

Long-term dynamics of cocoa agroforestry systems established on lands previously occupied by savannah or forests

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1	Long-term dynamics of cocoa agroforestry systems established on lands previously occupied by
2	savannah or forests
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18 Abstract

19 Cocoa agroforestry systems (cAFS) in Central Cameroon are established on lands which were either 20 forest or savannah. The functioning and ecosystem services (ES) delivery of an agroecosystem can be 21 influenced by past land-use. We hypothesised that savannah-derived cocoa agroforestry systems (S-22 cAFS) and forest-derived cocoa agroforestry systems (F-cAFS) would (i) progressively drift away from 23 past land-use, and (ii) eventually converge and support comparable levels of ecosystem services. We 24 selected 25 ecosystem attributes directly related to at least one of the following six ecosystem 25 (dis)services (ES): species conservation, carbon storage, crop production, nutrient cycling, soil quality 26 and soil pollution. We followed their temporal evolution in S- and F-cAFS along >70-year 27 chronosequences. Our results showed that the attributes and services studied followed typical 28 temporal trajectories in S- and F-cAFS while generally tending to reach comparable levels on the long 29 run. However, the time needed to do so varied strongly and ranged from 20-30 years for perennial 30 species diversity to more than 70 years for C storage or some components of soil quality. The results 31 also demonstrated that S-cAFS could sustainably improve many of the studied attributes and ES. 32 Regarding the attributes related to the cocoa stand, both S- and F-cAFS seemed influenced by their 33 previous land-use up until 15 and 30 years, respectively, after their establishment. With respect to 34 soil quality, nutrient cycling and carbon storage, only S-cAFS could be significantly distinguished from 35 their past land-use, after 15 to 30 years.

36

Keywords: afforestation; ecosystem service; land-use legacies; litterfall; plant diversity; soil quality;
 Theobroma cacao.

40 **1. Introduction**

41 Ecosystem services and underlying functions depend on both current ecosystem ecological attributes 42 and historical legacies. Disturbances, natural or anthropogenic, can lead to long-term fluctuations in 43 ecosystem structure and functioning. The frequency, type, size, timing and intensity of a disturbance 44 determines its impact which could eventually lead to land-use change (Chapin et al., 2011). In 45 general, the impact of human interference, for example in the form of agricultural activities, is larger 46 than that of natural events (Foster et al., 2003). All organic components, above- and below- ground, 47 seem to be highly influenced by past land-use (Bellemare et al., 2002; Jangid et al., 2011; Perring et 48 al., 2016). Such legacies are demonstrated for an array of ecosystem attributes such as nutrient cycling (Dupouey et al., 2002), carbon storage (Freschet et al., 2014), soil microbial community and 49 50 heterotrophic respiration (Kallenbach and Stuart Grandy, 2015). Yet, land-use legacies might be 51 overruled if current disturbances are strong and long enough, ultimately leading to novel ecosystems 52 (Hobbs et al., 2006). 53 Agricultural systems can be established from contrasting ecosystems. The conversion of a tropical 54 forest into an agricultural suitable environment is mainly achieved by slash-and-burn technics, which 55 are very similar all over the world (Nepstad et al., 1999; Achard et al., 2002; Palm et al., 2005). 56 Tropical grasslands are also used for agricultural purposes after vegetation burning (Kugbe et al., 57 2012). Over the last century, half of the tropical grasslands and savannahs had been converted to

58 agricultural land (UNDP, 2005). Often, the same crops are grown on differing past land-uses. This is

59 the case of cocoa agroforestry systems (cAFS) from the forest–savannah transition zone of Central

60 Cameroon which are either created on forest or on savannah land (Jagoret et al., 2012). In the forest-

61 derived cAFS (F-cAFS), farmers operate a selective clearing of forest trees for the provision of shade

along with food and/or additional income (Jagoret et al., 2014; Saj et al., 2017a). In the savannah-

63 derived cAFS (S-cAFS), farmers use specific techniques to build up a tree canopy (Jagoret *et al.*, 2012).

64 Central Cameroon farmers' practices are known to drive cAFS' structure, tree species composition

and biomass on the long run (Jagoret *et al.*, 2012; Saj *et al.*, 2017a; Jagoret *et al.*, 2018a).

66 Interestingly, full-grown S-cAFS and F-cAFS seem to exhibit comparable multi-strata structure, cocoa

67 yields and C storage abilities despite differing previous land-use and *a fortiori* differing legacies

68 (Jagoret *et al.*, 2012; Saj *et al.*, 2013; Nijmeijer *et al.*, 2018).

69 Land-use change from savannah or forest into cAFS probably affects both above- and below- ground 70 ecosystem functioning and related services. For instance, conversion of forest into cAFS was shown 71 to alter litter inputs and soil properties, putatively altering nutrient cycling (Beer et al., 1998; Schroth 72 et al., 2001; Hartemink, 2005; Adeniyi et al., 2017). Similarly, transitioning from savannah to another 73 (agro or eco)system or vice-versa was shown to alter both litter inputs and soil properties (Don et al., 74 2011; Nouvellon et al., 2012; Sugihara et al., 2014). In this paper we explored the long-term legacies of past land-use in F- and S-cAFS from Central Cameroon. 75 76 First, we hypothesised that S- and F- cAFS ecosystem attributes were likely to progressively drift 77 away from those of their initial ecosystem. We expected that the timespan needed to observe 78 significant changes would depend both on the previous land-use (PLU) and the considered ecosystem

attribute. Secondly, we hypothesised that the magnitude and the direction of the temporal

80 evolution, hereafter called trajectories, of some ecosystem attributes were to differ between S- and

81 F-cAFS. We expected these differential trajectories to attain comparable levels for some of the

82 studied attributes. We tested both hypotheses using a selected number of attributes in cAFS, whose

83 levels were studied through decade-long chronosequences. On the one hand, we focused on S-cAFS

84 trajectories and their PLU, savannah, and on the other hand, we studied F-cAFS trajectories and their

85 PLU, forest. Each of the 25 ecosystem attributes studied (plant biomass, production, litter production)

and storage, soil organic matter and nutrient contents and associated perennials diversity...) relates

directly to at least one of the following six (dis)services: species conservation, carbon storage, crop

88 production, nutrient cycling, soil quality and soil pollution.

89

90 2. Material and methods

91 <u>2.1. Site characteristics and sampled plots</u>

92 The study was carried out in the district of Bokito, in the villages Bakoa and Guéfigué (4°30 latitude N and 11°10 longitude E), located in a forest-savannah transition zone in Central Cameroon. The 93 landscape consists of hills with gentle slopes at an altitude between 400 and 550 m a.s.l. and is 94 characterised by a patchwork of forests, agroforests and herbaceous savannahs (Jagoret et al., 2012). 95 96 Annual rainfall ranges from 1300 to 1400 mm with a main dry season lasting from mid-November to 97 the beginning of March (Jagoret et al., 2012). The region is dominated by desaturated ferralitic soils 98 (Elangwe, 1979). Here the cocoa plantations consist mainly of decade-old diversified agroforestry 99 systems (cAFS) containing many associated trees (Sonwa et al., 2007; Jagoret et al., 2011; Saj et al., 100 2013). We selected 16 plots of cAFS created on savannah (S-cAFS) and 16 plots created on secondary 101 forest (F-cAFS) whose age was distributed along a gradient from 1 (farmers just started the planting 102 process of cocoa) to over 70 years old. Besides, five control plots of each past land-use (savannah 103 and forest) were selected for comparison with the S- and F-cAFS. Savannahs in the area are annually 104 burned and periodically cultivated, therefore we chose plots where no agricultural activity could be 105 noticed for the last seven years, as savannah controls. The forest patches are degraded compared to 106 other secondary forests that can be found in the region (Saj et al., 2017a). Plot size was of 40 m x 60 107 m (2400 m²), each containing a subplot of 20 m x 40 m (800 m²; see below and Nijmeijer *et al.*, 2018).

108 <u>2.2. Ecosystem attributes</u>

109 <u>2.2.1. Conservation</u>

110 A floristic survey enabled us to compute two attributes which relate to species conservation, ie. 111 perennial species richness and diversity. We also computed species rarefaction curves. We surveyed 112 all the perennial plants found in the studied systems including both typical trees and "tree-like" 113 perennials, i.e.: cocoa, associated trees, palms and bananas. All the perennials with a diameter at breast height (DBH) over 30 cm were surveyed in 2400 m² plots. Those with a DBH between 5 and 30 114 cm were surveyed in 800 m² subplots within the 2400 m² area already selected. Height, DBH and 115 116 species were recorded as described in Nijmeijer et al. (2018). When the DBH couldn't be measured, 117 we followed the recommendations from Weyerhaeuser and Tennigkeit (2000) to indirectly estimate

118 it. In total, we counted 3036 cocoa trees and 670 associated perennials in the cAFS studied. In the 119 forest and savannah control plots, we identified 304 and 92 perennials, respectively. Associated 120 perennials were classified according to their species: (i) native species from the African continent and 121 (ii) exotic species introduced from other continents. Among all the individuals counted in cAFS, forest 122 and savannah plots, 88.4 % could be identified at the species level. The number of individuals per 123 species in the plots were extrapolated to number of individuals per species per hectare. Abundance 124 and diversity data of associated perennials were used to calculate species richness using Shannon-125 Wiener and Sørensen indices (Peet, 1974; Magurran, 2004).

126 <u>2.2.2. Carbon storage</u>

Using the above-cited survey we calculated the total biomass of large associated trees (DBH > 30 cm)
and the biomass of cocoa trees, two attributes directly relating to carbon storage (Saj *et al;*, 2013).
Aboveground biomass (AGB) of associated trees was estimated after Chave *et al.* (2014). Their
belowground biomass (BGB) was estimated after (Cairns *et al.*, 1997). The biomass of each tree was
then calculated as the sum of AGB and BGB.

132 <u>2.2.3. Crop production</u>

133 Five attributes related to crop production were computed using the above-cited floristic survey and 134 cocoa pod production counts, namely: cocoa tree stand density and basal area, cocoa tree basal area 135 share (CTBAS), accessible cocoa yield and banana stem density. CTBAS was calculated as: [basal area 136 of cocoa trees (at 1.30m height) : basal area of whole stand] (Saj et al. (2017b). Cocoa pod 137 production and subsequent yield in cocoa beans were estimated for three consecutive production cycles in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Pods with a length > 10 cm were counted four to five times during the 138 139 year (April, June, August, October and December) to get most of the annual production cycle. Such a 140 count indicates the maximum number of pods per plot that can be produced and physiologically 141 reach maturity within a production cycle. This has been defined as the "accessible" production of 142 pods from which we can then derive the "accessible" yield in cocoa beans used in this study with 143 calculations described in Saj et al. (2017b).

144 <u>2.2.4. Nutrient cycling</u>

145 Six attributes related to nutrient cycling were computed, namely: annual leaf and total litterfalls, leaf 146 and total standing litters, leaf litter and total litter cycling indicators. Litterfall was monitored from 147 November 2015 to October 2016. Three 0.5 m² collectors were randomly placed within the 2400 m² 148 area of each plot, and once a month their positions were changed to account for spatial variability 149 (12 different positions for each collector during the study; Schroth, 2003). They were emptied every 150 two weeks (111 collections in total). Once collected, the litter was air-dried and sorted to distinguish 151 leaf litter from total (ie. leaf + branches + reproductive organs) litter. Subsamples were then dried at 152 60 °C for 72 hours and weighed for dry matter content calculation. Standing litter was measured at the end of the rainy season (October 2016), when decomposition started to slow down due to 153 154 seasonal climate transition. In each plot, litter was collected in four randomly distributed 1 m^2 quadrants for fresh weight measurement. Litters from a 0.0625 m² (25 x 25 cm) sub-quadrant were 155 156 then dried at 60 °C for 72 hours and weighed for dry matter content calculation. These subsamples 157 were also sorted to distinguish leaf litterfall from total (ie. leaf + branches + reproductive organs) 158 litterfall. Standing litter and litterfall were not measured in the savannah control plots due to the 159 very low density of perennials in these plots. Two indicators of litter decomposition were calculated 160 after Tripathi and Singh (1994): (i) one including all the organs constituting the litter (leaves, 161 branches and reproductive organs), which we called "total litter cycling": [total litterfall : (total 162 litterfall + total standing litter)]; (ii) one including only leaves, hereafter called "leaf litter cycling": 163 [leaf litterfall : (leaf litterfall + leaf standing litter)].

164 **2.2.5. Soil quality and contamination**

Ten attributes related to soil quality and possible contamination by pesticide-driven Cu were
computed, namely: pH, organic carbon (C), total N, C:N, Inorganic P, exchangeable K, cation exchange
capacity, as well as exchangeable Ca, Mg and Cu. A composite soil sample of 0-15 cm depth was built
from eight subsamples (each of 135 cm³) systematically distributed in each 800 m² subplot after
brushing off the litter layer. Particle size distribution and soil chemical composition and particle size

170 distribution were determined by the IITA soil laboratory in Yaoundé (November 2016; www.iita.org). 171 Soils were air-dried and sieved at 2 mm. Particle size distribution (three fractions) of sieved soil 172 samples (0-2mm) was estimated after Bouyoucos (1951); pH in water was determined in a 1:2.5 173 (10w:v) soil:water suspension. To determine soil organic C (SOC), soils were further ground to reach a 174 particle size \leq 0.5 mm before proceeding to chromic acid digestion and spectrophotometric analysis 175 (Heanes, 1984). Total nitrogen (N) was determined from a wet acid digest (Buondonno et al., 1995) 176 and analyzed by colorimetry (Anderson and Ingram, 1993). Inorganic phosphorus (P) was extracted 177 using Bray 1 extractant and analyzed using the molybdate blue procedure (Murphy and Riley, 1962). 178 Exchangeable cations (calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), potassium (K)) were extracted by ammonium 179 acetate at pH 7 and analyzed by flame atomic absorption spectrophotometry (David, 1960). 180 Exchangeable copper (Cu) was extracted using the Mehlich-3 procedure and determined by atomic 181 absorption spectrophotometry (Mehlich, 1984).

182 <u>2.3. Chronosequence validation</u>

183 We defined four cAFS age categories [0-14], [15-30], [31-50] and [>50] years to represent the 184 different temporal stages of cAFS while trying to balance the number of plots per category. Yet we 185 noticed a significant soil clay content heterogeneity among the plots sampled (Nijmeijer et al., 2018) 186 which challenged the validity of the chronosequence (Pickett, 1989). To take into account a putative 187 soil texture effect, a preliminary ANCOVA, including age categories, past land-use and soil clay 188 content as a covariate, was run on the whole set of cAFS. It showed that the soil clay content still 189 significantly impacted - and interacted with – cAFS age and/or previous land-use on numerous 190 ecosystem attributes (data not shown). This was probably due to the fact that most of the S-cAFS in 191 the sampled region were located at the foot of gentle slopes while F-cAFS were located slightly 192 higher (Nijmeijer, 2017). Consequently, we split the studied plots into two according to their clay 193 content: a group with low clay content soils (LCCS; containing between 9.8 to 16.2 % of clay), a group 194 with high clay content soils (HCCS; containing more than 19.6 % of clay). The number of F-cAFS plots 195 in the LCCS group and the number of S-cAFS plots in the HCCS group were too low to establish

chronosequences. Hence, we ended up studying a S-cAFS chronosequence on LCCS, and a F-cAFS
chronosequence on HCCS. The LCCS group was comprised of 20 plots (n S-AFS = 11, n savannah
controls = 3, n F-cAFS = 3, n forest controls = 3). The HCCS group contained 18 plots (n S-AFS = 4, n
savannah controls = 2, n F-cAFS = 10, n forest controls = 2). We further used ANOVAs to check,
separately for each soil clay content group, that cAFS age categories did not differ in soil clay content.
Appendix 1 shows the mean values resulting from ANOVA and post-hoc (SNK) of the 25 studied

attributes for the 4 land-use types regardless of plot age and soil texture (42 plots in total).

203 <u>2.4. Data analyses</u>

204 We performed all statistical analyses for the LCCS and HCCS groups separately. Two principal 205 component analyses (PCA) followed by a Varimax rotation were performed on the whole set of ecosystem attributes studied to estimate cAFS plot positions in multivariate space of ecosystem 206 207 attributes and identify major axes of variations. The scores of each S- or F-cAFS plot on the two axes 208 of the PCA were then extracted and, for each axis, one-way ANOVAs with post-hoc SNK tests were 209 run to determine which age categories significantly differed from their respective control (ie. past 210 land-use). Each of the 25 ecosystem attributes (Tab 1) studied were then tested separately to check 211 for differences between age categories and control plots with one-way ANOVAs followed by SNK as 212 post-hoc (or with non-parametric Kruskal–Wallis tests followed by the Steel-Dwass-Critchlow-Fligner 213 test when variables did not exhibit homogeneity of variance). These analyses were followed by the 214 study of the temporal evolution of each attribute using linear, polynomial or logarithmic regressions 215 - choosing for each the best fitted model (RMSE). The significance of each regression was then tested 216 comparing the model's residuals against their predicted values (F-test). All statistical analyses were 217 performed using XLStat (Addinsoft, 2015) and statistical significance was set at P < 0.05. Finally, 218 (associated) perennial species rarefaction curves were computed to check for differences between 219 the four land-use types. These curves were computed using EstimateS (version 9.1.0) from Colwell 220 (2013) and their visual comparison was used to evaluate the differences between land-uses (Barlow 221 et al., 2007).

222

223 3. Results

224 <u>3.1. Principal component analyses</u>

225 The first two axes of the PCA explained 63% and 54.7% of the total variance of the two systems 226 studied i.e. S-cAFS in the low clay content soil group (LCCS) and F-cAFS in the high clay content soil 227 group (HCCS), respectively (Fig 1a,b). For both groups, the attributes related to soil quality, nutrient 228 cycling and carbon storage were the main contributors to the first axis (D1), accounting respectively 229 for 40.27% of the total variance in LCCS group and 36.58% in HCCS group. For both groups, the 230 attributes related to cocoa stands were the main contributors to the second axis (D2), accounting 231 respectively for 22.73% of the total variance in the LCCS group and 18.12% in the HCCS group (Fig 232 1a,b; Tab 1). Standing leaf litter significantly participated to the D2 of the LCCS group (Fig 1a,b; Tab 233 1). The projection of the plots from both groups clearly discriminated between forest and savannah 234 control plots while showing significant evolutions of the agroforestry systems created on savannah 235 (Fig 2a,b). Agroforestry systems established on savannah (S-cAFS), could be distinguished from 236 savannah on D1 and D2 as soon as their age reached 15-30 years (p=0.002 and p=0.01, respectively; 237 Fig 2a). Agroforestry systems established on forest lands (F-cAFS) could not be distinguished from 238 forest lands on D1 (p=0.103) but could be distinguished on D2 as soon as their age was over 30-50 239 years (p=0.016; Fig 2b).

240 <u>3.2. Ecosystem services levels and trajectories</u>

241 <u>3.2.1. Conservation</u>

S-cAFS exhibited equivalent associated perennials diversity and species richness to F-cAFS and
savannah but lower than those of forest (Tab 2a). While no significant differences in Shannon index
and species richness were observed between local forest and young F-cAFS (<30 years), mature and
old F-cAFS (more than 30 years old) exhibited lower associated perennials diversity values (Tab 2b).
Regressions showed that, around 30 years old, S-cAFS and F-cAFS reached comparable diversity
levels (Fig 3a). S-cAFS associated perennial species richness appeared constant (ca. 7.8 sp ha⁻¹) while

it decreased with time in F-cAFS reaching that of S-cAFS ca. 90-100 years after establishment (Fig 3b).

- 249 Rarefaction curves were computed for African and total (associated) perennial species identified in
- each system type (Fig 4a,b). Forested systems (forest control, F- and S-cAFS) revealed comparable
- 251 curve shapes while their levels underlined clear differences. These systems were found to exhibit
- very different species accumulation abilities than those exhibited by savannah (Fig 4 a,b).
- 253 Furthermore, the sampling effort needed in cAFS to reach forest control species richness levels
- appeared at least three times higher. S-cAFS exhibited slightly lower abilities to accumulate species
- than F-cAFS notably due to their lower associated tree abundance (Nijmeijer et al., 2018). The share
- of African individuals in S-cAFS and F-cAFS appeared close, being respectively of 44.1 and 47.6% (Fig
- 257 3 a,b). Forest control plots exhibited a fair number of exotic individuals (> 10%, Fig 4 a,b). Finally, F-
- and S-cAFS shared 29 and 19 African species with forest plots, respectively (Sørensen index: 0.68 and
- 259 0.48). S and F-cAFS shared 22 African species (Sørensen index = 0.61).

260 <u>3.2.2. Carbon storage</u>

- 261 In S-cAFS, large (DBH >30cm) associated tree and cocoa tree biomass increased with age, especially
- between [15-30] and [31-50] years old categories (Tab 2a). Large associated tree biomass did not
- 263 differ significantly between F-cAFS age categories, S-cAFS and forest plots (Tab 2b). Regressions
- showed that large associated tree biomass in S-cAFS reached about the same values (140 t ha⁻¹) as F-
- 265 cAFS ca. 70 years after establishment (Fig 3c). Regressions showed that cocoa tree biomass followed

similar trends and reached ca. 20-25 t ha⁻¹ 50 years after establishment (Fig 3d).

267 <u>3.2.3. Crop production</u>

For the attributes related to cocoa production, no significant differences were found between F-cAFS age categories and S-cAFS (Tab 2b). For S-cAFS, basal area of cocoa trees, cocoa tree basal area share (CTBAS) and accessible yield were found to increase with time, especially between [0-14] and [15-30] years old categories (Tab 2a). Regressions underlined that S-cAFS exhibited more cocoa trees during the first 20 years (> 1500 ha⁻¹) (Fig 5a). Cocoa tree density reached a maximum when S-cAFS were around 20 years old and when F-cAFS were approx. 40 to 50 years old. They then slowly decreased

and stabilised around 1000 trees ha⁻¹ for both systems (Fig 5a). Cocoa tree basal area regressions 274 followed the same trend for S-cAFS and F-cAFS up until 60-70 years of age. Afterwards, basal areas 275 276 decreased in F-cAFS (Fig 5b). Cocoa tree basal area share (CTBAS) followed the same trend in S- and F-cAFS while it appeared consistently higher in S-cAFS. After 60 years, regressions showed that CTBAS 277 reached a value of ca. 40% in S-cAFS versus ca. 30-32% in F-cAFS (Fig 5c). F-cAFS accessible yields did 278 not evolve significantly with time and showed a mean of 693 kg ha⁻¹. S-cAFS accessible yield 279 increased with time and tended to reach values of 800 kg ha⁻¹ or higher 40 years after establishment 280 281 (Fig 5d). Banana stems appeared more numerous in F-cAFS that were [15-30] years of age (Tab 2b). 282 Banana density did not however show any significant trend on the long-term (mean of 97.5 ind ha⁻¹) 283 in F-cAFS. Contrastingly, it quickly decreased after S-cAFS establishment as banana stems were then barely found in plots older than 5 years of age (Fig 5e). 284

285 <u>3.2.4. Nutrient cycling</u>

In S-cAFS, leaf litterfall increased the first 20 years after establishment and could not be distinguished 286 287 from F-cAFS and forest levels from 20-30 years onwards (Tab 2a; Fig 6a). S-cAFS total litterfall 288 increased with time but remained lower than that of local forest (Tab 2a, Fig 6d). In F-cAFS, leaf litterfall did not significantly evolve with time and showed a mean of 4.88 t year⁻¹ ha⁻¹. Total litterfall 289 290 was found lower than that of forest in old F-cAFS (> 50 years) (Tab 2b). Total litterfall increased 291 significantly until ca. 40 years in S-cAFS, time at which it reached the F-cAFS total litterfall mean (7.93 t year⁻¹ ha⁻¹; Fig 6d). No significant differences could be detected for standing litters for both S and F-292 293 cAFS (Tab 2a, b). Yet, in F-cAFS, regressions showed that leaf standing litter increased with time and could reach values close to 2 t ha⁻¹ for plots older than 80 years – a value corresponding to the mean 294 295 obtained in S-cAFS at the same age (Fig 6b). In S-cAFS, total standing litter increased marginally with time (p < 0.1) to reach equivalent amounts to those in F-cAFS already 15-20 years after establishment 296 (mean F-cAFS = 4.19 t ha⁻¹; Fig 6e). In S-cAFS, total litter cycling significantly increased and could not 297 298 be distinguished from F-CAFS or forest total litter cycling when over 30 years of age (Tab 2a). For F-299 cAFS, both litter cycling indicators decreased with time and ended up lower than forest indicators,

after 30 years for leaf cycling and 50 years for total cycling (Tab 2b). Regressions showed that both
 leaf litter and total litter cycling indicators displayed significant opposite trends between S-cAFS
 (increasing) and F-cAFS (decreasing) to eventually reach comparable values at ca. 60 years of age (Fig

303 6c,e).

304 <u>3.2.5. Soil quality and contamination</u>

305 In S-cAFS, soil pH, cation exchange capacity (CEC) as well as soil organic C, total N, exchangeable Ca 306 and Cu concentrations increased significantly with time - reaching levels comparable to F-cAFS 307 and/or local forest after 30 or 50 years. Oppositely, the C:N ratio significantly decreased with time 308 (Tab 2a). In F-cAFS, soil attributes didn't reveal much significant differences with time, inorganic P 309 was found lower after 50 years old, C:N ratio tended to increase with time while pH exhibited an 310 opposite trend (Tab 2b). Regressions showed that S-cAFS soil pH increased over time to reach that of 311 F-cAFS (ca. 6.1-6.2) 50 years after establishment (Fig 7a). No significant evolution was found for soil organic C in F-cAFS, these values had large variability (mean = 2%). Soil organic C increased 312 313 significantly in S-cAFS where the regression showed a ca. 50% increase 70 to 80 years after plot 314 establishment (Fig 7b). Regressions showed that 65-70 years after establishment, S-cAFS and F-cAFS 315 exhibited similar levels of soil total N i.e. approx. 0.13% (Fig 7c). Regressions for soil C:N ratio showed 316 an increase for F-cAFS and a steady decrease for S-cAFS - similar levels (ca. 14) being reached around 317 50-55 years after plot establishment (Fig 7d). No significant regression was found for soil 318 exchangeable P in S-cAFS, however a marginal decrease was detected in F-cAFS (mean P in S-cAFS= 4.8 ppm; Fig 7e). Regressions made on CEC were not significant in F-cAFS (mean= 7 cmol kg⁻¹) whilst a 319 320 significant increase was found in S-cAFS (Fig 7f). No significant regression was found for soil 321 exchangeable K content in S-cAFS (mean= 0.16 cmol kg⁻¹) while the decrease was significant in F-cAFS (Fig 7g). Regressions made on exchangeable Ca showed a marginal decrease in F-cAFS and a 322 significant increase in S-cAFS – similar levels (ca. 5-5.5 cmol kg⁻¹) being met around 65 years after plot 323 324 establishment (Fig 7h). Regressions showed no significant evolution for exchangeable Mg, neither in S-cAFS nor in F-cAFS (mean: S-cAFS= 1 cmol kg⁻¹; F-cAFS= 1.9 cmol kg⁻¹; Fig 7i). Finally, regressions 325

- made on soil exchangeable Cu content showed a significant increase in S-cAFS while no trend could
 be established for F-cAFS (mean = 7 ppm, Fig 7j).
- 328

329 4. Discussion

330 <u>4.1. S-cAFS and F-cAFS general trajectories</u>

331 Our results demonstrated that F- and S-cAFS underwent highly contrasting trajectories after their 332 establishment. Ecosystem attributes related to soil quality, plant diversity and nutrient cycling 333 appeared to generally converge among S-cAFS and F-cAFS along the chronosequences studied, 334 whereas attributes related to crop production varied in a more similar way. Overall our results 335 revealed that, for the pool of attributes and services studied, agroforestry systems always evolved 336 away from their past land-use state. Such differences became statistically apparent after 15 to 30 337 years for S-cAFS and after 30 to 50 years for F-cAFS. Hence, depending on attributes, past land-use 338 legacies differed in magnitude and lasted from a few years to several decades. S- and F-cAFS displayed comparable levels of most attributes after a certain timespan, as previously suggested by 339 other studies in the same region (Jagoret et al., 2012; Saj et al., 2017a; Nijmeijer et al., 2018). 340 341 However, for other attributes the temporal projections did not seem to display a stabilization phase 342 at later stages. It suggests that these attributes, after converging at intermediate time scales, may 343 keep evolving in contrasting directions for S- and F-cAFS. This could be related to the different types 344 of soils studied (Adeniyi et al., 2017) as well as farmers' differential management within a generation 345 and between generations (Jagoret et al., 2018a) - both putatively altering ecosystem's functioning. Answering this question would need further investigations on a broader array of soil types and longer 346 347 timespans. 348 4.2. Ecosystem services temporal trajectories

- 349 4.2.1. Species conservation
- 350 Our results underlined the relatively fast (ca. 20 years) convergence in terms of perennial species
- 351 diversity between S- and F-cAFS. Interestingly, S-cAFS exhibited a large number of African species.

352 This high number of native species in S-cAFS could be explained by the important gene bank (native 353 trees, seeds and seedlings) present in their soils or in that of nearby forests or agroforests. Such a 354 result also points at the active introduction, preservation or transfer of these species into S-cAFS 355 (Jagoret et al., 2018b). Interestingly, rarefaction curves highlighted the similarity of species 356 accumulation between S- and F-cAFS. Yet, despite a fair proportion of African species (over 50% of 357 associated individuals), S-cAFS demonstrated an overall lower potential of conservation since the 358 abundance of associated perennials was found lower than in F-cAFS (Nijmeijer et al., 2018). Besides, 359 some species occurred in S- or F-cAFS even they were not present in forest controls. This was the 360 case of locally consumed Cola species but also of Entandrophragma cylindricum, a commercial timber 361 species, which is currently classified 'vulnerable' in the IUCN red list (IUCN, 2018). All in all, F-cAFS 362 still exhibited a forest legacy a century after establishment whilst both S- and F-cAFS showed an 363 ability to enrich the local pool of species. Our study emphasised the important role that both 364 agroforestry systems may currently play in the region in perennial species conservation, even though 365 they do not preserve as many species as forests (De Beenhouwer et al., 2013; Mortimer et al., 2017). 366 Furthermore, since associated diversity and abundance are largely driven by the practices and uses of 367 associated flora (Jagoret et al., 2014; Saj et al., 2017a), a particular attention shall be given to old 368 systems which rejuvenation depends on farmer strategies and may eventually lead to less 369 multifunctional and simplified systems (Saj and Jagoret, 2017; Jagoret and al, 2018b).

370 <u>4.2.2. Carbon storage</u>

In terms of C storage, the land-use legacy appeared very significant in young systems and tended to disappear on the long term. While the biomass of large associated trees of S-cAFS increased steadily over decades, it decreased in F-cAFS. These results underline the ability of S-cAFS to gain in C storage with ageing, at least up to a certain point (Saj *et al.*, 2013). The results further emphasised the slow, but steady, decrease in C storage abilities in F-cAFS. In a region where old cAFS are numerous (Jagoret *et al.*, 2011), such results point to the need to include selection/management (at the species and individual level) of potentially large trees in the renewal process of these systems (Jagoret *et al.*,

- 378 2018b). Such management schemes would lead to the renewal of mature and old systems whilst
- 379 keeping good C storage abilities. However, the timespans and levels of C storage of Cameroonian
- 380 cAFS remain highly significant in comparison to other agricultural systems or cocoa monocultures
- 381 (Schroth *et al.*, 2015; Schneidewind *et al.*, 2018).
- 382 <u>4.2.3. Crop production</u>

383 The attributes chosen to indicate cocoa production abilities correspond to cocoa stands' or system 384 attributes known for their contribution to yield in the studied systems (Saj *et al.,* 2017b). The higher 385 density of cocoa trees in S-cAFS compared to F-cAFS up to 20-30 years after establishment may 386 reflect the insurance practices of local farmers which often "overseed" their S-cAFS to control 387 grasses such as Imperata cylindrica (Jagoret et al., 2012). These practices probably support successful 388 establishments since accessible yields in S-cAFS appeared overall similar or slightly higher than that 389 of F-cAFS plots. Except for very young S-cAFS, where banana stems provide beneficial shade to young 390 cocoa seedlings and temporary income/food/feed (Jagoret et al., 2012), banana stems appeared more numerous in F-cAFS than in older S-cAFS. This discrepancy could underline farmer practices 391 favouring cocoa in soils where competition for water can be harsh as the S-cAFS studied were 392 393 established on relatively sandy soils (van Vliet and Giller, 2017). It could also underline the 394 differential role S- and F-cAFS may have in the provision of co-products (Jagoret et al., 2012; Saj et 395 al., 2013). Such differentiations may be interpreted as management legacies inherited from past 396 land-use or adaptation to soil type. Furthermore, cocoa yields reached comparable levels at the 397 latest 15 years after cAFS establishment. This confirms that, despite unfavourable conditions in 398 savannah (such as low soil fertility, weed competition and almost no shade trees), afforestation is 399 clearly achievable using shaded cocoa (Jagoret et al., 2012). Finally, the constantly lower basal area 400 share of cocoa trees in F-cAFS compared to S-cAFS may be considered as a legacy from previous land 401 use (forest) as mature trees are already present at establishment. It can be hypothesised that the 402 maintenance of these trees with an already developed canopy may alter light capture on the long 403 term (Blaser et al., 2017).

404 <u>4.2.4. Nutrient cycling</u>

405 Litterfall and its subsequent decomposition are considered to be effective in the improvement and 406 conservation of soil quality and, as such, play an important role in the regulation of nutrient cycling 407 (Vitousek and Sanford, 1986; de Carvalho et al., 2014). Litterfall in S-cAFS increased steadily up to 40-408 50 years after establishment, reaching the levels of F-cAFS litterfall. In F-cAFS the forest legacy 409 maintained a leaf litterfall amount close to that of the initial forest. The litter cycling indicators 410 clearly showed an increase in S-cAFS contrasting with a decrease in F-cAFS. These indicators show 411 comparable levels around 50 years, suggesting a convergence for both S-and F-cAFS. The 412 temperature and moisture levels in forests with a closed canopy generally favour decomposition of 413 litter and could explain the lower standing litter of the forest control plots compared to the more 414 open canopy of cAFS (Prescott, 2002; Steffan-Dewenter et al., 2007). The probably drier and warmer 415 conditions in young S-cAFS, which are still lacking a closed canopy and producing mainly low quality 416 cocoa litter (Dawoe et al., 2010), could also explain the higher litter stock in young S-cAFS, despite 417 their lower litter production. Overall, the similar cocoa productivity after savannah and forest 418 conversions may suggest that, while young cocoa plantations established after savannah benefited less from the nutrients released by litter decomposition than these established on forest, the lower 419 420 competition for light they encountered offset the low soil fertility and actually authorised an 421 equivalent productivity level compared to young F-cAFS (Blaser et al., 2017). Besides, as cAFS mature 422 and the cocoa stands develop, the poor quality of cocoa leaf litter and its subsequent lower 423 decomposition rate (Dawoe et al., 2010) may account for the slight increasing leaf standing litter 424 noticed in F-cAFS chronosequence. 425 4.2.5. Soil quality and contamination

426 In S-cAFS established on low clay content soils many of the studied attributes exhibited a steady

- 427 evolution with time underlining an overall improvement of soil quality and nutrient availability. This
- 428 improvement can be explained by the increase of litter and linked litter cycling in S-cAFS over time
- 429 when compared to the very low soil organic content (SOC) content and litter cycling of the initial

430 savannahs. This was not the case in F-cAFS established in high clay content soils where a decrease in 431 pH, K and Ca and an increase of the C:N ratio may point to a low but steady decline of soil quality and 432 nutrient availability – results in line with the recent study of Adeniyi et al. (2017). Noticeably, soil Cu 433 concentrations seemed to increase with time at least in S-cAFS and could point to a putative soil 434 contamination by pesticides, as farmers use copper oxide or hydroxide to treat against black pod 435 disease (Sonwa et al., 2008; Jagoret et al., 2011). As a result of the differences in previous land-uses 436 (savannah vs. forest) - emphasised by the differences in soil texture (LCCS vs HCCS) - the 437 convergence of soil attributes between S- and F-cAFS took a long the timespan: 40-60 years after plot 438 establishment. This timespan may have been increased by the lower soil clay content of the initial savannah. Indeed, Nijmeijer et al. (2018) found that the annual increase in SOC concentration of S-439 440 cAFS was lower in soils with low clay content (10–15%) than in soils with higher clay content (20– 441 25%). In the same way, Feller et al. (2001) reported that the annual rate of soil carbon increase was 442 lower in a degraded than in a non-degraded soils. Soil organic C concentration is generally positively 443 related to fine silt and clay content (Plante et al., 2006). As CEC is a positive function of soil clay and 444 organic carbon concentrations, forest soils also may have had intrinsically larger nutrient contents 445 than savannah soils. 446 The values found for macronutrients fell within the range already noticed in Cameroonian cAFS 447 (Duguma et al., 2001). Yet, soil organic matter (represented here by the SOC) did not decrease in F-448 cAFS after conversion contrasting with other studies (Yang et al., 2004; Snoeck et al., 2010). The 449 forest control plots in our study region were highly disturbed with low and rather similar litter 450 production as in F-cAFS, which may explain the rather similar SOC contents of both systems. 451 Furthermore, the production of cocoa was reported to be linked to the acidification of the soil 452 (Hartemink, 2005; Snoeck et al., 2010; Adeniyi et al., 2018). However, despite a clear decrease over 453 the long term, pH in F-cAFS did not show significant differences with the forest control. Other studies revealed idiosyncratic results (Dawoe et al., 2010; Isaac and Kimaro, 2011) and it may be 454 455 hypothesised that the composition and abundance of associated trees and their diverse litter

restitution to the soil could account for such results (Finzi et al., 1998). This could also partly explain 456 457 the pH increase with time in S-cAFS. The overall lower pH and nutrient contents in savannah plots 458 might be explained by annual burning and periodical cultivation of savannah with staple crops, 459 practices which are known to lead to extensive carbon and nutrient losses resulting in soil 460 desaturation (Kugbe et al., 2012; Dubiez et al., 2018). The low levels of soil C and N in savannah plots 461 are in accordance with previous studies (Lal and Bruce, 1999; Jagoret et al., 2012). However, the 462 increase of organic C in older S-cAFS showed that the systems were able to build-up SOC over time 463 and increase their soil fertility which may support cocoa yield (Adeniyi et al., 2018). The decreasing 464 trajectory exhibited by K in the soils of F-cAFS after conversion may be linked to lower recycling of K 465 in cAFS than in forest and high absorption of K by cocoa trees and its exportation with cocoa-beans 466 harvest (van Vliet and Giller, 2017). Yet, in S-cAFS, the relative stability of K at a minimum level over 467 time and the trend towards these K levels in F-cAFS after around 80 years suggests that K input to the 468 top soil through recycling (litter and throughfall) (Hartemink, 2005) could, at least partly, compensate 469 K loss through cocoa bean exports.

470

471 5. Conclusion

472 As a whole, the 25 attributes related to the six ecosystem (dis)services (ES) studied underwent 473 distinct temporal trajectories and showed that S- and F-cAFS could be significantly distinguished from 474 their past land-use, savannah and forest, after 30 and 50 years, respectively. Past land-use legacies 475 were strong enough to last decades but, in the end, S- and F-cAFS agroforests revealed typical and 476 largely convergent profiles despite different initial systems and soil types. Such results indirectly 477 point to the role of farmers in the establishment and maintenance of decade-old agroforestry 478 systems as well as the significant contribution of associated plant diversity to ES provision in these 479 systems. The levels and timespans at which the studied complex cAFS provide multiple ES are worth 480 comparing with simpler (or full sun) systems. In the current context of climate change, where the 481 choice of species and densities of associated perennials in cocoa plantations are debated, such

482 multifunctionality comparisons could help determine long-term strategies which would use plant

483 biodiversity as an actionable lever to adapt and mitigate climate change.

484

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- 693 Tables
- 694 <u>Table 1</u>
- 695 Regressions coefficients (R²) of the principal component analyses (PCA) of the studied attributes after
- 696 Varimax rotation for the first two dimensions, D1 and D2, run for S-cAFS in low clay content soils and
- 697 for F-cAFS for high clay content soils (in bold: $R^2 > 0.5$).

			S-c	AFS	F-c	AFS
			low clay co	ontent soils	high clay c	ontent soils
Service	Attribute	Abbreviation	D1	D2	D1	D2
Conservation	Perennials shannon index	Shannon	0.36	0.03	0.36	0.19
	Perennials species richness (nb ha ⁻¹)	Species R	0.28	0.13	0.31	0.05
C Storage	Large associated trees biomass (t ha ⁻¹)	LT biomass	0.53	0.03	0.53	0.00
	Cocoa trees biomass (t ha ⁻¹)	Cac biomass	0.05	0.87	0.00	0.16
Crop production	Density of cocoa trees (nb ha ⁻¹)	Cac dens	0.00	0.70	0.02	0.72
	Basal area of cocoa trees (m ² ha ⁻¹)	BA Cac	0.06	0.89	0.01	0.75
	Cocoa trees basal area share (%)	CTBAS	0.01	0.76	0.01	0.25
	Mean accessible yield (kg ha ⁻¹)	Cac yield	0.06	0.88	0.00	0.00
	Density of banana stems (nb ha ⁻¹)	Ban dens	0.02	0.08	0.07	0.12
Nutrient cycling	Leaf litterfall (t ha ⁻¹)	LLF	0.56	0.11	0.04	0.08
	Total litterfall (t ha ⁻¹)	TLF	0.59	0.15	0.23	0.09
	Leaf standing litter (t ha ⁻¹)	LSL	0.05	0.28	0.00	0.11
	Total standing litter (t ha ⁻¹)	TSL	0.08	0.31	0.19	0.23
	Leaf litter cycling	L cycle	0.52	0.02	0.39	0.36
	Total litter cycling	T cycle	0.70	0.05	0.56	0.46
Soil quality	рН	рН	0.72	0.02	0.81	0.76
	Organic C (%)	Org C	0.86	0.03	0.79	0.00
	Total N (%)	Ν	0.80	0.01	0.92	0.02
	C:N	C/N	0.60	0.00	0.54	0.07
	Inorganic P (ppm)	Р	0.64	0.00	0.63	0.01
	CEC (cmol kg ⁻¹)	CEC	0.83	0.03	0.62	0.00
	Exchangeable K (cmol kg ⁻¹)	K	0.34	0.14	0.45	0.00
	Exchangeable Ca (cmol kg ⁻¹)	Ca	0.76	0.06	0.80	0.05
	Exchangeable Mg (cmol kg ⁻¹)	Mg	0.54	0.02	0.62	0.00
Soil contamination	Exchangeable Cu (ppm)	Cu	0.10	0.07	0.24	0.03

699

700 <u>Tables 2a and 2b</u>

70	1 Results from ANOVA (F) or Kruskal-Wallis (H) and mean values for the 25 attributes in S- and F-cAFS, savannah and forest controls, from plots with low clay
70	2 content soils (LCCS, 2a) and plots with high clay content soils (HCCS, 2b). In the case of LCCS plots, age categories were applied only on S-cAFS (2a). In the
70	case of HCCS plots, age categories were applied only on F-cAFS (2b) (see text). °: P < 0.1; *: P < 0.05; **: P < 0.01; ***: P < 0.001. Differences at P < 0.05
70	4 between the different age categories and land-uses are indicated by different letters after the mean.
70	5
70	6
70	7
70	8
70	9
71	0
71	1
71	2
71	3
71	4
71	5

717 (2a)

Service	Attribute	F or H	savannah	S-cAFS [0-14] years	S-cAFS [15-30] years	S-cAFS [31-50] years	S-cAFS [50>] years	F-cAFS	fores
Conservation	Perennials shannon index	8.134 ***	1.094 b	1.423 b	1.820 b	1.700 b	1.731 b	1.958 b	2.832 a
	Perennials species richness (nb ha ⁻¹)	25.644 ***	5.0 b	8.0 b	8.0 b	7.3 b	8.0 b	10.7 b	26.0 d
Carbon storage	Large associated trees biomass (t ha ⁻¹)	4.330 *	0.8 b	31.0 b	22.5 b	134.1 ab	103.7 ab	220.0 a	177.2 c
-	Cocoa trees biomass (t ha ⁻¹)	6.531 **	-	2.0 b	11.9 ab	20.7 a	20.1 a	17.5 a	-
Crop production	Density of cocoa trees (nb ha^{-1})	0.456	-	1170.8	1593.8	1316.7	1087.5	1320.8	-
	Basal area of cocoa trees (m ² ha ⁻¹)	6.154 *	-	1.272 b	5.906 a	8.504 a	9.081 a	7.442 a	-
	Cocoa trees basal area share (%)	16.448 ***	-	8.4 c	49.0 a	33.6 ab	41.9 a	21.2 bc	-
	Mean accessible yield (kg ha ⁻¹)	4.422 *	-	129.4 b	699.0 ab	919.7 a	1000.8 a	947.6 a	-
	Density of banana stems (nb ha ⁻¹)	2.304 °	-	116.7	6.3	4.2	12.5	37.5	-
Nutrient cycling	Leaf litterfall (t ha ⁻¹)	4.448 *	-	2.3 b	5.4 a	6.1 a	6.2 a	6.3 <i>a</i>	7.4 c
	Total litterfall (t ha ⁻¹)	8.745 **	-	3.4 c	6.4 bc	8.6 bc	7.6 bc	9.0 <i>b</i>	14.7 (
	Leaf standing litter (t ha ⁻¹)	1.313	-	2.1	2.7	2.4	1.1	1.2	0.5
	Total standing litter (t ha ⁻¹)	1.063	-	4.1	5.9	6.4	3.0	5.4	3.2
	Leaf litter cycling	2.669	-	0.448	0.517	0.530	0.712	0.591	0.854
	Total litter cycling	3.934 *	-	0.666 b	0.681 b	0.752 ab	0.862 ab	0.869 <i>ab</i>	0.963 (
Soil quality	рН	4.460 *	5.8 ab	5.5 b	5.8 ab	5.9 ab	6.4 a	6.5 a	6.3 d
	Organic C (%)	9.132 ***	1.10 bc	0.99 c	1.34 ab	1.52 a	1.54 a	1.58 a	1.61 d
	Total N (%)	6.298 **	0.05 bc	0.04 c	0.10 abc	0.10 ab	0.12 a	0.11 ab	0.14 c
	C:N	5.675 **	20.5 ab	22.3 a	16.1 abc	14.8 bc	13.5 bc	14.6 bc	11.6 c
	Inorganic P (ppm)	2.456°	1.80	2.83	1.90	6.48	5.22	6.53	7.98
	CEC (cmol kg ⁻¹)	4.733 **	3.0 bc	2.6 c	4.2 abc	4.4 abc	5.6 a	5.0 abc	5.3 c
	Exchangeable K (cmol kg ⁻¹)	1.902	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.13	0.17	0.20	0.31
	Exchangeable Ca (cmol kg ⁻¹)	5.092 **	1.59 b	1.72 b	3.39 ab	3.32 ab	5.82 a	4.58 ab	4.33 c
	Exchangeable Mg (cmol kg ⁻¹)	1.712	0.87	0.74	1.34	0.82	1.17	1.27	1.18
Soil contaminatio	n Exchangeable Cu (ppm)	5.165 **	6.20 ab	0.79 b	1.47 b	3.42 ab	8.54 a	3.51 ab	1.57 b

Service	Attribute	F or H	forest	F-cAFS [0-14] years	F-cAFS [15-30] years	F-cAFS [31-50] years	F-cAFS [50>] years	S-cAFS	savannah
Conservation	Perennials shannon index Perennials species richness (nb ha ⁻¹)	4.237 * 6.492 **	2.571 a 20.5 a	2.276 ab 14.0 ab	1.681 ab 13.0 ab	1.500 b 9.7 bc	1.583 b 8.3 bc	1.775 ab 8.0 bc	1.452 b 2.500 с
Carbon storage	Large associated trees biomass (t ha^{-1}) Cocoa trees biomass (t ha^{-1})	2.113 4.463 *	284.4	248.6 5.3 b	267.5 5.1 b	182.2 25.9 a	124.9 18.2 a	191.2 19.2 a	14.3
Crop production	Density of cocoa trees (nb ha ⁻¹) Basal area of cocoa trees (m ² ha ⁻¹) Cocoa trees basal area share (%) Mean accessible yield (kg ha ⁻¹) Density of banana stems (nb ha ⁻¹)	3.693 * 3.795 * 1.140 0.080 4.842 *	- - - -	870.8 2.545 18.5 630.9 62.5 b	937.5 2.548 6.6 669.6 175.0 a	1633.3 10.515 36.5 723.5 112.5 ab	895.8 8.154 30.5 732.6 58.3 b	1040.6 8.369 30.2 801.2 18.8 b	- - - -
Nutrient cycling	Leaf litterfall (t ha ⁻¹) Total litterfall (t ha ⁻¹) Leaf standing litter (t ha ⁻¹) Total standing litter (t ha ⁻¹) Leaf litter cycling Total litter cycling	3.094 ° 4.220 * 3.121 ° 0.370 10.405 ** 6.176 **	7.7 a 15.1 a 0.7 a 4.5 0.836 a 0.947 a	5.4 a 8.9 ab 0.9 a 3.5 0.674 b 0.890 a	7.6 a 15.4 a 1.0 a 4.6 0.812 a 0.928 a	5.5 a 9.1 ab 0.9 a 4.1 0.622 b 0.905 a	5.0 a 6.8 b 2.2 a 4.8 0.573 b 0.732 b	5.4 a 10.3 ab 1.0 a 4.8 0.638 b 0.892 a	- - - - -
Soil quality	pH Organic C (%) Total N (%) C:N Inorganic P (ppm) CEC (cmol kg ⁻¹) Exchangeable K (cmol kg ⁻¹) Exchangeable Ca (cmol kg ⁻¹) Exchangeable Mg (cmol kg ⁻¹)	4.872 * 1.598 2.233 3.832 * 4.800 * 1.500 2.246 2.356 1.076	6.5 a 2.18 0.20 11.2 b 7.215 ab 8.0 0.29 8.56 2.14	7.1 a 2.10 0.17 12.1 b 5.716 ab 7.3 0.33 10.23 2.15	7.0 a 2.96 0.24 12.4 b - 11.3 0.50 15.86 2.86	6.3 a 1.76 0.13 13.8 ab 3.977 ab 5.5 0.19 5.09 1.38	5.7 ab 1.78 0.12 15.1 ab 3.332 b 6.9 0.19 4.69 1.92	6.6 a 2.49 0.19 13.4 ab 9.110 a 9.5 0.34 10.16 2.17	4.9 b 1.43 0.08 18.8 a 2.270 b 5.5 0.18 1.61 1.11
Soil contaminatio	n Exchangeable Cu (ppm)	0.928	3.44	2.78	4.39	3.48	15.79	14.83	1.93

725 Figure captions

726 *Figure 1*

Vectors of the principal component analysis (PCA) after Varimax rotation for the low clay content soils group (a) and the high clay content soils group (b). Abbreviations are explained in table 1. The colour and the shape of the ending point of each vector display the ecosystem service to which each attribute has been related to: big violet dot = carbon storage; red diamond = crop production; green square = species conservation; blue triangle = nutrient cycling; small black dot = soil quality and contamination.

733

734 <u>Figure 2</u>

735 Biplot of the PCA for the forest, savannah and cAFS plots on (a) low clay content soils or (b) high clay 736 content soils. Dots represent individual plots, squares represent systems' means. The name of each 737 agroforestry system age category, noted in (a) S-cAFS [age 1 – age2] and in (b) F-cAFS [age 1 – age2], 738 is followed by an exponent stating for which dimension (D1 and/or D2) its mean was found 739 significantly different from past land-use mean. In (a), forests and F-cAFS plots and means appear in 740 grey. These plots contributed to the PCA but were not included in the ANOVA made on plot scores to 741 distinguish between S-cAFS age categories and savannah. In (b), savannah and S-cAFS plots and 742 means appear in grey. These plots contributed to the PCA but were not included in the ANOVA made 743 on plot scores to distinguish between F-cAFS age categories and local forest. Arrows between 744 savannah and S-cAFS (a, orange) and between forest and F-cAFS (b, green) were added manually on the biplot to highlight the "virtual" path followed by the agroforestry systems according to their past 745 746 land-use.

747

748 *Figure 3*

Temporal evolution of perennial plant Shannon index (a) and species richness (b), large associated
 trees biomass (c) and cocoa trees biomass (d), in S- and F-cAFS. Plots from the LCCS group (low-clay

content soils) are represented with white symbols. Plots from the HCCS (high-clay content soils) are represented with black symbols. Squares: F-cAFS; circles: S-cAFS; triangles: forest (F); diamonds: savannah (S). Control plots (F and S) are shown on the right side of each sub-figure which background appears in light grey. For each indicator, significant temporal evolution is represented by a solid regression line or curve which is black for F-cAFS and grey for S-cAFS. Dashed lines (black for F-cAFS and grey for S-cAFS) correspond to the variables' means when no significant temporal evolution could be found. °: P < 0.1; *: P < 0.05; **: P < 0.01.

758

759 *Figure 4*

African (a) and total (b) perennial plant species rarefaction curves for forest (green line with green squares), F-cAFS (green line with white squares), S-cAFS (orange line with white circles) and savannah (orange line with orange circles) plots. The 95% intervals (shaded regions) were obtained by a bootstrap method based on 100 replications. The numbers within the brackets next to the system type correspond to: the number of plots needed (first number) to reach the sample size, the number of individuals counted (second number) and the number of species (third number) obtained for the studied sample size.

767 *Figure 5*

768 Temporal evolution of crop production indicators (a to e) in S- and F-cAFS. Plots from the LCCS group 769 (low-clay content soils) are represented with white symbols. Plots from the HCCS (high-clay content 770 soils) are represented with black symbols. Squares: F-cAFS; circles: S-cAFS; triangles: forest (F); 771 diamonds: savannah (S). Control plots (F and S) are shown on the right side of each sub-figure which 772 background appears in light grey. For each indicator, significant temporal evolution is represented by 773 a solid regression line or curve which is black for F-cAFS and grey for S-cAFS. Dashed lines (black for F-774 cAFS and grey for S-cAFS) correspond to the variables' means when no significant temporal evolution could be found. °: P < 0.1; *: P < 0.05; **: P < 0.01; ***: P < 0.001. 775

777 <u>Figure 6</u>

778 Temporal evolution of litter dynamic indicators (a to f) in S- and F-cAFS. Plots from the LCCS group 779 (low-clay content soils) are represented with white symbols. Plots from the HCCS (high-clay content 780 soils) are represented with black symbols. Squares: F-cAFS; circles: S-cAFS; triangles: forest (F); 781 diamonds: savannah (S). Control plots (F and S) are shown on the right side of each sub-figure which 782 background appears in light grey. For each indicator, significant temporal evolution is represented by 783 a solid regression line or curve which is black for F-cAFS and grey for S-cAFS. Dashed lines (black for F-784 cAFS and grey for S-cAFS) correspond to the variables' means when no significant temporal evolution 785 could be found. °: P < 0.1; *: P < 0.05; **: P < 0.01; ***: P < 0.001.

786

787 <u>Figure 7</u>

788 Temporal evolution of soil quality (a to i) and pollution (j) indicators in S- and F-cAFS. Plots from the 789 LCCS group (low-clay content soils) are represented with white symbols. Plots from the HCCS (high-790 clay content soils) are represented with black symbols. Squares: F-cAFS; circles: S-cAFS; triangles: 791 forest (F); diamonds: savannah (S). Control plots (F and S) are shown at the right side of each sub-792 figure which background appears in light grey. For each indicator, significant temporal evolution is 793 represented by a solid regression line or curve which is black for F-cAFS and grey for S-cAFS. Dashed 794 lines (black for F-cAFS and grey for S-cAFS) correspond to the variables' means when no significant temporal evolution could be found. °: P < 0.1; *: P < 0.05; **: P < 0.01; ***: P < 0.001. 795



(a) S-cAFS in low clay content soils (63%)

799



807 Conservation and carbon storage



810

811 (a) African perennial species



(b) All perennial species



815 Crop production



816

819 Nutrient cycling



820 821

823 Soil quality and contamination



825 Appendix 1

- 826 Results from ANOVA (F) and mean values of the 25 studied ecosystem attributes in S- and F-cAFS,
- 827 savannah and local forest controls, irrespective to their soil clay content ad age. °: P < 0.1; *: P <
- 828 0.05; **: P < 0.01; ***: P < 0.001. Differences at P < 0.05, after SNK test, between land-uses are

829 indicated by different letters after the mean.

Service	Attribute	F	savannah	S-cAFS	F-cAFS	forest
Conservation	Perennials shannon index	15.141 ***	1.238 c	1.707 b	1.749 b	2.727 a
	Perennials species richness (nb ha ⁻¹)	48.072 ***	4.0 c	8.1 b	10.6 b	23.8 a
Carbon storage	Large associated trees biomass (t ha^{-1})	5.629 **	6.2 b	107.1 a	161.9 a	220.1 a
, in the second s	Cocoa trees biomass (t ha ⁻¹)	0.13	-	15.4	14.19	-
Crop production	Density of cocoa trees (nb ha ⁻¹)	0.027	-	1174.2	1197.7	-
	Basal area of cocoa trees (m ² ha ⁻¹)	0.049	-	6.812	6.509	-
	Cocoa trees basal area share (%)	0.779	-	31.5	26.3	-
	Mean accessible yield (kg ha ⁻¹)	0.011	-	716.7	701.9	-
	Density of banana stems (nb ha ⁻¹)	4.225 *	-	33.6 b	97.7 a	-
Nutrient cycling	Leaf litterfall (t ha ⁻¹)	4.451 *		4.5 b	5.2 b	6.5 a
	Total litterfall (t ha ⁻¹)	8.951 **	-	6.7 b	8.0 b	12.1 a
	Leaf standing litter (t ha ⁻¹)	0.705	-	4.8	4.7	3.7
	Total standing litter (t ha ⁻¹)	3.031°	-	1.8 a	1.4 ab	0.6 b
	Leaf litter cycling	3.522 *	-	0.497 b	0.533 b	0.640 a
	Total litter cycling	5.964 *	-	0.785 b	0.844 b	0.952 a
Soil quality	рН	4.249 *	5.4 b	6.1 a	6.4 a	6.4 a
	Organic C (%)	1.958	1.23	1.660	1.85	1.84
	Total N (%)	3.687 *	0.06 b	0.116 ab	0.14 a	0.16 a
	C:N	4.625 **	19.8 a	15.9 b	14.4 b	11.4 b
	Inorganic P (ppm)	4.379 *	1.99 b	5.44 a	4.74 a	7.67 a
	CEC (cmol kg ⁻¹)	1.189	4.0	5.6	6.2	6.4
	Exchangeable K (cmol kg ⁻¹)	1.680	0.17	0.21	0.24	0.30
	Exchangeable Ca (cmol kg ⁻¹)	2.016	1.60	5.20	6.34	6.02
	Exchangeable Mg (cmol kg ⁻¹)	1.921	0.97	1.30	1.70	1.56
Soil contamination	Exchangeable Cu (ppm)	0.469	4.49	6.79	5.44	2.32

832 Graphical abstract caption

833 Highlights of the study design and considered ecosystem services.

834



Table 1Click here to download Tables: Nijmeijer et al - R1 AGEE 21604 Tab 1.pdf

			S-c	AFS	F-c	AFS
			low clay co	ontent soils	high clay co	ontent soils
Service	Attribute	Abbreviation	D1	D2	D1	D2
Conservation	Perennials shannon index	Shannon	0.36	0.03	0.36	0.19
	Perennials species richness (nb ha ⁻¹)	Species R	0.28	0.13	0.31	0.05
C Storage	Large associated trees biomass (t ha $^{-1}$)	LT biomass	0.53	0.03	0.53	0.00
	Cocoa trees biomass (t ha ⁻¹)	Cac biomass	0.05	0.87	0.00	0.16
Crop production	Density of cocoa trees (nb ha ⁻¹)	Cac dens	0.00	0.70	0.02	0.72
	Basal area of cocoa trees (m ² ha ⁻¹)	BA Cac	0.06	0.89	0.01	0.75
	Cocoa trees basal area share (%)	CTBAS	0.01	0.76	0.01	0.25
	Mean accessible yield (kg ha ⁻¹)	Cac yield	0.06	0.88	0.00	0.00
	Density of banana stems (nb ha ⁻¹)	Ban dens	0.02	0.08	0.07	0.12
Nutrient cycling	Leaf litterfall (t ha ⁻¹)	LLF	0.56	0.11	0.04	0.08
	Total litterfall (t ha ⁻¹)	TLF	0.59	0.15	0.23	0.09
	Leaf standing litter (t ha $^{-1}$)	LSL	0.05	0.28	0.00	0.11
	Total standing litter (t ha ⁻¹)	TSL	0.08	0.31	0.19	0.23
	Leaf litter cycling	L cycle	0.52	0.02	0.39	0.36
	Total litter cycling	T cycle	0.70	0.05	0.56	0.46
Soil quality	рН	рН	0.72	0.02	0.81	0.76
	Organic C (%)	Org C	0.86	0.03	0.79	0.00
	Total N (%)	N	0.80	0.01	0.92	0.02
	C:N	C/N	0.60	0.00	0.54	0.07
	Inorganic P (ppm)	Р	0.64	0.00	0.63	0.01
	CEC (cmol kg ⁻¹)	CEC	0.83	0.03	0.62	0.00
	Exchangeable K (cmol kg ⁻¹)	К	0.34	0.14	0.45	0.00
	Exchangeable Ca (cmol kg ⁻¹)	Ca	0.76	0.06	0.80	0.05
	Exchangeable Mg (cmol kg ⁻¹)	Mg	0.54	0.02	0.62	0.00
Soil contamination	Exchangeable Cu (ppm)	Cu	0.10	0.07	0.24	0.03

(2a)

			Low clay content soils							
Service	Attribute	F or H	savannah	S-cAFS [0-14] years	S-cAFS [15-30] years	S-cAFS [31-50] years	S-cAFS [50>] years	F-cAFS	forest	
Conservation	Perennials shannon index Perennials species richness (nb ha ⁻¹)	8.134 *** 25.644 ***	1.094 b 5.0 b	1.423 b 8.0 b	1.820 b 8.0 b	1.700 b 7.3 b	1.731 b 8.0 b	1.958 b 10.7 b	2.832 a 26.0 a	
Carbon storage	Large associated trees biomass (t ha ⁻¹) Cocoa trees biomass (t ha ⁻¹)	4.330 * 6.531 **	0.8 b -	31.0 b 2.0 b	22.5 b 11.9 ab	134.1 ab 20.7 a	103.7 ab 20.1 a	220.0 a 17.5 a	177.2 ab -	
Crop production	Density of cocoa trees (nb ha ⁻¹) Basal area of cocoa trees (m ² ha ⁻¹) Cocoa trees basal area share (%) Mean accessible yield (kg ha ⁻¹) Density of banana stems (nb ha ⁻¹)	0.456 6.154 * 16.448 *** 4.422 * 2.304 °	- - - -	1170.8 1.272 b 8.4 c 129.4 b 116.7	1593.8 5.906 a 49.0 a 699.0 ab 6.3	1316.7 8.504 a 33.6 ab 919.7 a 4.2	1087.5 9.081 a 41.9 a 1000.8 a 12.5	1320.8 7.442 a 21.2 bc 947.6 a 37.5	- - - -	
Nutrient cycling	Leaf litterfall (t ha ⁻¹) Total litterfall (t ha ⁻¹) Leaf standing litter (t ha ⁻¹) Total standing litter (t ha ⁻¹) Leaf litter cycling Total litter cycling	4.448 * 8.745 ** 1.313 1.063 2.669 3.934 *		2.3 b 3.4 c 2.1 4.1 0.448 0.666 b	5.4 a 6.4 bc 2.7 5.9 0.517 0.681 b	6.1 a 8.6 bc 2.4 6.4 0.530 0.752 ab	6.2 a 7.6 bc 1.1 3.0 0.712 0.862 ab	6.3 <i>a</i> 9.0 <i>b</i> 1.2 5.4 0.591 0.869 <i>ab</i>	7.4 a 14.7 a 0.5 3.2 0.854 0.963 a	
Soil quality	pH Organic C (%) Total N (%) C:N Inorganic P (ppm) CEC (cmol kg ⁻¹) Exchangeable K (cmol kg ⁻¹) Exchangeable Ca (cmol kg ⁻¹) Exchangeable Mg (cmol kg ⁻¹)	4.460 * 9.132 *** 6.298 ** 5.675 ** 2.456 ° 4.733 ** 1.902 5.092 ** 1.712	5.8 ab 1.10 bc 0.05 bc 20.5 ab 1.80 3.0 bc 0.16 1.59 b 0.87	5.5 b 0.99 c 0.04 c 22.3 a 2.83 2.6 c 0.17 1.72 b 0.74	5.8 ab 1.34 ab 0.10 abc 16.1 abc 1.90 4.2 abc 0.17 3.39 ab 1.34	5.9 ab 1.52 a 0.10 ab 14.8 bc 6.48 4.4 abc 0.13 3.32 ab 0.82	6.4 a 1.54 a 0.12 a 13.5 bc 5.22 5.6 a 0.17 5.82 a 1.17	6.5 a 1.58 a 0.11 ab 14.6 bc 6.53 5.0 abc 0.20 4.58 ab 1.27	6.3 ab 1.61 a 0.14 a 11.6 c 7.98 5.3 ab 0.31 4.33 ab 1.18	
Soil contamination	Exchangeable Cu (ppm)	5.165 **	6.20 ab	0.79 b	1.47 b	3.42 ab	8.54 a	3.51 ab	1.57 b	

(2b)			High clay content soils								
Service	Attribute	F or H	forest	F-cAFS [0-14] years	F-cAFS [15-30] years	F-cAFS [31-50] years	F-cAFS [50>] years	S-cAFS	savannah		
Conservation	Perennials shannon index Perennials species richness (nb ha ⁻¹)	4.237 * 6.492 **	2.571 a 20.5 a	2.276 ab 14.0 ab	1.681 ab 13.0 ab	1.500 b 9.7 bc	1.583 b 8.3 bc	1.775 ab 8.0 bc	1.452 b 2.500 с		
Carbon storage	Large associated trees biomass (t ha ⁻¹) Cocoa trees biomass (t ha ⁻¹)	2.113 4.463 *	284.4	248.6 5.3 b	267.5 5.1 b	182.2 25.9 a	124.9 18.2 a	191.2 19.2 a	- 14.3		
Crop production	Density of cocoa trees (nb ha ⁻¹) Basal area of cocoa trees (m ² ha ⁻¹) Cocoa trees basal area share (%) Mean accessible yield (kg ha ⁻¹) Density of banana stems (nb ha ⁻¹)	3.693 * 3.795 * 1.140 0.080 4.842 *		870.8 2.545 18.5 630.9 62.5 b	937.5 2.548 6.6 669.6 175.0 a	1633.3 10.515 36.5 723.5 112.5 ab	895.8 8.154 30.5 732.6 58.3 b	1040.6 8.369 30.2 801.2 18.8 b	- - -		
Nutrient cycling	Leaf litterfall (t ha ⁻¹) Total litterfall (t ha ⁻¹) Leaf standing litter (t ha ⁻¹) Total standing litter (t ha ⁻¹) Leaf litter cycling Total litter cycling	3.094 ° 4.220 * 3.121 ° 0.370 10.405 ** 6.176 **	7.7 a 15.1 a 0.7 a 4.5 0.836 a 0.947 a	5.4 a 8.9 ab 0.9 a 3.5 0.674 b 0.890 a	7.6 a 15.4 a 1.0 a 4.6 0.812 a 0.928 a	5.5 a 9.1 ab 0.9 a 4.1 0.622 b 0.905 a	5.0 a 6.8 b 2.2 a 4.8 0.573 b 0.732 b	5.4 a 10.3 ab 1.0 a 4.8 0.638 b 0.892 a			
Soil quality	pH Organic C (%) Total N (%) C:N Inorganic P (ppm) CEC (cmol kg ⁻¹) Exchangeable K (cmol kg ⁻¹) Exchangeable Ca (cmol kg ⁻¹) Exchangeable Mg (cmol kg ⁻¹)	4.872 * 1.598 2.233 3.832 * 4.800 * 1.500 2.246 2.356 1.076	6.5 a 2.18 0.20 11.2 b 7.215 ab 8.0 0.29 8.56 2.14	7.1 a 2.10 0.17 12.1 b 5.716 ab 7.3 0.33 10.23 2.15	7.0 a 2.96 0.24 12.4 b - 11.3 0.50 15.86 2.86	6.3 a 1.76 0.13 13.8 ab 3.977 ab 5.5 0.19 5.09 1.38	5.7 ab 1.78 0.12 15.1 ab 3.332 b 6.9 0.19 4.69 1.92	6.6 a 2.49 0.19 13.4 ab 9.110 a 9.5 0.34 10.16 2.17	4.9 b 1.43 0.08 18.8 a 2.270 b 5.5 0.18 1.61 1.11		
Soil contamination	Exchangeable Cu (ppm)	0.928	3.44	2.78	4.39	3.48	15.79	14.83	1.93		

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Appendix 1

Service	Attribute	F	savannah	S-cAFS	F-cAFS	forest
Conservation	Perennials shannon index Perennials species richness (nb ha ⁻¹)	15.141 *** 48.072 ***	1.238 c 4.0 c	1.707 b 8.1 b	1.749 b 10.6 b	2.727 a 23.8 a
Carbon storage	Large associated trees biomass (t ha^{-1}) Cocoa trees biomass (t ha^{-1})	5.6295 ** 0.1296	6.2 b	107.1 a 15.4	161.9 a 14.19	220.1 a -
Crop production	Density of cocoa trees (nb ha ⁻¹) Basal area of cocoa trees (m ² ha ⁻¹) Cocoa trees basal area share (%) Mean accessible yield (kg ha ⁻¹) Density of banana stems (nb ha ⁻¹)	0.0268 0.0488 0.7786 0.0115 4.2254 *	- - - -	1174.2 6.812 31.5 716.7 33.6 b	1197.7 6.509 26.3 701.9 97.7 a	- - - -
Nutrient cycling	Leaf litterfall (t ha^{-1}) Total litterfall (t ha^{-1}) Leaf standing litter (t ha^{-1}) Total standing litter (t ha^{-1}) Leaf litter cycling Total litter cycling	4.4507 * 8.951 ** 0.705 3.031 ° 3.522 * 5.964 *	- - - -	4.5 b 6.7 b 4.8 1.8 a 0.497 b 0.785 b	5.2 b 8.0 b 4.7 1.4 ab 0.533 b 0.844 b	6.5 a 12.1 a 3.7 0.6 b 0.640 a 0.952 a
Soil quality	pH Organic C (%) Total N (%) C:N Inorganic P (ppm) CEC (cmol kg ⁻¹) Exchangeable K (cmol kg ⁻¹) Exchangeable Ca (cmol kg ⁻¹) Exchangeable Mg (cmol kg ⁻¹)	4.249 * 1.958 3.6868 * 4.625 ** 4.379 * 1.189 1.680 2.016 1.9206	5.4 b 1.23 0.06 b 19.8 a 1.99 b 4.0 0.17 1.60 0.97	6.1 a 1.660 0.116 ab 15.9 b 5.44 a 5.6 0.21 5.20 1.30	6.4 a 1.85 0.14 a 14.4 b 4.74 a 6.2 0.24 6.34 1.70	6.4 a 1.84 0.16 a 11.4 b 7.67 a 6.4 0.30 6.02 1.56
Soil contamination	Exchangeable Cu (ppm)	0.469	4.49	6.79	5.44	2.32



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Figure 4 Click here to download Figure: Nijmeijer et al - R1 AGEE 21604 Fig 4.pdf



Figure 5 Click here to download Figure: Nijmeijer et al - R1 AGEE 21604 Fig 5.pdf



Figure 6 Click here to download Figure: Nijmeijer et al - R1 AGEE 21604 Fig 6.pdf



Figure 7 Click here to download Figure: Nijmeijer et al - R1 AGEE 21604 Fig 7.pdf

