Media headlines

March 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

CO_2 emissions will have 10 times more impact in the future than the damage already caused to the climate and the environment

The Earth loses its balance and goes into the red by retaining more heat than it emits

Following the trail of meat: Colombia's plan to curb deforestation

The solution to 'get rid' of millions of metric tons of carbon dioxide lies in this mineral

Hydrology shockwaves: China plants so many trees that it has altered the water cycle in 20 years

Chile: The first South American country that could run out of water by 2040

A surprising percentage of agricultural products from the largest US supplier contain "forever" pesticides

CO_2 emissions will have 10 times more impact in the future than the damage already caused to the climate and the environment

EL PAÍS, 03/28/2026

Synopsis: Two studies published in 'Nature' highlight the economic, social, and ecological consequences of climate change. Researchers from Stanford University (California, USA) have drawn an analogy between greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and garbage. Both are byproducts of human activities. Both are causing serious problems for the planet. Both cause damage that can be quantified in dollars. Both must be managed, but in both cases, some don't pay the bill while many others suffer the consequences. The study also reveals the cumulative nature of their impact: to the damage already caused by past emissions, we must add future damage, which will be multiplied tenfold. According to their calculations, always expressed in dollars, the damage from emissions accumulates. Thus, one ton of CO_2... Emissions from 1990 caused an estimated $180 million in damages up to 2020. But they will cause $1,840 million by 2100. "As long as one ton of carbon dioxide is emitted, global warming will continue, and that warming will cause damage," says Marshall Burke, lead author of the study.

The impact of greenhouse gases follows an uneven geographical pattern: accumulated damages, past and future, in so-called first-world countries, warming has a limited effect, and, as the authors write, "widespread damage in mid-latitude and tropical countries, where warming is highly likely to harm growth and where the damages are substantial as a percentage of current GDP."

According to their analysis, US emissions since 1990 have caused more than $10 trillion in global economic damages, mostly external. This includes some $330 billion in Brazil and $500 billion in India. A second study by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (Germany), also published in Nature, uses scientists to project the future climate by running some twenty complex models on powerful computers. Of their results, they consider the intermediate scenarios to be the most probable; however, this study discards them in favor of the less probable, but still possible, scenarios.

The best-case scenario is that the global temperature does not rise by more than 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels, or at most, does not exceed 2°C. To achieve this, climate science considers a drastic reduction in GHG emissions necessary now, and carbon neutrality to be reached by 2050. But even in that case, extreme events with a significant impact could still occur.

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A report analyzes who owns the land in Latin America

DW, 03/13/2026

Synopsis: The report "State of Land Tenure and Governance," released at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development +20, held in February in Cartagena, Colombia, is the first comprehensive global assessment of how land is owned, used, and governed worldwide.

The report, "State of Land Tenure and Governance," was prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Land Coalition (ILC), and the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD).

The report warns of the high concentration of land dedicated to agriculture, which occupies approximately 37% to 38% of the planet's total land area.

“In Latin America and the Caribbean, 10% of all landowners control, on average, 68% of agricultural land. If regional data is aggregated, this same group controls approximately 88% of all land used for agriculture,” notes Katheryn Sánchez, official spokesperson for ILC.

The report indicates that only 1 billion of the 5.5 billion hectares they occupy have clear land rights, which jeopardizes more than a third of the planet's stored carbon and more than 40% of its intact forests. If carbon is released into the atmosphere in these territories due to agricultural or livestock activity, it cannot be reabsorbed by ecosystems, contributing to the acceleration of climate change.

In the case of Latin America, approximately 32% of the land is inhabited by Indigenous peoples.

Whoever controls the land is the one who will determine if the land is degraded, if the land is conserved and how the land is used, and that is what the report is for: to provide light and figures, which are so difficult to gather so that this can be understood.

Siberia: Melting permafrost transfers significant amounts of carbon

Techno scienie.net, 03/22/2026

Synopsis: Global warming is 3 to 4 times faster in the Arctic than the global average, a consequence of climate change that melts the ice and thaws the permafrost, organic matter found beneath the ice that contains large quantities of CO2 stored from the atmosphere, primarily from mass extinctions.

This thawing causes the collapse of the terrain and the formation of "thermokarst" lakes, which eventually leads to the introduction of organic carbon into these lakes.

This carbon can be converted into greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane) and re-emitted into the atmosphere.

Scientists found unprecedented concentrations of dissolved organic carbon, reaching several hundred mg/L, in recent lakes and in ancient lakes affected by landslides.

Up to 75% of this dissolved organic carbon comes from the thawing of the permafrost. However, not all of the carbon is transformed into greenhouse gases.

The planet's green belt is moving: terrestrial vegetation is accelerating its migration to the northeast.

El periódico.com, 03/22/2026

Synopsis: A study published in PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences) by a German-Spanish team concludes that the large "green belt," which oscillates in the North Atlantic near Iceland in mid-July and the area off Liberia in March, is migrating rapidly northeastward, even in both the Northern and Southern Hemisphere summers.

The authors themselves point to a combination of factors.

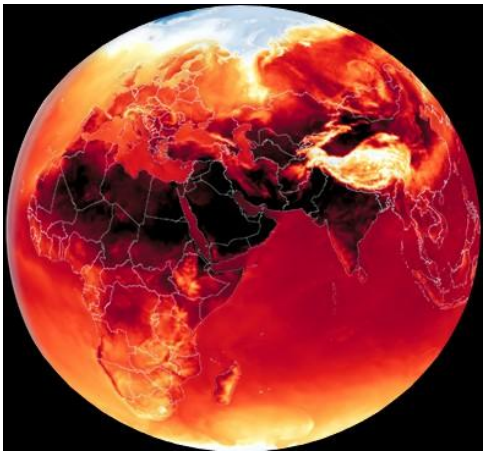
On the one hand, milder winters and longer growing seasons in the Northern Hemisphere allow vegetation to remain green for longer.

On the other hand, there is the fertilizing effect of CO_2, which can stimulate photosynthesis and plant growth.

The team links this eastward shift to particularly intense greening areas in India, China, and Russia, due to a combination of reforestation, intensive agriculture, and multiple harvests.

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

The Earth loses its balance and goes into the red by retaining more heat than it emits.



Noticias ONU, 03/23/2026

Synopsis: Every year, the Earth receives energy from the sun and returns it to space. When the system is in equilibrium, the amount entering and leaving is roughly the same. But that equilibrium has been broken. The planet is retaining more and more heat at an ever-increasing rate.

For the first time, the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) annual State of the Global Climate 2025 report includes the Earth's energy imbalance as one of its key indicators. And the conclusion is clear: in 2025 it reached a new all-time high. The report confirms that the eleven years between 2015 and 2025 have been the warmest on record.

The excess energy that the Earth retains is not distributed evenly. Barely 1% remains in the atmosphere, 5% is stored in the continents, and another 3% is used to melt ice. But the rest, more than 91%, ends up in the oceans.

The heat accumulating in the oceans is equivalent to 18 times humanity's annual energy consumption. The cycle is self-reinforcing, and the oceans are warming at twice the rate they were two decades ago.

"Human activities are increasingly disrupting the natural balance, and we will live with these consequences for hundreds and thousands of years," warned Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of the WMO.

Furthermore, the melting continues unabated. Arctic sea ice reached its lowest maximum winter extent ever recorded, and in Antarctica, the minimum summer extent tied for the second lowest in recorded history. As a consequence, sea levels continue to rise.

In 2025, sea levels remained at record highs, about 11 centimeters above 1993 levels, and the rate of increase has accelerated in the last decade. Marine heatwaves are also occurring, which not only damage marine ecosystems but also fuel tropical storms and exacerbate ice loss at the poles.

On land, the consequences were devastating. Heatwaves, wildfires, droughts, cyclones, and floods caused thousands of deaths, affected millions of people, and generated billions of dollars in economic losses.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres was emphatic: "The state of the global climate is an emergency. Planet Earth is being pushed beyond its limits. Every key climate indicator is in the red."

"In this age of wars, climate stress also reveals another truth: our addiction to fossil fuels is destabilizing both the climate and global security," Guterres concluded. "Today's report should carry a warning label: climate chaos is accelerating, and delay is deadly."

Brazil: The Abrolhos area lost a significant amount of coral in less than two decades

Folha de S.Paulo, 03/02/2026

Synopsis: The corals of Abrolhos, in the southern tip of Bahia, are suffering intensely from the impacts of climate change, pollution, and deforestation.

A study conducted over 18 years between 2006 and 2023, published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society, showed that coral species essential to the environmental balance of the South Atlantic registered drastic reductions in their populations - almost disappearing, as in the case of fire coral.

The Abrolhos Bank stretches for 46,000 km² along the Brazilian coast and is home to the largest and most diverse coral reefs in the South Atlantic, where marine heat waves have increased since 2010.

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Following the trail of meat: Colombia's plan to curb deforestation

El Espectador, 03/25/2026

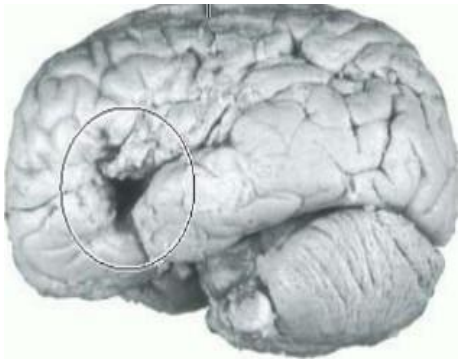
Synopsis: Congress approved a livestock traceability law that aims to guarantee that the meat produced and consumed in Colombia does not come from deforested areas.

Five years passed before the bill to track the meat that reaches our plates, seeking to ensure it is free from deforestation, received the green light in Congress.

On March 24, the House of Representatives approved the initiative in its final debate. The bill had been first presented in 2021 by Liberal Party Representative Juan Carlos Losada, but had failed to pass on a couple of occasions.

However, the Senate and the House still need to agree on the final text before it can be signed into law.

How to cope with March and hyperconnectivity? According to a study, the brain needs nature to recover from exhaustion.



Ladera Sur, 03/02/2026

Synopsis: A recent international study, "Your Brain on Nature," published in the journal Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews, reveals how even brief exposure to natural environments generates measurable changes in the adult brain, improving attention, emotional well-being, and self-regulation. In a hyperconnected world, reconnecting with nature becomes a biological necessity and a key tool for mental health. Nature thus emerges as a powerful ally. Contact with natural environments has been positioned as a key factor in restoring mental balance, reducing stress, and improving emotional well-being, directly impacting the adult brain and providing new insights for facing the challenges of modern life, especially at a time of year marked by cognitive and emotional overload. One of the central findings is the rapid decrease in brain activation associated with stress.

Urban life, characterized by constant noise, pollution, social density, and digital overstimulation, keeps the amygdala and other limbic circuits linked to fear, anxiety, and the perception of threat in a state of permanent alert.

Exposure to natural landscapes, on the other hand, leads to a significant decrease in this hyperactivity and less mental rumination—that is, a reduction in those repetitive thoughts that intensify anxiety and psychological exhaustion.

The study revealed that contact with nature also improves attention, as the prefrontal regions, associated with executive control, reduce their metabolic demand, indicating less cognitive effort.

At the same time, communication between areas linked to emotional self-regulation, body awareness, and sensory integration is strengthened, promoting greater internal coherence, emotional stability, and a subjective sense of well-being.

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The solution to 'get rid' of millions of metric tons of carbon dioxide lies in this mineral

nationalgeographic.com.es, 03/21/2026

Synopsis: In a new study published in the journal AGU Advances, geophysicists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology explored the possibility of bombarding cracks and fissures in certain underground rocks with carbon dioxide.

They found that the fluid reacts with the rocks and solidifies the carbon into minerals, so the CO2 would be stably trapped in the rocks for millions of years, with no possibility of escaping into the atmosphere.

However, it is unknown whether, as the carbonate minerals accumulate, they could clog cracks and fissures and ultimately limit the amount of CO2 that can be stored.

An Iceland-based project, led by the company CarbFix, injects CO2-rich water into the region's underground basalt to determine how much of the gas can be converted and stored as minerals in the rock.

Tests conducted by the company have shown that more than 95% of the CO2 injected underground is transformed into minerals within two years.

Brazil launches plan to reduce emissions after clashes with rural producers over deforestation

Folha de S. Paulo, 03/18/2026

Synopsis: The Brazilian government launched a document with guidelines to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the country, after months of disagreements with the Ministry of Agriculture that nearly derailed the program.

The goal is to meet the Paris Agreement targets by reducing Brazilian emissions between 49% and 58% by 2035, compared to 2022 levels.

The reduction of deforestation on private land will be managed by a joint committee of the Ministries of Agriculture, Agrarian Development, and Environment.

The wind farm that provides a favorable wind for the energy transition in La Guajira

El Espectador, 03/22/2026

Synopsis: President Gustavo Petro has repeatedly called it an "energy revolution".

Casa Eléctrica, one of the largest projects planned in the department of La Goajira, managed by the multinational AES, expects to build the wind turbines of its wind farm in the last quarter of 2026.

That is, it would begin operating in 2027, producing 180 megawatts of energy, enough to supply approximately 500,000 people.

The region is preparing to take on the challenge of wind energy.

The Stockholm Environment Institute has worked to include the Wayuu communities in wind energy projects in La Guajira.

Together with the University of La Guajira, this institute created a diploma program on just energy transition for these communities.

This program aims not only to help them understand how wind energy projects and the energy sales business work, but also to learn about the communities' rights to participate in the prior consultation process and the negotiation of compensation and benefits for the use of their territory.

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Hydrology shockwaves: China plants so many trees that it has altered the water cycle in 20 years

OK DIARIO, 03/11/2026

Synopsis: For decades, China has been held up as an example of the fight against desertification.

More than 78 billion trees planted in just four decades, eroded soils transformed into forests, and a green wall visible even from satellites. But now scientists have encountered an unexpected consequence.

A recent study published in the journal Earth's Future analyzed what has happened to water between 2001 and 2020, concluding that the water cycle in China has changed profoundly.

Trees absorb large quantities of water from the soil and release it into the atmosphere as vapor, a process known as evapotranspiration. This has led to a decrease in available land water in many regions. Some of this moisture does not return as local rainfall but is instead carried by winds to other areas.

The most worrying effect is that nearly 74% of Chinese territory has experienced a reduction in water availability. Areas in the north and east are particularly affected; these are key regions for agriculture and home to a large part of the population, and they were already suffering from water scarcity before the reforestation.

The "activist pulse" against extractivism in Tariquía, Bolivia

DW, 03/02/2026

Synopsis: The opposition of defenders from the communities of Tariquía, Bolivia, to the reactivation of the search for new mining deposits has brought systemic repression against them.

"These are judicial, administrative, and political mechanisms that generate pressure, attrition, and criminalization, discouraging protest and the defense of the territory," explains Eduardo Franco of the Environmental Information Network (RAI) Bolivia.

Nearly twenty of these defenders face two criminal proceedings. Bolivian organizations emphasize that "defending Mother Earth is not a crime" and remind everyone that these actions violate the Escazú Agreement, a regional treaty that the country ratified and which has been in force since 2021.

More than 100 national organizations, 11 international bodies, and 70 human rights activists denounce the human rights violations faced by communities in Tariquía due to extractive projects.

Colombia: After the floods, the other headache for Córdoba is dengue fever

Elespectador.com, 03/04/2026

Synopsis: With the floods that affected more than 225,000 people now over, concerns are growing that mosquito-borne diseases will increase in Córdoba.

The flooding overwhelmed the sewage systems, which, along with the mud, created large areas of stagnant water, ideal breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes, especially those that transmit dengue fever.

The Colombian Association of Infectious Diseases (ACIN) stated that "floods are one of the natural disasters with the greatest global health impact." They added that "the risk of infectious diseases transmitted through water, by vectors, and through direct contact, as well as respiratory and skin infections, increases significantly, especially in contexts of high socioeconomic vulnerability."

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Chile: The first South American coun-try that could run out of water by 2040

Venezuelanews, 03/23/2026

Synopsis: According to data from the World Resources Institute Chile is heading towards a critical survival situation.

By 2040, the nation will become the first Latin American country to be included in the global ranking of the 33 nations with the greatest water stress, occupying the 24th position in this global ranking.

The report warns that Chile will go from "high" to "extremely high" water stress, which implies the depletion of more than 80% of its available supply.

According to the Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas, factors such as rising temperatures and altered precipitation patterns are driving this phenomenon.

Furthermore, the water gap has grown exponentially since 1960 due to industrialization and intensive agriculture.

Pope Leo XIV appoints Brazilian scientist Car-los Nobre as advisor

Folha de Sao Paulo, 03/31/2026

Synopsis: Pope Leo XIV announced the appointment of Brazilian climatologist Carlos Nobre, 75, as a member of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, a Vatican council.

The climatologist will be part of a group that also includes bishops, priests, and theological researchers. The group focuses on the needs of people forced to leave their countries, including victims of disasters.

The researcher stated that he received the appointment with pride and satisfaction. "I have been working for 43 years on the Amazon, on how to protect all biomes and combat the climate emergency affecting the entire planet."

US bird populations are plummeting: nearly half of all species are accele-rating their decline

National Geographic, 03/07/2026

Synopsis: According to a study published in the journal Science, which has comprehensively quantified, for the first time, the declining trends in bird populations in the United States, the results are alarming: more than half of the species studied between 1987 and 2021 are in decline. Worse still, a substantial portion of all of them are experiencing a pronounced slowdown.

Those most affected are the species most susceptible to changes in the landscape: for example, those that inhabit wetlands or migratory birds. Intensive agriculture, through the draining of canals and deforestation, and climate change appear to be the main culprits.

Furthermore, the use of agrochemicals has been shown to have a close correlation with the fastest rates of population loss among bird populations, especially in insectivorous species.

Venezuela shone at the World Robot Olympiad in Singapore: Isabella Bor-ges finished among the top 10

La Iguana.tv, 03/25/2026

Synopsis: I Isabella Borges, a 15-year-old member of the Scientific Seedbeds Program, has solidified her position as one of the country's most promising tech talents after achieving a place among the top ten at the World Robotics Championship, held in Singapore in 2025. Isabella recounted her experience in Singapore, sta-

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ting that the exchange with young people from other nations allowed her to learn about diverse perspectives on robotics and explore various programming languages.

In her message to Venezuelan youth, Isabella emphasized that: "If you're mindful that you have no limits, you'll go far, but it doesn't happen overnight; it requires sitting down to study and having that discipline, because without it, you're nothing."

Inspection of firefighting personnel and equipment in preparation for the fire season in Belarus.

PNUD, 03/18/2026

Synopsis: Forests cover more than 40% of Belarus. At the same time, the country recorded twice as many forest fires last year compared to the previous year, posing a serious environmental problem.

Armen Martirosyan spoke with UN News about the threats facing this critical ecosystem and the efforts to protect it. Its importance extends far beyond national borders.

"Forests absorb and store carbon, playing a key role in mitigating climate change. They regulate water systems, protect soils from erosion, and improve air quality," Martirosyan stated.

One of the most serious challenges remains forest fires. Martirosyan emphasized that this is directly related to rising temperatures, shorter frost periods, changes in rainfall patterns and intensity, as well as the increased frequency of extreme weather events.

ALERT: High temperatures recorded in several Latin American countries

La iguana.tv, 03/23/2026

Synopsis: Several Latin American countries are on alert after registering some of the highest temperatures in recorded history, highlighting the urgent need to address the climate crisis affecting the world.

This is the case in Mexico, where the National Meteorological Service reported that states such as Sonora, Chihuahua, Durango, Sinaloa, Jalisco, Guerrero, and Oaxaca are expected to experience high temperatures ranging from 35° to 45°C in the coming days.

Similarly, high temperatures are reported in El Salvador, reaching 41°C in the eastern coastal region, while in Nicaragua the heat index will reach 40°C, according to authorities.

The same is happening in other nations such as Paraguay, where heat waves are being recorded that are up to three times more intense than in recent decades, reaching temperatures exceeding 44°C.

It should be noted that these high temperatures affect not only the public but also electrical systems after a possible collapse, thus aggravating the drought in essential agricultural areas.

More than 1,500 students participate in the second phase of the Astronomy Olympiad

La Iguana 03/11/2026

Synopsis: The second phase of the Venezuelan Astronomy Olympiad (OVA) currently has 1,521 participants from various regions across the country.

"We are pleased to officially announce the start of the second phase of the 2026 Venezuelan Astronomy Olympiad (OVA).

A total of 1,521 young people have qualified for this stage, having demonstrated outstanding performance in the national theoretical exam held on February 20th," explained the Minister of Science and Technology, Gabriela Jiménez.

She also assured that the students have access to bibliographic and audiovisual resources to optimize their skills and knowledge in this field, which are available on the official channels of the Venezuelan Astronomy Olympiad.

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A surprising percentage of agricultural products from the largest US supplier contain "forever" pesticides.

CNN, 03/11/2026

Synopsis: A report by the Environmental Working Group (EWG) revealed that nearly 40% of non-organic fruits and vegetables grown in California contain traces of pesticides that are also PFAS, or "forever chemicals," so called because their strong molecular bonds of carbon and fluorine can take years, decades—and even centuries—to fully break down in the environment.

Bernadette Del Chiaro, of the Environmental Working Group (EWG), stated, "We can't just focus on harming the mold spores or insects present in a peach without potentially harming the small child who eats that peach." "Unfortunately, there is no way to contain the damage."

Historical PFAS have been linked to cancer, obesity, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, decreased fertility, liver damage, hormonal disruption, and damage to the immune system, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Several of these chemicals can cause damage at levels of one billionth of a gram.

The EWG report revealed that the highest levels of fludioxonil were found in lemons, exceeding 1 part per million, followed by peaches, nectarines, pears, plums, blueberries, and apricots.

For its part, the government regulatory agency stated that: "Fungicides, such as fludioxonil, contribute to a safe, abundant, and affordable food supply for the United States," and "All pesticides, regardless of their chemical composition, are subject to the same rigorous scientific review."

The EWG analysis detected bifenthrin—a substance that attacks the nervous system of insects and is considered a possible human carcinogen—in strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, kale, celery, bok choy, and green beans, according to the report.

Penthiopyrad—which inhibits fungal respiration and is toxic to aquatic life—was found in strawberries, peaches, plums, green beans, celery, carrots, and peppers.

Lambda-cyhalothrin—which causes starvation in insects and is lethal to honeybees—was also found in cherries, nectarines, peaches, plums, lettuce, and broccoli.

Lula proposed to Sheinbaum an alliance between Petrobras and Pemex

ÚLTIMAS NOTICIAS, 03/20/2026

Synopsis: Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva revealed that he offered his Mexican counterpart, Claudia Sheinbaum, an alliance between the state-owned oil companies Petrobras and Pemex to explore for crude oil in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Petrobras has gained experience in deep-water hydrocarbon exploitation, primarily since discovering the presalt offshore area.