Special Issue

Land Abandonment: Positive and Negative Effects on Soil Quality, Ecosystem Services, and Environmental Functioning

Message from the Guest Editors

Land abandonment is widespread around the world and encompasses different land-uses, such as orchards, croplands, and rangelands. Often, land abandonment stems from on-site degradation processes, such as extreme compaction, soil erosion, soil organic carbon depletion, or salinization/sodification. Such processes are likely to reduce the primary productivity of desired plant species or crops, or cause the succession or invasion of undesired vegetation species. Regardless, land abandonment may be related to changes in socio-economic and cultural preferences, and, specifically, to urbanization and related modifications in the labor market. An abundance of evidence indicates that land abandonment halts soil erosion and salinization, triggering the buildup of soil horizons and subsequently improving soil functioning and ecosystem health. At the same time, other evidence shows that land abandonment accelerates land degradation processes. The objective of this Special Issue is to demonstrate the complexity of the topic of land abandonment while highlighting the agro-environmental challenges and opportunities as well as related policy and socio-economic aspects.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Ilan Stavi

The Dead-Sea and Arava Science Center, Tamar Regional Council, Yotvata 88820, Israel

Dr. Manuel Pulido Fernádez

GeoEnvironmental Research Group, University of Extremadura, 10071 Cáceres, Spain

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 August 2023)

Land

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.2
CiteScore 5.9

mdpi.com/si/68405

Land
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
land@mdpi.com

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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. I strongly recommend Land for your best research publications for a fast dissemination of your research.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Christine Fürst
Department Sustainable Landscape Development, Institute for Geosciences and Geography, University of Halle, Halle, Germany

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