

General information on Special Issues in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*

A Special Issue in *Frontiers* offers readers a “one-stop shop” – an in-depth, comprehensive overview of a single topic in ecology and environmental science. Bringing together authors from various backgrounds and specialties, each Special Issue is crafted not only to provide a clear, accessible, and interesting overview of a subject but also to appeal to readers across disciplines and educational/career levels. No other ecology publication today produces entire issues focused exclusively on one theme, in the way that *Frontiers* has done regularly, almost every year since 2005. Online versions of past Special Issues can be accessed via the Wiley Online Library (<https://bit.ly/3fxKoiL>).

All Special Issues in *Frontiers* are Gold Open Access, allowing anyone to read and download information immediately after online publication. Upon request, extra print copies can be provided to funders and other interested organizations, to distribute as appropriate.

How to submit a Special Issue for consideration

One to three Guest Editors submit a written proposal for a Special Issue to *Frontiers'* Editor in Chief, who then consults with selected members of *Frontiers'* Editorial Board to approve the proposal. The proposal should include:

- a synopsis of and brief title for the proposed issue,
- a list of working titles and brief summaries of what each proposed paper will cover,
- the names and email addresses of the Guest Editors,
- the names and email addresses of the suggested lead authors for each paper, and
- the papers' suggested order of appearance.

Papers are written specifically for a Special Issue. Important: Because a minimum of seven to eight papers must appear in a Special Issue, nine to ten papers are typically submitted (assuming one or two may be rejected during the peer-review process). The submitted papers must work together to build an overall understanding of the subject, with minimal overlap. If possible, there should also be a strong international component, with one or two papers focusing on countries other than the US, to help provide a broad overview. In addition, there will be one introductory paper, which sets the scene for the readers (many of whom may be unfamiliar with the topic) by explaining the history of the science, our current knowledge, and how the Special Issue will add to that knowledge. The introductory paper may also briefly describe each paper in the issue, how they fit together, and how each will contribute to the “big picture” that the Special Issue is offering.

Authors should be from a range of backgrounds (e.g. academia, federal/state government, NGOs, private sector) and specialties. Guest Editors can also be lead authors or co-authors on submitted papers. Authors often meet at least once as a group (in person at a workshop or virtually) to discuss and agree on the content of each paper, to minimize repetition and overlap, and to plan what the issue will cover. Please follow *Frontiers'* Instructions for Authors with respect to abstracts, nutshells, “writing style”, figures/tables, references, and supporting information (<https://bit.ly/2DLV0BD>). Once the papers have been written, the Guest Editors will “pre-review” each paper prior to formal submission, and ask the authors for any necessary revisions to help ensure that the manuscripts are already at a high standard *before* they enter formal peer review via *Frontiers'* version of ScholarOne (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/frontecolenviron>).

Typical content

In addition to the 7 or 8 papers described above, each Special Issue may also include:

1. An editorial written by either the Guest Editor(s) or a well-known, highly respected ecologist connected with the Special Issue's theme.
2. Frontiers Prospects (classified job ads section)
3. Frontiers EcoPics (ongoing series of brief natural-history-oriented pieces)
4. Life Lines (back-page column). Given adequate advance warning, author Adrian Burton can sometimes provide a Life Lines column that is in keeping with the Special Issue's theme, although that is his choice and is not always possible.

Estimated time from initial proposal to publication: about 2 to 2.5 years.