

Application of GIS for Biodiversity Research

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Geographical information systems (GIS) are indispensable tools of spatial analysis. In particular, the study of biodiversity has a strong spatial component. We propose here a Special Volume of *ISPRS—International Journal of Geo-Information* on Application of GIS for Biodiversity Research. GIS, together with spatial statistics, are essential for analysing spatial patterns of biodiversity, from genes to individuals, species and communities. GIS are the best tool to collect, store, manage and map distribution data, basal to any type of spatial analyses. Thus, distribution atlases are now completely performed with GIS, namely by web GIS applications. With atlas data, we can determine species chorotypes and biogeographical areas. Ecological niche modelling (ENMs) is probably the most used analytical spatial tool to analyse the factors driving the species ranges. With ENMs, we can model species richness, range shifts and species dispersions, species invasions, hybrid zones, and help to analyse the phylogeography and systematics of species.



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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