



## Approaches to the Non-conflictual Use of Resources

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### **Message from the Guest Editors**

Dear Colleagues,

Natural resources are the material, energetic, and spatial basis of our standard of living. However, disputes over the ownership, use, and extraction of natural resources often play a disruptive role in peace and security (Brown & Keating, 2015). Several types of natural resources, such as metals and industrial minerals, are reaching their availability limits due to an increase in the world's population and global prosperity. However, resources such as forests, water, pastures, and land might be subject to competitive usage claims. Resource scarcity is recognized to be one of the greatest structural risks for differences or conflicts in the 21st century, and resource use is changing ecosystems, often permanently. The United Nations (2012) promoted the strengthening of the capacity for conflict-sensitive natural resource management in order to promote and support the non-conflictual use of resources.

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