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# **Ecological and Socioeconomic Functions of Tropical Lowland Rainforest Transformation Systems** Sumatra, Indonesia

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG

Carbon sequestration, litter C input to the soil, and resource use-efficiency in lowland rainforest transformation systems on Sumatra (Indonesia) **Dietrich Hertel and Christoph Leuschner** Rahmi Dianita, Triadiati Antono and Henry Barus

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**Research** aims

- > Carbon (and nitrogen) pools in aboveground woody biomass of these forest systems as dependent on woody species diversity and identity
- > Supply of aboveground versus belowground (root) litter as sources of soil organic carbon (SOC) > Above- and belowground net primary production and related carbon fluxes of the different forest types > Stand-level estimates of water and nitrogen use-efficiency (jointly studied together with A02 and A05) > Significance of vertical root segregation of different woody species for complementary soil water uptake in the different forest transformation systems (jointly studied together with A02)





H1 The carbon pool in aboveground woody biomass is mainly H3 Above- and belowground net primary production differ determined by the naturalness of the system. significantly between the transformation systems.

- **H2** The litter C input to the SOC is higher in more natural/diverse systems than in more intensively managed/less diverse systems; the ratio of root to leaf litter C input increases with increasing degree of forest transformation.
- H4 The stand-level water and nutrient use-efficiency (WUE, NUE) decrease with increasing land-use intensity.
- H5 Systems with more diverse woody species composition show complementary soil water usage due to vertical root segregation.

#### Methodology

## Inventory of aboveground woody biomass and carbon stocks

(field work completed)

Tree height and diameter, wood density All trees/palms > 10cm dbh on all 32 plots In 2 subplots all trees > 2 cm dbh

### Annual above-ground primary production

- Litter fall and C and N transfer to the soil (litter traps ongoing)
- Stem diameter growth (natural rainforest and rubber systems), height



#### **Preliminary results**

growth of oil palm individuals, litter production and oil palm fruit yield (ongoing)

**Belowground litter production** 

and C and N transfer to the soil

minirhizotron technique (started)

• sequential soil coring approach (lab work ongoing)

• ingrowth core approach (installed)



Structural features of trees in transformation systems; grey bars indicate mean tree height, white bars tree diameter and black bars tree/palm number per plot in 8 forest, jungle rubber, rubber and oil palm plots ( $n_{total} = 32$ ).

CRC 990 / EFForTS Status-Workshop, October 10/11, 2013



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