

and the ability to see the unexpected — just like scouring data for new insights. “The answer is right there,” she says. “One just needs to have the right frame of mind to see it.”

Despite the clear benefits of hobbies, however, they aren't always valued in the culture of science. “People actually hide their hobbies, or pretend they don't do anything outside of work, because they are worried about what people will think,” says Sousa. But that's starting to change. For instance, the UK Academy of Medical Sciences launched its MedSciLife campaign in 2017 to highlight researchers who cook, craft and engage in all kinds of other non-academic activities. Social media has made it easier than ever for researchers to share personal interests.

Clark says that senior scientists can serve as role models and help to boost the acceptability of pastimes by making their own hobbies part of their professional identity. “That broadcasts important cultural signals that success in science and having a life need not be incompatible,” he says. In fact, Clark argues, whereas researchers feel pressure to publish often, their legacy depends more on the quality — not the quantity — of their work. “That compels us to think about what makes us best placed to make the best contributions,” he says. “And really, that is a way of living that is focused on creativity, innovation, vibrancy — and not on just producing more.” ■

Julia Rosen is a freelance writer in Portland, Oregon.

1. Newman, D. B., Tay, L. & Diener, E. *J. Happiness Stud.* **15**, 555–578 (2014).
2. Eschleman, K. J., Madsen, J., Alarcon, G. & Barelka, A. *J. Occup. Organ. Psychol.* **87**, 579–598 (2014).
3. Sio, U. N. & Ormerod, T. C. *Psychol. Bull.* **135**, 94–120 (2009).
4. Baird, B. *et al. Psychol. Sci.* **23**, 1117–1122 (2012).
5. Prakash, R. S., Voss, M. W., Erickson, K. I. & Kramer, A. F. *Annu. Rev.* **66**, 769–797 (2014).

CORRECTIONS

The Careers Feature ‘Crunch time for data’ (*Nature* **557**, 745–747; 2018) erroneously stated that an image from Planet was unavailable owing to a security concern. In fact, the reason for its unavailability was not specified. Also, DigitalGlobe is headquartered in Westminster, Colorado, not in Boulder.

The Careers Feature ‘It takes more than a vow’ (*Nature* **558**, 149–151; 2018) erroneously stated that Dorceta Taylor is director of diversity, equity and inclusion for the whole of the University of Michigan. In fact, she is head of these affairs just for the university's School for Environment and Sustainability.

BACK STORY

Deforestation detective

*Ecologist Lahiru Wijedasa at the National University of Singapore submitted a paper in 2015 that warned of future dangerous carbon emissions from Indonesia's peatland forests. The paper was finally published this month (L. S. Wijedasa et al. *Glob. Change Biol.* <http://doi.org/cqtm>; 2018). Wijedasa explains how his views changed during the process.*

Why do peatland forests matter globally?

Peatland forests are carbon-rich swamps that have formed over centuries. In Indonesia, massive areas have been drained to grow crops, particularly oil palm and acacia. In 2011, the Indonesian government imposed a moratorium on issuing licences to clear land for industrial-scale development. But in 2015, fires on cleared lands produced more emissions than did the whole of Europe. Indonesia now has a Peatland Restoration Agency, which reports to the president and is mandated to restore 2 million hectares of peat forest by 2020. Our paper shows, however, that 51% of emissions will come from areas that have already been drained and are used for industrial agriculture.

That's bleak. What is the take-home message?

First, we need to maintain our remaining intact forest, of which 45% is not in protected or moratorium areas. My data show that 48% of the moratorium area isn't even peat swamp forest. Second, we'll need alternative forms of agriculture, so that communities can grow crops on wet peat soils.

Why did it take 3 years to publish your paper?

I submitted the paper in 2015. We went through four rounds of review and redid a lot; for example, we initially had three emissions scenarios, but increased those to the 18 defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. However, it was eventually rejected on the grounds of insufficient novelty. We then submitted it to *Global Change Biology*, which published it within three months.

Were your predictions higher than expected?

Data on peatland emissions have been controversial — in part, because some industry-funded studies have generated lower numbers. To address all potential scenarios, we assessed land-cover change from 1990 to 2010 using Landsat satellite imagery. Then we estimated emissions from peat between 1990 and 2130 for a range of agricultural expansions.



How did your views change?

Initially, I had thought that big palm-oil and acacia companies were solely to blame. But after spending more time in Sumatra and other areas of Indonesia, I saw that many of the company-owned forests are among the better-managed areas. Also, some of the palm-oil and acacia companies have set aside prime land for conservation, and have lobbied the government to protect forest that they legally could have developed. I now think that companies are part of the solution.

Did you consider community farmers?

Yes. Smallholders accounted for 60% of conversion outside the original government-designated areas. Whereas I might once have argued to restore all peatlands, I now better understand how much smallholders depend on the land, and that they clear forest to improve their livelihoods. Finding opportunities for sustainable agriculture could eliminate 51% of future emissions.

Does your work let palm-oil and acacia companies off the hook?

No. There are good companies and terrible companies, but the few companies who step up to work with the government are often the targets of bad press. Good companies are the best potential partners in conservation because they have the finances, enforcement ability and motivation — owing to public opinion — to protect these lands. And company-driven conservation has worked several times in Indonesia. It also offers a way for firms to atone for past deforestation in a country that desperately needs that help. ■

INTERVIEW BY VIRGINIA GEWIN

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.