



NEWS ROUNDUP

06 September 2022 [as of 8:00 am]

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BBC NEWS

[How Pakistan floods are linked to climate change](#)

By Georgina Rannard

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CNN NEWS

[Sebastian Vettel believes world needs to 'rethink our behaviors' to tackle climate change](#)

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MONGABAY

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London — Tackling inequality is key to securing the public support needed to overhaul the global economy and reverse climate change, an update to the landmark 50-year-old computer simulation of environmental stress has found.

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looks or sense of humour that got her swooning: it was his interest in climate activism. “I looked at him and knew we could be activists together,” she says. They went on to spend four years together as a couple, and even after splitting up earlier this year they remain close.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Cagayan adopts forest land grazing program](#)

By Leander C. Domingo

Cagayan Valley is adopting a science-based forest lands grazing management approach to attain food security and climate change resiliency, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

[Stop the climate disinformation](#)

By Ben Kritz

Enough is enough. As I wrote in a recent column, there is an unspoken convention among columnists that we do not discuss each other's work. It is a convention that should be broken because it is frankly driven by ego more than any professional or social principle, and more importantly, because it discourages broader discussion and debate that could benefit the public.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BBC NEWS

[How Pakistan floods are linked to climate change](#)

By Georgina Rannard

The devastating floods in Pakistan are a "wake-up call" to the world on the threats of climate change, experts have said.

The record-breaking rain would devastate any country, not just poorer nations, one climate scientist has told BBC News.

The human impacts are clear - another 2,000 people were rescued from floodwaters on Friday, while ministers warn of food shortages after almost half the country's crops were washed away.

A sense of injustice is keenly felt in the country. Pakistan contributes less than 1% of the global greenhouse gases that warm our planet but its geography makes it extremely vulnerable to climate change.

"Literally, one-third of Pakistan is underwater right now, which has exceeded every boundary, every norm we've seen in the past," Climate minister Sherry Rehman said this week.

Pakistan is located at a place on the globe which bears the brunt of two major weather systems. One can cause high temperatures and drought, like the heatwave in March, and the other brings monsoon rains.

The majority of Pakistan's population live along the Indus river, which swells and can flood during monsoon rains.

The science linking climate change and more intense monsoons is quite simple. Global warming is making air and sea temperatures rise, leading to more evaporation. Warmer air can hold more moisture, making monsoon rainfall more intense.

Scientists predict that the average rainfall in the Indian summer monsoon season will increase due to climate change, explains Anja Katzenberger at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

But Pakistan has something else making it susceptible to climate change effects - its immense glaciers.

The northern region is sometimes referred to as the 'third pole' - it contains more glacial ice than anywhere in the world outside of the polar regions.

As the world warms, glacial ice is melting. Glaciers in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regions are melting rapidly, creating more than 3,000 lakes, the the UN Development Programme told BBC News. Around 33 of these are at risk of sudden bursting, which could unleash millions of cubic meters of water and debris, putting 7 million people at risk.

- **Map and photos show extent of Pakistan floods**
- **World's glaciers melting at faster rate**
- **Climate change swells odds of Pakistan heatwave**

Pakistan's government and the UN are attempting to reduce the risks of these sudden outburst floods by installing early-warning systems and protective infrastructure.

In the past poorer countries with weaker flood defences or lower-quality housing have been less able to cope with extreme rainfall.

But climate impact scientist Fahad Saeed told BBC News that even a rich nation would be overwhelmed by the catastrophic flooding this summer.

"This is a different type of animal - the scale of the floods is so high and the rain is so extreme, that even very robust defences would struggle," Dr Saeed explains from Islamabad, Pakistan.

He points to the flooding in Germany and Belgium that killed dozens of people in 2021.

Pakistan received nearly 190% more rain than its 30-year average from June to August - reaching a total of 390.7mm.

He says that Pakistan's meteorological service did a "reasonable" job in warning people in advance about flooding. And the country does have some flood defences but they could be improved, he says.

People with the smallest carbon footprints are suffering the most, Dr Saeed says.

"The victims are living in mud homes with hardly any resources - they have contributed virtually nothing to climate change," he says.

The flooding has affected areas that don't normally see this type of rain, including southern regions Sindh and Balochistan that are normally arid or semi-arid.

Sindh province awaits more devastation

Yusuf Baluch, a 17-year-old climate activist from Balochistan, says that inequality in the country is making the problem worse. He remembers his own family home being washed away by flooding when he was six years old.

"People living in cities and from more privileged backgrounds are least affected by the flooding," he explains.

"People have the right to be angry. Companies are still extracting fossil fuels from Balochistan, but people there have just lost their homes and have no food or shelter," he says. He believes the government is failing to support communities there.

Dr Saeed says the floods are "absolutely a wake-up call" to governments globally who promised to tackle climate change at successive UN climate conferences.

"All of this is happening when the world has warmed by 1.2C - any more warming than that is a death sentence for many people in Pakistan," he adds.

CNN NEWS

[Sebastian Vettel believes world needs to 'rethink our behaviors' to tackle climate change](#)

By Amanda Davies and Ben Morse

(CNN) Sebastian Vettel has never been afraid to speak his mind. But his mindset and approach to issues away from the track have developed with age and experience.

Vettel -- who announced he will retire from Formula One at the end of the season following a stellar career -- spoke to CNN Sport's Amanda Davies ahead of the Dutch Grand Prix about how he's planning to adjust to life at home with his family.

But the 35-year-old expressed how, as he's grown older and been more receptive of issues away from the track, he is more willing to take steps to tackle them.

"It sounds a bit stereotype, but you turn 30 and I mean, I have kids, so things change," he explained. "And as much as I'm the same as I used to be 10 years ago, I'm not the same and a lot of things have changed.

"So also, when it comes to interests or how you see the world and how you understand the world and I think I've always been trying to see things, but maybe I didn't see as many things when I was young compared to today. Some things, I'm thinking: 'What? How could you miss them?'"

And one of the topics Vettel is very passionate about is climate change and the extent that should be taken to tackle the issue.

Earlier this year, the four-time world champion said that climate change had made him question his job as a driver traveling the world to race cars.

Vettel believes that the racing world is "not doing enough" to reinvest the vast profits it makes because "the problem we are facing is bigger than we maybe understand."

"I feel there's a lot of money in Formula One, a lot of money that gets turned over and it's about how much money we are happy to reinvest. And I think that's not just for Formula One, but for any businesses out there," Vettel said.

"Obviously, we have big events, a lot of people attending so you need to have the infrastructure in place to transport these people if you want to stop them coming by car,

for example, which here in the Netherlands, works well because it's so isolated and there's only two roads and it would be a disaster if everybody could come by car."

F1 are attempting to tackle the issue of climate change with new engine regulations that will come into play in 2026.

In these new generation of cars, the engines will use significantly less energy, will use fully sustainable fuels and will produce net zero exhaust CO2 emissions, while still preserving the same power and speed fans love.

Vettel believes that if the sport wanted to implement those changes sooner, it could, but would require it to put "internal problems" aside.

"Obviously, to exercise our passion, we burn fuel and that's what people see. And if people criticize that, it's fair," he said.

"It's fair to be criticized in a time where we are talking about approaching a winter where people might be not as comfortable as they used to be and might be freezing at home and will have to face very, very different problems, not being able to pay their bills, etc. and so on. So I think it's right that we do see that and we try and challenge it."

He added: "It needs us, you and me, to rethink our behaviors and be happy with maybe changing some things and giving up some of the comfort. Let's face it, it boils down to comfort often.

"And on the other hand, it needs systematic change. It needs regulations and rules that don't allow you to hold the event unless you do certain things and you tick certain boxes."

MONGABAY

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While invasive and disruptive, but also edible and tasty, blue crabs are changing the seafood scene in the Mediterranean countries, a mangrove region in the Philippines that was once abundant with seafood is fast losing its fishes and crabs. In Mexico, the many avocado plantations are taking up so much water that the Indigenous medicinal herb farms stand endangered. Meanwhile in Brazil, iron mining is contaminating the water sources and fields of coffee and sugarcane that have won international awards.

A new video series by Mongabay, Consumed, tracks the environmental impact of consumer products through their lifecycle. This time, it was about cocaine. Another series, Mongabay Explains, focused on three Californian species that are threatened due to the climate crisis in the new episode.

The Bay of Bengal is an active participant in cyclones every year, affecting all the countries in the region. But India's Odisha state is especially prone to storms, and Mongabay-India explains the science behind this.

Collecting data from deep the wild is as crucial for conservation and understanding as it is difficult. Gabon has proved to be a great testing ground for camera-trapping and AI development.

Watch more videos ranging from a unique flower helping out Indigenous communities to the impact of climate change on clean energy industries. Add these videos to your watchlist for the month and watch them for free on Mongabay's YouTube channel.

What is the environmental impact of cocaine?

Cocaine is one of the world's most widely used illicit drugs, but what are the environmental consequences of this infamous white powder? Production, transit, and consumption of the drug are exacting a heavy environmental toll, impacting tropical forests, waterways and the people and species that rely on them.

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Mediterranean nations take differing approaches to invasive crabs

Two invasive blue crab species have recently settled in the Mediterranean. Both species are voracious predators that disrupt bottom habitats, shred fishers' nets and ruin their catches. They're also edible. Mediterranean countries are considering whether

to target the invasive crabs to control them, or embrace and even protect them as a new socioeconomic resource for the future.

INDIGENOUS AGROFORESTRY PRACTICES

Indigenous agroforestry dying of thirst amid a sea of avocados in Mexico

A rich tradition of cultivating and collecting medicinal plants in Mexico's Michoacán state is at risk, as the Indigenous community behind it loses access to water. Avocado farms – mostly supplying the U.S. market – dominate water resources in the town of Angahuan, forcing Indigenous P'urhépecha healers to buy clean water by the gallon from shops to keep their medicinal plants alive.

CAMERA TRAP CLIPS

Camera traps advance alongside Gabon's conservation efforts

Rich in forests and biodiversity, the Central African country of Gabon has long proved a fruitful testing ground for camera-trap technology. Snapshots of species once thought extinct in the country, such as the lion, have helped inform conservation policy, including the establishment of national parks and protection of vast swaths of forest. But the wealth of data generated means there are large data sets from various projects that researchers just don't have the resources or time to sift through — which is why Gabon has also become a testing ground for artificial intelligence tools to aid in that task.

MONGABAY EXPLAINS

How can climate affect an ecosystem? The case of three species in California

A new episode of "Mongabay Explains" delves into the biodiversity crisis in California, which is known to be one of the most biodiverse states in the U.S., hosting about 6,500 animal species, subspecies and plants. California has been bearing the brunt of climate change in recent years as wildfires and drought transform the land. The film focuses on three species that are being negatively affected by the climate crisis: California tiger salamanders, acorn woodpeckers, and monarch butterflies. The filmmaker says California is the "poster child of what's happening to our ecosystems around the world."

RESTORATION EFFORTS BY COMMUNITIES

Philippines mangrove rehabilitation

According to historical accounts, the fisheries of Malampaya Sound in the Philippines' Palawan province were once so rich it was difficult to wade to shore without stepping on crabs. This bounty fueled migration to the area from across the Philippines, and by the turn of the 20th century, much of the areas' mangroves had been cleared or degraded, leading to a decline in fish catches.

How a scientist and an Indigenous leader domesticated the unique Inirida flowers from Colombia

The Inírida flower, known as flor de Inírida, grows in a small area along the Colombian-Venezuelan border. An indigenous leader and botanist successfully worked together to domesticate this rare and little-known flower. Its conservation helps ensure the long-term protection of other species while offering potential bioremediation against contaminated soil. Inírida's commercialization plays a vital role in the region's green economy, bringing in revenues for Indigenous families.

EXTRACTIVE PROJECTS AFFECT LOCAL POPULATIONS

Traditional communities' prize-winning coffee and cachaça at risk from Brazil mine

Brazil Iron's mining operations in Bahia state have silted up springs and spread toxic dust across coffee and sugarcane fields belonging to traditional communities. The coffee beans grown in Piatã municipality have won prestigious international awards, while the cachaça sugarcane liquor made in neighboring Abaíra municipality has earned a designation of origin seal because of its exceptional quality. But now both coffee growing and cachaça making — sources of cultural and economic importance in the region — are under threat from the contamination of fields and water sources.

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN INDIA

A hurdle to India's clean energy targets

A recent study by scientists at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune projects that climate change is likely to impact the potential of solar and wind energy in India in the next 50 years.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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SM Prime Holdings, Inc., one of Southeast Asia's leading integrated property developers and leading conservation organization World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines have entered a collaboration in adopting a more robust reporting framework to address the climate crisis.

This is a major partnership of WWF with a Philippine company towards the development of a bespoke program towards decarbonization.

Sustainability at SM Prime is at the core of its corporate identity. SM Prime is at the forefront of spearheading sustainable practices as well as setting records in pioneering programs to consciously protect the environment and strongly focus on resilience in its developments.

Under the partnership, SM Prime will adopt the Corporates for a Better Planet Initiative (CBPI), WWF-Philippines' flagship program that provides an actionable framework for organizations to operate sustainably within the paradigm of the climate crisis.

"We are delighted to work with WWF Philippines on this sustainable journey. Focusing sustainability within the context of the Philippines ensures that our strategies and projects are highly material, efficient and more responsive in addressing local concerns surrounding resilience and adaptation. We need to be one with the worldwide community to achieve this and we need to work with global experts to get this right," SM Prime President Jeffrey C. Lim said.

Climate change is one of the most pressing and defining global issues today. The Philippines currently ranks third globally when it comes to climate change vulnerability. In relation to its geographical location, it is more exposed to altering intensities of climate change manifested through erratic weather systems and natural calamities.

These risks are rife with complexity and uncertainty and organizations typically fail to properly assess their implications. The CBPI program takes a holistic approach towards this pivotal issue, addressing these risks from a custom-built, science-based perspective.

By partnering with the WWF, SM Prime will be able to enhance and determine climate change solutions that will be reflected through responsible and transparent reporting.

The first phase of CBPI involves gauging where SM Prime stands in its sustainability initiatives and setting a science-based target in line with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. SM Prime published its first Integrated Report in 2021 under the Integrated Reporting Framework which provides an overview of our value creation model — how we seek to create value for our stakeholders by contributing to national progress through investments and interventions critical to the country's socio-economic growth.

As a champion of climate action in the Philippines, our partnership with WWF adds another enhancement to transparent reporting by ensuring greenhouse gas (GHG) computations are accurate and use appropriate methodologies.

With the need to broaden efforts to protect the environment, this partnership forms part of group-wide efforts under the SM Green Movement that aims to improve the quality of life of communities through sustainable solutions to promote a green planet, green living and a green culture.

SM Prime's partnership with WWF dates back to 2007 under Hamilo Coast, its leisure resort development in Nasugbu, Batangas.

WWF closely monitors the health and viability of the Hamilo Coast area including three of its coves designated as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)—the Pico de Loro, Etayo and Santelmo.

In recognition of its conservation efforts, Hamilo Coast was cited by WWF-Philippines as its longest standing Sustainability Partner in 2020.

Tackling inequality key to climate fight – study

By Reuters

London — Tackling inequality is key to securing the public support needed to overhaul the global economy and reverse climate change, an update to the landmark 50-year-old computer simulation of environmental stress has found.

Based on modeling by MIT scientists of a world destabilized by growing consumption, the 1972 “Limits To Growth” simulation has been attacked as flawed by some but applauded by others as prescient of accelerating planetary stress.

Building off its predecessor, the Earth4All model developed by a cross-discipline team of researchers sought to explore what it would take to increase the well-being of humanity during the rest of this century using data from the 1980-2020 period.

Its central conclusion was that, if left unchecked, rising inequality in the next 50 years would leave people less trusting of governments and other institutions, making cooperation to deal with climate change and other threats more difficult.

“When social trust goes down, this limits the speed of public policy action. This translates into how much regulation and subsidies you can do in terms of greening the economy and energy system,” study co-author Per Espen Stoknes told Reuters.

To track wellbeing, the researchers created an ‘Average Wellbeing Index’ using data including disposable income, income inequality, government services, the climate crisis, perceived progress, and their relationship to measures of social trust.

Using two scenarios – labeled “Too Little Too Late,” with no change to human behavior, and “The Giant Leap,” where the world’s economic and social systems are transformed – the model seeks to show how differing policies would impact the world.

Under the business as usual scenario, the well-being of the average worker – taken to mean those who spend most of what they earn in a year – peaks around the year 2000, before declining out to 2050 and then leveling to 2100, despite continued growth in the global economy over the same period.

By making changes such as phasing out fossil fuel use, putting adequate pensions in place, taxing the richest 10% more and cancelling the debt of low-income countries, the Giant Leap pathway allowed wellbeing to continue to rise.

The model estimated the pathway leading to a stabilization of global temperatures below 2°C above the industrial era and eradicating poverty by 2050 would cost 2-4% of global output, or between \$2 trillion-4 trillion annually.

By comparison, the International Monetary Fund estimated that governments together put in \$9 trillion of fiscal support for their economies in the first five months of the coronavirus pandemic alone.

“We absolutely need to place a value on social and environmental and economic indicators at the same level,” said co-author Sandrine Dixson-Deceleve, co-president of the Club of Rome think tank which originally published the “Limits To Growth” report.

“Inequality and poverty play a huge role in enabling us to move forward,” she added. “Net-zero poverty has to be as much of a goal as net-zero emissions.”

A book outlining the results of the model, “Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity” will be published in German on Tuesday, with versions in English and other languages following.

Doug Heske, chief executive of U.S.-based Newday Impact Investing, signaled its value for ESG investors.

“Earth for All provides a powerful new framework for how responsibly-minded investors can thoughtfully allocate capital in ways that will have the greatest impact,” he said.

SCITECH DAILY

[Which Animals Will Best Survive Climate Change?](#)

By University of Southern Denmark

Global Warming Planet Earth Fire Concept

The researchers expect animals such as the Arctic fox, stoat, and common shrew to be more impacted by climate change.

A new study investigates which animals will best survive climate change.

As the average global temperature increases, extreme weather events like prolonged droughts and heavy downpours are becoming more frequent, and they will only become worse in the coming decades. What will happen to the planet's ecosystems?

"That is the big question and the background for our study," said biologist John Jackson. Jackson, along with his biologist colleagues Christie Le Coeur from the University of Oslo and Owen Jones from the University of Southern Denmark, recently published a new study in the journal eLife.

John Jackson currently attends Oxford University but was at the University of Southern Denmark at the time of the study. Owen Jones is an associate professor at the Department of Biology, University of Southern Denmark.

Llama, moose, and elephant

In the study, the scientists compared weather and climate data from the time the animal data were collected with data on population changes from 157 mammal species from across the globe. They collected 10 or more years of data for each species.

Their analysis has given them an insight into how populations of animal species have coped at times of extreme weather: Did their population increase or decrease? How did the quantity of their offspring shift?

"We can see a clear pattern: Animals that live a long time and have few offspring are less vulnerable when extreme weather hits than animals that live for a short time and have many offspring. Examples are llamas, long-lived bats and elephants versus mice, possums, and rare marsupials such as the woylie," said Owen Jones.

Less affected by extreme weather

The study found that the African elephant, Siberian tiger, chimpanzee, greater horseshoe bat, llama, vicuña, white rhinoceros, grizzly bear, American bison, klipspringer, and Schreibers's bat were less impacted by extreme weather.

More affected by extreme weather

The scientists discovered that the Azara's grass mouse, olive grass mouse, elegant fat-tailed mouse opossum, Canadian lemming, Tundra vole, Arctic fox, stoat, common shrew, woylie, and arctic ground squirrel were more impacted by extreme weather.

Quick drop – but also quick boom

Large, long-lived animals are better able to cope with conditions like prolonged drought; their ability to survive, reproduce and raise their offspring is not affected to the same extent as small, short-lived animals. They can, for example, invest their energy into one offspring, or simply wait for better times when conditions become challenging.

On the other hand, small short-lived rodents have more extreme population changes in the short term. In the event of a prolonged drought, for example, large parts of their food base may disappear more rapidly: insects, flowers, and fruits, and they are left to starve because they have limited fat reserves.

The populations of these small mammals may also boom to take advantage when conditions improve because, in contrast to large mammals, they can produce many offspring.

Not the same as the risk of extinction

“These small mammals react quickly to extreme weather, and it goes both ways. Their vulnerability to extreme weather should therefore not be equated with a risk of extinction,” said John Jackson.

He also reminds us that the ability of an animal species to withstand climate change must not stand alone when assessing the species' vulnerability to extinction:

“Habitat destruction, poaching, pollution, and invasive species are factors that threaten many animal species – in many cases even more than climate change,” he emphasized.

The animals we don't know much about

The researchers' study not only gives an insight into how these specific 157 mammal species react to climate changes here and now. The study can also contribute to a better general understanding of how the planet's animals will respond to ongoing climate change.

“We expect climate change to bring more extreme weather in the future. Animals will need to cope with this extreme weather as they always have. So, our analysis helps predict how different animal species might respond to future climate change based on their general characteristics – even if we have limited data on their populations,” said Owen Jones.

An example is the woylie, a rare Australian marsupial. Biologists do not know very much about this species, but because it shares a similar lifestyle with mice – that is, it is small, lives for a short time, and reproduces quickly – it can be predicted that it will respond to extreme weather in a similar way to mice.

Entire ecosystems will change

“In the same way, there are lots of animal species that we don't know very much about, but whose reaction we can now predict,” explained John Jackson.

In this way, the researchers expect that the ability of different animal species to adapt to climate change is related to their life strategy, and this can help us predict ecological changes:

As habitat suitability changes due to climate change, species may be forced to move to new areas as old areas become inhospitable. These shifts depend on species' life strategies and can have big impacts on ecosystem function.

THE GUARDIAN

['I couldn't date a climate change denier!' The couples who bond – and split – over love for the planet](#)

When Mitzi Jonelle Tan first saw Jon Bonifacio at a student council meeting at the University of the Philippines in 2017, she knew she liked him. But it wasn't his good looks or sense of humour that got her swooning: it was his interest in climate activism. "I looked at him and knew we could be activists together," she says. They went on to spend four years together as a couple, and even after splitting up earlier this year they remain close.

For Tan and Bonifacio, both 24, who are climate activists for the Fridays For Future movement, finding a partner with shared values isn't optional – it's a must. "Of course there are reasons I love her outside our climate work," says Bonifacio. "But it's a fundamental part of our relationship." They are not alone.

As the climate crisis worsens, people around the world are changing their lifestyles to reduce their carbon footprints. From everyday choices such as whether to drive or eat meat, to bigger decisions about whether to fly or have kids, the crisis is increasingly influencing how people choose to live – and who they choose to love.

In 2019, the dating site OkCupid saw a 240% increase in mentions of climate change on users' profiles, with the dating app Tinder reporting a similar trend. The rise of people looking for partners with compatible climate views led OkCupid to create a function that filters out climate deniers.

"People are increasingly thinking about the climate when they're choosing who to go on a date with," says Matthew Goldberg, an associate research scientist at the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.

"For people who are climate-conscious, finding a partner with shared values on the climate can be really important," says Andrew Bryant, a clinical social worker and psychotherapist specialising in climate mental health. "It comes down to questions of: Do I feel as if I can relate to you? Do you get me?"

This is particularly true among millennials and generation Z. "I wouldn't date a climate change denier," says Elleonora Ali Uddman, an 18-year-old Swedish-Kurd. The climate crisis has already been a feature of her romantic life. While her first girlfriend wasn't as interested in the climate as she was, they spoke about it often, in the same way teenagers speak about music or movies. "I try not to let it be everything that I talk about

and let my personality come through,” she says. “But I also wouldn’t date someone who defied science.”

Goldberg warns, however, that dating people with the same climate views may not be helpful to the cause in the long run. “A partner is the closest person in someone’s life and they are the best person to influence their thinking,” he says. “If couples have the same views, there isn’t any room to make any change.” His research has found that in practice, couples often don’t share the same beliefs or behaviours about climate change, which, he argues, is a good thing. “As climate change becomes more integrated into life decisions, such as whether to get a car or how to heat your home, it will increasingly become a topic among couples,” he says. “If they have different views, there is more chance for change.” While it may be harder to change the mind of a partner who denies climate science, there could be more wriggle room with one who is simply less well informed or apathetic about the climate crisis, he says.

Cristina Gnecco, 27, has experienced first-hand how romance can spread climate consciousness. She was first introduced to the idea of sustainability by her college boyfriend. On one of their first dates in 2015, he refused to take a plastic bag in a shop even though they had items to carry home. “Him staying so strong in his conviction made me ask: why does this matter so much?” she says.

At the time, climate change was not on Gnecco’s radar. But her boyfriend showed her how it was relevant to the topics she cared about, including addressing poverty. “It became a huge part of my life – personally and professionally,” she says. She gave up eating meat and as a couple, they spent a lot of time seeking out climate-friendly ways to live, such as travelling to Times Square in search of New York’s most succulent vegetarian burger.

But the climate crisis wasn’t always something to bond over. “The biggest fight we ever had was because we disagreed on how to solve climate change,” she says. “I felt there were business solutions and he thought that was a very neoliberal way of thinking.”

Though the couple has since split, she finds herself having the same disagreement with her new partner – only this time she is arguing from the other perspective. “If the question is, can a loved one influence your views on climate change, the answer is yes,” Gnecco says, “in a really big way.”

But when a person’s climate views do not shift, it can cause problems. Bryant, who runs a private therapy practice in Seattle, has seen all types of issues disrupt relationships

over the years. But recently, he says, more and more people are seeking counselling for marital problems related to the climate crisis.

“It is similar to lots of challenges couples face when they are trying to integrate two different minds, cultures and families into one unit,” he says. “It’s almost like a religious difference. You can love and care about each other but if there is a different perception of the issue it can create distance.”

Most commonly, Bryant’s clients disagree about consumption patterns such as flying and consumerism. “One person wants to upgrade that computer or take that flight, and the other feels guilty,” he says. Many of his clients work in the tech industry, and some want to quit their lucrative jobs to work on climate change, with their spouse sometimes worrying about the financial repercussions for the household.

One of the hardest climate-related topics among couples, he says, is whether to have children. Some people argue it is unethical to bring another human being into this world when emissions are already so high. Nearly a quarter of adults who haven’t had children say climate change is factoring into their reproductive decisions. A rising number of men are getting vasectomies and some women have gone on birth strike, citing climate inaction as the reason behind it.

“I have always hoped to have a family,” says Alice Aedy, a British climate documentary film-maker. “I would never have expected anything to get in the way of those daydreams, but the uncertainty of climate change leaves the stakes feeling higher than ever.”

Aedy and her partner, Jack Harries, are aligned in their climate values: together, they make documentaries about the climate crisis and have launched the climate production company Earthrise. But the question of whether to have kids during a climate emergency remains challenging.

“We’ve had conversations about, can we do this? Is it ethical? Is it a selfish desire?” says Harries. “Alice has always maintained that we should. She speaks about people in war zones having children, even though they are living in challenging situations. But I’m not as sure.”

Harries started questioning whether he wanted to have kids after the IPCC released its dire report on the state of the climate last summer. “For me, it’s not the emissions that are the problem,” he says. “It’s the idea that you would be bringing children into a world of systemic collapse.”

But even among climate advocates and scientists, there is disagreement about whether withholding from having children is an effective or humane response to the crisis, with some arguing it places the burden of responsibility of curbing emissions on individuals instead of institutions.

Though these topics are challenging, Bryant hopes that discussions and disagreements among couples can be opportunities to push people towards greater climate consciousness. “There are always opportunities for growth,” he says.

Tan and Bonifacio say that their discussions have changed their views on the crisis. When they first started dating, Tan struggled with eco-anxiety. “I was deeper into activism at that point and it felt like a burden to explain it,” she says. But during their time together, Bonifacio came to understand how debilitating climate anxiety can be – not just for Tan, but for everyone. “I became more exposed to the reality of this issue around the world,” he says. “Our relationship made me want to work more on climate change.”

“I can’t imagine myself with anyone who doesn’t care about the climate crisis,” Tan says, as she looks back at the relationship. “I don’t think I can relate to someone who can’t see the importance of caring about our planet.”

THE MANILA TIMES

[Cagayan adopts forest land grazing program](#)

By Leander C. Domingo

Cagayan Valley is adopting a science-based forest lands grazing management approach to attain food security and climate change resiliency, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

DENR Region 2 executive director Gwendolyn Bambalan said there are 51 forest lands grazing management agreement (FLGMA) holders and concerned government agencies and stakeholders in the region.

Remedios Pauig, DENR Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division chief, said these FLGMA holders and stakeholders are enjoined to participate in the first FLGM summit on September 19 to 20 at the Villa Blanca Hotel in Tuguegarao City.

She said the summit will seek to account for the improvement of ecosystems through grazing management.

"They will also account for the amount of meat supply and other derivatives produced by grazing animals," Pauig emphasized as she explained the objectives of the said stakeholders' forum.

She said the forum will also serve as an avenue to update policies and procedures on grazing management, and raise and resolve related issues and concerns.

"The comprehensive development plans of our FLGMA holders covering more or less 19,000 hectares of pasture areas regionwide will be monitored and evaluated," Pauig added.

To be graced by the Federation of Cattle Raiser Association of the Philippines, the event will highlight a presentation on the region's FLGMA situationer, livestock meat supply, and demand or food requirement, she said.

Pauig said the event will also highlight cattle and forage production, domestic and international animal movement, dairy products technology transfer, practical livestock handling, best practices on grazing, and ranchers' success story.

"The forum is expected to strengthen the partnership between and among the DENR and the FLGMA holders," Bambalan said.

Meanwhile, the celebration of Lands Day by the end of this month will include awarding land titles to qualified beneficiaries dubbed the "Handog Titulo Program."

[OPINION] [Stop the climate disinformation](#)

By Ben Kritz

Enough is enough. As I wrote in a recent column, there is an unspoken convention among columnists that we do not discuss each other's work. It is a convention that should be broken because it is frankly driven by ego more than any professional or social principle, and more importantly, because it discourages broader discussion and debate that could benefit the public.

And it should be broken because in some instances, fortunately, infrequent but nonetheless completely unforgivable ones, our silence on someone else's topic makes us complicit in the intentional, and perhaps even malicious spread of disinformation.

One of those instances, and it was far from being the first, was my fellow Manila Times columnist Yen Makabenta's entry for Saturday, August 26, "World climate declaration: 'There is no climate emergency.'" The column is only a column in the sense that it occupies the designated space; except for a few inconsequential introductory and concluding remarks, the entire thing is a republication of the so-called World Climate Declaration.

There is, in fact, a global climate emergency. Formal acknowledgment of the existence of anthropogenic climate change, and the need to act to lessen it is a core policy both at the international level in bodies such as the United Nations, the G20, Asean, the Organization of American States and the African Union, and individually in every nation on earth; even North Korea has an official policy on climate change and has made emissions reduction commitments under the 2015 Paris Accords. Pope Francis has issued a papal encyclical letter calling on Catholics to join the fight against climate change; likewise, there has been an Islamic Declaration on Climate Change, a Buddhist Declaration on Climate Change and a Rabbinic Letter on the Climate Crisis, each signed by hundreds of leaders of those respective faiths.

There is not, in any sense whatsoever, "a currently intense debate on climate change between climate alarmists and climate skeptics." If there was, then the so-called World Climate Declaration would have been reported by the world's mainstream media when it was originally released, which over the past few years has diligently practiced "both sides-ism" to a fault.

Telling the public that anthropogenic climate change is not happening and has not reached, or is not quickly approaching, crisis proportions is denying a basic fact. That is

disinformation, and if it cannot be stopped before it reaches the public — as it should be — then it cannot be left unchallenged, egos and reputations and writers' courtesies be damned.

I will address the actual content of the so-called World Climate Declaration in my next column; today, I'll expose the source of this disinformation. First, a point of clarification on its publication date. Contrary to what the August 26 column says, the offending document was not originally published on August 22. It was actually released, and promptly ignored by everyone, in March 2020. Its recent republication, which actually happened on June 27 of this year, was timed to get ahead of the release of the 32nd annual Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society (BAMS) State of the Climate report (which was published last week), and the upcoming 6th Assessment Report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The re-release of the so-called World Climate Declaration also provided an opportunity for its author, a group called the Climate Intelligence Foundation, or Clintel, to rebrand itself as the slightly more benign-sounding Global Climate Intelligence Group.

Clintel is a Netherlands-based climate science denial group founded in 2019 by retired professor of geophysics Guus Berkhout and journalist Marcel Crok, and, of course, its principal position is that "there is no climate emergency."

In the Netherlands, the organization is politically connected to the Forum voor Democratie, the main Dutch nationalist party. Many of its "800 scientists, scholars and professionals" that support Clintel are affiliated with organizations identified as part of Koch Industries' well-organized climate denial campaign, including the Heartland Institute, the Cato Institute and the Competitive Enterprise Institute, all of which are members of the Koch-funded Atlas Network.

According to investigations by the Dutch broadcaster KRO-NCRV Pointer and the DeSmog Network, the more than 1,000 signatories to the so-called World Climate Declaration have "conducted little to no climate research," and include "a commercial fisherman, a retired chemist, a cardiologist, and an air-conditioning engineer, alongside a number of retired geologists."

If all of this was not a clear indication of Clintel's true motives, its sources of funding are. Most of its direct funding comes from two Dutch real estate magnates, Niek Sandmann and Cor Verkade, but its indirect funding comes from the oil and gas industry. Berkhout's main business is a company called Delphi Consortium (founded in 1982), which provides geo-imaging services for the petroleum industry; companies such as Shell, BP and Chevron use Delphi's research data. Revenues from these subscriptions

are funneled to Clintel; Berkhout and Crok have denied this, but Delphi's contributions have been well-documented by a number of investigators, including KRO-NCRV and corporate watchdog Follow the Money.

The so-called World Climate Declaration is simply another feeble shot fired in a long-running disinformation campaign waged by those who stand to suffer substantial commercial losses from the world effort to mitigate climate change and its impacts. What motivation one might have for deliberately choosing to participate in that disinformation campaign I do not know, and I will not speculate. It simply has no place in the public discourse; it actively seeks to mislead and cause harm, and it is time for an open, aggressive, and resolute effort to stop it for the sake of those who will be hurt the most by it.

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