

Special Issue

Understanding the Relationship between Biological Diversity, Ecosystem Functioning and Ecosystem Services in Aquatic Ecosystems

Message from the Guest Editor

Aquatic ecosystems (e.g., oceans, lakes, rivers) are vital for humanity as providers of a variety of functions and services, including CO₂ fixation and oxygen production among others. Still, anthropogenic activities leading to its overexploitation, contamination, eutrophication and reduction of its associated biodiversity are putting these ecosystems under major stress and may lead to an impaired functioning. Despite the major efforts to better understand the structure, composition and functioning of aquatic communities, we still have a limited understanding of the relationship between the diversity and functioning of aquatic ecosystems. We lack information especially on how different aspects of diversity simultaneously influence multiple functions such as nutrient use and subsequently biomass production. The aims of this Special Issue in *Sustainability* are to explore the evidence on the impact diversity on the functioning and the provisioning of services in aquatic ecosystems, to underline the major gaps in our current knowledge and, most importantly, to find ways to move forward in this field of research.

Guest Editor

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I encourage you to contribute a research or comprehensive review article for consideration for publication in *Sustainability*, an international Open Access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to sustainability and sustainable development. *Sustainability* publishes original research articles, review articles and communications. I am confident you will find the journal contributes to enhancing understanding of sustainability and fostering initiatives and applications of sustainability-based measures and activities.

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