

Correspondence

Stop prevaricating, build in resilience

Investment in resilience is too frequently made only during or after a crisis – with the COVID-19 pandemic being one of the latest examples. A different approach is becoming ever more urgent if we are to secure the resilience of our society and natural resources (see, for example, *Nature* 581, 119; 2020).

This approach must go beyond siloed strategies to include all five components of the system in which we live. These ‘five capitals’ are natural, human, social, built and financial, along with their interdependencies and feedbacks. They form a framework for sustainability, which will enable long-term planning for global resilience.

Such an approach would involve a shift from classifying the probability and consequence of known threats to addressing multiple hazards and recoverability. Emergent and interconnected issues, including adaptive capacity in organizations and critical infrastructure, must be actively managed. And we need to find ways to get company boards, governments and society in general to invest in resilience – even when there is not yet an economic argument for doing so (see also G. K. Marinov *Nature* 581, 262; 2020).

Long-term planning and investment can be guided by short-term emergency responses, effective adaptation to repeated shocks and proper preparation for unexpected events (H. Weise *et al. Oikos* 129, 445–456; 2020).

Jim A. Harris* Cranfield University, Bedford, UK.

j.a.harris@cranfield.ac.uk

*On behalf of 6 correspondents: see go.nature.com/2cawjijt



Geoscientist's snap of *Nature* covers

As a long-time subscriber to *Nature*, with full access to the journal online as well as in print, I resolved to renounce my lingering allegiance to printed editions. While I was tipping old issues into the recycling bin, scores of vivid covers spanning decades of scientific advances caught my imagination. I decided to repurpose them into a striking collage (pictured).

As a geoscientist, I instinctively put the Earth at the centre, with the word ‘nature’ spiralling out of it in a potent incantation. Three eyes – of a baby squid, a human and a hurricane – indicate sentient life. Zooming in on the globe’s surface reveals words that mark Earth’s kaleidoscope of attributes (ice, clouds, bacteria, evolution and so

on). The halo of radial and concentric colour gradients represents the interacting environmental gradients – rarely sharp boundaries – that define regions and ecosystems around the planet. Macroscopic and microscopic images are juxtaposed in the mosaic to reflect the complexity of natural systems at every scale.

And Charles Darwin floats, god-like, in the upper right, in an image that is itself a mosaic. It is taken from the cover of *Nature*’s 19 November 2009 issue (see go.nature.com/31vjv5t), which marked the 150th anniversary of *On the Origin of Species*.

Marcia Bjornerud Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin, USA.
marcia.bjornerud@lawrence.edu

Legacy of a young Black professor

The story of our colleague, 35-year-old biology professor Lynika Strozier, is a sobering reminder of the hurdles faced by Black American scientists (*Nature* 582, 147; 2020). Her death from COVID-19 complications during a global pandemic and nationwide reckoning of systemic racism has led to an outpouring of support.

Strozier was raised by her grandmother and was diagnosed with a learning disorder at an early age. She went on to earn two master’s degrees simultaneously, from Chicago’s Loyola University and University of Illinois. As she told the *Chicago Tribune* in 2012, “You get knocked down so many times, you learn to pick yourself up.”

Strozier overcame these challenges through hard work, perseverance and strong relationships. She said that her research into biodiversity had endowed her with a previously unimaginable confidence. These experiences made her a keen mentor of other young researchers.

Her family started a GoFundMe campaign (<https://gf.me/u/x737pr>) to help offset Strozier’s medical and funeral costs. Because this quickly surpassed expectations, they have now created a scholarship fund in her name.

Sushma Reddy University of Minnesota, St Paul, Minnesota, USA.

Ylanda Wilhite, Matt Von Konrat Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, USA.
ywilhite@fieldmuseum.org