NKS NordRisk II:
Atlas of long-range atmospheric dispersion and deposition of radionuclides from selected risk sites in the Northern Hemisphere

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Abstract

The present atlas has been developed within the NKS/NordRisk-II project "Nuclear risk from atmospheric dispersion in Northern Europe". The atlas describes risks from hypothetical long-range dispersion and deposition of radionuclides from 16 nuclear risk sites on the Northern Hemisphere. The atmospheric dispersion model calculations cover a period of 30 days following each release to ensure almost complete deposition of the dispersed material. The atlas contains maps showing the total deposition and time-integrated air concentration of Cs-137 and I-131 based on three years of meteorological data spanning the climate variability associated with the North Atlantic Oscillation, and corresponding time evolution of the ensemble mean atmospheric dispersion.

Key words

Atlas of long-range atmospheric dispersion and deposition of radionuclides from selected risk sites in the Northern Hemisphere

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Introduction

The NKS NordRisk II project is a continuation of the NKS project NordRisk. The purpose of the first project was to develop an atlas describing risks from long-range atmospheric dispersion and deposition of radionuclides from selected nuclear risk sites in the Northern Hemisphere. While means for practical assessment of the risk due to long-range atmospheric transport from accidental releases of radionuclides was produced in the NordRisk project, one of the objectives of NordRisk II has been to extend the applicability of the atlas. This has been done by more than doubling the number of risk sites and considering more climate regimes. For each risk site annual simulations describing long-term long-range atmospheric transport and deposition of radionuclides have been performed. The base years were selected to represent various climate regimes relevant for the Nordic countries.

As in the first NordRisk atlas, the risk indicators for the extended atlas are time-integrated activity in air and total deposition fields. The atlas is intended as a practical tool for probabilistic risk assessment. In combination with source term estimates for a particular nuclear installation, the atlas can be used in emergency preparedness planning as well as for educational purposes. For an imminent release of radionuclides, the atlas may provide a first assessment of the possible range of the atmospheric transport of radioactive material. For continuous emissions of radionuclides or other contaminants from a risk site, the atlas directly provides the expected geographical scale of contamination. In addition, the time development of the ensemble (annual) mean fields from a single release site is shown, providing the expected timescales for the atmospheric transport.

Although the main emphasis has been on atmospheric transport of radioactive materials the analysis and atlas readily applies also to non-radioactive releases.

Source term and risk sites

Sixteen different release sites in the Northern Hemisphere have been selected for the atlas.

Table 1: Geographic coordinates in decimal degrees of the nuclear risk sites selected for the atlas, with abbreviations used in the text in parenthesis and corresponding plates with figures.

Risk site	lon ($°E$)	lat ($°N$)	plate
Balakovo (BAL)	47.37	51.92	1-3
Belojarsk (BEL)	61.32	56.85	4-6
Bilibino (BIL)	166.45	68.05	7-9
Borssele (BOR)	3.72	51.43	10-12
Chernobyl (CHE)	30.25	51.30	13-15
Dav. Bes.[1] (DAV)	-83.09	41.60	16-18
Dukovany (DUK)	16.13	49.08	19-21
Kanupp (KAN)	66.79	24.87	22-24
Kola (KOL)	32.75	67.75	25-27
Kosloduj (KOS)	23.63	43.75	28-30
Leningrad (LEN)	29.00	59.90	31-33
Nov. Zem.[2] (NOV)	54.50	72.50	34-36
Sav. River[3] (SAV)	-81.70	33.30	37-39
Sellafield (SEL)	-3.50	54.42	41-42
Sinpo (SIN)	128.22	40.00	43-45
Tricastin (TRI)	4.73	44.33	46-48

All sites are associated with major nuclear installations: Balakovo, Belojarsk, Bilibino, Kola, Leningrad and Novaya Zemlya in Russia, Borssele in the Netherlands, Chernobyl in Ukraine, Dukovany in the Czech Republic, Davis Besse and Savannah River in the USA, Kanupp in Pakistan, Kosloduj in Bulgaria, Sellafield in the United Kingdom, Sinpo in North Korea and Tricastin in France. The sites are selected to be representative of different climates and to represent both coastal and continental regions. In Table 1 and Figure 1, the location of the release sites are shown.

Releases of three main radionuclides are considered separately for each release site, caesium embedded in aerosols (^{137}Cs), iodine in aerosols (^{131}I) and iodine in the elementary gas phase (^{131}I$_{gas}$). These species have been chosen based on their relevance in nuclear accidental releases and their span in half life (Table 2). The assumed dispersion parameters, used in the modelling part, specific to the three releases, are listed in Table 2.

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[1]Davis Besse
[2]Novaya Zemlya
[3]Savannah River

Figure 1: Geographical positions of the selected risk sites considered in NordRisk II. Abbreviations can be seen in Table 1. The top map displays sites in Asia and Europe, the middle map is a zoom over Europe and the bottom one displays sites in USA. The red crosses indicate a horizontal distance of 500 km on either side of two sites.

Table 2: Dispersion and deposition parameters of released radionuclides. The nuclides ^{137}Cs and ^{131}I are in aerosols while ^{131}I$_{gas}$ is in gas phase.

	^{137}**Cs**	^{131}**I**	^{131}**I**$_{gas}$
Half life (days)	1.1×10^4	8.07	8.07
Dry deposition speed (m s^{-1})	0.0015	0.0015	0.015
Particle diameter (μm)	0.3	0.3	0

For the aerosols, a typical diameter of 0.3 μm is assumed. In all cases, non-buoyant ground-level releases (cold releases) are assumed, and the radionuclides are released at a constant emission rate. The parameterization of wet deposition follows Baklanov and Sørensen (2001), and accordingly gases are not scavenged by precipitation.

Meteorological data

The meteorological fields used as input for the dispersion model simulations were taken from the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) re-analysis project (ERA-40) database (http://www.ecmwf.int). A three hourly input frequency was used, the horizontal resolution of the re-analysed fields was 1.125° while 28 hybrid levels were used in the vertical.

On the annual time scales considered here, the meteorological conditions and thereby the dispersion characteristics may vary from year to year due to natural climate variability. It is, therefore, of importance to select base years which are representative of the possible changes. The main mode of variability over northern Europe is the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO). The NAO affects the large-scale atmospheric flow from North America to northern Asia. A positive NAO index implies a stronger than usual subtropical high pressure and a deeper than normal Icelandic low. The increased pressure difference results in more and stronger winter storms crossing the Atlantic Ocean on a northerly track. This results in warm and wet winters in Europe, and in cold and dry winters in northern Canada and Greenland. The
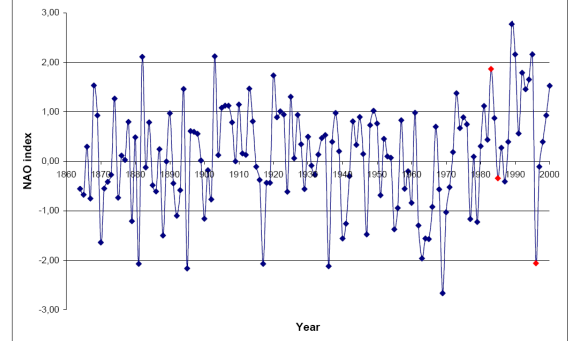

Figure 2: North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) index for the years 1864-2000. The index measures the anomaly in sea-level pressure between the Icelandic low and Azore high-pressure systems. The base years 1983, 1985 and 1996 used in this study are marked with red dots.

eastern USA experiences mild and wet winter conditions. A negative NAO index corresponds to a weak subtropical high and a weak Icelandic low. The reduced pressure gradient results in fewer and weaker winter storms crossing on a west-east pathway. They bring moist air into the Mediterranean and cold air to northern Europe. The North American east coast experiences outbreaks of cold air and hence snowy weather conditions. Greenland, however, will have higher winter temperatures. The NAO index varies from year to year, but exhibits a tendency to remain in one phase for intervals lasting several years (Figure 2). The years 1983, 1985 and 1996 were chosen for the simulations because they represent a large positive, an almost neutral and a large negative NAO index, respectively.

Dispersion modelling

Long-range atmospheric dispersion calculations were performed with the comprehensive atmospheric dispersion model DERMA (Danish Emergency Response Model of the Atmosphere) (Sørensen (1998); Sørensen et al. (2007)). DERMA is a three-dimensional La-

grangian stochastic puff-particle model capable of simulating plume dispersion at ranges from about 20 km and up to the global scale (Sørensen et al. (1998)). It is in use operationally in Denmark for emergency preparedness (Sørensen et al. (2000, 2001); Hoe et al. (2002); Mikkelsen et al. (2003)), and it is exercised and maintained within the EU ensemble modelling activities (Galmarini et al. (2004a,b)). DERMA has also been used for probabilistic risk assessment, generating yearly average concentration and deposition fields (Baklanov et al. (2003); Mahura et al. (2003); Lauritzen et al. (2005); Mahura et al. (2005a,b); Lauritzen et al. (2006); Baklanov et al. (2007a); Lauritzen et al. (2007)). Methodological aspects of probabilistic long-term modelling using DERMA are described by Baklanov et al. (2006, 2007a). For the present calculations the integration domain is taken as the Northern Hemisphere. During the DERMA simulations 28 levels are used in the vertical. A batch of puffs is released every 15 minutes and the atmospheric dispersion and deposition of each puff is calculated for a period of 30 days following the release. The deposition comprises both dry and wet deposition. The results of the modelling activities are evaluated on the same grid as used for the meteorological data. Based on the 1983, 1985 and 1996 meteorological data, daily and yearly averages of time-integrated air concentration and deposition density fields have been derived.

Ensemble mean dispersion

Long-range atmospheric dispersion and deposition comprise a deterministic element as well as stochastic properties. The long-term ensemble mean dispersion and deposition can be interpreted as the result of a deterministic flow of a one-particle density, while the air concentration and deposition fields resulting from a short-term release display stochastic fluctuations around the ensemble mean value (Lauritzen et al. (2006); Baklanov et al. (2007a)).

The annual averages of the radionuclide time-integrated air concentration and deposition for each of the three years considered are shown in Plates 1–48. These long-term averages constitute an approximation to the ensemble mean val-

ues. Total deposition (dry plus wet) and time-integrated concentration in ground-level air have been calculated following a unit release of ^{137}Cs, ^{131}I, and ^{131}I$_{gas}$, respectively. The figures indicate that the probabilistic properties of dispersion and deposition is fairly isotropic in space and not significantly affected by the NAO on the annual time scales considered here.

In Figure 7, the total deposition following a unit release from the Leningrad release site is shown as function of the distance from the release site (1983 data). In the figure, the scatter points show the results of the atmospheric dispersion calculations for each grid point on the Northern Hemisphere, while the inserted curves are the result of a non-linear regression to the scattered data (Lauritzen et al. (2006)). For both caesium and the two forms of iodine, a strong decrease of the deposition density with distance from the release site is observed, with caesium being deposited on average at somewhat larger distances from the release site than iodine.

Time development

While plates 1–48 provide the time-integrated concentration in air and total deposition of the radionuclides after a long integration time, it is important for emergency management also to predict the short-term development of the plume dispersion and deposition. In Figures 3–4 the root-mean-square distance from the release site is displayed as function of travel time for each of the release sites. Figures 5 and 6 display the time evolution of the total deposition and integrated concentration of ^{137}Cs 1, 2, 3, 7, 14 and 30 days after the release for the Leningrad release site (1983 only).
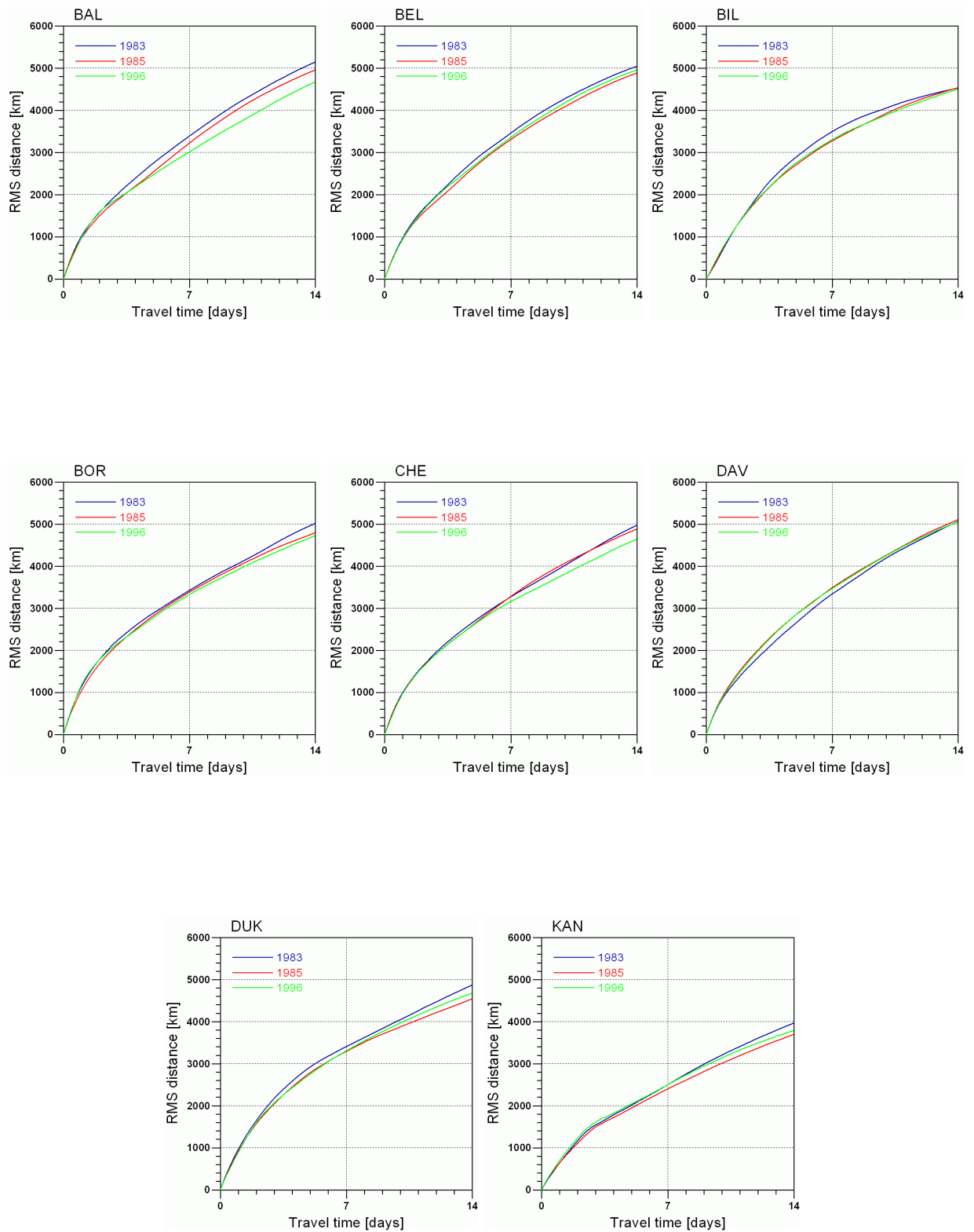
Figure 3: Root-mean-square distance from release sites, BAL, BEL, BIL, BOR, CHE, DAV, DUK and KAN (abbreviations refer to Table 1) to puff centres as function of travel time. Annual averages for 1983, 1985 and 1996.
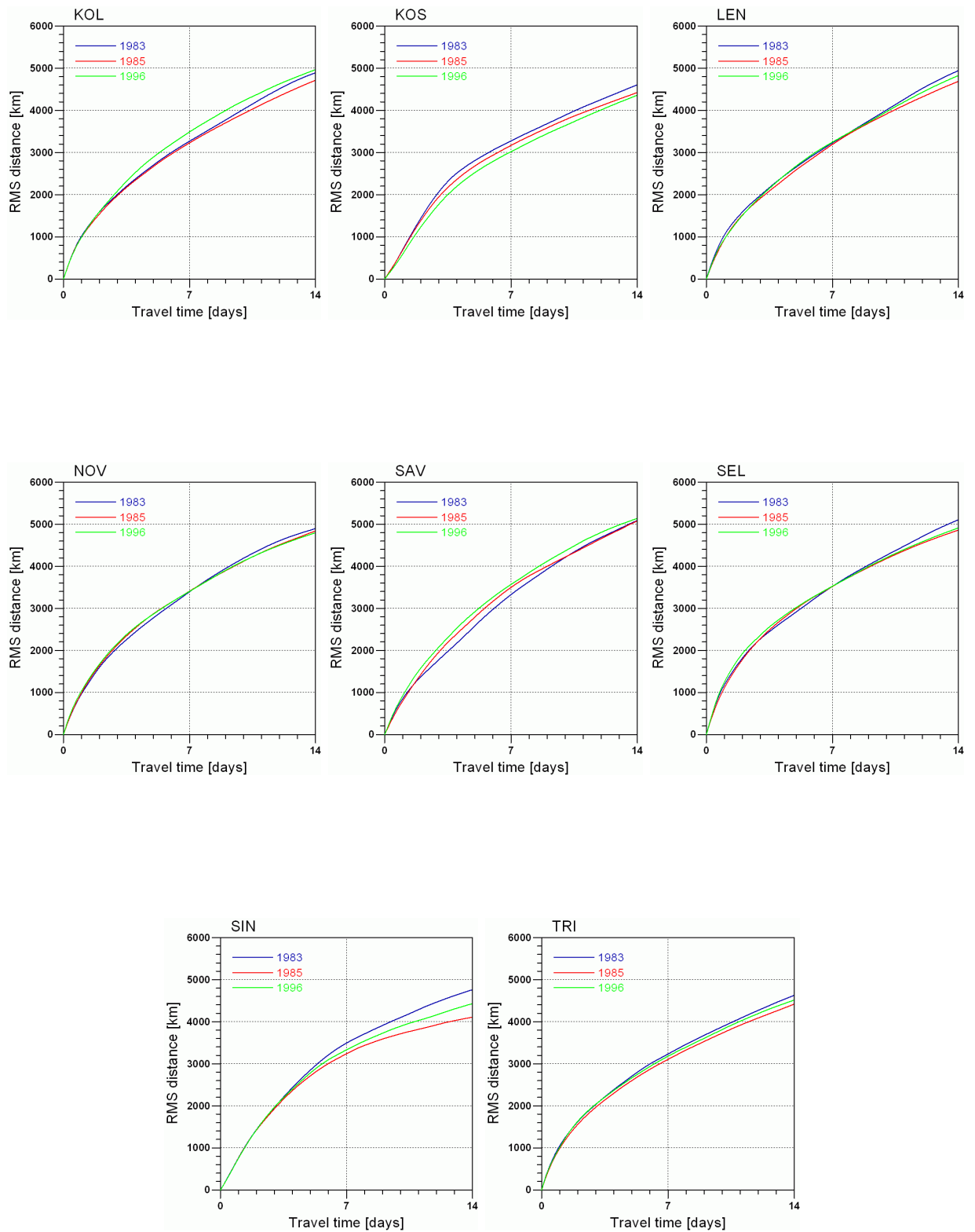
Figure 4: As in figure 3 but for release sites KOL, KOS, LEN, NOV, SAV, SEL, SIN and TRI (abbreviations refer to Table 1).
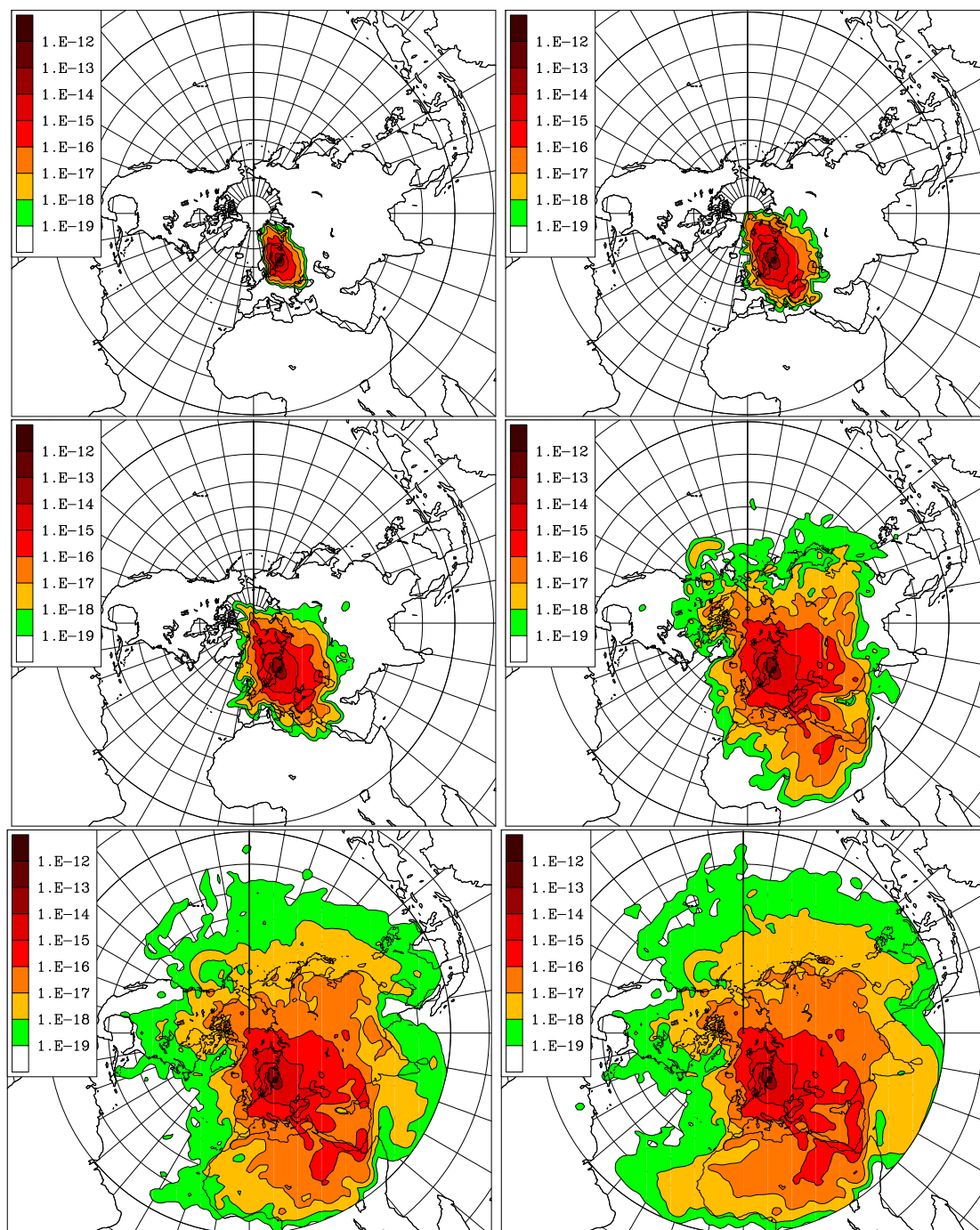
Figure 5: Time integrated surface concentration of ^{137}Cs (h m^{-3}) for the Leningrad release site with valid times 1, 2, 3, 7, 14 and 30 days, respectively, from upper left to lower right for the year 1983.
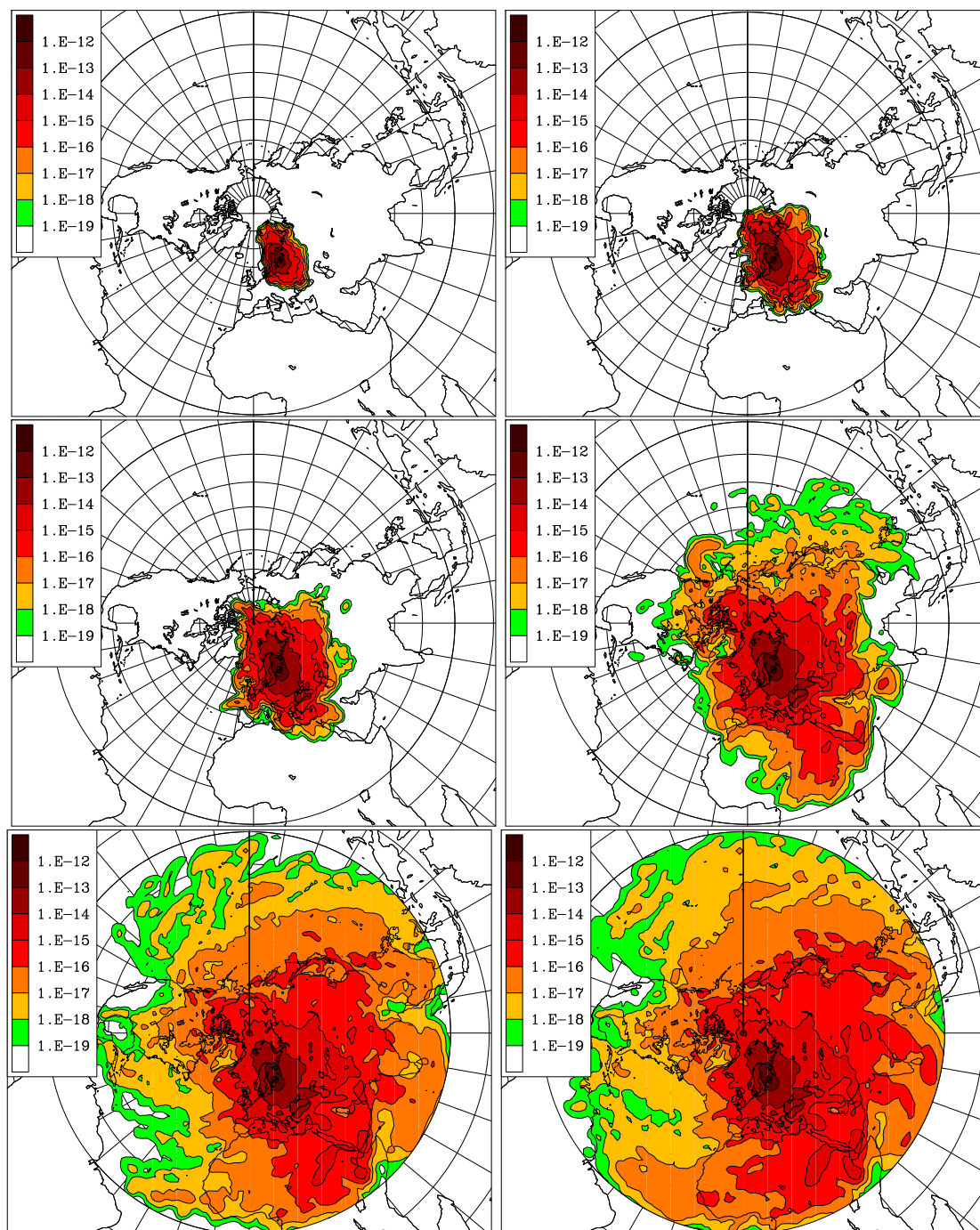
Figure 6: Total deposition of ^{137}Cs (m^{-2}) for the Leningrad release site with valid times 1, 2, 3, 7, 14 and 30 days, respectively, from upper left to lower right for the year 1983.
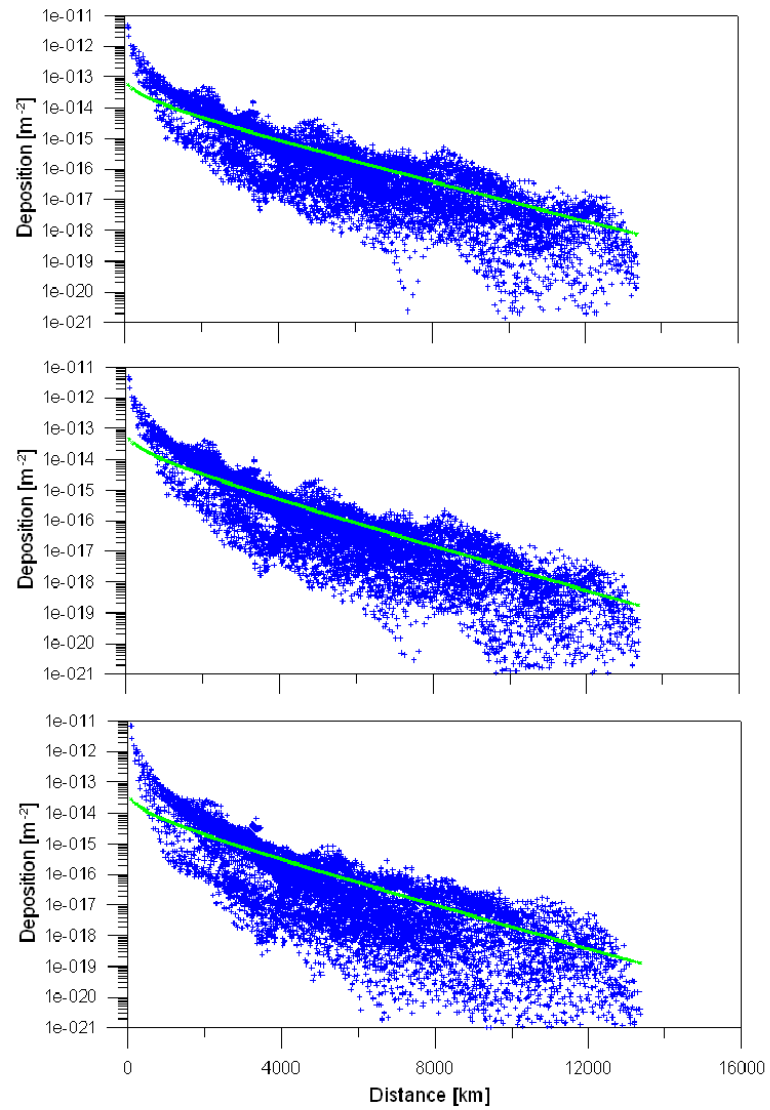
Figure 7: Annual mean deposition of ^{137}Cs (upper), ^{131}I (middle) and ^{131}I$_{gas}$ (lower) as function of the distance from the release site (Leningrad, 1983 data). The averages (inserted curves) result from a non-linear regression to the deposition data.

Plate 1   Nuclear power plant: **Balakovo**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**
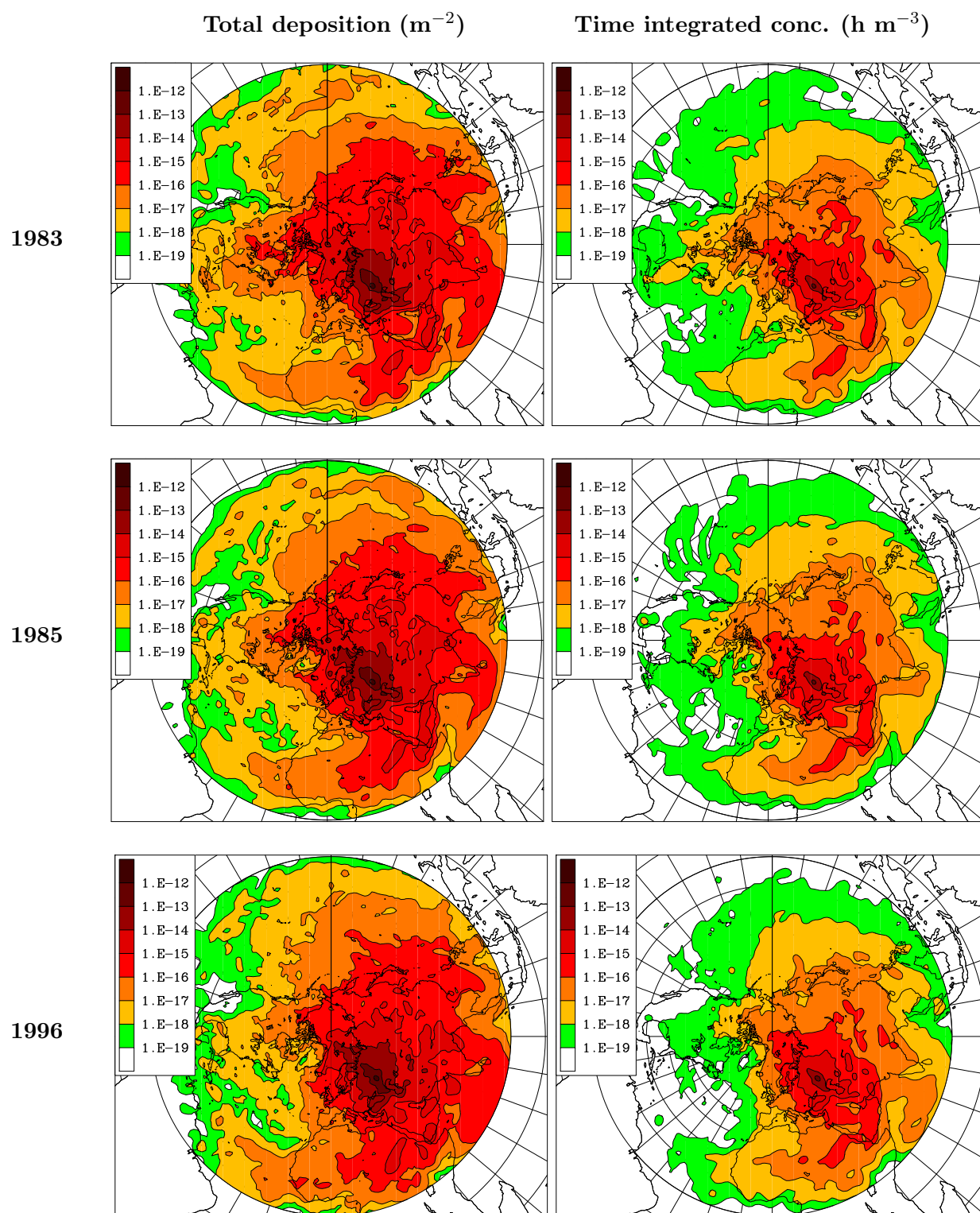
Total deposition (m^{-2})	**Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996

Plate 2   Nuclear power plant: **Balakovo**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

Plate 3   Nuclear power plant: **Balakovo**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
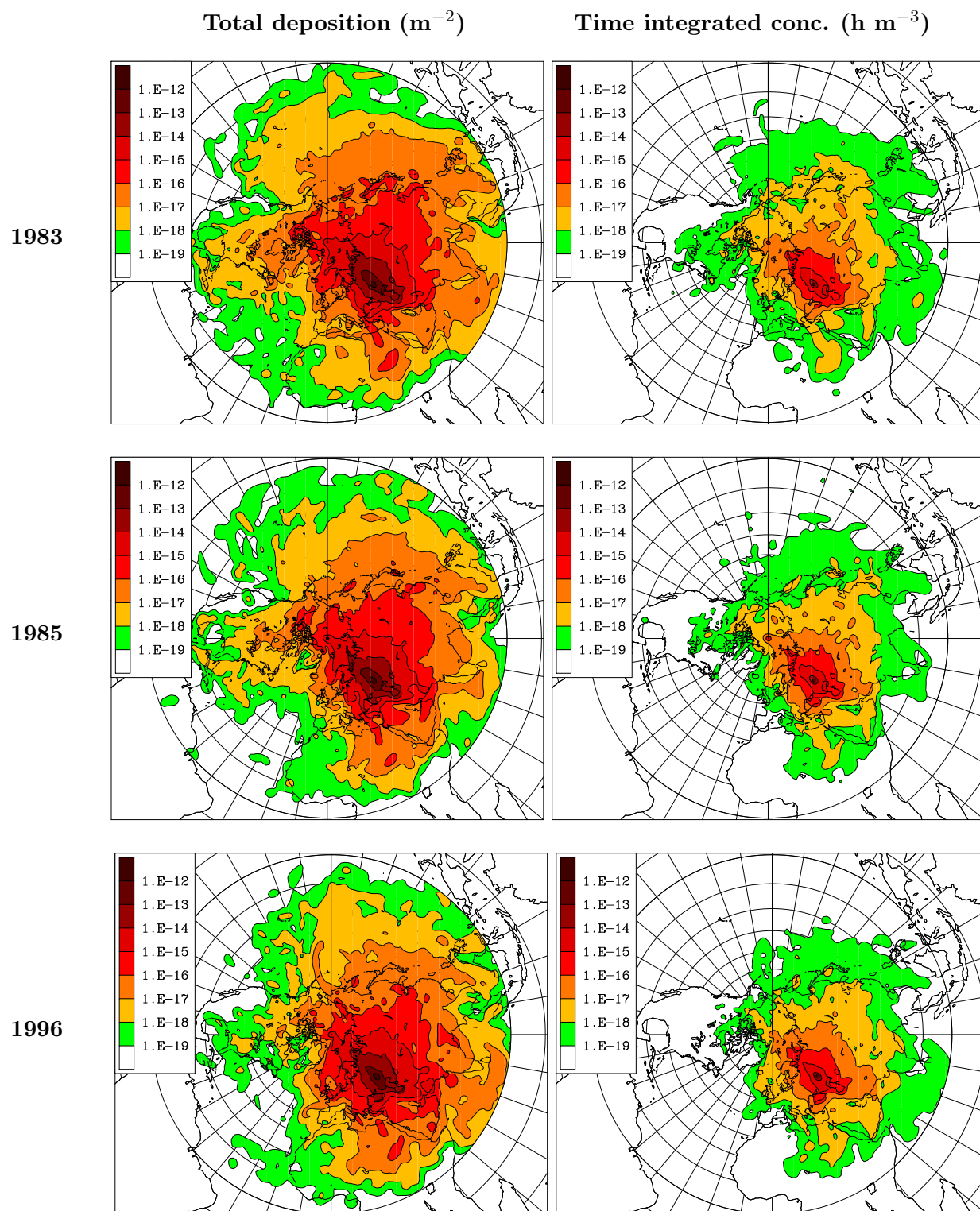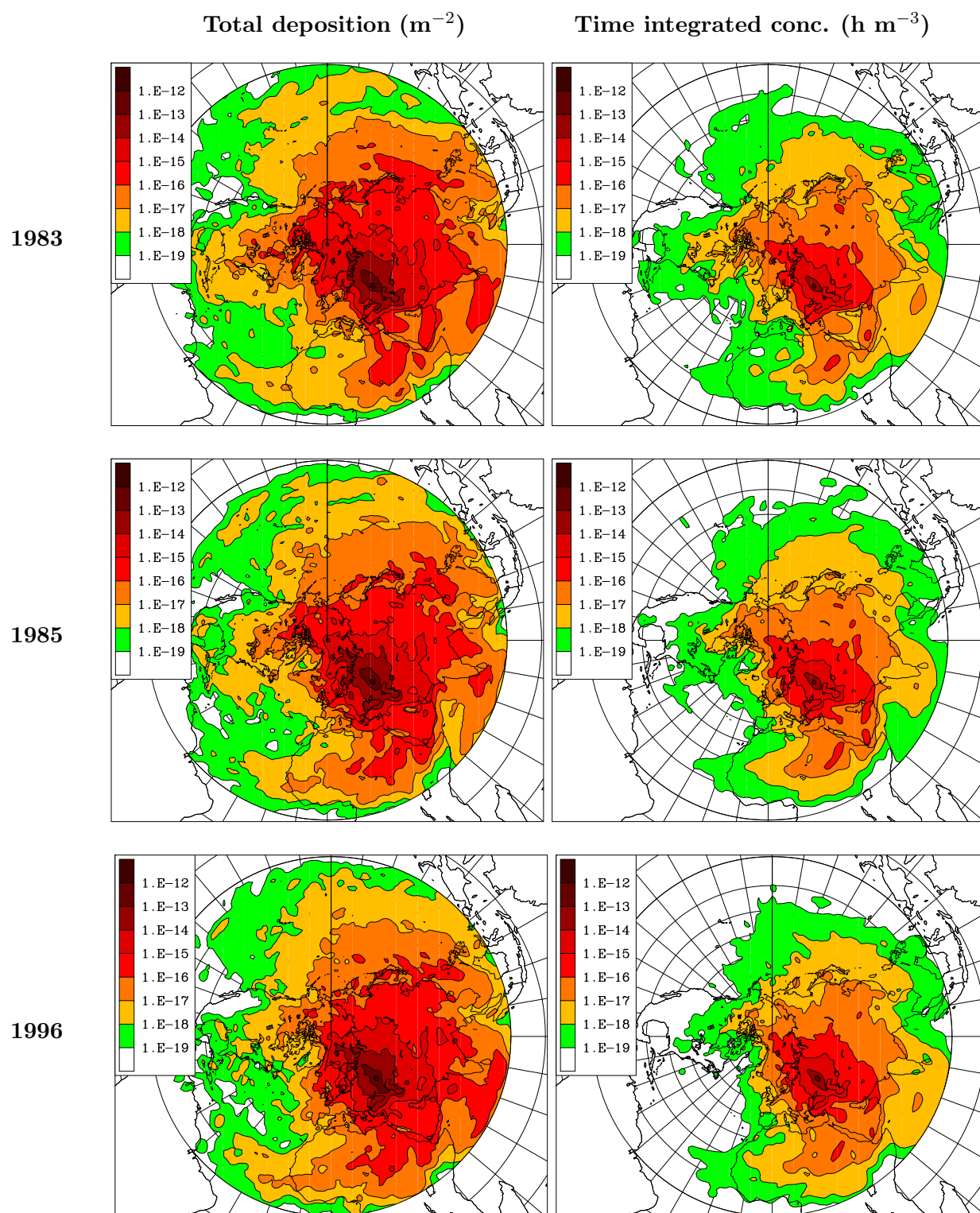
Plate 4   Nuclear power plant: **Belojarsk**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**
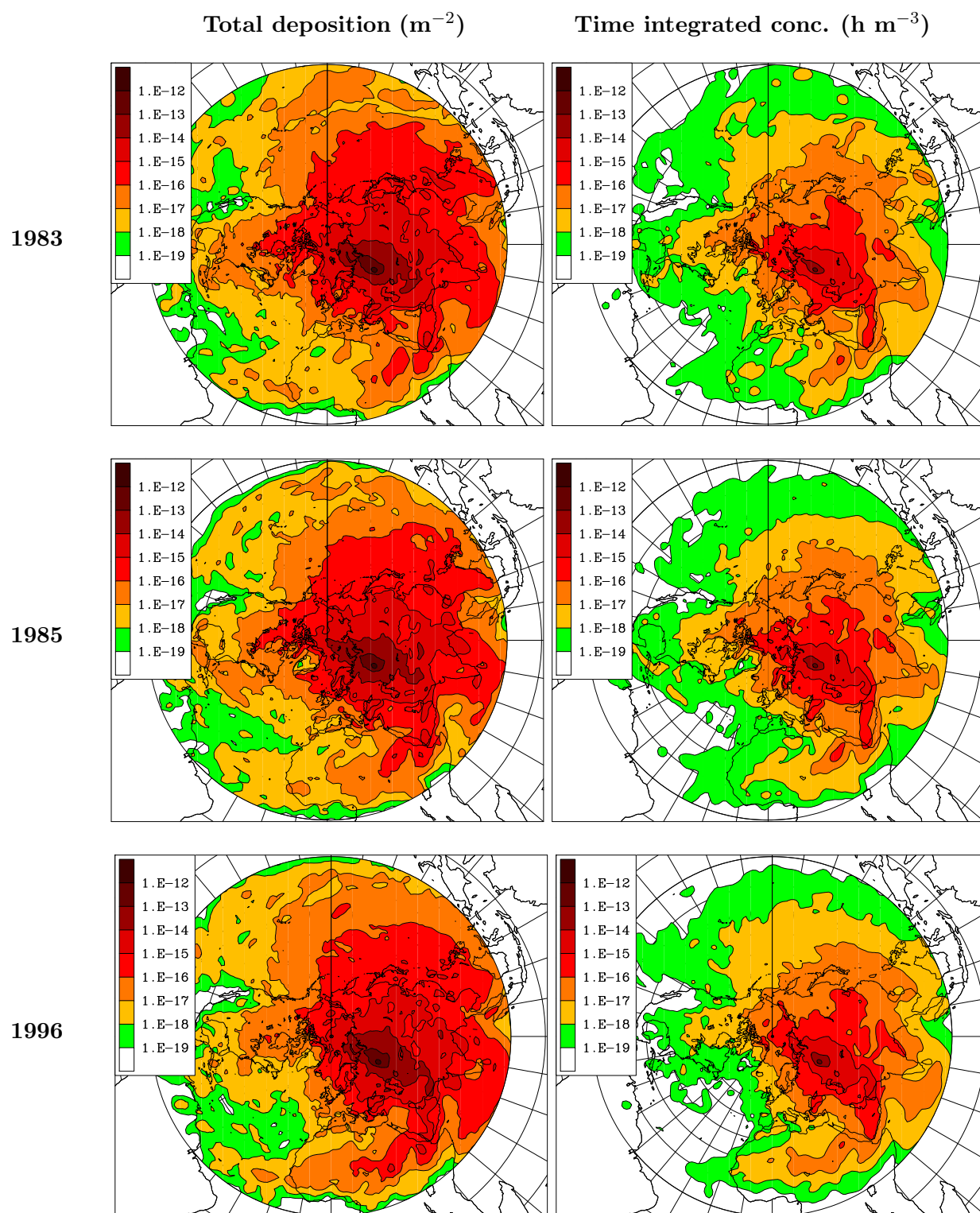
Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996

Plate 5   Nuclear power plant: **Belojarsk**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996

Plate 6   Nuclear power plant: **Belojarsk**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
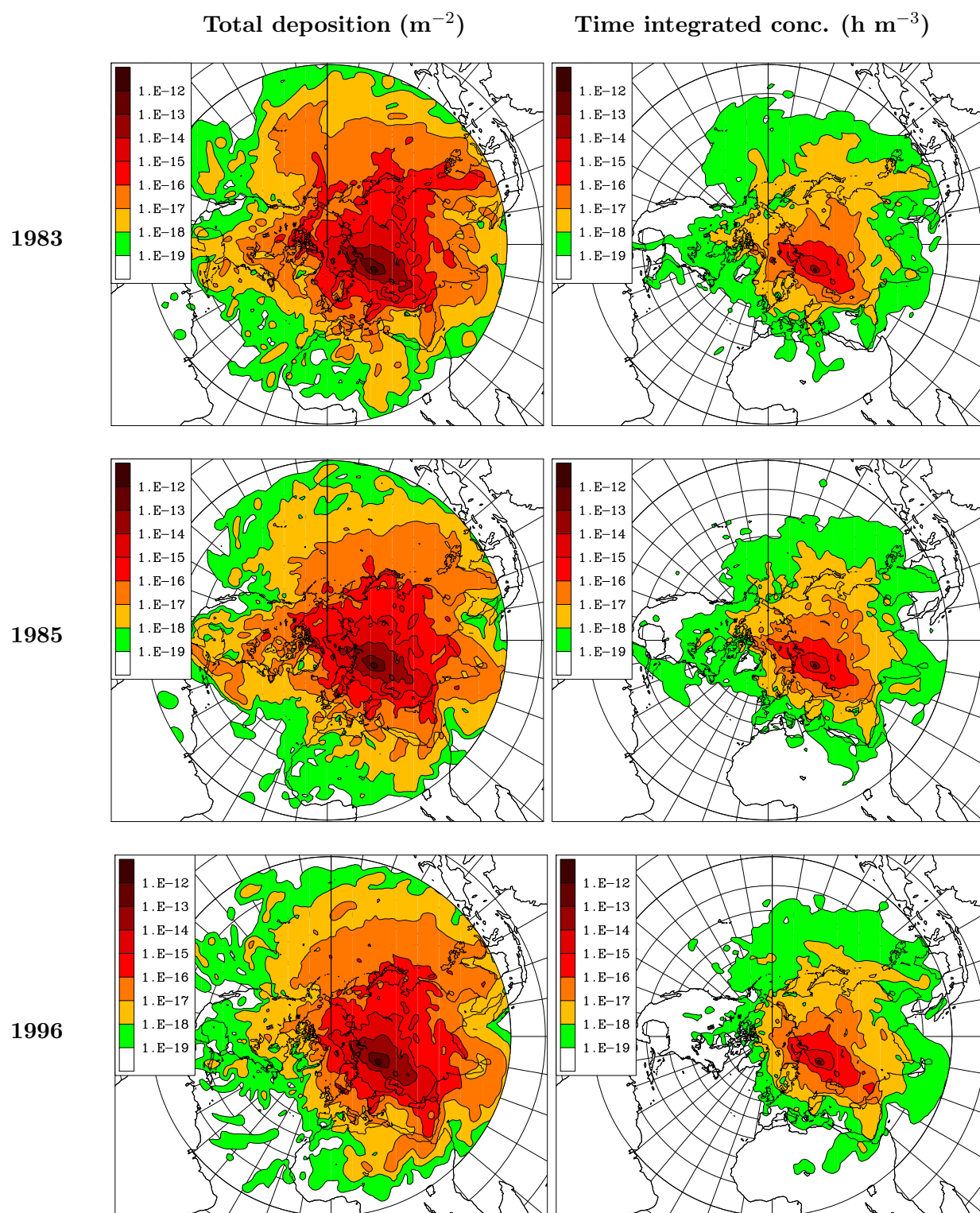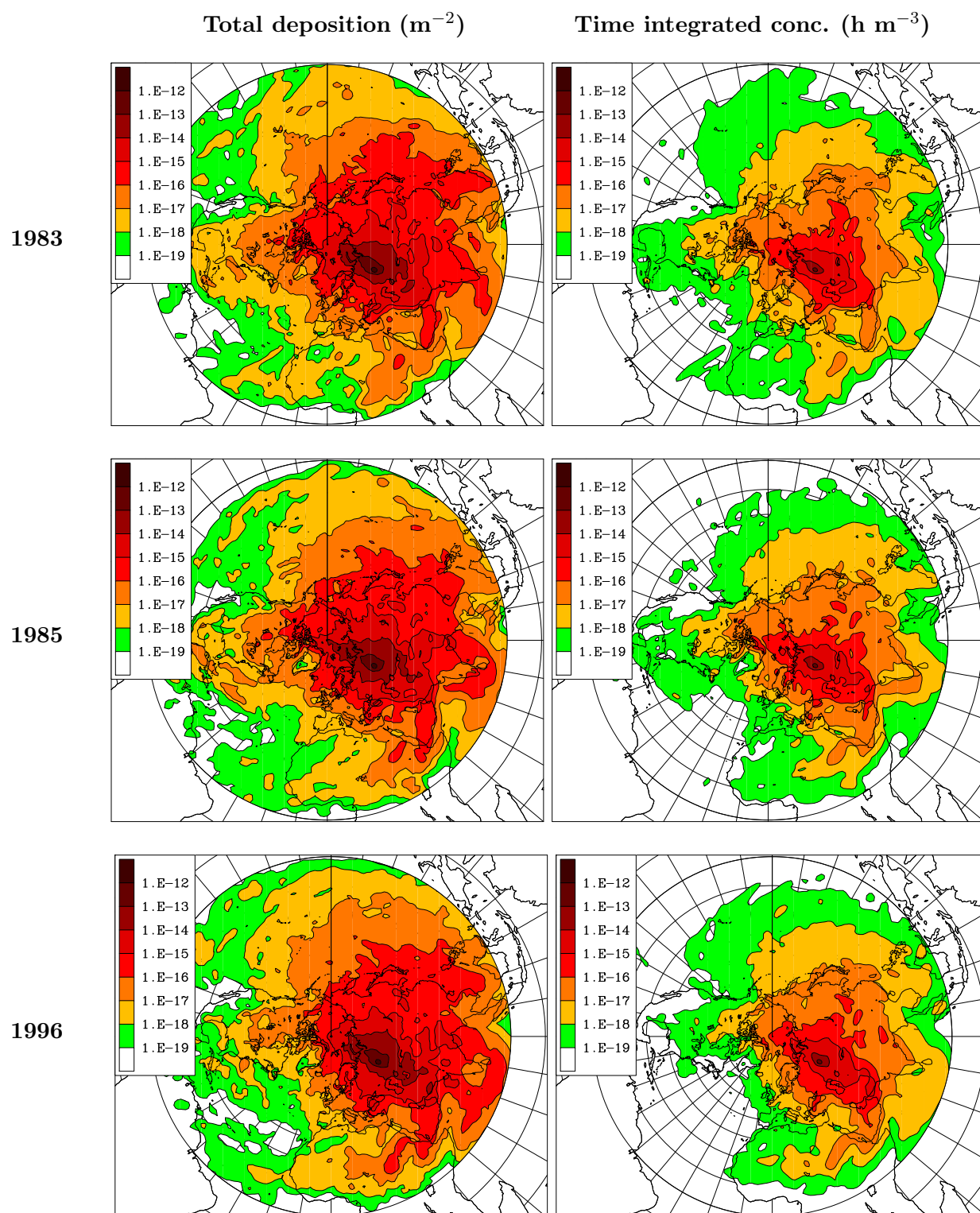
Plate 7   Nuclear power plant: **Bilibino**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**
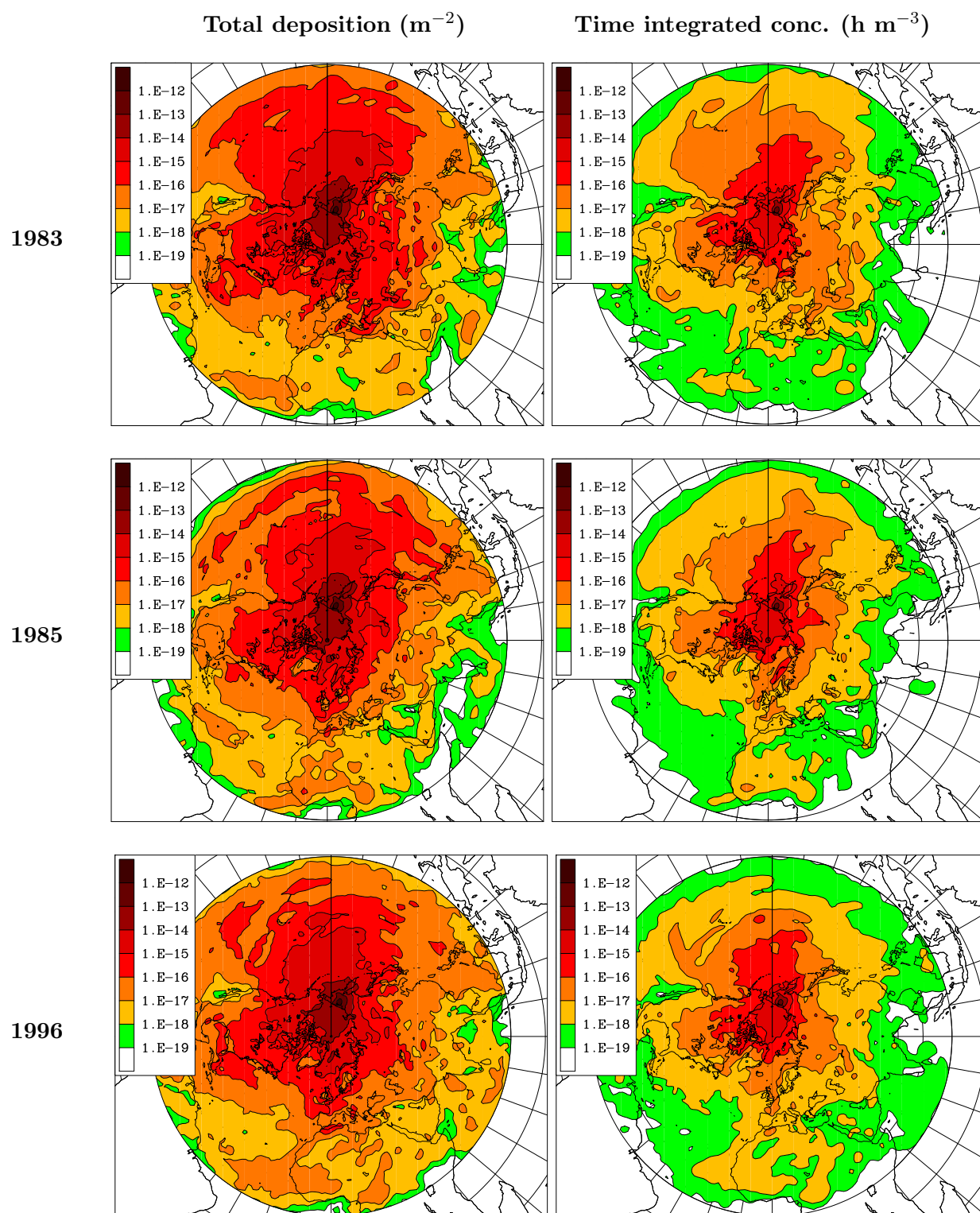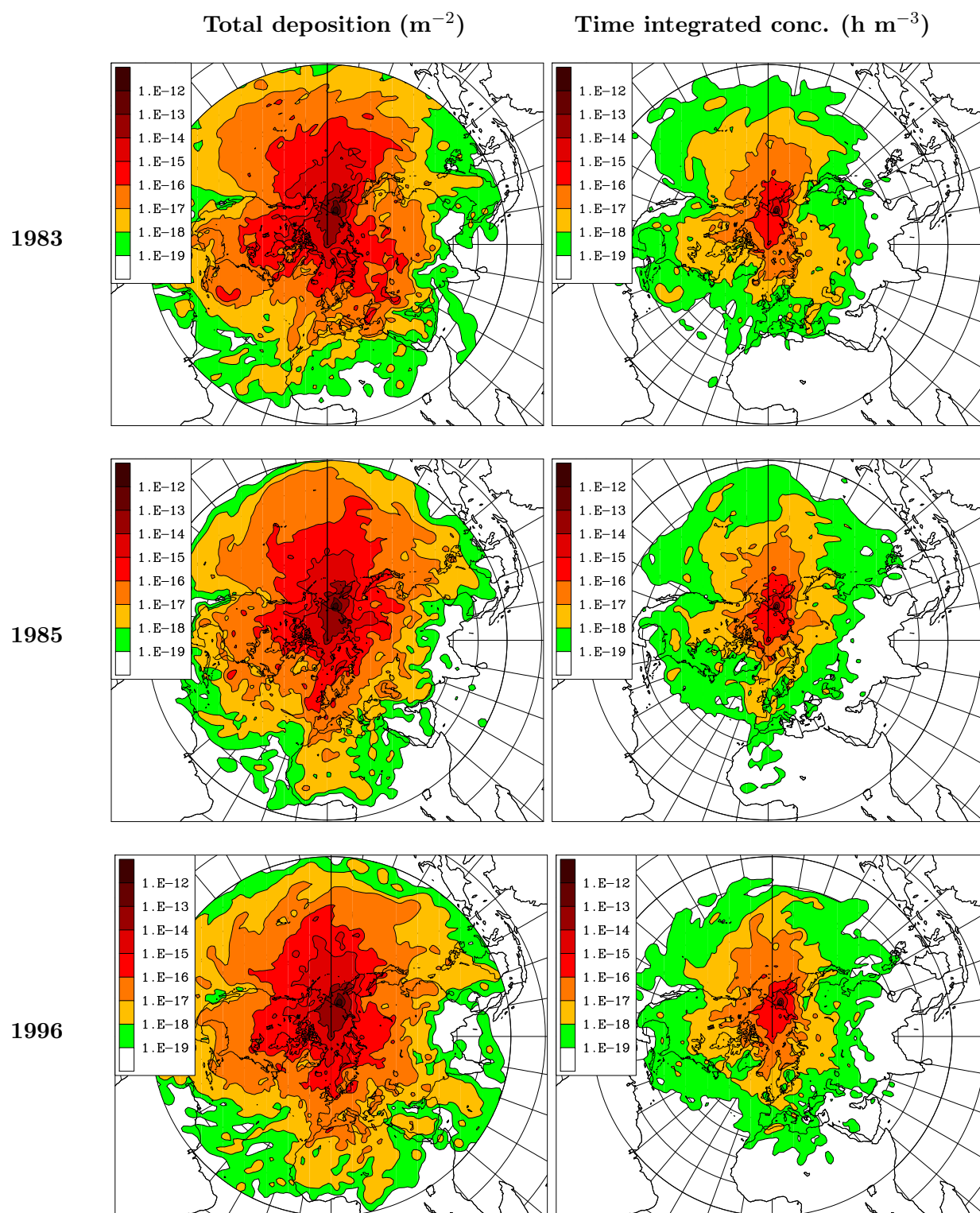
Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

Plate 8   Nuclear power plant: **Bilibino**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996

Plate 9　　　　Nuclear power plant: **Bilibino**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})　　　　**Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
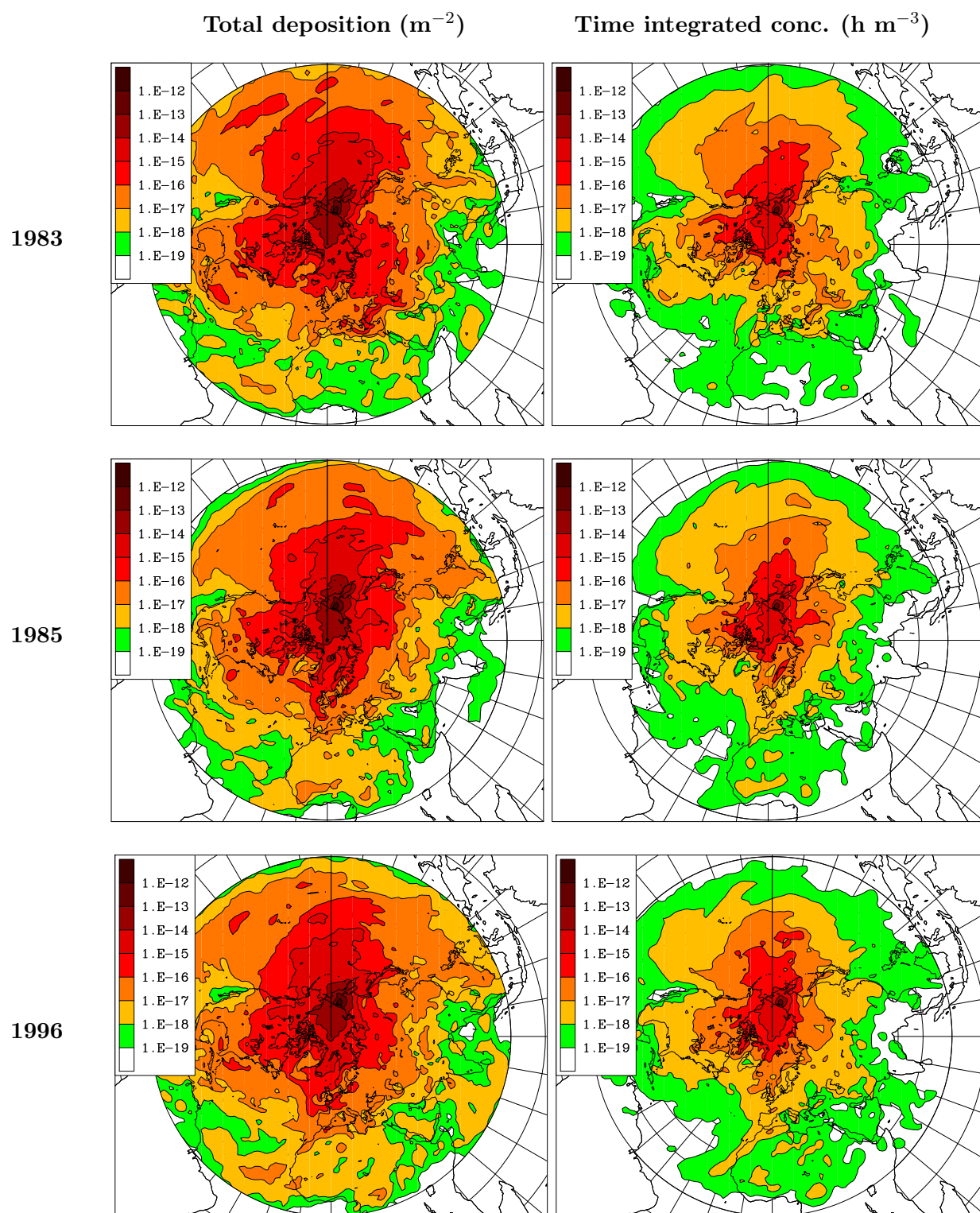
Plate 10   Nuclear power plant: **Borssele**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
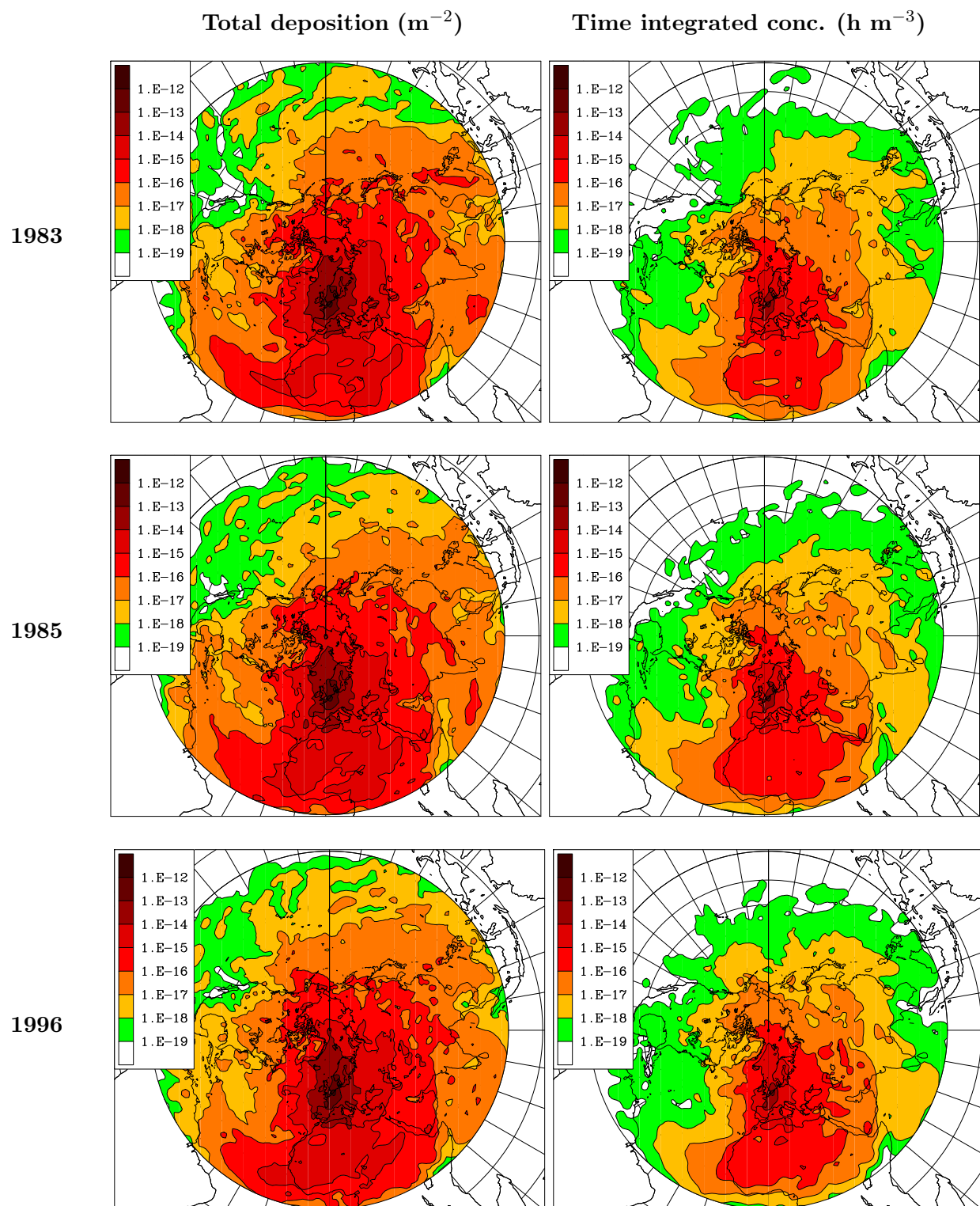
Plate 11 Nuclear power plant: **Borssele**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2}) **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
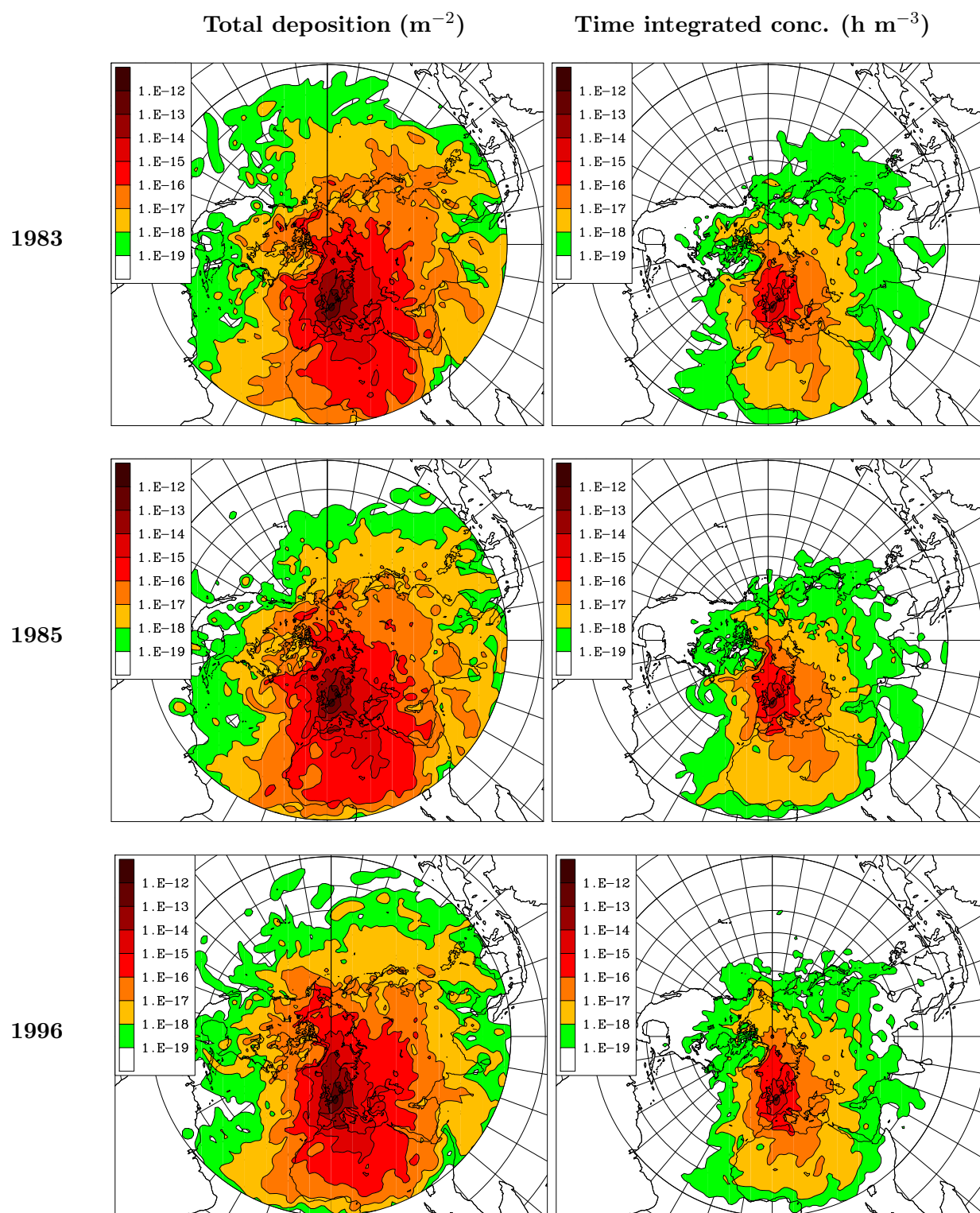
Plate 12 Nuclear power plant: **Borssele**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})
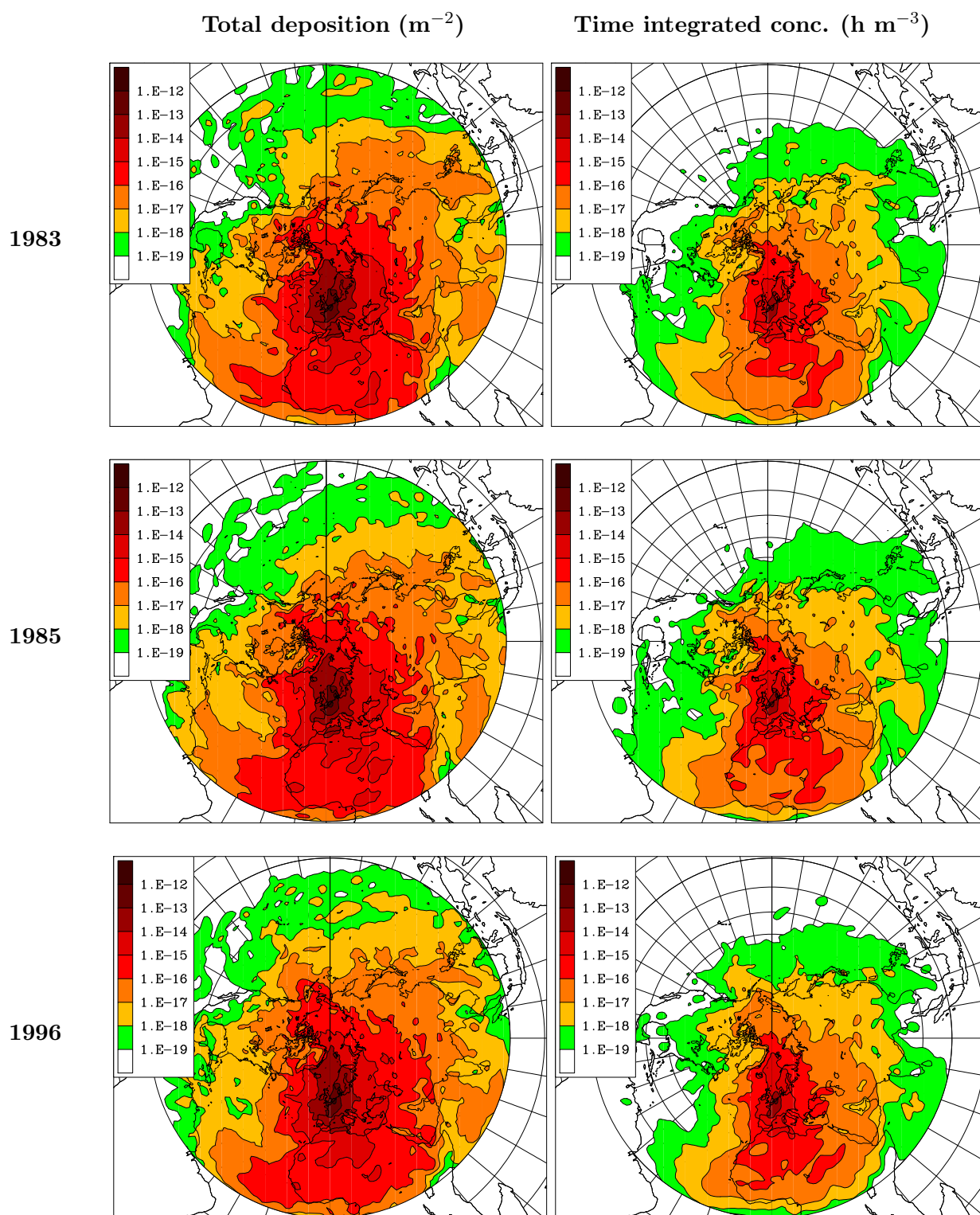
Plate 13   Nuclear power plant: **Chernobyl**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. ($h\ m^{-3}$)**
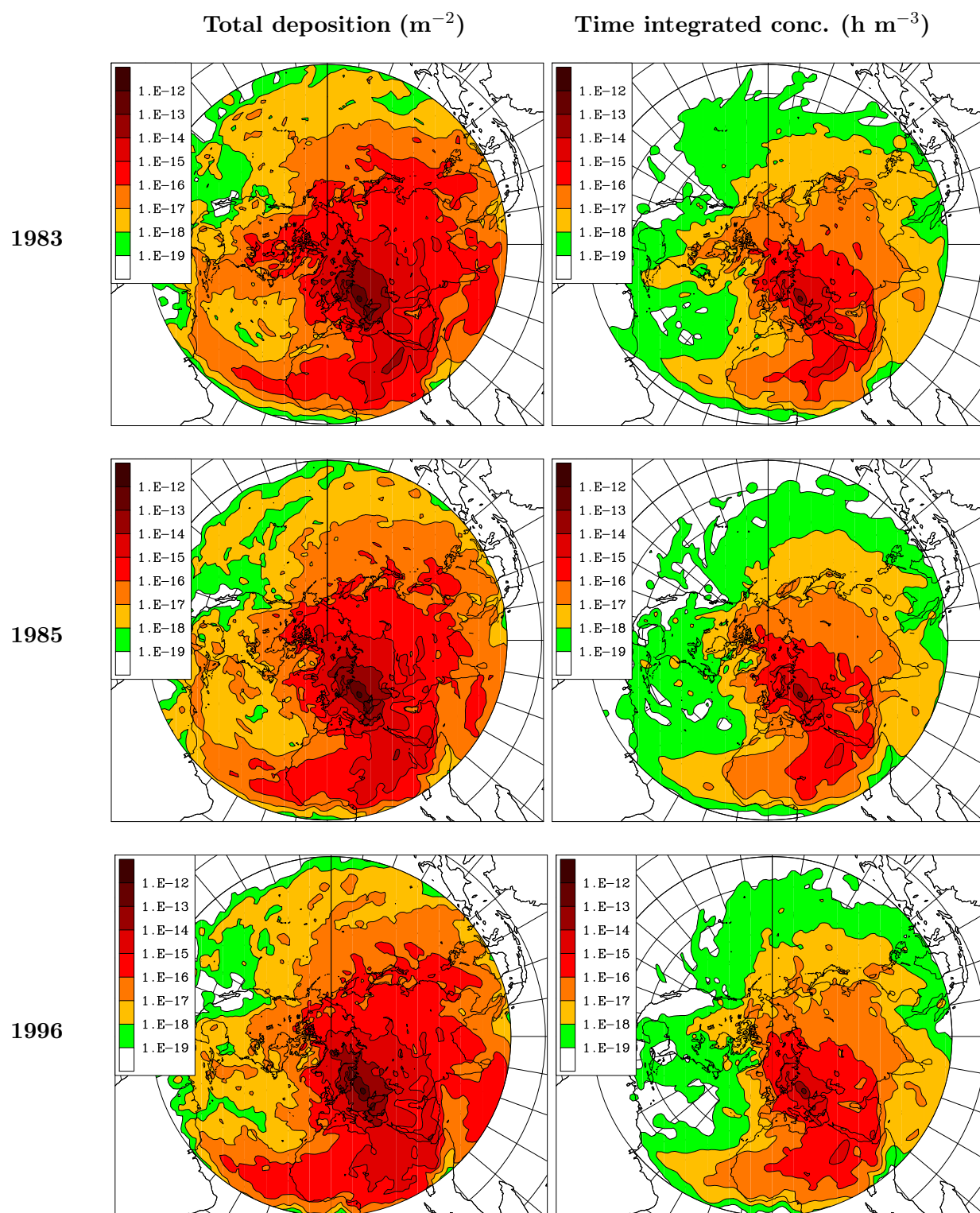
Plate 14   Nuclear power plant: **Chernobyl**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. ($\mathrm{h\ m}^{-3}$)**

1983

1985

1996
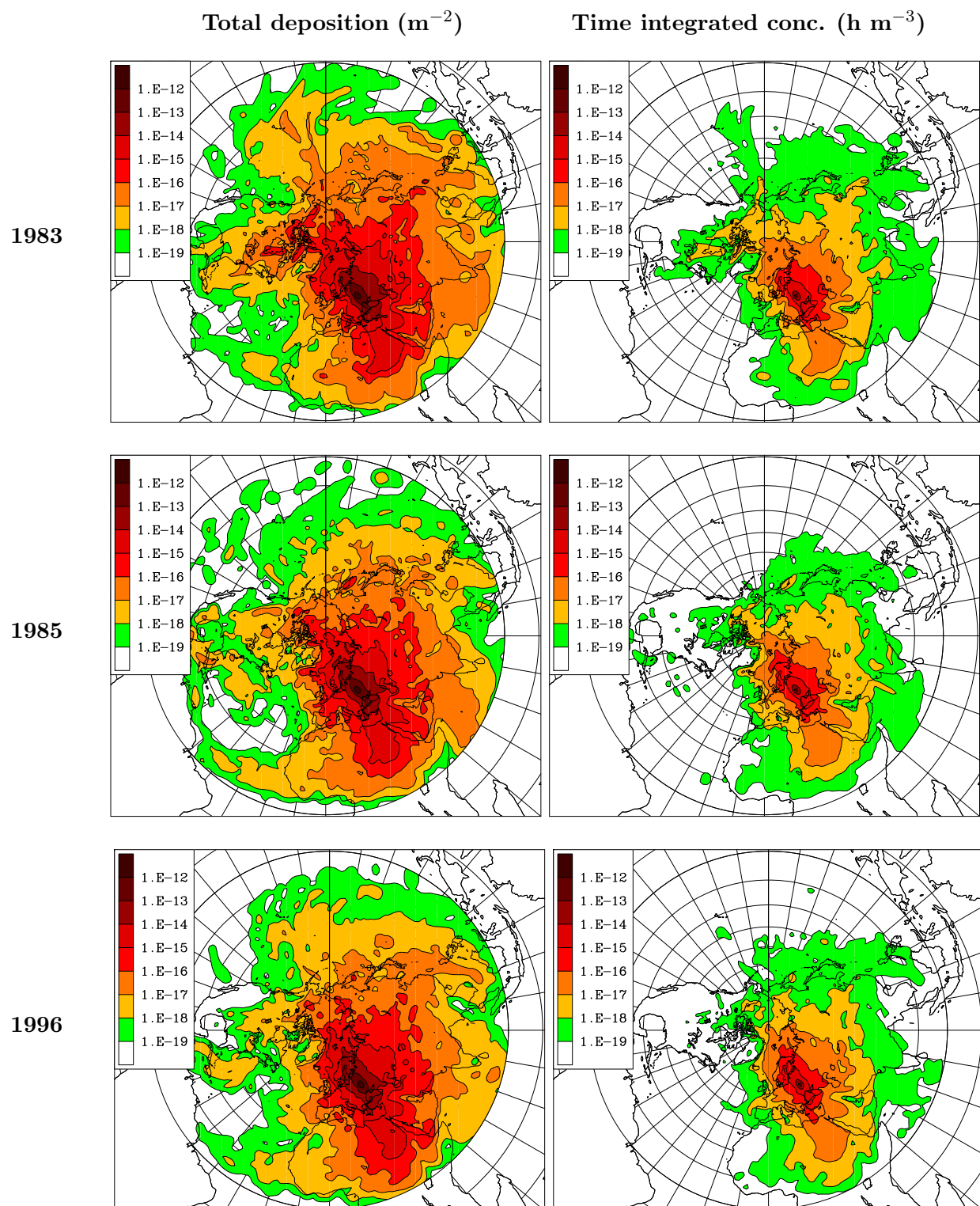
Plate 15 Nuclear power plant: **Chernobyl**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})

1983

1985

1996
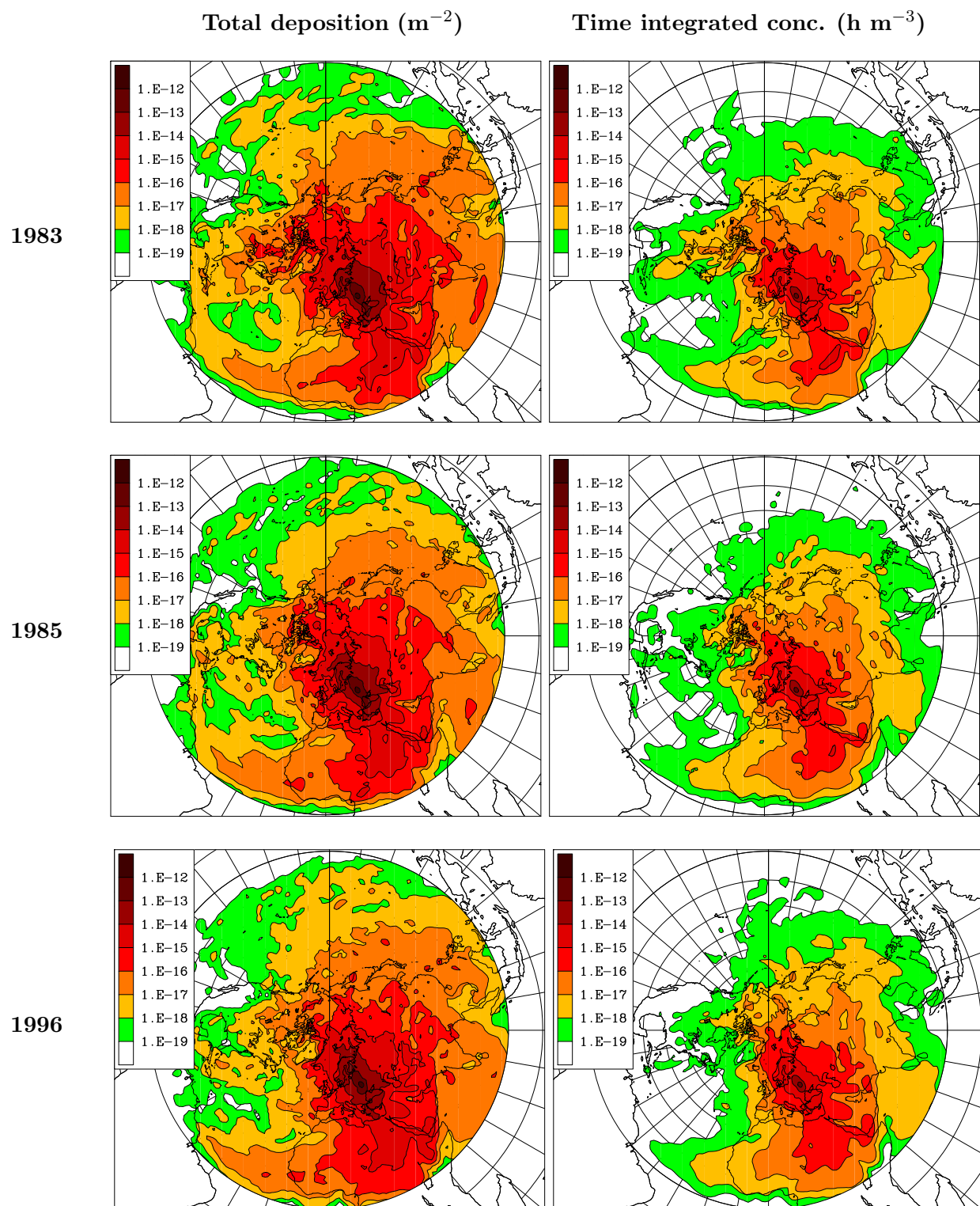
Plate 16 Nuclear power plant: **Davis Besse**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2}) **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
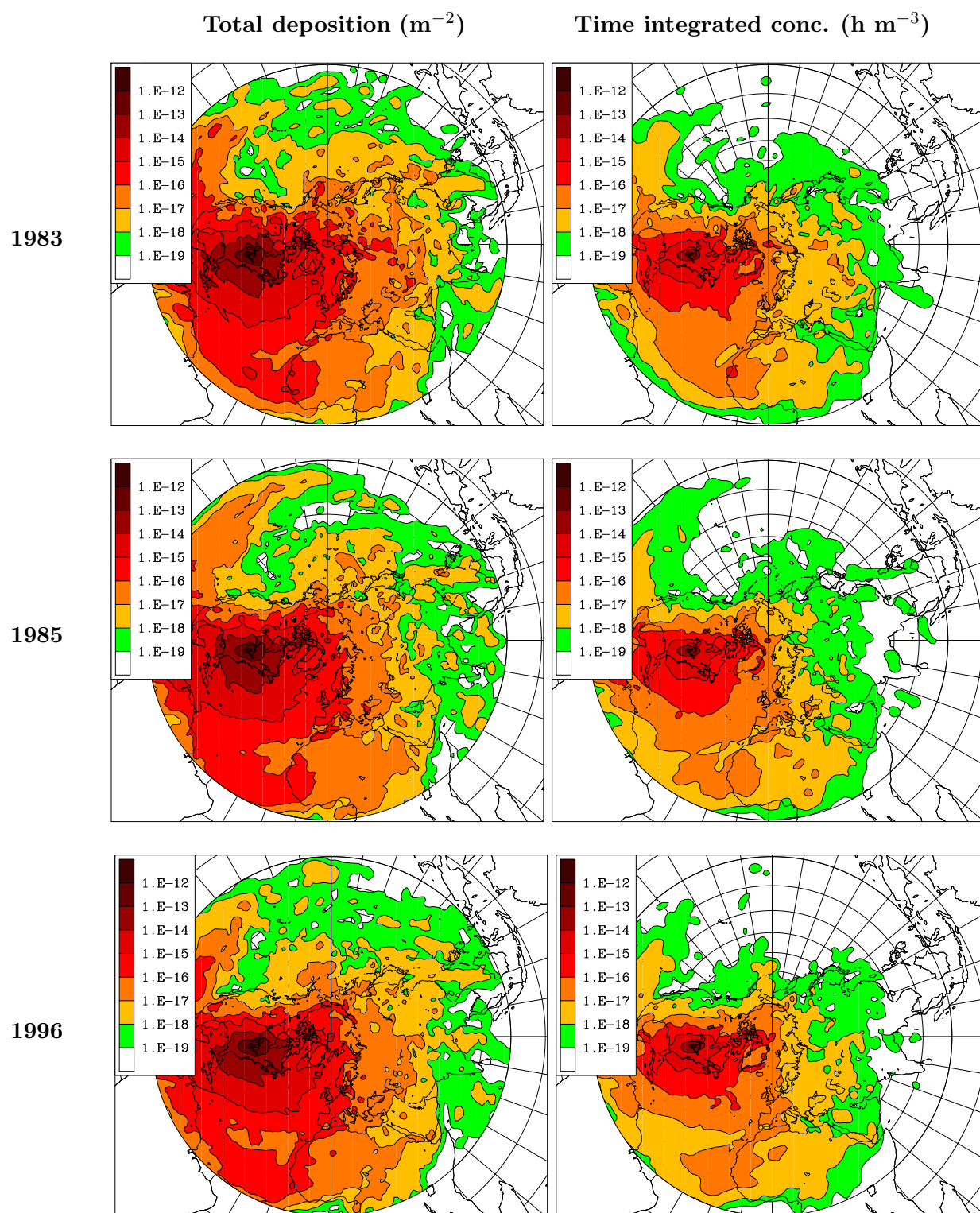
Plate 17   Nuclear power plant: **Davis Besse**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
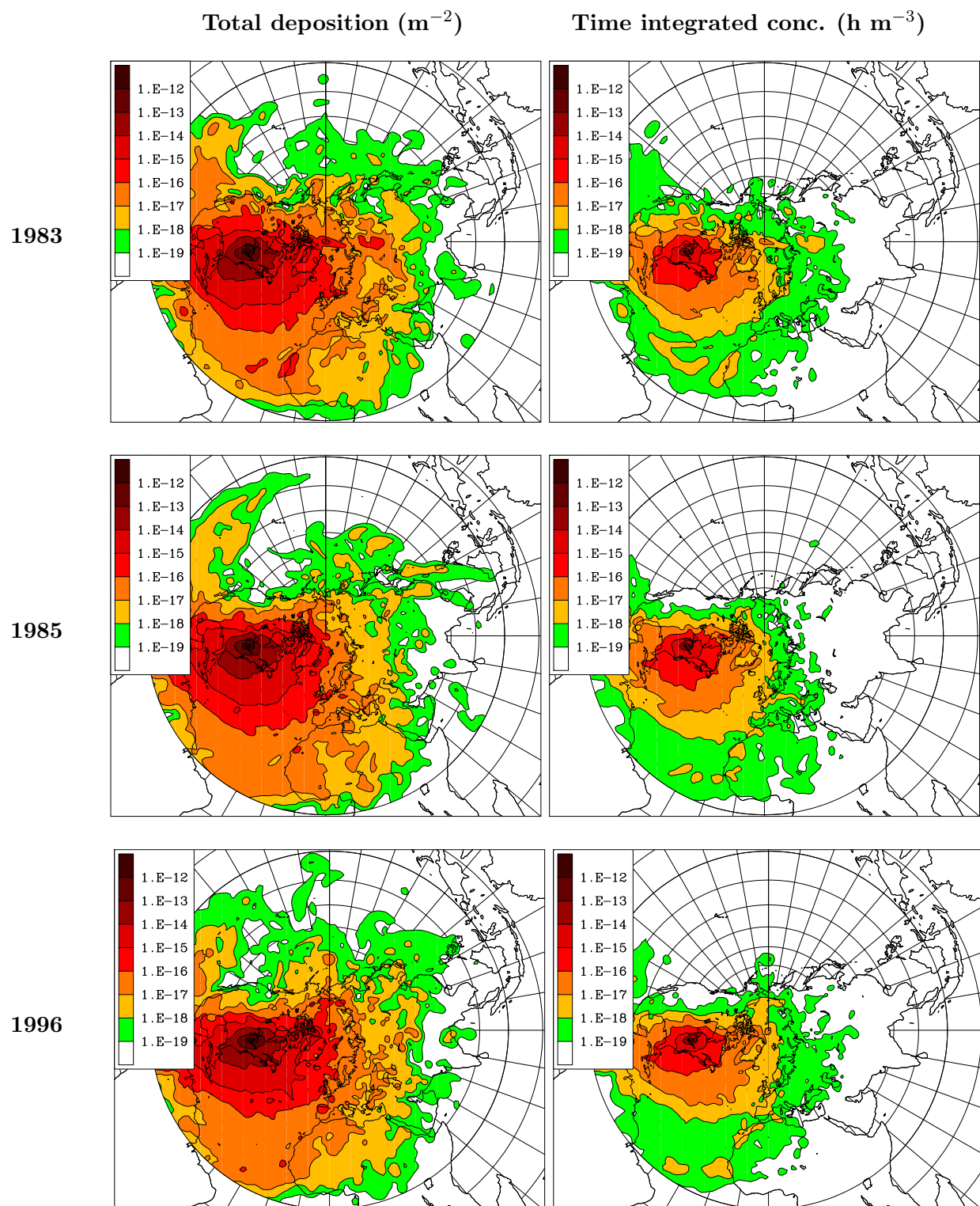
Plate 18   Nuclear power plant: **Davis Besse**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
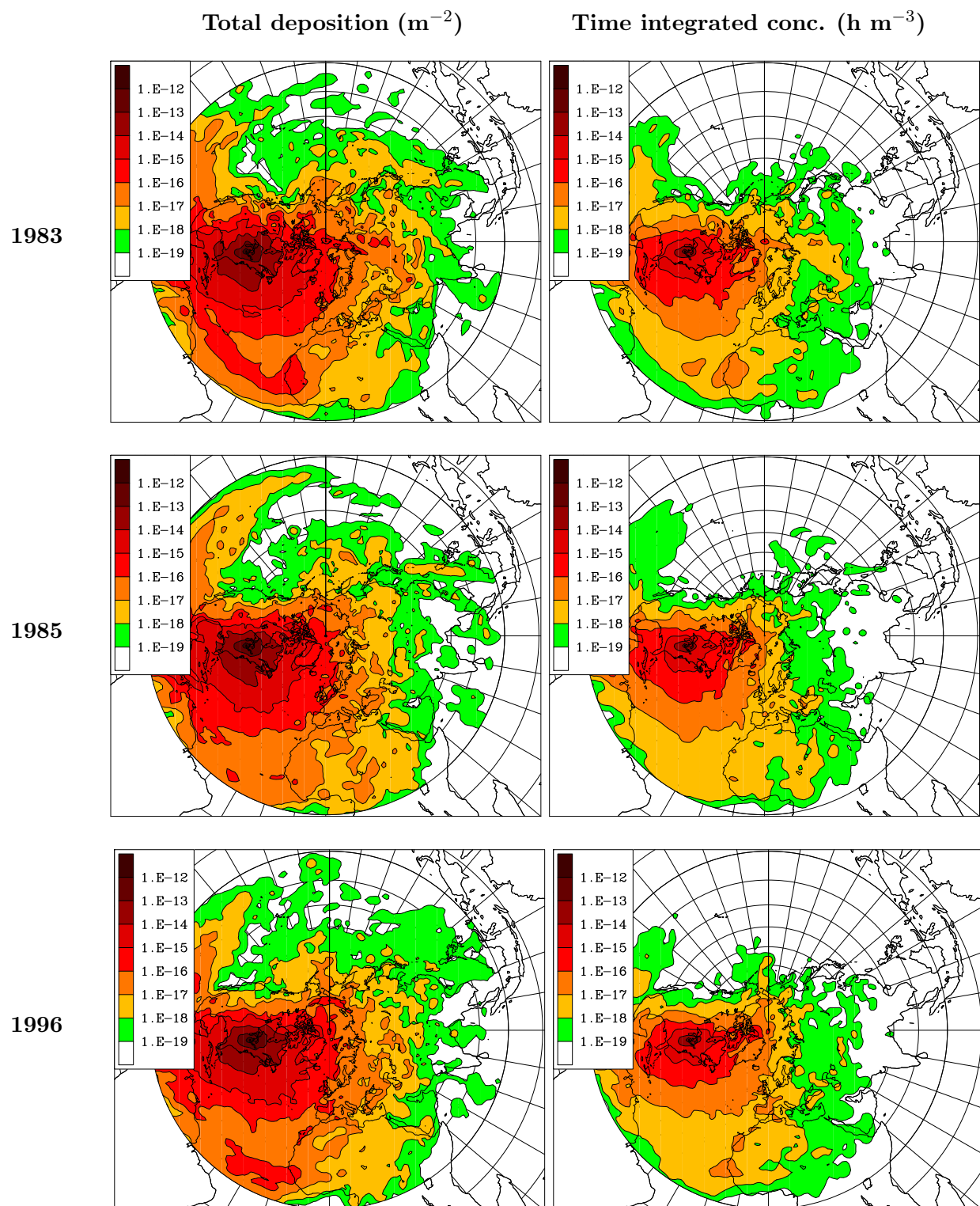
Plate 19   Nuclear power plant: **Dukovany**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. ($h\ m^{-3}$)**

1983

1985

1996
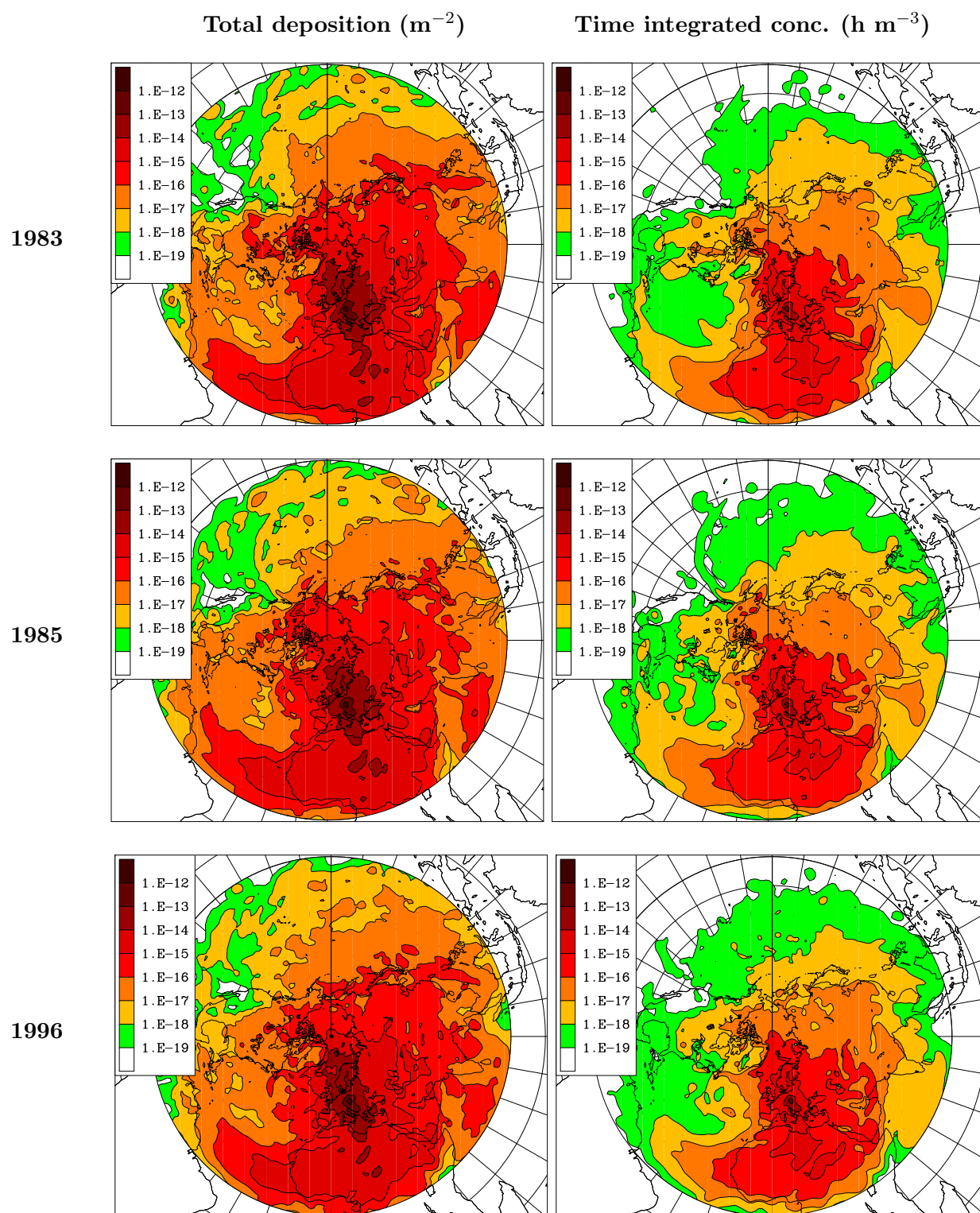
Plate 20   Nuclear power plant: **Dukovany**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
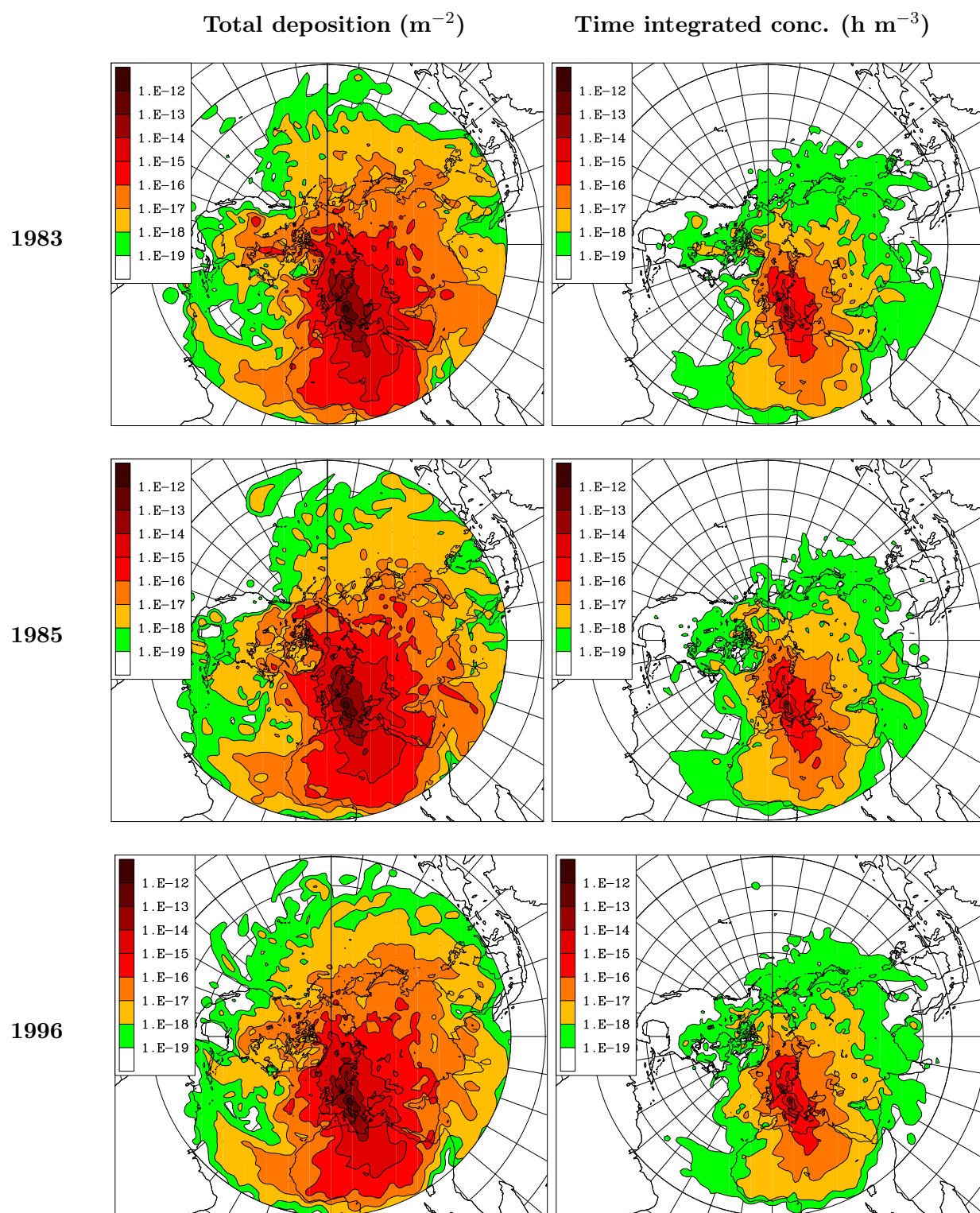
Plate 21 Nuclear power plant: **Dukovany**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})
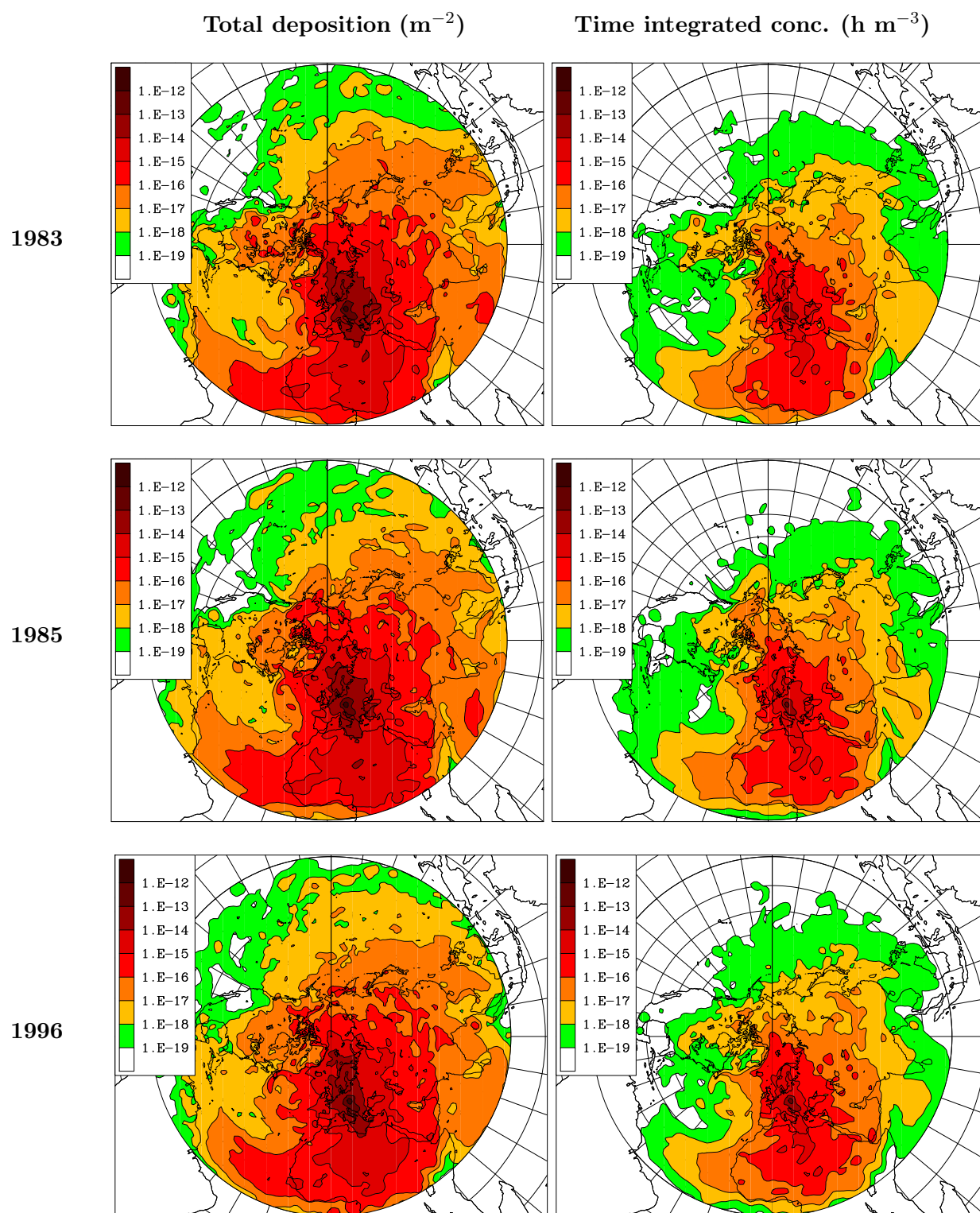
Plate 22   Nuclear power plant: **Kanupp**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
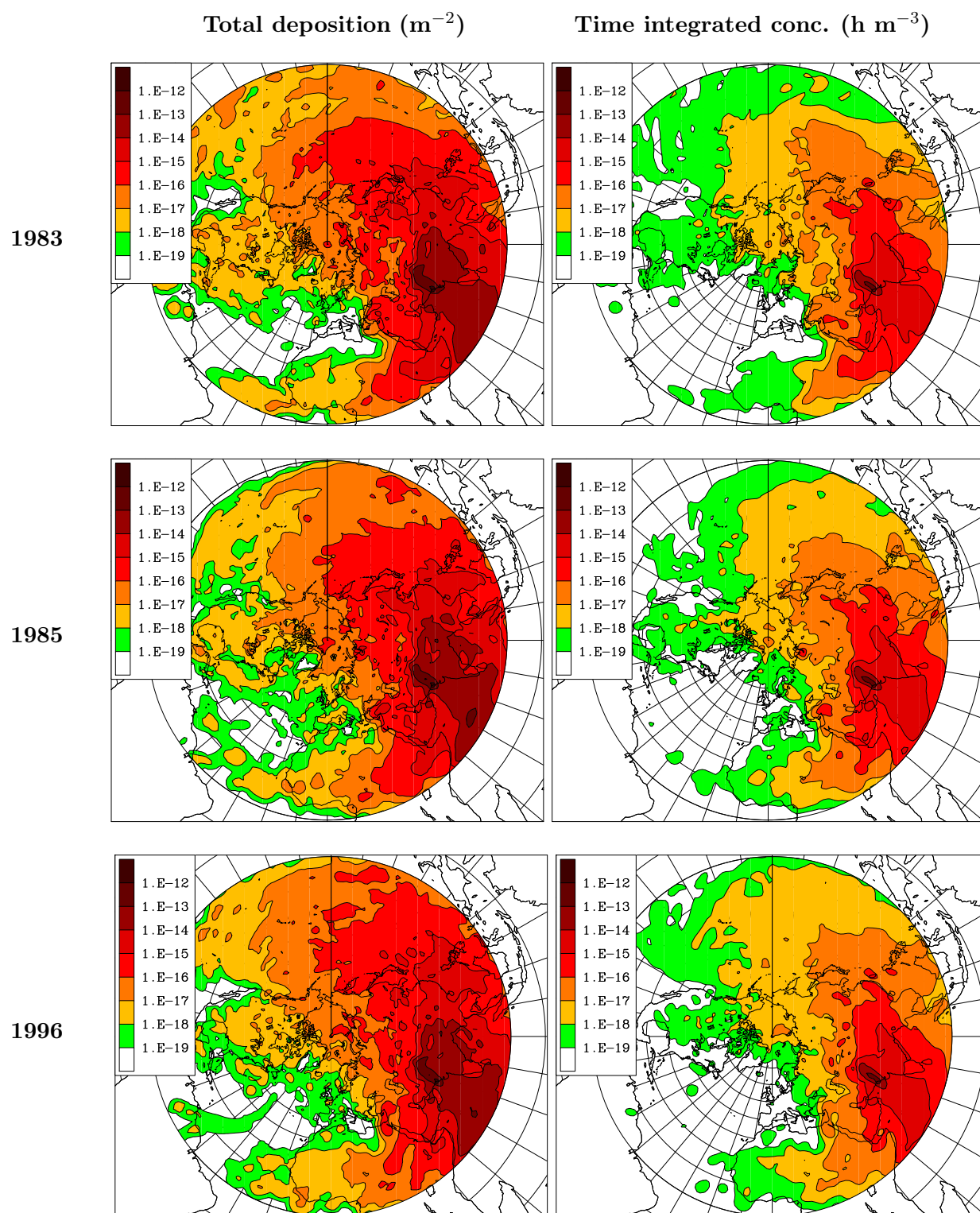
Plate 23   Nuclear power plant: **Kanupp**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})

Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})

1983

1985

1996
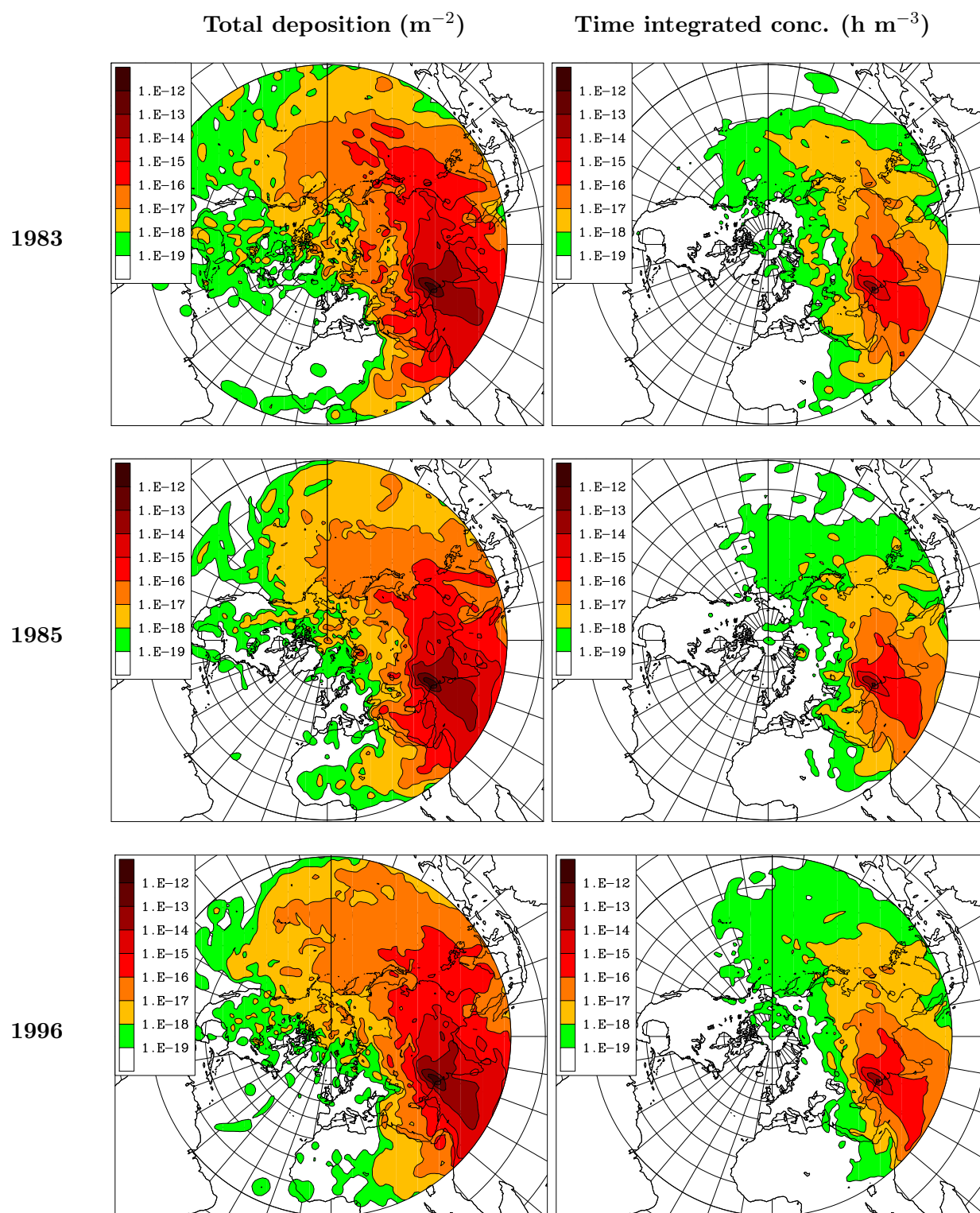
Plate 24   Nuclear power plant: **Kanupp**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
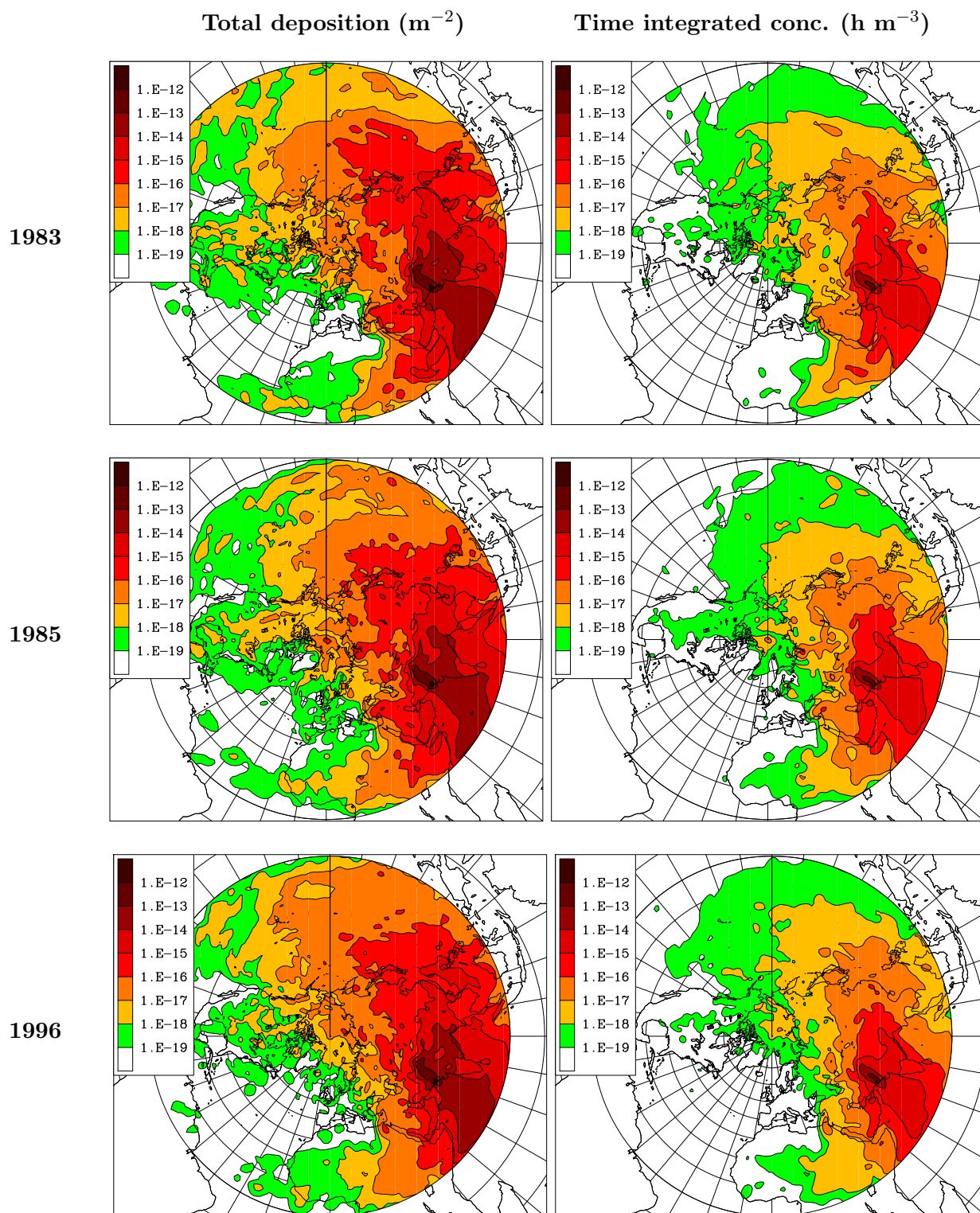
Plate 25   Nuclear power plant: **Kola**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
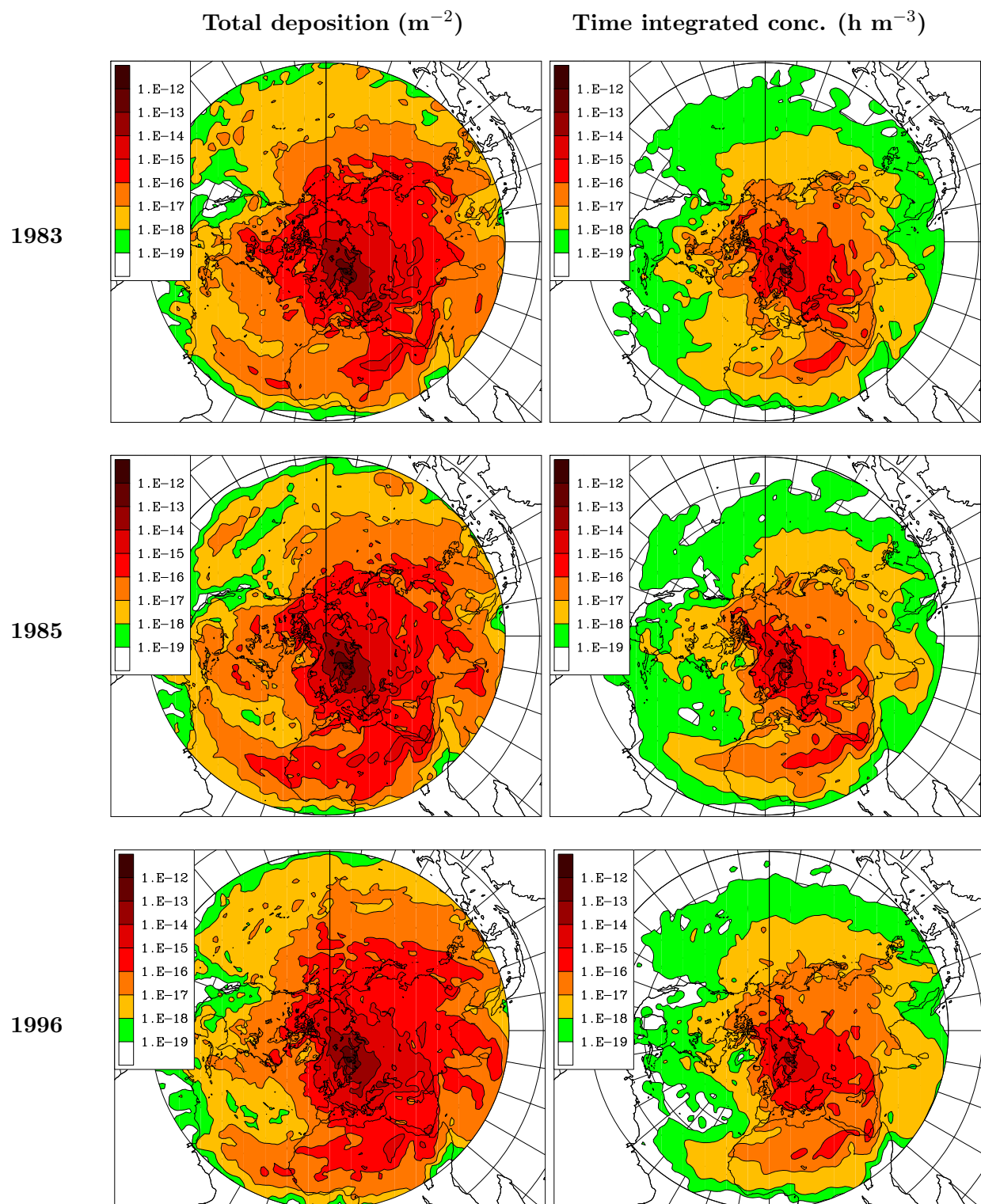
Plate 26 Nuclear power plant: **Kola**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

Plate 27   Nuclear power plant: **Kola**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

	Total deposition (m^{-2})	**Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
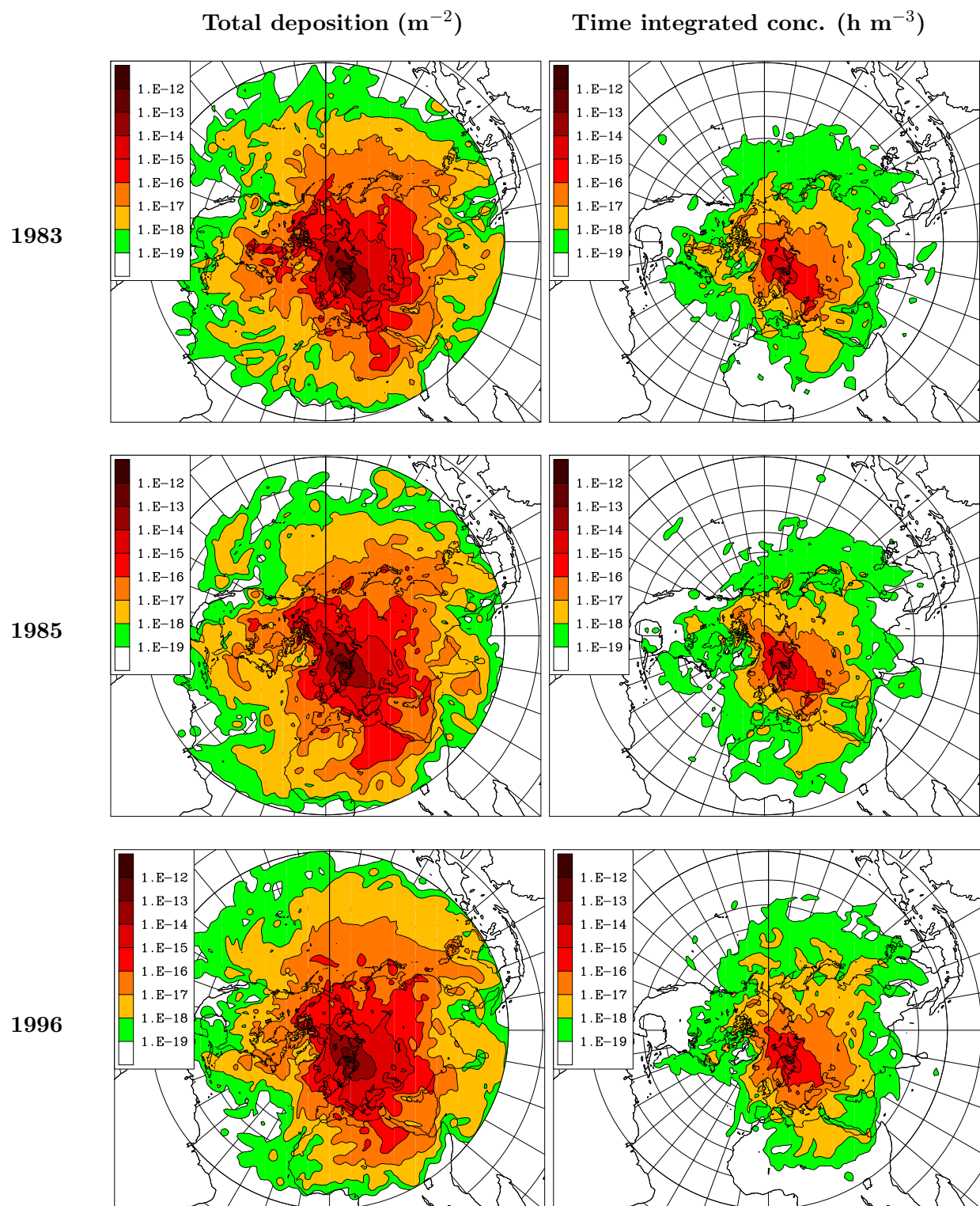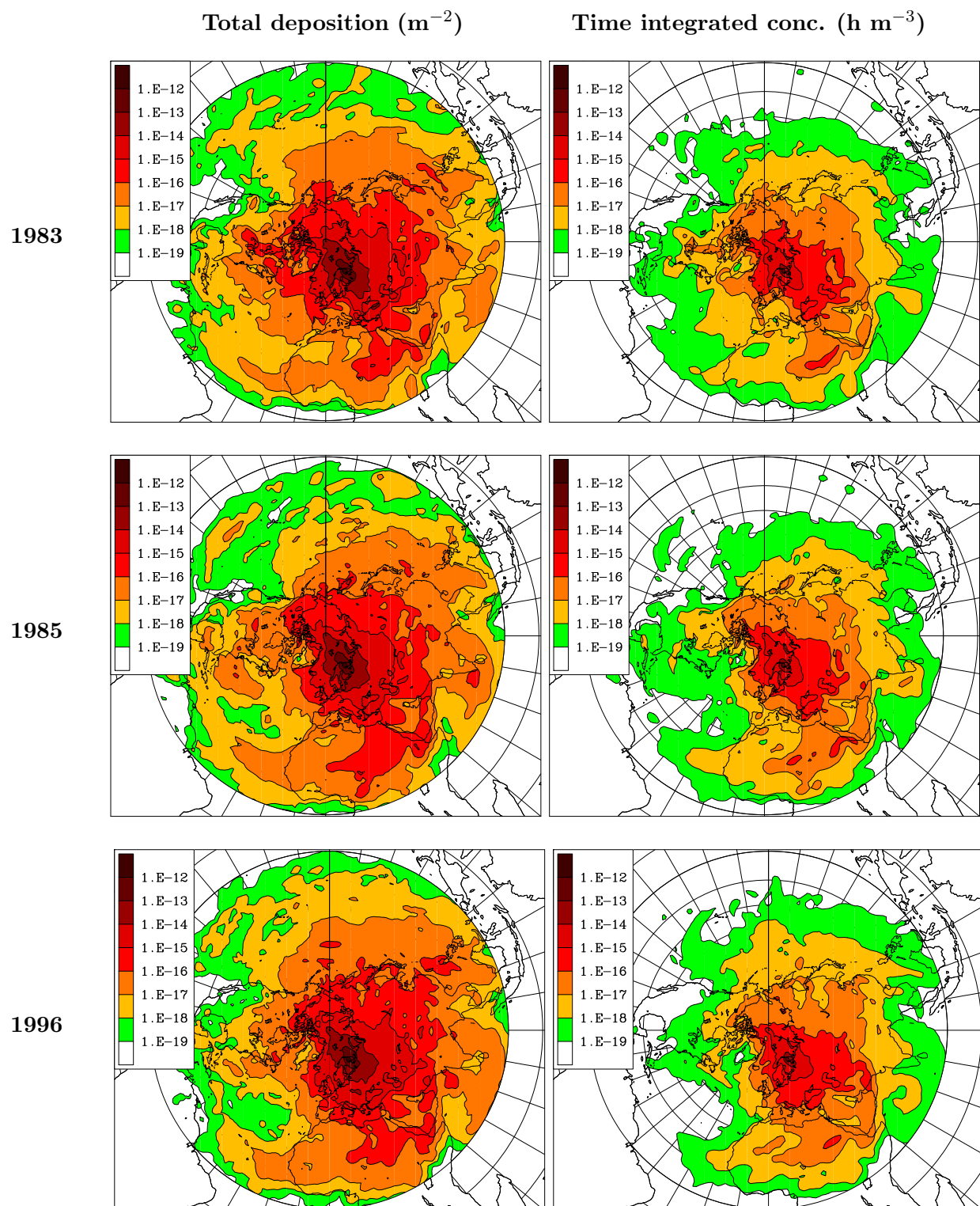
Plate 28   Nuclear power plant: **Kosloduj**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
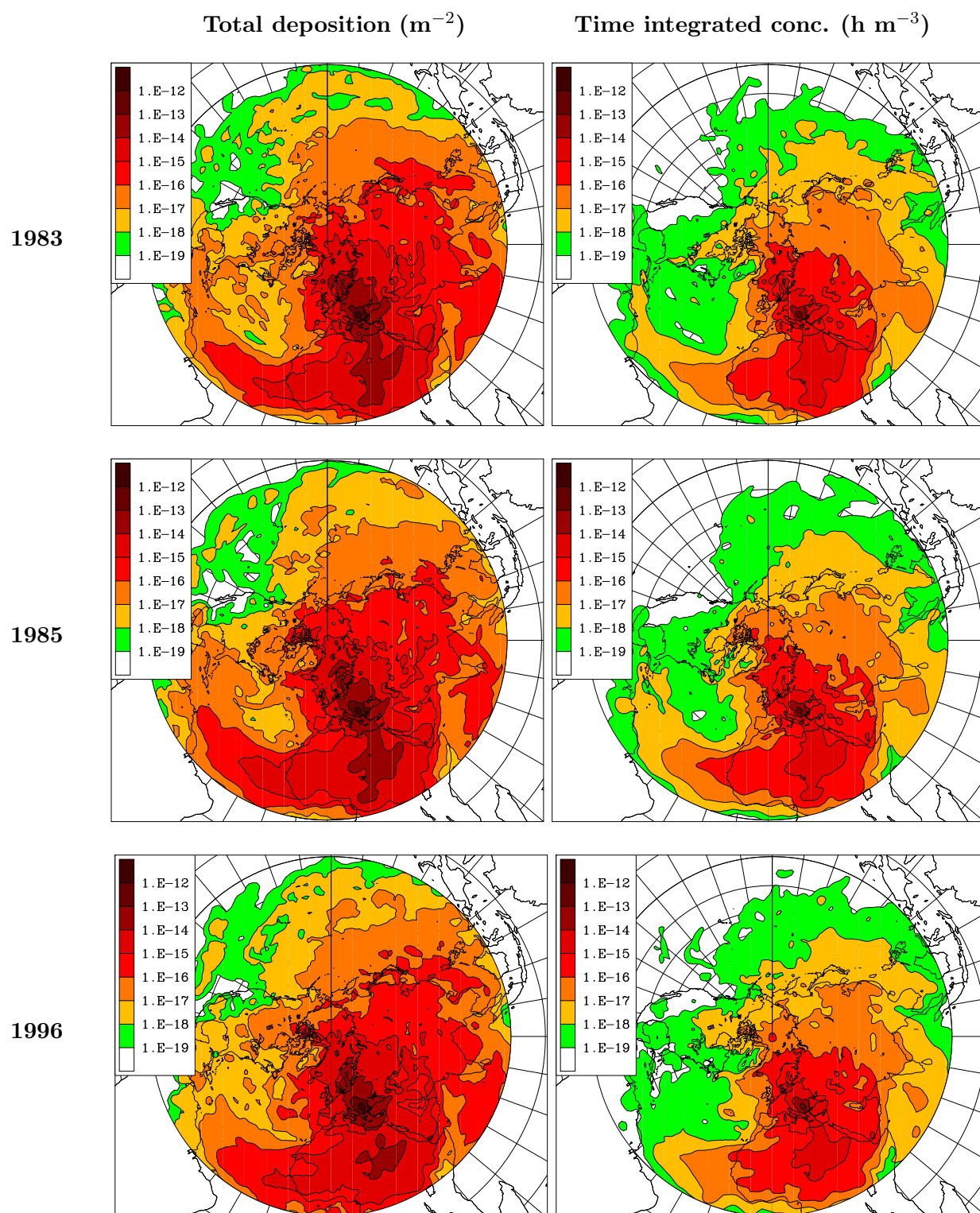
Plate 29 Nuclear power plant: **Kosloduj**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})

Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})

1983

1985

1996
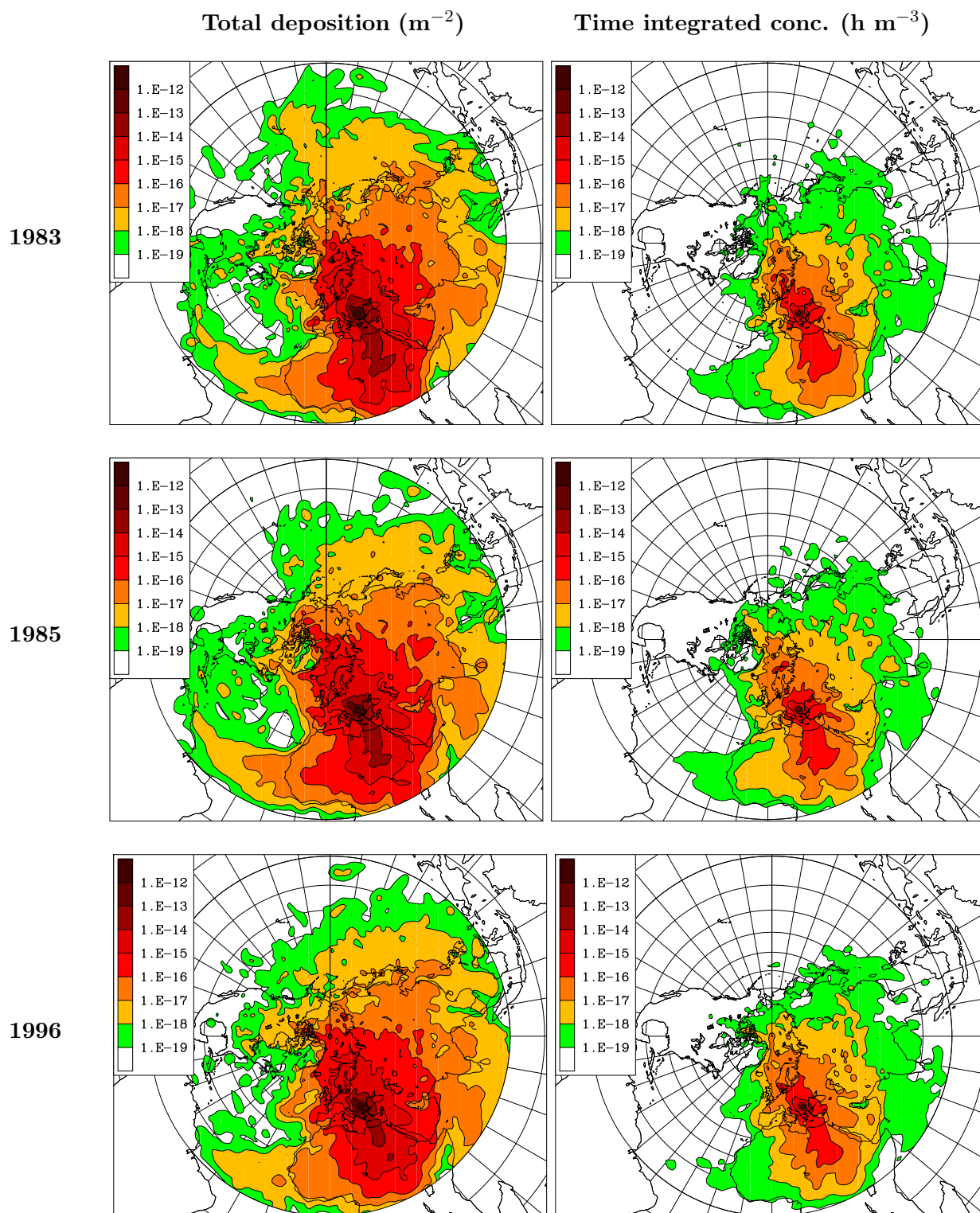
Plate 30 Nuclear power plant: **Kosloduj**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
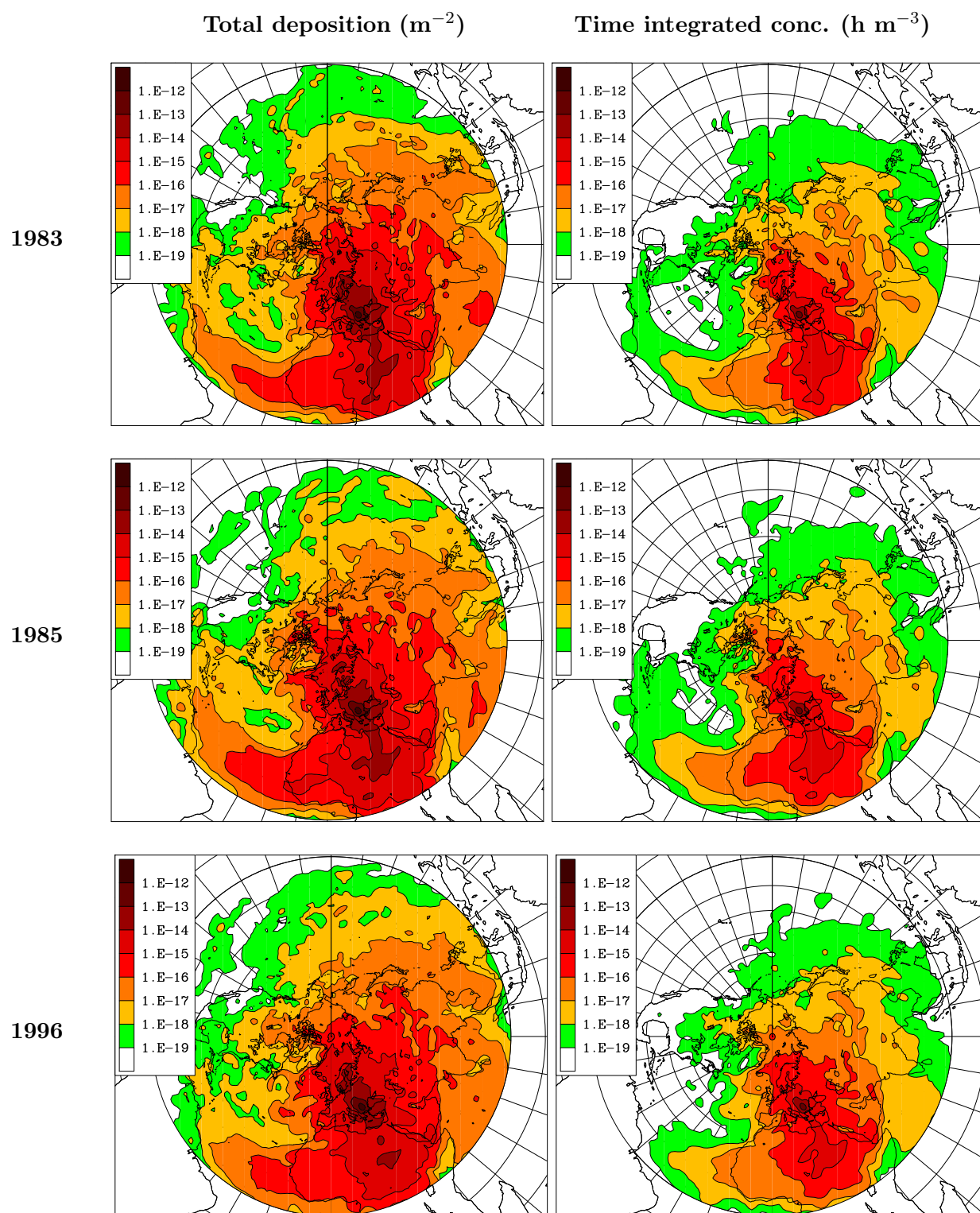
Plate 31 Nuclear power plant: **Leningrad**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2}) **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
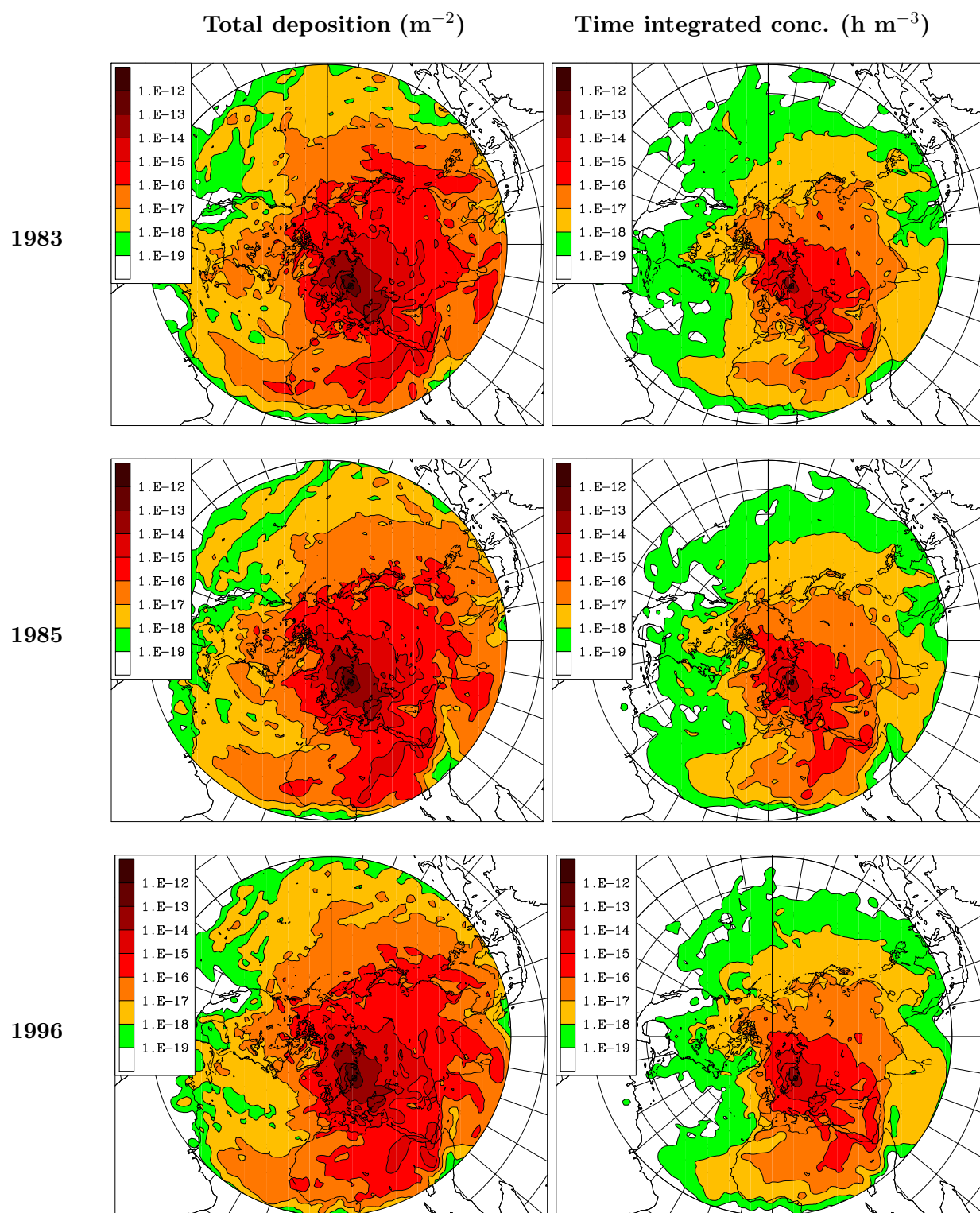
Plate 32   Nuclear power plant: **Leningrad**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
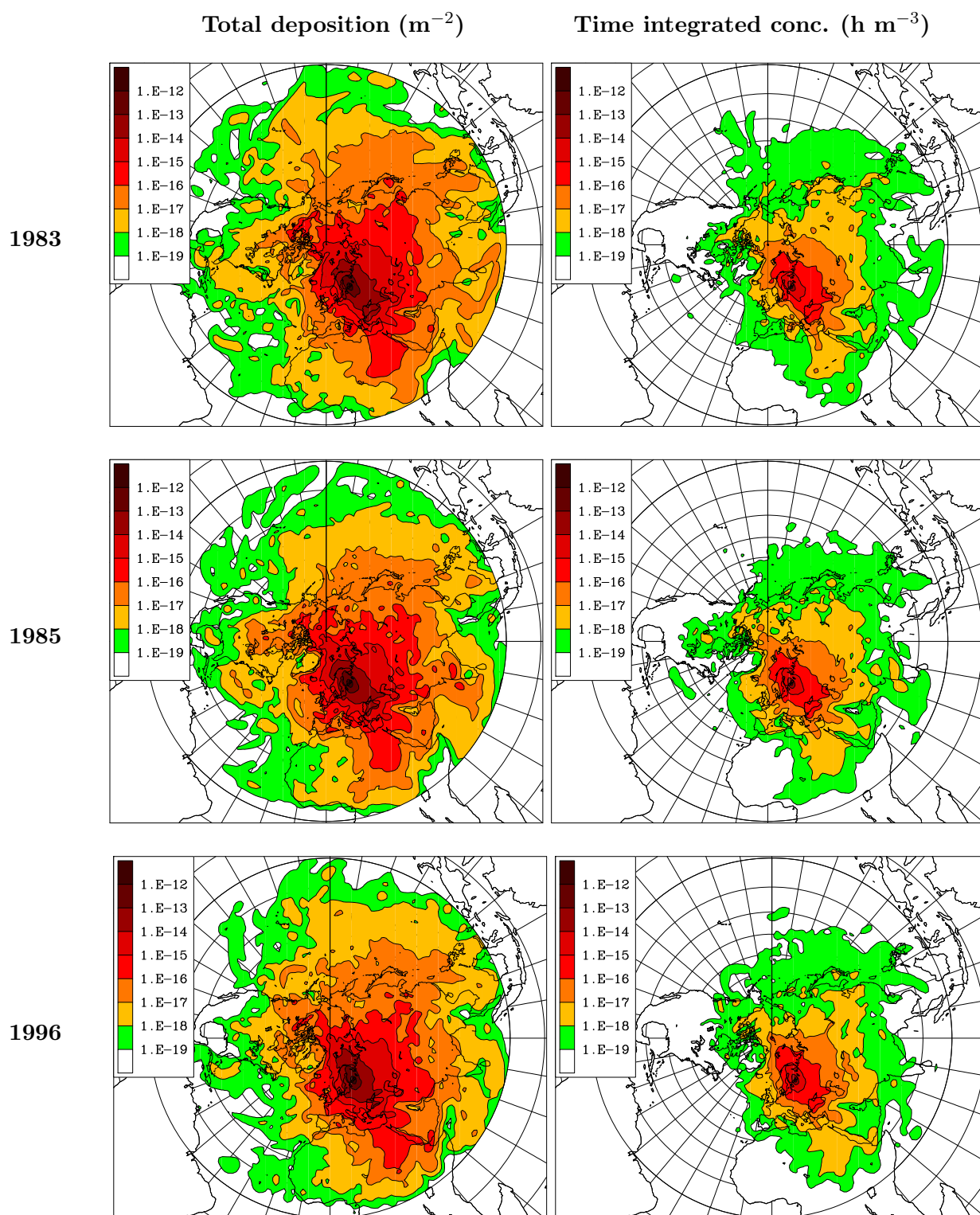
Plate 33 Nuclear power plant: **Leningrad**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2}) **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
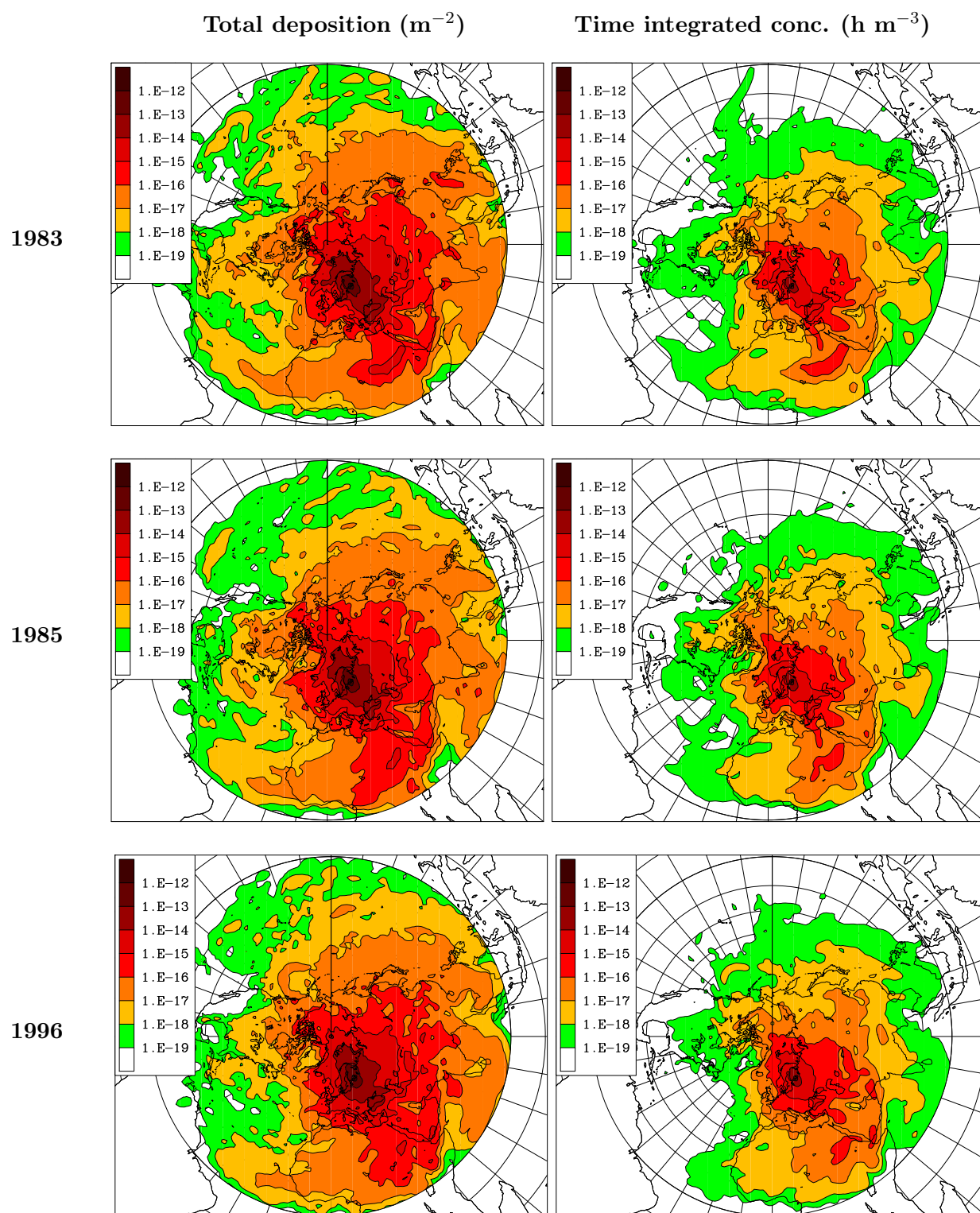
Plate 34   Nuclear power plant: **Novaya Zemlaya**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
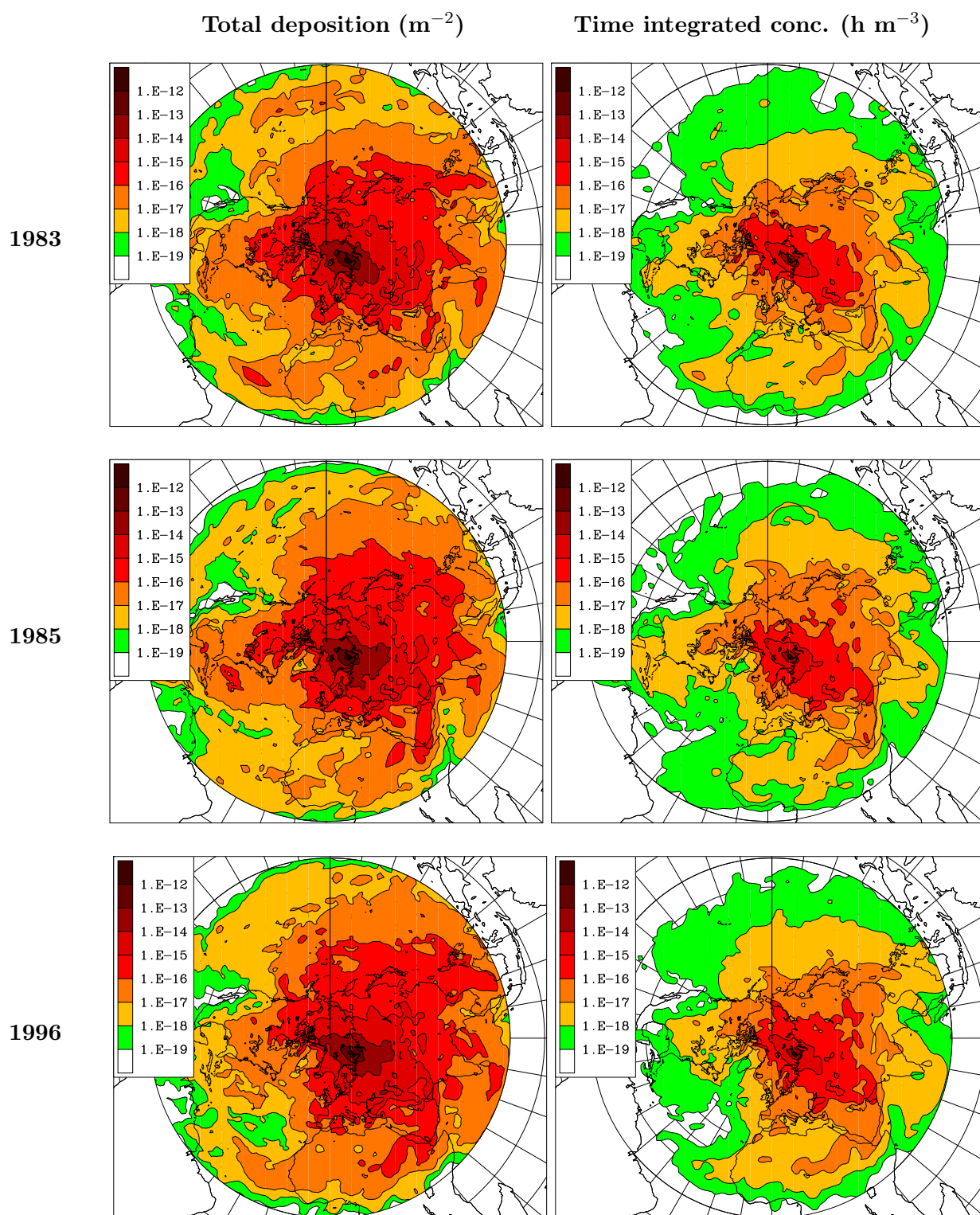
Plate 35 Nuclear power plant: **Novaya Zemlaya**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2}) **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
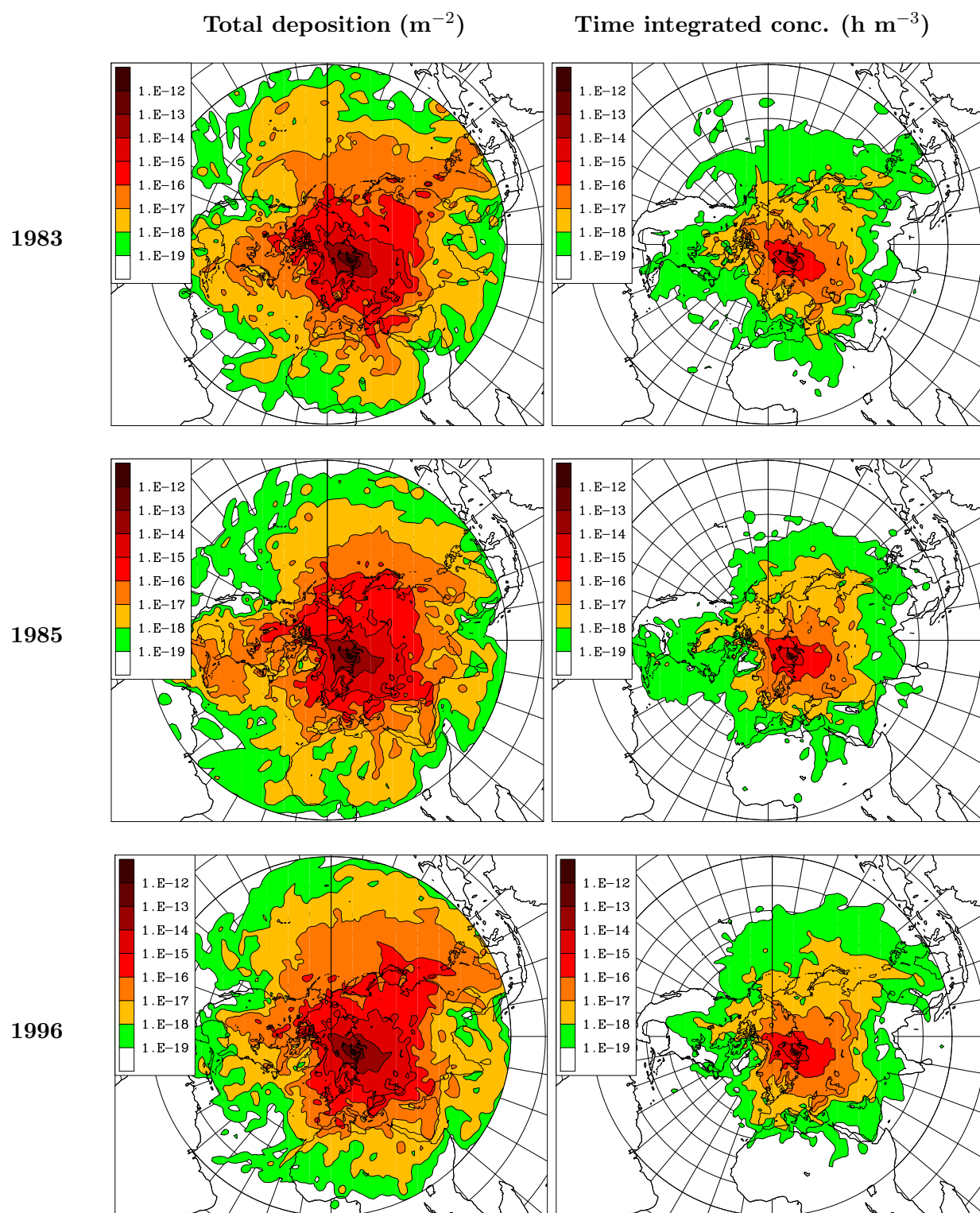
Plate 36   Nuclear power plant: **Novaya Zemlaya**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
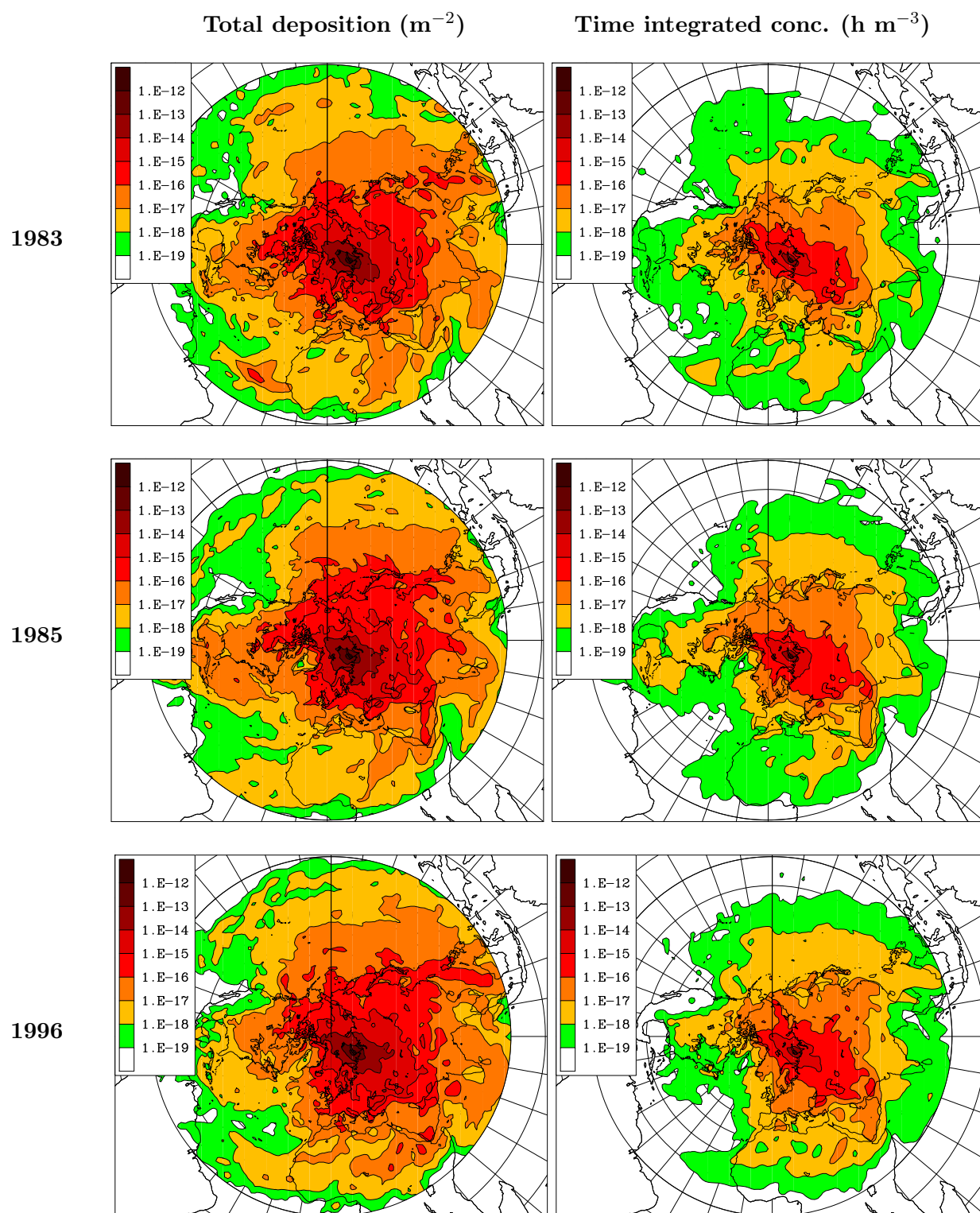
Plate 37 Nuclear power plant: **Sellafield**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2}) **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
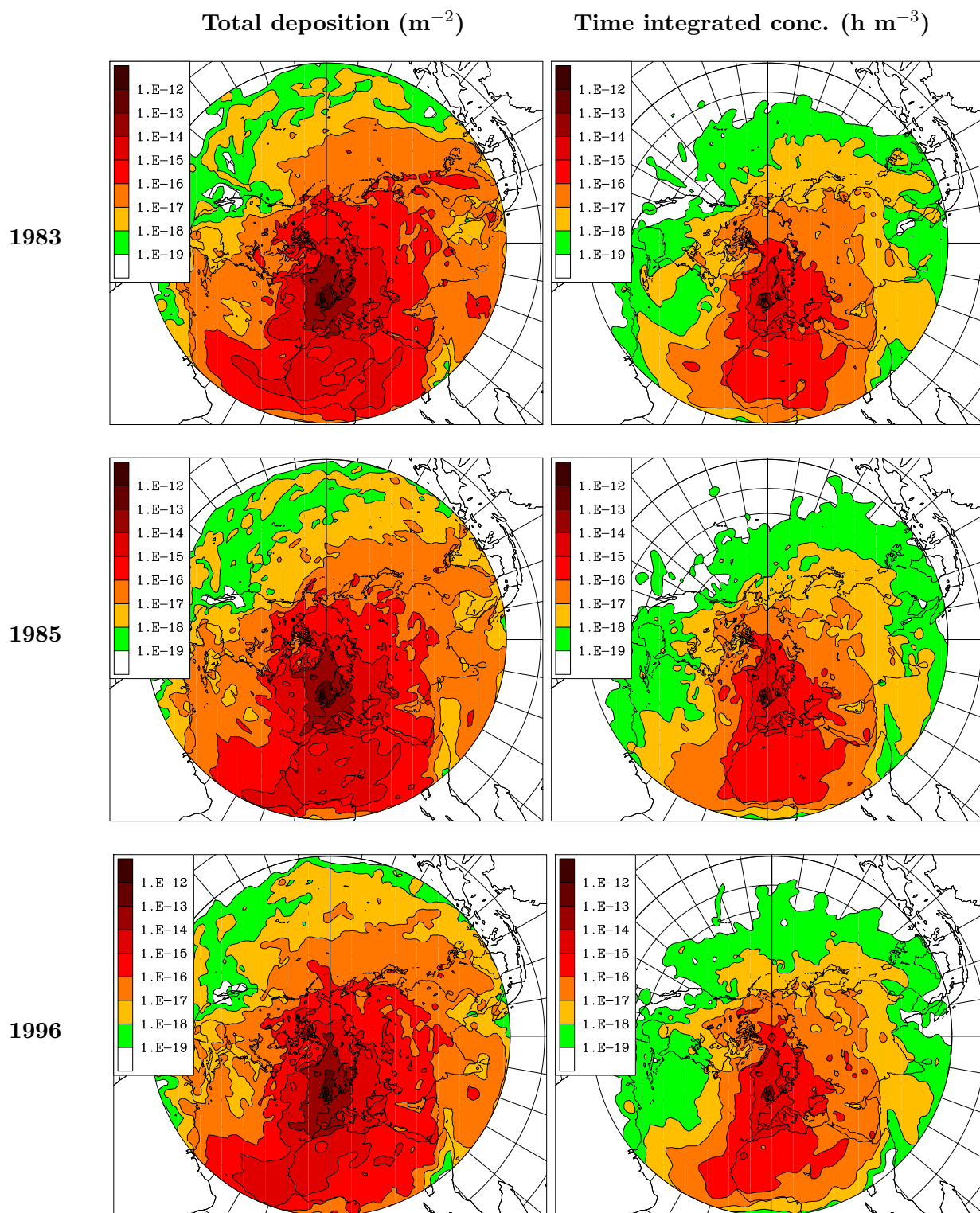
Plate 38   Nuclear power plant: **Sellafield**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
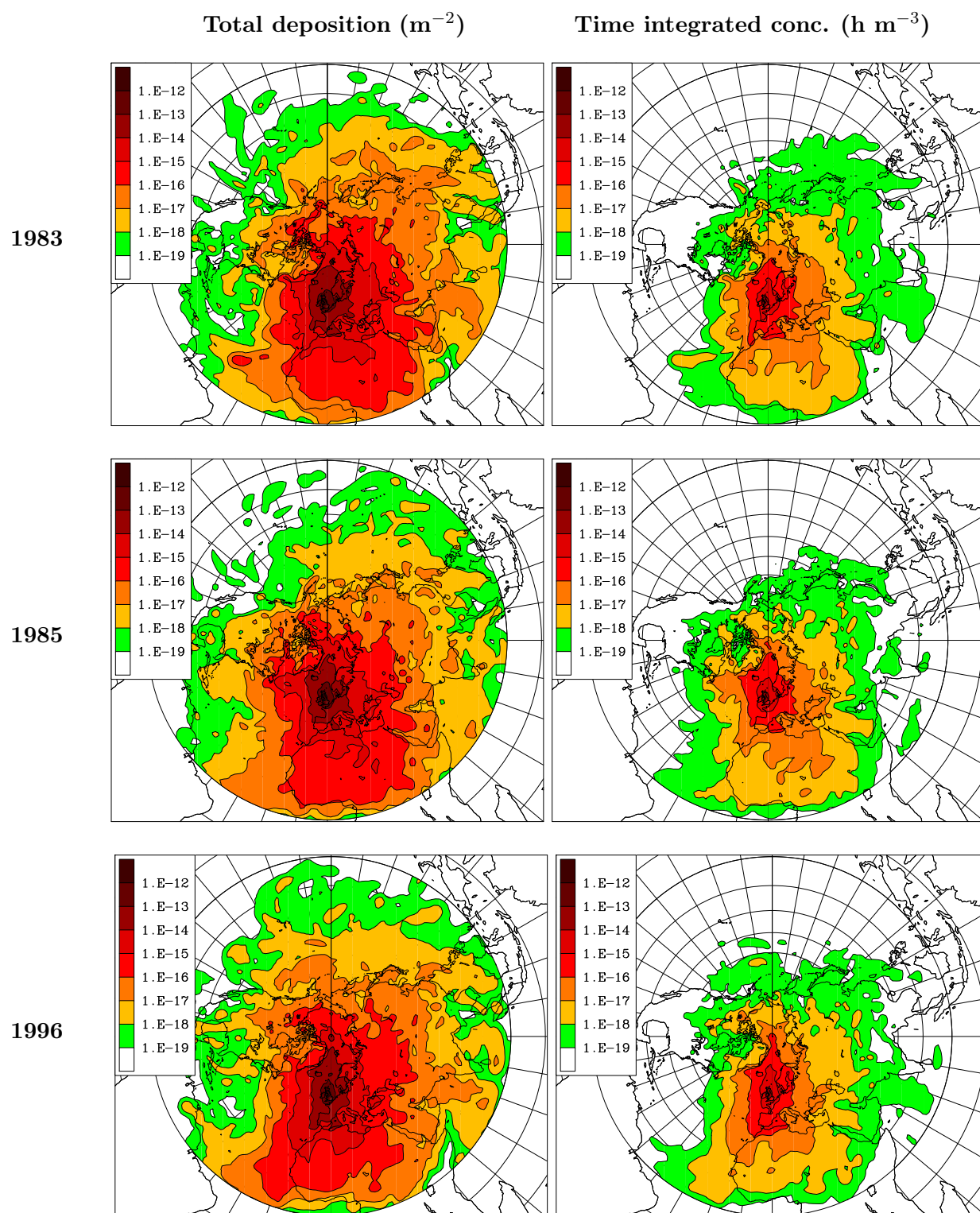
Plate 39   Nuclear power plant: **Sellafield**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

Plate 40   Nuclear power plant: **Sinpo**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
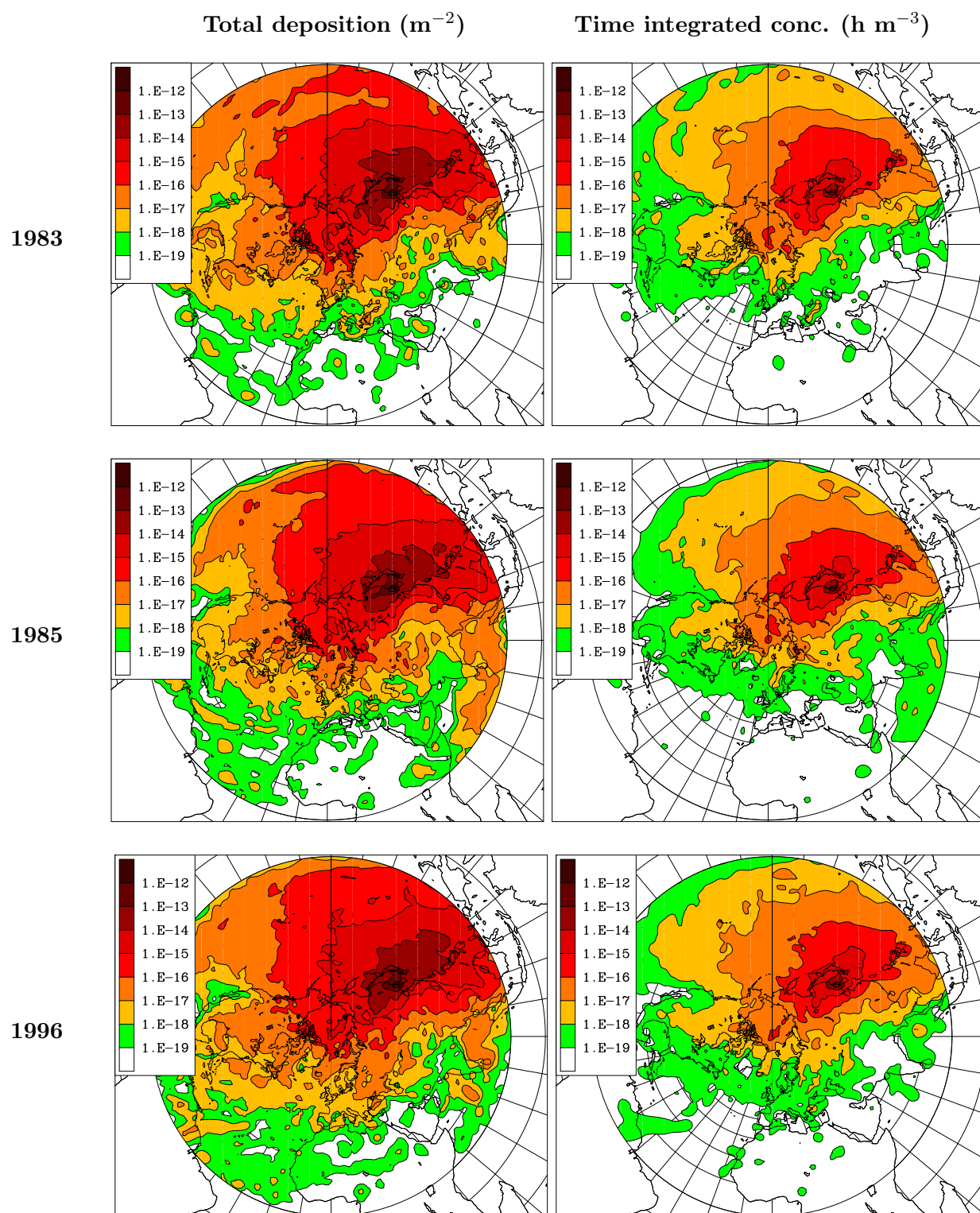
Plate 41   Nuclear power plant: **Sinpo**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})

Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})

1983

1985

1996
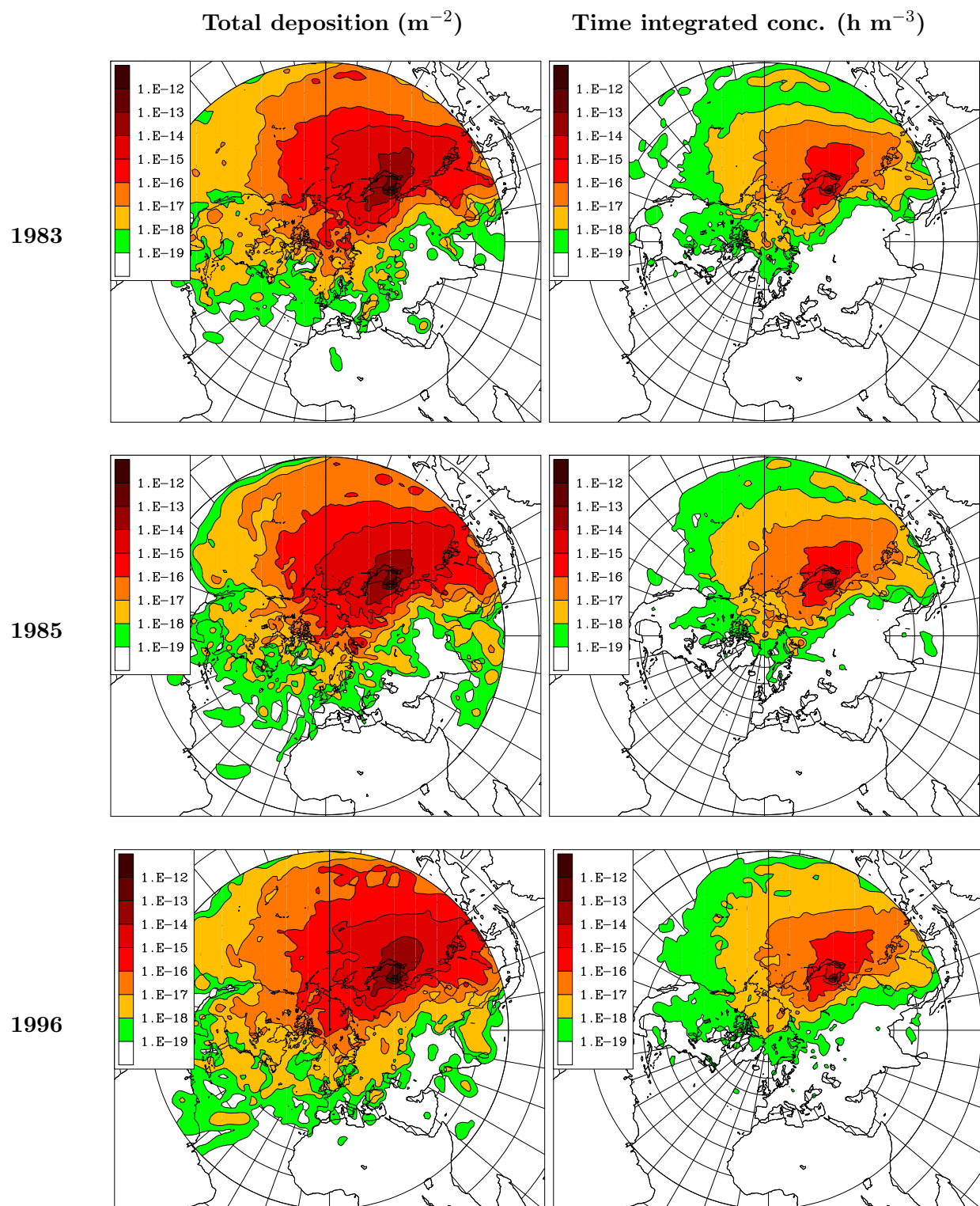
Plate 42   Nuclear power plant: **Sinpo**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

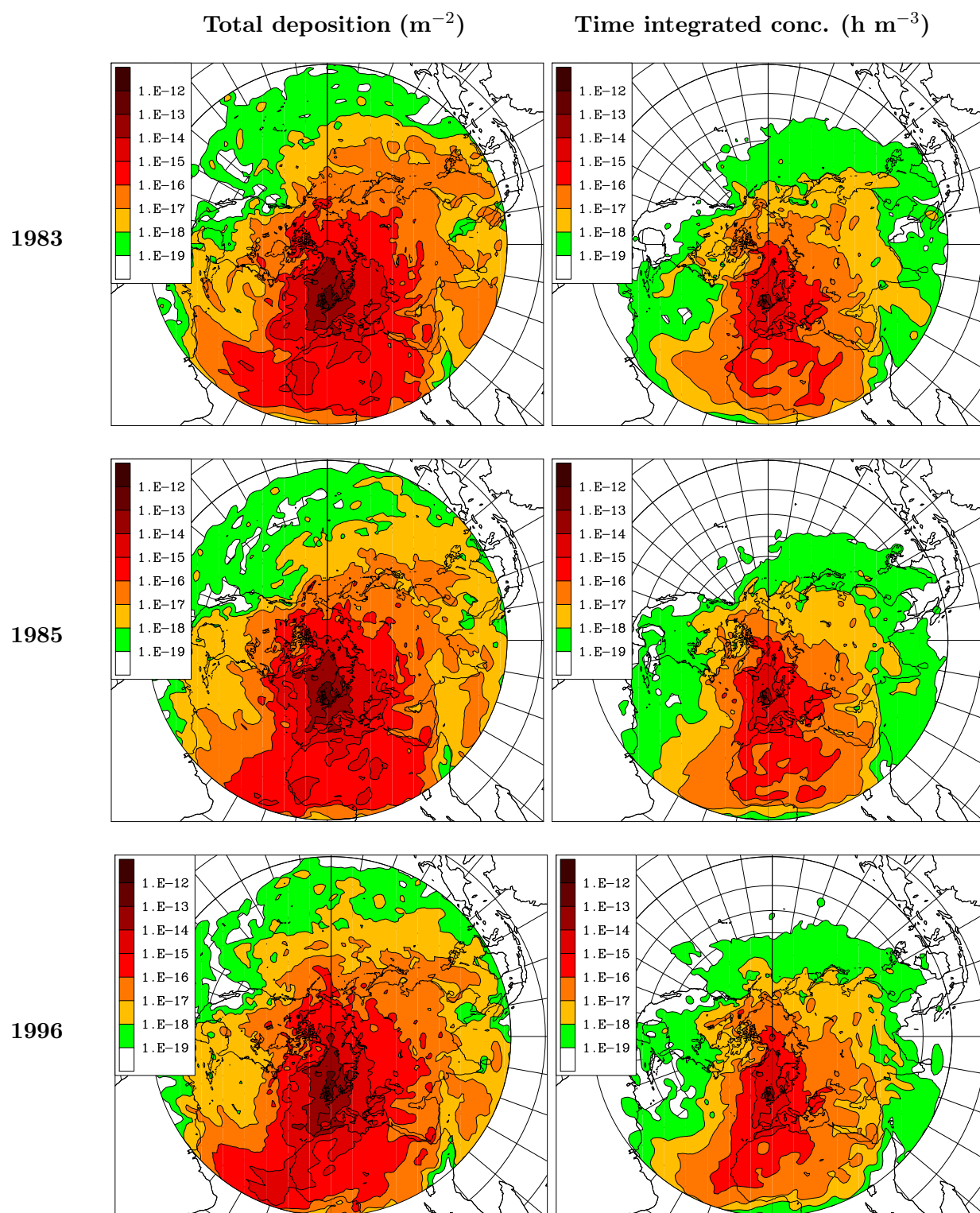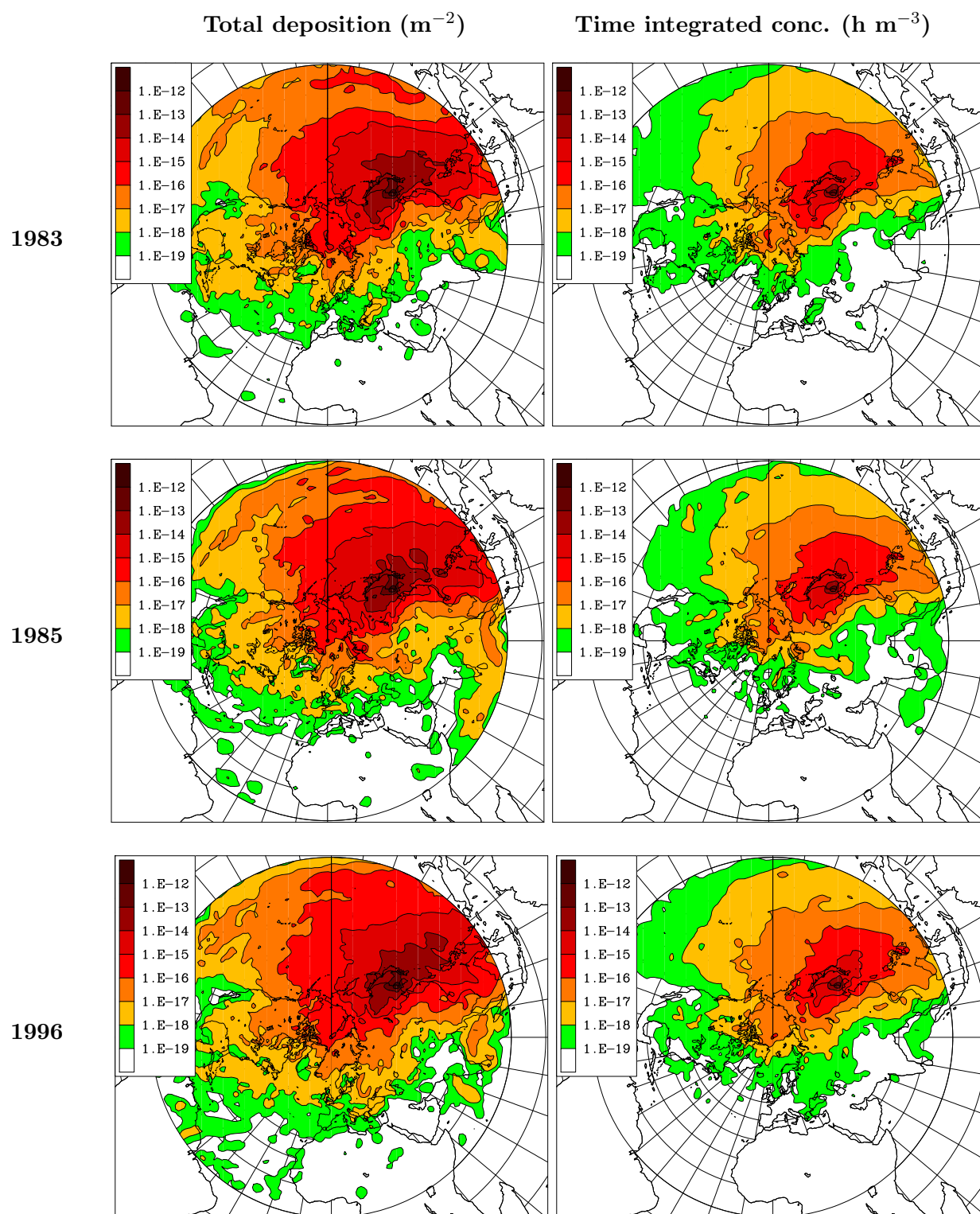**Plate 43** Nuclear power plant: **Savannah River**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2}) **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
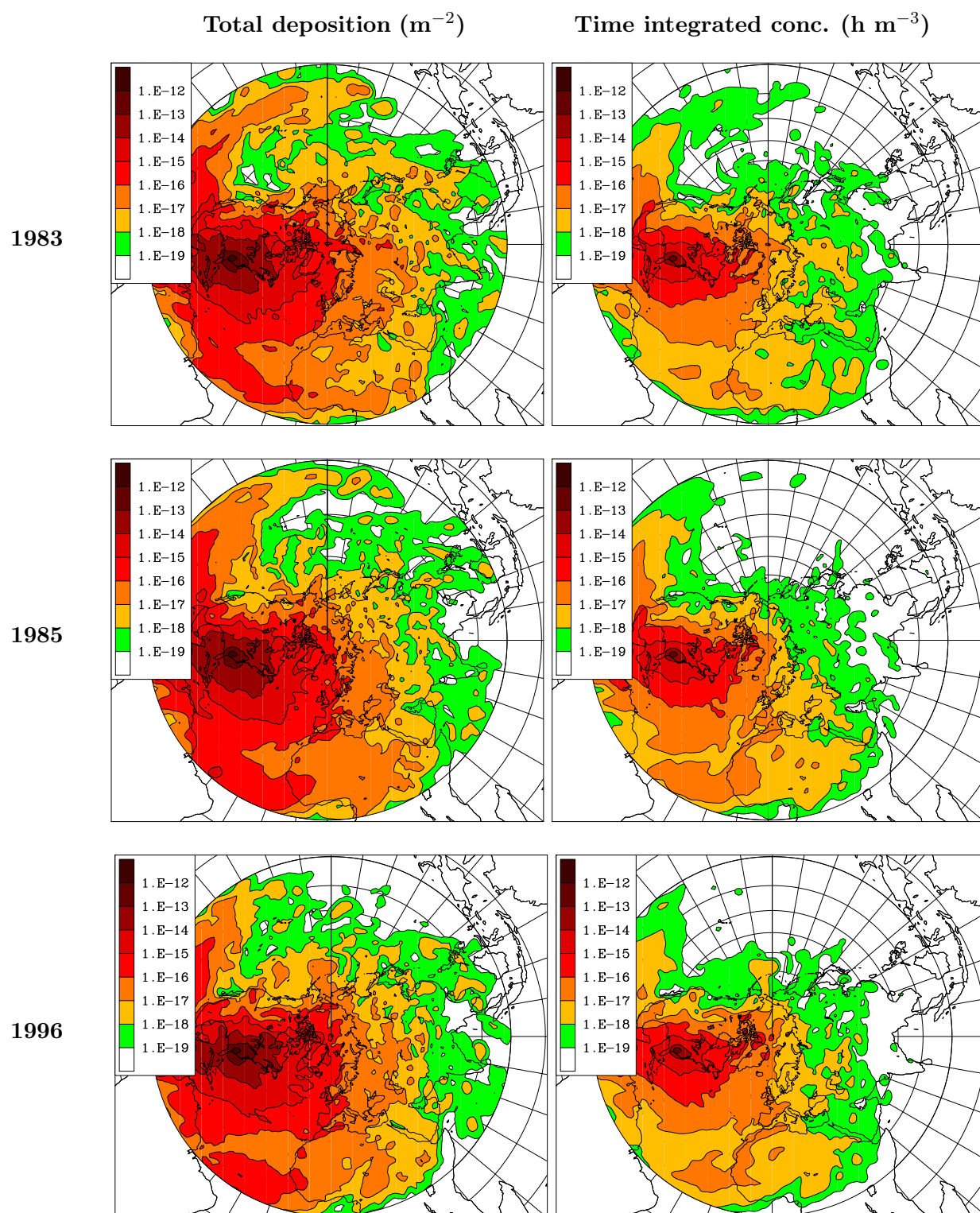
Plate 44   Nuclear power plant: **Savannah River**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
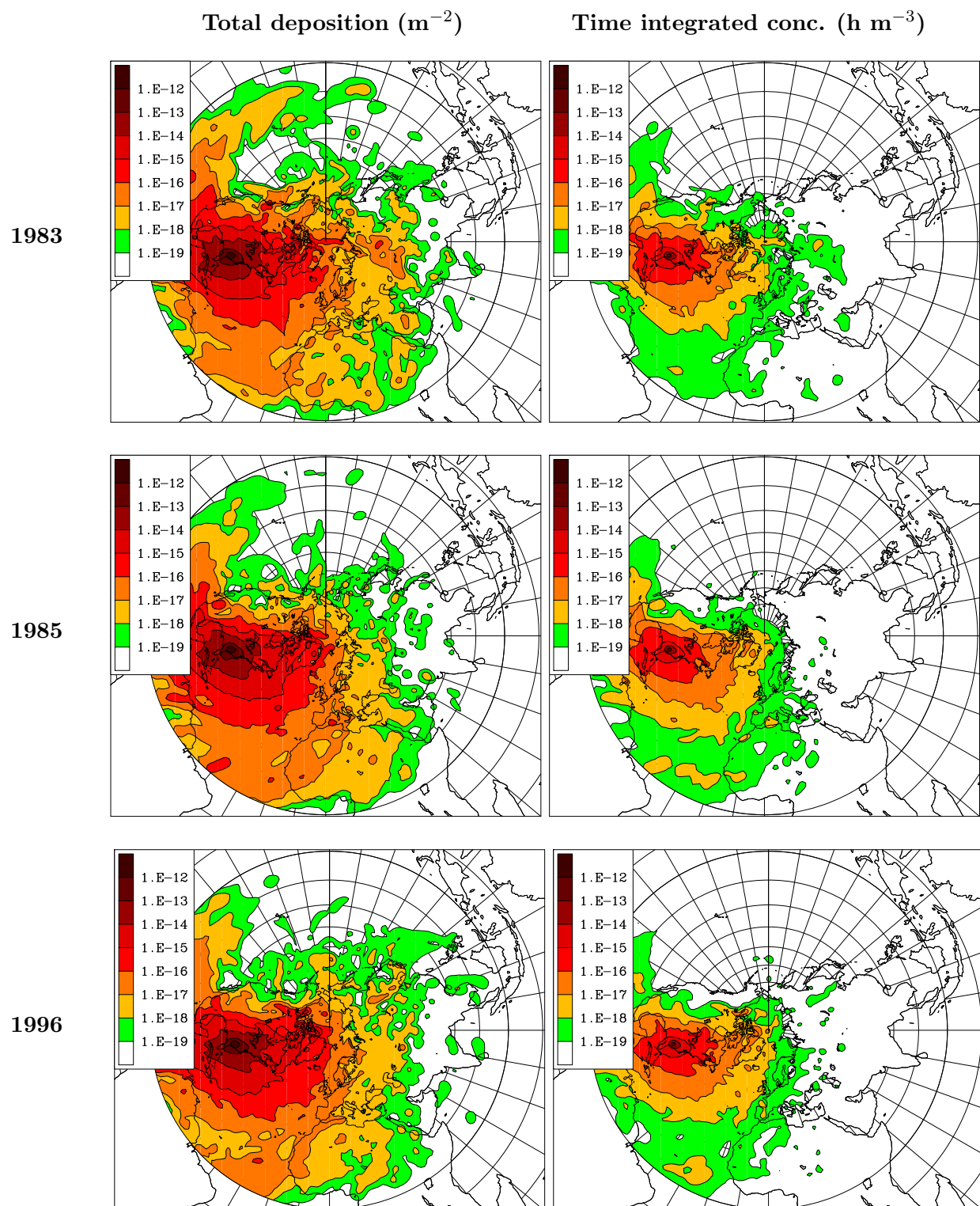
Plate 45 Nuclear power plant: **Savannah River**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**
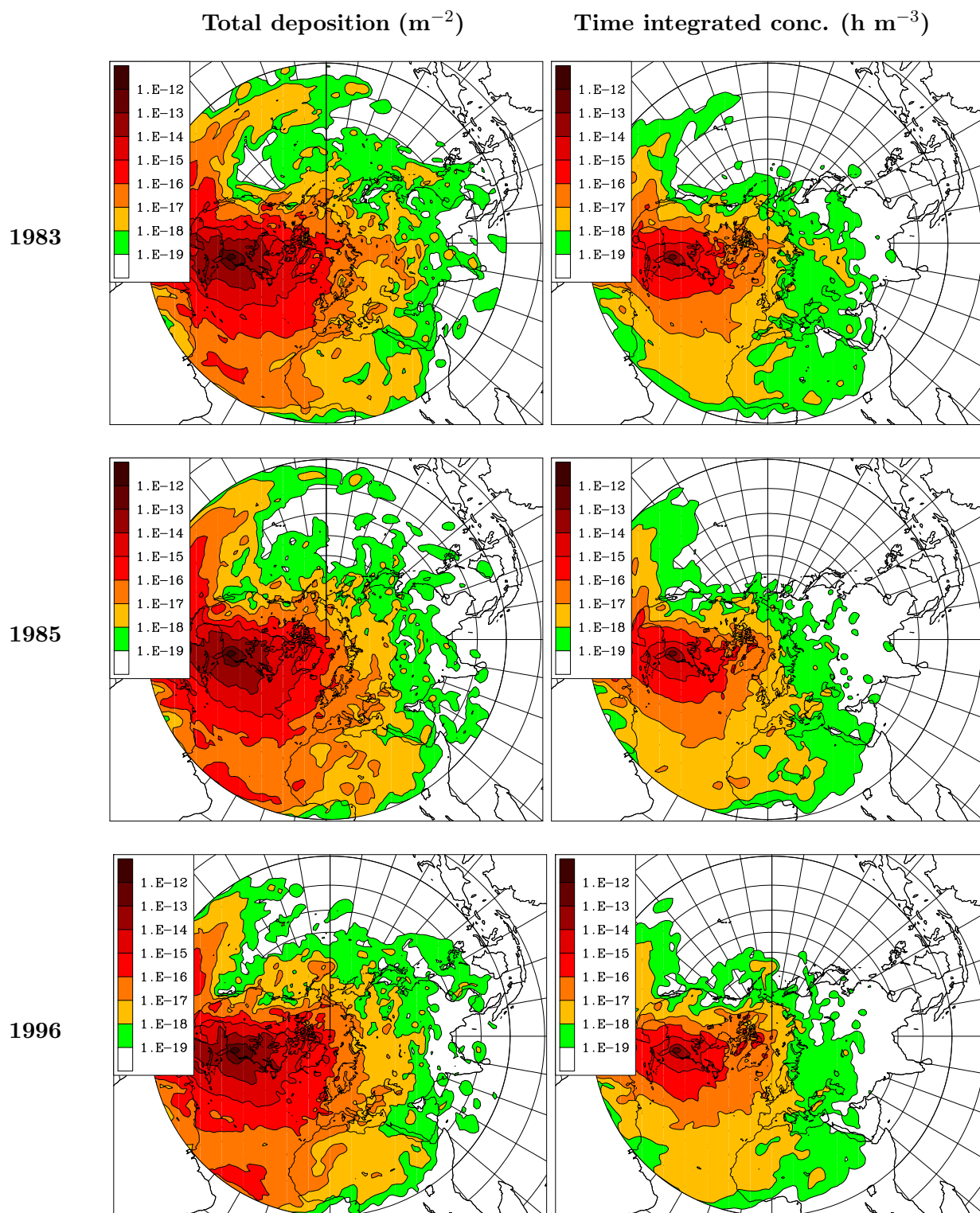
Plate 46 Nuclear power plant: **Tricastin**; Nuclide: **Caesium-137 aerosol**

Total deposition (m^{-2}) Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})
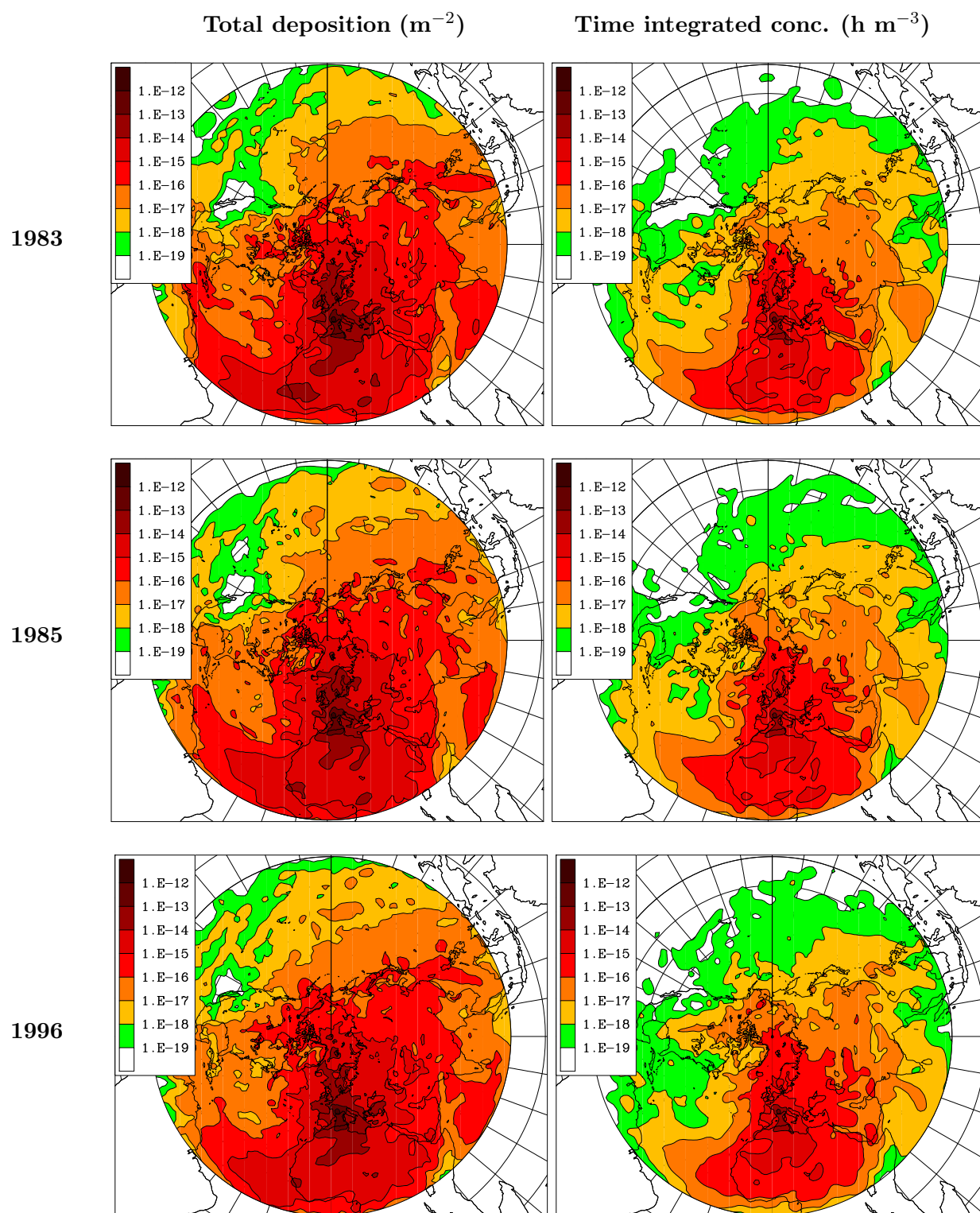
Plate 47 Nuclear power plant: **Tricastin**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 gas**

Total deposition (m^{-2})   **Time integrated conc. (h m^{-3})**

1983

1985

1996
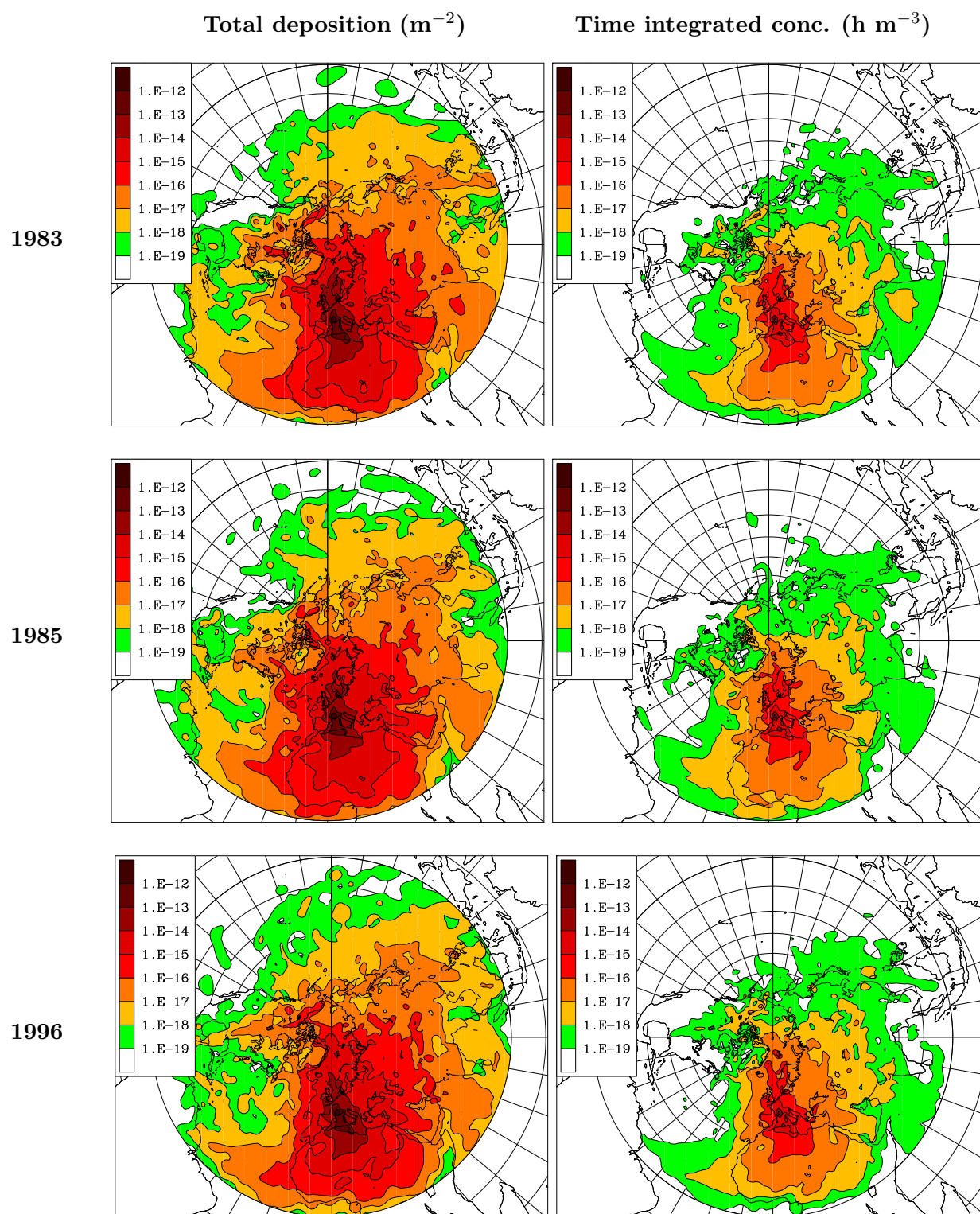
Plate 48   Nuclear power plant: **Tricastin**; Nuclide: **Iodine-131 aerosol**
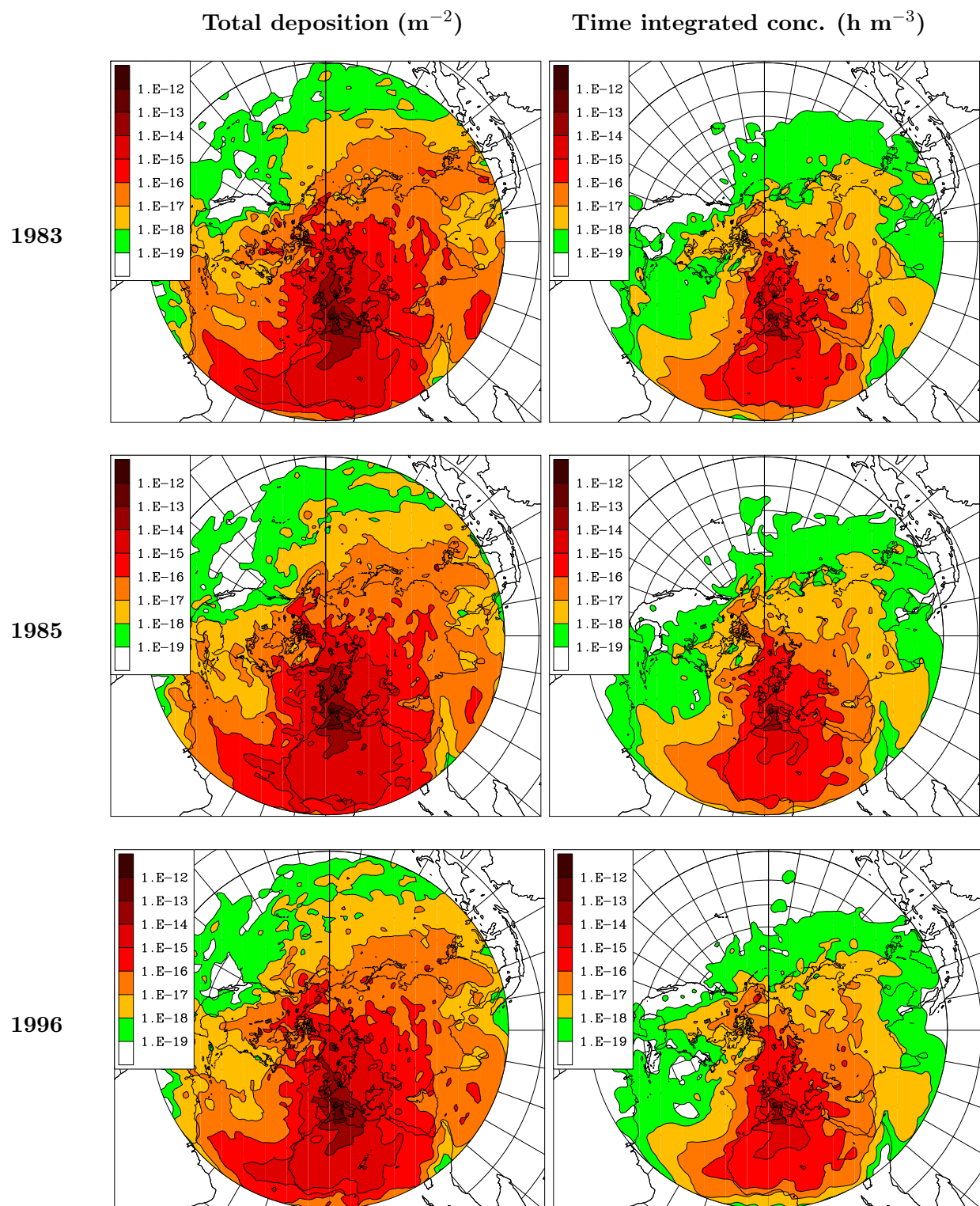
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Title	NKS NordRisk II: Atlas of long-range atmospheric dispersion and deposition of radionuclides from selected risk sites in the Northern Hemisphere
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No. of references	19
Abstract	The present atlas has been developed within the NKS/NordRisk-II project "Nuclear risk from atmospheric dispersion in Northern Europe". The atlas describes risks from hypothetical long-range dispersion and deposition of radionuclides from 16 nuclear risk sites on the Northern Hemisphere. The atmospheric dispersion model calculations cover a period of 30 days following each release to ensure almost complete deposition of the dispersed material. The atlas contains maps showing the total deposition and time-integrated air concentration of Cs-137 and I-131 based on three years of meteorological data spanning the climate variability associated with the North Atlantic Oscillation, and corresponding time evolution of the ensemble mean atmospheric dispersion.

Key words   Risk assessment; long-range transport; radionuclide; pollutants; deposition