GIS-Based Valuation of Ecosystem Services

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Ecosystem services (ES) are the benefits provided to humans by the natural environment, such as clean air, natural pollination, drought regulation, etc. This concept gradually deepens its influence on the development of environmental economic theory and practice. Providing information about ES for decision making is essential to preserve their supply and, consequently, their benefits to society. Making these services visible through the mapping of biophysical, social, and economic indicators enables understanding of potential trade-offs and the design of conservation strategies. Geographical information systems (GIS) can be used to spatially estimate the direct use value of ES and to map results. However, ES modeling requires extensive data acquisition, processing, and modeling skills, making the task of selecting which method to use arduous. In this Special Issue we aim to advance the state of the art in exploring available open data and GIS models which can be used for ES modeling and mapping. This Special Issue also aims to promote the importance of the ecosystem services concept for sustainability and human wellbeing.

Special Issue