



International Journal of Environmental and Rural Development (IJERD):

Publishing Policies and Best Practice Guidelines

Version X.0: October, 2025

The International Journal of Environmental and Rural Development (IJERD) aligns its publishing policies and best practice guidelines with multiple international and scholarly organizations including The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), the Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA), and the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), as guided by their seminal work published as the *Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing*. (COPE DOAJ OASPA WAME. Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing — English. <https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.1.12>)

IJERD's Publishing Policies and Best Practice Guidelines relate to all IJERD published content including original articles, review articles, special issues and conference proceedings.

IJERD's Publishing Policies and Best Practice Guidelines focus on transparency, equity, and inclusion for all authors and stakeholders. IJERD publishing decisions are based on scholarly import and merit with no consideration of the author's personal demographics and values including ethnicity, nationality, race, religion or political beliefs.

IJERD's Editorial Board is independent and is in full compliance with IJERD's Publishing Policies and Best Practice Guidelines. The Editorial Board is not influenced by external factors.

IJERD's Publishing Policies and Best Practice Guidelines include information related to the analysis and response to alleged violations. IJERD is committed to partnering with authors focusing on the transparent, effective, and timely resolution of alleged violations.

IJERD is a high-performing, learning organization and we maintain a program for recurring review and updating of IJERD's Publishing Policies and Best Practice Guidelines.

IJERD will consider and respond to written queries.

IJERD's Publishing Policies and Best Practice Guidelines include:

1. Publication Ethics and Principles

IJERD aligns its publishing policies and best practice guidelines to multiple scholarly organizations including The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), the Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA), and the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), per the *Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing*. (COPE DOAJ OASPA WAME. Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing — English. <https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.1.12>)

2. Editorial Independence

The IJERD Editorial Board has full autonomy over all editorial decisions. IJERD guarantees that all editorial decisions are free from commercial, political, or institutional influence. Further, IJERD's Editorial Board decisions are free from any influence from authors or other stakeholders.

The composition of the Editorial Board is routinely reviewed. Board members voluntarily serve for a pre-determined term and at the agreement of the entire Board. Board members can be replaced for cause and per a simple majority vote by the Board.

The Board meets in private and maintains appropriate confidentiality of all matters before it. The Board adjudicates all matters and decisions and actions are transparently communicated to the relevant authors and stakeholders.

3. Peer Review Process

IJERD employs a double-anonymized peer review process for all submitted and published content to ensure impartiality and scholarly rigor. Peer reviewers are selected based on clearly defined criteria reflecting subject matter expertise, academic integrity, and professional standing. IJERD conducts periodic evaluations to confirm that reviewers continue to meet its standards and that their ongoing participation remains appropriate. Reviewers may be replaced at the discretion of IJERD and the Editorial Board to maintain quality, relevance, equity and fairness of the review process.

Manuscripts are evaluated by at least two independent peer reviewers with a focus on scientific integrity, validity, and methodologic rigor. Feedback and recommendations are provided to authors with a goal to resolve concerns or questions and to progress to publication for all worthy content. Content judged to not meet the IJERD peer review process will not be published in the IJERD journal or in other IJERD publications.

Review criteria, timelines, and reviewer responsibilities are published on the IJERD website to ensure transparency and equity.

4. Authorship and Contributions

Authors must meet strict and established authorship criteria as detailed by international and IJERD publishing policies and best practice in order to publish in IJERD

Authors must clearly state and appropriately acknowledge their individual contributions and roles for all content.

IJERD does not permit ghost, guest, or honorary authorship.

Changes to authorship after content submission must be justified and submitted in writing to the IJERD Editorial Board. The Editorial Board will review and consider the requested changes on a case-by-case basis.

The Editorial Board's review and decision will be made on a timely basis with detailed communication and decision rationale provided to the authors in question. The Editorial Board's review and decision is final.

5. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

The IJERD Conflicts of Interest (COI) Policy shall provide best practice and guide their response to these matters.

All IJERD editors, reviewers, and other stakeholders must disclose and declare any real or perceived COI with IJERD immediately upon identification of the COI. A COI Declaration Statement must be submitted to IJERD.

All IJERD authors must disclose and declare any real or perceived COI at the time of content submission to IJERD. A COI Declaration Statement be submitted at that time with details of the real or perceived COI, OR with the statement that no COI exists. IJERD shall accept the COI Declaration Statement of the author's sponsoring organization.

If a real or perceived COI is identified post content submission, the author must disclose the COI to IJERD within ten (10) business days of the conflict being identified. A de novo COI Declaration Statement be submitted at the same time that the COI is reported.

IJERD will review and consider all real or perceived COI in a timely manner. IJERD reserves the right to request additional information to clarify the COI matters and to support its decision-making process.

IJERD shall adjudicate all COI matters and determine if a COI exists. If a COI is deemed real and credible, IJERD will determine if the COI can be rectified with specific and detailed guidance provided to the individual including a timeline for COI resolution. If IJERD determines that a COI cannot be resolved or that a COI does not exist, IJERD will close the matter with no further actions required.

The IJERD COI decisions shall be final and without the possibility of appeal.

6. Plagiarism and Redundant Publication

IJERD's Plagiarism and Redundant Publication Policy is a zero-tolerance policy related to plagiarism, self-plagiarism and redundant publication applicable to all authors and stakeholders and for any and all content.

All content submissions are screened using plagiarism detection tools. Violations of the IJERD Policy shall result in immediate and complete rejection of submitted content. If violations of the Policy are detected or reported post-publication, an immediate retraction is required. IJERD will conduct a post-retraction review and determine if a time-limited or total ban of the author or stakeholder is justified.

All IJERD decisions related to the Plagiarism and Redundant Publication Policy shall be final and without the possibility of appeal.

7. Ethical Compliance for Human and Animal Research

Studies involving human or animal subjects must include an ethics approval statement and confirmation of informed consent, if applicable, in accordance with the sponsoring institution and international standards.

IJERD shall accept the sponsoring organization's policy, ethical approval processes, and informed consent processes provided that they meet institutional and international standards. If IJERD deems that the ethical approval and informed consent processes are deficient, IJERD will notify the corresponding author in a timely manner. IJERD and the corresponding and other authors will evaluate the deficiencies on a case-by-case basis including determination of the required documentation which the corresponding and/or other authors must provide to meet IJERD's Ethical Compliance for Human and Animal Research Policy.

All IJERD decisions related to Ethical Compliance for Human and Animal Research shall be final and without the possibility of appeal.

8. Data Availability and Reproducibility

IJERD promotes data transparency and reproducibility in its published research and content. Data linking and statements must be complete, clear and accessible.

Authors must include a Data Availability Statement with their content submission indicating where and how data supporting their IJERD publication can be accessed. In the event that data cannot be accessed, the authors must indicate that the data is not available with inclusion of relevant explanatory notes.

IJERD shall accept the Data Availability Statement used by the author's sponsoring organization. If the author does not have access to an internal Data Availability Statement, the author shall use the IJERD Data Availability Statement.

9. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools and Applications

Authors must submit an AI Disclosure Statement and clearly disclose their use of AI tools and applications utilized to create content or images submitted to IJERD. Disclosures shall include a summary disclosure statement related to the submitted content, and specific disclosures are required for figures, tables, images, and other content generated by AI.

The author's AI Disclosure Statement must indicate the purpose of using AI Tools and Applications and the boundaries of their use. Authors are fully responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable rights of publicity, copyright laws, and intellectual property laws, as well as verifying the source, accuracy, originality, and ethical integrity of AI-generated content or images.

10. Corrections, Retractions, and Expressions of Concern

IJERD shall issue timely corrections, retractions, or expressions of concern related to published content. The Editorial Board shall investigate and adjudicate all such matters including conducting internal analyses and in responding to author requests for guidance related to these matters. IJERD follows COPE guidance in handling publication errors and misconduct.

Editorial Board Decisions related to corrections, retractions, or expressions of concern shall be final and without the possibility of appeal.

11. Allegations of Misconduct

IJERD has a zero-tolerance policy related to research misconduct. The Editorial Board shall thoroughly investigate such matters maintaining open and confidential communications with the author. IJERD investigations are guided by COPE's recommended policies and procedures. All investigations are free from external influence and are consistent and equitable.

Editorial Board decisions related to research misconduct and subsequent actions shall be final and without the possibility of appeal.

12. Preprints and Open Science

IJERD encourages data sharing, code availability, and open science practices where feasible.

Authors may submit previously posted preprint manuscripts and content to IJERD provided that the author discloses the preprint status at content submission.

13. Use of Inclusive Language

IJERD espouses and is fully committed to transparency, equity, and inclusion across all aspects of its work, including the publication of journal content. Authors and stakeholders are encouraged to use inclusive language that avoids bias and actively promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion.

14. Reporting Gender- and Gender-Based Analyses

IJERD is committed to avoid bias of any kind in its publications.

Specific to gender and gender-based analyses, authors must report comprehensive and unbiased gender and gender-based analyses in their research and content submissions.

15. Jurisdictional Claims

IJERD is committed to neutrality using evidence-based and empirical information to respect international conventions and norms.

Authors must ensure that all claims related to geography, legal precedence, politics, and related are based on accurate, objective, and valid evidence. Authors must avoid unsupported or misleading jurisdictional claims in their research and content submissions.

16. Funding Sources

IJERD is committed to the accurate and complete disclosure of all funding sources which support authors and stakeholders. Such disclosure ensures transparency and accountability and minimizes the possibility of undue influence.

Authors must disclose all funding sources that supported their research and content submission to IJERD.

17. Permission for Copyrighted Works

IJERD is committed to ensuring the legal publishing rights for authors and the IJERD journal.

Authors must obtain and provide permission for any copyrighted works used in their submissions.

18. Publishing Agreement

IJERD is committed to its authors and it extends all appropriate ethical and legal defenses and protections for authors and their research work and submissions. The IJERD Publishing Agreement outlines and details the author's rights and responsibilities, as well as IJERD's policies on copyright and distribution. The IJERD Publishing Agreement is available for author review.

Authors must sign the IJERD Publishing Agreement prior to article publication.

19. Proof Correction

IJERD is committed to Proof Correction and the publication of accurate, complete, and error-free content.

IJERD shall support its authors and provide a transparent and timely Proof Correction process supported by its Editorial Board and publication subject matter experts.

Authors are responsible for promptly reviewing and correcting proofs to ensure complete accuracy in the content's publication in IJERD.

Notes: These publishing policies and best practice guidelines are subject to review and updates to maintain compliance with evolving global standards and indexing requirements.