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Global Ecology and Conservation

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Editorial

Global Ecology and Conservation



Welcome to *Global Ecology and Conservation*, the new peer-reviewed, open-access journal from Elsevier! *GECCO* covers all sub-disciplines of ecology and conservation science: from theory to practice, from molecules to ecosystems, from local to global. It aims to publish sound science in the form of research articles, case studies, reviews, and short communications of interest to researchers and professionals within these fields. All accepted articles will be immediately and permanently free for everyone to read and download from ScienceDirect, which also hosts more than 12,600,000 other journal articles and book chapters from nearly 2,500 journals and 26,000 books. We aim for fast, efficient, and affordable global exposure.

Why is a new journal needed? The explosive growth in global scientific output in recent years has pushed rejection rates in the most popular journals in ecology and conservation to more than 80%. This not only wastes a great deal of time, effort, and other resources, but unless this work is published elsewhere it also biases reviews and meta-analyses towards 'stronger', and thus more publishable, results. Meanwhile conservation practitioners get only a partial picture of what is known about the species and ecosystems they manage. An additional problem is that the quest for 'novelty' in scientific publishing makes it almost impossible to publish geographical replicates of previous studies, despite the value of these to science. *GECCO* is intended to address these issues by providing an outlet for good science that does not necessarily meet the exacting requirements of the top journals. In particular, the on-line only, open-access model makes it possible to publish studies for relatively small, widely scattered, audiences, so that local case studies can be made available to people with similar interests elsewhere. *GECCO* is also an ideal outlet for those parts of large-scale research studies that are hard to publish, but are necessary for a complete picture of the project. We also encourage regional and global reviews, particularly where they help make local research studies known to a global audience. Finally, we provide an open-access alternative to traditional publishing for authors who prefer this model.

A journal is not simply the product of a publisher and editorial team, however. It is a collaboration between them and the other major stakeholders, the authors and reviewers. We cannot publish papers that are not submitted and we do not publish ones that the reviewers advise against. As the first issue shows, our authors have a very wide range of interests, and the articles currently on the path to publication cover almost the entire scope of the journal. We have rejected as 'out of scope' only a few papers with little or no biological content. Given the broad range of subjects covered, expert review is essential for maintaining scientific standards, and providing feedback and guidance to authors. We have had few problems finding willing reviewers and they have been very sympathetic to the open-access model and the possibilities it opens up. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has reviewed for *GECCO*. Finally, we welcome suggestions for improving the journal and encourage you to consider it for your future research output.

Sincerely,

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