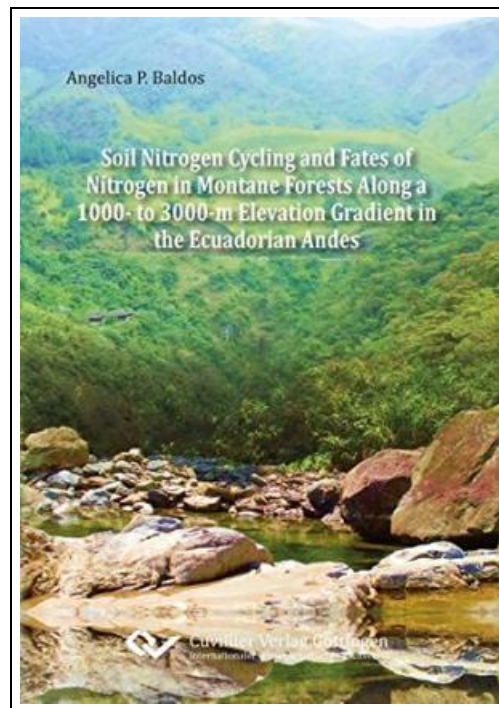


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SOIL NITROGEN CYCLING AND FATES OF NITROGEN IN MONTANE FORESTS ALONG A 1000- TO 3000-M ELEVATION GRADIENT IN THE ECUADORIAN ANDES



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Cuvillier Verlag Mrz 2014, 2014. Taschenbuch. Condition: Neu. Neuware - Tropical montane rainforests host an exceptional number of threatened species, are important water sources, and also contain large carbon pools. In addition, tropical forests are both sinks and sources of important greenhouses gases (GHGs) and is the largest natural source of a potent greenhouse gas, nitrous oxide (N₂O). Threats to tropical montane forests are mostly anthropogenic in nature; added to these is the increasing atmospheric nutrient deposition which the tropics is facing today mainly from fertilizer and fossil fuel use and biomass burning. This is significant in terms of the global nitrogen (N) cycle whose critical product is a potent greenhouse gas, N₂O. Also, the N cycle is always tied to the carbon (C) cycle and climate, making these major biogeochemical cycles more complex. The global N cycle is one of the most anthropogenically altered nutrient cycles on earth. Although the soil internal N cycle plays an important role in the regulation of N retention and loss, there is still a scarcity of information how the increasing nutrient deposition will impact the soil N cycle as well as the long-term fates of soil mineral N in tropical montane forests. Against this background, we assessed changes in the soil N cycle and characterized the fluxes and fates of mineral N in neotropical montane forests under elevated nutrients inputs by means of a nutrient manipulation experiment (i.e. N, P, N+P, and control). Starting in 2008, a fertilization experiment was conducted in montane forests in Ecuador at 1000 m, 2000 m and 3000 m elevations. Each elevation had four replicate plots (20 m x 20 m each) of these treatments: control, N (50 kg N ha⁻¹ year⁻¹), P (10 kg P ha⁻¹ year⁻¹) and combined N+P. Two field experiments were conducted for this...

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