Statement from *Scientific Reports*

Update: The original version of this statement did not include a date and attribution. We wish to clarify that this statement is dated 24th August 2016 and is signed by Nandita Quaderi PhD, Publishing Director, *Scientific Reports*.

Recent correspondence from *Scientific Reports* with a limited number of authors stated that we require the nine-dash line to be removed from maps that we publish. We would like to state categorically that this is not the case: we do not require the removal or addition of the line and researchers can choose to include or remove it. Our policy is to not politicise science and to make statements to clarify our neutrality where needed. Our publishing decisions are solely based on the research’s scientific merit and soundness as determined by the peer-review process. Recent internal policy updates were inaccurately translated in a limited number of email correspondences with authors. This error has now been corrected.

In all cases, these requests have been offered as suggestions to improve the clarity in describing the regions relevant to the studies in question. None of these requests have been mandatory and no paper has been declined for publication because authors have chosen not to take these suggestions.

An immediate and comprehensive review of all of our formal correspondence throughout the company is currently underway. If further mistakes have been made, we will take action immediately. We have also conducted a number of briefings for staff to better explain our policy of not politicising science or creating the perception of politicising science. We would like
to stress that we are taking action to ensure that our policies are correctly applied and communicated in future.

目前，我们已立即对全公司所有的邮件信函展开全面核查。如发现其他错误，我们会立刻采取相应行动。我们也多次向员工通告相关情况，以更清晰地解释我们不将科学政治化，或者是杜绝科学政治化观念的政策。我们想强调的是，我们将采取行动，确保我们的政策今后能得到正确的实施和传达。

We remain committed to putting the needs of researchers at the centre of everything we do and to helping them to publish their research in the easiest and best way.

我们仍将信守承诺，以科研人员的需求作为我们一切工作的核心，帮助他们以最简便、最理想的方式发表自己的科研成果。