



# GUIDE TO AUTHORS

## ***Aims and scope of the journal***

Understanding the Earth's history and its future evolution is becoming ever more important as the human influence on climate and landscapes, the oceans and the atmosphere expands.

Nature Geoscience will be a monthly multi-disciplinary journal aimed at bringing together top-quality research across the entire spectrum of the Earth Sciences along with relevant work in related areas.

The journal's content will reflect all the disciplines within the geosciences, encompassing field work, modelling and theoretical studies.

Topics covered in the journal will include:

- Atmospheric science
- Biogeochemistry
- Climate science
- Geobiology
- Geochemistry
- Geoinformatics and remote sensing
- Geology
- Geomagnetism and palaeomagnetism
- Geomorphology
- Geophysics
- Glaciology
- Hydrology and limnology
- Mineralogy and mineral physics
- Oceanography
- Palaeontology
- Palaeoclimatology and palaeoceanography
- Petrology
- Planetary science
- Seismology
- Space physics
- Tectonics
- Volcanology

Nature Geoscience is committed to publishing significant, high-quality research in the Earth Sciences through a fair, rapid and rigorous peer review process that is overseen by a team of full-time professional editors.

In addition to publishing primary research, Nature Geoscience will provide an overview of the most important developments in the Earth Sciences through the publication of Review Articles, News and Views, Research Highlights, Commentaries and reviews of relevant books and arts events.

## ***Editors and contact information***

Like the other Nature titles, *Nature Geoscience* has no external editorial board. Instead, all editorial decisions are made by a team of full-time professional editors, who are PhD-level geoscientists.

General editorial inquiries and correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, at [geoscience@nature.com](mailto:geoscience@nature.com).

Inquiries about the status of a manuscript should be addressed to the Editorial Assistant, at [geoscience@nature.com](mailto:geoscience@nature.com).

## ***Relationship to other Nature journals***

*Nature Geoscience* is editorially independent, and its editors make their own decisions, independent of the other Nature journals. It is for authors alone to decide where to submit their manuscripts. Nature will continue to publish the most significant advances in science, including the geosciences. Nature Geoscience publishes landmark papers within the fields of the geosciences alone. Topics covered by other Nature journals (such as physics and materials science) may feature in *Nature Geoscience* when the work centres on some new development in the geosciences; otherwise these topics will be the remit of the other relevant journal. For papers that could satisfy the scope of more than one Nature journal, the choice of which journal to submit first lies with the authors.

If a paper is rejected from one Nature journal, the authors can use an automated manuscript transfer service to submit the paper to *Nature Geoscience* via a link sent to them by the editor handling the manuscript. Authors should note that referees' comments (including any confidential comments to the editor) and identities are transferred to the editor of the second journal along with the manuscript. The journal editors will take the previous reviews into account when making their decision, although in some cases the editors may choose to take advice from additional referees. Alternatively, authors may choose to request a fresh review, in which case they should not use the automated transfer link, and the editors will evaluate the paper without reference to the previous review process. For more information, please consult the following:

- [Details of the manuscript transfer service](#)
- [Listing of all NPG journals and subject areas](#)
- [A general explanation of the relationships between Nature titles](#)

## **Editorial and publishing policies**

Please see [authors and referees @ npg](#) for detailed information about author and referee services and publication policies at the Nature family of journals. These journals, including *Nature Geoscience*, share a number of common policies including the following:

- [Author responsibilities](#)
- [License agreement and author copyright](#)
- [Embargo policy and press releases](#)
- [Use of experimental animals and human subjects](#)
- [Competing financial interests](#)
- [Availability of materials and data](#)
- [Digital image integrity and standards](#)
- [Security concerns](#)
- [Refutations, complaints and corrections](#)
- [Duplicate publication](#)
- [Confidentiality and pre-publicity](#)
- [Plagiarism and fabrication](#)

## **Impact factor**

The 2010 ISI impact factor for *Nature Geoscience* is 10.392, according to the ISI Journal Citation Reports. This places *Nature Geoscience* first among all primary research journals in the geosciences.

## **Abbreviation**

The correct abbreviation for abstracting and indexing purposes is *Nature Geosci.*

## **ISSN and EISSN**

The international standard serial number (ISSN) for *Nature Geoscience* is 1752-0894, and the electronic international standard serial number (EISSN) is 1752-0908.

## **CONTENT TYPES**

### **Primary Research Formats**

A **Letter** reports an important novel research study. Letters typically occupy four printed journal pages. The text is limited to 2,000 words, including the introductory paragraph, but excluding Methods, references and figure legends. Letters should have no more than 3–5 display items (figures and/or tables). References are limited to 30. This format begins with a title of, at most, 90 characters (including spaces), followed by an introductory paragraph (not abstract) of approximately 200 words, summarizing the background, rationale, main results (introduced by “Here we show” or some equivalent phrase) and implications of the study. This paragraph should be fully referenced and should be considered part of the main text, so that any subsequent introductory material avoids too much redundancy with the introductory paragraph.

Letters include received/accepted dates and may be accompanied by supplementary information. Letters are peer reviewed, and authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

An **Article** is a substantial novel research study of high quality and general interest to the geoscience community. The main text (excluding introductory paragraph, Methods, references and figure legends) is 2,000–3,000 words. Articles have 4–6 display items (figures and/or tables). References are limited to 50.

The maximum title length is 90 characters (including spaces). The introductory paragraph is typically 150 words and is unreferenced; it contains a brief account of the background and rationale of the work, followed by a statement of the main conclusions introduced by the phrase “Here we show” or some equivalent. An introduction (without heading) of up to 500 words of referenced text expands on the background of the work (some overlap with the summary is acceptable), followed by a concise, focused account of the findings, ending with one or two short paragraphs of discussion.

Articles include received/accepted dates and may be accompanied by supplementary information. Articles are peer reviewed, and authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

## Other Formats

A **Review** is an authoritative, balanced survey of recent developments in a research field. Although reviews should be recognized as scholarly by specialists in the field, they should be written with a view to informing nonspecialist readers. Thus, reviews should be presented using simple prose, avoiding excessive jargon and technical detail. Reviews are approximately 3,000–4,000 words and typically include 4–6 display items (figures, tables or boxes). References are limited to 100; citations should be selective. Footnotes are not used. The scope of a Review should be broad enough that it is not dominated by the work of a single research institution, and particularly not by the authors’ own work.

When the discussion is focused on a developing field that might not yet be mature enough for review, a **Progress** article is more appropriate. Progress articles are up to 2,000 words in length, with up to 4 display items (figures, tables or boxes). References are limited to 50.

Reviews and Progress articles are commissioned by the editors, but proposals including a short synopsis are welcome.

Reviews and Progress articles are always peer-reviewed to ensure factual accuracy, appropriate citations and scholarly balance. They do not include received/accepted dates. Authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

**News and Views** articles inform readers about the latest advances in the geosciences, as reported in recently published papers (in *Nature Geoscience* or elsewhere) or at scientific meetings. Most articles are commissioned, but proposals can be made to the Editor in advance of publication of the paper or well before the meeting is held. News and Views articles are not peer-reviewed, but undergo editing in consultation with the

author. Authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

**Correspondence** provides readers with a forum for comment on papers published in a previous issue of the journal or to discuss issues relevant to the geosciences. A Correspondence is never more than one printed page and typically is 250–500 words; it is limited to one display item and 10 references. Article titles are omitted from the reference list. Titles for correspondence are supplied by the editors.

In cases where a correspondence is critical of a previous research paper, the authors of the criticized paper are given the opportunity to publish a brief reply. Criticism of opinions or other secondary matter does not involve an automatic right of reply.

Refutations are always peer reviewed. Other types of Correspondence may be peer-reviewed at the editors' discretion. Authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

**Commentary** articles focus on policy, science and society or purely scientific issues related to the geosciences. Single-author articles are preferred as this is an 'opinion' section of the journal. Commentaries are usually commissioned by the editors, but proposals are welcome. They should be of immediate interest to a broad readership and should be written in an accessible, non-technical style. Figures and diagrams are encouraged, but are not a requirement. Commentaries are typically no longer than 1,500 words and include up to 25 references. Article titles are omitted from the reference list.

Commentaries may be peer-reviewed at the editors' discretion. Authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

The **Books and Arts** section publishes timely reviews of books and other technological or cultural resources of interest to geoscientists. These pieces are generally limited to one page in the journal. Reviews and articles in this section are commissioned, and unsolicited contributions are not accepted, though suggestions for appropriate books are welcome. Authors must provide a [competing financial interests](#) statement before publication.

## How to submit

### *Online submission*

Owing to the volume of manuscripts we receive, we must insist that all submissions be made via our [online submission system](#). Using this system, authors can upload manuscript files (text, figures and supplementary information, including video) directly to our office and check on the status of their manuscripts during the review process. In addition, reviewers can access the manuscript (in a highly secure fashion that maintains referee anonymity) over a direct internet link, which speeds the review process. Revisions should be uploaded via the link provided in the editor's decision letter. Please do not submit revisions as new manuscripts.

## **Submission policies**

Submission to *Nature Geoscience* is taken to imply that there is no significant overlap between the submitted manuscript and any other papers from the same authors under consideration or in press elsewhere. (Abstracts or unrefereed web preprints do not compromise novelty.) The authors must include copies of all related manuscripts with any overlap in authorship that are under consideration or in press elsewhere. If a related manuscript is submitted elsewhere while the manuscript is under consideration at *Nature Geoscience*, a copy of the related manuscript should be sent to the editor.

The primary affiliation for each author should be the institution where the majority of their work was done. If an author has subsequently moved, the current address may also be stated.

If the manuscript includes personal communications, please provide a written statement of permission from any person who is quoted. E-mail permission messages are acceptable.

A high priority of *Nature Geoscience* is that all papers be accessible to nonspecialists. Manuscripts are subject to substantial editing, in consultation with the authors, to achieve this goal. After acceptance, a copy editor may make further changes so that the text and figures are readable and clear to those outside the field, and so that papers conform to our style. Contributors are sent proofs and are welcome to discuss proposed changes with the editors, but *Nature Geoscience* reserves the right to make the final decision about matters of style and the size of figures.

The editors also reserve the right to reject a paper even after it has been accepted if it becomes apparent that there are serious problems with the scientific content or with violations of our publishing policies.

Additional editorial policies can be found [on the Nature journals joint policies page](#). This page includes information on manuscripts reviewed at other Nature journals, competing financial interests declarations, pre-publication publicity, deposition of data as a condition of publication, availability of data and reagents after publication, human and animal subjects, digital image integrity, biosecurity, refutations, complaints, and correction of mistakes in the journal, duplicate publication, confidentiality and plagiarism.

*Nature Geoscience* uses Oxford English spelling.

## **Costs**

There is a charge of \$540 for the first colour figure and \$270 for each additional colour figure. Please note that we are unable offer to publish greyscale in print and colour online. Otherwise, there are no submission fees or page charges.

## **Advance online publication**

*Nature Geoscience* provides Advance Online Publication (AOP) of research articles, which benefits authors with an earlier publication date and allows our readers access to accepted papers before they appear in print. Note that papers published online are definitive and may be altered only through the publication of a print corrigendum or erratum, so authors should make every effort to ensure that the page proofs are correct. All AOP articles are given a unique digital object identifier (DOI) number, which can be used to cite the paper before print publication. [Follow this link for details about advance online publication.](#)

## **Cover and other artwork**

Authors of accepted papers are encouraged to submit images for consideration as a cover. Cover images are normally linked to a specific paper in that issue, but we may also be able to use other images elsewhere in the journal, such as on the table of contents. Illustrations are selected for their scientific interest and aesthetic appeal. Please send prints or electronic files (rather than slides) in the first instance. Please also include a clear and concise legend explaining the image.

## **Preparing the manuscript**

*Nature Geoscience* is read by scientists from diverse backgrounds. In addition, many are not native English speakers. Authors should therefore give careful thought to how their findings may be communicated clearly. Technical jargon should be avoided as far as possible and clearly explained where its use is unavoidable. Abbreviations, particularly those that are not standard, should also be kept to a minimum, and should be defined at their first occurrence. The background, rationale and main conclusions of the study should be clearly explained. Titles and abstracts in particular should be written in language that will be readily intelligible to any scientist. We strongly recommend that authors ask a colleague with different expertise to review the manuscript before submission, in order to identify concepts and terminology that may present difficulties to non-specialist readers.

The journal's format requirements are described below.

Manuscripts should be prepared for online submission. Online submissions include a cover letter, a manuscript text file, individual figure files and optional Supplementary Information files.

## **Cover Letter**

Authors should provide a cover letter that includes the affiliation and contact information for the corresponding author. Authors should briefly discuss the work's importance and explain why the work is considered appropriate for the diverse readership of *Nature Geoscience*. Any prior discussions with a *Nature Geoscience* editor about the work described in the manuscript should also be mentioned.



## Manuscript text

All textual content is provided in a single file, prepared ideally using Word. Alternatively, TeX/LaTeX will also be acceptable; figures are provided in individual files (see below).

The manuscript text file should include the following parts, in order: a title page with author affiliations and contact information (the corresponding author should be identified with an asterisk); the sections required for each content type, then Acknowledgements (optional), Author Contributions, Competing Financial Interests statement, References, Figure Legends, and Tables.

- **Word**

*Nature Geoscience* does not use a manuscript template for Word documents. The manuscript file should be formatted as double-spaced, single-column text without justification. Pages should be numbered using an Arabic numeral in the footer of each page. Lines should also be numbered. Standard fonts are recommended and the 'symbols' font should be used for representing Greek characters.

- **TeX/LaTeX**

Authors submitting LaTeX files may use any of the standard class files such as article.cls, revtex.cls or amsart.cls. Non-standard fonts should be avoided; please use the default Computer Modern fonts. For the inclusion of graphics, we recommend graphicx.sty. Please use numerical references only for citations. There is no need to spend time visually formatting the manuscript: *Nature Geoscience* style will be imposed automatically when the paper is prepared for publication. The .tex file submitted should latex with no errors or warnings. References should be included within the manuscript file itself as our system cannot accept BibTeX bibliography files. Authors who wish to use BibTeX to prepare their references should therefore copy the reference list from the .bbl file that BibTeX generates and paste it into the main manuscript .tex file (and delete the associated \bibliography and \bibliographystyle commands) before submission.

- **Acknowledgements**

Acknowledgements should be brief, and should not include thanks to anonymous referees and editors, or effusive comments. Grant or contribution numbers may be acknowledged.

- **Author contributions**

*Nature Geoscience* requires an Author Contribution statement as described in the [Authorship](#) section of our joint [Editorial policies](#).

- **Competing financial interests**

Submission of a signed [Competing Financial Interests Statement](#) is required for all content of the journal. This statement will be published at the end of Letters, Articles, Reviews and Progress articles, whether or not a competing financial interest is reported. For all other content types, a statement will be published only if a competing financial interest is reported. In cases where the authors declare a competing financial interest, a short statement to that effect is published as part of the article, which is linked to a more detailed version available online.



- **References**

References should be numbered sequentially first throughout the text, then in tables, followed by figure legends and, finally, boxes; that is, references that only appear in tables, figure legends or boxes should be last in the reference list. Only one publication is given for each number. Only papers that have been published or accepted by a named publication or recognized preprint server should be in the numbered list; preprints of accepted papers in the reference list should be submitted with the manuscript. Published conference abstracts and numbered patents may be included in the reference list. Grant details and acknowledgments are not permitted as numbered references. Footnotes are not used.

BibTeX bibliography files cannot be accepted. LaTeX submission must contain all references within the manuscript .tex file itself (see above TeX/LaTeX section for more details).

*Nature Geoscience* uses standard Nature referencing style. All authors should be included in reference lists unless there are more than five, in which case only the first author should be given, followed by 'et al.'. Authors should be listed last name first, followed by a comma and initials (followed by full stops) of given names. Article titles should be in Roman text, the first word of the title should be capitalized and the title written exactly as it appears in the work cited, ending with a full stop. Book titles should be given in italics and all words in the title should have initial capitals. Journal names are italicized and abbreviated (with full stops) according to common usage. Volume numbers and the subsequent comma appear in bold.

Titles of cited articles are required for Articles, Letters, Reviews and Progress articles. Example: Eigler, D. M. & Schweizer, E. K. Positioning single atoms with a scanning tunnelling microscope. *Nature* **344**, 524-526 (1990).

For Commentaries or News & Views, titles of cited articles are not included. Example: Iijima, S. *Nature* **354**, 56-58 (1991).

For book citations, the publisher and city of publication are required. Example: Jones, R. A. L. *Soft Machines: Nanotechnology and Life Ch. 3* (Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, 2004).

- **Figure legends**

Figure legends for Articles or Letters begin with a brief title for the whole figure and continue with a short description of each panel and the symbols used; they should not contain any details of methods. Text for figure legends should be provided in numerical order after the references.

- **Tables**

Please submit tables at the end of your text document (in Word or TeX/LaTeX, as appropriate). Tables that include statistical analysis of data should describe their standards of error analysis and ranges in a table legend.

- **Figures**

Figures should be numbered separately with Arabic numerals in the order of occurrence in the text of the manuscript. One- or two-column format figures

are preferred. When appropriate, figures should include error bars. A description of the statistical treatment of error analysis should be included in the figure or scheme legend.

Figure lettering should be in a clear, sans-serif typeface (for example, Helvetica); if possible, the same typeface in approximately the same font size should be used for all figures in a paper. Use symbol font for Greek letters. All display items should be on a white background, and should avoid excessive boxing, unnecessary colour, spurious decorative effects (such as three-dimensional 'skyscraper' histograms) and highly pixelated computer drawings. The vertical axis of histograms should not be truncated to exaggerate small differences. Labelling must be of sufficient size and contrast to be readable, even after appropriate reduction. The thinnest lines in the final figure should be no smaller than one point wide. Reasonable requests to enlarge figures will be considered, but editors will make the final decision on figure size. Authors will see a proof of figures.

Figures divided into parts should be labelled with a lower-case bold a, b, and so on, in the same type size as used elsewhere in the figure. Lettering in figures should be in lower-case type, with only the first letter of each label capitalized. Units should have a single space between the number and the unit, and follow SI nomenclature (for example, ms rather than msec) or the nomenclature common to a particular field. Thousands should be separated by commas (1,000). Unusual units or abbreviations should be spelled out in full or defined in the legend. Scale bars should be used rather than magnification factors, with the length of the bar defined in the legend rather than on the bar itself. In legends, please use visual cues rather than verbal explanations, such as "open red triangles".

Unnecessary figures should be avoided: data presented in small tables or histograms, for instance, can generally be stated briefly in the text instead. Figures should not contain more than one panel unless the parts are logically connected; each panel of a multipart figure should be sized so that the whole figure can be reduced by the same amount and reproduced on the printed page at the smallest size at which essential details are visible.

When a manuscript is accepted for publication, we will ask for high-resolution figure files, possibly in a different electronic format. This information will be included in the acceptance letter. See below for details of digital image production and submission.

- **Equations**

Equations and mathematical expressions should be provided in the main text of the paper. Equations that are referred to in the text are identified by parenthetical numbers, such as (1), and are referred to in the manuscript as "equation (1)".

- **Supplementary information**

Supplementary information should be submitted with the manuscript and will be sent to referees during peer review. Supplementary information is not copy-edited by *Nature Geoscience*, so authors should ensure that it is clearly and succinctly presented, and that the style and terminology conform with the rest

of the paper. The following guidelines detail the creation, citation and submission of supplementary information. Please note that modification of supplementary information after the paper is published requires a formal correction, so authors are encouraged to check their supplementary information carefully before submitting the final version.

Where there is supplementary information to be included exclusively in the online version of a paper published in *Nature Geoscience*, please follow these guidelines, or publication may be delayed.

Refer to each piece of supplementary information at least once within the text of the main article (the article that is published in the print issue of the journal), as follows:

- Designate each item as Supplementary Table, Figure, Video, Audio, Note, Data, Discussion, Equations or Methods. Number Supplementary Tables and Figures as, for example, "Supplementary Table 1". This numbering should be separate from that used in tables and figures appearing in the main printed article. Supplementary Note or Methods should not be numbered; titles for these are optional.
- Refer to each piece of supplementary material at the appropriate point(s) in the main article. Be sure to include the word "Supplementary" each time one is mentioned. Please do not refer to individual panels of supplementary figures.

Figure files should be submitted as web-ready files through *Nature Geoscience* <http://mts-ngs.nature.com/cgi-bin/main.plex>.

Submit separate electronic files (each including a brief title and legend) in any of these formats:

- .txt | Plain ASCII text
- .gif | GIF image
- .htm | HTML document
- .doc | MS Word document
- .jpg | JPEG image
- .swf | Flash movie
- .xls | MS Excel spreadsheet
- .pdf | Adobe Acrobat file
- .mov | QuickTime movie
- .ppt | MS Power Point slide
- .wav | Audio file

File sizes should be as small as possible, with a maximum size of 30 MB, so that they can be downloaded quickly. The combined total size of all files must not exceed 150 MB.

All panels of a figure or table (for example, Fig. 1a, b and c) should be combined into one file; please do not send as separate files. Image files should be just large enough to view when the screen resolution is set to 640 x 480

pixels. Remember to include a brief title and legend (preferably incorporated into the image file to appear near the image) as part of every electronic figure submitted, and a title as part of every table.

Audio and video files should use a frame size no larger than 320 x 240 pixels. The file size of each should not exceed 30 MB.

Further queries about submission and preparation of supplementary information should be directed to [geoscience@nature.com](mailto:geoscience@nature.com).

## **Figures for peer review**

Figures should be uploaded upon submission via our [online submission system](#), in one of our preferred formats (see below), if possible. Please use the smallest file size that provides sufficient resolution for their content to be clearly legible, preferably less than 1 MB, so that referees do not have to download extremely large files.

High resolution images are not required at initial submission. When a paper is accepted, the editors will request high-resolution files suitable for publication.

## ***Preparing figures for publication***

It is important to supply production quality figures when requested by the editor. Failure to do so, or to adhere to the following guidelines, can significantly delay publication of your work.

When possible, we prefer to use original digital figures to ensure the highest quality reproduction in the journal. For optimal results, prepare figures at actual size for the printed journal. When creating and submitting digital files, please follow the guidelines below.

Authors are responsible for obtaining permission to publish any figures or illustrations that are protected by copyright, including figures published elsewhere and pictures taken by professional photographers. The journal cannot publish images downloaded from the internet without appropriate permission.

## **Formats**

### ***Line art, graphs, charts and schematics***

All line art, graphs, charts and schematics should be supplied in vector format, such as Encapsulated PostScript (.EPS), Adobe Illustrator (.AI), or Portable Document Format (.PDF), and should be saved or exported as such directly from the application in which they were made. This allows us to restyle to our journal house style.

We prefer to work with Adobe Illustrator but can accept Word and PowerPoint files.

They should not be flattened, compressed, converted or saved as bitmaps, jpegs or other non-vector file types. If line art figures cannot be supplied as vector files they should be supplied at 1200 DPI and as close to print size as possible.

## ***Photographic and bitmapped images***

All photographic and bitmapped images should be supplied in TIFF format at a minimum of 300 DPI and as close to print size as possible.

We can accept Word and PowerPoint files but please supply any placed images as separate tiffs, prepared as above. If preparing in Adobe Photoshop please type all text on separate text layers so that we can retype in our own house style. If this is not possible please supply two sets of figures - one with labelling for our reference, and one without labelling. Please make sure any scale bars or important markers are left on both sets.

## **Resolution and figure quality**

For final print size please use our column widths as a guide. A single column width measures at 88 mm and a double column width measures at 170 mm.

Where possible please supply colour photographic images in CMYK colour mode as colour detail may be lost converting from RGB to CMYK.

Please do not scan laser printouts of figures and send them to us as digital files. The dot pattern on a laser print often creates a moiré pattern when scanned.

Figure files must be supplied at an appropriate resolution for print publication.

- Colour: 300 dpi minimum; please convert all colour files into CMYK mode.
- Greyscale: 600 dpi minimum for black-and-white photographs.
- Line art: 1,200 dpi minimum for graphs and illustrations.

In practice this means that the absolute width of full-colour single column figures should be no less than 1040 pixels wide and double column figures should be no less than 2080 pixels wide (excluding peripheral white space). For greyscale images, these values should be doubled, and for line art doubled again (unless supplied in an appropriate vector format, as described above).

Figures that do not meet these standards will not reproduce well and may delay publication until we receive high-resolution images or high-quality printouts. We cannot be held responsible for assuming the cost of corrected reprints should poor quality images need to be used.

# Contact the journal

**General editorial inquiries and correspondence** should be addressed to the Editor, at [geoscience@nature.com](mailto:geoscience@nature.com).

**Inquiries about the status of a manuscript** should be addressed to the Editorial Assistant, at [geoscience@nature.com](mailto:geoscience@nature.com).  
A full list of journal staff appears on the masthead.

## SUBMISSIONS

Manuscripts should be submitted through our [online submission system](#). For more information, see our general guide for manuscript preparation and submission in the section 'How to submit' of this document. Please do not send complete manuscripts by e-mail unless specifically requested. Receipt of submitted manuscripts will be acknowledged by e-mail.

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