



Topsoil Characterization by Means of Remote Sensing

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Message from the Guest Editors

Soil resources of the Earth are vital for preserving life on this planet due to their unique ecosystem services. Soils are now threatened, as evidenced in the fact that in recent years, the Technosphere (i.e., all material production generated by human activities) has begun to exceed the Biosphere at an accelerated rate, both in weight and diversity. Operational sensors can now provide valuable information about the properties and the state of the uppermost layer of the soil, which is called “topsoil”. This layer, ranging from 5 to 30 cm, is usually the first affected by threats such as organic matter decline, erosion, compaction, salinization, contamination, sealing, landslides, or land subsidence. Additionally, climate change can have serious effects on the water and energy budgets of the topsoil affecting the Earth Critical Zone.

This Special Issue invites you to highlight significant achievements so far, as well as the challenges and limits of current remote sensing technologies to provide useful information on topsoil.





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