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Sustainable Utilization and Life Cycle Analysis of Forest Products

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Message from the Guest Editors

Forests cover today about 4 billion hectares in the world and people all depend directly or indirectly on forests products such as wood, food, fibers, energy, and medicinal compounds but also climate, water and carbon cycle regulation, and other ‘nontangible’ services. Recently the IPCC underlined that: “In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fiber, or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit”. Life cycle assessment techniques can be used to support various types of decision-making in relation to the development, use, and trade of new products or policy-making. This SI plans to give an overview of the results of the most recent advances in the field of LCA practices to evaluate the sustainable utilization of different forest products, from the most utilized wood and its derivatives to innovative ones, considering as main products also the social-environmental service as the improvement of society's independence on non-renewable resources, tourism, biodiversity, climate mitigation, and others.

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