

# Ecosystem Health and Sustainability L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Template

Author One<sup>1\*†</sup>, Author Two<sup>2†</sup>, Author Three<sup>2</sup>, and Author Four<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, A University, City, Country.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Astronomy, B University, City, Country.

\*Address correspondence to: email@email.com

†These authors contributed equally to this work.

## Abstract

The abstract should be a single paragraph written in plain language that a general reader can understand. Do not include citations, figures, tables, or undefined abbreviations in the abstract. Any abbreviations that appear in the title should be defined in the abstract. The length should not exceed 250 words and should include:

- An opening sentence that states the question/problem addressed by the research AND
- Enough background content to give context to the study AND
- A brief statement of primary results AND
- A short concluding sentence.

## 1 Introduction

Your manuscript should contain all of the numbered sections specified in this template: Introduction, Results, Discussion, Materials and Methods.

The manuscript should start with a brief introduction that lays out the problem addressed by the research and describes the paper's importance. The scientific question being investigated should be described in detail. The introduction should provide sufficient background information to make the article understandable to readers in other disciplines and provide enough context to ensure that the implications of the experimental findings are clear.

## Citations

Citations of references in the text should be identified using numbers in square brackets e.g., "as discussed by Cui [1]" or "as discussed elsewhere [1–5]." All references should be cited within the text and uncited references will be removed.

As an example, this template includes a "sample.bib" file containing the references in BibTeX.

## 29 Equations

30 Equations should be provided in a text format, rather than as an image. Equations should be num-  
31 bered consecutively, in round brackets, on the right-hand side of the page by using the “\begin{equation}”  
32 command. They should be referred to as Equation 1, etc. in the main text.

33 For example, see Equation 1 and Equation 2 below.

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2 \tag{1}$$

34

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \frac{\pi r^2}{2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\pi r^2 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

## 35 Figures

36 Figures should be called out within the text and numbered in the order of their citation in the text.  
37 Every figure must have a descriptive title beginning with “Figure [Number] ...” All figure titles  
should be either a phrase or a sentence; do not mix the two styles. See Figure 1 for example.



Figure 1: This is an example figure.

38

39 Figures should be displayed on a white background. When preparing figures, consider that they  
40 can occupy either a single column (half page width) or two columns (full page width), and should  
41 be sized accordingly.

42 If a figure consists of multiple panels, they should be ordered logically and labelled with roman  
43 letters (i.e., A, B, C, etc.). All labels should be explained in the legend. See Figure 2 for example.

44 Upon acceptance, authors will be asked to provide the figures as separate electronic files. At  
45 that stage, figures should be supplied as Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), PostScript (PS),

46 or Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) for illustrations or diagrams; Tagged Image File Format (TIFF),  
47 JPEG, PNG, PhotoShop (PSD), EPS, or PDF for photography or microscopy. Bitmap (BMP)  
48 images should be of at least 300 dpi resolution, unless due to the limited resolution of a scientific  
49 instrument. If a bitmap image has labels, the image and labels should be embedded in separate  
layers.

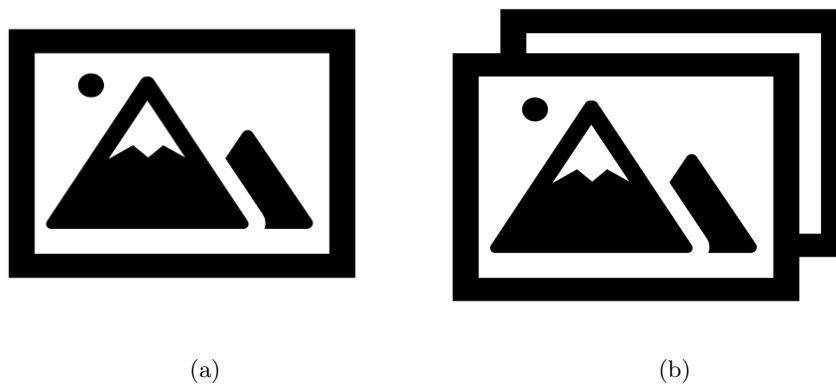


Figure 2: This is an example of a figure consisting of multiple panels. (a) This is the first panel. (b) This is the second panel.

50

## 51 Tables

52 Tables should supplement, not duplicate, the text. They should be called out consecutively within  
53 the text and numbered in the order of their citation in the text.

54 Every table must have a descriptive title beginning with “Table [Number] . . .” as noted in Table  
55 1. If numerical measurements are given, the units should be included in the column heading. Every  
56 vertical column should have a heading, followed by a unit of measure (if any) in parentheses. Units  
57 should not change within a column. Vertical rules should not be used.

58 Centered headings of the body of the table can be used to break the entries into groups. Do  
59 not use footnotes in column heads; include any such details in sentence form in the table legend.  
60 Footnotes should contain information relevant to specific cells of the table; use lowercase letters in  
61 alphabetical order, as needed: a, b, c, etc.

Table 1: This is an example table.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Cell 1	Cell 2	Cell 3
Cell 4	Cell 5	Cell 6

## 62 **2 Materials and Methods**

63 The materials and methods section should provide sufficient information to allow replication of the  
64 results. This section should be broken up by subheadings. Under exceptional circumstances, when a  
65 particularly lengthy description is required, a portion of the materials and methods can be included  
66 in the Supplementary Materials.

### 67 **2.1 Experimental Design**

68 Begin with a section titled Experimental Design describing the objectives and design of the study  
69 as well as prespecified components.

### 70 **2.2 Statistical Analysis**

71 If applicable, include a section titled Statistical Analysis that fully describes the statistical methods  
72 with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the original data to verify the  
73 results. The values for N, P, and the specific statistical test performed for each experiment should  
74 be included in the appropriate figure legend or main text.

### 75 **2.3 Human and Animal Research**

76 For investigations on humans, a statement must be including indicating that informed consent was  
77 obtained after the nature and possible consequences of the study was explained.

78 For authors using experimental animals, a statement must be included indicating that the ani-  
79 mals' care was in accordance with institutional guidelines.

## 80 **3 Results**

81 The results should describe the experiments performed and the findings observed. The results section  
82 should be divided into subsections to delineate different experimental themes.

- 83 • All data should be presented in the Results. No data should be presented for the first time in  
84 the Discussion. Data (such as from Western blots) should be appropriately quantified.
- 85 • Subheadings must be either all complete sentences or all phrases. They should be brief, ideally  
86 less than 10 words. Subheadings should not end in a period. Your paper may have as many  
87 subheadings as are necessary.
- 88 • Figures and tables must be called out in numerical order. For example, the first mention of  
89 any panel of Fig. 3 cannot precede the first mention of all panels of Fig. 2. The supplementary  
90 figures (for example, fig. S1) and tables (table S1) must also be called out in numerical order.

## 91 **4 Discussion**

92 Include a Discussion that summarizes (but does not merely repeat) your conclusions and elaborates  
93 on their implications. There should be a paragraph outlining the limitations of your results and  
94 interpretation, as well as a discussion of the steps that need to be taken for the findings to be  
95 applied. Please avoid claims of priority.

## 96 **Acknowledgments**

97 Anyone who made a contribution to the research or manuscript, but who is not a listed author,  
98 should be acknowledged (with their permission). Types of acknowledgements include:

### 99 **General**

100 Thank others for any contributions, whether it be direct technical help or indirect assistance

### 101 **Author Contributions**

102 Describe contributions of each author to the paper, using the first initial and full last name.

103 Examples:

104 “S. Zhang conceived the idea and designed the experiments.”

105 “E. F. Mustermann and J. F. Smith conducted the experiments.”

106 “All authors contributed equally to the writing of the manuscript.”

### 107 **Funding**

108 Name financially supporting bodies (written out in full), followed by the funding awardee and asso-  
109 ciated grant numbers (if applicable) in square brackets.

110 Example:

111 “This work was supported by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council [grant  
112 numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the National Science Foundation [grant number zzzz]; and a Leverhulme  
113 Trust Research Project Grant.”

114 If the research did not receive specific funding, but was performed as part of the employment  
115 of the authors, please name this employer. If the funder was involved in the manuscript writing,  
116 editing, approval, or decision to publish, please declare this.

### 117 **Conflicts of Interest**

118 Conflicts of interest (COIs, also known as “competing interests”) occur when issues outside research  
119 could be reasonably perceived to affect the neutrality or objectivity of the work or its assessment.

120 Authors must declare all potential interests – whether or not they actually had an influence – in a  
121 ‘Conflicts of Interest’ section, which should explain why the interest may be a conflict. Authors must

122 declare current or recent funding (including for Article Processing Charges) and other payments,  
123 goods or services that might influence the work. All funding, whether a conflict or not, must be  
124 declared in a “Funding Statement.” The involvement of anyone other than the authors who 1) has  
125 an interest in the outcome of the work; 2) is affiliated to an organization with such an interest; or 3)  
126 was employed or paid by a funder, in the commissioning, conception, planning, design, conduct, or  
127 analysis of the work, the preparation or editing of the manuscript, or the decision to publish must  
128 be declared.

129 If there are none, the authors should state “The author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of  
130 interest regarding the publication of this article.” Submitting authors are responsible for coauthors  
131 declaring their interests. Declared conflicts of interest will be considered by the editor and reviewers  
132 and included in the published article.

### 133 **Data Availability**

134 A data availability statement is compulsory for all research articles. This statement describes  
135 whether and how others can access the data supporting the findings of the paper, including 1)  
136 what the nature of the data is, 2) where the data can be accessed, and 3) any restrictions on data  
137 access and why.

138 If data are in an archive, include the accession number or a placeholder for it. Also include any  
139 materials that must be obtained through a Material Transfer Agreements (MTA).

### 140 **Supplementary Materials**

141 Describe any supplementary materials submitted with the manuscript (e.g., audio files, video clips  
142 or datasets).

143 Please group supplementary materials in the following order: materials and methods, figures,  
144 tables, and other files (such as movies, data, interactive images, or database files).

145 Example: Fig. S1. Title of the first supplementary figure.

146 Fig. S2. Title of the second supplementary figure.

147 Table S1. Title of the first supplementary table.

148 Data file S1. Title of the first supplementary data file.

149 Movie S1. Title of the first supplementary movie.

150 Be sure to submit all supplementary materials with the manuscript and remember to reference  
151 the supplementary materials at appropriate points within the manuscript. We recommend citing  
152 specific items, rather than referring to the supplementary materials in general, for example: “See  
153 Figures S1-S10 in the Supplementary Material for comprehensive image analysis.”

154 A link to access the supplementary materials will be provided in the published article.

155 Supplementary Materials may include additional author notes—for example, a list of group  
156 authors.

## 157 Guidelines for References

158 Authors are responsible for ensuring that the information in each reference is complete and accurate.  
159 All data must be cited and references to “data not shown” or citations to unpublished results are  
160 permitted.

161 All references should be cited within the text and uncited references will be removed.

162 There is only one reference list for all sources cited in the main text, figure and table legends, and  
163 Supplementary Materials. Do not include a second reference list in the Supplementary Materials  
164 section. References cited only in the Supplementary Materials section are not counted toward length  
165 guidelines.

166 Please do not include any extraneous language such as explanatory notes as part of a reference  
167 to a given source. The journal prefers that manuscripts do not include end notes; if information is  
168 important enough to include, please put into main text. If you need to include notes, please explain  
169 why they are needed in your cover letter to the editor.

170 DOIs, if available, should be included for each reference.

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