

***Interactive comment on “Drivers of interannual variability in Net Ecosystem Exchange in a semi-arid savanna ecosystem, South Africa” by S. Archibald et al.***

**S. Archibald et al.**

Received and published: 21 December 2008

**1 Response to reviewer 1**

1.1 Any attempt to distinguish between the two ecotones?

Please see general comments on the ecotone analysis

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1.2 Were the soil moisture readings adjusted for area of each ecotone within the footprint of the tower?

Please see general comments on the ecotone analysis

1.3 Effect of excluding negative night-time NEE values

Negative night-time NEE represent 13 percent of the valid night time NEE values (compared with 52% during the day). Of these negative values, 75% are between 0 and -0.005, and only 4% are less than -0.5. There could be a number of reasons for this. Most likely is that calculated sunset is not exactly the same as sunset experienced at the site, or that these values represent some sort of storage that was not picked up by the  $u^*$  correction. We chose to fit the respiration curve using only positive NEE values because the theory does not allow for negative respiration.

**ACTION TAKEN:** We have added justification for our exclusion of night-time NEE in the methods section.

1.4 Add confidence estimates to table 5.

**DONE.** Please see general comments on error estimation.

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 5, 3221, 2008.

**BGD**

5, S2509–S2510, 2008

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