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Effects of Forest Fire on Soil C

Guest Editor:

Dr. Christopher Weston

International School of
Ecosystem and Forest Sciences,
Faculty of Science, The University
of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC
3010, Australia

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Message from the Guest Editor

Fire can impact every square metre of the forest floor and influence the physical, chemical and biological nature of soil. Gaining a better understanding of the effects of fire on soil carbon is central to improving our understanding of the role of forests and forest soils in global carbon cycling. Climate change is associated with more extreme conditions favouring wildfires, which are increasing in impact and severity in forested landscapes in many parts of the world. More extreme wildfires are also focussing attention on the need for more planned fires as a key risk reduction strategy to protect people and property. Fire of sufficient intensity heats and transforms materials on the forest floor and the surface soil, altering the nature of soil carbon and redistributing it to the atmosphere and to soil.

This Special Issue aims to summarize the latest literature on fire impacts on soil carbon in forested landscapes from across the globe, including tropical, temperate and boreal environments. The fate of soil carbon during and following fire will be explored in these widely different environments as a step to improving carbon management in forests under climate change.



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Forests Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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