

Interactive comment on “Spatial variations of nitrogen trace gas emissions from tropical mountain forests in Nyungwe, Rwanda” by N. Gharahi Ghehi et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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Comment posted 5.1.2012 This is a very nice paper on N₂O and NO emissions from tropical forest soils. You postulate that the 'negative correlation (only N₂O) with soil pH and a positive correlation with free iron suggest that chemo-denitrification might an important production pathway'; and complete your paper with this sentence'In conclusion improved understanding and process based modeling of N trace gas emission from tropical forests will not only benefit from better spatial explicit trace N₂O gas emission and basic soil property monitoring, but also by differentiating between biological and chemical pathways for N trace gas formation'.

Your concluding remark would be much stronger, if you could provide evidence of

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chemodenitrification being important. It should not take long to carry out a simple test, provided you have the soils.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 8, 11631, 2011.