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August - September 2026

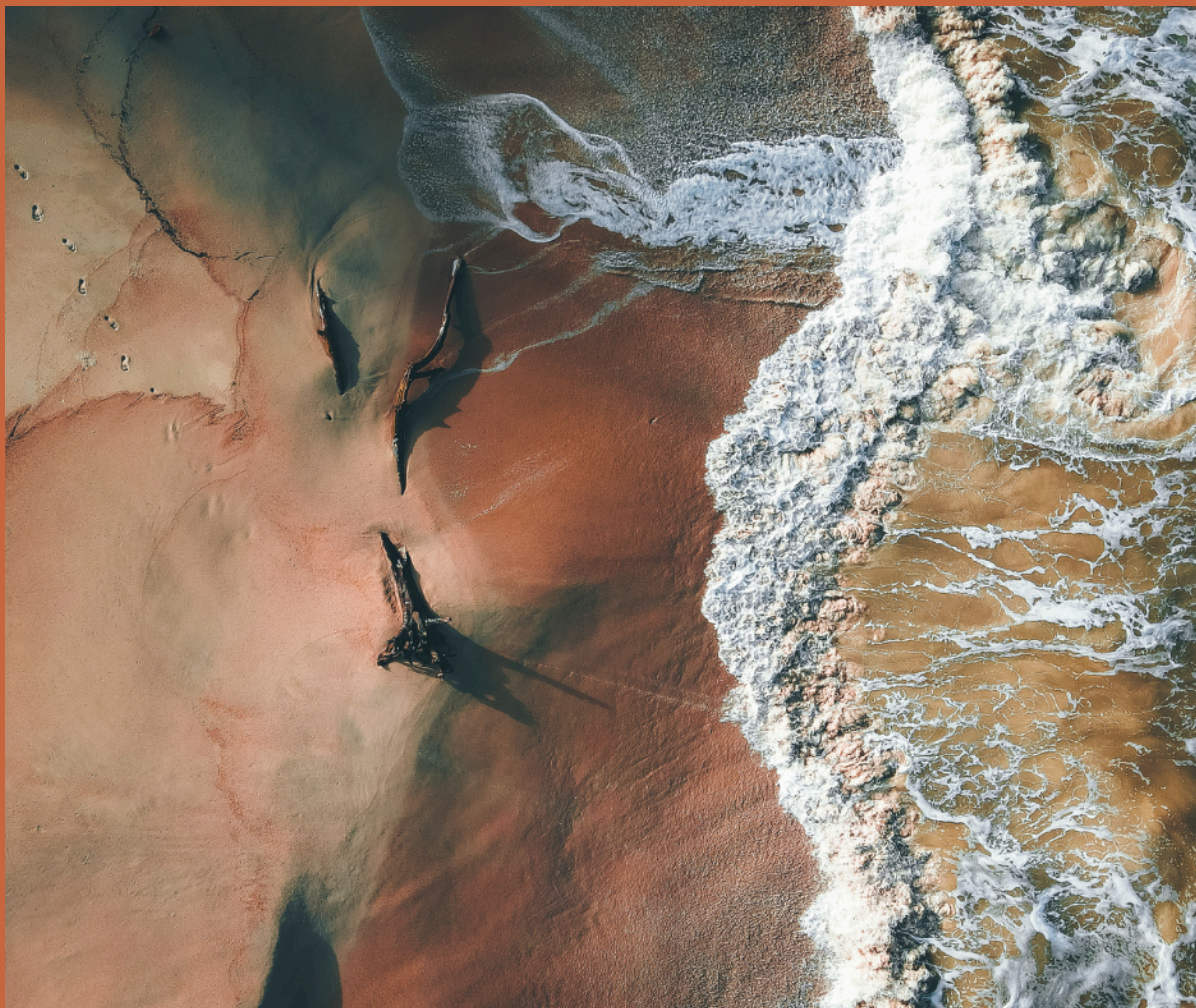
Your bi-monthly climate connection is here!

Climate change is increasingly being experienced through changes in water, weather, ecosystems, and the places where people live and work. The August–September period brought renewed attention to climate resilience, from changing rainfall patterns and water-security concerns to coastal vulnerability, ecosystem restoration, and the need for stronger preparedness. Across India and around the world, recent developments also show that climate action is not limited to reducing emissions. Protecting ecosystems, restoring degraded landscapes, strengthening water systems, improving climate information, and enabling communities to participate in decision-making are equally important.

From Tamil Nadu's climate-resilient coastal initiatives to global efforts on ecosystem restoration and changing climate conditions, this edition brings together developments that highlight both emerging risks and practical responses. Science, local knowledge, community participation, and effective governance remain central to building resilience and ensuring that climate action reaches the people and ecosystems most affected.

This is our bi-monthly dispatch of updates and insights on climate change, environmental action, resilience, and sustainability.

Happenings from home



India's coasts are facing growing pressure from climate change, rapid development, and ecosystem degradation, making coastal resilience increasingly important. In this article, "Beyond Maps: Connecting Knowledge, Communities, and Coastal Governance," CAG highlights how mangroves, coral reefs, estuaries, and wetlands protect communities, support livelihoods, store carbon, and buffer climate impacts. The article emphasises that effective coastal governance cannot rely only on maps and technical data. Bringing together scientific knowledge, local communities, traditional knowledge, and participatory planning is essential for protecting coastal ecosystems and strengthening resilience. As climate risks intensify, connecting environmental data with community knowledge can make adaptation more inclusive, locally relevant, and effective.

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From around the world



Three major ecosystem restoration initiatives in Brazil, the Sahel and Saudi Arabia were recognised as World Restoration Flagships at the UN Convention to Combat Desertification conference in August 2026. Together, the initiatives have committed to restoring around 5 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, supporting biodiversity, food security, livelihoods and climate resilience. The projects address different environmental challenges, from restoring Brazil's biodiverse Cerrado landscapes to improving degraded drylands across the Sahel and expanding restoration efforts in Saudi Arabia. Their recognition highlights the growing role of ecosystem restoration as a practical climate action. Restoring forests, grasslands and drylands can improve soil health, strengthen water security, support wildlife and increase communities' resilience to drought and climate change. These initiatives demonstrate how large-scale nature-based action can deliver environmental and social benefits while contributing to global restoration goals.

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From the corners of the country



Tamil Nadu's Killai has become the state's first fully operational Climate-Resilient Village, demonstrating how local action can strengthen communities while protecting ecosystems. Located near the Pichavaram mangrove ecosystem, the village has combined mangrove restoration, waterway revival and clean-energy solutions as part of its climate resilience efforts. A 3-km stretch of the Buckingham Canal was restored, with local residents helping remove plastic waste, while around 3,000 native mangrove saplings were planted along the banks. Solar-powered boats and renewable-energy systems in public buildings are also helping reduce emissions and improve energy resilience. The initiative has also involved children through environmental education and biodiversity activities. Killai's experience demonstrates how community participation, nature-based solutions and clean technology can work together to create practical and locally driven approaches to climate adaptation.

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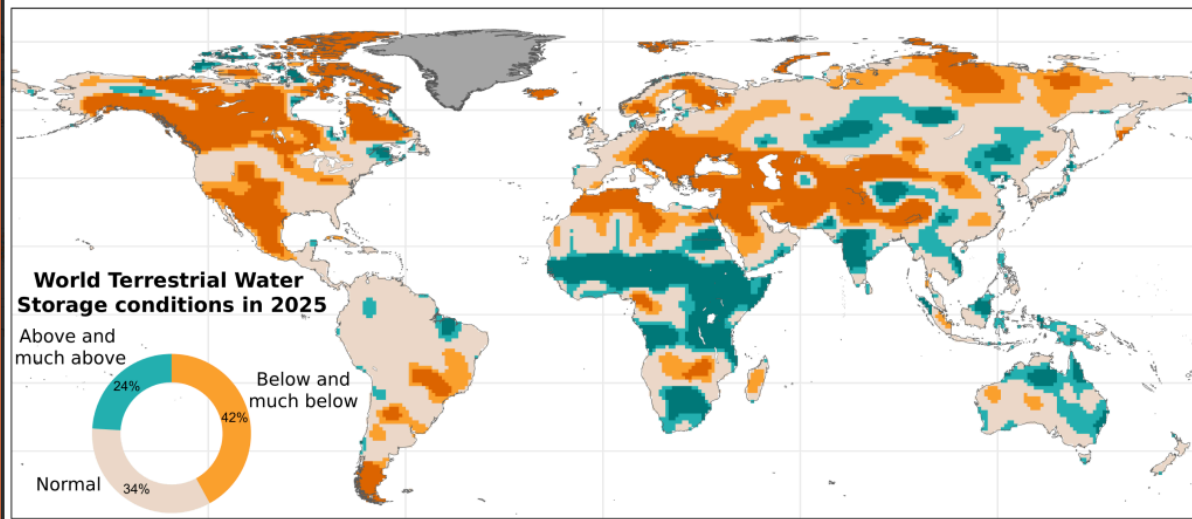
Global warnings



Climate warnings during August and September showed how closely climate variability and long-term warming are becoming intertwined. The WMO reported that El Niño was firmly established and had a near 100% likelihood of persisting through February 2027. Strong El Niño conditions can shift rainfall and temperature patterns across regions, increasing the risk of drought in some areas and extreme rainfall in others. For countries such as India, where agriculture and water resources remain highly dependent on seasonal rainfall, these changes can have significant social and economic consequences. The warning reinforces the importance of climate information, early-warning systems, preparedness, and locally appropriate adaptation measures.

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In a nutshell



Water is becoming increasingly unpredictable, with the global water cycle swinging between too little and too much. The WMO's latest assessment finds that 2025 was one of the driest years for global river discharge in 35 years, while terrestrial water storage continues to decline and glaciers have lost mass for the fourth consecutive year. With droughts and floods intensifying across regions, the findings highlight growing risks to water security, ecosystems, economies, and communities.

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Nugget!



Did you know that India's major reservoirs held only around 70% of their total capacity by late September 2026, with southern reservoirs at about 50%? Declining storage highlights growing concerns over water security amid changing rainfall patterns.

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Climate Connection is an initiative of Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) to assist and inform local communities, grassroots NGOs, environment and consumer groups on how to embrace renewable energy, navigate energy transition, mitigate climate change, and protect the environment they live in. We create change by developing and disseminating information resources on air pollution, climate change, environment and policies surrounding these issues.

Your donation helps us expand this mission and bring reliable climate information to more people who need it most.

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