

Assess the Effects of Climate and Land-Use Change on Plant Species Distribution

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Message from the Guest Editors

Plant diversity is unevenly spatially distributed due to eco-evolutionary processes. We live in an era where human-induced land use and climate change are threatening biodiversity at unprecedented rates. Consequently, biodiversity loss and extinction rates have exceeded historically high levels, a phenomenon observed all over the globe and at all spatial scales since the Industrial Revolution, mainly due to habitat loss and degradation. This trend is bound to continue in the coming decades. This will lead to increasing biotic homogenization, as well as altering biodiversity patterns and biotic interactions. The Mediterranean, apart from being the second largest global biodiversity hotspot, is also a global biodiversity hotspot of vulnerable taxa and is among the regions where the effects of climate and land-use change on plant diversity are expected to be the largest. There is thus an urgent need to assess current biodiversity patterns, conservation actions, practices, and management plans, as well as for studies conducted on potentially threatened or socioeconomically important taxa.



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