

Letters

Researchers obsessed with FT Journals list are failing to tackle today's problems

Your report "UN warns on rapid drop in biodiversity" (May 7), on the unprecedented pace of extinctions, is right to draw attention to a crisis for nature that is being caused by human activity.

Environmental degradation is predominantly the result of economic and business forces. It therefore seems important for the Financial Times to know that since 2000 the 50 journals used in the FT Research ranking of business schools have published only 11 articles on biodiversity and species decline. That is out of a total of 47,000 articles. Moreover, in those journals produced by the Academy of Management, which is usually viewed as the most prestigious body in business scholarship, there are zero articles on species decline and biodiversity.

Our own view is that business and economics researchers have, for status and incentive reasons, become obsessed with getting on to your FT Journals list, largely by imitating work done in the past, rather than tackling today's problems. Yet natural scientists have done their job and now social scientists must do theirs.

Whether or not you agree with our hypothesis, one thing seems clear. The FT 50 Journals are letting down the world.

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