

## Special Issue

### Landscape change and human activity

—Selected papers from the 2nd International Conference on Landscape Ecology of Asia and Pacific Region, Lanzhou, China, Sept. 22—25, 2001

#### Preface

After 3 years of development in the field of landscape ecology in the Asia-Pacific regions since 1998, much progress has been achieved in theory, methodology and application. During Sept. 22—25, 2001, the ancient Lanzhou City saw more than 160 landscape ecologists from 15 countries and regions participating the 2nd International Conference on Landscape Ecology of Asia and Pacific Region.

More than 50 papers were presented on hot topics like watershed management, multifunctional landscapes, ecosystem assessment and landscape planning, covering landscape types from forests, wetlands, grasslands and deserts to agriculture and urban. Many young scientists presented their work with new ideas and technologies. They are the future of landscape ecological research in the Asia-Pacific region.

During and after the conference, the organization committee received more than 80 papers in English and Chinese for publication in special issues of journal for the conference. It is really difficult to decide which paper should be included, and which one should be excluded. Finally we decided to publish some of the English papers in this special issue and some in a special column of another journal. so that the widely discussed topics on landscape ecology can be fully expressed. All these papers are approved via regular review system.

The conference was jointly organized by IALE-China Chapter, SCOPE China, and Cold and Arid Regions Environment & Engineering Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The conference and publication are sponsored by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Cold and Arid Regions Environment & Engineering Research Institute, Institute of Applied Ecology, and Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences. We feel our great honor to have this collection of these academic achievements published for exchange and contribute to the 6th International Association for Landscape Ecology World Congress, 13 – 17 July, 2003, Darwin, Australia.

#### Guest editors:

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