Plant-Soil Feedbacks on Carbon and Nutrient Cycling in Forest Ecosystems

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Message from the Guest Editors

In the face of climate change and rising atmospheric CO_2 concentrations, forest ecosystems and soils are becoming important potential carbon (C) sinks. This potential varies with tree species, which may substantially impact soil C pools and nutrient cycles. Yet, little information is available on how altered tree species composition in the wake of climate change will alter these nutrient cycles and the stability of soil C, with unknown consequences for ecosystem functioning. Specifically, a higher frequency of droughts or fires in forests previously unaffected by such extreme events may unpredictably alter plant–soil feedbacks in such ecosystems. The interactions of trees, their traits, and C and nutrient cycling in forest soils need to be better understood. We encourage the submission of studies from all fields, including experimental studies, monitoring approaches, and modeling attempts, to this Special Issue, promoting knowledge and adaptation strategies for the preservation, management, and future development of forest ecosystems.

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