



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% 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 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—often called “collateral damage.” This damage is less discussed and documented compared to the direct impacts of climate change, like rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and sea-level rise.

Collateral damage can occur in different forms, such as the loss of marine life due to ocean acidification and warming temperatures, and higher food charges 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 threats to women and girls in Southeast Asia, a warning sign for other regions</p> <p>UN Women</p> <p>September 27, 2024</p> | <p>The ASEAN Gender Outlook 2024 highlights the significant impact of climate change on women and girls in Southeast Asia. Data reveal the gendered impacts of increased droughts, unpredictable rains, and rising temperatures, which correlate with higher rates of child marriage, adolescent births</p> <p>The report calls for gender-sensitive climate policies and increased women's participation in decision-making roles. It stresses the urgency of integrating gender perspectives into development agendas to ensure inclusive solutions and achieve sustainable development goals by 2030.</p> |
| <p>Schools feel the heat as closures increase with extreme weather events</p> <p><i>By Shailesh Shrivastava</i></p> <p>Mongabay</p> <p>September 27, 2024</p> | <p>Schools in India face increasing disruptions due to extreme weather events like heat waves, floods, and air pollution, resulting in significant loss of school days. Despite the National Action Plan on Climate Change, climate policies must pay more attention to education.</p> <p>States like Meghalaya, Tripura, Assam, and Delhi have extended vacations and changed school timings to cope. Solutions proposed include building climate-resilient infrastructure, adjusting academic calendars, and improving policy execution to address learning loss and ensure sustainable education.</p> |
| <p>Sahara's green miracle: Desert blossoms after unprecedented heavy rainfall</p> <p><i>By Rimjhim Singh</i></p> <p>Business Standard</p> <p>September 25, 2024</p> | <p>The Sahara Desert has experienced an unprecedented transformation due to heavy rainfall caused by a northward shift of the Intertropical Convergence Zone. This rare event, triggered by an extratropical cyclone, has turned parts of the desert green, with vegetation flourishing in low-lying areas.</p> <p>The rains have also led to severe flooding, affecting millions across Africa. Experts link the rainfall pattern shift to climate change and record-high ocean temperatures.</p> |
| <p>Climate change triggered a mega-tsunami that caused the Earth to vibrate for nine days</p> <p><i>By Rosie Frost</i></p> | <p>In September 2023, a climate change-triggered landslide in Greenland's Dickson Fjord caused a mega-tsunami and generated seismic vibrations that lasted nine days. A 1.2km-high mountain collapsed, sending 25 million cubic meters of rock and ice into the fjord, creating a 110m high wave.</p> |

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| <p>euronews September 13, 2024</p> | <p>The event's unique seismic signal puzzled scientists until they used computer modelling and satellite imagery to recreate it. The study highlights climate change's role in destabilising polar regions, increasing the risk of massive landslides and tsunamis.</p> |
| <p>Multiple studies flag food insecurity as a threat in the Himalayas <i>By Simrin Sirur</i> Mongabay September 9, 2024</p> | <p>A review of research on food security in the Himalayas highlights the severe impacts of climate change on food accessibility, availability, and stability. The studies indicate reduced productivity of key crops like rice and wheat, with 80% reporting declines due to climate stressors, pests, and diseases.</p> <p>Around a third of the 210 million residents in the region face food insecurity, exacerbated by urbanisation and a shift towards less nutritious crops. Adaptation measures include changing diets, adopting new irrigation methods, and diversifying income sources. The need for continuous monitoring and holistic approaches to food security is emphasised.</p> |
| <p>More than 400 million Students Affected by Climate-Related School Closures since 2022 World Bank Group September 4, 2024</p> | <p>A World Bank report reveals over 400 million students globally face school closures due to extreme weather since 2022, with low-income countries most affected. The report highlights the urgent need for climate-resilient education systems and better integration of climate education. A one-time investment of \$18.51 per child could mitigate climate impacts on education by improving infrastructure, training teachers, and promoting green skills.</p> <p>Despite the eagerness of youth to act on climate change, there is a significant gap in education and resources. The report advocates for enhanced climate education and green skill development to drive climate action and adaptation.</p> |
| <p>31 Dead, over 4.5 Lakh People Displaced As Heavy Rains Batter Andhra Pradesh, Telangana News 18 September 3, 2024</p> | <p>Heavy rains in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have caused widespread destruction, leading to the deaths of 31 people. The intense downpour has damaged roads and railways, cutting off connectivity and flooding thousands of acres of farmland. Many residents are struggling to find necessities as rescue teams work to help those affected.</p> <p>On September 2, the situation became even more dire, with 16 people losing their lives in Telangana and 15 in Andhra Pradesh,</p> |

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| | <p>which was hit particularly hard. In Andhra Pradesh alone, around 450,000 people have been impacted, especially in Vijayawada, where heartbreaking scenes of families searching for essentials like milk have emerged. Local authorities are focused on emergency response and rehabilitation efforts to support those in need.</p> |
| <p>African nations losing 5% of their GDP to climate change - Report</p> <p>Africa News</p> <p>September 3, 2024</p> | <p>A new report by the World Meteorological Organisation reveals that African nations are losing up to 5% of their GDP annually due to climate change impacts, with many spending up to 9% of their budgets on adaptation. Africa, responsible for less than 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, faces extreme weather events like droughts and floods, worsening food security and public health.</p> <p>The report warns that without investment in early warning systems, up to 118 million people could be exposed to extreme weather by 2030. Recent events include severe droughts in Zambia and flooding affecting over 716,000 people in the Sahel region.</p> |
| <p>Climate change-fueled heat impacts Spain amid ongoing wildfire threat in the Mediterranean</p> <p>Climate Central</p> <p>August 21, 2024</p> | <p>Spain is facing a heatwave from August 21-26, with nearly 26 million residents experiencing temperatures made five times more likely by climate change. Cities like Madrid and Barcelona are expected to see daily average temperatures reach Climate Shift Index (CSI) levels of 5, with anomalies up to 8°C above normal. The extreme heat raises wildfire risks, particularly in western regions, and poses threats to freshwater supplies. In 2023, Spain recorded over 8,300 heat-related deaths, highlighting the severe impact of rising temperatures on public health, particularly among women and the elderly.</p> |
| <p>Climate change threatens public health, raising the spread of food-borne diseases</p> <p><i>By Leocadia Bongben</i></p> <p>Mongabay</p> <p>August 15, 2024</p> | <p>A study published in Nature reveals that climate change is increasing the spread of food-borne diseases particularly in Africa and Asia. Heatwaves, droughts, and heavy rainfall contribute to the rise of pathogens like cholera and Salmonella, threatening public health and straining health systems. Africa bears a significant burden, with millions falling ill annually from contaminated food.</p> |

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| | <p>The study emphasises the need for research and innovation to understand the climate-pathogen relationship and suggests implementing climate-smart agricultural practices, enhancing food safety protocols, and investing in monitoring systems to mitigate health impacts.</p> |
| <p>Deadly Landslides in India Made Worse by Climate Change, Study Finds <i>By Austyn Gaffney</i> The New York Times August 13, 2024</p> | <p>A study by World Weather Attribution found that human-caused climate change made extreme rainfall 10% heavier, triggering deadly landslides in Kerala, India, on July 30, 2024, killing hundreds. The saturated soil from monsoon rains and increased rainfall intensity led to catastrophic landslides. Climate change, primarily from fossil fuel burning, intensifies rainfall, increasing landslide risks.</p> <p>The study suggests preventive measures like reinforcing slopes, installing retaining structures, and improving early warning systems. Land-use changes, such as deforestation and quarrying, also heighten landslide susceptibility. Effective hazard zone identification and proactive planning are crucial to mitigating future disasters.</p> |
| <p>Highest Ocean Warming in 400 Years Poses ‘Existential Threat’ to Australia’s Great Barrier Reef, Researchers Say <i>By Martina Igin</i> Earth.org August 9, 2024</p> | <p>A new study warns that the Great Barrier Reef faces an "existential threat" from record ocean heat extremes caused by human-induced climate change, with recent years experiencing the highest temperatures in 400 years.</p> <p>Coral bleaching, driven by rising sea temperatures, weakens reefs, making them vulnerable to disease and reducing their ability to recover. Despite global climate mitigation efforts, the reef risks near-annual bleaching, threatening its ecological function. The world has lost 14% of its corals since 2009, and even limiting global warming to 1.5°C could result in the loss of 70-90% of reefs globally.</p> |
| <p>A critical system of Atlantic Ocean currents could collapse as early as the 2030s, new research suggests</p> | <p>A new research indicates that a crucial system of Atlantic Ocean currents, known as the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), could collapse as early as the late 2030s. This collapse would have severe implications for global weather patterns and climate.</p> |

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| <p><i>By Angela Dewan and Angela Fritz</i></p> <p>CNN</p> <p>August 3, 2024</p> | <p>Scientists warn that if the AMOC fails, it could lead to extreme weather events, including more heatwaves, droughts, and flooding. The average temperatures in Europe and North America could drop significantly, and the Amazon rainforest would experience drastic seasonal changes.</p> |
| <p>Perspectives on climate change and infectious disease outbreaks: is the evidence there?</p> <p><i>By Gina E. C. Charnley and Ilan Kelman</i></p> <p>npj climate action</p> <p>July 20, 2024</p> | <p>The complex relationship between climate change and infectious disease dynamics, emphasises the challenges in predicting and attributing disease outbreaks to climate change. There is a need for cautious and evidence-based communication to avoid oversimplification and misallocation of resources.</p> <p>The paper stresses the importance of interdisciplinary research and addressing underlying vulnerabilities, such as poverty and inadequate sanitation, to improve health outcomes and resilience against climate impacts, rather than attributing disease transmission solely to climate change.</p> |
| <p>In fringes of Bengal’s Jangal Mahals, climate change brings silent displacement & loss of human lives, biodiversity</p> <p><i>By Mrinalini Paul</i></p> <p>Down to Earth</p> <p>July 16, 2024</p> | <p>Environment enthusiasts on the Pran Prakriti Yatra observed increased elephant raids, forest degradation, and health issues exacerbated by unplanned forestry programs and climate change. Villagers reported displacement without rehabilitation, water shortages, and loss of biodiversity. Despite understanding their challenges, they felt neglected by authorities. The yatra concluded with a call for collective action to preserve their environment and heritage.</p> |
| <p>As global crises join forces, the world must adopt a forward-looking approach to protect human and planetary health</p> <p>UNEP</p> <p>July 15, 2024</p> | <p>The UN Environment Programme and the International Science Council highlight the need for a proactive approach to address the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. They identify eight critical global shifts contributing to a "polycrisis" affecting human and planetary health. The report calls for adopting foresight tools to anticipate emerging challenges, engaging diverse stakeholders, and rethinking measures of progress beyond GDP. It emphasises the importance of agile governance and improved monitoring to facilitate effective responses to these evolving threats.</p> |

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| <p>NATO releases 2024 Climate Change and Security Impact Assessment Report: “A profound impact on Allied security”</p> <p>NATO</p> <p>July 9, 2024</p> | <p>The report, part of NATO's Climate Change and Security Action Plan adopted in 2021, examines climate impacts across all operational domains and evaluates case studies from Kosovo, Finland, and North America. Notably, it analyses the implications of climate change for NATO's adversaries, particularly in light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The assessment aims to enhance Allied understanding and adaptation to the evolving security landscape influenced by climate change.</p> |

Please read the 1st and 2nd edition at:

<https://tinyurl.com/kcc6nakk> and <https://tinyurl.com/3ci68w9y>