

Author Guidelines

The Journal of Wildlife Science (JWLS) follows a double-blind confidential peer-review process. Editors and reviewers are required to retain the manuscripts confidentially and not disclose any details to anyone outside of the review process.

Authors are requested to address any correspondence related to their submission to the Editorial Office (info@jwls.in) or Editor-in-Chief (editorinchief@jwls.in)

JWLS accepts the following manuscript types

Research Article

Full length original research work that contributes to the existing knowledge in the field of Wildlife Science and Conservation. The authors are suggested to follow a general structure that includes sections such as Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion.

Review Article

Comprehensive synthesis and analysis of existing literature in wildlife science, providing an overview of current knowledge, identifying gaps, and suggesting future research directions.

Methods Paper

Detailed description of innovative or refined research methodologies and techniques applied in wildlife science, emphasizing procedural clarity and reproducibility. Notes on new technology or software are also welcome.

Short Communication

A research article shorter in text that could be limited by smaller sample size, focused on a single objective, presenting concise and impactful findings in wildlife science. The article could follow a general structure of the research article without section heads.

Natural History Note

Article offering valuable insights and information on wildlife, presenting natural history observations that may not fit into conventional full length research article or short communication.

Short Note

Brief articles expressing **Viewpoints**, **Opinions**, or **Working Hypotheses** in wildlife science, providing concise contributions to current discussions in the field.

Academic Practices in Wildlife Science

Articles focusing on the profession in wildlife science, conservation, and management, teaching pedagogies, curriculum development, and other academic practices within the field.

Letter to the Editor

Communication expressing critique, comments, or feedback on any content published in the journal, facilitating scholarly discourse.

Reply (Invitation only)

Invited response to critiques or comments on published content, offering authors an opportunity to address feedback and engage in further discussion.

Commentary (Invitation only)

Invited article providing expert insights, reflections, or analyses on specific topics in wildlife science and conservation, contributing to informed discussions within the academic community.

Journal Themes

JWLS does not categorise research into taxonomic classes. Authors working on any wildlife taxa, community or ecosystems can submit their work under a theme of JWLS. The authors can select the major theme of their manuscript in the classification section at the submission.

The Journal of Wildlife Science publishes in following themes and subjects:

Animal Behaviour	Landscape Ecology
Bioacoustics	Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems
Biodiversity Monitoring and Assessment	Methods
Biogeography	Modern Technology for Wildlife Conservation
Climate Change Impacts on Wildlife and Ecosystems	Natural Heritage
Community Ecology	Natural History
Conservation Biology and Genetics	Plant Ecology
Conservation Education and Outreach	Population Ecology
Conservation Policy and Governance	Restoration Ecology
Ecosystem Services	Road Ecology
Ecotoxicology	Spatial and Movement Ecology
Environmental Science	Systematics and Classification
Evolution	Urban Biodiversity
Ex Situ and In Situ Conservation Breeding	Wildlife Forensics
Habitat Ecology	Wildlife Health and Disease Ecology
Human Dimensions	Wildlife Management and Conservation Strategies
Human Wildlife Conflict	Wildlife Trade and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking

General Instructions

Policy on Data Sharing, Availability and Archiving

The JWLS requires authors to provide all data, metadata, and codes on submission for review by the editors and reviewers. Upon acceptance, data must be formally archived in data repositories so as these are publicly accessible or clearly state in while submission where they are deposited. Manuscripts cannot be submitted without a clear “Data availability” statement. However, the Editor-in-Chief shall consider the request for exemption of having acceptable reasons that you need to clearly state in your cover letter.

Manuscript Preparation

JWLS does not impose journal specific style and formatting of the manuscript at the submission stage. The authors may follow the structure of article in various sections such as Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion and Conclusion as suitable. We expect the authors submit manuscripts in clear, generic, and readable layouts (fonts, spacing and alignments) having page and line numbers. Once the paper is accepted, the production process of the JWLS will take care of all aspects of formatting and style. The authors should check the text for grammatical correctness before submission. We accept all styles of English language as long as it clearly conveys the intended information. However, adhering to one style (American, British, Indian or any other style) makes is easier for the reader. There is no restriction on the word count on any article type, however authors are required to provide word count for the short article types such as Short Communication and Letter to the Editor for editorial and review purpose.

Authors are required to consider the following during manuscript preparation:

- Title page, including full title, authors’ names, authors’ affiliations, their contact details and emails. Information on corresponding author, multiple corresponding authors and joined first authorship could be provided here. Acknowledgement and funding information can be added at the end of the title page of attached separately.
- Abstract having a maximum of 250 words and 4–6 keywords,
- A concise cover letter focused on how the manuscript fits into the scope of the journal and how the study advances the knowledge in the field. The authors need to declare that all the co-authors agree to the submission of the content and the manuscript in not under consideration for publication elsewhere in full or parts.
- The manuscript file includes full title, abstract, keywords and main text, preferably structured under the section headings of introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, and references. Notes and other short article types may not require dividing the text into sections and sub-sections. Authors need to ensure that the enlisted references match their citation within the text. All references should follow a uniform format style throughout the manuscript. Use of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies should be

declared in a separate section just before the references. Authors need to make sure that the manuscript file does not include any information that can reveal the authors' identity.

- Tables and Figures may be sent as a separate file or attached at the end of the manuscript file. If tables and figures are provided with the main manuscript file, each item should be on a separate page after the reference list and not incorporated into the main body of the text.
- Figure and table legends can be provided as a separate file, along with the figure and table titles or attached at the end of the manuscript file.
- Data Accessibility Statement
- Conflict of Interest Statement
- Author Contributions section, as a separate file or in the title page.
- Acknowledgments, including details of funding bodies with grant numbers and permission for carrying out research. Acknowledgements should be added at the end of the title page or attached separately. It should not be part of your main manuscript file.

Supplementary Material

Supplementary materials include important, ancillary information which comprises mainly of tables, datasets, photos and figures and is relevant to the submitted article but is not part of the print version of the journal and available online only.

Authors need to provide supporting information in its final format which will be available for review before publication. The responsibility for scientific accuracy and file functionality remains entirely with the authors. A disclaimer to this effect is displayed with any published supporting information. All supporting information must include a legend and label tables as "Table S1; Table S2" and figures as Figure S1; Figure S2.

Authorship

Considering international norms for authorship and contribution, JWLS strongly recommends the authorship credit is based on:

1. substantial contributions to conception and study design, acquisition of data, or analyses and interpretation of data,
2. drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, and
3. final approval of the version to be published.

All authors must meet all 3 conditions. All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed under acknowledgments. Mention the author's contribution during the submission of the research paper.

Additional Authorship Options

In the case of joint first authorship, a footnote should be added to the author listing, e.g. 'X and Y should be considered joint first author.'

References

The completeness and content of your reference list are more important while preparing the manuscript than the format chosen. JWLS suggests the use of the “Harvard” format of reference citation or any other format where publication name is not abbreviated and citation contains all the necessary information to locate it. JWLS prefers references with Author and Year (e.g. Singh et al. 2002; Wilson & Hölldobler, 2005) instead of numbered references within the text.

For citation of online resources, research articles should always include a DOI, where available. While referring to Web pages, it is useful to include the date on which the resource was accessed.

File Types

All popular and standard document formats, such as .pdf, .doc, .docx, .rtf, .xls, or .xlsx. are accepted for submission. Authors can use MS Office, LaTeX or Markdown to prepare their manuscript files and supplementary material. If tables and figures are provided with the main manuscript file, each item should be on a separate page after the reference list and not incorporated into the main body of the text. Alternatively, these could be uploaded as separate files designated “Figures”, and “Tables”. Photograph, figure and map files can be submitted in any general file format such as .pdf, .jpeg, .jpg, .tiff, .png, .gif, or .bmp.

For reviewing purposes, you should upload a pdf or word document and designate these files from the dropdown box as “Cover letter”, “Manuscript”, “Table”, “Figure”, “Supplementary material” and “Acknowledgements”.

Tables

All tables must be cited in the text in the order that they should appear.

Figures

All figures must be cited in the text in the order that they should appear. Figures should be clear and readable in print during initial submission. It is quite difficult to improve an image that has been saved or created in an inappropriate format at the production stage. Therefore, high-resolution figures may be asked after the acceptance of the article. JWLS suggests for use of high-end graphics software, to provide the best output of figures. Authors are advised to use colour-blind friendly pellets and patterns.

Maps

JWLS remains neutral regarding jurisdictional claims in published maps. Authors are requested to use accepted standard maps as the basis for map figure drawing. Responsibility for maps rests with the author and they are requested to provide any copyright or license information when using maps that are not owned or created by the author (e.g. Google Maps, etc.). Depiction and publication of India’s national

boundaries and coast line is governed under the [National Map Policy 2005](#) and subsequent guidelines ([2016](#), [2017](#) and [2021](#)) issued by the Govt. of India.

Cover Images

JWLS encourages authors to submit a picture of their study organism(s) as part of their paper; such images will be considered for our online journal cover and other promotional avenues. Authors are required to provide such images by saving or exporting them as standard formats such as .jpeg, .jpg, .tiff, .png or .pdf. Authors are requested to ensure that all images are of a minimum of 300 dpi.

Metric System

The SI metric system should be used for all measurements, weights, etc. Temperatures should be expressed in degrees Celsius (centigrade).

Plagiarism Check

JWLS strictly adheres to [UGC Plagiarism Policy 2017](#) for publishing an article. We use “iThenticate” software to detect instances of overlapping and similar text in submitted manuscripts and ensure originality of the content.

Proofs

JWLS will provide an e-mail notification with a link and instructions for accessing HTML page proofs online to all the authors. Page proofs should be carefully proofread for any copyediting or typesetting errors. No special software is needed, and all common browsers are supported. Authors should also make sure that any renumbered tables, figures, or references match text citations and that figure legends correspond with text citations and actual figures. Proofs must be returned within 48 hours of receipt of the email. Return of proofs via e-mail is possible if the online system cannot be used or accessed.

Reprints

As this is a Diamond Open Access journal, you have free, unlimited access to your article online.

Production Queries

Please direct any questions regarding the production of your article to the Production Office at submission@jwls.in

Informed Consent

JWLS expects that all authors have taken appropriate steps in obtaining informed consent of any human subjects participating in the research comprising the manuscript submitted for review and possible publication. Authors are expected to provide a statement to this effect in the Methods section of the manuscript.

Ethical Clearance on Human Subjects and Animals in Research

The corresponding author is required to check and provide a statement indicating that the protocol and procedures employed about human subjects and animals in the study were reviewed and approved by the appropriate institutional ethics review committee and the name of the committee and any reference number must be included in the Methods section of the manuscript. In case there is no such committee available, authors need to add statement on how the research met appropriate ethical standards.

Disclosure Statement

JWLS requires that all authors disclose any potential sources of conflict of interest. In case the authors have no conflict of interest to declare, they must also state this at submission. It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to check with all the authors and mention them in the manuscript after the acknowledgment during submission.

Privacy/Data Protection

The publication and the publisher of JWLS recognize the importance of protecting the personal information collected from users and ensure that steps are taken to maintain the security, integrity, and privacy of the personal data collected and processed. Check the details of [privacy policy](#) at JWLS.

Author Name Change Policy

In cases where authors wish to change their name during review or publication process, authors should contact the journal's Editorial Office with their name change request by email: info@jwls.in