Ambio – A Journal of the Human Environment

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

For more than 45 years *Ambio* has brought international perspective to important developments in environmental research, policy and related activities for an international readership of specialists, generalists, students, decision-makers and interested laymen.

*Ambio*:
- explores the link between anthropogenic activities and the environment, or vice versa;
- addresses the scientific, social, economic, and cultural factors that influence the condition of the human environment;
- encourages multi- or interdisciplinary submissions with explicit management or policy recommendations.

Each new submission is first assessed by the editor-in-chief and then by one of our associate editors with experience in the research area. We will reject a manuscript without review if:
- it does not fulfil the journal scope (e.g. lacking a clear link between anthropogenic activities and the environment);
- it is unlikely to be of interest to a broad international readership because of too narrow scope or if it does not provide novel insights into the subject area;
- there are substantial flaws with the methodology;
- is poorly presented and unclear;

*Ambio* does publish case studies when the authors have convincingly argued that the general implications of the work transcend that of the studied area. The abstract should conclude with one or two "significance sentences" to allow readers from different backgrounds to understand why your paper is important.

Normally, a decision to reject without review is taken within 7 days. Up to 50% of papers submitted to *Ambio* are rejected without review. This reduces the burden on the refereeing community and enables authors to submit, without delay, to another journal. For manuscripts that pass this initial assessment, the associate editor assigns at least two external peer reviewers. A first decision after review is normally taken less than 60 days from submission.

If you are uncertain whether your manuscript is suitable for publication in *Ambio*, please send an e-mail with the abstract to the editor-in-chief at bo.soderstrom@kva.se.
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Papers published in *Ambio* fall into four main categories. Regardless of article category, your submission will be subjected to double-blind peer-review by two (or more) researchers with expert knowledge in the field. If you any questions regarding article categories, please contact the editor-in-chief bo.soderstrom@kva.se

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of paper</th>
<th>Word limit including references but excluding figures and tables</th>
<th>Max no. of references</th>
<th>Max no. of figures</th>
<th>Max no. of tables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report</td>
<td>6000</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perspective</td>
<td>6000</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>9000</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report
An original piece of work (original paper) devoted to new findings and results of topical environmental research. The subject should be clearly introduced with non-specialists in mind. A Report should be organized as follows: Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgments, References and Author biographies.

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Provides a forum for authors to discuss topical environmental issues, ideas or models. The article should relate to published research and relevant theoretical/analytical frameworks. Methodology should be described briefly if analyses have been undertaken. Since a Perspective is intended to evoke new ideas and stimulate debate, empirical sections may be less developed than in a Report, and the Discussion section may be more speculative. The language needs to be objective and balanced. Papers that aim at bridging the gap between research and its implementation are particularly welcome. Perspective articles are peer reviewed, and special guidelines for reviewers are given to emphasize that the manuscript is intended to evoke new ideas and stimulate debate.

Review
Focuses on one topical aspect of a research field rather than providing a comprehensive literature survey. It should not be focused on the authors’ own work. A Review can be controversial but, if that is the case, opposing viewpoints should briefly be given. A Review should be narrative, language simple and directed towards a non-specialist readership. All Reviews should, in addition to the main text, include Abstract, Keywords and Author biography.

Comment
Reflections on recently published papers in *Ambio* may be submitted as Comments. Abstract, Keywords or Author biography are not included. Authors of the original article will be invited to submit a response to your Comment.
Preparation of the manuscript

Editors and reviewers should be focusing on the quality of science and not the format. To make the submission process easier, we invite you to submit your manuscript as a single file including all key sections in the different article categories, but without any particular format requirements. However, we do request that you submit the title page, acknowledgments, and author biographies separately so that we can ensure that your manuscript is anonymized to allow double-blind peer review. You should also provide a cover letter and format the manuscript to contain continuous line numbers.

Only when your manuscript is at the revision stage will you be requested to format according to *Ambio*’s style. This way you will not have to spend valuable research time formatting (or re-formatting) your manuscript prior to first submission. Naturally, you are welcome to format already the first submission according to the below guidelines.

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Submission of a manuscript must be accompanied by a cover letter that includes a short paragraph that describes the main findings of your submission, and its significance to the field of research on the human environment. Please do not copy and paste from the abstract. The cover letter should also include the category of the paper.

Language

Please write your text in either American or British English, both are accepted as long as it is used consistently throughout the manuscript.

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Use double-spacing throughout the text. The article should be submitted as Word, PDF, RTF, or TXT file for text. All manuscript files should be formatted to contain line numbers. The manuscript should include:

- **Title Page**
- **Acknowledgments**
- **Author Biographies**
- **Abstract**
- **Keywords**
- **Main text of article**
- **References**
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The title page, acknowledgments and author biographies must be submitted as a separate document in Editorial Manager. This will not be sent to reviewers to allow the review process to be double-blind.

**a) Title Page**

In addition to manuscript title and word count, the title page must contain the full names, positions and institutional mailing addresses of all authors as well as telephone number and e-mail address of the corresponding author.

**b) Acknowledgments**

Keep them brief.

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Author biographies should be included for Reports, Reviews and Perspectives. Example: [Name of Author] is a [Professor/Associate Professor, doctoral candidate, etc.] at the [name of University/Institute]. His/her research interests include [example: political ecology and political economy of aquaculture development]. Address: [full current postal address]  e-mail: [current e-mail address]
d) Abstract
A short abstract, consisting of not more than 150 words, should indicate the scope, methods used, main results and one or two concluding "significance sentences" to allow readers from many fields of science to understand why your paper is important. Abstracts of a Review or a Perspective should indicate the scope and the main points of the article. A Comment does not have an abstract.

e) Keywords
Provide 4 to 6 keywords or keyword phrases. Present them in alphabetical order.

f) Main text of article
Articles in the category 'Report' should contain the following sections: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, References. A more free format is allowed for articles in the categories 'Review' and 'Perspective', but Introduction, Discussion and References are mandatory to include. It is not mandatory with separate sections for 'Comment' articles.

Reporting of data: When experiments have been performed, or in other situations where applicable, mean effect size, sample size and some measure of variability (e.g., standard deviation, standard error, coefficient of variation) must be explicitly given.

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Number conventions: Do not use excessive numbers of digits when writing a decimal number to represent the mean of a set of measurements. The level of significance should be given with a maximum of three figures (e.g., $p < 0.001$). Do not use three figures for non-significant tests (e.g., show $p > 0.7$ and not $p > 0.700$). Be consistent in the use of number of digits when writing a decimal number and how to show significance levels throughout the manuscript.

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In the main article: You are requested to use the author/year format of referencing in the text. If there are three or more authors use the name of the first author followed by "et al.". Add a, b, c etc. to distinguish between two or more references with the same author name and year.

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written in full. Please provide first and last pages for excerpts from journals, books, etc. In references to books, bulletins and reports, give number of pages, the city and the publisher.

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Electronic Supplementary Material
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Title: The Anthropocene: From global change to planetary stewardship

Authors: Will Steffen, Åsa Persson, Lisa Deutsch, Jan Zalasiewicz, Mark Williams, Katherine Richardson, Carole Crumley, Paul Crutzen, Carl Folke, Line Gordon, Mario Molina, Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Johan Rockström, Marten Scheffer, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, Uno Svedin
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You can only submit your manuscript online using this link: www.editorialmanager.com/ambi/. All correspondence, including notification of the editor-in-chief’s decisions and requests for revision, takes place by e-mail.

Under the heading “Additional Information”, authors need to answer “yes” to a number of statements regarding the manuscript. This is required information to be able to proceed with the online submission.

When your manuscript is at the revision stage all co-authors will be asked for verification: “Could you please verify that you are affiliated with this submission?”. Please respond to this e-mail as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary delay in the review process of your revised manuscript.

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The author(s) should suggest three to five potential reviewers who are qualified to judge the manuscript objectively, providing full names, institutions, and current e-mail addresses. Please ensure that reviewers represent broad international coverage. There should be no conflicting interests between authors and potential reviewers, which could interfere with reviewer objectivity (e.g., collaborating/co-authoring a paper within the past five years; author’s advisor or student within the past five years; working at the same place as the authors; professional/private/business relationship with the authors). Please note that Ambio employs a double-blind peer review process (both authors and reviewers are anonymous).

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When you are invited to revise your manuscript, you will normally have 60 days (for ‘major revision’) or 30 days (for ‘minor revision’) to submit a revised manuscript. Carefully consider all comments of the associate editor and reviewers in a "response to reviewers" letter. In this letter you should write, for each comment, whether changes to the manuscript have been made as a result of that comment; if this is the case add page and line numbers to your response, and if this is not the case then explain the reason.

To make the work of editors and reviewers easier you should also clearly show in the revised manuscript where (major) changes have been made; either by marking the revised text in yellow or submitting two files: one with all track changes accepted and one with the track changes function still activated.

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We strongly encourage research groups to submit thematic proposals for future special issues in *Ambio*. Proposals are welcome at any time, but twice a year – 1 April and 1 October – the editors will evaluate all proposals based on scientific soundness and interest to our readership.

Requirements of the proposal

Your proposal should contain a general introduction to the subject, a clear rationale, clearly stated research questions or specific objectives, a description of implementation, and specific outcomes/benefits to the readership and potential spin-offs. A tentative list of article titles including lead authors is a requirement; it is even better if abstracts are available.

Furthermore you should give the names and affiliations of all project group members as well as state the name(s) of potential guest editor(s). An independent guest editor nominated by the project group coordinates the peer-review process. The guest editor should be independent from all authors and project group members, and must be approved by the editor-in-chief, who makes all final publication decisions.

A time table should be included as well as information on when you would want the special issue to be published. Please plan 12–18 months ahead due to the intense competition for publication space. Proposals will be peer reviewed by all associate editors, and you will receive feedback. Normally we accept about half of all submitted proposals.

The proposal should be sent to the editor-in-chief Bo Söderström (bo.soderstrom@kva.se)

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