Editorial

Acknowledgements

It is with great pleasure that we introduce to the international audience this special issue on Carbon Sequestration in China's Forest Ecosystems. It provides highlights of the achievements from a Canada–China Climate Change Project "Confronting Global Warming: Enhancing China's Carbon Sequestration", which involves over 50 Chinese and Canadian scientists over the period of 4 years from 2002 to 2006, under the funding support of the Canadian International Development Agency and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The Canadian participating institutions (representatives) are: (1) University of Toronto, Centre for Environment (Professors Rodney White and Virginia Maclaren), the Faculty of Forestry (Professors Rorke Bryan and Sean Thomas), and the Department of Geography (Professor Jing Chen); (2) Adaptation and Impacts Research Division, Environment Canada (Dr. Yongyuan Yin); and (3) Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (Dr. Josef Cihlar), Natural Resources Canada. The major Chinese participating institutions (representatives) include: (1) Beijing Institute for Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (Professor Jiyuan Liu), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS); (2) Nanjing Institute of Soil Sciences (Professor Xuezheng Shi), CAS; (3) Lanzhou Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute (Professors Ersi Kang and Zhongmin Xu), CAS; (4) Centre for Remote Sensing of Beijing Normal University (Professor Qijiang Zhu); (5) Institute for Earth System Science, Nanjing University (Professor Qingjiu Tian); (6) Nanjing Agricultural University (Professor Jianjun Pan); and (7) Nanjing Forestry University (Professors Jianhui Xue and Shengzuo Fang). The Canadian project director is Professor Jing Chen, and the Chinese project director is Professor Jiyuan Liu. The Canadian project manager is Dr. Julia Pan, and the Chinese project manager is Professor Gaohuan Liu. The leaders of project components include Professor Jing Chen and Dr. Mingzhen Chen for the remote sensing and carbon modeling component; Professor Sean Thomas and Professor Xuezheng Shi for the forestry ground-truthing and soil assessment component; and Dr. Yongyuan Yin and Professor Virginia Maclaren for the integrated assessment component. At various stages of this project, Professor Joe Whitney, Ms. Jane Liu, and Dr. Josef Cihlar provided effective consulting services in results-based project management (RBM), carbon modeling, and remote sensing, respectively. Madam Farhana Mather and Mr. Anatoly Oleksiyenko of the University of Toronto's Center for International Relations were instrumental in the initial development of this project proposal and management structure. Project monitor Mr. Richard Baerg provided many useful suggestions that guided this project towards a successful completion. Individuals of the Canadian International Development Agency, including Melinda Tan, Chris George, Cecilia Leung, and Nathalie Leblanc, were all very helpful in our project implementation and management. Mr. Diansheng Wei, Madam Nuyun Li, Mr. Chunfeng Wang, and Mr. Shengdong Zhang of the Chinese State Forestry Administration, which is the project's "home institution", have given strong support to the development of policy relevant models and tools. Mr. Guangsheng Gao and Madam Cuihua Sun of the Chinese State Development and Reform Commission, Mr. Mingming Liu of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, and Mr. Bojie Fu of the Chinese Academy of Sciences have provided critical support and guidance through annual Joint Project Steering Committee meetings and individual consultations. Many scientists and graduate students at the various participating institutions played active roles in the various project components. Without all these individuals mentioned above, the achievements shown in this special issue would not have been possible.

A user-friendly computer package named "Landuse Decision Support Tools" (LUDST), which includes four carbon cycle models and one set of integrated assessment tools, is an additional outcome of this project, permitting the outcomes of this project on China's forest management and land use policies to be implemented and sustained in different regions of China by the State Forestry Administration. This tool package was developed under the scientific supervision of Professor Jing Chen, Dr. Weimin Ju, Dr. Yongyuan Yin, and Professor Virginia Maclaren and technical assistance from Mr. Andriy Bulynko for initial interface development, Mr. Mark Mortimer for refinement and integration, and Mr. Gang Mo for translation into Chinese. Mr. Mortimer played a critical role in the last phase of the tool development. Various individuals, including Mr. Ajit Govind, Mr. Oliver Sonnentag, Dr. Mustapha El Maayar, and Mr. Feng Deng, contributed to the refinement of this package. This LUDST package is freely available from us.

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