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# Climate & Health News

Newsletter of the JHU-UPF Public Policy Center Climate Change Working Group



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**SEPTEMBER 2019**

A news and science roundup organized by the five themes of *The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate*: health impacts; adaptation; mitigation; economics and finance; and communication and politics.

## Health Impacts

### News

#### **[New IPCC report: Climate change's acute threat to the global food supply](#)**

Global land and water resources are being exploited at unprecedented rates putting pressure humanity's ability to feed itself says the UN agency's new [report](#). Half a billion people already live in zones at risk of desertification, and there is a growing risk of food crises on multiple continents simultaneously. Coping strategies include improved land productivity and reduced food wastage. – *NY Times*



Cattle grazing outside Sokoto, Nigeria, where large-scale farming is in conflict with local communities.

Photo Credit: Luis Tato/Agence France-Presse / Getty Images

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## Read more:

- [More 'day zeroes' ahead as one-quarter of world faces water shortage](#) – *Guardian*
- [Monsoon rains displace over one million in India](#) – *Thomson Reuters*
- [Changing patterns of European flooding – the North at risk](#) – *Inside Climate News*
- [Central America's deadly dengue fever outbreak](#) – *Thomson Reuters*
- [Hundreds of coal ash sites across US are in high-risk flood zones](#) – *Politico*
- [With growing intensity wildfires spread to new corners of the globe](#) – *NYTimes*
- **City focus:** [Rising seas threaten Egypt's fabled port city of Alexandria](#) – *AP*

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## Science

**[Health impacts from both flooding and drought are associated with El Niño events](#)**

globally, while flood-related impacts were associated with El Niño regionally (in India, following El Niño and in the Philippines, following La Niña). Findings can be used for preparedness and early warning. – *Lam et al., Int J Environ Res Public Health*



Severe flooding in the northern Argentinian city of Concordia during el Niño.

Photo credit: Prensa Municipio Concordia Handout/EPA

## Read more:

- [Review: Brain diseases in a changing climate](#) – *Ruszkiewicz et al., Environ Res*
- [Review: Global climate change and mental health](#) – *Palinkas & Wong, Curr Opin Psychol*
- [Expect increased mental health impacts with Atlantic hurricanes](#) – *Espinel et al., Psychiatr Serv*
- [Extreme pollution, climate change and depression](#) – *Khafaie et al., Environ Sci and Poll Res*
- [Review: Health effects of toxic agents following floods](#) – *Erickson et al., J Toxicol Environ Health*
- [Trihalomethane formation will increase with climate change](#) – *Valdivia-Garcia et al. Sci Rep*
- [Review: Pediatric thermoregulation – an update on children's heat tolerance](#) – *Smith, Nutrients*
- [Review: Greater heat vulnerability in mortality than morbidity](#) – *Cheng et al., Environ Res*
- [Climate change food and health: A new analytical framework](#) – *Schnitter & Berry, Int J Res Public Health*

# Adaptation

## News

### [The case for strategic, managed climate retreat](#)

The question is no longer whether some communities will need to move but why, where, when, and how. Relocation has been seen as a failure to adapt and is often done in an *ad hoc*, inequitable way. Meager research leaves practitioners with little policy guidance. Three scientists present the case for rethinking “retreat” as a suite of adaptation options that are both strategic and managed, and integrated into long-term development goals. – *Science*



The environment and the displacement of people from environmental changes are cross border issues that extend beyond the authority of a single country. Photo from: <https://qz.com/1124055/climate-change-will-be-the-border-control-of-the-future/>

### Read more:

- City focus: [Mapping heat vulnerability in US cities](#) – *New York Times*
- City focus: [Mapping US cities that are climate resilient](#) – *CityLab*
- [Medications can raise heat stroke risk: Are doctors prepared to respond?](#) – *InsideClimateNews*
- [How to cool without air conditioning: Ancient and modern technologies](#) – *BBC*

- [Treating the growing mental health effects of climate change](#) – *Guardian*
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## Science

### [How did Cuba successfully recover from 2017's devastating Hurricane Irma?](#)

Although Irma affected 90% of Cuba's population, the country's response was quick and effective. Researchers highlight five success strategies: incorporating lessons from past disasters; integrating healthcare and public health professionals on the frontlines of response; engaging the public in preparedness; incorporating technology into risk reduction; and infusing science into risk planning. – *Zakrison et al. Disaster Med Public Health Prep*



Hurricane Irma, 25th September 2017.  
Photo from: <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/appeal/cuba-hurricane-irma/>

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### Read more:

- Review: [Climate health vulnerability mapping](#) – *Schmeltz & Marcotullio, Int J Environ Res Public Health*
- [Green solutions protect against GI illness after flooding in Puerto Rico](#) – *de Jesus Crespo et al., Sci Total Environ*

- [How Mozambique coped with cholera following Hurricanes Idai and Kenneth](#) – Cambaza et al., *Int J Environ Res Public Health*
  - [Planned sheltering as successful adaptation: Lessons from China's 2016 floods](#) – Wu et al., *Sci Total Environ*
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# Mitigation

## News

### [Pope Francis exhorts politicians to take 'drastic measures' on climate change](#)

"Now is the time to abandon our dependence on fossil fuels and move, quickly and decisively, towards forms of clean energy and a sustainable and circular economy," the Pope said ahead of the United Nations Climate Action Summit later this month in New York. – *Reuters*



Pope Francis at the Vatican.  
Photo Credit: CNS photo/Paul Haring.

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## Read more:

- [China is filling the gap in climate leadership left by the US](#) – *Politico*

## Science

### Turning the tide: Health care leaders increasingly focus on climate mitigation

Researchers argue that health care leaders have special responsibilities to patients and investors, and that significant cost savings, long-term risk reduction, and improved population health are among the benefits health care organizations can gain from building a sound climate change mitigation strategy. – *Shilt-Moody & Tsai, J Healthc Risk Manage*



- [The case for markets to back climate mitigation](#) – *Nature*
- City focus: [Supply-side carbon accounting for Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei](#) – *Xu et al., J Environ Manage*

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## Economics & Finance

### News

#### City focus: [Moody's rating agency buys stake in climate risk data firm](#)

One of the main agencies that rates the creditworthiness of cities has brought in a data firm specializing in climate risks – a signal that rating agencies are paying more attention to global warming. Just the threat of a lower credit rating can pressure cities to be more proactive in reducing climate-related risks and being more climate resilient. – *Inside Climate News*



Moody's Corporation, which owns one of the largest U.S. ratings agencies, purchased a major stake in Four Twenty Seven, a company that analyzes climate risks to companies and governments, such as sea level rise, heat stress and storms. Photo Credit: Matt McClain/The Washington Post via Getty Images

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- [In open NYTimes letter corporations tell Amazon & Apple: 'put planet before profits'](#) – *Guardian*
- City focus: [The high cost of protecting cities from rising seas](#) – *CNN*
- [Concerns about climate liability is on the rise](#) – *EE News*
- [Home insurance policies not being renewed in California wildfire risk zones](#) – *Rolling Stone*
- [Inequality: Climate change is making homelessness much worse](#) - *FastCompany*
- City focus: [Is this our future? Only the rich escape Baghdad's extreme heat](#) – *UK Independent*

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## Science

### **Historical trends in G20 developmental assistance for climate and health**

Researchers examined trends in G20 health development financial assistance in the context of climate change, and highlighted key questions for the future: how to best focus support for equitable health gains; how to deliver assistance to strengthen health systems; how to support domestic resource mobilization and transformative partnerships. –

*Dieleman et al., Lancet*



G20 leaders meeting to discuss climate change in 2019.

Photo from: <https://qz.com/1481664/g20-communicue-jarring-on-trade-climate-change-migration/>

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**Read more:**

- [Majority of UK citizens show willingness to pay to avoid climate health impacts](#) – Graham et al., *Public Health*

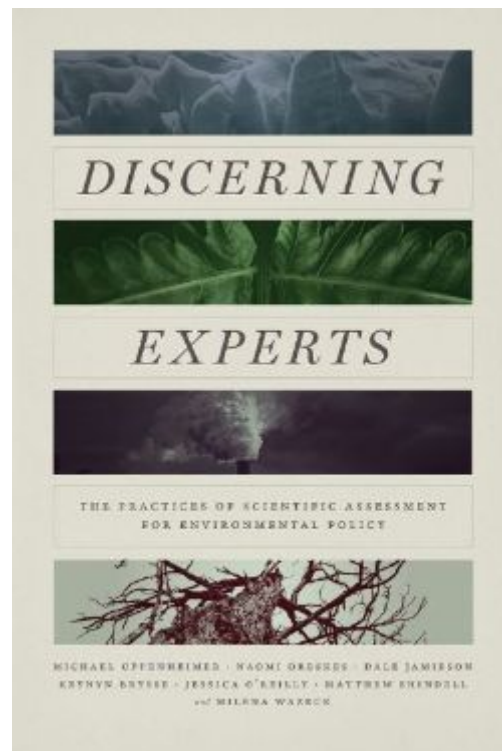
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# Communication

## News

### **Book: ‘Discerning Experts’ – Scientist have been underestimating the pace of climate change**

Based on new measurement devices the UK Met Office announced a revision in the average sea surface temperature increase (+0.1° C; earlier measures were taken with more error-prone devices). These and other corrections suggest important underestimates in previous modeling of sea-level rise and other climate parameters, as set out in the new book *Discerning Experts*, by N Oreskes, M Oppenheimer & D Jamieson. – *Scientific American*



- Film: [‘Aquarela’ – Conveying the urgency of climate change visually](#) – *Outside*
  - Photo essay: [Sea-level rise images from the US East Coast](#) – *FastCompany*
  - Map: [US extreme heat hot-spots](#) – *Washington Post*
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## Science

### [Identifying meaningful communication messages on fossil fuel health impacts](#)

Researchers surveyed US adults on messages related to health risks of fossil fuels of greatest concern. Finding suggest these Americans were most concerned about neurological impacts of air pollution on babies and children, and based on information provided interviewees confirmed intentionality to support clean energy. – *Kotcher et al., BMC Public Health*



The move to clean energy is more urgent than ever.  
Photo Credit: Scott Olson/Getty

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**Read more:**

- [How people think and act on climate change](#) – Crossman et al., *Risk Anal*
- [The scientific community must do more to raise awareness of health effects of climate change](#) – Hobbhahn et al., *Lancet Planet Health*
- [Historical perspectives on health and climate change](#) – Dunk et al, *N Engl J Med*
- [Teaching climate change and health online: Lessons from a MOOC series](#) – Barteit et al., *Global Health*



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