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Forests in the Landscape: Threats and Opportunities

Guest Editors:

Dr. Dominick A. DellaSala

Wild Heritage, PO Box 945,
Berkeley, CA 94704, USA

Dr. Edward Morgan

Cities Research Institute and
Climate Change Response
Program, Griffith University,
Nathan, QLD 4111, Australia

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (15 December 2023)

Message from the Guest Editors

Thirty years have passed since the Rio Earth Summit set the goal of arresting deforestation and forest degradation worldwide. However, the recent slowdown in deforestation in tropical regions has been inconsistent at best. At the same time, the increase in forest cover elsewhere has largely/often been plantation monocultures or patchy protected areas, which do not provide the stable, biodiverse ecosystems and high-quality ecosystem services of primary forests. Conversion to agriculture, bioenergy, industrial forestry, and climate change are just some of the challenges confronting the Rio challenge.

In response, much discussion has centered around the ecological, governance, and planning aspects of the landscape approach as a means for protecting forest ecosystems that are essential for climate stabilization, biodiversity, and ecosystem services while addressing development and human rights in forest communities. This Special Issue explores the drivers of forest loss and ways to respond holistically to the unmet Rio challenge including the institutional structures and processes (governance) of public and private institutions for forest conservation.



mdpi.com/si/96632

Special Issue



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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Christine Fürst

Institute for Geosciences and
Geography, Department
Sustainable Landscape
Development, University of Halle,
Von-Seckendorff-Platz 4, 06120
Halle, Germany

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Contact Us

Land Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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