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# Advances in Quaternary Studies: The Contribution of Mammalian Fossil Record

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## Message from the Guest Editor

The evolutionary history of mammals, which led to today's biodiversity and biogeographical setting, mingles with those of paleogeographic, climatic and environmental changes.

The Quaternary period, recording the most dramatic change in the Earth climate system, is of particular interest when scrutinizing the causal factors leading to the progressive reconstruction of mammalian communities, and the changes in biogeography and biodiversity. The Special Issue aims to present the state-of-the-art and the diversity within the field, the most advanced research on fauna dynamics to evaluate the significance of the species responses to climate changes, and to compare evolutionary scenarios during time and across space. Deciphering the complex mechanisms driving fauna evolution is of crucial relevance to understand the actual meaning of the so-called sixth mass extinction, and to plan appropriate actions for biodiversity conservation in view of the ongoing climate warming.

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## Message from the Editorial Board

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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