## **Supplementary material**

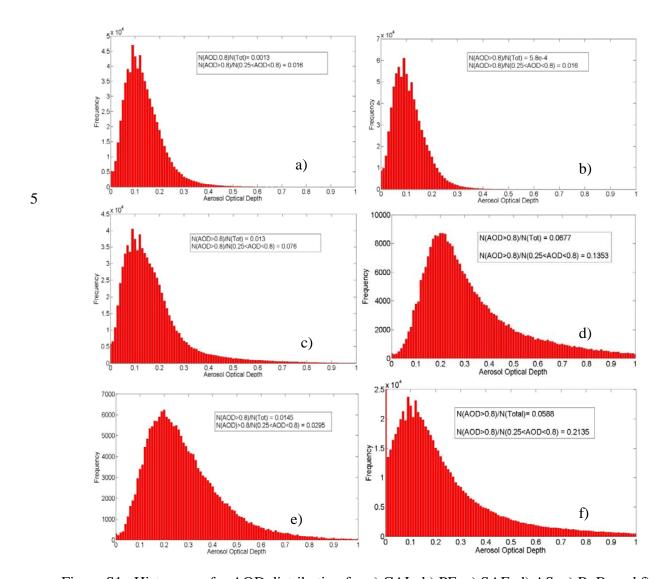


Figure S1. Histograms for AOD distribution for a) CAL, b) PE, c) SAF, d) AS, e) BoB, and f)

10 BLA. Values in legend show the fraction of days with AOD > 0.8 relative to all days,

N(AOD.0.8)/N(Tot) and heavily polluted days, N(AOD)>0.8/N(0.25<AOD<0.8).

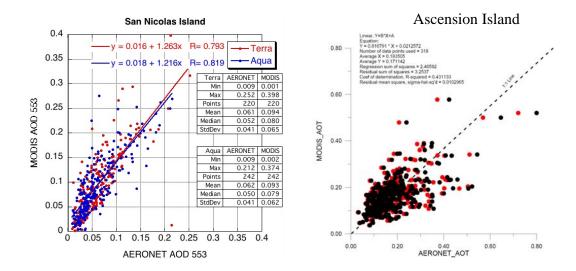


Figure S2. Comparison of co-located MODIS AOD retrievals with automatic Sun/sky radiometers of the AErosol Robotic NETwork (AERONET) at San Nicolas Island (119.487W, 33.257N) and Ascension Island (14.415E, 7.976S) stations.

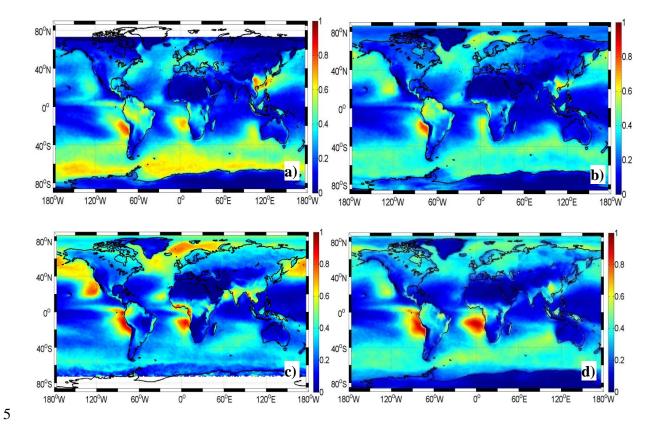
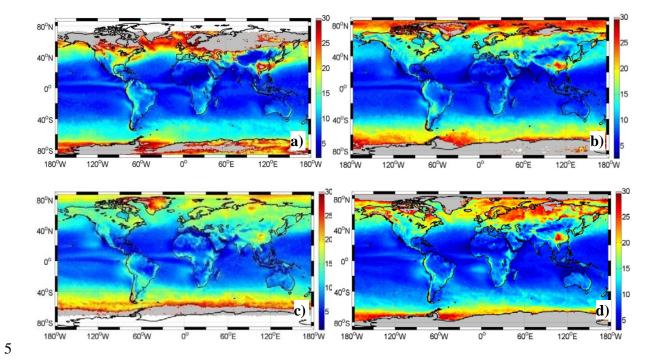


Figure S3. Global distribution of 7-yr averaged liquid cloud fraction values (from *Terra* satellite) for different seasons: a) December –February; b) March – May; c) June – August; and d) September – November.



**Figure S4.** Global distribution of 7-yr averaged liquid cloud optical thickness values (from *Terra* satellite) for different seasons: a) December –February; b) March – May; c) June – August; and d) September – November.

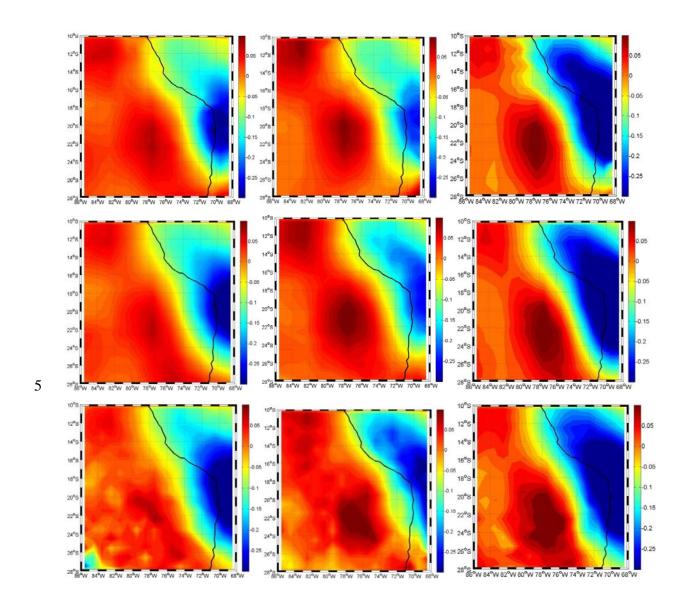
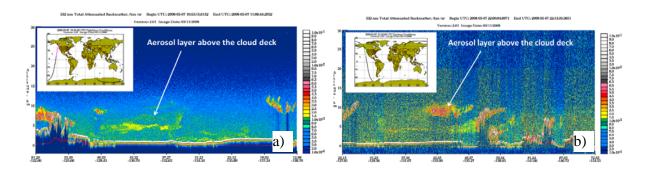
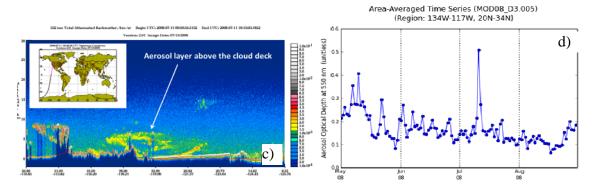
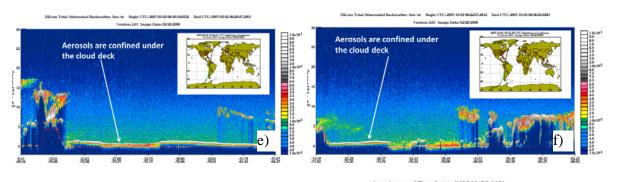
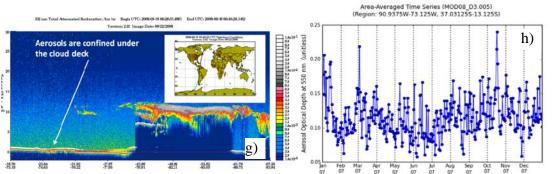


Figure S5. The 7-yr averaged vertical pressure velocity (Pa/s). Left column - March to May, middle column – Jun to August and right column – September to November. From top to bottom: clean, moderately and heavily polluted cases.











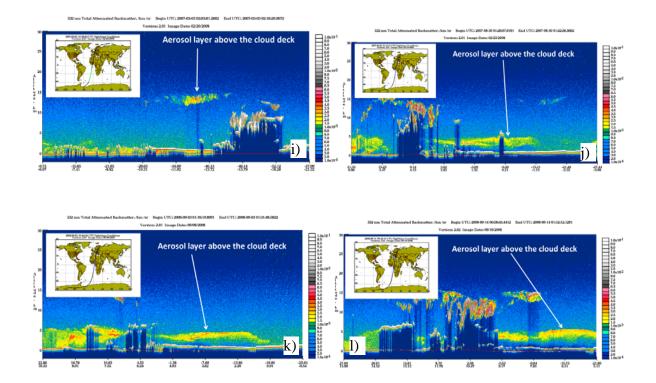


Figure S6. Case studies for the vertical distribution of aerosols and clouds in selected three stratocumulus cloud regions: a), b), c), d) – CAL; e) f) g) h) – PE, i) j) k) l) - SAF.

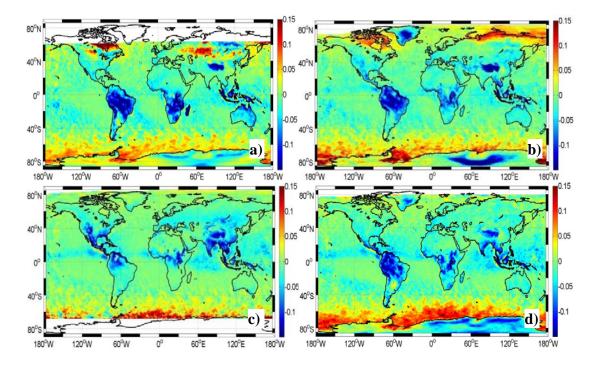


Figure S7. Global distribution of 7-yr averaged morning minus afternoon values for ice cloud fraction (IF) for a) December –February; b) March – May; c) June – August; and d) September – November.

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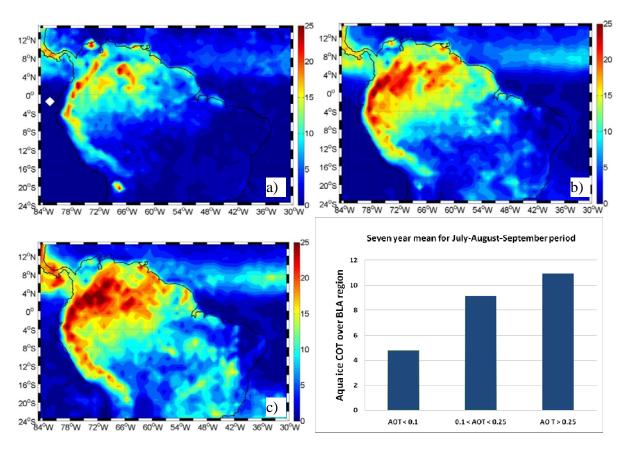


Figure S8. 7-year averaged Aqua ice cloud optical thickness for a) Clean, b) moderately polluted and c) heavily polluted cases. Bar graph shows 7-year mean for July-August-September period over Brazilian Legal Amazon region.