MAJESTIC AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (MAJES)

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Thematic Issue

Green Aspects of Human Lockdowns:

Environmental Responses, Ecological Recovery, and Lessons for Sustainability

MESSAGE FROM THE GUEST EDITOR

Dear Colleagues and Researchers,

We are pleased to invite you to contribute to this thematic issue of MAJES, which examines what the COVID-19 lockdowns revealed about the response of environmental systems to sudden reductions in human pressure. The restrictions on movement and economic activity sharply reduced road traffic, aviation, industrial output, tourism, and public mobility, and these declines coincided with measurable changes in atmospheric pollutants, environmental noise, energy use, and human–wildlife interactions. Yet the size and persistence of these effects varied widely across locations, sectors, and ecosystems. Some improvements faded quickly once activity resumed, while other changes, such as the surge in single-use plastics and healthcare waste, created new environmental pressures of their own.

This thematic issue treats the lockdown period as a rare, large-scale natural experiment and seeks rigorous, interdisciplinary evidence on the sensitivity, resilience, and recovery trajectories of natural and human-modified environments. We particularly encourage studies that separate genuine lockdown effects from seasonal variation, weather, economic trends, and other confounding factors, and that compare observations during restrictions with pre-lockdown baselines and subsequent recovery periods. By weighing benefits against trade-offs, the collection aims to distinguish transient environmental effects from durable improvements, and to identify realistic interventions for sustainable transport, cleaner production, urban planning, pollution control, and biodiversity conservation. We welcome contributions from environmental scientists, ecologists, atmospheric and marine researchers, modellers, and policy scholars worldwide.

We look forward to receiving your valuable contributions and to building a collection that offers an evidence-based synthesis of what temporary reductions in human activity can, and cannot, teach us about long-term environmental sustainability and resilience.

Sincerely,

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SCOPE OF THE THEMATIC ISSUE

Background and motivation: The COVID-19 restrictions produced abrupt, simultaneous declines in transport, industry, tourism, and mobility across much of the world. This offered a rare chance to observe how environmental systems respond when human pressure is temporarily lifted.

Relevance: The theme remains relevant well beyond the pandemic. Knowing which gains were short-lived and which proved durable can guide sustainable transport, cleaner production, urban planning, and conservation policy.

Key Subject Areas:

1. Air quality, atmospheric pollutants, and greenhouse gas emissions during and after lockdowns.
2. Water quality and the responses of freshwater, coastal, and aquatic ecosystems.
3. Urban noise, soundscapes, and changes in urban environmental conditions.
4. Biodiversity, wildlife movement and behaviour, and human–wildlife interactions.
5. Terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystem responses and recovery trajectories.
6. Changes in energy demand, mobility, transport, and tourism, and their environmental footprint.
7. Waste generation and management, including single-use plastics and healthcare waste.
8. Environmental monitoring using remote sensing, field observations, modelling, and citizen science.
9. Comparative regional, longitudinal, and systematic review studies that separate lockdown effects from confounding factors.
10. Equity, social feasibility, and policy lessons for achieving environmental gains without disruptive restrictions.

Expected contribution: An evidence-based synthesis separating transient effects from durable improvements, with practical, socially feasible lessons for sustainability.

Article types: Original Research Articles; Review Articles (including systematic reviews and meta-analyses); and Short Communications. The issue will comprise approximately 8–10 articles.

Tentative timeline: Call for papers: January 2027 | Manuscript submission window: February–June 2027 | Peer review and revisions: March–September 2027 | Expected completion: November 2027 (dates indicative).

Submit via the Online Journal System (OJS)

Authors are invited to submit original research articles, review articles (including systematic reviews and meta-analyses), and short communications that align with the theme of this thematic issue. All manuscripts must comply with the MAJES author guidelines and should be submitted via the journal's Online Journal System (OJS).

Submission Link: https://ajes.cmpublisher.com/index.php/ojs/login

Note: All submissions must include a formal cover letter stating the name of the thematic issue ("Green Aspects of Human Lockdowns") and the guest editor. Manuscripts must comply with MAJES author guidelines.

For inquiries, please contact the MAJES editorial office at
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