

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## African Journal of **Range & Forage Science**

The Grassland Society of Southern Africa (GSSA) is seeking an Editor-in-Chief for its official journal, the African Journal of Range and Forage Science.

The African Journal of Range & Forage Science is the leading rangeland and pastoral journal in Africa. The journal is dedicated to publishing quality original material that advances rangeland ecology and pasture management. The journal aims to publish research of international importance from any region, but as an African journal, we are particularly interested in research from Africa and relevant to the continent. The journal promotes both science and its application and authors are encouraged to explicitly identify the practical implications of their work.

The journal is included in the Science Citation Index with an Impact Factor of 1.293 and a 5-year Impact Factor of 1.623. The journal has also been included on Scopus (CiteScore = 3.5). The journal metrics are on an upward trajectory with record metrics every year.

Typically the journal receives over 170 manuscripts annually of which 10 to 15% are submitted for special issues, about 5% as invited book reviews, and the remainder are unsolicited. Four issues are published every year, with an occasional supplementary issue.

NISC and Taylor & Francis co-publish the journal, providing logistics, marketing, and an online publishing platform. The journal uses the industry-leading manuscript submission and review system, ScholarOne. The Editor-in-Chief is further supported by the Journal Administrator, a team of Associate Editors, and an Editorial Advisory Board.



## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. OVERSEEING SUBMISSION AND REVIEW OF MANUSCRIPTS. THIS IS THE CORE BUSINESS OF THE EDITOR AND CONSISTS OF:

- receiving submitted manuscripts via the Journal Administrator, assessing the manuscript for suitability, informing the corresponding author of the preliminary decision, and passing the manuscript on to an Associate Editor for review
- receiving referees' reports together with the Associate Editor recommendation and communicating the decision to the authors
- assuring the quality and consistency of the editing process (e.g. ensuring Associate Editors use appropriate referees, reports are of satisfactory quality, recommendations on manuscripts are well-founded, and the turn-around time is reasonable) and addressing any shortcomings with the editorial team
- The Editor will encourage special issues or special sections of issues devoted to papers around themes of current interest, for example when there have been special sessions at the GSSA Congress that have a suitable range of quality papers. The Editor will then closely liaise with the Guest Editors, providing guidance and ensuring timely submission of manuscripts so that special issues are published on schedule.

2. MANAGING THE EDITORIAL TEAM:

- The Editor is responsible for recruiting and replacing Associate Editors as required.
- The Editor must provide guidelines to the Associate Editors (in consultation with the Editorial Advisory Board) regarding procedures and quality issues in the review process and monitors their implementation.
- The Editor takes active steps to solicit submission of manuscripts.

3. LIAISING WITH THE PUBLISHERS:

- The Editor is responsible for handing over completed manuscripts and editorial information to the publishers by the deadline for every issue, and for checking that all material is acceptable and correct before printing.

4. REPORTING:

- The Editor shall provide a written report on relevant journal statistics (such as number of submissions and their fate) and his/her activities as per the terms of reference at each GSSA Council meeting (held quarterly). A comprehensive annual report will also be presented at the AGM of the Society.

## REQUIREMENTS

- A PhD in a relevant field (e.g., grassland, rangeland or pasture science).
- At least 5-years of research or working experience in the related areas of the journal.
- No less than 10 publications in the topics covered by the journal.
- An applicant with working experience relevant to the field covered by the journal, is preferred.

## HOW TO APPLY

Please send the below materials to the journal administrator, Mrs Freyni du Toit, by 17h00 SAST Sunday 24 April 2022 at [journal@grassland.org.za](mailto:journal@grassland.org.za).

1. A letter of interest;
2. Curriculum vitae;
3. An editorial statement of 500 words or less summarising your views on how, under your editorial leadership, the African Journal of Range and Forage Science would continue to advance Rangeland ecology and pasture management in Africa.

The Editor-in-Chief of the African Journal of Range and Forage Science receives a modest honorarium.