

Plateau Lake Water Quality and Biodiversity: Impacts of Human Activity and Trans-regional Water Diversion

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Message from the Guest Editors

Lakes are indispensable natural resources for humans and other organisms. During the last century, anthropogenic climate changes, especially seasonal climate alternations, intensified widespread use of agricultural chemicals (e.g., fertilizers and pesticides), and rapidly increasing urbanization have dramatically changed regional watershed and hydrological patterns, exerting excessive pressure on lacustrine ecosystems.

Ongoing climate change is expected to accelerate hydrological cycles and thereby increase available renewable freshwater resources. This will inevitably induce fundamental variations in lake systems and their functions. In this vein, we anticipate that much more time and effort are needed to restore the health conditions of polluted lakes. Large-long-distance transregional water drainage has been proposed to mitigate lake water pollution and water shortages; however, this drainage might not only result in abrupt changes in established watershed ecosystems but also disrupt the balance of biodiversity and bioinvasion, which can lead to catastrophic ecological disasters.





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