

Media Headlines

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Asociación Pro-Soberanía, Integración y Medio Ambiente



HIGHLIGHTS

CELAC Summit in Honduras: Another missed opportunity

The desperate race to save decades of data on climate change and extreme weather being erased by the Trump administration

Tuberculosis re-emerges as the leading cause of death from in-fectious disease

What's the progress of the megaproject that will connect the Pacific and Atlantic oceans in South America?

More than 80% of coral reefs are suffering from the worst bleaching in recorded history

Accelerated population aging challenges Latin America: the Chilean case

Colombia and Panama establish electrical interconnection as a presidential priority and regional commitment

Climate change has tripled the duration of ocean heat waves

Coca crops, cattle ranching, and illegal roads continue to grow in the Amazon: Ombudsman's Office

CELAC Summit in Honduras: Another missed opportunity



DW, 04/10/2025

Synopsis: The IX Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on Wednesday (April 9, 2025) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, demonstrated that Latin America still lacks the diplomatic maturity to face difficult situations as a bloc, highlighting the lack of a common strategy in the face of economic pressures and migrant deportations.

Alliances are tested in times of crisis. The worst moments subject relations between nations to a strain that either breaks them or strengthens them.

In the midst of the tariff war unleashed by Washington, the regional mechanism has opted to resort to belligerent rhetoric rather than putting forward practical proposals. On the contrary, many of them are already negotiating quietly and alone with the White House.

Faced with the choice between articulating joint action to ease trade tariffs or resorting to empty pronouncements, they have chosen the latter. Therefore, the Tegucigalpa Declaration will be forgotten by the people as quickly as the condensation trails of departing presidential planes dissipate in the sky.

N.R: This sad and shameful CELAC meeting was beneficial because it allowed us, on the one hand, to appreciate the complete uselessness of this regional mechanism in addressing the challenges facing the Latin American peoples today and, on the other, to see the swindle represented by many of the region's leaders, with honorable exceptions like Mexico, who present themselves as great defenders of our peoples but who, in reality, as popular wisdom goes, are true charlatans, and on top of that, incompetent.

The final straw is that this painful reality is reflected by a media outlet serving the darkest war interests, which, by the way, continuing with its biased perspective, does not call on CELAC to speak out against the brutal economic siege against the people of Venezuela, nor against the planned US military intervention to seize its oil.

. Mexico on heat wave alert, with highs of 45 degrees Celsius across much of the country

EFE, 03/31/2025

Synopsis: Mexico is on alert for a heat wave that will affect much of its territory in early April, affecting 27 of its 32 states, with maximum temperatures that could reach up to 45 degrees Celsius, the National Meteorological Service reported.



It specified that maximum temperatures of 40 to 45 degrees Celsius will be recorded in the states of Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco, Colima, Mi-

choacán, Guerrero, Morelos, Puebla, Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Campeche.

In its 96-hour forecast, the National Meteorological Service indicated that anticyclonic circulations in the mid-levels of the atmosphere and low water vapor content will maintain a low probability of rain and a hot to very hot environment over much of the country, while a heat wave will prevail.

The desperate race to save decades of data on climate change and extreme weather being erased by the Trump administration



BBC Future, 05/02/2025

Synopsis: A vast amount of scientific data is being removed from US government websites, putting at risk decades of research on health, climate change, and extreme weather events, from historical weather records to data collected by NASA satellites.

On April 16, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced the removal of a list of ocean monitoring datasets in early May.

A group of scientists is fighting to save their work before it is lost. Some of it is in the United States. Others are scattered around the world. There are hundreds, or even thousands, of people involved in multiple networks. This data, long available online, is being steadily deleted by President Donald Trump's administration.

Some messages are "heartbreaking." Sometimes scientists get in touch, desperate to know if the data they've collected during their professional lives can be salvaged. Biomedical

and health researchers working with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for example, are desperately searching for ways to save important data following executive orders issued by Trump on what gender and diversity information federal agencies can release.

Shortly after his inauguration in January 2025, he announced sweeping changes to federal departments and agencies in an attempt to reduce what he called "waste" and "inefficiencies." However, many of the programs and resources currently being cut are vitally important, according to scientists.

Climate researchers who spoke to the BBC say some deleted data sets support important research on climate change and life-threatening extreme weather events, for example.

N.R. This destruction of information about climate change is no coincidence. The most powerful powers on the planet base their dominance on industrialization, hence the so-called most industrialized countries. But this industrialization causes irreparable damage to the environment and is directly responsible for climate change.

Faced with the logical deduction that it is necessary to regulate this industrialization, in which fossil fuels play a decisive role, and in a blatantly fascist conduct (such as the book burnings in Spain under Franco and in Germany under Hitler), they seek to eliminate any studies and evidence that might support this conclusion and, therefore, jeopardize the foundations of their domination.

Pentagon chief on his visit to Panama: "Chinese influence can't control our backyard"

RT, 04/13/2025

Synopsis: Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth stated that "Chinese influence cannot control OUR BACKYARD, especially when it comes to a critical waterway like the Panama Canal."



He also detailed that the former US military base Fort Sherman, located on the western bank of the canal, will be reopened. "We will have a greater

US presence, working to keep the communist Chinese out."

Trump has stated that the US must regain control of the Panama Canal, because Beijing's control of the waterway has violated the principle of neutrality enshrined in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

Tuberculosis re-emerges as the leading cause of death from infectious disease



Organización Panamericana de la Salud, 03/30/2025

Synopsis: The World Health Organization (WHO) released a new report on tuberculosis (TB) revealing that, globally, approximately 8.2 million people were diagnosed with TB in 2023, the highest number recorded since WHO began global TB monitoring in 1995. This represents a considerable increase compared to the 7.5 million reported in 2022, making TB once again the leading cause of death from infectious disease in 2023, surpassing COVID-19.

The Report highlights uneven progress in the global fight against TB, including persistent challenges such as a significant lack of financing.

In the Americas, 342,000 people were diagnosed with tuberculosis in 2023, an increase of 6.6% over the previous year, but the number of deaths decreased by 5.4% between 2022 and 2023, thanks to an increase in the number of people diagnosed and treated.

Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), which bear 98% of the TB burden, faced significant financing gaps. Only \$5.7 billion of the \$22 billion annual financing target was available in 2023.

In the Americas, eight countries account for 80% of cases, while in the Caribbean, incidence has been reduced to low levels, and some are close to the elimination threshold.

However, multidrug-resistant tuberculosis remains a public health crisis. In this case, success rates for tuberculosis treatment have already reached 68%.

N.R. It's shameful how the world is failing to meet health funding targets, when European countries alone plan to spend €800 billion on weapons.

Mexico: Dams in the north of the country are dying; some are at 0% capacity.



Excelsior, 04/19/2025

Synopsis: The dams in the states bordering the U.S. are at their lowest storage levels ever, and the hottest season of the year is just beginning.

According to the National Water Information and Monitoring System for Major Dams in Mexico, the 41 reservoirs in the north are at an average of 47.4% of their capacity, although some are reported to be practically dry, such as the Abelardo L. Rodríguez reservoir in Hermosillo, Sonora, at 0.0%, or the Adolfo Ruiz Cortines reservoir in Álamos, at 1%.

One of the situations that most alarms specialists is that the entire border region is a hot spot for climate change, and the summer forecast is

for it to be one of the hottest and driest in recorded history. Currently, 59.3 percent of the national territory is in drought, with 292 municipalities without water, with 100% drought in Sonora, Sinaloa, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Chihuahua, and Durango standing out; vast territories are also dry in Coahuila, Nayarit, and Guanajuato.

Rains in Bolivia, death toll rises to 55



Agencia Boliviana de Inf. 04/08/2025

Synopsis: El número de personas fallecidas por las lluvias en Bolivia aumentó a 55 durante el fin de semana, según el Viceministro de Defensa Civil de Bolivia, además, las autoridades han reportado que ocho personas permanecen desaparecidas, cuando ocurrieron deslizamientos e inundaciones en algunas regiones.

Suman 127 municipios declarados en desastre y más de 1.200 viviendas destruidas. También se informó que 590.529 familia están en condición de damnificadas mientras permanezcan las lluvias.

What's the progress of the megaproject that will connect the Pacific and Atlantic oceans in South America?



La prensa gráfica, 03/06/2025

Synopsis: The Bioceanic Road Corridor mega-infrastructure project is moving full steam ahead to connect with a network of roads and bridges spanning more than 2,290 kilometers, connecting the Pacific Ocean port of Coquimbo in Chile with Porto Alegre in the Brazilian Atlantic, connecting Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Paraguay.

It is expected to be completed in 2026 and will compete with the Panama Canal for the transit of goods between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans in South America.

The project, which was developed under the Asunción Declaration signed by the four countries in 2015, has an estimated cost of \$10 billion and is expected to capture up to 40% of the traffic flowing through the Panama Canal.

Paraguay, the world's fourth-largest soybean exporter, hopes to reap the benefits by reducing the transportation costs of its soybeans, which currently have to pass through Panama to reach Asia, by 25%.

The project opens a gateway to the Pacific for Atlantic countries seeking markets in Asia and Chile. It will facilitate the movement of containers to the Atlantic, streamline the product market, and boost the balance of trade between regional partners.

Antofagasta and Mejillones will be supplied 100% with seawater



Gobierno de Chile, 03/26/2025

Synopsis: The expansion of the desalination plant will make Antofagasta the first city in Chile and the first in Latin America with more than 500,000 inhabitants to be supplied entirely by seawater, thanks to an investment of \$130 million.

In the Antofagasta Region, the production of drinking water from marine sources began in 2003, with the launch of the North Desalination

Plant, which at the time covered 15% of the regional capital's demand.

The works will expand production capacity to 1,436 liters/sec, capable of supplying 100% of the city's drinking water supply to the cities of Antofagasta and Mejillones.

"Desalination is a concrete response to the drought our country is experiencing in the north, as is the US\$350 million desalination plant in Coquimbo," Minister López emphasized.

Eyes set on France, he created the impossible plane: It is propelled by water particles



Beyond aereo, 04/06/2025

Synopsis. A French company, Beyond Aero, has set out to create the first hydrogen-powered electric aircraft for commercial use.

It has presented a zero-emission prototype aircraft, the BYA-1, which is expected to enter service in 2030. The most attractive feature of this system is that it is hybrid, meaning it runs on hydrogen and electricity without the need for batteries.

According to the company, this aircraft will be much more economical than traditional airplanes, with much lower cabin noise, and will allow flights without CO2 emissions.

It will have six hydrogen cylinders, with a maximum power of 2.4 MW. With a full load of 250 kg of hydrogen, it can carry six passengers a distance of about 1,482 km, but at 444 km/h, it would reach 2,223 km.

SOS Orinoco reports 4,000 new hectares of illegal mining in seven months



Radio Fe Y Alegría, 04/ 05/2025

Synopsis: The environmental organization SOS Orinoco reported that, through a geolocation system, it maintains constant monitoring of mining activity hotspots in protected areas across the Venezuelan Amazon, detecting 4,000 new hectares of illegal mining from September 2024 to March 2025.

In addition to the existing ones, the most affected areas are Icabarú, in the Santa Elena de Uairén area, with 9,800 hectares; Canaima, a protected area that includes Canaima National Park, which was estimated to have affected more than 1,600 hectares by 2024.

Imataca, which contains a gold mining hotspot that extends across at least 4,781 hectares; and La Paragua, with around 6,000 hectares affected.

In its latest report, SOS Orinoco has once again warned of the mining activities approaching the foot of Angel Falls, the highest waterfall in the world and a Venezuelan heritage site. This situation threatens to destroy the biodiversity and natural majesty of these spaces.

Likewise, 29 illegal mines were reported operating in Serranía La Neblina National Park, in southern Amazonas.

This activity promotes the destruction of primary forests, as well as the diverse Venezuelan ecosystems. Mining

in protected areas is strictly prohibited.

In the case of Canaima National Park, this organization has requested that UNESCO classify it as "critically endangered."

Artificial Intelligence (AI) will consume 5% of electricity in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2035



OLADE, 04/02/2025

Synopsis: Artificial intelligence (AI) will represent 5% of total electricity consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) by 2035, according to a technical document prepared by the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), equivalent to more than 120 terawatt hours (TWh) annually.

Currently, there are 455 data processing centers for AI applications in LAC, and it is estimated that by 2023 these facilities will already represent 1.6% of regional electricity consumption.

The number of data centers globally is projected to grow by 165% between 2023 and 2030.

At this same rate of expansion, the region will experience unprecedented energy demand associated with the operation of AI servers, especially in critical areas such as algorithm training, query execution, and the complex cooling systems required to maintain operations.

OLADE's Executive Secretary, Andrés Rebolledo, stated that "the digital transformation of our production systems must go hand in hand with responsible and sustainable energy planning, as AI could compete for energy resources with priority sectors such as residential, industrial, and transportation."

Forest fires in Mexico: a crisis exacerbated by climate change



Aporrea, 04/18/2025

Synopsis. Mexico is facing a critical situation with 123 active wildfires reported in 28 of the country's 32 states, including the most affected: Chihuahua, Michoacán, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Morelos, Durango, and Sinaloa.

Climate change has intensified the frequency and severity of wildfires; high temperatures, prolonged drought, and wind patterns have created ideal conditions for fire spread.

According to recent data, 42.8% of the national territory experiences moderate to exceptional drought conditions. Wildfire seasons are becoming increasingly severe due to dry vegetation and extreme heat.

Wildfires not only destroy thousands of hectares of forests and jungles, but also generate carbon emissions that contribute to global warming. So far this year, more than 38,000 hectares have been affected.

More than 80% of coral reefs are suffering from the worst bleaching in recorded history



Euronews 04/25/2025

Synopsis: Scientists warn that this could be "something that is completely changing the face of our planet."

The damaging bleaching of global coral covers up to 84% of ocean reefs. According to the International Coral Reef Initiative, a coalition of more than 100 governments and non-governmental organizations, this is the most intense event of its kind in recorded history.

"We are witnessing something that is completely changing the face of our planet and the ability of our oceans to support lives and livelihoods," said Mark Eakin, executive secretary of ICRI.

Ocean warming is deadly for corals.

Last year was the hottest in Earth's history, and much of that heat is being released into the oceans. The average annual surface temperature of the oceans far from the poles reached a record high of 20.87°C. This is deadly for corals, which are key to seafood production, coastal protection from erosion and storms, and home to approximately 25% of all marine species.

The algae that live inside them are their food source. Prolonged heat causes the algae to release toxic compounds, and the coral expels them, leaving a white skeleton, and the weakened coral is at greater risk of dying.

Trump tightens the financial siege on Maduro



DW, 04/11/2025

Synopsis: The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Stuart Young, announced that the United States has revoked the licenses granted to his country for the development of natural gas projects with Venezuela. This new coercive measure is part of an escalation of US actions that, since early March, have intensified the White House's economic and geopolitical pressure against Venezuela.

In this regard, the Special Envoy for Latin America, Mauricio Claver-Carone, stated: "One of the Trump administration's main objectives in the region is to maintain a policy of pressure on the Cuban and Venezuelan regimes using more modern and effective tools," adding that, in the Venezuelan case, the measures "are much more targeted and powerful, with collateral effects."

Washington has implemented its strategy through an accelerated schedule of decisions aimed at impacting Venezuela's main sources of income, strangling the country's oil and gas production, and cutting off its international trade channels.

N.R. Regarding this article, three observations stand out:

a) The media's audacity to present the murderous measures of Trump's genocidal government as "pressure measures" against Ma-

duro. Those dying in hospitals due to lack of supplies, or suffering hunger and hardship, are not Maduro or his government, but the people. And they call themselves democratic journalists!

b) The US strategy with Venezuela is the same one it followed against Iraq: to weaken the country economically to limit its resources and prevent it from investing in its defense so as to defeat it with fewer human losses. All with the objective of militarily seizing the vast oil resources of Guyana and our country.

c) The fascist governments of the region, such as those of Bukele, Milei, Noboa Boric, etc., rabidly applaud these despicable measures as a way to keep their master happy.

Accelerated population aging challenges Latin America: the Chilean case



IPS, 04/16/2025

Synopsis: The Chilean population is aging rapidly, and the number of single-person households is increasing, posing social and economic challenges stemming from the abrupt demographic shift.

The initial results of the 2024 census reveal an increase to 14% of people aged 65 and over, while Chileans aged 14 and under account for 17.7%. Similarly, Chileans in four-person households represent 2.8%, and single-person households represent 21.8%.

For the director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE), the most striking aspect is the speed of population aging: "People over 65 represent 14%, and by 2050, it will be 25%." The fertility rate has dropped to 1.1 children per woman. The aging of the Latin American population of 663 million people is currently at 2% aged 80 and over, but by 2050 it will be 5%. In quantitative terms, this will mean increasing from 12 to 37 million people.

Chile, with 18.4 million inhabitants, has the highest life expectancy among Latin American countries: 81.4 years, surpassing the United States, which has much higher health expenditures.

"Aging is a national challenge at all levels," Dr. Gerardo Fasce, former president of the Chilean Society of Geriatrics and

Gerontology, told IPS. "The problem is extremely heterogeneous.

Only 50% of those over 80 are self-sufficient, meaning they can carry out their daily lives without help from others. "It's an issue of health, loneliness, and poor pensions," he asserted, adding that poverty is now analyzed from a multidimensional perspective.

"Poverty is measured by access to services, good education, and social support. Well-being is not only about meeting basic needs but also having a surplus that allows for activities that generate enjoyment," he explained.

"There must be specialists for the most vulnerable (elderly). But there are many older people, and that's why we need healthcare professionals with extensive training in geriatrics," said Gerardo Fasce.

Throughout Latin America, the fastest-growing group is those over 80 years of age. "In this group, the risk of disability and functional dependence, which is the inability to live alone and be independent, is much higher," asserted the Italian-born population specialist. But this aging is uneven.

In Chile's higher-income municipalities, aging is similar to that of Nordic countries, while in the poorest municipalities of Santiago, it is comparable to that of African countries. "The aging of the population in poor municipalities is characterized by greater precariousness, dependency, and limited support compared to more affluent ones where aging is better," he explained.

The specialist urged the approval in parliament of a law on dignified aging and another on care. At the center of the debate is the issue of pensions and their financial sustainability to see how older people can live a dignified life.

And instead of having more geriatricians, "geriatricize" the training of health professionals, transforming health systems and building a care system, especially now that families are increasingly smaller and women are more present in the labor market.

At least 16 people dead from severe storms in five US states

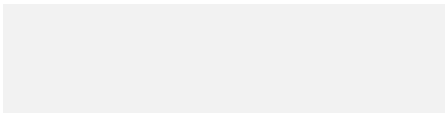
CNN, 04/05/2025

Synopsis: Thunderstorms are causing catastrophic flooding across the central United States, killing at least 10

people in Tennessee and six more in Missouri, Indiana, Arkansas, and Kentucky after severe thunderstorms and tornadoes hit the central U.S. this week.

According to the National Weather Service, a flood watch remains in effect through Sunday morning in

western areas and a flash flood warning remains in effect through Saturday night in several Tennessee counties.



Colombian Orinoquia, a key ecosystem that needs more attention



El Espectador, 03/25/2025

Synopsis: The Humboldt Institute's Bio Report, 2025 edition, indicates that the Orinoquía, one of Colombia's most naturally rich regions with its flooded savannas, a crucial breeding ground for aquatic species and an ideal ecosystem for hundreds of native and migratory bird species, is facing various pressures that, combined with climate change, are jeopardizing the balance of its ecosystems.

There are 23,487 registered species of animals, plants, fungi, and other organisms in the Orinoquía, 491 of which are in some category of threat. Of these, 76 are critically endangered, 173 are endangered, and 242 are vulnerable.

One of its key components is its water connection. Its main basin, the Orinoco River, the third largest basin in South America after the Amazon and the Plata River, is fed by tributaries such as the Meta, Guaviare, and Casanare.

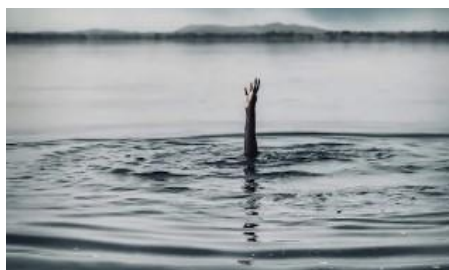
The main pressures affecting the region's ecosystems are population growth, the expansion of agriculture and livestock farming, land use transformation, and road construction.

The consequences could be significant: the flow of the rivers that feed the Orinoco could shrink, affecting the availability of water absorbed by

the flooded savanna during the summer. If measures are not taken to reduce these pressures, the Guaviare River could lose up to 50% of its flow, while the Meta River could shrink by 95% and the Vichada River by 98%.

These changes would affect the region's climate regulation, increasing the vulnerability of its inhabitants and ecosystems to the effects of climate change.

Death toll from rains in DR Congo rises to 43



DW, 04/09/2025

Synopsis: The death toll from flooding and landslides triggered by torrential rains in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, has risen to at least 43, the Congolese government reported, as evacuation efforts continue.

"The number of victims housed in various shelters has risen to 2,956, while 46 people have been hospitalized," the Congolese Ministry of the Interior said in a statement.

Strong winds unseen in decades unleash chaos in China



CHINATOPIX / AP

Synopsis: Strong winds of up to 150 km/h wreaked havoc in Beijing and

parts of northern China, causing widespread damage, flight and train cancellations, and the closure of schools and attractions. These were the most violent storms in Beijing since 1951.

The storm downed more than 400 trees, damaged vehicles, and forced the evacuation of some 7,000 people. More than 400 flights were canceled and high-speed trains were suspended. All schools in the megacity closed early on Friday, and outdoor activities were canceled on Saturday, as were several tourist attractions, including the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, and the zoo.

Complaints against the multinational that operates the Barranca-Bermeja landfill



El Espectador, 04/09/2025

Synopsis: The French multinational Veolia, which operates the Barranca-Bermeja landfill, was reported a few days ago by the international NGO Global Witness and the San Silvestre Green corporation for contaminating a nearby wetland with liquids formed by waste disposed of at the landfill. "Dangerously high concentrations of heavy metals, including mercury, have been detected, at a level 25 times higher than the safe limit for aquatic life."

Drinking water for the more than 200,000 inhabitants of Barrancabermeja is extracted from the wetlands located downstream of the landfill.

In response to public complaints, the Santander Regional Autonomous Corporation, the regional environmental authority, conducted a visit and issued a report highlighting possible environmental violations.

Robert Kennedy Jr. reveals how food companies create addiction to their products



RT, 03/28/2025

Synopsis: Food companies have used science to create addiction to their products, just like tobacco companies, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. asserted during an event on new legislation banning certain food colorings in West Virginia by 2028.

"The two largest food companies in the world, R.J. Reynolds and Philip Morris, the tobacco companies, took about 10,000 scientists who were working on making tobacco more addictive and put them to work making food more addictive by inventing ingredients in the laboratory," the official said.

He also revealed that the companies add fabric softeners to their products so consumers "don't chew as much and feel dissatisfied." They also add sodium and sugar to make their products addictive, he said.

Salmon become bolder as they migrate due to anxiolytics that contaminate rivers.

Elpaís.es, 04/10/2025

Synopsis: A study published in Science has shown how exposure to anti-anxiety medications dumped into the

water makes them more daring. This boldness increases their chances of reaching the ocean, which can disrupt the ecological balance of their species.



Indeed, huge quantities of medications end up in rivers around the world. Even after treatment, there are dozens of active ingredients in wastewater, sometimes at very high concentrations.

Previous work had shown how, even at low concentrations, pharmaceuticals (and also illegal drugs) are altering the algae, bacteria, and insects that are the basis of river life and causing fish to become addicted to methamphetamines dumped in rivers.

N.R. This contamination is not limited to the aquatic habitat. It is not difficult to conclude that when humans consume fish and shellfish, they also ingest medications that can alter not only their behavior, but also their own health.

Clogged arteries could accumulate 50 times more microplastics



DW, 04/23/2025

Synopsis: A preliminary study presented in Baltimore revealed that micro-

nanoplastics were found in concentrations 51 times higher in the arteries of stroke patients compared to healthy arteries.

The research has not yet been published in a scientific journal, so its results are preliminary and were presented at the American Heart Association's Vascular Discovery Scientific Sessions being held in Baltimore.

However, the American Heart Association explains that the study "cannot yet demonstrate that micronanoplastics present in plaque are the cause of the symptoms of carotid artery disease."

The research compared the levels of micronanoplastics found in the carotid arteries of three groups: people with healthy arteries; those with plaque but without symptoms; and those with symptoms due to plaque buildup.

The team will now focus on better understanding the immunological effects of micronanoplastics on clogged arteries, as "it is very important to study what these materials do to our bodies."

The research was based on a previous study conducted in Italy in 2024, which found micronanoplastics in some asymptomatic people who underwent surgery to remove plaque from their carotid arteries.

Climate change has tripled the duration of ocean heat waves



El Espectador, 04/14/2025

Synopsis: Last year was the warmest on record, with a global average surface temperature 1.55°C higher than the reference period from 1850 to 1900. One of the key factors in breaking global surface temperature records is the oceans.

This is due, according to the Meteorological Organization, to the fact that the ocean absorbs nearly 90% of the excess heat caused by global warming.

After analyzing thousands of data points, researchers concluded that climate change has tripled the duration of

ocean heatwaves and that half of these events, since the beginning of the millennium, would not have occurred if not for rising global temperatures.

These heat waves, according to Marta Marcos of the University of the Balearic Islands, are extreme increases in ocean temperatures over a prolonged period, posing a growing threat to vulnerable marine ecosystems such as kelp forests and marine reefs. Not only do "warmer oceans provide more energy to the strong storms that affect people on the coast and inland."

An example of this was the rains in Libya in 2023, in which more than 11,000 people died. "The likelihood of their occurrence was up to 50 times greater due to global warming, which raised temperatures in the Mediterranean by up to 5.5°C," the scientists added.

"The only solution is to reduce the burning of fossil fuels. It's a very clear relationship. More than 90% of the extra heat is stored in the ocean. If we stop heating the atmosphere, we'll stop heating the ocean," Marcos concluded.

Coca crops, cattle ranching, and illegal roads continue to grow in the Amazon: Ombudsman's Office



El Espectador, 03/28/2025

Synopsis: The Amazon region, home to 30% of the planet's biodiversity, is being affected by deforestation in Colombia. Sixty percent of forest loss in 2024 was concentrated in this region, according to figures from the Ministry of Environment.

The Prosecutor's Office prosecuted the former director of a CAR (Caribbean Forest Conservation Area) in the Amazon

for forming a network that promoted illegal logging in a protected area.

"Deforestation is advancing at an alarming rate due to the planting of illicit crops, mining, livestock farming, illegal road infrastructure construction, among other factors that pose a threat to biodiversity," said Ombudsman Iris Marín. In 2024, 1,381 kilometers of illegal roads were opened in the Colombian Amazon, including an illegal highway that crosses the northern part of La Macarena National Natural Park. According to the Ombudsman's Office, this would facilitate the expansion of coca crops. Meanwhile, in Tinigua National Natural Park, an "unprecedented" expansion of cattle ranching is being recorded, according to oversight bodies.

"In the Nukak-Maku indigenous reserve, a road of more than 130 kilometers has been consolidated along its northern border, which is driving the creation of new farms. Furthermore, the expansion of coca crops has been observed, even in environmentally fragile areas, such as the tepuis," the Ombudsman's Office reported in a statement.

Colombia and Panama establish electrical interconnection as a presidential priority and regional commitment



apoorrea.org, 04/05/2025

Synopsis: During President Gustavo Petro's official visit to Panama, both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to one of the region's most strategic projects: the Panama-Colombia Electric Interconnection (ICP).

Colombian President Gustavo Petro emphasized the interconnection's regional and global scope: "If Panama and

Colombia manage to articulate their electrical systems, we could clean up the energy matrix of all of the Americas. This is a project for humanity. We are not just solving local problems; we are generating real and concrete solutions for the world."

Petro noted that, "while the United States requires 1,200 gigawatts of clean energy to replace its fossil fuel matrix, South America has the potential to generate 1,500 gigawatts per year. The energy link between the north and south of the continent, he affirmed, can begin in the Isthmus."

Panama's Energy Secretariat highlighted the social impact of this initiative: "Interconnection is not just about technical infrastructure. It's a tool to democratize energy, reduce inequalities, and build energy justice in communities historically marginalized by development."

Anna González, biologist: "If all the ice in Antarctica melted, sea levels would rise by 58 meters."



La Razón, 04/20/2025

Synopsis: Anna González, a biologist, was part of a 124-woman scientific expedition to Antarctica, where she was shocked by the weather, which featured several days of rain instead of snow, with higher-than-normal temperatures, and some days that didn't even drop below 0°C.

She observed an alarming retreat of glaciers and ice loss at an accelerated rate. Antarctica contains approximately 27 million km³ of ice. If all that

ice were to melt, sea levels would rise by 58 meters.

The effects of climate change are not limited to Antarctica: 2 billion people worldwide depend on glacier water.

If we don't end our dependence on fossil fuels, we won't be able to protect Antarctica or the rest of the world.

The solution is not just individual, but political. We need leaders who are not afraid of change. Scientific outreach is key to addressing the environmental crisis.

As mentioned in the IPBES report, despite the enormous progress scientifically has made since the 1970s, and a vast amount of publications and knowledge about biodiversity have been generated, the reality is that the situation continues to deteriorate.

This shows that simply understanding the problems from an academic or scientific perspective is not enough; we need to transform that knowledge into action at all levels of society.

How does climate change affect the housing crisis?



DW, 04/23/2025

Synopsis: Escalating housing prices in cities affected by climate disasters have become a pattern, exacerbating an already existing global housing crisis.

Driven by investment firms buying up properties, as well as inflation and high construction costs, housing has become unaffordable for many around the world.

Sara McTarnaghan, a senior fellow at the Urban Institute, says, "There's a kind of shared experience where

housing prices and rents have continued to rise much faster than incomes."

It's a problem that knows no geographic boundaries. Half of the cities with the fastest-rising rents worldwide are in the Global South.

The problem is compounded by extreme weather events and natural disasters like hurricanes, floods, and wildfires, which are becoming more intense and frequent as fossil fuels continue to be burned.

When natural disasters strike, they can erode the available housing stock and put short-term pressure on rental supply, sometimes in completely different cities.

The deadly January wildfires in Los Angeles razed 16,000 buildings, and in 2005, Hurricane Katrina destroyed or damaged more than 200,000 homes and caused housing prices to soar by 33%. In Puerto Rico, housing prices rose 22% after Hurricane Maria in 2017, the deadliest hurricane in recent U.S. history, with nearly 3,000 deaths.

Artificial sweetener linked to brain changes that increase appetite



Caras&Caretas, 03/31/2025

Synopsis: A recent study published in the journal Nature Metabolism found that sucralose, a common sweetener in diet drinks, can alter appetite regulation in the brain and increase feelings of hunger.

According to Dr. Katie Page, lead author of the study and a professor at the University of Southern California,

sucralose activates brain regions responsible for hunger, increasing appetite by up to 20% compared to regular sugar.

Participants consumed three types of beverages on different occasions: plain water, water with table sugar, and water with sucralose.

Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) tests revealed conclusive results: sucralose-containing beverages increased feelings of hunger and generated greater connectivity between the hypothalamus and the anterior cingulate cortex, brain areas associated with decision-making and food motivation.

Furthermore, it was found that sucralose does not stimulate the release of hormones that signal satiety, leaving the body without a clear signal that it has consumed enough.

These findings reinforce the hypothesis that artificial sweeteners can confuse the brain by providing a sensation of sweetness without the expected calories, increasing the need to eat more food.

Electric boats: green utopia or unstoppable reality?



DW, 04/10/2025

Synopsis: The 290 kW (400 hp) electric motors of the Mondorf river ferry near Bonn have replaced the old diesel engines.

Power is provided by a 1,000 kilowatt-hour (kWh) battery. With the electric motors, there is no flammable diesel on board, nor any risk to the water during refueling.

According to the Maritime Battery Forum network in Norway, more than 1,000 of the 109,000 ships registered worldwide already sail with electric or hybrid propulsion.

For very long routes, battery technology has limitations.

While, according to a study published in the trade journal Energy Conversion and Management, journeys of up to 15,000 kilometers are technically possible, the route between Shanghai and Venice (30,000 km) would not be feasible without recharging stops.

South Korea makes history in Europe with its first bus powered by water particles.



Gizmodo, 04/09/2025

Synopsis: South Korea makes history in Europe by unveiling a vehicle that uses water particles and its component, hydrogen, as fuel.

Hydrogen is obtained by separating oxygen from water through a process called electrolysis, since it uses electricity. When obtained from renewable sources, such as photovoltaics or wind power, hydrogen is said to be green.

It was designed and built by Hyundai. Its testing will last three years and, if successful, would mark the beginning of the transition to a more efficient mass and public transportation system without greenhouse gas emissions.

It uses an electric motor powered by a 90 kW hydrogen fuel cell and an auxiliary battery system.

