

Media Headlines

February 2025

Asociación Pro-Soberanía, Integración y Medio Ambiente

HIGHLIGHTS

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Venezuela: National Academy of Medicine says 40% of doctors migrated

Maps showing how South America has become hotter, drier and prone to forest fires in the last 50 years

The seven cities in South America that could be covered by water in 75 years

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Almost 800,000 dead from meteorological phenomena in 30 years according to environmental group

THE LATEST: US withdraws from the UN Human Rights Council

Restricting access to its technology to several countries: The new order signed by Trump

The 23 Spanish academies in the world regret the re-withdrawal of this language from the White House website

Latin America, a region hit by natural disasters



DW, 02/20/202520

Synopsis: At least 20 countries in the Latin American region, 74%, face a high frequency of extreme weather events, reports the UN, in its Regional Panorama of Food Security and Nutrition 2024.

Latin America and the Caribbean is the second region, after Asia, most exposed to these phenomena and 14 countries are considered vulnerable, as they are more likely to have an impact on undernourishment.

Hurricanes, floods, droughts, landslides, heat waves and fires affect Latin American countries.

In contrast, Latin America and the Caribbean have a very small contribution to climate change compared

to other regions. Data from 2020 indicate that the contribution in total carbon dioxide emissions was only 4.3% of the global total.

Storms, hurricanes, floods, landslides, droughts, fires and heat or cold waves have become more frequent in recent decades, while the average temperature continues to rise. For example, between 2014 and 2023, in Bolivia it rose by 2.2 degrees and in Paraguay, by 2.03.

If the Paris conference set a goal of a 1.5°C increase globally, due to the disastrous implications that this would entail, far exceeding that figure in different areas of the region will be catastrophic

Catastrophes in figures

In 2024, 56 dangerous events and natural disasters were recorded that directly affected more than six million people and caused the loss of more than 800 lives, while Honduras was in third position worldwide, in the period 1993-2022, in terms of deaths, victims and economic losses.

In 2023, Mexico was the fourth country on the planet with the greatest economic losses due to extreme events and Guatemala was the fifth with the highest number of people affected.

Along with the upward trend in temperatures, heat waves occur, especially critical in areas where there is no ventilation or vegetation cover. At the same time, the surface of the oceans is warming, generating storms and tropical storms.

These natural phenomena are causing biodiversity loss and threatening water and food security by affecting agriculture and livestock. In the affected countries, the prevalence of undernourishment increased by 1.5 percentage points between 2019 and 2023.

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

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Venezuela: National Academy of Medicine says 40% of doctors migrated



Unión Radio, 02/18/2025

Synopsis: The president of the National Academy of Medicine, Huiádes Urbina Medina, reported that 40% of doctors have emigrated from the country. "In Venezuela we had more or less 60 thousand Venezuelan doctors trained in traditional universities. Today 40% have left. In nursing, 70% have left both the country and public institutions; because they also emigrate to private institutions due to low salaries," he said.

He also stressed that this situation has overloaded the work of health professionals who are in the country, as well as delayed surgical procedures.

N.R. This is the cruelest aspect of the coercive measures taken by the main Western powers against Venezuela. This flight of highly trained health professionals has of course caused enormous damage to our population. Thousands, and surely tens of thousands, of Venezuelans have lost their lives or suffered debilitating illnesses because the country did not have enough doctors. That is a crime against humanity.

A crime that those leaders and organizations that tear their clothes off defending human rights do not dare to denounce. They remain silent, out of fear or interest in not alienating these great powers. Pure hypocrisy.

It must be remembered that until the moment when the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Barack Obama, declared Venezuela an unusual enemy of the United States and economic sanctions began to be imposed against it, our country was a nation of immigrants. The millions who arrived were given shelter without any kind of distinction, whether fleeing dictatorships, wars, or simply because of hunger.

Thanks to these sanctions, we became a nation of migrants. Such a cruel and inhuman act should never have occurred. We Latin Americans must unite so that none of our countries ever again suffers such an outrage.

Indigenous organizations from 9 countries demand an end to oil exploitation in the Amazon



IPS, 02/21/2025

Synopsis: The G9 of the Indigenous Amazon," a meeting in the Brazilian city of Manaus, organized by the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon, and which brought together leaders of indigenous federations from the countries that make up the region: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, launched an offensive to demand an end to oil exploitation in the Amazon basin, in view of the World Conference on Climate Change that will be held this year in Brazil.

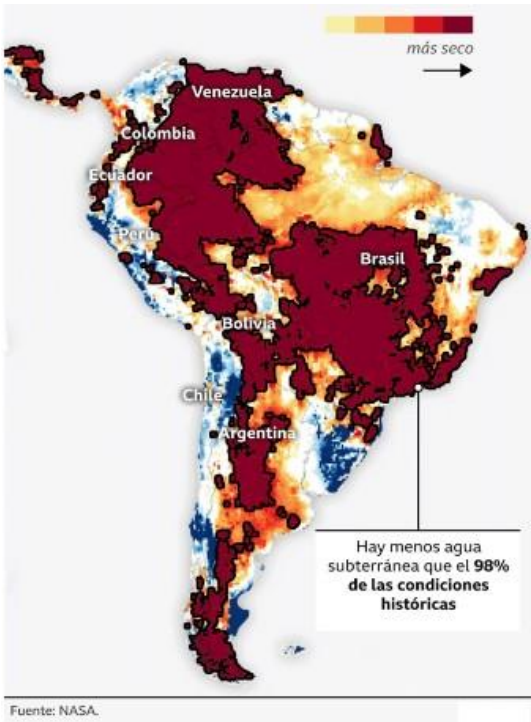
They express that "The discourse of using the oil resources of the Amazon to finance the energy transition is not only false, it is scandalously cynical"

They also demanded that their organizations be co-presidents of the Conference, the demarcation and protection of indigenous territories, as well as financial mechanisms for the "DIRECT ALLOCATION, WITHOUT INTERMEDIARIES, OF THE RESOURCES DESTINED FOR "COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE IN THEIR TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES."

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

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Maps showing how South America has become hotter, drier and prone to wildfires over the past 50 years



BBC Mundo, 02/14/2025

Synopsis: Longer dry seasons, out-of-control fires and smoke clouds visible from space are increasingly common phenomena across much of South America. In 2024: Chile had the world's deadliest forest fire in at least a century; in Bolivia, flames devoured parts of the country never before seen, and in Venezuela and Brazil there were longer-than-usual droughts.

That same year, more than 79 million hectares (790,000 km²) were burned in the region, the greatest damage in at

least a decade, leaving hundreds dead and thousands of homes affected.

Raúl Cordero, an academic at the University of Santiago de Chile, is the lead author of a study that analyzed data from the last five decades in which they identified an accelerated increase in the combination of more hot, drier days and a greater risk of forest fires that could cause catastrophes in South America.

The paper presents a series of very revealing maps of high temperatures and wildfires in the region. One of them shows that the number of hot days has increased dramatically in some regions since the 1970s.

In past decades, heat thresholds were typically exceeded for 36 days a year, but in recent years up to 100 additional hot days a year have been recorded in some regions.

The number of dry days (when rainfall is below the usual average) has also increased dramatically in some regions since the 1970s. Fifty years ago, the region had about 180 dry days a year, but now some areas have nearly 240 dry days.

The combination of higher temperatures and droughts is contributing to a higher risk of fires in South America, especially in the darker-coloured regions on the maps. In addition, although the region as a whole has become drier and hotter, there are places where more intense rainfall has been recorded, thanks to the fact that, during the rainy season, the increase in temperature causes the air to become more humid and more abundant rainfall to occur, which increases the risk of flooding.

Intense heat leads Rio to issue unprecedented alert, and São Paulo breaks summer record



Folha de S. Paulo, 02/18/2025

Synopsis: The Rio de Janeiro City Hall has activated a level 4 heat alert, which is reached when the city registers between 40°C and 44°C for at least three consecutive days. Among the planned measures is the opening of cooling points, air-conditioned or shaded areas.

The protocol establishes the distribution of water in the city and, if necessary, authorizes the city hall to cancel medium and large-scale events.

For its part, the city of São Paulo recorded the hottest day of the summer, with a maximum of 34°C, according to Inmet (National Institute of Meteorology).

Civil Defense recommends that the population avoid exposure to the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., in addition to encouraging the use of sun protection, caps or hats and light clothing.

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

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The seven cities in South America that could be covered by water in 75 years



LA NACION, 02/28/2025

Synopsis: According to a study published in the journal Nature Climate Change, an organization dedicated to analyzing climate changes in various places on the planet, called Climate Central, found that by the year 2100 several cities in Latin America would be under water.

These cities would be: Barranquilla in Colombia; Maracaibo in Venezuela, Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre in Brazil, Punta del Este in Uruguay and Entre Rios and Buenos Aires in Argentina.

Similar situations could also occur in countries such as Mexico, Honduras and Nicaragua.

According to the study, the sea level rise would be approximately between 0.6 and 2.1 meters during the 21st century. The sea level in Latin America and the Caribbean is growing above the world average.

This increase is caused by global warming. Which, according to the United States Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, not only contributes to the melting of ice sheets and glaciers, but also causes "the volume of the ocean to expand as the water warms."

Since this situation has already been warned about, these countries should begin to take measures to make companies and communities aware of the damage that is being done to the environment.

Francine Baron: "Dominica wants to be the first nation in the world resilient to climate change"



El País, 02/19/2025

Synopsis: Lawyer and politician Francine Baron is the creator of the Climate Resilience Enforcement Agency (CREAD), with the purpose of pushing Dominica to become "the first nation in the world resistant to climate change."

Because as Baron - who was also Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Dominica - repeats, the island is tired of going into debt and rebuilding almost from scratch after each disaster.

The initiative was born after the terrible catastrophe of Hurricane Maria, which completely devastated Dominica.

Faced with this, the Government decided that it would rebuild it, but better, not only from the resilience of the physical infrastructure, but also socially, environmentally and economically.

Now roads are built that are stronger against floods, slopes are stabilized and nature-based strategies are used to reduce landslides.

The same is true for buildings: the import of roofs or roofing material that are below a certain quality, among others, was restricted.

Since after the hurricane, children were unable to return to school because these spaces were used as shelters, one of the government's goals has been to create shelters for people who live in vulnerable places when there is a hurricane, with adequate facilities, with spaces for women, men, boys and girls.

There is also a goal of building 5,000 climate-resistant homes to rehouse people in vulnerable situations or who lost their homes as a result of the hurricane.

In addition, the country wants to supply 100% renewable energy by 2030 and we will achieve that.

But geothermal resources are needed to achieve a green industrialization of our economy in which green hydrogen, green ammonia, methanol, green fuels for export are produced. So that is part of our economic diversification.

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In Aragua: Venezuela, more than 100 officials fight forest fires in Henri Pittier National Park



Prensa Minec, 02/26/2025

Synopsis: Personnel from the National Parks Institute (Inparques), Civil Corps of Park Rangers, Bolivarian National Police (PNB), National Guard (GNB), Aragua Firefighters and Civil Protection (PC), together with the activation of the drizzle operation by means of helitactical units, carry out hand-to-hand combat maneuvers to extinguish two forest fires that began in the Henri Pittier National Park, located in the state of Aragua.

The Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism (Minec) calls on the general population to become aware of the importance of preventing forest fires.

To avoid these fires, it is crucial to avoid actions that can trigger greater evils, such as the burning of garbage, bonfires and the use of flammable materials in national parks or protected areas.

En Venezuela: Guardaparques en Barquisimeto piden eliminar la producción de carbón vegetal. "Viola la normativa ambiental"



Radio Fe Y Alegría, 02/16/2025

Synopsis. Park rangers and activists marched through the center of the city of Barquisimeto demanding the halt of charcoal production and in defense of animals that are mistreated and sold illegally.

José Sosa, president of the Guardian Foundation and coordinator of the Venezuelan park ranger brigade, told Radio Fe y Alegría Noticias:

"We want to publicly denounce that at this moment the largest ecocide in the history of the state of Lara is being committed. The Ministry of Foreign Trade announced that they are exporting more than 180 tons of charcoal, only in the year 2023. This violates environmental regulations."

The park rangers delivered documentation to the Municipal Council outlining the situation of deforestation, felling and burning of trees, packaging, transportation, marketing and export of charcoal in the state of Lara.

For his part, José Sosa stressed that these charcoal production activities are leaving the state without forests and affecting the water sources. "The exploitation of these minerals is carried out in xerophilous areas that are very difficult to reforest; we have trees like the cují that take years to grow."

Murder of indigenous leader fuels debate over mining in Bolivia's protected areas



El País, 02/20/2025

Synopsis. The disfigured body of indigenous leader and environmental defender Francisco Marupa, 66, was found last Friday in the city of La Paz.

Indigenous organizations agree that the operators of illegal mining are responsible for their attempt to enter and exploit prohibited areas, being one more episode that adds to the intimidation, burning of their houses and land seizures that they have suffered for at least six years.

The miners aggressively occupied the Chushuara community in 2022 with "dynamite, firearms and backhoes", where Marupa was murdered. "They told us: no one can come here, not even the president" declared an indigenous leader.

The pressures from the mining cooperatives, with great power of influence in the Government, are increasing to enable new regions where extraction is permitted.

Gold mining is already taking place in Ma-didi, a natural park of about 19,000 km², which has the greatest diversity of amphibians in America.

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The most coveted trophy: Europeans and Asians launch illegal jaguar hunting in Bolivia



Por: El País | 02/25/2025

Synopsis: This imposing animal, which can reach two meters in length and weigh more than 130 kg., has been revered as a symbol of strength and even considered a deity by ancient cultures.

Reasons that make it the most appreciated hunting trophy, which has led Europeans and Asians to look for it in the heart of South America.

In Bolivia, about 60 jaguars are poached each year, the largest number in all of Latin America, according to a 2022 report by the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Noya, a veterinarian by profession, promoted hunting packages of up to 48,000 euros on the websites Online Hunting and African Hunting.

"It presented itself as a legal company that hunted regulated animals and, once contact was made, it included protected fauna," explains lawyer Rodrigo Herrera, one of the complainants in the case, which was opened by the Bolivian prosecutor's office at the end of January.

A Chinese mafia, between 2013 and 2018, exported thousands of jaguar fangs to Asia, since "In China, fangs are used as amulets or necklaces because it is believed that they offer protection against evil spirits. In addition, other parts are used in traditional medicine. ",

"The ranchers accept it because the felines, due to the fires and deforestation in the Amazon and the Chiquitania, have no other option than to leave the heart of the forest and attack livestock," details Uzquiano.

The trafficking of the feline has not stopped. By 2020, there were 20 open cases related to the poaching of the predator and in April 2024, two women were caught selling nine jaguar fangs in the city of Trinidad.

"Unfortunately, the State is too weak in its institutional capacity to enforce the law. In addition, public personnel are very poorly trained," says lawyer Herrera.

Fires in Argentine Patagonia have destroyed more than 36,000 hectares



Newtral, 02/10/2025

Synopsis: Forest fires in southern Argentina, in the Patagonia area, have left one dead and 36,300 hectares affected, according to the EFE agency.

Since the end of 2024, the fires have affected several towns and two national parks in the southern provinces of Chubut, Río Negro and Neuquén, in Argentine Patagonia.

The largest is the Valle Magdalena fire, which has already burned 15,000 hectares of the Lanín National Park, in Neuquén. The Nahuel Huapi National Park, located in the north of Patagonia, has already affected more than

10,000 hectares, while the Confluencia fire, in Río Negro, has burned 3,392 hectares.

Other fires have burned around 7,600 hectares.

The governor of the province of Neuquén, Rolo Figueroa, has pointed out that "it will take years to recover everything lost in these fires."

São Paulo river is the 2nd most polluted by microplastics in the world



Folha de S.Paulo, 02/17/2025

Synopsis: According to a study published in the journal Marine Pollution Bulletin, the Bugres River, between Santos and São Vicente, on the coast of São Paulo, was ranked as the second most polluted by microplastics in the world.

Researchers from Ipen and the EcoFaxina Institute found up to 93 thousand particles per kilo of sediment collected.

A report published by the NGO Oceana in 2024 noted that Brazil dumps 1.3 million tons of plastic waste into the ocean every year and is the eighth country that pollutes the planet the most with plastic.

With irregular settlements on its banks, the Bugres River receives wastewater and waste continuously. Plastic waste, often thrown directly into the water, accumulates due to low circulation.

Pollution threatens local fauna and can affect human health.

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Ambassador Milton Rengifo: Colombia and Venezuela decided to create a roadmap to combat drug trafficking



Vladimir A La Carta, 01/28/2025

Synopsis: The Colombian ambassador to Venezuela, Milton Rengifo, said that at the meeting between the Ministers of Defense of Venezuela and Colombia, it was decided to begin to generate a roadmap to confront drug trafficking,

which ceased to be a territorial problem to become a regional and continental problem.

He also said that his government hopes that together they can recover "the extensive border that is now taken over" by irregular groups and drug trafficking. "We have made progress in the progressive elimination of the 200 trails. For a year and a half they no longer exist, we no longer have reports of smuggling. The affected businessmen themselves reported it at the time, but other issues remain pending and judicial cooperation between both countries is necessary."

The Colombian police and the Scientific, Penal and Criminal Investigations Corps (CICPC) of Venezuela, have held important meetings and have dealt some hard blows to the leaders of common crime, he added.

N.R. The above is an example of how the union of our peoples is the only way to face the great challenges facing our region. This should be a good start. We believe that a union of those Latin American nations affected by the scourge of drugs should be consolidated, to create an entity that develops actions to prevent, address and repress it.

Mexico repeals regulation that prevented the import of genetically modified corn



AP, 02/04/2025

Synopsis: The Mexican government lifted restrictions on the import of genetically modified corn for human consumption after losing a trade dispute with the United States over the policy late last year.

The Ministry of Economy published in the Official Gazette of the Federation the agreement that lifted the application of various restrictions on glyphosate and transgenic corn agreed by the government in 2023.

For years, former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador defended the restriction on the import of genetically modified corn, claiming that it could affect people's health, and denied that the measure undermined the trade agreement between Mexico, the United States and Canada (T-MEC), as Washington maintained.

After the ruling, the Sheinbaum government announced that it would respect the decision and promote legislation to prevent the planting and cultivation of genetically modified corn in Mexico, as well as to protect the genetic diversity of native corn.

Mexico is the main importer of American yellow corn, most of which is genetically modified, and almost all of it is used to feed cattle, pigs and chickens.

N.R. Every day new reasons appear to fight for changes in the global structure, which will place the human being above the miserable selfish interests of a few who, protected by their wealth that buys consciences and mercenaries, armed or not, and most of which was obtained by plunder, or at least by immoral practices, impose themselves on the rest of humanity.

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Brazil: A group of companies is preparing to build hydrogen-powered vessels



H2 Business News, 02/07/2025

Synopsis: The program includes two vessels, one of which will be on display at COP30. Ernani Paciornik, president of JAQ and CEO of Grupo Náutica, said the project involves investments of around 150 million reais, with a third coming from internal financing.

The initiative involves converting two vessels used to transport oil rig workers, the Explorer H1 and the Explorer H2, to run entirely on clean hydrogen.

The 36-meter Explorer H1 will be presented at COP30 in November in Belém, Brazil, and in 2026, the Explorer H2, a 50-meter vessel powered by a MAN engine capable of running on both diesel and hydrogen, is expected to be delivered.

Using only 20% hydrogen, the vessel can reduce emissions by 80%.

Living and dying for gold: metal mining returns to El Salvador



El País, 02/09/2025

Synopsis: The Bukele government passed a law that allows metal mining

again, which had been banned in 2017, after an incessant fight by environmentalists, becoming the first country in the world to ban it.

Prior to this legal setback, in 2023, five environmental activists opposed to metal mining were arrested and accused of crimes committed during the civil war and spent 22 months in prison.

They were released in November 2024 due to lack of evidence, but the Bukele-controlled Prosecutor's Office appealed the court's decision.

Before being banned, gold mining in El Salvador had left a trail of destruction in areas of the country.

For example, in Cerro San Sebastián, almost a hundred years of mining left land impregnated with cyanide, a poison that mining companies used in huge quantities to extract the mineral.

From the hill comes a stream that slides like a colossal snake with reddish and golden scales, exhaling a sulphurous breath that permeates the air.

The San Sebastián River has become the undeniable symbol of the footprint of mining pollution. No one can drink its water. If a well is dug, it comes out with scale and a strange smell.

A report prepared by the Human Rights Ombudsman in 2016 indicates that the water of the San Sebastián River and other springs that feed it is contaminated with high levels of aluminium, zinc, iron, manganese, nickel and arsenic. The most exposed are the women who wash clothes in the rivers.

But fighting against mines is not new to them. A few years ago they fought a historic battle to ban mining, which left four activists dead.

One of them, Marcelo Rivera, "unwavering defender of the environment," disappeared on June 18, 2009. His

tortured body was found 12 days later at the bottom of a well. He is said to have been murdered as part of a campaign of terror by the mining companies Pacific Rim/Oceana Gold. Three other activists suffered the same fate.

The president said that Brazil needs to exploit fossil fuels to make the energy transition



Folha de S. Paulo, 02/06/2025

Synopsis: Indigenous, quilombola and environmental groups issued a joint statement denouncing the government's stance in not taking into account environmental and climate risks, "perpetuating the exploitation and use of fossil fuels, the main cause of global warming."

The Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon highlighted the threats related to the exploitation of oil and also potassium in indigenous lands and their surroundings, while the National Coordination of Articulation of Rural Black Quilombola Communities stated that Petrobras has been studying the region for at least two years, but did not consult the people who live there and fear being harmed by the exploitation, and the Socio-Environmental Institute said that the objective of exploiting oil in the Amazon Basin generates contradictions in the year in which the Paris Agreement celebrates a decade and it is necessary to abandon fossil fuels to meet climate goals.

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Nearly 800,000 deaths from weather events in 30 years, environmental group says



IPS, 02/12/2025

Synopsis: Nearly 800,000 deaths and \$4.2 trillion in damage were caused by floods, droughts, storms and heat waves around the world in the 30-year period from 1993 to 2022, according to a report by the environmental organization Germanwatch.

Laura Schaefer, director of international climate policy at the organization, said that "the last three decades show that countries in the Global South are particularly affected by extreme weather events."

In general, around the world "there are increasing signs that we are entering a critical and unpredictable phase of the climate crisis, which will further aggravate conflicts, destabi-

lize societies and negatively affect human security," said Schaefer.

The study shows that in the period studied, Dominica, China and Honduras were the countries most affected by extreme weather events and the remaining countries in the top 10 are from the developing South or Mediterranean Europe.

In Dominica, Hurricane Maria in 2017 caused damage equivalent to 270% of its GDP. China has endured more than 600 extreme events, including floods, typhoons, heat waves and droughts, which have caused 42,000 deaths and losses valued at US\$706 billion.

In Honduras, Hurricane Mitch in 1998 caused 14,000 deaths and US\$7 billion in damage, including the destruction of 70% of its crops. In Belize, in 2022, Hurricane Lisa damaged 5,000 homes, affected more than 172,000 people and caused economic losses estimated at US\$104 million.

Meanwhile, in Puerto Rico, in 2022, Hurricane Fiona caused 25 people to lose their lives, one million to be left without drinking water, and damages estimated at US\$2.6 billion. L

The report's authors stress that countries in the global South are likely to be even more affected than they have been able to show, as the consequences of extreme weather events are much more fully and accurately documented in industrialized nations than in poorer countries. Given the results, "the climate crisis is increasingly becoming a risk to global security," Schaefer said, "and must be addressed with bold multilateral action," he concluded.

Gardi Sugdub: the community in Panama that had to abandon its island at risk of being swallowed by the sea



BBC News Mundo, 02/06/2025

Synopsis: Last June, dozens of motorboats and wooden canoes transported 300 families from the island of

Gardi Sugdub in the Panamanian Caribbean to a slum on the mainland known as Isberyala.

About 1,000 people fled overcrowding and rising sea levels. This is the first population in Panama to be relocated in a planned manner due to climate change.

The island is an area of approximately 60,000 square meters, where until recently about 1,300 people were crammed together with limited basic services.

Authorities fear that many of the more than 40 islands inhabited by the Guna in the archipelago will suffer the same fate in the coming decades.

'Extreme danger': Forest fires ravage Chile



Diario El Universal, 02/10/2025

Synopsis: Chilean President Gabriel Boric announced a state of emergency and a curfew for several regions due to the forest fires that have ravaged the country in recent weeks.

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"Between the regions of Valparaíso and La Araucanía, we have conditions of extreme danger of forest fires, which will be particularly extreme in the regions of Ñuble and Maule."

"Due to these conditions, I want to communicate that I decided to innovate and make the decision to establish a preventive state of emergency for the regions of Ñuble and Maule," Boric said at a press conference.

At least eight dead in Kentucky, United States, after heavy rains and flash floods



Diario El Universal, 02/17/2025

Synopsis: At least eight people, including a child, have died as heavy rains and flash flooding hit Kentucky, United States (US).

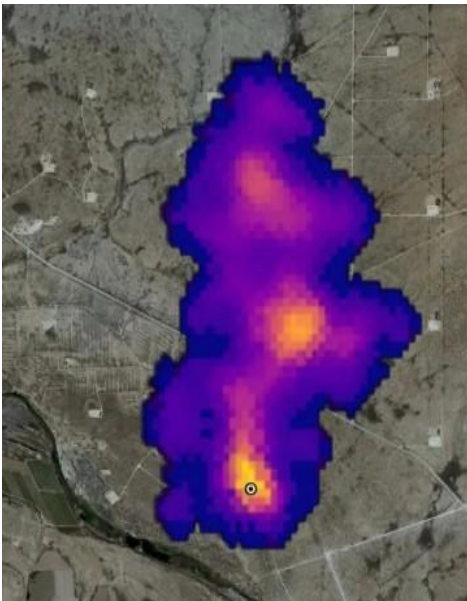
Governor Andy Beshear confirmed the death toll and warned that the figure could rise.

He also said that more than 1,000 water rescues were carried out as part of emergency operations.

The torrential rains caused the closure of more than 300 roads and forced evacuations in several areas of the state.

The impact of the floods also extends to other states in the eastern US, such as Tennessee, West Virginia and North Carolina, where road closures and adverse weather conditions are reported.

'Ice that would burn': Scientists find a 'climate bomb' in Antarctica



RT 02/15/2025

Synopsis: A Spanish scientific expedition has discovered enormous columns of methane, up to 700 metres high and 70 metres wide, in the Antarctic seabed, whose capacity to heat the Earth's surface is 30 times greater than that of carbon dioxide, reports the newspaper El País.

Geologists warned that this source of emissions could become a "bomb for the planet's climate".

Apparently, the compound accumulated in the seabed some 20,000 years ago due to the decomposition of organic matter and is now released in the form of frozen methane hydrate, due to the thinning of the Antarctic ice sheet.

"It is like ice that you could set on fire and it would burn."

Scientists estimate that around 24 gigatonnes of carbon in methane hydrates have accumulated on the margins of the Antarctic Peninsula, equivalent to the emissions produced by all of humanity in two years.

Specialists warn that the instability of these marine sediments could cause enormous landslides on the continental slope, with great potential for generating tsunamis, such as the Storegga tsunami, which devastated the coasts of northern Europe some 8,150 years ago.

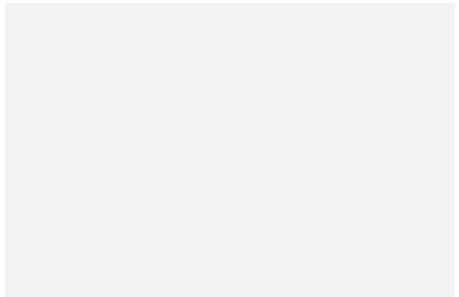
Plastic pollution discovered in an unexpected place where it had never been seen before



Fliprnews, 02/08 2025

Synopsis: For the first time, a team led by researchers from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) has discovered the presence of microplastics in snow near several camps located in remote areas of the frozen continent, in concentrations ranging from 73 to 3,099 particles per litre of snow.

In this discovery, published in the journal Science of The Total Environment, several common types of plastic were identified, including polyamide (used in textiles), polyethylene terephthalate (found in bottles and containers), polyethylene and synthetic rubber.



LATEST: US withdraws from UN Human Rights Council

Laiguna.tv, 02/04/2025

Synopsis: US President Donald Trump has issued an executive order withdrawing the US from the UN Human Rights Council and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The agency has repeatedly criticised the Hebrew state, holding it responsible for human rights violations during the genocide in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The US president also signed an order to review participation in UNESCO.

Earlier, it was reported that the executive order will also require Secretary of State Marco Rubio to review and report to the White House which international organisations, conventions or treaties "promote radical or anti-American sentiments", with particular attention to UNESCO.



Restricting access to its technology to several countries: The new order signed by Trump



La iguana TV, 02/22/2025

Synopsis: US President Donald Trump has signed a new executive order restricting access to advanced US technology, such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology and semiconductors, to countries he considers "foreign adversaries," including North Korea, Russia, China, Iran, Nicaragua, Cuba and Venezuela, arguing that the

order would be in order to safeguard the economic and national interests of the US territory.

Washington seeks to prevent these nations from advancing in the field of new technologies, insisting that these represent a threat to US security.

The 23 Spanish academies in the world regret the withdrawal of this language from the White House website



Diario El Universal, 20/02/2025

Synopsis: The Association of Spanish Language Academies (ASALE), 23 worldwide, have expressed in a statement "their concern about the re-

cent withdrawal of the White House's Spanish language website and social networks."

The Spanish language academies point out that the decision taken by President Trump "does not correspond to the value of a language that is spoken today by more than 600 million people in the world."

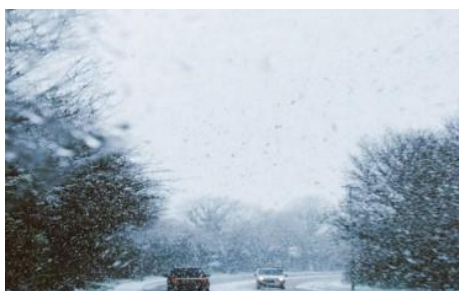
Spanish is "the second language of international communication, with growing development in the economic sphere, education, cultural industries, the media, translation and the digital environment."

Currently, "Spanish-speaking purchasing power represents 10% of the world's GDP and the content in Spanish on the most prominent websites exceeds that expressed in French and German." Regarding the situation of Spanish in the United States, he indicates that it is the country with the second most Spanish speakers, after Mexico, and it is "the second most spoken language in that nation, after English."

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

February 2025

An unprecedented winter storm paralyzes the Gulf Coast of Mexico, in the United States, with heavy snowfall and freezing temperatures.



CNN, 01/22/2025

Synopsis: A severe winter storm has slammed into the southern United States, dumping record snowfall from Texas to Florida and the North Carolina coast in regions unaccustomed to extreme winter conditions.

It closed airports in Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida, and in Mobile, Alabama, where 7.5 inches (19 cm) was recorded, beating the previous record of 3.5 inches (9 cm), residents were urged on social media Tuesday to "stay off the roads tonight," warning of "dangerous and life-threatening conditions."

More than 25 million people were under winter weather alerts from Florida to Virginia, while much of the central and eastern United States faced temperatures between 2.5 and 3.7 degrees below average.

New Orleans broke its snowfall record, with 8 inches (20 cm) of snow, beating the previous record of 3.7 inches (7 cm); Pensacola, Florida, recorded 19.3 centimeters, surpassing its record of 5.84 centimeters set in 1954.

Freezing temperatures affected much of the United States, with at least nine deaths reported. The situation for homeless people was becoming increasingly desperate.

Tropical fruits in Italy? Climate change is changing the world's crop map



El País, 02/08/2025

Synopsis. Climate effects are impacting what is grown around the world.

Farmers are switching to crops more suited to changing local conditions. According to FAO data, Peru has seen a 55% drop in mango exports, as have Mexico and Brazil, which have declined by 2% and 8% respectively, something studies link to global warming.

This trend is only set to accelerate, radically redefining what different regions are known for.

For example, much of the climate in Italy provides ideal conditions for subtropical fruits.

With drought and warmer conditions causing sharp declines in olive oil and citrus production, many Italian farmers are turning to mangos and avocados. In 2023, mango crops covered almost 1,215 hectares in Italy, compared to 500 in 2019 and just 10 in 2004, with a price reaching €5.5 per kilo, compared to lemons which sold for €1.22.

The decline in production is attributed to drought, episodes of heavy rain that delay flowering, which alter the production cycle and stimulate the spread of pests and fungal diseases.

This is how microplastics accumulate in the body: more in the brain and less in the liver



El País, 02/03/2025

Synopsis: Years ago, we began ingesting microplastics and nanoplastics hidden in our food. They have been found in practically every corner of our body, there is one area where more residues accumulate than in others: our brain, according to an analysis of people who died in 2016 and 2024, published in the scientific journal Nature Medicine.

The concentrations were seven to 30 times higher in brain samples than the concentrations observed in the liver or kidney. The possible implications for human health of this disturbing finding are still unclear.

According to Matthew J. Campbell, a biologist at the New Mexico Center for Metals and lead author of the study, "we did not see higher concentrations of nanoplastics in older adults compared to younger patients, which may mean that our body eliminates them over time."

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles measuring between 0.1 micrometers (a human hair has about 60) and five millimeters (a grain of rice has six). They are produced by the breakdown of larger plastic waste. Global production has reached about 460 million tons. A recent study by Portland State University detected microplastics in 99% of seafood samples purchased in the store or from a fishing boat.

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

February 2025

Goodbye to electric cars in Europe: Japan solves the big problem of hydrogen cars



Econews, 02/07/2025

Synopsis: Europe is preparing to say goodbye to electric cars with Japan's proposal to solve the main problem of hydrogen mobility: there are not enough hydrogen service stations, nor are there dispensers of this gas that are quick to supply.

The vehicle fleet that uses this resource is very small, so there are no hydrogen stations, and without them, this type of vehicle is not sold. This situation has become a vicious circle.

To solve them, Toyota of Japan and Hydrogen Refueling Solutions (HRS) and ENGIE of France have signed an

agreement, with the aim of implementing a hydrogen supply chain, with pumps that take only five minutes to refuel.

The goal for 2030 is to have publicly accessible supply centers every 200 kilometers.

Neither Japan nor Germany: The United States buries electric cars with this red supermotor



Ecoticias.com, 08/02/ 2025

Synopsis: The American company Cummins has signed a contract with a European truck manufacturer to supply it with a turbocharger, developed specifically for hydrogen internal combustion engines, which will not be applied to cars, but to heavy vehicles, i.e. trucks.

How does a hydrogen system work?

Currently, there are two main ways of using hydrogen as a fuel.

On the one hand, we have the hydrogen fuel cell, which transforms hydrogen into electrical energy that drives an electric motor.

But the other alternative, the option taken by Cummins, is to use hydrogen directly as fuel, in a piston engine, a modified internal combustion engine. It has a variable geometry supercharging system, large dimensions and is fully prepared to be associated with truck mechanics.

The air flow control and its advanced management allow the turbocharger to optimize its performance despite the complexity of hydrogen combustion.

The model has corrosion-resistant parts and is capable of providing efficient boost pressure.

Hydrogen internal combustion engines are classified as zero-emission in relation to CO2 generation. ■