

Environment News Futures

Stop Global Warming to Turn the Tide on Sea Level Rise: UN Assembly President

A mosque is partially submerged in the Muara Baru neighbourhood of North Jakarta, Indonesia.

25 September 2024

With global sea level rising faster than at any time over the last 3,000 years, UN Member States met on Wednesday to examine how best to address this existential threat.

The situation is critical, said UN General Assembly President Philémon Yang, who convened the high-level meeting which included a plenary session and panel discussions, with more than 100 speakers participating.

Mr. Yang said it is estimated that sea levels will rise by 20 centimetres between 2020 and 2050, and up to 1.2 billion people could be forcibly displaced.

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“For those on the front lines, the impacts of rising seas threaten livelihoods, inflict damage to settlements and critical infrastructure, and can in its most dramatic manifestations force the displacement of entire island populations and coastal communities,” he said. (*See Snapshot*)

Shanshan Study Spotlights Science Linking Warming to Extreme Weather

ENVIRONMENT/Climate change/OUR PLANET

On Aug. 29, when a typhoon feared to morph into “the biggest storm ever” made landfall and battered wide areas of Japan with wind gusts, torrential rain and high waves, a burning question was on the minds of many: Is this because of climate change?

An answer came surprisingly quickly.

A day later, while Typhoon Shanshan was still crawling through Japan having turned east in the Kyushu region, a team of scientists at Imperial College London declared that climate change had “supercharged” the typhoon.

Not only that, they pinpointed the role of climate change in numbers: Shanshan’s devastating winds were made 26% more likely and 7.5% more intense because of warming.

Such a rapid assessment from scientists on the influence of climate change on a particular weather event was unthinkable a little more than a decade ago.

How Remarkable Diversity in Heat Tolerance Can Help Protect Coral Reefs

Southern Cross University—25 September 2024

New research out of Southern Cross University has found previously undocumented variation in coral heat tolerance on the Great Barrier Reef, giving hope that corals' own genetic resources may hold the key for us to help in its recovery and adaptation.

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Extinct Volcanoes Could Be Source of Key Metals Needed for Clean Tech

Yale Environment 360—24 September 2024

Scientists have found that some extinct volcanoes, which have not erupted for thousands or millions of years, may contain key metals used in clean energy.

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A Remote Alaskan Island Is on High Alert for a Rat

Wildlife experts fear that a rat could disrupt the island's delicate balance, so they are pulling out all the stops.

By Amanda Holpuch—Sept. 25, 2024

The last time a rat found its way to Alaska's St. Paul Island, in 2018, residents took nearly a year to find and kill it. Officials fear another rat has arrived, and they have enlisted residents and the federal government on a fevered hunt to catch it.

St. Paul Island is a tiny land mass in the Bering Sea that boasts a stunning array of wildlife, including rare sea birds and fur seals. Wildlife experts say a rat infestation could easily upset the delicate balance that allows the island's wildlife to thrive.

As Global Temperatures Rise, Nigeria Faces a Cooling Crisis

With electricity scarce, Africa's most populated country struggles to provide lifesaving cooling without worsening the very crisis causing the heat.



Sheltering from the heat in Bariga market in Nigeria's largest city, Lagos. As average global temperatures rise, sub-Saharan African nations are experiencing even faster rates of warming.

Credit...Taiwo Aina for The New York Times

In Lagos, Nigeria's largest city, temperatures have exceeded 95 degrees Fahrenheit multiple times this year — a level that, combined with the region's pervasive humidity, strains the human body's ability to cope. Without relief, even healthy individuals face potentially dangerous consequences.

First Ever Indian Sighting of a Rare Reef Fish Reported from Andhra Pradesh Coast

Apart from *Entomacrodusthalassinus*, the coral reef-associated faunal study conducted by the Zoological Survey of India has revealed 13 newly recorded sea slugs, 11 undocumented fish species and two new brachyuran crabs

Nivedita Ganguly

Zimbabwe to Cull 200 Elephants to Feed People Left Hungry by Drought

It follows neighbouring Namibia's decision last month to cull 83 elephants and distribute meat to people impacted by the drought.

Updated—September 18, 2024 06:38 am IST - Reuters

Zimbabwe plans to cull 200 elephants to feed communities facing acute hunger after the worst drought in four decades, wildlife authorities said on Tuesday.

The El Niño-induced drought wiped out crops in southern Africa, impacting 68 million people and causing food shortages across the region.