DESCRIPTION

Environmental Modelling & Software publishes contributions, in the form of research articles, reviews and short communications, on recent advances in environmental modelling and/or software. The aim is to improve our capacity to represent, understand, predict or manage the behaviour of environmental systems at all practical scales, and to communicate those improvements to a wide scientific and professional audience.

It seeks presentation of:
- Generic frameworks, techniques and issues which either integrate a range of disciplines and sectors or apply across a range
- Model development, model evaluation, process identification and applications in diverse sectors of the environment (as outlined below) provided they reveal insights and contribute to the store of knowledge. Insights can relate to the generality and limitations of the modelling, methods, the model application and/or the systems modelled. Insights should be ones that are generalizable in some way and are likely to be of interest to those studying other systems and, preferably, other system types.
- Development and application of environmental software, information and decision support systems
- Real-world applications of software technologies - particularly state-of-the-art environmental software able to deal with complex requirements, conflicting user perspectives, and/or evolving data structures. Aspects related to software usability, reliability, verification and validation should be backed up with quantitative results as much as possible. Development and maintenance costs, and adoption and penetration of the software in the target user groups should be addressed. Licensing issues and open source access should be clearly specified.
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The journal encourages submission of Short Communications of less than 3,000 words. For these and the regular papers, supplementary material such as software demonstrations, model simulations and additional performance tests, can be posted in electronic form and commented upon by users.

Authors are invited to submit relevant contributions in the following areas:

- Generic and pervasive frameworks, techniques and issues - including system identification theory and practice, model conception, model integration, model and/or software evaluation, sensitivity and uncertainty assessment, visualization, scale and regionalization issues.
- Integrated assessment and management of systems (river basins, regions etc.) for enhancing sustainability outcomes - including linked socioeconomic and biophysical models that may be developed with stakeholders for understanding systems, communication and learning, and improving system outcomes.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques and systems, such as knowledge-based systems / expert systems, case-based reasoning systems, data mining, multi-agent systems, Bayesian networks, artificial neural networks, fuzzy logic, or knowledge elicitation and knowledge acquisition methods.
- Decision support systems and environmental information systems - implementation and use of environmental data and models to support all phases and aspects of decision making, in particular supporting group and participatory decision making processes. Intelligent Environmental Decision Support Systems can include qualitative, quantitative, mathematical, statistical, AI models and meta-models.
- Process-identification of environmental dynamics for instance of surface and subsurface hydrology, limnology, meteorology, geophysics with special respect to the interaction of anthroposphere and biosphere.
- GIS, remote sensing and image processing

These methodological developments should be illustrated with applications in the environmental fields, e.g.

- Resource management including water, land, biological, transport systems
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- Regional studies of resource consumption and/or nature conservation in open landscapes as well as in urban regions
- Environmental accidents, prevention and emergency response - resilience, vulnerability, self-repair, damage limitation, and security in infrastructures
- Environmental engineering and technology

*Environmental Modelling and Software* welcomes review articles on the topics above, especially ones that relate to generic modelling and/or software issues, or are cross-disciplinary in their problem treatment. Potential authors of review articles should contact either Dr Jakeman or Dr Rizzoli to discuss the topic and coverage of their review. The journal has also published several Position Papers on key topics within its aims and scope at [http://www.iemss.org/society/index.php/position-papers](http://www.iemss.org/society/index.php/position-papers)

Introductory Overviews are designed to provide a concise topic overview that caters to the eclectic readership of EMS. These articles aim to break down barriers to shared understanding and dialogue within multidisciplinary teams, and to make environmental modelling dimensions more accessible to a wider audience. Introductory Overviews include an introduction to the fundamentals of the topic and reference to key literature. Relevant concepts are presented in relatively simple terms, but with the audience assumed to have some basic knowledge of environmental modelling and mathematics. These articles are not intended to be comprehensive reviews but non-technical primers on essential modelling concepts. Introductory Overviews are peer reviewed and are by invitation only; ideas for Introductory Overviews can however be canvassed with any of the Editors.

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INTRODUCTION EMS

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4. Literature Review - Adequate coverage of the literature through the references, especially more recent articles, including those in Environmental Modelling and Software.
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Types of Contributions: Research articles, review papers, position papers, introductory overviews, commentaries, and book reviews.

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Position papers aim to synthesize some key aspect of one area of environmental modelling and/or software research while establishing potential future directions, grand challenges, and research opportunities.

Introductory Overviews are designed to provide a concise topic overview with the aim to breakdown barriers to shared understanding and dialogue within multidisciplinary teams, and to make environmental modelling dimensions more accessible to a wider audience. Introductory Overviews
include an introduction to the fundamentals of the topic and reference to key literature. These articles are not intended to be comprehensive reviews but non-technical primers on essential modelling concepts.

**Commentaries** are short articles commenting on previously published work in Environmental Modelling and Software on topics of interest to the wide readership.

**Book reviews** are short articles that introduce new books in the areas relevant for the journal audience. In particular, we are interested in covering books that can be used for teaching environmental modelling and software topics.

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