



Soils of the Albertine Rift Valley, Western Uganda

Context:

The Albertine Rift region of western Uganda has an exceptional diversity of soil types due to the recent tectonic and volcanic activity linked to rifting processes. In addition to 'typical', highly weathered red tropical soils (Ferralsols), we have observed within a small area young soils developed on recent sediments (Cambisols), soils developed from volcanic products (Andosols) as well as soils developed on weathering end-products and consisting almost exclusively of iron and aluminum oxides (Plinthosols). This pedodiversity and its consequences for soil fertility is thus far undocumented.

Goals:

The objective of this project is to compile existing data, fill knowledge gap with new analyses, and attain a global understanding of relationships between geological processes, pedogenesis and soil fertility in the tectonically active wet tropics. It is expected that this synthesis effort will result in a high-profile scientific publication.

Knowledge and skill required:

Interest in tropical pedology.
 Good organisation skills, ability to engage with a complex dataset.
 Quantitative literacy.
 Enthusiasm for soil lab analyses.
 Reasonable proficiency with written English.
 Willingness to participate in the scientific publication process.

Working place: Géopolis

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