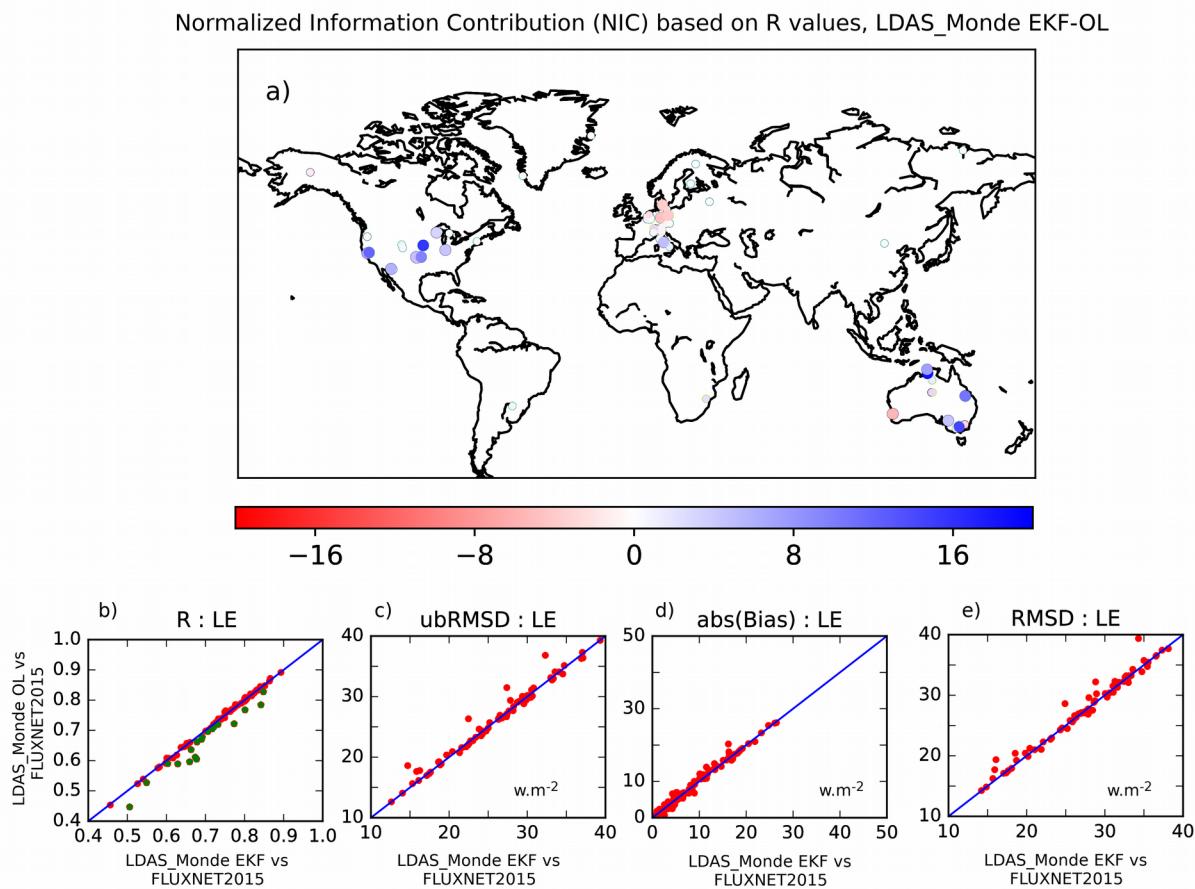


Dear Editor,

In their latest review, the two (original) reviewers insisted that language in the paper needs to be improved. Our manuscript has now been carefully scrutinised leading to several changes. We have not added any new materials but rewritten several parts of 5 the manuscript. Please find below a marked-up version of our manuscript highlighting those changes. Reviewer#1 has also asked to revise the legend of figure 7a (cutting of the colour-bar at -20 and 20) to make it more visible, please find the new figure below.

Sincerely

10 Clément Albergel, on behalf of the co-author



# Data assimilation for continuous global assessment of severe conditions over terrestrial surfaces

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**Abstract-** LDAS-Monde is a global offline Land Data Assimilation System (LDAS) that jointly assimilates satellite-derived observations of Surface Soil Moisture (SSM) and Leaf Area Index (LAI) into the ISBA (Interaction between Soil Biosphere and Atmosphere) Land Surface Model (LSM). This study demonstrates that LDAS-Monde is able to detect, monitor and forecast the impact of extreme weather on land surface states. Firstly, LDAS-Monde is run globally at 0.25° spatial resolution over 2010-2018. It is forced by the state-of-the-art ERA5 reanalysis (LDAS\_ERA5) from the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF). The behaviour of the assimilation system is evaluated by comparing the analysis with the assimilated observations. Then the Land Surface Variables (LSVs) are validated with independent satellite datasets of evapotranspiration, Gross Primary Production, Sun Induced Fluorescence and snow cover. Furthermore, in situ measurements of SSM, evapotranspiration and river discharge are employed for the validation. Secondly, the global analysis is used to (i) detect regions exposed to extreme weather such as droughts and heatwave events and (ii) address specific monitoring and forecasting requirements of LSVs for those regions. This is performed by computing anomalies of the land surface states. They display strong negative values for LAI and SSM in 2018 for two regions: North Western Europe and the Murray-Darling basin in South Eastern Australia. For those regions, LDAS-Monde is forced with the ECMWF Integrated Forecasting System (IFS) high resolution operational analysis (LDAS\_HRES, 0.10° spatial resolution) over 2017-2018. Monitoring capacities are studied by comparing open-loop and analysis experiments again against the assimilated observations. Forecasting abilities are assessed by initializing 4- and 8-day LDAS\_HRES forecasts of the LSVs with the LDAS\_HRES assimilation run compared to open-loop experiments. The positive impact of initialization from an analysis in forecast mode is

particularly visible for LAI that evolves at a slower pace than SSM and is more sensitive to initial conditions than to atmospheric forcing, even at an 8-day lead time. This highlights the impact of initial conditions on LSV forecasts and the value of jointly analysing soil moisture and vegetation states.

50 This is performed by computing anomalies of the land surface states. They display strong negative values for LAI and SSM in 2018 for two regions experiencing severe heatwave and/or droughts: North Western Europe and the Murray Darling basin in South Eastern Australia. For those two regions, monitoring and forecasting LSVs under extreme conditions are examined by forcing LDAS-Monde with ECMWF Integrated Forecasting System (IFS) high resolution operational analysis (LDAS\_HRES,  $0.10^\circ \times 0.10^\circ$  spatial resolution) over 2017-2018. Monitoring capacities are studied by comparing open-loop and analysis experiments again against the assimilated observations. Forecasting abilities are assessed by initializing 4- and 8-day LDAS\_HRES forecasts of the LSVs with the LDAS\_HRES assimilation run compared to open-loop experiments. The impact of initialization in forecast mode is particularly visible for LAI that evolves at a slower pace than SSM and is more sensitive to initial conditions than to atmospheric forcing, even at an 8-day lead time. This highlights the importance of initial conditions to forecast LSVs and it confirms that LDASs should jointly analyse both soil moisture and vegetation states.) over 2010-2018, leading to a 9-yr,  $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$  spatial resolution reanalysis of Land Surface Variables (LSVs). The quality of this global analysis is evaluated using several satellite-based datasets: assimilated SSM and LAI, but also independent datasets of evapotranspiration, Gross Primary Production, Sun Induced Fluorescence and snow cover. In addition, in situ measurements of SSM, evapotranspiration and river discharge are also employed for the evaluation. This assessment is conducted by comparing LDAS-Monde analysis with a model simulation (open-loop, no assimilation). Secondly, the global analysis is used to (i) detect regions exposed to extreme weather such as droughts and heatwave events and (ii) address specific monitoring and forecasting requirements of LSVs for those regions.

70 LDAS ERA5 hereafter This study demonstrates that LDAS-Monde, a global and offline Land Data Assimilation System (LDAS), that integrates satellite Earth Observations into the ISBA (Interaction between Soil Biosphere and Atmosphere) Land Surface Model (LSM), is able to detect, monitor and forecast the impact of extreme weather on land surface states. LDAS-Monde jointly assimilates satellite derived Earth observations of Surface Soil Moisture (SSM) and Leaf Area Index (LAI). First, LDAS-Monde is run at a global scale forced by the latest atmospheric reanalysis from the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF), ERA5 (ECMWF fifth global reanalysis

## 1 Introduction

80 Extreme ~~weather and climate events like heatwaves and droughts~~ events are likely to increase in frequency and/or magnitude ~~as a result of anthropogenic climate change~~ (IPCC, 2012, Ionita et al., 2017). Amongst all the natural disasters, droughts are arguably the most detrimental (Bruce, 1994; Obasi, 1994; Cook et al., 2007; Mishra and Singh, 2010; WMO 2017) ~~and~~ about one-fifth of damages caused by natural hazards can be attributed to droughts (Wilhite 2000). They ~~also~~ cost 85 society billions of dollars every year (WMO, 2017). It is therefore important for communities to develop ~~of paramount importance to implement~~ tools that can monitor and ~~warn about~~predict drought conditions (Svoboda, 2002; Luo and Wood, 2007; Blyverket et al., 2019) as well as their impact on land surface variables (LSVs) and society (Di Napoli et al., 2019). A major scientific challenge in relation to the adaptation to climate change is to observe and simulate how land 90 biophysical variables respond to those extreme events (IPCC, 2012).

Droughts ~~are generally can be described as a deficit of water~~ caused by a lack of precipitation. 95 ~~However, different drought types are~~ ~~This definition is broad but~~ ~~droughts are generally~~ classified according to the part of the hydrological cycle that suffers from a water deficit (IPCC, 2014; Barella-Ortiz and Quintana-Seguí, 2018). ~~Drought types are all related to precipitation deficit and~~ ~~they have severe impacts in regions with rain-fed crops and no possible irrigation.~~ They include meteorological droughts (lack of precipitation), agricultural droughts (deficit of water in the soil), hydrological droughts (deficit of streamflow ~~or~~ water level in rivers) and environmental droughts (a combination of the previous drought types). Because of the effect of precipitation deficit- on the whole hydrological system, all drought types are related (Wilhite, 2000). Complex interactions 100 between continental surface and atmospheric processes have to be combined with human action in order to fully understand the wide ranging impacts of droughts on land surface conditions (Van Loon, 2015). As a consequence, Land Surface Models (LSMs) driven by high-quality gridded atmospheric variables and coupled to river-routing system, ~~are~~ key tools to address these challenges 105 (Dirmeyer et al., 2006; Schellekens et al., 2017). Initially developed to provide boundary conditions to atmospheric models, LSMs can now be used to monitor and forecast land surface conditions (Balsamo et al., 2015; Balsamo et al., 2018; Schellekens et al., 2017). Additionally, the representation of LSVs by LSMs can be improved by coupling them with other models of the Earth system like atmosphere, oceans ~~and~~, river routing systems (e.g., de Rosnay et al., 2013, 2014; Kumar et al., 2018, Balsamo et al., 2018; Rodríguez-Fernández et al., 2019; Muñoz-Sabater et al., 110 2019).

~~Complementary to LSMs are Earth Observations (EOs) provide long-term records, which can complement LSMs.~~ Satellite products are particularly relevant for the monitoring of LSVs. Satellite EOs related to the terrestrial hydrological, vegetation and energy cycles are now available ~~globally, at a global scale~~ at kilometric scales and below ~~with long-term records and~~ (e.g., Lettenmaier et al., 115 Balsamo et al., 2018). Combining EOs and LSMs through Land Data Assimilation Systems (LDASs) ~~can~~ leads to enhanced initial land surface conditions (e.g. Reichle et al., 2007; Lahoz and De Lannoy, 2014; Kumar et al., 2018; Albergel et al., 2017, 2018a, 2019; Balsamo et al., 2018). ~~Subsequently, this can benefit weather forecasts, including which, in turn, lead to improved forecasts of weather patterns, sub-seasonal temperature and precipitation. It can also indirectly benefit agricultural and vegetation productivity, streamflow prediction, warning systems for seasonal streamflow, floods and droughts, as well as and the representation of~~ the carbon cycle (Bamzai and Shukla, 1999; Schlosser and Dirmeyer, 2001; Bierkens, M. and van Beek, 2009; Koster et al., 2010; Bauer et al., 2015; Massari et al., 2018; Albergel et al., 2018a, 2019, Rodríguez-Fernández et al., 120 2019; Muñoz-Sabater et al., 2019). Amongst the current land-only LDAS activities several are ~~led by NASA-led~~ (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) projects. Examples of such activities are the Global Land Data Assimilation System (GLDAS, Rodell et al., 2004) ~~which is run at a global scale. While~~, the North American Land Data Assimilation System (NLDAS, Xia et al., 125 2012a, b) and the National Climate Assessment-Land Data Assimilation System (NCA-LDAS, Kumar et al., 2016, 2018, 2019). ~~are run over the continental United States of America and t~~The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Land Data Assimilation System (FLDAS, McNally et al., 2017) is run ~~e.g.~~ over Western, Eastern and Southern Africa. ~~Finally, Additional examples include~~ the Carbon Cycle Data Assimilation System (CCDAS, Kaminski et al., 2002), the Coupled Land Vegetation LDAS (CLVLDAS, Sawada and Koike, 2014, Sawada et al., 2015), the Data Assimilation System for Land Surface Models using CLM4.5 ~~(proposed by~~ Fox et al., 2018) ~~and~~ the SMAP (Soil Moisture Active Passive) level 4 system (Reichle et al., 2019). ~~as well as~~ ~~Finally~~ LDAS-Monde (Albergel et al., 2017, 2018, 2019) developed by the research department of Météo-France. ~~Details of these studies are provides by~~ A more detailed description of the various existing LDASs is available in ~~few~~ studies have, however, included the assimilation of multiple EOs and considered global applications (Kumar et al., 2018, Albergel et al., 2019). ~~of data assimilation systems combining EOs and LSMs are additional examples~~ Kumar et al., (2018), Albergel et al., 130 (2019) ~~and references therein but~~ few applications are global and include ~~the assimilation of multiple EOs.~~

~~LDAS-Monde consists in an offline (i.e. non coupled with the atmosphere) joint assimilation of Surface Soil Moisture (SSM) and Leaf Area Index (LAI) EOs into the ISBA (Interaction between~~

145 Soil Biosphere and Atmosphere) LSM (Noilhan and Planton, 1989, Noilhan and Mahfouf, 1996).  
After several applicationsSeveral previous studies using LDAS-Monde have been published at regional and continental scales (Albergel et al., 2017, 2018, 2019, Leroux et al., 2018, Tall et al., 2019, Blyverket et al., 2019, Bonan et al., 2020). In this study, LDAS-Monde is run at thea global scale and is forced by the latest atmospheric reanalysis (ERA5) from the European Centre for  
150 Medium Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF), ERA5, over 2010-2018. The resulting leading to a 9-yr, 0.25° × 0.25° spatial resolution reanalysis of the LSVs is hereafter referred to as LDAS ERA5 (LDAS ERA5). can be used to detect, monitor and forecast the impact of extreme events on LSVs. The following items are presented and discussed in this study: by integrating jointly Surface Soil Moisture (SSM) and Leaf Area Index (LAI) EOs into the ISBA (Interaction between Soil Biosphere and Atmosphere) LSM (Noilhan and Planton, 1989, Noilhan and Mahfouf, 1996) at a global scale and in offline mode. In this paper, stemming from previous studies referenced above, it is shown that LDAS-Monde. In this paper, it is shown that LDAS-Monde can be used to detect, monitor and forecast the impact of extreme events on LSVs. The following items are presented and discussed:

- An evaluation of LDAS-Monde at a global scale is carried out. This assessment involves the assimilated observations to demonstrate that the system is working as intended. But more fundamentallyImportantly, LDAS-Monde is then validatedglobal analysis is appraised using diverse, independent and complementary satellite-derived datasets of evapotranspiration (EVAP) from the GLEAM project (Miralles et al., 2011, Martens et al., 2017), Gross Primary Production (GPP) from the FLUXCOM project (Tramontana et al., 2016, Jung et al., 2017), Solar Induced  
160 Fluorescence (SIF) from the GOME-2 (Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment-2) scanning spectrometer (Munro et al., 2006, Joiner et al., 2016) and snow cover data from the Interactive Multi-sensor Snow and Ice Mapping System (orIMS, <https://www.natice.noaa.gov/ims/>, last accessed June 2019). This evaluation is additionallyAdditional validations are performed with in situ measurements of evapotranspiration from the FLUXNET 2015 synthesis data set  
165 (<http://fluxnet.fluxdata.org/>, last accessed June 2019), soil moisture from the International Soil Moisture Network (ISMN, Dorigo et al., 2011, 2015, <https://ismn.geo.tuwien.ac.at/en/>, last accessed June 2019) and river discharge from several networks across the world.
- The LDAS-Monde global analysis over 2010-2018 is used to detect droughts regions exposed to extreme weather such as droughts and heatwave events in 2018. This identification is performed by computing anomalies of LSVs over the 9-year period and identifying where the strongest negative anomalies are located in 2018. For spottedthe identified regions, the monitoring and forecast abilities of LDAS-Monde are further investigated at higher spatial resolution, thus exploring LDAS-Monde capaeities to predict the evolution of LSVs in the context of droughts to

180 forecast such events in near-real-time is investigated by forcing it with high resolution forecasts from ECMWF.

The paper is organised in five sections: section 2 details the various components constituting LDAS-Monde (the ISBA LSM, the data assimilation scheme, and the EOs assimilated as well as the different atmospheric forcing datasets used), followed by the experimental and evaluation setup. Section 3 describes and discusses the impact of the analysis on the representation of the LSVs. 185 Section 4 details the identification of 2 case studies over regions particularly affected by extreme heatwave events during 2018. Furthermore the and their detailed monitoring and land surface forecasts of these events are presented at higher spatial resolution at higher spatial resolution combined with land surface forecasting activities is also presented. Finally section 5 provides conclusions and prospects for future work.

190 2 Material and methods

The following subsections briefly describe the main components of LDAS-Monde: the ISBA LSM, its data assimilation scheme and two other key elements of the setup: atmospheric forcing and assimilated satellite derived observations. The experimental setup and the evaluation datasets used in this study are also presented.

195 2.1 LDAS-Monde

Embedded within the SURFEX (SURFace EXternalisée, Masson et al., 2013, version 8.1) modelling platform developed by the research department of Météo-France (CNRM, Centre National de Recherches Météorologiques), LDAS-Monde (Albergel et al., 2017) allows the joint integration of satellite derived SSM and LAI into the CO<sub>2</sub>-responsive (Calvet, et al., 1998, 2004, 200 Gibelin et al., 2006), multilayer diffusion scheme (Boone et al., 2000, Decharme et al., 2011) version of the ISBA LSM (Noilhan and Planton, 1989, Noilhan and Mahfouf, 1996) coupled with the CTRIP (CNRM Total Runoff Integrating Pathways, Decharme et al., 2019) hydrological model using a Simplified Extended Kalman Filter (SEKF, Mahfouf et al., 2009).

2.1.1 ISBA Land Surface Model

205 The ISBA LSM aims to model the evolution of LSVs. In the chosen configuration for this paper study, ISBA is able to represent the transfer of water and heat through the soil based on a multilayer diffusion scheme, as well as plant growth and leaf-scale physiological processes. ISBA models key vegetation variables like LAI and above ground biomass, the diurnal cycle of water,

carbon and energy fluxes. It computes a soil-vegetation composite using a single-source energy budget. In the CO<sub>2</sub>-responsive version of ISBA, ISBA-A-gs, the model can simulate the CO<sub>2</sub> net assimilation and GPP by considering the functional relationship between the photosynthesis rate (A) and the stomatal aperture (gs) based on the biochemical A-gs model proposed by Jacob et al., 1996. Photosynthesis ~~is in~~ controls ~~of~~ the evolution of vegetation variables. It makes vegetation growth possible as a result of an uptake of CO<sub>2</sub>. ~~Oppositely~~Contrasting, a deficit of photosynthesis triggers higher mortality rates. Ecosystem respiration (RECO) ~~represents is represented by~~ the CO<sub>2</sub> being released by the soil-plant system and GPP by the carbon uptake ~~viarelated to~~ photosynthesis. Finally, the net ecosystem exchange (NEE) consists of the difference between GPP and RECO. Each ISBA grid cell is composed of up to 12 generic land surface types, ~~namely~~ bare soil, rocks, ~~and~~ permanent snow and ice surfaces as well as nine plant functional types (needle leaf trees, evergreen broadleaf trees, deciduous broadleaf trees, C3 crops, C4 crops, C4 irrigated crops, herbaceous, tropical herbaceous and wetlands). The ECOCLIMAP-II land cover database (Faroux et al., 2013) provides ~~ISBA~~these parameters for each patch and each grid cell of the ISBA model.

The ISBA multilayer diffusion scheme's default discretization is 14 layers over 12 m depth. ~~This study follows Decharme et al., (2011), which is illustrated in Figure 1 of their paper. The following configuration is used in this study:~~ thickness (depth) of each layers ~~are~~is (from top to bottom), 1 cm (0-1 cm), 3 cm (1-4 cm), 6 cm (4-10 cm), 10 cm (10-20 cm), 20 cm (20-40 cm), 20 cm (40-60 cm), 20 cm (60-80 cm), 20 cm (80-100 cm), 50 cm (100-150cm), 50 cm (150-200cm), 100 cm (200-300 cm), 200 cm (300-500 cm), 300 cm (500-800 cm) and 400 cm (800 to 1200 cm), ~~see also Figure 1 of Decharme et al., 2011~~. Snow is represented using the ISBA 12-layers explicit snow scheme (Boone and Etchevers, 2001, Decharme et al., 2016).

### 2.1.2 CTRIP river routing system

The ISBA-CTRIP river routing system is able to simulate continental scale hydrological variables based on a set of three prognostic equations. They correspond to (i) the groundwater, (ii) the surface stream water and (iii) the seasonal floodplains. It converts the runoff simulated by ISBA into river discharge. ISBA-CTRIP river-routing network has a spatial resolution of ~~0.5°~~0.5° globally and is coupled daily with ISBA through the OASIS3-LCT coupler (Volodire et al., 2017). ISBA provides ~~to~~ CTRIP with updated fields of runoff, drainage, groundwater and floodplain recharges. In turn, CTRIP provides ISBA with water table depth, floodplain fraction as well as flood potential infiltration. Subsequently, so that ISBA can simulate capillarity rise, evaporation

and infiltration over flooded areas. A comprehensive overview of how CTRIP is coupled with ISBA is available in Decharme et al. (2019).

### 2.1.3 Data assimilation

The SEKF used in LDAS-Monde is a 2-step sequential approach in which a prior forecast step is followed by an analysis step. The prior forecast-step propagates the initial state ~~of the studied system~~ to the next time step with the ISBA LSM and then, the analysis step then corrects this forecast by assimilating observations. The flow-dependency (dynamic link) between the prognostic variables and the observations is ensured in the SEKF through the observation operator and its Jacobians, which propagate information from the observations to the analysis via finite-difference computations (de Rosnay et al., 2013). The Jacobian matrix has as many rows as assimilated observation types (~~in our case two~~ in our case: SSM and LAI) and as many columns as model control variables requested (~~8~~ in our case eight, soil moisture from layers 2 to 8, ~~1-100cm~~, and LAI). In addition to a control run (i.e. the forecast step), computing the Jacobian matrix requires perturbed runs, one for each control variable. The eight control variables are directly updated using their sensitivity to observed variables (i.e. defined by the Jacobian). Other variables are indirectly modified through biophysical processes and feedback from the model. Several studies (e.g. Draper et al., 2009; Rüdiger et al., 2010) have demonstrated that small perturbations lead to a good approximation of this linear behaviour, provided that computational round-off error is not significant. Typically, for those runs, the initial state of the control variable is perturbed by about 0.1% (see Albergel et al., 2017; Rüdiger et al., 2010). The length of the LDAS-Monde assimilation window is 24 hours. A mean volumetric standard deviation error is specified that is proportional to the soil moisture range (the difference between the volumetric field capacity and the wilting point, calculated as a function of the soil type, as given by Noilhan et Mahfouf, 1996). and It is scaled by a factor 0.04 for SSM in its model equivalent (the second layer of soil between 1 and 4 cm), and 0.02 for deeper layers (soil layers 3 to 8, 4-100 cm). The observational SSM error follows the same rule approach and is scaled by 0.05. and which is consistent with errors typically expected for remotely sensed SSM (e.g., de Jeu et al., 2008, Gruber et al, 2016). Based on previous results from Jarlan et al., 2008, Rüdiger et al., 2010 and Barbu et al., 2011, observed LAI standard deviation errors are set to 20 % of the LAI value itself. ~~Modelled LAI standard deviation errors follow the same rule~~ The LAI prior forecast errors are set equivalent to the observation errors for values higher than  $2 \text{ m}^2\text{m}^{-2}$ . For values lower than  $2 \text{ m}^2\text{m}^{-2}$ , a fixed standard deviation error value of  $0.04 \text{ m}^2\text{m}^{-2}$  has been used. More details about this approached can be found in Barbu et al., 2011 (section 2.3 ~~on data assimilation scheme~~ and figure 2).

## 2.2 Atmospheric forcing

275 | The lowest model level (about 10 metres ~~above~~ ground level) of air temperature, wind speed, specific humidity and pressure, the downwelling fluxes of shortwave, longwave radiations as well as precipitation (partitioned in solid and liquid phases) are needed to force LDAS-Monde. In this study, LDAS-Monde is driven by several near-surface meteorological fields from ECMWF:  
280 | 

- its most recent atmospheric reanalysis (ERA5) to produce ~~an~~ LDAS-Monde global reanalysis
- its high resolution Integrated Forecast System (IFS HRES) to monitor and predict the evolution of LSVs for regions under severe droughts and heatwaves.

285 | ERA5 (Hersbach et al., 2018, 2020+ submitted) is the fifth generation of global reanalyses produced by ECWMF. This atmospheric reanalysis is a key element of the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) and is available from 1979 onward (data is released about 2 months behind real time). ERA5 ~~produces analyses at an hourly output, a has hourly output analysis, 31 km horizontal dimension resolution and consisting of~~ 137 levels in the vertical ~~resolution~~. Several 290 | studies have validated the ERA5 dataset. For example, Urraca et al. (2018) have compared incoming solar radiation from both ERA5 and the ERA-interim reanalysis (Dee et al., 2011) at a global scale and found evidence that ERA5 outperforms ERA-Interim. In another study, Beck et al. (2019) have highlighted the good performance of ERA5 precipitation with respect to a set of 26 gridded (sub-daily) precipitation data sources by comparing them to Stage-IV gauge-radar data over the CONUS domain (CONTinental United States of America). Tall et al. (2019) have used in situ 295 | measurements of precipitation at more than 100 stations spanning all over Burkina-Faso in Western Africa as well as incoming solar radiation from 4 in situ stations. ~~They evaluated the performance to evaluate the quality of ERA5 overcompared to ERA-Interim and found improved results with positive outcomes~~ for ERA5 as well. ~~Furthermore, they They have also evaluated both reanalysis datasets for their ability through their impact on the representation of LSVs when used~~ to force the ISBA LSM, ~~which demonstrate again demonstrating~~ a clear advantage for ERA5 ~~in terms of the performance of LSVs. Similar work has been done by~~ Albergel et al. (2018a) ~~made similar comparisons of the ISBA LSM forcing; over North America, They showed this study found enhanced performances in the representation of evapotranspiration, snow depth, soil moisture as well as and~~ river discharge ~~when the ISBA LSM was forced by for~~ ERA5 ~~compared relative~~ to ERA-Interim.  
300 | At the time of ~~the study writting, the~~ ERA5 ~~underlying~~ model and data assimilation system (Cycle 41r2 ~~of the ECMWF IFS~~) are very similar to that of the operational weather forecast, HRES, which

has production cycles ranging from 41r2 to 45r1 during the study period (~~the cycle is 46r1 from June 2019~~, more information at <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/documentation-and-support/changes-ecmwf-model>, last accessed July 2019). The main difference between ERA5 and HRES over the considered period is the horizontal resolution, consisting of 9 km in HRES and 31 km in ERA5. The atmospheric forcing is interpolated from the native grids of ERA5 and HRES to regular grids ~~of at~~ ~~0.25° × 0.25°~~ and ~~0.1° × 0.1°~~, respectively, using a bilinear interpolation from the native grid to the regular grid. -ERA5 and HRES were used in Albergel et al. (2019) to force LDAS-Monde in order to study the impact of the 2018 summer heatwave in Europe. Authors have highlighted that the HRES configuration (LDAS\_HRES hereafter) exhibits better monitoring skills than the coarser resolution ERA5 configuration.

In forecasting mode, ~~-the~~ HRES forecast is also available everyday~~daily~~ from 00:00 UTC with a 10-day lead time, ~~but with changes in the temporal resolution~~. The HRES forecast step frequency is hourly up to time step 90 (i.e. day 3), 3-hourly from time-step 90 to 144 (i.e. day 6) and 6-hourly from time-step 144 to 240 (i.e. day 10). In ~~this study, for~~ forecast experiments in this study (see section 2.4 for details on the experimental setup) HRES forecasts with a 10-day lead time are used to drive~~force~~ the LSM forecasts of the LSVs. By comparing from LDAS\_HRES open-loop and analysis configurations it is possible in order to evaluate the impact of the initialisation on the forecast of LSVs. The original 3-hourly time steps are used up to day 6 (time step 144). ~~to~~ The 6-hourly time steps from day 6 to 10 are interpolated to 3-hourly frequency to avoid discontinuities.

### 2.3 Assimilated satellite Earth Observations

Two types of ~~-~~satellite-derived variables are assimilated in LDAS-Monde: ASCAT Soil Water Index (SWI) and LAI GEOV1. They are both freely available through the Copernicus Global Land Service (CGLS, <https://land.copernicus.eu/global/index.html>, last accessed June 2019).

ASCAT stands for Advanced Scatterometer, which~~this~~ is an active C-band microwave sensor that is onboard the European MetOp polar orbiting satellites (METOP-A, from 2006, B from 2012 and also C from 2019~~8~~). From ASCAT radar backscatter coefficients, it is possible to derive information on SSM following a change detection approach (Wagner et al., 1999, Bartalis et al., 2007). The recursive form of an exponential filter (Albergel et al., 2008) is then applied to estimate the SWI using a timescale parameter, T (varying between 1 day and 100 days). T is a surrogate parameter for all the processes potentially affecting the temporal dynamics of soil moisture (~~like, including~~ soil hydraulic properties ~~and thickness of the soil layer, soil layer thickness~~, evaporation, run-off and vertical gradient of soil properties ~~such as texture and density~~). The obtained SWI then ranges

340 | between 0 (dry) and 100 (wet). In this study, CGLS SWI-001 (~~i.e.~~ produced with a T-value of 1 day) is used as a proxy for SSM (Kidd et al., 2013). Grid points with an average altitude exceeding 1500 m above sea level as well as those with more than 15 % of urban land cover are ~~re~~ rejected as those conditions are known to inhibit~~affect~~ the retrieval of SSM from space. Prior to the assimilation, SSM has to be converted from the observation space to the model space. This is done through a  
345 | linear rescaling as proposed by Scipal et al. (2007), where the mean and variance of observations are matched to the mean and variance of the modelled soil moisture from the second layer of soil (1-4 cm depth). This~~In practice, the~~ rescaling gives ~~in practice~~ ~~very~~ similar results to CDF (cumulative distribution function) matching. The linear rescaling is performed on a seasonal basis (with a 3-month moving window) as suggested by Draper et al., (2011) and Barbu et al., (2014).

350 | The LAI GEOV1 observations are based on data from ~~both~~ SPOT-VGT (up to 2014) and ~~PROBA-~~ V (from 2014) satellites. They span from 1999 to present, have ~~a~~ 1 km~~x 1km~~ spatial resolution and are produced ~~according~~ to the methodology developed by Baret et al. (2013). LAI GEOV1 observations have a temporal frequency of 10 days at best (~~in the presence of clouds, no observation is available~~and no observations are available during cloudy conditions). LAI data are masked in the  
355 | presence of modelled snow by the ISBA LSM.

As in previous studies ~~(e.g,~~ Barbu et al., 2014, Albergel et al., 2019), observations are interpolated by an arithmetic average to the model grid points (0.25° ~~or~~ 0.10° in this study), if at least 50 % of the model grid points are observed (i.e. half the maximum amount). ~~ASCAT~~ SSM and LAI GEOV1 are illustrated by Figure 1.

## 360 | 2.4 Experimental setup

LDAS-Monde is first run globally at a global scale, at 0.25° ~~x 0.25°~~ spatial resolution, forced by the ERA5 atmospheric reanalysis. and~~It~~ assimilating both SSM and LAI EOs from 2010 to 2018 (LDAS\_ERA5 hereafter). LDAS\_ERA5 is spun-up by running the year 2010 twenty times. The LDAS\_ERA5 analysis as well as~~and~~ its model counterpart (open-loop, i.e. no data assimilation) are  
365 | presented and evaluated in this study.

This 9-yr global reanalysis is then used to provide a monthly climatology for estimating anomalies of the land surface conditions. For each month (and variable considered) of 2018 we have removed the monthly mean and scaled by the monthly standard deviation of the 2010-2018 period. Significant anomalies are used to trigger more detailed monitoring as well as~~and~~ forecasting activities for a region of interest. A total of 19 regions across the globe have been selected, which are known for being potential hot spots for droughts and heatwaves ~~have been selected~~. They are listed in Table I and presented in Figure 2. Monthly anomalies of LDAS\_ERA5 analysis of SSM  
370 |

and LAI in the LDAS ERA5 analysis are calculated for those 19 regions are assessed for 2018 (with respect to the 2010-2018 period) over these 19 regions. In turn, regions presenting significant and regions presenting significant level of negative anomalies are selected and further investigated. For those regions, a new LDAS-Monde has been experiment was driven by the HRES atmospheric analysis leading to a  $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$  analysis of the LSVs from April 2016 to December 2018 (LDAS\_HRES hereafter). Not that HRES is only available at a  $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$  spatial resolution only from April 2016. April to December 2016 is used as a short period for spin-up and results are presented for the period 2017-2018. Although a 9-month spin-up period can be seen as rather short, evaluating LDAS\_HRES over either 2017-2018 or 2018 (using instead a 21-month spin-up) leads to similar results on surface soil moisture and LAI (not shown). While the system is not fully spun-up, it can be considered as representative of it is long enough to capture the system response to data assimilation. LDAS\_HRES complements the coarser spatial resolution LDAS\_ERA5.

HRES forecasts with a 10 day lead time are initialized either from are also used, and initialised by either LDAS\_HRES analysis or open-loop or analysis experiments (LDAS\_Fc hereafter) in order to assess the impact of the initialisation on the forecast. Forecasts For simplicity, only forecasts with a four and height day lead time are presented, only (LDAS\_fc4 and LDAS\_fc8, respectively). A summary of the experimental setup is given in Table II.

## 2.5 Evaluation datasets and metrics

BothThis study uses several satellite-derived estimates of EOs as well as in situ measurement data and in situ measurements are used as reference datasets in this study. The LDAS\_ERA5 analysis impaetperformance is assessed with respect to the open-loop model run (i.e. no assimilation). The two assimilated datasets, CGLS SSM and LAI, are firstly used to verify that the data assimilation is behaving as expected, to which extent the assimilation system is able to correctly integrate them (i.e. suggesting a healthy behaviour from the data assimilation system). Then several spatially distributed datasets independent from both experiments: (namely)independent datasets are used for the validation, namely evapotranspiration from the GLEAM project (Miralles et al., 2011, Martens et al., 2017, version 3b entirely satellite driven), GPP from the FLUXCOM project (Tramontana et al., 2016, Jung et al., 2017), SIF from the GOME-2 (Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment-2) scanning spectrometer (Munro et al., 2006, Joiner et al., 2016) and snow cover data from the Interactive Multi-sensor Snow and Ice Mapping System (or IMS, <https://www.natice.noaa.gov/ims/>)used in the evaluation process are. The IMS snow cover product combines ground observations and satellite data from microwave and visible

sensors (using geostationary and polar orbiting satellites) to provide snow cover information in all weather conditions. The IMS product is available daily for the northern hemisphere.

Soil moisture is validated using in situ measurements of surface soil moisture from the ISMN, a pool of station which consists of 19 networks across 14 countries (see Table S3). 19 networks across 14 countries available from the ISMN are also used to evaluate the performance of the soil moisture analysis. In total, They represent 782 stations are represented with at least 2 years of daily data over 2010-2018. In situ measurement sensors at 5 cm depth (SSM) are compared with soil moisture from the LDAS ERA5 third layer of soil (4-10 cm) in LDAS ERA5. In situ measurement sensors at 20 cm depth are compared to LDAS ERA5 soil moisture with from the fourth layer of soil (10-20 cm, 685 stations from 10 networks). Beside 11 stations located in 4 countries of Western Africa (Benin, Mali, Sénégal and Niger) and 21 stations in Australia, most of the station are located in North America and Europe, (see Table S3).

Evaluation datasets are listed in Table III along with the metrics used for the evaluation. For satellite datasets of SWI, LAI, evapotranspiration and GPP, correlations the metrics consist of the correlation coefficient (R), Root Mean Square Differences (RMSD) and Normalized RMSD ( $N_{RMSD}$ , Eq.(1))- are used as metrics.

$$N_{RMSD} = \frac{RMSD_{\text{[Analysis]}} - RMSD_{\text{[Model]}}}{RMSD_{\text{[Model]}}} \times 100 \quad \text{Eq.(1)}$$

Regarding the SIF satellite dataset, fluorescence is not simulated directly in the ISBA LSM. However, photosynthesis activity is simulated through the calculation of the GPP, which is driven by plant growth and mortality in the model. Modelled GPP values are expressed in  $\text{g}(\text{C}) \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{day}^{-1}$ , while SIF is an energy flux emitted by the vegetation ( $\text{mW} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{sr}^{-1} \cdot \text{nm}^{-1}$ ). Hence, GPP and SIF cannot be directly compared as they do not represent the same physical quantities. However, several studies (e.g, Zhang et al., 2016, Sun et al., 2017, Leroux et al., 2018) have found a high correspondence in both time and space between those two variables that their time dynamics investigated, highlighting the potential of SIF products to be used as a validation support for GPP models support the validation of modelled GPP. Therefore, the correlation between modelled GPP and observed SIF is used as an evaluation metrics. Concerning About the snow cover dataset, differences between observed and modelled snow cover is considered for the evaluation.

For in situ datasets of soil moisture and evapotranspiration, usual the standard metrics are considered, namely the correlation coefficient, RMSD, unbiased RMSD and bias are considered as metrics. Moreover, a Normalized Information Contribution (NIC, Eq.(2)) measure is applied to the correlation values to quantify the improvement or degradation due to the specific configuration.

$$NIC_R = \frac{R_{\text{Analysis}} - R_{\text{Model}}}{1 - R_{\text{Model}}} \times 100 \quad \text{Eq. (2)}$$

NIC scores are classified according to three categories: (i) negative impact from the analysis with respect to the open-loop with values smaller than -3 %, (ii) positive impact from the analysis with respect to the open-loop with values greater than +3 % and (iii) neutral impact from the analysis with respect to the open-loop with values between -3 % and 3 %.

440 In addition, for surface soil moisture, the correlation is calculated for both absolute (R) and anomaly ( $R_{\text{anomaly}}$ ) time-series in order to remove the strong impact from the SSM seasonal cycle ~~on this~~ 445 ~~specific metric~~ (see e.g. Albergel et al., 2018a, 2018b).

~~Finally~~, the Nash-Sutcliffe Efficiency score (NSE, Eq.(3), Nash and Sutcliffe, 1970, Eq.(3)) is used to evaluate LDAS ERA5 experiments ability to represent the monthly discharge dynamics.

$$NSE = 1 - \frac{\sum_{mt=1}^T (Q_s^{mt} - Q_o^{mt})^2}{\sum_{mt=1}^T (Q_s^{mt} - \bar{Q}_s^{mt})^2} \quad \text{Eq.(3)}$$

450 where  $Q_s^{mt}$  is the monthly river discharge from LDAS ERA5 (analysis or open-loop) at month  $mt$ , and  $Q_o^{mt}$  is the observed river discharge at month  $mt$ . NSE can vary between  $-\infty$  and 1. An exact match between model predictions and observed data is defined as a value of 1, whereas a value of 0 means that the model predictions have the same accuracy as the mean of the observed data. Finally negative values represent situations where the observed mean is a better predictor than the model simulation. NIC presented in Eq.(1) has also been applied to NSE scores to assess the added value 455 of LDAS ERA5 analysis over its open-loop counterpart. Stations with NSE values less ~~er~~ than -2 have been ~~-~~discarded. A similar threshold has already been used in previous studies evaluating LDAS-Monde (e.g. Albergel et al., 2017, 2018a). Many ~~processes, most of them linked to~~ anthropogenic processes are not yet represented in ISBA, including water management ~~such as the presence of~~ from dams and reservoirs, irrigation, water uptake in urban areas~~, This could lead~~ 460 ~~are not yet represented in ISBA possibly leading~~ to a poor representation of river discharges in those regions. As with previous evaluations studies ~~have suggested a neutral to positive impact from the assimilation, only~~, it has been decided to exclude these areas by focusing ~~on~~ on stations with reasonable NSE values.

### 3 Global assessment of LDAS ERA5

#### 465 3.1 Gridded datasets

In this sub-section, the LDAS-Monde open-loop and analysis ~~are first compared to~~ are firstly compared against the assimilated observations (SSM and LAI) to demonstrate that the assimilation system is working as intended. Both experiments are also compared with independent sources of information to evaluate the analysis impact (GPP, EVAP and SIF).

470 Figure 3 presents mean LAI RMSD values between the observations and LDAS ERA5 for the open-loop (Figure 3a), and for the analysis (Figure 3b) ~~for LAI~~ over 2010-2018. Because LAI observations are ingested into the model, the assimilation reduces the LAI RMSD values almost everywhere. It should be noted that rather large LAI RMSD values ( $> 1.5 \text{ m}^2 \text{m}^{-2}$ ) can remain in some areas after the assimilation, especially in densely forested areas. -

475 Figure 4 illustrates latitudinal plots of LAI, SSM, GPP and EVAP for LDAS ERA5 before assimilation (the open-loop) and after assimilation (the analysis) along with observations. The number of points considered per ~~of latitudinal stripes~~  $0.25^\circ$  stripe is also represented ~~also~~. From Figure 4a it is possible to see the positive impact the analysis has on LAI compared to the open-loop, with the former being closer to the observations. Improvements ~~from~~ in the analysis ~~from~~ see fit are visible between nearly  $80^\circ$  North to about  $55^\circ$  South ~~and~~ areas around the equator are impacted the most from the assimilation particularly improved. This demonstrates that the data assimilation system is working as intended. A smaller impact ~~than for LAI~~ is obtained for SSM, GPP and EVAP relative to LAI, which is hardly visible at this scale. The mean latitudinal results show a consistent difference in terms of GPP and EVAP between LDAS ERA5 and the observational products. These differences are systematic with higher values in tropical regions.

480 Figure 5 ~~represents~~ latitudinal plots of score differences (correlations and normalized  $N_{RMSD}$ ) for LAI, SSM, GPP, EVAP and SIF. For SIF ~~only differences in correlation are represented as~~, it only makes sense to show the correlation differences, since this metric ~~it~~ is used to evaluate GPP variability as in Leroux et al., 2018. Score differences are computed ~~as follow~~, analysis minus open-loop ~~using monthly averages by subtracting the open loop from the analysis. Monthly averages are calculated~~ over 2010-2018 for LAI and SSM, 2010-2013 for GPP, 2010-2016 for EVAP and 2010-2015 for SIF. For each panel of Figure 5, the vertical dashed line represents the 0-value. - For plots of correlation differences, positive values indicate an improvement ~~from~~ in the analysis with respect to the open-loop simulation. Similarly, for plots of RMSD differences, negative values indicate an improvement ~~in~~ from the analysis with respect to the open-loop simulation. Given that LAI and SSM ~~being~~ are assimilated variables, the analysis leads to a clear improvement in both correlation and RMSD. Such an improvement is expected and reflects the healthy behaviour of the assimilation system. Both variables are improved at almost all latitudes with the exception around  $45^\circ$ S for LAI correlation values (very few land points). For SSM a noticeable improvement in both correlation

500 and RMSD is found around 20°N, which corresponds ~~corresponding~~ mainly to an improvement in the Sahara desert (not shown). Being linked to LAI, GPP is also improved across almost all latitudes (to a lesser extent than LAI) with a particularly positive impact below 20°N. As seen on Figure 5 d) and i), there is little impact on variable EVAP ~~a negligible impact of the assimilation on EVAP~~. ~~which can be considered negligible~~ It highlights the difficulty of land surface data 505 assimilation to impact model fluxes by modifying model states.

510 The Ppanels of Figure 6 illustrate histograms of score differences (correlation and RMSD, analysis minus open-loop) for LAI, SSM, GPP, EVAP and SIF. The number of available data ~~as well as~~ and the percentage of positive and negative values are reported. For correlations (RMSD) differences, positive (negative) values indicate an improvement ~~from~~ in the analysis ~~over~~ relative to the open-loop. ~~Regarding LAI, the analysis improves 96.9% of the grid points for correlations and 99.9% for N<sub>RMSD</sub>. As for SSM, correlation values are improved for 92.8% of the grid points (92.4% for R<sub>MSD</sub>).~~ 515 The independent ~~When using independent datasets such as~~ GPP and SIF, ~~one may also notice an improvement from the analysis, datasets also demonstrate improvements in the analysis relative to the open loop. Indeed, the GPP -correlation (RMSD<sub>N<sub>RMSD</sub></sub>) is~~ are better for 81.1% (74.1%) of the gridpoints and the SIF correlation is enhanced for 79.7% ~~and 79.7% (for SIF N<sub>RMSD</sub> is not applicable)~~ of the grid points. Results using the GLEAM dataset for evapotranspiration are more contrasting with 63.6% (48.9%) of the grid points showing an improvement from the analysis. ~~It is worth mentioning that 24.9% (39.6%) of the grid point shows a decrease in skill. However, GLEAM is an evaporation model designed to be driven by remote sensing observations only. GLEAM only estimates (root-~~ 520 ~~zone) soil moisture and terrestrial evaporation while the CO2-responsive version of ISBA in LDAS\_ERA5 is a physically-based land surface model, accounting for more processes linked to vegetation (see section 2.1.1). It has~~ to ~~should~~ be noted that the auxiliary datasets ~~used to~~ e.g. represent the different land cover types ~~are different also~~ also differ. Within GLEAM, the land cover types ~~fractions~~ are sourced from the Global Vegetation Continuous Fields product (MOD44B), 525 based on observations from the Moderate Resolution Image Spectroradiometer (MODIS). Four land cover types are considered, namely bare soil, low vegetation (e.g. grass), tall vegetation (e.g. trees), and openwater (e.g. lakes). In ISBA, the fraction of the 12 land cover types ~~fraction depart over some areas departs~~ from prevalent land cover products such as CLC2000 (Corine Land Cover) and GLC2000 (Global Land Cover). It ~~can~~ could potentially impact the distribution of the terrestrial 530 evaporation between GLEAM and ISBA. Further work at CNRM will focus on understanding the differences between ISBA and GLEAM, in particular investigating the sub-components of terrestrial evaporation.

Finally, Figure S1 and Figure S2 illustrate snow cover evaluation. LDAS<sub>ERA5</sub> snow cover is evaluated against the IMS snow cover (as e.g. in Orsolini et al., 2019). Figure S1 shows the averaged northern hemisphere snow cover fraction for the 2010-2018 period. It is complemented by all panels of Figure S2 which showings (i) maps of IMS snow cover (top row) for 3 seasons; September–October–November (SON), December–January–February (DJF) and March–April–May (MAM), respectively, (ii) equivalent maps of snow cover from LDAS<sub>ERA5</sub> open-loop (second row), (iii) maps of snow cover differences between the open-loop and IMS data and (iv) maps of snow cover differences between the analysis and the open-loop. LDAS<sub>ERA5</sub> open-loop compares very well with the IMS snow-cover data in the accumulation season from September to February (Figure S2 and panels d) to i) of Figure S1), except for only with an overestimation over the Tibetan Plateau. The issue over Tibet from ERA5 is not new, and is consistent with previous studies like Orsolini et al., (2019). An early melt in spring compared to observations is noted is visible in LDAS<sub>ERA5</sub> compared to observations and could be related with to the snow cover parametrization in ISBA. As expected, the analysis has an almost neutral impact on snow as both SSM and LAI observations are filtered out from during frozen/snow-covered conditions and condition and as there is no snow data assimilation yet in LDAS<sub>ERA5</sub> (Figure S2 and panels (j), (k) and (l) of Figure S1). ~~This clearly shows, however~~ an area of potential improvement of data assimilation with in LDAS-Monde is to incorporate snow data assimilation using satellite data such as the IMS one (as in e.g. de Rosnay et al., 2014).

### 3.2 Ground-based datasets

LDAS<sub>ERA5</sub> analysis and open-loop are also evaluated using independent in situ measurements of evapotranspiration, river discharge and surface soil moisture across the world. Daily in situ measurements of evapotranspiration from the FLUXNET-2015 synthesis data set (<http://fluxnet.fluxdata.org/>, last accessed June 2019) are first used in this study. The LDAS<sub>ERA5</sub> ability to represent evapotranspiration evapotranspiration performance is evaluated using the correlation coefficient (R), RMSD, and ubRMSD as well as and the bias (LDAS<sub>ERA5</sub> minus observations) using the 85 selected FLUXNET-2015 stations. The median R, RMSD, ubRMSD and bias for LDAS<sub>ERA5</sub> analysis (open-loop) are 0.73 (0.72), 28.74 (29.60) W.m<sup>-2</sup>, 27.37 (26.92) W.m<sup>-2</sup> and 4.64 (4.40) Wm<sup>-2</sup>, respectively. If these numbers Although these values depict a small advantage of the analysis over the open-loop configuration, it is worth mentioning that these differences are rather small and likely to fall within the uncertainty of the in situ measurements. Figure 7(a) represents the added value of the analysis based on NIC<sub>R</sub> (Eq.(2)), the large blue circles represent a positive impact from the analysis (20 stations) with a NIC<sub>R</sub> greater than +3 (i.e. R values are better when the analysis is used than when the model is used) while large red circles represent a

degradation from the analysis (5 stations) -with a  $\text{NIC}_R$  smaller than -3. Stations with a rather neutral impact (60 stations) ~~havewith~~ a  $\text{NIC}_R$  between [-3 ; +3] ~~and~~ are reported using small dots. Note that at the scale of Figure 7(a), some stations are overlapping. Figure 7(a) is complemented by 570 panels -(b), (c), (d) and (e) ~~that are which show~~ scatter-plots of  $R$ ,  $\text{ubRMSD}$ , absolute bias and  $\text{RMSD}$  between LDAS\_ERA5 analysis (x-axis) ~~and the~~, open-loop (y-axis) for the 85 stations from the Fluxnet2015. ~~Out of the 85 stations considered, 5656 stations (out of 85) have better R values considering in the analysis. They are 41 for ubRMSD, 47 for compared to the open loop. The respective numbers of improved stations for ubRMSD, RMSD and 44 for absolute bias the absolute bias equate to 41, 47 and 44 respectively.~~ The set of 20 stations from Figure 7(a) where the analysis has a positive impact ~~on the  $\text{NIC}_R$  at  $\text{NIC}_R$  (greater than +3)~~ are reported in green on Figure 7(b). Results on river discharge are illustrated by Figure 8 (panels a and b). Figure 8(a) represents NSE 575 scores for the subset of 982 stations selected. Most of them are located in North America and Europe while a few are available in South America and Africa. Figure 8(a) is complemented by Figure 8(b) ~~which shows that represents~~ the  $\text{NIC}$  score applied to ~~the~~ NSE score. ~~and it~~ emphasizes the added value of ~~the~~ LDAS\_ERA5 analysis over the open-loop. ~~From this subset of station~~ 74% ~~of this subset of stations~~ presents a rather neutral impact from the analysis (-with a  $\text{NIC}$  ranging between -3% and +3%) while 26% (254 stations) presents a significant impact (with a  $\text{NIC}$  above +3% or below -3%). When the analysis ~~significantly~~ impacts the representation of river discharge, 580 this impact tends to be positive. ~~Indeed, with~~ 74% ~~of this subset of stations~~ (189 stations) having a  $\text{NIC}$  score greater than 3% while only 26% (65 stations) ~~present show~~  $\text{NIC}$  score smaller than -3%. ~~The statistical scores for soil moisture from LDAS\_ERA5 open-loop and analysis (third and fourth layers of soil, 4-10 cm depth, 10-20 cm depth, respectively) over 2010-2018 when compared with ground measurements from the ISMN (5 cm depth and 20 cm depth, respectively) are presented in Table S3 for each individual network. Averaged statistical metrics (ubRMSD, R,  $R_{\text{anomaly}}$  and bias) are similar for both LDAS\_ERA5 analysis and open-loop even if local differences exist. For the analysis, averaged  $R$  ( $R_{\text{anomaly}}$ ) values along with its 95% Confidence Interval (CI) using in situ measurements at 5 cm (782 stations from 19 networks) are  $0.68 \pm 0.03$  ( $0.53 \pm 0.04$ ) ( $0.67 \pm 0.03$  ( $0.53 \pm 0.04$ )) for the open-loop) with averaged network values going up to  $0.88 \pm 0.01$  ( $0.58 \pm 0.04$ ) for the analysis (SOILSCAPE network, 49 stations in the USA) and always higher than 0.55 except for one network, ARM (10 stations in the USA) presenting an averaged  $R$  value of  $0.29 \pm 0.05$ . Averaged ubRMSD and bias (LDAS\_ERA5 minus in situ) are  $0.060 \text{ m}^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$  and  $0.077 \text{ m}^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$  for the analysis,  $0.060 \text{ m}^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$  and  $0.076 \text{ m}^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$  for the open-loop, respectively. NIC (Eq.2) has also been applied to R values, 65% of the pool of stations present a neutral impact from the analysis (511 stations at NIC~~

600 ranging between -3 and +3), 12% present a negative impact (91 stations at  $\text{NIC} < -3$ ) and 23% present a positive impact at (180 stations at  $\text{NIC} > +3$ ).

605 4 The statistical scores for soil moisture from LDAS ERA5 open-loop and analysis are presented for the third and fourth layers of soil, corresponding to 4-10 cm depth and 10-20 cm depth respectively. The soil moisture at layers 3 and 4 is compared with ground measurements over 2010-2018 from the ISMN at depths of 5 cm and 20 cm respectively. The results are displayed in Table S3 for each individual network. Averaged statistical scores (ubRMSD, R, R anomal and bias) are similar for both LDAS ERA5 analysis and open-loop even if local differences exist. For the analysis, averaged R (R anomal) values for the third layer, along with their 95% Confidence Intervals (CI) (782 stations from 19 networks), are  $0.68 \pm 0.03$  ( $0.53 \pm 0.04$ ). For the open loop, the averaged R (R anomal) values are  $0.67 \pm 0.03$  ( $0.53 \pm 0.04$ ). Averaged-network values are highest for the SOILSCAPE network with values of  $0.88 \pm 0.01$  ( $0.58 \pm 0.04$ ) for the analysis (49 stations in the USA). For all networks, the average R values are higher than 0.55, with the exception of ARM (10 stations in the USA), which presents an averaged R value of  $0.29 \pm 0.05$ . Averaged ubRMSD and bias (LDAS ERA5 minus in situ) are  $0.060 \text{ m}^3 \text{m}^{-3}$  and  $0.077 \text{ m}^3 \text{m}^{-3}$  for the analysis respectively. The open loop has a similar performance, with a ubRMSD and bias of  $0.060 \text{ m}^3 \text{m}^{-3}$  and  $0.076 \text{ m}^3 \text{m}^{-3}$  respectively. NIC (Eq.2) has also been applied to R values. In total, 65% of stations present a neutral impact of the analysis compared to the open loop (511 stations at  $\text{NIC}$  ranging between -3 and +3), 12% present a negative impact (91 stations at  $\text{NIC} < -3$ ) and 23% present a positive impact (180 stations at  $\text{NIC} > +3$ ).

610 620 625 630 The number of stations where R differences between the analysis and the open-loop are significant (i.e. their 95% CI are not overlapping) is 186 out of 782 (about 26%). There is an improvement from the analysis with respect to the open-loop for 128 stations (out of 186, i.e. about 69%) and a degradation for 58 stations (about 31%). Figure 9 illustrates R differences between the analysis and the open-loop runs over CONUS where most of the stations are located (552 out of 782). When differences (analysis minus openloop) are not significant stations are represented by a small dot (425 stations out of 552, about 77%). When they are significant (127 stations out of 552, about 23%), large circles have been used, blue for with blue corresponding to positive differences (an improvement from the analysis, 99 stations out of 127, about 78%) and red for negative differences (28 stations out of 127 a degradation from the analysis, 28 stations, about 22%). For most of the stations where a significant difference is obtained, it represents an improvement from the analysis.

Averaged analysis R (95%CI), bias and ubRMSD for the fourth layer of soil (685 stations from 10 networks) are  $0.65 \pm 0.03$ ,  $0.049 \text{ m}^3 \text{m}^{-3}$  and  $0.055 \text{ m}^3 \text{m}^{-3}$ , respectively. For the open-loop, they are

635 0.64±0.03, 0.048 m<sup>3</sup>m<sup>-3</sup> and 0.056 m<sup>3</sup>m<sup>-3</sup>, respectively. ~~For soil moisture at that depth~~In terms of the NIC, about 60% of the stations ~~present~~demonstrate a neutral impact ~~from~~of the analysis ~~compared with the open loop, while 28% show (410 stations at NIC ranging between -3 and +3), 28% a positive impact (189 stations at NIC > +3) and 12% a negative impact (86 stations at NIC < -3)~~. Although differences between the open-loop run and the analysis are rather small, these results underline the added value of the analysis with respect to the model run. Figure S3 represents the 640 distribution of the scores values for LDAS ERA5 open-loop and analysis using boxplots centred on the median value. ~~If they look very similar and from Figure S3, it is difficult to see either improvement or degradation from the analysis~~any important differences between them.

645 For evapotranspiration, river discharge and surface soil moisture there is a slight advantage for ~~the~~ LDAS ERA5 analysis with respect to its open-loop counterpart. Even if the ~~distribution of the averaged statistical metrics are~~ can be rather similar for both ~~(particularly true for surface soil moisture evaluation)~~, there are significant ~~regional differences for some sites, which shows the added value of the analysis with respect to the open-loop~~differences at the regional scale.

#### 4. Monitoring and forecasts for areas under severe/extreme conditions

##### 4.1 Selection of two regional case studies

650 For each individual region presented in Table I and Figure 2, monthly anomalies (scaled by the standard deviation) of analysed SSM (second layer of soil, 1-4cm) and LAI for 2018 are ~~-~~ assessed with respect to the 2010-2018 ~~average~~period. The anomalies (see Figure 10) highlight three regions, two ~~of which presenting~~strong negative anomalies for both SSM and LAI for almost all 2018(of 2018. These are -North -Western Europe; (WEUR), and the Murray-Darling basin; (MUDA), in 655 ~~South Eastern Australia)~~, and one presenting~~Contrastingly, one region presents~~ strong positive anomalies of SSM and LAI in Eastern Africa (EAFR). WEUR and MUDA regions were affected by a severe heatwave and a drought in 2018 ~~impacting, which impacted the~~ LSVs analysed by LDAS ERA5. According to Figure 10, monthly anomalies of SSM and LAI for MUDA are negative through ~~the whole~~ 2018 with 7 ~~and (6)~~ months presenting LAI ~~and (SSM)~~ anomalies below -1 standard deviation (stdev), respectively. WEUR has negative SSM anomalies from May to December 2018 with values ~~dipping~~going below -2 stdev. LAI was severely impacted as well with July to October 2018 presenting negative anomalies below -2 stdev. For WEUR, 5 months ~~present~~show LAI and SSM anomalies below -1 stdev. ~~On the other hand, EAFR experienced 3 (7) EAFR experiences 3 and 7 months with positive anomalies for SSM and LAI in 2018 above 1 stdev (8 and 7 months consecutively present positive anomalies for SSM and LAI respectively).~~

660 665

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Europe experienced its warmest summer since continental records began in 1910 at +2.16°C above mean (Global Climate Report, <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/global/> last accessed April 2019). In Europe, ~~temperatures over all the summer months in 2018 were above the climatological mean temperature for the whole summer 2018 was above climateology~~. The summer 2018 heatwave in Europe has already reported in the scientific literature (e.g. Magnusson et al., 2018, Albergel et al., 2019, Blyverket et al., 2019).

In its 70<sup>th</sup> Special Climate Statement, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) ~~has~~ reported a very hot and dry summer 2018 in eastern Australia (BoM, 2019). Like much of Australia, the Murray Darling basin ~~also~~has experienced ~~a~~ remarkably dry and hot weather during 2018. The annual maximum temperature for the Murray Darling basin as a whole was more than two degrees above average during 2018. The northern Murray–Darling Basin in particular was severely affected with inflows to all ~~rivers~~ catchments persistently well below ~~average~~normal (<http://www.bom.gov.au/state-of-the-climate/>, last visited: April 2019). Finally, the East Africa ~~n~~ Seasonal Monitor based on the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS) confirms above-average rainfall amounts ~~and as well as~~ significantly greener than normal vegetation conditions (e.g., <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/east-africa-seasonal-monitor-july-27-2018>, last visited: April 2019). As this study focuses on monitoring and forecasting the impact of severe droughts ~~s~~ conditions on LSVs, ~~the~~ WEUR and MUDA ~~regions~~ are selected for further investigation.

4.2 Case studies ~~presentation~~: LDAS-Monde medium resolution (0.25°~~×~~0.25°) experiments

Figure 11 illustrates seasonal cycles of observed LAI (Figure 11a) and SWI (Figure 11e), LDAS\_ERA5 analysis and open-loop LAI (Figure 11b) and SSM (Figure 11f) for the WEUR domain. ~~The 2018 period~~2018 is compared to ~~an average of the period~~2010-2017 ~~average~~. From Figure 11a, one may see the heatwave impact with a sharp drop in observed LAI values from June to November 2018 (solid green line). Such low LAI values have never been observed over the eight previous years (~~dashed green line for the 2010-2017 averaged along with the 2010-2017 minimum and maximum observations~~ it is below the minimum value in shaded green). A similar behaviour is also visible in the ASCAT SWI dataset in Figure 11e with the lowest values recorded in 2018 ever reached in this ~~for the~~ 2010-2018 period. Over WEUR, LDAS\_ERA5 open-loop overestimates LAI in the second part of the year, as already highlighted by several studies (e.g. Albergel et al., 2017, 2019). ~~The~~ LDAS\_ERA5 analysis has a positive impact and reduces, reducing LAI values, as seen ~~on in~~ Figure 11b (~~LAI open-loop in blue, analysis in red~~). Panels c), d) g) and h) of Figure 11) depict a similar situation for the MUDA area, almost every month of 2018 presents the lowest

700 values for both SSM and LAI. For both MUDA and WEUR, the smaller differences for LAI and SSM between LDAS\_ERAS analysis and open-loop in 2018 ~~compared to 2010-2017 also suggests indicates~~ that both extreme events were well captured in the atmospheric forcing used to drive LDAS\_ERAS.

705 4.3 Case studies: ~~for assessing~~ LDAS-Monde high resolutions ( $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$ ) analysis and forecast experiments

710 For ~~the two selected these two specific~~ areas (WEUR and MUDA), LDAS-Monde is also ~~run forced run over April 2016 to December 2018 with the atmospheric forcing from by~~ HRES (LDAS\_HRES) at  $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$  spatial resolution over April 2016 to December 2018. Additionally ~~daily forecast experiments are performed and the results presented for LAI and SSM for lead-times of to~~ LDAS\_HRES analysis, forecast experiments with a lead time of 4-days and 8-days. ~~These forecasts are~~ initialised by either LDAS\_HRES analysis or open-loop ~~over are presented for~~ 2017-2018 ~~(for SSM and LAI)~~ in order to assess the impact of the initial conditions ~~on the forecast of the LSVs~~. In this subsection, this new set of six experiments is verified against the assimilated observations. Verification of the ~~forecast experiments forecasts with these observations~~ can be 715 viewed as an independent validation as those observations are not assimilated yet. It is worth mentioning that there is a difference between the use of SSM and LAI observations to evaluate the forecast. For SSM, the assimilation is done after a rescaling ~~of the observations~~ to the model climatology (see section 2.3), which removes bias. ~~However, for LAI, however~~ this is not the case and the assimilation process ~~removes the bias in unbiases~~ the modelled LAI ~~with respect to the observations (w.r.t. the observation)~~. This difference, together with the longer memory of LAI (compared ~~to~~ SSM), contributes to the results presented in this sub-section. Statistical scores for 720 LDAS\_HRES open-loop and analysis are ~~also presented, also, to which~~ serve as a benchmark ~~for~~ the forecast experiments.

725 ~~Upper panels of~~ Figure 12 (for WEUR) and Figure 13 (for MUDA) ~~upper panels~~, illustrate ~~the~~ seasonal RMSD (Figure 12a, 13a) and correlation (Figure 12b, 13b) ~~values~~ between ~~SSM from the second layer of soil (1-4 cm) from LDAS-Monde forced by HRES (LDAS\_HRES SSM from the second layer of soil (1-4 cm), open-loop and analysis)~~ and ASCAT SSM estimates over 2017-2018. Scores ~~between SSM from the second layer of soil of are also reported for the~~ LDAS\_HRES 4-day ~~forecast (LDAS\_fc4), initialised by either the open-loop or analysis)~~ and 8-day forecasts (LDAS\_fc8, ~~initialised by either the open-loop or analysis~~) and ASCAT SSM estimates are 730 ~~reported, also~~. From the upper panels of those figures one may notice a small improvement from the analysis (solid red line) over the open-loop simulation (solid blue line), ~~with~~ slightly ~~decreasing reduced~~ RMSD values and increasing ~~ing~~ correlation values. However, no improvement

(nor degradation) is visible from the 4-d and 8-d forecasts experiments initialised by LDAS\_HRES analysis over those initialised by LDAS\_HRES open-loop, ~~they display very similar scores. As expected, LDAS\_HRES SSM is of better quality closer to the observations compared with than~~ LDAS\_fc4 and LDAS\_fc8. ~~Note however that for the~~ It is worth pointing out that for the MUDA area, there is a small positive impact of the initialisation on the 4-d and 8-d forecast of surface soil moisture (Figure 13a, b). ~~These~~ These results suggest that ~~the~~ is fast evolving SSM model variable (SSM between 1 cm and 4 cm depth) ~~relies more on the~~ is more sensitive to the atmospheric forcing than ~~to~~ the initial conditions (at least within the forecast range presented in this study). ~~and it can be assumed that the 4-day and 8-day atmospherical forecast from HRES is of lower quality than the first 24 h analysis.~~ Results for LAI are different from ~~-~~SSM (lower panels of Figure 12 and Figure 13). Firstly, there is a large improvement from the analysis (solid red line) over the open-loop (solid blue line), particularly ~~in~~during the LAI decaying phase (Boreal and Austral autumns mainly). Secondly, ~~the~~ LDAS\_HRES open-loop (solid blue line) ~~and the forecasts initialized by the open loop; (LDAS\_fc4 (dotdashed blue line) and LDAS\_fc8 (dashed blue line) initialized by LDAS\_HRES open-loop perform similarly present very similar skills, so do~~ Furthermore, the LDAS\_fc4 and LDAS\_fc8 ~~forecasts are quite consistent when initialized by the~~ LDAS\_HRES analysis ~~(dotdashed and dashed red lines, respectively).~~ They also outperform ~~skills of~~ Importantly, ~~the LDAS\_HRES analysis and forecasts outperform the~~ LDAS\_HRES open-loop ~~initial conditions and forecasts, LDAS\_fc4 and LDAS\_fc8 initialized by LDAS\_HRES open-loop.~~ This suggests that LAI ~~relies more on its~~ forecasts are more sensitive to initial conditions than ~~onto~~ the atmospheric forcing ~~(at least within the forecast range presented in this study)~~ 4-8 day range for both and that forecasting LAI is also a matter of initial conditions. This statement is valid for these two contrasted areas, WEUR and MUDA regions.

These results are corroborated by Figures 14 (for WEUR) and 15 (for MUDA), ~~top rows illustrate for both SSM (top) and bottom rows LAI (bottom).~~ Figures 14(a) and 15(a) show RMSD values between LDAS\_HRES open-loop SSM (1-4 cm) and ASCAT SSM over 2017-2018 for the WEUR and MUDA domains, respectively. Due to the seasonal linear rescaling applied to ASCAT estimates, ~~the~~ RMSD values are rather small. For the WEUR (MUDA) domain they range from 0 to 0.048 m<sup>3</sup>m<sup>-3</sup> (0 to 0.040 m<sup>3</sup>m<sup>-3</sup>). Figures 14(b) and 15(b) ~~represent~~ maps of RMSD differences between LDAS\_HRES analysis (open-loop) and ASCAT SSM estimates over 2017-2018 for the WEUR and MUDA domains, ~~as well~~. Both maps are dominated by negative values (in blue) indicating that RMSD values are consistently smaller (better) when using LDAS\_HRES analysis than when using LDAS\_HRES open-loop. ~~It is also worth mentioning that no positive differences (i.e. a degradation from the analysis) are present in those maps.~~ For the MUDA domain, ~~they are~~

improved the RMSD values are reduced by about 15%. Figures 14(c), (d) and 15(c), (d) are also show maps of RMSD differences, they consider for forecast experiments (LDAS\_fc4, LDAS\_fc8).

770 It appears that for over both domains, the impact from the initialisation is rather small. This supports previous results indicating that the with few coloured areas, strengthening previous results suggesting that, forcing quality is more important than the initial conditions to forecast for the SSM variable forecasts. However, the results for LAI support the opposite conclusion. Results are different for LAI. The RMSD values for LDAS\_HRES open-loop are ranging between 0 and to 1.6 m<sup>2</sup>m<sup>-2</sup> over WEUR and 0 and to 1 m<sup>2</sup>m<sup>-2</sup> over MUDA (Figures 14(e) and 15(e)). The RMSD values are improved/reduced by up to 37 % over WEUR and up to 60% over MUDA by the analysis (Figures 14(f) and 15(f)). Improvement from the data assimilation analysis over the open-loop experiment is consistent through all over the WEUR domain while the improvement over the MUDA domain is restrained to concentrated in the south eastern part (the north western part has low RMSD values as the open-loop is largely unchanged).

775 Similarly to Figures 14(a, b, c, d), Figure 16 illustrates the impact of the analysis on SSM in terms of the correlation coefficient using correlations. This time, ASCAT SWI (i.e. no rescaling) has been used for the validation. Figure 16 (top panels) shows maps of R values based on the absolute values while Figure 16 (bottom panels) shows R values based on the anomalies time series (capturing short term variability) as defined in Albergel et al., 2018a. Figure 16 (a) and (e) represents R values and anomaly R values for LDAS\_HRES, respectively. As expected R values are higher than anomaly R values. Maps of differences (panels b and f) of Figure 16 suggest that after assimilation, both scores are improved rather almost equally. While the 4-day and 8-day forecasts still show an improvements from the using initial conditions from the analysis over the open loop on R values (panels c and d of Figure 16 dominated by positive differences, analysis minus open-loop), maps of anomaly R values forecast do not display any negative or positive impact (panels g and h of Figure 16).

780 Finally, the top panels of Figure 17 illustrate the impact of the analysis on drainage monitoring and forecasts over WEUR. Fig. 17 a) represents drainage from the LDAS\_HRES open-loop varying with values ranging between 0 and 1 kg.m<sup>-2</sup>.day<sup>-1</sup>. Fig. 17 b) shows the drainage difference between LDAS\_HRES analysis and open-loop. The analysis impact on drainage is rather small, (about within ±3%) and more pronounced in areas where the analysis has largely affected LAI more (see panels f, g) and h) of Figure 14). As seen in Figure 17 on panels (c) and (d), there is also an impact from the forecasts are also sensitive to the initialisation in areas where the analysis was more where the analysis effectively corrected LAI. The bottom panels of Figure 17 illustrate a similar impact on runoff. As for drainage, this variable is affected by the analysis. Initial conditions have an

~~impact on its forecast, also.~~ Although we did not validate drainage and runoff in this study, ~~present a quality assessment of those two variables, previous our~~ findings suggest a neutral to positive impact of the analysis on river discharge ~~through modifications to drainage and runoff analysis impact, but also those from~~ (Albergel et al., 2017, 2018a), suggest a neutral to positive impact, propagated from the analysis of SSM and LAI to river discharge through variables such as drainage and runoff.

## 5. Discussion and conclusion

This study has demonstrated ~~that combining a LSM, satellite the potential of LDAS-Monde for assimilating EO~~s ~~into a LSM and atmospheric forcing through LDAS-Monde has a great potential to represent predict~~ the impact of ~~extreme weather~~ (heatwaves and droughts) on land surface conditions. LDAS-Monde is now ready for ~~use in~~ various applications ~~such as including~~ (i) ~~land surface~~ reanalyses of ~~land~~ Essential Climate Variables (ECVs), (ii) monitoring of water resources, ~~such as the impact of droughts and on~~ vegetation, ~~and~~ (iii) ~~the~~ detection of ~~severe conditions extreme land surface conditions; and~~ (iv) ~~the effective over land and~~ initialisation of LSVs ~~forecast for land surface forecasting~~. LDAS-Monde ~~It~~ has been applied in this study to past events of 2018 with respect to a ~~short period of time relatively short climatology~~ (2010-2018), ~~as a demonstrator but will be extended to a longer time period. It is planned that it will be applied to much longer periods for future reanalysis applications. The operational application of~~ LDAS-Monde ~~operational use in~~ near-real-time ~~has the capacity to serve as an~~ could potentially improve emergency monitoring systems for ~~the~~ LSVs. Using ~~high quality~~ atmospheric reanalysis ~~is~~ like ERA5 to force LDAS-Monde guarantees a high level of consistency ~~because of its frozen since the~~ configuration is frozen in time (no changes in spatial and vertical resolutions, data assimilation ~~and~~ or parametrizations). The ERA5 coarse spatial resolution ~~of ERA5~~ makes it affordable to run long ~~time periods term~~ and large-scale LDAS-Monde experiments. With ERA5 available from 1979 and now covering near real-time needs with its ERA5T version (<https://climate.copernicus.eu/climate-reanalysis>), an LDAS\_ERA5 configuration would be able to provide a long term ~~climatology as well as and near real time coarse resolution (0.25° x 0.25°) climatology as reference for anomalies detections~~ of the land surface conditions ~~at coarse resolution (0.25°)~~. Significant anomalies could then be used to trigger more focused “on-demand” simulations for regions experiencing extreme conditions. ~~In that ease~~ ~~For these simulations~~, LDAS-Monde could be run ~~at higher resolution by forcing the LSM with forced by e.g. an enhanced resolution forecast in order to provide more information, such as the ECMWF operational high resolution product (0.10° x 0.10°)~~. The capability of such an approach was illustrated in our study for in monitoring and forecast (up to 10 d ahead) modes, as was presented here for two regions in North Western Europe and South Eastern Australia. In term of ~~the~~

835 RMSD, our results showed a very small impact of initial conditions on the forecasts of SSM. This was expected due to the ~~short term~~ memory of ~~top the surface~~ soil ~~surface layer (1-4 cm)~~, which is dominated by ~~meteorological variability~~ ~~the antecedent meteorological forcing~~. However, the LAI initialisation had significant impact on the LAI forecast skill. This was also expected due to the long-term memory of vegetation evolution. For SSM, the assimilation is ~~done~~ performed after a rescaling of the observations to the model climatology (see section 2.3), which ~~removes bias~~ ensures that the model and observations are unbiased with respect to each other. ~~For~~ However, LAI, ~~however this is not the case and is not bias-corrected, which allows~~ the assimilation process ~~to~~ removes bias in the modelled LAI (with respect to the observation). This technical difference between SSM and LAI assimilation, combined with the longer memory of LAI compared to SSM, contributes to 840 the results presented in this study. Despite the expected behaviour of these two LSVs in forecasting, our results show that the LDAS-Monde system is capable of propagating the initial LAI conditions, which is relevant ~~not only~~ for LSV medium-range forecasting ~~but and with potential for longer~~ potentially for longer lead-times, such as seasonal forecasts. The strong impact of LAI initialisation on the forecast does not seem to propagate to the surface soil moisture and further 845 studies are necessary to test the impact of initial conditions ~~to additional~~ on other variables from LDAS-Monde (including soil moisture in deeper layers and evapotranspiration). Another possibility would be to force LDAS-Monde using the 51-member ECMWF ensemble forecasts. ~~Although~~ Although the ensemble system has coarser spatial-resolution ( $\sim 0.20^\circ \times 0.20^\circ$ ) ~~than the deterministic forecast~~, it ~~accounts for~~ offers a 15-day forecast and a 51 member ensemble ~~forcing uncertainty in the LSVs~~; 850 ~~which can introduce forcing uncertainty into the LSVs through the ensemble spread and extends to a 15-day lead time~~. The maximum range of the soil and vegetation forecasts could even be extended ~~reached up~~ to six months if using seasonal atmospheric forecasts were used as forcing. LDAS-Monde ~~has some limitations, where has well identified areas of developments that can further~~ future developments are needed to improve the representation of LSVs. For instance, it does 855 not consider snow data assimilation yet. ~~and it~~ It has been shown in this study that if the snow accumulation seems to be represented correctly in the system, ~~the onset of it suffers from a too early~~ snow-melt is too early in the in ~~spring~~ time. To overcome this issue, two possibilities will be explored. Firstly, using a recently developed ISBA parametrisation, MEB ~~for~~ (Multiple Energy Budget~~),~~ which is known to lead to a better representation of the snowpack (Boone et al., 2017)~~;~~ ~~in~~ This could be particularly useful in the densely forested areas of the Northern Hemisphere where 860 large differences between LDAS-Monde and the IMS snow cover were found in spring (Figure S2(i), Aaron Boone CNRM, personal communication June 2019) ~~and (ii) adapting. Another enhancement of LDAS-Monde will be to adapt~~ the current data assimilation scheme ~~of LDAS-~~

870 ~~Monde~~ to permit the assimilation the IMS snow cover data, which is implemented at NWP centres such as (as done e.g. at) ECMWF; (de Rosnay et al., 2014). The current SEKF data assimilation scheme is also being revisited. Even though it has provided good results, one of its limitations is the computational cost of the a-Jacobian matrix, which needs one model run for each control variable. As the number of control variables is expected to increase, requiring this approach would require significant computational resources with increased number of control variables. That is why Therefore, more flexible eEnsemble based data assimilation approaches likehave recently been implemented in LDAS-Monde, such as the Ensemble Square Root Filter (EnSRF, →) have recently been implemented (Fairbain et al., 2015, Bonan et al., 2020). Bonan et al., 2020 have evaluated performances from the EnSRF and the SEKF over the Euro-Mediterranean area. Both data assimilation schemes have a similar behaviour for LAI while for SSM, the EnSRF estimates tend to be closer to observations than those from the SEKF. They have also conducted an independent evaluation of both assimilation approaches using satellite estimates of evapotranspiration and GPP as well as measures of river discharge together with river discharge observations from gauging stations. They have found that the EnSRF gives leads to a systematic (moderate) improvement for evapotranspiration and GPP and a highly positive impact on river discharges, while the SEKF lead to more contrasting performance. As for applications in hydrology, the  $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$  spatial resolution TRIP river network is currently being improved to  $1/12^\circ \times 1/12^\circ$  globally.

880 CNRM is also investigating the direct assimilation of ASCAT radar backscatter (Shamambo et al., 2019), it is supposed to tackle. This has the potential to improve the way vegetation is accounted for in the change detection approach used to retrieve SSM with an improved representation of its effect.

885 Assimilating ASCAT radar backscatter also raises the question of how to properly specify SSM observation, background, and model error covariance matrices, so far mainly relying on soil properties which are currently based on soil properties (see section 2.1.3 on data assimilation). The last decade has seen the development of techniques to estimate those matrices. Approaches based on Desroziers diagnostics (Desroziers et al., 2005) are computationally affordable for land data assimilation systems from a computational point of view and could provide insightful information on the various sources of the data assimilation system.

890 FurthermoreAlso, the added value a comparison of LDAS-Monde compared to already with existing datasets from other centres needs to be has to be evaluated considered, and eCurrent work at Météo-France is has began to compare investigating its quality against state of the art reanalyses such as those from NASA at bo the either the global scale (GLDAS, Rodell et al., 2004, MERRA-2, The Modern-Era Retrospective Analysis for Research and Applications, Version 2, Reichle et al., 2017, Draper et al., 2018) or and regional scale (NCALDAS over the continental USA, FLDAS over

Africa). Finally, first ~~attempts~~~~work has begun to run LDAS-Monde at to go to higher spatial resolution over smaller areas like the AROME domain~~~~kilometric and sub-kilometric scale spatial resolutions. Promising results have been obtained by assimilating SSM and LAI over the AROME domain~~ (Applications de la Recherche à l'Opérationnel à Meso-Echelle, <https://www.umr-cnrm.fr/spip.php?article120>, last accessed July 2019) of Météo-France ~~(centred over France) at kilometre scale and assimilating kilometre and sub-kilometric scale satellite retrieval of SSM and LAI (from CGLS) are very promising.~~

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**Code availability.** LDAS-Monde is a part of the ISBA land surface model and is available as open source via the surface modelling platform called SURFEX. SURFEX can be downloaded freely at <http://www.umr-cnrm.fr/surfex/> using a CECILL-C Licence (a French equivalent to the L-GPL licence; [http://www.cecill.info/licences/Licence\\_CeCILL-C\\_V1-en.txt](http://www.cecill.info/licences/Licence_CeCILL-C_V1-en.txt)). It is updated at a relatively low frequency (every 3 to 6 months). If more frequent updates are needed, or if what is required is not in Open-SURFEX (DrHOOK, FA/LFI formats, GAUSSIAN grid), you are invited to follow the procedure to get a SVN account and to access real-time modifications of the code (see the instructions at the first link). The developments presented in this study stemmed on SURFEX version 8.1. LDAS-Monde technical documentation and contact point are freely available at: <https://opensource.umr-cnrm.fr/projects/openldasmonde/files>

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**Data availability:** upon request by contacting the corresponding author.

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## Tables

1280 Table I: Continental hot spots for droughts and heatwaves and number of monthly anomalies SSM and LAI below -1 standard deviation (stdev), above 1 stdev in 2018 with respect to the 2010-2018 period.

Region name	abbreviation	LON-W	LON-E	LAT-S	LAT-N	Number of monthly SSM anomalies below -1 (above 1) stdev	Number of monthly LAI anomalies below -1 (above 1) stdev
<b>Western-Europe</b>	<b>WEUR</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5(1)</b>	<b>5(0)</b>
Western Mediterranean	WMED	-10	15	35	45	0(7)	4(4)
Eastern Europe	EEUR	15	30	45	55	2(1)	0(2)
Balkans	BALK	15	30	40	45	3(3)	1(4)
Western Russia	WRUS	30	60	55	67	0(1)	1(3)
Lower Volga	LVOL	30	60	45	55	2(1)	2(1)
India	INDI	73	85	12	27	3(0)	2(1)
Southwestern China	SWCH	100	110	20	32	0(2)	0(6)
Northern China	NRCH	110	120	30	40	0(3)	0(4)
<b>Murray-Darling</b>	<b>MUDA</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>-37</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>6(0)</b>	<b>7(0)</b>
California	CALF	-125	-115	30	42	2(0)	5(0)
Southern Plains	SPLN	-110	-90	25	37	0(3)	0(4)
Midwest	MIDW	-105	-85	37	50	1(2)	1(3)
Eastern North	ENRT	-85	-70	37	50	0(3)	0(7)
Nordeste	NDST	-44	-36	-20	-2	0(3)	1(2)
Pampas	PAMP	-64	-58	-36	-23	2(2)	2(0)
Sahel	SAHL	-18	25	13	19	2(0)	1(2)
<b>East Africa</b>	<b>EAFR</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2(3)</b>	<b>1(7)</b>
Southern Africa	SAFR	14	26	-35	-26	2(0)	2(1)

1285

Table II: Set up of the experiments performed in this study. LDAS ERA5 and LDAS\_HRES have an analysis (assimilation of surface soil moisture, SSM, and leaf area index, LAI) and a model equivalent (open-loop, no assimilation), LDAS\_fc4 and LDAS\_fc8 are model runs initialized by either LDAS\_HRES open-loop or analysis. N/A stands for not applicable.

Experiments (time period)	Model version	Atmospheric forcing	Domain & spatial resolution	DA method	Assimilated observations	Model equivalents	Control variables
LDAS ERA5 (2010 to 2018)	ISBA Multi-layer soil model CO <sub>2</sub> -responsive version (Interactive vegetation)	ERA5	Global, ~0.25 °x 0.25°	SEKF	SSM (ASCAT)	Second layer of soil (1-4cm)	Layers of soil 2 to 8 (1-100cm)
LDAS_HRES (04/2016 to 12/2018)			North Western Europe ( <b>WEUR</b> ) and Murray-Darling River basin ( <b>MUDA</b> ) (see spatial extend in Table I) ~0.10° x 0.10°		LAI (GEOV1)	LAI	LAI
LDAS_fc4 (2017 to 2018)				N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LDAS_fc8 (2017 to 2018)							

Table III: Evaluation datasets and associated metrics used in this study.

Datasets used for the evaluation	Source	Metrics associated	Independent source of evaluation
In situ measurements of soil moisture (ISMN Dorigo et al., 2011, 2015)	<a href="https://ismn.geo.tuwien.ac.at/en/">https://ismn.geo.tuwien.ac.at/en/</a>	R for both absolute and anomaly time-series, unbiased RMSD and bias, NIC on R values	Yes
In situ measurements of river discharge	See Table S1	Nash Efficiency (NSE), Normalized Information Contribution (NIC) based on NSE,	Yes
In situ measurements of evapotranspiration (FLUXNET-2015)	<a href="http://fluxnet.fluxdata.org/data/fluxnet2015-dataset/">http://fluxnet.fluxdata.org/data/fluxnet2015-dataset/</a>	R, unbiased RMSD, Bias, NIC on R values	Yes
Satellite derived surface soil wetness index (ASCAT, Wagner et al., 1999, Bartalis et al., 2007)	<a href="http://land.copernicus.eu/global/">http://land.copernicus.eu/global/</a>	R, RMSD and $N_{RMSD}$	No (assimilated dataset)
Satellite derived Leaf Area Index (GEOV1, Baret et al., 2013)	<a href="http://land.copernicus.eu/global/">http://land.copernicus.eu/global/</a>	R, RMSD and $N_{RMSD}$	No (assimilated dataset)
Satellite-driven model estimates of land evapotranspiration (GLEAM, Martens et al., 2017)	<a href="http://www.gleam.eu">http://www.gleam.eu</a>	R, RMSD and $N_{RMSD}$	Yes
Upscaled estimates of Gross Primary Production (GPP, Jung et al., 2017)	<a href="https://www.bgc-jenna.mpg.de/geodb/projects/Home.php">https://www.bgc-jenna.mpg.de/geodb/projects/Home.php</a>	R, RMSD and $N_{RMSD}$	Yes
Solar Induced Fluorescence (SIF) from GOME-2 (Munro et al., 2006, Joiner et al., 2016)	See references	R	Yes
Interactive Multi-sensor Snow and Ice Mapping System (or IMS) snow cover	<a href="https://www.natice.noaa.gov/ims/">https://www.natice.noaa.gov/ims/</a>	Differences	Yes

## Figures

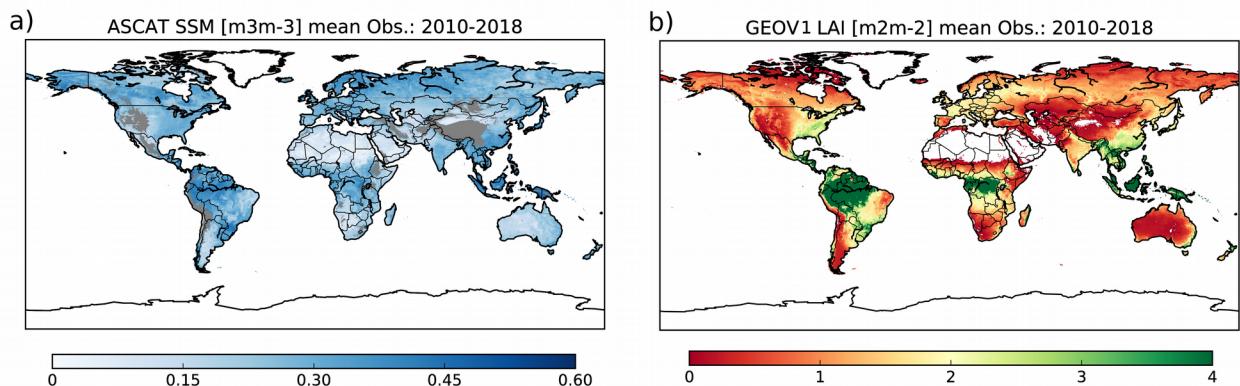


Figure 1: (a) Surface soil moisture (SSM) from the Copernicus Global Land Service (CGLS) for pixels with less than 15% of urban areas and with an elevation of less than 1500 m above sea level, (b) GEOV1 leaf area index (LAI) from CGLS, for pixels covered by more than 90 % of vegetation, averaged over 2010 to 2018. SSM is obtained after rescaling the ASCAT Soil Wetness Index (SWI) to the model climatology, grey areas on (a) represent filtered out data (see Section 2.3).

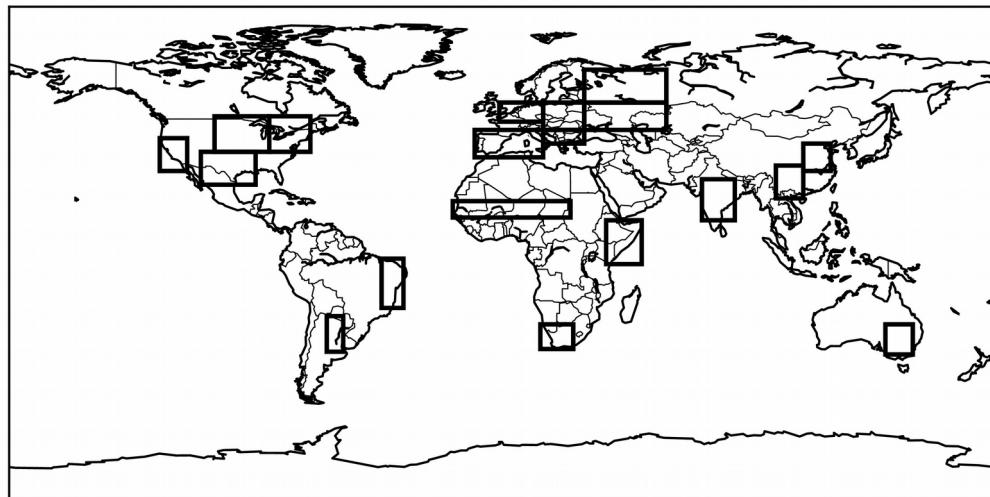


Figure 2: Selection of 19 regions across the globe known for being potential hot spots for droughts and heatwaves. The regions are defined in Table I.

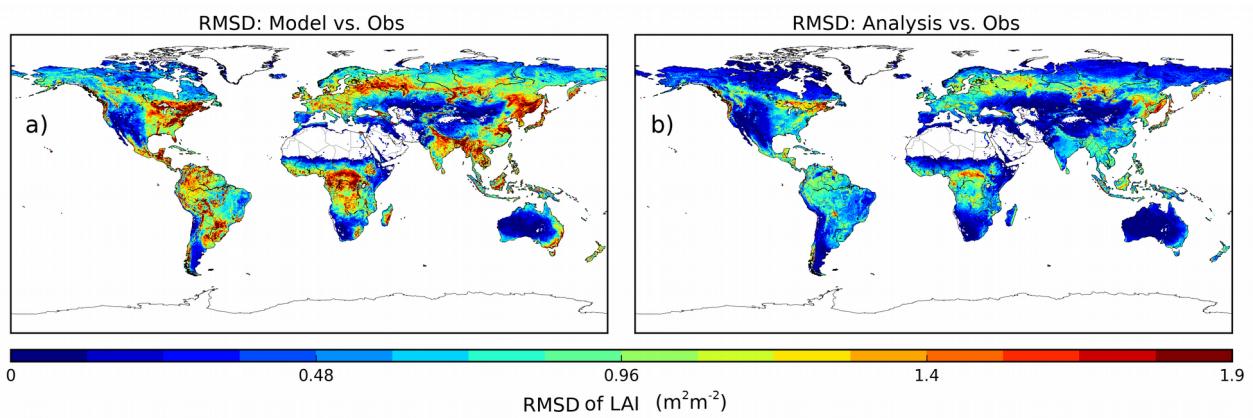


Figure 3: RMSD values between observed Leaf Area Index (LAI) and LDAS\_ERA5 (a) before assimilation and (b) after assimilation of surface soil moisture (SSM) and LAI.

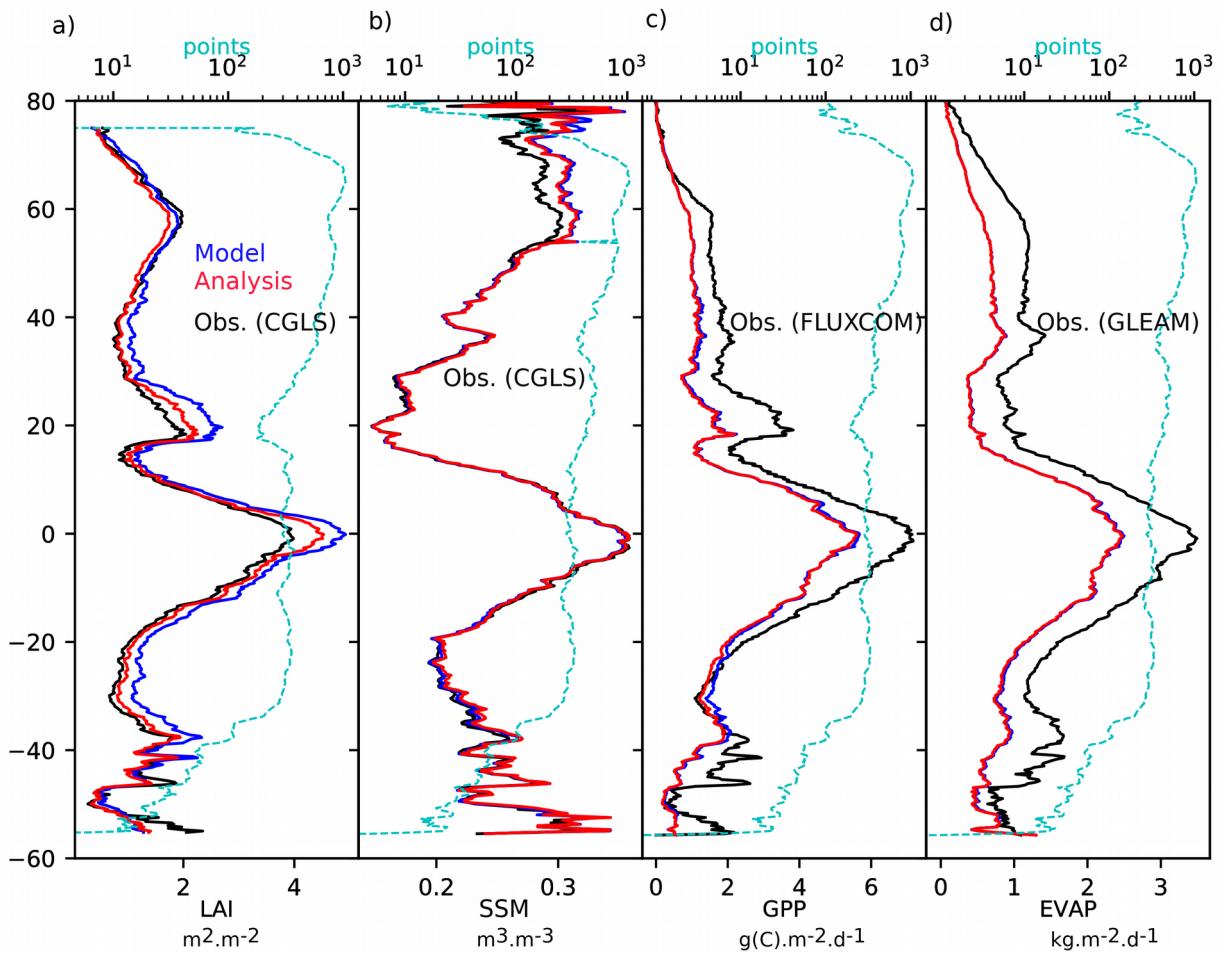
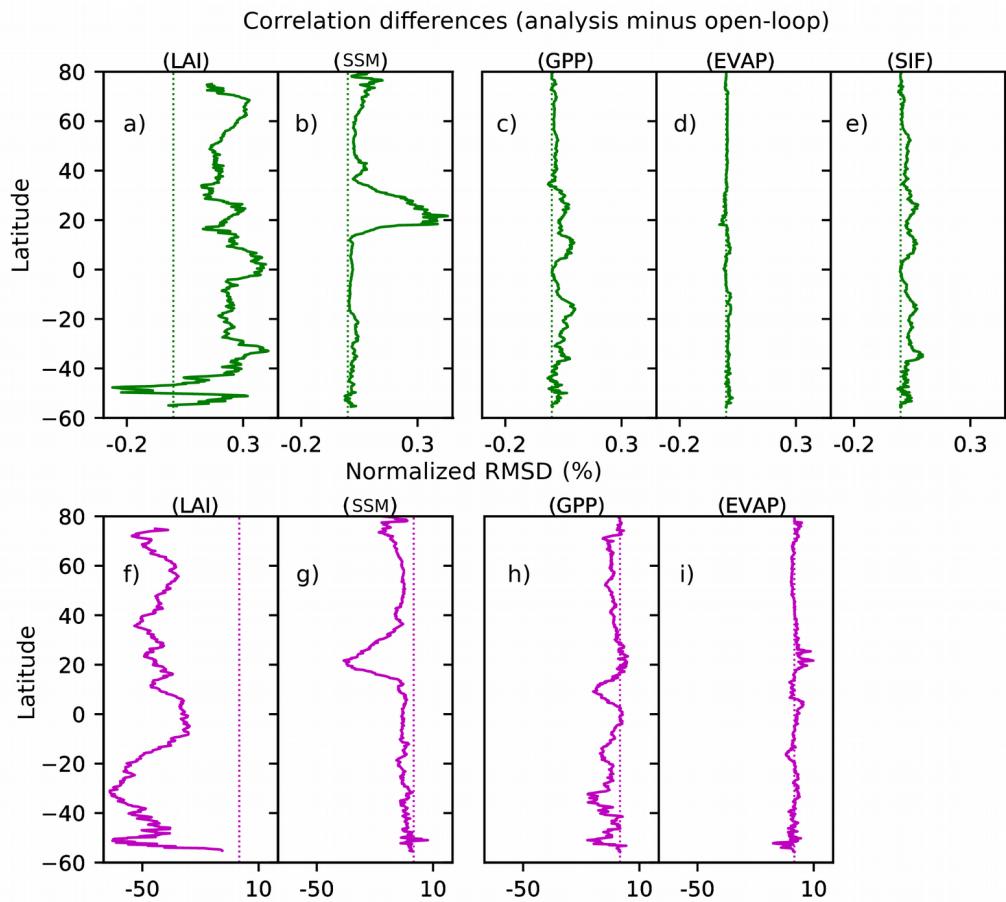


Figure 4: Latitudinal plots of (a) Leaf Area Index (LAI), (b) Surface Soil Moisture (SSM), (c) Gross Primary Production (GPP) and (d) Evapotranspiration (EVAP) for LDAS\_ERA5 before assimilation (Model, blue solid line) and after assimilation (Analysis, red solid line) as well as observations (black solid line). Cyan dashed line represents the number of points considered per latitudinal stripes of  $0.25^\circ$ .



*Figure 5: Latitudinal plots of score differences (analysis minus open-loop) for correlations (a-e) and normalized RMSD (f-i) for LAI (a,f), SSM (b,g), GPP (c,h), EVAP (d,i) and SIF (e, correlations only). Scores are computed based on monthly average over 2010-2018 for LAI and SSM, 2010-2013 for GPP, 2010-2016 for EVAP and 2010-2015 for SIF. Dashed lines represent the zero lines (equal scores for open-loop and analysis).*

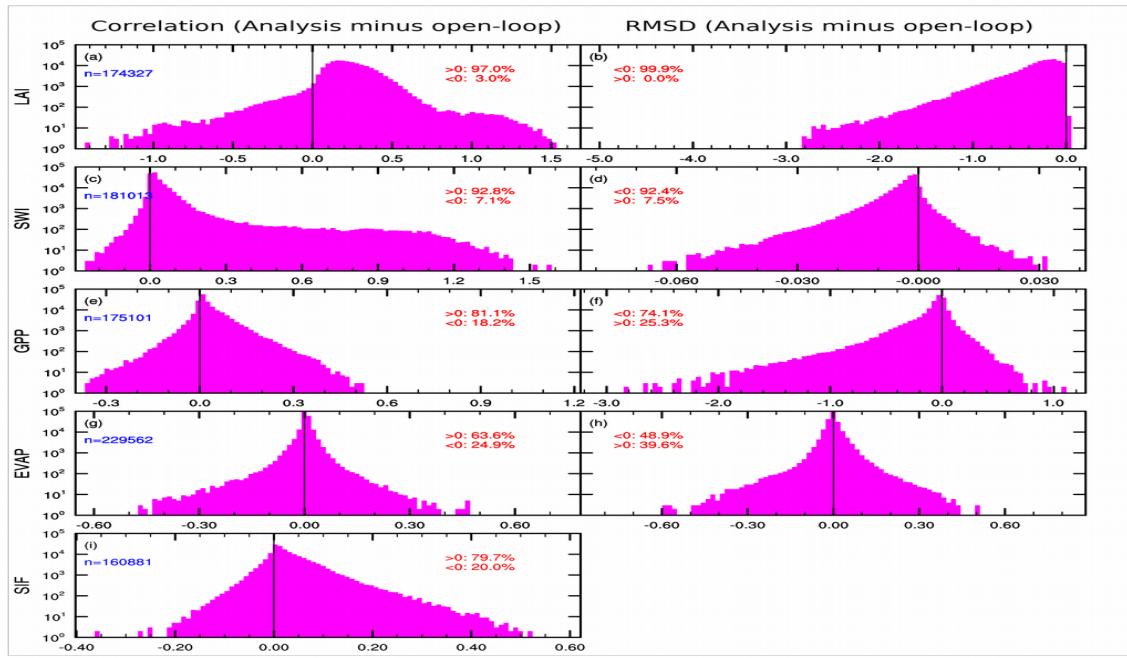


Figure 6: Histograms of score differences (correlation and RMSD, analysis minus open-loop) for a), b) LAI, c), d) SSM, e), f) GPP, g), h) EVAP and i) SIF. For SIF only differences in correlation are represented. Number of available data (in blue) as well as the percentage of positive and negative values (in red) are reported. Note that for sake of clarity, the y-axis is logarithmic.

Normalized Information Contribution (NIC) based on R values, LDAS\_Monde EKF-OL

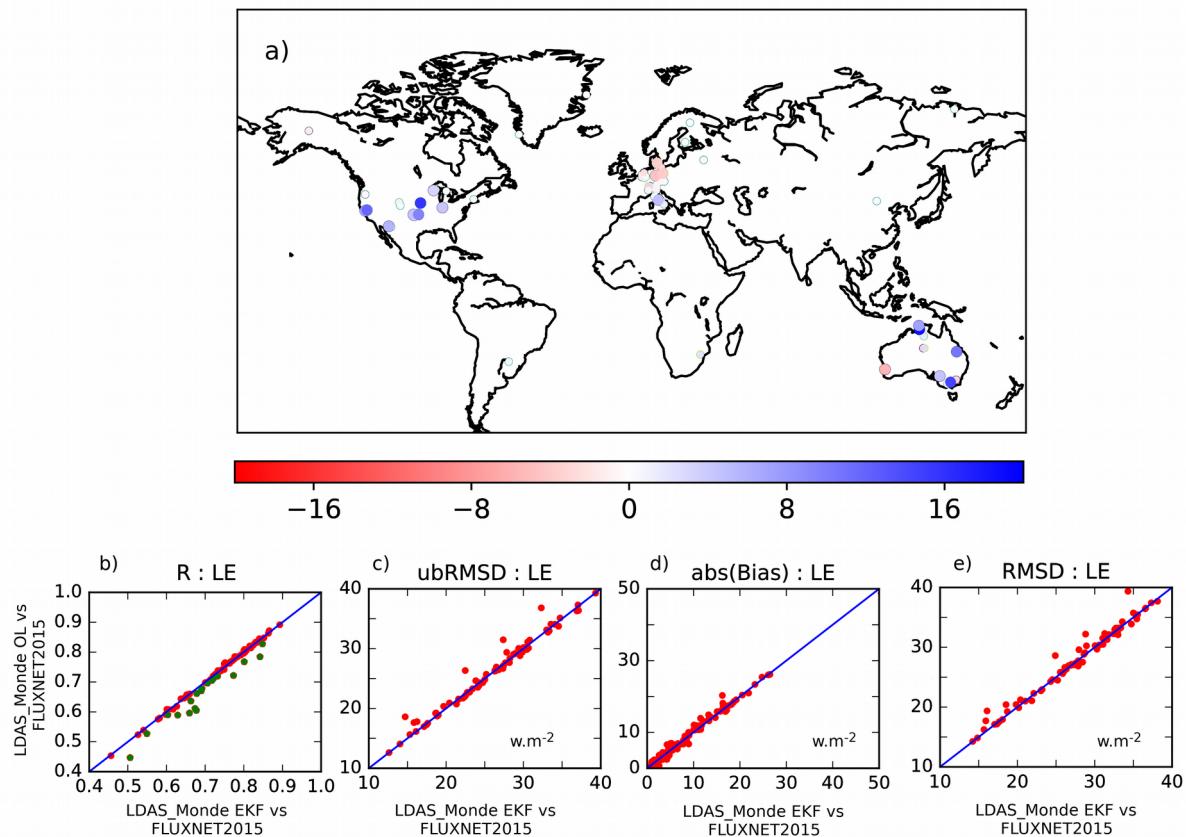
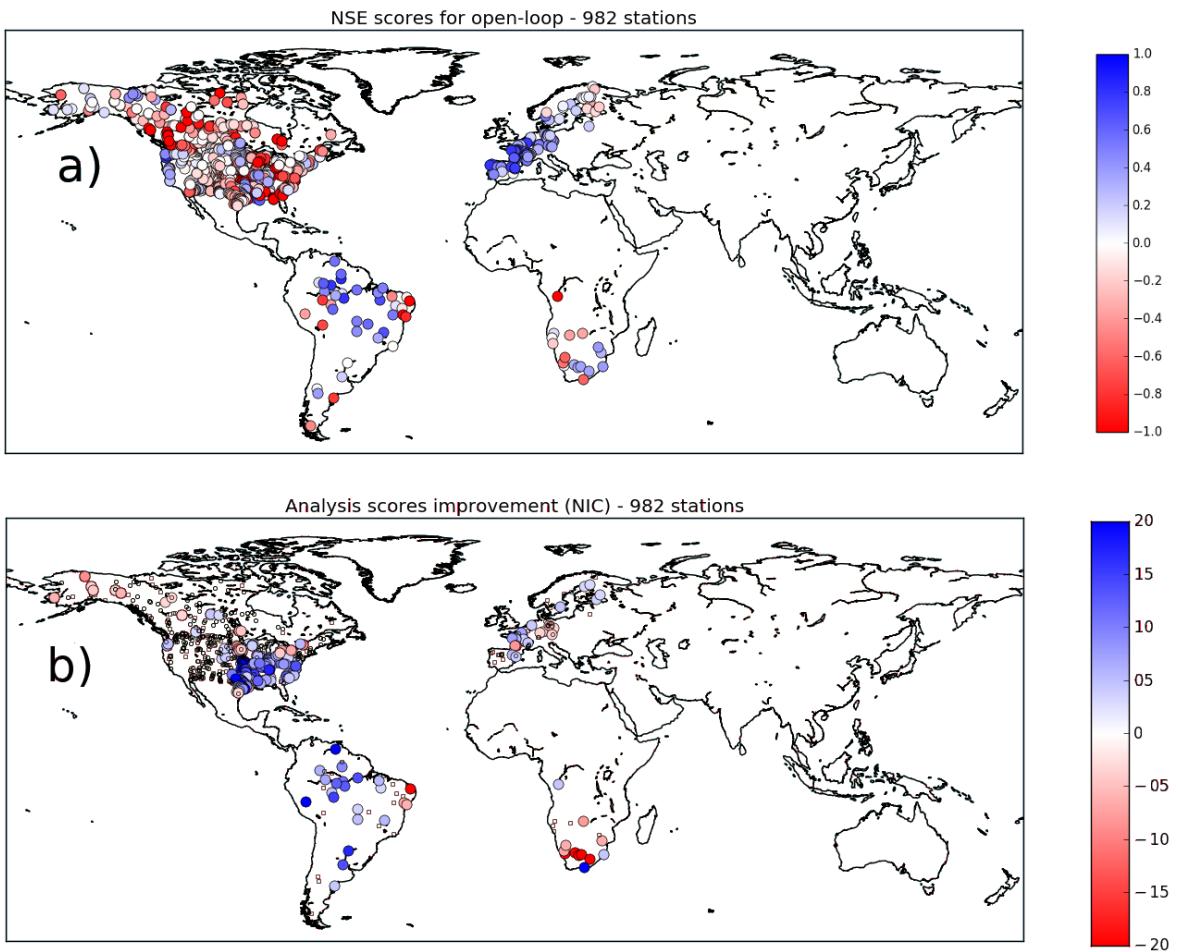
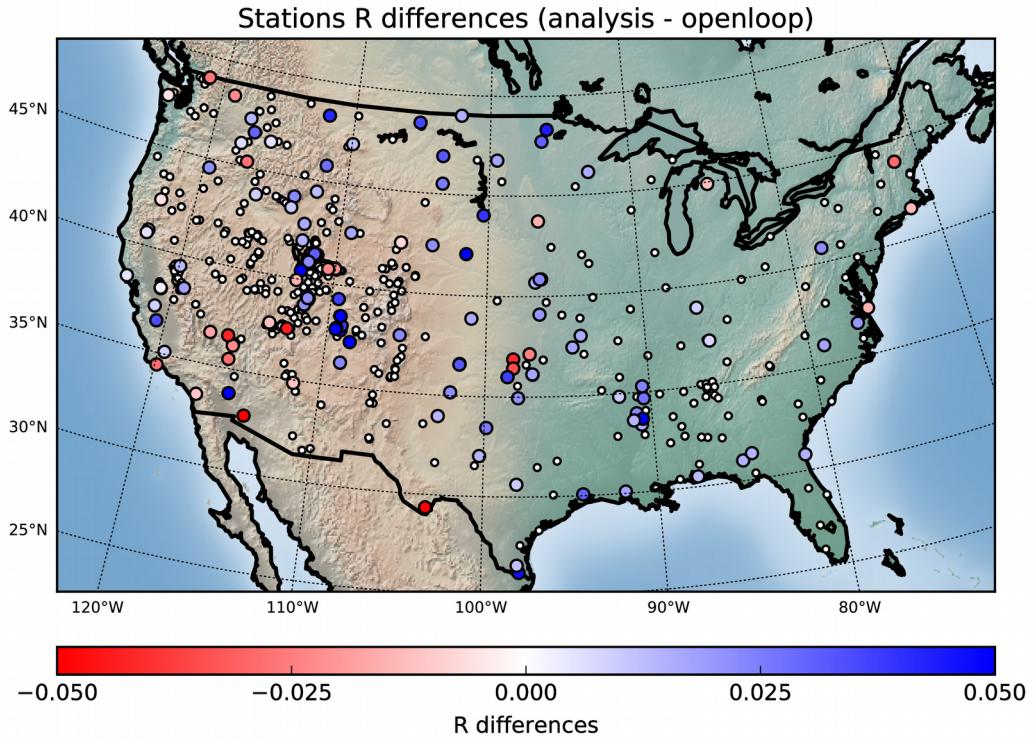


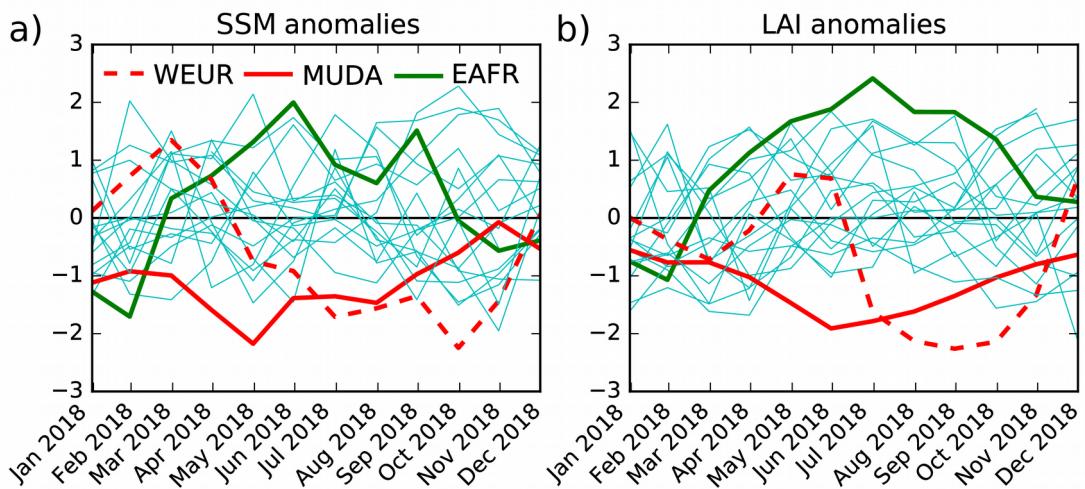
Figure 7:(a) Map of Normalized Information Contribution (NIC, Eq. 2 ) applied on correlation values between evapotranspiration from LDAS\_ERA5 analysis (open-loop) and observations from the FLUXNET 2015 synthesis data set. NIC scores are classified into 2 categories (i) negative impact from the analysis with respect to the model with values smaller than -3 % (red circles, 5 stations), (ii) positive impact from the analysis with respect to the model with values greater than +3 % (blue circles, 20 stations). Stations presenting a neutral impact with values between -3 % and +3 % (60 stations) are reported as small dots. Note that at this scale some stations are overlapping. (b), (c), (d) and (e) scatter-plots of R, ubRMSD, absolute bias and RMSD between LDAS\_ERA5 open-loop and the 85 stations from the FLUXNET 2015 (y-axis) and LDAS\_ERA5 analysis and the same pool of stations (x-axis). The set of 20 stations for which the analysis has a positive impact in R values at  $NIC_R$  greater than +3 are reported on a) in green.



*Figure 8:(a) Global map of Nash-Sutcliffe Efficiency score (NSE) between river discharge from LDAS\_ERA5 open-loop and in situ measurements from the networks presented in Table S1 over 2010-2016. (b) Normalized Information Contribution scores (NIC, Eq.2) based on NSE scores on river discharge. Small dots represent stations for which NIC are between [-3%, +3%] (i.e. neutral impact from LDAS\_ERA5 analysis), NIC values greater than +3% (blue large circles) suggest an improvement from LDAS\_ERA5 analysis over LDAS\_ERA5 open-loop while values smaller than -3% (large red circles) suggest a degradation. Only stations where more than 4-year of data are available and with a drainage area greater than 10000km<sup>2</sup> are considered. Stations with NSE values smaller than -2 are discarded, also, leading to a subset of 982 stations available.*



*Figure 9: Map of correlations (R) differences (analysis minus open-loop) for stations measuring soil moisture at 5 cm depth and being available over North America. Small dots represent stations where R differences are not significant (i.e. 95% confidence intervals are overlapping), large circles where differences are significant.*



*Figure 10: 2018 monthly anomalies scaled by standard deviation of analysed (a)SSM and (b)LAI, with respect to 2010-2018, for the 19 regions presented in Table 1 and Figure 2. Solid red line, dashed red line and solid green line represent regions MUDA, WEUR and EAFR. Solid cyan line represent all other boxes (see Table 1 and Figure 2).*

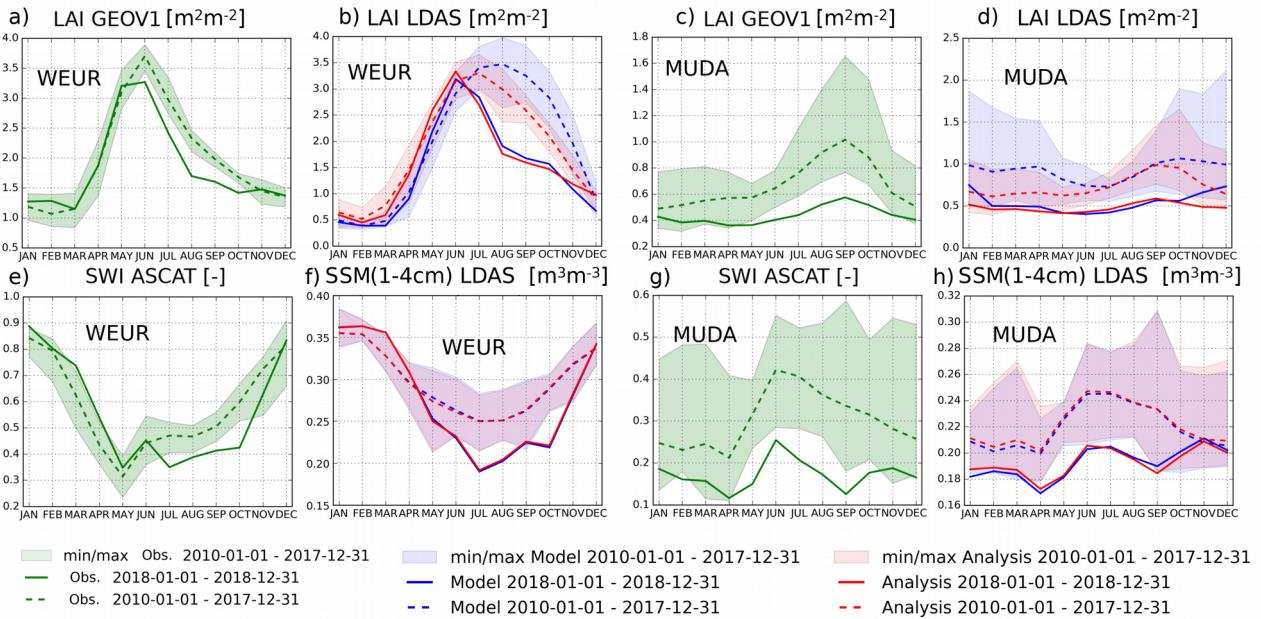
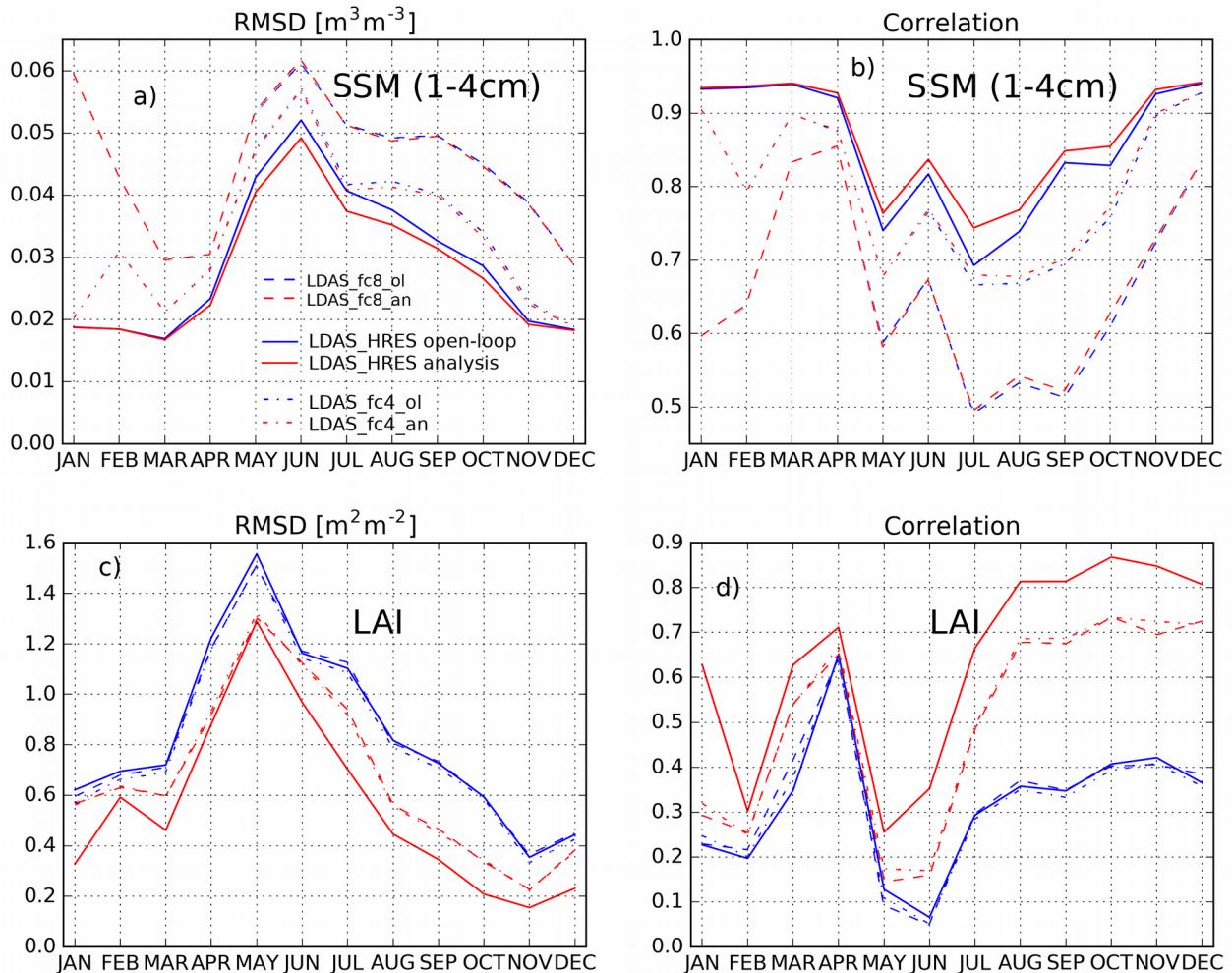


Figure 11: Upper panels represent seasonal cycles of a) observed GEOV1 LAI from CGLS, b) LAI from the open-loop (in blue) and the analysis (in red) for the WEUR area (see Table I for geographical extent). c) and d) panels are similar to a) and b) for the MUDA area. Lower panels represents seasonal cycles of e) ASCAT SWI from CGLS, f) SSM from the open-loop (in blue) and the analysis (in red) for the WEUR area. Panels g) and h) are similar to e) and f) for the MUDA area. For each panels dashed line represents the averaged over 2010-2017 along with the minimum and maximum values, the solid lines are for the year 2018.



**Figure 12:** Upper panel, seasonal (a) RMSD and (b) correlation values between soil moisture from the second layer of soil (1–4 cm) from the model forced by HRES (LDAS\_HRES, open-loop in blue solid line, analysis in red solid line) and ASCAT SSM estimates over 2017–2018 over the WEUR area. Scores between SSM from the second layer of soil of LDAS\_HRES, 4-day (dashed/dotted blue – when initialised by the open-loop- and red – when initialised by the analysis- lines) and 8-day (dashed blue and red lines) forecasts and ASCAT SSM estimates are also reported. Lower panel (c) and (d) , same as upper panel between modeled/analyzed Leaf Area index (LAI) and GEOV1 LAI estimates .

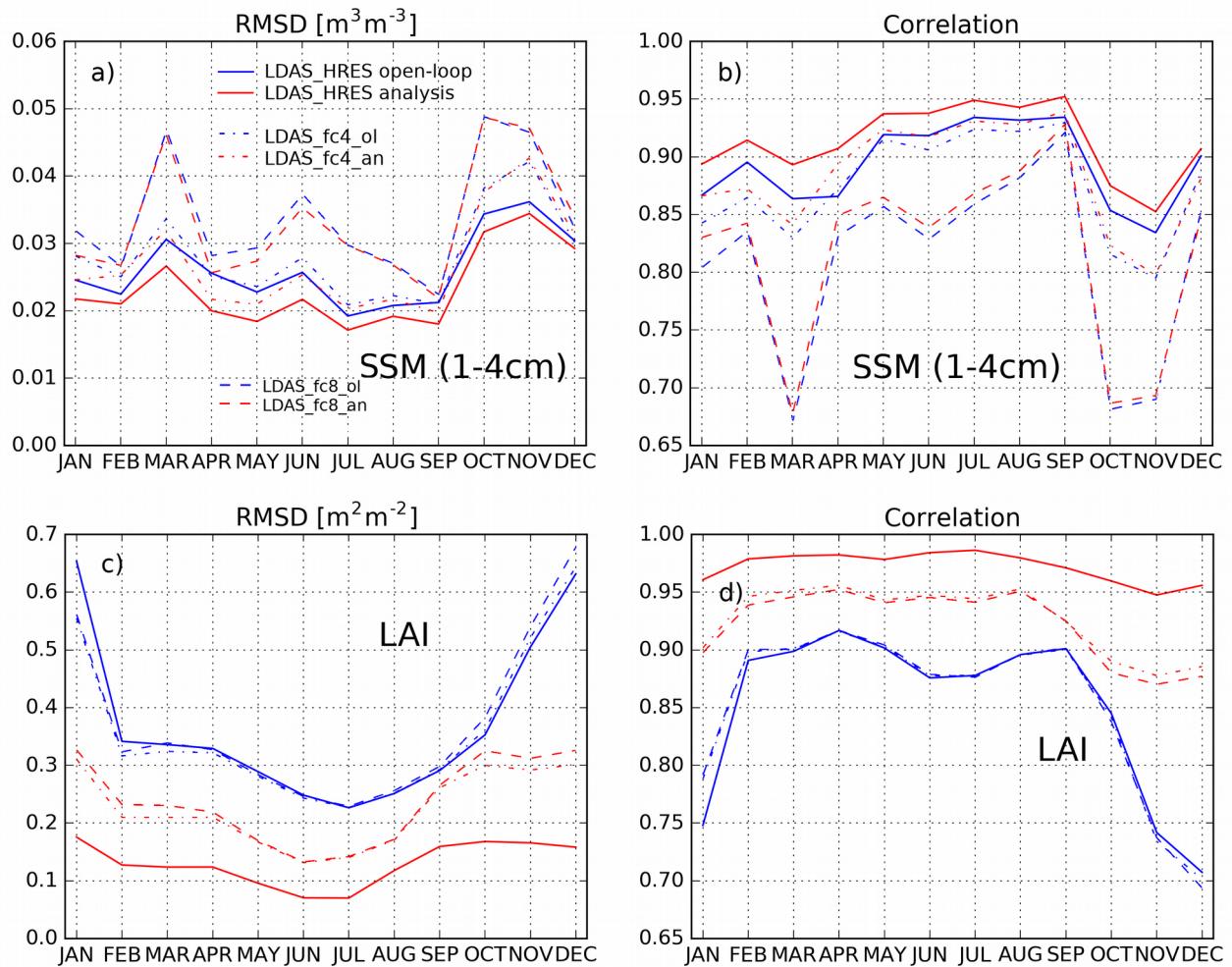


Figure 13: Same as Figure 12 for the Murray-Darling river (MUDA) area in South Eastern Australia.

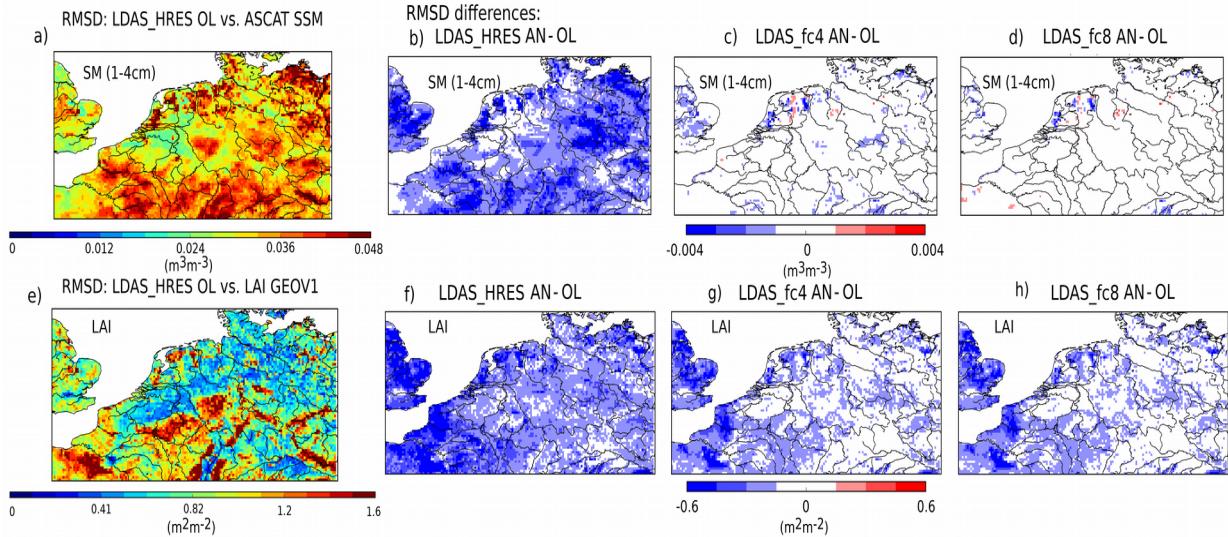


Figure 14: Top row, (a) RMSD values between LDAS\_HRES open-loop and ASCAT SSM estimates over 2017-2018 for the WEUR domain, (b) RMSD differences between LDAS\_HRES analysis (open-loop) and ASCAT SSM. (c), (d) and (e) Same as (b) between LDAS\_fc4 initialised by the analysis (open-loop) and LDAS\_fc8. Bottom row, same as top row for LAI from the different experiments and LAI GEOV1.

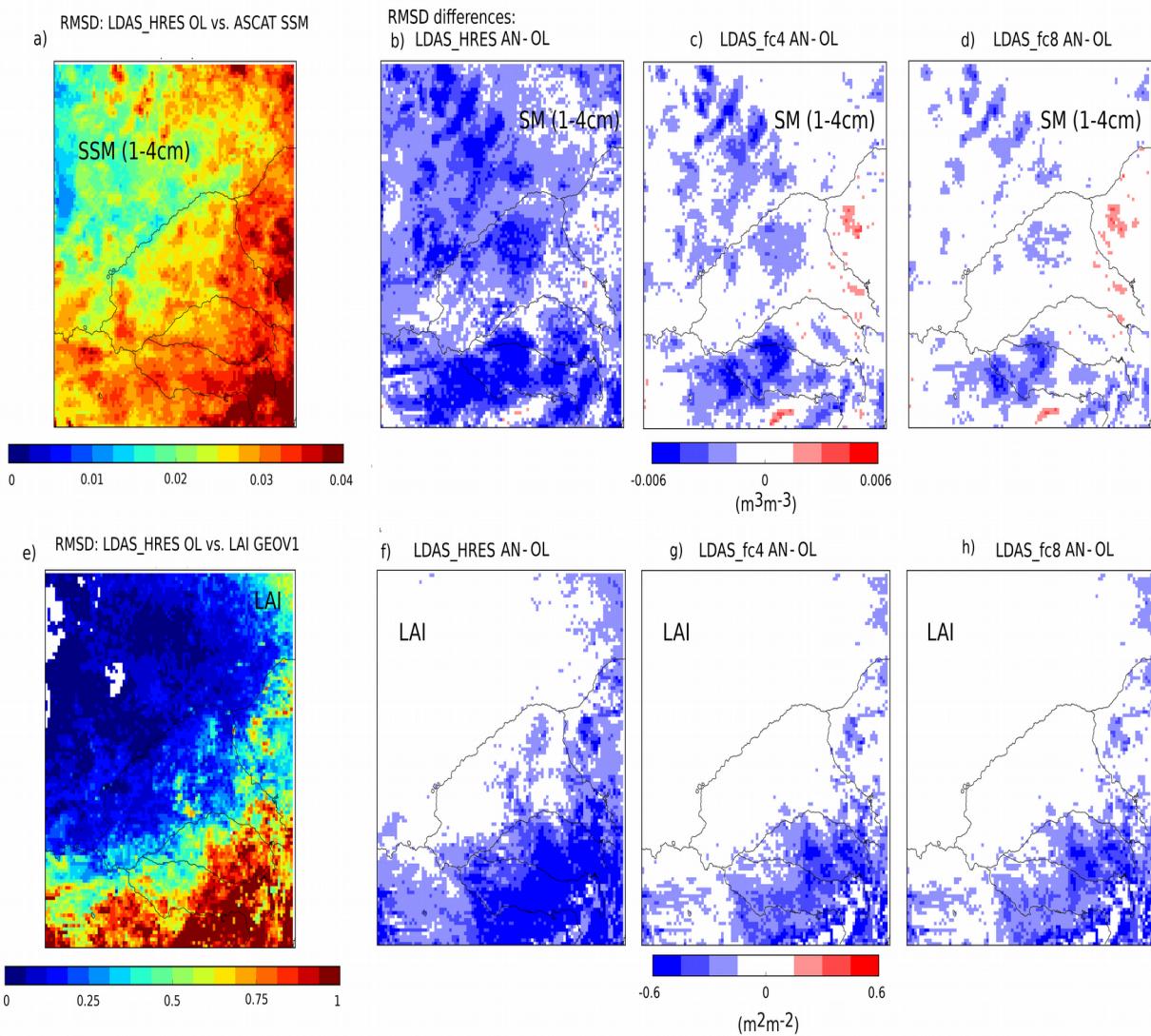


Figure 15: Same as Figure 14 or the Murray-Darling river (MUDA) area in South Eastern Australia.

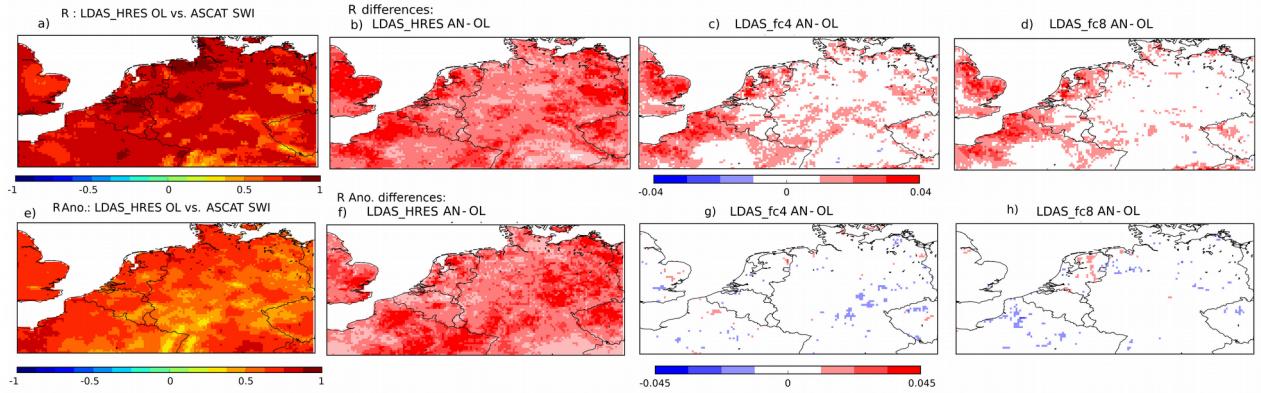


Figure 16: Top row, (a)  $R$  values between LDAS\_HRES open-loop and ASCAT SWI estimates over 2017-2018 for the WEUR domain, (b)  $R$  differences between LDAS\_HRES analysis (open-loop) and ASCAT SWI. (c) and (d) same as (b) between LDAS\_fc4 initialised by the analysis (open-loop) and LDAS\_fc8. Bottom row, same as top row for  $R$  values based on anomaly time-series.

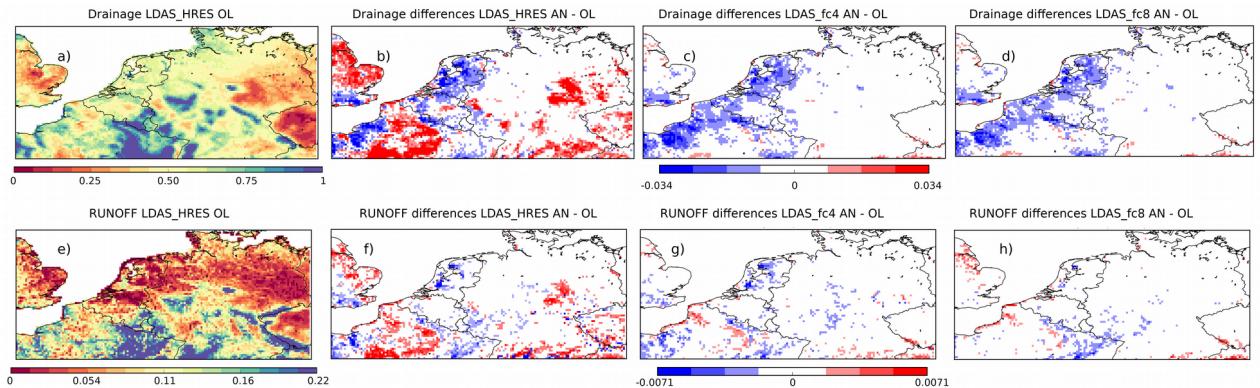


Figure 17: Top row, (a) drainage values for LDAS\_HRES open-loop over 2017-2018 for the WEUR domain, (b) drainage differences between LDAS\_HRES analysis and open-loop. (c), (d), same as (b) between LDAS\_fc4 initialised by the analysis and LDAS\_fc4 initialised by the open-loop, between LDAS\_fc8 initialised by the analysis and LDAS\_fc8 initialised by the open-loop. Bottom row, same as top row for runoff. Units are  $\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{day}^{-1}$