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Forest Vegetation Classification: A Tool for the Study, Management, and Conservation of Forest Ecosystems

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Message from the Guest Editor

Vegetation classification represents one of the most basic and widely used approaches for studying ecosystems. Forests are among the most complex ecosystems. The classification of the vegetation has traditionally served as the key for the generation and testing of hypotheses concerning the factors that have shaped these complex patterns of forest ecosystems' diversity. Identifying plant communities also constitutes the basis for studying and understanding the functional diversity of forests, through the comparison of plant traits composition between different communities. Vegetation classification is also fundamental for applied purposes. Vegetation types or communities comprise the fundamental units for management and conservation in most places of the world. We invite studies based on forest vegetation classification and dealing with all aspects of vegetation ecology, such as explorative or explanatory studies testing certain hypotheses or vegetation classification studies at a regional or broader scale, up to applied studies concerning forest management and conservation.



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