



## Role of Gap Factors in Forest Tree Regeneration and Plant Communities

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Many factors complicate harvest gap outcomes and their implementation.

Past research has focused on gap size, tree regeneration, plant architecture, and plant community diversity. The results are varied and highlight the influence of gap characteristics, plant traits, microclimate, soil moisture, and biotic influences within gaps. More studies are needed to further refine these interactions by ecosystem and region.

New studies are needed on functional relationships and belowground processes within gaps, gaps as small-scale plantings for new ecotypes/species for anticipated climate change, and studies that translate existing knowledge into application, such as forest canopy composition and heterogeneity to stand-scale prescriptions (e.g., using LiDAR). Implementation studies are needed to execute research results into operations.

Overall, new knowledge on the context of gaps and their application will advance the knowledge and the practice of sustainable forest management.

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*Guest Editors*





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