

Invitation from the Editor of Oryx (Oryx-22-A-0038)

External

Inbox



Oryx <onbehalf@manuscriptcentral.com>

Fri, Apr 22, 2022,
8:46 PM

to me, martin.fisher

22-Apr-2022

Dear Dr Pattiselanno

I hope this finds you well.

Oryx—The International Journal of Conservation is read by conservation practitioners and academics alike. In particular, we care about conservation impact, and work to build the capacity of authors to achieve this. In this context, I invite you to contribute by peer reviewing this manuscript, which I believe falls within your conservation interests:

Oryx-22-A-0038 Using local ecological knowledge to identify land-use threats to the last wild population of Chinese alligator *Alligator sinensis*, Lau, Erika; Rio, Jonathan; Pan, Tao; Mannion, Philip; Turvey, Samuel

You will find the Abstract appended below and the manuscript attached (please note that this is confidential and may not be shared in any way).

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If you are unable to review at this time, I would greatly appreciate any recommendations for alternative expert reviewer(s). You can do this by providing the appropriate details after clicking the link to decline.

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I would be grateful if you could return your review report within 3 weeks. In due course I will send you a copy of the other reviewers' reports and inform you of our decision.

The continued success of Oryx depends on the expertise and goodwill of reviewers and we appreciate the time and effort necessary to review a manuscript. As a small token of appreciation, the names of all referees are listed in the November issue of each volume. In addition, peer reviewers are entitled to a 30% discount on Cambridge University Press books (the ecology and conservation titles are at <https://www.cambridge.org/gb/academic/subjects/life-sciences/ecology-and-conservation>). You will receive a discount code after completing your review.

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Yours sincerely,
Martin

COVID-19 Update: Oryx staff are working remotely, but the editorial office is operating as usual. Please be aware, however, that there may be some delays in responding to e-mail and processing manuscripts. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this time.

Dr Martin Fisher
Editor, Oryx—The International Journal of Conservation
Fauna & Flora International | fauna-flora.org

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ABSTRACT

Conservation management in human-modified landscapes requires information on the sustainability of interactions between people and biodiversity. Wild Chinese alligators *Alligator sinensis* only persist within the National Chinese Alligator Reserve in southeastern China, where they live alongside agricultural communities utilising local terrestrial and wetland habitats. We conducted an interview survey of communities within and around the distribution of the last alligator population to evaluate whether local awareness and experience of alligators can constitute a monitoring tool, and to understand relationships between land-use practices and local alligator status. Respondents within the Reserve were more likely to recognise alligators, perceive declines, and report sightings compared to other respondents. However, absolute knowledge and experience levels were low, highlighting the species' perilous status and the need for awareness-raising. Fewer recent sightings were made by respondents who had increased their cropland area, suggesting that existing levels of agricultural conversion may be unable to support alligators. Pesticide and fertiliser usage were also associated with varying alligator awareness or experience, but most indices of agrochemical use were higher within the Reserve than surrounding regions. We found little relationship between alligator survival and utilisation of local water sources, with respondents within the Reserve practising less irrigation and fish farming. Our findings indicate that China's last wild alligators continue to experience negative human pressures, and unsustainable land-use practices should be revised to support long-term alligator survival.

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Inbox



Oryx <onbehalf@manuscriptcentral.com>

Sat, Apr 23, 2022,
6:11 AM

to me, martin.fisher

22-Apr-2022

Dear Mr. Pattiselanno

Oryx-22-A-0038 Using local ecological knowledge to identify land-use threats to the last wild population of Chinese alligator *Alligator sinensis*, Lau, Erika; Rio, Jonathan; Pan, Tao; Mannion, Philip; Turvey, Samuel

Thank you for agreeing to review this manuscript for Oryx—The International Journal of Conservation. Please try your best to complete your review by 13-May-2022.

Your account details are as follows:

Site URL: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/oryx>

Your user ID: f.pattiselanno@unipa.ac.id

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Thank you for taking the time to review this manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

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Dr Martin Fisher
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Decision on manuscript Oryx-22-A-0038

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Inbox



Oryx <onbehalfof@manuscriptcentral.com>

Thu, May 19, 2022,
11:14 PM

to oryx, martin.fisher

19-May-2022

Dear Reviewers

Oryx-22-A-0038

Using local ecological knowledge to identify land-use threats to the last wild population of Chinese alligator *Alligator sinensis*

Lau, Erika; Rio, Jonathan; Pan, Tao; Mannion, Philip; Turvey, Samuel

Thank you for recently reviewing this manuscript for Oryx.

Following the review process the editor has now made a decision: Reject & Resubmit

A copy of the decision letter is included below. You can also view this by logging in as a reviewer at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/oryx>

Thank you once again for your report.

With best wishes,
Oryx Editorial Office
Fauna & Flora International
The David Attenborough Building
Pembroke Street
Cambridge CB2 3QZ

E-mail oryx@fauna-flora.org

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---Decision Letter---
19-May-2022

Dear Sam

I hope this finds you well.

Oryx-22-A-0038 Using local ecological knowledge to identify land-use threats to the last wild population of Chinese alligator *Alligator sinensis*, Lau, Erika; Rio, Jonathan; Pan, Tao; Mannion, Philip; Turvey, Samuel

Thank you for sending your manuscript to Oryx—The International Journal of Conservation. It has now been read by reviewers and we are in a position to give you an editorial decision. The reviewers' reports (appended below) indicate that, although this is potentially important research, to be considered further by Oryx the manuscript requires more than a major revision.

One of the reviewers has identified problems with the analyses. As part of this, they have provided some commented R code (attached).

We would potentially be interested to consider a new submission on this subject that takes into consideration this critique of the analyses, and that considers the other points raised by the reviewers.

Please note that any resubmission on this subject will be peer reviewed.

With any resubmission, please include a point-by-point response to the reviewers' comments.

We hope to hear from you further.

With warm regards, Martin

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Dr Martin Fisher
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Thank you: Review of Oryx-22-A-0038 Using local ecological knowledge to identify land-use threats to the last wild population of Chinese alligator Alligator sinensis for Oryx

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Inbox



Oryx <onbehalfof@manuscriptcentral.com>

10:39 PM (56 minutes ago)

to me

03-May-2022

Dear Mr. Pattiselanno

Thank you for reviewing Oryx-22-A-0038 Using local ecological knowledge to identify land-use threats to the last wild population of Chinese alligator Alligator sinensis, Lau, Erika; Rio, Jonathan; Pan, Tao; Mannion, Philip; Turvey, Samuel for Oryx—The International Journal of Conservation.

Your comments will be very helpful in deciding whether to accept this manuscript for publication. We appreciate the voluntary contribution that each reviewer gives to the Journal and thank you for your participation in the online review process. We hope that we may call upon you again to review manuscripts.

As a token of our thanks, peer reviewers are entitled to a 30% discount on Cambridge University Press books (the ecology and conservation titles are at <https://www.cambridge.org/gb/academic/subjects/life-sciences/ecology-and-conservation>). Please enter the discount code PeerReview at checkout.

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Yours sincerely, Martin

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