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Vulnerability of Forests to Climate Variability and Change

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Message from the Guest Editor

Forests play a critical role in providing ecosystem services that people's livelihoods depend on, and are crucial for the conservation of biodiversity. Climate variability and change are key factors that influence the composition and structure of forests either directly or indirectly through disturbance agents. Climate-driven changes in forest composition and structure have significant impacts on ecosystem functioning, which in turn impact the provision of ecosystem services and forest biodiversity. Adaptation to the changing climate has long been argued to reduce the speed and magnitude of these changes on forests and forest-dependent livelihoods. A crucial step in determining adaptation strategies and practicing climate-smart management is understanding the vulnerability of forest ecosystems to climate variability and change. We seek studies that explore the vulnerability of forests to the direct and indirect effects of climate variability and change. Contributions can be from empirical, experimental, or model-based studies. The objective is to identify where and how forests are vulnerable, and the consequences this will have on forest functioning under a changing climate.



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Special Issue



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