

# ***Conservation Biology* Instructions for Authors**

## **Journal Scope**

*Conservation Biology* welcomes submissions that develop new theory and methods, define key problems, and propose solutions, exploring the social, ecological, and philosophical dimensions of the conservation of biological diversity. Articles emphasize conservation issues germane to any ecosystem or geographic region. Manuscript topics that transcend the particular ecosystem, species, or situation described are prioritized for publication.

We assess manuscripts based on sound science and reasoning. English expression should not be an impediment to submission. For accepted manuscripts, we provide, free of charge, substantive editing for authors for whom communicating in English is difficult.

## **Presubmission Queries**

The editors of *Conservation Biology* will consider presubmission queries about the suitability of manuscripts, particularly about the scope of the study and transferability of its results.

## **Free Format at Submission**

See “Manuscript Specifications at Submission” below.

## **Authorship**

All authors are expected to conform to the Society for Conservation Biology's (SCB) Code of Ethics, available under the Instructions and Forms tab in ScholarOne (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/conbio>). This includes claiming authorship only when the person has contributed substantially to the conception, design, data collection, analyses, or interpretation or contributed substantially to drafting or revising the manuscript and approved the accepted version. Deceased contributors can be listed as authors if they met this standard.

If the person or persons who collected the data are not authors of the paper, consider adding these people as authors so as to be fully inclusive, in accordance with standards for authorship (see above). Consider whether each region that the data originated from is represented in authorship to the extent that is appropriate. Avoid adding authors after submission.

## SCB Journals' Publication Partner Program

In the Publication Partner Program, experienced scientists form partnerships with authors who want additional input. The aim is to increase the likelihood of worthy papers being published in the journal, and the focus is on authors from developing and non-English speaking jurisdictions. When editors receive manuscripts that are not publishable but which could be, given the right construction, analysis, and emphasis, they may ask the authors if they would like to partner with an experienced scientist to develop a revision. If the author agrees, then the editor puts them in contact with a publication partner, an experienced volunteer committed to the program's goals. The partner then works with the authors to develop a resubmission. The manuscript's authors may acknowledge their publication partner or they may invite the partner to be a coauthor, depending on the partner's contribution.

### Article Categories and Word Limits

Word count includes text from the Abstract through Acknowledgments. It does not include the list of references, table or figure legends, or the body of tables. Manuscripts substantially exceeding the word limits specified below will not be sent for review. **Revisions should not exceed word limits even if reviewers request additional information.**

#### *Contributed Paper* (7000 words)

Papers on original theoretical, empirical, or synthetic research in the natural or social sciences and humanities that are data-driven in a typically hypothetical-deductive model. All manuscripts should have clearly delineated introduction, methods, results, and discussion (IMRAD format) sections. Methods should supply sufficient detail such that the study could be replicated. If data are constructed in a logic of argumentation and used to illustrate a point or provide an example, this is not the correct category. Meta-analyses without systematic review (see below) are categorized as Contributed Papers, but authors of meta-analyses should complete the Systematic Review Checklist (see "Systematic Review" below).

#### *Review* (8000 words)

Comprehensive treatment of a topic generally well developed in the literature that provides a thorough synthesis of findings or illuminates trends and has relevance at global and local levels.

#### *Systematic Review* (8000 words)

The category for a systematic review is Review. However, systematic reviews differ substantially in rigor, objectivity, and transparency from narrative-based reviews or synthesis articles. Upload a completed Systematic Review Checklist (available under Instructions and Forms tab in ScholarOne) to ScholarOne as an additional file for review but not for publication. We suggest authors of systematic reviews consult Pullin and Stewart (2006 Guidelines for Systematic Review in Conservation and Environmental

Management. *Conservation Biology* 20: 1647-1656). Systematic reviews may contain a meta-analysis of data from the included studies.

*Essay* (5000 words)

Essays on novel issues in the natural or social sciences important to conservation science and practice that are grounded in evidence from the literature, policy, or legal documents; that are typically relevant beyond a single case study; and that propose evidence-based solutions to problems. Well-reasoned and supported submissions that debate alternative perspectives, challenge current paradigms, or advance new conservation-science approaches are encouraged.

*Research Letter* (3500 words)

Similar to Contributed Paper but results and inferences may be more focused or preliminary.

*Practice and Policy* (5000 words)

Papers on applications of conservation science to specific goals for management, policy, or education that report findings important to decision-making, planning, and implementation of conservation and that provide opportunities for learning. They can include discussions of setbacks, failures, and unintended consequences.

*Methods* (5000 words)

Papers on a novel conservation-science method or tests of an existing conservation method.

*Registered Report* (**stage 1**, ~3500 words; **stage 2**, 7000 words)

Reviewed in 2 stages: stage 1 includes the introduction and a detailed description of the study protocol that explains the importance of the research question, strength of the scientific rationale, and the details of the proposed methods of data collection and analyses (i.e., Introduction and Methods of a formal paper). Stage 2 is the stage-1 manuscript with Results and Discussion added. If the stage-1 submission is positively peer reviewed, in-principle acceptance (IPA) is granted, which commits the journal to publishing the final paper provided the authors adhered to their protocol, performed work at a high standard, and offer conclusions supported by the evidence. Stage-2 manuscripts cannot be submitted as Registered Reports unless stage 1 has received IPA at *Conservation Biology*. See Registered Report Instructions for detailed requirements and information on how to submit (available under the Instructions and Forms tab in ScholarOne).

*Comment* (2000 words)

Papers that respond to material previously published in *Conservation Biology*. If accepted, authors of the article being commented on will have the opportunity to submit a rejoinder. Publication of the initial Comment is delayed until the rejoinder, if one is submitted, has been peer-reviewed and rejected or accepted. If the rejoinder is accepted, both comments are published simultaneously.

*Diversity* (2000 words)

Short opinion pieces on conservation concepts, methods, or applications or on current and immediate, national, regional, or global conservation problems.

Letter (1000 words)

Communications regarding topics of interest to readers, including observations on controversial subjects.

*Book Reviews*

All books for possible review should be sent directly to Gabor Lövei ([gabor.lovei@agro.au.dk](mailto:gabor.lovei@agro.au.dk)), our book review editor. **Book reviews are by invitation only.**

## Submission Requirements

*Conservation Biology* has free format submission. However, there are still some requirements (explicated in this section and below in “Manuscript Specifications at Submission”).

### Where to submit

Submit manuscripts online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/conbio>. If you do not have adequate internet access for online submission via ScholarOne Manuscripts, please contact Frith Jarrad ([fjarrad@conbio.org](mailto:fjarrad@conbio.org)).

### Blinding

*Conservation Biology* uses double-blind peer review; that is, neither authors nor reviewers know each other’s identities.

In the

- submitted manuscript,
- supporting information (online appendices), and
- file names

there should be **no content**, except for self-citations, **through which authors or their institutions could be identified**. If data, for example, are being made available through a data-storage service, make sure you cannot be identified from these files. FigShare allows authors to remain anonymous.

**\*\*\*Submit a separate manuscript cover page with specified information (see “Cover Page” below). Do not include cover-page information anywhere in the manuscript itself.\*\*\***

## **Suggested-Reviewer Requirement**

You are required to provide the names of 6 potential reviewers. These reviewers must not have close professional or personal relationships with any of the authors. Please try to suggest reviewers who represent the global diversity of professionals in your field and consider reviewers who are early career researchers, women, located in the Global South, or from other underrepresented regions and contexts. The identity of reviewers is kept confidential unless reviewers choose to waive anonymity.

## **Transparency, Openness, and Reproducibility**

### **Checklist**

All authors are required to complete a checklist aimed at promoting study reproducibility and data transparency such that another researcher with relevant expertise could replicate the study. You may wish to review the Transparency, Openness, and Reproducibility Checklist before you start the submission process. It is available under the Instructions and Forms tab in ScholarOne.

## **Preprint Policy**

A preprint is a manuscript posted to a preprint archive *before* peer review.

Manuscripts that have been posted in a recognized preprint archive (e.g., arXiv or bioRxiv) can be submitted. Do not post the preprint on multiple sites. If the manuscript is accepted, authors must be able to grant the journal an exclusive license to publish the article or agree to the terms of an Online Open agreement and pay the associated fee. It is the responsibility of authors to inform the journal at the time of submission where the manuscript has been posted online previously. To maintain author anonymity, do not cite the preprint in the manuscript or supporting information. If the manuscript is accepted for publication in *Conservation Biology*, authors are required to link the preprint to the final version of record.

In general, cite final versions of record of journal articles rather than preprints.

## **Policy on Duplicate Publication of Research Results**

*Conservation Biology* does not consider for publication articles that have been published in substantial part or in full in a scientific journal, book, or similar entity or that are being considered for publication elsewhere. Organizational working papers and manuscripts that appear on the author's personal website or in an institutional repository, however, are not viewed as prior publication, and such manuscripts can therefore be submitted.

At the time of submission, describe in the cover letter data, figures, or text in the manuscript that have been published or that are in press, submitted, or soon to be submitted elsewhere. If any of

the data in the manuscript have been included in other published or gray literature, the legend of each table or figure containing such data must cite those manuscripts.

## **Plagiarism**

*Conservation Biology* employs a plagiarism-detection system. By submitting your manuscript, you accept that it may be screened for similarity against previously published works.

## **Conflict of Interest**

When you submit your manuscript through SchoarOne, you are asked to declare and describe conflicts of interest. Having a conflict of interest does not preclude publication in *Conservation Biology*, but potential conflicts should be reported. Conflicts include employment and voluntary involvement with or funding from an organization that has an interest in the work presented in the manuscript; collaborations with advocacy groups relating to the manuscript content; receipt of personal fees (honoraria, royalties, consulting fees, lecture fees, or testimonies) from an entity with an interest in the work; work pertaining to patents held or pending by the authors, their institutions, funding organizations, or licensed to an entity, whether earning royalties or not; royalties received by the authors or their institutions; stock or share ownership; and receipt of benefits related to the development of products as an outcome of the work. Nonfinancial conflicts include receipt of materials from an entity with an interest in the work; access to data by an entity that might benefit or be disadvantaged from the published findings; position on the boards of organizations that might benefit from the work; receipt of writing assistance or administrative support from a person or organization that might benefit from the published findings; personal, political, religious, ideological, academic, or intellectual competing interests that could be perceived to be relevant to the published content; involvement in legal action related to the work.

## **ORCID Identifier**

An ORCID identifier uniquely identifies you and links you with your professional activities. Entering your ORCID number at submission is required. For more information, go to <http://orcid.org/>. If you are opposed to having an ORCID identifier, contact Frith Jarrad (fjarrad@conbio.org).

## **Use of Artificial Intelligence**

If artificial intelligence tools were used to create the manuscript, declare this somewhere in the body of the paper. Describe how the tool was used and answer questions reviewers and editors may have about its use. Carefully check work for accuracy and to ensure it is free from bias. Check that source material is referenced correctly. We encourage authors to use AI to improve English grammar and clarity and to provide brevity. Whether use of AI was appropriate is decided by the editor in chief.

## Changes to Author Roles in ScholarOne

If after submission, the corresponding author needs to be changed, please contact Frith Jarrad (fjarrad@conbio.org).

## Manuscript Specifications at Submission

### Free Format and Style

*Conservation Biology* has free format at submission, which means the structural requirements at submission are minimal but not nonexistent (see below). **Authors who are asked to revise their paper based on peer reviewer comments are required to follow the formatting and style points detailed in the Revision, Formatting, and Style Instructions document that will be supplied with reviews.** The minimum requirements for a manuscript at submission follow.

Line numbering: **Number All Lines** (except in figures and tables)

Organization: Use introduction, methods, results, and discussion (IMRAD) format. **Do not combine results and discussion sections.** The IMRAD format is not required for Essays, Diversity, or Practice and Policy categories, although Practice and Policy often follow IMRAD.

Article impact statement: In **≤140 characters** (including spaces and punctuation), provide a statement that expresses the primary finding or message. This statement should emphasize the **paper's practical or policy importance**. The statement may be a report of the primary result or theme if the practical or policy importance of the result is obvious. It should not be a reiterated or lengthened title or describe what is presented (e.g., "A method to x is presented."). It should not contain personal pronouns or statements resembling "X was examined."

### Cover Page

Submit your cover page as a *separate document*. It should NOT be part of the manuscript itself.

The cover page must include the

- title of the paper (title should also be on the first page of the manuscript above the abstract)
- article impact statement (see specifications above),
- 5-8 keywords,

- word count (all text from the first word of the Abstract through the last word of the Acknowledgments, not including references, table or figure legends, or the body of tables),
- authors' affiliations at the time the work was conducted and present affiliation if different (if there is no affiliation, provide author's city, state, and country),
- name, email address, and complete mailing address of the person to whom correspondence should be sent (**at submission there can be only 1 corresponding author**),
- text of the Acknowledgments section, and
- hyperlink to preprint or preregistered document if there is one.

This is the only uploaded document that should contain author identities and affiliations.

## Files to Upload

- manuscript in Word, pdf, or LaTeX format (a Word document is required at revision),
- cover page separate from the manuscript (see “Cover Page” above),
- online appendices (i.e., supporting information),
- optional: a graphical abstract (provide a caption on the figure), and
- optional: photo and caption for use in social media

## Abstract

Include the abstract before the introduction as part of the main document. Above the abstract provide the title of the paper. Manuscripts in all categories, except Comments, Diversity, and Letters, must contain an abstract. Abstract contents: 1-2 sentences of introduction (justification and aim of the work) and summaries of methods, principal results, and major inferences (i.e., it should be a miniversion of the paper).

## Methods

### *Human and Animal Subjects*

When reporting on studies that involve human participants or animal subjects, supply a statement in methods that specifies the ethical guidelines with which you complied. Include permit numbers, if applicable.

### *Research in Resource-Poor Settings*

Research conducted in low-income settings by professionals from high-income countries should be “based on fairness, respect, care and honesty.” See the Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings (<https://www.globalcodeofconduct.org/>).

### *Use of Tracking Technology*



When monitoring devices that could collect data on people (e.g., drones, camera traps) or data on people's behavior or opinions derived from social media or other technologies are used, ensure the reporting does not violate privacy or cause other harm. This applies even if collection of data on people is not deliberate. You are encouraged to follow guidelines in Sandbrook et al. (2021), Principles for the Socially Responsible Use of Conservation Monitoring Technology and Data; Sharma et al. (2020), Conservation and People: Towards an Ethical Code of Conduct for the Use of Camera Traps in Wildlife Research; and Di Minin et al. (2021) How to Address Data Privacy Concerns when Using Social Media Data in Conservation Science.

## **Results**

If  $p$  values are reported, also report confidence intervals for each estimate in the text and in figures. In all cases, be explicit about what error bars represent.

## **Discussion**

Authors are encouraged in the final paragraph of the Discussion to express in very simple statements what the statistical results associated with primary findings mean, what was not found, and how the results apply to broad conservation concerns (e.g., advance the field, apply to other taxa or regions).

## **References**

Consider whether your citations reflect the full range of author diversity in the field. The review process includes specific questions about citation diversity.

Use author-year citation rather than numbered citations.

Do not cite work that has not been published as either unpublished or data not shown. A submitted manuscript is not published.

## **Tables and Figures**

Place tables and figures after references in this order.

Text boxes are not allowed.

Table legends should be one sentence. Additional explanations should be placed in footnotes. Figure legends should describe the relationship shown (e.g., Coefficients of habitat selection relative to resource selection functions for caribou individuals.).

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## Review Process

If the editor in chief determines the manuscript topic is appropriate for the journal and meets standards of content and presentation, then a regional editor examines the submission and decides to recommend rejection, nominate reviewers, or assign the manuscript to a handling editor with expertise in the manuscript's topic. If the handling editor deems the manuscript is of sufficient quality and novelty, this person will request reviews. Once reviews have been received, the handling editor or regional editor summarizes reviewer points, provides an assessment, and makes a recommendation (accept, revise, or reject) to the editor in chief.

Authors are required to provide point-by-point responses to reviewer comments upon submission of a revision, resubmission of the manuscript, or resubmission of the manuscript after appeal of a decision. Revisions are usually sent for assessment to the regional or handling editor, who may then initiate another round of review.

### Appeal Process

An appeal of a publication decision must be made within 3 months of a decision. Address appeals directly to the editor in chief via the email link on the online submission webpage.

### Transfer of rejected submissions to other SCB journals

If the editor in chief believes a rejected paper is within the scope of the SCB journals *Conservation Science and Practice* or *Conservation Letters*, you may be offered an opportunity to automatically transfer your paper to one of these journals. These journals are open access only; thus, their fee structure differs from *Conservation Biology*'s. Acceptance of the offer to transfer does not guarantee the paper will be sent for review or accepted. The journal editors will undertake their own evaluation of the manuscript.

## Article Publication Costs: Hybrid Model

*Conservation Biology* is owned by SCB, a nonprofit organization; thus, payment of article publication costs (open access or page charges) furthers the work of the society and conservation worldwide and helps defray expenses associated with journal production (e.g., submission portal, typesetting, journal website). An author's ability to pay will not affect whether the manuscript is accepted for publication or any aspect of the review process.

\*\*\*The first (or corresponding) author must have a paid SCB membership to receive a fee reduction or waiver.\*\*\*

### Member Discount

Authors with paid memberships in SCB receive a 20% discount on open access and page charges and can request a full waiver of page charges.

### Open Access (OA)

Open access (what Wiley terms Online Open) is available to authors who wish to make their article available for free or whose funding agency requires it. With OA, the author, the author's funding agency, or the author's institution pays a fee of US\$3240. Beyond the 20% SCB member discount, no other discounts or waivers are available for OA.

To take advantage of agreements Wiley has with institutions for payment of OA charges, the submitting author has to be from the institution with the agreement. If you are unsure whether payment for your open-access article is covered by your institution or funding agency go to <https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/open-access/affiliation-policies-payments/institutional-funder-payments.html>.

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Any member who has no institutional support or other means of paying page charges can be granted a page-charge waiver.

## **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

*Conservation Biology* welcomes and encourages author, reviewer, and editor participation in our publishing efforts to help achieve the mission and values of the Society for Conservation Biology regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, national origin, physical capabilities, political beliefs, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. We recognize that many groups are underrepresented in research and publishing, including local people at research sites, and we are committed to their inclusion and respect their knowledge. We affirm the need for interdisciplinary study and practice in terms of academic disciplines, knowledge perspectives, ways of knowing, methodological approaches, and diverse participants at all levels of conservation. We reject prejudice and stereotyping and endeavor to treat everyone fairly. Therefore, we take measures to lessen the influence of bias in our editorial and review processes and continually work to identify and implement best practices for rigorous and ethical scientific publishing.

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