



Human Development in the Anthropocene: Rethinking Sustainability

Guest Editors:

Dr. Pedro Conceição

pedro.conceicao@undp.org

Prof. Dr. Gretchen C. Daily

gdaily@stanford.edu

Prof. Dr. Jaya Krishnakumar

Jaya.Krishnakumar@unige.ch

Dr. Heriberto Tapia

heriberto.tapia@undp.org

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

20 April 2021

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

We live a moment of deep changes in our Earth systems and social systems. The impact of human activities on the Earth is such that a new geological epoch – the Anthropocene – has been proposed to recognise the massive changes we are inflicting on our planet. Climate change, biodiversity loss and ocean acidification point to an unprecedented moment in our 200,000 years as a species and in the 4.6 billion years of the Earth. A moment when human activity is becoming a dominant force shaping key processes of our planet. These human-led impacts are already eroding opportunities for many, deepening existing cleavages across groups of people, and, on current paths and without decisive action, will curtail opportunities for future generations. Both our notions of human development and sustainability must be recasted looking forward.

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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

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

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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