ible effects of chronic disturbance of all kinds on natural systems. One-third of the land area of India is now recognized as so thoroughly impoverished as to be outside agriculture and outside forestry; much of it supports no green plant. Does that type of impoverishment involve a loss of species? It certainly does. But it also includes a far greater biotic loss: the loss of potential for supporting life. The solutions advocated by the writers in the special issue are all appropriate; they are, however, inadequate to address the crisis of life on Earth and the issue of how many people can be supported, and how well Earth's biotic systems will continue to support them.

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Standardized Brain Mapping

The recent recommendation by the Institute of Medicine to begin a Brain Mapping Initiative (Research News, 28 June, p. 1794) will undoubtedly engender considerable discussion. As a neuroscientist frequently engaged in mapping the distribution of particular gene products in the rat brain, I suggest that before any money is allocated, the neuroscience community agree on a common nomenclature for the many brain regions. Moreover, we need to agree on boundaries of brain regions and on abbreviations for a common nomenclature. I have often expended a considerable amount of frustration trying to compare results from my lab with results from other labs that use a different nomenclature, different abbreviations, different regional boundaries, or different levels of resolution. As a first step, I suggest that all investigators localizing a particular gene product, binding site, or anatomical pathway in the rat brain use the same atlas, namely, *The Rat Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates* by George Paxinos and Charles Watson (Academic Press). A similar "standard" atlas should be developed for the human brain and for other species commonly used for neuroanatomical studies.

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CARET Study: Women Included

Jean Marx's articles (News & Comment, 9 Aug., p. 612) about cancer prevention were valuable, but unfortunately gave the impression that the National Cancer Institute (NCI)–supported CARET study includes only men in the trial. This is not the case. This study will test a combination of beta carotene and retinol for prevention of lung cancer in high-risk subjects, including about 4,000 asbestos-exposed male smokers and about 14,000 heavy smokers, about half of whom are women. The investigators were not able to identify women exposed to asbestos, but had no difficulty finding women who were heavy smokers.

The NCI believes that interventions to reduce the morbidity and mortality from disease that affect both sexes, as lung cancer does, should be evaluated among both sexes. The importance of this approach is underlined by the fact that the lung cancer toll from smoking among women continues to climb.

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