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Use of Remote Sensing in Valuation of Blue Carbon and Its Co-benefits

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

This issue welcomes submissions that demonstrate how advances in remote sensing can be used to establish the value of salt marshes, mangrove swamps, and seagrass meadows. These ecosystems are now widely recognized as highly efficient sinks for atmospheric carbon dioxide. The carbon they store, termed “blue carbon”, is found in biomass aboveground, but the most significant stocks are held in the soil of salt marshes, mangrove swamps, and seagrass meadows (also termed blue carbon habitats). Remote sensing has clear applications for assessing aboveground stocks of carbon, for instance, through indices that indicate production and vegetation height. Wetland boundaries were first mapped through interpretation of aerial photography, and advances in remote sensing are expected to continue to improve our ability to determine the area of blue carbon ecosystems. For this issue, we look for advances in both methods to assess aboveground carbon stocks and extent of blue carbon habitats as well as many other “ecosystem services”, or “co-benefits”, of salt marshes, mangrove swamps and seagrass meadows.

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