

COMMENTED MEDIA HEADLINES

May 2024

NATURAL CATASTROPHES AND CLIMATE CHANGE



María Florencia Melo, Statista, may 10, 2024

Synopsis: The latest report of the Global Risk Index, prepared by the Ruhr University of Bochum, shows

the risk that countries around the world face in terms of catastrophes due to extreme natural phenomena (earthquakes, storms, floods, droughts or rising sea levels).) and adverse impacts caused by climate change, which depends on two factors: the proportion of the population that is exposed to the danger of extreme natural phenomena and social vulnerability.

The average in South America in 2023 was approximately 13.8, and that of Central America was 15.6. Regarding Latin American countries, Mexico is the one that had the highest value in the index, with 38.17, followed by Colombia, with 37.64. Meanwhile, Paraguay has the lowest score in the region: 1.68.

According to the report, although extreme natural events cannot be prevented, countries can reduce the risk of catastrophes "by fighting poverty and hunger, strengthening education and health, and adopting preparedness measures."

Chile is the only country in Latin America to exhaust all its natural resource reserves by 2024



La República MAY 25, 2024

Synopsis: For the fifth consecutive year, Chile is the first country in the Latin American region to enter ecological overdraft, which is an alarming fact

for the population of the South American nation.

Chile became the first country in Latin America to reach the ecological overshoot of 2024. This environmental milestone symbolizes the point at which a country has exhausted all the natural resources available for year.

The analysis carried out by the Global Footprint Network organization establishes the dates on which each nation on the planet reaches its ecological limit. According to this study, Chile reached its ecological limit on Thursday, May 23, becoming the twenty-seventh country to enter ecological deficit in the year 2024.

According to the analysis, if the inhabitants of the world adopted the lifestyle

of the Chileans, 2.5 planets would be needed in 2024 to satisfy the demand for resources.

One dead and 30 injured due to "strong turbulence" on a flight from London to Singapore



RTVE 05.22.2024

Synopsis: One dead and 30 injured due to strong turbulence on a Boeing

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777-300 ER flight from London to Singapore. 18 have been admitted to hospitals in Bangkok and another 12 to different hospitals. Several of them in critical condition, including cranial and spinal contusions.

According to data from the FlightRadar portal, which records flights around the world, the plane suffered a sudden loss of altitude for 4 minutes, descending from 11,200 meters to 9,400 meters.

Turbulence in airplanes has increased in recent decades due to climate change. As the Earth warms and experiences variations in its climate, airflow patterns and atmospheric conditions are changing significantly.

According to studies by British scientist Paul Williams, in the coming years there will be a 50% increase in major turbulence problems and the severity of accidents.

A new episode of severe turbulence leaves 12 injured on a flight from Doha to Dublin



BBC, may 25, 2024

Synopsis: Six passengers and six crew members were injured due to turbulence while flying over Turkey on a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, which operated the route from Doha to Dublin, Republic of Ireland. Turbulence during air travel has increased as climate change has raised the planet's temperature, says a group of researchers.

Scientists at the University of Reading, in the United Kingdom, studied these atmospheric disturbances in clear skies, which are more difficult for pilots to avoid, and found that severe turbulence increased by 55% between 1979 and 2020 on a very traveled in the North Atlantic, attributing the increase to changes in wind speed at high altitudes, resulting from warmer air as a result of carbon emissions.

Brazil exceeds 3,000 deaths from dengue this year



EFE, 05/25/2024

Synopsis: The Brazilian government reported that so far this year, there have been 3,039 deaths from dengue, in the worst epidemic in its history. The number may be even higher, since there are 2,679 deaths under investigation. The number of probable cases, which exceed the Government's worst forecasts, is also a record, with 5.2 million so far.

The severity of the current epidemic is attributed to the effects of the El Niño climate phenomenon, which raised temperatures and increased rainfall throughout the country.

Brazil became the first country in the world to offer the dengue vaccine through the public health system, although the low number of doses available has limited its application only to children and adolescents.

These 5 companies produce 24% of the polluting plastics whose origin can be traced



Forbes, mx. April 24, 2024

Synopsis: An investigation that studied more than 1.87 million plastic items in 84 countries over five years (2018-2022) and led by the Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research, published by the journal 'Science Advances', points out that these five main brands worldwide are: The Coca-Cola Company (11%), PepsiCo (5%), Nestlé (3%), Danone (3%) and Altria (2%) and fifty-six other companies They represented more than 50%.

"The phasing out of single-use, short-lived plastic products by major polluters would greatly reduce global plastic pollution," the study's authors suggested.

"The industry likes to hold the individual responsible," said one of the study's authors, Marcus Eriksen. "But we would like to point out that it is up to the brands, it is their choice of the type of packaging and the adoption of this disposable model of delivery of their products.

That is what is causing the greatest abundance of garbage," the researcher concluded.

A UNESCO report reveals that 70% of environmental journalists have been attacked for their work



UNESCO, may 3. 2024

Synopsis: At least 749 journalists or media outlets reporting on environmental issues have been killed, physically assaulted, detained and arrested, online harassed or subject to legal action over the past 15 years in 89 countries in all regions of the world. Between 2019 and 2023, more than 300 attacks occurred, which represented an increase of 42% compared to the previous five-year period (2014-2018).

The UNESCO Observatory of Murdered Journalists (in English) has recorded the murder of at least 44 journalists investigating environmental issues in the last 15 years, of which only 5 have been convicted, which represents a scandalous rate of impunity of almost 90%.

Likewise, misinformation on the internet has increased drastically in that period. UNESCO calls for more support for environmental journalists and better governance of digital platforms.

In addition to physical attacks, a third of journalists surveyed report having been censored, and almost half (45%) have resorted to self-censorship while covering environmental issues for fear of attacks, exposing their sources or because they were aware that their reporting conflicted with the interests of some of the interested parties.

If we do not have reliable scientific information about the current environmental crisis, we will never be able to overcome it. However, the journalists we trust to investigate this issue and ensure information is accessible face unacceptable risks around the world, as misinformation about the climate crisis proliferates on social media.

Indigenous people facing illegal livestock farming in the best preserved forest in Central America



El País, april 16, 2024

Synopsis: The voracity of illegal livestock farming, instigated by meat ex-

ports to the US and Europe, has cornered the Rama people in Nicaragua's Indio Maíz reserve where illegal ranchers wield chainsaws and ravage the jungle, burning hectare after hectare to build pastures. and wooden houses to settle in to live in a territory where, according to Law 445, any type of exploitation or sale of these ancestral territories is strictly prohibited, a pristine biological reserve of 2,639 square kilometers and which succumbs to thousands of tame cows that chew the cud. endlessly the newly sown grass.

About 500 species of animals live in its foliage, including the Mesoamerican tapir, a rare mammal that is in danger of extinction due to the loss of its habitat.

Rama is one of the ethnic groups that, along with the Kriol Afro-descendants, are the owners by law of Indio Maíz. However, illegal livestock farming has

cornered these indigenous peoples "to the brink of ethnocide," according to the community, by engulfing a forest on which they depend for everything: drinking water, eating, economic subsistence and even their spiritual connection with nature.

This ecocide was recorded in "Patrullaje", a detailed documentary that showed the ecological disaster in all its magnitude.

Nicaragua is the main exporter of Central American beef with 323.7 million dollars, with the United States being the central destination, which devours that meat, regardless of the fact that much of it is produced at the expense of the deforestation of Indio Maíz.

What kind of South America do we want?": Lula criticizes the US and points out that the continent is colonized

Sputniknews, 04/18/2024

Synopsis: The president of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, defended the search for South American sovereignty, through union and stability between countries, stating that, historically, Latin American countries did not have commercial associations with each other, nor with African nations, but that logic has changed with the concept of the Global South.

In that sense he highlighted the alliances between Brazil's commercial and industrial sector with its Colombian peers, and mentioned that the country



aims to create "strategic associations with technology transfer." "In the area of Defense we do not just want to sell planes or ships. Our proposal is to create strategic alliances with technology transfer. The reactivation of the Bilateral Trade Monitoring Commission will be essential to eliminate obstacles,"

"And then, the United States, which should take care of this by generating jobs for its neighbors, has a policy of building a wall for Latin Americans who

are looking for a job opportunity, in addition to the great advertising they do so that they are considered criminals," criticized the Brazilian president.

On the presidential agenda, he addressed environmental issues related to the protection of the Amazon-a biome present in both countries-as well as the "prosperity of South America."

"What South America do we want? What country do we want? What integration policy do we want?" asked the Brazilian president, stating that the stronger Brazil is, the more it will be respected by the United States, the European Union, China, Russia and India.

"The economic growth of a country, of an entrepreneur and of a society has to be associated with the growth of those who work. It is not the entrepreneur who does the work, it is the workers and the consumers," he stressed, citing that poverty increases several crimes, including organized crime.

The professor of international relations at the National University of Brasilia (UNB), Roberto Goulart Menezes, considered that Lula's trip to Colombia marks a "tightening of relations between the two countries," but his main point is the "political instability" in the region.

"The thorniest issue is the military issue involving Essequibo. Insecurity and regional instability have returned to South America."

According to him, this is also due to this dispute with Guyana.

This salty lagoon in Spain is legally a person. Here's How It Happened And Why This Could Help Her Survive



CNN, april 29, 2024

Synopsis: The Mar Menor, Europe's largest saltwater lagoon, is located on the southeastern coast of Spain and offers attractive beaches popular with tourists. But in recent years, these crystal-clear waters have become clouded by pollution, driving down housing prices and decreasing tourism income, all caused by the combination of warming waters due to climate change, with an increase in agriculture that caused fertilizers full of nitrates to leak into the lagoon, causing an accumulation of algae that depletes the oxygen in the water.

Since 2016, there have been three massive die-offs of fish and crustaceans, mussel populations have collapsed, and 85% of the lagoon's seagrass beds have died.

Faced with this situation, Teresa Vicente, professor of Philosophy of Law at the University of Murcia, launched a campaign and achieved that the Mar Menor became the first ecosystem in Europe to have the rights of a legal entity recognized, establishing "an important precedent for democratizing environmental protection and expanding the role of civil society in supporting environmental campaigns."

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An extreme heat wave that has claimed the lives of 61 people in Thailand



MSN may 10, 2024

Synopsis: Thailand is facing a devastating heat wave that has claimed the lives of 61 people since the beginning of this year, compared to 37 in all of 2023, according to the Ministry of Health.

In Bangkok, its capital, daily warnings were issued for extreme heat, which, at some times, its thermal sensation exceeded 52 ° C. The most affected region has been northeast Thailand, an essentially agricultural area.

Find out where the 'Chernobyl of Lima' is located: it is the most contaminated area of the capital



La República, may 12, 2024

Synopsis: It is located in the El Paraíso urbanization, in Huachipa and 28 brickyards operate there 7 days a week, constantly emitting smoke and harmful particles, and generating a serious environmental situation, which has significantly deteriorated the local quality of

life. with pollution levels that exceed up to four times the limits recommended by the World Health Organization.

This is a State problem, not just a Government problem. The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Produce are aware, but we have not received a response so far," said Walter Fajardo, director of Environmental Assessment at OEFA.

Is there oil in Antarctica?



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, MAY 15, 2024.

Synopsis: Recently, Russia reported the discovery of enormous oil and gas reserves on that continent, which would have an estimated value of 511 billion barrels of oil, the British newspaper The Telegraph reported on May 11.

According to the Argentine newspaper Clarín, the Russian government confirmed to Argentina that these deposits would have been found approximately four years ago.

Other valuable minerals have been found by different scientific expeditions in some areas of the frozen continent, such as antimony, chromium, copper, gold, lead, molybdenum, tin, uranium and zinc, which, Due to the high operational costs, few of them have the possibility of exploitation."

However, the mineral resources of Antarctica cannot currently be explored or exploited commercially, except for scientific purposes. under the 1991

Protocol on Environmental Protection of the Antarctic Treaty signed on December 1, 1959 by twelve countries, including Argentina and Chile, and to which 44 other countries have adhered.

Among its provisions, it establishes that the continent will be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that freedom of scientific research and cooperation must continue, designating Antarctica as a "natural reserve dedicated to peace and science."

Tulips in the Netherlands, threatened by climate change and Brexit



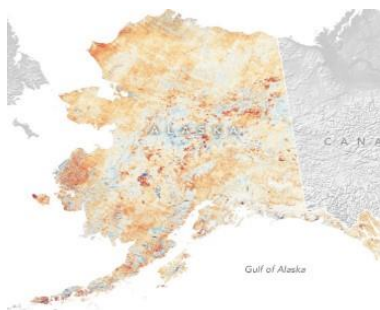
France 24, may 3, 2024

Synopsis: Climate change, with excessively rainy winters, and increased controls due to Brexit, raise fear among growers of the famous tulips of the Netherlands, the pride of the country.

The climate has more humid periods due to the intensity of the rains, which means that the roots do not take root enough to look for water, and this is dangerous for the crops. Last winter between 8 and 9% of the bulbs in the field were lost.

Hot periods are also harmful, because their flowers "do not have enough roots to drink all the water they need."

Cloudy orange rivers in Alaska are visible from space



CNN MAY 24, 2024

Synopsis: A team of researchers from various North American institutions have documented rivers that have changed color in Alaska, possibly related to climate change. This phenomenon occurs when minerals are exposed to the elements, a product of soil erosion.

In breakthrough on climate policy, G7 agrees to close coal plants by 2035, UK minister says



CNN, april 29, 2024

Synopsis: Ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) have agreed to close all their coal plants - the most environmentally polluting fossil fuel - by 2035, announced Andrew Bowie, minister of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero of the United Kingdom. , a breakthrough in climate policy that

could influence other countries to do the same.

"So for the G7 nations to come together at the table to send that signal to the world-that we, the world's advanced economies, are committed to phasing out coal by the early 2030s-is quite incredible". Around 16% of the G7's electricity comes from coal.

For its part, the US Environmental Protection Agency announced new rules that will force coal-fired power plants to capture almost all of their climate pollution or close by 2039.

Catalonia registers a "historic record" with 66,500 hectares of forests affected by drought



Agua, may 25, 2024

Synopsis: These are data from the Deboscot project, which began in 2012 and which monitors drought episodes in the forests of Catalonia to see their evolution, reported the Center for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (Creaf) in a statement.

The number of hectares registered is "so high" that the report graph shows only the regions with more than 500 hectares (while in previous reports the regions with more than 50 hectares were shown).

Pine trees, holm oaks and cork oaks are the species with the most affected area.

Avocados are endangered by climate change; reveals report



MVS Noticias, 5/13/2024

Synopsis: A report published by the Christian Aid charity has revealed that avocado crops are in danger due to climate change, putting their cultivation at risk.

The main exporting countries of this fruit, such as Mexico, Spain, Peru and Chile, will be the most affected Areas considered highly suitable for growing avocados are expected to decrease by between 14percent and 41percent by 2050.

"Michoacán, Mexico's main avocado-producing region, faces a reduction in its potential cultivation area by 2050 of 59%. % even if global average temperatures remain below 2°C"; analysis reveals.

Measures to mitigate the effects of climate change, such as the use of efficient irrigation systems and integrated pest management, could increase production costs with the risk of becoming unprofitable.

Rains and floods leave 39 dead and 68 missing in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil



CNN, may 3, 2024

Synopsis: Floods in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul have left at least 39 people dead and 68 missing, according to the latest report from the state's Civil Defense, affecting some 351,639 people in 265 municipalities.

The state is going through "its greatest meteorological catastrophe," according to the Secretary of Social Communication of the Presidency

of Brazil, Paulo Pimenta, in statements cited by Agencia Brasil, adding, "I have never seen anything like it. I know our state very well. I have faced delicate and dramatic situations. But I can assure you that I have never seen a situation like this."

The governor of Rio Grande do Sul, Eduardo Leite, warned that the state capital, Porto Alegre, with more than 1,300,000 people, runs the risk of suffering the largest flood in its history due to the rapid rise of the waters of Lake Guaíba.

Rio Grande do Sul has been increasingly affected by extreme weather events in recent years. More than 30 people died in the state in September after heavy rains.

N. R. To date, more than 150 fatalities have been reported due to these rains and floods.

"Entire cities are going to have to move": the catastrophic consequences of the floods that affect Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil



BBC, may 9, 2024

Synopsis: Floods caused by rainfall and overflowing rivers in southern Brazil have left an unprecedented level of devastation that has already claimed at

least 100 lives, while more than 130 people remain missing. According to authorities, it is the worst natural disaster in the history of the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

The estimates suggest that 155,000 people have been left homeless. The devastation has been such that the Minister of Integration and Regional Development, Waldez Góes, estimated that just rebuilding the roads destroyed by the floods in the South should cost at least a billion reais (US\$200 billion).

According to Marcelo Dutra da Silva, professor of Ecology at the Federal University of Rio Grande, extreme climate variations are here to stay and that is why Brazil must plan the reconstruction of Rio Grande do Sul. "Entire cities will have to change location. "It is

necessary to move urban infrastructure from the highest risk environments"

Thousands of Canadians have been forced to evacuate due to devastating wildfires.



CNN, may 12, 2024

Synopsis: Thousands of people across Canada were urged to evacuate from

the wildfires, and smoke emanating from them could be another hazard resulting in poor air quality and reduced visibility.

About 3,200 residents in northeastern British Columbia were under evacuation orders as the Parker Lake Fire burned more than 1,600 hectares and in Alberta, the MWF-017 wildfire spread to nearly 2,000 hectares. Last year, Canadian wildfires reached parts of the United States, causing dangerous air conditions across the country. Canadian officials warned that those most at risk of experiencing health effects from wildfire smoke include people with lung diseases such as asthma, people with heart disease, along with older adults, children, pregnant women and people who are They work outdoors.

CO2 bombs and damage to the seabed: Brussels and environmentalists advocate an end to trawling in protected areas



Vanguardia Cultural, april 19, 2024

Synopsis: Ecology activists have won a victory: Greece has announced that it will ban trawling in all its marine protected areas in 2030 and in national parks this ban will be brought forward to 2026, becoming the first European country to veto this aggressive technique, following the recommendation of the European Commission.

Bottom trawling, which continues to be developed in many of the world's protected areas, is a non-selective fishing technique, which consists of dragging

weighted nets along the bottom, causing impacts on biodiversity, and fueling climate change.

Scientists warn that the dengue outbreak in Latin America is caused by climate change



Aporrea, 04/17/ 2024

Synopsis: During a seminar held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on mosquito-borne diseases, a group of scientists warned that the climate crisis and the "El Niño" phenomenon are the main causes of the increase in dengue cases in Latin America, where more than 4 million cases were recorded, with Brazil being the epicenter of the epidemic with 3.1 million confirmed cases.

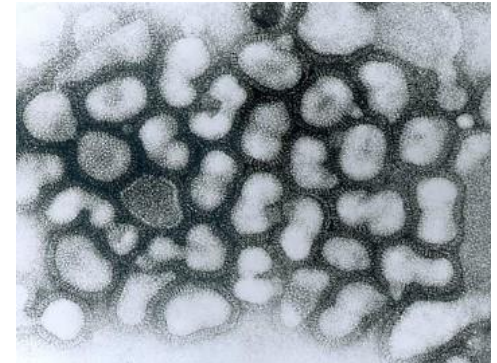
In the first fifteen weeks of the year, dengue cases skyrocketed by 237%. According to PAHO specialists, the powerful heat waves, droughts and storms have favored the development of *Aedes aegypti*, a transmitting vector, which is more active when it is hotter and the virus that infects them requires less incubation time, which allows them to become transmitters with great ease.

WHO warns of spread of bird flu due to climate change

Telesur, 04/24/2024

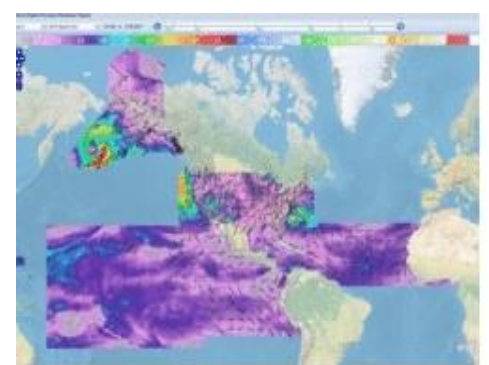
Synopsis: During a press conference, Zhang Wenqing, head of the WHO's global influenza prevention program, stressed "Climate change has impacted

the routes of migratory birds, and this has played a role in the unprecedented spread of H5N1. in animals". Outbreaks were recently detected in cattle and goats on a farm in the United States, which caused the first infection from cow to man. Since 2021, 28 cases have been detected in humans.



The organization stated that the H5N1 virus has also been detected in milk from cattle and goats, and insisted on maintaining food safety practices such as the exclusive consumption of pasteurized dairy products. In its highly pathogenic version, mainly due to the subtypes (H5 and H7) of type A, it causes serious disease in birds, can spread rapidly and produce high mortality rates in different species of birds.

First look at hurricane season predicts more storms than ever predicted



CNN april 2024

Synopsis: According to the pre-season forecast by Colorado State University, June through November could see 23 named storms, including 11 hurricanes

and five "major" hurricanes of Category 3 or higher. This 2024 Atlantic hurricane season is shaping up to be one for the records, with more hurricanes and named storms than ever before, that could be dangerous with the arrival of La Niña. With the exception that the initial perspectives are not set in stone, given the "considerable changes that may occur in the atmosphere and ocean between April and the peak" of the season.

The seasons in August 2005 and 2020 ended up being the two most active Atlantic seasons on record, 15 in 2005 and 14 in 2020.

Planet-warming pollution is driving rising global and ocean temperatures, and as the planet warms, the impact of hurricanes becomes more dangerous, as a warmer climate also means there will be more water vapor available in the atmosphere, which will potentially fall as rain, and prevent the formation of winds that cool the water. And more warm water means more chances for storms.

Global sea levels are also rising. An increase of just two inches can make a dramatic difference in how far inland a hurricane's storm surge can reach.

Agroecological communities knock down Uruguay's first high-speed highway



Redacción ar. May 3, 2024

Synopsis: To decongest traffic, the Uruguayan Government has been promoting a high-speed highway project of

up to 30 kilometers for a year that will connect the capital and its metropolitan area-where 60% of the country's population lives-with the most popular beaches. .

The route was shelved due to strong opposition from communities that could be affected by its construction, particularly hundreds of agricultural and livestock fields, vineyards and stables, and would also threaten the ecosystems of the stream's watersheds. Pando and Cisne lagoon. The latter supplies water to grazing animals and 150,000 families on the so-called Gold Coast.

The problem of congestion in Uruguay is serious, since by 2022 there were 2.84 million vehicles for 3.5 million Uruguayans. Now we will seek to decongest traffic by improving the roads that are already there.

The Guardians of the Basin, for their part, say they are satisfied with the result, but add that they will continue to be vigilant against any future project that could degrade the ecosystem that has cost them so much to build.

The Brazilian Government authorizes the import of rice to cover domestic demand after the serious floods



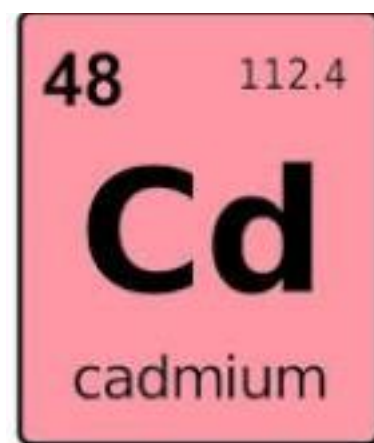
RT, may 16, 2024

Synopsis: In Brazil, where the death toll from the floods in the south of the country exceeds 150, with more than a

hundred missing, the Government is taking measures to help in the recovery and is assisting the victims in Rio Grande do Sul and the rest of the country.

In particular, in the food section, the nation plans to import at least 100,000 tons of rice from Mercosur countries to meet national demand, given the impact of the floods.

Food alert for a product from Spain with high levels of cadmium



RT, may 10, 2024

Synopsis: France has notified the alert about a fish food caught in Portugal and processed in Spain. France has given an alert to the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) of the European Union (EU) for squid from Spain with cadmium levels higher than those allowed by to be safe for health, which registered 1,705 milligrams per kilo, while the authorized amount is only one milligram.

The amount detected is considered potentially serious. Cadmium is a heavy metal, classified as carcinogenic to people and can especially damage the kidneys and lungs. It can be found in water, soil or air and can reach the human body through the consumption of fish, shellfish, meat and vegetables that have been contaminated with high concentrations.

SELA. Ambassador Clarems Endara: The more we work on poverty reduction, the better we can face Disaster Risk



SELA.ORG, APRIL 16, 2024

Synopsis: With the participation of more than 40 officials, the first day of the Disaster Risk Management Workshop with a social protection focus began in Santo Domingo, organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), together with the Inter-American Security Conference. Social Policy (CISS), Exper-

tise France and the Social Policy Cabinet of the Dominican Republic. "At SELA, within our area of action, we reinforce the importance of having disaster risk management with a focus on social protection, giving special attention to people," said the Permanent Secretary of SELA, Ambassador Clarems Endara, during the opening of the Workshop. He added that "this policy will allow us to influence risk drivers such as poverty and inequality; "And the more we work to reduce poverty and inequalities, the better we will be able to face the risks linked to the loss of income, in addition to facilitating access to social services."

"Although threats from natural phenomena are inevitable, their effects can be mitigated through disaster risk management if we have better knowledge of the threats and an adequate approach to the vulnerabilities of the sectors most prone to them. social risks," stated the Permanent Secretary.

Dozens dead after dam burst in Kenya, while torrential rains devastate the region for several weeks



CNN, april 29, 2024

Synopsis: At least 35 people have died and dozens more are missing after a dam burst in southern Kenya, sweeping away homes and vehicles as the country faces weeks of torrential rains and devastating flash floods. The incident comes as floods have inundated large areas of Kenya, cutting off roads, killing

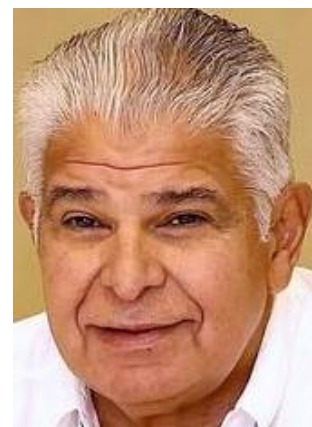
at least 103 people and forcing thousands of residents to flee their homes since March, the government said on Monday. government spokesperson, Isaac Maigua Mwaura.

"Kenya is facing a worsening flood crisis due to the combined effects of El Niño and prolonged rains from March to May 2024," said IFRC Secretary General and Executive Director Jagan Chapagain. Some 131,450 people have been affected by the floods that have devastated almost half of Kenya.

The Ministry of Education announced this Monday that all primary and secondary schools would postpone the start of the new school year by one week, until May 6. Heavy rains in East Africa have also affected Tanzania and Burundi. Tanzanian Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa declared this

Thursday that at least 155 people had died from floods in the country.

The elected president of Panama wants to negotiate FTA with Mercosur



www.ambito.com, may 13, 2024

Synopsis: The elected president of Panama, José Raúl Mulino, said that he

spoke with the president of Brazil, Lula da Silva, after his victory and that they addressed the possibility of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Mercosur.

"What we can have with that southern economic bloc will give us an important economic muscle," said Mulino, who will take office on July 1, in reference to the possibility of a commercial link with Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Mercosur recently signed a trade agreement with Singapore and entered into negotiations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), while a resolution in the agreement with the European Union (EU) is delayed.

Why are almost half of China's big cities starting to sink?



BBC News, may 4, 2024

Synopsis: Nearly half of China's major cities are sinking due to water extraction and the increasing weight of their rapid expansion, according to a study published in the journal Science.

Researchers who used data from the Sentinel-1 satellites between 2015 and 2022 to study 82 cities with more than 2 million inhabitants, determined that 45% of urban areas are sinking more than 3 mm per year and around 16%, home to some 67 million people, is sinking at more than 10 mm a year, which scientists describe as a rapid decline.

An important element, according to the authors, is the extraction of groundwater for use by the local population. This

phenomenon has been seen in other cities such as Houston, Mexico City and Delhi. Likewise, they say that a major threat in the future is the exposure of urban populations to flooding, due to a combination of subsidence and sea level rise caused by climate change.

In 2020, about 6% of China had a relative elevation below sea level. Within 100 years, this figure could rise to 26% of the country in a medium to high carbon emissions scenario. Other elements are underground urban transport and the extraction of minerals and coal.

Studies show that there are effective strategies that can combat the phenomenon, such as banning wells.

Floating barriers that help eliminate plastics in Ecuador's rivers



BBC, may 8 2024

Synopsis: Created by the technology startup Ichthion, the Azure system is capable of stopping and collecting around 80 tons of plastic per day. In the San Pedro River, they have collected up to 1.5 tons of plastic and synthetic fabrics per day.

Inty Grønneberg, CEO of Ichthion, says "Our idea is to prevent plastic from reaching the oceans", since "What is extracted from rivers, what is found on the banks of rivers... "most of it will end up in the ocean."

Plastic pollution in the open sea has become a growing concern, affecting marine species, which could end up in the human food chain, as well as the

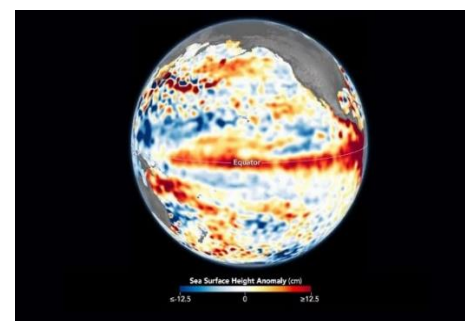
existence of microplastics that can cause irreversible toxicity in aquatic ecosystems.

Ichthion is not the only organization working on removing plastic from rivers. There are a variety of designs, from robots to receptacles to barriers, some more expensive and effective than others, such as the Bubble Barrier, a plastic removal technology based in the Netherlands.

However, some scientists argue that they could prevent organisms, sediments and all types of natural organic matter from flowing downstream, which are important for coastal marine environments to thrive and for preventing shoreline erosion.

Ecuador also receives plastic waste from abroad. Between 2018 and 2022, it imported more than 48,000 tons of plastic waste from 42 countries, mainly the United States. In early 2024, it also approved a free trade agreement with China that allows China to send its waste to Ecuador, including plastics.

"El Niño" phenomenon could disappear in the month of June



Diario El Universal, 05/07/2024

Synopsis: The Minister for Ecosocialism, Josué Alejandro Lorca, reported that the "El Niño" phenomenon began to weaken and has an 80% chance of disappearing in the second quarter of the year, after a neutral period and

then moving on to the El Niño phenomenon. "La Niña" in the third quarter, with a 60% probability.

According to the National Ocean Service, La Niña and El Niño are two opposite phases of a global climate phenomenon called El Niño-Southern Oscillation. Where La Niña represents the cold phase of the cycle, characterized by strong trade winds that cause a decrease in equatorial temperatures, while El Niño is the warm phase of the cycle, in which the trade winds decrease and sea surface temperatures increase.

The Civil Protection and Firefighters authorities, together with the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (Inameh) and the Security University, to coordinate actions and prepare for the rainy season and the estimate of tropical waves that will develop in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the number of them that could affect the country.

Peru: Huancavelica: serious contamination of the Choclococha lagoon by a foreign company is reported



La República. Pe, april 2024

Synopsis: It is reported that the emblematic high Andean lagoon of Choclococha, located at 4,065 m above sea level. n. m. in the mining region of Huancavelica, faces a threat of environmental contamination, as a result of the inadequate practices implemented by a foreign company, installing floa-

ting cages for the commercial breeding of trout in the lagoon, which has intensified water pollution due to the accumulation of dead fish and excrement, having exceeded the limits of the concession granted by the Peruvian State.

The provincial prosecutor formalized the accusation against five complaining community members for the crimes of aggravated usurpation and aggravated damages, requesting that a sentence of twelve years in prison be imposed on those involved.

The judge, in a decision of December 27, 2023, acquitted the five community members. This resolution was celebrated as an act of justice by the inhabitants of Huancavelica and all those aware of the problems and significance of the Choclococha lagoon, the largest in the department.

Furthermore, in Huancavelica: there are 56,200 affected by mercury contamination. Recently the Government declared this area and its annexes an environmental emergency, complying with a ruling by the Judiciary. Mercury deteriorates the nervous system and causes cancer, in addition to other diseases, say the Ombudsman's Office.

What would be the 5 cities that would be under water in South America by 2100?



Noticias Ambientales, may 12, 2024

According to a study published in the journal Nature Climate Change and the organization Climate Central, as a consequence of climate change caused by rising sea levels, many cities and bea-

ches in the world could disappear, including several in Latin America.

The cities that could be underwater in Latin America are:

Barranquilla in Colombia, Maracaibo in Venezuela, Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre in Brazil, Punta del Este in Uruguay, Entre Ríos and Buenos Aires in Argentina

Given that this situation has already been warned, these countries should begin to take measures so that companies and communities become aware of the damage that is being caused to the environment.

CO2: how the first plant that captures gas and transforms it into rock works in Iceland



BBC News Mundo, may 4, 2024

Synopsis It is the first viable system in the world to take CO2 from the environment and trap it underground, in a project it was developed by the Swiss company Climeworks and in a plant known as Orca, 4,000 tons of CO2 are removed per year, which is equivalent to emissions from 900 gasoline cars.

But the most important premise from which the project is based, according to Climeworks representative, Bryndis Nielsen, is that the removal of CO2 from the air does not seek to replace emissions reduction measures. Now, this technology alone is not enough to face the risks of climate change, it is the capacity of a plant like Orca, since global CO2 emissions reached 37.4 gigatonnes (37 billion tons) in 2023.

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The company's next project, called Mammoth, is almost ten times larger than Orca. Iceland was chosen because of the number of active volcanoes it has, which in addition to providing clean geothermal energy, without greenhouse gas emissions, the volcanic activity means that the subsoils are composed mainly of basalts, porous volcanic rocks that are the perfect container for CO₂ from the atmosphere.

The intention of the project is to direct efforts more toward industries that generate CO₂ as an inevitable waste of their products - such as metallurgy and cement - rather than those that generate it by consuming energy. Necessary, because eliminating emissions will not be enough to combat the worst effects of climate change, "We need to mitigate as much as we can, and also use these retirement techniques.

Goodbye to potato omelette? Climate change threatens the production of basic foods in the Mediterranean diet



El Mundo, april 21, 2024

Synopsis: Olives, potatoes, rice and wheat have reduced their quantity and size in recent years, due to the adverse effects of climate change and traditional agricultural practices, according to a report from the European Environmental Policy Institute.

The quantity of olives has decreased by almost 25%, there are cases even below 40%. In the case of potatoes, their size has been reduced in some cases by

30%, so smaller potatoes and in less quantity are harvested. A cauliflower traditionally had a size of one and a half kilos, now they are harvested at 900 grams. Wheat, for its part, has reduced its yield by 20.6%, showing the vulnerability of the crop due to water scarcity.

The increase in temperatures, extreme heat, droughts and torrential rains, added to the high use of pesticides, monocultures, and excessive water pumping, weaken aspects of the ecosystem. It is estimated that 6% of Spanish agricultural turnover, equivalent to 550 million euros, has already been lost.

Biden increases restrictions on hydrocarbon exploitation in Alaska



El País, april 19, 2024

Synopsis: The Joe Biden Administration has announced that it is extending restrictions on oil and gas exploitation on 5.3 million hectares in Alaska. The oil industry has criticized the decision, stating that it affects the energy sovereignty of the Western power.

The announcement is a sign of good will from Biden to environmentalists who had severely criticized the Democratic Government in March of last year, when the green light was given to controversial drilling in northwest Alaska in the Willow project, with a worth 8 billion dollars. This decision does not affect the Willow project, which will produce about 180,000 barrels of crude per day for the next three decades.

Petroleum, a group that represents the interests of large American oil companies, has described the Government's decision as "wrong." "At a time when the world is waiting for US leadership in energy matters, this becomes a new step in the wrong direction," said Dustin Meyer, its vice president. Republican legislators in the state have also joined the voices against Biden's protection decree. "Joe Biden doesn't care if our adversaries produce energy and expand his control over critical minerals"

Cities in Mexico break temperature records due to heat wave



TecScience, may 13, 2024

Synopsis: The second heat wave of the season in Mexico ended after 10 days, but maximum temperatures above 45° C are forecast in cities in the south and southeast of the country.

Since the hot season began in March, the Ministry of Health has recorded seven deaths and more than 300 cases of health damage due to extreme heat. "100% of the deaths correspond to heat stroke," detailed the report from the Ministry of Health for epidemiological week 18.

However, local media in San Luis Potosí reported the death of at least 10 people during the night of May 9 and the morning of the 10th, associated with heat stroke, after Huasteca Potosina reached a thermal sensation of 55 Celsius degrees.