

Editorial policy and publishing ethics

The Journal aims to provide Russian and foreign researchers and specialists with the opportunity to acquaint the scientific community with the results of studying the transition zones of the Earth and related problems of geophysics, geology, geodynamics and other sciences.

Topical sections correspond to the scope of the Journal and the nomenclature of scientific specialties for which academic degrees are awarded (see [the List of Scientific Specialties](#)).

Periodicity: 4 issues per year.

Sections of the Journal

Topical sections correspond to the specialties by which the "Geosystems of Transition Zones" Journal is included in the HAC List.

Topical sections contain **overviews, original scientific papers, discussions** (including discussions letters to the Editorial Office), **short reports**, and **works of young scientists**.

Reports on scientific events

Peer-reviews, reports on scientific publications

Personalities

Open access policy. Copyright and licensing

The Journal adheres to the principle of open access providing to the published research materials, which are funded by the state.

In accordance with the provisions of the Law of the Russian Federation "On Copyright and Related Rights" No. 5351-1 dated by 09.07.1993 (as amended by Federal Laws of 19.07.1995 No. 110-FZ, of 20.07.2004 No. 72-FZ) , the Editorial Board have to receive an application, signed by all authors of the manuscript, on transferring to the publisher of the "Geosystems of Transition Zones" Journal, the FSBSI Institute of Marine Geology and Geophysics FEB RAS the rights to editorial preparation, publication of the material and distribution of the full text of the published work in any way, including its placement on the website of the Journal and the eLIBRARY web-platform (SEL) (https://elibrary.ru/title_about.asp?id=64191) for indexing in the Russian Index of Science Citation (RISC) (see [the Author's statement](#)).

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Authors have the right to post their work on the Internet (for example, in an institute repository or on a personal website) before and during consideration of its publication.

The editors reserve the right to subject articles to literary revision, if considered necessary.

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The editors of the Journal do not consider for publication the manuscripts, which have been already published somewhere as an article or as a part of other work.

To avoid inadvertent infringements of copyright, any appearance of plagiarism, or accidental bias in the use of third-party material, authors should exercise care in citing and quoting other publications. This precaution applies also to the use of the author's own previous writing.

Authors are responsible for clearly identifying the source of the ideas, text, images, etc.; for obtaining permission to reuse material when necessary, including lengthy quotations; and for complying with copyright laws.

In order to comply with copyright and ethical standards, the manuscripts submitted to editors of the Journal are [screened for uniqueness using the Antiplagiarism system](#) If the editorial board has grounds for a more detailed screening, additional tools are used to search for borrowing.

Plagiarism in all forms (from copying or paraphrasing essential parts of third-party work without attribution to presenting the results of someone else's research as your own), as well as self-plagiarism (duplicating essential parts of one's own published works without appropriate links) are unethical and unacceptable. Authors have to refer to the prior publication and indicate the difference between the new work and the previous one. They are also obliged to reveal its connection with results and conclusions presented in the previous work. Word-to-word duplication of one's own work and paraphrasing them are not acceptable and can be used only as the basis for new conclusions. Any

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When plagiarism or self-plagiarism becomes evident post-publication, the article may be retracted.

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Disclosure of competing interests

The presence of competing interests cannot be the reason for manuscript rejection, but participants in the manuscript preparation for publication (author, editor, peer-reviewer, and publisher) should inform the Editorial Office about the potential reasons for conflict of interests. In their manuscripts, authors should disclose financial or other existing competing interests that might be construed as affecting the presented results and/or the conclusions.

The authors have the right to indicate in the cover letter the names of those specialists who, in their opinion, should not send the manuscript for review due to a potential conflict of interest. This information is strictly confidential and is taken into account by the editors when organizing the review.

Any peer-reviewer or editor who has competing interests must decline to review this manuscript.

The editors consider any received signal about a violation of publication ethics and draw up a reasoned decision based on interaction with all participants in the preparation and publication of this work either on the signal fallacy, or on the measures on prompt elimination of this violation, up to retraction of the published article.

Policy of the Editorial Board of the “Geosystems of Transition Zones” Journal is based on the requirements of modern law copyright, on the traditional ethical principles of Russian and international scientific periodicals formulated by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), and is built on the Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors, in terms of *the Sarajevo Declaration on Integrity and Visibility of Scholarly Publications* and *the Declaration "Ethical Principles of Scientific Publications"* adopted by the Association of Scientific Editors and Publishers (ANRI).

The editorial policy of the Journal is determined by the Editorial Board headed by the Editor-in-Chief. The Editorial Board includes leading scientists whose researches correspond to the main directions of the Journal topics.

The requirements of publication ethics compliance when the Journal preparing and publishing concern all participants in the editorial and publishing process – the founder and publisher, authors, editors, reviewers, and members of the editorial board.

Editorial Board and editors should:

- ensure confidentiality of materials received from the authors; not to use unpublished data obtained from submitted manuscripts for personal research or for other purposes without the authors' explicit written permission;
- timely and objectively consider the materials submitted to the Journal based only on their academic merit and novelty, regardless of the personality of the author, his citizenship, racial, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, religious and political beliefs in taking a decision on admission to the publication;
- not admit to publication materials with established signs of plagiarism, copyright and ethics violations;
- not publish materials that do not correspond to the scope of the Journal, do not contain new results and new information in comparison with previously published works;
- comply with the policy of disclosure of conflict of interest on the part of all participants in the publication process;
- ensure an honest and efficient peer-review process;
- respond adequately (right up to retraction of the article) in case of ethical claims concerning submitted or published materials;
- publish the corrections to this article as soon as possible or retract the work, if significant errors are found in the published manuscript.

Peer-reviewer, agreeing to review the materials, should:

- decline to review if there is an obvious conflict of interest affecting the perception and interpretation of the manuscript materials;
- inform the editor about the violations of ethical norms of scientific work in the reviewed material;
- give an objective and reasoned assessment of the manuscript submitted for review without discrimination on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs, ethnic or geographical origin of the authors. Personal criticism of the author is inappropriate;
- protect the confidentiality of any materials under review; not discuss them with colleagues; not use the information obtained from the article for personal and commercial advantage;
- notify the editors of the discovered substantial similarity or coincidence between the manuscript and another published work in the area of scientific competence of the reviewer; draw the author attention to significant published works that correspond to the topic and are not included in the bibliography of the manuscript.

The reviewer is guided by [the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity](#) (2010) in his work.

The author, submitting the materials to the editors, should:

- be fully responsible for the accuracy of the facts stated in published materials, accurate citation of scientific works used in the research and article writing, the presence of correct links, and the appropriate permissions to use borrowed elements (illustrations, text, or primary data).
- not to concurrently submit the materials to different publications. Publishing a manuscript largely devoted to the same study in more than one journal is unethical behavior and unacceptable;
- not to allow copying or paraphrasing of essential parts of other people's works (without giving a reference), as well as republishing of their own articles, book chapters, scientific conference reports (including those posted in electronic publications), sections from published scientific reports, etc. Doctoral and candidate theses presented in databases or scientific archives are not considered prior publications. If this manuscript uses elements from another publication, the authors should indicate the significant difference between the works and identify a connection with the research results presented in the previous work;
- disclose any potential conflict of interest that, in the author's opinion, may directly or indirectly influence the publication process;
- indicate all people who have made a significant contribution to obtaining the research results presented in the submitted materials as coauthors; the help of other persons in the article preparing should be acknowledged in the "Acknowledgements" section;
- indicate in the manuscript all sources of financial support for the conducted research, on the results of which the submitted materials are based;
- clearly and unambiguously describe the methodology for performing the work (if we are talking about an experiment) so that its results can be confirmed by other researchers;
- accurately indicate information about the used literature sources in the reference list;
- cooperate with the editor and publisher, shortening, expanding and correcting the article, if necessary, based on the comments and recommendations of reviewers and editors;
- provide open access to additional data related to the manuscript upon request of the editor; in any case, keep this data for 3-5 years after publication;
- take part in the process of reviewing of the articles by other authors in this Journal;
- if significant errors or inaccuracies are found in published materials, promptly notify the editors about this to make a joint resolution on the form of presentation of objective information. If the editors or the publisher learn from a third party that a published work contains significant errors, the author, if he does not provide evidence to the journal editors of the correctness of the paper, is obliged to promptly correct or retract the paper.

The corresponding author notifies his co-authors about the changes and proposals from the editors of the Journal and does not make any decision on the article alone, without the written consent of all authors.

The editors may accept for consideration an unpublished work posted on the website, or previously published as a whole or partially in another language, provided that the author informs the editors that such material exists. Concealment of this fact entails automatic rejection of the manuscript.

Founder and Publisher

Adheres to the principles and procedures to facilitate the performing of professional and ethical responsibilities by the authors, Editorial Board, editors, and reviewers of the "Geosystems of Transition Zones" Journal in accordance with these requirements.

Provides material and technical support and equipment for publishing activities, arranges the provision of services in the field of advertising, legal assistance, etc.; bears all costs related to publishing and distributing the Journal.

Promotes advanced training of editorial staff and helps the Editorial Office to interact with other organizations to ensure the functioning and development of the Journal.

Manuscripts reviewing (for more details see the Journal webpage)

Manuscripts in electronic form are submitted throughout the year by e-mail: gtrz-journal@mail.ru. Text is presented in the MS Word software of any version (see the **Manuscripts' formatting and publication guidelines**).

All scientific materials submitted to be published in the Journal must be peer-reviewed by two peer-reviewers at least (see the **Procedure for peer-reviewing and publishing of manuscripts**). Articles publication in a form of conference reports does not exclude their peer-reviewing in accordance with the established procedure.

The Journal adheres to the policy of **double-blind peer-review**, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. A review indicating its author is submitted to the Higher Attestation Commission or to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation upon a relevant request.

Peer-reviewers are members of the Editorial Board and invited well-known experts in this field, who have publications on the topic of the reviewed article and necessary citation level. Editor-in-chief, deputy editor-in-chief, and executive secretary select a particular peer-reviewer to examine an article.

The choice of a reviewer is the prerogative of the Editorial Board, but the authors can indicate in the cover letter 4–6 potential reviewers of their work (at least from two different regions or different countries; experts in this field; lack of cooperation, including co-authorship over the past three years; non-members of the Editorial Board of the Journal).

The editors have the right to reasonably refuse author publication before peer-reviewing, based on primary screening: if the material does not fit the scope of the Journal, does not contain the subject of scientific research, does not meet ethical requirements, duplicates published material, is not logically structured, is presented in indigestible language, etc.

In case of dissent with the reviewer opinion, the author can contact the Editorial Office with a reasonable request to send his article to another reviewer. In this case, the editorial board of the Journal either sends the article for additional reviewing, or presents the author with a reasonable refusal of publication on the basis of the recommendations of the reviewers.

Works received at least two positive reviews are published.

Positive review is not a sufficient reason for the publication of a manuscript.

The final decision on the publication of an article is made by the Editorial Board, and in conflict situations - by the Editor-in-Chief (or his Deputy), who has the right to reject the article on serious grounds (conflict of interest, insufficient level of research novelty, etc.) or publish the article as a basis for discussion.

The decision to publish the article is made within two–three months after the manuscript submitting.

The decision to accept the article for editing or a reasoned refusal is sent the author no later than three months after the manuscript submitted to the editor.

A manuscript not recommended by the decision of the Editorial Board for publication is not accepted for reconsideration.

The order of publication is determined by the date the article was accepted for publication. The Editorial Board can make a decision on the priority publication of an article that has received good reviews. Term of publication is from 3 to 10 months.

The Editorial Board approves the content of each issue of the Journal and the Editor-in-Chief or one of the deputies, if he is absent, signs it for printing.

The final version of the article is agreed with all its authors.

Author's originals of published articles, reviews and editorial opinions remain deposited in the Editorial Office for five years.

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Author's originals of published articles, reviews and editorial opinions remain deposited in the Editorial Office for 5 years.

Editorial actions in case of errors, plagiarism, fabrication or falsification of data in a published article

When an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his or her own published work, it is the author's obligation to promptly notify the editors and cooperate with them to correct or retract the paper. If a third-party claims that a published work contains a significant error, the author is required to correct or withdraw the paper or provide evidence of the correctness of the article.

If errors affecting an article perception, but not distorting the stated research results, are found in the text, they can be corrected 1) by replacing the pdf-file of the article and indicating the error in the article file and on the article page on the journal website; 2) by publishing a separate amendment notice named Correction, indicating the imprint of an article published with errors.

If substantial errors are found in the text of the article (errors distorting the results of the study, illegal borrowing of a significant degree, duplication of the article in multiple journals, author (authors) misconduct associated with falsification and / or fabrication of data, incorrect composition of the authors, other violations of publication ethics) the Editorial Board has the right to retract an already published article in accordance with the Declaration of the Association of Scientific Editors and Publishers (ASEP) and the COPE Retraction Guidelines and decline further cooperation with the authors whose behavior does not comply with the ethical standards established in the Journal.

The retraction of an article can be initiated by an editor, peer-reviewer, author, organization, or private person by written request to the Editorial Office of the Journal.

Editorial Board make a decision to retract the article. The decision of the Editorial Board with the justification of the reasons for the retraction (in case of plagiarism, indicating the sources of borrowing) and the date of retraction is sent the author (lead author in case of co-authorship) and the initiator of the retraction. The authors may disagree with the position of the editors, but this does not negate the editors' right to conduct the procedure.

The retracted article is not removed from the Journal issue, but is labelled as "RETRACTED", the same mark is placed in the issue table of contents. The article page on the site contains information about the reason for the article retraction.

The fact of retraction is reported to the Council on the Ethics of Scientific Publications of ASEP, to the scientific

database in which the journal is indexed, and to the organization to which the author is affiliated.

A list of retracted articles indicating the reasons for retraction is posted on the Journal's website. The editor can draw the attention of editors of similar journals to the facts of violation of ethical standards by this author.

All documents related to a particular case of ethics misconduct (signal letters, explanations of authors, reviewers, editors, decisions of the Editorial Board, etc.) remain deposited in the Editorial Office for five years.

Publication terms

Publication in the Journal is free of charge for the authors. The editorial staff does not charge any fee for preparation, publication, and printing of materials. Published books advertising and announcements of upcoming scientific events are also posted free of charge.

The publication of materials in the journal does not entail any royalties to the authors of these materials.

After the publication of the journal and the distribution of obligatory copies, the editors send pdf-files with their own articles to the authors.

Preprint and postprint policy

Preprint articles, which have been previously posted by the authors on personal or public sites that do not belong to other publishers, are eligible for consideration.

Authors have the right to post their work on the Internet (for example, on website <https://preprints.ru/>, etc., in an institute repository or on a personal website) before and during the process of its review by the journal (with an indication of its preprint status), since this may lead to a productive discussion and more links to the work.

When citing the articles published in the "Geosystems of Transition Zones" Journal, the editorial staff asks to refer to the DOI of the article or the article page on the official website of the Journal.

In accordance with the SHERPA RoMEO database:

Preprint is a draft of a manuscript or a scientific article, which can be submitted for examination by the editorial staff of the journal. Preprint is a scientific work with which the author wants to acquaint interested persons and specialists for discussion and / or clarification of the obtained results, published before the article publication in the journal.

Postprint is a scientific work after the expert peer-review procedure, which is an officially published scientific material. The postprint includes both the author's manuscript of a scientific publication and the editorial work of the publishing house – formatting and preparing the manuscript for printing.

Archiving

The preservation of the archive of the Journal is ensured by the annual transfer to a machine-readable medium of all issues published over the past year in the form of archived files.

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- Russian Book Chamber,
- Scientific Electronic Library eLIBRARY.RU
- on the Publisher's server.