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Biodiversity-Ecosystem Functioning Relationships in Forest Ecosystems

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Message from the Guest Editors

Humanity's domination of Earth's ecosystems has led to excessive biodiversity loss and ecosystem function degradation. This loss of biodiversity is alarming, not only because of the inherent value of biodiversity itself but also because biodiversity has consistently been shown to have a positive effect on ecosystem function and service provision. Forests cover about one-third of the global land surface and harbour most of the earth's terrestrial biodiversity. There is increasing concern that biodiversity loss will lead to decreased ecosystem functioning in forests, such as primary productivity, nutrient cycling, and water quality. In addition, biodiversity is expected to buffer against the impacts of global environmental changes. Therefore, understanding biodiversity-ecosystem functioning relationships in forest ecosystems is to develop strategies for both biodiversity conservation and mitigation of global environmental change.

This Special Issue is aimed at exploring the contribution of terrestrial forest biodiversity to the supply of ecosystem functions and to potentially mitigating the negative impacts of environmental change on forest ecosystems.

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Message from the Editorial Board

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