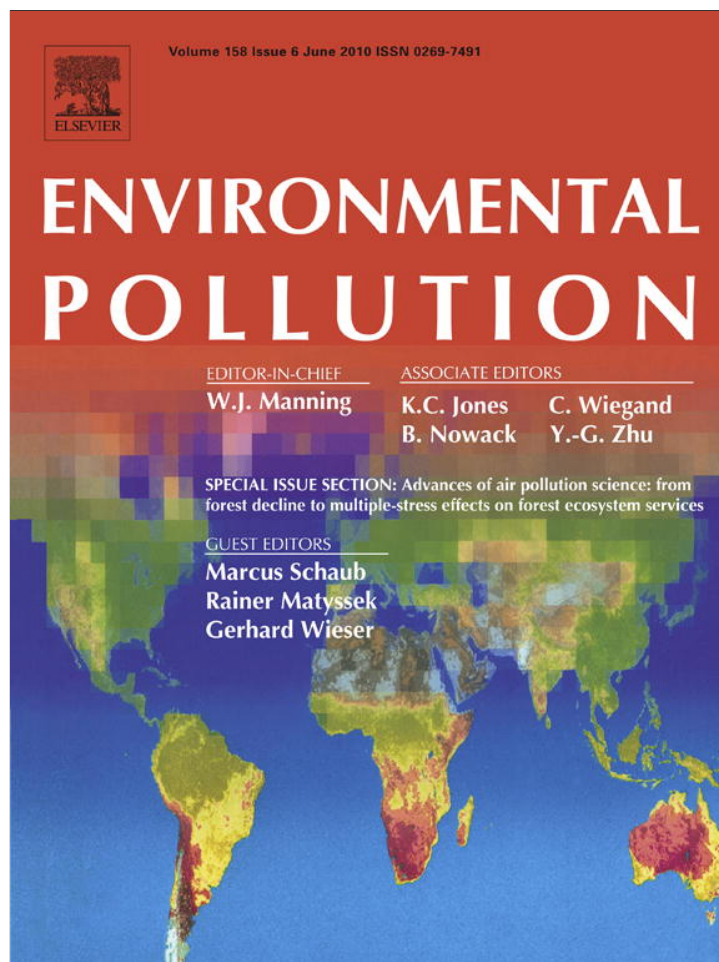


Provided for non-commercial research and education use.
Not for reproduction, distribution or commercial use.



This article appeared in a journal published by Elsevier. The attached copy is furnished to the author for internal non-commercial research and education use, including for instruction at the authors institution and sharing with colleagues.

Other uses, including reproduction and distribution, or selling or licensing copies, or posting to personal, institutional or third party websites are prohibited.

In most cases authors are permitted to post their version of the article (e.g. in Word or Tex form) to their personal website or institutional repository. Authors requiring further information regarding Elsevier's archiving and manuscript policies are encouraged to visit:

<http://www.elsevier.com/copyright>



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environmental Pollution

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/envpol

Preface

Preface to the special section of the IUFRO conference on air pollution and climate change effects on forest ecosystems

This special section of *Environmental Pollution* includes invited, peer-reviewed contributions from an international conference on *Air Pollution and Climate Change at Contrasting Altitude and Latitude*, held on 7–12 September 2009 in Murten, Switzerland and hosted by the Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Birmensdorf. This conference was the 23rd one of a series of biannual meetings for specialists in air pollution and climate change effects on forest ecosystems, initiated by the Research Group 7.01.00 “Impacts of Air Pollution and Climate Change on Forest Ecosystems” of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). The conference was attended by 146 participants representing 28 countries from Europe, North- and South America and Asia that reviewed the links between air pollution and climate change and their interactive effects on forest ecosystems.

The selected papers that are compiled in the present special section highlight important insights into the latest aspects of impacts and interactions of air pollutants and climate change on the tree performance across latitudinal and altitudinal ranges. In particular, the regional specificities of tree and ecosystem responsiveness to anthropogenic stressors such as elevated CO₂ and O₃ regimes, enhanced nitrogen deposition and scenarios of climate change, as represented through altered seasonal temperature and moisture regimes were emphasized. A simultaneous addressing of air pollution and climate change effects on forests, as can be found in this special section, may result in more effective research,

management and monitoring as well as better integration of local, national and global environmental policies in the near future.

In this respect, we trust that this special section will be a valuable source of essential information on understanding ozone effects on vegetation, that will lead to strengthened transcontinental collaboration to promote consistent concepts and methodologies in effects-based air pollution and climate change research.

Marcus Schaub*

Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Zürcherstrasse 111,
CH - 8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland

* Tel.: +41 44 739 25 64;

fax: +41 44 739 22 15.

E-mail address: marcus.schaub@wsl.ch

Rainer Matyssek

Ecophysiology of Plants, Technische Universität München,
Am Hochanger 13, D - 85354 Freising-Weihenstephan, Germany

Gerhard Wieser

Department of Alpine Timberline Ecophysiology,
Federal Research and Training Centre for Forest,
Natural Hazards and Landscape, Rennweg 1,
A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria

19 November 2009