

# Surface ecophysiological behavior across vegetation and moisture gradients in tropical South America

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## Abstract

Surface ecophysiology at five sites in tropical South America across vegetation and moisture gradients is investigated. From the moist northwest (Manaus) to the relatively dry southeast (Pé de Gigante, state of São Paulo) simulated seasonal cycles of latent and sensible heat, and carbon flux produced with the Simple Biosphere Model (SiB3) are confronted with observational data. In

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the northwest, abundant moisture is available, suggesting that the ecosystem is light-limited. In these wettest regions, Bowen ratio is consistently low, with little or no annual cycle. Carbon flux shows little or no annual cycle as well; efflux and uptake are determined by high-frequency variability in light and moisture availability. Moving downgradient in annual precipitation amount, dry season length is more clearly defined. In these regions, a dry season sink of carbon is observed and simulated. This sink is the result of the combination of increased photosynthetic production due to higher light levels, and decreased respiratory efflux due to soil drying. The differential response time of photosynthetic and respiratory processes produce observed annual cycles of net carbon flux. In drier regions, moisture and carbon fluxes are in-phase; there is carbon uptake during seasonal rains and efflux during the dry season. At the driest site, there is also a large annual cycle in latent and sensible heat flux.

*Keywords:* carbon cycle, Amazon ecophysiology, surface-atmosphere exchange

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## 1 **1. Introduction**

2     The Amazon Basin occupies a central position in our ability to under-  
3 stand and predict interactions between earth and atmosphere across multiple  
4 spatial and temporal scales. Surface-atmosphere exchange in this region is  
5 important to weather and climate both locally (Fu et al., 1999; Fu and Li,  
6 2004; Li and Fu, 2004) and globally (Werth and Avissar, 2002; Schneider  
7 et al., 2006; Nobre et al., 2009). The dense forest and large spatial extent  
8 means this region stores a significant fraction of global terrestrial biomass

9 (Houghton et al., 2001), and a significant fraction of global species diver-  
10 sity as well (Malhi et al., 2008). It has been predicted that climate change  
11 may result in the conversion of large areas of the Amazonian forest to sea-  
12 sonal forest, savanna or grassland, releasing much of the carbon stored at the  
13 surface and further altering the radiation characteristics of the atmosphere  
14 (Cox et al., 2000; Huntingford et al., 2004; Huntingford et al., 2008). How-  
15 ever, consensus has not been reached on total conversion fraction or spatial  
16 organization (Malhi et al., 2009; Salazar et al., 2007). Predictions such as  
17 these place a premium on our ability to understand the surface ecophysiol-  
18 ogy of tropical systems. If we are to predict global climate under changing  
19 radiative conditions, we must be able to translate our understanding of the  
20 physical system into numerical models, and tropical South America will play  
21 a significant role.

22 Recent work has debated which mechanism(s) are most responsible for de-  
23 termining variability in ecosystem function, and, due to the tight coupling be-  
24 tween the vegetated surface and surface-atmosphere exchange, variability in  
25 exchange of energy, moisture and carbon between the atmosphere and terres-  
26 trial biosphere in the Amazon Basin. It has been proposed that Amazonian  
27 forests are light-limited, and respond to relative drought with an increase in  
28 ecophysiological function (Huete et al., 2006; Saleska et al., 2007). However,  
29 this finding has been challenged (Samanta et al., 2010), citing problems with  
30 cloud and aerosol masking of remotely-sensed vegetation characteristics (i.e.  
31 Sellers et al., 1996a, Los et al., 2000). Xu et al. (2011) discuss differential  
32 response in the areal extent and severity of Amazon Basin droughts in 2005  
33 and 2010. Brando et al. (2010) discuss the possibility of differential response

34 across vegetation gradients as well as interactions between multiple processes  
35 (leaf production, carbon allocation, respiration, mortality) than can combine  
36 to produce apparently conflicting observations. As of this writing, we don't  
37 feel that the issue is closed.

38 Surface ecophysiology in Amazonia is tightly coupled to the atmosphere.  
39 Seasonal temperature range is small, and annual variability is primarily de-  
40 fined by the intensity and duration of wet and dry seasons. Bidirectional  
41 coupling between surface and atmosphere plays a critical role in timing, du-  
42 ration, and magnitude of seasonal rains, and the large areal extent of the  
43 basin provides Amazonia with influence on regional to global-scale circula-  
44 tion patterns (Gedney et al., 2000; Werth and Avissar, 2002). The region is  
45 important to global carbon flux, due to the large carbon stores and fluxes.

46 The behavior of the land surface is tightly coupled to the cycles of wet  
47 and dry seasons that define seasonality in the region. In the tropical Amer-  
48 icas, there is an annual cycle, whereby convective precipitation associated  
49 with the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is centered over the Ama-  
50 zon Basin during austral summer (December, January, and February). In  
51 austral fall (March, April, May) this feature moves northward and westward  
52 to a position over Central America (Horel et al. 1989) where it remains  
53 during Boreal summer (June, July, August). The northward position of the  
54 precipitation maximum coincides with the wet season north of the equator;  
55 south of the equator, the wet season is approximately coincident with austral  
56 summer. At the latitudinal extremities of this precipitation oscillation (Cen-  
57 tral America and southeastern Brazil, approximately), annual precipitation  
58 variability is dominated by the annual cycle (Adler et al., 2003; Horel et al.,

59 1989). Between these spatial endpoints annual precipitation is larger, the dry  
60 season shorter or almost nonexistent, and interannual variability dominates  
61 the precipitation variance (Horel et al., 1989). Superimposed on this mean  
62 pattern is variability in circulation and vegetation behavior, which can be  
63 influenced by topography (Lu et al., 2005) or other factors such as soil depth  
64 or type (von Randow et al., 2004). Recycling, or the precipitation of water  
65 at a site or region that was locally evapotranspired rather than advected into  
66 the region, is an important component of the Amazonian hydrologic cycle  
67 and is estimated at 25-35% (Eltahir and Bras, 1994; Trenberth, 1999; Costa  
68 and Foley, 1999).

69 Seasonal cycles of observed water and heat flux across vegetation and  
70 moisture gradients from forest to savanna have been partitioned into two  
71 functional types (da Rocha et al., 2009; Costa et al., 2010). In regions where  
72 annual precipitation was large and dry season short, evaporation increased  
73 during seasonal drought. Latent heat flux was in phase with precipitation  
74 and evaporation decreased during the dry season in regions with a well-  
75 defined dry season and less annual precipitation. The authors in both papers  
76 postulated that wetter forests were light-limited, while evapotranspiration in  
77 drier regions was controlled by soil moisture.

78 In this manuscript, we simulate surface ecophysiology at a subset of the  
79 stations investigated by da Rocha et al. (2009). We evaluate the model's  
80 ability to reproduce observed annual mean behavior across vegetation and  
81 moisture gradients. Additionally, we integrate carbon flux into the analy-  
82 sis to investigate full ecosystem behavior. The goals of this study are to 1)  
83 demonstrate an ability to capture mean annual cycles of biophysical behav-

ior across vegetation and moisture gradients in model simulations, and 2) use the model’s ability to partition processes into component behavior as a means to formulating more detailed conceptual descriptions of the mechanisms involved.

The paper is organized as follows: Methods, including model, sites, and data are introduced in Section 2. The behavior at individual sites is discussed in Section 3, summarized in Section 4, with conclusions in Section 5.

## 2. Methods

Historically, land surface models have had difficulty reproducing annual cycles of energy, moisture, and carbon flux in tropical ecosystems. Saleska et al. (2003) showed that several models inverted the annual carbon flux cycle when compared to observed data. Baker et al. (2008) demonstrated an ability to capture the mean annual cycle of energy, moisture and carbon fluxes, at a single point in the Tapajos River National Forest (Brazil), by incorporating observed mechanisms into the Simple Biosphere Model (SiB3). With that as a starting point, in this paper we again confront model results with observed quantities, this time at multiple sites and across vegetation and moisture gradients. We will focus on annual cycles of energy, moisture and carbon flux, but will evaluate behavior at shorter timescales to support conclusions where appropriate.

### 2.1. Model

The Simple Biosphere Model (SiB) was developed as a lower boundary for atmospheric models (Sellers et al., 1986), and has been coupled to General Circulation Models (GCMs; Sato et al., 1989; Randall et al., 1996) as

108 well as mesoscale models (Denning et al., 2003; Nicholls et al., 2004; Wang  
109 et al., 2007; Corbin et al., 2008). The addition of ecosystem metabolism to  
110 the code (Sellers et al., 1996a; Denning et al., 1996) gives the model a high  
111 degree of ecophysiological realism that is valuable to ecologists as well. SiB  
112 model output has been compared to eddy covariance observations at sites  
113 in midlatitude forest (Baker et al., 2003; Schaefer et al., 2008), grassland  
114 (Colello et al., 1998; Hanan et al., 2005), and tropical forest (Baker et al.,  
115 2008; Schaefer et al., 2008). The model has a proven track record for simulat-  
116 ing exchange between the atmosphere and terrestrial biosphere, as evaluated  
117 in model intercomparison studies (Schwalm et al., 2010).

118 As a 'third generation' land surface scheme (Sellers et al., 1997), SiB  
119 incorporates ecophysiological function as an additional constraint on fluxes  
120 of latent (LE) and sensible (H) heat. Photosynthetic carbon assimilation is  
121 based on enzyme kinetics developed by Farquhar et al. (1980), and stomatal  
122 conductance couples vegetation behavior to the overall surface energy budget  
123 (Collatz et al., 1991; Collatz et al., 1992; Sellers et al., 1996a; Randall et al.,  
124 1996). Soil heat and moisture flux has been modified to follow the Commu-  
125 nity Land Model (CLM) (Dai et al., 2003). Root distribution follows Jackson  
126 et al. (1996), and a fully prognostic canopy air space (CAS) for temperature  
127 and moisture follows Baker et al. (2003) and Vidale and Stöckli (2005).

128 Long term Net Ecosystem Exchange (NEE) of carbon is the small residual  
129 between large photosynthetic and respiratory fluxes. In SiB, interannual  
130 NEE is constrained to zero (Denning et al., 1996) by constraining annual  
131 ecosystem respiration (autotrophic and heterotrophic) to the previous year's  
132 Gross Primary Productivity (GPP). This parameterization removes model

133 dependence on carbon storage pools whose size may be unknown.

134 Remotely-sensed information, such as Normalized Difference Vegetation  
135 Index (NDVI; Brown et al., 2004; Tucker et al., 2005; Pinzon et al., 2006)  
136 was introduced into SiB (Sellers et al., 1996a; Sellers et al., 1996b; Randall et  
137 al., 1996) to describe spatiotemporally variable vegetation phenology. NDVI  
138 is used to obtain values of Leaf Area Index (LAI) and fraction of Photosyn-  
139 thetically Active Radiation absorbed (fPAR) (Sellers et al., 1992, 1996b).  
140 Due to model formulation, fPAR is the more important quantity for deter-  
141 mination of potential photosynthesis and transpiration rates in SiB. At LAI  
142 values above 4 ( $\text{m}^2$  leaf per  $\text{m}^2$  ground), fPAR is nearly saturated (cf. Fig-  
143 ure 1 in Sellers et al., 1992), meaning that meteorological and soil moisture  
144 variability will play a larger role to determine ecophysiological response in  
145 densely vegetated regions such as tropical forests. As observed LAI in South  
146 American tropical forest is usually above  $\approx 4$  (Myneni et al., 2007; Malhado  
147 et al., 2009; Miller et al., 2004), SiB is not acutely responsive to variability in  
148 LAI in these regions. In other vegetation types where LAI/fPAR are lower  
149 (such as southeast Brazil), simulated quantities show a stronger correlation  
150 with spectral vegetation indices.

151 Modifications to the code since SiB2 was introduced in 1996 (Sellers et  
152 al., 1996a; Sellers et al., 1996b) have been described elsewhere (Baker et  
153 al., 2003, 2008; Hanan et al., 2005; Vidale and Stöckli, 2005). Baker et  
154 al. (2008) identified several mechanisms that were required for the model to  
155 capture the annual cycles of energy, moisture, and carbon flux at the K83  
156 site in the Tapajos River National Forest. They are:

- 157 • A soil reservoir large enough to store sufficient moisture to sustain eco-



158 physiological function through periodic drought. Most land surface  
159 models have a soil depth of 3-4 meters, which was found to be inade-  
160 quate. A 10-meter deep soil was found to be sufficient at the Tapajos  
161 River K83 site, and has been incorporated into SiB as the standard.

- 162 • Adequate soil moisture is a necessary, but not sufficient mechanism  
163 to allow vegetation function to survive seasonal drought. Removal of  
164 water by roots, usually tied directly to root mass with depth in models,  
165 must be relaxed to allow water extraction by deep roots in excess of  
166 the amount suggested by root fraction. This phenomenon has been  
167 observed in multiple species (Oliveira et al., 2005), and allows retrieval  
168 of water stored deep in the soil. In SiB, we have developed a 'relative  
169 root fraction' system, wherein soil is extracted based on root density  
170 when water is plentiful. When surface soil (where the majority of root  
171 mass resides) dries, deeper roots are allowed to extract water at a rate  
172 exceeding their absolute root density.

173 Global maps of soil depth are nonexistent or unreliable, so SiB employs  
174 rooting depth as a mechanism to impose heterogeneity on a global 10-meter  
175 deep soil. Maximum rooting depth of different vegetation is described in  
176 Canadell et al. (1996), while Jackson et al., (1996) give a global map of  
177 rooting depth and distribution associated with discrete biome classes.

178 It has been postulated that hydraulic redistribution, or the movement of  
179 water across moisture gradients via roots, plays an important role in Ama-  
180 zonian forests' ability to survive seasonal drought (Lee et al., 2005). In  
181 this case hydraulic redistribution facilitates the movement of water down-  
182 ward during wet periods, increasing soil storage, and moves water upwards,

183 against gravity, rewetting surface soils during seasonal drought. We do not  
184 consider hydraulic redistribution in our simulations for two reasons: 1) previ-  
185 ous simulations (Baker et al., 2008) show that hydraulic redistribution alone  
186 is not sufficient to reproduce observed seasonality in SiB, and 2) simulating  
187 hydraulic redistribution requires soil-to-root exchange coefficients that are  
188 unknown without detailed soil/root surveys. We call the current version of  
189 the model SiB3.

## 190 *2.2. Observation Sites*

191 The behavior of observed energy and moisture fluxes across vegetation  
192 and precipitation gradients in Amazonia was described in da Rocha et al.,  
193 2009), using data from seven stations in Brazil. We simulated ecophysiological  
194 behavior at 5 of these 7 sites, listed in order of decreasing mean annual  
195 precipitation: Manaus (K34), Jaru (RJA), Tapajos River National Forest  
196 (K67 and K83), and Pé de Gigante (PEG) (Fig. 1). All towers are in the  
197 Amazon basin except PEG, which is in São Paulo state. In the model, all  
198 sites are classified as evergreen forest except PEG, which is classified as sea-  
199 sonal forest. All sites were simulated for either 3 or 4 years over the period  
200 2000-2005. Data availability for each site is shown in Fig. 2.

### 201 *2.2.1. Data Availability*

202 Numerical simulations require gap-filled meteorology (pressure, temper-  
203 ature, dewpoint, windspeed, longwave and shortwave radiation, and precip-  
204 itation) as model inputs. Missing data were interpolated from neighboring  
205 values where gaps were short, and from climatology when gaps were long.  
206 Longwave radiation has a significant impact on surface behavior, and is spo-

207 radically measured at the sites used. Traditional techniques used to estimate  
208 longwave radiation at midlatitude sites are ineffective in the tropics; a new  
209 technique has been developed for determining incoming longwave (Restrepo-  
210 Coupe et al., 2012), and we use it here.

211 Model simulations were evaluated against measured flux of energy (sensi-  
212 ble heat), moisture (latent heat), and carbon taken at the tower sites. How-  
213 ever, not all observations are available at each site for all times; instrument  
214 failure, heavy rain, and low turbulence can all impair the ability of an eddy  
215 covariance instrument to accurately record data. NEE is the observation  
216 of choice for quantifying carbon sources and sinks of natural systems. This  
217 metric requires measurement of storage within the canopy air in addition  
218 to recording the flux of CO<sub>2</sub> past a sensor situated above treetop. The full  
219 measurement suite is available for some sites (i.e. K83; Miller et al., 2004),  
220 but the lack of observations of canopy CO<sub>2</sub> concentration at some other sites  
221 means that reliable NEE is not available everywhere. Furthermore, at K34  
222 complex terrain has been identified as problematic to the calculation of NEE  
223 (von Randow et al., 2004). Therefore, we use observed carbon flux measured  
224 above the canopy, rather than NEE, as the observational constraint, to main-  
225 tain consistency between sites. The prognostic canopy air space (Baker et  
226 al., 2003; Vidale and Stöckli, 2005) makes it possible for SiB3 to simulate  
227 the raw flux of CO<sub>2</sub> past a sensor. Canopy storage is accounted for in SiB3,  
228 so model flux of carbon is analogous to what the sensor sees. Since mod-  
229 eled NEE is constrained to a value of zero on an annual basis (Denning et  
230 al., 1996), we focus on the ability of eddy covariance instruments to detect  
231 change and/or ecosystem response to variability on multiple timescales, and

232 the ability of the model to reproduce this variability. We emphasize mean  
233 annual cycles in this study.

234 Evaluation of model simulations against eddy covariance flux observa-  
235 tions can be problematic. Models are generally held to energy, moisture and  
236 trace gas conservation through the formulation of their governing equations.  
237 However, determination of energy balance closure in eddy covariance data  
238 has been an ongoing issue (Wilson et al., 2002; Hollinger et al., 2005; Foken  
239 et al., 2006). Furthermore, the lack of closure in the eddy covariance energy  
240 budget can imply lack of closure in observed carbon budget as well (Aranibar  
241 et al., 2006). The goal of this paper is not detailed analysis of observational  
242 techniques and data. Instead, we wish to exploit the acknowledged strength  
243 of eddy covariance observations to capture ecosystem response to *variability*  
244 in forcing over multiple timescales (diurnal, synoptic, monthly) for compari-  
245 son to simulations.

246 Monthly-mean observed carbon flux shows a net negative value (terres-  
247 trial uptake) for almost all months at the stations evaluated here. However,  
248 it is well-known that drainage (Araújo et al., 2002), energy/carbon budget  
249 closure (von Randow et al., 2008), or the lack of storage observations all  
250 contribute uncertainty to observed carbon flux. Therefore, we calculate the  
251 monthly *anomaly* for comparing observed annual cycles of carbon flux to sim-  
252 ulations. Anomaly in this context means the difference between the monthly  
253 value and the average over all months of the observational record. This met-  
254 ric neglects determination of observed source/sink on timescales longer than  
255 monthly, which is consistent with the annual balance property of SiB3 (Den-  
256 ning et al., 1996). Deviation from the monthly average carbon flux value is

257 also used in plots of daily average. No adjustment is made to observed latent  
258 or sensible heat flux.

### 259 **3. Analysis**

260 If we are to use a model to parse out elements of ecophysiological behav-  
261 ior, we must first evaluate the model against available observations. In this  
262 section we will show that SiB3 demonstrates competence when confronted  
263 with observational data across all 5 sites. Once established against observa-  
264 tions, model representation of component mechanisms and interpretation of  
265 ecophysiological function will have more credence.

266 The mean seasonality (precipitation, radiation, temperature) at these  
267 sites is described in da Rocha et al. (2009), but will be briefly summa-  
268 rized here (Fig. 1), as a review of the climatological regime gives context to  
269 the discussion of biophysical behavior. Sites K34, K67 and K83 are all very  
270 near the equator, while RJA is located at approximately 10° south latitude.  
271 Site PEG is the farthest south, at approximately 20°. The wettest locations  
272 are in the north and west (K34, RJA), with a general decrease in annual  
273 mean precipitation towards the east and south. The driest site is PEG, in  
274 the southeast corner of the domain. The dry season is somewhat correlated  
275 with annual precipitation; K34 has a dry season, but its length is short (4  
276 months, maximum) and monthly precipitation is frequently near or above  
277 the climatological definition of 100 mm month<sup>-1</sup> for a 'dry month' (Keller et  
278 al., 2004) even during the dry season. There is a well-defined dry season at  
279 RJA of 5 months, even though annual precipitation is large, and 3 of these  
280 months (June, July and August) are extremely dry. Mean precipitation dur-

281 ing May and September at RJA is close to 100 mm. The Santarém sites  
282 (K83, K67) are similar to each other with regard to annual mean precipita-  
283 tion and length of dry season (5-6 months). Precipitation at these sites is  
284 not infrequent during dry months, and can exceed 100 mm during an indi-  
285 vidual month. At PEG the dry season is longer, and precipitation is rare or  
286 nonexistent during most dry months.

### 287 3.1. Manaus: K34

288 This tower is located in the Cuieiras reserve of the Instituto Nacional de  
289 Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), located approximately 60 km northwest of  
290 the city of Manaus, state of Amazonas. The site is described in detail by  
291 Araújo et al. (2002), its location is shown in Fig. 1 and data was collected  
292 from 2002-2005 (Fig. 2). Annual precipitation at K34 averages 2329 mm  
293 for the 4 years studied. Annual temperature variability is small, and both  
294 incoming and net radiation ( $R_{net}$ ) is highest during the dry season (Fig. 1  
295 and Fig. 3, panel a). Observed LE and H is nearly constant on an annual  
296 basis (Fig. 3, panel a), as is monthly carbon flux (Fig. 4, panel a). However,  
297 some cycle is evident: Observed LE, H and  $R_{net}$  all show maximum values  
298 during the dry season (Fig. 3 panel a). Observed carbon flux shows very  
299 little annual cycle, with maximum relative efflux late in the wet season, with  
300 slight relative uptake from late dry season through early wet season (Fig. 4  
301 panel a).

302 Comparing model to observations at K34, we see that simulated  $R_{net}$   
303 follows the seasonal cycle observed, with a consistent positive bias (Fig. 3,  
304 panel a). The overall energy budget of the model will reflect this bias, and  
305 can be almost completely accounted for by excess simulated H during the

306 wet season and excess LE during June-November (Fig. 3, panel a). Both  
307 observed and simulated ground heat flux ( $G$ , not shown) are very small,  
308 with absolute value on the order of  $1\text{-}2\text{ W m}^{-2}$  or less. The annual cycle of  
309 model LE (Fig. 3, panel a) matches observed on a monthly basis. Simulated  
310 values are slightly higher, but maximum values occur during the wet season  
311 in both observations and simulation. Model H exceeds observed during the  
312 wet season (Fig. 3, panel a), and maximum model H takes place during  
313 the wet season, as opposed to the dry season in the observations. As in the  
314 observations, simulated H is less than LE, and amplitude of the annual cycle  
315 is small.

316 Simulated carbon flux closely matches the mean annual cycle observed  
317 (Fig. 4, panel a). Amplitude is small, with relative uptake in January and  
318 in July-August. Simulated GPP and total respiration (Fig. 4, panel a)  
319 are large and do not show obvious seasonality. There is a suggestion of  
320 larger simulated GPP during the dry season, but total respiration follows  
321 a similar path. Carbon flux lacks an obvious annual cycle in both model  
322 and observations, suggesting that relative direction of carbon flux (uptake  
323 or efflux) at K34 is a function of high-frequency variability in meteorological  
324 forcing (radiation, precipitation), on synoptic- to monthly timescales. This is  
325 supported by Fig. 5, which shows K34 daily-average values of LE, H, carbon  
326 flux, GPP/total respiration, and precipitation for February 2002. LE, in both  
327 model and observations, shows maximum values in the relatively dry periods  
328 between days 8-15 and 26-28. Modeled H follows observed generally, with a  
329 positive bias of between  $10$  and  $25\text{ W m}^{-2}$  on a daily basis. This sensible  
330 heat bias is seen in the monthly average, shown in Fig. 3, (panel a). Modeled

331 carbon flux matches observed quite well on a daily basis, keeping in mind we  
332 are showing observed anomaly to emphasize response to changes in forcing  
333 rather than the absolute value of uptake or efflux. In the simulations, daily  
334 respiration is almost invariant during the month; relative uptake/efflux is  
335 determined by high-frequency variability in GPP, as vegetation responds to  
336 rapid changes in insolation. Since February is a very damp month, we expect  
337 soils to be very moist; the large, almost invariant respiration supports this.  
338 We might expect that the increased GPP during days 8-12 and following day  
339 20 is responding to higher levels of light. Day 8 has very little precipitation,  
340 yet light levels are still low (only 3-4 hours with insolation greater than 300 W  
341  $\text{m}^{-2}$ ; not shown), resulting in low GPP. This type of high-frequency behavior  
342 is seen throughout the year.

343 Both observed and simulated behavior are consistent with a light-limited  
344 environment. The temperature, humidity and soil moisture regimes are fa-  
345 vorable for both photosynthesis and respiration year-round, as indicated by  
346 the large gross fluxes and lack of seasonal cycles shown in Fig. 4 (panel  
347 a). During the dry season, reduced precipitation is associated with higher  
348 radiation levels, which elevates GPP. This response can also occur during  
349 short dry periods in other months. Increased insolation is also correlated  
350 with slightly elevated temperatures, which can enhance surface respiratory  
351 processes. It appears that GPP responds more rapidly than respiration to  
352 changes in forcing, so that short-term variability and the lag in respiration  
353 response combine to create short-term, small amplitude net fluxes of carbon  
354 that lack an obvious seasonal cycle.



355 *3.2. Tapajos River National Forest: K67, K83*

356 The K67 and K83 sites are located in Tapajos River National Forest,  
357 approximately 70 km south of the city of Santarém, Pará, Brazil (Fig. 1).  
358 These sites are described by Saleska et al., (2003), da Rocha et al. (2004),  
359 Miller et al. (2004), Goulden et al. (2004), and Hutyra et al., (2007). The  
360 Tapajos sites, while quite close to each other (within 20 km or so), are distinct  
361 in that K83 was selectively logged beginning in 2001, during the period used  
362 in this study. K83 and K67 have been considered simultaneously in other  
363 studies: Saleska et al., (2003) considered data prior to logging, but Costa  
364 et al. (2010) do not distinguish between logged and non-logged intervals.  
365 This is supported by Miller et al. (2007, 2011) who report that the selective  
366 logging at K83 does not appreciably influence observed fluxes of carbon and  
367 energy when compared to K67. For this study we will consider K67 and K83  
368 in combination.

369 Latent heat flux, both observed and simulated (Fig. 3, panels b and c),  
370 increases at the outset of the dry season and decreases slightly as seasonal  
371 drought progresses. Interestingly, simulated H exceeds observed at K67 sig-  
372 nificantly in the wet season, and only slightly in the dry season, although  
373 simulated  $R_{net}$  is similar to observed. At K83, simulated wet season H is  
374 close to observed, and overestimated during the dry season, but observed  
375  $R_{net}$  exceeds simulated.

376 At these sites, an annual cycle in carbon flux has been observed (Saleska  
377 et al., 2003), wherein there is regular carbon efflux during the wet season and  
378 uptake during seasonal drought. Our simulations, corroborated by observed  
379 carbon flux (Fig. 4, panels b and c), shows annual amplitude of 80-100 g

380 C m<sup>-2</sup> in both the GPP and respiration cycles, but with a shift in phase  
381 that determines the annual carbon flux signal. Maximum respiratory flux at  
382 the Tapajos River sites occurs late in the wet season or soon after rains have  
383 diminished; soils are at maximum moisture levels, and increased temperature  
384 warms the soil slightly (temperature cycle shown in Fig. 1 b and c). Without  
385 replenishing rains, surface litter and near-surface soil dries out, and respira-  
386 tion decreases. Annual minimum respiration occurs just prior to the onset  
387 of the rainy season. Photosynthetic processes show a similar annual cycle  
388 in amplitude, but phase-lagged to respiration by 2-3 months. Respiration  
389 is quickly responsive to cessation of rainfall, while mechanisms described in  
390 Section 2 allow forest ecophysiological function to be maintained for longer  
391 periods. This difference in response time, coupled with the annual rainfall  
392 amount, soil depth, and length of dry season determine the annual cycle in  
393 carbon flux.

### 394 *3.3. Reserva Jaru: RJA*

395 The forest site at RJA, located 100 km north of Ji-Paraná in Rondônia  
396 state, Brazil (location shown in Fig. 1), is described by von Randow et  
397 al. (2004) and Andreae et al. (2002). von Randow et al. (2004) report  
398 a relatively thin soil at RJA, with depth less than 4 meters overlying a  
399 solid bedrock layer. For this reason we did not incorporate the deep soil  
400 modifications at this site, as reported in Baker et al. (2008) and Section 2.  
401 We retained the root mechanisms for water extraction as discussed in Baker  
402 et al. (2008), but limited soil depth to approximately 3.5 meters.

403 Mean annual precipitation at RJA is large (2354 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> for the years  
404 used in this study), but latitude (10° South), thin soil and pronounced dry

405 season lead to differences in ecophysiological function when compared to K34.  
406 At RJA, wet season insolation is greater than K34 (Fig. 1, panel d) due to  
407 slightly longer day length. Dry season day length at RJA is slightly shorter  
408 than at K34, and midday insolation less as well. The seasonal cycle of net  
409 radiation displays a bimodal nature (Fig. 3, panel d), with maxima at the  
410 end of the wet and dry seasons. Modeled  $R_{net}$  captures the annual cycle,  
411 with a regular bias of 20-50  $W m^{-2}$  on a monthly basis.

412 Mean annual cycles of observed LE and H (Fig. 3, panel d) reveal lim-  
413 ited seasonality. LE is almost constant annually, with a slight increase in  
414 magnitude in September and October, at the end of the dry or beginning  
415 of the wet season. Amplitude of the annual H cycle is small, with small  
416 increases corresponding to the relative maxima in  $R_{net}$  at the end of the dry  
417 and wet seasons. Simulated LE is relatively constant and slightly larger than  
418 observed. However, the modeled LE decreases slightly at the end of the dry  
419 season, where observed LE increases. Simulated H shows seasonal maxima  
420 consistent with observed, but amplitude of the annual cycle is overestimated  
421 in addition to a positive bias.

422 The observed annual cycle of carbon flux anomaly is similar to K34, show-  
423 ing little variability throughout the year (Fig. 4, panel d). There are relative  
424 tendencies towards efflux at the end of the dry and wet seasons, with relative  
425 minima (uptake) at the midpoint of the year. Simulated carbon flux repro-  
426 duces this general pattern, but overestimates the amplitude. Model GPP  
427 has a significant annual amplitude, reflecting the inability of the shallow soil  
428 to store sufficient moisture to maintain ecophysiological function completely  
429 through annual drought. Interestingly, simulated LE does not respond as

430 strongly as photosynthesis. From wet to dry seasons, gradients in water  
431 vapor pressure from the canopy to boundary layer are maintained, even as  
432 overall humidity decreases. At RJA, at the very end of the dry season a slight  
433 decrease in LE is seen in the simulations. The large amplitude in simulated  
434 carbon flux (Fig. 4, panel d) is due to phase incoherence between photosyn-  
435 thetic and respiratory response. Following the method outlined in Baker et  
436 al. (2008), respiration is tightly linked to moisture levels in near-surface soil;  
437 litter respiration is responsive to surface soil moisture levels, and relative root  
438 mass is greater near the surface as well. As surface moisture is depleted at  
439 dry season onset, total respiration decreases. There is no concurrent decrease  
440 in GPP, as roots are able to access water at deeper levels in the soil. It is only  
441 after several dry months, when total column soil moisture has been depleted,  
442 that GPP decreases. The lack of a large annual cycle in the observed carbon  
443 flux suggests that either the GPP and respiration cycles are more tightly in  
444 phase, or else there is much less amplitude in actual annual cycles than the  
445 model implies.

446 The hysteresis between morning and afternoon ecophysiological function,  
447 as reflected by diurnal cycles of latent heat and carbon flux, has been at-  
448 tributed to a circadian response in vegetation (Keller et al., 2004). This  
449 feature is seen across multiple sites, but we limit model evaluation of this fea-  
450 ture to RJA. The model does not parameterize a purely circadian response,  
451 but imposes stress on potential photosynthesis by temperature, humidity,  
452 and soil moisture factors as described in Sellers et al. (1992). Simulated  
453 soil moisture stress operates on timescales of moistening and drying around  
454 precipitation events, but temperature and humidity stress operate in regular

455 diurnal cycles. We can explore the diurnal nature of the vegetation response  
456 (and compare simulated to natural processes) by plotting monthly-mean di-  
457 urnal cycles of carbon flux against monthly-mean diurnal cycles of latent  
458 heat (Fig. 6). Hours 9, 12 and 16 are plotted as a triangles on the observed  
459 cycle, and we can see that the observed LE/Carbon flux cycle in the wet sea-  
460 son (panel A) moves in a 'counterclockwise' direction; LE increases following  
461 sunrise concurrently with carbon uptake. In the afternoon, the process is  
462 reversed (concurrent decrease in LE and carbon uptake), but shifted slightly  
463 towards larger latent heat. This is due to a buildup in water vapor pressure  
464 in the CAS during the day. There is not a concurrent increase in the carbon  
465 uptake during the day: Increased daytime respiration and mixing of high-  
466 CO<sub>2</sub> air into the CAS from the atmosphere combine, with the result that  
467 CAS CO<sub>2</sub> levels reach a minimum value shortly after daybreak and remain  
468 at or near that value during the day, with less change in the CO<sub>2</sub> gradient  
469 between canopy air and the boundary layer. The simulated cycle, shown as a  
470 dashed line (hours not shown), shows a similar 'counterclockwise' pattern as  
471 was observed. However, the simulated cycle precedes the observed by several  
472 hours. For example, at 0900 the observed carbon flux is nearly neutral, but  
473 the simulation shows an uptake of  $15 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{sec}^{-1}$ . This lag decreases  
474 somewhat during the day, so that by 1600 the observed and simulated values  
475 are quite similar. During the dry season (Fig. 6, panel B), both observed  
476 and simulated carbon flux/LE patterns resemble a 'figure-8'. In the morning,  
477 carbon uptake is strong while latent flux increase is minimal, due to much  
478 lower water vapor pressure (in both the CAS and atmosphere) when com-  
479 pared to the wet season. In the afternoon, latent heat flux decreases more

480 rapidly than carbon uptake, resulting in a 'figure-8' diel pattern. Again, the  
481 simulated cycle, while displaying the same diurnal cycle, precedes the ob-  
482 served by several hours, and modeled maximum carbon uptake in September  
483 is underestimated.

#### 484 3.4. *Cerrado; Pé de Gigante (PEG)*

485 Carbon, energy, and moisture flux over a woodland savanna (cerrado  
486 *Sensu stricto*) site has been described by da Rocha et al. (2002), and da  
487 Rocha et al. (2009). The site is located in southeast Brazil, in São Paulo  
488 state, and has the largest temperature and radiation seasonality of all sites  
489 in this study (Fig. 1, panel e). Fluxes were recorded in Vassununga state  
490 park, in a region that contains closed canopy forest, and open shrubland in  
491 addition to woodland savanna.

492 Heterogeneity is a defining characteristic of savanna, and as such poses  
493 challenges for simulations. In SiB3, the use of satellite data to specify phe-  
494 nology requires a single-layer canopy (Sellers et al. 1996a, 1996b), so explicit  
495 representation of heterogeneous assemblages of grasses, shrubs and trees is  
496 not possible. The site is simulated as seasonal forest in SiB3. However, the  
497 spectral characteristics of NDVI captures the inclusion of grass phenology to  
498 a degree.

499 The Pé de Gigante site is water-limited (da Rocha et al., 2002; da Rocha  
500 et al. 2009), meaning that ecophysiological function is tightly coupled to  
501 precipitation and soil moisture. In contrast to all the other sites, where  
502 incoming radiation is regulated by cloud amount, seasonality at PEG is also  
503 defined by latitude. The dry season occurs during austral winter, so that  
504 radiation levels are actually higher during the rainy season, and temperatures

505 are warmer (Fig. 1 panel e). Latent heat is larger than sensible heat during  
506 the seasonal rains, but the Bowen ratio drops below one for a short period  
507 at the end of the dry season in both simulations and observations (Fig. 3,  
508 panel e).

509 Simulations and observations (Fig. 4, panel e) suggest relative uptake  
510 of carbon at PEG until early in the dry season, at which time respiration  
511 exceeds GPP. Simulations show that GPP drops rapidly following cessation  
512 of seasonal rains, while respiration subsides at a lower rate. This is in con-  
513 trast to the ecophysiological mechanisms postulated for forest sites, where  
514 the opposite occurs; GPP is maintained during the dry season while respi-  
515 ration decreases quickly following cessation of rains. Our model simulations  
516 suggest several reasons for this behavior at PEG, including 1) reduced an-  
517 nual precipitation and longer, more severe (meaning very few precipitation  
518 events) dry season result in smaller water storage in the soil, 2) seasonal  
519 forests have shallower rooting systems than tropical evergreen forests (Jack-  
520 son et al., 1996), and therefore lack the ability to access water stored deep  
521 in the soil. For these reasons, simulated GPP and respiration at PEG are in  
522 phase, and coupled tightly to water availability in the near-surface soil.

#### 523 **4. Discussion**

524 We can summarize model performance with a review of model comparison  
525 to observed net radiation, latent and sensible heat flux, and carbon flux  
526 observed at the 5 stations. We acknowledge that simulated behavior does  
527 not match observed perfectly at these 5 diverse sites, but believe that our  
528 simulation results provide insight into physiological function. Furthermore,

529 very little local tuning to SiB3 was performed. We modified soil depth at RJA  
530 in accordance with local knowledge, but otherwise values from global maps  
531 were used to determine model parameters. These include vegetation and  
532 soil type, as well as parameters dependent on these values. These secondary  
533 parameters influence model components such as photosynthetic function and  
534 soil process (hydraulic and thermal conductivity). We use continuous spatial  
535 data sets as a means to facilitate regional- to global-scale simulation as an  
536 ultimate goal, rather than fine-tuning the model for local application.

537 No consistent bias in net radiation was found (Fig. 3). At three sites  
538 (K34, RJA and PEG) simulated  $R_{net}$  exceeded observed, at K83 observed  
539 exceeded simulated, and at K67 the correspondence was close. However, at  
540 all sites the mean annual cycle of observed and simulated was similar-where  
541 there was bias, the magnitude was nearly constant. We believe these differ-  
542 ences are caused by the use of uniform tabular values in SiB3 to represent  
543 heterogeneous forests with diverse species, values of leaf angle distribution  
544 and radiative properties. Within a particular vegetation type (broadleaf ev-  
545 ergreen forest, for example), heterogeneity in simulation canopy parameters  
546 will be imposed only by differences in spectrally-derived LAI/fPAR between  
547 the sites. In addition, SiB3 ingests a single incoming shortwave measurement  
548 and partitions it into visible/near-infrared and direct/diffuse partitions. We  
549 do not expect modeled albedo to exactly match observed in all cases.

550 Comparisons of simulated and observed latent heat flux follow net radia-  
551 tion trends at K34, K83, and RJA (Fig. 3). At K67 observed LE is slightly  
552 larger than simulated, and at PEG modeled and simulated LE are very sim-  
553 ilar in magnitude and annual cycle. At K34, K67 and K83 the annual cycles



554 are similar as well. At RJA there is very little amplitude in the annual cycle  
555 of LE, but simulations show a slight decrease at the end of the dry season  
556 where observations show a slight increase.

557 There is a positive bias in simulated sensible heat flux at all stations  
558 (Fig. 3). This has been noted in SiB simulations before (Baker et al., 2003),  
559 and is believe to be related to the leaf-to-canopy scaling scheme outlined in  
560 Sellers (1985). This bias is most notable in simulations of forests, such as are  
561 simulated in this study. Simulated annual cycles generally follow observed,  
562 and Bowen ratio, or relative magnitude of sensible to latent heat is consistent  
563 between model and observations.

564 Annual mean carbon flux is shown in Fig. 4. At K34 modeled and  
565 observed carbon flux has low amplitude and no obvious seasonality. At the  
566 Tapajos National Forest sites (K67, K83) the model captures the general  
567 form of the annual cycle (wet season efflux, dry season uptake), but precedes  
568 the time of uptake by one to 3 months. At RJA the model reproduces the  
569 basic form of the observed annual cycle, but with a larger amplitude, and at  
570 PEG SiB3 reproduces the observed carbon flux with reasonable fidelity.

571 Given the historical performance of land surface models in South America  
572 (cf. Fig. 2 in Saleska et al., 2003), we find these results to be very encour-  
573 aging. We have simulated, with a minimum of localized tuning, the general  
574 form of annual cycles of energy, moisture, and carbon flux at several sites  
575 across Brazil. We believe these results provide some insight into the mecha-  
576 nistic coupling of carbon cycle processes that combine to determine annual  
577 cycles of flux across vegetation and moisture gradients.

## 578 5. Conclusions

579 Climatological control of ecophysiology is spatially heterogeneous in Brazil.  
580 da Rocha et al. (2009) showed that evapotranspiration in the wettest areas  
581 (central Amazon) is tightly linked to radiation levels (light-limited), while  
582 water availability regulates ET in the drier regions to the south and east.  
583 Our simulations reproduce this behavior. Forest sites K34, RJA, K67 and  
584 K83 maintain a consistently small Bowen ratio (sensible smaller than latent  
585 heat); maximum annual values for both H and LE occur during the dry sea-  
586 son, when net radiation is greatest, and annual amplitude of LE/H cycles  
587 is relatively small. The dry season increase in both LE and H suggests an  
588 ecosystem response to increased radiation levels, without ecosystem stress,  
589 since evaporation is maintained. At the savanna site (PEG; simulated as  
590 a seasonal forest in SiB3), evaporation is tightly coupled to precipitation.  
591 Latent heat flux decreases immediately with cessation of seasonal rains, and  
592 Bowen ratio exceeds one during the dry season. Simulated annual cycle of  
593 latent and sensible heat at PEG is very similar to observed.

594 Vegetation couples carbon dynamics to the Bowen ratio by stomatal reg-  
595 ulation of transpiration. Overall carbon flux is defined by the interaction of  
596 photosynthetic and respiratory processes. We've demonstrated that SiB3 can  
597 simulate observed annual cycles of carbon flux, and we use model diagnos-  
598 tics to partition GPP and respiration as a means to evaluate photosynthesis  
599 and respiration across vegetation and moisture gradients. We do not address  
600 overall source/sink of CO<sub>2</sub> on an annual or interannual basis for these indi-  
601 vidual sites. Local to regional-scale Net Ecosystem Exchange of CO<sub>2</sub> over  
602 long timescales is dependent upon storage pools, which are themselves the

603 residual from large gross photosynthetic and respiratory fluxes. These pools  
604 cannot be determined from model simulations performed on 3 or 4 years of  
605 observational data.

606 We find that a conceptual model of ecophysiological behavior emerges:  
607 In the wettest regions of the forest (K34), ecosystems are light- rather than  
608 water-limited. Gross carbon fluxes are continuously large, and small magni-  
609 tude uptake or efflux is determined by high-frequency variability in forcing.  
610 A dry week, for example, may result in increased GPP due to higher light  
611 levels, while slight drying of near-surface soils may result in a small decrease  
612 in respiration. Moving downgradient in precipitation (K67, K83), annual to-  
613 tal rainfall is less, and the dry season obtains definition. At these locations  
614 seasonality in carbon flux may be imposed by the mechanistic concepts out-  
615 lined in Baker et al. (2008): A combination of GPP elevation in response  
616 to enhanced light levels and respiration decrease as surface soil desiccates  
617 results in carbon uptake during the dry season. At these sites, seasonal-  
618 ity in carbon flux is distinct while seasonality in energy and moisture flux  
619 are minimal. Photosynthetic function is not excessively compromised during  
620 the seasonal drought, and transpiration maintains the Bowen ratio at small  
621 values. However, there is some suppression of GPP as the dry season pro-  
622 gresses, indicating a combination of light- and water-limitation may be at  
623 work here. Using the terminology of Costa et al. (2010), we believe that  
624 here ET is controlled by a combination of abiotic (meteorological) and biotic  
625 (soil moisture deficit restricting canopy conductance) factors. At drier sites  
626 (PEG), vegetation has stress imposed upon it by the combination of even  
627 less annual precipitation and a longer dry season. The imposition of water

628 limitation in the drier regions has the effect of forcing the carbon cycle into  
629 phase with the precipitation cycle. Water limitation also has the effect of  
630 imposing larger amplitude to the annual cycles of latent and sensible heat  
631 flux. As vegetation experiences water stress, evapotranspiration rates can-  
632 not be maintained, and the Bowen ratio increases. This conceptual model is  
633 expressed in the GPP/Respiration cycles shown in Fig. 4.

634 Tropical forests survive annual drought (dry season), as well as climato-  
635 logical variability around mean annual cycles of wet and dry. Evapotranspi-  
636 ration is critical to precipitation recycling not only locally, but across regional  
637 and continental scales (van der Ent et al., 2010). It has been shown that sim-  
638 ulations of atmospheric processes are responsive to improved physical realism  
639 at the land-atmosphere interface (Harper et al., 2010). The results of climate  
640 simulations that predict large-scale conversion of Amazonian forest to grass-  
641 land or savanna (Cox et al., 2000; Betts et al., 2004; Cowling et al., 2004;  
642 Cox et al., 2004; Huntingford et al., 2004; Huntingford et al., 2008) will be  
643 more robust if they can show consistency with ecophysiological behavior un-  
644 der current conditions. It has been shown that land has more leverage than  
645 ocean in influencing the global atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth rate (Friedlingstein  
646 et al., 2006, Baker et al., 2006, Gurney et al., 2008), and that the tropics play  
647 a major role in the land response. Therefore, fundamental understanding of  
648 tropical land surface response on a mechanistic level will be integral to our  
649 ability to predict both present-day climate and ecophysiological response to  
650 changing atmospheric forcing.

651 Our simulations have demonstrated an ability to rectify unrealistic eco-  
652 physiological stress in forest ecosystems (Saleska et al., 2003; Baker et al.,

653 2008) while maintaining reasonable response across vegetation and moisture  
654 gradients. But removing unrealistic stress on vegetation is only half of the  
655 battle; forests are conditioned to survive annual drought and, it is expected,  
656 anomalous drought as well. But if sustained drought in Amazonia occurs  
657 during the 21st century due to a higher incidence of El Niño conditions (Cat-  
658 taniao et al., 2002; Li et al., 2006) or a combination of climatological and  
659 sociological pressure on the ecosystem (Nepstad et al., 2008), it is realistic to  
660 expect that forest collapse, or a 'tipping point' may be reached (Nobre and  
661 Borma, 2009; Nepstad et al., 2008). Previously, models were unable to with-  
662 stand even seasonal drought, in the form of a dry season. Now that we've  
663 adjusted our model physics to achieve greater resiliency to seasonal drought,  
664 we need to ensure that we have not created models that are impervious to  
665 drought.

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1049 **Figure Captions**

1050 **Figure 1:** Site location and mean monthly incoming shortwave radia-  
1051 tion, temperature and precipitation, following Figure 1 of da Rocha et al.  
1052 (2009). Dry season, defined as number of months with less than 100 mm  
1053 of precipitation, is shaded, and a dashed line indicates 10 cm (100 mm) of  
1054 precipitation. Annual mean precipitation for the years used in this study is  
1055 listed at the top of each panel.

1056 **Figure 2:** Data availability for the sites used in this study.

1057 **Figure 3:** Mean annual cycles of modeled and observed net radiation  
1058 (Rnet), latent heat (LE), and sensible heat (H) for the 5 stations superim-  
1059 posed on a histogram of monthly-mean precipitation. Locations are shown  
1060 in Figure 1, dry season is shaded as before.

1061 **Figure 4:** Mean annual cycles of modeled and observed carbon flux for  
1062 the 5 stations, superimposed on a histogram of monthly-mean precipitation.  
1063 Locations of towers are shown in Figure 1. Modeled Gross Primary Produc-  
1064 tivity (GPP) and total respiration are shown at the top of each panel; dry  
1065 season is shaded.

1066 **Figure 5:** Daily mean (modeled and observed) Latent, Sensible and Car-  
1067 bon flux for the month of February 2002 at K34 (Panels A-C) Observations  
1068 are shown as solid lines with symbols, simulated value as solid lines. Modeled  
1069 partition of Carbon flux is shown in Panel D, daily precipitation in Panel E.

1070 **Figure 6:** Monthly-mean diurnal composite of Latent Heat (X-axis) plot-  
1071 ted against Carbon flux (Y-axis) for RJA, March (panel A) and September  
1072 (panel B) 2000. Hours 9, 12, and 16 are indicated with triangles in the  
1073 observations.

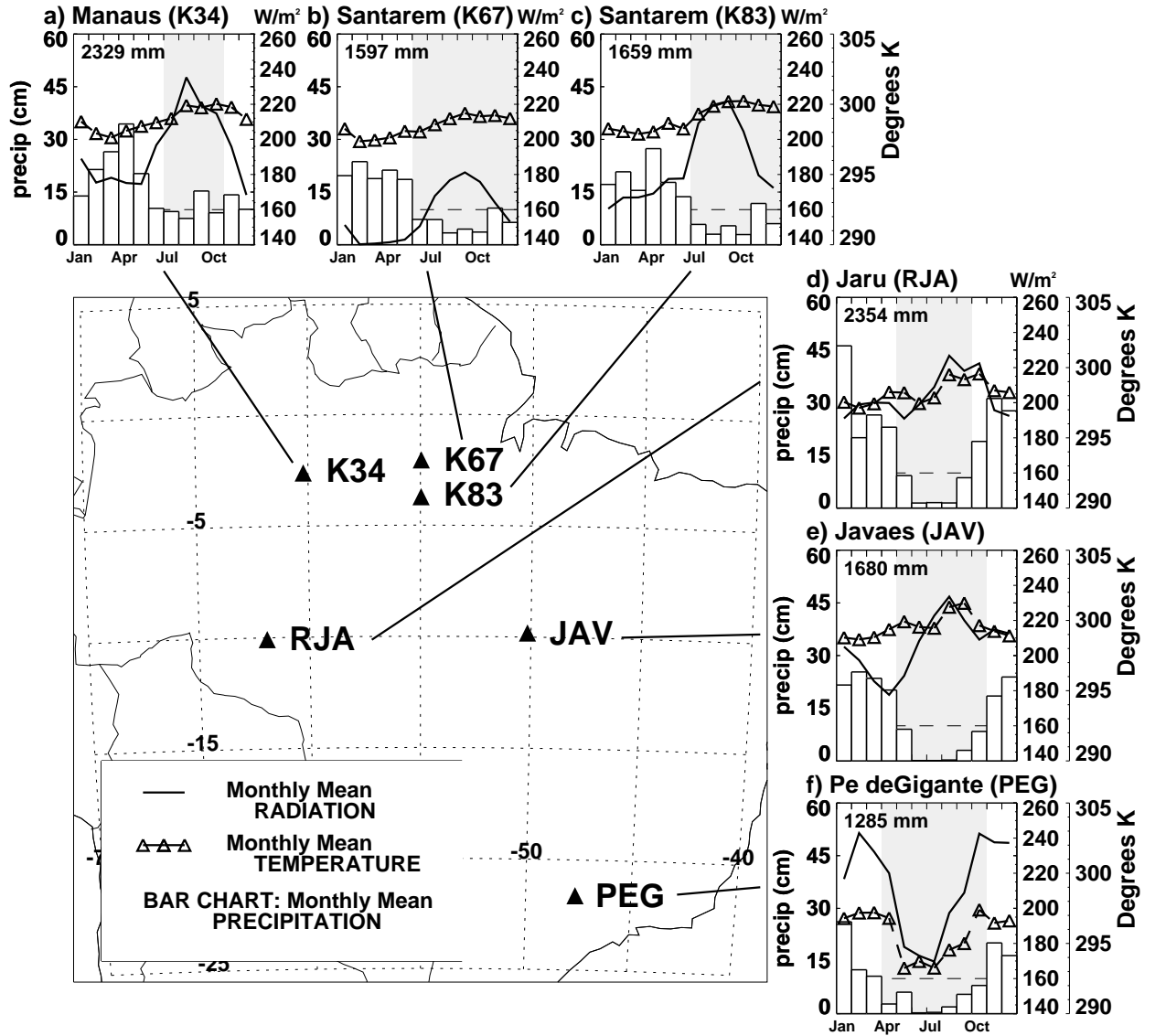


Figure 1: Site location and mean monthly incoming shortwave radiation, temperature and precipitation, following Figure 1 of da Rocha et al. (2009). Dry season, defined as number of months with less than 100 mm of precipitation, is shaded, and a dashed line indicates 10 cm (100 mm) of precipitation. Annual mean precipitation for the years used in this study is listed at the top of each panel.



	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>1: K34</b>						
<b>2: K67</b>						
<b>3: K83</b>						
<b>4: RJA</b>						
<b>5: PEG</b>						

Figure 2: Data availability for the sites used in this study.

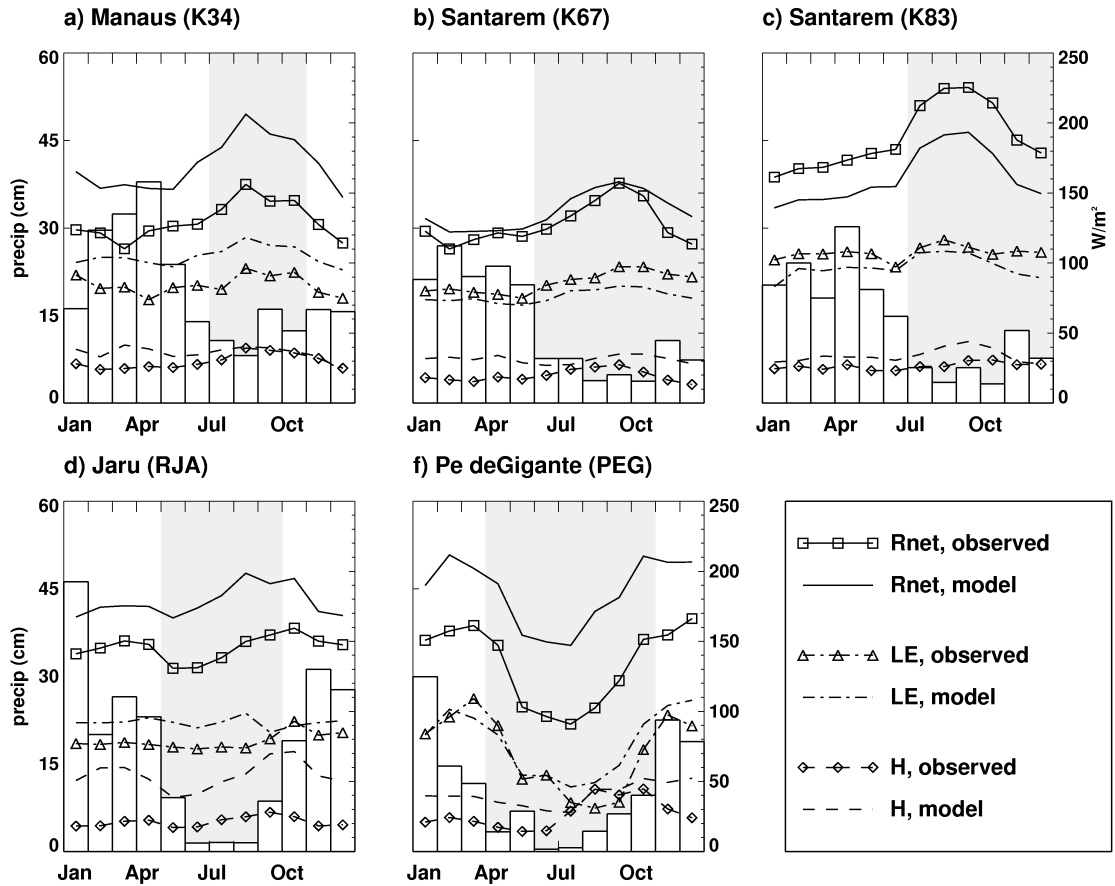


Figure 3: Mean annual cycles of modeled and observed net radiation (Rnet), latent heat (LE), and sensible heat (H) for the 5 stations superimposed on a histogram of monthly-mean precipitation. Locations are shown in Figure 1, dry season is shaded as before.

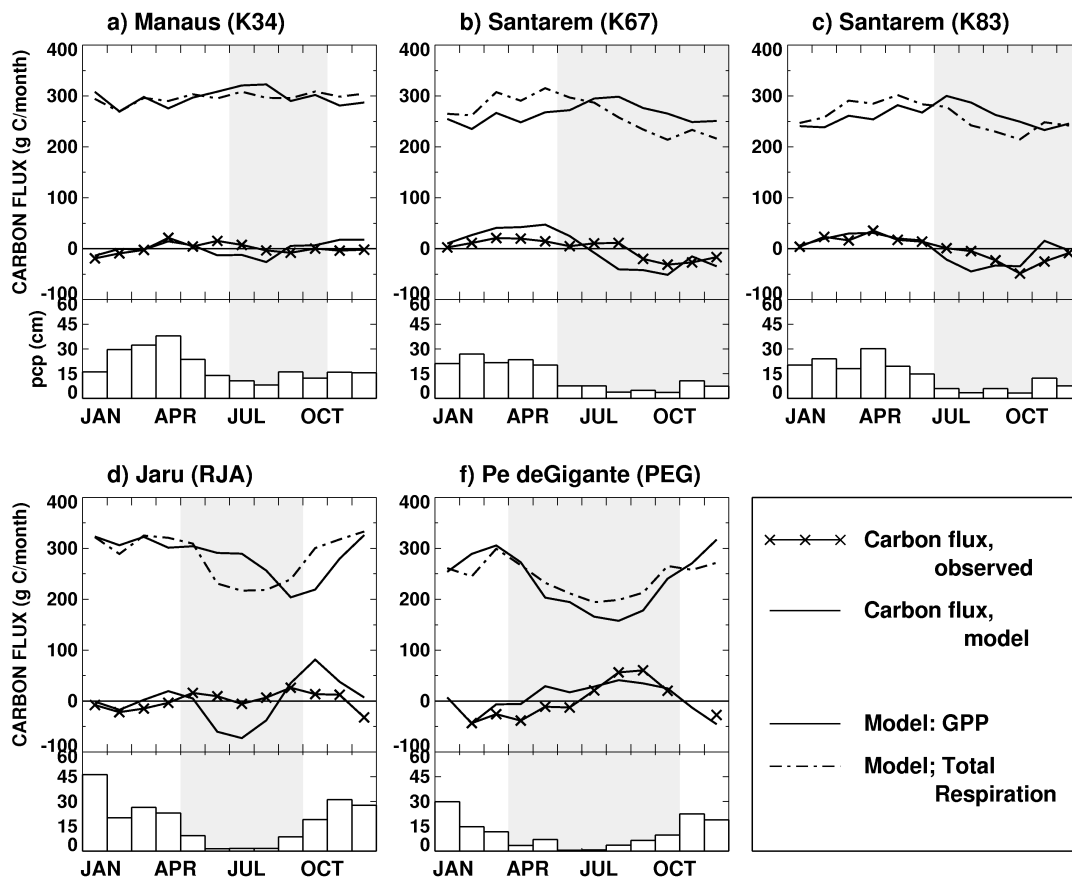


Figure 4: Mean annual cycles of modeled and observed carbon flux for the 5 stations, superimposed on a histogram of monthly-mean precipitation. Locations of towers are shown in Figure 1. Modeled Gross Primary Productivity (GPP) and total respiration are shown at the top of each panel; dry season is shaded.

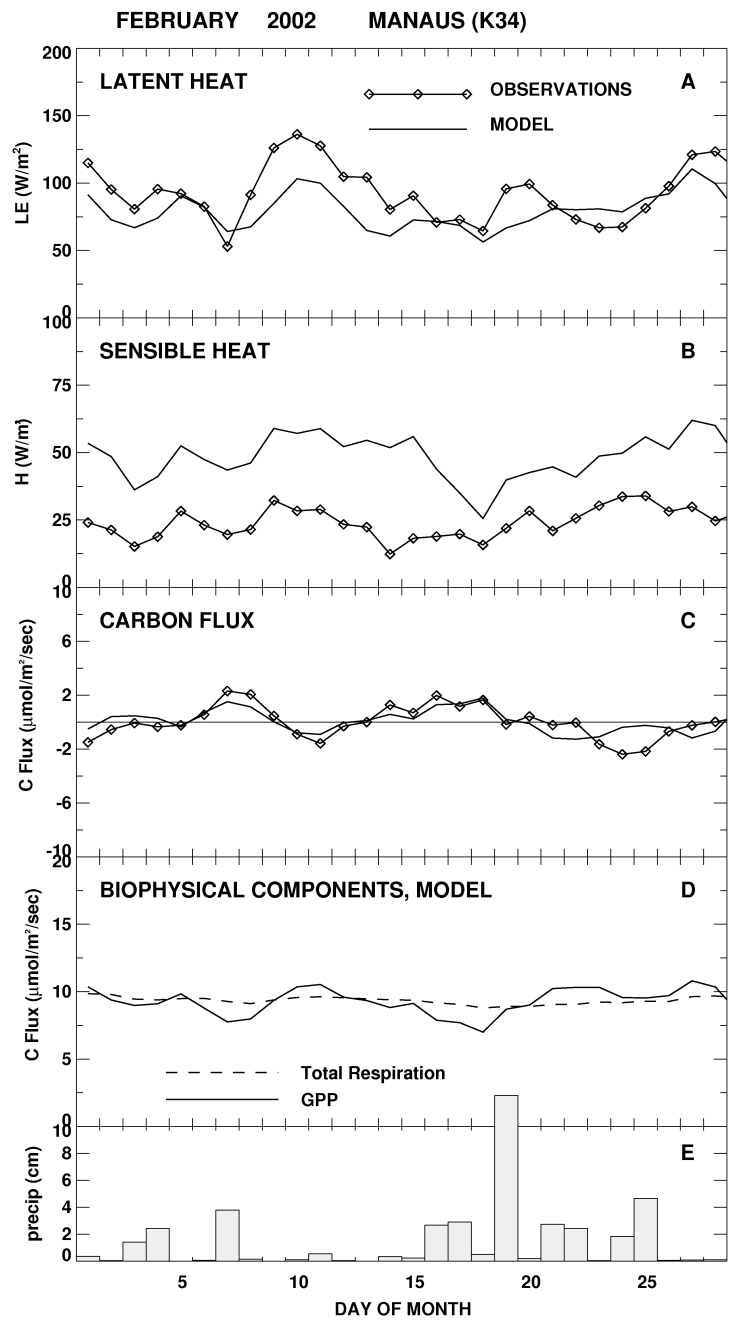


Figure 5: Daily mean (modeled and observed) Latent, Sensible and Carbon flux for the month of February 2002 at K34 (Panels A-C) Observations are shown as solid lines with symbols, simulated value as solid lines. Modeled partition of Carbon flux is shown in Panel D, daily precipitation in Panel E.

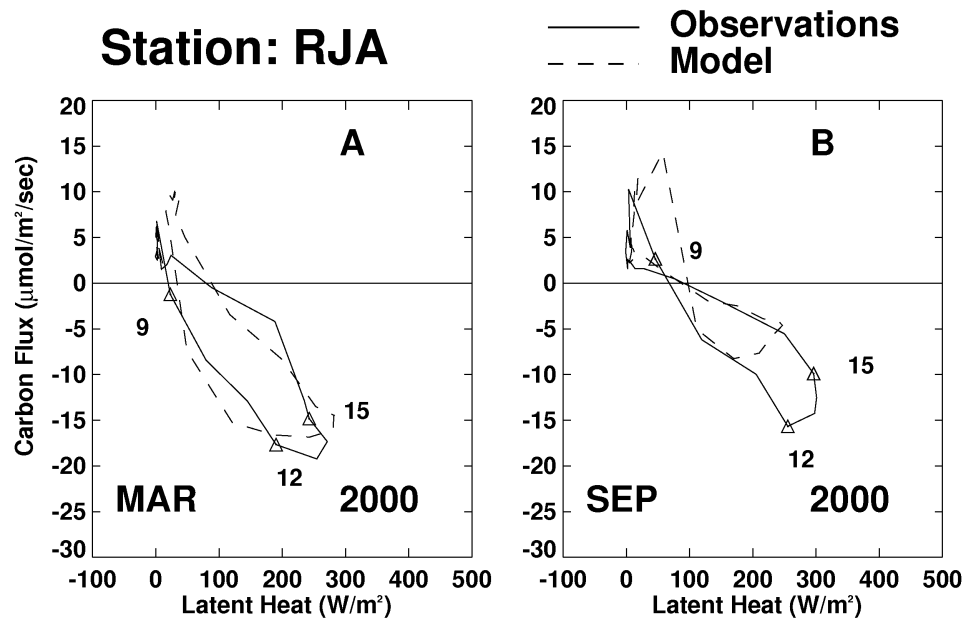


Figure 6: Monthly-mean diurnal composite of Latent Heat (X-axis) plotted against Carbon flux (Y-axis) for RJA, March (panel A) and September (panel B) 2000. Hours 9, 12, and 16 are indicated with triangles in the observations.