

Scientific-Professional Society for
Disaster Risk Management



REVIEWERS' INSTRUCTIONS

International Journal of
Disaster Risk Management



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SCIENTIFIC-PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY FOR
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



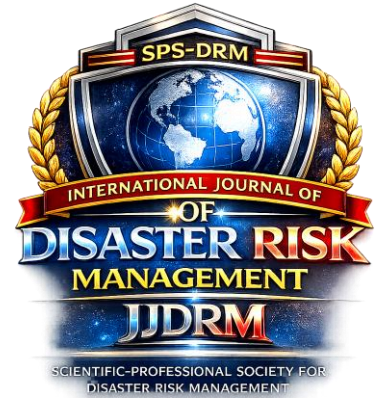


INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (IJDRM)

Publisher: Scientific-Professional
Society for Disaster Risk Man-
agement (SPS-DRM)

Website: www.ijdrm.com

E-mail: editor@ijdrm.com



Instructions for Reviewers

International Journal of Disaster Risk Management (IJDRM)

Peer Review Evaluation Form

Thank you for contributing to the peer-review process of the *International Journal of Disaster Risk Management (IJDRM)*. Your expertise, independent judgment, and detailed assessment are essential to maintaining the scientific integrity, methodological rigor, international relevance, and overall quality of the research published by the journal.

Please evaluate the manuscript carefully and provide comments that are specific, evidence-based, respectful, constructive, and sufficiently detailed to support both the editorial decision and the authors' revision process.

1. Instructions and Ethical Responsibilities for Reviewers

Confidentiality and reviewer anonymity

IJDRM applies a **double-blind peer-review process**, meaning that the identities of the authors and reviewers are concealed from one another.

The manuscript, supplementary materials, editorial correspondence, and all information obtained during the review process must be treated as strictly confidential. Reviewers must not:

- disclose their identity to the authors;
- share the manuscript or any part of it with unauthorized persons;
- discuss the manuscript outside the editorial process;
- use unpublished data, arguments, methods, findings, or other information for personal, academic, professional, financial, or competitive advantage;
- contact the authors directly regarding the manuscript.

Where consultation with another specialist is necessary, prior permission must be obtained from the Editor. Any person consulted must comply with the same confidentiality requirements.

Conflicts of interest

Reviewers must disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest that could affect, or reasonably appear to affect, their independence and impartiality.

Possible conflicts may include:

- recent or ongoing collaboration with an author;
- employment at the same institution;
- supervisory, mentoring, financial, professional, or personal relationships;
- direct academic competition;
- involvement in the research project, dataset, methodology, intervention, or publication under review;
- strong ideological, political, institutional, or professional positions that may prevent an objective assessment.

Where a conflict may compromise impartiality, the reviewer should decline the assignment or immediately consult the Editor.

Research integrity and ethical concerns

Please notify the Editor through the **Confidential Comments to the Editor** section if you identify or reasonably suspect:

- plagiarism or unattributed text reuse;
- duplicate, redundant, or simultaneous publication;
- data fabrication, falsification, manipulation, or selective reporting;

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- inappropriate manipulation of photographs, maps, graphs, or other visual material;
- undeclared conflicts of interest;
- inappropriate authorship or contributorship;
- citation manipulation or unjustified self-citation;
- insufficient ethical approval or informed consent;
- inappropriate treatment of human participants, vulnerable populations, communities, or animals;
- inadequate protection of confidential, personal, geospatial, security-sensitive, or disaster-related data;
- serious inconsistencies between the methodology, data, analyses, results, and conclusions;
- undisclosed or inappropriate use of generative artificial intelligence;
- any other potential breach of publication ethics or research integrity.

Reviewers should describe the concern precisely and, where possible, identify the relevant page, section, paragraph, table, figure, reference, or data element.

Objectivity and constructive feedback

Reviews must be:

- fair and impartial;
- evidence-based;
- professionally written;
- focused on the manuscript rather than the authors;
- free from discriminatory, hostile, dismissive, or personally offensive language;
- sufficiently detailed to justify the reviewer's recommendation.

General statements such as “the paper is weak,” “the methodology is inadequate,” or “the discussion should be improved” are not sufficient. Reviewers should clearly explain:

1. what the problem is;
2. where it occurs;
3. why it is important;
4. how it may be corrected or improved.

Reviewers should not request citations to their own publications, IJDRM articles, or particular authors unless those sources are genuinely relevant and necessary for the scientific improvement of the manuscript.

Use of artificial intelligence in peer review

The manuscript and all associated editorial materials are confidential. Reviewers must not upload the manuscript, unpublished data, substantial manuscript extracts, supplementary files, or identifiable editorial information to publicly accessible generative-AI systems or other unauthorized third-party platforms.

The reviewer remains fully responsible for the originality, accuracy, confidentiality, and professional quality of the submitted review.

2. Principal Evaluation Criteria

Relevance to the aims and scope of IJDRM

The manuscript must make a clear, substantive, and demonstrable contribution to disaster risk management or a closely related area.

Relevant areas may include:

- disaster risk reduction;
- disaster prevention and mitigation;
- preparedness and contingency planning;
- emergency and crisis management;
- disaster response and recovery;
- community, institutional, organizational, and infrastructure resilience;
- hazard, vulnerability, exposure, capacity, and risk assessment;
- climate-change adaptation;
- natural, technological, biological, environmental, and human-induced hazards;
- civil protection and emergency services;
- risk communication and public warning;
- evacuation, sheltering, rescue, and humanitarian assistance;
- critical infrastructure protection;
- disaster governance and public policy;
- social vulnerability and environmental justice;
- disaster education, training, exercises, and simulations;
- application of GIS, remote sensing, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies in disaster risk management;
- public health emergencies and cascading or systemic risks.

A manuscript dealing with a broader subject must clearly demonstrate how its research problem, methodology, findings, and implications contribute directly to disaster risk management theory, policy, or practice.

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Originality and scientific contribution

Please assess whether the manuscript:

- addresses an important or insufficiently studied disaster-risk problem;
- presents original empirical data, theoretical insights, methodological developments, policy analysis, or practical applications;
- advances knowledge beyond the existing literature;
- clearly identifies its research gap and contribution;
- provides findings of international, national, regional, or local relevance.

Theoretical and conceptual quality

Please assess whether the manuscript:

- uses an appropriate theoretical or conceptual framework;
- defines central disaster-risk concepts accurately;
- distinguishes clearly between hazard, exposure, vulnerability, capacity, resilience, risk, emergency, crisis, and disaster where relevant;
- engages critically with current and internationally relevant literature;
- connects the theoretical framework with the research objectives, questions, hypotheses, methods, results, and discussion.

Methodological rigor

Please assess whether the research design is appropriate for the stated objectives and research questions.

The manuscript should adequately describe and justify, where applicable:

- research design;
- study area and disaster-risk context;
- population, sample, cases, participants, or data sources;
- sampling strategy;
- variables, indicators, scales, instruments, or assessment frameworks;
- data-collection procedures;
- qualitative, quantitative, spatial, experimental, modelling, or mixed-method analytical procedures;
- validity, reliability, robustness, and uncertainty;
- ethical approval and informed consent;
- data availability and reproducibility;
- methodological limitations.

Results and interpretation

Please assess whether the results:

- answer the research questions or test the hypotheses;
- are clearly, accurately, and systematically presented;
- are supported by the data and analyses;
- distinguish between descriptive findings, statistical inference, interpretation, and speculation;
- are consistent across the text, tables, figures, maps, and supplementary materials;
- accurately report sample sizes, percentages, coefficients, confidence intervals, p values, effect sizes, spatial indicators, or model-performance measures.

Discussion and conclusions

The Discussion should:

- interpret rather than merely repeat the results;
- compare the findings with relevant national and international studies;
- explain theoretical, methodological, policy, operational, and practical implications;
- identify implications for disaster-risk reduction, preparedness, response, recovery, resilience, or governance;
- consider alternative explanations;
- acknowledge limitations and uncertainty;
- avoid unsupported causal claims and excessive generalization.

The conclusions must be supported by the reported evidence and should not introduce new results, analyses, or claims.

3. English Language and Academic Style

Please select one option:

- ☐ Extensive English-language and stylistic editing is required
- ☐ Moderate English-language revision is required
- ☐ Minor language and proofreading corrections are required
- ☐ The English language and academic style are satisfactory
- ☐ I do not feel qualified to assess the English language and style

Additional comments on language, terminology, clarity, and readability

Please identify recurring problems involving grammar, punctuation, terminology, sentence structure, academic tone, spelling, abbreviations, or clarity.

4. Overall Evaluation

Evaluation criterion	Excellent	Satisfactory	Requires minor improvement	Requires substantial improvement	Not applicable
Relevance to the aims and scope of IJDRM	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Originality and scientific contribution	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Importance of the disaster-risk problem	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Clarity of the research problem and objectives	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adequacy of the theoretical or conceptual framework	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quality and coverage of the literature review	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Appropriateness of the research design	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adequacy and transparency of the	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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methods					
Quality and appropriateness of the data or evidence	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Validity, reliability, and robustness of the analysis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Clarity and accuracy of the results	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quality of the discussion	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Support for the conclusions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Contribution to disaster risk management theory	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Relevance to disaster-risk policy or practice	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quality and clarity of tables, figures, maps, or diagrams	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Relevance, accuracy, and currency of references	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Compliance with ethical and research-integrity standards	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Logical organization and readability	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Overall suitability for publication in	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

IJDRM					
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5. Section-by-Section Assessment

Title

Please assess whether the title accurately reflects the disaster-risk topic, study area, population, methodology, principal variables, or central contribution of the manuscript.

Abstract

Please assess whether the abstract clearly presents:

- the disaster-risk context or research problem;
- the study objective;
- the methodology and sample or data source;
- the principal findings;
- the main conclusion;
- the implications for disaster risk management.

Verify that all numerical results in the abstract are consistent with the main text, tables, and figures.

Keywords

Please assess whether the keywords are relevant, sufficiently specific, searchable, and consistent with the terminology used in disaster risk management.

Introduction

Does the Introduction:

- provide sufficient disaster-risk background;
- define the research problem;
- identify a clear knowledge or policy gap;

- explain the scientific and practical relevance of the study;
- state the objective, research questions, and/or hypotheses;
- establish a clear connection with the aims and scope of IJDRM?

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Does the manuscript:

- engage with relevant and recent disaster-risk literature;
- include appropriate international scholarship;
- critically synthesize previous findings;
- define central concepts;
- present a coherent theoretical or conceptual framework;
- clearly establish the study's contribution?

Methodology

Please evaluate:

- research design;
- study location and hazard context;
- population, sample, or case selection;
- variables, indicators, instruments, or scales;
- data-collection procedures;
- analytical methods;
- validity and reliability;
- handling of missing data and uncertainty;
- ethical approval and informed consent;
- reproducibility and transparency;
- methodological limitations.

Results

Please assess whether:

- the results answer the research questions;
- the findings are clearly and systematically presented;
- the statistical, qualitative, spatial, modelling, or mixed-method analyses are appropriate;
- tables, figures, graphs, and maps are necessary, accurate, and understandable;
- all tables and figures are cited correctly in the text;

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- numerical values are consistent throughout the manuscript;
- interpretation is appropriately separated from the presentation of results.

Discussion

Please assess whether the Discussion:

- explains the meaning of the findings;
- compares the results with relevant previous studies;
- addresses the research questions and hypotheses;
- explains implications for disaster-risk reduction, preparedness, response, recovery, resilience, governance, or policy;
- considers alternative explanations;
- acknowledges methodological and contextual limitations;
- avoids simply repeating the Results section.

Conclusion

Please assess whether the Conclusion:

- directly addresses the study objective;
- is fully supported by the results;
- clearly explains the contribution to disaster risk management;
- avoids introducing new evidence;
- avoids unsupported generalization;
- provides realistic recommendations for policy, practice, preparedness, resilience, or future research.

References

Please assess whether:

- the references are relevant, accurate, and sufficiently current;
- important international and regional disaster-risk scholarship has been considered;
- sources support the statements for which they are cited;
- excessive self-citation, journal self-citation, or irrelevant citation is present;
- in-text citations correspond to reference-list entries;
- references follow the journal's required style.

6. Detailed Review and Recommendations

A. Brief Summary of the Manuscript

Provide a concise and neutral summary of the manuscript's purpose, disaster-risk context, methodology, principal findings, and contribution.

B. Principal Strengths

Identify the manuscript's most important strengths, including originality, methodological quality, data quality, theoretical contribution, policy relevance, practical applicability, or international significance.

C. Major Issues Requiring Attention

Number each major comment separately and indicate:

1. where the issue occurs;
2. what the problem is;
3. why it affects the manuscript's quality or validity;
4. how it should be addressed.

Major Comment 1

Major Comment 2

Major Comment 3

D. Minor Issues and Technical Corrections

List minor issues involving wording, terminology, organization, references, statistics, tables, figures, maps, captions, formatting, or typographical errors.

Refer to page, section, paragraph, table, figure, or line numbers wherever possible.

E. Specific Recommendations for the Authors

Provide clear, prioritized, and actionable recommendations that enable the authors to understand precisely what must be revised.

7. Ethical and Research-Integrity Assessment

Does the manuscript raise concerns regarding plagiarism or unattributed text reuse?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Uncertain

Does the manuscript raise concerns regarding data fabrication, falsification, manipulation, or selective reporting?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Uncertain

Does the manuscript substantially overlap with another publication?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Uncertain

Are ethical approval, informed consent, confidentiality, and data-protection procedures adequately reported?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable
- ☐ Uncertain

Are there concerns regarding sensitive disaster, geospatial, security, community, or personal data?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Uncertain

Are there concerns regarding authorship, funding, conflicts of interest, generative-AI use, or citation manipulation?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Uncertain

Any concern should be explained in the **Confidential Comments to the Editor** section. Reviewers should report reasonable concerns without presenting an allegation as a proven fact unless clear evidence is available.

8. Recommendation to the Editor

☐ **Accept**

The manuscript is scientifically sound, original, clearly presented, and suitable for publication without substantive revision. Only negligible production-level corrections may remain.

☐ Minor Revision

The manuscript is fundamentally sound and potentially publishable after limited corrections that do not require substantial new analysis, major methodological changes, or reconsideration of the principal conclusions.

☐ Major Revision

The manuscript has publication potential but requires substantial revision involving the theoretical framework, methodology, analysis, interpretation, structure, disaster-risk relevance, or presentation. A revised manuscript should normally undergo another round of peer review.

☐ Reject

The manuscript has fundamental problems that cannot reasonably be resolved through revision, falls outside the aims and scope of IJDRM, lacks sufficient originality or methodological rigor, contains conclusions unsupported by the evidence, or raises serious unresolved ethical concerns.

Main reason for the recommendation

- ☐ High scientific quality and originality
 - ☐ Minor correctable deficiencies
 - ☐ Major methodological deficiencies
 - ☐ Inadequate theoretical or conceptual foundation
 - ☐ Insufficient contribution to disaster risk management
 - ☐ Insufficient originality
 - ☐ Conclusions not supported by the evidence
 - ☐ Inadequate, unreliable, or insufficiently described data
 - ☐ Outside the aims and scope of IJDRM
 - ☐ Serious ethical or research-integrity concerns
 - ☐ Poor organization, language, or presentation
 - ☐ Other: _____
-

9. Comments to the Authors

These comments will be shared with the authors. Do not include your identity, confidential information, or unverified allegations.

10. Confidential Comments to the Editor

These comments will not be shared with the authors.

Use this section to:

- explain the reasoning behind your recommendation;
- identify suspected ethical or research-integrity concerns;
- disclose a possible conflict of interest;
- comment on the manuscript's originality and priority;
- identify serious methodological or analytical problems;
- comment on the manuscript's fit with IJDRM;
- provide other information relevant to the editorial decision.

11. Reviewer Declaration

By submitting this review, I confirm that:

- ☐ I have carefully read and evaluated the manuscript.
- ☐ I have provided an independent, fair, objective, and evidence-based assessment.
- ☐ I have disclosed any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest.

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- ☐ I have treated the manuscript and all associated materials as confidential.
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- ☐ I have not used unpublished information from the manuscript for personal, academic, professional, financial, or competitive advantage.
- ☐ I have not uploaded the manuscript or confidential material to an unauthorized generative-AI or third-party system.
- ☐ Any citations I recommended are academically relevant and were not suggested for the purpose of increasing citations to my own work, IJDRM, the editors, or particular authors.
- ☐ I have reported any suspected ethical or research-integrity concerns confidentially to the Editor.
- ☐ I understand that my recommendation is advisory and that the final decision rests with the responsible Editor.

Reviewer's name: _____

For editorial records only. The reviewer's identity will not be disclosed to the authors.

Date: _____

Signature, where required: _____