

Interactive comment on “Annual litterfall dynamics and nutrient deposition depending on elevation and land use at Mt. Kilimanjaro” by J. Becker et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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General comments

The authors quantified one-year litterfall in not only natural forests and agroforestry systems from May 2012 to July 2013, and analyzed fundamental elements, such as C and N in leaf in order to assess effects of climate and of agricultural land use change on litterfall and nutrient in montane ecosystems of Mt. Kilimanjaro. As the authors pointed out, litterfall is one of the major pathways connecting above- and below-ground world, and is one of the main processes in terrestrial carbon cycle. In spite of such the importance, it still has been a lack of information especially in various ecosystems in remote area where is not easily accessible, such as Mt. Kilimanjaro. Hence the authors' aims are not only very interesting but also important. Furthermore, the authors conducted monthly litterfall investigation in six ecosystems having different dominant

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species. Hence, those results include interesting and valuable information, and are worth of publication in Biogeosciences. However, there are the problems to revise. The most serious flaw is insufficient analysis and discussion about data. Especially, the discussion and conclusion supported by little evidence should revise thoroughly by showing other information and figures/table (as necessary). Hence, I strongly recommend major revision under the circumstances.

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