



water



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Karst Rocky Desertification and Climate Change Effect

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Message from the Guest Editors

Issue focuses on effects of karst rocky desertification and climate change on ecosystems of karst mountainous areas and identifies adaptation strategies: sustainable use and protection of terraces and rocky desertification sloping farmland and protection of water and soil resources. Shifting regimes of social-ecological systems (SESs) over long periods play roles in future sustainability. Issue is concerned with identifying regime shifts of SESs as a result of changes in relationships between SES components in karst areas.

Karst habitats are characterized by slow soil formation as a result of the underlying limestone; shallow and patchy soil with low water retention capacity; high porosity of the underlying limestone rock. Droughts occur frequently due to uneven seasonal rainfall, shallow soil layers, and porous rock. Drought stress limits the survival, growth and distribution of plants. Karst areas are more susceptible to climate change (rainfall and rising temperatures). Issue concentrates on water cycles, nutrient cycles and vegetation changes in karst areas in the context of climate change, with the aim of understanding the evolution processes of karst ecosystems.



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Special issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

In the context of global changes, the sustainable management of water cycles, going from global and regional water cycles to urban, industrial and agricultural water cycles, plays a very important role on the water resources and on their relationships with food, energy, biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and human health. *Water* invites authors to provide innovative original full articles, critical reviews and timely short communications and to propose special issues devoted to new technological and scientific domains and to interdisciplinary approaches of the water cycles. We ensure a critical review process and a quick turnaround between submission and final decision.

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