



Call for Papers

Biodiversity Revisited: Developing new approaches to sustain life on Earth

Submission Deadline 1st April

The diversity of life that sustains humanity is being severely degraded by human action leading to a deterioration in land, air, and water quality, loss of natural ecosystems and widespread declines in populations of wild species. These changes are well documented and of existential significance to human societies, yet significant knowledge about biodiversity loss has not catalysed effective broad-based action. The [Biodiversity Revisited](#) initiative is an interdisciplinary collaboration that is critically examining the research, policy, and practices which currently underpin biodiversity conservation. This call for papers invites contributions that critically assess the following proposition statement:

Biodiversity has not, broadly speaking, proven to be a compelling object for sufficient action to halt the degradation of the diversity of life on earth. At the same time, the fragmentation of research and policy efforts into overlapping agendas around biodiversity, climate, oceans, land degradation, sustainable development and so on has prevented the conservation community from developing a holistic approach to sustaining the diversity of life on Earth. Furthermore, the predominant focus of research on describing biophysical change does not provide the necessary insight into the social and policy dynamics that would facilitate effective action.

In this theme of *Environment and Conservation* we are seeking contributions from any areas of conservation research and practice, as well as from broader disciplinary perspectives in the social and biophysical sciences and humanities. Specific topics include, but are not limited to:

- **Concepts** that shape how a biodiversity is understood, discussed, and managed within any society and is thus a critical building block for both research and action;
- **Narratives** that shape how the problem of biodiversity is framed and communicated, to consider the efficacy of new and existing narratives that are used to motivate research and action;
- **Science** that underpins conservation, and critical considerations of the role of science in supporting action and change, and the frontiers of research to sustain life on Earth;
- **Governance** processes of interaction and decision-making that lead to the creation, reinforcement, or reproduction of social norms and institutions that mobilise or hinder action;
- **Systems** approaches and framings that conceptualise feedbacks and interconnections between social, biophysical, climate, and institutional problems from local to global scales;
- **Futures** studies that consider ways of conceptualising and supporting decision-making to prepare for, and anticipate, the implications of long-term future change.

Managing Editor: Nicholas Polunin (Newcastle University, polunin@btinternet.com>)

Submission Guidelines: Standard Research papers (max 6000 words) are of particular interest but Subject Reviews (Max 8000 words), Reports (max 4000 words) and Comments (max 2000 words) which abide by the Instructions for Contributors (www.cambridge.org/core/journals/environmental-conservation/information/instructions-contributors) are also acceptable; you submit via the web site (mc.manuscriptcentral.com/envcon) and select the 'Biodiversity Revisited' theme. All papers are subject to rigorous screening and peer-review. Abiding by the schedule of dates below will facilitate access to the thematic issue, otherwise they may be stand-alone papers.

Important Dates: Full manuscripts deadline 1st April 2020; Submission of final revised paper 1st September 2020