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Inclusive Governance and Management of Protected and Conserved Areas

Guest Editors:

Dr. J. Marc Foggin

School of Public Policy and
Global Affairs (SPPGA), University
of British Columbia (UBC),
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1, Canada

marc.foggin@ubc.ca

Dr. Sarah J. Halvorson

Department of Geography,
W.A. Franke College of Forestry
& Conservation, University of
Montana, Missoula, MT 59812,
USA

sarah.halvorson@umontana.edu

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Biodiversity is under unprecedented pressure from human activities around the globe. The most common model for conservation has been in the form of 'protected areas' such as national parks. However, much of the world is (or until recently has been) conserved *de facto*, independently of this relatively recent development: more than a quarter of the global terrestrial area is cared for by local communities or indigenous peoples, overlapping with around 40% of the world's protected areas and large ecologically intact landscapes. Yet, their commitment and stewardship are at risk of being replaced by other detrimental activities if their ways are not duly recognized for their contributions to nature conservation and human wellbeing. Both in community conserved areas and designated protected areas, most attention has focused to date on management (what should be done) rather than governance (who decides), which may be of even greater significance. In this special issue, we aim to focus on key actors in the selected social-ecological systems (case studies), highlighting how they contribute to conservation outcomes. Fundamental values and beliefs as well as a diversity in governance and management will be highlighted. We particularly welcome contributions from voices less commonly heard, aiming to enhance our understanding and to promote more inclusive conservation and sustainable development.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Marc A. Rosen

Faculty of Engineering and
Applied Science, University of
Ontario Institute of Technology,
Oshawa, ON L1G 0C5, Canada

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Sustainability
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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