

Dear Prof Dr Edzo Veldkamp,

We would like to thank you for revising our manuscript. Please, find attached our 'marked-up' version, which includes your suggestions and those from both Referees. Modifications suggested by Referees were highlighted in yellow, whereas those raised by you were highlighted in gray. As requested, we also present a point-by-point answer to your comments. Please, find it below.

Thank you and we hope our manuscript will be finally accepted for publication in Biogeosciences.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Marra et al.

Point-by-point answer to the Associate Editor's comments

*In the abstract you mention marginally higher carbon stocks and give a p value of 0.009. I assume that this should be changed into 0.09?*

Yes, there was a typo error. The correct value of p is 0.09. We corrected this in the current version.

*On page 19360 line 9: please change 'bellow-ground' into 'below-ground'*

We have corrected this mistake. The word was replaced in this and other sentence by 'belowground'.

*On page 19360 line 25: please change 'besides then' into 'apart from those'*

We have used the suggested words in this sentence. However, please note that this paragraph was moved to the previous section. This modification followed structural changes suggested by the Referees.