



Special Issue Reprint

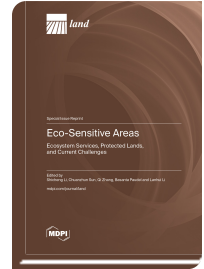
Eco-Sensitive Areas: Ecosystem Services, Protected Lands, and Current Challenges

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Edited by
Shicheng Li
Chuanzhun Sun
Qi Zhang
Basanta Paudel
Lanhui Li

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There are many eco-sensitive areas, such as mountain regions and transitional zones, around the world that cover a sizeable area of the Earth's terrestrial surface. However, due to excessive human land use and climate change, these regions are currently facing numerous challenges. In response to these challenges, many policies have been formulated and significant action has been taken, including designating protected land areas and providing ecological compensation, to balance the relationship between ecological protection and socio-economic development. These interventions must be supported by the government at different levels to ensure that these ecosystems are able to sustainably provide their services. Because of this, studies related to ecosystem services should play an essential role in managing and conserving eco-sensitive areas and protected land. This Special Issue aims to address critical knowledge gaps in our basic understanding of land use/cover change, ecosystem services and how they have changed in eco-sensitive areas, and societal trends within and outside eco-sensitive areas for dealing with future challenges. A particular focus is placed on studies regarding protected land and those that investigate the management and preservation of biodiversity and landscapes in these areas.



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