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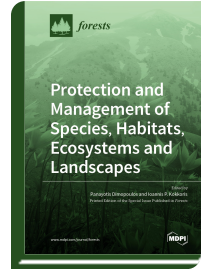
*Special Issue Reprint*

## **Protection and Management of Species, Habitats, Ecosystems and Landscapes**

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Edited by  
Panayotis Dimopoulos  
Ioannis P. Kokkoris

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Human well-being and the prerequisite sustainable environmental management are currently at stake, reaching a bottleneck when trying to cope with (i) the ever-growing world population, (ii) the constantly increasing need for natural resources (and the subsequent overexploitation of species, habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes) and (iii) the documented and on-going impacts of climate change. By this, the role of conservation and management practices for the environment is characterized as a crucial and top issue and should deal with (a) promoting best practices from the local to the global level, (b) identifying spatial and temporal knowledge gaps, (c) multidisciplinary aspects for sustainable management practices, (d) identifying and interpreting the role of stakeholders and socio-economic parameters in the decision-making process, and (e) methods and practices to integrate the concept of ecosystem services into natural capital assessment and accounting, conservation and management strategies. Modern literature highlights that land use change and prioritization, the restoration of natural areas and cultural landscape identification and maintenance, should be considered at the top of the scientific and policy agenda, as well as at the epicenter of novel awareness-raising strategies for the environment in the near future.



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