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. From 2019 and onwards we will publish monthly issues of which two to four each year will be special issues.

Ambio:
– explores the link between human activities and the environment;
– 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 assessed by the editor-in-chief and one of the associate editors. We will reject a manuscript after editorial review if:
– it does not fulfil the journal scope (e.g. lacking a clear link between human 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;
– authors have not convincingly argued that the general implications of the work transcend that of the studied area (for case studies);
– there are flaws with the methodology;
– is poorly presented and unclear.

A decision to reject after editorial review is normally taken within a week. Up to 50% of papers submitted to Ambio are rejected after editorial review. This reduces the burden on the refereeing community and enables authors to submit, without delay, to another journal. For manuscripts that pass the editorial assessment, the associate editor secures reports from at least two external reviewers. A first decision after external peer review is taken on average 65 days after 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 bo.soderstrom@kva.se
Article categories

Papers published in *Ambio* fall into four main categories. Regardless of article category, your submission will be subject to double-blind peer-review by two (or more) researchers with expert knowledge in the field.

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<th>Article category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Article</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>
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<td>Comment</td>
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**Research Article**

An original piece of work (original research) devoted to new findings and results of topical environmental research. The study should be introduced with non-specialists in mind. A Research Article should be organized as follows: Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgements, References and Author Biographies.

*Ambio* encourages multi- or interdisciplinary studies where both environmental and human aspects are dealt with to some depth regardless of the main approach and focus of the study. All articles must meet different disciplinary standards and traditions. For studies including a social science approach, please describe the Theoretical Framework – including clarification of theoretical assumptions – under a separate title placed in between the Introduction and Materials and Methods sections.

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Provides a forum for authors to discuss topical environmental issues, ideas or models from a personal viewpoint. Perspectives typically are argument driven, and arguments need to be solidly anchored in published research and relevant theoretical/analytical frameworks. Perspective papers do not need the empirical sections of a Research Article, although the methodology should be described briefly if analyses have been undertaken. They should be more forward looking than Reviews. They may be opinionated but should remain balanced and objective. 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, or new experimental approaches and practices.

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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. Reviews can be controversial but, if that is the case, opposing viewpoints should briefly be given. A Review should be narrative, the language simple and directed towards a non-specialist readership, novel concepts defined and specialist terminology explained. All Reviews should, in addition to the main text, include Abstract, Keywords and Author Biographies.

**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.
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Please take particular care to adhere to the guidelines marked in yellow to avoid unnecessary delays prior to peer review or in the post-acceptance process.

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. 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.

However, we always request that you submit the title page, acknowledgements, and author biographies separately so that we can ensure that your manuscript is anonymized to allow double-blind peer review.

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Cover letter
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
Both American or British English are accepted as long as it is used consistently.

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

a) Title Page,
b) Acknowledgements,
c) Author Biographies,
d) Abstract,
e) Keywords,
f) Main text of article,
g) References,
h) Figures/Illustrations, Tables.

The title page, acknowledgements 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. Please keep the title short since such articles often are downloaded and cited more.

b) Acknowledgements
Keep them brief.
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Author Biographies should be included for Research Articles, Reviews and Perspectives.
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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 in alphabetical order.

f) Main text of article
Articles in the category 'Research Article' 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.

  Numerals and units of measure: Use thousand million instead of billion or use 10^9. Run together numbers with up to four digits (i.e., 1000 and not 1,000 or 1 000). Numbers with more than four digits should be given as, for example, 10 000 or 100 000 (and not 10,000 or 100,000). Use the decimal point: e.g., 1.25. Metric and Celsius units must be used. Use the expression: km hr^{-1} not km/hr or km per h, g L^{-1} not gm per liter. Convert currencies to appropriate USD exchange rates. Specialized technical or scientific terms, abbreviations and acronyms should be explained the first time they are used.

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g) References
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.

Always list a string of references in chronological order, e.g. (Black 1985; Smith and Baker 1995a, b; Carruthers et al. 1999). Use ";" to separate references.
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Ambio
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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
Online submission

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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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Each year *Ambio* publishes between two and four special issues on topical research themes. Articles published in special issues are widely appreciated by our readership and belong to the most highly cited papers in *Ambio*. A special issue normally contains between 10 and 15 articles. If you are interested in publishing a "special section" of 3 to 4 thematic articles in a regular issue, please contact the editor-in-chief directly.

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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. 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.

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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.

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

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