Special Issue

Forest Succession and Leaf Litter Decomposition

Message from the Guest Editors

Most of the world's forests are naturally regenerated secondary forests, and forest succession is a very important ecological process for these secondary forests in the future. Biodiversity generally increases during forest succession, which has been thought to be one of the major drivers of ecosystem functioning. Litter decomposition is a biogeochemical process fundamental to nutrient, carbon and energy cycling within forest ecosystems, influencing tree productivity, species composition and carbon storage. Litter functional traits are proposed to provide the most direct link between biodiversity and litter decomposition, the reason for which we consider functional traits to represent biodiversity in this Special Issue: Forest Succession and Leaf Litter Decomposition. This Special Issue aims to synthesize current understanding of biotic and abiotic factors affecting litter decomposition rates and carbon fluxes, to present recent research on litter decomposition and their effects on forest carbon cycling, and to illustrate how this knowledge could be translated into forest or carbon management strategies in the context of global change.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Lei Deng

State Key Laboratory of Soil Erosion and Dryland Farming on the Loess Plateau, Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xianyang 712100, China

Prof. Dr. Zhenhong Hu

1. State Key Laboratory of Soil Erosion and Dryland Farming on the Loess Plateau, Northwest A&F University, Yangling 712100, China
2. Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, CAS & MWR, 26 Xilong Rd., Yangling 712100, China

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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.

Editors-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Cate Macinnis-Ng
Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142, New Zealand

Prof. Dr. Giacomo Alessandro Gerosa
Department of Mathematics and Physics, Catholic University of Brescia, I-25121 Brescia, Italy

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