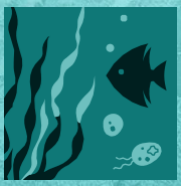

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Riverine Wetlands: Functioning and Threats in a Changing World

Guest Editor:

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
30 April 2022

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Riverine wetlands are unique, highly productive and diverse habitats in river floodplains. They perform a wide range of functions such as flood control, water purification, carbon storage, groundwater recharge, and water storage. In terms of biodiversity, they provide refuges for fauna in times of flooding, are food reservoirs and breeding sites, and participate in the dispersion of plant and animal species. Finally, in terms of biodiversity, thanks to the variability of the geomorphological, physicochemical, and hydrogeological contexts in which they are created, riverine wetlands offer a unique diversity of ecological situations that has no equivalent in other wetlands on similar scales. Alluvial wetlands are the scene of major issues concerning the goods offered to human populations, particularly in tropical and equatorial areas, and the health risks associated with the pathogens they are likely to harbor. The modification of large rivers, which has accelerated with the advent of motorized vehicles and the increase in the human occupation of alluvial valleys, has had a major impact on these alluvial ecosystems. The deforestation of alluvial valleys, the mechanization of agricultural practices and the advent of synthetic fertilizers have favored the filling in and eutrophication of alluvial wetlands. Finally, climate change, by affecting the availability of water resources and flood regimes, is endangering relict ecosystems.

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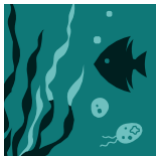
The functional understanding of such ecosystems, the measurement of the risks associated with anthropic and climatic constraints on the goods and services they provide, but also how these constraints, by altering their functioning, favor the emergence of new risks (e.g., biological invasions, loss of biodiversity, health risks) necessitate interdisciplinary approaches associating ecology, Earth sciences, geography, health sciences, and human sciences.

This set of papers brings together a group of interdisciplinary and international researchers to develop together an integrated understanding of riverine wetlands, including their functioning, associated functions and services, and risks. Readers interested in rivers, floodplains, and restoration will be interested in this Special Issue, as well as those wanting to fuse an interdisciplinary approach to science with a progressive view of river corridor management.

Dr. Gudrun Bornette
Guest Editor



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Message from the Editorial Board

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