

Global Change

International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme

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TIMBER!

Fall of Rome
etched in
rings?

Politically Incorrect
Beyond the hockey stick

Anthropocene
Humanity claims
geological status

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CHANGE

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Cover image

Tree rings are valuable tools for reconstructing past climates. New data for Central Europe provide a record of climate change over the past 2500 years. They also reveal synchronies with important historical events. The cover depicts a cross-section through the trunk of a *Laburnum sp.* tree of the family *Leguminosae*. Photo credit: Sheila Terry, Science Photo Library/IBL Bildbyrå.

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New tree-ring data for Central Europe reveal intriguing synchronies between climate and cultural events.

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16 Learning from the past

Future decision-making can and should benefit from a historical perspective and an understanding of complex systems.

20 In the line of fire

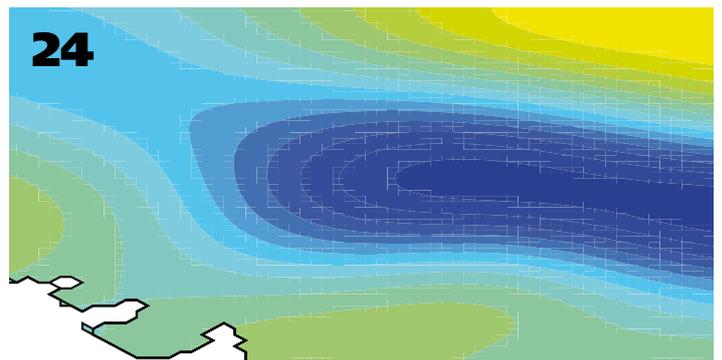
The political aftermath of the “hockey stick” graph changed life for the scientists that published it.

24 Tracking groundwater depletion

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27 Engaging the developing world

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