



Addressing the Role of Wildland Fires in Socio-Ecology of Dry Tropical Forests

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Message from the Guest Editors

Tropical dry forests (TDFs) are seasonally dry ecosystems spanning areas of annual mean precipitation between 600 and 1600 mm during 4–7 months of the year. These ecosystems harbor diverse and multi-functional landscapes that are inextricably linked to the lives of millions of people across the globe. Fire has played a role in maintaining TDFs, traditionally used as a management tool by communities. However, in recent decades the frequency and intensity of fires have increased due to a combination of factors such as climate change, deforestation, and ecosystem degradation. Despite their significance, TDF ecosystems have not received adequate research attention, conservation, and/or development interventions compared to humid tropical forests. As a result, in many places they are threatened and or degraded. This research area offers an important contribution to improve the understanding of the fire–ecosystem–people nexus, and to inform tailored and adaptive fire management practices.

The aim of this Special Issue is to compile information on the understanding of the role of fires in the socio-ecology of TDF.

