



Collateral Damage by Climate Change: Let’s talk about it MORE!

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The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has found that 70-90 percent of tropical coral reefs will die by mid-century, even if the temperature increase is limited to below 1.5-degrees Celsius as per the Paris Agreement. They have also estimated that a 2-degree Celsius rise in temperature above pre-industrial times can wipe out the Coral Reefs completely! These findings highlight less-talked-about facts and the consequences of climate change which is “Collateral Damage” caused by Climate Change. This damage is less discussed and less documented compared to the direct impacts of climate change like rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and sea-level rise.

Collateral damage or spillover effects can occur in different forms, such as the loss of marine life due to ocean acidification and warming temperatures, and higher food prices due to unpredictable weather conditions. These outcomes will result in irreversible losses of biodiversity and will adversely impact the lives of people, animals, and plants that rely on these ecosystems.

In response to such urgent environmental crises, CUTS International proposed a call for a global strategy in the form of an agnostic 'Fund of Funds,' leveraging diverse non-governmental financial sources, which could serve as a pivotal step towards addressing both climate and biodiversity challenges.

Additionally, the creation of a Global Alliance for Leveraging Innovative Finance (GALIF) would provide essential support for this endeavour. By fostering collaboration and coordination among various stakeholders, GALIF could facilitate the mobilisation of resources necessary to implement effective solutions. Through initiatives like these, it becomes possible to confront the multifaceted consequences of climate change, including the loss of marine life due to ocean acidification and warming temperatures and the economic repercussions such as higher food prices resulting from unpredictable weather patterns.

Articles/Op-eds	Key Takeaway
<p>Climate Change is Shifting the Zones Where Plants Grow The Economic Times March 24, 2024</p>	<p>Comparing the 2023 map to the previous version from 2012 clearly shows that as climate change warms the Earth, plant hardiness zones are shifting northward. On average, the coldest days of winter in our current climate, based on temperature records from 1991 through 2020, are 5 degrees Fahrenheit (2.8 Celsius) warmer than they were between 1976 and 2005.</p>
<p>How the Climate Crisis is Putting your Favourite Summer Fruits at Risk <i>By Rachel Ramirez and Elisa Raffa</i> CNN March 23, 2024</p>	<p>As the climate crisis creates warmer winters and early springs, peaches and many fruit crops, including plums, apples and apricots are at risk. Warmer winters mean earlier blooms and a sudden dip in temperatures during the season could damage or kill the fruits, drastically affecting the amount harvested for the year. Our entire food system is at risk. It is about figuring out what we can do differently and learn from other people, rather than trying to hold on tight to the tried-and-true ways that have worked for many years.</p>
<p>Global Warming to Raise Food Prices, Inflation: Study The Economic Times March 22, 2024</p>	<p>Global warming and heatwaves are expected to further increase food prices and overall inflation across the world in the future, according to new research from scientists and the European Central Bank. The effect of future warming and heat extremes on overall inflation would be between 0.76 and 0.91 percentage points under a best and worst-case scenario. The impact will vary but be felt everywhere, especially in developing nations.</p>
<p>The Next Big Climate Deadline is for Meat and Dairy <i>By Kenny Torrella</i> VOX Media March 20, 2024</p>	<p>According to a first-of-its-kind survey of more than 200 environmental and agricultural scientists, we must also drastically reduce meat and dairy production — and fast. Global livestock emissions should peak by 2030 or sooner to meet the Paris climate agreement target of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the surveyed climate experts said. In high- and middle-income countries, which produce and consume the overwhelming majority of the global meat and dairy supply, livestock emissions should peak much earlier than in low-income countries.</p>
<p>Extreme Weather is Driving Food Prices Higher. These 5 Crops are Facing the Biggest Impacts <i>By Charlotte Edmond and Rebecca Geldard</i> World Economic Forum February 12, 2024</p>	<p>Over recent years food prices have been inflated by the pandemic and war in Ukraine, while extreme summer temperatures have exacerbated the problem. Soybeans, olive oil, rice, potatoes, and cocoa are just some of the crops that have been affected. A World Economic Forum report, Green Returns: Unleashing the Power of Finance for Sustainable Food Systems, calls on the financial sector to direct more resources into helping the food and agriculture sector to become more sustainable.</p>

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	<p>Shortages and supply issues caused by events including the pandemic and war in Ukraine have been felt through food price inflation for some while now. But for some foods, the impact of climate change is also making itself felt, through record-high temperatures and extreme weather.</p>
<p>Climate Change: Alarming Africa-wide Report Predicts 30 Percent Drop in Crop Revenue, 50 Million Without Water <i>By Philip Kofi Adom</i> Phys.org February 29, 2024</p>	<p>If climate change continues its current trend, crop production in Africa will decline by 2.9 percent in 2030 and by 18 percent by 2050. About 200 million people risk suffering from extreme hunger by 2050.</p> <p>The crop revenue loss of approximately 30 percent will cause a rise in poverty of between 20 percent and 30 percent compared to a no-climate-change scenario. This will happen because climate change will drive agricultural production down, so crop sales will suffer although scarcity will raise prices.</p> <p>In Africa, 42.5 percent of the working class is employed in the agricultural sector. The incomes of those, mostly rural, workers will decline. Already, a higher share of people living in rural areas are poor and most impoverished people in Africa are concentrated in the rural areas. The decline of the agricultural sector is likely to push more people into severe poverty.</p>
<p>Study Links Climate Change with Wheat Blast; Warns Crop Yield Could Drop by 75 percent in South America, Africa by 2050 <i>By Kiran Pandey</i> Down to earth February 13, 2024</p>	<p>The analysis focused exclusively on nations with wheat-growing areas and covered 86 countries across six continents — Africa, North America, South America, Europe, and Asia.</p> <p>South America and Africa will be the most vulnerable regions to wheat blast in the future climate, with up to 75 percent of their wheat acreage at risk by 2050.</p> <p>Wheat blast alone has the potential to cut wheat production worldwide by 13 percent. However, the study cautioned that other effects of climate change could cause yields to fall even further.</p>
<p>How the Dire Health Implications of Climate Change are Unfolding Globally <i>Interview By Aynsley O’Neill</i> Inside Climate News January 6, 2024</p>	<p>The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that by the end of this decade, the cost of the climate impact on health will be between US\$2.00bn and US\$4.00bn per year. But that may be an underestimate because it doesn’t include massive climate burdens on agriculture, water, and sanitation, which all shape public health.</p> <p>The health sector receives just one-half of one percent of global climate financing, according to the WHO. In light of that shortfall, COP28 included an announcement of US\$1.00bn toward climate and health, though some of that funding was already committed before the talks began.</p>