

This book addresses the important – but often neglected – issue of vegetation interactions with climate. Although the subject of vegetation-climate interaction is a relatively young area of study, it is a compelling issue scientifically and is also of importance for land management practices.

Vegetation–Climate Interaction

- brings together the latest research that has only previously appeared in journals
- explains the underlying mechanisms that control how our planet works: the interaction between the climate, the atmosphere and the oceans;
- emphasises feedback loops and earth system processes involving vegetation both on land and in the sea.

Starting with a description of the broad patterns in vegetation which have classically been seen as a passive response to climate, the book builds up from the local scale – microclimates produced by plants – to the regional and global scale. The influence of plants (both on land and in the ocean) in making clouds, haze and rain is also considered, together with plant effects on the composition of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. Broad global feedbacks that either stabilize or destabilize the Earth's environment are explored in the context of environmental change both in the recent geological past, and in the near future. Common contentions and misconceptions about the role of vegetation or forest removal in the spread of deserts are also considered. This book provides a readable, accessible account of the way in which the world's plant life in part controls its own environment.

ISBN: 978-3-540-32491-1
springer.com
www.praxis-publishing.co.uk

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