



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* defined as the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human wellbeing.

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 on **sustainability** issues,
- (3) To integrate the fragmented knowledge on ecosystem services, synergies and trade-offs, currently found in a wide field of specialist disciplines and journals.
- (4) To support and promote **a dialogue between science and policy**, providing empirical evidence to decision makers in the field of ecosystem services assessment and valuation and support its mainstreaming into economic and land-use management policies.

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 and biodiversity in providing and sustaining benefits for humans and how these benefits and values are perceived by the public and policy makers?
- (b) The link between ecosystem services and economic, environmental and land use policies and practices; i.e. how is the provision and 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 development of policies, business strategies and innovative financing arrangements to support sustainable use of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation, i.e. the use of ecosystem services in nature conservation, integrated land use planning and sustainable ecosystem management and restoration.

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. However, the research has to be placed adequately, with substance, within the ES framework. Manuscripts dealing with only one aspect of ecosystem services, for example recreation, without putting this single aspect in the broader context of the ES Science, Policy or Practice are not within the scope of this journal.

AUDIENCE

Academia, governments, non-governmental organisations, business community

IMPACT FACTOR

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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:

- (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)
- 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.

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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.

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All necessary files have been uploaded:

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PREPARATION

NEW SUBMISSIONS

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Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

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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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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.

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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.

Conclusions

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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Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

Abstract

A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

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Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view [Example Graphical Abstracts](#) on our information site.

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Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

Acknowledgements

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