



Land

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Special Issue Reprint

Feature Papers for Land Systems and Global Change Section

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This Reprint presents a concise selection of recent studies that deepen our understanding of land system dynamics under accelerating global change. Land systems arise from interactions among ecological processes, human activities, and socio-economic structures, and their evolution is increasingly shaped by multiple, intertwined pressures. The contributions highlight how climate variability, urban growth, institutional change, and ecological degradation jointly drive land transformation, often producing nonlinear and spatially heterogeneous outcomes. Several studies investigate how land use transitions alter ecosystem functions such as soil stability, hydrological regulation, and cultural benefits. Case analyses from diverse regions show that landscape patterns and ecological resilience respond differently across environmental and developmental contexts, emphasizing the need for locally tailored strategies. Urban environments feature prominently, with research assessing ecological efficiency, green infrastructure, and the impacts of rapid urbanization on environmental stress. These findings demonstrate the dual role of cities as both drivers of land system change and critical arenas for nature-based solutions. Other contributions address governance and conceptual challenges, including land resource equity and the need for coherent planning frameworks.

