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DESCRIPTION

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.

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

INTRODUCTION

DESCRIPTION
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:

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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.

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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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**Submission Guide and Checklist for Authors**
SUMMARY GUIDE AND CHECKLIST FOR AUTHORS

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First of all, submitting an article to Ecological Indicators implies that it is an original submission which has not been published previously or has not been submitted to any other journal. All authors must suggest 3 potential reviewers on submission and not forget to include their full addresses and email details. The suggested reviewers should not include anyone with whom the authors have collaborated closely.

Before submitting a manuscript to Ecological Indicators, please read the Editorial Policy carefully, which can be found at "Aims and Scope" in the journal website. Be sure that the answer to the following questions concerning the content of the manuscript is Yes: Does the paper focus on the proposal, development, application or evaluation of ecological indicators, considered from the molecular up to the ecosystem and landscape level? Are the results based on ecological/environmental data and observations? Are results explored and discussed from the theory of indication, from the methodology of indication, or from the environmental management points of view, being therefore more than just a descriptive presentation of results from monitoring programs or single case studies? Does the paper emphasize the scientific progress of results in regard to our established knowledge on ecological indicators and in comparison with previously published results? Are all relevant references included?

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**Use of word processing software**

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**Introduction**

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**

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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.

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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.

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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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Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

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