



Forest Soils and Their Potential for Climate Change Mitigation: Pools, Functioning and Processes

Guest Editor:

Dr. Alessandra Lagomarsino

Council for Agricultural Research
and Agricultural Economy
Analysis, Research Centre for
Agrobiology and Pedology, 50125
Firenze, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Forest ecosystems are a natural sink of atmospheric CO₂ and soils contain about two thirds of the stored carbon. The sink capacity of forest soils is, therefore, a big chance to mitigate climate change effects, but it depends on natural variability (latitudinal and altitudinal gradients, parent material), forest management and land use changes. Moreover, organic matter transformations include several processes that are key for nutrients cycling and overall soil functioning. Soil carbon may be stored in pools having different residence time, due to intrinsic chemical characteristics, physical protection mechanisms and biochemical stability, thus affecting the potential for carbon sequestration in the long term.

On the other side, forest soils exchange CO₂ and other green-house gases (CH₄ and N₂O, which have a much higher warming potential) with the atmosphere through processes related to carbon and nitrogen cycling. Acquiring more information on these processes and resulted fluxes is essential in order to increase forest soils potential for climate change mitigation.

Dr. Alessandra Lagomarsino
Guest Editor





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Prof. Dr. Giacomo Alessandro Gerosa

Department of Mathematics and Physics, Catholic University of Brescia, I-25121 Brescia, Italy

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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