# Environmental DNA as a Rapid Forest Biodiversity Inventory Tool

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## Message from the Guest Editor

Forest ecosystems provide numerous services essential to human welfare such as fuel, building material, flood control,air and water purification and carbon sequestration. Forests are under increasing pressure due to anthropic activities, including urbanization,sylviculture and intensive agriculture. Climate change and the introduction of pests and diseases are seriously threatening forest health. Forest functioning and ecosystem services are highly dependent on forest biodiversity. It is thus of paramount importance to accurately describe and monitor forest biodiversity to predict the impact of human activities on forest functions. Major constraint on traditional large-scale biodiversity inventories is the need to identify species using morphological characteristics and laborious and time-consuming techniques. It can also be difficult to identify the different stages of certain species and to detect rare and/or cryptic species. We welcome all studies aiming at studying forest ecosystems biodiversity using metabarcoding,to promote a more generalized usage of this promising technique and help the development of standardized protocols that are easily transferable across laboratories.

Special Issue

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