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Regional outlook

This cover captures a hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus*) in South Africa. Although maintaining biodiversity is core to sustainable development, policymakers frequently lack context-specific information on the state of biodiversity in a region to help guide their decisions. In this week's issue, [Hayley Clements](#) and colleagues present an approach that could alleviate this situation by reforming a comprehensive survey of how intact sub-Saharan Africa's biodiversity is. They —

show all

Cover image: Richard Du Toit/Nature Picture Library.

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World View

World View

30 Dec 2025

Put pressure on publishers to follow best practice – external regulation is the answer

Journals that work hard to meet the needs of both authors and readers should be acknowledged publicly – encouraging others to follow suit.

Jennifer A. Byrne

World View

18 Dec 2025

US-Africa bilateral health deals won't help against diseases that ignore borders

The COVID-19 pandemic, Ebola, mpox and AIDS all show the importance of strengthening Africa-wide surveillance and response systems that protect everyone.

Paul Adepogu

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News in Focus

News

18 Dec 2025

Science in 2026: the events to watch for in the coming year

The rise of AI scientists, missions to explore the moons of Earth and Mars and a massive ocean-floor drill are among the developments set to shape research in 2026.

Mayank Naddaf

News

12 Dec 2025

China leads research in 90% of crucial technologies – a dramatic shift this century

The United States tops the remaining areas in an assessment of 74 technologies.

Xiaoying You

News

17 Dec 2025

How common is Alzheimer's? Blood-test study holds surprises

A survey of Alzheimer's disease prevalence in Norway confirms earlier estimates and might show how education level relates to risk.

Asher Mullard

News

11 Dec 2025

Quantum computing 'KPIs' could distinguish true breakthroughs from spurious claims

Researchers are devising ways to make new machines face off, without the hype.

Elizabeth Gibney

News

11 Dec 2025

Giant 3D map shows almost every building in the world

A database of 2.75 billion buildings could help scientists to monitor urban planning, climate change, disaster risks and even corruption.

Mohana Basu

Features

News Feature

30 Dec 2025

Science in 2050: the future breakthroughs that will shape our world – and beyond

Nuclear fusion. People on Mars. Artificial general intelligence. These are just some of the advances that could come by the mid-century mark.

David Adam

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Books & Arts

Book Review

31 Dec 2025

Some of your cells are not genetically yours – what can they tell us about life and death?

A tiny population of cells that are passed across the placenta between mother and baby challenge basic tenets of human immunology.

Sing Sing Way

Arts Review

30 Dec 2025

Mummies give up their secrets – but not their mystery

A challenging exhibition asks why we are so fascinated with the preserved bodies of our ancestors, and how we should treat them.

Laura Spinney

Book Review

05 Dec 2025

There are a few of my favourite sounds: Books in brief

Andrew Robinson reviews five of the best science picks.

Andrew Robinson

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Opinion

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29 Dec 2025

Why academics should do more consulting – and how to make it work

Encouraging academics to act as advisors to outside organizations is the most effective way to serve society's needs.

Louise J. Slater, Weston B. Struve ... Regent Lee

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Work

News

29 Dec 2025

Nine books to help shape your science career in 2026

If you've hatched a New Year plan to move abroad, improve your presentations or chase happiness as a 20-something researcher, you'll find advice aplenty in these books.

Annie Gulland

Where I Work

29 Dec 2025

Probing pollutants: how I use penguin faeces to measure contaminants in Antarctica

Buse Tugba Zaman is developing a way to track tiny amounts of contaminants — and fulfilled a dream to visit Earth's most remote continent.

Rachael Pells

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Research

News & Views

31 Dec 2025

How to reduce the environmental impact of wearable health-care devices

A model quantifies the environmental footprint of wearable health-care electronics and identifies strategies to reduce their environmental toll.

Callie Babbitt

News & Views

12 Dec 2025

Revised estimates of CO₂ sources and sinks improve global carbon accounting

Updated estimates of the worldwide sources and sinks of anthropogenic carbon dioxide provide a firmer basis for monitoring climate action.

Galen A. McKinley

News & Views

03 Dec 2025

Primate embryo model leaps across developmental boundaries

A stem-cell-based monkey embryo model that self-organizes into a comprehensive body plan could lead the way to more-sophisticated models of early human development.

Xiangyu Kong & Thorold W. Thureissen

News & Views

29 Oct 2025

What changing energy flows reveal about Africa's ecosystems

At the giants of the animal kingdom divide in numbers, a new way to assess ecosystem function sheds light on animals' changing ecological contributions.

Wendy Foden

News & Views

19 Nov 2025

Circular DNA has a ticket to ride chromosomes

How circular extrachromosomal DNA is inherited during cell division is a puzzle. Key sequences enabling this DNA to journey with chromosomes have been identified.

Noah A. Dusseau & Eunhee Yi

Collection: [Cancer at Nature Portfolio](#)

Articles

29 Oct 2025

A fault-tolerant neutral-atom architecture for universal quantum computation

Reconfigurable arrays of up to 448 neutral atoms are used to implement and combine the key elements of a universal, fault-tolerant quantum processing architecture and experimentally explore their underlying working mechanisms.

Dolev Bluvstein, Alexandra A. Geim ... Mikhail D. Lukin

Articles

31 Dec 2025

A chiral fermionic valve driven by quantum geometry

Femionic currents of opposing chirality can be spatially filtered without the need for a magnetic field using the quantum geometry of topological bands in single-crystal PdSi.

Arvind Dixit, Pranava K. Sivakumar ... Stuart S. Parkin

Articles

11 Nov 2025

High-performance tandem perovskite LEDs through interlayer photon recycling

Stacking perovskite LEDs in tandem structures to combine the luminescence of individual units yielded efficiencies greater than the summed efficiencies of equivalent single-unit devices, suggested to result from photon recycling between individual light-emitting elements.

Yike Wei, Wei Zhu ... Jianping Wang

Articles

10 Nov 2025

Flexible perovskite/silicon tandem solar cells with 33.6% efficiency

A certified flexible perovskite/crystalline silicon tandem solar cell has efficiencies rivalling its rigid counterparts and demonstrates exceptional mechanical robustness and stability.

Shibo Wang, Wenhao Liu ... Xianglong Zhang

Articles

10 Nov 2025

Flexible perovskite/silicon tandem solar cell with a dual-buffer layer

A flexible perovskite/silicon tandem solar cell making use of a dual-buffer layer comprising a compact SnO_x layer deposited first followed by a loose SnO_x layer is described, showing efficiencies rivalling rigid counterparts and good durability.

Zheng Fang, Lei Ding ... Xiaohong Zhang

Articles

31 Dec 2025

Quantifying the global eco-footprint of wearable healthcare electronics

An integrated systems engineering framework based on life-cycle inventories is used to quantify the global eco-footprint of wearable healthcare electronics and identify effective mitigation strategies.

Chuanyang Yang, Bingzhe Wang ... Bozhi Tian

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Why academics should do more consulting – and how to make it work

Encouraging academics to act as advisors to outside organizations is the most effective way to serve society's needs.

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29 Dec 2025

Probing pollutants: how I use p