

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSIONS

DOUBLE ISSUE OF *BIODIVERSITY – A JOURNAL OF LIFE ON EARTH*

Title: Food, agriculture and biodiversity

According to [GRID-Arendal](#) agriculture remains the largest driver of genetic erosion, species loss and conversion of natural habitats. Globally, over 4,000 assessed plant and animal species are threatened by agricultural intensification, and the number is still rising. Over 1,000 (87%) of a total of 1,226 threatened bird species are impacted by agriculture.

The [European Commission](#) says “An estimated 80% of the original forest that covered the Earth 8,000 years ago has been cleared, damaged or fragmented, with much of this attributed to agriculture.” The transformation of natural habitats to agriculture, especially through forest clearance, remains one of the major pressures on biodiversity (Jenkins 2003), both alone and interactively with climate change (Thomas et al. 2004).

Yet biodiversity is also a source of wealth of particular relevance to agriculture – providing new crops, fertile soils, clean water, and pollination and pest-control services (Small 2008). Biodiversity and agriculture are inextricably interwoven and both are vital to human health.

This issue of *Biodiversity – a Journal of Life on Earth* will be entitled Food, Agriculture and Biodiversity and will explore the ways in which agriculture and food production impact biodiversity. Given the vastness of this theme, it will be a double issue and will include blind peer-reviewed research papers. We are also looking for book reviews, opinion pieces and On the Ground pieces (first-hand personal experiences from researchers/practitioners).

This issue will explore how biodiversity has been impacted by the following factors:

- Intensive farming techniques (monocultures and mechanisation) leading to soil erosion and degradation
- A rise in the use of fertilisers
- The widespread use of pesticides
- Drainage of wetlands
- Land reclamation including the removal of habitats such as trees, hedges, dry stone walls, woodland and scrub
- Loss of genetic variation (selective breeding)
- Eradication programmes (e.g. badgers and TB)
- The impact of biofuels on biodiversity
- The loss of crop wild relatives

This issue will also have a ‘solutions’ dimension to it, covering subjects such as:

- Farming systems – such as organic, permaculture and/or agroecological – which actively benefit, protect and conserve biodiversity
- Small scale farming systems and their ability to develop diversified and resilient ecoagriculture and intercropping systems
- Local community and indigenous peoples' practices of agriculture with biodiversity benefits

The above list is merely a guide and other related subjects to food, agriculture and biodiversity will be considered. Please submit your manuscripts in Times New Roman 12 pt. by **01 June 2017** to Biodiversity's Managing Editor, Vanessa Reid (reidva@biodiversityconservancy.org). A special board of editors will review the submitted manuscripts and publication of final papers will be subject to blind peer-review.

This special issue will published in **September 2017** both in print and electronic editions, available through Taylor and Francis Journals.

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