Description

Announcement: From January 2021 Ecological Indicators will become an open access journal. Authors who publish in Ecological Indicators will be able to make their work immediately, permanently, and freely accessible.

Ecological Indicators continues with the same aims and scope, editorial team, submission system and rigorous peer review.

Ecological Indicators authors will pay an article publishing charge (APC), have a choice of license options, and retain copyright to their published work. The APC will be requested after peer review and acceptance. The APC payment will be required for all accepted articles submitted after the 30th of September 2020. The APC for Ecological Indicators will be USD 2500 (excluding taxes).

Please note: Authors who have submitted their paper on or before the 30th of September 2020, will have their accepted article published in Ecological Indicators at no charge. Authors submitting their paper after this date will be requested to pay the APC. For more details visit our FAQs page.

The ultimate aim of Ecological Indicators is to integrate the monitoring and assessment of ecological and environmental indicators with management practices. The journal provides a forum for the discussion of the applied scientific development and review of traditional indicator applications as well as for theoretical, modelling and quantitative approaches such as index development. Research into the following areas will be published.

- All aspects of ecological and environmental indicators and indices.
- New indicators, and new approaches and methods for indicator development, testing and use.
- Development and modelling of indices, e.g. application of indicator suites across multiple scales and resources.
- Analysis and research of resource, system- and scale-specific indicators.
- Methods for integration of social and other valuation metrics for the production of scientifically rigorous and politically-relevant assessments using indicator-based monitoring and assessment programs.
- Approaches on how research indicators can be transformed into direct application for management purposes.
- Broader assessment objectives and methods, e.g. biodiversity, biological integrity, and sustainability, through the use of indicators.
• Resource-specific indicators such as landscape, agroecosystems, forests ecosystems, aquatic ecosystems, wetlands, etc.

The journal seeks innovative papers which provide new developmental and methodological steps for environmental indication. Submissions of results from simple monitoring programs or single case studies, resulting in descriptive approaches without any exploration from the theory of indication, from the methodology of indication, or from the management points of view are not considered suitable for publication in Ecological Indicators.

The following contributions will be accepted:

Original research papers;
Review articles;
Special themed issues;
Short notes and case studies;
Viewpoints;
Letters to the Editor;
Book reviews.

*Ecological Indicators* has an open access companion title, *Environmental and Sustainability Indicators*. It welcomes submissions promoting research on indicators as drivers for environmental management, policy formulation, and interdisciplinary research assessing complex environmental interactions for stimulating sustainable development.

**AUDIENCE**

Scientists, decision-makers and resource managers working with or using ecological and environmental indicators for the long-term goals of assessing extent, condition and trends within the environment.

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INTRODUCTION

DESCRIPTION

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Benefits to authors

We also provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, a liberal copyright policy, special discounts on Elsevier publications and much more. Please click here for more information on our author services.

AUDIENCE

The target readership is scientists, policy-makers, and resource managers investigating or applying ecological and environmental indicators, from the molecular to the ecosystem and landscape level, to the long-term goal of assessing the condition and trends within the environment towards ecological sustainability.

INTRODUCTION

The journal is concerned with the development and application of ecological indicators, from the molecular to the ecosystem and landscape level, in the scope of environmental quality assessment and management towards sustainability.
Human activities and well-being depend on our capability to develop proper tools to evaluate and help acting upon ecosystems ecological conditions and long term trends. Ecological and environmental indicators and indices play an essential role with regard to this endeavour and must have biological, methodological, and social relevance: they are expected to extract information from raw data in a very condensed form that is of significance to scientists, decision makers, resource managers, and general public.

From a management point of view, a good ecological indicator should be a) simple to apply and easily understood by laymen, b) relevant in the context, c) scientifically justifiable, d) quantitative, e) acceptable in terms of costs, f) covering all relevant and actual problems, and g) sensitive to possible changes. On the other hand, from a more scientific perspective, it should have h) handling easiness, i) sensibility to small variations of environmental stress and/or ecological conditions, j) independence of reference states, k) applicability in extensive geographical areas and in the greatest possible number of communities or ecological environments, and l) possible and reliable quantification. Ecological Indicators can be applied to a wide range of topics going from basic ecology to human ecology and socio-ecological systems, and the journal welcomes research articles, review articles, short notes and studies, viewpoint articles, letters to the Editor, and book reviews. The journal also publishes Special Themes Issues.

**Types of paper**

**Types of papers**

The official language of the journal is English.

The following types of contributions will be accepted:

- Original research papers
- Review articles
- Short notes and studies
- Viewpoint articles
- Letters to the Editor
- Book Reviews

**Original research papers** are expected to report results of original research, and materials should not have been previously published elsewhere, except in a preliminary form.

**Review articles** are expected to cover subjects falling within the scope of the journal which are of active 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.

**Short notes** consist of a concise but complete description of a limited or preliminary investigation, which may eventually be included in a later paper. A short note should nevertheless be as completely documented, both by reference to the literature and description of the experimental procedures employed, as a regular paper.

Authors submitting papers focused on the application of existing indicators or indicator systems, on demonstrations, or tests or minor methodological improvements on the basis of regional investigations, as well as condensed articles on new topics concerning ecological indication, are also invited to submit their articles in the form of a short note.

**Viewpoint articles** provide a forum for authors to present a novel, distinctive or even personal viewpoint on any topic falling within the journal's scope. The article should be well arched in evidence and adequately supported by citations, but may focus on a stimulating and assumed provoking line of arguments representing a significant advance in thinking about indicators problems and solutions.

**Letters to the Editor** offer a forum for comments or critiques regarding material published in the journal. The decision to publish submitted letters rests purely with the Editor-in-Chief. It is the hope that the publication of such letters will permit an exchange of views beneficial to the journal and its readers.
Book reviews will be solicited by the Editor-in-Chief and will fall upon a range of relevant books no more than 2 years old. Unsolicited reviews will not usually be accepted, but suggestions for appropriate books for review may be sent to the Editor-in-Chief.

Special Issues

Special Issues concentrate on a special topic and should consist of a minimum (usually 10) number of manuscripts, an introduction by the guest editors, where the contents and context of the papers is summarized, and - if possible - some concluding remarks. Those interested in serving as guest editors of a special issue should be in touch with the Editor-in-Chief or the publisher to discuss the objectives and scope of the proposed topic. If more information is requested, guest editors will be asked to include an overview of the contributing authors, planned manuscripts and short summaries of their contents.

Size of papers

Regular papers
Generally, manuscripts should be about 7,000 words, the maximum length being 10,000 words.

Short Notes
Short notes should not occupy more than 6 printed pages (about 12 manuscript pages, including figures, tables and references).

This will shorten the reviewing process and will ensure quicker publication times

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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.

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Please see our information on Ethics in publishing.
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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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Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors after the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.
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Use of word processing software
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.

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Article structure
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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.

Material and methods
Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.
Theory/calculation
A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. In contrast, a Calculation section represents a practical development from a theoretical basis.

Results
Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion
This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

Conclusions
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