Dear Executive Editor,

Following your recommendation, we have uploaded the AERONET data used in Figure 4 in a ZENODO public repository (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5776347). The reference to this data will be added in the Data Availability section, as follows:

The Aerosol Robotic Network retrievals of optical depth were downloaded through the AERONET data download tool (available at: https://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov/, last accessed March 28, 2020). The derived climatologies used for model evaluation in Figure 4 have been stored with doi:10.5281/zenodo.5776347.

Regarding the information from INDAAF, we would like to preserve the data access policy as defined by the providers, who ask the users to register in their platform and state the purpose of the data request prior granting access. For that reason, we have not included the information on a public repository.

We will include the aforementioned corrections in a potential reviewed version of this manuscript.

All the best,

María Gonçalves Ageitos (on behalf of all authors).