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### Quantitative Sustainability Assessment

Department of Management Engineering



# Towards a more robust fate modeling of metals' long-term emissions in an LCIA context

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### CONCLUSIONS

- AIM Develop dynamic fate factors for long-term emissions of selected heavy metals
- Similar patterns of fate factors development for all soil types for each metal Residence times in the upper soil layer and in saturated
- based on the evolution of soil parameters
- by respecting the individual characteristics of selected metals
- by taking into account spatial variations

• Residence times in all other compartments remain relatively stable over the modeled time period

zone change over time

 The soil layers' thickness: most influential parameter for determining the metals' fate

RESULTS



### **METHOD**

#### Modeling the evolution of soil for 100,000 years

- Select influential parameters that determine fate of Ni, Zn, Cd, Pb emissions to soil
- 2. Model the development of parameters over the next 100,000 years based on literature models and soil chemistry
- 3. Select soil types: Sandy, Silty, Clay
- 4. Model each soil type for 100 time steps (1,000 years each) with changing soil parameters in CalTOX multimedia model
- Obtain fate factors for 100 time steps for each metal and soil type
- Perform sensitivity analysis in order to pinpoint the most crucial parameters for fate calculations as check of the selection of step 1



| Annual average<br>precipitation                  | Temperature   | Full time period        | IPCC, 2013; Kuhl and Litt, 2003 |
|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Thickness of the<br>ground soil layer            | Physical and chemical weathering<br>and translocation processes | Full time period        | Salvador-Blanes et al., 2007    |
| Soil particle density                            | Sand/Silt/Clay content  | Full time period        | Salvador-Blanes et al., 2007    |
| Water content in<br>surface soil                 | n.r.  | Only initial conditions | Batjes, 2008                    |
| Erosion of surface soil                          | n.r.  | Only initial conditions | Montgomery, 2007                |
| Thickness of the root-<br>zone soil              | Physical and chemical weathering<br>and translocation processes | Full time period        | Salvador-Blanes et al., 2007    |
| Water content of root-<br>zone soil              | n.r.  | Only initial conditions | Batjes, 2008                    |
| Thickness of the<br>vadose-zone soil             | Physical and chemical weathering<br>and translocation processes | Full time period        | Salvador-Blanes et al., 2007    |
| Water content;<br>vadose-zone soil               | n.r.  | Only initial conditions | Batjes, 2008                    |
| Ambient<br>environmental<br>temperature          | n.r.  | Full time period        | IPCC, 2013; Kuhl and Litt, 2003 |
| Organic carbon<br>fraction in upper soil<br>zone | Temperature, annual average<br>precipitation, evapotraspiration | Full time period        | Parton et al., 1987             |
| Organic carbon<br>fraction in vadose<br>zone     | Temperature, annual average<br>precipitation, evapotraspiration | Full time period        | Parton et al., 1987             |
| Partition coefficient in ground/root soil layer  | рН  | Only initial conditions | Janssen et al., 1997            |
| Partition coefficient in vadose-zone soil layer  | рН  | Only initial conditions | Janssen et al., 1997            |

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