

## Terms of Reference for Managing Editor – PARKS: The international journal of protected areas and conservation

### About PARKS

PARKS (ISSN:0960-233X E-ISSN:2411-2119) is an international, peer-reviewed journal published by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. The journal is managed by the Managing Editor appointed by the Chair of WCPA. The Managing Editor is advised by an Editorial Board consisting of Director of the IUCN Centre for Conservation Action, the Chief Scientist of IUCN, the Chair of the WCPA and protected and conserved area experts invited onto the Board by the Managing Editor. The Board provides advice to the Managing Editor on request. The Managing Editor is a member of the WCPA Publications Group.

PARKS is an open access journal but it does not have any author processing charges. It is registered with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) which attests to its credibility as a scholarly publication that meets all of the requirements for DOAJ registration (journals without DOAJ registration are frequently not included in university libraries for example). PARKS is indexed in Scopus where it has a Cite Score (the Scopus version of the Web of Science citation index) of 5.3 that places it in the top 20% of journals in the *Environmental Science: Nature and Landscape Conservation* subject area. It is currently ranked 38 out of 196 journals in this subject area (Figure 1). IUCN has submitted PARKS to Clarivate for indexing in the Web of Science.

Previously, PARKS was a printed, thematic, non-peered reviewed journal ((1986-2008). Since 2012, PARKS has been peer-reviewed and primarily an online journal ([www.parksjournal.com](http://www.parksjournal.com)) although some issues have been produced as print copies. All available print copies have been digitised and are available on the journal website going back to 1986. Scopus has now retrospectively indexed many of these issues.

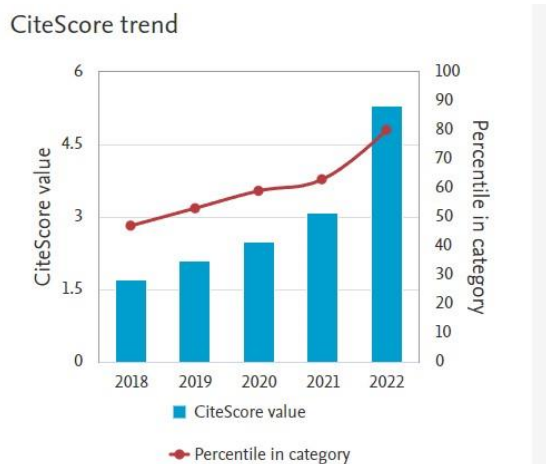


Figure 1. PARKS cite score since acceptance for indexing in Scopus.

### Subject matter, journal issues and publication details

PARKS is published with the aim of strengthening international collaboration in protected area development and management by:

- promoting understanding of the values and benefits derived from protected and conserved areas to governments, communities, visitors, business etc;
- ensuring that protected and conserved areas fulfil their primary role in nature conservation while addressing critical issues such as ecologically sustainable development, social justice and climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- serving as a leading global forum for the exchange of information on issues relating to protected and conserved areas, especially learning from case studies of applied ideas;
- publishing articles reporting on recent applied research that is relevant to protected and conserved area management;
- changing and improving protected and conserved area management, policy environment and socio-economic benefits through use of information provided in the journal; and
- publishing scientific research relevant to IUCN's work on protected and conserved areas.

Two issues are published online each year, currently in May and November with up to about 12 papers per issue. Papers are published in English with Abstracts in Spanish and French. Primary publication in English is a requirement for biographic indexing but the journal website could provide opportunity for concurrent publication in other languages where the authors can support the provision of other language versions.

Most papers are submitted by authors and subject to normal peer-review processes. Issues may contain Editorial Essays with authors solicited by the Managing Editor on a topic of current interest to WCPA. This Editorial Essays are subject to peer-review with the Editorial Board of the journal as appropriate. In addition to full peer-reviewed papers, the journal also published Short Communications that are peer-reviewed by two members of the Editorial Board.

Two special issues on a topics of particular relevance to WCPA (OECMs and the impact of Covid-19 on protected areas) have been published but managed by a special issue editor who solicited papers of relevance to the topic. Special issues are not currently envisaged as a regular feature of the journal.

#### *Management of submissions*

All editorial roles in the journal are voluntary and can form part of the contribution that WCPA members make to the work of the Commission. Editorial roles do require experience with academic publication and peer review processes and standards.

The Managing Editor screens all submissions and takes an initial decision on whether to accept the paper for peer review or reject at this stage. Typically, about a quarter of submissions are rejected at this stage either because they are not a good fit for the journal (not a relevant topic, of local or regional interest only, flawed methods etc). Typically, papers are not rejected at this stage because of English expression or other stylistic issues and we try to work with authors from non-academic backgrounds to assist them with this if the paper content is of interest)

Peer reviews are managed by a group of Handling Editors (currently eight people – but with four regularly managing papers). The Managing Editor has up to now managed the highest load of papers through peer review (typically 4-5 papers per issue) with other Handling Editors managing 1-2 papers per issue at a maximum. Some turn-over of Handling Editor is to be expected and the Managing Editor is responsible for recruiting new Handling Editors as required. Handling Editors are expected to recruit peer reviewers and manage the paper through to the stage where it is ready for acceptance and production. This should include steering the paper through the copy editing process by the

journal's proof reader who checks journal style including citation formatting etc and final acceptance of the paper.

The Managing Editor is responsible for a final check of the paper and preparing it for typesetting by the journal's graphic designer, final approval and sending the proof of the paper for author approval, allocation of DOIs (digital object identifiers). The Managing Editor also loads the issues and the individual papers and Supplementary Online Material onto the journal's website. The website is developed on WordPress and can be updated with minimal technical expertise. A small allocation of funds (about 100-200 CHF is used to pay for technical support for website updating as required).

A spreadsheet and shared online file system is used to track and manage papers and store submissions and related files.

The Managing Editor is also responsible for promotion of PARKS in general and for communications around the publication of each issue. Development of communications and promotion of the journal is an area requiring development and volunteer support for this aspect of the journal could be sought from volunteers within WCPA.

#### *Funding*

PARKS is funded through the WCPA Commission Operating Fund. Most work on the journal is done *pro bono* by WCPA members.

#### *Time commitment*

The time commitment for the Managing Editor has been substantially reduced by the use of a graphic designer to layout and typeset the issues which was previously done by the Managing Editor. Using a Graphic Designer also means that much more professional publication software can be used.

Given current arrangements, and assuming the current allocation of management of peer review continues, the Managing Editor could expect to spend about 3 weeks working on each issue (i.e. about a 6-week commitment over the year).

#### *Required qualifications*

The Managing Editor will have strong editorial skills, experience with scientific publications including preferably, a strong publication record in the field of conservation. Experience with peer review for academic journals is essential. The Managing Editor should also have a good understanding of the practice of conservation in the field, especially in relation to management of protected and conserved areas.

#### *Desirable qualifications*

It is helpful if the person has access to (i) an academic library and bibliographic indexes such as Scopus, and (ii) a global network of colleagues and an academic library and bibliographic indexes such as Scopus.