



Ethnobiology and conservation: Why do we need a new journal?

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Human beings are part of nature and they have been using it as a source of resources to supply their basic needs, both materially and spiritually. Since ancient times, mankind has established interactions of dependency and codependency with natural resources. Nevertheless, in recent years, the world has undergone strong economic and environmental changes. As pointed out by Bawa and Saberwal (2003), these changes have significant consequences, not only because of the fate of natural ecosystems, but also because of the human societies that are responsible for such changes. Currently, the world is facing a potentially massive loss of wildlife due to anthropogenic activities, such as deforestation, farming, overhunting, overfishing and urbanisation (Alves and Rosa 2007; Bennett et al. 2002; Robinson and Bennett 2000, 2002).

Ironically, the role of human beings and the importance of their actions on biodiversity have only been recognised recently, demonstrating that nature conservancy should take into consideration the influence of human beings as agents of transformation of natural spaces, not only in the aspects considered to be negative. Thus, questions regarding biodiversity conservation cannot be answered only with Biological Science fields, but should consider all dimensions that bind

human societies to natural resources. In this context, Ethnobiology arises as a promising subject that may play a fundamental role as a mediator of the dialogue among the different academic subjects and traditional knowledge, a union essential in enabling contextualised and sustainable alternatives to practices of exploitation and management of biodiversity.

Recently, particularly in the last two decades, studies involving the interface between Ethnobiology and Biology Conservation have intensified, although there are a few specialised journals that address this theme, including the *Journal of Ethnobiology*, *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*, *Ethnobotany Research and Applications*, *Economic Botany*, and the *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*. Facing this scenario, *Ethnobiology and Conservation* (EC) is an open-access online journal that aims to provide a complementary site for publishing original contributions in all fields of Ethnobiology and Nature Conservation. EC has an editorial board that includes members from the international academic community with experience in Ethnobiology and/or conservation in several regions of the world. The scope of EC includes traditional ecological knowledge, human ecology, ethnoecology, ethnopharmacology, ecological anthropology, and the history and philosophy of science. Contributions to the area of nature conservation may involve studies that are normally in the field of traditional ecological studies, as well as in animal and plant biology, ethology, biogeography, management of fauna and flora, and ethical and legal aspects regarding the conservation of biodiversity. However, all papers should focus explicitly on their contribution to the conservation of nature.

The aim of EC is to provide a journal to the global scientific community to disseminate research results that may contribute to the conservation of both cultural and biological diversity. We hope that this new journal will promote interaction among ethnobiologists, zoologists, botanists, ecologists, anthropologists, sociologists and any professional dealing with questions regarding biodiversity, serving as a forum for debate on the conservation of natural resources and the maintenance of human cultures.

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