Special Issue

Vegetation Response to the Hydro-Climatic Changes during the Late Quaternary

Message from the Guest Editors

The global distribution and composition of vegetation is largely controlled by the climate (precipitation, temperature), soil characteristics and altitude; however, human and natural impacts are also present. Simultaneously, climate change is most evidently reflected in vegetation because the vegetation of any area is an integral and basic composition of the ecosystem, which is sensitive to and governed by climatic changes. The influence of climate on vegetation is so great that each climatic zone has its own characteristic vegetation type. Understanding climate change and monsoonal variability is a defining issue of our time, and various geological, biological, historical and archaeological proxies provide evidence for ways in which the Earth's climate has changed (in the past) and may do so in the future. Among the biological proxies, palynology has proved to be one of the most potent tools for the reconstruction of vegetation-based past climatic changes. Therefore, it is crucial to study the response of vegetation (dynamics) to climate change and monsoonal variability during the late Quaternary.

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

We live in a Quaternary world, that is, a world shaped by the interplay of the different compartments of the earth system—lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere—during the last ~2.6 million years. It is not possible to understand the current world—and, hence, to anticipate its possible future developments—without knowing the Quaternary history of drivers, processes, and mechanisms that have generated it. Our own species is an evolutionary outcome of the Quaternary performance. Therefore, the journal *Quaternary* is born with the aim of being an integrative journal to encompass all aspects of Quaternary science focused on understanding the complex world in which we live and to provide a sound scientific basis to anticipate possible future trends and inform environmental policies.

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