



Criticality Versus Geological Scarcity: Different Concepts, Which May Need Tuning

Guest Editor:

Dr. Theo (M. L.C.M.) Henckens

Senior Research Fellow of the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University, Heidelberglaan 2, 3584 CS Utrecht, The Netherlands

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Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue explores the difference between critical raw materials on the one hand and geologically scarce mineral resources on the other. Criticality focuses on the vulnerability of the current generation with regard to temporary supply disruptions. The time horizon is short-term. The scale of mitigation strategies is on the level of companies, sectors, countries, regions. Geological scarcity focuses on vulnerability of future generations with regard to depletion of (certain) mineral resources. The time horizon is long-term. The scale of mitigation strategies is global (similar to climate strategies).

This Special Issue presents an overview of the most recent knowledge on both criticality and geological scarcity, analyzes the impact of the energy and mobility transitions on the availability of critical raw materials and geologically scarce mineral resources, and explores the respective approaches and policies to mitigate the impact of criticality and geological scarcity. Finally, it is discussed how risk management strategies with regard to critical raw materials can be tuned with long-term policies with regard to geologically scarce mineral resources.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Steve W. Lyon

School of Environment and
Natural Resources, Ohio State
University, Columbus, OH 43210,
USA

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MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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