

## ***Interactive comment on “Evaluation of carbon stocks in above- and below-ground biomass in Central Africa: case study of Lesio-louna tropical rainforest of Congo” by X. Liu***

**Anonymous Referee #1**

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Unfortunately the manuscript is clearly not acceptable for publication in Biogeosciences. Even though the scientific quality seems to be fair the potential scientific significance is low due to the small and relatively uninteresting dataset. The English of the Abstract is weak (as in some incidental sentences in the main text) and the figures are of low quality. Even worse, I googled only one sentence to rule out plagiarism. Unfortunately, I found the sentence: “Trees, the major components of forest, absorb large amounts of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by photosynthesis, and forests return an almost equal amount to the atmosphere by auto- and heterotrophic respiration (Folega et al., 2010).” in an identical form in the Preface of: Lorenz, K. & Lal, R. This is far from being acceptable, especially without citing Lorenz and Lal. I suggest that the

C4143

authors report in their comment all the sentences or groups of words that were taken directly from other publications.

I did not spend much time to go through the manuscript due to the severe problems that were rapidly noticeable that I mentioned above. However, I noted that too many decimals were reported. The calculation of the area of a circle does not need to be mentioned. The tables and figures include numerous weaknesses: Table 1: Not needed (can be explained in the text). Table 2: Too many decimals. Figure 1: Maps are not clear. Figure 2. Not needed. The circles are not circular. The arrows do not match the diameter of the corresponding circle. Figure 3. Not needed. The circle is not circular. Figures 5, 6 and 9: Contain very little information. Table format could be better.

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C4144