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The special issue of the journal emerged from the 8th European Conference on Ecological Restoration held 9-14 September 2012 in České Budějovice (Budweis), Czech Republic. The conference was organized by Restoration Ecology Group, Faculty of Science USB (see www.restoration-ecology.eu). The special issue is devoted to one of many topics of the conference: Vegetation Dynamics in Ecological Restoration. The cover photo illustrates how spontaneous succession can be effective in restoration of coal mining spoil heaps (this one is 20 years old).

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