



Emerging Challenges to Protected Areas Management

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Protected areas (PAs) are considered a key area-based measure for conserving biological diversity and ensuring both the representation and persistence of the world's biomes. Although the number and spatial extent of PAs have increased since the 1970s, PAs and PA networks have faced both ongoing and emerging challenges in recent years. PA management teams are increasingly confronted with a myriad of challenges, including, inter alia:

- SARS-CoV-2 and other zoonotic diseases;
- Climate change adaptation;
- Spread of invasive species;
- Habitat fragmentation due to infrastructure development;
- Over-exploitation of resources both within and adjacent to PAs;
- Shrinking national budgets allocated for PAs;
- Lack of resources in terms of staff and expertise;
- Protected area Downgrading, Downsizing, and Degazettement (PADDD);
- Stakeholder and governance conflicts;
- Corruption (endogenous and exogenous);
- Armed conflict;
- Conflicting management objectives;
- Harmonising development and conservation;
- Managing tourism;
- Adaptive management and co-management.





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