In detail, GAIA’s transdisciplinary focus implies that:
- Original papers begin with an introduction suitable for non-specialists.
- The significance of the topic in the environmental context is emphasised.
- The style is discursive, short and precise.
- Papers end with practical conclusions.

GAIA appeals to a heterogeneous and critical audience. Articles published in GAIA are chosen for their scientific content as well as their ease of comprehension and significance to readers of various scientific disciplines. Accepted papers are edited in agreement with the authors.

Papers submitted to GAIA are peer-reviewed. Details of the reviewing process are outlined in the sections that follow. Invited papers are subjected to the same reviewing process and an invitation is no guarantee of publication. Currently, the rejection rate is more than 50 percent.

GAIA is comprised of three primary sections. The authors should identify to which section they plan to submit their paper and read the appropriate guidelines for submission below.

GAIA is indexed in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI) and the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI).

Submission of papers to the following sections

Forum
In the Forum section, original papers are published including essays, pointed expressions of opinion and reactions to articles that have appeared in recent GAIA issues.

As such, the Forum aims to challenge current understandings by providing a “forum” to articulate substantiated opinions and controversial issues, to identify new problems, and to establish actual contexts. Generally, articles are double-blind peer reviewed.

Articles – including references – should not exceed the length of 24,000 characters (including spaces).

Research
Original scientific articles of environmental and sustainability research are published in the Research section. Additionally, Research contains review articles that place environmental problems and development in a broader context.

Articles are subjected to a double-blind peer review and cross-read by at least one person foreign to the subject. Expert opinions are based on the article’s scientific quality (e.g., theory, methods, literature relevant to the subject), on the quality of presentation (e.g., length, conciseness, style), on the novelty of empirical data, methods, theoretical analyses, interpretation and approaches to problem-solving besides the article’s relevance for environmental sciences. The non-expert reviewer will determine the transdisciplinarity of the synthesis, relevance in terms of action and comprehensibility of the manuscript. General review papers are usually written upon invitation and in agreement with the editorial office. Authors who wish to submit review papers on their own initiative are advised to contact the editorial office in advance.

Research papers should not – including references – exceed the length of 32,000 characters (including spaces).

Supplemental material can be made accessible via the GAIA website. For more information, please contact our editorial office.

Design reports
Design Reports focus on a challenge unique to inter- and transdisciplinary research projects: They deal with the configuration of a project in terms of its research and communication design. They are not merely reprints of the proposal or epistemological treatises but rather discuss the underlying reasoning for the project design and critically present the design principles.
Design Reports can include photographs, charts, tables, and other visual material. They should not exceed 25,000 characters (including spaces and references). For detailed information please refer to the guide for Design Reports: [www.oekom.de/gaia → Submission](https://ojs.oekom.de).

**Books**

The Books section is dedicated to the presentation, discussion and review of new publications relevant to GAIA’s subject matter. Contributions to the Books section are usually written upon invitation and in agreement with the editorial office. Authors intending to write a book review on their own initiative are advised to contact the editorial office in advance.

Articles are examined by at least one of the editors of GAIA. If required, further expertise is requested.

Articles should not exceed the length of 3,800 characters (including spaces).

---

**Manuscript preparation**

Upon submission of an article to GAIA you enter into the following arrangements and you warrant on behalf of yourself and your co-authors:

- The article is original, has not been published in any other peer-reviewed journal, is not under consideration for publication by any other journal and does not infringe any existing copyright or any other third party rights.
- Authorship credit reflects the individual’s contribution to the study. An author is considered anyone involved in initial research design, data collection and analysis, manuscript drafting, and final approval. The following do not necessarily qualify for authorship: providing funding or resources, mentorship, or contributing research but not helping with the publication itself. The primary author assumes responsibility for the publication, making sure that the data are accurate, that all deserving authors have been credited, that all authors have given their approval to the final draft; and handles responses to inquiries after the manuscript is published.

If you consider submitting an article to GAIA, please proceed to our journal management system [https://ojs.oekom.de](https://ojs.oekom.de) (mailing addresses of the editorial offices can be found at the bottom of this document).

**Technical details**

- GAIA is published in colour print and provides an exceptional opportunity to illustrate scientific work in the form of pictures, charts, or maps.
- Figures and tables must be numbered and should provide a short explanatory caption, which can be understood independent of the text. Figures and tables must be integrated into the text document. Additionally, all figures and tables should be submitted in separate files.

Diagrams, graphics and tables of the particular format must be saved in a graphic format (possible file extensions are .ai, .eps, .wmf or .cdr), or should be sent as original data (e.g., Microsoft Excel). Possible formats for photographs are a) glossy prints and b) files in TIFF or JPEG format (i.e., .tif or .jpg). All figures must have at least 300 dpi at desired size. Line drawings such as logos or graphs must have at least 900 dpi at the desired size.

- Papers for the Research and Forum sections should enclose a list of keywords; research papers additionally require an abstract (max. 1,100 characters including spaces). All articles should include a short lead text (research papers 250 characters including spaces, articles for Forum 600 characters including spaces and articles for Books 460 characters including spaces). Additionally, please include a selection of suitable pictures/illustrations, a short CV for each of the authors (i.e., first name, surname, date of birth, place of birth, university education, professional career, main field(s) of interest), and a photograph for each author (glossy prints or as file in TIFF or JPEG format with a resolution of at least 300 dpi at a size of 2 x 2.5 cm).
- The number of references should not exceed 40 (80 for review papers), the number of footnotes should not exceed ten.
- Quotations follow the Author-Date System of the Chicago Manual of Style ([www.chicagomanualofstyle.org](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org)). Within the text, references appear in brackets including name and date. In case of more than two authors only the first author is indicated, followed by the addition “et al.”.
- The complete list of references appears at the end of the text. Please avoid the use of abbreviations of periodicals in the list of references. English titles of periodicals or books are written complete.
- Additions are translated according to the article’s language (e.g., “Edited by” or “Herausgegeben von”; “accessed” or “abgerufen”).
- Please prepare your list of relevant references particularly with regard to current, international and peer-reviewed literature, where appropriate. We recommend the citation of primary literature in favor of reviews in order to give credit to the group(s) who first reported a finding. Please indicate the DOI of a reference if provided.

**Examples for quotation form in the list of references and (in the text)**

If you are using the reference management software EndNote, you may use the GAIA EndNote Style for formatting your references (see [www.oekom.de/gaia → Submission](https://ojs.oekom.de)).

**Monographs**


(Pütz 2005)
Articles in journals
(Eppink et al. 2012)

Edited volumes
In German articles:

In English articles:

(Remmert 1991)

Articles in edited volumes
In German articles:

In English articles:

(Stoll-Kleemann 2005)

Internet references
In German articles:

In English articles:

(BGE 2001)

Conference papers
In German articles:

In English articles:

(Gupta 2004)

Gray literature
In German articles:

In English articles:

(Schadt 2002)

Forthcoming articles
In German articles:
Tillmann, J. Im Erscheinen. Habitat fragmentation and ecological networks in Europe. GAIA.

(Tillmann im Erscheinen)

In English articles:
Tillmann, J. Forthcoming. Habitat fragmentation and ecological networks in Europe. GAIA.

(Tillmann forthcoming)

■ The authors are responsible to obtain the necessary rights for quotations, pictures, etc.
■ Charges for the acquisition of pictures as well as extraordinary expenditures for picture editing are borne by the authors.
■ GAIA publication languages are English and German; submissions to the Research section are preferably in English. The authors are responsible for the linguistic quality. They are kindly asked to have their foreign-language articles corrected by a professional editing service. Manuscripts can be rejected due to inadequate linguistic quality.

What happens when GAIA receives an article
1. The editorial office confirms receipt of the manuscript. An editor is assigned to the manuscript. Within one month the authors will receive notification stating whether or not the article will be sent out to peer review.
2. Peer review: If the article is considered suitable for GAIA, the editorial office will initiate the double-blind peer review process. Based on the reviews, the responsible GAIA editor will decide on the further process. In any case, whether revision or rejection, the authors will receive the anonymous reviews.
3. Editorial review and revision: If the outcome of the peer review is essentially positive, GAIA will invite the authors to revise the article on the basis of the referee reports and additional editorial comments. All authors are asked to indicate modifications within the revised version of the original text. If a recommendation of a reviewer, an editor or the editorial office is not followed, the authors must provide an explanatory statement.
4. **Final revision**: Fine adjustment in language and style as well as the final layout are completed by the editorial office in coordination with the authors. After final revision, the authors receive the galley proof of their paper. In the galley proof, only mistakes and printer’s errors will be corrected. Any further changes will be charged to the authors.
5. After publication, the first author will be sent five copies of the respective GAIA issue as well as the article in PDF format.

### Open Access policy and copyright

**GAIA follows the Green Road to Open Access**
- Authors can archive their article for free public use on personal websites and/or in any open access repository immediately after publication.
- No embargo period.
- Authors retain copyright: all articles are published under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution license CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).
- We strongly encourage researchers to deposit their articles in a repository. Information on repositories can be found here: [https://scholarlycommunications.jiscinvolve.org/wp/2016/05/31/whatisarepositoryojs](https://scholarlycommunications.jiscinvolve.org/wp/2016/05/31/whatisarepositoryojs).
- This policy is fully compliant with Plan S.

**GAIA hybrid option**
Additionally, we offer **GAIA Hybrid Option**: with this option authors can publish their articles with full open access via our full text content provider [IngentaConnect](https://www.ingentaconnect.com) against a basic charge. To maintain our high standards of quality while covering our costs we offer **GAIA Hybrid Option** per published article as follows:
- **Forum** section: 400 EUR (VAT not included)
- **Research** section: 850 EUR (VAT not included).

**Copyright**
Articles in **GAIA** are published under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution license CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). Under this license, anyone may access, copy, distribute, or reuse these articles, as long as the author and original source are properly cited.