

# Communicating Climate Science to the Public: A Vulgarisation Peer-Reviewed Open Access Scientific Journal?

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## Introduction

Current public information channels have led to marked distortions in the public perception of climate scientists, the scientific consensus, and climate science knowledge<sup>1,2</sup>. Direct channels between scientists and the general public are missing.

Study suggests that the environmental concern in Swiss public remained constant since 1990 despite growing prominence in media and political agendas<sup>3</sup>. Classical journalistic information is not sufficient to engage the public.

To help correct this situation, I propose to develop a new open access scientific journal whose goal is the mediation of climate science knowledge to the general public. This journal will be accompanied by a match-up service between non-scientist volunteers and climate projects designed by scientists

for non-scientists. This additional service will allow an engagement of non-scientists into climate sciences and will provide a new resource to scientists.

The journal shall be managed by a yet-to-be-created international non-for-profit association gathering individuals (scientists and non-scientists) with an interest in climate sciences and its mediation within the general public. The association's goals will be:

- The mediation of climate science knowledge to the general public;
- The engagement of scientists into this mediation;
- The engagement of non-scientists into a climate science volunteering.

Comments, critics, collaborations, and partnerships are very welcome!

## Key features of the proposed journal

### **A forum connecting non-scientists and scientists directly:**

The journal will be run by an association gathering scientists and non-scientists with an interest in climate sciences; this will minimize potential biases (no intermediates, costs paid by membership).

### **A tool for engaging the public into climate sciences:**

A climate science volunteering service will allow non-scientists to get engaged into climate science by making personal contributions.

### **Making climate sciences accessible to non-scientists:**

The journal will make all final articles accessible to the general public; non-scientists in review process will ensure readability by a wide public; volunteers will be used for translation of articles in different languages.

### **A journal in line with the public's interest:**

Any member can submit a proposal for a new manuscript. Scientists can group to write the proposed manuscript.

### **An easy channel for public impact offered to scientists**

The public impact of each article will be monitored using different measures; a yearly prize will be awarded to the authors of the most read article

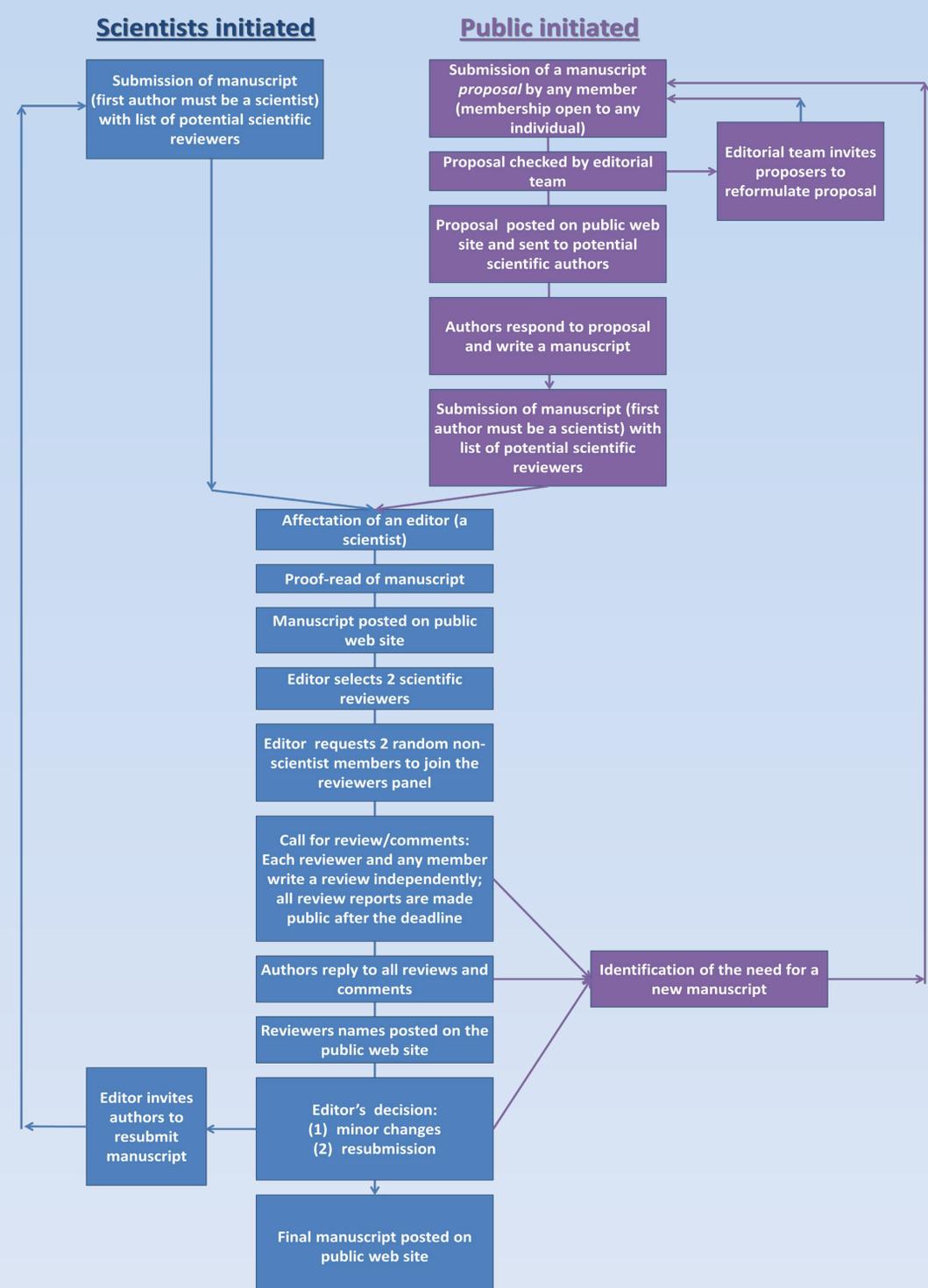
### **A mirror of climate science as a growing, ever-correcting body of knowledge:**

The journal will offer a growing number of articles, forever accessible; all manuscripts will be regularly updated

### **Examples of non-scientist members:**

Students, teachers, scholars from other fields, journalists, and any interested individual!

## Proposed editorial scheme



## References:

1. Climate Change in the American Mind. Americans' Global Warming Beliefs and Attitudes in November 2011, Anthony Leiserowitz et al., Yale University and George Mason University, New Haven, CT: Yale Project on Climate Change Communication, retrieved July 2012.
2. Science in a Democratic Society, Philip Kitcher, Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books 2011.
3. Two decades of measuring environmental concern, Axel Franzen and Dominikus Vogl, University of Bern, poster presented at Swiss Climate Change Conference, Bern, April 16, 2013.