

Ecosystems and People – an inclusive, interdisciplinary journal

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Ecosystems and People – an inclusive, interdisciplinary journal

As part of a set of ongoing changes to the Journal, in this Editorial we would like to announce its new name: *Ecosystems and People*. In 2010, the term ‘Ecosystem Services’ was added to the *International Journal of Biodiversity Science & Management*, which had existed since 2005. This was done to position it as a natural sciences journal that also focused on the benefits that biodiversity provides to society. Now, to better align the Journal’s name with the more interdisciplinary scope that came along with the recent change of Editors (van Oudenhoven et al. 2018), the entire Editorial Board decided in January 2018 to change the Journal’s name to *Ecosystems and People*. This new name has broad support among all Associate Editors and Editorial Board members as well as our publisher, Taylor & Francis, and was agreed on after an interactive process.

The name change was also inspired by the ongoing paradigm drift fostered by scientific programs operating on the science–policy–practice interface relative to the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, such as the ongoing Global Biodiversity Outlook (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity 2014), Future Earth (2014) and the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (Díaz et al. 2015). However, we will continue to honour the legacy of the Journal and its former Editors-in-Chief. That is, the Journal will continue to publish rigorously double-blind peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary research on the interface between biodiversity, ecosystem services and management, but broaden and further develop the scope towards social science and humanities to keep up with current developments in the field. *Ecosystems and People* will continue to be published and supported by Taylor & Francis, will maintain its long-term statistics and will remain indexed by well-known databases of scientific research.

Why *Ecosystems and People* – a shorter, encompassing name

With the new Journal name, we underline that people and ecosystems are strongly interrelated within social-ecological systems or human–environment systems (Berkes et al. 2000; Liu et al. 2007; Ostrom 2009). Insight into these interrelationships can lead to management and policy interventions that consider the different ways in which people relate with biodiversity and ecosystems. Hence, the Journal will focus on the interface of and the multiple connections between

people and ecosystems. The journal thus adheres to the need for interdisciplinary research, currently also represented by journals such as *Ecology & Society*, *Human Ecology*, *AMBIO* and, more recently, *Ecosystem Services* and *People and Nature*. The main distinctive characteristic of *Ecosystems and People* relative to the aforementioned journals is that it will continue to publish open-access research that clearly informs decision making and the design, development and implementation of policies and management strategies towards fostering biodiversity conservation and good quality of life.

The ‘Ecosystems’ in the title encompasses all biodiversity aspects in the broadest sense, and the system aspect that the Journal has covered for a long time. While we choose ‘ecosystems’, we explicitly acknowledge that most systems are transformed and managed by humans, including urban systems (Reyers et al. 2013), hence we welcome social-ecological systems research. The ‘People’ in the title includes all aspects of human societies that deal with the natural world. People are beneficiaries and stewards of ecosystem services and nature’s contributions to people; they are inhabitants, users, co-producers, managers, planners and decision makers.

In addition, we believe that a shorter name will enhance the Journal’s name recognition and profile, and at the same time be brief but concise enough to cover the updated scope of the Journal. Central to this scope is our call for interdisciplinary research on biodiversity and ecosystems, nature’s contributions to people (including ecosystem services), societies’ quality of life and the multiple ways in which people relate with nature (van Oudenhoven et al. 2018). This will require approaches that combine or are at least inspired by anthropology, sociology, humanities and other social sciences. In *Ecosystems and People*, natural and social sciences will share the same platform, just as qualitative and quantitative research and findings co-produced with indigenous and local knowledge holders. We also recognise the growing trend towards more-inclusive and context-specific research approaches that reflect cultural realities and provide research findings that are perceived as legitimate.

Science–policy interfaces on *Ecosystems and People*: special issue

To embrace the new name and scope of the Journal, we are proud to announce a call for papers to be published in the 2019 Special Issue entitled ‘Science–policy






interfaces advance research on Ecosystems and People' (link: <http://explore.tandfonline.com/tbsm-call-for-papers-si>). The Guest Editors are Patricia Balvanera, Sander Jacobs, Harini Nagendra and Patrick O'Farrell. The aims of the Special Issue are to synthesise the findings, insights and experiences gained in science–policy interfaces regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services, particularly within IPBES. We invite contributions on the process, the theory and the outcomes of IPBES or other science–policy interface programs. The Special Issue will follow our inclusive approach that strives for an even distribution of authors based on gender, region and seniority (van Oudenhoven et al. 2018), and includes non-academic authors who hold indigenous and local knowledge as well as practical expertise. This inclusive approach is also reflected in the composition of the Guest Editors, which balances gender and regional distribution.

Ecosystems and People in transition

In the previous Editorial (van Oudenhoven et al. 2018), we announced the new members of the Editorial Board. We now announce that several long-term members have decided to hand over to a new generation. We would like to extend our gratitude to James Aronson, Steven Brechin, Wolfgang Cramer, P.S. Ramakrishnan, Gunhild Setten, Clem Tisdell, Christina von Haaren and former Editor-in-Chief Martin Price for their service to the Journal and support during this transition.

With this Editorial, we are confident that we have taken a step further in the development of the Journal. This Editorial was co-written by the Associate Editors and Co-Editors in Chief of the Journal, in a collaborative spirit that we hope will continue in the next years, not only in the Journal but also in the scientific community to better address the interface between ecosystems and people.

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