



Remote Sensing of Wetlands

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Message from the Guest Editors

Wetlands cover approximately 6% of the terrestrial surface and provide important and diverse benefits to people around the world. However, an increasing number of wetlands are being converted to agricultural or urban uses or affected by natural factors like drought. Despite efforts to restore natural wetlands for human well-being, more than half of the global wetlands have disappeared during the last century. These changes directly affect the world biotic diversity and contribute to local and regional climate changes as well as to global warming. Thus, in recent years, changes impacting on the size and quality of the world's wetland ecosystems have raised increasing concerns.

Remote Sensing provides unique capabilities and advantages to characterize and measure the state, conditions, and functioning of inaccessible wetlands. Since the launch of the Landsat series in 1972, there has been an exponential increase in the number of satellites and airborne sensors conveying information about wetlands. Today, more than 300 earth observation satellites from more than 15 countries are operational.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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