



1. Title

Soil Development and Soil Properties and Functions

2. Type

Divisional Symposium

3. Organizer(s) & Convener

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4. Rationale

Soil development significantly influences the properties and functions of soils. There are indications that changes, specifically in the early phases of soil formation, are quicker than previously expected. Quantitative information is needed to assess indicators for soil functions in the course of the development of natural environments, agriculturally managed sites or forests as well as newly aggrading soils in human-constructed environments.

5. Objectives

To review modern approaches of soil dating and chronosequence studies in close combination with methods estimating soil functions, specifically concerning filter and buffer functions as well as biological heritage, biodiversity and biomass production. The symposium will act as a platform of scientific exchange for all Commissions of Division 2 with a close link to Division 1.

6. Description

Soil development significantly influences the properties and functions of soils. The present symposium will concentrate on the impacts of environmental and human-induced changes on soil development. To this end, specifically rates of changes and their impacts on soil functions (e.g. the filter, buffer and transformation function, biodiversity, biomass production) will be considered. The combination of latest analytical techniques with dating methods is most welcome.

