

Special Issue

Sustainable Soils: Perspectives on Soil Functioning in the Anthropocene

Message from the Guest Editors

Soils comprise some of the most complex and biologically diverse environments on earth. They underpin all terrestrial ecosystems and play crucial roles in human food security and the mitigation of climate change. However, land use change, climate change, and human mismanagement are physically, chemically, and biologically degrading earth's soils. Therefore, it is paramount to build our knowledge of these complex and still insufficiently understood systems. It will be especially important to understand how increasingly severe droughts, intense precipitation events, and altered atmospheric interactions will impact soil behavior and resilience. A greater understanding of the soil resource and how it can be more sustainably managed is a prerequisite to safeguarding the primary provisioning and regulating ecosystem services provided by soils. Therefore, understanding the role of soils in sustainability is critical not only to advance environmental science but also to inform societal action and government policy.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 January 2023)



Sustainability

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 7.7



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