
Editorial

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Sustainable development and environmental protection are considered amongst the greatest challenges of our times. The academic community is approaching these issues from different perspectives and is trying to suggest pertinent solutions. This special issue wishes to offer a better understanding of how protection and restoration of the environment may be addressed and to shed a light on different aspects of promoting sustainable development and effectively protecting the environment. It especially wishes to offer a close look at regulatory frameworks, policy perspectives and management approaches that may assist in the achievement of these goals. It also wishes to bring together work from a range of disciplines which promote a multi-disciplinary approach and assist in developing practical and theoretical solutions to implement sustainable development and protect the natural environment.

This special issue includes papers focusing on three, core to sustainable development, thematic areas:

- a regulatory frameworks (enforcement and compliance of environmental legal frameworks, environmental liability)
- b environmental policies (territorial sustainable development, protected areas)
- c sustainable business practices offering different levels of analysis from global to regional and local.

The analysis of specific case studies may serve as real life examples. This issue also wishes to stress that environmental protection should not be disregarded in times of austerity and economic crisis, but must be mainstreamed in all development policies, government and business strategies, in order to achieve a better, more sustainable future.