Special Issue Soil Erosion by Steffen Seitz and Thomas Scholten

This Special Issue addresses one of the most severe environmental issues of our time: Land degradation by soil erosion. Although it has been known about for decades, humankind still faces numerous unresolved problems due to erosion worldwide, and many studies have found that the risk of soil loss still increases significantly with ongoing climate change. At the same time, topography and vegetation patterns such as root systems or biological soil crust communities, as well as land cover change, land use management, and engineering, play a decisive role in soil protection against erosion. Furthermore, the development and stabilization of new soil environments and the release, transportation, and storage of important environmental elements such as carbon, nitrogen, phosphorous, or heavy metals are largely controlled by erosion. Thus, soil erosion processes are shaping the Earth’s surface significantly. This Special Issue on soil erosion and land degradation addresses new findings on the above-mentioned topics as well as on methodological and technological advances and progress in modelling using world-wide increased data availability.