Detecting soil carbon change

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Several drivers such as nitrogen deposition, improved forest management, and climate change may have changed the soil carbon stock in the last decades. The detection of this is hampered by the high spatial variability of chemical soil properties and the often insufficient number of replicates in data sets. A dataset obtained for Austrian forest soils shows overall small soil carbon pool changes on a decadal scale. Regional differences are discussed in the context of ancillary data.