Editorial

Artificial intelligence (AI) in language modelling is rapidly advancing. ChatGPT, DeepSeek and similar tools offer transformative opportunities. These tools can speed up literature reviews and data analysis. They can even help write research papers. AI can offer efficiency and innovation. They process vast amounts of qualitative information and quantitative data quickly. Research scholars can stay updated and identify knowledge gaps. This allows more time for fieldwork and grassroot level understanding. However, we must use AI cautiously.

AI is not perfect! It can produce inaccurate information. Ethical concerns exist regarding attribution and original thought. Overreliance on AI could harm critical thinking skills and abilities.

The IOF Forestry Journal recommends verifying AI outputs. Authors should cross-check AI-generated information. Their oversight is crucial. AI should be used as an assistant, not a replacement for the author's judgment. They should also disclose AI use.

This 2024 issue contains eight papers and explores Nepal's forests, watersheds and climate resilience—from community forest carbon storage to blackbuck habitat needs. Together, all these studies call for data-driven policies balancing ecology and livelihoods.

We would like to thank all authors, contributors, and reviewers for their excellent work. The English language editor also deserves our thanks. We look forward to continued contributions and cooperation.