

Ambio

A Journal of Environment and Society

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

	Page
Aims	2
Article categories	2
Multi-, Inter- or Trans-Disciplinary manuscripts	3
Preparation of the manuscript	4
Supplementary Information	8
Ethics & Language support (required reading)	9
Online submission	9
Reviewer suggestions	9
Invitations to revise the manuscript	9
Accepted papers	10
Guidelines for reviewers	11
Research data policy	12
Special Issues	13



AIMS

For more than 50 years *Ambio – A Journal of Environment and Society* has provided a global readership with broad and diverse perspectives on important developments in environmental research, policy and related activities. Our articles present research to help understand contemporary sustainability changes and how proposed solutions may be implemented.

Ambio:

- publishes research on the interrelationships between the environment and society.
- encourages multi-, inter- and trans-disciplinary research with explicit management and policy recommendations.
- has a dedicated group of editors to assist the authors in broadening the scientific and societal impact of their research.
- is a journal of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- was founded in 1972, following the first UN conference on the environment.

ARTICLE CATEGORIES

Original contributions can be submitted to *Ambio* as Research Articles, Reviews, Perspectives, or Comments. Regardless of article category, your submission should make a clear link between the environment and society. If you are uncertain whether your manuscript is suitable for publication in *Ambio*, please send an e-mail with the abstract to the editor-in-chief bo.soderstrom@kva.se

Research Article

An original piece of work (original research) devoted to new findings and results of topical environmental research. The study should be introduced with non-specialists in mind. A Research Article should be organized as follows: Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgements, References and Author Biographies.

Perspective

Provides a forum for authors to discuss topical environmental issues, ideas or models from a personal viewpoint. Perspectives typically are argument driven, and arguments need to be solidly anchored in published research and relevant theoretical/analytical frameworks. Perspective papers do not need the empirical sections of a Research Article, although the methodology should be described briefly if analyses have been undertaken. They should be more forward looking than Reviews. They may be opinionated but should remain balanced and objective. Papers that aim at bridging the gap between research and its implementation are particularly welcome. Perspective articles are peer reviewed, and special guidelines for reviewers are given to emphasize that the manuscript is intended to evoke new ideas and stimulate debate, or new experimental approaches and practices.

Review

Focuses on one topical aspect of a research field rather than providing a comprehensive literature survey. It should not be focused on the authors' own work. Reviews can be controversial but, if that is the case, opposing viewpoints should briefly be given. A Review should be narrative, the language simple and directed towards a non-specialist readership, novel concepts defined and specialist terminology explained. All Reviews should, in addition to the main text, include Abstract, Keywords and Author Biographies. We recommend authors of systematic reviews and meta-analyses to consult standards – such as ROSES or PRISMA – and in each case relate to relevant literature on systematic reviews for work in that vein.

Comment

Reflections on recently published papers in *Ambio* may be submitted as Comments. Abstract, Keywords or Author Biography are not included. Authors of the original article will be invited to submit a response to your Comment.

Regardless of article category, the associate editors will secure reports from at least two external reviewers (for manuscripts sent to external review, see page 11).

Max number of words, references, figures and tables in each article category. The word limit includes references but excludes figures, tables and captions.

Article category	Words	References	Figures	Tables
<i>Research Article*</i>	6000	60	6	4
<i>Perspective*</i>	6000	60	6	4
<i>Review</i>	10 000	150	8	4
<i>Comment</i>	1000	10	1	1

* Multi-, inter- or transdisciplinary submissions, or submissions including a theoretical framework section, are allowed 8000 words including up to 80 references.

MULTI-, INTER- or TRANS-DISCIPLINARY MANUSCRIPTS

Ambio encourages multi-, inter- or trans-disciplinary manuscripts that deal with both environmental and societal aspects. All manuscripts must meet the standards and traditions of the chosen disciplines and work to integrate the different approaches. The following elements should be present in multi-, inter- or trans-disciplinary submissions to *Ambio*:

- A scientific format that includes problem definition and a detailed description and justification of methods.
- Especially for papers using a social science approach an explicit ‘Theoretical framework’ section can be added between the Introduction and Materials and Methods sections.
- This framework should include clarification of theoretical assumptions. A discussion of the disciplinary-specific and cross-disciplinary novelty of the study in relation to the existing body of literature and analyses.

PREPARATION OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Editors and reviewers should be focusing on the quality of science and not the format. To make the submission process easier, we invite you to submit your manuscript as a single file including all key sections in the different article categories, but without any particular format requirements. Only when your manuscript is at the revision stage will you be requested to format according to *Ambio*'s style. This way you will not have to spend valuable research time formatting (or re-formatting) your manuscript prior to first submission. Naturally, you are welcome to format already the first submission according to the below guidelines. However, we always request that you submit the title page, acknowledgements, and author biographies separately so that we can ensure that your manuscript is anonymized to allow double-blind peer review.

Cover letter

Submission of a manuscript must be accompanied by a cover letter that includes a short paragraph that describes the main findings of your submission. Please do not copy and paste from the abstract. The cover letter should also include the category of the paper.

Please describe:

- how the research is relevant to an international readership with very wide interests in environmental sciences,
- how it explores the link between society and the environment,
- how it addresses multi-, inter- or trans-disciplinary aspects,
- the most important management or policy recommendations as a result of your submission.

Language

Both American or British English are accepted as long as it is used consistently.

Manuscript

Use double-spacing throughout the text. The article should be submitted as Word, LaTeX, PDF, RTF, or TXT file for text. All manuscript files should be formatted to contain continuous line numbers. The manuscript should include:

Title Page,
Acknowledgements,
Author Biographies,
Abstract,
Keywords,
Main text of article,
References,
Figures/Illustrations, Tables.

Title Page

The title page, acknowledgements and author biographies must be submitted as a separate document in Editorial Manager. This will not be sent to reviewers to allow the review process to be double-blind. In addition to manuscript title and word count, the title page must contain the full names, positions and institutional mailing addresses of all authors as well as telephone number and e-mail address of the corresponding author. Please keep the title short since such articles often are downloaded and cited more.

Acknowledgements

Keep them brief.

Author Biographies

Author Biographies should be included for Research Articles, Reviews and Perspectives.

[Name of Author] is a [Professor/Associate Professor, doctoral candidate, etc.] at the [name of University/Institute]. His/her research interests include [example: political ecology and political economy of aquaculture development].

Address: [full current postal address].

e-mail: [current e-mail address]

Abstract

A short abstract, consisting of not more than 150 words, should indicate the scope, methods used, main results and one or two concluding "significance sentences" to allow readers from many fields of science to understand why your paper is important. Abstracts of a Review or a Perspective should indicate the scope and the main points of the article. A Comment does not have an abstract.

Keywords

Provide 4 to 6 keywords or keyword phrases in alphabetical order.

Reporting of data

When experiments have been performed, or in other situations where applicable, mean effect size, sample size and some measure of variability (e.g., standard deviation, standard error, coefficient of variation) must be explicitly given.

Numerals and units of measure

Use thousand million instead of billion or use 10⁹. Run together numbers with up to four digits (i.e. 1000 and not 1,000 or 1 000). Numbers with more than four digits should be given as, for example, 10 000 or 100 000 (and not 10,000 or 100,000). Use the decimal point: e.g., 1.25. Metric and Celsius units must be used. Use the expression: km hr⁻¹ not km/hr or km per h, g L⁻¹ not gm per liter. Convert currencies to appropriate USD or Euro exchange rates. Specialized technical or scientific terms, abbreviations and acronyms should be explained the first time they are used.

Number conventions

Do not use excessive numbers of digits when writing a decimal number to represent the mean of a set of measurements. The level of significance should be given with a maximum of three figures (e.g., $p < 0.001$). Do not use three figures for non-significant tests (e.g., show $p > 0.7$ and not $p > 0.700$). Be consistent in the use of number of digits when writing a decimal number and how to show significance levels throughout the manuscript.

Species names

At first mention in the text, common species names must be followed by an italicized scientific name within parentheses, for example, bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*). Do not capitalize common names of animal or plant species. Scientific (Latin) names are italicized for genus and species, but not for classes, orders and families. Varieties may also be italicized.

References in the main article

You are requested to use the author/year format of referencing in the text. If there are three or more authors use the name of the first author followed by "et al.". Add a, b, c etc. to distinguish between two or more references with the same author name and year. Always list a string of references in chronological order, e.g. (Black 1985; Smith and Baker 1995a, b; Carruthers et al. 1999). Use ";" to separate references.

Personal communications (Carruthers, pers. comm.) and other unpublished data (Carruthers, unpubl.) should be referred to in the running text and not given as notes or in the reference list. Manuscripts which are unpublished or in press should be cited only if formally accepted for publication. Avoid references to grey literature, to non-scientific publications and to publications that are not immediately accessible to the reader.

Reference lists

For references starting with the same surname and initials, firstly list single-author works in chronological order, secondly list two-author works in alphabetical order of the second author, and thirdly list multi-author works arranged only chronologically.

All authors' names up to 8 should be given. The abbreviation et al. should be used for papers with more than 8 authors, and following the first 8 names. Names of journals should be written in full. Please provide first and last pages for excerpts from journals, books, etc. In references to books, bulletins and reports, give number of pages, the city and the publisher.

If a paper is written in a foreign language, give the title in English and indicate at the end of the reference the language in which the paper is written as follows: (In Swedish). If the paper has an English summary add (English summary). You are more than welcome to provide URL links to the doi of articles.

Examples with reference type in italics given at the end of each reference:

- Aarset, B., S. Beckman, E. Bigne, M. Beveridge, T. Bjorndal, J. Bunting, P. McDonagh, C. Mariojous, et al. 2004. European consumers' understanding and perceptions of the "organic" food regime. The case of aquaculture. *British Food Journal* 106: 93–105. (Journal article)
- Asmala, E., and L. Saikku. 2010. Closing a loop: Substance flow analysis of nitrogen and phosphorus in the rainbow trout production and domestic consumption system in Finland. *Ambio* 39: 126–135. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-010-0024-5> (Journal article)
- Bertills, U., J. Fölster, and H. Lager. 2007. Natural acidification only—report on in-depth evaluation of the environmental quality objective work. Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Report 5766, Stockholm, Sweden (in Swedish, English summary). (Report)
- Connell, J.J., and R. Hardy. 1982. *Trends in fish utilisation*. Oxford: Fishing News Books. (Book)
- Gren, I.-M. 2000. Cost-effective nutrient reductions to the Baltic Sea. In *Managing a Sea*, eds. I.-M. Gren, K. Turner, and F. Wulff, 152–158. London: Earthscan. (Book chapter)
- Growcock, A.J. 2005. Impacts of Camping and Trampling on Australian Alpine and Subalpine Vegetation. PhD Thesis. Gold Coast, Australia: Griffith University. (Thesis)
- Haqq-Misra, J. Introduction: Detectability of Future Earth. Preprint at arXiv: 1902.08035 [physics.gen-ph] (Preprint)
- Molau, U., and P. Mølgaard. 1996. International Tundra Experiment (ITEX). Retrieved 1 November, 2010, from <http://ibis.geog.ubc.ca/itex/library/> (Web material)

Figures or other illustrations, Tables

Whenever possible the information in a table should instead be presented in a figure. Figures should be submitted on separate pages and numbered consecutively. Figure legends should be fully explanatory.

Figures should be prepared in a form that allows for reduction/increase in size: for example, vector EPS [Encapsulated PostScript]) for figures containing both text and line drawings. Please note that raster format figures are not accepted since they lose quality when scaled up. This will speed up the post-acceptance process considerably.

Please illustrate your article with high-quality colour photographs as these are often very informative (and free of charge to authors). Photos and figures should be of high quality (a minimum resolution of 300 dpi in one of the formats TIFF, JPG, PPT for photos). Copyright permission must be obtained for material copied from other publications.

Please consult a recent issue of *Ambio* when preparing your manuscript. Free access articles can be downloaded at: www.springer.com/environment/journal/13280

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Ambio encourages the use of Supplementary Information. A hyperlink from the online PDF will redirect the reader directly to the online material. Supplementary Information offers authors the opportunity to publish material that forms the basis for an article. The Supplementary Information is therefore directly relevant to the article, however, the paper must be able to stand alone without it. Examples of typical supplementary information include questionnaires, specifications of methodology, background data sets, multimedia files, and additional illustrations. We can also publish videos as Supplementary Information. Supplementary Information should not include any preliminary data or analyses. Supplementary Information will be made available to reviewers, but they are not requested to peer review it.

In the main article and in the Supplementary Information, all material should be denoted by a "S" preceding the number (Table S1, Fig. S1, Appendix S1 etc.). Do not cross-reference between article and Supplementary Information; instead include a separate list of references in the Supplementary Information.

Please remember:

- to submit all Supplementary Information in one (1) document;
- to include a title page according to the example below;
- to provide the final version, there will be no further copy-editing by the publisher;

Ambio

Supplementary Information

This supplementary information has not been peer reviewed.

Title: **The Anthropocene: From global change to planetary stewardship**

ETHICS & LANGUAGE SUPPORT (required reading)

Ethical responsibilities

Authors should carefully take notice of the [Ethical Responsibilities of Authors](#) in the Submission. Topics include:

- Integrity rules of good scientific practice
- Information on plagiarism software
- Fundamental errors
- Suggesting / excluding reviewers

Authorship principles

Authors should adhere to the guidelines that describe [Authorship principles](#). Topics include:

- Authorship clarified
- Disclosures and declarations
- Data transparency
- Role of the Corresponding Author
- Author contributions
- Examples of statements that can be used
- Affiliations of authors
- Changes to authorship
- Author identification
- Deceased or incapacitated authors
- Authorship issues or disputes
- Confidentiality

Declarations

Authors should make sure to include any required declarations (if applicable). Information on this can be found in the [Authorship principles](#) under ‘**Disclosures and declarations**’.

Research involving genetically engineered plants

Authors should carefully read the guidelines on [Utilization of plants, algae, fungi](#) if their research involves genetically engineered plants.

Publishing Ethics - COPE

Ambio is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE):
<https://publicationethics.org/>

English language support

Please find information about [English Language Support](#) via this link.

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You can only submit your manuscript online using this link: www.editorialmanager.com/ambi/. All correspondence, including notification of the editor-in-chief’s decisions and requests for revision, takes place by e-mail.

Under the heading “Additional Information”, authors need to answer “yes” to a number of statements regarding the manuscript. This is required information to be able to proceed with the online submission. All manuscripts submitted to *Ambio* are accepted for consideration with the understanding that they have not been published elsewhere and are not under consideration by any other journal.

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When your manuscript is at the revision stage all co-authors will be asked for verification: "Could you please verify that you are affiliated with this submission?". Please respond to this e-mail as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary delay in the review process of your revised manuscript.

REVIEWER SUGGESTIONS

The author(s) should suggest three to five potential reviewers who are qualified to judge the manuscript objectively, providing full names, institutions, and current e-mail addresses. Please ensure that reviewers represent broad international coverage. There should be no conflicting interests between authors and potential reviewers, which could interfere with reviewer objectivity (e.g., collaborating/co-authoring a paper within the past five years; author's advisor or student within the past five years; working at the same place as the authors; professional/private/business relationship with the authors). Please note that *Ambio* employs a double-blind peer review process (both authors and reviewers are anonymous).

INVITATIONS TO REVISE THE MANUSCRIPT

When you are invited to revise your manuscript, you will normally have 60 days (for "major revision") or 30 days (for "minor revision") to submit a revised manuscript. Carefully consider all comments of the associate editor and reviewers in a "response to reviewers" letter. In this letter you should write, for each comment, whether changes to the manuscript have been made as a result of that comment; if this is the case add page and line numbers to your response, and if this is not the case then explain the reason.

To make the work of editors and reviewers easier you should also clearly show in the revised manuscript where (major) changes have been made; either by marking the revised text in yellow or submitting two files: one with all track changes accepted and one with the track changes function still activated.

ACCEPTED PAPERS

Upon acceptance of your article you will receive an e-mail from Springer Author Services with the title: "Your article in *Ambio*: Information Required" with a link to the website MyPublication. Please check your spam folder if this e-mail does not come within a few days. There you will have the option to order Open Access (Open Choice) of your accepted article, paper offprints (you will receive a free electronic PDF-offprint), and a poster of the issue cover in which your article appears. Once this information has been given, your article will be processed and you will receive a first proof of your article, normally within three weeks.

Open Access

About half of all articles in *Ambio* are published Open Access. More information what Open Access means and about different ways to cover the publication fees can be found here. Please also check whether your institution is part of the Springer Compact agreement. Even if you do not publish Open Access you may free of charge distribute a link for downloading a read-only version of your article through the SharedIt-initiative. Finally, all *Ambio* articles are freely available for downloading via PubMed Central after a 12-month embargo period.

Publication of color illustrations is free of charge in the print and online version of *Ambio*, and there are no page charges.

Proof reading

The purpose of the proof is to check for copy-editing, typesetting or conversion errors and the completeness and accuracy of the text, tables and figures. Substantial changes in content, e.g., new results, corrected values, title and authorship, are not allowed without the approval of the editor-in-chief. After online publication (Online First), no further changes can be made.

Online First

The article will be published online after receipt of the corrected proofs. This is the official first publication citable with the doi (digital object identifier). After release of the printed version, the paper can also be cited by issue and page numbers.

GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWERS

The Editors of *Ambio* greatly appreciate your effort in evaluating this manuscript. A good review helps the editor to decide whether a manuscript is suitable for publication in *Ambio* and helps the author(s) to publish the manuscript. The reviewer identifies problems and provides guidance to the author(s) for improving the manuscript.

Internal (editorial) review

Up to 50% of papers submitted to *Ambio* are rejected after editorial review, normally within a week from submission. This reduces the burden on the refereeing community and enables authors to submit, without delay, to another journal.

We will reject a manuscript after editorial review if:

- it does not fulfil the journal scope (e.g. lacking a clear link between society and the environment);
- it is unlikely to be of interest to a broad international readership because of too narrow scope or if it does not provide novel insights into the subject area;
- authors have not convincingly argued that the general implications of the work transcend that of the studied area (for case studies);
- there are flaws with the methodology;
- is poorly presented and unclear.

External (peer) review

For manuscripts that pass the editorial assessment, the associate editors secure reports from at least two external reviewers. A first decision after external peer review is taken on average 65 days after submission.

Instructions for submission of the review

Reviewers indicate the overall publishing assessment by selecting the appropriate recommendation to the editor: *Accept* The manuscript is ready for publication (usually only after one or more revisions). *Minor revision* Please select this option if you consider the present manuscript suitable for *Ambio* and if the changes required are only minor. “Minor” does not primarily reflect the number of changes but their nature. It will not be necessary to send the revised manuscript out for review again. *Major revision* Please select this option if you consider the present manuscript not yet adequate for publication, but a major revision could make it suitable, e.g. if improvement of the text and/or the mathematical/statistical evaluation of the data is required. If additional experiments/sampling/data are necessary, the manuscript should be rejected. Usually a manuscript in this category will be reviewed again. There is no a formal commitment to accept a revised paper. *Reject* Rejection is a final decision. However, authors

can be encouraged to submit a new paper if additional data can be provided. They can also be asked to re-write the paper if it contains interesting data but the scope seems too narrow for the wide audience of *Ambio*.

Confidential comments to the editor are optional and can include concerns about ethical standards, data integrity or conflicts of an academic nature. Here the reviewer can also indicate if he/she has limitations in expertise (e.g. concerning specific methods, statistical analyses) and advise us to invite additional experts for these fields. Reviews covering only some parts of a manuscript are welcome, but the reviewer's limitations should be stated. To be as transparent as possible all other comments should be placed in the Comments to Author. Structure your comments according to general comments, specific comments and minor edits. The Comments can be written or pasted directly into the respective fields or can be submitted as attachments.

GENERAL COMMENTS: Write a short summary of the manuscript and include its advantages and drawbacks. **SPECIFIC COMMENTS:** Please help the author identify where the content to which you are referring is located by giving page and line numbers, indicate which comments are essential for the authors to revise. Minor edits Language, formatting issues etc.

Mandatory questions for reviewers:

1. Does the subject of the manuscript fall within the scope of *Ambio*? (exploring the relationships between society and environment; especially encouraged are multi-, inter- or transdisciplinary submissions with explicit management or policy recommendations).
2. Is it comprehensible not only to specialists but also to scientists in other fields and interested laypersons?
3. Is this a new and original contribution?
4. Are the results of sufficiently high impact and global relevance for publication in *Ambio*? Is the manuscript set in an international context and does it demonstrate how it builds on previous work on the subject?

RESEARCH DATA POLICY

Ambio encourages authors, where possible and applicable, to deposit data that support the findings of their research in a public repository. Authors and editors who do not have a preferred repository should consult Springer Nature's list of repositories and research data policy.

[List of Repositories](#)
[Research Data Policy](#)

General repositories - for all types of research data - such as figshare and Dryad may also be used. Datasets that are assigned digital object identifiers (DOIs) by a data repository may be cited in the reference list. Data citations should include the minimum information recommended by DataCite: authors, title, publisher (repository name), identifier.

DataCite

Springer Nature provides a research data policy support service for authors and editors, which can be contacted at researchdata@springernature.com. This service provides advice on research data policy compliance and on finding research data repositories. It is independent of journal, book and conference proceedings editorial offices and does not advise on specific manuscripts.
Helpdesk

SPECIAL ISSUES

Each year *Ambio* publishes special issues on topical research themes. Articles published in special issues are widely appreciated by our readership and belong to the most highly cited papers in *Ambio*. A special issue normally contains between 10 and 16 articles. If you are interested in publishing a "special section" of 4 to 6 thematic articles in a regular issue, please contact the editor-in-chief directly.

When to submit proposals?

We strongly encourage research groups to submit thematic proposals for future special issues in *Ambio*. Proposals are welcome at any time, but twice a year – 1 April and 1 October – the editors will evaluate all proposals based on scientific soundness and interest to our readership. Please plan 12–18 months ahead due to the intense competition for publication space. Proposals will be peer reviewed by all associate editors, and you will receive feedback. Normally we accept about half of all submitted proposals.

Requirements of the proposal

Your proposal should contain a general introduction to the subject, a clear rationale, clearly stated research questions or specific objectives, a description of implementation, and specific outcomes/benefits to the readership and potential spin-offs. A tentative list of article titles including lead authors is a requirement; it is even better if abstracts are available.

Furthermore, you should give the names and affiliations of all project group members as well as state the name(s) of potential guest editor(s). An independent guest editor nominated by the project group coordinates the peer-review process. The guest editor should be independent from all authors and project group members, and must be approved by the editor-in-chief, who makes all final publication decisions.

A time table should be included as well as information on when you would want the special issue to be published. The proposal should be sent to the editor-in-chief Bo Söderström (bo.soderstrom@kva.se)

What we offer

The highest level of editorial support is given to these high-priority articles throughout the review and publication processes. Open access is not mandatory for articles published in special issues, thus there can be a mix of articles published open access and non-open access in each special issue. In part due to the Springer Compact Deal roughly half of all articles in *Ambio* are today published open access. Articles published behind a pay-wall can still be widely disseminated via the SharedIt initiative where authors can post links to read-only full-texts free of charge. All *Ambio* articles are freely available via PubMed Central after an embargo period of 12 months.

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