



Functioning of Small Water Bodies

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (15 June 2022)

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Small water bodies play a very important ecotone role, being a transitional system between various biocoenoses and aquatic ecosystems and also creating an interface between terrestrial and aquatic environments. Thus, they build a bridge that connects various wetlands, favouring the migration of many species. Generally, their large abundance worldwide and extensive total area, greater than that covered by lakes, contribute to maintaining high biodiversity. In spite of the fact that ponds located in a landscape with a low degree of transformation harbour decisively higher biodiversity than ponds in areas with a large impact of anthropopression, both types of water body can contribute to the enrichment of flora and fauna on local and regional scales. The high ecological value of these aquatic environments is expressed in the occurrence of specific pond species as well as in a generally high share of rare species. The hydrological functions of ponds are very variable throughout the year. Because the number of ponds is generally decreasing, it is essential to develop effective arguments that will lead to the protection and maintenance of these valuable ecosystems.





water



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

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Journal Rank: JCR - Q2 (*Water Resources*) / CiteScore - Q1 (Water Science and Technology)

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