



Permafrost Environments

3D - Paleo and Relict Permafrost Records of Environmental Change

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Permafrost and periglacial processes operate under cold-climate conditions, and in many regions of the world past climatic conditions were colder than at present. These include but are not limited to regions proximal and beyond the margins of the last glacial ice sheets. Relict permafrost and periglacial landforms attest to the extent of past cold-climate conditions, although the interpretation and significance of such features are commonly the subject of debate. In addition, other forms of proxy data, including flora and fauna fossil remains, relict permafrost, ancient DNA, as well as isotopic and chemical signatures in biological remains and sedimentary deposits that record past cold-climate environmental conditions. Together, geological and biological evidence provide insights into the extent of past climatic and environmental conditions, and rates of change. They also provide context for impacts experienced under current changing climatic conditions. This session examines issues and evidence related to past permafrost, permafrost preservation and the reconstruction of past environments.

Keywords:

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