Global N cycle depends on animals: A hypothesis on its crucial role in nitrogen cycling.

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Organic matter from primary production in terrestrial ecosystems has high C/N ratios due to the needs for constructural substances. Because of it, nitrogen is intrinsically limited, and likely remains to be unavailable especially for nitrifiers. It is thought animals that creates a situation rich in inorganic N available for nitrifying bacteria and allows N cyclings beyond nitrification.