

Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of *EcoHealth!* This journal has emerged from a research movement consisting of several converging tributaries, drawing on the leadership of many people, organizations, and renowned scientists. It is our privilege to serve this movement as it continues its exciting course.

The idea for this publication began to emerge in June 2002, when we met during the Washington, DC conference, “Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People,” to discuss future collaboration between three highly overlapping areas of research activity. Two of these areas were represented by existing journals, *Ecosystem Health* and *Global Change and Human Health*. A third, the emerging field of “conservation medicine” was not yet represented by a scholarly journal, though planning was underway. A merger of these three initiatives was imminent.

The initial dialogue evolved into a collaborative planning process that has come to represent not only our complementary vision and goals for a successful publication, but also the transdisciplinary spirit required to develop our common interests. This process led to the proposal for a new journal to build on the strengths and legacies of the predecessor journals and to address a growing unmet need of fields such as conservation medicine, medical geology and ecosystem health, and the research and practice at the nexus of health and sustainability. *Ecology* and *health* combined were found to most concisely capture the integrative themes the journal would represent. *Ecosystem health*, the profoundly important concept with ramifications for all aspects of planetary survival and human well-being, similarly represents our common interests. The title *EcoHealth* satisfies both and more, while concisely capturing the collective vision behind

our new journal: discovery and problem-solving at the interface of ecology and human health.

By the time this first issue goes to press, the original group who initially met in June 2002 will have evolved into the EcoHealth Journal Consortium, a network of affiliated institutions and individuals dedicated to fostering the transdisciplinary challenge that *EcoHealth* represents. The collective efforts and planning behind *EcoHealth* also provided the basis for our partnership with our publisher, Springer-Verlag New York, LLC, and a strong foundation from which to invite an illustrious Editorial Board to work with us on this new venture.

Together we are looking forward to producing a successful, innovative, and high-impact journal that represents you—the dynamic, international audience of scholars, practitioners, and decision makers who will determine the future contribution and relevance of *EcoHealth*.

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The five member parties of the EcoHealth Journal Consortium (affiliations 1–5 above) were formalized as signatories to the Consortium's "Memorandum of Understanding and By-Laws" in December 2003. More information is available at <http://www.echohealth.net>

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