



ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Science, Policy and Practice

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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DESCRIPTION

Ecosystem Services, associated with the [Ecosystem Services Partnership](#) (ESP), is an international, interdisciplinary journal that deals with the science, policy and practice of *Ecosystem Services* in the following disciplines: ecology and economics, institutions, planning and decision making, economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry and outdoor recreation, and all types of ecosystems.

The aims of the journal are:

- (1) To improve our understanding of the dynamics, benefits and **social** and **economic** values of **ecosystem services**,
- (2) To provide insight in the consequences of **policies** and **management** for ecosystem services with special attention to **sustainability** issues,
- (3) To create a scientific interface to policymakers in the field of ecosystem services assessment and practice, and
- (4) To integrate the fragmented knowledge about ecosystem services, synergies and trade-offs, currently found in a wide field of specialist disciplines and journals.

Manuscripts should always address ecosystem services and deal with at least one of the following themes:

- (a) The link between ecosystem services and social and economic benefits and associated values, including monetary values; i.e. what is the role of ecosystem services in providing and sustaining benefits for humans and how are these benefits and values perceived by public and policy makers?
- (b) The link between the levels of ecosystem services and economic, environmental and land use policies and practices; i.e. how is (the sustainability of) ecosystem services in natural, agricultural and urban systems affected by these policies and what are the trade-offs in service provision, and subsequent benefits and economic values, between different policy schemes?
- (c) The link between government and business strategies and the sustainability of ecosystem services, i.e. the use of ecosystem services in PES arrangements, biodiversity-offset programs and multiple service land use planning.

Articles may address these topics from different (paradigmatic) perspectives, including basic research, integrated assessment approaches and (ex ante and ex post) policy evaluations. They may be interdisciplinary or draw from specialized fields within economic, ecological, social and political sciences. Systems addressed may range from natural and semi-natural ecosystems to cultivated systems and urban areas and from local to global scales.

Article types:

- Original Research Articles (including policy assessments) (< 8000 words)
- Short communications (< 3000 words)
- Review Articles (including policy reviews) (< 12000 words)
- Views and Commentaries (< 1000 words)
- Letters to the Editor (< 800 words)
- Special issue Papers (in principle < 8000 words); Please note: Submission to Special Issue Papers is only (1) by invitation, or (2) as a reaction on a Call for Papers (see Web Page Ecosystem Services for "open calls")

Audience: academia, governments, non-governmental organisations, business community.

AUDIENCE

Academia, governments, non-governmental organisations, business community

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

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

INTRODUCTION

Ecosystem Services is an international, interdisciplinary journal that deals with the science, policy and practice of Ecosystem Services in the *following disciplines*: ecology and economics, institutions, planning and decision making, *economic sectors* such as agriculture, forestry and outdoor recreation, and *all types of ecosystems*.

The aims of the journal are:

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Article types:

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- Short communications
- Review Articles (including policy reviews)
- Views and Commentaries
- Letters to the Editor
- Special issue Papers

Types of Papers

1. Original Research Articles (including policy assessments)

Research papers report the results of original research, including policy assessments. The material must not have been previously published elsewhere. Original research articles are usually up to 8,000 words.

2. Short communications

Short Communications report the results of preliminary studies, partial research results from an ongoing study, results from studies limited in scope, or raise a critical issue or question based on such results. Short communications should follow all the basic requirements of full paper manuscripts, but must not exceed 3,000 words.

3. Review Articles (including policy reviews)

Reviews should address topics or issues of current interest. They may be submitted or invited. Review articles are usually up to 12,000 words and must include a Methods section explaining how the literature for review was selected.

4. Views and Commentaries

Commentaries are short pieces commenting on topics of interest to the wide readership or present a novel, distinctive, or even personal viewpoint on any subject within the journal's scope. The article should be adequately supported by citations but may focus on a stimulating and thought-provoking line of argument that represents a significant advance in thinking about *Ecosystem Services*. They can be submitted after discussion with the Editor-in-Chief. Maximum 1,000 words.

5. Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are written in response to a recent article appearing in the journal. Letters should be less than 800 words, with references kept to a minimum (three or fewer references). Authors will also be given an opportunity to respond.

6. Special issue Articles

The journal is open to Special Issues. Please contact the Editor-in-Chief if you would like to submit a proposal. Special Issue papers should not exceed 8,000 words.

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- 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

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NEW SUBMISSIONS

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If your article includes any Videos and/or other Supplementary material, this should be included in your initial submission for peer review purposes.

Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

Figures and tables embedded in text

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This journal operates a single blind 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. [More information on types of peer review.](#)

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Regardless of the file format of the original submission, at revision you must provide us with an editable file of the entire article. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the [Guide to Publishing with Elsevier](#)). See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

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Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

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State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

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Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion

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The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

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If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

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Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using American spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

Abbreviations

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Acknowledgements

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