



## Monitoring and Assessment of Environmental Quality in Coastal Ecosystems Volume II

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Humans living in coastal zones have been strongly dependent on these ecosystems as a source of food, physical protection against storms and the advancing sea, and a range of human activities that generate economic income (e.g., tourism and water sports). Notwithstanding, the intensification of human activities in coastal areas in recent decades, as well as the global climatic changes and coastal erosion processes of the present, have introduced detrimental impacts on these environments. Organic and inorganic pollution, marine anthropogenic litter, destruction, and fragmentation and modification of habitats for multiple purposes, overexploitation of natural resources, introduction of invasive species, and loss of biodiversity are among the most common impacts. Maintaining the structural and functional integrity of these environments, as well as recovering an ecological balance or mitigating disturbances in systems under the influence of such stressors, are complex tasks, only possible through the implementation of monitoring programs and assessment of their environmental quality.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Environmental issues are quickly becoming central political, economic and academic topics of the twenty-first century. A large number of modern challenges are directly or indirectly caused by complex interactions between environmental issues. Such issues require interdisciplinary research, knowledge and insights to understand and, ultimately, for solutions to be found. Through the journal *Environments*, we strive to create a platform for meaningful discourse by accepting contributions from a wide range of fields. We sincerely hope you will consider publishing your distinguished work in this highly-accessible, peer-reviewed journal.

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