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**The thin green line:
the growing value of riparian ecosystem services under a changing climate**

Key words: Climate Change, Vegetation, Water

Abstract:

Riparian ecosystems provide a wide range of critical ecosystem services, many of which are supported by the unique properties of the vegetation growing in these habitats. The value of many riparian ecosystem services can be expected to rise under a changing climate, especially in highly modified agricultural and urban landscapes where riparian vegetation often represents the most significant vegetation remaining. At the same time, however, riparian ecosystems are likely to be highly sensitive to projected climatic changes with significant implications for their structure and function. Consequently, adaptation actions that aim to conserve, restore or enhance riparian ecosystem services should be prioritised in regional adaptation plans seeking to facilitate socio-ecological resilience. Here, I will review ecosystem services provided by riparian zones and examine the potential for climate change to shape future patterns in their supply and demand. I will also consider potential adaptation options for the management of riparian ecosystems and provide recommendations with a particular focus on vegetation management.