Position Description

Editor-in-Chief – *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*

This position is a unique opportunity to provide the vision and direction for one of the premiere ecological journals in the world, *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* (aka *Frontiers*), produced by the Ecological Society of America (ESA). ESA seeks a dynamic individual interested in innovations in publishing to lead *Frontiers*. The Editor-in-Chief (EiC) must possess the energy and vision to sustain and further develop the journal as a leading voice in applied ecology and environmental science for its international readership. In 2022, according to Clarivate Analytics’ Journal Citation Reports, *Frontiers* ranked 4/174 and 11/279 among ecology and environmental science journals, respectively. *Frontiers*’ current impact factor is an outstanding 13.789.

*Frontiers* publishes boundary-spanning papers that demonstrate the importance of ecology and environmental science to scientific inquiry, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, natural resource management, public policy, and other areas of ecological and environmental problem solving. Thus, this position has the opportunity to provide broad and significant impact to the discipline of ecology as it intersects with other fields.

**Position Summary**

The EiC is responsible for setting the journal’s scientific scope and vision. In addition to shepherding scientific content through peer review, the EiC will recruit editorials and commentaries, and may develop additional materials and features in accordance with the journal’s aims and scope. The EiC is expected to possess a core expertise in current issues in applied ecology and/or environmental science. The EiC will operate with the highest integrity and professional values, upholding ESA’s [Code of Ethics](#) while leading an international editorial board of subject-matter specialists, overseeing a rigorous peer review process, and serving as the public face of the journal. The EiC will be supported by *Frontiers* staff to ensure a smooth continuous flow of manuscripts. The EiC will also be expected to develop and foster partnerships with the other ESA journal EiCs as well as represent *Frontiers* externally to professionals in academia, government agencies, and private organizations involved in ecological, environmental, and related applied sciences.

**Essential Job Functions**

The EiC must be committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of the publishing process, and as reflected in ESA’s [Diversity Statement](#), as they:

- Maintain the journal’s highly selective standards for manuscript review and acceptance.
• Chair the *Frontiers* international editorial board, and add or replace members as necessary.
• Attract potential submissions from a diverse community of authors.
• In concert with *Frontiers* staff, correspond with authors, editorial board members, and reviewers, as needed.
• Work with *Frontiers* staff to manage the creation, updating, and development of content, including but not limited to:
  o Recruiting authors to write editorials and commentaries and working with those authors to ensure that content aligns with *Frontiers’* aims and scope, style requirements, and other guidelines.
  o Responding to pre-submission inquiries and other journal-related queries.
• Collaborate with the Director of Publishing and other ESA journal EiCs (collectively, the “Editorial Leadership Team”) to strengthen the mission, commercial viability, and longevity of the ESA journal portfolio.
• Represent *Frontiers* at scientific and educational conferences and foster its exposure and stature within the scientific community.
• With the support of *Frontiers* staff, Director of Publishing, Executive Director, and others as appropriate, address ethical issues that arise occasionally, such as those relating to copyright, plagiarism, and conflict of interest.
• Work with the *Frontiers* managing editor to occasionally develop new initiatives to keep *Frontiers* at the forefront of the ecology and environmental science community.
• Perform other duties and responsibilities as assigned, including, but not limited to:
  o Participate in Editorial Leadership Team meetings and communications.
  o Attend the ESA annual meeting.
  o Attend other ESA Publishing-related meetings, as needed.
  o Know, understand, and follow ESA policies and procedures.

ESA expects that the EiC will perform all editorial and professional obligations of the position in a manner consistent with the highest standards of professionalism, competence, integrity, and ethics, and not engage in any conduct that may bring harm to or disrepute upon the journal or the Society.

This is a part-time position where responsibilities and tasks will occur throughout the year, and the workflow will depend on the ebb and flow of submissions and the peer review process and be influenced by the needs of ESA, *Frontiers’* staff, and interactions with authors. The position is supported by *Frontiers’* managing editor and assistant editor, who oversee *Frontiers’* day-to-day activities to ensure smooth editorial and production workflow. The position is also supported by ESA’s Director of Publishing.
Qualifications and Required Skills

The new EiC of *Frontiers* will:

- Be an active researcher or practitioner, and a recognized expert in the ecological and/or environmental sciences with a broad knowledge of the field reflecting high standards in research and publication.
- Be conversant on issues and approaches around avoiding bias in evaluation and editorial processes.
- Possess significant editorial experience with scholarly journals and an understanding of the online editorial process.
- Be fair and trustworthy while possessing the ability to make difficult decisions.
- Be interested in the evolving business models and relevant technological advances in scholarly publishing.
- Have a willingness to engage strategies to enhance journal readership and author interest.
- Demonstrate strong leadership, organizational and communication skills, with a focus on service and positive author and reviewer experiences.
- Demonstrate commitment to diversity, inclusion and belonging in leadership roles.
- Demonstrated understanding of ESA’s portfolio of journals in the context of ecology and environmental science, and the role of *Frontiers* in this portfolio.
- Demonstrated ability to work well with others with a diversity of backgrounds, expertise, and nationalities.
- Preferred: Experience working with complex and large editorial board structures.

Term and Compensation

The EiC will serve an initial 3-year term, assuming full responsibility as EiC of *Frontiers* as agreed upon with ESA. At the discretion of the ESA Governing Board, the EiC’s contract may be renewed for two additional three-year terms (i.e., maximum service is three 3-year terms, or nine years). The incoming EiC will work with *Frontiers*’ staff, current EiC, and ESA’s Director of Publishing in an onboarding process to learn about the journal, its processes and workflows. The ESA offers part-time compensation for this position in the form of an annual stipend paid out in quarterly installments.

How to Apply

If you are interested in applying, please submit the following materials to the *Frontiers* search committee:

- A current curriculum vitae.
- A letter of interest that briefly summarizes your:
  - qualifications, including relevant experience in journal or scholarly publishing, reviewing, and leadership on editorial boards.
- interest and commitment to leading an ESA journal, and the time commitment available for this position.

- A vision statement of your goals for *Frontiers*, describing:
  
  - Your philosophy and strategy for managing journal content, given the highly competitive and diverse applied ecology and environmental science publishing landscape, including relevant business models and adaptation to rapidly changing technology.
  
  - How (if selected) you would contribute to and support the principles of diversity and inclusion espoused in ESA’s [diversity statement](#).

Note: *Frontiers’ aims and scope* are broad, complex, and multi-disciplinary, as reflected in its content and editorial board.

Learn more about *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* [here](#) and [here](#).

Application materials should be sent to frontiers2023search@esa.org no later than July 7, 2023. The ESA will acknowledge receipt of applications. Review of applications will begin in the second week of July and will continue until the position is filled.

We welcome applicants that represent diversity in geography, nationality, culture, race and ethnicity, gender identity and expression, and areas of expertise. All applications will be strictly confidential.

Please send questions about the position to frontiers2023search@esa.org. An ESA representative will respond to your inquiries. No phone calls and no recruiters, please.