



Application of the Ecosystem Service Concept in Social–Ecological Systems—from Theory to Practice

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Message from the Guest Editors

Ecological footprint analyses demonstrate that the world's more than 7.5 billion people consume multiple planet's worth of resources. To incite and evaluate societal changes aiming at a sustainable use of the environment and its natural resources, the ecosystem service concept was developed more than 20 years ago. To ensure the sustainable provision of indispensable ecosystem services the concept has been refined and enhanced enabling application across various temporal and spatial scales. However, evidence-based strategies and policies are needed to preserve biodiversity and the natural capital in a changing world. This Special Issue, therefore, addresses studies advancing terminology, frameworks, concepts, and applications related to ecosystem services assessment with particular focus on social–ecological systems. We also welcome best-practice guidelines and papers addressing the most relevant open research questions and future perspectives in the context of goods and services provided by nature.





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