

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

Research article shorter in text that could be limited by a 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 a conventional full-length research article or short communication. Kindly note that currently, JWLS is not keen on mere checklists, first presence reports and distribution updates without discussing ecological importance and conservation implications.

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 during the submission.

The Journal of Wildlife Science publishes articles in the 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 to be publicly accessible, or the authors should clearly mention where the data are deposited during the submission. 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 must clearly state in your cover letter.

Manuscript Preparation

JWLS does not impose a 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 to submit manuscripts in clear, generic, and readable layouts (fonts, spacing and alignments) with 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 the English language as long as the intended information is conveyed clearly. However, adhering to one style (American, British, Indian or any other style) makes it easier for the reader. There is no restriction on the word count of any article type. However, authors are required to provide the word count for the short article types, such as Short Communication and Letter to the Editor, for editorial and review purposes.

Authors are required to consider the following during manuscript preparation:

- Title page, including full title, authors’ names, affiliations, contact details and emails. Information on the 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 that the manuscript is not under consideration for publication elsewhere in full or in 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.
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- Data Accessibility Statement.
- Conflict of Interest Statement.
- Author Contributions section, as a separate file or at the end of 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 mainly consists of tables, datasets, photos, and figures and is relevant to the submitted article, but it is not part of the print version of the journal and is available online only.

Authors must 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.

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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 authors.'

References

The completeness and content of your reference list are more important while preparing the manuscript than the format chosen. JWLS suggests using the "Harvard" format of reference citation or any other format where the publication name is not abbreviated and the 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.

Research articles should always include a DOI, wherever available, to cite online resources. When referring to web pages, it is useful to include the date on which the resource was accessed.

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Tables

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

Figures

All figures must be cited in the text in the order in which 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 requested after the article is accepted. JWLS suggests using high-end graphics software to provide the

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Maps

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Metric System

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

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Informed Consent

JWLS expects that all authors have taken appropriate steps to obtain informed consent from any human participant who is the subject of the manuscript submitted for review and possible publication. Authors are expected to provide a statement on this 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. If no such committee is available, authors need to add a statement on how the research met appropriate ethical standards.

Disclosure Statement

JWLS requires that all authors disclose any potential sources of conflict of interest. If the authors have no conflict of interest to declare, they must also state this at submission. The corresponding author is responsible for checking with all the authors and mentioning them in the manuscript after the acknowledgement during submission.

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