



Ambio – A Journal of the Human Environment

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

For more than 45 years *Ambio* has brought international perspective to important developments in environmental research, policy and related activities for an international readership of specialists, generalists, students, decision-makers and interested laymen. From 2019 and onwards we will publish monthly issues of which two to four each year will be special issues.

Ambio:

- explores the link between human activities and the environment;
- addresses the scientific, social, economic, and cultural factors that influence the condition of the human environment;
- encourages multi- or interdisciplinary submissions with explicit management or policy recommendations.

Each new submission is assessed by the editor-in-chief and one of the associate editors. We will reject a manuscript after editorial review if:

- it does not fulfil the journal scope (e.g. lacking a clear link between human activities 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.

A decision to reject after editorial review is normally taken within a week. Up to 50% of papers submitted to *Ambio* are rejected after editorial review. This reduces the burden on the refereeing community and enables authors to submit, without delay, to another journal. For manuscripts that pass the editorial assessment, the associate editor secures reports from at least two external reviewers. A first decision after external peer review is taken on average 65 days after submission.

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

Article categories

Papers published in *Ambio* fall into four main categories. Regardless of article category, your submission will be subject to double-blind peer-review by two (or more) researchers with expert knowledge in the field.

Article category	Word limit <u>including</u> references but <u>excluding</u> figures and tables	Max no. of references	Max no. of figures	Max no. of tables
Research Article	6000	50	6	4
Perspective	6000	50	6	4
Review	9000	100	8	4
Comment	1000	10	1	1

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.

Ambio encourages multi- or interdisciplinary studies where both environmental and human aspects are dealt with to some depth regardless of the main approach and focus of the study. All articles must meet different disciplinary standards and traditions. For studies including a social science approach, please describe the Theoretical Framework – including clarification of theoretical assumptions – under a separate title placed in between the Introduction and Materials and Methods sections.

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.

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.

Preparation of the manuscript

Please take particular care to adhere to the guidelines **marked in yellow** to avoid unnecessary delays prior to peer review or in the post-acceptance process.

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.

Springer will screen all manuscripts for quality – checking for plagiarism, English language, [ethics compliance](#) – prior to forwarding them to the editorial office of *Ambio*. This rapid service (24–48 hours) is to make sure that there is no major text overlap with published material, that the English is readable/understandable, and that the research is in accordance with scientific and publishing ethics.

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, and its significance to the field of research on the human environment. **Please do not copy and paste from the abstract.** The cover letter should also include the category of the paper.

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 line numbers.** The manuscript should include:

- a) Title Page,
- b) Acknowledgements,
- c) Author Biographies,
- d) Abstract,
- e) Keywords,
- f) Main text of article,
- g) References,
- h) Figures/Illustrations, Tables.



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.

a) Title Page

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.**

b) Acknowledgements

Keep them brief.

c) Author Biographies

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

Example:

[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]

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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.

e) Keywords

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

f) Main text of article

Articles in the category 'Research Article' should contain the following sections: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, References. A more free format is allowed for articles in the categories 'Review' and 'Perspective', but Introduction, Discussion and References are mandatory to include. It is not mandatory with separate sections for 'Comment' articles.

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.

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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.

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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.), submitted manuscripts and other unpublished data (Carruthers, unpubl.) should be referred to in the running text and not given as notes or in the reference list. 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, see example in the box below.

Journal articles

- 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.
- 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>
- Marion, J.L., and S.E. Reid. 2007. Minimising visitor impacts to protected areas: The efficacy of low impact education programmes. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* 15: 5–27.

Reports

- 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).

Books

- Connell, J.J., and R. Hardy. 1982. *Trends in fish utilisation*. Oxford: Fishing News Books.

Book chapters

- Gren, I.-M. 2000. Cost-effective nutrient reductions to the Baltic Sea. In *Managing a Sea*, ed. I.-M. Gren, K. Turner, and F. Wulff, 152–158. London: Earthscan.

Theses

- Growcock, A.J. 2005. Impacts of Camping and Trampling on Australian Alpine and Subalpine Vegetation. PhD Thesis. Gold Coast, Australia: Griffith University.

Web material

- Molau, U., and P. Mølgaard. 1996. International Tundra Experiment (ITEX). Retrieved 1 November, 2010, from <http://ibis.geog.ubc.ca/itex/library/>

h) Figures or other illustrations, Tables

Figures should be submitted on separate pages and numbered consecutively. Figure legends should be fully explanatory. 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 400 dpi in one of the formats TIFF, JPG, PPT for photos and 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. Copyright permission must be obtained for material copied from other publications. Figures should be prepared in a form that allows for reduction/increase in size. Be sure to explain all abbreviations used. Whenever possible the information in a table should instead be presented in a figure. Please consult a recent issue of *Ambio* when preparing your manuscript. Free access articles can be downloaded at: www.springer.com/environment/journal/13280

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The ESM offers authors the opportunity to publish material that forms the basis for an article. The ESM is therefore directly relevant to the article, however, the paper must be able to stand alone without it. Examples of typical supplementary materials include questionnaires, specifications of methodology, background data sets, multimedia files, and additional illustrations. ESM should not include any preliminary data or analyses. The ESM will be made available to reviewers, but they are not requested to peer review it.

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Ambio

Electronic Supplementary Material

This supplementary material has not been peer reviewed.

Title: The Anthropocene: From global change to planetary stewardship

Authors: Will Steffen, Åsa Persson, Lisa Deutsch, Jan Zalasiewicz, Mark Williams, Katherine Richardson, Carole Crumley, Paul Crutzen, Carl Folke, Line Gordon, Mario Molina, Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Johan Rockström, Marten Scheffer, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, Uno Svedin

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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.

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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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).

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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.**

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Special Issues

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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)

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Two complimentary print copies of the issue will be sent to the project leaders who may also order further print copies at a substantially reduced price.

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