Special Issue

Landscape Fragmentation and Sustainable Environmental Assessment

Message from the Guest Editors

Landscape fragmentation (LF), i.e., the process where large habitat patches become smaller and more isolated, has been studied recently by a variety of scholars. Most of the time, LF negatively affects wild fauna and flora and depends mainly on human activities, such as deforestation, urbanization, and transport and mobility infrastructures. Spatial, landscape, and transport planning are typical instruments for designing defragmentation measures (such as ecological networks, green and blue infrastructures, etc.) in the perspective of the reduction of LF in rural, periurban, and urban contexts. As LF is a product of the interaction between human activity and the environment, the design of sustainable counteractions relays on the development of proper environmental assessment procedures, including environmental impact assessment (EIA), strategic environmental assessment (SEA), and appropriate assessment (AA) concerning Natura 2000 sites. The integration of environmental assessment procedures since the early stages of the planning processes is key to the minimization of the effects connected to the increase of LF in a given area.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 March 2021)

Sustainability

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 7.7

mdpi.com/si/35555

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