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Grassland Fragmentation

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Message from the Guest Editors

Fragmentation has been extensively studied in forest ecosystems, in which the most common process is the transformation of the passage into a matrix of savannas or shrubs that surrounds and isolates forest remnants. Much less is known about the consequences of the subdivision of natural grasslands, despite the extension and the delicate state of conservation of these environments. To what extent does grassland fragmentation affect biodiversity in these environments? Which components of biological diversity are particularly vulnerable? What are the main edge effects? How does grassland fragmentation interact with other factors of environmental alteration such as biological invasions and changes in the dynamics of disturbances? What is people's perception of this highly transformed ecosystem and its conservation? This Special Issue addresses the causes, extent and effects of grassland fragmentation and the main challenges this problem poses for research and conservation.

Deadline for manuscript submissions:



May 2022)

mdpi.com/si/98865

Special Issue



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