Oryx

Guidelines for Oryx authors

> NOTE: Temporary pause on new submissions.
> We have received a large number of submissions in 2026, and *Oryx* is now closed for new submissions until 1 January 2027, to allow us to process the submissions so far received in a timely manner. Submission of Conservation News items, solicited content, revisions and resubmissions remains open, and the processing of manuscripts already received will continue.

Submitted material must fall within the Aims and scope, and it is essential that you read the sections on Editorial policies and Ethical standards before submitting any material. Please note that we are only able to consider submissions that are presented in the journal's prescribed format and on one of our templates. If a submitted item does not comply fully with these Guidelines, it will be returned for amendment prior to any review.

Oryx is fully open access. Multiple funding routes are available, and lack of funding is never a barrier to publishing in *Oryx*.

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Aims and scope

Oryx—The International Journal of Conservation publishes research on biodiversity conservation, conservation policy and sustainable use, and the interactions of these matters with social, economic and political issues. The journal is interdisciplinary and has a particular interest in material with the potential to improve conservation management and practice. The Editors welcome submissions 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

Open access

> *Oryx* is fully open access (referred to as Gold OA) and all new content is published under a Creative Commons licence. Multiple routes to funding Gold OA are available to authors, including institutional open access agreements, the Cambridge Open Equity Initiative, and other waivers and discounts. In some cases Gold OA articles are supported by an article processing charge (APC), typically paid by the author's funding body or institution. *Oryx* is committed to supporting all conservationists, and lack of funding is never a barrier to publishing in the journal.

Cambridge University Press provides support for Gold OA via various routes. To find out if you are eligible, please use the eligibility checker. Authors may also be eligible for editorial waivers based on article types, or for support via the SSC–Oryx Partnership Fund; any authors not covered by these options can apply for a discount/waiver following the acceptance of their submission.

Institutional open access agreements: Over 2,000 institutions are currently covered under transformative agreements with Cambridge University Press.

Cambridge Open Equity Initiative: This initiative covers corresponding authors from over 100 low- and middle-income countries, areas and territories, including over 5,000 institutions.

Research4Life: This funding route is available for authors from low- and middle-income countries, areas and territories who are not covered by an institutional open access agreement or the Cambridge Open Equity Initiative.

Editorial waivers: No charges are made for Conservation News items, Letters, Letter Responses, Book Reviews and Editorials.

SSC–Oryx Partnership Fund: If the first or corresponding author is a member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), their SSC affiliation is included in the author details, and the manuscript reports research carried out as part of the work of the SSC group they engage with, they may be eligible for a waiver through the SSC–Oryx Partnership Fund. Authors applying for this fund need to provide the relevant details when submitting their manuscript, and qualifying authors will receive a waiver code after their manuscript has been accepted for publication.

Other waivers

- Any corresponding author who does not have coverage through any of the above routes, or other funding to pay an article processing charge, can make a request for a discount or full waiver. Authors will be able to make their request after editorial acceptance of their article, when completing their Author Information Form.
- Waivers are handled by Cambridge University Press. If you have any questions about payments or waivers, please contact Laetitia Beck at Cambridge University Press (laetitia.beck@cambridge.org).

Article types

Article (2,000–7,000 words) An Article is the standard format for presenting recent conservation research. Articles focusing on the status or conservation of threatened species, taxonomic groups or habitats should be < 4,500 words and have, where relevant, a context beyond that of the subject studied.

Review (< 7,000 words) A comprehensive overview of a particular conservation topic or theme, offering a novel insight or perspective.

Forum Article and Forum Article Response (< 4,000 words) Debate about current and controversial issues in conservation. The Editor will usually commission one or more critical responses to a Forum Article, with the original author being offered the right of reply to any critiques.

Short Communication (< 2,000 words) Brief reports of recent research or findings, fitting on no more than four pages in the journal. Wherever possible, publication of Short Communications is fast tracked.

> Word limits are all-inclusive (i.e. including references, tables and figure captions), except for any supplementary material, and should not be taken to imply that a submission can be of the maximum length regardless of content. All manuscripts should be as concise as possible. If a manuscript is overly long for the subject matter (even if it is within the word count limit) we may request—either prior or following peer review—that it be shortened.

News, letters and announcements

The Editor welcomes contributions to the Conservation news, Letters, Grants & opportunities and Book review sections.

Conservation news, Letters, Letter responses and Book reviews must be submitted via ScholarOne Manuscripts.

Items for Grants & opportunities should be sent directly to the editorial office.

> Conservation news Communications of major recent news (< 6 months old at the time of submission) in conservation or important announcements that have not been published elsewhere in any form (particularly suitable for news that needs to be brought urgently to the attention of the international conservation community).

Please note the following matters:

- Conservation news items must fit onto a single page of the journal; the word count therefore depends on the presence and size of any images. Please follow these guidelines and note that the word count is all inclusive (i.e. including the title, author names and affiliations), and that Conservation news items may be shortened at proof stage if they do not fit onto a single page.
    - No image: 700-750 words
    - Small image (single-column width): 550-600 words
    - Large image (2/3-page width): 450-500 words
- This section of the journal is strictly reserved for news items and announcements (i.e. this section is not for reports of research findings or general discussion of conservation topics). Authors should have a direct, personal involvement with the news item/announcement covered.
- Submitted items must include the date or dates of the news being presented.
- Before writing a news item, examine recent Conservation news sections in *Oryx* for typical style and subject matter.
- We are unable to engage in correspondence regarding suitability of news items. If you wish to know if a piece is suitable, submit it.
- We generally receive more Conservation news items than we can publish in any one issue of *Oryx*, and therefore the Editor reserves the right to select those that are most suitable for publication in the journal.
- As this section of the journal is for recent news only, we do not hold over submissions to the next available issue.
- Any references should be embedded in the text (e.g. Fisher, 2017, *Oryx*, 50, 377–378).
- Figures, plates or tables may be included if essential for understanding of the material; please note that the inclusion of such materials will reduce the acceptable word count (see above).
- Conservation news items must be prepared using the Conservation news template.

Letters (< 700 words, all inclusive) The Editor welcomes substantial and informative contributions in response to material published in the journal. Original authors will usually be given the right to reply to any responses. Use the Letter or Letter reply template, as appropriate, to prepare your submission.

Grants & opportunities (< 350 words, all inclusive) The Editor welcomes short descriptions of grants and funding opportunities for conservationists.

Book reviews The Editor invites authors and publishers to send publications for potential review, although we cannot guarantee that any books received will be reviewed. Please send any enquiries or review copies to the editorial office and note that books received for review will not be returned. Book reviews are by invitation only; the journal does not accept unsolicited reviews. For further details, please see our Guidelines for book reviewers.

Article templates

Use the appropriate template to prepare your manuscript (the templates provide both structure and guidance for manuscript sections):

Preparation of manuscripts

Articles and Reviews should include the following sections, in this order:

- Cover page
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction
- Study area (if applicable)
- Methods (if reporting research)
- Results (if reporting research)
- Discussion
- Author contributions
- Acknowledgements
- Conflicts of interest
- Ethical standards
- Data availability
- References
- Tables and table captions (if applicable)
- Figures and figure captions (if applicable)
- Plates and captions (if applicable)
- Supplementary material (if applicable)

Short Communications should include the same sections, in the same order, but there should be no subheadings for the introduction, study area, methods, results and discussion sections.

Reviews may contain other appropriately named sections.

Minimize use of subheadings within sections. Do not combine the results and discussion into a single section.

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 and page numbers. Submissions should be in a single file (except for Supplementary Material, which should be in a separate file), with all tables, figures and plates at the end, in DOC/DOCX format (not PDF). For initial submission, graphics can be in medium resolution as long as they are clearly legible, with publication-quality graphics to be provided (as separate files) upon any final acceptance.

Cover page A cover page should contain title, word count (all inclusive except for supplementary material), and full mailing address, e-mail, and address at the time the research was carried out, if different, of all authors, and the ORCID iD of at least the corresponding author.

> Important note for co-authors regarding ORCID
> Co-authors wishing to add their ORCID iD to a submission must link their ORCID profile to their user account in ScholarOne. ORCID iDs can only be published with the article if verified in

ScholarOne prior to acceptance; this can only be done by the account holder, not by the submitting author or journal staff. To create a new ORCID profile or to link their existing ORCID iD, co-authors need to log into their ScholarOne account (here), access their account details and follow the steps to create or link their ORCID iD.

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 informative without reference to the text and should not contain any references, statistical details (such as confidence intervals or standard deviations) or undefined abbreviations. A translation of the Abstract into a second, relevant language may be included; this will be published as part of the main article.

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).

Introduction The broader context to the research, the current state of this area of research in the light of key literature on the subject, and your research question(s), aims or hypotheses.

Study area A brief description of the area in which your research was carried out, usually including a map figure showing location and any other relevant matters.

Methods The quantitative and qualitative methods used in the reported work should be appropriate to the research question and must be clearly described, in sufficient detail to enable others to replicate your work. Any interview/survey questionnaires used must be provided in the supplementary materials.

Results Your findings, with figures, plates and/or tables, as appropriate. Only incorporate photographs (which should be referred to as plates) if they are part of the evidence (e.g. a species photographed with a camera trap, or a photograph of a forest before and after fire).

Discussion A consideration of the importance of your key findings in relation to the aim(s), objective(s) and/or hypotheses outlined in the introduction, their context with respect to other research, and any management recommendations, if appropriate, and details of any implementation of relevant conservation action.

Author contributions Include a brief statement that specifies the contributions of each author, specified by their initials. Where initials are ambiguous, distinguish authors by including surnames (e.g. A Bertram, A Bustamante).

Acknowledgements Include a brief statement that thanks, in non-effusive terms, those who have provided assistance (following peer review this should normally include acknowledgement of reviewers), and details of all sources of financial support, for all authors, with grant numbers if relevant. If there was no specific funding, provide the following statement: ‘This research received no specific grant from any funding agency, or commercial or not-for-profit sectors’.

Conflicts of interest Provide details of all known financial, professional or personal relationships with the potential to bias the work. Where no known conflicts of interest exist, state ‘None’.

Ethical standards All research and writing submitted to *Oryx* must comply with the journal’s

ethical standards. It is mandatory to include a statement to this effect, no matter what type of research is being reported (i.e. This research abided by the *Oryx* guidelines on ethical standards). If the research involved human subjects (e.g. interviews), experimentation with animals and/or collection of specimens, it is mandatory to provide details of the ethical clearance(s) received.

Data availability Include a brief statement indicating whether you have made the evidence supporting your findings available, and if so, where readers may access it.

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 citations to be in chronological, rather than alphabetical, order: e.g. (Martin et al., 1994; Leadbeater, 1996). The reference list should be in alphabetical and then chronological order, and article titles and the titles of serial publications to be given in full. For publications that have more than seven authors, present only the first six names followed by et al. (see example below for Büscher et al.). If citations and bibliography are prepared using a bibliography manager, any field codes, tags or similar must be removed.

Oryx style is available in reference managers such as Zotero, Mendeley, Endnote and ZoteroBib.

The following are examples of references in *Oryx* style:

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

Book chapter
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.

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

Indigenous elder/knowledge keeper
Cardinal, D. (2004) *Goodfish Lake Cree Nation. Treaty 6. Lives in Edmonton*. Oral teaching. 4 April 2004.

For additional information on the reference style for Indigenous elder/knowledge keeper, please see L. MacLeod (2021) More than personal communication: templates for citing Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers. *Knowledge Creation, Dissemination, and Preservation Studies*. dx.doi.org/10.18357/kula.135

IUCN Red List species account
Farjon, A. (2013) *Juniperus excelsa.* In *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2013. dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2013-1.RLTS.T42232A2964786.en.

Journal article published in a volume/issue, with page numbers
Büscher, B., Fletcher, R., Brockington, D., Sandbrook, C., Adams, W.M., Campbell, L. et al. (2017) Half-Earth or Whole Earth? Radical ideas for conservation, and their implications. *Oryx*, 51, 407–410.

Journal article published online ahead of print (page numbers not yet available)
Soliku, O. & Schraml, U. (2018) From conflict to collaboration: the contribution of co-management in mitigating conflicts in Mole National Park, Ghana. *Oryx*, published online 10 September 2018.

Journal article published online, with article number
Zhao, Y., Liu, X. & Han, X. (2024) Enhancing pro-environmental behavior through nature-contact environmental education: an empirical analysis based on randomized controlled experiment design. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, 12, 1491780.

Journal article in press (not yet published, but accepted for publication)
Author, A. & Co-author, C. (in press) New insights on conservation. *Journal of Important Research*, in press.

Preprint
Leisher, C., Booker, F., Agarwal, B., Day, M., Matthews, E., Prosnitz, D. et al. (2018) A preliminary theory of change detailing how women's participation can improve the management of local forests and fisheries. Preprint publication. *SocArXiv*, doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/rgakw.

Published report
Forest Peoples Programme, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2016) *Local Biodiversity Outlooks. Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Contributions to the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. A Complement to the Fourth Edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook*. Forest Peoples Programme, Moreton-in-Marsh, UK. cbd.int/gbo/gbo4/publication/lbo-en.pdf [accessed 18 January 2022].

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

Unpublished report
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.

Website
IUCN (2018) *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2018-1*. IUCN, Gland Switzerland. iucnredlist.org [accessed 19 September 2018].

Commonly cited references For the convenience of our authors, here are some internet sources that are commonly cited. You will need to update the date accessed, as appropriate. Note that a digital object identifier (DOI) link is permanent and does not require a date accessed.

IUCN Red List species assessment (example)
Bragina, E., Kim, S., Zaumyslova, O., Park, Y.-S. & Lee, W. (2020) *Naemorhedus caudatus.* In *The IUCN Red List of Threatened*
Species 2020. dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2020-2.RLTS.T14295A22150540.en.

IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria
IUCN (2012) *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1.* 2nd edition. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland, and Cambridge, UK. iucnredlist.org/resources/categories-and-criteria [accessed 26 February 2026].

IUCN Red List Threats Classification Scheme
IUCN (2025) *IUCN Red List Threats Classification Scheme (Version 3.3).* iucnredlist.org/resources/threat-classification-scheme [accessed 26 February 2026].

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species
IUCN (2025) *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2025-2*. iucnredlist.org [accessed 26 February 2026].

The IUCN Guidelines for Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at Regional and National Levels
IUCN (2012) *Guidelines for Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at Regional and National Levels. Version 4.0*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland, and Cambridge, UK. portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/RL-2012-002.pdf [accessed 27 February 2026].

Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria
IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee (2024) *Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. Version 16*. iucnredlist.org/documents/RedListGuidelines.pdf [accessed 26 February 2026].

R (programming language)
R Core Team (2025) *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing*. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. R-project.org [accessed 26 February 2026].

Protected Planet
UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2026) *Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas*. protectedplanet.net [accessed 26 February 2026].

Figures and Plates For initial submission, include figures and figure captions in the main document (separate figure files should be submitted only upon revision). Follow the guidelines for the preparation of figures and plates. Captions should be comprehensible without reference to the text.

Tables Include tables in the main document if possible. Each must be on a separate page, with captions that are comprehensible without reference to the text. If inclusion in the main document is impractical, the captions should still be included in the manuscript file, but the tables themselves may be submitted as separate files, e.g. in spreadsheet format (designated as ‘Main document’ in the online submission system).

Supplementary material Online platforms give authors the opportunity to include details pertaining to their methods, data or results that would be impractical to include in the printed article. Such data can substantially enhance the value of the research and be of benefit to readers. Authors may include text, tables, figures, videos and audio files. All supplementary material must be prepared using our template and submitted with the original manuscript, cited in the main text as Supplementary Table 1, Supplementary Fig. 1 or Supplementary Material 1, as appropriate.

Where authors have used interviews or questionnaires as part of their data collection, any interview schedule/survey questionnaire should always be included in the supplementary material.

Wherever possible, all supplementary material should be combined in a single file (usually a text document). Separate files should only be used for material that cannot be included in a text document, such as large data spreadsheets, audio or video files. Spreadsheets should be provided in comma separated values (CSV) format. 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 25 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 digital object identifier (DOI) that the archive assigns to the supplemental files should be cited in the text. If you wish to provide a link to supplementary data and/or code on GitHub you will need to provide a DOI for this material; e.g. see Making Your Code Citable. Any DOI must be supplied prior to online publication of the relevant article.

Supplementary files will be published with the same metadata as the main article, and are considered a formal part of the academic record, so cannot be retracted or modified post-publication, other than via our article correction processes.

Media PDFs If you are submitting a manuscript that includes video or audio this will be simultaneously published online in two formats: (1) as regular PDF/HTML versions (with the video/audio available as supplementary material and represented as a still image in the article), and (2) as a Media PDF, which will allow the reader to view the video/audio within the PDF. When submitting your manuscript please include a high resolution still that best represents the content of the video. The still will be used for the version of the article that appears in print and for the regular (i.e. non-Media) PDF file. The accompanying caption should be of the form: 'Plate 1 (from Supplementary Video 1) <Caption for still>'. Directions for inserting the video, and an alternative caption, should also be provided immediately following; e.g. '<Video 001.mpg to replace Plate 1>' '<Video 1 <Caption for video>'. This version will be used for the Media PDF file. For audio the direction should be added immediately after the word or figure that will contain the clickable link to the audio. The video/audio file should be uploaded at submission using the video/audio file designation option on ScholarOne, and should have the same naming convention as the corresponding plate. This file will then be inserted into the placeholder (in place of the still) for the Media PDF version.

Abbreviations, contractions and acronyms Other than those commonly recognized (e.g. CITES, IUCN, WWF) abbreviations and acronyms put an unnecessary burden on the reader. Resist the temptation to use them and, rather, use a style of writing that obviates the necessity to write out terms or organizational names in full at every usage. If an accepted text includes any novel, non-standard or little-known acronyms they will be removed, in most cases without reference to our authors.

Symbols, units and 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 the common name without intervening punctuation, thus African savannah elephant *Loxodonta africana*. Common names should be in lower case throughout except when they incorporate a proper name.

Red List assessments Use the following example concise form for the presentation of Red List assessments:

> We recommend the species is categorized as Critically Endangered based on IUCN Red List criteria B1ab(v); i.e. extent of occurrence < 100 km2 (B1), limited to one location (a) and a continuing decline (b) in the number of mature individuals (v).

Preparation of figures and plates

> For detailed guidance on designing maps and data plots, advice on the wise use of graphics formats, and video tutorials to help with drafting beautiful figures, please see *Writing for Conservation*. It is essential that your graphics convey their message or purpose clearly.

For initial submission, figures and plates do not need to be of publication quality but they must be legible and clear, and included in the main manuscript file.

We will request publication-quality figures and plates when we ask you to check your article following copyediting of the accepted text.

In preparing publication-quality figures, examine recent *Oryx* articles for exemplars of the journal's preferred style. For detailed advice, including a framework for the drafting of good graphics, and software tutorials, see our *Writing for Conservation* guide. See also Tools and resources for recommendations on graphics software.

We accept final, publication-quality graphics only in SVG or EPS (vector graphics), or TIF or PNG (raster) formats, and not in JPG format (except for plates, see below). For a description of the differences between vector and raster graphics, see *Writing for Conservation: Improve your graphics*. In general, higher quality figures can be achieved with vector graphics. Submit plates (i.e. photographs) as TIF or PNG files unless the original images are only available in JPG format.

Design figures and plates for one of the journal's three graphics widths: 80, 120 and 170 mm. Design for the narrower widths wherever possible. TIF, PNG or JPG graphics designed for widths of 80, 120 and 170 mm must be submitted at minimum widths of 2,000, 2,800 and 4,000 pixels, respectively. Note that for raster graphics (TIF, PNG and JPG formats) the resolution is irrelevant—it is the dimension in pixels that is important.

Before submitting figures, it is essential that you view them on screen, or print them, at the designed width to check legibility of text, sharpness of lines and clarity of any shading. Use this check also to ensure consistency of design style and font sizes between figures. If in doubt about the quality or format of a figure or plate, send a test file to the editorial office.

General points

- We welcome colour figures and plates. Note that we publish colour online and greyscale in print.
- Design your figures such that the reader's eye is drawn to the items of interest rather than to peripheral matters (e.g. if a scale bar is oversized, the eye will be drawn to this rather than to the message you wish to convey).
- Avoid decorative items such as icons of organisms, or unnecessarily complicted symbols, as they distract from the message conveyed by a figure.
- Use sans serif fonts (such as Arial) rather than serif fonts (such as Times Roman).
- At the final printed figure sizes (see above), font sizes should be 5–11 pt, with font sizing used to convey the visual hierarchy. Please ensure consistent font sizes within and between figures.
- Avoid bold font except where absolutely necessary (e.g. to ensure legibility of text on a dark

background).

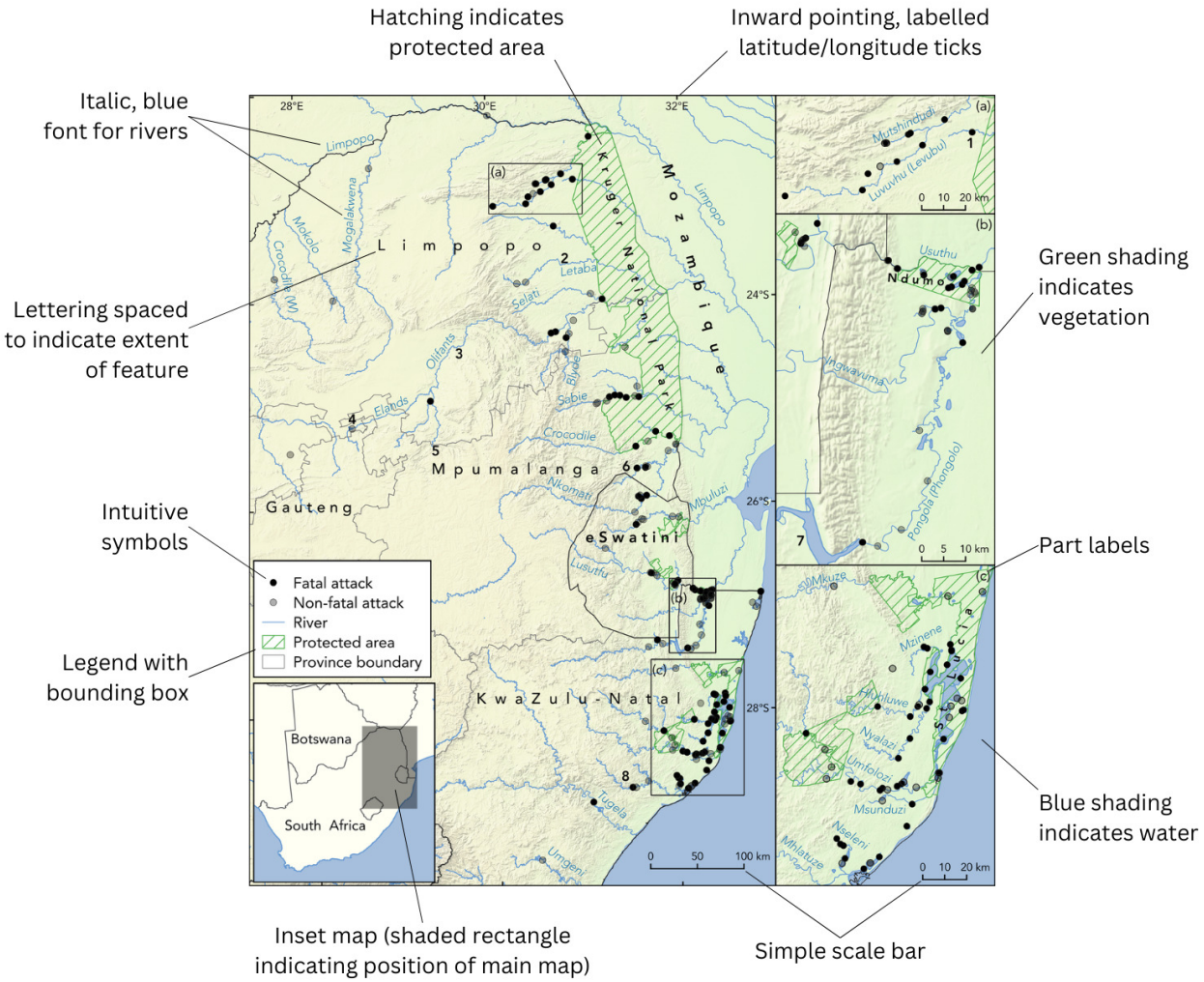
- Use line thicknesses of 0.3–1.0 points (0.1–0.35 mm) and font sizes of 6–10 points (2–3.5 mm).
- If shading is required in a greyscale figure, use only a limited range of grey shades, preferably not more than five.
- Use colours that carry an intuitive meaning (e.g. light blue for water, shades of green for forest, cream for savannah).
- Avoid overly-vivid colours.
- Wherever possible, choose colours that are suitable to communicate the message to people with colour blindness. You can check your graphics with a colour blindness simulator.
- When using a colour gradient, ensure it is intuitive (e.g. from a lighter to a darker shade of the same colour, rather than from one colour to another).
- Label parts of a figure in the style '(a)', '(b)', etc., with the labels positioned in the upper left-hand corner within the figure part. It is often helpful to include short titles with the part labels: e.g. '(a) Winter', '(b) Summer', etc.
- If symbols are required, the preferred choices are, in order: ●, ■, ▲. Use intuitive shading of symbols (e.g. ● for presence, ○ for absence).
- Wherever possible, position legends within the figure rather than outside it (this minimizes unnecessary white space and allows us to set the area of interest at a larger relative size).
- Legends that are positioned within a figure should have a thin-line bounding box and a white, non-transparent background.

Map figures

In general, any manuscript that describes a study site or other specific location will require a map figure. Please adhere to the following matters of style:

- Surround the figure with a single, thin-line bounding box.
- Geographically reference the map with inward-pointing latitude and longitude tick marks in degrees (with minutes/seconds if appropriate, depending on the scale of the map) and, where appropriate, include a small inset map containing a rectangle that indicates the location of the main map.
- Do not reference a map with decimal degrees or a coordinates system such as UTM (unless the research used a coordinate grid and this needs to be illustrated).
- Include a scale bar, in km.
- Extend all lines such as country/state borders, roads and rivers, wherever appropriate, to the bounding box.
- Where appropriate, include the international borders of neighbouring countries (i.e. do not present a country as an island unless it is actually an island).
- Do not include a north arrow (latitude/longitude tick marks are sufficient for orientation) unless north is not at the top of the map.
- Use simple multiples of 2, 5, 10, 50 or similar for scale bar divisions (e.g. 0–50–100 rather than 0–45–90).
- Size text labels hierarchically (e.g. country names should normally be in a slightly larger font than sub-country divisions such as state or county).

- Use italic text for water bodies and rivers.
- Superimpose labels directly on the map (i.e. do not superimpose them on a white or coloured rectangle).
- Show any disputed international borders with a dashed or dotted line. Shapefiles for most disputed borders are available from Natural Earth.



Data figures

- Data with different units should be plotted in separate figure parts, or figures, and not together.
- If figure parts are arranged vertically and share a common x-axis, only the bottom part requires x-axis tick labels and a title.
- Orient y-axis tick labels horizontally rather than vertically.
- For the y-axis, it is helpful to use grid lines on the major ticks, to guide the eye.
- Include the units in axis titles: e.g. ‘Distance to nearest village (km)’.
- If the tick mark labels are self-evident, an axis title may not be requierd: e.g. an axis with the tick marks ‘Jan.’, ‘Feb.’, etc. does not require the title ‘Months’.
- If x-axis labels are lengthy, position them at a 45° angle to facilitate reading.

- A data figure will not generally require a bounding box.

Plates

- Only include plates if they form part of the evidence for a point being made (e.g. a camera-trap photograph) or are required for illustration (e.g. images taken before and after a fire).
- If a plate has more than one part, the part labels can be in a black or white font, whichever is most readable.

Manuscript submission

> Prior to submission, go through the author's checklist to ensure your manuscript has been prepared correctly and that you have all the required information to hand.

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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). Full details of approvals/permits granted (including the institution and any relevant approval numbers) should be included in the ethical standards section of the submitted manuscript. If no specific approval was required, authors should include a statement to this effect.

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 (if different from the researchers' country of origin). 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 ask that:

- Any social, anthropological or ethnobiological 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 be locally relevant and, 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 applicable, to enhance the capacity of scientific and technical staff in the host country.

- Copies of any reports and publications resulting from the research should routinely be provided to all relevant stakeholders and institutions in the country where the research is being undertaken.
- Wherever appropriate, researchers from the host country should be involved throughout the research process and included as co-authors of all relevant publications.
- Where appropriate, the results of research should be reported back to relevant local and national organizations and authorities.
- 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 wildlife 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 the ethical standards of 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.

9. Where research involves the use of monitoring devices that could collect data on people (e.g. drones, camera traps, audio recorders or other devices), or the use of data on people's behaviour or opinions derived from social media or other technologies, steps should be taken to ensure that the research is conducted in a socially responsible manner that does not violate privacy or cause other unnecessary harm. This applies whether or not collecting data on people is a deliberate intention of the research. Researchers are encouraged to adopt existing guidelines as a framework for professional procedure, following 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.

These ethical standards were developed by Professor Bill Adams (University of Cambridge), Professor Andrew Balmford (University of Cambridge), Professor Jeffrey A. McNeely (formerly IUCN), Dr Mike Maunder (Cambridge Conservation Initiative), Professor E.J. Milner-Gulland (University of Oxford), Professor Paul Racey (formerly University of Aberdeen) and Dr John G. Robinson (Wildlife Conservation Society), with additional contribution from Dr Chris Sandbrook (University of Cambridge).

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