

Media headlines

April 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

The world recorded its 11 hottest years on record

Climate change impacts harvests in India

Climate alert: Europe is warming twice as fast as the global average

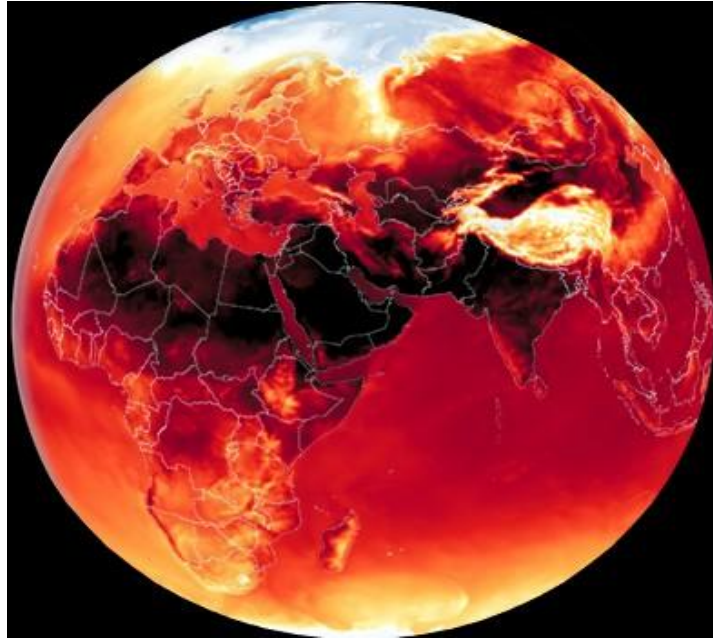
A cornered wilderness finds refuge in UNESCO sanctuaries

The road to energy independence: four countries own their own electricity

"Nations must prepare": Disturbing discovery about a key ocean 'engine'

The emperor penguin is officially an endangered species

The world recorded its 11 hottest years on record



Ultimas noticias, 03/24/2026

Synopsis: The Earth's climate is at its most unbalanced point since records began. From 2015 to 2025, the 11 hottest years on record have occurred, according to the World Meteorological Organization's annual report on the State of the Global Climate 2025.

The report states that last year was the second or third hottest on record (depending on the database), with a temperature approximately 1.43°C above the 1850-1900 average. The report warned that in 2024, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide reached its highest level in the last 2 million years, and that of methane and nitrous oxide in the last 800,000 years.

Never before in history has the planet experienced such instability due to greenhouse gas concentrations,

which are driving the continued warming of the atmosphere and oceans, as well as the melting of ice, the report states.

The planet is not distributing the excess energy it receives evenly: 1% remains in the atmosphere, 5% is stored in the continents, 3% is used to melt ice, and the rest, more than 91%, ends up in the oceans.

Over the last two decades, the ocean has been absorbing the equivalent of about 18 times humanity's annual energy consumption.

The annual extent of Arctic sea ice reached or was near a record low, while the extent of Antarctic sea ice was the third lowest on record, and glacial melt continued unabated.

Diplomatic milestone: Venezuela and Colombia sign final act of the 3rd Meeting of the Neighborhood and Integration Commission

La Iguana TV, 04/24/2026

Synopsis: During the meeting held this Friday, April 24, between the

President (E) of the Republic, Delcy Rodríguez, and the President of Colombia, Gustavo Petro, the foreign ministers of both countries signed the Act of the III Meeting of the Neighborhood and Integration Commission between both nations.

The agreement encompasses accords on the topics of trade, energy, border development, health and security. On

average, 68% of the agricultural land. If regional data is added, that same group controls around 88% of the total land for agriculture," notes Katheryn Sánchez, official spokesperson for ILC.



SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

April 2026

Unprecedented revolution in Pakistan: it has managed to plant 10 billion trees in 3 years to reforest its forests



Ok DIARIO, 04/27/2026

Synopsis: Pakistan suffers some of the worst effects of climate change, despite generating very few polluting emissions. Therefore, the government launched a massive reforestation program to curb this deterioration.

The initiative seeks to change the environmental balance and, at the same time, sustain very fragile rural economies.

Pakistan launched one of the world's largest reforestation projects and set a goal of planting 10 billion trees in just a few years.

The social impact has been remarkable; authorities estimate that the program has generated more than two million green jobs, mainly in nurseries, forest monitoring, and rural work.

Many of these positions have gone to young people without access to stable employment.

Without direct intervention, the advance of desertification and heat waves threatens both agriculture and access to water in Pakistan.

A study based on satellite data detected a net increase of approximately 300 square kilometers of forest cover in the areas where interventions took place up to 2020.

The project was not limited to planting trees; it also closed areas to gra-

zing and reinforced monitoring to allow the forest to recover naturally. This strategy reduced deforestation in areas that already had existing pressure.

The effects on the local climate, however, are more modest. Researchers observed a slight increase in rainfall in areas with higher intervention density, around 0.5% to 0.8% in some periods.

Desert energy: promise and challenges of solar production



dw.com, 04/20/2026

Synopsis: Near the Moroccan city of Ouarzazate, Noor, one of the world's largest solar power plants, is under construction.

Spanning almost 500 hectares, this atypical solar installation produces enough energy to power more than a million homes.

Instead of the usual black photovoltaic panels, Noor uses concentrated solar power.

A field of two million giant mirrors reflects the sun's rays onto a central receiver located at the top of a 247-meter-high tower.

The concentrated sunlight melts salts at 600 degrees Celsius. These heat water, producing steam, which spins turbines to generate electricity.

Even after the sun has set. By 2030, the country expects 52 percent of its electricity consumption to come from renewable sources, and 70 percent by 2050, phasing out coal by 2040.

Moroccans, with an average income of \$550, spend about \$110 (€94) on electricity. It is a hot and dry country, where air conditioning and fans are commonplace.

In summer, Ouarzazate often exceeds 40 degrees Celsius, and the number of hot days and nights has almost doubled in the region since the 1970s.

Projects like Noor also have their detractors, as concentrated solar power consumes a lot of water. Cleaning its thousands of mirrors requires the equivalent of filling 1,200 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Young Venezuelan wins gold at Singapore Mathematics Olympiad 2026



La Iguana TV, 25/04/2026

The young Venezuelan Ibrahim Rahwan won a gold medal after participating in the Singapore and Asian Schools Mathematical Olympiad (SASMO) 2026.

Rahwan distinguished himself in Asia's largest competition, standing out with his extraordinary talent among more than 700,000 students from 50 countries.

Climate change impacts harvests in India



DW, 04/20/2026

Synopsis: In Punjab, a historically agrarian state, 10% of India's wheat and 15% of its rice are currently produced. Agriculture has long been a way of life.

This year is unfolding against a backdrop of climate challenges: rain, floods, and hailstorms have damaged crops in both regions of the country.

Farmers can no longer rely on rainfall in December and January, months that favor wheat growth.

If it rains when the grain is forming or ripening, "it causes a lot of problems," explains Harindar Grewal, an environmental advisor at the Citizens for Change Foundation, based in central India.

Flooding in some areas of India has been linked to rising global temperatures, which lead to more intense rainfall events.

Authorities in Punjab have deployed a large team to assess the recent crop damage. Working alongside the central government, they have released \$439 million to support farmers affected by climate disasters.

In the long term, they advocate rethinking agricultural practices, including reducing dependence on rice grown in paddy fields.

Farmers can diversify into forestry and horticulture, including greenhouse agriculture, used in many countries to increase productivity.

Venezuela will work for Latin American and Caribbean regional integration: Interim President Delcy Rodríguez after meeting with the Prime Minister of Grenada



La iguana, 04/10/2026

Synopsis: The Interim President of the Republic, Delcy Rodríguez, held an official meeting with the Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell.

The president reaffirmed Venezuela's commitment to Caribbean integration and the updating of the bilateral agenda.

"I am pleased to meet with the Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell, whom I thank for his warm welcome to strengthen cooperation between our countries. In a productive meeting, we updated the joint agenda in areas such as energy, education, science, health, transportation, and the economy. Venezuela will work for Latin American and Caribbean regional integration," she stated on her social media.

One of the central themes addressed by the president was logistical connectivity.

In this regard, she reported on concrete plans regarding "air and maritime transport so that we can establish a foreign trade route for our countries."

She also explained that the cooperation will include training in hydrocarbon sciences and health. Rodríguez also referred to the issues of maritime delimitation, giving as an example the bilateral dialogue for the resolution of controversies: "This is how differences between countries are resolved: through bilateral, diplomatic, peaceful and political means."

Climate alert: Europe is warming twice as fast as the global average



Noticias ONU, 04/29/2026

Synopsis: Record wildfires, drought, intense heat waves: from the Mediterranean Sea to the Arctic, climate change is transforming Europe.

This continent is warming twice as fast as the global average, warned a new report released Wednesday by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the European Copernicus Observatory, which indicates that Europe broke its records for marine heatwaves and land area burned by wildfires in 2025.

Across Europe, around 70% of waterways recorded below-average flows during 2025. Almost all of Europe (at least 95%) recorded above-average annual temperatures in 2025.

Among the most notable events of 2025 on the European continent was an exceptional three-week heatwave in Fennoscandia, just below the Arctic Circle. In this part of northern Europe, comprising Finland, Sweden, and Norway, temperatures reached almost 35°C in July, according to measurements taken in Norway. In southern and eastern Spain, for example, up to 50 more days than normal were recorded with "felt" temperatures exceeding 32°C.

The consequence of these heat waves is the retreat of snow. Glaciers registered a net loss of mass in 2025. For example, Iceland recorded its second-largest annual loss in its history, after 2005. Among the good news, renewable energies accounted for a larger share than fossil fuels in electricity generation for the third consecutive year, with 46.4% of production. In 2025, solar energy also reached a record contribution of 12.5%.

The Pacific and the Caribbean suffer from the war in the Middle East: blackouts on the islands and fertilizer shortages



Noticias ONU, 04/15/2026

Synopsis: For Pacific and Caribbean island nations, the war in the Middle East is already manifesting itself in rising fuel prices, electricity uncertainty, and fears that communities at the end of global supply chains could face greater economic insecurity.

In the Caribbean region, one of the world's most import-dependent food regions, fertilizer shortages are jeopardizing its agri-food systems. Food prices have risen between 55% and 60% since 2018.

Deforestation in Colombia reached 72,409 hectares in 2025, 6% more than in 2024



El Espectador, 04/03/2026

Synopsis: According to a report by the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), deforestation in Colombia

reached 72,409 hectares in 2025, 6% more than in 2024.

This increase is associated with the expansion of extensive cattle ranching, the construction of illegal roads, and land grabbing in areas that should be designated for conservation.

It is important to state this clearly: today, deforestation in Colombia is not driven by illicit crops, but by the conversion of land to pasture for cattle ranching and the colonization of land.

The greatest pressure is concentrated in the Amazon, especially in the departments of Caquetá, Meta, and Guaviare, where 21 active deforestation hotspots were identified, primarily associated with the expansion of cattle ranching, land grabbing, and the opening of illegal roads.

A cornered wilderness finds refuge in UNESCO sanctuaries



UNESCO, 04/21/2026

Synopsis: While global wildlife has plummeted by 73% since the 1970s, life within the territories protected by the UN's science and culture agency is holding strong.

A UNESCO report, titled *Communities and Nature*, analyzes its entire network as a single, vast protection network.

Spanning more than 13 million square kilometers—an area larger than China and India combined—this network of 2,260 sites demonstrates that when nature is protected, nature protects us.

The figures are simply staggering. These sites are home to more than 60% of all mapped species on Earth. Even more crucial: four out of every ten species that inhabit them exist nowhere else. If these habitats disappear, those creatures will be extinct forever.

"The results are clear: UNESCO sites are delivering results for both people and nature," says UNESCO Director-General Khaled El-Enany. "Within these territories, communities thrive, humanity's heritage endures, and biodiversity is maintained, while it collapses elsewhere."

They store some 240 gigatons of carbon, equivalent to almost 20 years of current global emissions, and are home to nearly 900 million people.

Economically, the impact is equally significant. Around 10% of global GDP is generated in or around these areas, demonstrating that conservation and prosperity can go hand in hand.

However, the report issues an urgent warning: "the lifeline is wearing thin." Nearly 90% of these sites face intense environmental stress. In just one decade, climate-related hazards, such as fires and floods, have increased by 40%.

Experts warn that, by 2050, one in four UNESCO sites could reach a "point of no return." This could mean the total disappearance of glaciers, the collapse of coral reefs, and the transformation of lush forests into carbon sources instead of sinks.

Colombia lost another glacier: Ideam confirms the disappearance of the Los Cerros de la Plaza glacier.



El Espectador, 04/09/2026

Synopsis: The Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) confirmed the disappearance of the Los Cerros de la Plaza glacier, located in the Sierra Nevada de Güicán or El Cocuy.

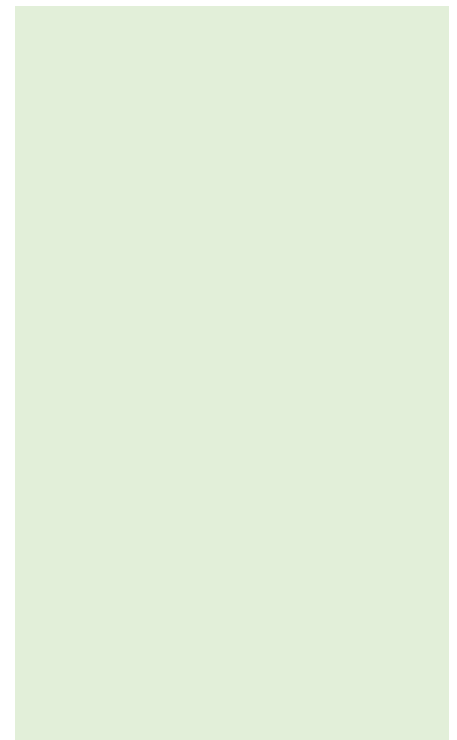
"Its disappearance was not abrupt, but rather the result of a sustained process of climate transformation that accelerated in recent decades," the agency stated in a press release, explaining that the extinction of this ecosystem was announced in March 2026.

Among the reasons for its disappearance, IDEAM explained, are several interacting factors: the sustained increase in temperature, the decrease in snowfall, and its location at a relatively low altitude compared to current climatic conditions.

"In the tropical Andes, glaciers are especially sensitive to these variations, making them direct indicators of climate change," the agency added.

Satellite monitoring, in addition to confirming its loss, allows researchers to understand with greater precision

the speed and impacts of climate change in the country.



The road to energy independence: four countries own their own electricity



Noticias ONU, 04/27/2026

Synopsis: The war in the Middle East has shown the vulnerability of countries to the geopolitical fluctuations of oil and other fossil fuels.

Renewable energies, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, offer a stable, national, and increasingly affordable supply. Furthermore, they are rapidly replacing fossil fuels as the backbone of modern energy systems.

"Renewable energies are now almost on par with fossil fuels in installed capacity worldwide," Guterres stated, adding that "there are no price hikes for sunlight (...) nor embargoes on wind."

Renewables are now "the foundation of energy security and sovereignty," "renewables can put power, literally and figuratively, in the hands of people and governments."

There are four examples of countries achieving energy self-sufficiency based on renewable sources: Norway, Paraguay, Nepal, and Ethiopia, combining hydroelectric, solar, and wind power to varying degrees.

A common pattern emerges: renewables improve energy independence, stabilize costs, and reduce exposure to global crises.

Furthermore, they offer other tangible benefits, from employment to health.

Ghost roads promoted by local governments threaten the Brazilian Amazon



Folha de S. Paulo, 04/02/2026

Synopsis: Investigations reveal that illegal roads, known as "ghost roads," are expanding in the Brazilian Amazon. These roads are used for illegal logging or cattle ranching and are expanded by local governments with public funds, without environmental permits.

Since 1990, almost 3,000 kilometers of roads have been built within con-

servation units. The peak of expansion occurred in 2019 and 2020 and remained high in 2025.

Environmental organizations link the growth of these roads to the consolidation of cattle ranching in the region. On the other hand, state authorities claim that the roads are necessary for regional integration and to serve isolated populations.

The inconsistencies of a mining company in La Pa, Colombia



El Espectador 04/22/2026

Synopsis: Dozens of farmers from La Paz, Santander, have been camped out for 208 days, since September 20,

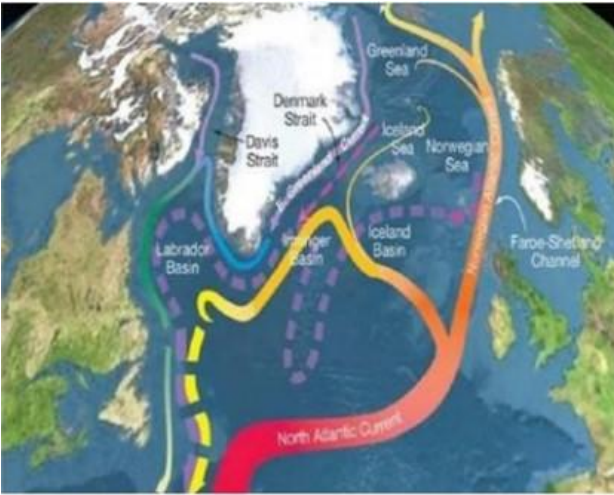
2025, at what they have called the 'Point of Resistance for the Defense of Water,' when some 40 Army soldiers were accompanying a group of workers from Zurich International Trading S.A.S. who attempted to enter the land where the company has held a mining concession that has remained unexploited since 2004.

After decades of inactivity, the company attempted to enter the territory, warning that they would begin mining coal and limestone, which could endanger the water sources that supply seven aqueducts providing water to more than 3,000 families in the municipality.

Between 2019 and 2020, the company reported extracting 100 tons of coal and 200 tons of rock or limestone, even though no such extraction had taken place.

Given the evidence of these inconsistencies, the community and CAJAR expected the company's environmental license to be revoked or declared invalid.

"Nations must prepare": Disturbing discovery about a key ocean 'engine'



RT, 04/22/2026

Synopsis: A new study, published in the journal *Science Advances*, makes a disturbing revelation: the key current known as the Atlantic Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is much closer to collapse than scientists previously thought.

It is crucial for keeping Earth's climate under control, acting as a conveyor belt that carries warm water from the tropics northward and cold water back south. This regulates the climates of Europe, Africa, and the Americas and sustains life in the oceans.

The study calculates that the AMOC will weaken by between 43% and 59% by 2100, 60% more than previous models predicted, because real-world data on sea surface temperature and salinity are now included. If the AMOC were to collapse, it would cause a plunge in temperatures in northern Europe, while the south would suffer extreme droughts.

Sea levels would rise along the northeastern coast of North America, and the land suitable for growing wheat and corn would be reduced to less than half.

María Paz Chidichimo, an oceanographer at the National University of San Martín, Buenos Aires, concluded that, given this worrying forecast, "nations must prepare now."

The United States is launching giant spheres into the sea with one goal: to harness one of the largest sources of renewable energy.



Xataka.com, 04/12/2026

Synopsis: The oceans cover 71% of the Earth, and their energy has a huge advantage: its constancy.

The ocean generates energy regardless of whether it is day or night, whether it is calm or the sky is cloudy; it never rests, making this energy source the ideal complement for stabilizing grids.

The endemic problem with this technology is its low efficiency due to its unpredictable and inconsistent nature, and the challenges it must overcome, such as salt, corrosion, biological growth on structures, etc.

An American startup, called Panthalassa, has been testing a prototype, Ocean-2, in the Pacific Ocean for some time.

This prototype fundamentally rethinks how we relate to the ocean: instead of resisting it, it goes with the current.

It consists of a sphere almost 10 meters in diameter and a tubular hull almost 60 meters long, which moves when horizontal and becomes operational when vertical.

Brazil highlights the fight against deforestation in a new plan to reduce emissions



AFP, 03/17/2026

Synopsis: Brazil launched a new national climate plan for the next decade, prioritizing forest protection as its main strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The goal set by the government of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 67% compared to 2005 levels. These emis-

sions are generated primarily by deforestation (40%), related to illegal practices to expand agricultural land, according to the latest official figures from 2022.

Lula pledged to reduce deforestation to zero by 2030. Brazil plays a crucial role in the fight against climate change as it is home to the Amazon, the world's largest rainforest, considered vital for absorbing carbon emissions.

The country has been hit in recent years by extreme weather disasters, from floods to fires and droughts, which experts link to climate change.

"We are experiencing a very serious climate emergency," said Environment Minister Marina Silva at a press conference.

Cocaine in water alters the behavior of wild salmon



EFE, 04/21/2026

Synopsis: A study in Swiss waters revealed that the most common metabolite of cocaine—present in rivers and lakes worldwide—has a more profound effect on salmon behavior than the drug itself, altering their behavior in their natural habitat.

The study was conducted over eight weeks in Lake Vättern, Sweden, with 105 juvenile Atlantic salmon.

Cocaine and its metabolites were being detected with increasing frequency in rivers and lakes worldwide, reaching waterways primarily through wastewater systems not

designed to completely remove these compounds.

Risk assessments often focus on the parent compound, even though metabolites are more common in waterways, suggesting that current approaches may be overlooking important biological effects.

Altering fish movement can have significant effects because it plays a fundamental role in how animals interact with their environment.

Where fish go determines what they eat, who eats them, and how populations are structured; if pollution is disrupting these patterns, it could affect ecosystems in ways we are only beginning to understand.

The emperor penguin is officially an endangered species



DW, 04/09/2026

Synopsis: The emperor penguin has been declared an endangered species, as climate change brings this Antarctic icon ever closer to extinction, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world authority on threatened wildlife, announced.

Emperor penguins depend on sea ice to live, hunt, and reproduce. Premature melting and the loss of these frozen ocean platforms have caused a drastic decline in their population.

The Antarctic fur seal was also listed as "endangered," as its population has declined by more than 50% since 1999.

"Rising ocean temperatures and declining sea ice are pushing krill to greater depths in search of cooler waters, reducing the food supply for seals," the IUCN stated.

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

April 2026
