



## Heavy Metals in Forests: Future Research Needs

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### Message from the Guest Editor

The contents of heavy metals in the various components of forest ecosystems, either remote or urban, was examined in the past in terms (mainly) of concentrations and fluxes. The question that arises now concerns the answers that future research can give to draw conclusions on the fate of heavy metals in forests from both the past and present data. In other words, the questions can be summarized in the followings: Have the reduced deposition rates of metals changed their equilibrium in soils? What is the mobility of the heavy metals in forest soils after decades of residence there? What is the effect of climate change on the heavy metal cycling in forests? Have the mycorrhizal fungi prevented the heavy metal uptake in the last years? Can the increase in temperature affect the binding capacity of organic matter for metals in forest? Can an increase in soil temperature also accelerate the heavy metal weathering in soils where the parent material has a high metal content? We encourage studies from all fields, including experimental studies, forest ecosystem monitoring and models to contribute to this Special Issue in order to predict the fate and the impact of heavy metals in forests.





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