## Supplementary Information for

# Basin-wide variations in Amazon forest structure and function are mediated by both soils and climate 

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## A: Separation of stand-level parameters into underlying components

The above ground biomass of a stand per unit area, $B$, can be expressed as

$$
\begin{equation*}
B=\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} \xi A_{\mathrm{t}} \rho_{\mathrm{w}(\mathrm{t})}}{a} \tag{S1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $A_{\mathrm{t}}$ is the basal area $\left(\mathrm{m}^{2}\right)$ of tree $t, \varrho_{\mathrm{w}(t)}$ is the wood density of tree $t\left(\mathrm{~kg} \mathrm{~m}^{-3)}\right.$ and $a$ is the plot area (ha) with $\xi$ being an allometric coefficient transforming $A_{\mathrm{t}}$ into a wood volume estimate $\left(V_{\mathrm{t}}\right)$ and $N$ is the number of trees measured. In our analysis, $\xi$ is taken as a constant (being based on Chambers et al., 2001) and so, being normalised by the area sampled, differences in $B$ must be
attributable to variations in the average values of $A_{\mathrm{t}}, \varrho_{\mathrm{w}(\mathrm{t})}$ or in $N / a$, the latter being equal to $S$, the stem density ( \# ha ${ }^{-1}$ ).

Separating Eq. 1 into its components: The basal area of the stand $A_{\mathrm{t}}\left(\mathrm{m}^{2} \mathrm{ha}{ }^{-1}\right)$ can be expressed as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{A_{\mathrm{B}}=\sum_{t=1}^{N} A_{\mathrm{t}}}{a} \tag{S2}
\end{equation*}
$$

and the mean wood density of the stand, $\varrho_{\mathrm{w}}$, can be expressed as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\rho_{\mathrm{W}}=\sum_{s p=1}^{j} \rho_{\mathrm{w}(\mathrm{sp})} \sum_{t=1}^{k(s p)} \xi A_{\mathrm{t}(\mathrm{sp})}}{a} \tag{S3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\varrho_{\mathrm{w}(\mathrm{sp})}$ is the characteristic wood density for each species $(s p)$ and $k_{(s p)}$ is the number of each species in the plot. Mean stand wood density so calculated is therefore a volume weighted estimate, and from which it follows that

$$
\begin{equation*}
B=\xi A_{\mathrm{B}} \rho_{\mathrm{w}} \tag{S4}
\end{equation*}
$$

with, after the inclusion of the appropriate corrections (Malhi et al., 2004; Lewis et al., 2004), basal area growth rates $\left(G_{\mathrm{B}}\right)$ being related to the basal area growth rates of individual trees $\left(G_{\mathrm{t}}\right)$, and with above ground wood productivity $\left(W_{\mathrm{P}}\right)$ similarly being related to $G_{\mathrm{B}}$ (to good approximation) as

$$
\begin{equation*}
W_{\mathrm{P}}=\xi G_{\mathrm{B}} \rho_{\mathrm{W}} \tag{S5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Likewise, the stand level turnover rate ( $\varphi$ ) can be expressed and

$$
\begin{equation*}
\varphi=\frac{0.5(r+m)}{S} \tag{S6}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $r$ is the mean rate of recruitment (trees $\geq 10 \mathrm{~cm} \mathrm{dbh}$ observed for the first time) expressed as stems ha- $\mathrm{yr}^{-1}$ and $m$ is the mortality rate (including standing dead trees noted as such for the first time), also in the same units. Thus, $\varphi$ is effectively a probability with between stand differences attributable to variations attributable to either $(r+m)$ or $S$. Similar to the above, turnover rate is also potentially expressible in biomass units as the mean of $W_{\mathrm{P}}$ and the biomass mortality rate, $M$; this being the estimated rate of loss from the living biomass pool expressed as $\mathrm{tha} \mathrm{hr}^{-1}$ calculated according to the same principles as $W_{\mathrm{P}}$ above.

Investigating first the importance of plot-to-plot variations in $S$, Fig. S1 shows (top row) $A_{\mathrm{t}}$ and $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ vary with $S$ and with each other. Across our dataset, $S$ varies by a factor of just over 3, with the lowest $S$ being a 'bamboo forest' in Acre Brazil (DOI-02) on a plinthosol and the two highest values being for 'white sand forests' (SCR-04 and ZAR-01), both on podzols. There is a significant decline in $A_{\mathrm{t}}$ with $S(\mathrm{R}=-0.51, p<0.001)$ and with a log-log (power) scaling factor $(\beta)$ of -1.40 . There is no significant relationship between $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ and $S(p=0.08)$, so even though the relationship between $A_{\mathrm{t}}$ and $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ is statistically strong $(\mathrm{R}=0.71, p<0.001) \beta$ is estimated at only 0.88 . This
means that, although most of the variation in $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ is due to differences in $A_{\mathrm{t}}$, effects of $A_{\mathrm{t}}$ on $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ have a scaling factor of less than 1.00, this reflecting a 'self-thinning' tendency.

A similar analysis is undertaken for tree turnover rates and $S$ in the middle three panels of Fig. S1. This clearly shows that turnover variations are not related to variations in $S$ and with $\beta=1.01$ in the middle right panel indicating that variations in $\varphi$ accurately reflect differences in the number of stems turning over per unit area $(R=0.92, p<0.001)$ rather than the different $S$.

In the bottom three panels of Fig. $\mathrm{S} 1, G_{\mathrm{t}}$ and $G_{\mathrm{B}}$ covariation with $S$ is examined. This shows that there is a strong tendency for $G_{\mathrm{t}}$ to decline with $S(\mathrm{R}=0.92, p<0.001)$ and with $\beta=-1.91$ which results in no relationship between $S$ and $G_{\mathrm{B}}$ and a strong relationship between $G_{\mathrm{t}}$ and $G_{\mathrm{B}}$ but with a $\beta$ of only 0.82 .

Thus we may conclude, similar to the analysis of basal area stocks above, that stand-to-stand variation in basal area growth rates reflects to a large degree variations in the growth rates of individual trees. But that this is not a 1:1 relationship because of $G_{t}$ systematically declining with increasing $S$. Of additional interest, (middle low panel) is that stands on typically more fertile soils such as the cambisols tend to sit above the line of best fit, and with those on relatively infertile soils such as ferralsols sitting below the fitted line. This means that although $G_{\mathrm{t}}$ tends to decline with increasing $S$ independent of soil type, at any given $S$ trees growing on the more fertile soil types tend to have a higher growth rate. It is also for this reason that the plots segregate according to soil type along the $G_{\mathrm{B}} ; G_{\mathrm{t}}$ line of best fit in the last panel.

This analysis is further developed in Fig. S2, with the importance of plot-to-plot variation in $\varrho_{\mathrm{w}}$ investigated. Taking first the top row of panels, variations in $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ and $B$ with $\varrho_{\mathrm{w}}$ and with each other are shown. This shows that variations in $B$ mostly arise as a consequence of differences in $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ ( $\mathrm{R}=$ $0.82, p<0.001 ; \beta=1.15)$ rather than differences in $\varrho_{\mathrm{W}}$, especially a low values of $A_{\mathrm{B}}$. That is to say, as is also clear from the middle top panel $(R=0.34, p<0.01 ; \beta=2.34)$ the highest biomass stands only occur in plots which also have a high $\varrho_{\mathrm{W}}$ and with there being considerable variation in $B$ at high $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ due to differences in $\varrho_{\mathrm{w}}$. But not at lower $A_{\mathrm{B}}$.

Probability and biomass based turnover estimates are compared with $\varrho_{\mathrm{w}}$ and with each other in the middle row panels of Fig. S2. This shows that $\varrho_{\mathrm{W}}$ turns out to be a particularly good predictor of $\varphi$ $(R=-0.63 p<0.001 ; \beta=-4.2)$, though as mentioned in the discussion of the main paper, this relationship is not necessarily causative. Because of this negative $\varphi ; \rho_{\mathrm{W}}$ correlation, $\beta$ is much less at $=3.0$ for the biomass based turnover metric and with a lesser level of significance $(R=-0.41$; $p<$ 0.005 ) but with the relationships between the two turnover measures whilst still being strongly significant $(R=-0.59 ; p<0.001)$ also having a $\beta$ of only 0.72 .










| $\checkmark$ | Arenosols | - | Ferralsols | $\Delta$ | Lixisols | $\triangle$ | Plinthosols | $\square$ | Umbrisols | - | Fluvisols | + | Leptosols |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\nabla$ | Podzols | - | Acrisols | - | Nitisols | $\bigcirc$ | Alisols | $\bigcirc$ | Cambisols | $\bigcirc$ | Gleysols |  |  |

Figure S1. Relationship between stem density and several metrics of stand dynamics. Where significant with normal least squares regression, standard major axis scaling relationships are also shown, viz: $y=a x \beta$ with the appropriate values of $\beta$ reported in the text

Finally, the relationships between $G_{\mathrm{B}}, W_{\mathrm{P}}$ and $\varrho_{\mathrm{W}}$ are examined in the lower three panels of Fig. S2. This shows, as for $\varphi$, a strong decline in $G_{\mathrm{B}}$ with increasing $\varrho_{\mathrm{W}}(\mathrm{R}=-0.64 p<0.001 ; \beta=-3.2)$ with the relationship between $W_{\mathrm{P}}$ and $\varrho_{\mathrm{W}}$ less dramatic $(\mathrm{R}=-0.42 p<0.006 ; \beta=-3.2$ ). It is also clear that much of the Basin-wide variation in $W_{\mathrm{P}}$ is due to differences in $G_{\mathrm{B}}$ (bottom right panel; $\mathrm{R}=$ $0.81 p<0.001 ; \beta=0.89$ ).









Figure S2. Relationship between stand wood density and several metrics of stand dynamics. Where significant with normal least squares regression, standard major axis scaling relationships are also shown, viz: $y=\operatorname{ax\beta }$ with the appropriate values of $\beta$ reported in the text

B: Relationships of stand basal area and stem density with their geographical space with subsequent analysis of their underlying climatic and edaphic controls

## Relationship among stand basal area, number of trees per hectare and the geographical space

Figure S 3 shows the geographical distribution of forest stand basal area $\left(A_{\mathrm{B}}\right)$ and number of stems per hectare $(S)$. The highest forest basal area is found at eastern and northern parts of Amazon as well as at some Ecuadorian forests, while western and southern portions of Amazonia have smaller $A_{\mathrm{B}}$, as has been previously reported by Malhi et al. (2006). By contrast $S$ (which ranges from 338 to 872 trees $>10 \mathrm{~cm}$ DBH ha ${ }^{-1}$ ) did not show a clear geographical pattern.

Although showing some level of correlation with latitude and longitude, both $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ and $S$ seem to have low level of spatial autocorrelation (Fig S4). To account for spatial autocorrelation, eigenvector-based spatial filters (Bocard and Legendre, 2002) was calculated for $A_{\mathrm{B}}$, and $S$ and used in a multiple regression framework as additional predictors. Following the SEVM-1 procedure, six filters were selected for $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ (filters 1,2, 3, 4, 5 and 8). Filter selection for the SEVM-2 procedure selected for three filters (2, 3 and 5) and the SEVM-3 procedure only retained one filter for AB (filter 5). The SEVM-1 procedure selected eight filters for $S$ (1 to 8) while SEVM-2 selected three (filter 1, 5, 8). SEVM-3 did not select for any eigenvector filter in $S$. Spatial structures alone could explain 0.56 and 0.24 of their variation (for $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ and $S$, respectively).


Figure S3. Geographical distribution of forest basal area $\left(A_{\mathrm{B}}\right)$ and number of stems $(S)$, across Amazonia. Size of circles represents variations among sites, see legend for details.


Figure S4. Correlations between forest basal area and stem density with the geographic space. Moran's $I$ correlograms are also given showing spatial autocorrelation for $\boldsymbol{A}_{\mathbf{B}}$ but with spatial filters being able to effectively remove its effect from regression residuals. Moran I correlogram for $S$ shows little spatial autocorrelation.

## Edaphic and climatic controls on stand basal area

In order to investigate relationships between $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ and environmental factors, spatially adjusted Spearman correlations were performed for a total of 28 predictors (Table S1). Associated p values and degrees of freedom were adjusted to account for spatial autocorrelation using the Dutilleul method (Dutilleul, 1993). Soil chemistry predictors were generally inversely related to $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ which may suggest that lower $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ may occur on more fertile soils. The relationships between soil fertility parameters and $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ were however relatively modest (Fig. S5), and no significant correlation was observed (Table S1). Similarly, soil physical properties also showed weak relationships with $A_{\mathrm{B}}$, with all soil physical parameters being negatively correlated to it (i.e. worse physical condition resulting in lower $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ ), with the exception of topography which showed a positive correlation. Correlations with all soil physical predictors turned out as not significant, but the combined indexes of physical properties $\left(\Pi_{1}\right.$ and $\left.\Pi_{2}\right)$ showed some indication that lower $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ may be associated to adverse soil physical conditions, at least in a large proportion of the study sites (Fig. S6). It seems however that $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ is more strongly related to climatic factors than to soil properties. Figure S 7 shows strong relationships between $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ and mean annual temperature, average annual precipitation and minimum dry season precipitation, suggesting effect of both amount and distribution of rainfall. Correlations between these variables and forest $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ were of significance (Table S 1 ), with the dry season precipitation emerging as the stronger factor influencing forest basal area.

We have then performed a multi model selection based on AIC including all variables in this study. The best OLS model fit for $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ included $\Pi_{2},[\mathrm{P}]_{\mathrm{T}},[\mathrm{K}]_{\mathrm{E}}$, and $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{A}}$ as predictors which were used into a multiple regression (Table. S2). The regression model resulted highly significant ( $\beta<0.001$ ) and explaining about to $42 \%$ of variation in $A_{\mathrm{B}}$. All predictors turned out significant $(p=0.006, p<0.001$,
$p=0.019$ and $p<0.001$, respectively). Additional models within the $\Delta \mathrm{AIC}<2$ interval have also selected for $\Pi_{2},[\mathrm{P}]_{\mathrm{T}}$ and $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{A}}$, but with varying cation measures instead or in addition to $[\mathrm{K}]_{\mathrm{E}}$.

Model selection with the inclusion of SEVM- 1 spatial filters resulted in $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{A}}$ and $\Pi_{1}$ as predictors for $A_{\mathrm{B}}$, with only $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{A}}$ resuming significant ( $\beta=0.014$ and $\mathrm{p}=0.109$, respectively). Similarly, once SEVM- 1 filters were applied into the OLS model, only $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{A}}$ retained its significant (Table S2). Performing model selection with the more conservative SEVM-2 group of filters resulted in a best model containing $[\mathrm{P}]_{\mathrm{T}}, \mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{A}}, \mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}$ and $\Sigma_{\mathrm{B}}$, suggesting that both climate and soil properties may be significant predictors of $A_{\mathrm{B}}$. All variables resumed significant with SEVM-2 filters $(p=0.031, p<0.001$ and $p=0.045$ for $[\mathrm{P}]_{\mathrm{T}}, \mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{A}}, \Sigma_{\mathrm{B}}$, respectively), but with $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}$ being only marginally significant at $p=0.083$. The inclusion of SEVM-2 filters into OLS regression also changed substantially the significance levels, with only $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{A}}$ remaining highly significant $(p<0.001)$ but with $[\mathrm{P}]_{\mathrm{T}}$ being marginally significant ( $p=0.066$ ).

The regression residuals from the OLS model were then tested for correlation against nine different eigenvector filters (SEVM-3), with this resulting in one filter (filter 5) being selected to inclusion in the OLS regression model. Addition of SEVM-3 filter to the OLS regression only slightly changed the significance levels, with $\Pi_{2},[\mathrm{P}]_{\mathrm{T}},[\mathrm{K}]_{\mathrm{E}}$, and $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{A}}$ with all predictors still being significant after the addition of SEVM-3 ( $p=0.011, p=0.005, p=0.014$ and $p<0.001$, respectively).










| $\nabla$ | Arenosols |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\nabla$ | Ferralsols | $\Delta$ | Lixisols | $\Delta$ | Plinthosols | $\square$ | Umbrisols | $\square$ | Fluvisols | + | Leptosols |  |
| $\nabla$ | Podzols | $\square$ | Acrisols | $\bullet$ | Nitisols | $\circ$ | Alisols | $\circ$ | Cambisols | $\circ$ | Gleysols |  |

Figure S5. Relationships between stand basal area and different soil fertility parameters


Figure S6. Relationships between stand basal area and soil physical properties


Figure S7. Relationships between stand basal area and climatic factors

Table S1 Spearman correlations between forest basal area and different predictors, adjusted for spatial autocorrelation by Dutillieul's method (Dutillieul, 1993).

| Variable | Spearman rho | p value | p value adj | df adj |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sand | -0.087 | 0.489 | 0.529 | 41.42 |
| Clay | 0.185 | 0.139 | 0.193 | 38.70 |
| Silt | -0.060 | 0.633 | 0.696 | 33.65 |
| Soil depth | -0.232 | 0.218 | 0.199 | 54.43 |
| Soil structure | -0.295 | 0.145 | 0.305 | 25.00 |
| Topography | 0.047 | 0.186 | 0.244 | 38.90 |
| Anoxic | -0.071 | 0.117 | 0.114 | 50.62 |
| $\Pi_{1}$ | -0.110 | 0.614 | 0.671 | 35.66 |
| $\Pi_{2}$ | -0.164 | 0.287 | 0.376 | 34.76 |
| Temperature | -0.051 | 0.194 | 0.196 | 49.34 |
| Precipitation | 0.370 | <0.001 | 0.114 | 12.00 |
| Dry s. min. precip | 0.333 | 0.013 | 0.131 | 18.73 |
| \# month <20\% AWC | 0.318 | <0.001 | 0.046 | 15.61 |
| pH | -0.113 | 0.272 | 0.205 | 66.29 |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {TE }}$ | -0.199 | 0.082 | 0.155 | 33.53 |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {readily available }}$ | -0.277 | 0.141 | 0.121 | 55.37 |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {inorg }}$ | -0.196 | 0.097 | 0.150 | 37.70 |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {org }}$ | -0.174 | 0.099 | 0.186 | 32.37 |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {total }}$ | -0.017 | 0.642 | 0.694 | 35.78 |
| Nitrogen | 0.032 | 0.281 | 0.342 | 38.97 |
| Carbon | -0.025 | 0.197 | 0.321 | 29.85 |
| C:N | -0.028 | 0.787 | 0.826 | 33.46 |
| Ca | -0.116 | 0.800 | 0.606 | 204.88 |
| Mg | -0.070 | 0.984 | 0.977 | 102.28 |
| K | -0.284 | 0.046 | 0.057 | 45.84 |
| Al | 0.172 | 0.304 | 0.115 | 117.25 |
| Sum of bases | -0.108 | 0.786 | 0.604 | 181.01 |
| ECEC | -0.003 | 0.760 | 0.730 | 63.56 |

Table S2. Lowest AIC model fits for the prediction of $G_{\mathrm{B}}, S$ and $A_{\mathrm{B}}$ with and without the use of spatial filters. First column give results for the OLS regression, with the second column giving results for the OLS + SEVM-1 (in brackets) and results for SEVM-1 in bold. Third column show results for OLS+SEVM-2 (in brackets) and SEVM- 2 in bold. The fourth column shows results for OLS+SEVM-3. The upper line gives first the standardized coefficients $(\beta)$ and their level of significance ( $p$ ). Regression models where no filters or predictors have been selected are denoted with a "--- ".

| $\boldsymbol{G}_{\mathrm{B}}$ model | OLS |  | SEVM-1 |  | SEVM-2 |  | SEVM-3 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\beta$ | $p$ | $\beta$ | $p$ | $\beta$ | $p$ | $\beta$ | $p$ |
| $\left.\log ^{\text {P }}\right\|_{\mathrm{T}}$ | 0.432 | $<0.001$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.288) \\ 0.337 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.035) \\ \mathbf{0 . 0 0 3} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.262) \\ 0.315 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.040) \\ \mathbf{0 . 0 0 3} \end{gathered}$ | 0.432 | <0.001 |
| $\mathrm{T}_{\text {A }}$ | -0.252 | 0.022 | $(-0.180)$ | $(0.227)$ | $(-0.162)$ | (0.210) | -0.252 | 0.022 |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {A }}$ | 0.375 | 0.002 | $(-0.035)$ | (0.838) | (0.224) | (0.063) | 0.375 | 0.002 |
| $\Pi_{1}$ | 0.215 | 0.077 | $\begin{gathered} (0.077) \\ 0.519 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.678) \\ 0.014 \end{gathered}$ | (0.144) | (0.226) | 0.215 | 0.077 |
| Ra | -- | -- | -- | -- | $-0.298$ | $0.004$ | -- | -- |
| Filter 1 | -- | -- | $\begin{gathered} (0.311) \\ 0.268 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline(0.098) \\ \mathbf{0 . 1 9 8} \end{gathered}$ | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Filter 2 | -- | -- | $\begin{gathered} (0.014) \\ 0.011 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (0.923) \\ & <0.001 \end{aligned}$ | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Filter 3 | -- | -- | $\begin{aligned} & (-0.336) \\ & -0.456 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (0.013) \\ & <0.001 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} (-0.323) \\ -0.450 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (0.015) \\ & <0.001 \end{aligned}$ | -- | -- |
| Filter 4 | -- | -- | $\begin{gathered} (0.285) \\ 0.235 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.015) \\ 0.635 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.215) \\ 0.175 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.034) \\ 0.057 \end{gathered}$ | -- | -- |
| Filter 5 | -- | -- | $\begin{aligned} & (-0.264) \\ & -0.229 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.023) \\ 0.014 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (-0.170) \\ -0.355 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (0.108) \\ & <0.001 \end{aligned}$ | -- | -- |
| Filter 6 | -- | -- | $\begin{gathered} (-0.121) \\ -0.159 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.195) \\ 0.788 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| AIC |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


| $\boldsymbol{S}$ model | OLS |  | SEVM-1 |  | SEVM-2 |  | SEVM-3 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\beta$ | $p$ | $\beta$ | $p$ | $\beta$ | $p$ | $\beta$ | $p$ |
| $\Pi_{1}$ | -- | -- | -- | -- | $-0.045$ | $0.790$ | -- | -- |
| Log[Cale | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| $\log [\mathrm{K}]_{\text {e }}$ | -0.584 | <0.001 | $\begin{array}{r} -0.406 \\ (0.519) \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.005 \\ (0.005) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.555) \\ 0.379 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (<0.001) \\ 0.011 \end{gathered}$ | -0.584 | <0.001 |
| Log $[\mathrm{Mg}]_{\mathrm{e}}$ | -0.494 | 0.002 | $\begin{gathered} (-0.393) \\ 0.411 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.039) \\ 0.011 \end{gathered}$ | (-0.438) | (0.012) | -0.494 | 0.002 |
| $\underline{\log [\mathrm{P}} \mathrm{l}_{\text {a }}$ | -0.322 | 0.024 | $(-0.280)$ | (0.132) | $\begin{gathered} (-0.340) \\ -0.421 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.024) \\ 0.011 \end{gathered}$ | -0.322 | 0.024 |
| $\mathrm{T}_{\text {A }}$ | -0.330 | 0.004 | $(-0.214)$ | (0.200) | $(-0.306)$ | $(0.033)$ | -0.330 | 0.004 |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{D}}$ | 0.364 | $<0.001$ | $\begin{gathered} (1.006) \\ 1.718 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (0.090) \\ & <0.001 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.393) \\ 0.628 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.214) \\ 0.023 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 0.364 | <0.001 |
| Filter 1 | -- | -- | $\begin{aligned} & (0.584) \\ & 1.142 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.249) \\ 0.007 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.070) \\ 0.258 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.809) \\ 0.339 \end{gathered}$ | -- | -- |
| Filter 2 | -- | -- | $\begin{gathered} (0.078) \\ 0.085 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.530) \\ 0.494 \end{gathered}$ | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Filter 3 | -- | -- | $\begin{aligned} & (-0.256) \\ & -0.507 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.210) \\ 0.006 \end{gathered}$ | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Filter 4 | -- | -- | $\begin{gathered} (0.066) \\ 0.189 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.675) \\ 0.157 \end{gathered}$ | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Filter 5 | -- | -- | $\begin{aligned} & (-0.092) \\ & -0.226 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.611) \\ 0.186 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.059) \\ 0.047 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.651) \\ 0.733 \end{gathered}$ | -- | -- |
| Filter 6 | -- | -- | $\begin{gathered} (-0.009) \\ \mathbf{0 . 0 1 5} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.939) \\ 0.895 \end{gathered}$ | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Filter 7 | -- | -- | $\begin{gathered} (-0.005) \\ \mathbf{0 . 0 1 3} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.963) \\ 0.911 \end{gathered}$ | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Filter 8 | -- | -- | $\begin{aligned} & (-0.047) \\ & -0.227 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.792) \\ 0.150 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.091) \\ 0.138 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.507) \\ 0.283 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | -- | -- |
| AIC |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


|  | OLS |  | SEVM-1 |  | SEVM-2 |  | SEVM-3 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\boldsymbol{A}_{\text {B }}$ model | $\beta$ | $p$ | $\beta$ | $p$ | $\beta$ | $p$ | $\beta$ | $p$ |
| $\log [\mathrm{P}]_{\mathrm{T}}$ | 0.493 | <0.001 | (0.265) | (0.141) | (0.268) | (0.066) | 0.404 | 0.005 |
|  |  |  | -- | -- | 0.305 | 0.031 |  |  |
| $\log [\mathrm{K}]_{\text {e }}$ | -0.334 | 0.019 | (-0.215) | (0.138) | (-0.206) | (0.131) | -0.336 | 0.014 |
|  |  |  | -- | -- | -- | -- |  |  |
| $\Pi_{2}$ | -0.424 | 0.006 | (-0.008) | (0.970) | (-0.057) | (0.760) | -0.383 | 0.011 |
|  |  |  | -- | -- | -- | -- |  |  |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {A }}$ | 0.650 | $<0.001$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.560) \\ \mathbf{0 . 5 1 9} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.010) \\ \mathbf{0 . 0 1 4} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (0.450) \\ \mathbf{0 . 3 9 9} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (<0.001) \\ <0.001 \end{gathered}$ | 0.575 | $<0.001$ |
| $\mathrm{T}_{\text {A }}$ | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|  |  |  |  |  | -0.194 | 0.083 |  |  |
| $\Sigma_{\text {B }}$ | -- | -- | -- | -- | $-0-\overline{2}$ |  | -- | -- |
| $\Pi_{1}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | -- | -- | $0.256$ | $0.109$ | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Filter 1 | -- | -- | (0.117) | (0.559) | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|  |  |  | 0.245 | 0.198 |  |  |  |  |
| Filter 2 | -- | -- | (0.360) | (0.030) | (0.320) | (0.028) | -- | -- |
|  |  |  | 0.556 | <0.001 | 0.373 | <0.001 |  |  |
| Filter 3 | -- | -- | (-0.287) | (0.029) | (-0.290) | (0.022) | -- | -- |
|  |  |  | -0.395 | <0.001 | -0.384 | <0.001 |  |  |
| Filter 4 | -- | -- | (0.077) | (0.582) | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|  |  |  | 0.063 | 0.635 |  |  |  |  |
| Filter 5 | -- | -- | (0.239) | (0.041) | (0.262) | (0.015) | 0.254 | 0.026 |
|  |  |  | 0.272 | 0.014 | 0.271 | 0.010 |  |  |
| Filter 8 | -- | -- | $(-0.023)$ | (0.835) | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|  |  |  | $0.027$ | 0.788 |  |  |  |  |
| AIC |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Edaphic and climatic controls on stem density

Correlations between environmental factors and $S$ are shown on Table S 3 . Similar to $A_{\mathrm{B}}$, bivariate plots of soil fertility parameters show little capacity to explain variations in $S$ (Fig S8). Most fertility parameters did not resulted significantly correlated to $S$, exception being exchangeable Ca and Mg as well as the sum of bases, which showed weak but significant correlations ( $\rho-0.119,-0.112$ and 0.085 , respectively). There is however a tendency to soil fertility to be negatively correlated to $S$. If carefully observed, $S$ is negatively correlated to total extractable $\mathrm{P},[\mathrm{P}]_{\mathrm{T}}$, exchangeable $\mathrm{Ca}, \mathrm{Mg}, \mathrm{K}$ and sum of bases in most study sites, with the exception being a small group of plots, all occurring on very weathered soils (mostly Ferralsols, Arenosols and some Acrisols) which show different behaviour from the remaining areas. The different behaviour of these sites on highly weathered soils may be related to the predominance of slow growth strategy which selects fewer and bigger trees. We also observe that study sites with very high $S$ were often associated to extremely poor soils such as Podzols. Also of note is that all forests in our dataset had $S$ above 450 trees ha ${ }^{-1}$ which is the minimum $S$ associated to Amazonian forests in our dataset. Only one study site had $S$ below that level ( 389 trees $\mathrm{ha}^{-1}$ ) with this associated to a bamboo dominated forest over an extremely restrictive soil with regard to physical limitation.

No soil physical parameter result significantly correlated with $S$ (Table S3). Despite of no significant correlation there are however interesting non-linear relationships with soil depth, soil structure and anoxic scores (Fig. S9). $S$ seems to increase along with constraining soil conditions (i.e. increasing scores), but once soils become physically very restrictive (scores 3 and 4) then $S$ decreases. Similar relationship also occurs for $\Pi_{2}$.

The strongest relationships for $S$ occur with climate (Table S3, Fig. S10). There is a strong linear relationship between $S$ and precipitation ( $\rho 0.332 p=0.002$ ) and dry season precipitation ( $\rho 0.389$ $p<0.001)$. The number of months in which available water content was modelled to reached values below $20 \%$ was also negatively correlated to $S(\rho-0.244 p=0.034)$, all these suggesting that water availability may be critical to determine the maximum number of trees that may occur on a given area.

The best OLS model fit for $S$ included readily available $\mathrm{P}\left([\mathrm{P}]_{\mathrm{a}}\right),[\mathrm{Mg}]_{\mathrm{E}},[\mathrm{K}]_{\mathrm{E}}, \mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}$ and $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{D}}$ as predictors (Table. S2). The regression model resulted highly significant ( $\mathrm{p}<0.001$ ), explaining about to $42 \%$ of variation in $S$. All predictors turned out significant $(p=0.024, p=0.002, p<0.001, p=0.004$ and $\mathrm{p}<0.001$, respectively). Only one valid alternative model could be selected within the $\Delta \mathrm{AIC}<2$ interval, with this having an $\triangle \mathrm{AIC}$ of 0.970 . This model included $[\mathrm{P}]_{\mathrm{a}},[\mathrm{Ca}]_{\mathrm{E}},[\mathrm{K}]_{\mathrm{E}}, \mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}$ and $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{A}}$ as predictors, all of which attained similar levels of significance.

Model selection including the SEVM-1 filters resulted in $[\mathrm{Ca}]_{\mathrm{E}},[\mathrm{Mg}]_{\mathrm{E}}$ and $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{D}}$ as predictors to $S$, along with eight eigenvector filters. All variable resulted significant $(p=0.005, p=0.011$ and $p<0.001$,
respectively). However, the inclusion of SEVM-1 filters into the OLS model resulted in $[\mathrm{P}]$ a and $T A$ as not significant, while $[\mathrm{Mg}]_{\mathrm{E}},[\mathrm{K}]_{\mathrm{E}}$ retained their significance and $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{D}}$ resumed as $p=0.090$.

The inclusion of SEVM-2 filters into model selection resulted in $\Pi_{1},\left([\mathrm{P}]_{\mathrm{a}}\right),[\mathrm{K}]_{\mathrm{E}}$ and $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{D}}$ with all but $\Pi_{1}$ being significant in that model ( $p=0.790, p=0.011, p=0.011$ and $p=0.023$, respectively). The addition of SEVM-2 filters into the OLS regression also resulted in $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{D}}$ as not significant ( $\mathrm{p}=0.214$ ) but with all other variables resuming significant. No SEVM-3 filter has been selected for $S$.

Our results suggest that both precipitation and soil fertility may drive variations in number of stems.










| $\nabla$ | Arenosols | $\square$ | Acrisols | $\Delta$ | Plinthosols | $\circ$ | Cambisols |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: | :--- |
| $\nabla$ | Podzols | $\Delta$ | Lixisols | $\circ$ | Alisols | $\square$ | Fluvisols |
| $\square$ | Ferralsols | $\bullet$ | Nitisols | $\square$ | Umbrisols | $\circ$ | Gleysols |

Figure S8. Relationships between stem density and different soil fertility parameters







|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\nabla$ | $\square$ | Ferralsols | $\Delta$ | Lixisols | $\Delta$ | Plinthosols | $\square$ | Umbrisols | $\square$ | Fluvisols | + | Leptosols |
| Podzols | $\square$ | Acrisols | $\bullet$ | Nitisols | $\circ$ | Alisols | $\circ$ | Cambisols | $\circ$ | Gleysols |  |  |

Figure S9. Relationships between stem density and soil physical properties





| $\nabla$ | Arenosols | $\square$ | Acrisols | $\Delta$ | Plinthosols | $\circ$ | Cambisols | + |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\nabla$ | Podzoptosols |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\nabla$ | $\Delta$ | Lixisols | $\circ$ | Alisols | $\square$ | Fluvisols |  |  |
|  | Ferralsols | $\bullet$ | Nitisols | $\square$ | Umbrisols | $\circ$ | Gleysols |  |

Figure S10. Relationships between stem density and climatic factors

Table S3 Spearman correlations between the number of stems per hectare and different predictors, adjusted for spatial autocorrelation by Dutillieul's method (Dutillieul, 1993).

| Variable | Spearman rho | p value | p value adj | df adj |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sand | -0.008 | 0.511 | 0.581 | 41.03 |
| Clay | 0.123 | 0.809 | 0.829 | 46.25 |
| Silt | -0.014 | 0.411 | 0.467 | 45.54 |
| Soil depth | 0.075 | 0.529 | 0.523 | 59.81 |
| Soil structure | 0.001 | 0.613 | 0.663 | 43.15 |
| Topography | 0.162 | 0.162 | 0.261 | 39.85 |
| Anoxic | -0.007 | 0.544 | 0.565 | 52.20 |
| $\Pi_{1}$ | 0.108 | 0.577 | 0.639 | 41.07 |
| $\Pi_{2}$ | 0.101 | 0.795 | 0.832 | 38.74 |
| Temperature | -0.104 | 0.075 | 0.098 | 50.03 |
| Precipitation | 0.332 | 0.002 | 0.045 | 23.91 |
| Dry s. min. precip | 0.389 | <0.001 | 0.027 | 22.38 |
| \# month <20\% AWC | -0.244 | 0.034 | 0.169 | 24.70 |
| pH | -0.053 | 0.214 | 0.301 | 40.28 |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {TE }}$ | -0.078 | 0.139 | 0.260 | 33.75 |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {readily available }}$ | -0.127 | 0.187 | 0.308 | 34.82 |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {inorg }}$ | -0.153 | 0.079 | 0.141 | 40.96 |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {org }}$ | -0.043 | 0.258 | 0.407 | 31.36 |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {total }}$ | -0.124 | 0.139 | 0.214 | 40.99 |
| Nitrogen | 0.021 | 0.590 | 0.667 | 37.28 |
| Carbon | 0.062 | 0.982 | 0.985 | 41.41 |
| C:N | 0.011 | 0.069 | 0.113 | 44.25 |
| Ca | -0.119 | 0.038 | 0.096 | 37.39 |
| Mg | -0.112 | 0.069 | 0.109 | 45.03 |
| K | 0.144 | 0.580 | 0.632 | 43.54 |
| Al | 0.311 | 0.248 | 0.350 | 38.14 |
| Sum of bases | -0.085 | 0.043 | 0.100 | 38.48 |
| ECEC | -0.007 | 0.128 | 0.185 | 44.13 |



Fig. S11. Spatial autocorrelation levels (Moran's I) for the most important environmental predictors in this study.

