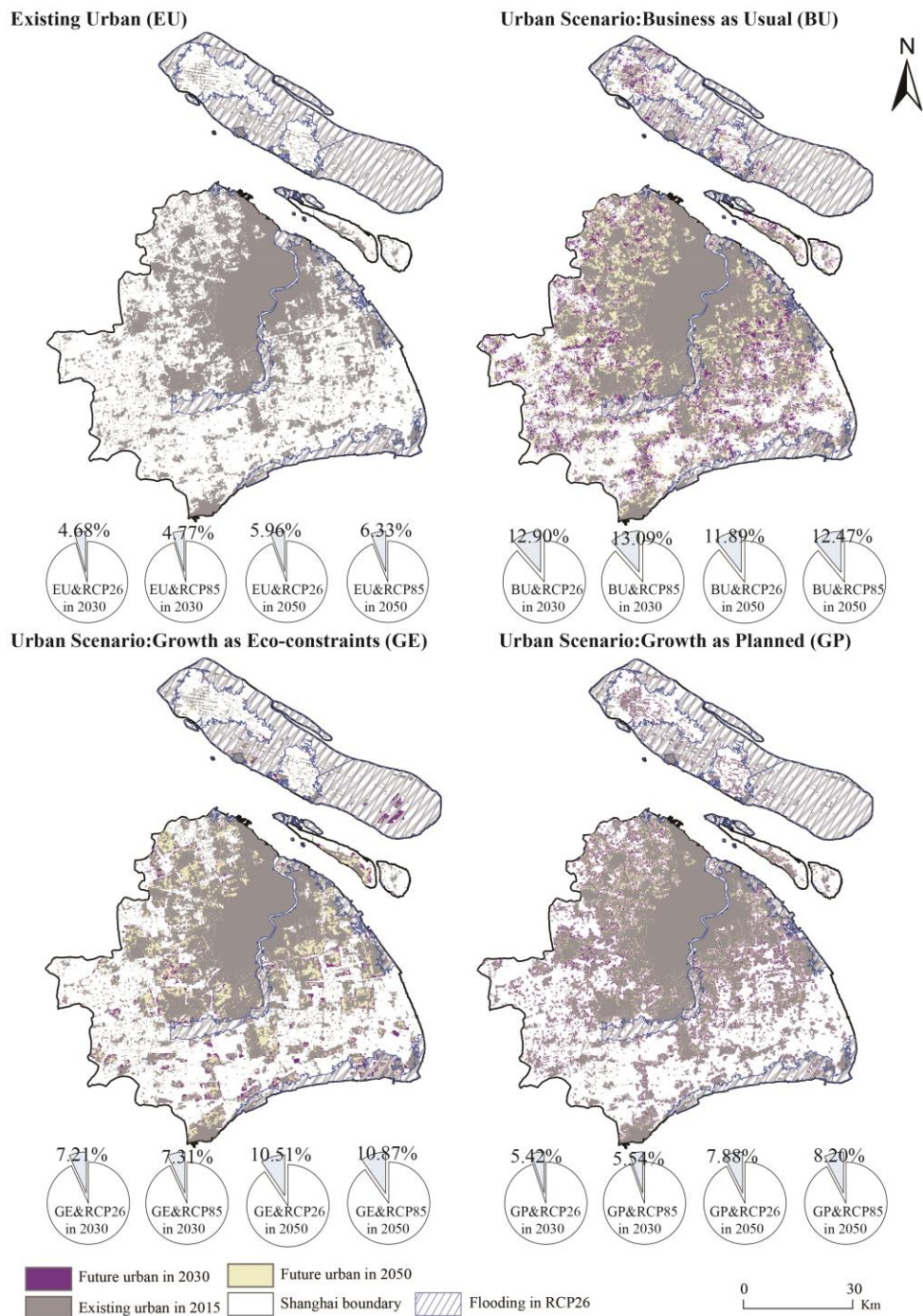


Figure 5: Flood exposure of existing urban and future urban growth scenarios. The four pie charts for the BU, GE, and GP scenarios represent the proportion of new grown urban area exposed to flooding under the 2030 RCP2.6, 2030 RCP8.5, 2050 RCP2.6, and 2050 RCP8.5 scenarios, respectively. The four pie charts for the EU scenarios represent the proportion of the existing urban area affected by the future flood risk scenario.

266 Future urban development would occur in the flood zone, with a rapid expansion of the urban area. Fig. 5 also shows the
 267 comprehensive analysis results of the three urban growth scenarios under different climate change scenarios. Under the
 268 RCP2.6 scenario, new growth in urban land area affected by flooding in 2030 are respectively 55.11 km², 23.22 km², and
 269 30.92 km² at BU, GP and GE scenarios. Under the RCP8.5 scenario, future more urban growth areas would be affected by
 270 the flooding, which will reach 115.53 km², 70.36 km², and 81.71 km² at BU, GP and GE scenarios in 2050, respectively. In
 271 general, the higher the sea level rises, the greater the risk of flooding in future urban areas. Small changes in sea level rise
 272 will affect a large amount of land, since the average altitude of Shanghai is only around 4 m.
 273 **Table 3. Inundation of each land use type under different scenarios. The inundated areas of different land use types, including**
 274 **cropland, woodland, grassland and urban land, were calculated for each scenario, where ^a indicates new grown areas of the urban**
 275 **class affected by flooding.**

Time	Category	Urban scenario	Inundated areas (km ²)			
			Cropland	Woodland	Grassland	Urban land ^a
2030	RCP2.6	BU	595.05	10.05	5.60	55.11
		GE	618.95	12.12	5.84	30.92
		GP	597.71	12.40	5.91	23.22
	RCP8.5	BU	602.38	10.23	5.67	55.92
		GE	625.97	12.29	5.91	31.23
		GP	604.32	12.59	5.98	23.72
2050	RCP2.6	BU	662.64	13.56	5.25	110.19
		GE	677.59	16.74	5.95	78.95
		GP	651.24	15.66	5.46	67.55
	RCP8.5	BU	683.56	15.06	5.70	115.53
		GE	698.98	18.05	6.40	81.71
		GP	672.30	16.85	5.91	70.36

276
 277 The research found that the cultivated land is the most affected land type by flooding relative to urban areas, woodland and
 278 grassland (Table 3). Under the GE scenario, the flooded area of cultivated land is 618.95 km² and 625.97 km² at the RCP2.6
 279 and RCP8.5 in 2030, and 677.59 km² and 698.98 km² at the RCP2.6 and RCP8.5 in 2050. Further, the exposure of various
 280 types of land is increasing with time, but urban land and cropland will be the most impacted land types in the future.
 281 Comparing the three scenarios we can find that the urban development area under the planning scenario is less affected by

282 flooding, as compared to the business-as-usual development scenario. Comparing the inundation of the two planning
283 scenarios (GE and GP), it also reflects the decision-makers' trade-off between economic development and ecological
284 protection. The inundation area of the urban land under the GP scenario is less than that of the GE, which means that under
285 the planning constraint of protecting ecological and cultural areas, urban built-up areas will develop on low-protection areas,
286 which are more vulnerable to flooding. In conclusion, from reducing the risk of future flooding in urban areas, GE scenario
287 shows to be better than BU scenario, but worse than GP scenario.

288 **5 Discussions**

289 **5.1 Source of uncertainties**

290 There are some limitations in our study, which is what we need to improve in the future. First, there is still more room to
291 improve the accuracy of model prediction. In this study, the performance of the FLUS model is tested by kappa and OA
292 measures, which shows a good range of prediction accuracy. In addition, this study proves that 16 driving factors contribute
293 to the simulation and prediction of urban growth in Shanghai. The relationship between human and natural driving factors
294 and land use change can be effectively integrated through the FLUS model embedded with an ANN, to obtain more realistic
295 simulation results. However, if more influential drivers and the latest land cover are employed, the prediction would be
296 having higher accuracy. Second, future flood risks in coastal areas are also not fully reflected through the use of
297 hydrodynamic models, although it shows higher accuracy than the elevation area submergence method. On the one hand, this
298 study is based on the modeling results of DEM data, which may overestimate or underestimate the simulation effect due to
299 the error of DEM data. On the other hand, extreme storm surge and land subsidence data are combined to enhance the
300 reliability of the extreme flood forecast in this study. However, the change of the impervious surface that affects hydrology
301 is not yet considered in this study. When other land uses are converted to urban land uses, the risk of flooding will also
302 greatly increase due to changes the of impervious surfaces. Therefore, it is necessary to dynamically adjust relevant factors
303 affecting flood peak flows and risk in future forecasts to enhance the accuracy of prediction.

304 In the context of global climate change, extreme weather in the future may become more and more serious, so it is necessary
305 to dynamically combine climate scenarios to develop more accurate flood risk delineation methods to guide urban planning
306 in the future, and rely on new technology and equipment to provide data support. For example, unmanned aviation vehicles
307 (UAVs) are deployed around the coastline to generate real-time information about weather conditions and sea-level changes
308 (Cochrane et al., 2017). These tools will act as a complement to existing information and early warning systems, which also
309 can provide guidance for coastal flood risk management and urban planning in the future. Overall, although uncertainty
310 cannot be avoided when assessing coastal flood risk, the deviation of the proposed model output is within an acceptable
311 range, which ensures the accuracy of coastal flood risk assessments.

312 5.2 Recommendations on strategies and policies for urban adaptation to flooding

313 In the twenty-first century, adapting to climate change and coastal flooding is a critical challenge for coastal cities. Human
314 response to the impacts of flooding largely depends on the allocation of urban facilities and managers' planning for future
315 urban development (Hunt and Watkiss, 2011). Shanghai is considered one of the most protected Chinese cities in terms of
316 flood protection, yet it's the EAD/GDP (the Expected Annual Disruption, EAD), that is the direct damage to buildings and
317 vehicles) ratio, which is as much as five times than in New York (Aerts et al., 2014). Therefore, there is an urgent need to
318 adopt flood risk adaptation strategies in Shanghai.

319 We conducted a set of comparative experiments to analyze the coastal flood damage in Shanghai with and without flood
320 walls (hard adaptation strategies). Our analysis considered the important effects of land subsidence and sea level rise on
321 flood risk. We found that the current flood protection wall can reduce the flood losses due to climate change to a relatively
322 low level (Supplementary Figure 2). In comparison, the flood protection wall constructed for the current conditions would
323 reduce the flooded area under the RCP8.5 scenario by about 35 % and 36 % in 2030 and 2050, respectively. Furthermore,
324 our results show that the area of future urban flood risk varies by scenario. Although the GE scenario performs higher than
325 the GP scenario in terms of flood inundation area, this does not mean that the GE scenario is worse. From the cases of
326 advanced flood risk management countries such as the Netherlands (Kabat et al., 2009; Song et al., 2018), an important
327 success lesson for future flood protection design is to leave enough space along coasts for wetland migration and leave space
328 for nature. In other words, "soft strategies" such as "working with rivers and nature" are considered in the flood protection
329 measures. Therefore, from this perspective the GE scenario may be a more likely future development scenario among these
330 three scenarios. Future, it is necessary to learn from the practical experience of advanced countries to strengthen the
331 development and construction of coastal wetlands and tidal flat ecosystems, and further reduce the residual risk through the
332 adaptive regulation of coastal ecosystems and other soft strategies. In addition, the implementation of "soft strategies" can
333 increase the value of ecosystem services, increase biodiversity and carbon sequestration, and improve social welfare (Du et
334 al., 2020).

335 6 Conclusion

336 Scenario-based assessment has been found to be a powerful approach in numerous flood risk studies. This study combines an
337 urban growth model with a two-dimensional flood inundation model to not only simulate urban development dynamics more
338 accurately, but also to discard the shortcomings of the traditional elevation inundation method of overestimating inundation
339 areas. We have also tested the resilience of Shanghai to future different climate scenarios with the current flood wall. The
340 results of the study are beneficial to local planners and coastal managers in making decisions of future protected areas and
341 developments.

342 This study employed three urban development scenarios and detected the relationships of urbanization and climate changes
343 in 2030 and 2050. The results of the study show that urban growth under the three scenario models manifests significant

344 differences in expansion trajectories, influenced by key factors such as infrastructure development and policy constraints.
345 According to the predicted results of flood, new built-up areas are also potentially vulnerable areas of flood risk. New built-
346 up areas under different scenarios show significant vulnerability and exposure risk under different climate scenarios, even
347 with the support of flood bank and other hard structures. Additionally, the research provided significant insights into the
348 range and spatial distribution of flood risk in future urban areas.
349 The current study is based on the multi-scenario analysis of RCP global warming scenarios. In the future, the shared
350 socioeconomic pathways (SSPs) can be combined to predict land use change, which make urban development scenarios
351 more realistic choices. The results of this study estimate the future urban flood exposure areas, but this does not mean that all
352 flood-vulnerable areas will be flooded, only that in these areas, the probability of each possible occurrence is greater.
353 Therefore, proper preparations (such as definition restricted development zones) can reduce the damage risk of future flood
354 and build more resilient cities.

355 **Author contributions**

356 Q. Sun and J. Fang designed the research; Q. Sun, K. Xu and X. Dang collected the data and carried out the experiments; Q.
357 Sun wrote the draft; J. Fang, X. Dang, Y. Fang and M. Liu revised the manuscript; J. Fang, X. Li and M. Liu supervised and
358 provided critical feedback. All authors contributed to the final version of the manuscript.

359 **Competing interests**

360 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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