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Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration of Regional River Basins

Kongian Yu

Jay McDaniel

John Boswell Cobb Jr

Jinyong Zhao

Xingzhong Yuan

Jessica M Henson

Mark Hanna

Theresa Ruswick

Laurel McSherry

Xiaoxuan Lu

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- Research on theories, approaches, and practices relevant to basin spatial planning and ecological restoration
- Collaboration within the fields of biology, geography, geology, and the climate sciences

In recent years, China has issued several basin-scale plans to deal with pressing resources, environmental, and social problems caused by regional urbanisation. These plans help push ahead flood control and disaster reduction, the allocation, utilisation, and conservation of water resources, water ecological environment protection, and integrated basin management. The development of Yangtze River Delta, the Yangtze Economic Belt, the Yellow River Basin, Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei Region, Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area, etc., has now become new national agendas, which are guaranteed by top-down policies and offer opportunities for regional growth. Several new laws and regulations coming into effect as of 2021 also reinforce the collaborative basin management that drives regional social and economic development.

Meanwhile, territorial spatial planning systems established under the requirement of Multiple-Plan Integration also underscore basin development strategies in spatial management and ecological restoration. This issue, mainly focusing on the regional planning research based on water and land resources through revealing their ecological characteristics, is expected to include contribution to the following aspects (but is not limited to):

1) Research on regional ecology, land use, and ecosystem service at the basin scale
2) Research on theories, approaches, and practices relevant to basin spatial planning and ecological restoration
3) Research on spatial strategies and economic zoning to propel basin-scale social and economic development
4) Research on basin-scale collaborative planning and sustainable development of water resources and environmental protection
5) Integrated basin management planning geared to guaranteeing basins' ecosystem services
6) ecological river-corridor conservation and restoration at the basin scale

In all these topics, researchers and planners are called to act as leaders in interdisciplinary collaboration within the fields of biology, geography, geology, and the climate sciences to solve ecological and environmental problems by treating the water network of a basin, as a whole. In this issue, ***LA Frontiers*** also attempts to learn from cutting-edge exemplars worldwide in basin management, especially in ecosystem conservation and restoration, to provide reference for Chinese researchers and practitioners.

Kongjian Yu is a doctor of design at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, he is an honourary foreign fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a professor at the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Peking University. **Jay McDaniel** is an Emeritus professor of world religions at Hendrix College. **John Boswell Cobb Jr**. is a director for the Institute for postmodern development of China, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. **Jinyong Zhao** is a director assistant and research director at the Department of Water Ecological Environment, the head of the urban and rural water ecological landscape innovation team for the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research, and the secretary-general for the Committee of Ecological Hydraulic Engineering. **Xingzhong Yuan** is a professor and PhD supervisor for the faculty of architecture and urban planning at Chongqing University. He is the director for the research center for ecological restoration and control of water level fluctuating zone in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area at Chongqing University. **Jessica M. Henson**, RLA, ASLA, is a partner at OLIN and received a master's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Pennsylvania. **Mark Hanna**, PE, is the senior principal at Geosyntec, has a PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Los Angeles. **Theresa Ruswick** is a lecturer for the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. **Laurel McSherry** is an associate professor and director of the Graduate Landscape Architecture Program at Morgan State University. **Xiaoxuan Lu** is an assistant professor of landscape architecture at the University of Hong Kong.

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