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FOREWORD

It is our honor to present the 25th edition of the *SGEM GeoConference Proceedings 2025*. These peer-reviewed proceedings reflect the scientific work presented at the SGEM GeoConference - an international platform where **Geosciences and STEM** unite to create knowledge that supports a more sustainable and responsible future. SGEM stands on a foundational belief: science is valuable not because it is new, but because it is **true, useful, and serving society**.

This volume 25 / issue 3.1: *Water Resources, Forest, Marine, and Ocean Ecosystems* — includes studies on sustainable water management, climate resilience, hydraulic and hydrological modeling, soil conservation and land restoration, forest ecosystems and biodiversity, and marine–coastal protection including blue-carbon environments. These thematic areas directly contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

Water, soil, forests, and marine systems are the foundations of planetary balance. In this issue, researchers analyze river basin responses to climate change, assess groundwater and drought risks, explore soil health and restoration strategies, and develop innovative methods for sustainable forestry and biodiversity protection. Marine and coastal studies focus on shoreline dynamics, ecosystem monitoring, and **blue-carbon habitats**, which represent one of the most effective natural solutions for carbon capture. Together, these research efforts demonstrate that sustainable development is inseparable from **responsible ecosystem management and climate resilience**.

All manuscripts included in these proceedings underwent a rigorous **double-blind peer-review** conducted by independent experts. Only papers demonstrating scientific integrity, originality, and meaningful contribution were accepted for publication. Every accepted manuscript receives an individual **Crossref DOI** and is permanently archived in the SGEM Digital Library, ensuring academic traceability, citability, and long-term preservation.

Demonstrating geographical and disciplinary diversity, the SGEM GeoConference unites researchers, professionals, and emerging scholars from **over 25 countries across multiple continents, including developed and developing nations and diverse research traditions**. What makes SGEM unique is its profound commitment to its core mission - **promoting Sustainability, fostering progress in Geosciences and Education, and supporting continuous scientific development**. Here, **the Earth** is not only studied - **it is respected**.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and the SGEM Scientific Committee, we express our sincere gratitude to all authors for their trust, to the reviewers for safeguarding scientific quality, and to all institutions supporting this global scientific initiative. Together, we transform knowledge into impact and ideas into progress.

We wish you inspiring reading and meaningful scientific achievements.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. hab. oec. Baiba Rivza

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