LETTERS

Edited by ***Jennifer Sills***

Retraction

SCIENCE HAS RECEIVED the results of the University of California, Riverside Committee on Privilege and Tenure's investigation of the papers published in *Science* by Professor Frank Sauer and colleagues, "TAF1 activates transcription by phosphorylation of serine 33 in histone H2B" (*1*) and "Noncoding RNAs of trithorax response elements recruit *Drosophila* Ash1 to Ultrabithorax" (*2*).

For the 2004 Report (*1*), the Committee's findings can be summarized as follows: Lanes 3 and 4 in Fig. 1B were replicated from a figure in another paper (*3*). There was manipulation of gel images that constituted data falsification and fabrication in Fig. 2C; Fig. 3, B and C; Fig. 4, B and D; and panel A in fig. S5C. For the 2006 Research Article (*2*), the Committee's findings can be summarized as follows: In Fig 6C, there was replication of the same image in two panels that constitutes data falsification. There was manipulation of gel images that constituted data falsification and fabrication in Fig. 4D; Fig. 6, A and B; and fig. S5A.

The Committee concluded that the image manipulations described above constituted a significant departure from the accepted practices of Dr. Sauer's research community. Therefore, the data, results, and conclusions in the papers are clearly not reliable. *Science* is hereby retracting the papers, at the request of University of California, Riverside and Dr. Sauer. The Committee determined that Dr. Sauer was the sole individual responsible for producing the figures.

Marcia McNutt
Editor-in-Chief

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CKDu in Sri Lanka

CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE of unknown cause (CKDu), seen in Central America ("Mesoamerica's mystery killer," J. Cohen, News Focus, 11 April, p. 143), has also been prevalent in Sri Lanka since the 1990s. As in Central America, those affected are predominantly male rice farmers toiling under dry, dehydrating conditions.

A recent cross-sectional study concluded that the likely culprit is chronic exposure to low levels of Cd and As through the food chain and to pesticides, along with other predisposing factors (e.g., selenium deficiency) (*1*). An unequivocal cause-and-effect explanation has remained elusive and, as in the Americas, many contributing factors have been studied, including heavy metals, pesticides, hard water, cyanotoxins, and water fluoride content (*2*, *3*).

CKDu is a recent phenomenon, whereas rice farming has taken place since ancient times in these regions without apparent health concerns. Recent changes include climate, food habits, and social lifestyle. Perhaps we should discard the conventional search for mechanistic explanations and instead take a holistic approach focusing on the environmental changes and social lifestyle of the affected communities.

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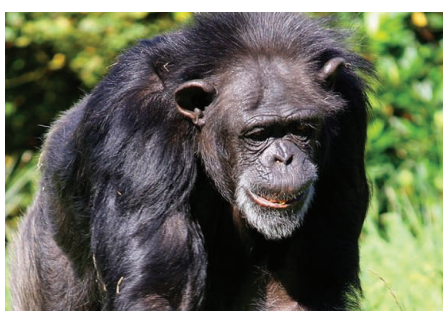

Perceived threat. Fear complicates conservation.

PHOTO: BARDROCK/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Fear beyond predators

IN THEIR PERSPECTIVE, "Tolerance for predatory wildlife" (2 May, p. 476), A. Treves and J. Bruskotter argue that when examining reasons for intolerance of and intention to kill predators, social factors (such as peer group norms and government-sanctioned predator killings) are more important than conventionally held views (such as measured or perceived threats to livelihoods). The authors use case studies on jaguars, wolves, lions, and bears to convincingly support their argument.

With increased anthropogenic disturbance, species not traditionally viewed as predatory may respond increasingly aggressively toward people. Although attacks are rare, concerns about sharing landscapes with great apes may be motivated more by fear of physical aggression than other more common causes of provocation such as threats to livelihoods (i.e., crop damage). As with carnivores, tolerance by local people toward these large-bodied mammals is affected by deep-rooted social beliefs that can influence outcomes, including retaliatory killings.

People's tolerance of wildlife can change quickly in response to shifting economic, demographic, and political conditions. To understand the potential for sustainable human-wildlife coexistence, human social change must be considered alongside changing wildlife behavior in response to human activities and across contexts (such as crop feeding, livestock depredation, and attacks on people) and species. To disentangle such complexities, conservation science must encourage collaborations between social and biological scientists.

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TECHNICAL COMMENT ABSTRACTS

Comment on "High-resolution global maps of 21st-century forest cover change"

Robert Tropek, Ondřej Sedláček, Jan Beck, Petr Keil, Zuzana Musilová, Irena Šímová, David Storch

Hansen *et al.* (Reports, 15 November 2013, p. 850) published a high-resolution global forest map with detailed information on local forest loss and gain. We show that their product does not distinguish tropical forests from plantations and even herbaceous crops, which leads to a substantial underestimate of forest loss and compromises its value for local policy decisions.

Full text at http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.1248753

Response to Comment on "High-resolution global maps of 21st-century forest cover change"

M. Hansen, P. Potapov, B. Margono, S. Stehman, S. Turubanova, A. Tyukavina

Tropek *et al.* critique the Hansen *et al.* global forest loss paper in terms of its utility and accuracy. Both criticisms suffer from a miscomprehension of the definition of forest employed as well as the requirements of product validation. Utility of the product is enhanced through its integration with forest type, carbon stock, protected area status, and other ancillary data.

Full text at http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.1248817

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