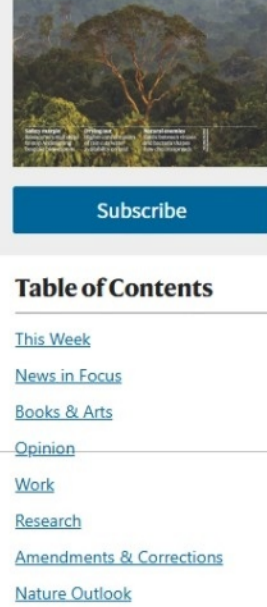


Volume 653 Issue 8114, 14 May 2026

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Good neighbours?

The cover captures a tropical forest in Danum Valley, Malaysia, veiled in mist. Species diversity declines as you move from the equator towards the poles. This decline is particularly marked in trees, although the exact mechanism behind it is the source of some debate. At the heart of the discussion is the fact that neighbouring trees of the same species compete with each other more strongly than do trees of different species. But the question remains of whether this effect is largely the result of pairwise interactions between two neighbouring trees, or if it also involves higher-order interactions in which other trees influence the pairwise interactions. In this week's issue, — show all

Cover image: Jonathan A. Myers

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Happy 100th birthday David Attenborough! Nature salutes YOU

The science communicator has raised awareness of the natural world and its myriad interconnections on which humans depend.

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Science can take the lead in making better measures of economic growth

The United Nations wants scientists to help design indicators of progress that go beyond GDP. Researchers should seize the chance and be aware of past failures.

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To move beyond GDP, don't ignore ecological economics

Sustainable development will only be achieved when governments base decisions on human skills and natural resources, not just gross domestic product.

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Trust is no longer enough: secure data sharing requires international collaboration across institutions and governments.

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Undruggable cancer proteins meet their match

Collaboration with a deadly form of pancreatic cancer survive longer on a drug that blocks the activity of a family of mutant proteins.

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Tumbleweed-style robot can roll across the prairie — no wind needed

Woven from light-responsive strips, a tiny sphere tumbles across a variety of surfaces when illuminated.

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A wispy wrapper for a chilly, Pluto-like world

Atmospheres are puffed by how a relatively small object manages to hang onto its atmosphere.

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Tracked pangolins can be traced to their source by DNA — even to a specific forest

A method reveals that some local wild-meat markets share the same supply chains as global smuggling operations.

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Blood cancer goes into remission for some people treated with a type of T cell that acts like stem cells.

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Prestigious European science funder scraps stricter rules after researcher backlash

The tougher policy was introduced to curb submissions, but it drew criticism.

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Why cows burp methane: new organelle discovered in gut microorganisms

The hydrogen-producing structure could inspire strategies to lower the amount of methane produced by grazing animals.

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'Heartbreaking': Iranian scientists on losing labs, libraries and liberty

Bombing of Iran's civilian infrastructure has damaged universities and destroyed thousands of books and manuscripts, amid a government-imposed Internet blackout, some of the country's researchers have told Nature.

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Beyond COP climate summit puts scientists at the centre of the action

Researchers presented ways for nations to phase out fossil fuels at an international meeting of countries ready to take action.

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Scientists to return to Fukushima — this time to study disaster recovery

A new research centre could help to reassure the public that the region is safe.

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Virologist Jay Hooper is developing a vaccine for the rare rodent virus behind an outbreak on a cruise ship.

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