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Biosphere-Atmosphere Interactions in the Remote Amazon – Deposition Processes of Pollutants in the Forest during different Meteorological Seasons between 2012 and 2017

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The Central Amazon rainforest is characterized by a wetter and a drier season, caused by different atmospheric circulation patterns (on average, 350 mm precipitation in March and [U+F07E] 80 mm in September). The two seasons exhibit very different air quality conditions, varying between near pristine in March/April and frequently strongly polluted (biomass burning) between August and November. The Amazon Tall Tower Observatory (ATTO) site is equipped with several towers (325 m walkup, 80 m walkup, 80 m mast), enabling short and long-term studies on forest-atmosphere interactions. Since April 2012 vertical profiles of H₂O, CO₂ and O₃ mixing ratios are continuously measured between 0.05 m and 80 m within and above the forest.

Further quantities such as aerosol loads, black carbon, CO and during several intensive measurement campaigns also NO_x were measured. In combination with back trajectories these long-term measurements help to quantify terrestrial sources and sinks of pollution in this part of the Amazon. To further study the exchange of compounds like O_3 and NO_x for this forest ecosystem, fluxes and deposition velocities were derived for selected compounds. This was achieved applying the aerodynamic gradient method to infer O_3 and NO_x -exchange fluxes. Eddy covariance measurements of CO_2 and H_2O fluxes were used to infer the stomatal conductance to differentiate between stomatal and nonstomatal deposition pathways. Besides seasonal patterns, the Amazon region is strongly affected by inter-annual atmospheric variations due to El Niño and La Niña events leading to shifts in temperature and precipitation regimes. In 2015-16 the strongest El Niño within the last 60 years has taken place, followed by a moderate La Niña in 2017. Due to the continuous data record of almost six years, we can evaluate the effects of these different phenomena on air quality.

These inferred O_3 and NO_x atmosphere-biosphere fluxes have been further evaluated regarding the role of the stomatal and non-stomatal deposition pathways as well as in-canopy chemical interactions using a multilayer canopy exchange modelling system.