

Edited by Jennifer Sills

Parks for science, science for parks

IN THEIR INSIGHTFUL Editorial “Parks for science” (19 June, p. 1291), G. Machlis and M. McNutt urge scientists to make greater use of protected areas for their research. The benefits are manifold, they argue, and include prospects for exciting new discoveries, the use of parks as experimental controls, and improved park management based on the data collected. There is another advantage that in many cases is even more compelling: Parks that are the foci for research tend to be better protected (1).

Especially in developing nations, parks hosting research often suffer less poaching, illegal logging, and illicit mining. Scientists are not just passive but also active park defenders, as shown by the strong avoidance of areas frequented by scientists by poachers and encroachers (1–3). Furthermore, monies from research tend to be spent locally, benefiting nearby communities and thereby fostering economic support for protected areas (4). Scientists are often staunch defenders of parks politically, encouraging journalists to visit and write about the parks, and lobbying both locally and internationally—often with great effectiveness—for their protection (1).

Yes, parks offer many research opportunities for scientists. But scientists also offer many potential protective benefits for parks.

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Disaster response: Volunteers, unite!

TWO MASSIVE EARTHQUAKES that caused 8898 deaths, 22,309 injuries, and billions of dollars damage in Nepal (1) prompted substantial support from aid agencies, relief organizations, and volunteers for rescue and relief. Volunteers in scientific communities—affiliated with government, academic, and private research institutions, as well as

individual researchers and citizen scientists around the world—provided free satellite imagery, helped map the damage, and analyzed the disaster data (2). Nepal has weak data infrastructure and limited scientific capacity. The efforts of science volunteers provided crucial data for rescuers and disaster responders, informed the public about the scale of the damage, and prevented further damage.

Scientific volunteerism during crises has emerged spontaneously as the Internet, smartphones, and social media have fueled a feeling of shared responsibility. However, working sporadically in cyberspace might lead to duplication of tasks and an overload of information. Poorly equipped government authorities, as in Nepal, cannot easily find useful information in the gigantic pool of data. The services offered

ONLINE BUZZ: CAREERS

Career success: Updating the battle plan

In his Working Life column, “Getting noticed is half the battle” (10 July, p. 206), E. P. Diamandis attributed his successful science career to his early-career decisions, including attending seminars to be noticed by potential employers and working long hours while his wife cared for their children. In the online comments section, readers passionately reacted to his strategies and *Science’s* decision to publish the piece. Excerpts of their responses are below. Read the full comments, and add your own, at <http://comments.sciencemag.org/content/10.1126/science.349.6244.206>.

A selection of your thoughts:

...It seems that the effort of being noticed by the powerful is the most important driver of the author. Forget about collaborations, sharing with colleagues, helping younger colleagues, discussing ideas. Intervening in lectures with the only purpose of being noticed sounds Machiavellian.... This kind of “suggestion” will only serve to discourage those who are in science for the love of knowledge...to the advantage of those who are...hyper-competitive, self-centered, egoistic (and sexist)....
Monica Zop

This is why I left academia. There are many interesting businesses that will hire you to a permanent position after a straightforward 30-minute interview. The wages will be higher than academia, and in my experience you may have more freedom to pursue interesting projects and develop your professional skills....
David Blake

...[H]ere we have Exhibit A for why women disproportionately drop out of the pipeline post-Ph.D. If getting noticed is half the battle when you have the luxury of dumping all your family responsibilities on your wife, exactly what proportion of the battle do you think it might be for *her* career?....
Sarah Jordan

It would seem...that [Diamandis’s] wife should have been chosen to write an article on career success, given that she had to take care of all his domestic chores and she still became a senior scientist at a major teaching hospital. **Anonymous**

If the [spouse] were a man, he would have the opposite problem: societal pressure to...be the breadwinner. Not because he wants to be, but because stereotypical gender roles are still around....
Anonymous

...Diamandis...was merely pointing out that his wife had to handle everything at home so that he could work 16-hour days,...not...that women should always do this....The real point of the article is...the inequities in a system that forces one spouse...to work 16-hour days so that the other spouse is forced to sacrifice his or her career....
Warm Neutron

...The author’s advice to work hard, publish good science, and build professional networks is timeless and sound. The remainder of his suggestions (unsustainable work hours, sycophantic behaviors, gendered career expectations) are not things I would advise scientists of any age.
Katherine H. Freeman



Debris surrounds the temple of Seto Machindranath in Jana Bahal 3 months after the Nepal earthquake.

by science volunteers could even make a situation worse.

Given that the trends of scientific volunteerism have been increasing globally during disasters, from Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines (3) to the recent earthquake in Nepal, a global action to systematize these efforts is necessary. Currently, this increasing

global trend of volunteerism in scientific communities during natural disasters is not acknowledged in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030—a global framework for disaster risk reduction (4). We need a strategy to harness the efforts of scientific volunteers in future. To be better equipped for the next disaster, we should

analyze the patterns of science volunteers, including their affiliations and the nature of their involvement; prepare government authorities, especially those in developing countries, to harness invaluable information provided by volunteer scientists; and create a global network of volunteer scientists that could contribute to a coordinated effort.

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