



Global Change and Protected Areas

By Guido Visconti

Springer Netherlands. Buch. Book Condition: Neu. 240x160x mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - High mountains can be considered as particularly appropriate environments to detect effects of climate change on natural biocoenoses in a global scale for the following reasons: Firstly, ecosystems at the l- temperature limits of plant life are generally thought to be especially sensitive to climate change [1][2][3]. An already ongoing upward shift of vascular plants at high summits in the Alps, determined by the Austrian IGBP-research [4][5][6][7][8], is most likely a response to the atmospheric warming since the 19th century. Secondly, high mountains still comprise the most natural ecosystems in many countries, being largely untouched by human settlements and agricultural influences, Therefore, climatic effects on ecosystems can be studied without masking effects from human land use. Thirdly, high mountain ranges are present in virtually every major zonobiome of the earth. The research initiative GLORIA aims to establish an urgently needed global monitoring network, by using high mountain ecosystems as sensitive indicators, as required in the 'IGBP-Mountain Workplan' [9]. Moreover, a deeper understanding of assemblage mechanisms and assemblage processes in vegetation patterns as a contribution to ecological theory can be expected. This paper gives...



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