



## Special Session Proposal

### **Navigating climate transitions: main challenges to communities towards sustainability**

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## Abstract

In face of the unprecedented challenges posed by climate change, the urgency to address its impacts has never been more crucial. Recognizing the multifaceted nature of climate change, this special session aims to shed light on the intricate dynamics within vulnerable communities during climate transitions, with a particular focus on landscape and regional development. By intertwining the discourse of climate change with social justice and sustainability, the session attempts to uncover meaningful results, paving the way for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

The European Union's ambitious commitment on turning Europe the first climate-neutral continent underscores the global recognition of the need for a paradigm shift towards sustainability. Central to this commitment is the concept of a "just transition for all", emphasizing social inclusion and leaving no one behind. However, as time passes by, the visions of justice for vulnerable communities are often eclipsed in the broader global discourse on climate transitions.

Vulnerable communities bear a disproportionate burden of the impacts of climate transitions. Not only do these transitions affect their livelihoods, but they also exacerbate existing social exposures.

Public discourses on climate transitions predominantly echo the voices of global organizations, supranational institutions, and national governments. The visions of justice for vulnerable communities seldom find representation or understanding in these discourses. This misalignment emphasizes the necessity of a place-based perspective to inform policymaking, ensuring that the unique contexts of specific vulnerable groups are considered.

The session seeks to unpack the "best practices" of inclusion of communities in climate change policies, emphasizing the need for holistic and sustainable approaches based on citizen science. By delving into the critical questions posed, we aim to generate comprehensions that inform transdisciplinary research, foster social and territorial cohesion, and shape public policies that empower and sustain vulnerable communities.

Theoretical and empirical backgrounds are appreciated. The primary research areas of this Special Session include, but are not limited to, advances in the following topics.

1. Conceptualization of Marginalized and Vulnerable Communities to Climate Change.
2. Main present challenges of Climate Change and its impacts on population.
3. Inclusion in Social Transition Processes.
4. Consequences of Climate Transitions for Vulnerable Communities.

5. Engagement and Empowerment of Vulnerable Populations to Mitigate Climate Transitions.
6. Best Practices for Inclusion in Climate Change Policies.
7. Support Measures Implemented by Regional and Local Governments to Assist Communities during Climate Transition Processes.
8. Public Discourses on Climate Transitions.
9. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Applications in Climate Change Research and Planning.
10. Other Technology Applications in Climate Change Research and Planning.
11. Transdisciplinary research on Climate Transition Processes.
12. Community Involvement in Nature-Based Solutions and Participatory Methods.
13. Main future challenges of Climate Change and its impacts on population.