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Extratropical transition of tropical cyclones in a multiresolution ensemble of atmosphere-only and fully coupled global climate models

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Abstract

1

2 Tropical cyclones undergo extratropical transition (ET) in every ocean basin. Projected 3 changes in ET frequency under climate change are uncertain and differ between basins, so 4 multimodel studies are required to establish confidence. We used a feature-tracking algorithm 5 to identify tropical cyclones and performed cyclone phase-space analysis to identify ET in an 6 ensemble of atmosphere-only and fully coupled global model simulations, run at various 7 resolutions under historical (1950-2014) and future (2015-2050) forcing. Historical simulations were evaluated against five reanalyses for 1979–2018. Considering ET globally, 8 9 ensemble-mean biases in track and genesis densities are reduced in the North Atlantic and 10 Western North Pacific when horizontal resolution is increased from ~100 to ~25km. At high 11 resolution, multireanalysis-mean climatological ET frequencies across most ocean basins as 12 well as basins' seasonal cycles are reproduced better than in low-resolution models. Skill in 13 simulating historical ET interannual variability in the North Atlantic and Western North 14 Pacific is ~0.3, which is lower than for all tropical cyclones. Models project an increase in ET 15 frequency in the North Atlantic and a decrease in the Western North Pacific. We explain 16 these opposing responses by secular change in ET seasonality and an increase in lower-17 tropospheric, pre-ET warm-core strength, both of which are largely unique to the North 18 Atlantic. Multimodel consensus about climate-change responses is clearer for frequency 19 metrics than for intensity metrics. These results help clarify the role of model resolution in 20 simulating ET and help quantify uncertainty surrounding ET in a warming climate. 21

1. Introduction

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23 The impacts of tropical cyclones are not confined to the tropics. Their post-tropical evolution 24 makes these storms an important natural hazard across the midlatitudes (Baker et al., 2021; 25 Bieli et al., 2019; Evans et al., 2017; Jones et al., 2003; Keller et al., 2019). The poleward 26 propagation of tropical cyclones and the occurrence of extratropical transition (ET) exposes 27 populous regions where risks to life and infrastructure are high—Northeast United States, 28 maritime and eastern Canada, Western Europe, and East Asia—to hurricane-force wind speeds and extreme precipitation (Evans et al., 2017). In the North Atlantic, tropical-origin 29 30 systems reached Northeast North America and Europe almost every year since 1979 (Baker 31 et al., 2021), including recent intense landfalls. For instance, Hurricane Sandy (22nd-29th 32 October, 2012)—the fourth costliest (by inflation-adjusted losses) North Atlantic hurricane yet recorded (Weinkle et al., 2018)—caused devastation across the Northeast United States 33 and eastern Canada (Blake et al., 2013). Ex-hurricane Ophelia (9th-15th October, 2017) led to 34 35 loss of life and severe wind damage across Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Scandinavia 36 (Rantanen et al., 2020; Stewart, 2018). At midlatitude landfall, both systems were post-37 tropical, having begun ET, but possessed hurricane-like intensities, the human and economic 38 impacts of which were felt across substantial areas. In the Western North Pacific, Typhoon Nabi (29th August-12th September, 2005) impacted two thirds of Japan's prefectures as both 39 40 a tropical and transitioning cyclone before undergoing cyclolysis over Alaska (Harr et al., 41 2008). These events, along with the current lack of consensus regarding ET in a changing 42 climate, heighten the urgency with which global studies of historical and near-future post-43 tropical cyclone activity are needed. 44 45 Tropical cyclones undergo ET in every ocean basin (Hart and Evans, 2001; Studholme et al., 2015; Wood and Ritchie, 2014; Zarzycki et al., 2017), but pronounced interannual variability 46 47 (Baker et al., 2021) and basin-to-basin differences (Bieli et al., 2019) exist. Transitioning 48 cyclones are also known to influence the large-scale circulation, such as Hurricane Debbie in 1982 (Laurila et al., 2019), and excite or amplify downstream Rossby waves (Evans et al., 49 50 2017; Jones et al., 2003; Keller et al., 2019; Michaelis and Lackmann, 2019). These cyclone-51 wave interactions influence downstream weather (Grams and Blumer, 2015; Keller et al., 52 2019). Of those cyclones which undergo ET, an appreciable proportion reintensify under 53 favourable environmental conditions, where appropriate phasing between the transitioning 54 cyclone and the upper-tropospheric flow pattern enhances baroclinic instability (Keller et al.,

2019). During and after ET, baroclinicity (Evans et al., 2017) and diabatic heating (Rantanen 55 56 et al., 2020) may reintensify the post-tropical cyclone. 57 58 Over the period of 1979–2018, statistically significant positive trends in the frequency of 59 North Atlantic ET events exist in several, but not all, reanalysis datasets (Baker et al., 2021). 60 Existing climate model projections underline the plausibility of increased tropical and post-61 tropical cyclone activity in the midlatitudes in response to anthropogenic warming. There is 62 evidence that more frequent ET events may occur in the future in the North Atlantic (Baatsen 63 et al., 2015; Haarsma et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2017; Michaelis and Lackmann, 2019) and 64 Western North Pacific (Bieli et al., 2020) ocean basins, but no consensus yet exists across 65 studies, modelling campaigns, and methodologies. Moreover, best-track data limitations, 66 which are well documented (Chang and Guo, 2007; Delgado et al., 2018; Hagen et al., 2012; 67 Vecchi and Knutson, 2008), engender substantial uncertainty in observed trends (Lanzante, 68 2019; Moon et al., 2019). Additionally, natural, multidecadal variability in tropical-cyclone 69 frequency is yet to be accounted for (Knutson et al., 2020). Although global climate models 70 project reduced frequencies of tropical cyclones, more intense tropical cyclones are expected 71 in response to twenty-first-century warming (Knutson et al., 2020), potentially allowing a 72 higher proportion of cyclones to survive cooler midlatitude sea-surface temperatures 73 experienced prior to and during ET (Michaelis and Lackmann, 2019). Other factors, 74 particularly changes in shear, will also be important, with current evidence suggesting that 75 these will undergo ET-favourable future changes (Jung and Lackmann, 2021; Liu et al., 76 2017; Michaelis and Lackmann, 2021). Increased future ET event frequency is also 77 consistent with the projected expansion of tropical-cyclone genesis regions (Studholme et al., 78 2022), potentially reducing the mean displacement cyclones must undergo prior to 79 midlatitude ET. Together, these changes imply an increase in post-tropical cyclone impacts 80 across populated midlatitude regions, and idealised experiments suggest an increase in ET-81 related, high-impact weather across Europe (Jung and Lackmann, 2021), where our 82 understanding of historical risks is developing (Baker et al., 2021). Studies of historical and 83 future model simulations are therefore needed to assess both contemporary risk and future 84 changes more comprehensively. 85 86 One aspect of climate model evaluation important for both tropical and extratropical cyclones 87 is understanding the role of horizontal resolution in simulated climates, prompted by recent 88 developments in high-performance computing and data-management facilities. With

increases in model resolution to approximately 25 km, improved fidelity is anticipated for many synoptic phenomena, particularly tropical and midlatitude cyclones, which ultimately feed back onto the large scale. Recent studies have now firmly established that increasing model resolution improves simulated tropical-cyclone frequency statistics across most ocean basins (Manganello et al., 2019; Roberts et al., 2020a), leads to a more realistic global spatial distribution (Roberts et al., 2020a; Roberts et al., 2015; Strachan et al., 2013), and results in more realistic simulated warm-core vertical structures (Vannière et al., 2020). Moreover, model resolution is a key constraint on the intensity which simulated cyclones may reach (Davis, 2018). It is anticipated that atmospheric resolutions of \sim 50 km or finer (\sim 0.25 $^{\circ}$ ocean-model resolution) will yield improvement in the simulation of post-tropical cyclones and ET (Haarsma, 2021). However, no systematic multimodel studies of ET have been undertaken, and the impact of increasing model resolution (atmosphere and ocean) on simulated ET is also yet to be quantified. We address these issues in this paper using model simulations from the 6th phase of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6), which follow an experimental protocol designed to isolate the impacts of changes in model resolution.

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In this study of the representation of tropical cyclones undergoing ET across a multimodel ensemble, we focus on climatological statistics, interannual variability, and cyclone structure and intensity. These analyses are centred around two questions. What is the impact of increasing model atmospheric resolution on simulated ET? What changes in ET metrics under climate change are consistent across models? This paper continues in section 2 with a description of the model and reanalysis data as well as the cyclone-tracking and analysis methodologies. Our results are presented in section 3 and our conclusions are summarised, with further discussion, in section 4.

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2. Data and methodology

- 117 2.1 Reanalysis data
- 118 Tropical cyclone best-track datasets are not well suited to analysis of cyclones undergoing ET
- because there are known heterogeneities within individual datasets (Barcikowska et al., 2012;
- 120 Chu et al., 2002; Kossin et al., 2007; Vecchi and Knutson, 2008, 2011), especially for storms'
- post-tropical stages, under-counting biases (Chang and Guo, 2007; Delgado et al., 2018;
- Hagen et al., 2012), and differences between operational centres' data-collection

methodologies (Hodges et al., 2017; Schreck III et al., 2014). We therefore evaluated model 123 124 simulations against five global reanalyses (Table 1): the European Centre for Medium-Range 125 Weather Forecasts' Interim Reanalysis (ERAI; Dee et al., 2011) and Fifth Reanalysis (ERA5; 126 Hersbach et al., 2020); the Japanese 55-year Reanalysis (JRA55; Kobayashi et al., 2015); the 127 National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Modern-Era Retrospective Analysis for 128 Research and Applications version 2 (MERRA2; Molod et al., 2015); and the combined 129 National Centers for Environmental Prediction Climate Forecast System Reanalysis and Climate Forecast System version 2 dataset (NCEP; Saha et al., 2014)—the sole fully coupled 130 131 (atmosphere, ocean, land surface, and sea ice) reanalysis used herein. Between reanalyses, 132 differing forecast model formulations and resolutions (horizontal and vertical), as well as 133 data-assimilation schemes lead to differences in the representation of tropical-cyclone 134 vertical structure, which was examined by Hodges et al. (2017). Baker et al. (2021) found that interannual variability in the number ET events is well correlated between reanalyses, 135 136 but the percentage of tropical cyclones undergoing ET agrees less well between reanalyses on 137 the interannual timescale. It is therefore necessary to consider multiple reanalyses as an 138 observation-based reference, against which models may be evaluated.

| Reanalysis | Analysis period | Analysis grid | Model resolution (grid spacing) | Data assimilation | Sample sizes (n _{NH} , n _{SH}) |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| ERAI | 1979–2017 | 512x256 | TL255L60 (80 km) | 4D-Var. | 35.4, 37.0 |
| ERAS | 1979–2018 | 1140x721 | T639L137 (33km) | 4D-Var. | 35.4, 37.0 |
| JRA55 | 1959–2017 | 288x145 | TL319L60 (55 km) | 4D-Var. | 35.4, 37.0 |
| MERRA2 | 1980–2016 | 576x361 | Cubed sphere (50 km) | 3D-Var. + GSI + IAU | 35.4, 37.0 |
| NCEP | 1979–2016 | 720x361 | T382L64 (38 km) | 3D-Var. + GSI | 35.4, 37.0 |

Table 1. Reanalyses. Atmospheric mesh spacing at 50 °N in units of km is given in brackets.

3(4)D-Var.: 3(4)D variational data assimilation; GSI: Grid-point Statistical Interpolation;

IAU: Incremental Analysis Update. The representation of tropical and post-tropical cyclones in these reanalyses were evaluated by Hodges et al. (2017) and (Baker et al., 2021),

respectively. Annual-mean global sample sizes (cyclones year-1) for all tropical cyclones undergoing ET for each reanalysis are given as n_{NH} , n_{SH} .

We evaluated CMIP6 High-Resolution Model Intercomparison Project (HighResMIP; 150 151 Haarsma et al., 2016) historical and future atmosphere-only (Tier 1 and Tier 3, respectively), 152 including interaction with the land surface, and fully coupled (Tier 2) simulations from five 153 global climate models (Table 2): CNRM-CM6.1 (Voldoire et al., 2019), EC-Earth3P 154 (Haarsma et al., 2020), ECMWF-IFS (cycle 43r1; Roberts et al., 2018), HadGEM3-GC3.1 155 (Roberts et al., 2019; Williams et al., 2018), and MPI-ESM1.2 (Gutjahr et al., 2019). Each 156 model participated in the European Commission Horizon2020-funded project PRIMAVERA 157 (PRocess-based climate sIMulation: AdVances in high-resolution modelling and European 158 climate Risk Assessments; primavera-h2020.eu). Historical (1950–2014) and future (2015– 159 2050) atmosphere-only experiments are termed highresSST-present and highresSST-future, 160 respectively, and fully coupled experiments are termed hist-1950 and highres-future, 161 respectively. Historical highresSST-present simulations were forced by HadISST2 daily sea-162 surface temperature (SST) at a resolution of 0.25 ° interpolated to each model's grid (no 163 ocean mixed-layer model). Out to 2050, highresSST-future simulations were forced 164 according to Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5 (RCP8.5). (Use of RCP8.5 allowed 165 modelling centres to begin their model simulations before Shared Socioeconomic Pathways 166 scenarios became available.) In HighResMIP, future simulations were performed with all 167 models except ECMWF-IFS. The rate of projected sea-surface temperature (SST) warming 168 was derived from an ensemble mean of CMIP5, with interannual variability derived from the 169 historical period 1950–2014 (Haarsma et al., 2016). 170 171 Under the HighResMIP experimental protocol, minimal changes in model-tuning parameters 172 were made between low- and high-resolution integrations to ensure that resolution-sensitivity 173 studies were not confounded by substantial differences in model configurations between 174 resolutions (Haarsma et al., 2016). Between low- and high-resolution configurations, no 175 model-physics changes were made to the atmospheric components of CNRM-CM6.1 and 176 EC-Earth3P, but minor adjustments were made to a single parameter in ECMWF-IFS (related 177 to net surface energy balance), HadGEM3-GC3.1 (related to quasi-biennial oscillation 178 period), and MPI-ESM1.2 (related to numerical stability). For the ocean model in coupled 179 configurations, one key difference is the effects of mesoscale eddies are parameterised at low resolution (~1°) but partially resolved at high resolution (~0.25°) (e.g., Roberts et al., 2018; 180 181 Roberts et al., 2019). For all models, shorter dynamical timesteps were used in the highresolution integrations to ensure numerical stability. The effective resolutions of the high-182

2.2 The multiresolution PRIMAVERA model ensemble

resolution model configurations, measured by kinetic energy spectra, resolve synoptic-scale dynamics (Klaver et al., 2020). Since this study concerns cyclone translation from the tropics to the extratropics, resolutions are given as a model's regular mesh spacing at a latitude of 50 ° (Table 2). For convenience, we refer to resolutions nominally (i.e., 'low' or 'high') as well as quantitatively, where necessary. A single ensemble member was analysed at each resolution for both the atmosphere-only and fully coupled experiments.

| Atmospheric model | Ocean | Atmospheric dynamical core | Resolution nomenclature | Atmospheric resolution | Atmospheric mesh spacing |
|----------------------|-----------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ARPEGE6.3 | NEMO | Spectral (linear, reduced Gaussian) | LR; HR | TL127; TL359 | 142; 50 km |
| IFS cyc36r4 | NEMO | Spectral (linear, reduced Gaussian) | LR; HR | TL255; TL511 | 71; 36 km |
| IFS cyc43r1 | NEMO3.4 | Spectral (cubic octahedral; reduced Gaussian) | LR; HR | Tco199; Tco399 | 50; 25 km |
| MetUM | NEMO | Grid point (SISL) | LM (LL); MM; HM (HH) | N96; N216; N512 | 135; 60; 25 km |
| ЕСНАМ6.3 | MPIOM1.63 | Spectral (triangular; Gaussian) | HR; XR | T127; T255 | 67; 34 km |

| Model name CNRM-CM6.1 | EC-Earth3P ECMWF-IFS | HadGEM3-GC3.1 | MPI-ESM1.2 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------|
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------|

Table 2. The PRIMAVERA (HighResMIP) model ensemble. NEMO: Nucleus for European Modelling of the Ocean. MPIOM: Max Plank Institute Ocean Model. SISL: semi-implicit, semi-Lagrangian. For fully coupled simulations, the LL and HH configurations of HadGEM3-GC3.1 were also included; LL denoting low-resolution atmosphere and low-resolution (1°) ocean and HH denoting high-resolution atmosphere and high-resolution (1/12°) ocean. Atmosphere mesh spacing is given for 50 °N. Sample sizes for all tropical cyclones undergoing ET across this ensemble are given in Table 3. DOIs for each simulation are listed at primavera-h2020.eu/modelling/.

| 200 | 2.3 Lagrangian tropical-cyclone tracking |
|-----|---|
| 201 | To identify and track the evolution of tropical cyclones, we used the objective feature- |
| 202 | tracking algorithm—TRACK—of Hodges (1995), a well-established tool for identifying |
| 203 | cyclones in reanalyses (Hodges et al., 2017) and model simulations (Roberts et al., 2020a). |
| 204 | The TRACK algorithm was applied to six-hourly relative vorticity, computed from the zonal |
| 205 | and meridional wind fields, which was vertically averaged over the 850-, 700- and 600-hPa |
| 206 | levels and spectrally filtered. (Upper-level vorticity is used in subsequent identification.) |
| 207 | Filtering to the T5-T63 spectral band removes both large, planetary scales (total |
| 208 | wavenumbers 0-5) and small-scale noise (total wavenumbers >63). Vorticity maxima |
| 209 | exceeding $0.5x10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (in the Northern Hemisphere; scaled by -1 in the Southern |
| 210 | Hemisphere) were identified, initialised into tracks using a nearest-neighbour approach, and |
| 211 | subsequently refined by minimising a cost function for track smoothness, subject to adaptive |
| 212 | constraints on track displacement and smoothness (Hodges, 1995, 1999). The use of |
| 213 | vertically averaged vorticity improves temporal coherence in instances where vorticity |
| 214 | maxima shift between levels (Hodges et al., 2017). |
| 215 | |
| 216 | Cyclone-centred sampling of meteorological fields along cyclone tracks was performed to |
| 217 | detect warm-core structures and measure cyclone intensities, following Hodges et al. (2017). |
| 218 | For warm-core identification, the T63-truncated vorticity data on seven levels covering 850- |
| 219 | 250 hPa were added to tracks by recursively searching for a vorticity maximum at each level |
| 220 | using the previous level's maximum as the starting point for a steepest-ascent maximization |
| 221 | applied to the B-spline-interpolated field. A search radius of 5 $^{\circ}$ was used, centred on each |
| 222 | level's maximum. For the Southern Hemisphere, fields were scaled by -1. To quantify |
| 223 | cyclone intensity, mean sea-level pressure minima within a radius of 5 $^{\circ}$ and 925-hPa and 10 |
| 224 | metre wind speed maxima within a radius of 6 $^{\circ}$ of the storm centre were sampled from |
| 225 | reanalysis or model-output fields at their native, non-truncated resolutions. (All radii are |
| 226 | geodesic.) |
| 227 | |
| 228 | Following Hodges et al. (2017), objective identification of tropical cyclones adhered to the |
| 229 | following criteria: |
| 230 | cyclogenesis equatorward of 30 °N |
| 231 | total cyclone lifetime must exceed two days |
| 232 | ■ T63 relative vorticity at 850 hPa must exceed 6×10 ⁻⁵ s ⁻¹ |

233 T63 relative vorticity centre must exist at each level between 850 and 250 hPa to 234 indicate a coherent vertical structure 235 T63 relative vorticity decrease with increasing height between 850 and 250 hPa by at least 6×10⁻⁵ s⁻¹ to indicate the presence of a warm core 236 The three T63 relative vorticity criteria must also be jointly attained for at least four 237 238 consecutive time steps (i.e., one day) over ocean only. Together, these criteria minimise 239 inclusion of spurious short-lived or relatively weak vorticity features. The same criteria were 240 used for each reanalysis and model simulation and across all ocean basins. 241 242 Crucial to our analyses, vorticity-based tracking and post-tracking identification of tropical 243 cyclones yields longer cyclone lifecycles (compared with central-pressure-based algorithms 244 and methodologies where identification is performed during tracking), which allows for 245 objective analysis of post-tropical storm evolution (Hodges et al., 2017). A comparison of 246 TRACK results with results from a different tracking algorithm, which does not capture the 247 full lifecycle, demonstrates this advantage of vorticity-based tracking (section S1.1; Fig. S1). 248 In addition, filtering gridded data to a common spectral truncation, rather than tuning the 249 cyclone-tracking algorithm to a given dataset, allows both inter-model and inter-resolution 250 comparisons that are not complicated by methodological differences (Hodges et al., 2017). 251 Applying TRACK to a reanalysis globally, as described here, identifies ~30,000 tropical 252 vortices per year. Of these, ~8,000 per year have a lifetime that exceeds two days and are 253 retained; of these, ~120 per year exhibit the warm-core structure of a tropical cyclone 254 (Vannière et al., 2020). Our study is based on recently published tropical cyclone track 255 datasets, derived using a consistent methodology (Roberts et al., 2020a; Roberts et al., 256 2020b). Sample sizes for all tropical cyclones undergoing ET are given in Table 3. Finally, 257 spatial track statistics—track and genesis densities—were computed using spherical kernel 258 estimators, following Hodges (1996).

| | Atmosph | nere-only | Fully o | coupled |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Model name | highresSST- present | highresSST- future | hist-1950 | highres- future |
| CNRM-CM6.1 | 42.3, 52.0 | 41.0, 47.5 | 43.4, 45.8 | 40.1, 39.4 |
| CNRM-CM6.1-HR | 47.9, 55.9 | 46.7, 51.5 | 50.0, 49.6 | 46.8, 42.3 |
| EC-Earth3P | 19.2, 29.3 | 20.1, 28.9 | 19.9, 27.6 | 19.1, 24.0 |
| EC-Earth3P-HR | 30.1, 32.1 | 29.1, 29.4 | 26.6, 28.8 | 26.8, 27.8 |
| ECMWF-IFS-LR | 34.7, 41.6 | n/a | 29.6, 41.5 | n/a |
| ECMWF-IFS-HR | 39.8, 44.6 | n/a | 34.5, 41.7 | n/a |
| HadGEM3-GC3.1-LL | n/a | n/a | 28.4, 38.7 | 28.6, 36.3 |
| HadGEM3-GC3.1-LM | 36.3, 50.0 | 36.5, 50.7 | n/a | n/a |
| HadGEM3-GC3.1-MM | 60.1, 68.8 | 60.9, 65.0 | 55.0, 56.0 | 53.2, 53.4 |
| HadGEM3-GC3.1-HM | 63.8, 69.0 | 63.1, 64.6 | 58.1, 56.4 | 58.9, 54.3 |
| HadGEM3-GC3.1-HH | n/a | n/a | 63.4, 56.2 | 60.1, 52.9 |
| MPI-ESM1.2-HR | 10.5, 16.0 | 9.4, 14.5 | 11.4, 16.9 | 10.4, 15.5 |
| MPI-ESM1.2-XR | 10.1, 17.0 | 9.6, 15.0 | 11.1, 17.4 | 10.1, 14.9 |

Table 3. Annual-mean global sample sizes (cyclones year⁻¹) for all tropical cyclones undergoing ET in each model simulation, given as n_{NH} , n_{SH} .

- 264 2.4 Cyclone phase-space analysis
- The temporal evolution of cyclone structure, including identifying ET, is quantifiable by 265
- 266 analysis of a cyclone's thermal wind fields (Hart, 2003; Hart and Evans, 2001). So-called
- cyclone phase-space analysis involves three parameters: the thermal axisymmetry of the 267
- 268 cyclone (B; Eq. 1) and the lower- $(T_L; Eq. 2)$ and upper-tropospheric $(T_U; Eq. 3)$ cyclone-
- relative thermal winds. In this study, these parameters were computed using 6-hourly data for 269
- 270 all reanalyses and climate models. *B* is defined as:

271
$$B = h \left(\overline{Z_{600} - Z_{925}} \mid_{R} - \overline{Z_{600} - Z_{925}} \mid_{L} \right)$$
 (1)

- where h = 1 for the Northern Hemisphere and -1 for the Southern Hemisphere, Z_p is 272
- 273 geopotential height (m) at level p (isobaric; hPa), and R and L denote the right- and left-hand
- 274 semicircles, respectively, relative to the cyclone's displacement direction. In this study, we
- 275 followed the majority of previous research (Bieli et al., 2019; Bieli et al., 2020; Dekker et al.,
- 276 2018; Hart, 2003; Liu et al., 2017; Studholme et al., 2015) and defined thermal axisymmetry
- 277 (i.e., non-frontal) as B < 10 and asymmetry (i.e., frontal) as $B \ge 10$ m. To compute T_L and T_U
- between isobaric surfaces, Hart (2003) used the slope of the linear regression between ΔZ and 278
- 279 $\ln p$ as the derivative of ΔZ relative to $\ln p$ to determine the mean ΔZ over a given pressure
- 280 range. However, to ensure consistency between phase-space parameters computed from
- 281 reanalyses and model output, and to account for the different pressure levels on which
- 282 reanalysis and model data are available, it was necessary to adopt a three-level procedure,
- 283 following recent studies (Bieli et al., 2019; Bieli et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2017; Studholme et
- al., 2015). Here, T_L (925–600 hPa) and T_U (600–250 hPa) are defined as vertical derivatives 284
- 285 of the horizontal geopotential height gradient:

286
$$T_{L} \equiv -|V_{T}^{L}| = \frac{\partial(\Delta Z)}{\partial \ln p} \Big|_{925 \text{ hPa}}$$

$$287 \qquad T_{U} \equiv -|V_{T}^{U}| = \frac{\partial(\Delta Z)}{\partial \ln p} \Big|_{600 \text{hPa}}^{250 \text{hPa}}$$

$$(3)$$

$$287 T_U \equiv -|V_T^U| = \frac{\partial(\Delta Z)}{\partial \ln p} \Big|_{600\text{hPa}}^{250\text{hPa}}$$
(3)

- where p is pressure and $\Delta Z = Z_{max} Z_{min}$, where Z_{max} and Z_{min} are the maximum and minimum 288
- 289 geopotential height, respectively, at a given level within a 5 ° radius of the cyclone centre.
- 290 Positive T_L or T_U indicates the presence of a warm core in the upper or lower troposphere,
- respectively; negative values indicate a cold core. A deep warm- or cold-core structure is 291
- 292 identified where T_L and T_U have the same sign. We performed phase-space analysis for all
- 293 reanalyses (section 2.1) and all PRIMAVERA models (section 2.2). In our analysis, cyclone
- 294 centres in reanalyses and model output are those identified objectively by TRACK, which

295 ensures dynamical consistency between cyclone positions and the geopotential height field. 296 This differs from Bieli et al. (2020), who centred reanalysis geopotential data on best-track 297 storm locations. The approach taken in our study avoids any potential inconsistencies 298 between reanalysis and best-track storm centres, which would need to be accounted for, 299 particularly at weaker intensities (Hodges et al., 2017). 300 301 Among existing studies, various phase-space thresholds have been employed to identify ET (e.g., Bieli et al., 2019; Hart and Evans, 2001; Kofron et al., 2010; Liu et al., 2017; Zarzycki 302 303 et al., 2017). We defined ET onset as either cold-core development (i.e., $T_L < 0$) or 304 development of thermal asymmetry (i.e., $B \ge 10$), thereby allowing for either ET pathway. ET 305 completion is defined as the first occurrence of both $B \ge 10$ m and $T_L < 0$. These thresholds 306 are suitable for high-resolution gridded data (Michaelis and Lackmann, 2019) and are 307 supported by cluster analysis of observed ET events (Arnott et al., 2004). However, much of 308 the ET-identification literature has focussed on the North Atlantic, yet ET phase-space 309 pathways may differ between ocean basins (Bieli et al., 2019). To account for these 310 difficulties in our global study, ET was identified only where the completion criterion is 311 satisfied for at least four consecutive timesteps (i.e., one day). The use of this additional one-312 day criterion identifies meaningful temporal changes in B and T_L and avoids counting any 313 spurious, high-frequency temporal variability in phase-space parameters as multiple core-314 structure changes, following (Baker et al., 2021). An analysis of the sensitivity of ET location to methodological choices is presented in section S1.2, showing a large spread in ET location 315 316 (Fig. S2). In this study, ET-completion latitude was identified after a warm-core structure persisted for at least 2 days based on phase-space parameters (i.e., $T_L > 0$ and $T_U > 0$), 317 318 corresponding to 'w' in Fig. S2. As such, sample sizes (Table 1 and Table 3) remain 319 unchanged. This method avoids false positives in ET identification arising from tropical 320 depressions and other weak, precursor systems (Bieli et al., 2020), and is therefore more 321 appropriate to analysis of ET location (see section S1.2 for details). 322 323 324 2.5. Identifying post-ET reintensification 325 Instances of post-ET reintensification were defined as a post-ET increase in p_{min} of at least -4326 hPa, a threshold that is based on published case studies (e.g., Zhu et al., 2018), but the 327 number of identified reintensification events is necessarily sensitive to this threshold. For

consistency, we applied a single threshold across all reanalyses and models; a higher

threshold will likely be appropriate for any future analysis of higher-resolution (i.e., convection-permitting) models. We used p_{min} to avoid any complications arising from intermodel differences in how near-surface wind speeds are computed (e.g., related to surface roughness).

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335 *2.6 Eady growth rate*

Eady growth rate maxima (Eq. 4) were computed as (Hoskins and Valdes, 1990):

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$$\sigma_{max} = 0.31 \frac{f}{N} \frac{\partial (u,v)}{\partial z}$$
 (4)

where f is the Coriolis parameter, N is the static stability parameter, Z is geopotential height,

and u and v are the zonal and meridional winds, respectively, which were used to compute

the magnitude of the horizontal wind (i.e., $\sqrt{u^2 + v^2}$). The vertical derivatives, $\partial(u,v)$ and ∂Z ,

were computed between the 850- and 250-hPa levels using 6-hourly data.

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3. Results

In each of the following sections, we present historical results and model evaluation followed

by analysis of projected future changes out to 2050.

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3.1 Spatial cyclone statistics

We first present spatial track density patterns for tropical cyclones undergoing ET in

reanalyses and simulated across the PRIMAVERA ensemble. Reanalyses exhibit a high

degree of consistency for track density and demonstrate that tropical cyclones undergo ET in

all ocean basins. However, fewer ET events are identified over the Northern Indian Ocean

(Fig. 1a), where relatively low-latitude landfall either disrupts liminal ET events or averts

potential ET cases altogether, primarily via boundary-layer frictional effects (Bieli et al.,

356 2019). Overall, basins' climatological ET activity is proportional to their tropical cyclone

activity. The highest ET frequencies are identified in both the Western North Pacific and

358 South Pacific basins, with climatological mean values of ~12 cyclones year⁻¹. The North

Atlantic is the most active basin for ET outside the Pacific, and comparably low activity

occurs across the South Atlantic and South Indian basins (Fig. 1a).

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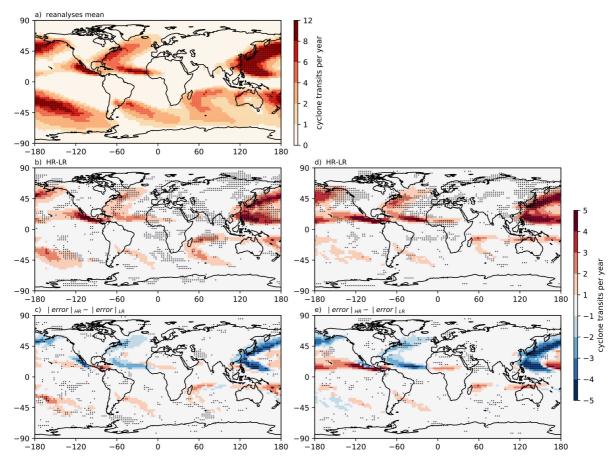


Fig. 1. Cyclone track density for all tropical cyclones undergoing ET. (a) Multireanalysis mean, (b–c) *highresSST-present* and (d–e) *hist-1950*. Track density was computed from complete tracks, including precursor stages, and is shown in units of cyclone transits per year per unit area (within a 5 ° geodesic radius of storm centres). All available reanalysis years (Table 1) are included in this analysis. (b, d) HR–LR denotes the ensemble-mean difference between high and low resolution. (c, e) |error|HR-|error|LR denotes the ensemble-mean difference of the absolute error (model versus multireanalysis mean) between high and low resolution. The low-resolution ('LR') sub-ensemble includes CNRM-CM6.1-LR, EC-Earth3P-LR, ECMWF-IFS-LR, HadGEM3-GC3.1-LM(-LL), and MPI-ESM1.2-HR. The high-resolution ('HR') sub-ensemble includes CNRM-CM6.1-HR, EC-Earth3P-HR, ECMWF-IFS-HR, HadGEM3-GC3.1-HM(-HH), and MPI-ESM1.2-XR. In b)–e), stippling indicates where all five models agree on the sign of the difference.

The frequency of ET events simulated by PRIMAVERA models increases when resolution is increased from ~100 km to ~25km in all basins, both in the highresSST-present (Fig. 1b) and hist-1950 (Fig. 1d) experiments. Ensemble-mean climatologies are similar between both experiments (Fig. S3). The North Atlantic and Western North Pacific basins are regions of relatively widespread inter-model agreement on the sign of this resolution-sensitivity in track density, again regardless of whether SST is prescribed. When prescribed, inter-model agreement is also identified in the South Pacific and South Indian basins (Fig. 1b). This result is consistent with a recent equivalent analysis of all tropical cyclones in PRIMAVERA simulations (Roberts et al., 2020a), where increased frequencies were simulated at higher model resolution across all ocean basins, for which the leading explanation is that finer atmospheric resolution increases the conversion rate of precursor vortices (or 'seeds') to tropical cyclones (Roberts et al., 2020a; Vecchi et al., 2019; Vidale et al., 2021). Tropicalcyclone intensities simulated at model resolutions in the range 50–20 km are more comparable with observational estimates (Roberts et al., 2020a), due in part to enhanced surface latent heat flux (Vannière et al., 2020), implying that a more realistic proportion may withstand midlatitude environmental conditions hostile to tropical cyclones prior to and during the initial stages of ET. At low resolutions (typically ~100 km), PRIMAVERA models simulate too few ET systems compared with reanalyses, particularly across the North Atlantic and Western North Pacific, in both the highresSST-present (Fig. S4a) and hist-1950 (Fig. S4c) experiments. Increasing resolution to ~25 km leads to increased track density globally, reducing negative biases in these basins but engendering positive biases in the Eastern North Pacific and South Pacific (Fig. S4c, d). In hist-1950, this bias reduction is consistent with a reduction in negative surface temperature biases at high resolution (e.g., ~1 °K reduction in the North Atlantic; Moreno-Chamarro et al., 2022). In section 3.2, we examine ET frequency and the percentage of tropical cyclones undergoing ET separately.

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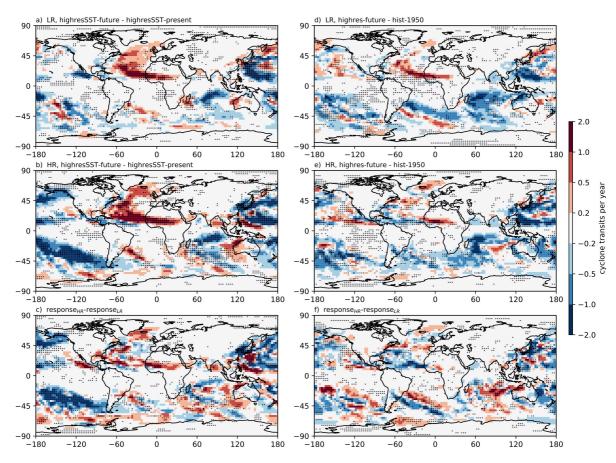


Fig. 2. Climate-change response of track density for all cyclones undergoing ET. (a–c) *highresSST-future* minus *highresSST-present* and (d–f) *highres-future* minus *hist-1950*. Track density was computed from complete tracks, including precursor stages, and is shown in units of cyclone transits per year per unit area (within a 5 ° geodesic radius of storm centres). The low-resolution ('LR') sub-ensemble includes CNRM-CM6.1-LR, EC-Earth3P-LR, HadGEM3-GC3.1-LM(-LL), and MPI-ESM1.2-HR. The high-resolution ('HR') sub-ensemble includes CNRM-CM6.1-HR, EC-Earth3P-HR, HadGEM3-GC3.1-HM(-HH), and MPI-ESM1.2-XR. Stippling indicates where all models agree on the sign of the difference.

412 Overall, PRIMAVERA simulations indicate that increasing resolution improves the 413 representation of ET frequency, as measured by track density, particularly across the North 414 Atlantic and Western North Pacific (Fig. 1c, e). For these basins, reductions in ensemble-415 mean absolute biases are found in both highresSST-present and hist-1950, and areas of bias 416 reduction across multiple models occur primarily over western boundary currents—the Gulf 417 Stream and Kuroshio, respectively. That these regions of resolution-dependence and reduced 418 biases overlap indicates that capturing the sharpness of SST fronts and associated 419 baroclinicity is important in simulating ET (Evans et al., 2017; Klein et al., 2002), and, 420 consistent with this, we find enhanced meridional SST gradients in both of these boundary-421 current regions (Fig. S5). In the Southern Hemisphere, little difference in ensemble-mean 422 biases is found between resolutions, with a caveat that observational or reanalysis-based 423 climatologies for the Southern Ocean are themselves more uncertain (Hodges et al., 2017). 424 The PRIMAVERA ensemble provides evidence that atmospheric resolutions typical of 425 CMIP6 are too coarse to adequately capture basin-mean tropical-cyclone (Roberts et al., 426 2020a) and ET statistics (this study). Increasing resolution to ~25 km partly addresses this 427 shortcoming. 428 429 The climate-change response of track density for tropical cyclones undergoing ET in high-430 resolution simulations is basin-dependent, with differences between atmosphere-only and 431 fully coupled simulations also apparent. In highresSST-future, increased track density is 432 simulated across the North and South Atlantic (but decreased over the eastern United States) 433 and over the Maritime Continent; decreases are simulated over the Eastern and Western 434 North Pacific and South Indian basins; and an unclear, mixed response characterises the 435 North Indian Ocean (Fig. 2a-b). Inter-model agreement about the sign of these changes is 436 largely confined to cyclogenesis regions (e.g., equatorial West Africa) and over the Gulf 437 Stream and Kuroshio Current. In highres-future simulations, positive climate-change 438 responses are confined to the central and Eastern North Pacific. The spatial response pattern 439 over the North Atlantic—increased over central and eastern North Atlantic and decreased 440 along the United States' east coast—is similar between highresSST-future and highres-future, 441 but the magnitude of the response is reduced in the fully coupled simulations (Fig. 2d–f). 442 This spatial pattern is supported by recent projections, with increases particularly apparent in 443 the eastern North Atlantic (Liu et al., 2017), consistent with the projected eastward and 444 poleward expansion of cyclogenesis within this basin (Haarsma et al., 2013).

446 Increasing horizontal resolution has a localised effect on the climate-change response of track 447 density for ET (Fig. 2c, f). In highresSST-future, resolution-sensitive responses to climate 448 change, which are common across all models, are seen only over the central North Atlantic 449 and parts of the Southern Ocean. In highres-future, spatially coherent and resolution-sensitive 450 responses to climate change are seen over the South Atlantic and Eastern North Pacific basins, where simulated track density maxima are shifted equatorward at high resolution. 452 However, the spatial patterns of resolution sensitivity over the North Atlantic and Western 453 North Pacific broadly resemble the spatial climate-change response patterns, which indicates 454 that these responses are enhanced at high resolution in most models. This is seen more clearly 455 in the atmosphere-only experiment (Fig. 2c) than in the fully coupled experiment (Fig. 2f). 456 457 458 3.2 Interannual variability in ET 459 Over the period 1979–2018, high-resolution highresSST-present simulations reproduce the 460 multireanalysis-mean climatological ET counts for Northern Hemisphere basins (Fig. 3, left), except for the Northern Indian Ocean, a basin where few ET events occur. However, little 462 improvement with increased resolution is seen for Southern Hemisphere basins (Fig. 3, left). 463 Again, uncertainty is higher across the Southern Ocean, with greater inter-reanalysis spread 464 seen for Southern Hemisphere basins. These results are also true of the *hist-1950* simulations 465 (Fig. 4, left). The highresSST-present simulations appear to capture decadal variability in the role of SST in sustaining tropical cyclones to ET. In certain basins, periods are apparent 466 where the highresSST-present ensemble mean and multireanalysis mean ET count match 467 468 well: e.g., 1985–2000 for the North Atlantic and 1990–2005 for the Western North Pacific 469 (Fig. 3, left). These periods coincide with observed positive phases in Atlantic Multidecadal 470 Variability and Pacific Decadal Oscillation, respectively. For ET %, differences between low- and high-resolution ensemble means are small for most basins (Fig. 3, right). This 472 suggests that the large-scale environmental conditions conducive to ET are not substantially 473 different across the range of model resolutions considered here. This indicates that increased 474 ET frequency at high resolution is driven primarily by increased tropical cyclone frequency, 475 not by an increase in ET %. Similar mean values and variance in ensemble-mean ET count 476 and ET % are simulated in both highresSST-present (Fig. 3) and hist-1950 (Fig. 4) 477 experiments.

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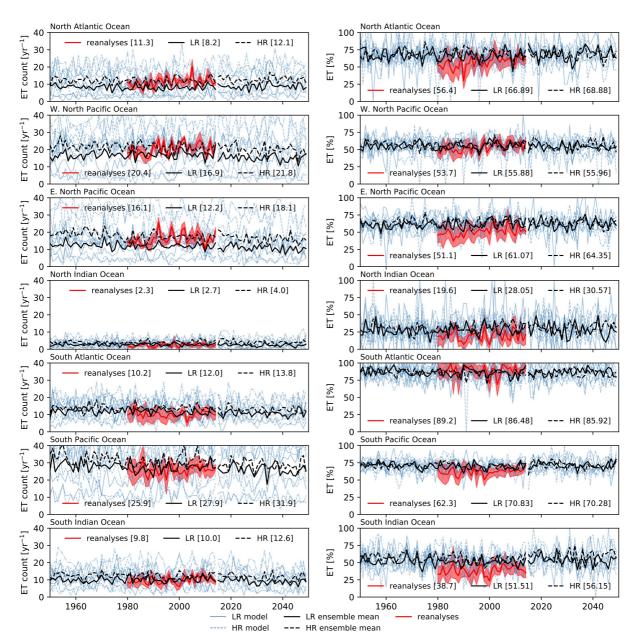


Fig. 3. Interannual variability in (left) the number of ET events and (right) the percentage of tropical cyclones undergoing ET in each ocean basin in reanalyses and simulated in *highresSST-present* and *highresSST-future* experiments. Shown are (red) the multireanalysis mean, with 1 standard deviation of the reanalysis spread indicated by red shading, and (solid black) low- and (dashed black) high-resolution ensemble means. Each panel's legend gives climatological-mean values of (left) ET count or (right) ET % for the reanalyses and historical simulations. Also shown are (blue) timeseries for individual simulations to indicate the ensemble spread for each basin.

In highresSST-present, models' skill in reproducing the multireanalysis-mean interannual variability in ET count varies between basins (Table 4). Interannual variability in ensemblemean and multireanalysis-mean ET counts are significantly, positively correlated for three basins at low resolution and four basins at high resolution. The North Atlantic and Western North Pacific basins are significantly correlated at both resolutions; the South Atlantic and South Pacific basins are significantly correlated only at high resolution; and the Eastern North Pacific is significant only at low resolution. Only for the North and South Indian basins is ensemble-mean variability uncorrelated with reanalyses at either resolution. (Correlation coefficients for hist-1950 simulations are not shown because it is not expected that fully coupled models' internal year-to-year variability would mimic that of forced simulations or reanalyses.) For ET %, fewer significant correlations are found between ensemble-mean and multireanalysis-mean timeseries (Table 4). Positive correlations are seen in the Northern and Southern Indian basins and in the South Pacific basin at high resolution. However, low- and high-resolution ensemble-mean ET % timeseries covary in most basins in both highresSSTpresent (Fig. 3) and hist-1950 (Fig. 4), more so than for ET count. To explain this, we hypothesise that the large-scale environment conducive to the baroclinic conversion of tropical cyclones is less sensitive to model resolution, while ET count depends on tropical cyclone count, which is sensitive to model resolution (Roberts et al., 2020a). Recent analysis of an ensemble of HadGEM3-GC3.1 simulations, performed under HighResMIP, demonstrated that mean skill in representing interannual variability in tropical cyclone count improves with additional members (Roberts et al., 2020a). At present, the required six-hourly geopotential outputs are available for too few ensemble members to repeat such an analysis for tropical cyclones undergoing ET, but this would constitute valuable future work when sufficient model output is obtainable. Nonetheless, quantifying the level of skill that exists in capturing interannual variability in the subset of tropical cyclones that undergo ET, while lower than that for all tropical cyclones, is important, establishing the baseline for HighResMIP-class models. This prompts further examination of ET seasonality in the historical and future atmosphere-only simulations, which is possible in the continuous PRIMAVERA simulations.

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| Ocean basin | ET | count | ЕТ | · % |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Ocean basin | LR | HR | LR | HR |
| North Atlantic | 0.31 | 0.30 | 0.24 | -0.16 |
| Western North Pacific | 0.50 | 0.34 | 0.21 | 0.24 |
| Eastern North Pacific | 0.43 | 0.22 | 0.42 | 0.16 |
| North Indian | -0.08 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.38 |
| South Atlantic | 0.07 | 0.34 | 0.12 | 0.27 |
| South Pacific | 0.08 | 0.50 | 0.17 | 0.34 |
| South Indian | -0.04 | -0.19 | 0.24 | 0.33 |

Table 4. Pearson's r coefficients for correlations between low- (LR) or high-resolution (HR) ensemble-mean and multireanalysis-mean interannual variability in ET count and ET % for each ocean basin. Coefficients are shown only for highresSST-present; hist-1950 simulations are not shown because it is not expected that coupled models' internal year-to-year variability would mimic that of forced simulations or reanalyses. Significant (p < 0.1) correlations are in bold type.

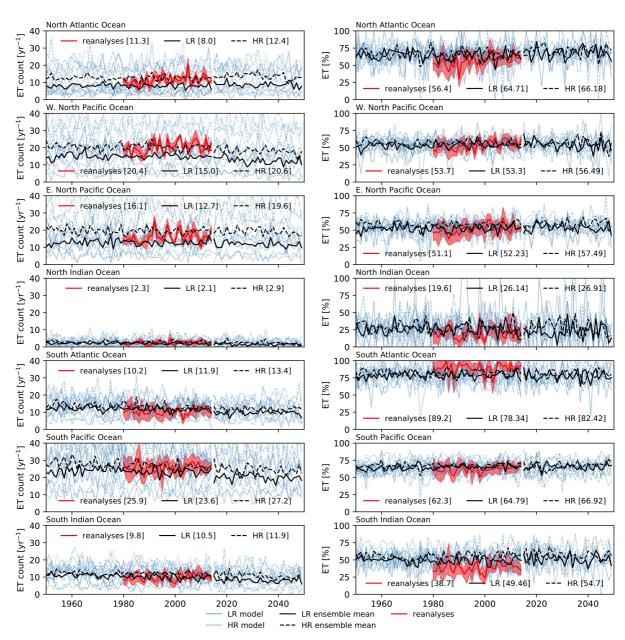


Fig. 4. As in Fig. 3 for fully coupled hist-1950 and highres-future simulations.

| 531 | 3.3 Historical and future ET seasonality |
|-----|---|
| 532 | We next evaluate the seasonal cycle of ET, focussing on the North Atlantic and Western |
| 533 | North Pacific basins for which both climatological ET statistics (Fig. 1) and interannual ET |
| 534 | variability (Table 4) are represented reasonably across models. In the North Atlantic, |
| 535 | reanalyses show ET % increasing from July to a peak in September before declining into |
| 536 | winter (Fig. S6a). In the highresSST-present experiment, most models reproduce this |
| 537 | seasonality, but the magnitude of the seasonal peak is overestimated by $\sim \! 10$ % at high- |
| 538 | resolution. There are indications that increased atmospheric resolution improves the |
| 539 | simulation of the timing of the seasonal ET % peak. Two models—CNRM-CM6.1 and EC- |
| 540 | Earth3P—simulate the seasonal peak too early (in August) at low resolution but simulate a |
| 541 | later peak (in September) at high resolution. Additionally, MPI-ESM1.2, the lowest- |
| 542 | resolution model in this ensemble, simulates comparably muted seasonality that also peaks |
| 543 | earlier than reanalyses at both resolutions. In the fully coupled hist-1950 experiment, models |
| 544 | reproduce the multireanalysis-mean seasonal cycle, but HadGEM3-GC3.1 and CNRM- |
| 545 | CM6.1 simulate a broader seasonal distribution compared with reanalyses (Fig. S7a). In the |
| 546 | Western North Pacific, reanalyses show bimodal seasonality, with peaks in ET % in May and |
| 547 | September (Fig. S6b). Excepting the MPI-ESM1.2 model, which does not capture |
| 548 | bimodality, highresSST-present simulations also exhibit two seasonal peaks, but each occurs |
| 549 | one to two months later than in reanalyses in both low- and high-resolution integrations (Fig. |
| 550 | S6b), and this also holds true for <i>hist-1950</i> simulations (Fig. S7b). |
| 551 | |

To assess any potential future change in seasonality, ΔET %, we differenced the historical and future seasonal cycles. For the North Atlantic, despite pronounced inter-model spread throughout most of the annual cycle, there is an indication of more consistent model behaviour during August-November, months for which most models simulate an increase in ET % in both the highresSST-future (Fig. S6c) and highres-future experiments (Fig. S7c). To quantify the degree to which this inter-model consistency represents secular change in ET seasonality, the annual fraction of total annual ET events occurring during August–November was computed. A significant, positive trend in this quantity over the period 1950–2050 is found in the ensemble mean of high-resolution atmosphere-only simulations (Fig. 5a), but the trend is not significant in reanalyses, which likely cover too short a period (1980–) to assess secular change, and is significant in the low-resolution ensemble mean only at the 80 % level. In fully coupled simulations, no significant trends are seen (Fig. S8a). Conducting a similar analysis of the forthcoming extension of ERA5 back to 1950 is warranted, pre-satellite observational uncertainty notwithstanding. For the Western North Pacific, the inter-model spread during the annual cycle of ΔET % is similar between highresSST-future (Fig. S6d) and highres-future simulations (Fig. S7d) and, in contrast to the North Atlantic, no significant secular change in ET seasonality is found in either reanalyses or in PRIMAVERA simulations out to 2050 (Fig. 5b and Fig. S8b). However, together with projected changes in track density (Fig. 2a-b, d-e), these results provide further evidence that the future response of ET to climate change across the North Atlantic differs from that of the Western North Pacific and of other ocean basins. Therefore, we next investigate the role of cyclone structure in explaining these distinct North Atlantic and Western North Pacific responses.

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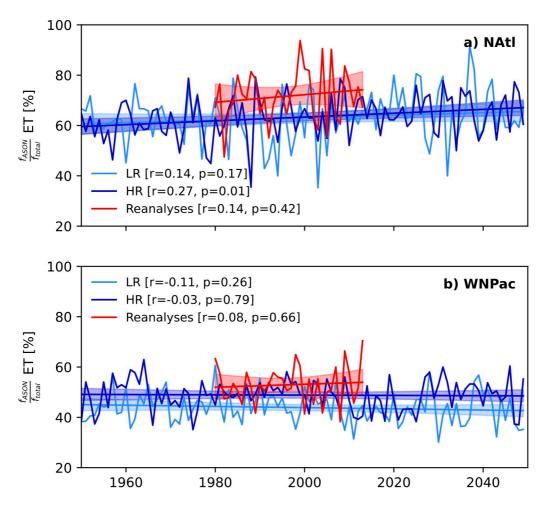


Fig. 5. Secular change in the proportion of ET events occurring during August–November in reanalyses (red) and low- (pale blue) and high-resolution (dark blue) atmosphere-only simulations (ensemble mean) for the (a) North Atlantic and (b) Western North Pacific basins. Shading shows the 95 % confidence interval for the linear fit. ECMWF-IFS is not included in this analysis because no future simulations were performed in HighResMIP for this model.

582 3.4 Response of cyclone structures to climate change To examine the response of cyclone core structure to climate change, we computed 583 ensemble-mean bivariate frequency distributions of phase-space parameters, B, T_L , and T_U in 584 the high-resolution simulations. The T_L -B distribution exhibits a similar general structure in 585 586 the highresSST-present and -future experiments for both the North Atlantic (Fig. 6a-b) and 587 Western North Pacific (Fig. 6d–e) basins. This is also true for T_L – T_U distributions (Fig. 7a–b 588 and Fig. 7d-e). Generally, tropical cyclones undergoing ET occupy the lower-right 589 (symmetric, warm core) and upper-left (asymmetric, cold core) quadrants, with fewer 590 instances in either hybrid (transitional) quadrant. The phase-space parameter distributions 591 simulated across PRIMAVERA models are consistent with previous studies (Hart et al., 592 2006; Michaelis and Lackmann, 2019). Historical ensemble-mean values of B and T_L for the 593 North Atlantic are consistent with recent analysis of observations (Studholme et al., 2015) as 594 well as reanalyses and Community Atmosphere Model simulations at resolutions of 55 and 595 28 km (Zarzycki et al., 2017). Ensemble-mean T_U values are also consistent with these 596 existing studies, except that deep warm-core structures are less frequent in PRIMAVERA 597 models than in recent 15-km-resolution simulations with the Model for Prediction Across 598 Scales-Atmosphere model (Michaelis and Lackmann, 2019), likely due to differences in 599 atmospheric resolution. For the Western North Pacific, model-simulated phase-space 600 parameters are consistent with reanalysis-based values (Kitabatake, 2011). In the fully 601 coupled simulations, T_L –B distributions for both basins are similar to those of the 602 atmosphere-only simulations (Fig. 8c, f), but differences in ensemble-mean T_U values are 603 seen, with warm-core responses to climate change occurring variously throughout the 604 troposphere (Fig. 9c, f). 605 606 Under climate change, models forced by prescribed SST simulate stronger warm-core 607 structures in the North Atlantic, indicated by a shift towards higher T_L for axisymmetric 608 tropical cyclones (Fig. 6c). Moreover, T_L – T_U distributions show that the future shift to 609 stronger warm-core structures is primarily confined to the lower troposphere (Fig. 7c, f). 610 (Here, 'strong' refers to ensemble-mean T_L values at the higher end of the historical 611 distributions, in which a range of model-simulated intensities are averaged.) These findings 612 are supported by a recent single-model study (Michaelis and Lackmann, 2019), albeit the 613 ensemble-mean signal we report is less pronounced, and are consistent with increased low-614 level moisture and the potential for enhanced latent heat release in a warmer climate. Future 615 changes in core structures offer a partly mechanistic explanation of the projected increase in

616 ET across the North Atlantic (Baatsen et al., 2015; Haarsma et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2017) as 617 well as the projected change in track density, which is largely unique to the North Atlantic 618 (Fig. 2a-b, d-e). The lesser energy of weak warm-core cyclones is more likely to dissipate 619 before ET may occur, but relatively strong warm-core structures make cyclones more 620 resilient to unfavourable midlatitude environmental conditions (primarily cooler SST and 621 increased vertical wind shear), prolonging their poleward propagation and making ET more 622 probable across the North Atlantic (Hart et al., 2006). 623 624 In the North Pacific, however, this future shift to stronger warm cores is not seen in 625 PRIMAVERA models (Fig. 6f), although more frequent asymmetric, warm-core hybrid 626 structures (upper-right quadrant) in the future are simulated. These instances of hybrid 627 structures show cyclones existing more frequently in the transitional quadrants, potentially 628 indicating a future elongation of ET time (Zarzycki et al., 2017) and an increase in warm-629 seclusion occurrences, which involve multiple transitions (Baker et al., 2021; Dekker et al., 630 2018). Also seen is a shift towards stronger upper-level, cold-core structures (Fig. 7f). The 631 Western North Pacific is therefore characterised by more mixed future changes in core-632 structure frequencies, consistent with the projected response of track density, which generally 633 decreases across the basin but increases in localised areas (Fig. 2b, e). Broadly, these results 634 are also consistent with the lack of any consensus in published projections of ET frequency 635 across the Western North Pacific: both a less favourable future ET environment (Ito et al., 636 2016) versus moderate future increase in ET frequency (Bieli et al., 2020) have been 637 suggested. For both basins, future phase-space changes in the fully coupled simulations 638 resemble those seen in the atmosphere-only experiments, but the North Atlantic climate-639 change signal is comparably muted (Fig. 8c, f; Fig. 9c, f). 640 641 Overall, these results help clarify the potential role that the climate-change response of 642 cyclones' core structures have in determining future ET frequency changes, and quantifies 643 how this differs between basins. Differences in pre-ET structures potentially underpin basin-644 specific responses of ET to climate change, and consistency exists among PRIMAVERA models. However, to fully explain what drives disparate North Atlantic and Western North 645 646 Pacific responses, further studies of future changes in cyclogenesis and midlatitude large-647 scale conditions are needed, based on models of higher resolution than those in 648 PRIMAVERA, which better simulate the most intense systems (Judt et al., 2021), and, 649 potentially, their interactions with the large-scale environment.

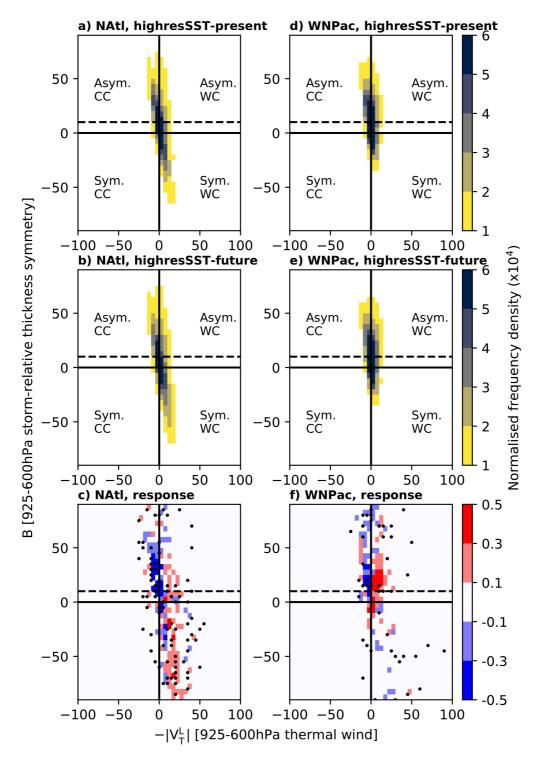


Fig. 6. Ensemble-mean distributions of T_L versus B in high-resolution (a, d) *highresSST-present* and (b, e) *-future* simulations as well as (c, f) the climate-change response for the North Atlantic ('NAtl') and Western North Pacific ('WNPac'). Distributions are computed from every 6-hourly point during the entire lifetime of all storms undergoing ET, plotted as two-dimensional histograms, and normalised by the total number of cyclones (sample sizes for each model are given in Table 3). Values are scaled by 10^4 . Cyclone phase-space

categories are warm- ('WC') or cold-core ('CC') and either symmetrical (i.e., non-frontal;

(Sym.') or asymmetrical (i.e., frontal; 'Asym.'). The threshold of 10 m used to distinguish

thermally symmetric from asymmetric cyclones is indicated (dashed line). Stippling in c) and

f) indicates where all models agree on the sign of the difference.

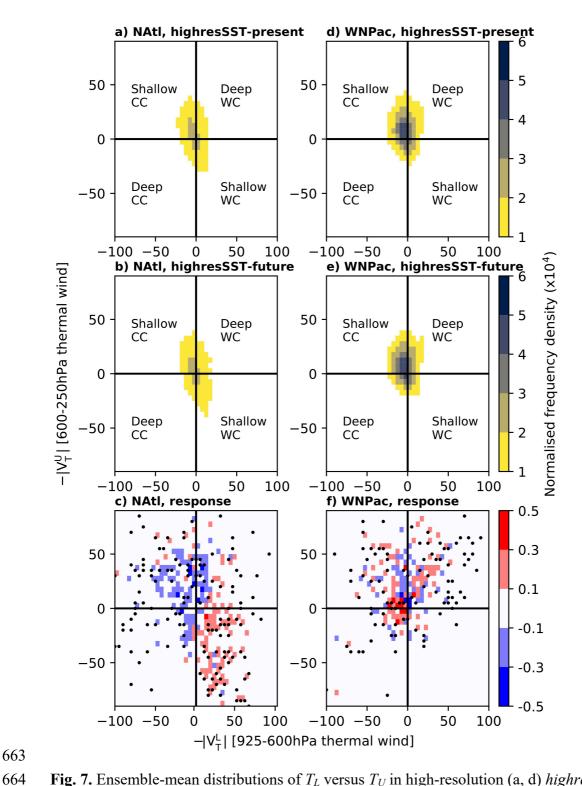


Fig. 7. Ensemble-mean distributions of T_L versus T_U in high-resolution (a, d) highres SSTpresent and (b, e) -future simulations as well as (c, f) the climate-change response for the North Atlantic ('NAtl') and Western North Pacific ('WNPac'). Distributions are computed from every 6-hourly point during the entire lifetime of all storms undergoing ET, plotted as two-dimensional histograms, and normalised by the total number of cyclones (sample sizes for each model are given in Table 3). Values are scaled by 10⁴. Cyclone phase-space

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- 670 categories are shallow or deep warm- ('WC') or cold-core ('CC'). Stippling in c) and f)
- indicates where all models agree on the sign of the difference.

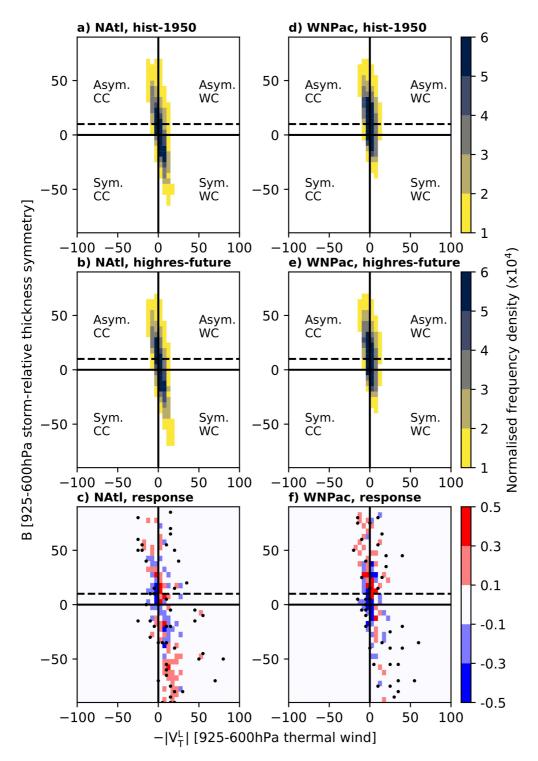


Fig. 8. As in Fig. 6 for hist-1950 and highres-future experiments.

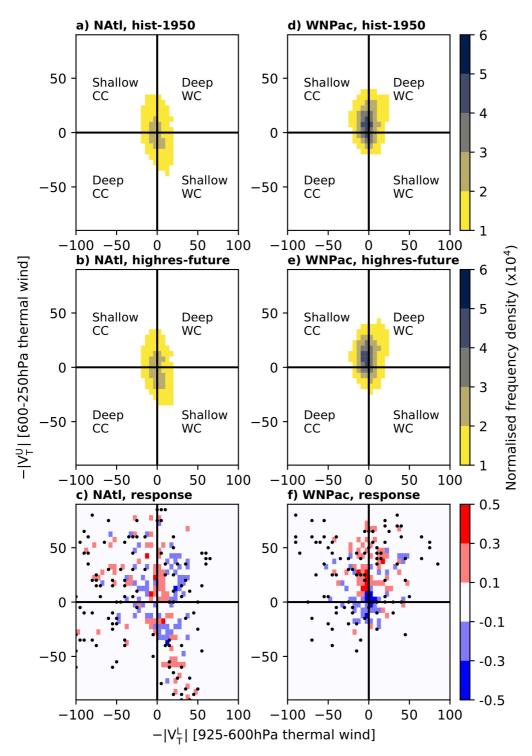


Fig. 9. As in Fig. 7 for *hist-1950* and *highres-future* experiments.

678 3.5 Pre- and post-ET cyclone intensity During ET, cyclones develop low-level frontal structures and their horizontal size increases 679 680 (Evans et al., 2017). As such, increasing model resolution is expected to impact the 681 simulation of cyclones pre- and post-ET differently, particularly in models whose effective 682 resolutions coarsen equatorward. However, performing a global analysis of the pre- and post-683 ET stages of tropical cyclones' lifecycles is not trivial because ET pathways (i.e., the order in 684 which B and T_L changes occur) differ between ocean basins (Bieli et al., 2019). We therefore 685 separated cyclone tracks' warm- and cold-core stages about ET completion, when both B and 686 T_L satisfy ET criteria, following the definition first used by Hart (2003). Our additional 1-day 687 criterion (see Methods) helps increase confidence in the following inter-model comparison. 688 689 Compared with best-track intensity estimates, certain atmosphere-only models (particularly 690 CNRM-CM6.1) simulate realistic intensities at resolutions in the range 20–50 km (Roberts et 691 al., 2020a). However, best-track intensity estimates are not well suited to evaluating post-ET 692 systems (Velden et al., 2006), and the available primary cyclone wind-speed observations, 693 such as satellite scatterometry data, seldom include cyclones' post-tropical stages and span 694 too short a temporal range for climatological evaluation. We therefore turn to reanalyses, 695 which are constrained by observational data, to provide a homogeneous global reference. An 696 important caveat, however, is the underestimation of cyclone wind speeds in reanalyses 697 (Hodges et al., 2017; Murakami, 2014), although this underestimation is less marked at 698 higher latitudes (Sainsbury et al., 2020). 699 700 Considering all storms globally, PRIMAVERA models reproduce the reanalyses' cold-core, 701 post-ET intensity distributions at both low and high resolution and in both atmosphere-only 702 and fully coupled simulations (Fig. 10 and Fig. 11, top rows). However, models' 703 representation of warm-core, pre-ET distributions improve markedly with increasing 704 resolution, especially for CNRM-CM6.1 and HadGEM3-GC3.1, but more clearly so in the atmosphere-only than in the fully coupled simulations, wherein cold-wake feedbacks reduce 705 706 upper-ocean temperatures and weaken subsequent tropical cyclones (Balaguru et al., 2014). 707 Sensitivity to resolution is similar in the fully coupled CNRM-CM6.1 and HadGEM3-GC3.1 708 simulations (Fig. 11, top row). These results show that horizontal resolutions typical of 709 CMIP6 appear sufficient to simulate cold-core (post-ET) intensity distributions, including the 710 relatively high-intensity tail—resolutions at which large-ensemble studies to quantify 711 multiannual variability of the strongest post-ET storms are computationally feasible.

However, among high-resolution PRIMAVERA models, the high-intensity tail of the warmcore distribution is reproduced only by CNRM-CM6.1.

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For highresSST-future, several models project decreasing warm-core and increasing coldcore intensities for weaker storms (<17ms⁻¹) but simulate opposite warm- and cold-core responses for stronger storms (≥17ms⁻¹) (Fig. 10, bottom row). This warm-core response is consistent with projections of intensified tropical cyclones under anthropogenic warming (Knutson et al., 2020). However, these responses are not replicated by fully coupled models (Fig. 11, bottom row), in which intensity changes are weak (Roberts et al., 2020b). In the fully coupled simulations, the responses of pre- and post-ET intensity distributions to climate change are equivocal, with substantial inter-model differences. We speculate that the climatechange forcing out to 2050 in the HighResMIP experimental protocol is insufficiently strong (i.e., the future simulation period is too short) for a clear signal to emerge. However, it is unclear whether intensity changes would be seen. For tropical cyclones overall, Roberts et al. (2020b) found a weak future intensification in these simulations, and Bieli et al. (2020) found equivocal ET climate-change responses in many basins out to 2100 under the weaker RCP4.5 scenario. If a clear climate-change signal were to emerge with further increases in model resolution, which would increase the relative difference between the weakest and strongest simulated tropical cyclones, this would suggest that processes important for intensity change are not adequately captured at ~25 km resolution.

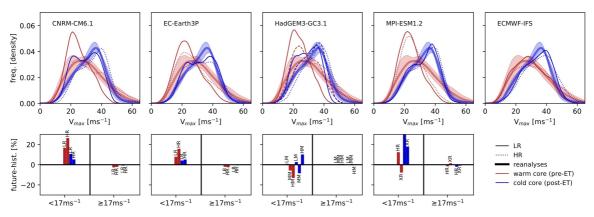


Fig. 10. Intensity (v_{max} at 925hPa) distributions in atmosphere-only simulations for all cyclones undergoing ET globally. For each model, historical simulations are shown in the top row and future simulations in the bottom row. Multireanalysis-mean curves (thick, solid lines) are shown with 1 s.d. (shading). Both low- (thin, solid lines) and high-resolution (thin, dashed lines) simulations are shown. Climate-change responses (i.e., *highresSST-future* minus *highresSST-present*), computed as integrated differences, are shown as percentages for storms whose lifetime-maximum intensity is <17 ms⁻¹ or \geq 17 ms⁻¹ for each atmospheric model resolution (ordered left to right).

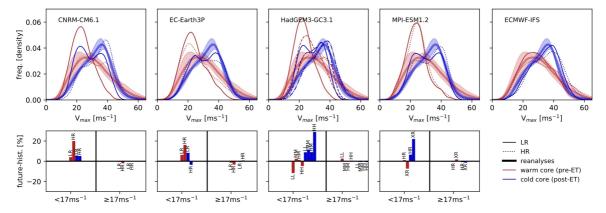


Fig. 11. As in Fig. 10 for fully coupled simulations.

747 3.6 Post-ET reintensification The lifetime-maximum intensity of transitioning tropical cyclones typically occurs during the 748 749 warm-core, tropical phase. However, the addition of a baroclinic energy source and cyclone-750 wave interactions induce post-ET reintensification (Evans et al., 2017). We quantified the 751 frequencies of reintensifying versus non-reintensifying cyclones in reanalyses and in the 752 PRIMAVERA ensemble. Globally, reanalyses indicate that approximately 50 % of tropical 753 cyclones that undergo ET undergo post-ET reintensification (Fig. 12a). For the North 754 Atlantic and Western North Pacific basins, ~55 and ~45 %, respectively, reintensify (not 755 shown), consistent with Hart and Evans (2001). These results are not significantly different 756 when reintensification is defined using 925-hPa wind speed (not shown). Globally, 757 PRIMAVERA models generally overestimate climatological reintensification frequency at 758 low resolution, but increasing resolution decreases the proportion of reintensifying systems 759 (and increases the proportion of non-reintensifying systems) in all models except MPI-760 ESM1.2, which better matches reanalyses (Fig. 12b and Fig. 13b). This result potentially 761 reflects improved simulation of the interactions between cyclones and the large-scale 762 circulation, which acts to reintensify systems (Keller et al., 2019), at high resolution. Which 763 processes facilitate such improvement should be a focus of future research because these 764 processes will be important for risk assessments of reintensification. However, it is also 765 possible that post-ET reintensification arises in models whose effective resolution increases 766 with increasing latitude (e.g., HadGEM3-GC3.1), allowing stronger simulated winds at 767 higher latitudes, but the impact of this artifact will be reduced at higher resolutions. 768 In HadGEM3-GC3.1, for an atmospheric resolution of 25 km (at 50 ° latitude), increasing 769 770 ocean resolution from 1/4 ° to 1/12 ° (-HM and -HH, respectively) does not impact the 771 proportion of reintensifying cyclones (Fig. 13b). An increase in the proportion might be 772 expected because increasing ocean resolution and therefore more sharply resolving SST 773 fronts (around western boundary currents; Fig. S5) is likely to enhance baroclinicity and 774 provide atmospheric conditions conducive to post-ET reintensification. That no increase is 775 seen implies that atmospheric resolution, to which simulated tropical-cyclone frequency and 776 intensity are sensitive, acts as a constraint on reintensification statistics, at least for this 777 particular model. Further investigation with multiple ocean models would establish more 778 robustly whether this is the case.

In both the atmosphere-only and fully coupled simulations, future changes in the proportion of post-ET reintensifying systems are small and generally within one standard deviation of historical interannual variability (Fig. 12c and Fig. 13c), again suggesting that any climate-change response under RCP8.5 emerges after 2050. In atmosphere-only simulations, low-resolution models all simulate an increase the proportion of reintensifying cyclones, but high-resolution models simulate a decrease (Fig. 12c), except for CNRM-CM6.1. Fully coupled models typically simulate a future increase across resolutions (Fig. 13c).

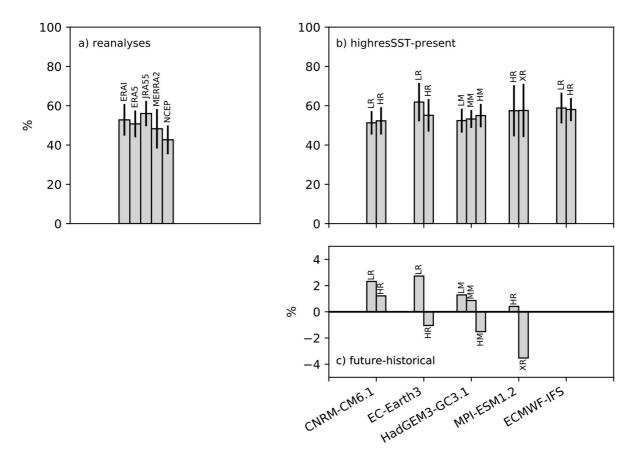


Fig. 12. Global analysis of the percentage of transitioning storms that undergo post-ET reintensification in (a) reanalyses and (b) *highresSST-present* simulations, and (c) the percentage change simulated for *highresSST-future* experiments. One standard deviation of interannual variability is indicated for each reanalysis and historical model simulation (black lines).

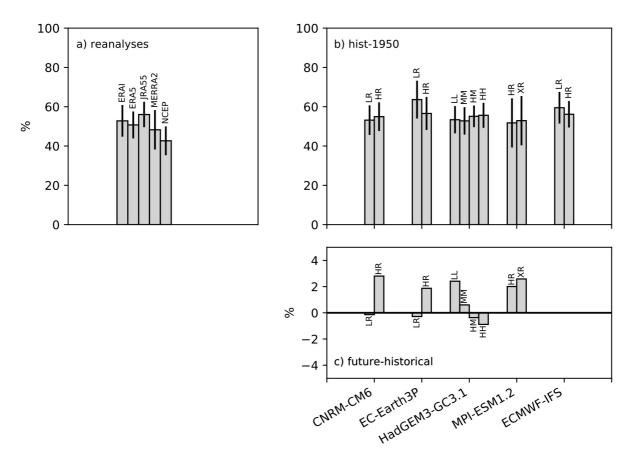


Fig. 13. As Fig. 12 but for hist-1950 and highres-future simulations.

798 3.7 ET latitude 799 Finally, we assess how ET location responds to both increased resolution and to climate 800 change out to 2050. Distributions of ET-completion latitude were computed from reanalyses 801 and all PRIMAVERA experiments globally as well as well as separately for the basins where 802 models exhibit the best performance: the North Atlantic and Western North Pacific basins 803 (Fig. 14). For highresSST-present, model-simulated ET completion occurs at lower latitudes 804 than in reanalyses (Fig. 14a–c). At high resolution, this is partially rectified: peak frequency 805 occurs at a similar latitude to reanalyses in both the North Atlantic (Fig. 14a) and Western 806 North Pacific (Fig. 14b), but the magnitudes of both peaks are underestimated and 807 occurrences of low-latitude ET (i.e., 10-20°) remain too frequent. Globally, an equatorward 808 bias in peak frequency across resolutions indicates that ET-completion latitude is less well 809 simulated in other basins (Fig. 14c). These results hold true for hist-1950 simulations (Fig. 810 14d-f), except there are fewer instances of low-latitude ET (i.e., 10–20°), likely reflecting 811 slower development of warm-core structures and subsequent ET in the fully coupled 812 experiments. 813 814 In response to climate change, the ensemble-mean distribution of ET-completion latitude 815 exhibits an equatorward shift in the North Atlantic in the atmosphere-only experiment (Fig. 816 14a), but a poleward shift in the fully coupled simulations (Fig. 14d), with an increased 817 frequency of ET completion particularly between 45–55 °N. In the Western North Pacific, a poleward shift is seen in the latitude of the peak frequency, from ~30 to ~40 °N, in both 818 819 experiments, but little change is simulated at higher latitudes (i.e., > 45 °N). Globally, a small equatorward shift of ~2 ° is simulated in atmosphere-only (Fig. 14c) and no meridional shift 820 821 is seen in coupled simulations (Fig. 14f). Previously, we showed stronger low-level warm-822 core structures are simulated in future (Fig. 6 and Fig. 8), which potentially allow tropical 823 cyclones to propagate farther poleward prior to ET, with the most pronounced signal seen in 824 the North Atlantic. While coupled PRIMAVERA models provide evidence for a poleward 825 shift of ET, climate-change responses globally are equivocal out to 2050.

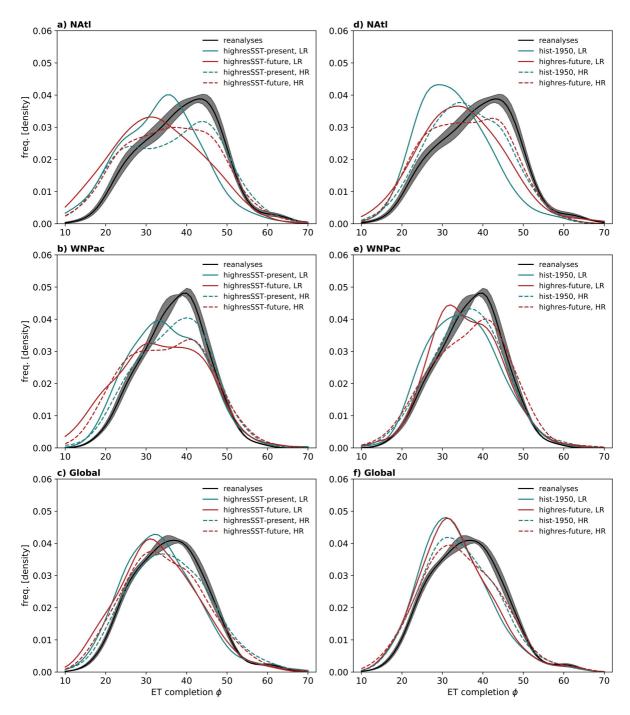


Fig. 14. Ensemble-mean frequency distributions of ET-completion latitude for (solid lines) low- and (dashed lines) high-resolution simulations, for both 1950–2014 (teal) and 2015–2050 (red). Results are shown for (a–c) atmosphere-only and (d–f) fully coupled experiments for the North Atlantic basin ("NAtl"), Western North Pacific basin ("WNPac") and all global basins combined. 'LR' and 'HR' denote low- and high-resolution distributions, respectively. Also shown is the multireanalysis-mean distribution with shading indicating the standard error for the five reanalyses. Note that frequency is plotted as a function of absolute latitude (ϕ) to combine Northern and Southern Hemisphere results in c) and f).

836 837 4. Summary and discussion 838 This paper presents an analysis of ET across five reanalysis datasets and climate simulations 839 performed with five atmosphere-only and full coupled global models participating in CMIP6 840 HighResMIP, focussing on (i) the effect of increased model resolution on the representation 841 of ET and (ii) the response of ET to climate change. 842 843 For all tropical cyclones undergoing ET, we find an increase in the climatological track 844 density simulated at high resolution (~25 km) compared with low resolution (~100 km) in all 845 ocean basins and in both atmosphere-only and fully coupled model configurations (Fig. 1b, 846 d), particularly over Northern Hemisphere western boundary currents. Model error in 847 simulated track density (compared with the multireanalysis-mean track density) is reduced at 848 high resolution in the North Atlantic and Western North Pacific (Fig. 1c, e). The simulated 849 climatological annual-mean count of ET events is closer to that of reanalyses in the ocean 850 basins where ET activity is highest—the North Atlantic and the Western and Eastern North 851 Pacific—in both atmosphere-only (Fig. 3) and fully coupled (Fig. 4) experiments. In these 852 basins, atmosphere-only simulations exhibit skill of ~0.3 in capturing interannual variability 853 in just the subset of tropical cyclones that undergo ET (Table 4), demonstrating that the skill 854 of these models in simulating all tropical cyclones does not remain throughout the complete 855 cyclone lifecycle. Additionally, this level of skill in atmosphere-only simulations is lower 856 than that found for similar-resolution initialised seasonal forecasts (Liu et al., 2018). For the other basins—the Northern Indian and Southern Hemisphere—frequencies simulated by 857 high-resolution models overestimate reanalyses. ET %, however, is similar between low- and 858 859 high-resolution simulations, indicating that the resolution sensitivity of ET is driven by that 860 of tropical cyclone frequency, not by an enhancement of environmental conditions conducive 861 to ET. The seasonal cycle of ET is reproduced by most models, with both the seasonal timing 862 and the magnitude of the seasonal peak simulated more correctly at high-resolution, but the 863 impact of increased atmospheric resolution is model-dependent. 864 865 In general, PRIMAVERA models show clearer inter-model agreement on the climate-change 866 response of ET frequency than on the response of intensity-related metrics. For most basins, 867 models simulate a frequency decrease in response to climate change, except over the North 868 Atlantic, where an increase is projected (Fig. 2). The magnitude of the North Atlantic

response is larger in atmosphere-only simulations than in fully coupled integrations and is

enhanced by increasing atmospheric model resolution, although interannual variability is pronounced (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4). A significant positive trend in the ensemble-mean fraction of North Atlantic ET events occurring during August–November is found over the period 1950– 2050 at high-resolution, indicating long-term change in ET seasonality in this basin, but no secular seasonality change is simulated in the Western North Pacific (Fig. 5). North Atlantic seasonality change may result in a higher proportion of tropical cyclones encountering the midlatitude environment during the part of the seasonal cycle when, climatologically, baroclinicity is highest (Hoskins and Hodges, 2019). Opposing future ET responses between the North Atlantic and Western North Pacific are potentially underpinned by changes in lowlevel, pre-ET warm-core structures, which strengthen in response to climate change in the North Atlantic but undergo little change in the Western North Pacific (Fig. 6 and Fig. 7). Comparing atmosphere-only with fully coupled simulations, the North Atlantic track density response to climate change is more muted in the fully coupled experiment, which is consistent with a less pronounced climate-change response of pre-ET structures simulated by coupled models. Simulations with higher-resolution, storm-resolving models will open opportunities to further study realistically deep warm-core cyclones. Globally, simulated warm-core, pre-ET intensity distributions improve with resolution in most models in both atmosphere-only and fully coupled experiments, better resembling reanalyses (Fig. 10 and Fig. 11). Simulated cold-core, post-ET intensity distributions exhibit little sensitivity to resolution across models. Globally, models simulate no clear climatechange response of pre- or post-ET intensity distributions, suggesting that, if a signal exists, extending simulations beyond 2050 may be required. Under highresSST-future forcing, some models show decreasing warm-core and increasing cold-core intensities for storms <17ms⁻¹, but the opposite response for storms $\geq 17 \text{ms}^{-1}$. However, this is not reproduced by fully coupled models. Globally, increasing resolution increases the proportion of simulated post-ET reintensifications to approximately match reanalyses, but not in all models. Climatechange responses are not significant with respect to historical interannual variability and are model-dependent (Fig. 12 and Fig. 13). The role of model resolution is become clearer, but uncertainties remain. Recent analysis of tropical cyclones the PRIMAVERA simulations (Roberts et al., 2020b) has shown that the high-resolution atmosphere-only models, which typically have lower wind-speed biases, show either reduced future wind speeds or no change. Fully coupled models with the smallest

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historical biases simulate either no change in future wind speeds or increases of only a few percent. These models therefore project weaker intensity responses to climate change compared with other studies (Knutson et al., 2020). One potential factor is the simplifying aspects of the HighResMIP protocol that are necessary to isolate the role of model resolution, particularly the standardised aerosol forcing and use of a single set of SST and sea-ice boundary conditions shared across models (Haarsma et al., 2016). For ET, the climate-change responses of pre- and post-ET intensity analysed in this study are largely model-dependent, with models exhibiting little systematic change between atmospheric resolutions of ~100 and ~25 km. This suggests that these disparate responses are due to differences in model formulation, but a larger ensemble of models is likely needed to assess this fully. For post-ET reintensification, increasing atmospheric resolution appears to result in more consistent model behaviour, but resolution remains a key research issue because several models still underestimate tropical cyclone intensities at ~25 km grid spacing (Roberts et al., 2020a) and further improvements are anticipated by increasing resolution to at least 10 km (Haarsma, 2021; Judt et al., 2021). To obtain samples of ET events comparable to this study, however, running sufficiently long simulations (and / or a sufficiently large ensemble) at these stormresolving resolutions, even without coupling to an ocean model, remains a significant computational challenge (Roberts et al., 2020b). Additional outstanding questions and uncertainties remain. A poleward expansion of Hadley circulation termini is projected in a warmer climate (Lu et al., 2007), which implies meridional shifts in tropical storm tracks (Sharmila and Walsh, 2018; Studholme and Gulev, 2018). However, the impacts of this large-scale change on the spatial distribution and frequency of ET are equivocal. The poleward expansion of regions conducive to tropical cyclone genesis and development that results from an increase in Hadley cell width will reduce the mean displacement required for tropical cyclones to reach the midlatitude baroclinic zone, increasing the likelihood of ET. However, a poleward shift of the midlatitude storm track in response to warming has been projected (Bengtsson et al., 2006), which in turn shifts environmental conditions conducive to extratropical transition poleward, potentially offsetting Hadley-driven changes. Here, we find minimal changes in ET-completion latitude out to 2050 (Fig. 14), suggesting cancellation in the net effect of these competing large-scale changes. Further work is needed to establish the time of emergence of any meridional shift and will require dedicated studies, exploring a range of climate-change scenarios with models

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run at resolutions sufficiently high to adequately represent both tropical cyclones and ET—at least 25 km, according to our results.

This study provides evidence that pre-ET cyclone intensity and warm-core strength exert influence over future changes in ET statistics and seasonality. Analysis of higher-resolution and storm-resolving models (at least 10 km) will help establish whether these results hold true for models able to reproduce more realistic tropical-cyclone maximum intensities, including rapidly intensifying systems. Additionally, there is a need to contextualise future projections of ET, accounting for natural variability, and in particular the roles of regional (e.g., Atlantic Multidecadal Variability) and global (i.e., El Niño–Southern Oscillation) modes of variability on ET frequency. Dedicated sensitivity experiments will be required, and such a study is forthcoming for the North Atlantic, where this work has identified future changes that are important and often unique to this basin. Finally, investigation of secular change in ET seasonality, as seen in the North Atlantic in this study, will be important globally because future modification to the interval between the seasonal maximum of ET occurrence and wintertime storminess may engender considerable changes in risk for populous midlatitude regions.

| 955 | Data and code availability |
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| 956 | All reanalysis data for tropical-cyclone tracking (vorticity, wind fields, and sea-level |
| 957 | pressure) and cyclone phase-space analysis (geopotential) are available from rda.ucar.edu or |
| 958 | disc.gsfc.nasa.gov. Model data are available from Earth System Grid Foundation nodes |
| 959 | (esgf.llnl.gov). TRACK is available for download at gitlab.act.reading.ac.uk/track and the |
| 960 | track datasets used in this paper may be downloaded from |
| 961 | catalogue.ceda.ac.uk/uuid/e82a62d926d7448696a2b60c1925f811. Data analysis and |
| 962 | visualisation code is available from the lead author upon request (hrcm.ceda.ac.uk/contact). |
| 963 | |
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| 974 | |
| 975 | Author contributions |
| 976 | AJB, PLV, RJH and MJR conceived the study. Simulations were performed by MJR, ET, |
| 977 | KL, CDR, and LT. Output data were managed by JS. MJR performed the cyclone tracking. |
| 978 | BV computed Eady growth rate. AJB undertook cyclone phase-space analysis and all other |
| 979 | data analyses, figure preparation, and wrote the manuscript. All authors provided input in |
| 980 | interpreting results and approved the final manuscript. |
| 981 | |
| 982 | Competing interests |
| 983 | The authors declare no competing interests. |

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Supplementary information

Extratropical transition of tropical cyclones in a multiresolution ensemble of atmosphere-only and fully coupled global climate models

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S1. Methodological considerations

Two important methodological considerations in ET studies are discussed in this section: (i) the cyclone-tracking algorithm and (ii) the sensitivity of ET location to how ET is identified.

S1.1 Cyclone-tracking algorithm

Recent studies of tropical cyclones in reanalyses and simulated by climate models (e.g., Roberts et al., 2020a; Vannière et al., 2020) compared results obtained using TRACK with TempestExtremes, a sea-level-pressure-based tracking algorithm (Ullrich and Zarzycki, 2017), to show that, broadly, their results are robust to algorithm choice. However, tracks output by TempestExtremes represent only cyclones' warm-core stages, and as such few identified systems undergo ET (Fig. S1). Therefore, supplementary algorithms are required to extend cyclone tracks generated using TempestExtremes into the midlatitudes (e.g., Michaelis and Lackmann, 2019; Zarzycki et al., 2017), but the extent to which results are sensitive to the additional methodological choices necessary in this approach is unclear. In this study, use of TRACK, a vorticity-based algorithm that satisfactorily yields complete cyclone lifecycles based on a single set of identification criteria, is clearly advantageous in our analysis of ET statistics. Once comparable whole-lifecycle tracks, including post-tropical evolution, from multiple, independent algorithms are available, sensitivity analysis should be a research priority.

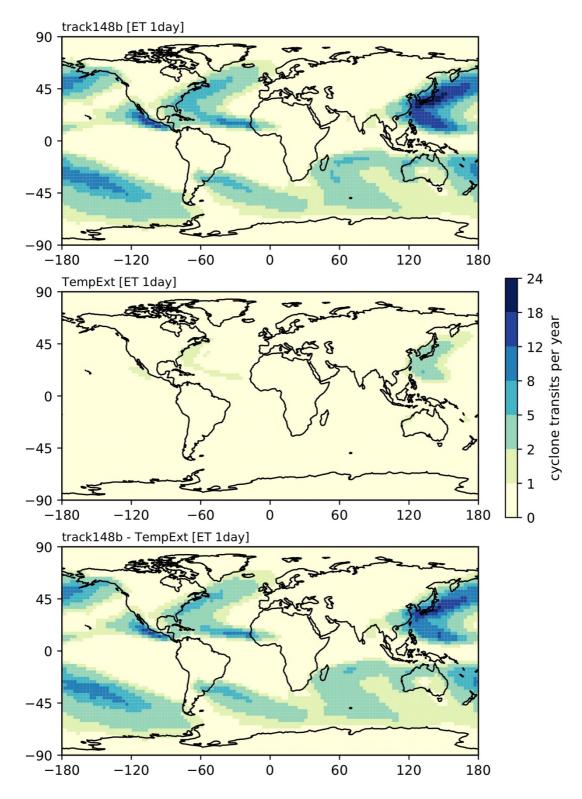


Fig. S1. Multi-reanalysis-mean track density in TCs undergoing ET identified by two feature-tracking algorithms: (top) TRACK ('track148b") and (middle) TempestExtremes ("TempExt"). We also show (bottom) the inter-algorithm difference (i.e., TRACK minus TempestExtremes).

S1.2 Sensitivity of ET location to identification method

Recent analysis of ERA5 shows that phase-space-based identification of post-tropical structures compares well with other methods in terms of the number of ET events identified (Sainsbury et al., 2020) and phase-space methodologies are the most common across studies of ET. However, no consensus approach to identifying ET onset and completion based on phase-space parameters exists. Previous studies have applied differing absolute thresholds to identify changes in cyclone thermal symmetry and employed additional criteria, such as intensity thresholds and temporal smoothing of phase-space series. These modifications have little impact on the number of identified events, but the location of ET may be sensitive to how phase-space parameters are treated. We conducted an overview assessment of this in reanalyses by mapping the mean ET-completion locations for various identification approaches (Fig. S2). In the North Atlantic and Western North Pacific, a definition of ET where both ET onset and completion are identified by single-timestep B or T_L changes ('conventional') yields the lowestlatitude ET completion (Fig. S2). In contrast, applying a prior warm-core test, as in the previous section (4.2), yields ET completion in the range of 30–40 ° latitude, coinciding with the known centres of baroclinicity associated with western boundary currents. Other proposed modifications of ET identification—imposing a v_{max} threshold, applying a temporal smoothing, and requiring B and T_L criteria are met for consecutive timesteps—yield locations in between these two approaches, with greater overlap seen in the Western North Pacific (Fig. S2). These results help quantify the sensitivity of ET location to various methodological choices, and the results presented in Fig. 16 are necessarily sensitive to such choices, as are other published analyses. The method should fit the research question. When ET completion is identified postwarm core, it is broadly co-located with climatological, basin-high values of Eady growth rate (Fig. S2), indicating that this approach may be preferable for analyses of ET location, particularly in the North Atlantic.

In addition, application to climate models presents additional concerns. Bieli et al. (2020) identified grid-scale convective updrafts in 50-km-resolution simulations with the Forecast-oriented Low Ocean Resolution (FLOR) version of the GFDL CM2.5 that triggered erroneous diagnoses of warm- and cold-core cyclone structures. These were rectified by computing storm-centric 95th-percentile geopotential (rather than local maxima) and by applying a temporal smoothing to phase-space trajectories. Although these issues are not pertinent to all models, understanding the effect of convection-parameterisation schemes on geopotential maxima and phase-space results, particularly T_U , requires a systematic investigation across

multiple high-resolution models, contrasting simulations run using parameterised versus explicitly resolved convection.

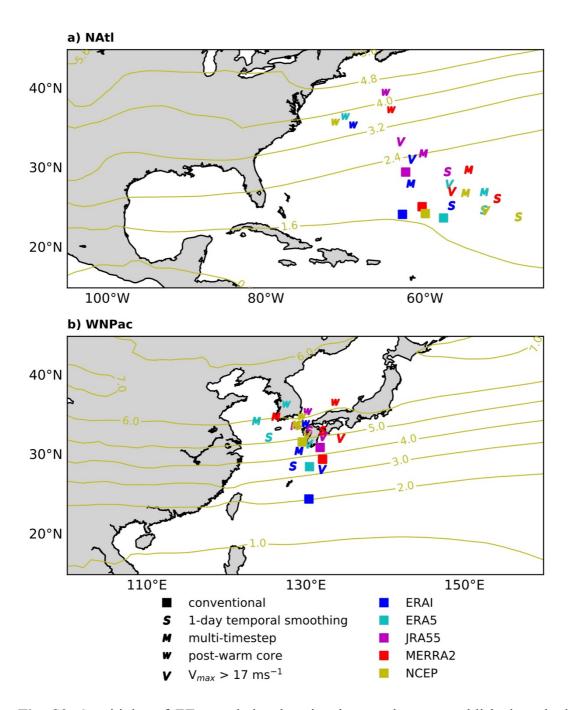


Fig. S2. Sensitivity of ET-completion location in reanalyses to published methodological approaches. Results are shown for (a) the North Atlantic ('NAtl') and (b) the Western North Pacific ('WNPac'). 'Conventional' (square markers) refers to the commonly used definition of ET completion: the first timestep at which both B and T_L indicate an extratropical structure. The other markers indicate a single modification of this definition. 'S': a 24-hour temporal smoothing of B and T_L trajectories was applied. 'M': ET completion is only identified where B and T_L criteria are satisfied for four consecutive timesteps. 'V': ET completion is only

identified for storms whose lifetime-maximum intensity exceeds 17 ms⁻¹. 'WC': a warm core lasting for at least two days is first identified for each storm and ET completion is identified thereafter. Overlain are contours of climatological-mean Eady growth rate maxima for August–November in units of day⁻¹, computed using ERA5 wind and geopotential data using Eq. 4.

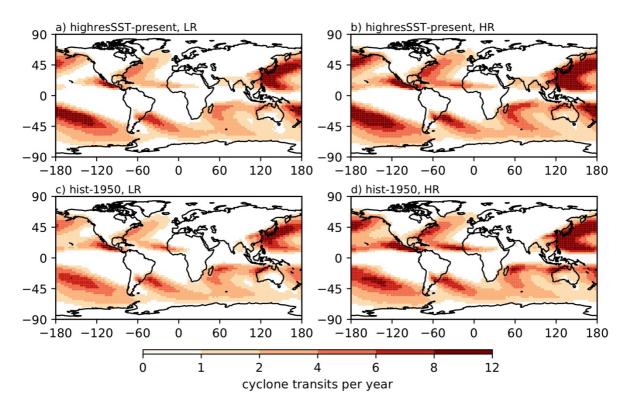


Fig. S3. Historical ensemble-mean track density simulated in low- and high-resolution (a–b) *highresSST-present* and (c–d) *hist-1950* experiments. Unit is cyclone transits per year per unit area (within a 5° geodesic radius of storm centres). Colour scale is the same as in Fig. 1a.

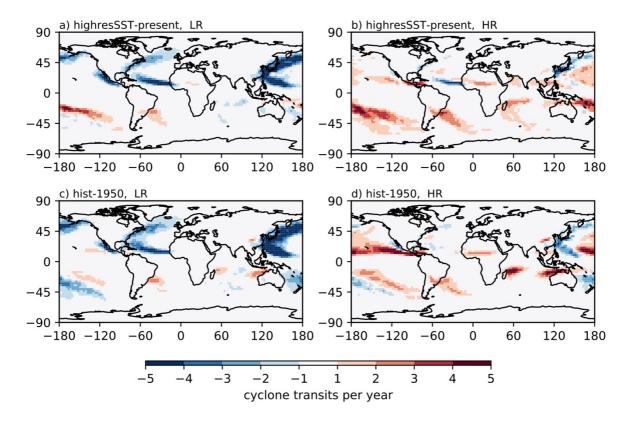


Fig. S4. Historical ensemble-mean track density biases (compared with multireanalysis-mean track density) simulated in low- and high-resolution (a–b) *highresSST-present* and (c–d) *hist-1950* experiments. Unit is cyclone transits per year per unit area (within a 5° geodesic radius of storm centres). Colour scale is the same as in Fig. 1c, e.

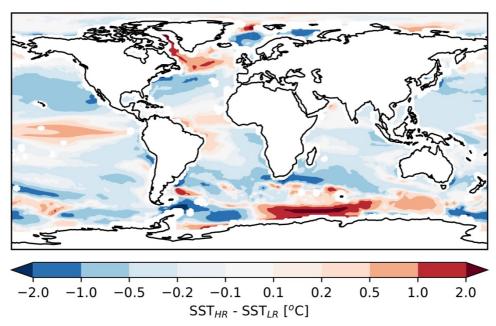


Fig. S5. Historical ensemble-mean August-November SST difference between low- and high-resolution *hist-1950* simulations. The low- and high-resolution sub-ensembles correspond to those of Fig. 1. Note the non-linear colour scale.

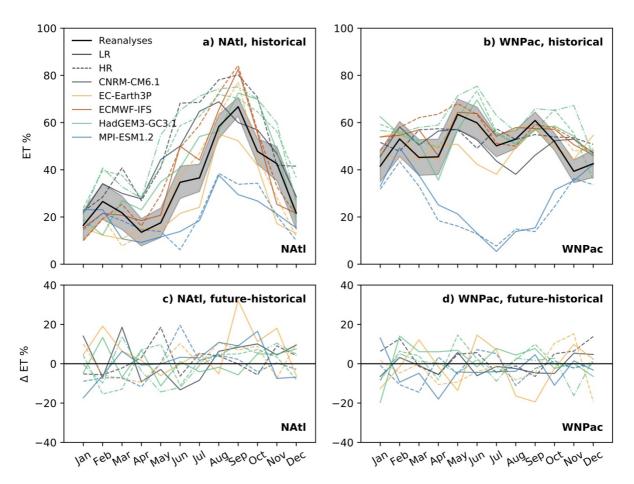


Fig. S6. Historical seasonal cycle of ET % in the (a) North Atlantic and (b) Western North Pacific basins. Shown are the multireanalysis mean (black with shading indicating standard error) and low- (solid) and high-resolution (dashed) *highresSST-present* simulations. (c–d) The difference between the future and historical seasonal cycles in ET % (i.e., *highresSST-future* minus *highresSST-present*). HadGEM3-GC3.1-MM is indicated by the dot-dashed line.

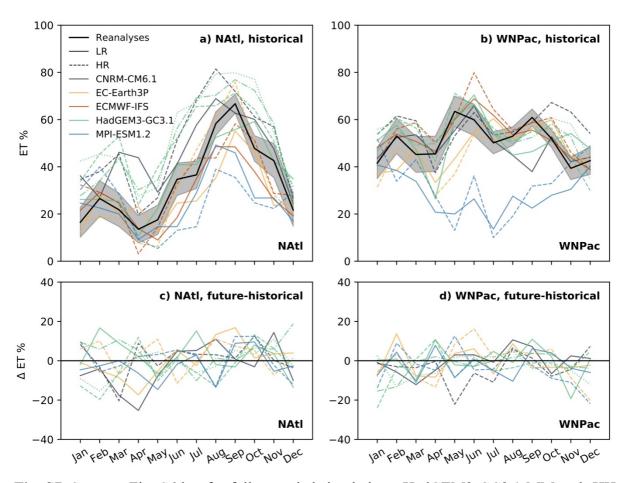


Fig. S7. Same as Fig. S6 but for fully coupled simulations. HadGEM3-GC3.1-MM and -HH are indicated by the dot-dashed and dotted lines, respectively.

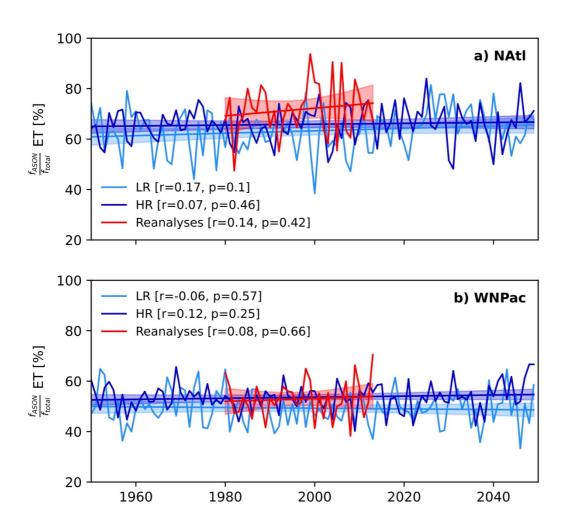


Fig. S8. Secular change in the ensemble-mean proportion of ET events occurring during August–November in reanalyses (red) and in low- (pale blue) and high-resolution (dark blue) fully coupled simulations for (a) the North Atlantic and (b) the Western North Pacific basins. Shading shows the 95 % confidence interval for the linear fit. ECMWF-IFS is not included in this analysis because no future simulations were performed in HighResMIP for this model.