

## Special Issue

# Rural Sustainability: Touristic Consumption and Local Development

### Message from the Guest Editor

Tourism in rural territories has become a strategic driver for sustainable development, especially when it is anchored in local culture and ancestral knowledge. Rural sustainability depends on balancing economic growth with the protection of natural resources, community well-being, and the preservation of identity. Touristic consumption plays a central role, as visitors increasingly seek authentic experiences connected to traditional practices, gastronomy, rituals, and local livelihoods. At the same time, integrating ancestral knowledge into tourism fosters cultural revitalization and safeguards intangible heritage. This knowledge shapes sustainable production systems, agroecological practices, crafts, and rituals that enrich the tourist experience. Local development is reinforced when participatory governance models ensure fair benefit distribution, empower communities to lead decision-making, and promote environmentally responsible activities. Overall, rural tourism grounded in cultural and ancestral knowledge becomes a tool for sustainable territorial development, enhancing resilience and preserving heritage for future generations.

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### Guest Editor

Dr. Pablo Quezada-Sarmiento

Centro de Investigación de Ciencias Humanas y de la Educación,  
Universidad Tecnológica Indoamérica, Quito 170103, Ecuador

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## Sustainability

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*Sustainability*  
Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[sustainability@mdpi.com](mailto:sustainability@mdpi.com)

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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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