

**Examination of relationships between
clear-sky longwave radiation and aspects of
the atmospheric hydrological cycle in climate
models, reanalyses and observations**

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ABSTRACT

Relationships between clear-sky longwave radiation and aspects of the atmospheric hydrological cycle are quantified in models, reanalyses and observations over the period 1980-2000. The robust sensitivity of clear-sky surface net longwave radiation (SNLc) to column integrated water vapor (CWV) of 1-1.5 Wm^{-2}/mm combined with the positive relationship between CWV and surface temperature (T_s) explains substantial increases in clear-sky longwave radiative cooling of the atmosphere (Q_{LWc}) to the surface over the period. Clear-sky outgoing longwave radiation (OLRc) is highly sensitive to changes in aerosol and greenhouse gas concentrations in addition to temperature and humidity. Over tropical ocean regions of mean descent Q_{LWc} increases with T_s at ~ 3.5 - $5.5 Wm^{-2}K^{-1}$ for reanalyses, estimates derived from satellite data and models without volcanic forcing included. Increased Q_{LWc} with warming across the tropical oceans helps to explain model ensemble mean increases in precipitation of 0.1-0.15 $mm day^{-1}K^{-1}$ which are primarily determined by ascent regions where precipitation increases at the rate expected from the Clausius Clapeyron equation. The implications for future projections in the atmospheric hydrological cycle are discussed.

1. Introduction

Projected changes in the global water cycle are expected to exert an adverse effect on agriculture, water resources, human health and infrastructure (IPCC 2007). Monitoring and understanding the present day changes in the atmospheric hydrological cycle, including radiative feedbacks, are crucial in evaluating and improving model predictions of future climate change and its effect on society.

One of the driving influences for radiative feedbacks and changes in the hydrological cycle is the robust positive relationship between atmospheric water vapor and surface temperature due to the Clausius Clapeyron equation (e.g. Allen and Ingram 2002; Trenberth et al. 2003; Soden et al. 2005; Wentz et al. 2007). Model predictions of future changes in precipitation depend crucially on climate feedbacks that determine how much the planet will warm in response to a radiative forcing from increased concentrations of greenhouse gases. This warming influences the hydrological cycle in two ways. Firstly, increased atmospheric moisture, in response to the warming, allows enhanced convective rainfall (e.g. Trenberth et al. 2003). Secondly, the atmospheric radiative cooling enhances with increased warming (e.g. Allen and Ingram 2002) and this drives increases in precipitation through reduced atmospheric stability (the latent heating must rise to balance the stronger radiative cooling). The expected increases in precipitation through this second effect are smaller than the rises in convective precipitation through enhanced moisture convergence; to compensate, precipitation must diminish away from the convective regimes.

The tendency for increased precipitation for convective regimes and reduced precipitation for non-convective regimes has been identified in modeling and observational studies (Allan

and Soden 2007; Chou et al. 2007; Emori and Brown 2005; Neelin et al. 2006; Seager et al. 2007). However, there is evidence that models are underestimating the response of the hydrological cycle both for precipitation (Allan and Soden 2007; Zhang et al. 2007; Wentz et al. 2007) and evaporation (Yu and Weller 2007; Wentz et al. 2007; Yu 2007). It is important to ascertain whether this discrepancy relates to inadequacies of the observing system or to unresolved decadal variability by the models.

Since changes in cloud and aerosol remain under scrutiny (Wielicki et al. 2002; Trenberth 2002; Mishchenko et al. 2007; Wild et al. 2005) it is first important to establish that models can reproduce the most well understood coupling between surface temperature and precipitation, relating to changes in moisture and clear-sky radiation. Thus, the present study seeks to quantify relationships between surface temperature, moisture, clear-sky radiation and precipitation using current climate model simulations, reanalyses and observationally derived quantities over the period 1980-2000. While relating interannual relationships to longer time-scale changes is problematic, the aim is to assess the processes that are key to clear-sky radiative feedbacks (e.g. Shell et al. 2008) and changes in the atmospheric hydrological cycle by quantifying the relationships between these important aspects of the climate system.

2. Method, Data and Models

Monthly mean data, from the observations, reanalyses and models, described in this section, were bi-linearly interpolated to a common 2.5x2.5 degree grid. Area weighted mean time-series were calculated and deseasonalised. Linear least squares fits were applied to

quantify significant relationships at the 95% confidence level allowing for autocorrelation (Yang and Tung 1998) and calculations were performed on varying geographical domains and partitioned between ocean and land grid points. Also, the ascending and descending portions of the tropical circulation were diagnosed for each month using 500 *hPa* vertical motion fields (e.g. Allan 2006). The 20-year period 1980-2000 is considered to maximise overlap between observations, reanalyses and model experiments and also because negative trends in clear-sky longwave radiation from satellite since 2000 are questionable (e.g. Allan 2007).

a. Observations

Observations of column integrated water vapor (CWV) over the ice-free oceans were provided by the Scanning Multichannel Microwave Radiometer (SMMR; Wentz and Francis 1992) for 1979-1984 and the Special Sensor Microwave Imager (SSM/I, version 6; Wentz et al. 2007) for 1987-2000. Surface temperature (T_s) over the ice-free oceans were taken from the Hadley Centre global sea-Ice and Sea Surface Temperature (HadISST) data set (Rayner et al. 2003). The surface net longwave radiation for clear-skies (SNLc) was estimated over the ocean using the semi-empirical formula of Prata (1996) with input from SSM/I CWV, the HadISST T_s and a surface minus near-surface temperature difference climatology (Allan 2006). SNLc is calculated as the downward minus upward flux and therefore is predominantly negative.

Monthly mean clear-sky outgoing longwave radiation (OLRc) data were taken from the Earth Radiation Budget Satellite (ERBS) for the period 1985-1989, the Scanner for Radiation

Budget (ScaRaB) for 1994/95 and the Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) on the TRMM satellite for 1998 (Version ES4_TRMM-PFM_EDITION2_015013). These data, described in Wielicki et al. (2002), were considered only for the tropics (30°S-30°N). Clear-sky net longwave radiative cooling of the atmosphere (Q_{LWc}) is calculated as the sum of OLRc and SNLc. Although thermal satellite data samples systematically drier profiles than the models, leading to a well documented bias (e.g. Sohn and Bennartz 2008), changes in mean OLRc are not strongly influenced by this effect (Allan et al. 2003) and so are included in the comparison. Nevertheless, the clear-sky satellite data are also subject to cloud contamination and calibration limitations.

Precipitation (P) over the tropical oceans was supplied by Wentz et al. (2007) over the period July 1987-December 1999, excluding the month December 1987 due to missing data. Global estimates of precipitation were also taken from the Global Precipitation Climatology Project (GPCP; Adler et al. 2008) and the Climate Prediction Center Merged Analysis of Precipitation (CMAP; Xie and Arkin 1998) enhanced product (V703) for 1980-2000.

b. Reanalyses

Monthly mean data were extracted from the National Center for Environmental Prediction/National Center for Atmospheric Research reanalysis 1 (NCEP; Kalnay et al. 1996) and from the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts 40-year reanalysis (ERA40; Uppala et al. 2005). The 24-hour forecasts from ERA40 are used since these provide improved simulations of water vapor and clear-sky longwave radiation variability over oceans compared with the standard products (Uppala et al. 2005; Allan 2007). Precipitation was

not considered, due to spurious variability (Uppala et al. 2005), but 500 *hPa* vertical motion fields (ω) were exploited to sub-sample ascending and descending branches of the tropical circulation for use with the observational data.

Also considered is release 2.5 of the NASA Surface Radiation Budget longwave product¹. This is similar to the SRB product described in Allan (2006) but the updated GEOS-4 reanalysis product is used instead of GEOS-1 and the data cover the period 1983-2005.

c. Model data

Monthly mean model data, for the period 1980-2000, was extracted from the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) model archive at the Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison (PCMDI) archive (www-pcmdi.llnl.gov; Meehl et al. 2007). Two families of experiments were considered: atmosphere models forced with observed sea surface temperature (AMIP3) and fully coupled atmosphere-ocean models (CMIP3) to which best estimates of radiative forcing were applied (climate of the 20th Century experiments, 20C3M). These experiments were further partitioned depending upon whether volcanic forcing was applied (see Table 1). Where surface longwave emission was not provided, this was calculated as σT_s^4 . Clear-sky surface downwelling longwave radiation from the NCAR PCM1 model was found to be spurious and corrected fields were supplied. Least squares linear fits between variables were calculated separately for each model ensemble member and additionally for inter-model ensemble means; only data from selected models were used, depending upon the availability of all fields considered in the present study. These models

¹http://eosweb.larc.nasa.gov/PRODOCS/srb/readme/readme_srb_rel2.5_lw_daily.txt

are highlighted in bold in Table 1; the model experiments in which volcanic forcings were included (V) and were not included (NV) are also denoted. The run1 ensemble member from each model was used in the inter-model ensemble except for the CCCMA_CGCM3 and GISS_E_R models in which the run2 ensemble member was used.

3. Global Comparison

Multi-annual global-mean quantities for the reanalyses products and model ensemble means are documented in Table 2. The model ensemble means underestimate CWV by 5-8% and OLRc by 1-3 Wm^{-2} compared to ERA40 (the volcanically forced CMIP3 ensemble has the largest discrepancy), consistent with a low-level dry bias and a mid-high tropospheric cold and moist bias in the models (John and Soden 2007). The low-level dry bias explains overly negative SNLc, although the regional distribution of the differences is more complex (Bodas-Salcedo et al. 2008). There is also evidence that inaccuracies in radiation codes contribute to an underestimate in SNLc, in particular for cold, dry climates for older models (Wild 2008). The discrepancy in SNLc and OLRc explains a model underestimate in Q_{LWc} of 8 Wm^{-2} compared to ERA40. The MRI_CGCM2 CMIP3 model simulated the lowest OLRc (257 Wm^{-2}) and CWV (21 mm), consistent with a substantial cold bias (-2 K) and lower tropospheric dry bias (-10%) compared with independent satellite data (John and Soden 2007), and also simulates one of the lowest mean Q_{LWc} (169 Wm^{-2}) and P (2.57 mm/day). The multi-model ensemble means for P are 4-9% larger than GPCP/CMAP estimates.

Individual models with higher Q_{LWc} tend to simulate larger P (Fig. 1a). Based on a linear fit to the models, differences in Q_{LWc} explain over 40% of the variance in P , sug-

gesting that clear-sky longwave radiative cooling is a significant factor in explaining model precipitation. This importance is more apparent when considering interannual variability: Fig. 1b shows annual mean anomalies in P and Q_{LWc} for the AMIP3 and CMIP3 experiments of the HadGEM1 model. Years with positive Q_{LWc} anomalies tend to coincide with higher precipitation; the explained variance is 70%. This highlights the contribution of the clear-sky longwave cooling of the atmosphere towards balancing latent heating via precipitation in models, both in a mean sense and also for variability, and forms the motivation for assessing the links between longwave radiative cooling and the hydrological cycle in models, reanalyses and observations. Nevertheless, it should be noted that differences in shortwave atmospheric radiation budgets, poorly simulated in climate models (Wild 2008), may also contribute to errors in the hydrological cycle, both in terms of the mean state and variability. For example, underestimates in model ensemble mean Q_{LWc} are of the wrong sign to explain an apparent overestimate in P compared to GPCP and CMAP. While the precise accuracy of GPCP and CMAP precipitation totals are questionable, it is likely that model underestimation of shortwave atmospheric absorption by aerosol and water vapor (Wild 2008) and uncertainty in cloud longwave radiative forcing (Lambert and Webb 2008; Bodas-Salcedo et al. 2008) and near-surface conditions (Richter and Xie 2008) may contribute to errors in model precipitation and its response to warming.

Deseasonalized global monthly-mean anomalies are shown for the reanalyses, GPCP precipitation and the AMIP3 models (Figure 2) with the shaded area denoting the ensemble mean ± 1 standard deviation. Least squares linear fits between variables for the models, reanalyses and the GPCP/CMAP precipitation data are displayed in Figure 3. Regressions are applied separately to each model ensemble member and also to the multi-model ensemble

mean (horizontal broken lines) for non-volcanic AMIP3 models (black), non-volcanic CMIP3 models (blue) and volcanic CMIP3 models (green); the ensemble members and the model number are detailed in Table 1. Vertical lines signify ± 1 standard error in the linear fit for each model ensemble member; boxes denote statistically significant correlation at the 95% level allowing for autocorrelation.

There is a close correspondence between anomalies in CWV and T_s , which are dominated by El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), although individual models exhibit a range of sensitivities $\sim 1\text{-}2.5 \text{ mm}/K$ (Fig. 3a). Using the model ensemble mean values in Fig. 3 and Table 2, percentage changes in CWV with warming range from $6.7 \text{ \%}K^{-1}$ for the CMIP3 model ensemble with volcanic forcing to $8.4 \text{ \%}K^{-1}$ for the AMIP3 ensemble, close to that expected from the Clausius Clapeyron equation and consistent with previous studies (Soden et al. 2005; Wentz et al. 2007).

A robust relationship between clear-sky surface net longwave radiation (SNLc) and CWV anomalies of $1\text{-}1.5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{mm}^{-1}$ is apparent in Figures 2-3. Combined with positive $dCWV/dT_s$, this translates to a statistically significant relationship between SNLc and T_s ; specifically, the efficiency at which the surface can cool in the clear-sky longwave spectrum diminishes with warming. This is the case for all models apart from run1 of GISS_E_R. The SRB data also fails to show a statistically significant correlation for $dSNLc/dT_s$ due to spurious changes in land surface temperature (Allan 2007).

There is a positive trend in SNLc (Fig. 2c); this is more coherent when considering the ensemble mean of the CMIP3 models (not shown) since the variability relating to ENSO is essentially removed. The CMIP3 trend of $0.5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}/\text{decade}$ is consistent with values estimated over land by Wild et al. (2008) but is offset by increased clear-sky shortwave

heating of the atmosphere (Q_{SWc}) which rises at the rate $0.2 \text{ Wm}^{-2}/\text{decade}$, primarily due to moistening. This is discussed further in Section 4.

Changes in T_s combined with invariant relative humidity result in a positive relationship between OLRc and T_s of order $2 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$ (e.g. Allan 2006) and this is consistent with results from NCEP, SRB and the AMIP3 ensemble mean (Fig. 3d). The CNRM AMIP experiment and ERA40 reanalyses produce lower sensitivities, partly because greenhouse gas forcing was applied to these experiments; since greenhouse gas increases reduce OLRc and are positively coupled over decadal timescales with T_s , this acts to mask the positive direct relationship between T_s and OLRc (e.g. Slingo et al. 2000). In other words, the forcing is mixed with the feedback signal as diagnosed by OLRc. Similarly, other forcing agents that affect directly the OLRc, such as volcanic aerosols, will also impact the relationship between OLRc and T_s (e.g. Allan et al. 2003) and explain why the forced CMIP3 experiments do not produce a coherent relationship for $dOLRc/dT_s$. The CMIP3 models with volcanic forcings tend to show a higher sensitivity than the CMIP3 models without this forcing, caused by the large negative perturbations to OLRc following the El Chichon and Mt. Pinatubo eruptions in 1982 and 1991. When the periods 1982-83 and 1991-93 are excluded, $dOLRc/dT_s$ is comparable between volcanic and non-volcanic CMIP3 experiments (not shown).

The increased clear-sky longwave cooling of the atmosphere to space and to the surface with rising temperature combine to produce a robust increase in Q_{LWc} with T_s , ranging from $3.1\text{-}4.2 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$ for the model ensemble means and reanalyses. The GISS_ER model produces a larger spread of sensitivities compared to the other models. The SRB data does not give a statistically significant correlation, relating to the spurious longer term changes in SNLc over land. Nevertheless, the robust relationship between Q_{LWc} , T_s and CWV implies a

rise in mean precipitation with warming and moistening (e.g. Trenberth et al. 2003; Lambert and Webb 2008) as indicated by the models (Fig. 3f-h).

There is significant correlation between precipitation and Q_{LWc} for the model experiments (Fig. 3g) suggesting that changes in atmospheric clear-sky radiative cooling are important in determining changes in precipitation on a global scale. This is confirmed for the AMIP3 simulations and the CMIP3 model experiments that do not contain volcanic forcing: Fig. 4 shows that models with higher dQ_{LWc}/dT_s correspond with a larger precipitation response to warming. Were Q_{LWc} changes to exactly balance the latent heating through precipitation,

$$dP \sim \frac{dQ_{LWc}}{\rho_w L} \quad (1)$$

(ρ_w is water density; $L=2.5 \times 10^6 Jkg^{-1}$), then precipitation will increase at $\sim 0.035 mm day^{-1}$ per Wm^{-2} increase in Q_{LWc} . This is at the upper range of the dP/dQ_{LWc} calculated for the models.

The AMIP3 ensemble mean precipitation response is substantially larger than the CMIP3 ensembles. One explanation is that the response to ENSO is averaged out in the CMIP3 ensemble and the longer term response to the smaller decadal warming trend is less coherent. However this does not explain why individual CMIP3 models tend to simulate a smaller precipitation response compared to individual AMIP3 models. A more plausible explanation is that additional forcings applied in the CMIP3 experiments, such as greenhouse gases, directly influence the hydrological cycle through radiative heating of the troposphere (e.g. Yang et al. 2003), thereby lowering the calculated precipitation response to changes in T_s and CWV . This is backed up by the CNRM AMIP3 experiment which also has a smaller precipitation response and is the only AMIP3 experiment to contain greenhouse gas forcing.

An associated effect has recently been identified by Gregory and Webb (2008) to apply to cloud feedback.

A statistically significant response of P to T_s , Q_{LWc} or CWV is not found for the ERA40/GPCP and NCEP/CMAP combinations; changes in the observing system affect the integrity of these records (e.g. Yin et al. 2004). The larger monthly variability in GPCP precipitation following the introduction of SSM/I data is apparent in Fig. 2f as previously documented by Quartly et al. (2007).

4. Tropical Comparison

Concentrating now on the tropics (30°S-30°N) allows the simulated relationships to be evaluated against available observations.

a. Tropical Ocean Mean Quantities

Tables 3-5 show tropical ocean mean quantities over the period 1980-2000 for individual models, model ensembles, reanalyses, and observational estimates, where available. The models that overestimate CWV compared with SSM/I (CNRM, ECHAM5) most closely reproduce the SNLc from ERA40 and the SSM/I observationally based estimate. The model ensemble mean SNLc of $\sim -80 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ is close to NCEP and SRB estimates but more negative than ERA40 and the SSM/I observationally-derived estimate. Wild (2008) also found that climate models underestimated surface downwelling longwave fluxes. Most models underestimate Q_{LWc} compared to reanalyses and the observationally derived estimate (e.g. MIROC,

MRLCGCM2). There is a large range of observed precipitation values: CMAP estimates the highest precipitation totals (3.6 mm/day) and SSM/I and GPCP the lowest at just under 3 mm/day giving a range of around 20%.

b. Variability over the Ocean

As for the global comparisons, there is close correspondence between T_s , CWV and SNLc changes for each dataset with positive anomalies during warm El Niño months (Fig. 5a-c). The variability in OLRc (Fig. 5d) appears less coherent since positively coupled temperature and moisture anomalies exert contrasting effects on top of atmosphere longwave emission. In addition, the direct effect of El Chichon and Pinatubo on OLRc is apparent in the GISS_ER ensemble but not in the remaining models or the reanalyses which did not prescribe volcanic aerosol. Despite remaining inhomogeneities in the ERA40 24-hour forecasts (e.g. 1985-86) variability in Q_{LWc} is generally consistent between datasets and models (Fig. 5e), partly explained by the fact that humidity errors through the column have opposing effects on radiative cooling to the surface and to space (Allan 2006). The interannual variability in precipitation (Fig. 5f) is small compared to the model ensemble spread and less coherent than the other variables analysed.

Relationships between the variables shown in Fig. 5 are displayed as scatter plots in Fig. 6 and linear fits in Fig. 7. The generally larger scatter apparent in the observations and reanalyses compared to the models in Fig. 6 primarily reflects the smoothing introduced in constructing model ensemble means. Departures from the linear relationships in Fig. 6 also indicate time-scale dependent responses of the system to volcanic forcings or ENSO

variability as discussed by Harries and Futyuan (2006).

The AMIP3 ensemble mean, CMIP3 volcanic ensemble mean, ERA40 and SSM/I-HadISST datasets all produce a robust relationship between CWV and T_s of $\sim 3 \text{ mm}/K$ (Fig. 6a). The NCEP data produces a lower sensitivity, relating to the negative trend in CWV relative to the other datasets (Fig. 5b). Individual ensemble members provide a substantial scatter in $dCWV/dT_s$ ranging from 2.2-4.0 mm/K (Fig. 7a). Part of this scatter appears to relate to unpredictable fluctuations since there is substantial spread (of order 1 mm/K) between ensemble members of individual models. The MIROC high resolution CMIP3 experiment simulates the lowest sensitivity of all models, partly relating to underestimation in mean CWV (Table 4).

As for the global comparison, the $dSNLc/dCWV$ sensitivity is robust between models and reanalyses (Fig. 7b), ranging from about 1-1.4 $Wm^{-2}mm^{-1}$. The CMIP3 models without volcanic forcing lie at the upper end of this range; since greenhouse gas increases enhance the atmospheric cooling to the surface by 0.12 $Wm^{-2}/decade$ over the period 1980-2000 (Allan 2006), and the increases are concurrent with trends in CWV of 0.43 $\text{mm}/decade$, the sensitivity $dSNLc/dCWV$ is enhanced by the factor 0.12/0.43=0.28 Wm^{-2}/mm , explaining why the CMIP3 non-volcanic ensemble mean sensitivity is larger than the AMIP3 ensemble mean. The CMIP3 ensemble mean containing volcanic forcings produces a similar sensitivity to the AMIP3 ensemble, because the volcanic forcing acts to reduce the correspondence between changes in CWV and increases in greenhouse gases. The observational estimate of $dSNLc/dCWV$ is based upon a fit to surface radiometric observations (Prata 1996), which takes no account of changes in greenhouse gases or volcanic forcings and this falls at the lower end of the range (1 $Wm^{-2}mm^{-1}$).

There is a positive relationship between SNLc and T_s (Fig. 6c) but with a large spread (2-5 $Wm^{-2}K^{-1}$; Fig. 7c); the CMIP3 non-volcanic ensemble mean and SRB data are at the upper end of this range. A robust trend in CMIP3 non-volcanic ensemble mean SNLc of 0.71 $Wm^{-2}K^{-1}$ (Fig. 8a) is larger than the global trend and the AMIP3 ensemble. This is offset by increased clear-sky shortwave heating (Q_{SWc}) of 0.26 $Wm^{-2}K^{-1}$ (Fig. 8b). To understand these trends further, radiative calculations were performed on a tropical mean profile subject to a tropospheric warming of 1K with constant relative humidity and to greenhouse gas increases from 1980 levels to 2000 concentrations (Fig. 8c; for further details see Allan (2006)). Depending on the tropical ocean warming trend (0.1 or 0.15 $K/decade$), the increases in OLRc due to the warming are more than compensated by the increased absorption by greenhouse gases (e.g. Slingo et al. 2000). Therefore, increases in Q_{LWc} are determined primarily by increased SNLc due to the warming, moistening and greenhouse gas increases. The overall rate of increase in Q_{LWc} of 5.3 $Wm^{-1}K^{-1}$ is offset by greenhouse gas increases by 1.5 $Wm^{-1}K^{-1}$ (assuming a tropical warming trend of 0.15 K/dec) and further by enhanced Q_{SWc} due to water vapor by 1.1 $Wm^{-2}K^{-1}$ leading to an overall increase in total clear-sky radiative cooling of 2.7 $Wm^{-2}K^{-1}$, similar to the global estimate used by Allen and Ingram (2002).

A positive sensitivity, $dOLRc/dT_s=2.3 Wm^{-2}K^{-1}$, is calculated for the AMIP3 ensemble mean, broadly consistent with the reanalyses and satellite data (Fig. 7d). The non-volcanically forced CMIP3 models tend to simulate a smaller sensitivity since the interannual relationships between OLRc and T_s are averaged out in the ensemble mean and the longer term response of OLRc to warming is to a large extent canceled out by the impact of the concurrent rises in greenhouse gases (Fig. 8c). The volcanically forced CMIP3 models

produce a higher sensitivity due to the rapid drop in OLRc in response to the direct effect of volcanic aerosols relative to the slower decline in T_s in response to the negative net radiative forcing.

All datasets considered produce a robust increase in Q_{LWc} with T_s over the tropical oceans (Fig. 6-7d). The AMIP3 ensemble mean dQ_{LWc}/dT_s is $5.5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$ with about 60% resulting from extra net cooling to the surface and 40% to the enhanced OLRc with warming. For the non-volcanic CMIP3 ensemble mean, dQ_{LWc}/dT_s is lower and exclusively explained by the positive response of SNLc to surface warming, as expected from the theoretical calculations in Fig. 8c. Conversely, the direct impact of the volcanic forcing on OLRc for the CMIP3 volcanic ensemble mean adds to the positive $dSNLc/dT_s$ relationship, producing the largest sensitivity, $dQ_{LWc}/dT_s=6.7 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$. The CMIP3 GISS_ER model produces the largest sensitivity, this being explained by the large calculated sensitivity $dOLRc/dT_s$, albeit with large scatter.

The majority of models indicate a positive precipitation response to surface warming (Fig. 7f) with ensemble mean sensitivity of $0.1\text{-}0.15 \text{ mm day}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$. The GPCP data indicate a larger response of $0.2\pm 0.05 \text{ mm day}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$ but is within the range of the individual model spread. The SSM/I data produced the largest sensitivity of $0.35\pm 0.1 \text{ mm day}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$ while the CMAP data produce a statistically insignificant negative relationship. The model ensemble means produce a significant sensitivity dP/dQ_{LWc} of $\sim 0.02\text{-}0.03 \text{ mm day}^{-1}(\text{Wm}^{-2})^{-1}$, slightly smaller than expected by the balancing of latent heating through precipitation with clear-sky longwave radiative cooling (see Eq. 1). Again the reanalyses/observations do not produce a significant statistical relationship. The model ensemble mean linear fit, $dP/dCWW = 0.035\text{-}0.06 \text{ day}^{-1}$, is consistent with the ERA40/GPCP and NCEP/CMAP sensitivity

(Fig. 7g). However, it should be noted that NCEP CWV and CMAP precipitation are both subject to possibly spurious negative trends, so the agreement in terms of $dP/dCWV$ may be somewhat fortuitous. The SSM/I derived sensitivity of $0.09 \pm 0.02 \text{ day}^{-1}$ is larger than the model ensemble means but within the spread of the individual model sensitivities.

c. Ocean Ascending and Descending Regimes

Analysis is now conducted separately for the ascending and descending branches of the tropical ocean using 500 *hPa* vertical motion fields (ω). Mean upward and downward motion is calculated each month using each model's ω to subsample its corresponding diagnostics and using reanalysis ω to subsample the reanalyses/observations (Allan and Soden 2007). This is illustrated for the GPCP and HadGEM1 AMIP3 ascending region precipitation fields for February and August 1998 in Figure 9. Sensitivities are displayed for the ascending (Fig. 10) and descending (Fig. 11) regions of the tropical oceans.

There is substantial scatter of ascent region $dCWV/dT_s$ between models, reanalyses and observations, covering the range 3-5 *mm/K* (Fig. 10a). However, all model ensemble means considered produce a rise of $\sim 9\%/K$, in agreement with the HadISST-SSM/I observations and consistent with the rate expected from Clausius Clapeyron plus moist adiabatic adjustment (Wentz et al. 2007). For the descent regions (Fig. 11a), a lower sensitivity is simulated as expected from the smaller mean CWV. Normalizing by mean CWV, both CMIP3 ensemble means produce a similar relative rise in water vapor with warming (8.2%/K) although the AMIP3 ensemble mean, reanalyses and observations are lower (5.6-5.8%/K), slightly lower than expected from the Clausius Clapeyron relationship.

The relationship between SNLc and CWV is slightly stronger, although with more scatter, for the drier, descent regions (Fig. 11b) than the ascent regions, reflecting the saturation of water vapor continuum absorption with increased moisture (e.g. Prata 1996). The relationship for the GISS_ER model run1 over descending regions is unrealistically low, suggesting that the diagnostic error is manifest most strongly in these regions.

The sensitivity, $dSNL/dT_s$, is larger for the ascent regimes ($3\text{-}5.5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$) than for descent regions ($1.5\text{-}4 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$), explained by the differing responses in moisture. The CMIP3 model ensemble means and SRB data produce a higher $dSNLc/dT_s$ for the descent regions ($3\text{-}4 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$) compared with the AMIP3 ensemble, reanalyses and SSM/I-derived estimates of around $2 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$.

The OLRc response to warming is smaller for the ascending region than the descending regions. The ERA40 data simulates a significant negative ascent region OLRc trend over the period 1980-2000 (-0.8 Wm^{-2} per decade), with particularly negative anomalies in 1999, corresponding with anomalously low T_s (not shown). The relationship with T_s for this region is not significant for ERA40, NCEP or ERBS-CERES; a statistically significant relationship is produced by the AMIP3 ensemble mean ($1.2 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$) and SRB data ($1.5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$). For the descent region, changes in OLRc show greater correlation with T_s ; the AMIP3 ensemble mean, reanalyses and observations have a sensitivity of about $2.5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$.

The combination of changes in SNLc and OLRc with T_s result in a robust relationship between Q_{LWc} and T_s for both the ascending and descending branches of the tropical circulation. Since the descending regime contains less cloud, the clear-sky relationships here are particularly relevant and more directly comparable to the cloud-screened observations. The AMIP3 and CMIP3 non-volcanic ensembles and the NCEP data and observationally-derived

estimates all produce an increase in Q_{LW_c} with T_s of around $4\text{-}5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$ for both regimes. The CMIP3 volcanic ensemble produces a larger sensitivity of order $6 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$ reflecting the direct effect of volcanic stratospheric aerosols which reduce both OLRc and T_s , obscuring the radiative-convective response to warming.

The precipitation response to warming is positive in the ascending regime (Fig.10f), but with substantial scatter (0.2 to $1.0 \text{ mm day}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$) and the relationship is not statistically significant for the CMAP product. When normalizing by mean P , the CMIP3 model ensemble means simulate rises of around $6\%\text{K}^{-1}$ while the AMIP ensemble mean and ERA40/GPCP estimate is close to $10\%\text{K}^{-1}$; these values are broadly consistent with the Clausius Clapeyron relationship and explained by the rises in moisture that supply the primarily convectively driven rainfall (e.g. Trenberth et al. 2003). However, the SSM/I-HadISST response is substantially larger at $18\%\text{K}^{-1}$.

Employing mean values from Table 5, the relationship between ascent region precipitation and CWV (Fig.10h) can be converted to units of $\%/\%$ as $\frac{dP}{dCWV} \frac{CWV}{P}$. A 1:1 relationship is calculated, to within $0.07 \text{ } \%/ \%$, for the AMIP3 ensemble mean and the GPCP/ERA40 and CMAP/NCEP combinations. A smaller response is calculated for the CMIP3 volcanic ensemble ($0.8 \text{ } \%/ \%$) and CMIP3 non-volcanic ensemble ($0.7 \text{ } \%/ \%$) while a much larger response is calculated for the SSM/I dataset $1.6\text{-}2.0 \text{ } \%/ \%$. For the descent region, only the GISS_E_R AMIP/CMIP and CNRM CMIP3 models simulates statistically significant (positive) responses (Fig.11f). A weakly positive dependence of precipitation on CWV is simulated by the models for the descent region while the observations do not produce a statistically significant relationship.

A robust positive relationship between precipitation and Q_{LW_c} is calculated for the as-

ending regime but not the descending regime as expected. Since the tropical mean precipitation is driven by changes in the radiation balance but the ascent region precipitation changes are dominated by the enhanced moisture, to compensate, changes in descending region precipitation are not expected to be positive (Trenberth et al. 2003). On an interannual time-scale, changes in observed precipitation with Q_{LWc} and T_s are not well correlated. This is likely to be caused by the limited period in which the observationally-derived estimates are calculated in addition to inconsistencies between datasets. However, Allan and Soden (2007) detected positive trends in observed precipitation over the ascent regions and negative trends over the descending regimes of the tropical circulation over the period 1979-2006 with a substantially larger magnitude trend in the observations than the models.

d. Variability over Land

Over land, where surface water is limited, advection of moist air is required to maintain relative humidity with warming. Figure 12 shows that a positive relationship between T_s and CWV exist for the AMIP3 models and reanalyses, and consistent with surface humidity observations (Willett et al. 2008). However, the magnitude of the CWV response is smaller with the linear fit calculated from the model ensemble means and reanalyses lying in the range $3.9-5.4\%K^{-1}$, lower than that expected from the Clausius Clapeyron equation. While the ensemble mean sensitivity of SNLc to CWV lies in the range $1.1-1.4 Wm^{-2}mm^{-1}$, in agreement with other regions, the lower CWV sensitivity to warming leads to a less coherent relationship between SNLc and T_s than for the global mean or tropical oceans. Most models do not produce a statistically significant relationship although the model ensemble means

produce a robust relationship of $\sim 1 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$ and a trend of around $0.5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}/\text{decade}$, consistent with Wild et al. (2008).

The AMIP3 ensemble mean changes in OLRc are positively coupled to T_s , with a sensitivity of $2.2 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$, in broad agreement with the the ERA40, NCEP and SRB estimated values ($1.7\text{-}2.2 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$). The OLRc and SNLc response lead to a positive relationship between Q_{LWc} and T_s for the AMIP ensemble mean of order $3 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$, lower than NCEP ($3.5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$) but larger than ERA40 ($2.5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$). The SRB data (not shown) produces a spurious relationship between SNLc and T_s (Allan 2007), removing any statistically significant relationship between Q_{LWc} and T_s . Observed differences in OLRc from ERBS, ScaRaB and CERES are within the expected calibration and sampling differences of 1 Wm^{-2} but this is similar to the magnitude of interannual variability.

Changes in precipitation over land are generally consistent between GPCP and the AMIP3 models with El Niño periods corresponding with negative anomalies (e.g. Gu et al. 2007). Since El Niño corresponds with warmer and moister conditions globally, contributing to higher precipitation rates, while the dynamical changes contribute to negative precipitation anomalies over land, the relationship between precipitation and T_s over land is incoherent (Adler et al. 2008).

5. Conclusions

Links between clear-sky longwave radiation and aspects of the hydrological cycle were quantified in models, reanalyses and observations over the period 1980-2000. There was broad consistency in relationships between variables in all datasets with low level moisten-

ing explaining enhanced clear-sky radiative cooling of the atmosphere to the surface and enhanced precipitation in ascending regions of the tropical circulation. The GISS_ER model produced the least coherent relationships and CMAP precipitation, SRB surface fluxes and moisture variability in ERA40 appear spurious. The following primary conclusions are:

- Models tend to underestimate the clear-sky surface net longwave radiation (SNLc), consistent with previous work (Wild 2008); only models that overestimate column integrated water vapor (CWV) can reproduce SNLc derived semi-empirically from observations (e.g. CNRM, MPIECHAM5). Nevertheless biases in mean fields are not thought to impact climate feedbacks (John and Soden 2007).

- A robust increase in SNLc (less surface cooling) with CWV ($\sim 1-1.5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}/\text{mm}$) is relatively insensitive to region or dataset. Where greenhouse gas increases are prescribed and correlated with CWV increases, the calculated sensitivity is enhanced.

- A significant rise in CWV with warming was detected in all datasets with the largest response over tropical ocean ascending regions and smallest response over land regions. The MPIECHAM5 and IPSL_CM4 CMIP3 models simulated the largest tropical responses and MIROC and INMCM models the lowest.

- Increased radiative cooling of the atmosphere to the surface with warming is robust, of order $2-5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$ over tropical oceans. The relationship over land is less coherent but a significant trend in SNLc was present for the CMIP3 ensemble mean of around 0.5 Wm^{-2} per decade for tropical land and global means, consistent with analysis of surface observations over land (Wild et al. 2008); trends over tropical oceans are slightly larger.

- Changes in OLRc are sensitive to forcing from greenhouse gas increases and volcanic aerosol in addition to the response of the hydrological cycle to warming, consistent with

previous studies (e.g. Slingo et al. 2000).

- A robust increase in clear-sky longwave radiative cooling of the atmosphere (Q_{LWc}) with warming applies to all regions and datasets considered. For models without volcanic forcings, Q_{LWc} increases at the rate $\sim 3.5-5.5 W m^{-2} K^{-1}$ over tropical ocean descent regions, consistent with previous analysis of reanalyses and observationally derived datasets (Allan 2006). This response is dominated by enhanced cooling to the surface but is offset by increased clear-sky shortwave heating due to moistening. Increased net radiative cooling of the atmosphere is physically consistent with increases in global mean precipitation (e.g. Allen and Ingram 2002; Held and Soden 2006; Lambert and Webb 2008).

- Models with larger Q_{LWc} response also tend to simulate a larger precipitation response to warming, although this signal is obscured for volcanically forced models.

- Over tropical oceans, simulated precipitation rises are dominated by the regions of mean ascent with increases here at the rate expected from Clausius Clapeyron ($6-10\% K^{-1}$) consistent with the moisture increases which supply convective rainfall (e.g. Trenberth et al. 2003). The rate is larger for the SSM/I-HadISST datasets ($18\% K^{-1}$); it is not clear whether this relates to the shorter time-series available (1987-2000) or to differences in the microwave retrieval algorithms or to inadequacies in the models (Wentz et al. 2007; Allan and Soden 2007). Nevertheless, the lack of a signal over tropical ocean descent is expected since the mean precipitation response is balanced by the net radiative cooling of the atmosphere and is substantially less than Clausius Clapeyron (e.g. Trenberth et al. 2003; Allan 2006).

The present study has dealt with the most well understood aspect of the hydrological response to warming, that relating to changes in clear-sky longwave radiation (e.g. Allen and Ingram 2002). It is also important to quantify cloud longwave and shortwave radiative

effects (e.g. Lambert and Webb 2008) although issues remain over the decadal changes in radiative fluxes relating to cloud and aerosol (Wielicki et al. 2002; Mishchenko et al. 2007; Wild et al. 2008; Bodas-Salcedo et al. 2008) and problems in climate monitoring remain with reanalyses and observational products struggling to accurately measure decadal changes in the hydrological cycle. Liepert et al. (2004) proposed that increases in solar absorption by aerosol may spin down the hydrological cycle. Conversely, a reduction in absorbing aerosols over recent decades (Wild et al. 2005) could contribute to increases in precipitation above the rate expected from changes in the clear-sky greenhouse effect Wild et al. (2008).

While the SSM/I record of CWV appears robust (Trenberth et al. 2005) there remains the possibility that inadequacies in the microwave retrieval algorithms may become apparent as the climate signal emerges from natural variability. For example, the larger SSM/I precipitation sensitivity to T_s than other models and datasets for tropical ocean (Allan and Soden 2007) ascent merits further analysis. It is only by continually comparing models with observations and reanalysis products that knowledge of limitations in the observing system and understanding of the physical processes can advance.

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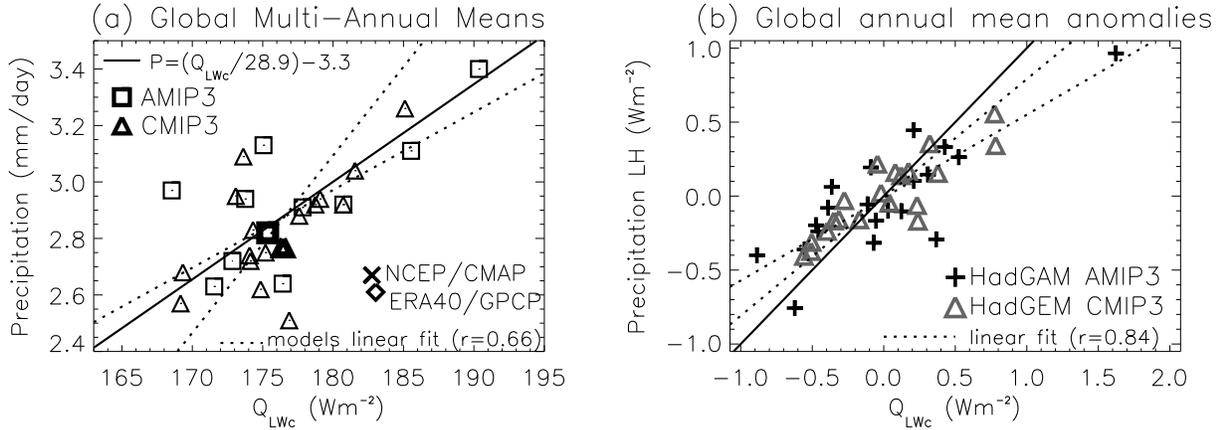


FIG. 1. Relationship between precipitation and clear-sky longwave radiative cooling of the atmosphere for (a) models and reanalyses multi-annual means and (b) annual mean anomalies over the period 1980-2000 for the HadGEM AMIP3 and CMIP3 experiments. Also shown are the range in linear fits to the AMIP3/CMIP3 models (dotted lines) and the line, $dP/dQ_{LWc}=1$ line where P is converted to units of Wm^{-2} (solid lines).

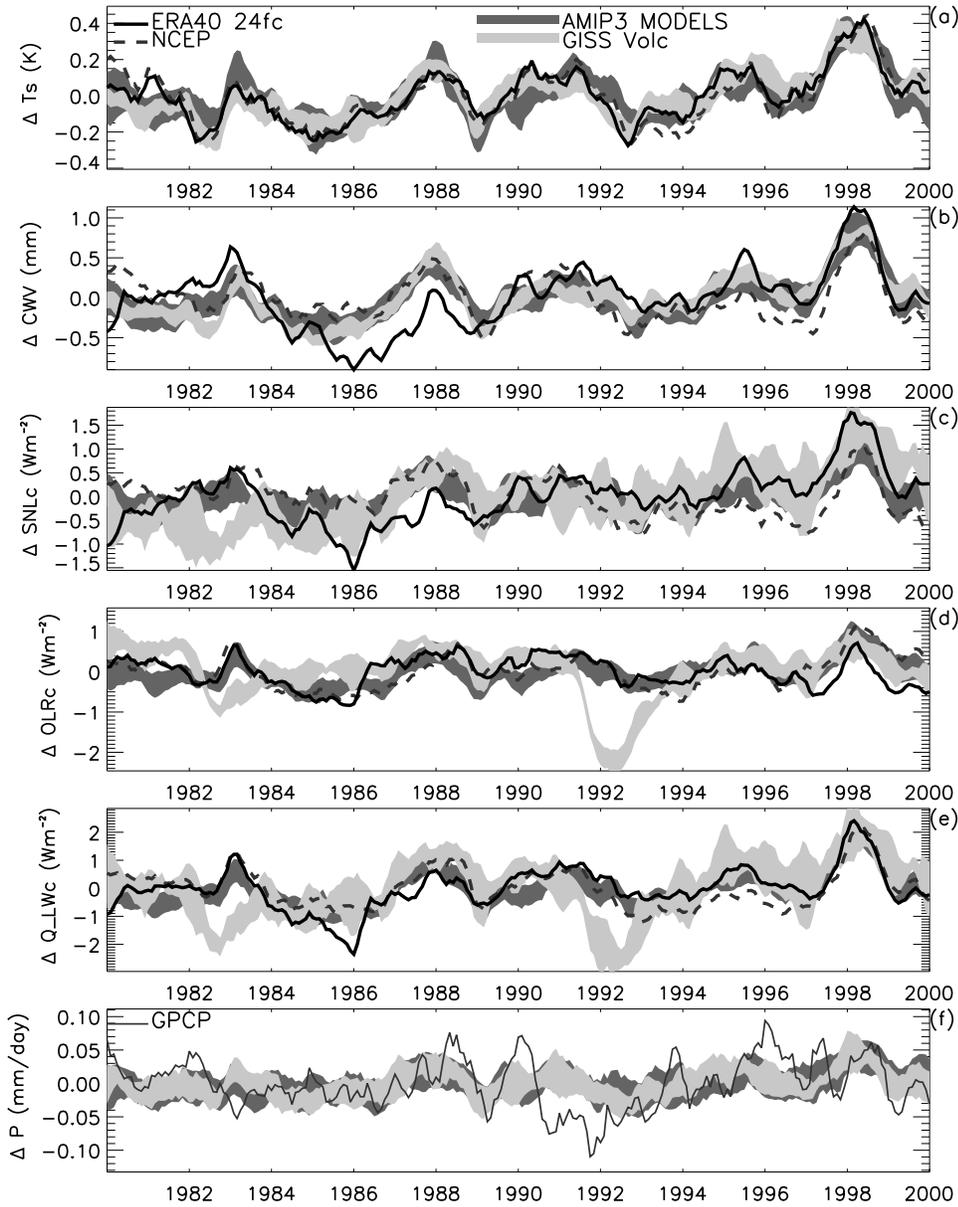


FIG. 2. Deseasonalized global monthly-mean anomalies of (a) surface temperature, (b) column integrated water vapor, (c) clear-sky surface net longwave radiation, (d) clear-sky outgoing longwave radiation, (e) clear-sky longwave radiative cooling of the atmosphere and (f) precipitation for reanalyses, GPCP precipitation and AMIP3 models. The shading denoting the model ensemble mean ± 1 standard deviation where volcanic forcing is not included (dark shading) and is included (light shading) in two sets of ensembles. A 4-month smoothing is applied to all datasets.

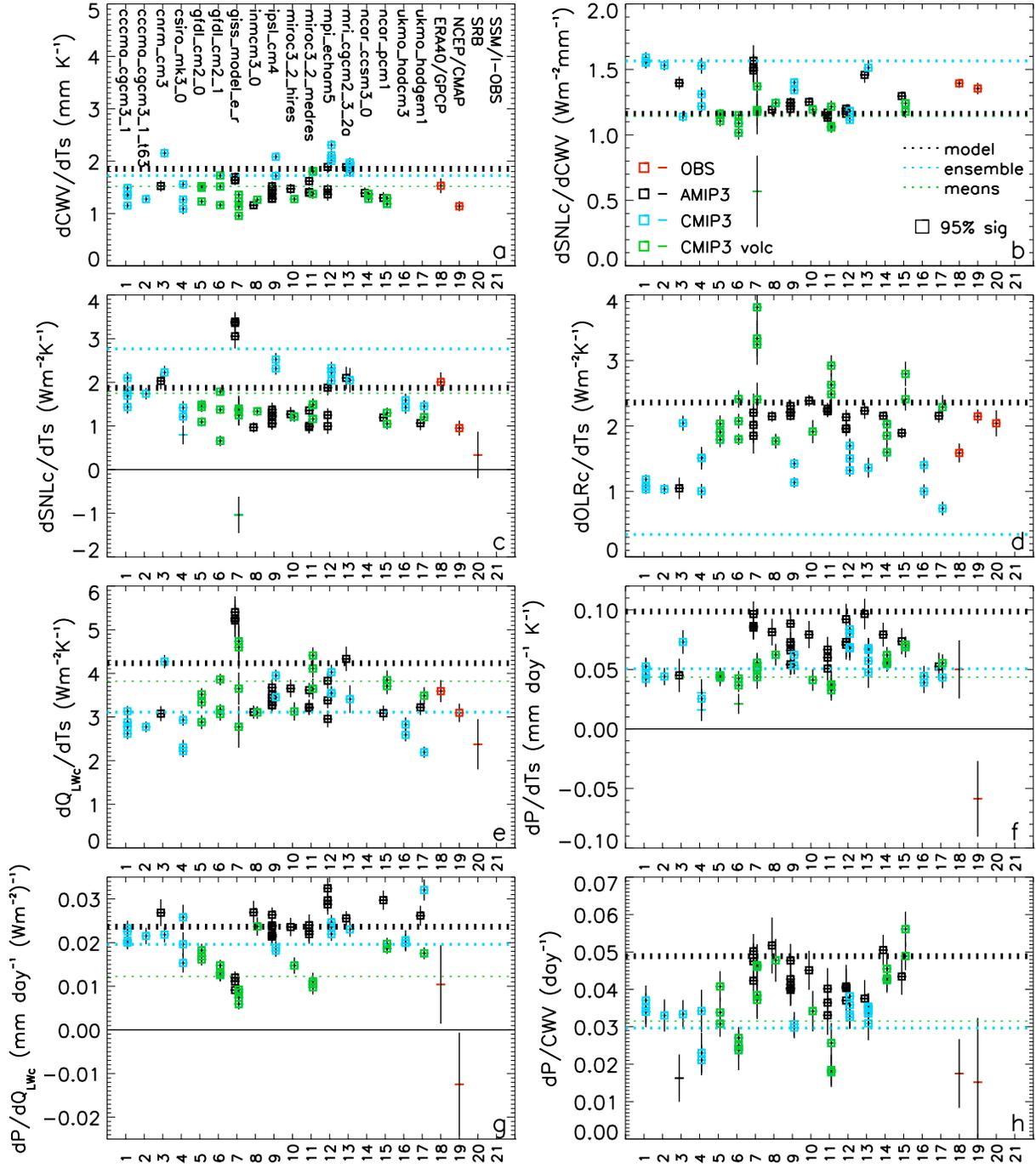


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Vertical lines denote ± 1 standard error in the linear fit.

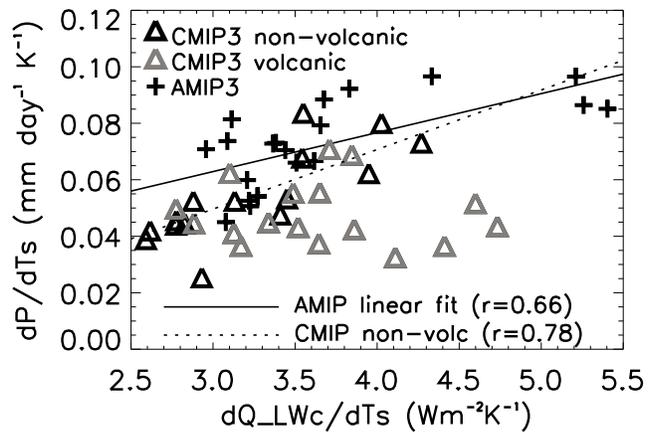


FIG. 4. Global-mean relationship between model calculated dQ_{LWc}/dT_s and dP/dT_s

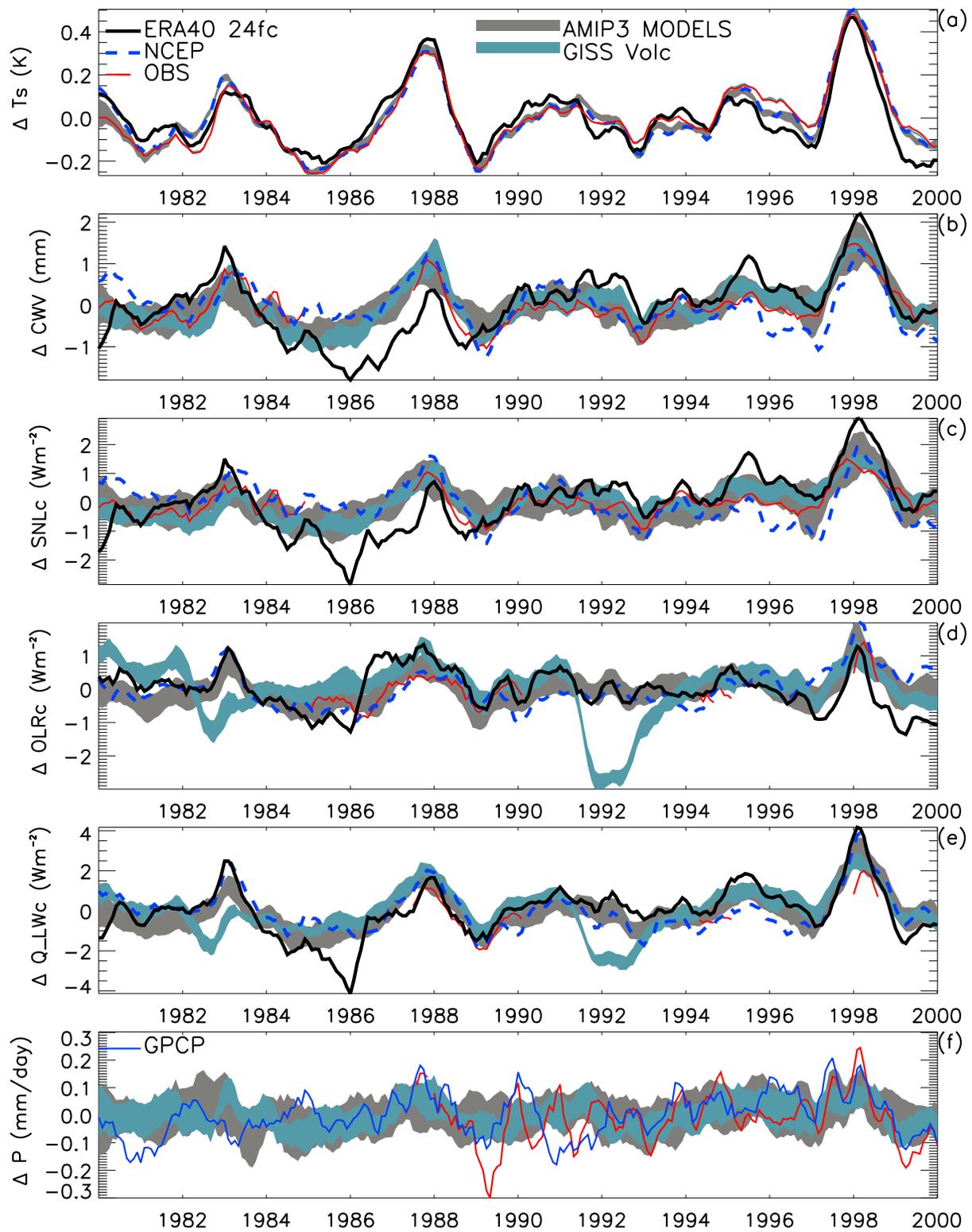


FIG. 5. As Fig. 2 but for the tropical oceans (30°S-30°N) and also including observational estimates.

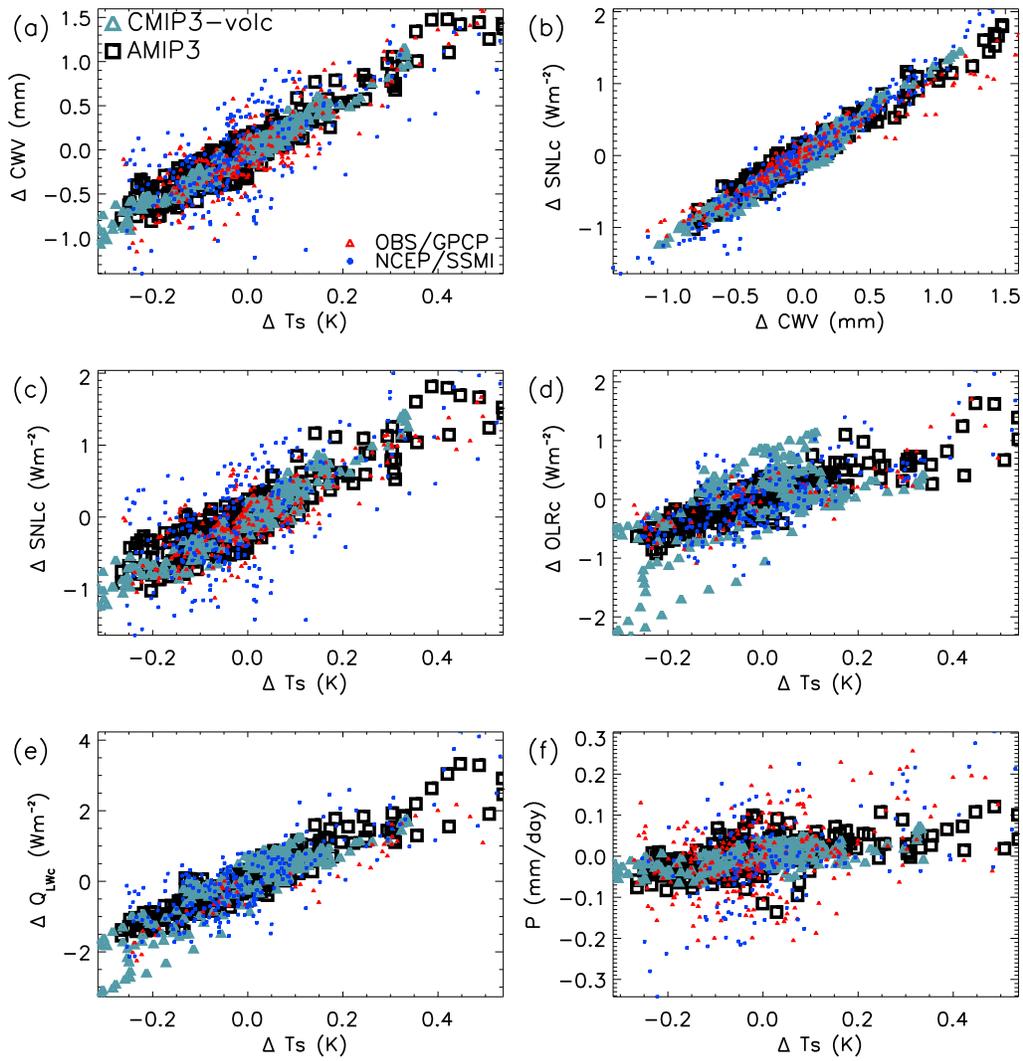


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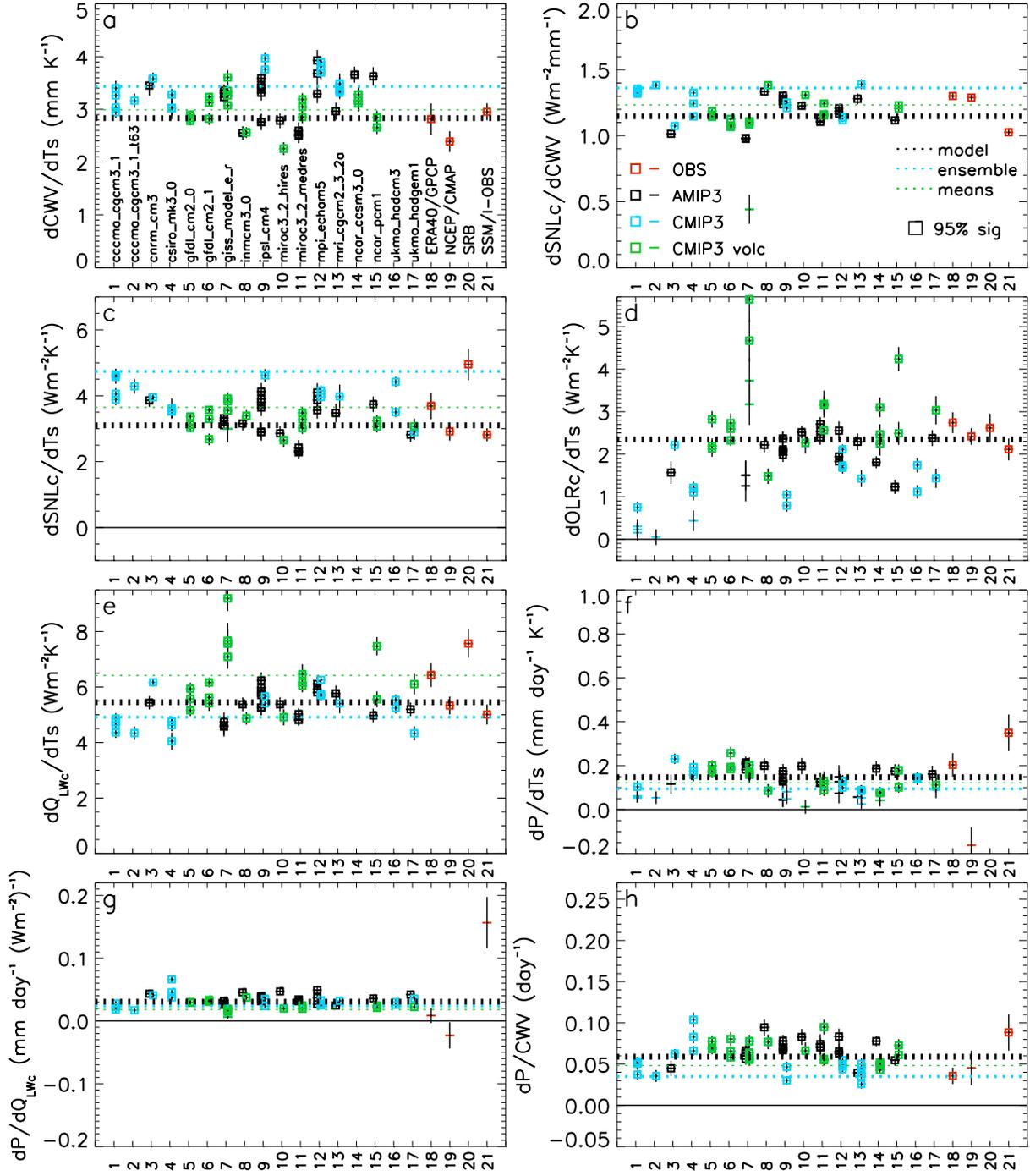


FIG. 7. As Fig. 3 but for the tropical oceans and also considering the observationally-based datasets.

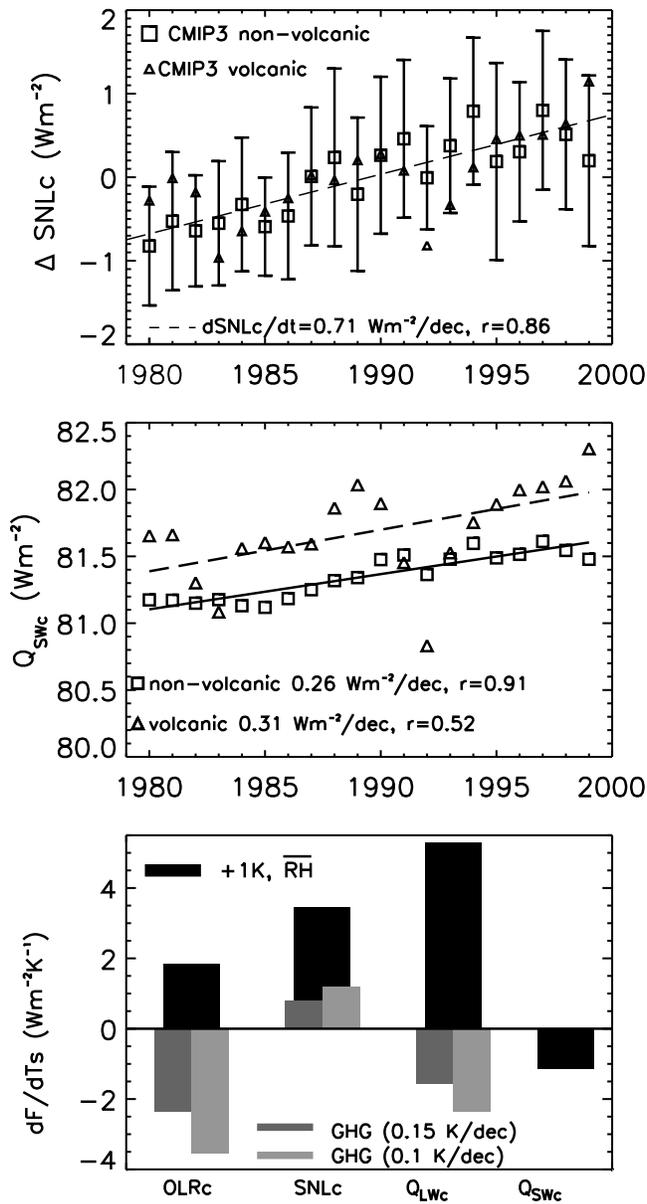


FIG. 8. (a) Global-annual mean anomalies of clear-sky surface net longwave radiation from CMIP3 model ensemble means (for the models without volcanic forcings, error bars denote 1 standard deviation of the monthly mean anomalies and a trend line is also plotted), (b) global-annual mean clear-sky atmospheric shortwave absorption (Q_{LWc}) from CMIP3 model ensemble means and (c) sensitivity of tropical mean radiative fluxes in response to a 1K increase in tropospheric temperatures and 1980 to 2000 change in greenhouse gases assuming a range in temperature trend.

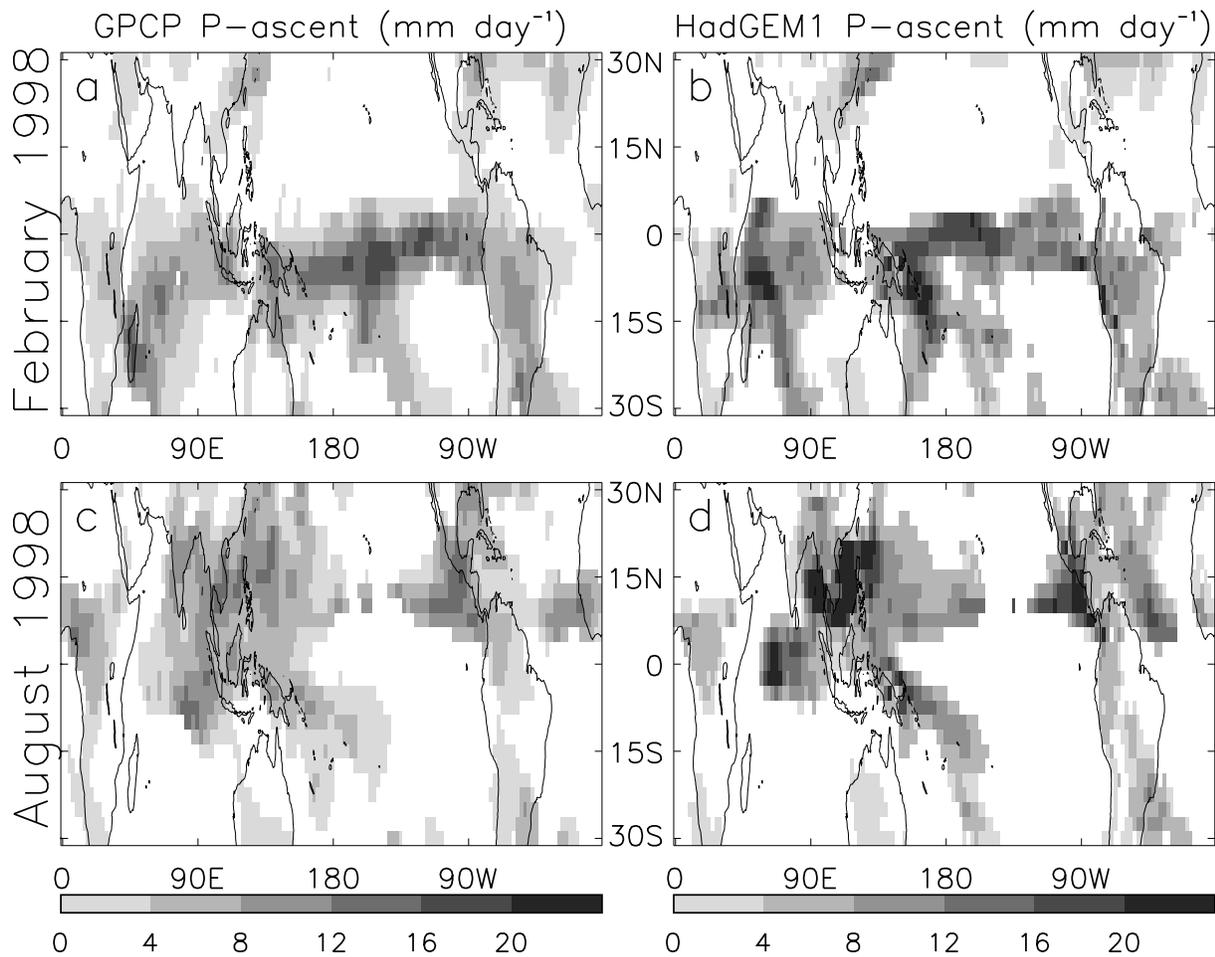


FIG. 9. Ascent region precipitation (mm/day) for GPCP (left) and HadGEM1 AMIP3 experiment (right) for February (top) and August (bottom) 1998.

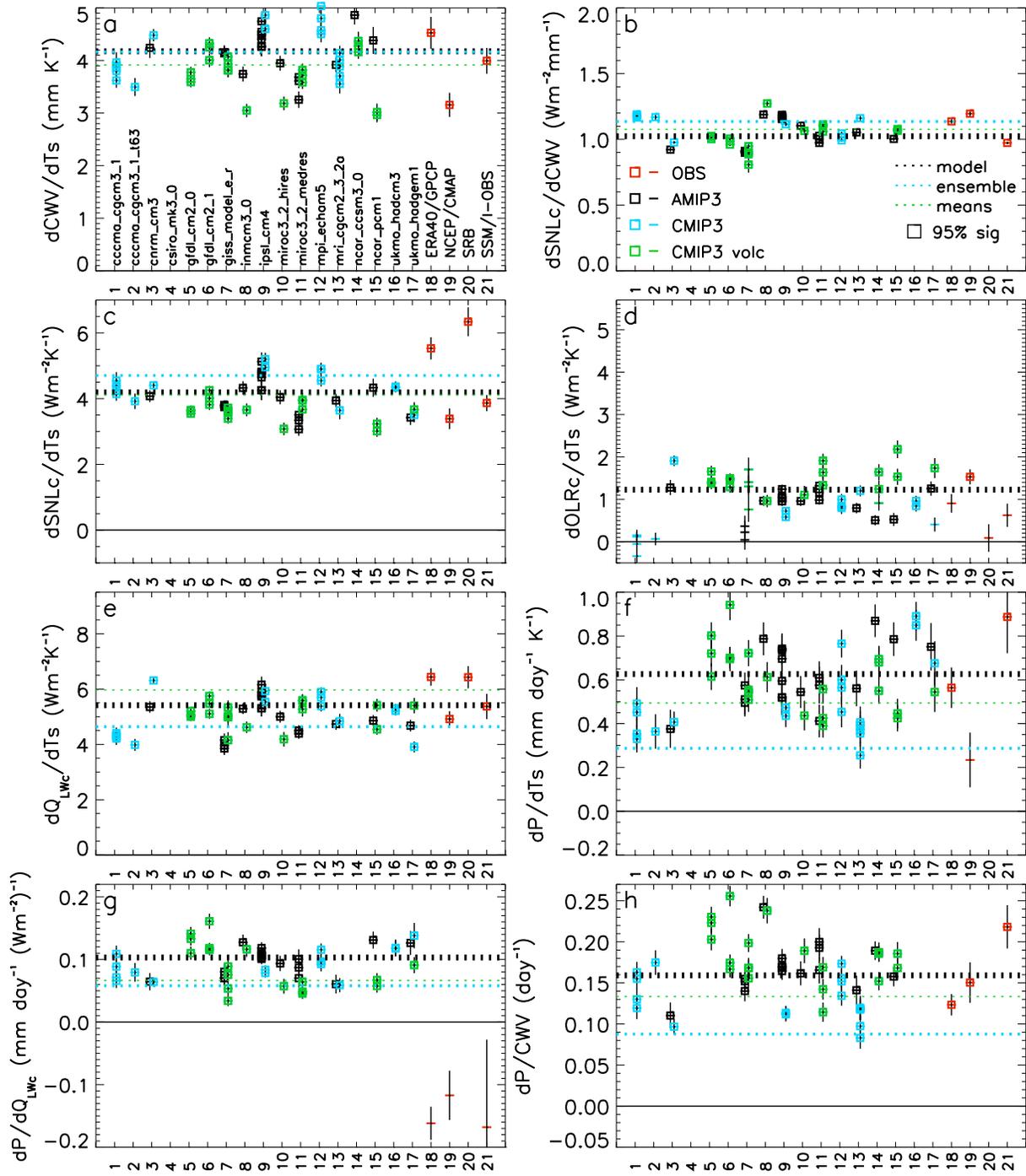


FIG. 10. As Fig. 3 but for the tropical ocean ascent regions.

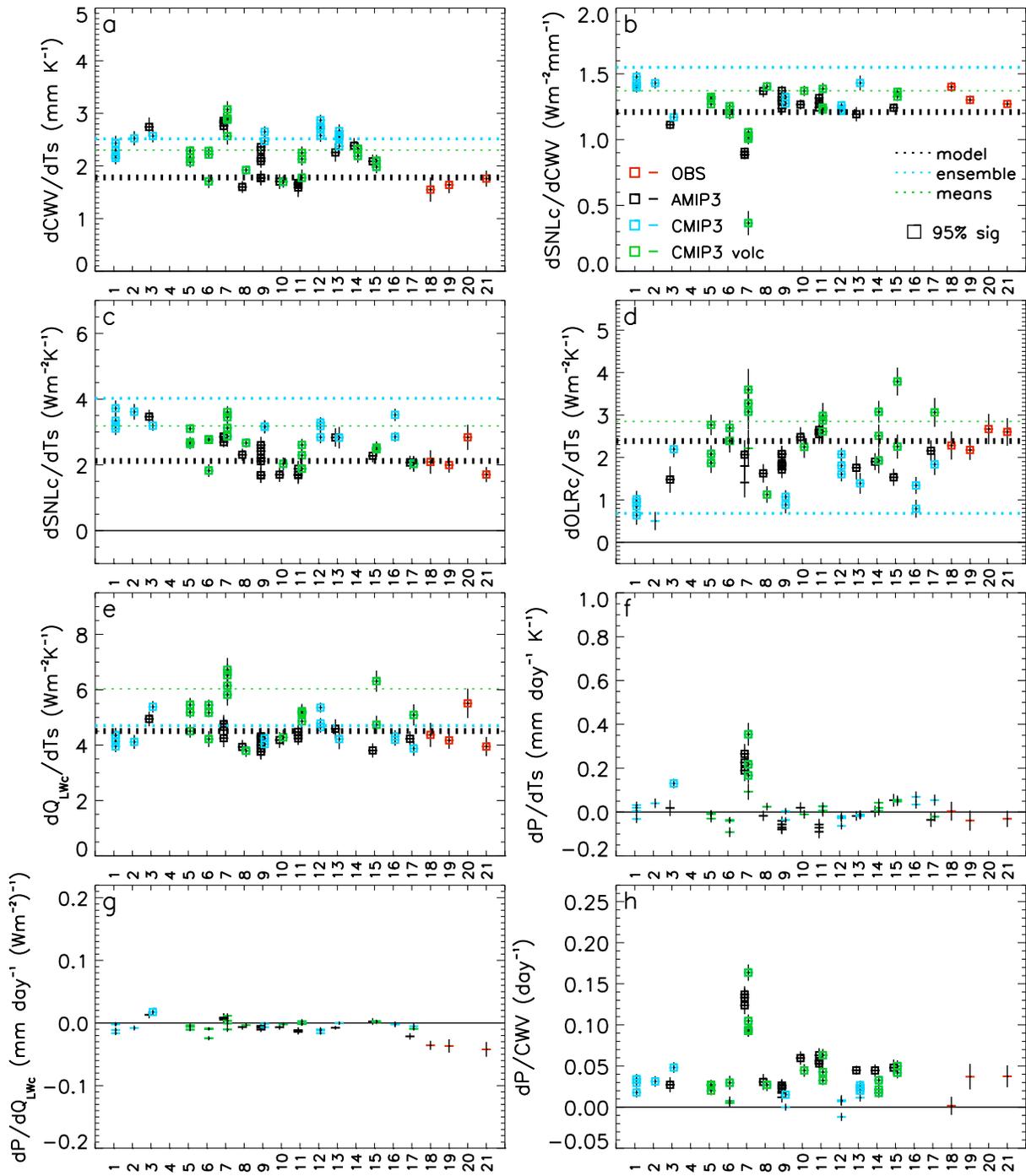


FIG. 11. As Fig. 3 but for the tropical ocean descent regions.

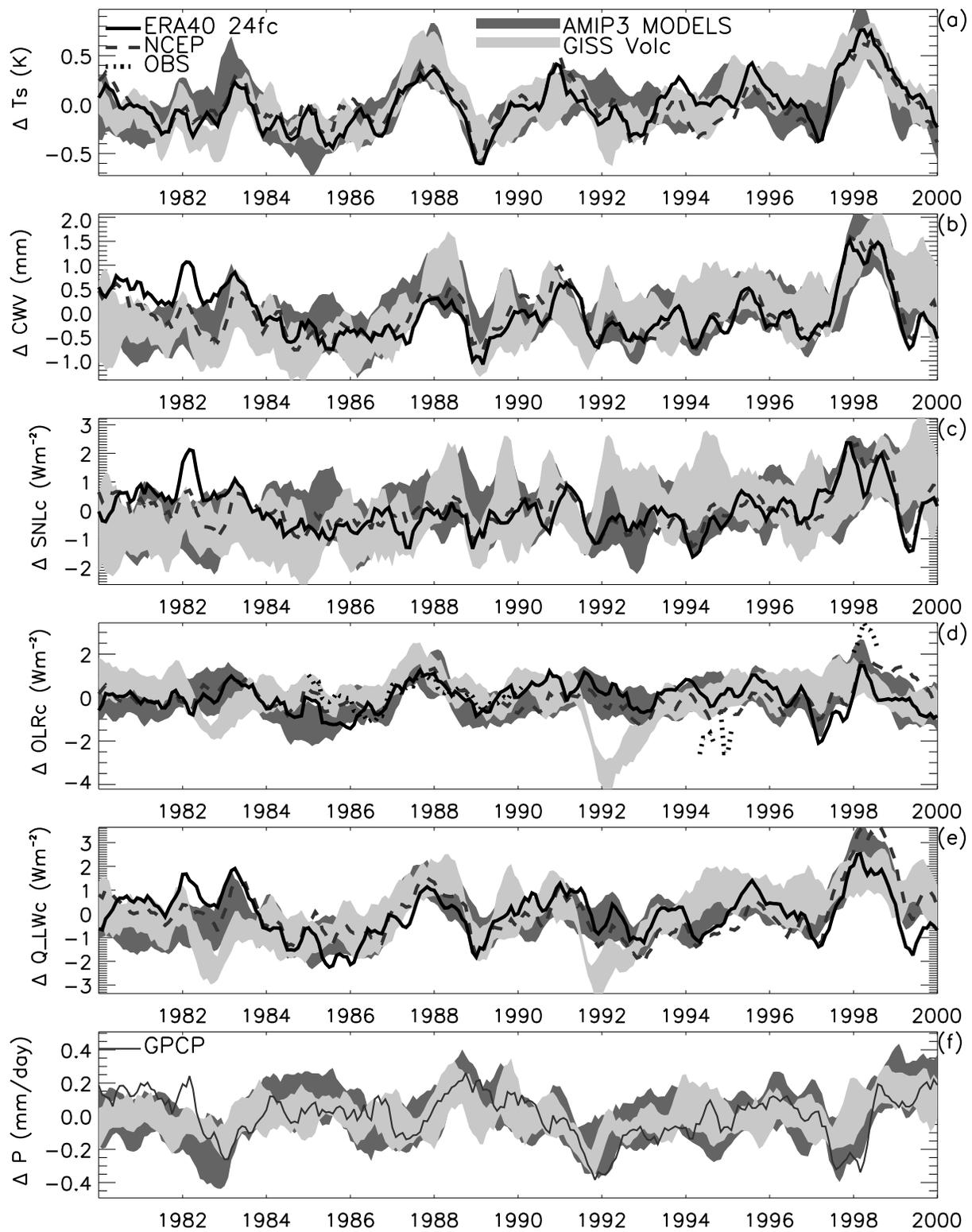


FIG. 12. As Fig 2 but for tropical land regions and using CMIP3 model experiments.

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TABLE 1. Description of model data. NV=no volcanic eruptions, V=volcanic eruptions, bold signifies ensemble member. Model data were taken from the WCRP CMIP3 database (Meehl et al. 2007)

	<i>Model</i>	Resolution	AMIP3	CMIP3	Reference
1	cccma.cgcm3.1	T47 L31		NV	Kim et al. (2002)
2	cccma.cgcm3.1.t63	T63 L31		NV	Kim et al. (2002)
3	cnrm.cm3	T63 L45	NV	NV	Salas-Mélia et al. (2005)
4	csiro.mk3.0	T63 L18		NV	Gordon et al. (2002)
5	gfdl.cm2.0	2.5° × 2° L24		V	Delworth et al. (2006)
6	gfdl.cm2.1	2.5° × 2° L24		V	Delworth et al. (2006)
7	giss.model.e.r	5° × 4° L13	V(3)	V	Schmidt et al. (2006)
8	inmcm3.0	5° × 4° L21	NV	V	Volodin and Diansky (2004)
9	ipsl.cm4	2.5° × 3.75° L19	NV	NV	Marti et al. (2005)
10	miroc3.2.hires	T106 L56	NV	V	Hasumi and Emori (2004)
11	miroc3.2.medres	T42 L20	NV	V	Hasumi and Emori (2004)
12	mpi.echam5	T63 L31	NV	NV	Jungclaus et al. (2006)
13	mri.cgcm2.3.2a	T42 L30	NV	NV	Yukimoto and Noda (2002)
14	ncar.cesm3.0	T85 L26	NV	V	Collins et al. (2006)
15	ncar.pcm1	T42 L30	NV	V/NV	Washington et al. (2000)
16	ukmo.hadcm3	3.75° × 2.5° L19		NV	Gordon et al. (2000)
17	ukmo.hadgem1	1.875° × 1.25° L38	NV	V/NV	Johns et al. (2006)

TABLE 2. Global annual mean clear-sky radiation, water vapor and precipitation for reanalyses and climate model ensemble mean, 1980-2000

<i>Dataset</i>	T_s (<i>K</i>)	<i>CWV</i> <i>mm</i>	<i>SNLc</i> Wm^{-2}	Q_{LWc} Wm^{-2}	<i>OLRc</i> Wm^{-2}	<i>P</i> <i>mm/day</i>
ERA40/GPCP	287.58	24.50	-82.16	183.03	265.20	2.61
NCEP/CMAP	287.79	23.90	-85.88	182.76	268.64	2.67
SRB	287.72	—	-87.49	180.69	268.18	—
AMIP ensemble	288.07	23.30	-89.24	174.48	263.73	2.77
CMIP ensemble non-volc	287.33	23.22	-87.30	176.34	263.64	2.80
CMIP ensemble volcanic	287.60	22.45	-87.23	174.77	262.00	2.84

TABLE 3. Annual mean clear-sky radiation, water vapor and precipitation over tropical oceans for AMIP3 climate models, 1980-2000

<i>Model</i>	T_s (<i>K</i>)	<i>CWV</i> <i>mm</i>	<i>SNLc</i> Wm^{-2}	Q_{LWc} Wm^{-2}	<i>OLRc</i> Wm^{-2}	<i>P</i> <i>mm/day</i>
cnrm.cm3.run1	299.20	42.34	-64.75	228.25	293.00	4.64
giss.model.e.r.run2	299.11	39.46	-75.50	209.95	285.45	4.09
inmcm3.0.run1	299.11	35.23	-74.43	210.39	284.82	3.81
ipsl.cm4.run1	299.24	36.92	-87.21	206.16	293.38	3.13
miroc3.2.hires.run1	299.23	34.06	-84.06	204.66	288.72	3.43
miroc3.2.medres.run1	299.26	36.11	-81.24	204.45	285.69	3.32
mpi.echam5.run1	299.25	39.86	-69.52	213.17	282.69	3.82
mri.cgcm2.3.2a.run1	299.26	35.42	-77.69	201.59	279.28	3.34
ncar.cesm3.0.run1	299.25	37.45	—	—	288.78	3.68
ncar.pcm1.run1	299.17	35.98	-80.13	211.31	291.43	4.14
ukmo.hadgem1.run1	299.29	—	-73.22	218.15	291.36	4.00

TABLE 4. Annual mean clear-sky radiation, water vapor and precipitation over tropical oceans for CMIP3 climate models, 1980-2000

<i>Model</i>	T_s (<i>K</i>)	CWV <i>mm</i>	$SNLc$ Wm^{-2}	Q_{LWc} Wm^{-2}	$OLRc$ Wm^{-2}	P <i>mm/day</i>
cccma.cgcm3.1.run2	298.96	33.68	-83.73	204.04	287.77	3.65
cccma.cgcm3.1.t63.run1	298.66	33.16	-83.20	204.79	287.99	3.67
cnrm.cm3.run1	297.82	37.57	-69.95	220.01	289.97	4.28
csiro.mk3.0.run1	298.10	34.45	-79.56	209.11	288.66	3.16
gfdl.cm2.0.run1	298.44	33.68	-75.11	206.30	281.42	3.50
gfdl.cm2.1.run1	298.86	35.33	-73.19	209.16	282.35	3.83
giss.model.e.r.run2	299.15	39.28	-75.91	209.37	285.28	4.02
inmcm3.0.run1	298.15	33.08	-77.99	205.55	283.54	3.84
ipsl.cm4.run1	299.52	37.85	-86.65	207.09	293.74	3.19
miroc3.2.hires.run1	298.74	32.39	-85.81	203.08	288.88	3.43
miroc3.2.medres.run1	298.32	33.42	-84.41	199.38	283.79	3.22
mpi.echam5.run1	299.51	40.52	-68.67	213.78	282.45	3.87
mri.cgcm2.3.2a.run1	298.78	33.67	-79.60	198.39	277.99	3.19
ncar.cesm3.0.run1	298.99	36.49	—	—	287.94	3.63
ncar.pcm1.run1	298.84	35.25	-80.73	210.38	291.11	4.24
ukmo.hadcm3.run1	299.49	—	-72.41	211.95	284.35	3.80
ukmo.hadgem1.run1	298.27	—	-76.16	213.44	289.60	3.85

TABLE 5. Tropical ocean annual mean clear-sky radiation, water vapor and precipitation for reanalyses, satellite observations and climate model ensemble mean, 1980-2000

	T_s	CWV	$SNLc$	Q_{LWc}	$OLRc$	P
	(K)	mm	Wm^{-2}	Wm^{-2}	Wm^{-2}	mm/day
ERA40/GPCP	298.28	37.33	-71.92	215.86	287.77	2.97
NCEP/CMAP	299.21	36.12	-76.71	213.48	290.19	3.60
SRB	298.63	—	-76.26	214.02	290.28	—
ERBS-CERES/Prata/SSM/I	299.10	37.33	-64.30	224.15	288.66	2.86
AMIP ensemble	299.22	35.55	-80.93	205.45	286.38	3.41
CMIP ensemble non-volc	298.87	36.08	-78.63	208.02	286.65	3.64
CMIP ensemble volcanic	298.61	34.53	-78.74	205.47	284.21	3.64
Ascent						
ERA40/GPCP	299.83	45.15	-63.30	220.04	283.34	5.07
NCEP/CMAP	300.79	42.07	-70.88	216.22	287.10	6.22
SRB	300.22	—	-69.51	215.81	285.32	—
ERBS-CERES/Prata/SSM/I	300.72	45.35	-54.92	231.85	286.97	5.31
AMIP ensemble	300.66	43.68	-72.78	208.37	281.15	6.57
CMIP ensemble non-volc	300.34	45.07	-69.85	211.37	281.22	6.88
CMIP ensemble volcanic	300.20	43.14	-70.69	208.06	278.75	7.16
Descent						
ERA40/GPCP	296.95	30.59	-79.36	212.23	291.59	1.19
NCEP/CMAP	297.84	30.99	-81.75	211.09	292.84	1.33
SRB	297.26	—	-82.12	212.44	294.57	—
ERBS-CERES/Prata/SSM/I	297.74	30.70	-72.23	217.66	290.08	0.77
AMIP ensemble	298.26	30.13	-86.37	203.51	289.87	1.31
CMIP ensemble non-volc	297.86	29.85	-84.71	205.70	290.42	1.41
CMIP ensemble volcanic	297.60	29.06	-83.87	203.81	287.68	1.42