

Special Issue

Forests in the Landscape: Threats and Opportunities

Message from the Guest Editors

Thirty years have passed since the Rio Earth Summit set the goal of arresting deforestation and forest degradation worldwide. However, the recent slowdown in deforestation in tropical regions has been inconsistent at best. At the same time, the increase in forest cover elsewhere has largely/often been plantation monocultures or patchy protected areas, which do not provide the stable, biodiverse ecosystems and high-quality ecosystem services of primary forests. Conversion to agriculture, bioenergy, industrial forestry, and climate change are just some of the challenges confronting the Rio challenge. In response, much discussion has centered around the ecological, governance, and planning aspects of the landscape approach as a means for protecting forest ecosystems that are essential for climate stabilization, biodiversity, and ecosystem services while addressing development and human rights in forest communities. This Special Issue explores the drivers of forest loss and ways to respond holistically to the unmet Rio challenge including the institutional structures and processes (governance) of public and private institutions for forest conservation.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 December 2023)



Land

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Impact Factor 3.2
CiteScore 6.4



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Land is the only open access journal covering all aspects of land science, and it is a pioneering platform for publishing on land system science. Our editorial board is comprised of eminent scholars. We publish high quality research on societally relevant, emerging and innovative topics and results in land system research. It is now one of the top land journals with a significant Impact Factor, and has a goal to become the best journal in land in the coming years.

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