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RECEIVED 14 February 2024

ACCEPTED 20 February 2024

CITATION

Singh, M., Habib, B. and Kolipakam, V. (2024) Journal of Wildlife Science: Pioneering a New Era in Wildlife Research. *Journal of Wildlife Science*. Volume 1, Issue 1, pp. 01-02 <https://doi.org/10.63033/JWLS.WJWG4343>

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PUBLISHED BY

Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 248 001 INDIA

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Journal of Wildlife Science: Pioneering a New Era in Wildlife Research

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In the ever-evolving landscape of wildlife research, the Journal of Wildlife Science emerges as a beacon of innovation and inclusivity. Over the past few decades, the field of wildlife research has undergone a transformative shift, evolving from mere descriptive accounts and natural history to becoming a hub for question-oriented, hypothesis-driven inquiries. While earlier journals in India, such as the Journal of Bombay Natural History Society, Indian Forester, Indian Journal of Forestry, Journal of Threatened Taxa, and Current Science have done a commendable job publishing predominantly descriptive research, the need for a dedicated platform to cater to the growing demands of modern wildlife science has become increasingly evident.

Evolution of Wildlife Research

In the not-so-distant past, wildlife research often consisted of observational studies and cataloging species. The focus was on documenting the natural world rather than delving into the intricate dynamics that govern it. While these foundational works were vital in building our understanding of the diversity of life on Earth, they were, by their nature, limited in their ability to answer the deeper questions that had begun to surface.

Fast forward to the present day, and we witness a profound transformation in the realm of wildlife research. Today's researchers employ cutting-edge technologies, statistical methodologies, and interdisciplinary approaches to tackle complex issues such as habitat loss, climate change, and the conservation of endangered species. Wildlife research has evolved into a dynamic field, where scientists not only ask important questions but also seek actionable solutions to pressing environmental challenges.

The Need for a Dedicated Journal

In response to this growing need for a platform that aligns with the evolving nature of wildlife research, we proudly introduce the Journal of Wildlife Science. This initiative is poised to shape the future of wildlife research in India and beyond. As the field of wildlife science has gained momentum over the past three decades, with the establishment of Master's and Ph.D. programs, especially starting with the Wildlife Institute of India and extending to several universities and research institutions, we find ourselves at a juncture where the demand for a dedicated journal has never been more pressing.

The Journal of Wildlife Science is a testament to the evolution of the field itself. It represents a shift from traditional, descriptive accounts of wildlife to a new era of scientific inquiry where questions are framed, hypotheses are tested, and data are rigorously analyzed. This transformation is a reflection of the broader shift in how society views and values the natural world.

Diamond Open Access: A Commitment to Knowledge Sharing

One distinctive feature that sets the Journal of Wildlife Science apart is its commitment to a Diamond Open Access model. We firmly believe that knowledge should be freely accessible to all, regardless of geographical location or financial means. This journal embodies that principle. Our goal is to encourage

publication rather than resort to the often discouraging practice of 'rejection.' We understand that research, like wildlife, is diverse and sometimes untamed, and it is our duty to provide a nurturing environment where valuable insights can thrive.

In a world where scientific publishing has often been criticized for being inaccessible and financially prohibitive, the Journal of Wildlife Science takes a bold stance. We recognize that sharing knowledge freely is not only a matter of ethics but also a catalyst for progress. By breaking down barriers to access, we hope to inspire a new generation of researchers and conservationists who can build upon the foundation of open knowledge.

A Unique Approach to Peer Review

Our peer review process is robust, ensuring that all contributions meet the highest standards of scientific rigor. However, we take a unique approach to peer review by encouraging reviewers to act as mentors rather than gatekeepers. We believe that constructive guidance and collaboration can enhance the quality of research, fostering growth and innovation within the field.

Although the first step will be a double-blind review, the Journal of Wildlife Science promotes a more collegial and supportive approach. If the authors and reviewers agree, they work alongside, the reviewers offering insights, suggestions, and expertise to help refine and strengthen research papers. This approach not only elevates the quality of the published work but also promotes a sense of community and mentorship within the scientific community.

A Global Forum for Wildlife Science

The Journal of Wildlife Science is more than just a publication; it is an international forum encompassing all conceivable themes related to wildlife science, conservation, and management. Our vision is to create a space where researchers, conservationists, and enthusiasts from around the world can come together to exchange ideas, share knowledge, and work towards a common goal—the preservation of our planet's rich biodiversity.

In an era where environmental challenges transcend national boundaries, collaboration and knowledge sharing on a global scale are imperative. The Journal of Wildlife Science provides a platform for researchers to bridge geographical and disciplinary divides, facilitating the cross-pollination of ideas and the development of innovative solutions to complex conservation problems.

A Call to Action

As we embark on this exciting journey, we invite all wildlife enthusiasts, researchers, and scientists to join us in redefining the boundaries of wildlife research. The Journal of Wildlife Science is not just a publication; it is a movement, a commitment to advancing our understanding of the natural world and our role in safeguarding its future.

Our planet is facing unprecedented environmental challenges, from habitat loss and species extinction to the impacts of climate change. To address these challenges effectively, we must foster a culture of collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing within the scientific

community. The Journal of Wildlife Science is poised to play a pivotal role in this endeavor.

Together, let's explore the wild frontiers of knowledge, inspire future generations, and pave the way for a more harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature. The Journal of Wildlife Science is not just a journal; it is a call to action—a call to protect and preserve the incredible diversity of life on Earth for generations to come. Join us in this noble endeavor, and together, we can make a difference.

Acknowledgement

Mewa Singh thanks the Indian National Science Academy for the "Distinguished Professor" award.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no competing interests to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors listed have made a substantial, direct, and intellectual contribution to the work and approved it for publication.