

Special Issue

Bringing Ecosystem Services into Decision-Making

Message from the Guest Editors

In complex socio-ecological systems, human well-being and sustainable development of society ultimately depend on the ecosystem services provided by nature. The spatial mismatch of the supply, flow, and demand of ecosystem services, such as food supply, flood regulation, and carbon sequestration, can have a non-negligible impact on the sustainable development of human society. At the same time, there are large differences between different regional and spatial scales in decision-making strategies for natural capital management, conservation, and planning. Therefore, there is an urgent need to address the challenge of disconnected policies at multiple scales from the perspective of differences in strategic objectives.

It is essential to integrate ecosystem services into decision-making. Recent ecosystem services-related research aims to inform multiple policy sectors, but only a very small number of studies clearly address a particular policy. To bridge the science-policy gap at this level, assessment of decision effects from the perspective of human well-being and social sustainability is needed to better meet the requirements of decision makers.

Guest Editors

Dr. Zhe Feng

School of Land Science and Technology, China University of Geosciences (Beijing), Beijing 100083, China

Prof. Dr. Huafu Zhao

School of Land Science and Technology, China University of Geosciences (Beijing), Beijing 100083, China

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Ontario
Institute of Technology, Oshawa, ON L1G 0C5, Canada

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