Antarctic Environments Portal

Guidelines for Reviewers

Antarctic Environments Portal

The Antarctic Environments Portal (www.environments.aq; the Portal) provides ready access to high-level summary information on Antarctic issues, based on the best available scientific knowledge.

'Information Summaries' published in the Portal are primarily aimed at a range of Antarctic stakeholders with policy and management interests in the region, in particular the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP).

The Portal Editor manages the process of developing Information Summaries, working with an invited lead author to more fully scope and draft the article. All Information Summaries are reviewed by selected external peer reviewers as well as by an editorial Board.

The Portal Editor – Keith Reid – is available to assist and advise with the review of articles editor@environments.aq

Review framework

The key requirements for Information Summaries to be accepted into the Portal are accuracy, accessibility, independence and relevance. The Portal exists to provide policy makers with the best available unbiased and apolitical scientific information so the peer review process for contributions must be fair, rigorous and sensitive to the purpose of the Portal.

The Portal will not publish new material in the same way as a journal and the contributions should therefore be considered more as review articles.

Reviewers are requested to consider the following questions, bearing in mind that the contribution is approximately 1500 words and around 20-30 references:

1. Is the contribution comprehensive in terms of its coverage of the subject? If not, what is missing?
2. Is the material surveyed up to date and balanced?
3. Are gaps in knowledge and uncertainties clearly indicated?
4. Are the references cited the most appropriate for this topic? If not, what should be included and why?
5. Is the text easily understandable by non-experts?
6. Are the illustrations appropriate and necessary?
7. If material does not do the complexity of the issue justice, what would your suggestion as to appropriate subtopics for this item?
8. Does the contribution provide a useful basis for policy making, in your view?

The Editorial Group and the Editor will be grateful for all your comments but suggest it would be most helpful if you could adopt the following approaches:

- Please be critical, as your opinion as an expert matters.
- Justify any comments with a clear link to the text, so the Editor and author can easily see what point you are making.
- Provide clear recommendations rather than leaving it to the Editor to decide what you really think.