



Environmental Changes and Their Significance for Sustainability

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

31 December 2024

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The evolution of natural geo-ecosystems is mostly described from a purely academic viewpoint. However, the genetic processes of operation within those systems and their evolution in a geological framework may provide a good understanding of the natural conditions and mechanisms that govern our present-day natural environment. This knowledge will help in the evaluation of the risks of natural disasters or hazards and in managing a sustainable environment. We welcome papers that lead to a better understanding of natural systems and their evolution in Quaternary perspectives with the potential for consideration or implementation within present-day and future environments.

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quaternary



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Editor-in-Chief

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

We live in a Quaternary world, that is, a world shaped by the interplay of the different compartments of the earth system—lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere—during the last ~2.6 million years. It is not possible to understand the current world—and, hence, to anticipate its possible future developments—without knowing the Quaternary history of drivers, processes, and mechanisms that have generated it. Our own species is an evolutionary outcome of the Quaternary performance. Therefore, the journal *Quaternary* is born with the aim of being an integrative journal to encompass all aspects of Quaternary science focused on understanding the complex world in which we live and to provide a sound scientific basis to anticipate possible future trends and inform environmental policies.

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