

are common in big impact craters across the Solar System. See go.nature.com/pgxb18 for more.

Gorilla decline

Numbers of the largest primate on the planet, Grauer's gorilla (*Gorilla beringei graueri*), have plummeted since 1995, according to a report from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The report, published on 4 April, says that the numbers have dropped from an estimated 17,000 in 1995 to 3,800 today, a 77% decrease. Grauer's gorillas live in the wild only in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the WCS report blames the decline on illegal hunting around mining sites, the civil war in the country from 1996 to 2003, and habitat loss.

POLICY

Nuclear security

More than 50 countries, most represented by their heads of state, made a variety of commitments intended to prevent nuclear terrorism at the conclusion of a nuclear summit in Washington DC on 1 April. The meeting was the fourth biennial summit in a process initiated in 2009 by US President Barack Obama (pictured with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau). Much of the focus has been on reducing civilian



stocks of highly enriched uranium at research reactors. At least 28 reactors have been shut down or converted to low-enriched uranium since 2009, but challenges remain in converting 11 high-performance research reactors. See page 5 for more.

BUSINESS

Patent pledge

Drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) has announced plans to improve access to its medicines in the world's poorest countries. The company said on 31 March that it would stop filing drug patents in many developing countries. That means that generic manufacturers in those nations would be able to supply copycat versions of GSK's drugs without worrying about lawsuits. GSK also signalled that it intended to improve access to low-cost drugs that can help to address the growing burden of cancer in the developing world.

Public-health advocates have embraced the news and are urging other drug companies to follow suit. See go.nature.com/nqhgjg for more.

FACILITIES

Laser beam added

The Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS), the world's brightest X-ray free-electron laser, began a US\$1-billion construction project on 4 April to add a second beam. LCLS-II, based at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in Menlo Park, California, will accelerate electrons through superconducting niobium cavities to produce X-ray pulses 10,000 times more concentrated and firing 8,000 times faster than X-rays produced by the \$414-million LCLS, which started operations in 2009. This will enable it to image processes that occur on smaller scales and faster timescales. Construction will last until the early 2020s.

FUNDING

Career boost

Four philanthropic organizations have created an international research programme focused on early-career scientists. Announced on 29 March, the International Research Scholars Program will select up to 50 members who are not originally from one of the G7 countries, but have trained in the United States or the United Kingdom for at least one year. Awardees will each receive a total of US\$650,000 over five years. The sponsors are: the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Chevy Chase, Maryland; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle, Washington; the London-based Wellcome Trust; and Lisbon's Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

CORRECTION

The item 'Boaty McBoatface' (*Nature* 531, 419; 2016) wrongly described NERC as the 'National' instead of the Natural Environment Research Council.

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TREND WATCH

More of the global population is now obese than is underweight, according to a study of 186 countries from 1975 to 2014 (see *Lancet* 387, 1377–1396; 2016). The proportion of obese men more than tripled and that of obese women more than doubled during that period. Many people are still underweight in the world's poorest regions, particularly in Asia and Africa. But the global average weight of a person grew by 1.5 kilograms each decade. See go.nature.com/yyslifh for more.

OBESITY RISE OVER 40 YEARS

Data from 1975 to 2014 show that obesity has risen dramatically, more than tripling in men and more than doubling in women.

