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Forest Sensitivity to the Cumulative Effects of Repeated Drought and Other Stresses

Guest Editors:

Dr. Dilek Killi
Plant Production and Technologies Department, Agriculture and Natural Sciences Faculty, Konya Food and Agriculture University, 42080 Konya, Turkey

Dr. Domingo Sancho-Knapik
Departamento de Sistemas Agrícolas, Forestales y Medio Ambiente, Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentaria de Aragón (CITA), Avda. Montañana 930, 50059 Zaragoza, Spain

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Message from the Guest Editors

Climate change is inducing increasingly severe and frequent drought events. Often, these droughts are accompanied by higher temperatures in the form of heat waves, and also by an increased proliferation of biotic stresses in the form of diseases, as inset vectors are influenced by climate and human activities. Over time, repeated stress events may have one of two outcomes: adaptation and the development of acquired resilience, or the progressive degradation of plant performance and a decline in plant health. This is particularly evident in long-lived tree species, where the confluence of an increased frequency of drought events with other abiotic/biotic stresses is having profound effects on the viability of natural forests, managed forestry plantation, and urban trees. This Special Issue focuses on the monitoring, physiological, genetic, and biomolecular analysis of repeated multiple stresses on trees. Particular attention is paid to the interaction of drought, elevated [CO2], atmospheric pollutants such as ozone, and diseases such as Xylella fastidiosa.

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Department of Mathematics and Physics, Catholic University of Brescia, I-25121 Brescia, Italy

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Contact Us

Forests Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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