



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

2nd Edition: April 2024 - June 2024

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 |
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| <p>Climate change fuels tensions in Nigeria</p> <p>UN News</p> <p>June 14, 2024</p> | <p>Nigeria is witnessing climate-related shocks that are triggering displacement and driving conflict leading to clashes over dwindling resources between farmers and herdsman.</p> <p>This conflict is exacerbated by the climate crisis, which is forcing herding communities to leave their traditional lands in search of better grazing options.</p> |
| <p>How climate change is fueling disease outbreaks</p> <p>World Economic Forum</p> <p>June 13, 2024</p> | <p>Climate change is making the world hotter and sicker, underlining the urgency for comprehensive health and environmental strategies.</p> <p>As climate change alters habitats, the risk of zoonotic spillovers, where diseases jump from animals to humans, increases. This highlights the interconnectedness of human and environmental health, necessitating a holistic approach to disease prevention and management. The World Health Organisation has emphasised the need for a unified health concept to optimise the well-being of people, wildlife, and the environment.</p> |
| <p>Experts warn of serious health impacts from climate change for pregnant women, children, and older people</p> <p>World Health Organisation</p> <p>June 5, 2024</p> | <p>According to a new collection of papers published in the Journal of Global Health, Pregnant women, newborns, children, adolescents, and older people are facing serious health complications due to climate change yet the specific needs of these groups have been largely neglected in the climate response.</p> <p>Taking extreme heat as an example, the authors note that preterm births – the leading cause of childhood deaths – spike during heatwaves, while older people are more likely to suffer heart attacks or respiratory distress. Each additional 1°C in minimum daily temperature over 23.9°C has been shown to increase the risk of infant mortality by as much as 22.4%.</p> |
| <p>Amphibians at risk: Effects of climate change in the southwestern North American drylands</p> | <p>According to the research published in the Global Ecology and Conservation journal, amphibians are the most threatened vertebrate class, and deterioration is due, in part, to the loss of suitable habitat. This taxonomic group is especially sensitive because of their biphasic life cycles (aquatic and terrestrial) and microhabitat requirements.</p> |

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| <p><i>By Fabio Suzart de Albuquerque, Heather L. Bateman and Jared Johnson</i></p> <p>Global Ecology and Conservation</p> <p>June, 2024</p> | <p>The research highlighted that climate change can affect amphibians' geographical range in several ways, leading to species' geographical range expansion and contraction.</p> |
| <p>Climate change caused 26 extra days of extreme heat last year: report</p> <p>Phys.Org</p> <p>May 28, 2024</p> | <p>A recent report highlights the devastating impact of climate change on global temperatures, revealing that human-induced warming contributed to an average of 26 additional days of extreme heat across the world in the past year.</p> <p>The report underscores the urgent need for climate action to mitigate the effects of global warming, which is intensifying the occurrence and severity of extreme weather events worldwide. The European Union's climate monitor, Copernicus, reported that 2023 was the warmest year on record,</p> |
| <p>World Migration Report 2024: Climate impacts will force 216 million people to move within their countries by 2050</p> <p><i>By Rajat Ghai</i></p> <p>Down To Earth</p> <p>May 09, 2024</p> | <p>According to the report, migration is a coping or adaptation strategy to reduce the adverse effects of climate change.</p> <p>For example, Nigeria had the largest internal displacements due to disasters in sub-Saharan Africa in 2022 (more than 2.4 million). This was also the highest figure recorded in Nigeria in ten years. The displacements were largely the result of floods between June and November 2022, in Algeria and Morocco.</p> <p>The report profiled the Global South — Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania — in addition to the Global North (Europe and North America) to come up with a grim picture of how climate change is forcing people to move from their homes, within their home countries or continents.</p> |
| <p>Climate change: World's oceans suffer from a record-breaking year of heat</p> | <p>The world's oceans have broken temperature records every single day over the past year, a BBC analysis finds, fueled by climate change and the El Niño weather phenomenon.</p> |

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| <p><i>By Matt McGrath, Mark Poynting, and Justin Rowlett,</i></p> <p>BBC News Climate & Science</p> <p>May 8, 2024</p> | <p>Key Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coral Bleaching: The mass bleaching of coral globally has been a significant consequence of the recent warmth, with Australia's Great Barrier Reef experiencing record damage. ● Impact on Sea Life: The warming seas have had a devastating impact on marine life, including the emperor penguin, which is a threatened species due to climate change. |
| <p>Environmental Changes Are Fueling Human, Animal and Plant Diseases, Study Finds</p> <p><i>By Emily Anthes</i></p> <p>The New York Times</p> <p>May 8, 2024</p> | <p>Based on nearly 3,000 observations on disease risks for humans, animals, and plants on every continent except Antarctica, the NY Times published that scientists have found that a warming climate may be helping malaria expand in Africa and that a decline in wildlife diversity may be boosting Lyme disease cases in North America.</p> |
| <p>In Africa, trauma from climate disasters lingers</p> <p><i>By Laurence Caramel</i></p> <p>Le Monde</p> <p>May 2, 2024</p> | <p>Until now, little attention has been paid to the psychological impact caused by the brutality of extreme weather events. In several parts of Africa, the scenes of desolation have stunned families who, in the space of a few hours, have lost all their possessions and sometimes some of their loved ones.</p> <p>One crisis follows on the heels of another, leaving behind lasting consequences and the psychological certainty that the nightmare could start all over again at any moment.</p> |
| <p>What happens when climate change and the mental health crisis collide?</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>April 10, 2024</p> | <p>A recent article in Nature highlights the alarming intersection of climate change and the global mental health crisis. The article calls for urgent action to address this emerging challenge, which disproportionately affects marginalised communities and Indigenous populations.</p> <p>One key challenge for researchers is accurately measuring the mental health burden attributable to climate change and tracking it over time. While most research has been conducted in high-income countries, the harshest effects of a warming planet are being felt in low- and middle-income nations.</p> |

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| <p>Hidden effects of warming ocean water uncovered: It's worse than we thought</p> <p><i>By Sibbu Kumar Tripathi</i></p> <p>India Today</p> <p>April 10, 2024</p> | <p>A new study has revealed that the impact of climate change on marine life is far more severe than previously understood.</p> <p>The findings suggest that climate change is disrupting the basic bodily functions of fish and invertebrates, including temperature regulation, respiration, and waste removal. It is also impacting their ability to reproduce, find food, and avoid predators. Furthermore, the development and maturation of larvae are being altered, leading to deformities and slower growth rates.</p> |
| <p>Antarctic meteorites being lost to climate change, study finds</p> <p>The Times of India</p> <p>April 9, 2024</p> | <p>Climate change is causing the loss of thousands of meteorites in Antarctica, with scientists calling for a major international effort to preserve these space fragments. The research, published in the journal Nature, found that about 5,000 meteorites are being lost due to ice melting, with the Earth losing meteorites at five times the rate they are being recovered.</p> <p>The researchers emphasised the importance of preserving these meteorites, which provide valuable insights into the formation and evolution of the solar system and their loss would be a significant blow to the understanding of the universe.</p> |
| <p>RBI report highlights 3 ways in which climate change can increase inflation and hinder growth in India</p> <p><i>By Kunal Kambli</i></p> <p>Business Insider India</p> <p>April 8, 2024</p> | <p>RBI has highlighted three critical pathways through which climate change could exacerbate inflation and hinder growth in India. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adverse weather conditions could disrupt agricultural production and global supply chains, leading to inflationary pressures. ● Escalating temperatures and extreme weather events could alter the natural interest rate, dampening productivity and potential output. ● The aftermath of climate change might impede the effectiveness of monetary policy in regulating financing conditions for households and businesses. |

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| <p>Climate crisis impacts citizens' right to life: Supreme Court</p> <p><i>By Abraham Thomas, New Delhi</i></p> <p>Hindustan Times</p> <p>April 08, 2024</p> | <p>Supreme Court said in a recent judgment that Climate change impacts the constitutional guarantee of the right to life. India must prioritise clean energy initiatives such as solar power as citizens have a right to be free from the adverse effects of the climate emergency.</p> <p>The judgment came on a petition by wildlife activist MK Ranjitsinh and others to protect the Great Indian Bustard (GIB), a critically endangered bird found only in Rajasthan and Gujarat. The court recalled an earlier order of April 2021 that required the undergrounding of overhead transmission lines across an area of over 80,000 sq km in the two states after the Union government pointed out concerns about the feasibility of implementing the order.</p> |
| <p>9% Mongolia livestock lost to winter 'dzuds'</p> <p>The Times of India</p> <p>April 7, 2024</p> | <p>Mongolia's nomadic herders are facing unprecedented challenges as the country experiences a significant increase in livestock losses due to harsh winters, known as dzuds. The dzuds, which are severe winters with extreme cold and lack of food, have resulted in the loss of over 60% of some herders' livestock this year alone.</p> <p>The herders are already adapting to the changing climate by moving their herds to higher elevations and using early warning systems to predict seasonal changes. However, these measures are not enough to mitigate the full impact of the dzuds, and the herders are in dire need of support to help them cope with the crisis.</p> |
| <p>Sunderbans to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, climate change is altering the population-level disease profile.</p> <p><i>By Abantika Ghosh & Wisal Yousafzai</i></p> <p>The Times of India</p> <p>April 5, 2024</p> | <p>Climate change is having a profound impact on the health of populations in the Sundarbans and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, leading to a significant shift in disease profiles in these regions.</p> <p>The Sundarbans, home to over 4 million people, are experiencing a battery of health problems due to frequent cyclones and rising sea levels. Residents are facing skin ailments, waterborne diseases, and gynecological issues, with many forced to abandon their homes and relocate to higher ground. The health system in the area is struggling to reach these people, and there is a lack of credible data to quantify the problem.</p> |

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| | <p>In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, devastating floods have become a regular occurrence, causing widespread damage and disease outbreaks. Since 2007, the province has seen a significant increase in patients with malaria, skin diseases, and other vector-borne illnesses. In 2023, the province recorded over 130,000 patients with influenza, highlighting the severity of the situation.</p> |

Please read the 1st edition at: <https://tinyurl.com/kcc6nakk>