

## COMMENTED MEDIA HEADLINES

March 2024

## Climate change in Latin America: migration perspectives



Statista, Mar 19, 2024

**Synopsis:** According to a survey by the European Investment Bank, faced with the catastrophe scenario that is looming in the region due to climate change (droughts, fires, storms, heat waves, etc.), around half of the Respondents in Latin America believe they may have to move to another region or country. The survey was carried out in May 2023 among more than 10,500 participants from 13 countries Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay).

Respondents in Ecuador had the highest percentage (61%) of people who believe they will have to move due to climate change, followed by Mexicans (59%). In Brazil, the percentage was 52%. According to the report, 91% of people surveyed in all countries consider that climate change affects their daily lives.

**N.R.** Latin American emigration is, perhaps, the saddest aspect of the numerous calamities that our region suffers, both because of what it means to be uprooted from your community and relatives on a personal and family level, and to the enormous damage that this causes in our societies. since this emigration is fundamentally made up of young people of productive age, many of them professionals, whose knowledge is shamelessly used by the large industrialized nations, without having spent anything on their training, since that expense is assumed by our people. without receiving anything in return.

This drain of talent and capabilities generates tremendous damage, both in economic productivity and in the provision of social services such as health, education, etc. further deteriorating the quality of life and pushing more people to emigrate, in a perverse feedback loop.

The figures from this survey are truly alarming. In fact, the population of the countries surveyed totals 587 million inhabitants, and calculating the population and the percentage by country of the same, we find that a total of 312 million people (53%), compared to the scenario of catastrophes that looms in the region due to climate change, they believe they may have to move to another region or country

## An Argentine community stops mining companies exploiting lithium after a river dried up



El País, March 21, 2024

**Synopsis:** The Supreme Court of Justice of the province of Catamarca, in northern Argentina, accepted an injunction requested by an Aboriginal community and ordered the suspension of mining activity in the Salar del Hombre Muerto, one of the largest lithium basins in the region. , after verifying that one important rivers (Trapiche River) has dried up and that the initiatives underway could destroy the only major source of water left in the area.

With the support of environmental organizations, in 2021, Chief Guitián promoted the protection that has just been granted by the highest court, with the aim of revoking the permits granted by the local government for the prospecting, exploration and exploitation of lithium, fight that began in 2018 and in the midst of which he has received pressure and threats.

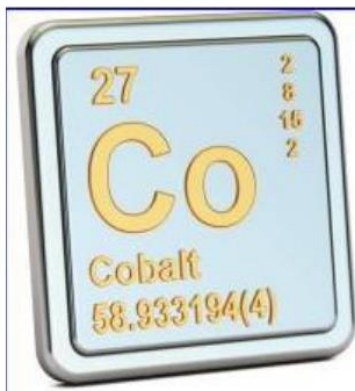
The Trapiche River, a floodplain that allows animal husbandry and he believes that something similar could happen in the Los Patos River, where " The ruling issued this month puts the spotlight on seven mining projects in the Salar.



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## Greenpeace: the battle at the bottom of the oceans for which the environmental organization could be expelled from a UN body



BBC, 18, 2024

**Synopsis:** Mining companies and environmental groups are locked in a battle over a multi-million-dollar treasure trove of metals lying at the bottom of our deepest oceans, as Greenpeace activists disrupt a research expedition by boarding a ship in the remote Pacific.

For this reason, the group could be expelled as observers from the International Seabed Authority, a UN organization that supervises the controversial plans to begin mining the seabed by The Metals Company, whose CEO recognized that the area that his company plans to exploit is a huge area of 75,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

It is the latest episode in a long battle over access to a treasure hidden on the surface of the seabed in rocks the size of a potato and containing metals crucial to making batteries and copper, cobalt, nickel and manganese and which are found in the abyssal plain, between 4,000 and 6,000 meters, depth.

N. A. The undelimited sea and its bed belong to humanity and cannot be distributed by sectoral bureaucratic organizations of the UN that, apparently due to their conduct, are at the service of the interests of the great industrial powers, as happened in the infamous COP28 conference.

## Determine the main cause of poor health worldwide



RT, March 15 2024

**Synopsis:** Neurological diseases, including migraine, tension headaches, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, stroke, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, multiple sclerosis, meningitis, encephalitis, and idiopathic intellectual disability, have increased considerably in the last three decades and currently constitute the main cause of morbidity in the world with 11.1 million deaths, followed by cardiovascular diseases, according to a study published in the journal The Lancet.

Scientists point to demographic growth and global aging as causes of this trend, as well as increased exposure to environmental, metabolic and lifestyle risk factors.

## The unexpected result of a study that evaluated the pollution of electric vehicles



Publicado: 5 mar 2024

**Synopsis:** A study carried out by the firm Emission Analytics revealed that electric vehicles emit more polluting particles into the atmosphere than their gasoline counterparts.

According to the report, a large part of the particles released by electric cars come from the wear of their tires, due to the weight of the batteries. It is estimated that this deterioration can produce 1,850 times more particles, often toxic, than the exhaust pipes of modern gasoline cars.

The Emission Analytics investigation was the product of the review of the proposal by California authorities by Biden's Administration to ban the sale of gasoline cars in the state in 2035, with the purpose of avoiding health damage from polluting particles in the air.

Emission Analytics CEO Nick Molden noted that "electric vehicles offer an approximately 50% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>, although they have the disadvantage of increasing particulate pollution," which impacts in the quality of the air you breathe and in "the effects on health."



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### The EU arrives in South America to calm things down over the controversial anti-deforestation law



*El País, March 20, 2024*

**Synopsis:** The European Union's environmental policy chief, Virginijus Sinkevičius, began a tour by

South America in an attempt to ease criticism in the region over a controversial EU law that will ban imports of linked goods to the deforestation of forests, applauded by some environmental organizations but feared by small producers who fear being left out of the market.

The European Union regulation focuses on products such as cocoa, coffee, soy, palm oil, wood, beef, rubber and all its derivatives (such as leather, wood, paper or chocolate) According to the FAO, between 1990 and 2020, deforestation reached about 420 million hectares.

However, according to Wendy Arenas, executive director of the Alisos Foundation, this rule could be a major setback for Latin American countries, which have the EU as their third main partner. "Since it has not been negotiated with the producing countries, this rule can also be interpreted as a barrier to the market." And it would affect countries like Peru, which exports 51% of coffee and close to 30% of cocoa to Europe. About 350,000 producer families live off of that.

**N.R.** This experience can serve as an example so that we Latin Americans can take similar economic measures against countries that do not significantly reduce the production and use of fossil fuels. For example, with a collective regional tax on mineral exports, which makes it possible to alleviate the serious consequences of climate change that these countries accelerate with their excessive use.

### Impact video: La Honda Reservoir in Táchira presents its lowest levels



*Lalguana.TV March 11, 2024*

**Synopsis:** The governor of the state of Táchira, Freddy Bernal, went this Sunday to the La Honda Reservoir in the Uribante-Caparo, accompanied by a group of journalists, to verify

water levels in said reservoir are at their lowest limits, cause of global warming. Through a video he detailed that it has been a product of the strong heat felt in recent days.

### The danger of the thousands of barrels of toxic and radioactive waste that have been under the sea for decades off the coast of California



*BBC News Mundo, March 21, 2024*

**Synopsis:** Thousands of drums, whose number may reach half a million, are submerged on the seabed off the coast of California, in the United States, which contain toxic material and which, based on the evidence collected in the investigation by a team from the UCSB, such barrels could house low-intensity radioactive compounds.

"In the process of dusting off old records it was discovered that in that area and 13 others off the southern coast of California, refinery byproducts, chemical waste, and and radioactive, garbage and even ammunition," John Chesnutt, representative of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, tells BBC Mundo. Among them, the dangerous and prohibited dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane, better known by its acronym, DDT, was detected and of which there is an almost unaltered presence of the chemical in an area of the seabed comparable at least to the city of San Francisco.



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## Hundreds of toxic substances found in commonly used plastic



RT Mar 15, 2024

**Synopsis:** The PlastChem project, dedicated to the identification and analysis of chemicals and polymers of concern present in plastic, presented a report listing more than 4,200 substances dangerous to human health and the environment.

The review revealed that there are 16,000 chemicals present in plastics, many more than were known until now, of which more than 400 are found in the main commonly used plastic products. The plastics release dangerous chemicals into the ecosystem.

Thousands of substances were also found to be unregulated; There is not enough data on the dangers of more than 10,000 chemicals used in the plastics industry and for more than 9,000 compounds it is not even known which products they are used in, because companies do not share this information.

## Floods in southeastern Brazil leave at least 27 people dead amid devastation

CNN, March 25, 2024

**Synopsis:** They died as a result of the heavy rains that hit parts of the

country, 19 of them in the state of Espiritu Santo and at least eight in the state of Rio de Janeiro. Six people remain missing and more than 7,000 people were forced to leave their homes.

Flooding and landslides remain a major concern, as the rains have not stopped during the week.

The climate crisis contributes to heavier and more frequent rains, and in Brazil this is combined with rapid urbanization and often unsafe construction with deadly effects.



## Sweden: Greta Thunberg joins the climate protest that blocks parliament



The Guardian, 03/11/2024

**Synopsis:** Greta Thunberg accused Sweden of being "very good at greenwashing, actively trying to greenwash, deceive and lie to make it seem like they are doing enough and that they are moving in the right direction, when in reality exactly the same thing is

happening." contrary". she"her while she organized a protest along with 50 other activists in front of the parliament of her country.

The goal of Monday's protest against the climate crisis and the people it is killing, Thunberg said, was to highlight how "people in power are ignoring those most affected, activists, young people and science." ". She accused politicians of "prioritizing short-term economic benefits," which she said was "sacrificing human life and the planet in the name of greed."

Climate scientists also attended the demonstration to show their support.

## Fire extinguished on Carnival Freedom cruise ship after witnesses reported possible lightning strike



CNN, March 24, 2024

**Synopsis:** Cruise officials reported that the fire occurred on the port side of the ship's exhaust funnel, which fell onto deck 10 of the ship.

Witnesses reported that the ship may have been struck by lightning, but that has not been confirmed and the cause is still under investigation. The ship was about 32 kilometers from Eleuthera Island, Bahamas, when the fire broke out.



## Conflicts over water increase



Statista March 21, 2024

**Synopsis:** World Water Day has been celebrated every March 22 since 1993, with the aim of highlighting the importance of freshwater resources on our planet. In 2024, the main theme is "Water for Peace", highlighting how water resources can create peace but at the same time trigger conflicts when water is scarce or contaminated.

According to data from the Pacific Institute, from 2020 to 2023 alone, 543 conflicts were reported worldwide in which water was used as a weapon or was the cause or objective of violence, a figure almost equal to the 629 cases observed in the previous 10 years and much higher than the 213 conflicts recorded in the 10 years from 2000 to 2009, Asia being the region with the most conflicts, while in Europe, the situation has worsened considerably so far this decade.

One of the main causes of this is Several reasons for the increase in tensions over water use are climate change and the alterations it is causing to rainfall patterns with the subsequent risk of drought.

Between 2002 and 2021, droughts affected more than 1.4 billion people. In 2022, about half of the world's population experienced severe water shortages for at least part of the year and a quarter faced "extremely high" levels of water stress, using more than 80% of their total annual water supply. renewable drinking water.

Climate change is expected to further increase the frequency and severity of these phenomena, with serious risks to social stability.

Water scarcity is an important factor in migrations. These population movements can contribute to water insecurity in host territories by putting added pressure on water systems and resources, thus fueling social tensions.

A study conducted in Somalia indicates that there has been a 200% increase in gender-based violence against displaced people.

The lack of water can also increase the risk of conflict, in this context, cooperation for the management of transboundary waters is a crucial tool to maintain peace.

For example, although the surface of Lake Chad has decreased by 90% in 60 years, creating numerous problems in the region, Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, Libya, Niger and Nigeria have managed to give new impetus to the Lake Chad Basin Commission. Lake Chad to ensure efficient use of water, coordinate local development and prevent tensions between countries and local communities.

## UNESCO report: Water crises threaten world peace (report)



**Synopsis:** The United Nations World Water Development Report 2024, published by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water, notes that water-related tensions exacerbate conflicts on a global scale. To preserve peace, we must not only better conserve water resources, but also strengthen regional and global cooperation in this field.

According to the report, 2.2 billion people still do not have safe supplies of drinking water and 3.5 billion do not have access to adequate sanitation services. Because of this, the ONU goal of achieving universal access by 2030 seems distant and there are fears of increasing inequalities.



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## How to accelerate the energy transition in Latin America



*El País, 03/14/2024*

**Synopsis:** In this very interesting article, the energy transition is proposed as a key moment in environmental matters and that Latin America is facing a great opportunity, with enormous potential to develop photovoltaic, wind, biofuels or green hydrogen energy.

According to the Latin American Energy Organization (Olae), the electricity generation capacity with non-conventional renewable energy sources in 2022 increased: wind, by 10% and solar, 46%. Countries like Costa Rica, Uruguay and Brazil already have a relatively high percentage of renewable energies in common.

Brazil committed to the challenge of carbon neutrality by the year 2050, Chile focused its energy policy as part of its development strategy, which transcends the governments in power. For his part, the Minister of Mines and Energy of Colombia, Andrés Camacho, highlighted "We seek to reduce extractivism, developing other sectors of the economy, such as the countryside,

industry and tourism." He recalled that "Colombia made the decision not to grant more oil or hydrocarbon exploration contracts. We have water, sun and wind to take advantage of. As a continent we could become an energy power, complementing ourselves with countries that have large reserves of minerals, which "It would give us a margin of competitiveness in the geopolitical dispute that the world is going through."

In Costa Rica, whose hydroelectric energy occupies more than 70%, was affected by a drought that emptied the reservoirs, and had to import energy from other countries.

Meanwhile, in Argentina, Martín Dapelo, a specialist in renewable energies, affirms that, with the Milei Government and the changes it is bringing, "benefits were taken away from renewables and hydrocarbons are maintained, repealing those that it had in energy matters." distributed generation", which allows each user of the electrical grid to generate their own energy from renewable sources and to inject the surpluses into the traditional energy system. Meanwhile, hydrocarbons still have subsidies.

Specialists agree that Latin America needs to resolve certain differences to unite in pursuit of a regional alliance that facilitates and gives strength to this type of policies.

"The challenges imposed by the climate emergency, geopolitical conflicts, the post-pandemic era, among others, require the leadership of people who serve as a guide to jointly build a better common house for all," he says.

## Copernicus: Venezuela breaks carbon emissions record for fires in a month



*Aporrea, 03/01/2024*

**Synopsis:** The EU Atmosphere Monitoring Service, "Copernicus", warned that Venezuela, Brazil and Bolivia are the South American countries that emitted the most carbon in February, as a result of forest fires. The CAMS Global Fire Assimilation System estimated that between February 1 and 27, Venezuela accumulates 5.2 megatons of carbon. Brazil 4.1 megatons and Bolivia reaches 0.3 megatons.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Equivalence Calculator, the amount of carbon emissions produced in Venezuela can approach the emissions of one million cars during a year. **That's important, but that amount represents only one-284th of the annual emissions of the 284 million vehicles in the United States.**

The secretary of the union of the National Parks Institute, Marlene Sifontes, denounced that "Unfortunately we have a big problem in the lungs of Caracas, the work had not been done preventive to the water system of the entire National Park.



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### Bolivia: at least 40 deaths and 12 thousand families affected by intense rains



Nodal, 02/26/2024

**Synopsis:** The intense rains have so far affected 219 communities in 80 municipalities in Bolivia, leaving more than 12,000 families affected and damaged, 40 dead and 456 homes completely destroyed, reported the Vice Minister of Civil Defense, Juan Carlos Calvimontes..

### The ravages of the unprecedented storm that hit Argentina

Diario El Universal, 03/20/2024

**Synopsis:** A dead woman, thousands of victims, flooded streets, destroyed cars, blackouts and landslides is the provisional balance of an intense storm, with hail precipitation and strong gusts of wind that exceed 100 kilometers per hour. The images that circulate on social networks are Dantesque. You can see streets turned into streams, destroyed or floating cars, houses surrounded by water, trees and fallen power lines.

In the cities of Salta and La Plata there are thousands of people evacuated.

Another concern is that the country is facing a dengue epidemic and the rains allow the spread of the mosquito that transmits the disease.

### The first "ice-free" day in the Arctic, closer than thought



RT march 7, 2024

**Synopsis:** The world's northernmost region, the Arctic, an ecosystem characterized by areas of permanent snow and ice, could run out of sea ice in the next ten years, sooner than previous projections, if the Earth continues to face harmful levels of emissions. warns a new study from the University of Colorado Boulder (USA).

Researchers determined that the ice sheet melts more and more in the summer months and does not compensate for losses in winter. Warmer waters in the region would attract invasive fish species, with subsequent impacts on marine life.

Warming water could also pose a threat to human communities living near coastal regions: as ice melts and ocean waves grow, coastlines could suffer dangerous erosion.

The contraction of the sea surface covered by ice is due to greenhouse gases, explains researcher Alexandra Jahn, one of the authors of the study, cited by Phys.org..

### Microplastics linked to heart disease for the first time



RT march 7, 2024

**Synopsis:** : According to a study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, a group of Italian scientists has linked for the first time the micro and nanoplastics that contaminate the environment, with cardiovascular anomalies in humans, since they can end up in fatty plaques (atheromas), which accumulate on the walls of blood vessels, had a 4.5 times greater risk of suffering "a combination of myocardial infarction, stroke or death from any cause

### Biden government considers slowing the key standards on emissions, a possible blow to the growth of electric vehicles



CNN February 19, 2024

**Synopsis:** The administration is considering relaxing the strict rules on



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vehicle emissions that proposed last year, giving car manufacturers more time to meet the requirements that would make them sell more electric vehicles, according to two sources familiar with the plan.

Instead of a previously proposed rule that would quickly increase the amount of electric vehicles sold to meet strict emission requirements, the EPA is considering delaying these requirements until after 2030, the two people said. The EPA standard is not yet finished and this spring is expected to be published.

The standard on vehicle emissions of the Environmental Protection Agency is a key element of the climate agenda of President Biden. He has made the transition to electric vehicles an emblematic issue of its presidency, highlighting the economic impacts in addition to the impulse for the climate.

Some defenders criticized the measure as a concession to car manufacturers, saying that it reflects the reality that traditional US car manufacturers are far behind Tesla and Chinese companies of electric vehicles such as Byd. Automobile manufacturers are "are trying to extract the latest benefits that can consume a lot of gasoline." Said Dan Becker, director of the Safe Climate Transportation campaign of the Environmental Group Center for Biological Diversity.

The united Auto Workers union, they have time to sound the alarm about what the change to electric vehicles means for their workers. Trump has criticized electric vehicles in his speeches while seeking to be the republican candidate for the presidency.

## The great source of USAs of the United States dries gradually: the dreaded Peak Oil of the Permian basin



*Diario El Universal, '2/15/2024*

**Synopsis:** Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and shale oil (shale oil) have made the US the largest oil producer in the world. Of this, a single region is the largest producer of this type of oil: the Permian basin, located between Texas and New Mexico, which produces 6 million barrels of crude oil daily.

That frantic activity begins to have consequences. More and more experts are talking about a process of consolidation (instead of growth) or even ensure that the Permian basin is 'drying'. This basin has around 22,000 million recoverable raw barrels, which at the current extraction rhythm of 2.2 billion barrels a year (6 million every day), would give for 10 years.

The oil companies will try to stretch the 'gum' as much as possible, which could maintain oil production in the basin in 6 million barrels per day for a while. The extraction of these reserves is not linear in terms of costs and technology, which grow to the extent that the simplest and simplest hydrocarbons are depleted, the productivity per well will be falling to the measure that

operators have to operate the wells of lower quality.

According to Hubbert peak theory, oil will reach its maximum production point at some point and then enter the terminal decline following a campaign -shaped curve. This is still far from happening in the world, since technology advances quickly and there is still a lot of oil for extracting in fields already explored, and perhaps never arrives at the discoveries of oil in Guyana !! or Namibia, or because oil will pass to the background, given the progress of renewables.

In this regard, the Goehring & Rozencwajg investment firm went from sustaining that Permian Cuenca would reach its maximum point in 2025 to state that

## More than 4,700 people evacuated due to floods in Uruguay



*CNN, March 23, 2024*

**Synopsis:** More than 4,700 have been evacuated in Uruguay due to the storms and floods that affected the country. Residents in 9 of the 19 departments had to leave their homes after the red alert due to strong winds and rain.

The largest number of evacuated people was registered in the departments of Florida and San José, with 1,995 and 1,298 respectively.



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### "In recent years we become a buccanized region": Lula at the Celac Summit



*Diario El Universal, '3/01/2024*

**Synopsis:** The Brazilian president, Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, said Friday that in contrast to what happened decade and a half ago, when Latin American and Caribbean countries could build "common consensus" beyond their differences, in recent years the region was It has burst, and the differences motivated by extra -regional conflicts have been imposed.

"In recent years, among many of us, intolerance became strength and has prevented different points of view from sitting at the same table. We are stopping cultivating this vocation of cooperation and allowing conflicts and disputes, Many of them far from the region, are imposed, "Lula said in his speech during the VIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the CELAC, which is celebrated in San Vicente and the Grenadines.

Lula also highlighted the role of Latin America and the Caribbean, as an example of peace in a world crossed by armed conflicts and where "military expenses exceed two and three trillion dollars." However, in his opinion, that incidence on global international policy is conditioned to the ability of countries to join in pursuit of common goals.

"We cannot fail to reflect on our place in the international arena, in the context of dissemination of the global power and constant multipolarity effort, the issue that is placed is whether want to integrate To a world united or separated, "he warned.

**NR:** What Lula raised is extremely serious given the great challenges that Latin Americans face with Climate Change. On the cover of this newsletter it is reported that, in a survey carried out in 13 countries in the region and published by the organization Statista, we found the astonishing figure of 53% of respondents who believe that they might have to move to another region or country. due to Climate Change, in addition to the tens of millions who have already emigrated.

It is a catastrophic prospect. The greater the emigration, especially from productive-age sectors, the greater the misery and, therefore, the worse the quality of life, the greater the crime and the greater the political instability. We must face this situation now.

### 7 people taken to New York hospital for observation after "strong turbulence" on United Airlines flight



*CNN – march 30, 2024*

**Synopsis:** Seven people were taken to a New York hospital for observation after a United Airlines flight traveling from Tel Aviv to New Jersey experienced strong turbulence, forcing it to make an emergency landing.

New Windsor EMS Chief Michael Bigg said, "We evaluated about 30 people and transported 7 to the local hospital for observation only, with no serious injuries or ailments," he said. "Most people just wanted to get checked out at the local emergency room."

**NR:** News like these two previous ones are increasingly frequent in air and maritime transport due to Climate Change.

One reason may be the fact that the designs of ships and aircraft were made in response to meteorological conditions, that Climate Change is changing and that, if it is not stopped, it will significantly affect all transportation, with undoubted negative impacts on the global trade and tourism.



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### Mexico City is running out of drinking water and the problem could worsen



CNN, February 2024

**Synopsis:** The water arrives in dribs and drabs in, after the decision of local authorities to restrict the supply in some municipalities in order to save it in the face of the drought faced by one of the most populated cities in the world.

Water is rationed in several parts of Mexico City. Experts say that the lack of rain has caused the Cutzamala system, which supplies water, to remain at very low storage levels, and the depletion of its wells due to the drought.

In this regard, the president of the Water Advisory Council expressed that "There are variables that we did not have a few years ago, such as climate change, deforestation, pollution and of course, the prolonged absence of rain."

Eduardo Vázquez Herrera, from the Agua Capital organization of Mexico City, explained that the main source of water in the Valley of Mexico is underground, highlighting that the aquifers "are deeply overexploited," in addition to the fact that each year the Rainfall in the country has been reducing.

### The Tins, the first river in Spain with rights: "Any damage due to human action or omission must be repaired"

*El País, Europa Press, 03/16/2024*

**Synopsis:** The Tins River in La Coruña will become the first river in Spain to have its rights recognized thanks to the Outes city council, which unanimously approved an institutional declaration that establishes 10 rights and 14 commitments from residents for this riverbed so that they are respected.

There are several river courses on the planet that enjoy this recognition, such as the Whanganui in New Zealand, the Ganges in India, the Buriganga in Bangladesh or the Atrato in Colombia. The declaration aims to improve the mechanisms of protection and enhancement of this ecosystem - recovering the riverside forest, controlling invasive exotic species such as acacias as well as cleaning the margins of waste.

### An epidemic of blindness looms over generation Z

*RT march 6, 2024*

**Synopsis:** Experts warn of the long-term impacts on vision of spending excessive time in front of electronic device screens. Eye surgeon Joern Jorgensen, CEO of the EuroEyes International group, warned that children born after the 'millennials' (1981-1996) suffer damage to their vision by not receiving enough natural light during puberty, due to

being locked up in their homes with their electronic devices.



"Children don't go out as much as in previous generations, everything they need is in front of them on their devices (often used as a babysitter)," Jorgensen warns. "During a critical moment in their lives they do not receive natural sunlight, and that in turn is causing a very notable increase in myopia, since going out into daylight triggers a chemical process that releases dopamine, a type inhibitor of growth in the eye that causes myopia and spending so much time with a screen a few centimeters from the face means that the eyes blink less and are damaged, and by concentrating for hours on activities at close range, the eye muscles are stretched and the lens shifts, causing a gradual elongation of the eyeball and damaging the way we focus on distant objects."

The Global Myopia Awareness Coalition found that 52% of children today play less outdoors than their parents did when they were young. Likewise, over the past three decades, the UK has seen a 46% increase in myopia cases, and in China myopia levels have jumped from 30% to 95%.



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## Ask at the UN Summit in Kenya more environmental multilateralism and less distractions



*Diario El Universal, 02/26/2024*

**Synopsis:** Nairobi. - The VI UN Assembly for the Environment (Unea-6), the main environmental decision-making body of the world, began this. March in Kenya the analysis of the great environmental challenges of the planet.

The meeting brings together "more than 5,000 representatives of governments, civil society and the private sector", including dozens of ministers and an undetermined number of heads of state and government.

The Minister of Energy Transition of Morocco and president of the Unea-6, Leila Benali, in the opening session of the meeting said that "we need to restore confidence in multilateralism" to face the most sharp environmental problems in the world.

For her part, the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Soipan Tuya, said that the Unea-6 will evaluate "effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to address climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution", which is the so-called "triple planetary crisis."

The assembly arrives, according to UNEP, at a "critical" moment for the planet, because climate change is intensifying, one million species are directed to extinction and pollution remains one of the main causes of death Premature in the world.

## Heat wave: Rio de Janeiro registers a record thermal sensation of 60.1 °C



*RT march 17, 2024*

**Synopsis:** The Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro registered a record thermal sensation of 60.1°C in the Guaratiba neighborhood on March 16, reports the state-run Agencia Brasil.

Local authorities have recommended that the population stay hydrated and avoid prolonged exposure to the sun, in order to avoid health problems derived from the heat wave that is hitting the South American country.

The previous record in the city for thermal sensation - which takes into account the temperature and relative humidity of the air - was also recorded in Guaratiba, on November 18 of last year, when it reached 59.7 °C.

## OPEC predicts that world oil demand will rise by 2.2% this year



*Diario El Universal, 02/25/2024*

**Synopsis:** In its monthly report on the oil market, OPEC confirms its forecasts that demand will rise by 2.2% in 2024, to reach 104.4 million barrels per day. It describes as a consequence of the "robust economic growth expected for this year."

The report predicts that in 2025 this trend will continue with an increase of another 1.7% and a total consumption volume of 106.6 mbd.

Likewise, it stands out that China will drive demand growth this year, with a forecast consumption of almost 17 mbd, more than all the industrialized countries of Europe combined which, added to India's consumption, will burn 22.4 million barrels daily, much more than the United States.

In contrast, the report revealed that, in total, the most industrialized countries gathered in the (OECD) will consume only 46% of all oil in 2024, a percentage that will drop to 43 % the next year.

Amin Nasser, president and CEO of the Saudi company Aramco, the largest oil company in the world, added that "in developed countries the demand will be even greater than in other consuming countries."



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And already in 2020, the Minister of Finance of Saudi Arabia, Mohamed Al-Jadaan, stated that the global energy transition away from fossil fuels could last up to 30 years, making it necessary to continue investing in conventional resources to guarantee security of supply.

Another aspect discussed in the news is the tension unleashed in the Red Sea as a consequence of the Houthi attacks against commercial ships, which could also affect the economies of Latin America, a region that increasingly maintains greater commercial exchange with China and other Asian countries.

### Why high levels of mercury in tuna have not decreased for decades



BBC News, February, 2024

**Synopsis:** Despite decades in all of the world to reduce contamination by mercury where, thanks to the restrictions imposed, the levels of emissions in the atmosphere have descended about 90% since 1990, when examining the researchers the data of almost 3,000 Tuna muscle samples, from the Pacific,

Atlantic and Indian oceans, found that the levels of this metal in the tuna have been stable since 1971.

This poisonous substance is released by extracting and burning coal and ends in the ocean, where it accumulates in fish.

According to experts, the very old mercury hides in the depths of the ocean and reaches the waters where they accumulate in the tunas when they eat other fish that are contaminated. According to researchers, constant levels may be due to emissions of decades or centuries ago.

The mercury that enters marine ecosystems becomes methylmercury, the most dangerous form of this chemical, and humans are exposed to the element when they eat tuna, which is one of the most consumed fish worldwide, being a special threat to fetuses and young children, but has also been related to cardiovascular diseases in adults.

The main sources of mercury are: coal and gold mining, coal burning, industry, waste treatment. The study was published in the Environmental Science & Technology Letters magazine.

### SOS Orinoco denounces construction of a road in a mining area from Brazilian territory



Aporrea, 03/06/2024

**Synopsis:** "SOS Orinoco detected a new illegal highway from Tepequém (Brazil) to Icabarú, in the territory of the Amazonas state. The construction would be a work financed by a businessman of Brazilian nationality in partnership with the captain of Pemón sector 7, Juan Gabriel González"

Another data that draws attention is the expansion of mining. According to SOS Orinoco, between 2019 and November 2023 the

Illegal mining exploitation is carried out with a "strong investment of Brazilian capital", and those who work in the mines, according to SOS Orinoco, are Garimpeiros, indigenous people, Venezuelan Creoles and Guyanese.