The Springer Nature Group opens doors to discovery. Every day, our brands, books, journals, platforms and resources reach millions – enabling researchers, educators, clinicians and professionals to access the latest thinking for the benefit of all.

OUR IMPACT
Springer Nature’s Responsible Business programme focuses on the areas where we can make a significant positive impact.

1 ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS / PAGE 02
We aim to be the foremost publisher and curator of research, data, analysis and comment that will help deliver real progress against urgent societal challenges. Our books, journals and magazines share the latest thinking on the challenges of sustainable development.

2 OPENING UP RESEARCH / PAGE 03
We are committed to opening up research, and sharing it widely to reach the audiences that need it. We are proud of our long experience in open access (OA) publishing and our ongoing commitment to transitioning our journal portfolio to OA.

3 SUPPORTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION / PAGE 04
We play an active role in promoting and celebrating diversity both through our publications and across our company. We want the content we publish to be more representative and inclusive of the interests, needs and environments of the communities we work with and for.

4 REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT / PAGE 05
We provide peer-reviewed, up-to-date research and analysis that can support informed decision making by individuals, policymakers and business leaders. We manage our own impacts on the environment, particularly related to our printed products, energy use and business travel.
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: OUR APPROACH

Over the past century the world has seen average life expectancy increase, common diseases become uncommon, literacy rates rise and, thanks to technology, greater communication and connectivity than ever before. Yet despite this progress, inequalities remain, and the world faces significant societal and sustainability changes.

We use the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework to consider the potential impacts of the business – both positive and negative – and how we manage them. It is our belief that Springer Nature has an important role to play in contributing to the SDGs.

WE BELIEVE WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS ROLE THROUGH:

**SUPPORTING AND AMPLIFYING THE SDGs**
by publishing books, journals and magazines that address the challenges of sustainable development and widely sharing this content.

**INNOVATING TO SUPPORT THE SDGs**
by connecting research with the communities it affects and using technology to rapidly share discoveries globally.

**ACTING AS A RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS**
by addressing our own economic, environmental and social impacts.

WE PUBLISH RESEARCH ACROSS ALL AREAS OF THE SDGs

OUR FOCUS SDGs

**QUALITY EDUCATION**
TARGET: 4.7
We amplify sustainability research, sharing it widely, so that it can have maximum impact within the research community, for our own employees and in wider society.

**CLIMATE ACTION**
TARGET: 13.3
We play our part in climate action by publishing the latest climate research, managing our operational impacts, and will become a carbon-neutral company by the end of 2020.

**PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**
TARGET: 17.6
We are a leader in open access, connecting researchers, policymakers and practitioners who are collaborating to solve the world’s greatest challenges.

OUR OPERATIONS ALSO IMPACT:
SDG 5. Gender Equality
SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities
SDG 15. Life on Land
Our priority issues

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are ambitious and will require academia, business and policymakers to work together to solve the world’s greatest challenges. Springer Nature aims to support collaboration in this endeavour between researchers, policymakers and practitioners around the world.

We launched the Springer Nature SDG Programme in 2019 with the aim of supporting and connecting researchers tackling societal problems with the practitioners who can build on these research insights and contribute to improving the world.

We publish content, host events and participate in high-level discussions to advance knowledge related to many of the SDGs. Find out more at springernature.com/sdg-programme

CONNECTING AND COMMUNICATING ACROSS CONTINENTS

During 2019, Springer Nature raised the profile of the role that the research community has in addressing the SDGs. Our SpotOn conference was inspired by SDG 17: Partnership for the goals, and brought together researchers and science communicators to discuss topics related to open access, policy, technology and research communication.

Simultaneous conferences were held in London and Cairo, and broadcast live via Facebook. Researchers came together with journalists and others to discuss topics such as diversity, decolonising research and how to use technology to bring together researchers around the world.

“We continue to make important connections between researchers, policymakers and practitioners, forging partnerships with organisations, staging events and helping to bring new perspectives together.”

Frank Vrancken Peeters, CEO

Stefan von Holtzbrinck, Chairman

STEM FOR SOCIETAL IMPACT IN BOTSWANA

Macmillan Education in Botswana is working to inspire future generations of researchers, equipped to tackle social and economic challenges, through its sponsorship of the Mathematical Association of Botswana national science and maths fair.

The fair, which attracts more than 600 high school-age students from across the country, aims to actively engage young people in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) by showing how studies in these fields can solve real-world societal challenges.

Students are set a problem to solve, using a range of skills from mathematical problem solving to ecology and statistics, and must explain how their work could be used in everyday life.
Our priority issues

OPENING UP RESEARCH

Open research can speed up the advancement of science and academic research, facilitate increased interdisciplinary collaboration and support an evidence-based approach to addressing the SDGs.

Our vision is of an open research future where every element of the research process is instantly available, discoverable, usable, reusable and widely shareable. We believe that all published primary research should be open to all, as soon as possible, enabling researchers worldwide to easily and immediately read, use and build on it.

Springer Nature publishes the world’s most comprehensive open access (OA) portfolio that accounts for around one in four of open access (OA) articles published globally. For nearly 20 years, since our imprint BMC first pioneered an OA publishing model, openness and innovation have been at the heart of our business. As early movers in the market we have a clear vision and commitment to OA and open research, in all its manifestations, seeing it as one of the major forces reshaping the way researchers communicate, collaborate and advance the pace and quality of discovery.

In 2019, we participated openly in Plan S, a consultation undertaken by a group of European research funders, on plans to require publishers to make all primary research OA. We are committed to minimising the possible negative side-effects of OA publishing for researchers whose institutions or disciplines are not yet funded sufficiently to cover the costs of OA publishing. We are working on solutions to enable a faster, yet still sustainable, transition to OA.

Find out more at springernature.com/openingupresearch

PROMOTING GREATER ACCESS

Increasingly, working habits are changing, with many researchers now using multiple devices in different locations. Until now, this caused frustrating access blocks online.

As part of our commitment to open research and information, Springer Nature has been working with SeamlessAccess.org to address the problems researchers face when trying to access research subscribed to by their university when outside of the institution’s network.

In 2019, Springer Nature was the first research publisher to implement a new solution. It allows users from participating institutions to log in once per browser, after which our content platforms will remember their institutional affiliation, simplifying future authentication when outside of their institution’s network.

In 2019, we published:

- around 600 fully open access journals
- 2,200+ hybrid journals
- 100,000+ articles ‘gold’ OA
SUPPORTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Both the research community and the publishing industry have had challenges related to inclusion and diversity. In academia, relatively lower numbers of women and ethnic minorities complete PhDs, head research groups or progress to senior levels. This is untapped potential, which could be harnessed to solve research challenges.

We work to ensure that the research we publish and the conferences we host are inclusive and representative of the community as a whole. We support the access to and publication of research from low- or middle-income countries and partner with others to support improved diversity and representation in science.

MENTORING AT SPRINGER NATURE

We actively support progression and have put in place several initiatives to address our gender balance. We launched two mentoring pilot programmes in 2018, with the aim of promoting gender representation and diversity in our global senior leadership positions.

Mentoring programmes support the career development of international talent and of parents and caregivers at a mid-career level. These programmes offer guidance and learning opportunities for mentees, while creating a valuable network of supportive colleagues.

"As a mentee, I've found the engagement with other colleagues at a similar stage of life and career particularly valuable as it has surfaced shared issues and challenges. By supporting each other with ideas and sharing our insights, we've amplified their value."

Mithu Lucraft, Marketing Director, Outreach and Open Research

In our own workplaces, our diversity and inclusion strategy focuses on improving the gender balance and international representation in global senior management to make this group more representative of our wider global workforce.

Find out more about our diversity commitment at springernature.com/diversity-inclusion

SN PRIDE

Employee groups aim to facilitate information sharing, networking, professional and personal development and to support diversity in our recruitment processes. The networks create an environment in which people can feel supported and represented.

We launched SN Pride, our network for the LGBTQ+ community and allies, in 2018. In 2019, 50 members joined the London Pride March for the first time, calling for greater diversity in research and education. To celebrate International Day of LGBTQ+ People in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths, Nature published an editorial in support of research network Pride in STEM, asking researchers and research organisations everywhere to be more inclusive and to continue to lobby their governments for more inclusive law-making.
REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

During 2019, the urgent need to tackle climate change became more widely recognised and discussed. Our response, as a leading publisher of groundbreaking climate science, is to provide policymakers and business leaders with credible, evidence-based research and reporting, and to take action in our own operations.

Through our publishing, we help to improve education, raise awareness and build knowledge about climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction. We believe this is where Springer Nature, as a global research and education publisher, has a specific role to play.

As a responsible business, we aim to continue to reduce our carbon footprint year on year, we are committed to using sustainable paper in our products and we have reduced plastic wrapping of books by more than 3 million units in the past two years and balanced emissions using high-quality carbon offsets. Air travel is essential to supporting our international teams and maintaining strong relationships with the research community and educators around the world, but we recognise that it is also a significant contributor to the company’s carbon footprint. In 2019, we promoted ways for colleagues to reduce their air travel, highlighting alternatives to flying and making better use of technology to avoid travel.

TACKLING CARBON EMISSIONS

In 2019 Springer Nature piloted approaches to mitigating our climate impact through carbon offsetting. We convened an advisory group, with senior managers from corporate functions and chief editors of some of our sustainability and climate-related publications. We supported two carbon balancing projects that generate independently verified carbon savings.

CommuniTree works in Nicaragua to give local farmers the chance to earn more from reforesting their land with indigenous trees than from deforesting it. In East Africa, Carbon Tanzania works with the indigenous Hadza tribe and Tatoga Pastoralists to reduce uncontrolled deforestation by securing land rights for local communities and creating designated farming zones to reduce conflict.

We reduced net CO₂ emissions by ~30% (when carbon offsets accounted for).

We will be carbon neutral by the end of 2020.