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Effect of Climate Change on Forest Growth and Phenology

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Message from the Guest Editor

Stressors induced by climate change present significant potential risks to forests and challenges for adaptation strategies. On the one hand, forests are exposed to and threatened by ongoing climate change; on the other hand, forests have the ability to influence the course of climate change by regulating the water regime, carbon sequestration, and reducing climate extremes. Climate change cause latitudinal and vertical shift of tree species into more suitable habitats, or it can drive local persistence and adaptability. Forest adaptation by natural selection, epigenetic phenomena, gene flow, and phenotypic plasticity, in addition to forest management strategies, plays an important role in reducing the vulnerability of forests to climate change. It is therefore important not to see climate change only as a threat causing forest decline and disturbances, but also as an opportunity for developing innovative approaches in forest ecology and management, sustainable silviculture, and nature protection. For that reason, we are looking for new original research and review articles dealing with growth adaptation of forests to climate change.



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