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Forest Species Distribution, Diversity and Growth under Climate Change

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Message from the Guest Editors

As present climate observations and future climate simulations show that global warming is currently occurring at an unprecedented rate, especially at higher latitudes and continental interiors covered by permafrost, climate warming is expected to put boreal and temperate forests at high risk of altering tree species composition and forest diversity. From biogeography and forestry, it is known that the climate is the first-order driver of existence, locality, and complexity of forests worldwide. Thus, climate change plays a key role in re-distributing forest types, promoting forest growth, and changing tree species diversity in the near future. Recent research has shown that forests, tree species, and their climate types will shift northwards in order to reach equilibrium with the change in climate. We would like to encourage further research on ongoing (in situ) and predicted changes in the forest composition, forest-forming tree species re-distribution, and forest diversity across boreal and temperate forests in both plains and mountains in order to develop strategies for adapting to a changing climate under new AR6 (2021) climate change scenarios.

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