



Functional Rewilding: Addressing the Challenge of Giving Control Back to Nature

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Human influence extends across the globe, from the tallest mountains to the depth of the oceans. There is a growing call for nature to be protected from the negative impacts of human activity, particularly intensive agriculture. A relatively new approach, within the “land sparing/land sharing” debate, is “rewilding”, defined as the restoration of self-sustaining and complex ecosystems, with interlinked ecological functional processes that facilitate minimizing or gradually reducing human intervention. The key theoretical basis of rewilding is to return ecosystems to a “natural” or “self-willed” state, with trophic complexity, dispersal, connectivity, and stochastic disturbance in place.

This Special Issue seeks contributions from those who are involved in active rewilding projects. The emphasis will be on what challenges are being faced and how these are being overcome. This will allow us to take the lessons learnt from across the globe to chart a way forward in supporting the return of natural ecological processes on the pathway to rewilded ecosystems.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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