Guidelines for Contributors

Seeing the Woods: A Blog by the Rachel Carson Center

Submissions that are incomplete or that do not conform to the guidelines will not be considered.

Mission Statement:

Seeing the Woods aims to demonstrate the relevance and importance of instilling humanistic, historical, and social science perspectives into discussions about today's environmental challenges. The blog strives to connect scholarship and public discourse as we believe this is a necessary bridge for finding and deepening our understanding of local and global environmental crises. It is a repository for ideas, commentaries, and creative endeavors that seek the big-picture perspective.

Guidelines:

As of 2024, all of the work published on *Seeing the Woods* falls under three main categories: Explorations, Imaginings, and Field Notes. Examples of each category include: *think pieces, investigative essays, and critical reflections* (Explorations); *fictional stories, creative nonfiction, poetry, and other imaginative accounts of the natural world* (Imaginings); and *notes and reports from travels, field studies, and conferences* (Field Notes). Your submission should adhere to one of these categories.

> If your piece falls under **Explorations**…
> > it should be **no more than 1500 words**. Please do your best not to exceed the word count.
>
> If your piece falls under **Imaginings**…
> > there is **no mandated word count**, but please please talk to the editors before submitting longer pieces. This category is also open to very short entries (e.g., poems and videos/pictures with short commentary).
>
> If your piece falls under **Field Notes**…
> > it should be **no more than 1500 words**. Please do your best not to exceed the word count.

Since a primary goal of the blog is public outreach, posts should be accessibly written in a more journalistic tone, using "plain English" (i.e., no academic jargon!) and an active voice. As our blog has a global audience, authors should attempt to make their posts understandable to people unfamiliar with the particulars of any one region or discipline. All posts must be submitted in a polished, final form. Posts will be edited primarily for content and copyedited for major spelling and grammatical mistakes. If English is not the first language of the author, we expect that they have written the post to the best of their language ability and that it is clear and well-formulated. We do not provide language-editing services for blog submissions. If the piece is opinionated, it will be made clear that it reflects only the opinion of the author and not that of the RCC.

Please avoid footnotes/endnotes. Instead, introduce the author and work in a sentence (e.g., "In an article in Nature, leading park scientist Carl Schröter declared . . ."). Formal citations are not required, but if you want to include them, please follow the author–date system—e.g., "(Merchant 1980: 46)." If you use quotes, make sure that it is clear from what source they come. All secondary sources should be included at the end of your submission in a section labeled "Bibliography." References should be kept to a minimum.

Here's how the submission process works:

1. Prior to writing, you are welcome to email a pitch to the *Seeing the Woods* editorial team at blog@rcc.lmu.de. The editors will answer any questions you might have.

2. If you are ready to submit, please send (i) the filled-out guidelines form with all necessary contribution components (this document), (ii) your manuscript, (iii) and a minimum of two digital objects to blog@rcc.lmu.de with "Blog submission" and the author's name (your name) in the subject line of the email. Please note that the manuscript must be in a Word (docx) format and the digital objects must not be copyrighted (unless you yourself have acquired permission to use it on the blog).

3. All authors will be contacted within four weeks of submission and informed of the status of their piece. If accepted for further consideration, we ask that you respond within two weeks.

4. Accepted manuscripts will be copyedited and proofread prior to publication.

5. The publication date depends on the date you submitted and on how many articles we have in the pipeline. This timeline will be confirmed with you over the course of our review and editorial process.

The Rachel Carson Center reserves the right to add or update links and metadata (e.g., keywords) to ensure smooth and continued functioning of *Seeing the Woods* articles on our platform. **Seeing the Woods articles are published under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license.** This open-access license encourages reuse and distribution, while requiring that you are always credited. (For more, see the post by the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association "Why CC-BY?.")

Contribution components

Author name:

Institutional affiliation (and course of study if presently enrolled):

Email address:

Article headline: A title that captures attention and communicates significance

Article summary: A brief description that summarizes the article's main aims (max. **100 words**)

Thematic categorization: Please note the category you feel your submission best represents

Website: https://seeingthewoods.org/
Email: blog@rcc.lmu.de

Images/multimedia objects

All *Seeing the Woods* articles should include a minimum of two digital objects (images, photographs, embedded maps, video/audio, or other materials). Digital objects need to be properly accredited. This is not the responsibility of our editorial team, but your responsibility prior to submission.

We strongly encourage the use of images/multimedia that 1) contributors have produced themselves and are willing to publish under a Creative Commons license, 2) already have a Creative Commons license, or 3) fall within the public domain. You may pay for image permissions if you would like to use copyrighted material, but *make sure to write us before you do so.*

The following sites can be good sources for open-access images:

- archive.org
- search.creativecommons.org
- biodiversitylibrary.org
- images found on Wikipedia.

We can accept multimedia in a variety of formats, including URLs in the case of video or other embeddable media (e.g., Google maps, Storify threads, maps from CartoDB). For images, the lowest resolution we can work with is 72 pixels per inch (DPI), but higher-resolution images are preferred.

It is mandatory to fill out the below metadata for any images you want to include in your article. Please label the images you include in your submission so that they correctly correspond with the information you provide here below. If you have more images, you may provide the required information in a separate document.

Object 1:

File name:

Caption (e.g., "Photograph of explorer Knud Rasmussen bundled in a fur coat." Captions should ideally not exceed 75 words.):

Creator (the photographer, cartographer, painter, etc.) **& Date of Creation**:

Source and/or link (e.g., publisher, museum, archive, or the website where you found the image):

Rights status (e.g., CC BY; public domain; copyrighted.) For public domain items, please note why you believe the item falls within the public domain. **Always include a link for material found online as well as for any relevant copyright page**. Note: If you wish to reproduce materials under copyright/all rights reserved, you will need to obtain written permission. We cannot pay licensing fees. Please contact *Seeing the Wood's* editorial team for the relevant form.

Object 2:

File name:

Caption:

Creator:

Source:

Rights status:

Object 3:

File name:

Caption:

Creator:

Source:

Rights status:

Rachel
Carson
Center
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

Object 4:

File name:

Caption:

Creator:

Source:

Rights status:

Object 5:

File name:

Caption:

Creator:

Source:

Rights status: