

Nature Conservation in Sustainability

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1. Introduction

Nature protection is one of the main pillars of sustainable development, striking a proper balance between anthropocentric and ecocentric justifications [1]. Numerous authors highlighted the importance of the conservation of both inanimate and animate natural resources [2]. The protection of animate resources focuses mainly on the conservation of biodiversity, understood as the diversity of all living organisms found on Earth concerning genes, species, and ecosystems [3]. Biodiversity is essential for human existence and well-being and is adversely affected by many different anthropogenic factors such as habitat loss, pollution, global warming, overexploitation of species, or biological invasions that have been increasing in recent decades [4]. The lack of proper management of natural resources leads to a rapid loss of biodiversity and, consequently, deepens the ecological and economic crisis in the world [5,6]. Achieving sustainable development is impossible without effective conservation of natural resources and integrated environmental education [7]. Making the public aware of the threats to biodiversity and introducing modern methods of its protection are important tasks that should be particularly promoted by government authorities and scientists.

2. Papers in This Special Issue

This Special Issue covers different aspects related to nature conservation. It contains four original papers and one review paper. Three original papers were devoted to endangered and protected species, namely, the Yellow-spotted mountain newt (*Neurergus derjugini*), Green peafowl (*Pavo muticus*), and the Eastern pasqueflower (*Pulsatilla patens*). Somaye Vaissi (Contribution 1) reconstructed both recent and future potential distributions (2050 and 2070) of *Neurergus derjugini* by tracking and excluding the effects of climate and landscape changes in western Iran and northeastern Iraq. Mingxiao Yan and Co-authors (Contribution 2) investigated the changes in the distribution of *Pavo muticus* in China through historical periods. Monika Podgórska and Grzegorz Łazarski (Contribution 3) investigated the impact of secondary succession in xerothermic grasslands on the number, distribution, structure, and morphology of individuals of *Pulsatilla patens* in Poland. The fourth original paper was devoted to the importance of phytosociological data in the assessment of anthropogenic changes in vegetation. Maria Ziaja and Co-authors (Contribution 4) presented the changes in species composition and abiotic conditions in aquatic and marsh vegetation in Rzeszów Reservoir (Poland) over 22 years (1994–2016). The review paper was devoted to the role of the local wisdom of indigenous people in nature conservation. Azlan Abas and Co-authors (Contribution 5) concluded that their findings offer some basics on how academics can adopt and adapt the existing local wisdom of indigenous people in nature conservation into a scientific framework and design answers to the Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda.



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3. List of Contributors

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