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### DESCRIPTION

*Biological Conservation* is a leading international journal in the discipline of **conservation science**. The journal publishes articles spanning a diverse range of fields that contribute to the biological, sociological, ethical and economic dimensions of **conservation**. The primary aim of *Biological Conservation* is the publication of high-quality papers that advance the science and practice of conservation, or which demonstrate the application of conservation principles and policy. *Biological Conservation* invites the [submission](#) of research articles, reviews (including systematic reviews and perspectives), short communications, policy perspectives, and letters to the [editor](#) dealing with all aspects of conservation science, including theoretical and empirical investigations into the consequences of human actions for the diversity, structure and function of terrestrial, aquatic or marine ecosystems. Such papers may include quantitative assessments of extinction risk, fragmentation effects, spread of invasive organisms, conservation genetics, conservation management, global change effects on biodiversity, landscape or reserve design and management, restoration ecology, or resource economics. We also welcome papers coming from social sciences including those reporting on advances in conservation politics, ethics, policy, human social structure and biodiversity, and political culture among other subjects. *Biological Conservation* covers interdisciplinary topics within conservation biology and also provides practical applications of conservation research for land/resource managers and policy makers. We publish articles and thematic special issues that have a global relevance in terms of the topics or issues addressed, and thus demonstrate applications of conservation science and management beyond the specific system or species studied. *Biological Conservation* is an affiliate publication of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB). SCB members can obtain a [personal subscription](#) to this journal through the Society. Authors are also welcome to submit to the Journal's open access companion title, [Global Ecology and Conservation](#), which covers all sub-disciplines of ecological and conservation science.

### AUDIENCE

Environmentalists, conservationists, botanists, marine scientists, ecologists, biologists, zoologists.

### IMPACT FACTOR

2021: 7.497 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2022

## ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

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Environmental Periodicals Bibliography  
Current Advances in Ecological Sciences  
AGRICOLA  
Embase  
Engineering Village - GEOBASE  
Current Contents - Agriculture, Biology & Environmental Sciences  
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We now differentiate between the requirements for new and revised submissions. You may choose to submit your manuscript as a single Word or PDF file to be used in the refereeing process. Only when your paper is at the revision stage, will you be requested to put your paper in to a 'correct format' for acceptance and provide the items required for the publication of your article.

**To find out more, please visit the Preparation section below.**

### INTRODUCTION

**Please read all information carefully and follow the instructions in detail when preparing your manuscript.**

Manuscripts that are not prepared according to our guidelines will be sent back to authors without review.

*Biological Conservation* encourages the submission of high-quality manuscripts that advance the science and practice of conservation, or which demonstrate the application of conservation principles and policy. **Conservation implications should be clearly emphasized and discussed.** Given the broad international readership of the journal, published articles should have global relevance in terms of the topics or issues addressed, and thus demonstrate applications for conservation beyond the specific system or species studied.

### *Types of paper*

Word counts include text, references, figures and tables. Each figure or table should be considered equal to 300 words.

#### **1. Full length articles (Research papers)**

Research papers report the results of original research. The material must not have been previously published elsewhere. Full length articles are up to 8,000 words.

#### **2. Review articles**

Reviews summarize the status of research in a field of current interest. They may be submitted or invited. Review articles are up to 12,000 words and must include a methods section explaining how the literature for review was selected. We also consider Systematic Reviews, which apply a methodology to synthesize and appraise the scientific evidence on a specific question or hypothesis. More about systematic reviews can be found here: <http://www.environmentalevidence.org/information-for-authors>.

#### **3. Perspectives:**

These articles provide an opportunity for authors to present a novel, distinctive viewpoint on any subject within the journal's scope. The article should be well grounded in evidence and adequately supported by citations but may focus on a stimulating and thought-provoking line of argument that represents a significant advance in thinking about conservation problems and solutions. Perspectives articles should not exceed 8000 words.

#### **4. Short communications**

Short communications highlight both novel research and replication studies that report preliminary findings that are particularly compelling and highly relevant to conservation science and practice. If submitting a replication study, please include in your cover letter the rationale for undertaking the study. Short communications should not exceed 4,000 words.

#### **5. Policy Analysis**

These are short commentary pieces on contemporary, internationally relevant conservation or conservation-related policy issues that enable researchers, policy makers, and practitioners to make timely contributions to policy debates and actions. Contributions are based on research, expert analysis, literature review, or practitioner reflections regarding specific policy issues. Pure opinion pieces will not be considered for this paper type. Forum articles should be written in an accessible style and supported by real world examples and/or referenced scientific evidence and should not exceed 4,000 words.

## 6. Fast-Track Papers

Fast-Track Papers may be any of the above paper types, but are to be submitted only upon invitation from the editors. These papers will be fast-tracked by having reviewers lined up by the handling editor in advance, and upon publication these papers will be showcased in an ongoing special issue.

## 7. Book Reviews

Book reviews will be included in the journal on a range of relevant titles that are not more than two years old. These are usually less than 2,000 words. Please submit your requests/ideas to David Johns at [johnsd@embarqmail.com](mailto:johnsd@embarqmail.com).

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Opinion pieces by experts on a topic, usually invited by the Editor. The topic is usually timely and offers important insights into the field.

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### Submission checklist

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

#### Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

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All necessary files have been uploaded:

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- Include keywords
- All figures (include relevant captions)
- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
- Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

*Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files* (where applicable)

*Supplemental files* (where applicable)

Further considerations

- Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
- A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
- Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements
- We strongly encourage authors to check the existing evidences for their case at [Conservation Evidence](#). The introduction of the paper should include a sentence highlighting whether any evidence is already available or not with corresponding references.

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## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

### Ethics in publishing

Please see our information on [Ethics in publishing](#).

## Policy and Ethics

All appropriate ethics and other approvals were obtained for the research. Where appropriate, authors should state that their research protocols have been approved by an authorized animal care or ethics committee, and include a reference to the code of practice adopted for the reported experimentation or methodology. The Editor will take account of animal welfare issues and reserves the right not to publish, especially if the research involves protocols that are inconsistent with commonly accepted norms of animal research.

## Declaration of competing interest

Corresponding authors, on behalf of all the authors of a submission, must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. All authors, including those *without* competing interests to declare, should provide the relevant information to the corresponding author (which, where relevant, may specify they have nothing to declare). Corresponding authors should then use [this tool](#) to create a shared statement and upload to the submission system at the Attach Files step. **Please do not convert the .docx template to another file type. Author signatures are not required.**

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### **Reporting guidance**

For research involving or pertaining to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells, investigators should integrate sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) into their research design according to funder/sponsor requirements and best practices within a field. Authors should address the sex and/or gender dimensions of their research in their article. In cases where they cannot, they should discuss this as a limitation to their research's generalizability. Importantly, authors should explicitly state what definitions of sex and/or gender they are applying to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of their research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer (see Definitions section below). Authors can refer to the [Sex and Gender Equity in Research \(SAGER\) guidelines](#) and the [SAGER guidelines checklist](#). These offer systematic approaches to the use and editorial review of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation - however, please note there is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender.

### **Definitions**

Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth"), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society. Sex and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms "sex" and "gender" can be ambiguous—thus it is important for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the [resources on this page](#) offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.

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For transparency, we encourage authors to submit an author statement file outlining their individual contributions to the paper using the relevant CRediT roles: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Roles/Writing - original draft; Writing - review & editing. Authorship statements should be formatted with the names of authors first and CRediT role(s) following. [More details and an example](#).

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Publishing space in the journal is limited, such that many manuscripts must be rejected. To expedite the processing of manuscripts, the journal has adopted a two-tier review process. During the first stage of review, the handling editor evaluates the manuscript for appropriateness and scientific content, taking advice where appropriate from members of the editorial board. Criteria for rejection at this stage include: **Manuscript lacks a strong conservation focus or theme, or management implications not well-developed.** Please note that research on a rare or endangered species or ecosystem is not sufficient justification to merit publication in *Biological Conservation*. Published research must also advance the science and practice of conservation biology, and thus have broader application for a wide international audience. **Manuscript subject matter more appropriate for another journal.** Natural history or biodiversity surveys, including site descriptions, are usually better suited for other outlets, such as a regional or taxon-specific journal. Similarly, manuscripts with a primarily behavioral, genetic or ecological focus are more appropriate for journals in those fields. For example, studies reporting on disturbance effects, species interactions (e.g., predator-prey, competitive, or pollinator-host plant interactions), species-habitat relationships, descriptive genetics (e.g., assays of genetic variation within or between populations), or behavioral responses to disturbance will be referred elsewhere if they lack a clear conservation message. Authors are advised to contact an Editor prior to submission if there are any questions regarding the appropriateness of a manuscript for the journal. **Study primarily of local or regional interest.** *Biological Conservation* is international in scope, and thus research published in the journal should have global relevance, in terms of the topics or issues addressed. **Study poorly designed or executed.** Research lacks spatial or temporal replication, has insufficient sample sizes, or inadequate data analysis. Such obvious indications of poor-quality science will be cause for immediate rejection. **Manuscript poorly written.** Poor writing interferes with the effective communication of science. Authors for whom English is not the first language are advised to consult with a technical language editor before submission. **Conservation research ethics violated.** Research was unnecessarily destructive, was conducted for the express purpose of causing harm/mortality (e.g., simulation of treatment or disturbance effects on survivorship), or violated ethics in the treatment and handling of animals. Where appropriate, authors must provide a statement and supporting documentation that research was approved by the authors' institutional animal care and use committee(s). Manuscripts that pass this first stage of editorial review are then subjected to a second stage of formal peer review. This involves evaluation of the manuscript by at least two specialists within the field of study, which may include one or more members of the editorial board. Beyond a critical assessment of the scientific content and overall presentation, referees are asked to evaluate the originality, likely impact and global relevance of the research. Referees make a recommendation to the handling editor, but note that it is ultimately the decision of the handling editor as to whether a manuscript is accepted for publication in *Biological Conservation*.

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Please use correct, continuous line numbering and page numbering throughout the document.

### References

There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the article number or pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct.

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Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

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This journal operates a double anonymized review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. Editors are not involved in decisions about papers which they have written themselves or have been written by family members or colleagues or which relate to products or services in which the editor has an interest. Any such submission is subject to all of the journal's usual procedures, with peer review handled independently of the relevant editor and their research groups. [More information on types of peer review](#).

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*Anonymized manuscript (no author details):* The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, tables and any acknowledgements) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

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