Correspondence

Promise of private finance is blocking peatland restoration

Communities in Scotland's Western Isles are under pressure to restore degraded peatlands in the drive to achieve net-zero carbon emissions. Government intervention is needed to ensure that these communities are not exploited by private investors seeking carbon offsets.

The private sector is charged with covering the deficit in the public purse that is required to restore nature for carbon capture (see go.nature.com/49o15jw). However, multiple challenges beset positive environmental outcomes from private investments (see, for example, K. Kedward *et al. Nature Ecol. Evol.* **7**, 1339–1342; 2023).

Many of Scotland's peatlands have been managed by rural communities over generations for grazing and peat cutting. Since 2012, government officers have worked closely to engage local people in publicly funded restoration programmes. Now brokers have entered the picture, promising revenue from peatland restoration in the form of carbon credits that will be sold to offset corporate emissions.

Our investigations indicate that uncertainties associated with private finance — who benefits and who is responsible for long-term ecosystem maintenance — are major obstacles to collective decision-making and commitment to restoration. An injection of private finance, without recognizing the stewards of our landscapes, cannot speed up the restoration of nature.

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Use space technology to help tackle public-health events

COP28 — the upcoming United Nations summit in Dubai on climate change — is introducing a 'Health Day' to investigate connections between climate and public-health crises. Space technology will feature prominently in tackling both.

Space technology has assisted public health by monitoring and managing disease outbreaks and pandemics (see, for example, F. M. Asrar *et al. Nature Med.* **27**, 1489–1490; 2021). Multiple satellites keep track of contributing factors such as climate change, environmental damage and pollutants (F. M. Asrar *et al. Lancet Planet. Health* **2**, E469–470; 2018).

Remote sensing by satellites can also follow the impact of climate-change interventions, help to identify greenhouse-gas emitters, and reduce exposure to the effects of climate change and air pollution. There are 17 space agencies and satellite operators overseeing an international charter that provides free satellite images to assist humanitarian relief efforts after disasters such as floods and wildfires.

Ultimately, outer-space assets will provide innovative ways to monitor, mitigate and adapt to climate change. Health professionals and public-health officials should be alert to their potential benefits (see F. M. Asrar *et al. Can. Fam. Physician* **68**, 797–798, 800; 2022).

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Universities should denounce terrorism and antisemitism

On 7 October, Hamas terrorists unleashed a vicious attack on Israel's civilians, brutally killing 1,400 individuals, abusing women and kidnapping more than 200 people, including children and elderly people. Writing on behalf of the Genetics Society of Israel (with input from Yaara Oren at Tel Aviv University in Israel), we call on academic institutes worldwide to protect Jewish and Israeli trainees and faculty members from antisemitic actions — just as other minority ethnic groups are protected — and to renounce all pro-terrorism statements, as they would for racist views. We ask them to join calls to free kidnapped Israeli citizens.

Unfortunately, the response from scientific institutions outside Israel has been feeble, with clear condemnation a rarity. A few have even offered academic credits to students who participate in pro-Palestinian rallies, although several such offers have been rescinded (see, for example, go.nature.com/3u3a2rm). These protests often wrongly portray Hamas as a liberation organization. Academic institutions should not condone the distortion of facts in responses to the Hamas–Israeli conflict.

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Authors reply to questionable publicity

An opinion essay written by one of us (P.T.B.) in *The Free Press* (see go.nature.com/3szinod), and other related external commentary, has been interpreted as calling into question the results of our study 'Climate warming increases extreme daily wildfire growth risk in California' (P. T. Brown *et al. Nature* **621**, 760–766; 2023). We would like to clarify that the essay was not intended to question any specific finding or conclusion reported in that study, but constitutes P.T.B's subjective opinion on its broader utility. As co-authors of the study, none of the rest of us was aware of this perspective, nor do we share it.

We assure readers that the research approach and methods used in this study were absolutely appropriate to address its stated purpose, which was to quantify the influence of anthropogenic warming on the risk of extreme daily wildfire growth in California.

Furthermore, the paper's conclusions follow directly from the described analysis, which is extensively and accurately documented in the main text and in the supplementary material.

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