The usefulness of remote sensing science to inform ecology has been highlighted by many; yet these two research communities have only recently started to coordinate their research agendas. Such synchronization is however key to improving the potential for remote sensing data to effectively support environmental management decisions.

This themed issue aims to demonstrate how integrative approaches combining ecological knowledge and satellite-based information allow a better understanding of the mechanisms shaping current changes in biodiversity patterns. By bringing together a range of stakeholders spanning academic experts in remote sensing, ecology and conservation NGOs, it highlights how knowledge exchange is at the heart of the future development of both disciplines.

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