Special Issue

Using LiDAR and Optical Imagery to Map Forest Vegetation for Assessing Wildlife Habitat

Message from the Guest Editors

The importance of conserving forest wildlife abundance and diversity has been increasingly recognized, and numerous efforts have been made to improve our understanding of forest wildlife behavior. Forest vegetation biophysical features and three-dimensional (3D) structures have been demonstrated to be valuable inputs for mapping wildlife distribution. This Special Issue of *Forests* emphasizes forest vegetation mapping through the integration of LiDAR and optical imagery, and how it can be used to assess the quality of wildlife habitats. Research articles may focus on, but are not limited to, topics such as new approaches of forest vegetation mapping for wildlife habitat assessment based on LiDAR and/or optical data, data fusion algorithms on improving the vegetation mapping accuracy for wildlife habitat assessment, and addressing how the integration of LiDAR data and optical imagery affects the niche modelling and wildlife habitat assessment results. Application studies regarding forest biodiversity and wildlife habitat management and conservation with the help of LiDAR data and optical imagery are also welcome.

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Forests (ISSN 1999-4907) is an international and cross-disciplinary, scholarly forestry journal. The distinguished editorial board and refereeing process ensures the highest degree of scientific rigor and review of all published articles. Original research articles and timely reviews are released online, with unlimited free access. Our goal is to have *Forests* be recognized as one of the foremost publication outlets for high quality, leading edge research in this broad and diverse field. We therefore invite you to be one of our authors, and in doing so share your important research findings with the global forestry community.

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