

Interactive comment on “Development of a new gas flaring emission data set 1 for southern West Africa” by Konrad Deetz and Bernhard Vogel

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1. Being fully familiar with the flares only version of the VIIR Nightfire product I can certify that this product is not suitable for use in a scientific study. If the authors had contacted my team at the start of their study we could have explained this to them and directed them to the full VNF data files, which are suitable for use in scientific studies.
2. NOAA does provide cloud state for each VNF detection - from the VIIRS cloud product suite. There are four states: confidently cloudy, probably cloudy, probably clear, confidently clear. But what is not recorded in the VNF files are the number of clear observations where the flare was not detected. The NOAA annual gas flaring data takes this into account. I dispute the authors contention that "it is not necessary to account for the variations in cloud cover."

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3. My overall impression is that these authors are willing to use data that are known to be flawed and ignore the effects of cloud cover variations in order to get a paper published without doing any additional work. If this journal is willing to publish papers with flaws like this disclosed - heaven help them.

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