Table: Coefficient estimates  $^a$  ( $\pm$  SE) of effects of soil texture, vegetation characteristics and topographical attributes on SOC concentrations and total SOC stocks in all land-use types (regenerating or highly disturbed forest and mature forest combined, tea plantation and grassland combined) in a tropical montane landscape in SW China.

| Response   | Effect   | All land-use types combined (n=27) |              |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------|
|  |  | Estimate                           | P value      |
| SOC concentration (%) at 0-0.15 m                      | Intercept  | 1.52 (1.02)                        | 0.14         |
|  | Land-use type <sup>b</sup>   | Not included                       | Not included |
|  | Silt-plus-clay percentage (%)  | 0.01 (0.01)                        | 0.34         |
|  | ECEC <sup>c</sup> at 0.6-0.9 m (cmol <sub>c</sub> kg <sup>-1</sup> clay) |                                    | ns           |
|  | Litter layer carbon stock (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )                       | 0.17 (0.04)                        | <0.01        |
|  | Litter layer C:N ratio   |                                    |              |
|  | Tree basal area (m² ha-1)  | 0.04 (0.01)                        | < 0.01       |
|  | Slope (%)  |                                    | ns           |
|  | Relative elevation <sup>d</sup> (m)                                      | 0.003 (0.001)                      | <0.01        |
|  | Compound Topographic Index   |                                    | ns           |
| SOC concentration (%) at 0.15-0.30 m                   | Intercept  | 1.41 (0.80)                        | 0.08         |
|  | Land-use type <sup>b</sup>   | Not included                       | Not included |
|  | Silt-plus-clay percentage (%)  | 0.008 (0.01)                       | 0.38         |
|  | ECEC <sup>c</sup> at 0.6-0.9 m (cmol <sub>c</sub> kg <sup>-1</sup> clay) |                                    | ns           |
|  | Litter layer carbon stock (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )                       | 0.17 (0.03)                        | <0.01        |
|  | Litter layer C:N ratio   |                                    | ns           |
|  | Tree basal area (m² ha-1)  | 0.009 (0.01)                       | < 0.01       |
|  | Slope (%)  |                                    | ns           |
|  | Relative elevation <sup>d</sup> (m)                                      | 0.002 (0.001)                      | 0.04         |
|  | Compound Topographic Index   |                                    | ns           |
| Total SOC stock (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )<br>at 0-0.9 m | Intercept  | 120.61 (22.29)                     | <0.01        |
|  | Land-use type <sup>b</sup>   | Not included                       | Not included |
|  | Silt-plus-clay percentage (%)  |                                    | ns           |
|  | ECEC <sup>c</sup> at 0.6-0.9 m (cmol <sub>c</sub> kg <sup>-1</sup> clay) |                                    | ns           |
|  | Litter layer carbon stock (Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> )                       | 5.21 (1.39)                        | <0.01        |
|  | Litter layer C:N ratio   |                                    | ns           |
|  | Tree basal area (m² ha-1)  | 0.79 (0.31)                        | 0.01         |
|  | Slope (%)  |                                    | ns           |
|  | Relative elevation <sup>d</sup> (m)                                      | 0.07 (0.04)                        | 0.08         |
|  | Compound Topographic Index   |                                    | ns           |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Linear mixed effects models with sampling plot as random intercept. All effects were included in the full model, and model simplification resulted in the minimum adequate model. ns - not significant (i.e., the effects excluded by model simplifications)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Land-use type has not been included as a categorical factor in the full model.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>e</sup>ECEC, Effective Cation Exchange Capacity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup>Relative elevation is the change in elevation compared to the lowest situated sampling plot.