

Criteria for the review of articles in the „Forum“

The FORUM section publishes original discussion papers, pointed expressions of opinion, and reactions to articles that have appeared in recent GAIA issues. As such, the Forum section aims to challenge current understandings by providing a “forum” to articulate substantiated opinions, to debate controversial issues, and to identify emerging problems.

1. *Factual statements need to be scientifically proven:* All factual statements, propositions, and analytical causal relations that are mentioned in the manuscript need to be scientifically proven. However, ideas, concepts, and relationships may be unusual and innovative.
2. *Articles need to be up to date and relate to current problems:* The article should relate to a current debate in science (but then relate to an action that will follow from it) or to politics.
3. *Logical coherence, consistency, accountability, linguistic and stylistic quality:* The article needs to justify poignant opinions, questions, or conclusions. Those justifications should be easy to follow, logical, and fair towards arguments that contradict the statements provided. Achieving this also largely depends on the style and linguistic standard of the article.
4. *Clear statements with a provocative or inquisitive character:* The Forum aims to encourage a deeper reflection on a subject, and aims to motivate readers to react and respond to the articles. Frequently, we deliberately try to find articles that give pros and cons. The ideal article is an article that has a provocative message, that is based on good science, and that explains its argumentation in a way that is easy to follow.