

Special Issue

Impacts of Climate Change on Ecosystems

Message from the Guest Editors

The greatest threats to natural systems are climate change and human impacts. These have been true for millions of years (climate) and millennia and recent centuries (humans), and now climate and humans increasingly overlap. To understand these roles, there is a need to better define the role of natural processes such as climate change on ecosystems. Here, we invite contributions that focus on how ecosystems responded to climate changes in the past or where it is suspected that climate has forced humans to adapt to new climate settings and how they interacted with ecosystems, for example, through changing fire regimes and ecosystem exploitation. We wish to attract contributions that rely on a range of multiproxy studies that study past ecosystems, or by using models with well-constrained boundary conditions that aim to predict the future trajectories of ecosystems. **Keywords:** past climates and ecosystem function; ecosystem changes in relation to climate; the future of ecosystems in relation to climate change; case studies on the role of climate and human factors in ecosystem changes; the relative role of natural and anthropogenic forces in ecosystem changes.

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As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal Applied Sciences has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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