

Editorial matters of African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)

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Abstract

For the *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture*, a good editorial manuscript management system is essential to ensuring efficient, transparent, and high-quality scholarly publishing in fields critical to Africa's blue economy and maritime development. Such a system should provide a centralized and secure platform that manages submissions, peer review, and editorial decisions in a structured and timely manner, while accommodating the journal's multidisciplinary scope spanning offshore engineering, marine systems, and naval architecture. By streamlining communication among authors, reviewers, and editors, it minimizes administrative delays and enhances accountability through real-time manuscript tracking and automated notifications. A robust system also strengthens the integrity of peer review by enabling expert reviewer matching, structured evaluation criteria, and strict compliance with ethical standards, including confidentiality and conflict-of-interest disclosure. Seamless integration with plagiarism detection tools, digital identifiers, and indexing services further enhances the journal's credibility and global visibility. Importantly, an intuitive and accessible interface promotes inclusivity for researchers across Africa and beyond. Overall, an effective manuscript management system underpins the journal's commitment to editorial rigor, operational efficiency, and the dissemination of impactful research relevant to offshore, marine, and naval engineering challenge.

Keywords: Peer review; Manuscript management system; Experts; Indexed; Web of Science; Engineering journal

Journal Summary

The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* is a regional scholarly platform that aspires to benchmark itself against internationally comparable outlets while maintaining a strong and distinctive emphasis on high-quality, locally grounded research from Nigeria and other African countries. It provides a forum for the dissemination of original research, reviews, and policy-relevant studies that address region-specific challenges within a global scientific context, thereby promoting knowledge exchange, research visibility, and the integration of African perspectives into international scholarship.

About the Journal

The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal dedicated to advancing research, innovation, and professional practice in marine engineering, naval architecture, and allied maritime disciplines. The journal provides a rigorous platform for high-quality original research, review articles, technical papers,

and case studies that address contemporary engineering challenges and emerging opportunities in marine and maritime systems.

AJOMENA covers a wide range of topics, including ship and offshore structure design, construction and production techniques, propulsion and power systems, marine materials, offshore and coastal engineering, port and harbour engineering, marine safety, and operational and environmental performance. The journal publishes both fundamental theoretical studies and applied research that informs engineering practice, industrial decision-making, and operational optimisation.

Recognising rapid technological transformation, AJOMENA welcomes studies in emerging and interdisciplinary areas such as automation, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, robotics, and the integration of renewable energy in marine and offshore systems. Emphasis is placed on technically rigorous research that addresses efficiency, reliability, durability, and environmental impact mitigation in maritime operations.

Serving academics, researchers, engineers, naval architects, and industry professionals, AJOMENA fosters knowledge exchange and collaboration, contributing to the design and operation of safer, more efficient, and sustainable marine systems. The journal is indexed in Google Scholar and ResearchGate and is under consideration for major databases, including DOAJ, Scopus, and Web of Science.

Aims and Scope

The African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA) is an international, peer-reviewed journal that publishes high-quality original research, review articles, and technical papers in marine engineering, naval architecture, and related maritime sciences. The journal aims to advance theoretical understanding, engineering practice, and innovation, with particular emphasis on safe, efficient, and sustainable marine and maritime systems.

AJOMENA covers research on the design, analysis, construction, operation, and maintenance of ships, offshore structures, and marine systems. The journal welcomes contributions that integrate fundamental science with practical engineering applications and address emerging technological, environmental, and regulatory challenges in the global maritime sector.

The scope of the journal includes, but is not limited to:

1. Ship and Offshore Structures

- Ship design, construction, and production techniques
- Offshore platforms, subsea structures, and structural integrity
- Maintenance, durability, and reliability of marine structures

2. Hydrodynamics, Ocean, and Offshore Engineering

- Hydrodynamics, seakeeping, and stability analysis

- Ocean engineering applications, including wave, current, and coastal dynamics
- Offshore engineering systems and marine environment interaction

3. Marine Propulsion and Power Systems

- Marine propulsion, power generation, and energy efficiency
- Fuel optimisation, emission reduction, and energy management

4. Marine Materials and Corrosion

- Marine-grade materials and composites
- Corrosion prevention, protection, and monitoring
- Material testing and performance evaluation under local conditions

5. Ports, Harbours, and Coastal Infrastructure

- Port and harbour design, construction, and maintenance
- Coastal engineering, shoreline protection, and sediment management
- Inland water transport and navigation systems

6. Maritime Safety and Operational Reliability

- Safety engineering, risk assessment, and accident analysis
- Operational optimisation for ships, offshore platforms, and ocean systems
- Emergency response, resilience, and reliability studies

7. Emerging Technologies and Interdisciplinary Applications

- Automation, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, and robotics in marine systems
- Computational modelling, simulation, and experimental methods
- Integration of renewable energy and sustainability-driven engineering solutions

8. Regional and Local Content Focus

- Research reflecting African operational environments and maritime conditions
- Locally generated data and context-specific case studies
- Adapted engineering solutions for shipbuilding, ports, offshore, ocean, and inland water transport

AJOMENA encourages interdisciplinary research linking marine engineering with ocean engineering, mechanical engineering, materials science, environmental science, and digital technologies. Studies addressing decarbonisation, climate resilience, and innovation in ship and offshore system design are particularly welcomed.

Types of Articles Accepted

The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* publishes peer-reviewed scholarly articles that contribute to the advancement of marine engineering, naval architecture, and related maritime disciplines. The journal accepts the following types of manuscripts:

Article Type	Marine & Offshore Focus	Core Sections
Original Research Articles	Marine, offshore, and naval engineering research	Abstract; Introduction; Methods; Results; Discussion; Conclusions; References
Review Articles	State-of-the-art marine and offshore topics	Abstract; Introduction; Review Method; Analysis; Future Directions; Conclusions, and References
Technical Papers	Applied marine and offshore engineering solutions	Abstract; Introduction; Technical Approach; Evaluation; Conclusions; References Conclusions, and
Case Studies	Real-world maritime and offshore applications	Abstract; Introduction; Case Description; Outcomes; Lessons Learned; References
Short Communications	Emerging or preliminary marine findings	Abstract; Brief Introduction; Key Results; Conclusions; References
Methodological Articles	Marine research tools and techniques	Abstract; Introduction; Method Development; Validation; Conclusions; References
Perspective & State-of-the-Art Articles	Forward-looking and conceptual insights	Abstract, Introduction, Critical analysis, Outlook, Conclusions, and References

All submissions must be original, unpublished, and not under consideration by any other journal. Manuscripts are evaluated through a peer-review process to ensure scientific quality, relevance, and compliance with ethical publishing standards.

Editorial Policies

The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* is committed to maintaining the highest standards of scholarly publishing, editorial independence, and research integrity in accordance with international best practices and the principles promoted by the Web of Science, COPE, and related indexing bodies.

Editorial Independence and Governance

The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* maintains full editorial independence. All editorial decisions are made by the Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board based solely on scholarly merit, originality, and relevance to the journal's scope. The publisher has no influence over editorial decisions or peer-review outcomes. Editorial

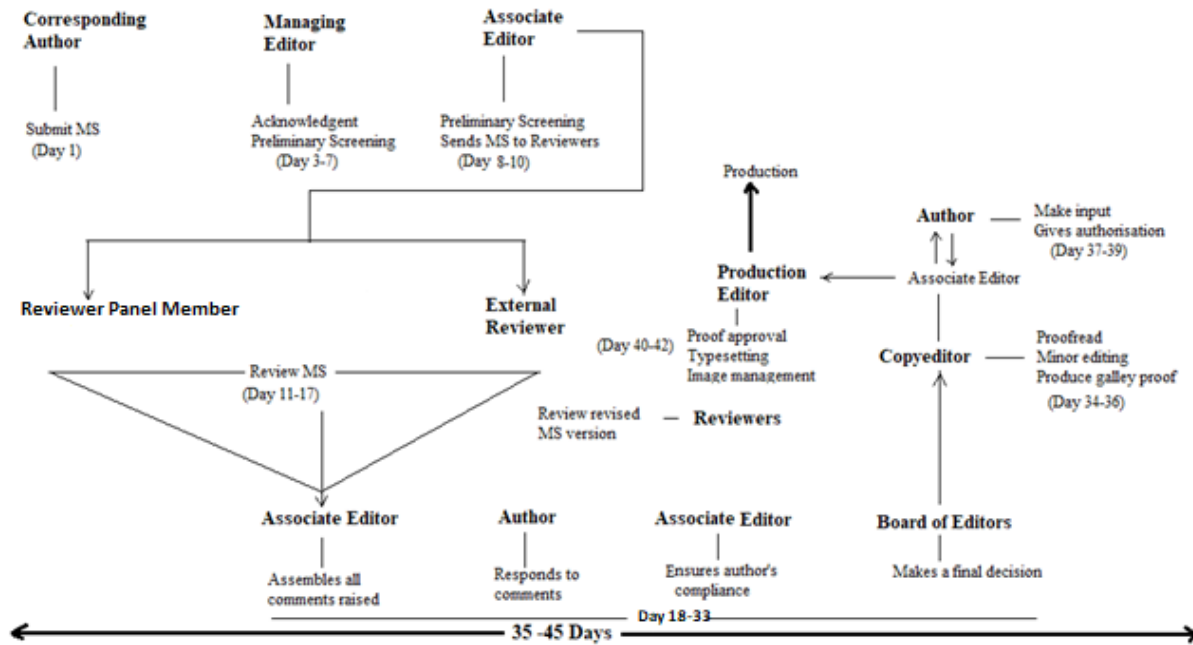
roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and any conflicts of interest are transparently disclosed and managed to ensure integrity and objectivity in the editorial process.

Peer-Review Process

The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* operates a rigorous **double-blind peer-review process** to ensure the scientific quality, originality, and integrity of all published articles. All submitted manuscripts undergo an initial editorial assessment to verify alignment with the journal’s scope, originality requirements, ethical standards, and basic quality criteria. Manuscripts that meet these requirements are assigned to an editor with appropriate subject expertise and are evaluated by a **minimum of two independent external reviewers**.

Reviewers assess manuscripts based on academic merit, methodological soundness, clarity of presentation, and contribution to the fields of marine engineering and naval architecture. Authors may be required to revise their manuscripts in response to reviewer feedback. Final decisions on acceptance, revision, or rejection are made by the Editor-in-Chief or designated editors based on reviewers’ recommendations and editorial judgment.

AJOMENA is committed to an efficient and transparent review process. The initial editorial screening is typically completed within 1–2 weeks, and the full peer-review process is normally concluded within 6–8 weeks, depending on reviewer availability and the extent of required revisions.



The peer-review process is conducted confidentially and objectively. Editors and reviewers are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest, and appropriate measures are taken to ensure fairness, transparency, and integrity throughout the review procedure. The peer-review process is summarized below:

Authorship and Contribution

The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* limits authorship to individuals who have made substantial intellectual contributions to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the research. All authors must approve the final manuscript and agree to its submission. The corresponding author is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of authorship information and for communication with the journal. Changes to authorship after submission require the written consent of all authors and editorial approval. Honorary, guest, or ghost authorship is not permitted.

Contributor Roles (CRediT Taxonomy)

To ensure transparency, authors are required to specify their individual contributions using the CRediT (Contributor Roles Taxonomy). Contributions may include, but are not limited to: conceptualisation, methodology, software, validation, formal analysis, investigation, resources, data curation, writing original draft, writing review and editing, visualisation, supervision, project administration, and funding acquisition. All declared contributions must accurately reflect each author's role and are subject to editorial review.

Conflicts of Interest

Authors, reviewers, and editors of the *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* are required to disclose any financial, institutional, or personal relationships that could influence the research or its evaluation. All manuscripts must include a conflict-of-interest statement at submission, either declaring relevant relationships or confirming that none exist. Reviewers and editors with potential conflicts must recuse themselves from handling the manuscript. Transparent disclosure ensures the integrity and credibility of the scholarly record.

A conflict of interest arises when an individual's personal, financial, or professional affiliations could inappropriately influence, or appear to influence, their judgment, objectivity, or integrity.

Types of Competing Interests:

- **Financial:** Funding, employment, stock ownership, paid consultancy, patent applications.
- **Non-financial:** Personal relationships, academic rivalry, political or religious beliefs, institutional affiliations.

Disclosure Requirements:

- **Authors:** Must include a statement under "Competing Interests" in the manuscript. If none exist: "The authors declare no competing interests."

- **Reviewers:** Must decline review assignments if conflicts exist.
- **Editors:** Must recuse themselves from handling manuscripts with potential conflicts.

Research Ethics and Integrity

The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* is committed to upholding the highest standards of research ethics and integrity in engineering and maritime sciences. All manuscripts must present **original work** that has not been published previously and is not under consideration elsewhere. Authors are responsible for the accuracy, reliability, and reproducibility of all data, calculations, simulations, and experimental results reported.

For studies involving human participants, animals, or sensitive environmental systems, authors must provide evidence of ethical approval from the relevant institutional review board or ethics committee. Research must comply with applicable national and international regulations, standards, and engineering codes of practice.

AJOMENA does not tolerate plagiarism, data fabrication, falsification, or duplicate publication. All submissions undergo screening for originality, and the journal reserves the right to investigate any suspected research misconduct following COPE and ICMJE guidelines.

Authors are expected to provide sufficient methodological and technical detail to enable reproducibility of experiments, simulations, and engineering analyses. Potential conflicts of interest, including financial, institutional, or personal relationships, must be fully disclosed according to the journal's conflict-of-interest policy.

By enforcing these standards, AJOMENA ensures the **integrity, credibility, and reliability of engineering research** in marine engineering, naval architecture, and related maritime disciplines.

Corrections, Retractions, and Expressions of Concern

The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* maintains the integrity of the scholarly record by issuing corrections, retractions, or expressions of concern as needed.

- **Corrections:** Authors must report minor errors within **two weeks**. Editors aim to publish corrections within **four weeks**.
- **Retractions:** For serious errors, misconduct, or ethical violations, authors must cooperate within **two to four weeks**, and editors target issuing retractions within **six to eight weeks** of the investigation.
- **Expressions of Concern:** When issues require further investigation, authors should respond within **two weeks**, and editors will publish an expression of concern within **four weeks**.

All notices are permanently linked to the original article. Authors and editors share responsibility for transparency and accuracy, ensuring trust in published research.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Fairness

The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* promotes diversity and inclusion in all editorial and publication processes. Manuscripts are assessed solely on scholarly merit, originality, and relevance. Editors and reviewers are selected without bias, and authors are evaluated fairly regardless of nationality, gender, ethnicity, career stage, or institutional affiliation. The journal also strives to make published content accessible and clear to a broad audience, supporting transparency and equitable dissemination of research.

Data Availability and Reproducibility

Authors submitting to the *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* are encouraged to make the data, models, and materials underlying their findings publicly available whenever possible. A **Data Availability Statement** must indicate where and how supporting data can be accessed, or provide a justification if data cannot be shared. Authors should provide sufficient methodological and technical detail to allow replication of experiments, simulations, or analyses. Editors and reviewers may request access to data during peer review to ensure reproducibility and verification of results.

Access and Archiving

AJOMENA supports long-term digital preservation and accessibility of published content through appropriate archiving mechanisms. Published articles remain part of the permanent scholarly record and are citable without restriction. The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* ensures that all published articles are permanently accessible online with assigned **DOIs**. The journal participates in recognized digital archiving and preservation initiatives, such as **CLOCKSS, Portico, or equivalent**, to safeguard the scholarly record. These measures guarantee that research remains discoverable, verifiable, and permanently available to the global scientific community.

Publication Ethics

The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* upholds the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and ethical conduct in scholarly publishing. The journal adheres to the guidelines of the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)** and expects all stakeholders, including authors, editors, reviewers, and the publisher, to follow these principles.

Responsibilities of Authors

- **Originality and Integrity:** Manuscripts must be original, free from plagiarism, fabrication, or falsification. Proper citation of all sources is required.
- **Authorship:** Authorship is limited to individuals who have made substantial intellectual contributions to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the work. All contributors must be appropriately acknowledged.
- **Multiple Submissions:** Manuscripts must not be submitted simultaneously to more than one journal.
- **Conflicts of Interest:** Authors must disclose any financial or personal relationships that could influence their research.
- **Data Transparency:** Authors should provide access to data, models, or materials supporting their findings when requested, and comply with open data standards where applicable.

Responsibilities of Editors

- **Fair Evaluation:** Manuscripts are evaluated solely on academic merit, originality, quality, and relevance, without regard to race, gender, nationality, institutional affiliation, or personal beliefs.
- **Confidentiality:** Editors maintain strict confidentiality and do not disclose manuscript information beyond those directly involved in the review and publication process.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Editors must recuse themselves from handling manuscripts where potential conflicts exist.
- **Publication Decisions:** Final decisions are based on originality, scientific quality, and alignment with the journal's scope.

Responsibilities of Reviewers

- **Objectivity:** Reviews should be constructive, unbiased, and timely. Personal criticism of authors is inappropriate.
- **Confidentiality:** Manuscripts received for review are confidential and must not be shared.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Reviewers should decline assignments if conflicts exist.
- **Acknowledgment of Sources:** Reviewers are encouraged to identify relevant work not cited by the authors.

Responsibilities of the Publisher

- Ensures adherence to ethical standards and best practices throughout the publication process.
- Maintains transparency in editorial and peer-review procedures.
- Responds promptly to ethical concerns, allegations of misconduct, or disputes.

Authorship Criteria

AJOMENA follows **ICMJE and COPE guidelines** in defining authorship. To qualify, an individual must satisfy all of the following:

1. Substantial contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the study.
2. Drafting or critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content.
3. Final approval of the version to be published.
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work, ensuring accuracy and integrity.

Individuals who meet all four criteria should be listed as authors. Contributors who do not meet these criteria should be acknowledged.

Acknowledgment of Contributions

Acknowledgments may include:

- Laboratory technicians, research assistants, or administrative staff.
- Colleagues providing feedback or informal peer review.
- Assistance with data collection, analysis, or translation.
- Professional writers or editors assisting with manuscript preparation.
- Institutions providing access to research facilities or materials.
- Funding agencies or scholarship programs.

Author Order and Corresponding Author Responsibilities

- Author order should reflect relative contributions, agreed upon by all authors before submission.
- Disputes over order must be resolved at the institutional level before submission; the journal does not adjudicate disputes.
- The corresponding author is responsible for:
 - Ensuring all authors meet authorship criteria.
 - Coordinating manuscript preparation, submission, and revisions.
 - Handling correspondence during peer review and post-publication.
 - Disclosing conflicts of interest and funding sources accurately.

Changes to Authorship

- Requests to add, remove, or reorder authors after submission must include written consent from all authors and approval from the Editor-in-Chief.
- Authorship cannot be altered after final acceptance without strong justification.
- Disputes unresolved among authors are referred to the relevant institutions following COPE guidelines.

Author Contributions Statement

Authors may be required to provide a contributorship statement following the **CRedit** (**Contributor Roles Taxonomy**), including roles such as:

- Conceptualization
- Methodology
- Data curation
- Formal analysis
- Writing – original draft
- Writing – review & editing
- Supervision
- Funding acquisition

Ethical Compliance

- Ghost authorship (unacknowledged contributors) and honorary/guest authorship (listing individuals without significant contributions) are strictly prohibited.
- Misrepresentation of authorship may result in rejection, retraction, or referral to institutions.

Funding Transparency

Authors must clearly declare all sources of funding, including grant numbers and the funder's role in study design, data collection, analysis, or publication. Undisclosed funding or competing interests may result in rejection, retraction, or notification to authors' institutions.

All authors share collective responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of the published work. In cases of disputes or misconduct, AJOMENA follows **COPE guidelines**.

Reporting Standards and Data Transparency

AJOMENA promotes **transparency, reproducibility, and integrity** in marine engineering and naval architecture research. Authors must follow recognised reporting standards appropriate to their study type, including but not limited to:

- **CONSORT**: controlled experiments
- **PRISMA**: systematic reviews and meta-analyses
- **STROBE**: observational or field studies
- **ARRIVE**: experimental or model-based studies
- **Other discipline-specific standards** for CFD, hydrodynamics, or structural testing

Where applicable, completed checklists should be submitted and referenced in the manuscript.

Data Availability and FAIR Principles

Authors are encouraged to make research data openly accessible following **FAIR principles**:

- **Findable:** Assign persistent identifiers (DOI) and provide rich metadata
- **Accessible:** Use standard retrieval protocols; define access conditions
- **Interoperable:** Use standard formats and vocabularies for integration
- **Reusable:** Provide clear provenance, documentation, and licensing

A **Data Availability Statement** must be included, specifying:

- Whether data are publicly available
- Repository or database name
- Access restrictions or conditions
- Persistent identifier (DOI, accession number)

If data cannot be shared due to ethical, safety, or proprietary reasons, a clear justification must be provided. Trusted repositories include **Zenodo, Figshare, Dryad, or discipline-specific archives**.

Materials, Code, and Protocols

- **Materials & Equipment:** Sufficient detail must be provided to allow replication; access restrictions must be explained.
- **Software & Code:** Custom scripts or simulation code should be shared via platforms like **GitHub, GitLab, or Bitbucket**, with links in the manuscript.
- **Protocols:** Detailed methods should be described in the manuscript or deposited in open-access repositories with DOIs provided.
- **Supplementary Files:** Additional datasets, figures, tables, or videos may be submitted and published online.

Data Integrity Principles

Authors are expected to follow **ALCOA-plus principles**, ensuring data are Attributable, Legible, Contemporaneous, Original, Accurate, Consistent, Enduring, and Available for verification.

Image and Figure Integrity

Images (e.g., schematics, CFD outputs, experimental setups, or marine survey photographs) must accurately reflect the original data. Acceptable adjustments include uniform brightness, contrast, colour balance, cropping, and labelling.

Unacceptable practices include selective enhancement, splicing without disclosure, duplication, or misleading manipulation. Original files may be requested during peer review. Breaches may result in rejection, retraction, or institutional notification.

Preprints and Conference Proceedings

AJOMENA accepts manuscripts previously posted as **preprints** or presented at **conferences**, provided:

- The preprint or conference work is disclosed and cited with DOI or reference
- The submitted manuscript contains substantial new content
- Work has not been published in a peer-reviewed journal

Preprints and conference papers may be cited if clearly labelled.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use

- Authors must disclose any AI use in writing, data analysis, simulations, or visualisation.
- AI cannot be listed as an author; human authors retain full responsibility.
- Ethical, unbiased, and reproducible use of AI is required.
- Editors may use AI for plagiarism detection or reviewer matching, but not to replace peer review.

Press, Embargo, and Media Policy

- Accepted articles are under **embargo** until publication.
- Authors and journalists must respect embargoes; violations may delay publication.
- Press releases must reflect the peer-reviewed version.
- After embargo, authors may share work on social media with proper attribution.

Confidentiality

All manuscript content, reviewer reports, and editorial correspondence are **confidential**. Reviewers and editors must not use unpublished information for personal gain. Breaches may lead to removal from databases, rejection/retraction, or institutional notification.

Open Access and Archiving

AJOMENA publishes all content **openly online**, in accordance with the **Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI)**. Authors retain copyright; content is licensed under **CC BY-NC 4.0**, permitting sharing and adaptation for non-commercial purposes with attribution.

Archiving and Preservation:

- Digital preservation through **LOCKSS, CLOCKSS, PKP PN**, and institutional repositories
- DOIs assigned for all articles; metadata harvestable via **OAI-PMH**
- Authors may self-archive immediately after publication (Green OA)

Indexing and Discoverability

AJOMENA seeks inclusion in:

- **DOAJ, Scopus, Web of Science (ESCI), Crossref, EBSCOhost**, and relevant discipline-specific indexes

Revenue and Article Processing Charges (APCs)

- APCs support editorial, peer review, digital preservation, and open access
- Fees are applied only after acceptance; no submission charges
- Waivers or discounts are available for authors from low- and middle-income countries or in cases of financial hardship
- Revenue from advertising, sponsorships, or optional services does not influence editorial decisions

Copyright and Licensing

- Authors retain copyright; AJOMENA holds right of first publication
- Works are licensed under **CC BY-NC 4.0**
- Commercial use requires prior written permission

Author Guidelines

The *African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)* publishes high-quality, peer-reviewed research in marine engineering, naval architecture, offshore structures, ship design, ocean renewable energy, and related maritime technologies. Authors are invited to submit manuscripts that align with the journal's aims and scope and adhere to the standards of ethical, transparent, and reproducible research.

1. Submission Overview

- All submissions are **assessed by the editorial team** for suitability to the journal's scope.
- Manuscripts deemed suitable are sent for **double-blind peer review** before acceptance or rejection.
- Editors may **desk-reject** submissions that do not meet minimum standards of quality, originality, or clarity.

Author Responsibilities Before Submission:

- Obtain permission for any third-party material (images, datasets, tables, figures).
- Ensure all listed authors **consent to authorship**.
- Obtain appropriate **ethical approval** for research involving humans, animals, or sensitive data in accordance with national regulations.

- Ensure the manuscript is clearly structured, with a **concise title** and a **standalone abstract**, to facilitate review.

2. Aims and Scope

AJOMENA is an international, peer-reviewed journal committed to advancing knowledge in **marine engineering and naval architecture**. The journal publishes innovative, quantitative, and applied research that addresses technical and societal challenges in maritime systems.

The scope of the journal includes, but is not limited to:

1. Ship and Offshore Structures

- Ship design, construction, and production techniques
- Offshore platforms, subsea structures, and structural integrity
- Maintenance, durability, and reliability of marine structures

2. Hydrodynamics, Ocean, and Offshore Engineering

- Hydrodynamics, seakeeping, and stability analysis
- Ocean engineering applications, including wave, current, and coastal dynamics
- Offshore engineering systems and marine environment interaction

3. Marine Propulsion and Power Systems

- Marine propulsion, power generation, and energy efficiency
- Fuel optimisation, emission reduction, and energy management

4. Marine Materials and Corrosion

- Marine-grade materials and composites
- Corrosion prevention, protection, and monitoring
- Material testing and performance evaluation under local conditions

5. Ports, Harbours, and Coastal Infrastructure

- Port and harbour design, construction, and maintenance
- Coastal engineering, shoreline protection, and sediment management
- Inland water transport and navigation systems

6. Maritime Safety and Operational Reliability

- Safety engineering, risk assessment, and accident analysis
- Operational optimisation for ships, offshore platforms, and ocean systems
- Emergency response, resilience, and reliability studies

7. Emerging Technologies and Interdisciplinary Applications

- Automation, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, and robotics in marine systems
- Computational modelling, simulation, and experimental methods
- Integration of renewable energy and sustainability-driven engineering solutions

8. Regional and Local Content Focus

- Research reflecting African operational environments and maritime conditions
- Locally generated data and context-specific case studies
- Adapted engineering solutions for shipbuilding, ports, offshore, ocean, and inland water transport

AJOMENA publishes on a **continuous basis** and is indexed in **Google Scholar and subsequently in WoS, Scopus, DOAJ**, and other recognised databases.

3. Manuscript Types

Article Type	Marine & Offshore Focus	Core Sections
Original Research Articles	Marine, offshore, and naval engineering research	Abstract; Introduction; Methods; Results; Discussion; Conclusions; References
Review Articles	State-of-the-art marine and offshore topics	Abstract; Introduction; Review Method; Analysis; Future Directions; Conclusions, and References
Technical Papers	Applied marine and offshore engineering solutions	Abstract; Introduction; Technical Approach; Evaluation; Conclusions; References Conclusions, and
Case Studies	Real-world maritime and offshore applications	Abstract; Introduction; Case Description; Outcomes; Lessons Learned; References
Short Communications	Emerging or preliminary marine findings	Abstract; Brief Introduction; Key Results; Conclusions; References
Methodological Articles	Marine research tools and techniques	Abstract; Introduction; Method Development; Validation; Conclusions; References
Perspective & State-of-the-Art Articles	Forward-looking and conceptual insights	Abstract, Introduction, Critical analysis, Outlook, Conclusions, and References

4. Manuscript Preparation

4.1 General Formatting

- **Language:** British English

- **Font:** Times New Roman, 10 pt
- **Spacing:** Single-spaced
- **Margins:** 1 inch (2.54 cm)
- **File Format:** Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)

4.2 Structure of Original Research Articles

1. **Title Page:** Concise title, author names, affiliations, ORCID iDs, corresponding author's email
2. **Abstract:** 200–300 words summarising background, methods, results, and conclusions
3. **Keywords:** 4–6 terms for indexing
4. **Introduction**
5. **Materials and Methods / Experimental Procedures**
6. **Results**
7. **Discussion**
8. **Conclusions**
9. **Acknowledgements**
10. **Funding Statement**
11. **Conflict of Interest Statement**
12. **Data Availability Statement**
13. **References** (Harvard style or journal-specific formatting)

4.3 Figures, Tables, and Supplementary Material

- Submit **high-resolution images** (≥ 300 dpi).
- Number and title all **figures and tables** with descriptive captions.
- Supplementary materials (datasets, CAD models, code, videos) should be clearly referenced in the main text.
- All visual data must comply with **image integrity standards**.

5. Authorship and Contributions

- Authorship must reflect **substantial intellectual contribution**.
- The **corresponding author** is responsible for ensuring all authors meet criteria.
- Authors should provide a **CRedit (Contributor Roles Taxonomy) statement**, detailing contributions in areas such as: Conceptualisation, Methodology, Data curation, Formal analysis, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Funding acquisition.

6. Ethics and Compliance

- Research must adhere to recognized **ethical standards**.
- Authors must **disclose conflicts of interest** and funding sources.
- Data, code, and materials should be made available **where legally and ethically feasible**.
- Use of **AI tools** in writing, analysis, or visualisation must be disclosed.

7. Peer Review Process

- AJOMENA uses **double-blind peer review**.
- Each manuscript is evaluated by **at least two independent experts**.
- Authors receive **constructive feedback** and may be asked to revise.
- Typical review timeline: **initial decision within 6–8 weeks**.

8. Submission Process

- Submit via the **AJOMENA online portal**.
- Include a **cover letter** specifying manuscript type, significance, and confirmation of originality.
- Ensure all authors have **approved submission** and that ethical approvals are in place.

9. Open Access and Licensing

- Articles are published **open access** under **CC BY-NC 4.0**.
- Authors retain copyright and may **self-archive** in institutional repositories.

10. Article Processing Charges (APCs)

- APCs are applied **after acceptance** to support editorial, peer review, and digital preservation.
- Waivers or discounts are available for authors from **low- and middle-income countries** or in cases of financial hardship.
- APCs **do not influence editorial decisions**.

11. Contact Information

Before you begin

Before submitting your manuscript to the **African Journal of Offshore, Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture (AJOMENA)**, please review the following overview to ensure a smooth and efficient submission process:

1. Manuscript Preparation

Ensure your manuscript aligns with **AJOMENA's scope** and formatting requirements. Include all essential sections (e.g., abstract, keywords, references) and any supporting materials such as figures, tables, or supplementary datasets.

2. Initial Submission

Submit your manuscript via the **online submission system** or designated editorial email. Include a **cover letter** summarising the significance of your work and confirming that the manuscript is original and not under consideration elsewhere.

3. Editorial Screening

The editorial team performs an **initial check** for scope, compliance with formatting guidelines, and plagiarism. Manuscripts that do not meet these baseline requirements may be returned without peer review.

4. Peer Review

Manuscripts passing the initial screening enter **double-blind peer review**. Each submission is evaluated by at least **two independent experts**, who assess originality, methodology, clarity, and contribution to the field of marine engineering and naval architecture.

5. Decision and Revisions

Based on reviewer feedback, the editorial board will issue a decision: **accept, minor/major revision, or reject**. Authors are expected to **resubmit revised manuscripts within the specified timeframe** when revisions are requested.

6. Final Acceptance and Proofing

Accepted manuscripts proceed to production. Authors receive **page proofs for review and approval** before publication.

7. Article Processing Charges (APCs)

An **APC is payable upon acceptance** to support editorial, production, and open-access dissemination. Details of the fee and payment process are available on the AJOMENA website.

8. Publication

Articles are published in the **next available issue** and indexed in relevant databases, including Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science (where applicable).

Authors are encouraged to consult the full [Submission Guidelines] prior to submission to ensure compliance with all journal requirements.

Submission Checklist

Authors are required to ensure that their manuscript complies with all items below before submission. Submissions that do not meet these requirements may be returned to the authors.

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