

Interactive comment on “Carbon stocks and dynamics at different successional stages in an Afromontane tropical forest” by Brigitte Nyirambangutse et al.

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Thank you for your comments on our Biogeosciences discussion paper. Below you have our response to each comment. We have also prepared a revised manuscript according to the comments and response, ready to be submitted.

Comments from Referee 2:

This study reports measurements of biomass pools in early and late successional tropical montane forests in Rwanda, Africa. The data in this manuscript is an important addition to the very sparse data on carbon stocks in African montane forests. The manuscript reports biomass pools and relative growth rates and compares early to

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late successional forests. This study adds to our knowledge of biomass storage during succession in tropical montane forests. The methods are well described and the analysis is appropriate. The manuscript is clearly and concisely written. I recommend publication and I only have very minor comments as detailed below.

RESPONSE: Thank you for kind comments

Minor comments:

Page 4. A map showing the study area might be useful for the reader.

RESPONSE : We have included a map in the supplementary material

Page 4. Do you have information on the slope of the plots? If so, it would be useful to include.

RESPONSE: Yes, average slopes of all plots have now been included in Table S1.

Page 4. Do you have an idea of the major cause of disturbance at the studied plots? It would be useful to comment on this. Is the disturbance likely natural or anthropogenic?

RESPONSE: In section 2.1 we write: The secondary forest areas are mainly created from human induced disturbance such as tree cutting, fire, and mining, but natural disturbances such as landslide and fallen trees are also significant. Unfortunately, the disturbance in the past was not monitored so it is difficult to describe the disturbance history in more detail.

Table 1. Minor formatting issues in the “Properties” column.

RESPONSE: We have changed the format of the first column so all text can fit.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/bg-2016-353/bg-2016-353-AC2-supplement.pdf>

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