

Media Headlines

August 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

The planet's oceans reach their highest average temperature on record as El Niño intensifies

560 million children worldwide exposed to dangerous heat, according to a report by the Free University of Brussels

Warning signs evidencing the global freshwater crisis

The "invisible" cost of the climate exodus: rising sea levels and temperatures drive out entire communities.

Europe's rivers are drying up: here are the consequences.

Alarm in Colombia over 16 active forest fires and 27,000 hectares consumed.

Heat-related mortality hits a record high in Spain.

A 70% loss of the corn crop in Venezuela is estimated due to high temperatures.

The planet's oceans reach their highest average temperature on record as El Niño intensifies



BBC News, 08/24/2026

Synopsis: The world's oceans have reached their highest average temperature on record, according to new data, as they are affected by human-induced climate change and the growing El Niño weather phenomenon.

The average surface temperature of the planet's seas (excluding polar regions) reached 21.1°C, according to the European climate change service Copernicus.

Ocean warming can have far-reaching consequences, including the intensification of extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and damage to marine life.

While the margin by which the record was broken is currently very small and any global estimate carries uncertainties, scientists note that the timing of this record is particularly remarkable. Global average sea temperatures typically peak in March or April—

corresponding to the end of summer in the Southern Hemisphere—rather than in August.

El Niño is expected to continue strengthening through the Christmas season, and scientists warn that it is on track to become the strongest in centuries.

Scientists state that this widespread warming across the planet is a clear sign of the growing impact that human-induced climate change is having on the world's seas.

Warmer seas help fuel more extreme weather events. They can supply additional moisture and energy to storms and intensify heatwaves on land in certain coastal regions by reducing the cooling effect of sea breezes.

Warmer water also raises sea levels and increases the risk of coastal flooding, while intense ocean heat can be devastating to marine habitats, such as coral reefs.

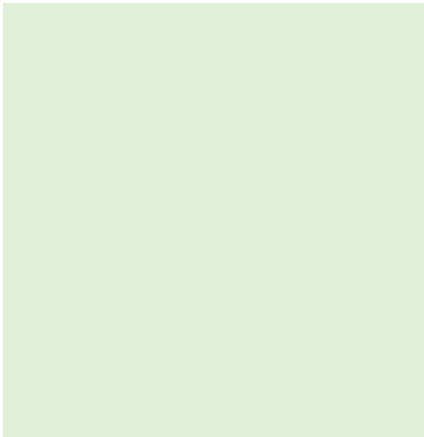
Romania shuts down the second reactor at the Cernavoda nuclear power plant due to low water levels in the Danube.

es.euronews.com, 08/14/2026

Synopsis: Romania's only nuclear power plant, the Cernavoda facility, was shut down due to low water levels in the Danube River.

"The decision to also perform a controlled shutdown of Unit 2 (the plant's only operating reactor) is driven by the significant and continuous drop in the Danube River's water level.

The controlled shutdown of Unit 2 is being carried out in accordance with the procedures applicable to such situations," the state-owned company Nuclearelectrica announced to the press.



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Water for industry: will there be enough for the population?



DW, 08/20/2026

Synopsis: Industrial water use has raised new questions regarding the management of this resource, balancing industrial and agricultural demands against those of local residents.

For instance, in the small town of Baruth, 92% of the extractable groundwater is allocated to Red Bull and other companies.

Hydrogeologist Irina Engelhardt of the Technical University of Berlin points out that the studies and contracts underpinning current water extraction rights date back to the 1990s.

Since then, she asserts, groundwater levels, recharge rates, and land use patterns have all changed significantly.

Furthermore, there has been criticism regarding the fact that authorities have redacted parts of the monitoring documents.

Since the onset of drought conditions in 2018, groundwater reserves in many areas have failed to recharge sufficiently.

In another instance, Tesla's Gigafactory is authorized to extract up to 1.4 million cubic meters of water annually and plans to expand production; meanwhile, "many projects—such as planned schools and daycares—were stalled because there was no water," said local resident Manu Hoyer.

Germany still lacks clear regulations on this matter. Even the concept of "drought" remains undefined in the Water Resources Act.

The sea warmed by 4 degrees, triggering the largest octopus invasion recorded in the UK in 125 years.



Cortesía Pexels, Gizmodo, 08/27/2026

Synopsis: The coasts of southwest England have experienced a veritable octopus invasion, with over 1,200 tonnes caught this summer alone.

The most robust scientific explanation for this phenomenon to date points to a combination of ocean currents and heat, with temperatures reaching up to 4 degrees above the historical average.

The key factor is that the common octopus typically lives for only one to two years; under normal conditions, more than 99% of its offspring are lost to cold and predation during the larval stage.

Warmer water shortens the egg incubation period and substantially improves larval survival, while also accelerating the reproductive maturation of adults. The result is a self-reinforcing cycle: higher larval survival, earlier reproduction, and successive waves of hatchlings overlapping in time.

The common octopus is a highly voracious, opportunistic predator that impacts other marine species.

A January 2026 report by the MBA found that catch rates for edible crab, lobster, and scallops fell by between

30% and 50% in 2025 compared to previous years.

Furthermore, more than half of the 40 fishermen surveyed for the study reported direct negative impacts—stemming both from octopus predation on target species and from damage caused to the catch inside the fishing pots themselves.

The underlying message of the report is clear: if marine heatwaves in the English Channel become more frequent—as many climate models for the region predict—such sudden species reshuffling could cease to be a statistical anomaly and instead become a recurring feature of those waters.

Amid extreme temperatures: Marine creatures with venomous tentacles are plaguing European beaches.



La Iguana, 08/19/2026

Synopsis: European coasts are facing an unusual presence of Portuguese man o' wars—marine creatures with venomous tentacles that can extend up to 30 meters below the surface.

Authorities in the Bay of Biscay issued warnings regarding their appearance on Atlantic beaches, even though this species typically inhabits tropical waters.

Their arrival coincides with a series of intense heatwaves that have driven numerous tourists to seek relief in the sea.

560 million children worldwide exposed to dangerous heat, according to a report by the Free University of Brussels



portalverde.com.bo, 08/27/2026

Synopsis: Climate change exposes up to 560 million children aged zero to nine—representing 43% of the global population in that age group, including 38 million in Latin America and the Caribbean—to at least one additional month of dangerous heat, according to research by the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium.

Is nearly three times that of the 190 million people aged 60 to 69 who also face this additional health threat.

Climate expert Rosa Petroiusti, the report's lead author, warned that "children in developing countries face disproportionate exposure to extreme weather events, both now and in the future, despite having contributed the least to historical greenhouse gas emissions."

"At the same time, poverty, inadequate housing, limited access to cooling, and overburdened health systems leave many children with few ways to protect themselves from the heat," Petroiusti added.

The sharpest increases in humid heat driven by climate change are occurring in tropical regions and poorer nations,

where populations are younger and, consequently, more children are affected.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, Suriname, French Guiana, and Guyana stand out; in these places, virtually all children under the age of nine are exposed to at least one additional month of heat stress due to climate change.

The proportions are also very high in Cuba (98%), Paraguay (94%), Belize (93%), Panama and Trinidad and Tobago (90%), Nicaragua (71%), the Dominican Republic (65%), and Costa Rica (62%).

Looking ahead, children will remain the age group most exposed to extreme heat, regardless of the aging of the global population.

Dangerous heatwaves, the notes point out, are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change, driven primarily by the burning of fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and gas.

Children are highly vulnerable to extreme heat because their bodies heat up faster than adults', they sweat less effectively, and they rely on adult care.

70% of France and 71.3% of England under water restrictions; drought worsens.

La Jornada 08/10/2026

Synopsis: France has imposed water-use restrictions across nearly 70% of its territory due to worsening drought

conditions amidst successive heatwaves, the government reported.

As of August 9, the vast majority of metropolitan France—including Paris—was under at least the first level of water-shortage alert.

A series of heatwaves over the past three months, compounded by the drought, broke temperature records, caused thousands of deaths, and fueled massive forest fires.

"France is experiencing an especially severe drought, and the effects of climate change continue to increase pressure on water resources," the Ministry for the Ecological Transition stated, adding that "nearly 70% of French territory is subject to water-use restrictions."

Warning signs evidencing the global freshwater crisis



RT, 08/06/2026

Synopsis: The world is facing a growing shortage of fresh water—a strain already resulting in alerts, restrictions, and difficult decisions regarding which sectors should be prioritized in various corners of the globe.

According to European Commission projections, global water demand could exceed supply by 40% by 2030.

Along these same lines, the UN has warned that more than 2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and that nearly half the world's population experiences severe water scarcity for at least part of the year.

"These figures are expected to rise, exacerbated by climate change and population growth," the report notes, also warning that terrestrial water reserves have declined at a rate of one centimeter per year over the last two decades, with "serious consequences for water security."

Meanwhile, a study published late last year by the World Bank estimates that the planet loses 324 billion cubic meters of fresh water annually—a volume sufficient to supply 280 million people for a year.

The Panama Canal will reduce vessel transits due to El Niño.



BBC News Mundo, 08/21/2026

Synopsis: Starting September 15, the Panama Canal operator will reduce the number of vessels transiting this vital waterway to 32 due to the drought caused by the El Niño phenomenon.

The shipping sector is already facing serious disruptions due to the conflict involving Iran, which has led to a significant drop in the number of vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

Approximately 14,000 ships use this artificial waterway annually; it operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Panama Canal, which accounts for roughly 5% of global maritime trade, is particularly important to the United States, as nearly 40% of its container traffic passes through it.

Honduras declares red alert due to drought associated with the El Niño phenomenon.



La Iguana, 08/19/2026

Synopsis: Honduras has declared a red alert in 75 municipalities due to the drought associated with El Niño, which is impacting crops, livestock,

and water availability in the central and southern parts of the country.

The National Center for Atmospheric, Oceanographic, and Seismic Studies (CENAOS) reports warmer and drier conditions than normal.

The delayed rainy season has resulted in accumulated rainfall deficits of between 100 and 200 millimeters, affecting water supplies for both human and animal consumption.

In the south, temperatures could rise by 0.5 to 1 degree Celsius.

Carl Skau, the interim Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), warned that the phenomenon threatens to deal a "severe blow" to food security in Central America—particularly in the Dry Corridor of Guatemala and El Salvador.

This region stretches from southern Mexico to Costa Rica and encompasses vast areas of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, where approximately 10.5 million people reside, most of whom rely on subsistence farming of crops such as beans and maize.

The "invisible" cost of the climate exodus: rising sea levels and temperatures drive out entire communities.



Meteored Argentina, 08/28/2026

Synopsis: Climate change forces entire communities to flee, yet simple geographic relocation is insufficient. Resettlement is not merely about building housing; it is about rebuilding lives.

Planned relocation is emerging in public policy as an inevitable climate adaptation strategy in the face of natural events. However, researchers warn that removing people from immediate physical danger is merely the first step in a monumental challenge.

When government interventions focus exclusively on providing physical shelter while ignoring socioeconomic networks, they effectively condemn displaced people to trade environmental risk for profound structural precariousness.

Families that historically relied on reading the tides for their fishing or agricultural livelihoods suddenly find themselves stripped of their primary means of survival. This severs the link between the natural environment and income generation, triggering an immediate unemployment crisis and plunging populations into financial insecurity and extreme vulnerability—often forcing individuals to undertake secondary migration to urban centers in search of economic opportunity.

Furthermore, cultural identity—including traditions, places of worship, and shared communal practices—rapidly erodes when specific spaces for their continuation are not incorporated into the new settlements.

Restoring a community's capacity to adapt and regain stability, well-being, and mental health after such an exodus requires a deeper approach that transcends mere biological survival.

Climate change is indeed behind the recent reduction in rainfall in Puerto Rico and Jamaica.



El País, Bogotá, 08/28/2026

Synopsis: The Caribbean is experiencing a widespread drought, with water rationing for agriculture in parts of Puerto Rico, reservoir capacity dropping by up to 54% in Jamaica, and water-use restrictions in the Lesser Antilles.

The verdict is clear: global warming is indeed reducing rainfall at the start of the rainy season in Puerto Rico and Jamaica.

This crisis in the Caribbean region is also linked to structural vulnerabilities: The islands have inherently limited natural capacity to store fresh water. A situation compounded by intense pressure from tourism that depletes existing resources..

Under a global warming scenario of 2.8°C, rainfall at the start of the rainy season across the Caribbean is projected to decrease by approximately another 10%, with signs pointing to an increase in droughts; consequently, investment is needed in adaptation measures and infrastructure designed to withstand the climate crisis.

The Spanish Mediterranean reaches unprecedented temperatures and extends the record-breaking trend to the Cantabrian Sea.



National Geographic, 08/25/2026

Synopsis: This summer, water temperatures surrounding Spain rose so sharply that they shattered previous highs recorded for the season. For

instance, a remarkable 33.02°C was recorded at Dragonera, Mallorca. Comparing this to the previous record of 31.36°C set at the same location in 2022 highlights the magnitude of the increase.

The issue is that the ocean acts as a massive energy reservoir; altering its temperature affects both ecosystems and the exchange of heat and moisture with the atmosphere, thereby disrupting ecosystem functioning and impacting fishery resources.

As temperatures rise, oxygen solubility decreases; consequently, prolonged heatwaves can reduce available oxygen and increase stress on fish and invertebrates—an effect documented by the Copernicus Marine Service.

"You can feel the river": the battles for the Marañón in Peru



Cortesía Pexels, DW, 08/31/2026

Synopsis: The Marañón River is the main hydrological artery of the Amazon River. Its basin connects the high Andes with the Amazonian plains, transporting vast quantities of water and nutrient-rich sediments that facilitate the migration of aquatic wildlife vital to the entire continent.

The pollution, spills, irresponsible mining, and natural disasters affecting the river have international repercussions.

As of 2024, following a tenacious environmental campaign, the 1,414-kilometer-long Marañón River has been granted legal personhood. A historic ruling by the Superior Court of Justice of the Loreto Department recognized the river's right to exist, to flow freely, and to remain free from pollution.

Regrettably, the North Peruvian Pipeline has caused numerous oil spills—totaling 1,462 incidents over the last 26 years—resulting in severe pollution that has gravely impacted the river's fish populations and, consequently, the economies of the riverside communities that depend on it.

Heavy rains in Chile leave one dead and cause damage across 10 regions.



Telesur, 08/18/2026

Synopsis: The Antofagasta Region, located in northern Chile, was declared a climate alert zone by the Meteorological Directorate following heavy rains over the past few days that resulted in one fatality and caused damage across 10 regions.

The storm also forced the evacuation of nearly 2,000 people and the transfer of 540 inmates from a correctional facility due to the activation of ravines and landslides, according to official reports from authorities.

The rainfall was caused by a cold air mass that broke away from the main wind current, triggering rockfalls, rising rivers, and flooding in local communities.

Senapred Director Alicia Cebrián confirmed the death of a driver in Antofagasta: "a person died in the Antofagasta region as a result of a traffic accident caused by falling rocks on the roadway."

The impact of the rains has extended to 10 of the country's 15 regions, stretching from north to south.

Authorities advised families not to return to their homes until safety conditions are guaranteed and the risk of further landslides has passed.

Heatwave batters the US with record highs and temperatures reaching 46°C.

UR, 08/17/2026

Synopsis: According to the National Weather Service, more than 70 million people were under heatwave alerts in the southern United States—particularly affecting Florida and states along the Mexican border—with record-breaking temperatures reaching up to 46 degrees Celsius.

Over the weekend, the heatwave broke or tied temperature records for this time of year in cities such as Miami and Fort Lauderdale (Florida); Laredo, Borger, and the Austin airport (Texas); Atlanta (Georgia); Raleigh (North Carolina); Memphis (Tennessee); and Charlotte (North Carolina).

Last July was the hottest month on record in the United States, with an average temperature of nearly 25 degrees Celsius across the contiguous U.S., according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

These conditions have fueled the outbreak and spread of wildfires; nearly three million hectares have burned in the United States so far this year, the highest figure in the last decade.

Europe's rivers are drying up:
here are the consequences.



DW, 08/06/2026

Synopsis: River water levels are critically low across Europe. The Rhine, Danube, and Po are recording historically low levels. These rivers are vital for freight transport, agriculture, and water supplies, and the situation is dire.

Following the intense June heatwave and severe forest fires in southern France, the European summer continues to be defined by climate-related crises.

Along the Danube, cargo ships and cruise liners can no longer navigate certain stretches. In Hungary, Romania, and Croatia, sunken ships and cars have even reappeared on the exposed riverbed.

Across Spain, France, Italy, Germany, and Eastern Europe, the prolonged drought is set to cost farmers millions of hectares of cereal crops.

The problem is that the remaining river water heats up significantly and holds less oxygen, which can lead to fish die-offs, explains Jeanette Völker, a researcher at the German Environment Agency (UBA).

Wildfires in Washington
state force the evacuation
of 65,000 people
and destroy 700 homes.



CNN, 08/03/2026

Synopsis: Nearly 65,000 people have been evacuated from their homes in Washington state, USA. More than 700 homes have been destroyed, and fires have consumed over 2,800 hectares. Fifteen major fires have burned more than 100,000 hectares across Washington.

The Pacific Northwest is facing its worst wildfire season in over 30 years, as climate change fuels conditions for destructive fires.

Evacuees described fleeing with little more than what they could carry.

Some have returned to walk through still-smoldering debris in search of anything that might have survived.

One resident, who lost the home where he had lived since 1980, called it a "blessing" that he had recently moved his father to a nursing home, given the destruction.

A 70% loss of the corn
crop in Venezuela is
estimated due to high
temperatures.



Diario El Universal, 08/17/2026

Synopsis: The National Agricultural Confederation of Venezuela (Confeagro) has formally launched the "Vamos con Sorgo" (Let's Go with Sorghum) national plan, seeking an

urgent economic and climate-resilient alternative for domestic producers facing the severe impact of prolonged droughts and high temperatures—conditions that have caused an estimated 70% loss in traditional corn crops.

Confeagro President Pablo Alvarado explained that extreme weather conditions prevent corn from developing properly: "severely affecting the income of producers and communal farmers... As a comprehensive response, the association is promoting the cultivation of sorghum, a crop of African origin that is genetically resistant to water and heat stress."

The association's representative noted that this initial rollout is part of a broader goal for the Venezuelan agricultural sector.

"This step forward marks the beginning of our objective to once again reach the 180,000 hectares of sorghum cultivation that the country successfully established ten or twelve years ago," he emphasized.

Alarm in Colombia over 16 active forest fires and 27,000 hectares consumed.



La Iguana, 08/26/2026

Synopsis: The National Unit for Disaster Risk Management reported 16 forest fires and over 27,000 hectares affected in Colombia, noting that three blazes have been brought

under control while a total of 19 incidents remain under constant monitoring.

Drought and high temperatures have plunged Colombia into one of the most severe environmental crises of recent months.

Heart-wrenching scenes have unfolded in various areas: exhausted livestock collapsing during long treks to escape the flames and thick smoke, as owners try to save them by moving them to less affected zones.

The situation has been exacerbated by the loss of livestock enclosures, water sources, and pastureland.

Thousands of animals are suffering from a lack of food and water, while economic losses in the agricultural sector are estimated to exceed 44 billion pesos.

Ecuador's Indigenous people will fight for their leader's freedom in international forums.



Ultimas Noticias, 08/18/2026

Synopsis: The National Confederation of Peasant, Indigenous, and Black Organizations (Fenocin) announced it would turn to international bodies to challenge the pre-trial detention order issued against its president, Guido Perugachi.

In an official statement, the organization categorically rejected the coercive measure, which has kept a locate-and-arrest order in effect against the community leader since last Friday.

Fenocin confirmed it would take the case to the Inter-American Court of

Human Rights (IACHR) to demand urgent protection of the detained leader's fundamental rights in the face of state harassment.

The peasant and Indigenous organization denounced the judicial proceedings as a form of direct political persecution stemming from the mobilizations led in September and October 2025 against the policies of President Daniel Noboa's government.

They also criticized the conduct of Judge Mery Raquel Maza Puma of the Imbabura Provincial Court of Justice for failing to follow the mandatory intercultural dialogue protocol required in cases involving members of Indigenous peoples.

In response to this judicial offensive, Fenocin declared a state of permanent assembly across all its regional and provincial branches to evaluate further protest actions.

Opposition to the punitive measure also garnered support from the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (Conaie)—the country's largest social platform—which condemned the systematic criminalization of grassroots leadership.

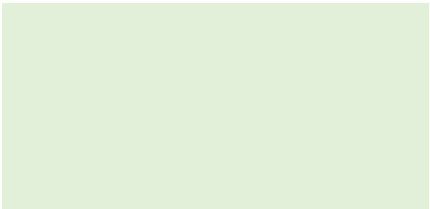
Violent storm unleashes chaos at an Italian airport and tosses planes around like toys.



RT, 08/22/2026

Synopsis: A violent storm, with wind gusts of up to 120 km/h, battered the Italian city of Forlì. At the local airport, the gale-force winds caused chaos and property damage.

A video shows heavy rain dragging and shifting several light aircraft across the runway amidst dense fog. No injuries were reported.



Heat-related mortality hits a record high in Spain.



Telesur, 08/31/2026

Synopsis: The summer of 2026 saw the highest heat-related mortality figure in Spain since the All-Cause Daily Mortality Monitoring System began operations in 2015.

Between May 15 and August 31, the system estimated 5,232 deaths associated with high temperatures in the country. In 2022, there were 4,789 deaths from this cause, while in 2023 the figure dropped to 3,035.

Of the total number of fatalities, 96.4%—or 5,048 people—were over the age of 65; this demographic accounts for

nearly all such fatalities, with 3,256 deaths occurring among those over 85.

Additionally, 60% of the deaths were among women.

With September approaching and temperatures remaining high, several local authorities expanded remote assistance and direct monitoring services for the dependent population.

The monitoring data once again highlights the most vulnerable groups: the elderly and women account for the majority of victims of extreme heat in Spain.

Ecuador punishes protectors of Yasuní National Park.



Aporrea, 08/22/2026

Synopsis: Ecuadorian authorities are failing to comply with the mandate from a public referendum to protect Yasuní National Park from oil exploitation, while simultaneously imposing fines on leaders of the environmental group championing that cause, Amnesty International (AI) has reported.

Ana Piquer, AI's Americas Director, stated, "Three years ago, millions of people made history by voting to

protect Yasuní. Today, those who dedicated years of their lives to securing the park's protection are facing fines of \$18,000."

"This is a clear case of harassment against civil society," Piquer asserted.

This harassment of the environmental organization comes three years after the Ecuadorian electorate decided—on August 20, 2023, with 59% of the vote—to shut down the Block 43-ITT oil wells located within Yasuní.

The national park, covering approximately 10,200 square kilometers in the northeastern Ecuadorian Amazon, is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world; its one million hectares are home to more than 2,000 species of trees and shrubs, 204 mammal species, 610 bird species, 121 reptile species, 150 amphibian species, over 250 fish species.

The area is inhabited by the Tagaeri and Taromenane indigenous peoples, who live in voluntary isolation, and

has been designated a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Authorities have disregarded the popular mandate—which was also supported by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights—and dozens of wells remain active. Regarding the sanctions against Yasunidos activists, Amnesty International maintains that these do not occur in isolation; in recent years, the organization has documented increasing restrictions that "evidence the deterioration of civic space under the administration of President Daniel Noboa."

Civil society organizations have reported the blocking or closure of bank accounts—affecting groups dedicated to environmental and human rights advocacy as well as social organizations—while activists have been targeted by stigmatization campaigns including by the president, who has labeled them "anti-patriotic."

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Extreme drought in Hungary: how a lake is disappearing



DW, 08/05/2026

Synopsis: Due to the drought, Hungary's third-largest lake is receding. The heatwave is also affecting the rest of the country: the most important power plant has halted operations due to insufficient water flow.

As of August 4, the water level stood at 29 centimeters. Unless it rains and the heat persists, the level will continue to drop daily—by an average of half a centimeter to a full centimeter. The lake has already receded by tens of meters.

The World University Canoe Sprint Championship was scheduled to take place on the lake this August. It was intended to be the first major event at the newly built facilities, but due to persistently low water levels, the event was relocated to Szeged in southern Hungary.

The current heatwave is affecting the rest of the country as well. The level of the Danube has dropped drastically, leading to serious consequences.

River traffic has come to a near-standstill, and the Paks nuclear power plant can no longer be cooled using water from the Danube. Power generation—which normally meets half of Hungary's electricity demand—was almost completely halted on Sunday, August 2.

Street lighting is being reduced, and freight trains are not running in the afternoon.

However, the problem is far from over—whether for Lake Velence, the

Danube, or Hungary's electricity supply—as temperatures exceeding 40°C are forecast for the coming days.

No one saw it coming, but science confirms it: China has wiped out 98% of the pollution in its capital in 12 years.



OK Diario, 08/15/2026

Synopsis: Particulate matter—specifically PM2.5—ranked Beijing among the cities with the worst air quality in the world at the start of the last decade. Now, data from 2025 show a 98% reduction in pollution in the capital over a 12-year period.

How did China manage this?

At the same time, the number of days with severe pollution episodes has dropped to the point where they have virtually disappeared from the annual calendar. The city went from having dozens of days of severe pollution per year to just one day in 2025.

Key measures adopted include the gradual phase-out of older vehicles, the requirement for new cars to meet emissions standards equivalent to Euro 6 regulations, traffic restrictions during high-pollution episodes based on odd-even license plate systems, and a significant expansion of the public transport network; subways, buses, and alternative mobility networks have become increasingly important for daily commuting.

Another decisive factor has been the electrification of the vehicle fleet. Electric car sales have grown steadily: in 2020, they accounted for barely 5%

of the market, whereas by 2025, they exceeded 50% of new vehicle registrations.

Nationwide, registrations surpassed 12 million units in a single year. This shift has been accompanied by an extensive network of charging stations and the electrification of taxis and urban buses. While other major cities required decades to bring particulate matter under control, the Chinese capital managed to curb it in just over ten years, thereby setting a new benchmark for urban air quality management.

Provea reports the kidnapping of indigenous leader Julio Rodríguez in Bolívar, allegedly by the FARC.



Agencias, 08/10/2026

Synopsis: The organization Provea raised the alarm regarding the abduction on August 2 of Julio Rodríguez, captain of the Jivi Ekunay community. Indigenous authorities from the Mapoyo ancestral territory reported the incident, holding alleged dissident factions of the FARC responsible.

According to the report, the indigenous leader has been missing for seven days after armed men forcibly took him from the Jivi Ekunay community in Los Pijiguaos. Two days later, a group of indigenous leaders and youths who had set out to search for him was ambushed in the Vincler area, according to the statement.

They reported that drones flew over the area and explosive devices were

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dropped. Alirio Rodríguez, an elderly man, was seriously injured and rushed to Los Pijiguaos Hospital.

Indigenous authorities are demanding proof of life and Rodríguez's immediate release. They are calling on Attorney General Larry Devoe and the National Armed Forces to rescue him.

Animal cruelty: Iceland orders the expulsion of 21 anti-whaling activists.



Cortesía de Pexels, Agencias, 08/05/2026

Synopsis: Iceland has ordered the expulsion of 21 anti-whaling activists—including several Brazilians and Spaniards—who were detained last week while pursuing a whaling vessel in their own boat, police reported.

The **Bandero** was boarded by Icelandic authorities off the coast after it obstructed the operations of the **Hvalur 9**, one of the few remaining vessels dedicated to whaling in Iceland.

"All crew members of the **Bandero** have already been notified of the expulsion decision and the ban on re-entry," police spokesman Gunnar Runar Sveinbjornsson said in an email.

Those on board included U.S., Brazilian, French, and Spanish nationals, according to a list provided by the Captain Paul Watson Foundation,

although the famous environmentalist was not traveling with them.

The Captain Paul Watson Foundation maintained that its vessel was in international waters when it was boarded.

Iceland is one of the few countries that still permits commercial whaling, alongside Norway and Japan.

A fast-moving wildfire forces more than 20,000 people to evacuate in western Canada.



Aporrea, 08/09/2026

Synopsis: More than 20,000 people were ordered to leave their homes in western Canada as a rapidly spreading wildfire advanced toward communities along the shores of Okanagan Lake in British Columbia, destroying homes in its path.

Evacuation orders were issued for the entire community of Summerland—home to about 12,000 people—as well as for some 8,000 residents of nearby Peachland and the surrounding area. Authorities had not yet determined how many homes had been destroyed.

Erick Thompson, an emergency official with the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, described it as one of the "fastest-moving and most rapidly growing" wildfires the region had ever experienced.

Canada has endured increasingly destructive wildfire seasons in recent years, forcing mass evacuations and repeatedly sending smoke across vast areas of Canada and the United States.

Greece: More than 230 fires ravage the country, scorching thousands of hectares.



TeleSur, 08/06/2026

Synopsis: A ferocious wave of over 230 wildfires, which broke out between July 28 and August 2, devastated at least 18,000 hectares in Greece. The flames claimed the lives of five people, including three firefighters and two pilots who collided while conducting firefighting operations.

Satellite imagery analyzed by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) projects that the actual impact will exceed 20,000 hectares burned across Crete, Paros, Boeotia, and Attica.

The fires forced the evacuation of more than 10,000 residents and tourists, destroying homes, infrastructure, crops, and livestock; they consumed 13,000 hectares and advanced to within 35 kilometers of Athens.