

CLIMATE CHANGE IN 2026 – ITS DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES BEING FELT WORLDWIDE

The extreme conditions are compounding — and crossing borders

Wildfire smoke doesn't respect borders, and 2026 has made that visceral. Canadian fires, more than 700 currently "out of control," have sent smoke over Toronto, Boston, and New York City, at times giving those cities the world's most polluted air. In the U.S., close to 40,000 fires have burned over 3.6 million acres so far this year, nearly a million acres above the 10-year average for mid-July, hitting Colorado and Utah hardest.

Meanwhile Europe's Mediterranean is burning through its own crisis: fires have killed at least 15 people and forced tens of thousands to flee across Spain, Portugal, France, Greece, Italy and Turkey. Notably, Portugal and France activated EU emergency assistance, drawing firefighting aircraft from Italy, Spain, Sweden and Cyprus within hours.

On the flooding side, the same interconnectedness applies. Flooding and landslides in Brazil's Minas Gerais killed more than 70 people in February, while El Niño-driven patterns are simultaneously producing drought across Central America and the Amazon. Excess rainfall has been evident across the southern cone, with Ecuador, Peru and Chile facing combined coastal flooding and highland water stress. These aren't isolated national disasters, they're the same climate driver manifesting differently across a shared continent. This is exactly why regional coordination on water management, early warning, and agricultural planning matters as much as disaster response.

In Asia, flooding in India's Assam state has killed at least 50 people and displaced 700,000 after the Brahmaputra River overflowed, a river that originates in China's Tibet region and flows through Assam, making it a literal transboundary water system where upstream and downstream nations both have a stake in monitoring and response.

Why this points toward collaboration, not just adaptation

The underlying science makes the case for urgency plain: ocean heat content set a record for the ninth consecutive year in 2025, and researchers found with over 98% confidence that warming from 2015–2025 accelerated faster than any prior decade. Compound drought-heatwave events have risen nearly eightfold since the early 2000s. These are global trend lines. No single country's mitigation or adaptation policy can bend them alone.

The fire and flood events mentioned above show the same warming signal expressing itself as smoke crossing the Canada–U.S. border, as a shared river system flooding two countries, and as one atmospheric pattern simultaneously drying one part of a continent while flooding another.

That's the backdrop for the climate change conference titled COP31 in Antalya, Turkey this November, which follows COP30 in Belém. There negotiators secured the Belém Adaptation Indicators, a Just Transition Mechanism, and a tripling of adaptation finance despite weaker language on a fossil fuel phase-out.

The gap between what was agreed and what the fire and flood seasons of 2026 are demonstrating in real time is itself an argument for faster, better-funded, more binding international cooperation. This requires inclusion of early-warning systems, shared firefighting and flood-response capacity, and climate finance that reaches the places (like Brazil's flood-prone states or South Asia's river basins) bearing the sharpest impacts.

CONCLUSION AND CALL TO ACTION

Current events in North America and globally continue to demonstrate that Climate Change is REAL and not a series of fictional developments made up by mad scientists and / or crazed environmentalists. This contradicts the position of the Trump administration which dismisses climate change, has reversed environmental protection regulations and withdrawn the United States from all major international climate change mitigation initiatives.

Citizens concerned with climate change must Speak Out, Register to Vote and VOTE for Democratic Party positions and candidates who favor Climate Change Mitigation measures and a clean and healthy environment.