

***Interactive comment on* “Commentary on “Improving the seasonal cycle and interannual variations of biomass burning aerosol sources” by Generoso et al.” by L. Giglio and J. D. Kendall**

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We thank Dr. Grégoire for his insightful comments. In this reply we address his specific remarks.

- Dr. Grégoire is right to characterize our statement “...the Ji and Stocker data set consistently places the peak in Sahelian and southern African fire activity within each region’s wet season” as “strange”. Our statement is partially incorrect. Although precipitation in the Sahel is generally increasing in May, it is indeed too early to consider this month to be part of the Sahelian wet season as we did. For southern Africa, however, our statement is correct but needs to be qualified. Although it is not obvious from Figure 1 of our commentary, the two months having the highest average fire counts in the Ji and Stocker data set are November and December, with 75 and 78 fire pixels,

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respectively. In this sense, the peak in fire activity or, more precisely, the maximum, does in fact occur within the southern African wet season. This statement is slightly misleading, however, as the average Ji and Stocker fire counts for July through October are nearly as high (66-70). Consequently, the December maximum is perhaps best not described as a “peak”. In light of this point and the aforementioned error, we will rephrase our original sentence.

- “The seasonal patterns of fire activity as defined by Ji and Stocker for the Southern Africa region appear quite different on Figure 1 (Giglio and Kendall) and on Figure 3 (Generoso et al.)” The cause of this discrepancy is that Generoso et al. show the monthly fire time series for the year 2000 only, whereas we show the monthly average fire time series for the years 1998-2002. Our intent was to illustrate that the Ji and Stocker data set consistently exhibits this questionable seasonality, and that the year 2000 was not singularly unusual. We will revise the manuscript to help clarify the difference between the two figures.

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