

# Media Headlines

August 2025

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Climate change will push nearly six million children and young people into poverty in Latin America.**

**Plastic pollution already affects future generations because we have altered human DNA.**

**Tropical bird populations have declined by a third since 1980.**

**Amazon summit fails to ban fossil fuels**

**Brazil has been losing natural areas equivalent to the size of Bolivia since 1985 due to agricultural expansion and climate change.**

**" Every child in Gaza should die of hunger," says Israeli Rabbi Ronen Shaulov.**

**A major storm is brewing on the horizon: NCDs and mental health problems will cost South America billions by 2050.**

**How can drought affect the global economy?**

**For the first time in 100 years, the Perito Moreno Glacier is shrinking.**

Climate change will push nearly six million children and young people into poverty in Latin America.



Noticias ONU, 08/28/2025

**Synopsis:** At least 5.9 million children and young people in Latin America will live in poverty by 2030 due to the impact of climate change, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) warn in a

new report. This figure could reach 17.9 million if countries fail to meet their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Children and adolescents bear the brunt of climate change. Not only because their developing bodies are more vulnerable to extreme events such as cyclones or heat waves, but also because these events disrupt their families' livelihoods and their education," said the UNICEF regional director.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, only 3.4% of climate finance is dedicated to children and does not prioritize the health, nutrition, education, water, and sanitation services that children need for optimal cognitive and physical development.

Tropical bird populations have declined by a third since 1980, compared to a world without climate change.



carbono.news, 08/12/2025

**Synopsis:** Bird populations in the tropics have declined by approximately one-third (between 25% and 38%) since 1980 due to increased heat waves, compared to a world without climate change.

Some species have seen their abundance reduced by more than 50%, according to a study published in Nature Ecology and Evolution, prepared by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, the University

of Queensland, and the Barcelona Supercomputing Center.

"This is a staggering decline. Birds are particularly sensitive to dehydration and heat stress. Extreme heat causes excess mortality, reduced fertility, changes in reproductive behavior, and reduced offspring survival," commented lead author Maximilian Kotz.

According to the report, tropical birds are exposed to extreme heat conditions ten times greater today than they were 40 years ago.

The largest declines in bird numbers occurred in the tropics, but nearly all regions reported declining population abundance, with extreme heat being the most significant factor influencing the decline.

Thousands of species were exposed in 2024 to heat they had never experienced before.



El País, 08/25/2025

**Synopsis:** A group of researchers from the Barcelona Institute of Botany developed an algorithm to relate the geographic distribution of more than 33,000 species with the temperature in their territories in 2024. Their results were published in the scientific journal PNAS.

These mathematical algorithms allow us to see, based on certain degrees of heat, how a species is faring. The main result of the study is that the geographic distribution of more than 33,000 species with the temperature in their territories corresponded. 5,638 terrestrial vertebrate species suffered unprecedented thermal

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extremes in at least a quarter of their territory.

Meanwhile, the Institute of Neuroethology at the University of Veracruz in Mexico studied how the heat affected howler monkeys in Tabasco, Mexico, where nearly a third of the population had disappeared due to the heat.

Autopsies revealed hemorrhages and necrosis in the lungs, liver, kidneys, and brain. The deaths occurred during periods of exceptionally high temperatures lasting two to four days.

## Sharks are losing their teeth due to marine acidity.



DW, 08/27/2025

**Synopsis:** In research from Heinrich Heine University, ocean acidification was found to weaken shark teeth, causing them to crack and degrade after exposure to more acidic water, compromising their survival.

Shark teeth are among nature's sharpest weapons, although increasing ocean acidification could endanger them by weakening them structurally and making them more prone to breaking.

A study in *Frontiers in Marine Science* explained that sharks grow new teeth as they wear down existing ones, a capacity that may not be sufficient to ensure they can withstand the pressures of a warming world, where oceans are becoming more acidic.

Ocean acidification, driven primarily by the release of human-generated CO<sub>2</sub>, is a process by which the ocean's pH value decreases, resulting in more acidic water.

The average pH of the oceans is currently 8.1, and by 2300 it is expected to drop to 7.3, making them almost 10 times more acidic than they are today.

Furthermore, even moderate decreases in pH could affect more sensitive species with slow dental replication cycles or have cumulative effects over time.

Therefore, maintaining ocean pH near the current average could be critical for the physical integrity of predators' tools.

It is a reminder that the effects of climate change ripple throughout the food chain and ecosystems.

## Nutella in crisis: Climate change raises the price of hazelnuts and threatens those with a sweet tooth.



Newsweek, 08/12/2025

**Synopsis:** An unexpected frost in Turkey, the world's largest producer of the product, has drastically reduced the harvest, a situation exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Already since April 2025, the price of hazelnuts has risen more than 35 percent.

Hazelnuts represent around 13 percent of the Nutella recipe, and Ferrero uses approximately a quarter of the global supply.

An increase in their price would have a direct impact on production costs and could ultimately be passed on to the consumer.

The crisis has forced large companies to look for alternatives in countries such as Chile, Georgia, and the United States to reduce their dependence on Turkey.

However, increasing hazelnut production is not a short-term solution, as the trees take between 5 and 7 years to mature.

The hazelnut shortage is a reminder of the fragility of agricultural sectors in the face of climate change.

Unexpected frosts and unpredictable weather events threaten not only the production of hazelnuts, almonds and walnuts, but also that of many agricultural and livestock products worldwide.



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Plastic pollution already affects future generations because we have altered human DNA.



BBC, News Mundo, 08/28/2025

**Synopsis:** In an interview with lawyer Luis Vayas-Valdivieso, Ecuador's current ambassador to London, who chaired the negotiations in August to reach a Binding Treaty on Plastic Pollution, held under the auspices of the United Nations. These negotiations came to nothing because the proposal made by more than 100 countries to reduce plastic production was not accepted by countries that sell the raw material used to make plastic: petroleum.

Valdivieso stated, among other things, that "It is estimated that between 15,000 and 16,000 chemicals are used in plastic production... and we know something about the impact on human health and the environment of approximately 3,000 to 4,000 of those chemicals, no more. That is, you have about 12,000 chemicals about which we have no idea how they affect health and the environment."

Numerous studies have already demonstrated the presence of microplastics, particles smaller than 5 mm in size resulting from the disintegration of plastic, in human organs.

He added, "Since 1950, when the plastic production boom began, more than 9.2 billion tons of plastic have been produced, and of that amount, only 9% or less is recycled," meaning "91% of that production is primarily in the oceans." "By 2050, if we don't stop this pollution, it is estimated there will be more plastic products in the ocean than fish."

"There are five floating plastic islands, the largest the size of France and Spain combined. These plastics then degrade, producing microplastics and nanoplastics, which seriously affect human health. Furthermore, it is estimated that between 4 and 5% of greenhouse gases come from plastic production."

"Another problem is the chemical additives that are added to plastics to give them color, flexibility, and a certain shape. It is estimated that between 15,000 and 16,000 are used, and we know relatively little about the impact on human health and the environment of approximately 3,000 to 4,000 of them. That is, there are about 12,000 chemicals about which we have no idea how they affect health and the environment."

Adding that "The skin, the brain, the liver, the kidneys, the lungs... Virtually every organ in the human body is affected. There are studies on the link between micro and nanoplastics and serious diseases, including cancer... It even affects DNA. We don't know how it affects it, but we do know that future generations already have altered DNA due to plastic pollution."

Regrettable: Negotiations for a global treaty against plastic pollution fail

Ladera Sur, 08/18/2025

**Synopsis:** After eleven days of intense discussions, the INC-5.2 negotiations in Geneva concluded without an agreement on a global treaty against plastic pollution.

The United States aligned itself with countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, Russia and other countries to prevent such an agreement, arguing that the restrictions would affect industry, employment, and key sectors such as food, medicine, and technology.

They sought to reduce the agreement to simple waste management rather than plastic production and marketing.

Chile, along with Colombia and Panama, opposed a reduced treaty from the outset.

Currently, 460 million tons of plastic are produced annually, of which only 9% is recycled. According to the OECD, if the trend continues, plastic production will almost triple by 2060.

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**So much ice has melted in Greenland that the plankton has grown by 40%. This isn't good news.**



Xataka, 08/24/2025

**Synopsis:** Greenland has become a thermometer for climate change. There, the air temperature was about 3 degrees Celsius higher in the period between 2007 and 2012 than in 1979 and 2000, and this melting is causing a huge increase in freshwater and sea level.

It is also causing the seafloor to sink. It is estimated that its glaciers have reached a point of no return.

The additional problem is that meltwater is fresh, less dense, and lighter than saltwater, and acts like a whirlpool, pulling nutrients from the seafloor to the surface, mainly iron and nitrates, which benefits phytoplankton, stimulating their growth.

NASA has observed that, between 1998 and 2018, phytoplankton growth in Arctic waters had increased by 57%.

On the one hand, it can be positive for marine life, as it improves the ecosystem foundation by feeding more animals, and it also captures atmospheric CO2 for photosynthesis.

However, changes in water temperature, chemical composition, and sali-

nity can alter ecosystems, changing the food chain, which can modify the composition of marine species, from bacteria to fish.

**Extreme heat across the planet: Iran, Iraq, and Türkiye have reached temperatures exceeding 50°C.**



Estrelladigital.es, 08/08/2025

**Synopsis:** The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, has warned that extreme heat, with dangerously high daytime and nighttime temperatures, continues this August, affecting millions of people around the world.

In southwestern Iran and eastern Iraq, temperatures have surpassed 50°C, causing power and water outages, as well as the suspension of classes and work activities. Turkey has also reached a record high of 50.5°C.

In North Africa, the Moroccan National Meteorological Service maintains a heat wave alert, with temperatures between 40°C and 47°C expected during the week of August 4. In Japan, a national record of 41.8°C was recorded on August 5, surpassing the previous record of 41.2°C.

The WMO has indicated that extreme heat is combined with wildfires and poor air quality in many regions. Between 2000 and 2019, there were approximately 489,000 heat-related deaths each year, 45% in Asia and 36% in Europe, although these figures

may be underestimated due to the lack of complete records.

**Heatstroke alerts issued across much of Japan**

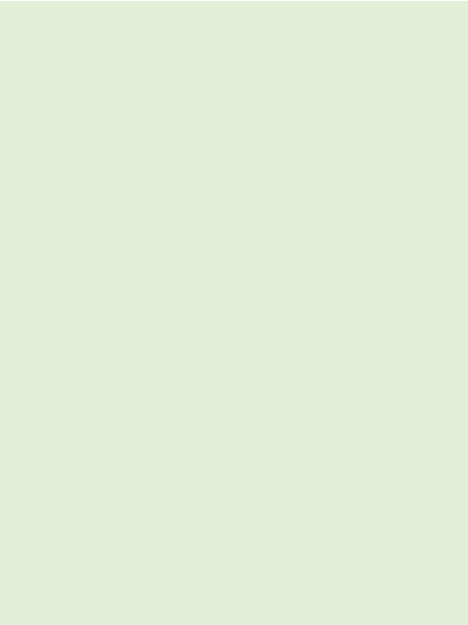


Prensa Latina, 08/23/2025

**Synopsis:** Japanese authorities issued heatwave alerts in 31 of the country's 47 prefectures due to rising temperatures, which reached levels close to 40 degrees Celsius in several cities.

This heat wave combined with heavy rain in some areas has caused flooding in low-lying areas and landslides.

Various cities across the archipelago recorded record amounts of rainfall, exceeding the average accumulated amounts for the entire month of August on record.



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## Amazon summit fails to ban fossil fuels



*El diario bogotano, 08/24/2025*

**Synopsis:** The recent Amazon summit held in Bogotá ended with mixed results, reflecting the tensions between environmental protection and national economic interests. Consensus was reached on Indigenous issues and security, but no progress was made on banning fossil fuels in the most biodiverse region on the planet.

The Bogotá Declaration, the event's final document, deliberately omits specific references to the elimination of hydrocarbons, limiting itself to mentioning a just and orderly energy transition.

The establishment of Indigenous co-governance mechanisms within the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization represents the summit's most tangible achievement. This initiative defined clear operating rules that guarantee effective representation of Indigenous peoples.

The Fossil Fuel-Free Amazon coalition denounced the explicit opposition of Venezuela, Ecuador, Brazil, and Peru.

Lula openly defended hydrocarbon exploitation, arguing that Brazil has the capacity to use oil resources in its energy transition. This position completely contradicts conservationist aspirations and reflects the tensions between economic development and environmental protection that characterize the regional debate.

The failure on this fundamental issue underscores how monetary interests prevail over global environmental commitments, severely limiting the transformative scope of these multilateral summits.

### Petro at the Amazon Summit: The Amazon's greatest enemy is drug trafficking.



*El Universal, 08/22/2025*

**Synopsis:** As part of the opening ceremony of the Fifth Summit of Amazonian Countries, Colombian President Gustavo Petro singled out drug trafficking and illicit economies as "the main enemy of the Amazon after climate change."

"In Colombia, after global warming, the greatest enemy of the Amazon is called drug trafficking," he stated, calling for a joint fight against these threats.

For the Colombian president, this should be one of the points of discussion during the meeting; confronting the "mafias dedicated to the transportation of cocaine, marijuana, gold, or illegal mining (that) have turned the rainforest into a commodity," he said.

### Brazil: Indigenous peoples call on the Public Prosecutor's Office to revoke the environmental license for TikTok's data center.



*Centro de Recursos sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos, 08/26/2025*

**Synopsis.** In Brazil, leaders of the Anacé indigenous people, with the support of five civil society organizations, are calling on the State to investigate

irregularities in the construction of a data center for the Casa dos Ventos company in the state of Ceará.

The company expects to receive TikTok machines with an installed capacity of 210 MW from its first phase, which would make it the largest data processing complex in the country.

The plaintiffs are demanding the immediate suspension of the environmental licensing process for the computer complex due to the lack of an environmental impact study and environmental impact report, and they question the water consumption estimates available in a simplified environmental report prepared by Casa dos Ventos.

The project is still close to the Dunas aquifer, classified as highly vulnerable and already under pressure from heavy industries in the Pecém Complex.



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Brazil has been losing natural areas the size of Bolivia since 1985 due to agricultural expansion and climate change.



Xinhua, spanish.news.cn, 13/08/2025

**Synopsis:** Between 1985 and 2024, Brazil lost 111.7 million hectares of natural areas—13 percent of its entire territory, a surface area similar to that of neighboring Bolivia—due to the expansion of agricultural pastures (62.7 million hecta-

res) and agricultural products (44 million hectares), in addition to extreme weather events, according to a study by the academic organization MapBiomas.

In 1985, 80 percent of Brazilian territory was still covered in native vegetation; this figure rose to 65 percent in 2024, with 32 percent used for agricultural and livestock activities.

Forest and jungle areas were the most affected, with 62.8 million hectares lost during that period. Over the past two decades, Brazil has become one of the world's largest food producers and exporters. According to Tasso Azevedo, general coordinator of MapBiomas, the numbers highlight the urgency of public policies capable of reconciling agricultural production with environmental preservation, prioritizing the restoration of degraded biomes and controlling the invasion of still-preserved natural areas.

Brazilian minister claims Trump is an enemy of health and that the More Doctors program is already a national asset.



Folha de S. Paulo, 08/14/2025

**Synopsis:** The statement came after the Trump administration revoked the visas of officials who worked on the program.

Brazilian Health Minister Alexandre Padilha declared US President Donald Trump an "enemy of health." He also claimed that Pix, the instant money transfer system operating in Brazil, and the "More Doctors" medical program are "the heritage of the Brazilian people."

"No attack will make us give up Pix and more doctors," he told reporters in Goiana, in the northeastern state of Pernambuco, where he accompanied President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva at the inauguration of a blood products plant run by Hemobrás (the Brazilian Blood Derivatives and Biotechnology Company).

"President Trump began the year by persecuting scientists developing vaccines, canceling contracts, and now he's attacking an internationally recognized program, More Doctors," Padilha added.

BP announces its largest oil and gas discovery in 25 years off the coast of Brazil.



Financial Times, 08/04/2025

**Synopsis:** BP has announced its largest oil and gas discovery in 25 years after drilling a well in a field off the coast of Brazil, providing a boost to the energy giant's shift away from fossil fuels. The Boomerang field covers more than 300 km², an area roughly five times the size of Manhattan.

BP stated that it was too early to assess the size or quality of the reserves, noting that elevated levels of carbon dioxide had been detected, which could complicate extraction, increase processing costs, and affect the economic viability of the project. Furthermore, bringing a deepwater field in Brazil into production can take between four and 10 years.

BP is shifting its strategy to prioritize oil and gas and reduce renewable energy. In February, it reversed its commitment to reduce its fossil fuel production as part of a transition to clean energy.

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" Every child in Gaza should die of hunger," says Israeli Rabbi Ronen Shaulov.



Agencia Católica de Noticias, 08/04/2025

**Synopsis:** Israeli Rabbi Ronen Shaulov openly called for the entire population of Gaza to be starved, including children, because—in his view—they will be "future terrorists."

"All of Gaza and every child in Gaza should die of hunger because of what they are now doing to the hostages. [...] I don't feel sorry for those who will grow up in a few years and have no mercy on us," he said during a speech delivered at the end of July, which has been condemned on social media around the world.

In this context, the UN warned that the 2.1 million people living in the territory suffer from food insecurity. According to the Gaza Ministry of Health, some 900,000 children are suffering from hunger and another 70,000 show symptoms consistent with malnutrition, in addition to nearly 1,000 killed by the Israeli army while trying to obtain food.

England faces water shortages; situation declared of national importance



La Jornada, 08/12/2025

**Synopsis:** The current water shortage in England has been declared an "incident of national significance," the Environment Agency reported. Official figures show that reservoir reserves have fallen to an average of 67.7 percent, down from 80.5 percent in the first week of August.

Experts warn of serious consequences, including reduced crop yields and livestock feed, damage to wetlands and river habitats, and an increase in wildfires.

In June, the agency warned that without urgent conservation measures, England's public water supply

could face a daily deficit of 5 billion liters by 2055, with an additional shortfall of 1 billion liters for broader economic needs.

Cutting mRNA research would be a "grave mistake" for Trump



DW, 08/07/2025

**Synopsis:** Trump's Health Secretary, John F. Kennedy, announced that his administration will stop supporting mRNA vaccine research, cutting \$500 million in National Institutes of Health (NIH) research funding for scientists investigating mRNA vaccines. This increases vulnerability to future pandemics, according to experts.

Kennedy explained that this is "because data shows that these vaccines do not effectively protect against

respiratory diseases like COVID-19 and the flu."

U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is a well-known anti-vaccine activist and, for example, supports the disproven theory that vaccines can cause autism.

Charles Bangham, Emeritus Professor of Immunology at Imperial College London, stated that "There are few, if any, antiviral vaccines that completely prevent the virus from entering our bodies." "Vaccination reduces the severity of infection, resulting in milder disease and a lower risk of death."

mRNA technology is not only used in vaccines against respiratory diseases. It can also be used in vaccines for everything from acne to Lyme disease, from dengue fever to AIDS, and even in cancer research.



## A major storm is brewing on the horizon: NCDs and mental health problems will cost South America billions by 2050.



Organización Panamericana de la Salud, 07/15/2025

**Synopsis:** Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health disorders will cost South America more than \$7.3 trillion in lost productivity and healthcare spending between 2020 and 2050, according to estimates in a new report by the Pan American Health Organization, based on a study developed with analytical support from researchers at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

This figure is equivalent to the total annual gross domestic product (GDP) of all of Latin America and the Caribbean.

"These are not just health statistics; they are fiscal warning signs," said PAHO Director Dr. Jarbas Barbosa. "The growing burden of NCDs and mental health conditions has become,

perhaps, the greatest economic disaster linked to health," he added.

NCDs are the leading cause of death in the Americas, claiming 6 million lives in 2021, of which nearly 40% occurred prematurely in people under 70 years of age. Cardiovascular disease and cancer are the most prevalent, although diabetes, with an estimated 43 million people unable to access treatment, and mental health problems are also on the rise.

Since 2000, obesity among adults in the region has grown by 67.5%, diabetes by 53.6%, and physical inactivity by 24.1%.

Today, around 67.5% of adults in the Americas are overweight—well above the global average of 43.5%—and the region has the highest levels of physical inactivity worldwide at 35.6%.

**N.R. The role of processed foods, thanks to excessive industrialization, has been playing a decisive role in these growth rates in recent decades.**

### Donald Trump and scientific freedom in the United States



DW, 08/11/2025

**Synopsis:** The United States' position as a world leader in science has long been based on its freedom of inquiry and independence from political interference.

An executive order signed by US President Donald Trump on August 7 now threatens to change this para-

digm, granting political appointees sweeping authority over all federal grants, taking control away from scientists.

Scientists and research advocates warn that it will replace scientific merit with ideological loyalty to the Trump administration.

### Brazil agrees with China to build a bioceanic corridor amid Trump's war



Sputnik, 07/16/2025

**Synopsis:** Authorities from both countries signed a memorandum of understanding that will allow both nations to commit to preliminary

studies to evaluate the feasibility of building a train connecting Brazil's Atlantic coast with the mega-port of Chancay, on the Pacific Ocean in Peru.

The plan would allow for the integration of other modes of commercial transportation, such as highways and waterways.

However, in recent days the Peruvian government distanced itself from this mega-project that would pass through its territory. Brazilian Foreign Minister Elmer Schialer stated that the Peruvian Embassy in Brazil has already held talks with the Brazilian Ministry of Transportation.

How can drought affect the global economy?



DW, 08/22/2025

**Synopsis:** A growing water shortage, driven by rising temperatures and drought, is expected to devastate local and national economies, causing food insecurity, displacement, and political unrest.

Planet Earth is 70 percent water, but only 0.5 percent of this is usable freshwater. Much of this water is becoming scarce due to growing demand, rising temperatures, and drought.

Some 2 billion people worldwide currently lack regular access to safe drinking water, while half of the world's population experiences water shortages for part of the year.

"High water stress in arid and drought-stricken countries in Africa and the Middle East will lead to a 25 percent decline in their economies over the next 20 to 30 years," noted Quentin Grafton, holder of the UNESCO Chair in Water Economics. "Furthermore, displacement and mass migration generate instability." "Freshwater ecosystems, which can reduce the duration and severity of droughts, have been drained by development and over-irrigation. The world has lost a third of its wetlands since 1970."

Record heat and drought cause river flows to slow and lakes and reservoirs to dry up. All of this has decimated agricultural production, the foundation of the economies of Asia and Africa.

In industrialized countries, IT data centers consume huge amounts of water to prevent overheating, exacerbating the problem. George McGraw, CEO of the NGO DigDeep, proposed that "The easiest way to protect the US economy from these crises is to universalize access to water."

N.R. In other words, he proposes addressing their water scarcity, for which they are directly responsible due to irrational use and for causing climate change, which they are responsible for, at the expense of other countries.

Heat wave fuels wildfires in Türkiye: mass evacuations carried out



BajaNewsMx , 07/27/2025

**Synopsis:** More than 7,000 residents have been evacuated, 11 firefighters have died, 14 have been injured, and tens of thousands of hectares of forest and farmland have been reduced to ash in the Turkish provinces of Bursa, Karabük, and Eskişehir, as a result of a wave of wildfires.

The nation recorded its highest temperature ever, reaching 50.5°C in the southeast of the country.

The combination of extreme heat, months without rain, and strong winds has created perfect conditions for the spread of fires. In one day alone, 84 outbreaks were reported.

Emergency teams are working with the support of 21 helicopters, two airplanes, and more than 360 vehicles, but extreme weather conditions are complicating the efforts.

Meanwhile, in Greece, firefighters are battling raging wildfires in the southwest of the country and on the island of Kythera, while in Bulgaria, authorities have declared disaster zones in several provinces due to more than 200 active forest fires.

The worst forest fires in Spain's history: those of 2025 break records

National Geographic, 08/20/2025

**Synopsis:** More than 400,000 hectares have burned so far this year, making it the most catastrophic fire of the 21st century.

king it the most catastrophic fire of the 21st century.

Although the number of incidents has decreased in recent decades thanks to greater social awareness, the intensity of fires has increased alarmingly.



The scientific community is already talking about sixth-generation fires or megafires, characterized by their ability to spread rapidly, fueled by factors such as climate change.

According to data collected through August 20, the August fires, which were concentrated in the northwest of the country, have caused seven deaths and the evacuation of 30,000 people.

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## Out-of-control fires devour California



RT, 08/08/2025

**Synopsis:** A massive wildfire has spread rapidly in Southern California, ravaging a mountainous area north of Los Angeles and forcing the evacuation of approximately 4,200 residents while another 12,500 people are under evacuation orders.

This is not the only blaze ravaging the region. The largest wildfire in central California is burning out of control in the Los Padres National Forest, threatening hundreds of homes, and spreading across 399 square kilometers.

"Extreme heat and low humidity in the northern part of the county have created dangerous conditions where flames can spread at an alarming rate," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

In total, a dozen large fires are active across the state.

Authorities warned that August and September are generally the most dangerous months for these types of fires.

## One dead and nine injured in massive forest fire in France

Aporrea, 08/06/2025

**Synopsis:** The largest wildfire recorded in France this summer has left

one person dead, nine injured, including seven firefighters, and one missing.



It has already spread to approximately 15,000 hectares of land and 15 municipalities.

Two campsites and at least one village were partially evacuated. Furthermore, the fire damaged 25 homes and approximately 35 vehicles, and left 2,500 homes without power, according to a provisional report.

The motorway that runs along the Mediterranean coast between France and Spain remained closed for nearly a day between the French cities of Narbonne and Perpignan, as did numerous secondary roads.

The wildfire is the largest recorded in France to date in a summer in which approximately 9,000 fires have already occurred, mainly along the Mediterranean coast, according to the emergency management service.

## Expanding wildfires in Oregon and California threaten homes and prompt evacuations

AP News, 08/24/2025

**Synopsis:** In California, the Pickett Fire burned about 26 square kilometers in Napa County, prompting about 150 people to be ordered to leave their homes, and another 360 under evacuation warnings as the blaze threatened about 500 other structures.

In Central California, the state's largest blaze this year was 95% contained Sunday after consuming nearly 534 square kilometers (about 53,000 hectares) since it erupted in the month of August



Meanwhile, in Oregon, the Flat Fire has grown to nearly 75 square kilometers, and nearly 4,000 homes are under some type of evacuation notice, including 1,000 with immediate orders, according to the State Fire Marshal's Office.



## For the first time in 100 years, the Perito Moreno Glacier is shrinking.



Ladera Sur, 08/12/2025

**Synopsis:** The most famous glacier in the Americas, the Perito Moreno, is going through a critical moment.

Recent studies reveal that its front is thinning, losing mass, and has begun to retreat, in a process that scientists describe as irreversible, marked by the advance of global warming.

Once upon a time, one could witness the most beautiful roar in Argentine Patagonia: the calving of the Perito Moreno Glacier bridge, a product of the growth and advance of the ice mass.

Now, however, that experience has not been repeated since 2018, and it appears to be almost on the verge of extinction, because the ice is not growing; on the contrary, it is retreating at a rate of 700 meters per year.

### This is the summer of flooding in the US and scientists know why



CNN, 07/20/2025

**Synopsis:** Summer, once synonymous with rest and recreation, has increasingly become a season marked by relentless heat waves, out-of-control wildfires, and catastrophic flooding due to anxiety and disruption.

This summer, in particular, has been defined by a tragic increase in deadly flash floods in the United States, highlighting the growing volatility of a warming world.

Climate change is tipping the dice in favor of extreme precipitation. The physics of how global warming affects intense precipitation events is well known, according to climate scientist Kate Marvel.

"This is almost a textbook example of the impacts of climate change." "Hot water generates more evaporation. The bathroom is much steamier after a hot shower than after a cold one." "Warm air holds more water vapor." "The warm ground makes it easier for humid air to rise quickly, which is why thunderstorms occur on hot afternoons. If you combine all of that, you have perfect conditions for torrential rains."

### Rising sea levels threaten 13 million farmers worldwide.



El País, 08/17/2025

**Synopsis:** A computer model, presented at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly a few weeks ago in Vienna, Austria, simulates the risk of flooding and salinization of coastlines around the world due to sea level rise for each year between 2020 and 2080.

Seawater intrusions due to rising sea levels salinize soils and ultimately kill aquifers depleted by years of overexploitation.

According to the European Union's Copernicus program, sea levels are projected to continue rising by 30 to 60 centimeters until 2100, in the favorable scenario, and by a meter or more, in the one that is nothing short of terrifying.

This salinization of aquifers, flooding, and rising sea levels are already affecting millions of people around the world, with their subsequent mass migration. Diego Intrigliolo, director of the Spanish Center for Desertification Research, explains that "When the soil becomes salinized in the medium term, there is another problem: it can lose its structure and, in addition to desalination, it becomes sodified, increasing its sodium content.

Then it becomes unusable for cultivation because it loses its nutrient retention capacity and ability to exchange nutrients with the plant. This leads to desertification of the land."

In Spain, the level of desertification increased from 307 square kilometers to 7,100 in just one decade, already affecting 3% of the territory.

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## The serious risks of a Colombia-Venezuela bi-national zone



DW, 08/12/2025

**Synopsis:** The memorandum of understanding signed to create a "Bina-national Special Economic Zone" (ZEEB) on the border shared by Colombia and Venezuela, presented as an effort to strengthen "peace, economic development, cultural integration, and the solution to historical problems" on one of the most active and conflict-ridden borders in Latin America.

For others, this promise carries a risk: becoming a Trojan horse that, under the guise of cooperation, allows the silent advance of authoritarian and criminal interests, highlighting the opacity and lack of democratic legitimacy of the agreement; the loss of sovereignty and the consolidation of a criminal ecosystem on the border; and the risk of authoritarian contagion for Colombia and the region.

The article also argues that this lack of transparency is compounded by a failure to comply with established legal procedures and a lack of consultation with border communities, local authorities, and productive actors.

**N.R. The mere fact that Latin American countries are beginning to take steps toward economic development creates panic among the major powers that base their wealth on unequal economic exchange with our nations.**

## The Santurbán Páramo is subject to rights



El espectador, 08/08/2025

**Synopsis:** The Santurbán Páramo became a subject of rights under Colombian law, with a measure requiring its conservation, maintenance, and restoration to be a priority for the authorities.

The decision of the Administrative Court of Santander determined that the páramo faces a serious, persistent, and multi-causal structural threat, caused by activities such as mining (legal and illegal), unplanned agricultural expansion, water pollution, and habitat fragmentation.

The court ruling establishes that mining in the Santurbán Páramo must be prohibited, as well as controlling all activities that harm water or biodiversity.

Delimiting the páramo also involves establishing a transition area between the páramo and lands where other activities, such as mining, could be carried out.

The Court has given the Ministry of the Environment, the environmental corporations of Bucaramanga and Norte de Santander, and the city of Bucaramanga three months to identify transition zones of ecological or strategic importance for conserving water resources.

The ruling orders that mining or hydrocarbon activities, extensive agriculture with the use of agrochemicals and monocultures, intensive livestock farming, and any construction that significantly alters the geomorphology of the páramo or fragments its ecological connectivity,

such as dams, highways, or large infrastructure projects, may not be carried out in the páramo area, except for minor projects requiring a rigorous environmental license and for reasons of public interest.

## Is Perrier as pure as they claim? The bottled water scandal rocking France



BBC Mundo, 08/11/2025

**Synopsis:** According to EU law, "natural mineral water," sold at a much higher price than normal, must remain unaltered between the underground source from which it is extracted and the bottle. This is the essence of the product, hence its higher cost.

However, French media have revealed illicit filtration systems that have been widely used in the industry, apparently due to concerns about water pollution following years of drought linked to climate change.

An investigation by Le Monde and Radio France revealed that at least a third of the mineral water sold in that country had been illegally treated with ultraviolet light, carbon filters, or ultrafine micro-mesh filters, used to eliminate bacteria. And if they do, it's because the water is contaminated, not originally pure, as its manufacturers claim. ■