



THE WOODS HOLE RESEARCH CENTER

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Center President and CEO affirms institutional scientific integrity

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Christopher Booker's column in the Sunday, March 21, Telegraph is rife with errors about the Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC), the World Wildlife Fund, and climate change policy. We respond here to errors about WHRC. Mr. Booker describes the WHRC as a "global warming advocacy group". We are in fact a widely respected scientific institution whose scientists publish dozens of peer-reviewed scientific articles annually in the world's most prestigious scientific journals, including Science and Nature, with much of the work supported by the National Science Foundation and NASA. Our recent publications are posted at www.whrc.org, as are resumes of our many distinguished scientists. My predecessor as President of the WHRC is now the Science Advisor to President Barack Obama and also served a term as President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Before joining the WHRC last month, I was President & CEO of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, the oldest natural history research institution and museum in the Americas. The article's criticism of the IPCC's statement on the Amazon misses the fact that this statement was supported by several peer-reviewed science articles, including 4 published by the WHRC, as confirmed in a **recent statement** signed by 18 leading scientists. The WHRC is pleased to have had the opportunity to conduct research in support of WWF's science-based conservation efforts in the Amazon, and we look forward to more work of that kind in the future. Science, not politics or money, has confirmed that the Earth's climate is changing and that mankind is fueling that change through the greenhouse gases that it produces. WHRC and other research institutions must treasure and stand responsible for their scientific integrity, but we are not due criticism for investigating questions whose answers have application to the planet's health and the work for this purpose of organizations such as WWF.

Sincerely,

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