

PUBLICATION ETHICS AND MALPRACTICE STATEMENT

Pollution and Diseases — International Scientific Journal

(Aligned with COPE Core Practices)

<https://pollution-diseases.org>

The journal *Pollution and Diseases* is committed to maintaining the highest standards of publication ethics and to adhering to international guidelines for integrity in scientific publishing. This statement describes the ethical principles governing all participants involved in the publication process: authors, editors, reviewers, and the publisher.

1. Responsibilities of Authors

1.1. Originality and Plagiarism

- Authors must submit only original work.
- Plagiarism in any form, including self-plagiarism, is unacceptable.
- All sources must be properly cited.
- The journal uses plagiarism detection tools at multiple stages.

1.2. Multiple, Redundant, or Concurrent Publication

- Manuscripts must not be under consideration elsewhere.
- Duplicate submission or publication is prohibited.
- Translations of previously published work require full disclosure and permissions.

1.3. Authorship and Contributor Roles

Authorship should reflect significant contributions to the study.

The journal recommends the **CRediT taxonomy** for defining roles.

All authors must approve the final manuscript.

Gift, ghost, and honorary authorship are prohibited.

1.4. Accuracy and Data Integrity

- Authors must present results truthfully.
- Fabrication, falsification, or manipulation of data is considered misconduct.
- Authors may be asked to supply raw data for verification.

1.5. Acknowledgment of Sources

All relevant prior work and publications must be cited appropriately.

1.6. Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest

Authors must disclose financial, personal, or institutional conflicts of interest that may influence the research.

1.7. Ethical Compliance (Humans, Animals, Fieldwork)

Research involving humans, animals, or sensitive ecological environments must comply with relevant institutional and national ethics requirements.

Authors must state:

- ethics approval (when applicable),
- informed consent (for human subjects),
- permits for field research,
- compliance with conservation guidelines.

1.8. Corrections and Retractions

Authors must cooperate with editors to correct errors or retract the work if necessary.

2. Responsibilities of Reviewers

2.1. Confidentiality

Reviewers must treat manuscripts as confidential documents.

2.2. Objectivity

Reviews must be conducted objectively and free from personal criticism.

2.3. Conflicts of Interest

Reviewers must decline assignments when conflicts of interest exist.

2.4. Promptness

Reviewers should accept invitations only if they can complete the review on time.

2.5. Ethical Vigilance

Reviewers should report:

- potential plagiarism,
- data inconsistencies,
- ethical concerns,
- duplicated content.

3. Responsibilities of Editors

3.1. Editorial Independence

Editorial decisions are made independently and without influence from the publisher, sponsors, or external institutions.

3.2. Fair Evaluation

Editors evaluate manuscripts solely on:

- scientific quality,
- relevance to the journal,
- methodological soundness.

Author race, gender, nationality, academic affiliation, or political beliefs do not influence decisions.

3.3. Confidentiality

Editors must protect author and reviewer identities and maintain confidentiality.

3.4. Managing Conflicts of Interest

Editors must recuse themselves from handling manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest.

3.5. Handling Misconduct

Editors follow **COPE flowcharts** when addressing suspected misconduct, including:

- plagiarism,
- data fabrication or falsification,
- ethical noncompliance,
- improper authorship,
- citation manipulation.

4. Publisher Responsibilities

4.1. Maintaining Academic Standards

The publisher supports the integrity of the editorial process and ensures COPE compliance.

4.2. Preservation and Accessibility

Published articles are assigned DOIs and archived permanently.

LOCKSS/CLOCKSS or equivalent systems may be used.

4.3. Addressing Misconduct

The publisher collaborates with editors to investigate ethical concerns.

5. Handling Allegations of Misconduct

The journal follows COPE Core Practices and Flowcharts for:

- plagiarism,
- data manipulation,
- unethical research practices,
- authorship disputes,
- citation manipulation,
- peer review fraud,
- conflicts of interest.

Possible actions include:

- rejection of the manuscript,
- request for correction,
- publication of an expression of concern,
- retraction,

- banning authors or reviewers in severe cases,
- notifying institutions or funders.

6. Retractions, Corrections, and Expressions of Concern

The journal follows COPE retraction guidelines:

- **Retraction:** used for unreliable, fabricated, or unethical work.
- **Correction (Erratum/Correction Notice):** used for honest errors.
- **Expression of Concern:** used when misconduct is suspected but not yet proven.

All notices remain permanently accessible and are linked to the original article.

7. Open Access and Licensing Ethics

All articles are published under the **CC BY 4.0 license**.

Authors:

- retain copyright,
- grant permission for reuse with attribution,
- may archive their work in repositories (self-archiving permitted).

The journal does not charge readers and does not impose access restrictions.

8. Data Sharing and Reproducibility

Authors are encouraged to deposit data in recognized repositories.

Data must be made available:

- publicly, or
- upon reasonable request (when open release is not possible).

The journal supports transparency in methods, code, and materials.

9. Conflicts of Interest: Editors, Reviewers, Authors

All participants must disclose any relationships that could bias:

- judgment,
- evaluation,
- interpretation.

The journal maintains a transparent conflict-of-interest policy aligned with COPE.

10. Complaints and Appeals

Authors may appeal editorial decisions by submitting a written justification.

Complaints regarding:

- editorial conduct,
- peer review irregularities,
- publication ethics issues

are handled according to COPE guidelines.

Conclusion

Pollution and Diseases is committed to fostering a transparent, ethical, and responsible scientific environment. All participants in the publication process are expected to uphold the highest standards of integrity, as outlined in this statement and in COPE's Core Practices.