

Special Issue

Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation

Message from the Guest Editor

Climate is considered one of the most important environmental factors controlling the distribution of species and vegetation. According to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) (IPCC, 2014), the climate system is unequivocally warming, and many of the changes seen since the 1950s are unprecedented in either decades or millennia. The global average combined land and ocean surface temperature data calculated as a linear trend showed a warming of 0.85 (0.65 to 1.06) °C (confidence interval at 90%) in the period 1880 to 2012. The report also shows that average precipitation over the mid-latitude land areas in the Northern Hemisphere has increased since 1901 (medium confidence before and high confidence after 1951). The increase of global mean surface temperature by the end of the 21st century (2081–2100) relative to 1986–2005 is likely to be 0.3°C to 1.7°C under RCP2.6, 1.1°C to 2.6°C under RCP4.5, 1.4°C to 3.1°C under RCP6.0, and 2.6°C to 4.8°C under RCP8.5.

Guest Editor

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