

Instructions for contributors

ORYX—THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CONSERVATION, published quarterly on behalf of Fauna & Flora International, is a journal of biodiversity conservation, conservation policy and sustainable use, and the interactions of these with social, economic and political issues. The journal has a particular interest in material with the potential to improve conservation management and practice. *Oryx* also supports the publishing and communication aspirations of conservation practitioners and researchers worldwide, and helps build capacity for conservation.

Before submitting a manuscript for peer review please carefully read and follow these Instructions for Contributors (including the [General instructions](#), [Guidelines for preparation of figures and plates](#) and the [Code of conduct for researchers contributing articles](#)). If you have not previously submitted an article to *Oryx*, please read [How to submit a manuscript](#) before making your submission at *Oryx* on ScholarOne Manuscripts.

How to submit a manuscript

By submitting an article to *Oryx* you join an international community of conservation practitioners, researchers and academics. In 2016 we received nearly 300 articles from over 90 countries. Necessarily high standards mean that not all manuscripts are accepted, but following the advice here ([General instructions](#), [FAQ](#)) will facilitate your submission. If you are unsure whether your article is suitable you can view articles in the most recent, freely available January issue. If you are still unsure, [contact us](#).

This advice applies to manuscripts for peer review (i.e. Full Article, Short Communication, Review, Forum and Forum Response manu-

scripts). Letter, Letter Response and Conservation News manuscripts, which are reviewed only by the Editor, also need to be submitted in the manner described here. To submit items for other sections of the journal, see [How to submit other material](#).

Manuscripts must be submitted online at *Oryx* on ScholarOne Manuscripts. If you have any insurmountable problem using the online submission system, please [contact us](#).

Before you submit your manuscript, go through this checklist:

- Does your research fall within the journal's scope (see [General instructions](#))?
- Has your manuscript been formatted appropriately?
- Is the text file in DOC or DOCX format?
- Have Figures and Plates been prepared according to the [Guidelines for preparation of Figures and Plates](#)? For the initial submission you can provide graphic files in low to medium resolution (we will request publication quality graphics if your article is accepted).
- In the Methods have you included the dates when the research was carried out (if applicable)?
- Is the text double-spaced?
- Does your manuscript include page and line numbers?
- Are you able to assent, on behalf of all authors if there is more than one, that (1) the submitted manuscript has not been published, or submitted for publication, elsewhere, (2) all authors have abided by the [Code of conduct for contributors to Oryx](#), and (3) all authors have read the submitted manuscript and agreed to its submission? You need to provide this assent during the submission process (at stage 5, see below).

During online submission you will need to have various details ready. You will first require a User ID, which is your e-mail address. If you do not already have an account at *Oryx on ScholarOne Manuscripts* you can open one by clicking on Create An Account admin (you will need to provide your name, affiliation, street and e-mail addresses, and up to 12 keywords describing your research and conservation interests).

After logging in to *Oryx on ScholarOne Manuscripts*, click on the Author Centre to submit your manuscript. You will be asked to provide the following information, in seven sequential screens (note that for a Letter, Letter Response, Forum Response or Conservation News manuscript you will not need to provide all of these details):

1. The Manuscript Type (Full Article, Short Communication, Review, Forum Article, Forum Article Response, Letter or Conservation News), Title, Abstract (a maximum of 250 words), and details of any Funding Institutions (with Grant/Award Number if relevant)
2. Up to eight keywords, and total number of words in the manuscript (all inclusive except Tables)
3. Names, e-mail and street addresses of any co-authors (if they already have accounts with *Oryx on ScholarOne Manuscripts* their details can be automatically recalled using their e-mail address)
4. Names and e-mails of any preferred or non-preferred peer reviewers, if you wish (if you do so please indicate, in a covering letter, your reasons for recommending, or not, the people concerned)
5. A cover letter file, an indication of whether the manuscript is a resubmission of a previously rejected manuscript, and confirmation, on behalf of all authors if there are more than one, that (1) the submitted manuscript has not been published, or submitted for publication, elsewhere, (2) all authors have abided by the Code of Conduct for contributors to *Oryx*, and (3) all authors have read the submitted manuscript and agreed to its submission.
6. File(s) with the main text, Figures, Tables, Plates and Appendices and/or online-only Material (all items can be in a single file if you wish, with Tables, Figures, Plates and

Appendices/Supplementary Material at the end)

7. You will then need to preview the PDF proof of your submission. At any time you may save your submission and complete it later, and you have the opportunity to edit any details you provide, if necessary.

You will then be given a unique reference number (which will look something like this: Oryx-17-A-0043) and will receive a confirmatory e-mail. You will need to use your reference number in all correspondence with the Editorial Office, always including it in the subject line of any e-mail so that we can respond promptly. You will be able to track the submission in your Author Centre at *Oryx on ScholarOne Manuscripts*. After the acknowledgement e-mail the next correspondence you will receive (provided your work has been submitted in the requested format) will usually be either a request for a revision following peer review or an indication that the journal will not be able to publish your manuscript.

If you have any questions about the submission process, check the [Frequently Asked Questions](#), or [contact us](#).

General instructions

Articles (2,000–7,000 words), *Reviews* (<7,000 words), *Forum papers* (<4,000 words) and *Short Communications* (<2,000 words) are invited on topics relevant to the journal's focus, including:

- The nature and results of conservation initiatives, including case studies
- Research on the sustainable use of wild species
- Research on the status of threatened species, taxonomic groups or habitats
- Reviews of conservation policy, strategy and legislation in practice
- Planning for species and biodiversity conservation
- The working of international conservation conventions
- The history of conservation, including the role of key people, organizations and initiatives
- The causes and consequences of biodiversity loss

- Case studies of conservation projects and programmes
- The social, economic and political dimensions of conservation

Note that word counts are all inclusive except for Tables, and that you should ensure your manuscripts are as concise as possible. The maximum word counts indicated above should not be taken to imply that a submission can be of the maximum length regardless of content. If we feel that a manuscript is overly long for the subject matter (even if it is within the word count limit) we may request that it be shortened prior to peer review.

Please read all of these Instructions for Contributors carefully. If a submission does not comply appropriately it will be returned for amendment prior to peer review.

Reviews provide comprehensive overviews of a particular conservation topic. *Forum* papers promote debate about current and controversial issues, usually with critical responses commissioned from one or more authors. *Articles* on the status or conservation of threatened species, taxonomic groups or habitats should generally be <4,500 words and have, where relevant, a context beyond that of the subject studied.

Submission Online at *Oryx* on *ScholarOne Manuscripts*. Upon submission the Corresponding Author must confirm that: (1) the submitted manuscript has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere, (2) all authors have read the submitted manuscript and agreed to its submission, and (3) all authors have abided by the *Code of conduct for authors contributing articles*. In a covering letter/e-mail to the Editor please indicate how the research and submitted manuscript complies with points 2 and 4 of the Code of conduct and, in the *Methods* and/or *Acknowledgements* sections of the manuscript, as appropriate, indicate how the research complies with points 1, 3 and 5–8 of the Code of conduct, as required. If there is overlap with other articles, reports or similar material, including any in press or in preparation, this should be stated and the articles in question sent to the Editor. Both quantitative and qualitative methodology used in the reported work should be appropriate to the research question and must be clearly described. Management recom-

mendations should be made where appropriate, and details of any implementation provided.

Age of data Where relevant, dates of any field-work must be provided. *Oryx* publishes research with the potential to have an impact on conservation outcomes. This requires conclusions to be based upon the best available and up-to-date information and analysis and we therefore look carefully at all manuscripts in which conclusions are based on field data collected some time ago (generally >4 years). We recognize, however, the value of historical field or collection records but require evidence that these studies are directly relevant to effective conservation. Bear this policy in mind when submitting your manuscript and, if the data and/or associated analyses are not recent, justify, both in your cover letter and in the manuscript, the use of these data in terms of the conservation relevance of your findings.

Preparation of manuscripts Consult a recent issue of *Oryx* for general style. Contributions should be in English, with British English spelling and terminology, double-spaced, without footnotes, and with line numbers. Submissions, which can be a single file, with all Tables, Figures, Plates and Appendices at the end, or with text and other elements in separate files, must be in DOC format (not PDF). For submission, graphics can be in low to medium resolution as long as they are clearly legible, with publication-quality graphics to be provided upon any final acceptance. Cover page should contain title, word count (all inclusive except for Tables and Figure and Plate captions), and full mailing address, e-mail, and address at the time the research was carried out, if different, of the corresponding author and all additional authors. Pages to be numbered, and order of sections to be: cover page, title, abstract, keywords, main text, acknowledgements, author contributions, references, biographical sketches, tables, figures, plates, appendices/supplementary material (the latter four items can be in separate files). Short Communications must not have any sub-headings.

Title A succinct description of the work (≤20 words) preferably embodying either the aim or the overall conclusion.

Abstract In <250 words, the aims, methods, major findings and conclusions; should be in-

formative without reference to the text and should not contain any references or undefined abbreviations.

Keywords Up to eight pertinent words or phrases, in alphabetical order (these can repeat words in the title and should be optimized for online search engines).

Structure Articles should generally follow the Introduction, Study Area (where appropriate), Methods, Results and Discussion format. Minimize use of other subheadings.

Acknowledgements A brief statement should be included that thanks, in non-effusive terms, those who have provided assistance (following peer review this should normally include acknowledgement of reviewers).

Author contributions A brief statement should be included that specifies the contributions of each author (specified by their initials).

References Cited in the text as, for example, Hardcastle & Wilson (1996) or (Leadbeater, 1996). For three or more authors use the first author's surname followed by et al.. Multiple references to be in chronological order. Reference list should be in alphabetical order, and article titles and the titles of serial publications to be given in full. If citations and bibliography are prepared using a bibliography manager any field codes, tags or similar must be removed. The following are examples of *Oryx* style:

Beck, B.B., Rapaport, L.G. & Stanley Price, M.R. (1994) Reintroduction of captive-born animals. In *Creative Conservation: Interactive Management of Wild and Captive Animals* (eds P.J.S. Olney, G.M. Mace & A.T.C. Feistner), pp. 265–286. Chapman & Hall, London, UK.

Bowler, M. (1991) *Implications of large predator management on commercial ranchland in Zimbabwe*. MSc thesis. University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Brady, L.D., Huston, K., Jenkins, R.K.B., Kauffmann, J.L.D., Rabearivony, J., Raveloson, G. & Rowcliffe, M. (1996) *UEA Madagascar Expedition '93*. Unpublished Report. University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.

Farjon, A. (2013) *Juniperus excelsa*. In *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2013*. [Http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2013-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2013-1).

RLTS.T42232A2964786.en. [accessed 26 April 2017].

IUCN (2016) *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species v. 2016.3*. [Http://www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org) [accessed 26 April 2017].

LeBoeuf, B.J., Kenyon, K.W. & Villa-Ramirez, B. (1986) The Caribbean monk seal is extinct. *Marine Mammal Science*, 2, 70–72.

MacArthur, R.H. & Wilson, E.O. (1967) *The Theory of Island Biogeography*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, USA.

Sutherland, W.J. (ed.) (1998) *Conservation Science and Action*. Blackwell Science, Oxford, UK.

Biographical sketches The research interests of all authors (< 150 words total), over and above what is obvious from the subject of the manuscript and the authors' affiliations.

Tables Each on a separate page, with captions that are comprehensible without reference to the text.

Figures & Plates Guidelines for the preparation of Figures and Plates are provided below. Captions should be comprehensible without reference to the text.

Appendices/Supplementary material Online platforms give authors the opportunity to include data that it would be impractical to include in the printed article. Such data may substantially enhance the importance of the research and be of benefit to readers. Authors may include tables, figures, videos and audio files. All supplementary material must be submitted with the original manuscript as separate files, cited in the text with the prefix 'S' (e.g. Supplementary Table S1, Supplementary Fig. S1, Supplementary Material 1) and listed under a Supplementary Material heading at the end of the manuscript. Supplementary files will be peer reviewed but not copy-edited or typeset, and will be published as supplied. Where authors wish to deposit data in a third-party archive (mandatory for files of 60 MB and over) instead of publishing as supplementary material in the journal, any necessary supplementary material files should be uploaded to the third-party archive and the DOI that the archive assigns to their supplemental files should be included under the Supplementary Material heading.

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Abbreviations Minimize use, and provide full expansion of any at first mention in the text.

Symbols, units & currencies Use SI units (International System of Units) and ISO 4217 currency codes.

Nomenclature Where necessary, provide the basis used for nomenclature of taxa. The first time a species is mentioned its scientific name should follow without intervening punctuation, thus African elephant *Loxodonta africana*. English names should be in lower case throughout except when they incorporate a proper name.

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Proofs Sent to authors as a PDF file. Corrected proofs must be returned to the Editor within 3 days of receipt; minor corrections can be communicated by e-mail.

The Editor welcomes contributions to the Letters, Briefly, Conservation news, Grants & Opportunities and Publications sections of the journal—see [How to submit other material](#).

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Guidelines for preparation of figures and plates

For detailed guidance on designing maps and data plots, advice on the wise use of graphics formats, and screencast demonstrations to help with drafting beautiful figures, please see the journal's online [Graphics for Conservation manual](#).

Figures are printed at widths of 79, 107.5 and 165 mm (3.1, 4.2 and 6.5 inches, respectively); wherever possible design for the narrower widths. See recent issues of the journal and [Graphics for Conservation](#) for examples of suitably designed Figures. Plates (i.e. photographs) are usually printed at 79 mm width. For accepted articles we require Figures and Plates at publication quality (see below). We welcome colour Figures and Plates but they can be printed only at the author's expense; contact the [Editorial Office](#) if you require a costing. Figures and Plates can, however, be published in colour online and greyscale in print at no cost to the author; in such cases authors need to ensure that any colour figure or plate will also reproduce well in greyscale.

We accept graphics for publication only in postscript (EPS/PS), scalar vector graphic (SVG)

or tagged image file format (TIFF). Line artwork is best prepared in vector-based drawing software (e.g. [Inkscape](#)). Export maps and graphs thus prepared in EPS/PS or SVG format. When exporting, embed fonts if possible (or convert to outlines), do not use lines of hairline width but rather use a minimum width of 0.3 points (0.1 mm), and do not downsample the quality of any embedded images. Design specifically for one of the journal's three figure widths (see above). Submit Plates in TIFF format. For a photograph to be printed at 79 mm (3.1 inches) we require a minimum size along the width of 1,860 pixels (600 pixels x 3.1 inches).

Figures prepared in raster-based software (e.g. [Gimp](#)) will also need to be submitted in TIFF format, and the same guidance regarding size applies. A Figure designed for printing at a width of 107.5 mm (4.2 inches) requires a minimum size along the width of 2,520 pixels (600 x 4.2), and a full page width Figure of 165 mm (6.5 inches) must be at a minimum size of 3,900 pixels (600 x 6.5). For all TIFF files, whether Figures or Plates, the resolution is irrelevant—it is the dimension in pixels that is important. Before submitting, print out figures at the designed width to check legibility of fonts, sharpness of lines and clarity of shading. If in doubt about the quality or format of a Figure or Plate send a test file to the [Editorial Office](#). See [Analysis & Writing Tools](#) for advice on graphics software.

In general any manuscript that involves a study site or specific location will require a map Figure. Such Figures must: (1) be surrounded by a thin-line box, (2) be geographically referenced with inward-pointing latitude and longitude tic marks and/or with a small inset map indicating the location of the main figure, (3) have a scale bar in km, and (4) have all lines such as country boundaries, roads and rivers, wherever appropriate, extending to the bounding box. For detailed advice, see [Graphics for Conservation](#).

For all Figures use line thicknesses in the range of 0.3–1.0 points (0.1–0.35 mm) and font sizes in the range of 6–12 points (2–4 mm). All fonts used in Figures should be sans serif (e.g. [Arial](#)) rather than serif (such as [Times Roman](#)). If shading is required in a greyscale figure, use only a limited range of grey shades, generally not more than four.

In general, Plates will only be included in an article if they form evidence that is integral to the subject studied (e.g. a camera-trap photograph of a rare species) and if they are of good quality.

Code of conduct for authors contributing articles

We believe it is important that conservation research conforms to the highest possible ethical and legal standards, and the journal therefore has a code of conduct for researchers contributing articles. When you submit an article for consideration by *Oryx* you will be required to assent that all authors have abided by this code of conduct. The Code covers important aspects of both research and the preparation of articles for publication.

1. All research must have the necessary approvals and permits from appropriate institutions and statutory authorities in both the host country and the researchers' country of origin (if different).

2. Any intellectual property rights on data and results obtained from the research must be managed within the legal requirements of the host country and be shared fairly among the participants, especially those from the host country. Such arrangements should be formalized prior to initiating the research through prior informed consent by the host country and institutes. Research should not infringe local rights in intellectual property. If research is carried out in a host country that has few legal requirements for such work, researchers should follow the standards of their country of origin.

3. *Oryx* recognizes the importance of capacity building as a component of conservation activity, as well as the importance of full involvement by all stakeholders in research activity. Therefore we recommend that:

- any social, anthropological or ethno-biological research should follow the highest standards of research ethics;
- researchers should confirm that their research conforms to the standards set out by a reputable source, such as the guidelines developed by the British Sociological Association, which are based on the ethical codes produced by the American Sociological Association, the Association of

Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth, and the Social Research Association.

4. Any research undertaken in a foreign country should, wherever possible, be based on active collaboration with appropriately qualified and experienced individuals from the host country. One objective of the research should be, where necessary, to enhance the capacity of scientific and technical staff in the host country.

Copies of any reports and publications resulting from the research shall routinely be provided to all relevant institutions in the country where the research is being undertaken.

- Wherever appropriate, researchers from the host country should be included as co-authors of all relevant publications.
- Where appropriate, the results of research should be reported back to relevant local and national organizations.
- Where research involves fieldwork in areas occupied by people, or affects species or ecosystems within which people have de facto or de jure tenure rights or cultural connections, it should be carried out in a way that respects local beliefs, economic and cultural interests, and rights.
- Where relevant, research should involve the participation of local partners, and should have regard for the enhancement of local capacity to understand and manage ecosystems and populations.

5. Field researchers should adopt the highest precautionary standards to avoid the accidental introduction and distribution of invasive and pathogenic organisms.

6. Researchers are encouraged to adopt existing IUCN/Species Survival Commission guidelines (e.g. on reintroductions and invasive organisms) as a framework for professional procedure, and are encouraged to design their studies and research to match the research and management needs stated in Species Survival Commission Action Plans and National Biodiversity Action Plans.

7. Research on species should wherever possible be non-intrusive, but it is recognized that responsible collection of data by intrusive means may be necessary in some cases. Moreover, useful research can be conducted

using specimens taken or killed by others (for example, as part of wildlife management operations). The following guidelines for the treatment of individual specimens should be followed.

(a) In cases where specimens are collected and/or killed by the researcher:

- data collection involving the killing of an organism should only take place when such collection is essential to the scientific integrity of the research being undertaken;
- the number of specimens collected should be the absolute minimum required for research integrity;
- the specimens collected should not be of species that appear on national or international lists of threatened species unless they are necessary for the purposes of research aimed at enhancing their conservation. In such cases, the researchers must have the appropriate permits from the relevant statutory authority.

(b) In cases where information is collected from specimens that have been killed by others: if data collection makes use of existing game control, hunting or harvesting operations, it should take place in such a way that no additional mortality occurs as a result of the research, either directly or indirectly (e.g. through increased demand).

8. Animal capture and handling techniques should conform to the highest standards of animal welfare. If animals are to be killed they must be killed humanely. Researchers should confirm that they have followed a code of conduct from a reputable source, such as that developed by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour and the Animal Behaviour Society—see Dawkins & Gosling (1992) *Ethics in Research on Animal Behaviour*, Academic Press, London, UK, *Animal Behaviour* (2001) 61, 271–275, or *Ethical Treatment of Animals in Applied Animal Behaviour Research*.

This Code of conduct was developed by Professor Bill Adams (University of Cambridge), Professor Andrew Balmford (University of Cambridge), Professor Jeffrey A. McNeely (formerly IUCN), Dr Mike Maunder (Eden Project), Professor E.J. Milner-Gulland (University of Oxford), Professor Paul Racey (formerly University

of Aberdeen) and Dr John G. Robinson (Wildlife Conservation Society).

As published in *Oryx*, 35(2), 99–100, with minor modifications.

How to submit other material

Oryx is well known for its coverage of international conservation news and related matters. We welcome contributions to these sections of the journal, all of which you can read in the latest free *January issue*. Send all prospective Briefly news and details of Grants & Opportunities to the *Editorial Office*. To submit Letter, Letter Reply and Conservation News manuscripts see *How to submit a manuscript*. Deadlines for material for the Briefly, Conservation News and Grants & Opportunities sections are 1 October, 1 January, 1 April and 1 July for the January, April, July and October issues, respectively.

Letters We welcome substantial (<700 words) and informative contributions in response to articles published in the journal. Letters should be submitted online at *Oryx on ScholarOne Manuscripts*. Original authors will usually be given the right to reply to any responses.

Briefly News items (<6 months old) need to be <150 words in length, and should summarize recent conservation developments that have been published by authoritative sources, including websites.

Conservation News For major recent developments (<6 months old) in conservation or important announcements that have not been published elsewhere (in <700 words). Particularly suitable for news that needs to be brought urgently to the attention of the international conservation community. Any references should be embedded in the text, and there should be no Figures, Tables or footnotes. Authors will be required to complete a copyright form once their article has been prepared for publication. Articles deemed suitable will be published in the next available issue, space permitting. Conservation News manuscripts should be submitted online at *Oryx on ScholarOne Manuscripts*.

Grants & Opportunities We welcome short descriptions (<350 words) of grants and funding opportunities for conservationists.

Publications Authors and publishers are invited to send publications to the Editor for potential review, although we cannot guarantee that any books received will be reviewed. Please send publications to the Editorial Office. Please note

that books received for review will not be returned. Book reviews are by invitation, and the journal does not accept unsolicited reviews.