

## **Anonymous Referee #1**

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The authors have developed a good work about nitrogen and carbon cycling dynamics from the nitrogen and carbon stable isotopes of soil and plant samples along an elevational gradient. Due to the remote African's sites where the work has been carried out the data arise in a very important issue about limitation of N availability in ecosystems C sequestration. Methodologically the work is well developed and results a discussion have a good structure that facilitates the reading. I think more works are needed on the multifactorial analyses that implyies soil data, climatological data, and nitrogen and carbon stable isotopes of soil and plants.

**We thank the reviewer for her/his positive comments. We provide our answers in bold font below.**

I not totally sure about authors consideration of grasslands and savannas extensively managed and semi-natural ecosystems. I think a little bit information about this clasification would be added. However, authors have been there on field seeing the conditions.

**The classification we use has been followed by previous research working on the same sites (e.g. Becker and Kuzyakov, 2018; Classen et al., 2015; Ensslin et al., 2015; Gerschlauser et al., 2016; Gütlein et al., 2018; Mganga et al., 2014), and agree with our observation in the field.**

**These references are on the MS reference list.**

As a personal preference, I would like that sites on Lines 162, 166, would be changed by soils.

**We replaced sites with soils as suggested, but we felt that the change worsened the reading of the sentences.**

Finally, few minor typographics mistakes would be pointed out: Line 96 → Kilimanjaro doesn't have capital letter.

**Revised as suggested**