Sustainable EcoSciences

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EDITORIAL

Introducing Sustainable EcoSciences

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The environment that sustains human life is changing faster than at any point in the history of modern science, posing unprecedented challenges to biodiversity, ecosystems, and the survival of future generations. Rising temperatures, the loss of fertile soil, declining biodiversity, deteriorating water resources, and the spreading of pollutants through ecosystems and food chains are posing pressure on the natural systems. These pressures interact, and their combined effects often become visible only when researchers from different disciplines study the same system together. Understanding these interactions, and learning how to manage them, is one of the central scientific tasks of our time.

Environmental research has expanded considerably over the past two decades, and a significant work now sits at the interaction of these fields. However, Such overlapping research work remains difficult to publish. Specialist journals often judge interdisciplinary manuscripts too broad for their readership, while general journals may lack reviewers able to assess each component in sufficient depth. In view of these gaps, we established Sustainable EcoSciences to foster new ideas, concepts and transdisciplinary research on sustainability and environmental sciences. The journal publishes peer-reviewed research on the natural environment and on how it can be managed sustainably. We believe that environmental problems are rarely solved within one field, therefore, a journal that focuses on environmental issues should be open to articles from more than one discipline, perspective and innovative approaches.. Geoscientists, ecologists, agronomists and environmental engineers often ask related questions with different tools, and we aim to publish their work side by side so that each community can build on the findings of the others.

The name was chosen with this in mind. “Sustainable” points to research with practical consequences for how natural resources are used and protected, and “EcoSciences” covers the whole family of sciences that associated with environment and the life it supports.

The scope is broad on purpose; from the environmental sciences, we welcome studies of pollutant sources and pathways, environmental chemistry, air quality, waste and wastewater treatment, and impact assessment. From the Earth sciences and geosciences, we welcome work on geological and geomorphological processes, hydrology and hydrogeology, soil formation and degradation, natural hazards, and past and present climate.

Several applied fields are just as central to the journal. In ecotoxicology, we are interested in how contaminants behave in the environment and what they do to organisms, from biochemical responses up to effects on whole populations and communities. Agricultural submissions might deal with soil health, crop and livestock systems, the use of fertilizers and pesticides, or the environmental cost of producing food. Ecotourism papers are welcome when they look closely at how visitors affect protected areas and the people who live near them. Beyond these, we invite work in ecology and biodiversity conservation, marine and freshwater science, environmental microbiology, remote sensing and GIS, environmental modelling, life cycle assessment and environmental policy. Manuscripts that cross these categories are particularly welcome. If a study addresses a clear environmental question with sound methods, we will find suitable reviewers for it, even when it fits under none of the headings above.

With a broad scope, rigorous peer review become all the more important. Each submission is first read by an editor, who checks that it falls within the journal’s remit/ scope and that the work is original and scientifically sound. Manuscripts that pass this check go to independent reviewers with expertise in the relevant field, and the editorial decision follows from their assessment. We look for a clearly stated research question, methods described in enough detail to be repeated, results that support the conclusions, and an honest discussion of what the study cannot show.

On publication ethics, we follow the principles set out by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Submissions are checked for plagiarism and AI, authors declare their funding and any competing interests, and allegations of misconduct are investigated before a decision is made. We ask authors to report their data accurately and, where possible, to make it available to readers. All articles are formatted consistently and use IEEE referencing.

With this first issue, the journal is open to submissions from researchers and practitioners at any stage of their careers. We would especially like to hear from colleagues in regions where environmental pressures are severe, while opportunities to publish are few, since their findings are too often missing from the international literature. Author guidelines and the submission system are available at sustainableecosciences.com.

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