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# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



**We can't get enough  
of the red planet**



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## On the Cover

We've been fascinated for millennia by Mars, seen here in images taken by (from top) the European Space Agency's Mars Express, and the Viking Orbiter 1.

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY—ESA;  
NASA/USGS

## PROOF



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### The 'Train Ladies' of Ukraine

A tradition as old as rail travel in Ukraine, these safety signal officers work in tiny houses at rail crossings, and help keep things on track.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
SASHA MASLOV

## EXPLORE

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### THE BIG IDEA

#### Natural Disasters?

Maybe climate change harms should be called what they are: *man-made* natural disasters.

BY ELIZABETH KOLBERT

### DECODER

#### Life After Fire

Ecosystem engineers, black-backed woodpeckers are built for life amid partially burned trees.

BY TAYLOR MAGGIACOMO



### ALSO

Ancient Amphibian  
Plants in Disguise  
Moonlit Line Walk



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### DISCOVERY

#### From Lethal Trap to Artful Treasure

Snares that once killed Uganda's wildlife now support communities.

BY JANI HALL

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
ESTHER RUTH MBABAZI

### ATLAS

#### Setting Rivers Free

Human influences have negatively affected the flows of most of Earth's 10 longest rivers.

BY HEATHER GABRIEL SMITH  
AND CHRISTINÁ SHINTANI

### ALSO

Interpreting History