

Our Concern

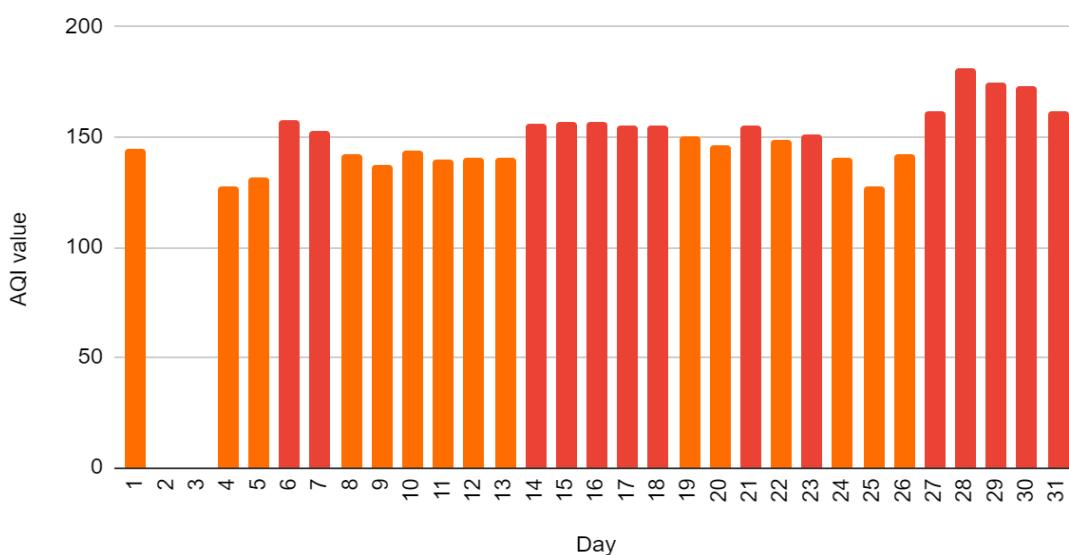


E-Newsletter March 2022

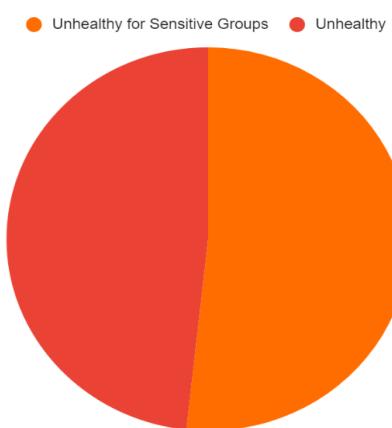
Our Concern, a monthly e-newsletter, is a compilation of news and views from local, and international, media coverage as an attempt to keep our readers abreast on the recent happenings on clean air, energy, urban mobility and climate change issues.

Kathmandu Valley Air Quality overview (PM 2.5)

March



Data retrieved from: <https://aqicn.org/city/nepal/kathmandu/us-embassy/>



- For March, not a single day remained good or moderate, i.e. AQI value exceeded the range 0 to 100.
- 14 days were unhealthy with AQI values ranging from 151 to 200. During such period everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
- 15 days were unhealthy for sensitive groups with AQI values ranging from 101 to 150, wherein sensitive groups may experience health effects. During such period, active children and adults as well as people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion to avoid health effects.
- AQI value of 2nd and 3rd March were not available.

News and Views

Forest fires and open burning activities cause haze in Kathmandu Valley

As people started burning household waste due to a halt in garbage collection, experts warn the worst is yet to come. Haze covered the Kathmandu Valley throughout the day on Tuesday, as open burning activities and incidents of forest fire across the country have increased air pollution many folds of late. This year, air quality of Kathmandu Valley has not yet reached hazardous levels so far, but environmentalists say that the worst is yet to come as incidents of open burning and forest fire have just started.

Published on: March 30, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2022/03/30/forest-fires-and-open-burning-activities-cause-haze-in-kathmandu-valley>

No country met WHO air quality standards in 2021: Data

Not a single country managed to meet the World Health Organization's (WHO) air quality standard in 2021, a survey of pollution data in 6,475 cities showed on Tuesday, and smog even rebounded in some regions after a Covid-related dip. The WHO PM2.5 should be no more than 5 micrograms per cubic metre. But only 3.4 percent of the surveyed cities met the standard in 2021, according to data compiled by IQAir, a Swiss pollution technology company that monitors air quality. As many as 93 cities saw PM2.5 levels at 10 times the recommended level.

Published on: March 22, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/world/2022/03/22/no-country-met-who-air-quality-standards-in-2021-data>

Kathmandu becomes the most polluted city in the world

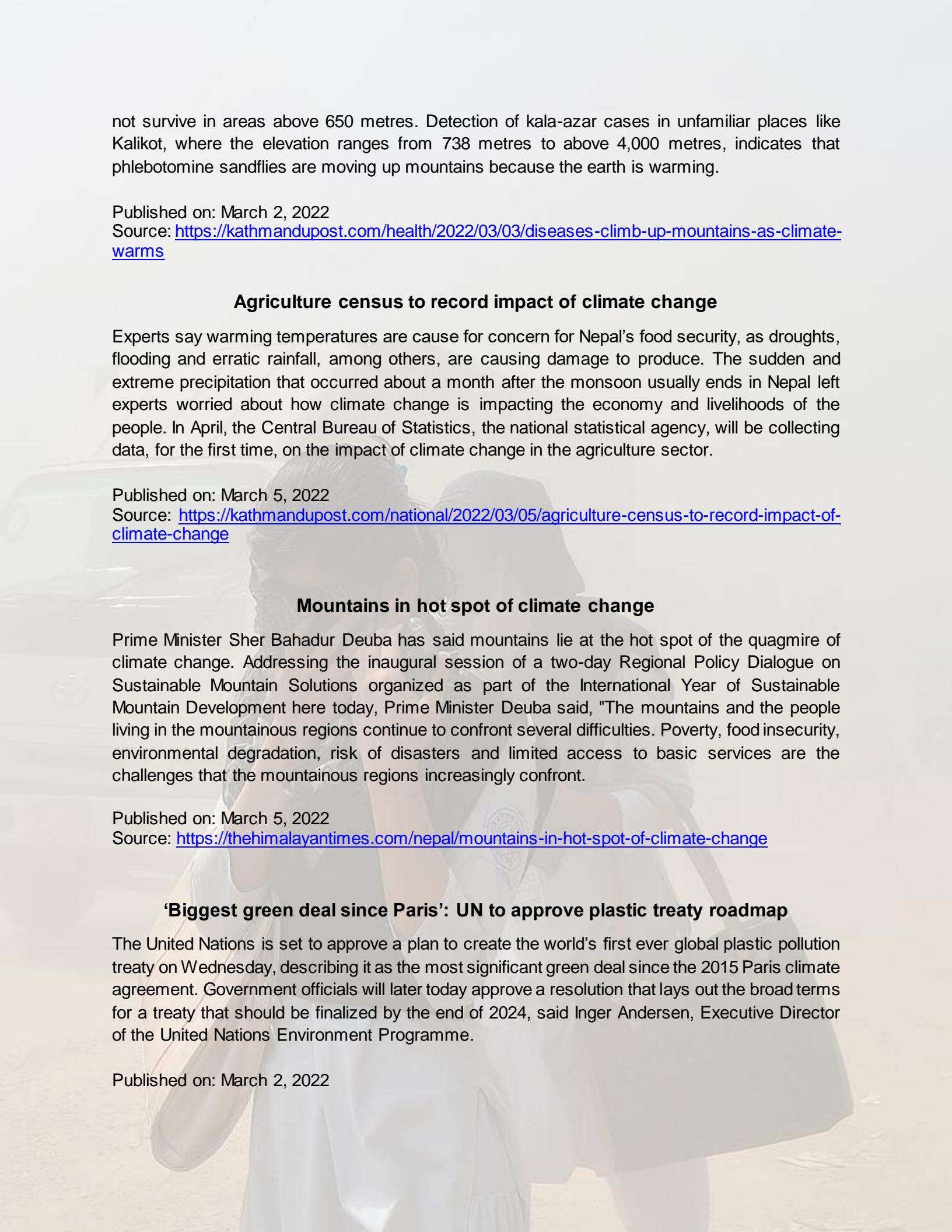
IQ Air remarked that Kathmandu has an air quality index of 154. Similarly, Kolkata city of India is in the second place in terms of air pollution level. The air pollution index there is 152

Published: March 28, 2022

Source: <https://english.khabarhub.com/2022/28/244253/>

Diseases climb up mountains as climate warms

Of the 219 total cases of kala-azar reported in the fiscal year 2020-2021, around 21 were reported from Kalikot, a mountain district. Kala-azar, also known as visceral leishmaniasis or black fever, is transmitted through the bite of an infected female phlebotomine sandfly, which in the past would



not survive in areas above 650 metres. Detection of kala-azar cases in unfamiliar places like Kalikot, where the elevation ranges from 738 metres to above 4,000 metres, indicates that phlebotomine sandflies are moving up mountains because the earth is warming.

Published on: March 2, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/health/2022/03/03/diseases-climb-up-mountains-as-climate-warms>

Agriculture census to record impact of climate change

Experts say warming temperatures are cause for concern for Nepal's food security, as droughts, flooding and erratic rainfall, among others, are causing damage to produce. The sudden and extreme precipitation that occurred about a month after the monsoon usually ends in Nepal left experts worried about how climate change is impacting the economy and livelihoods of the people. In April, the Central Bureau of Statistics, the national statistical agency, will be collecting data, for the first time, on the impact of climate change in the agriculture sector.

Published on: March 5, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/national/2022/03/05/agriculture-census-to-record-impact-of-climate-change>

Mountains in hot spot of climate change

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has said mountains lie at the hot spot of the quagmire of climate change. Addressing the inaugural session of a two-day Regional Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Mountain Solutions organized as part of the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development here today, Prime Minister Deuba said, "The mountains and the people living in the mountainous regions continue to confront several difficulties. Poverty, food insecurity, environmental degradation, risk of disasters and limited access to basic services are the challenges that the mountainous regions increasingly confront.

Published on: March 5, 2022

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/mountains-in-hot-spot-of-climate-change>

'Biggest green deal since Paris': UN to approve plastic treaty roadmap

The United Nations is set to approve a plan to create the world's first ever global plastic pollution treaty on Wednesday, describing it as the most significant green deal since the 2015 Paris climate agreement. Government officials will later today approve a resolution that lays out the broad terms for a treaty that should be finalized by the end of 2024, said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Published on: March 2, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/world/2022/03/02/biggest-green-deal-since-paris-un-to-approve-plastic-treaty-roadmap>

Who pays? UN climate report reignites global fight for compensation

With this week's UN climate science report laying bare the staggering economic costs and losses already faced from climate change, an inevitable question arises: who should pay? Within UN climate negotiations, "loss and damage" refers to the cost's countries are incurring from climate-related impacts and disasters - costs that disproportionately hit the world's poor and vulnerable who did least to cause global warming. Drawing on more than 34,000 references from the latest scientific papers, the report released on Monday by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirmed that economic sectors from agriculture and fishing to tourism were already being damaged. Extreme heat has fueled crop losses. Rising seas have turbo-charged cyclones that have razed homes and infrastructure, slashing economic growth.

Published on: March 2, 2022

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/world/2022/03/02/who-pays-un-climate-report-reignites-global-fight-for-compensation>

Kuwait, among world's hottest places, lags on climate action

It was so hot in Kuwait last summer that birds dropped dead from the sky. Sea horses boiled to death in the bay. Dead clams coated the rocks, their shells popped open like they'd been steamed. Kuwait reached a scorching temperature of 53.2 degrees Celsius (127.7 degrees Fahrenheit), making it among the hottest places on earth. The extremes of climate change present existential perils all over the world. But the record heat waves that roast Kuwait each season have grown so severe that people increasingly find it unbearable. By the end of the century, scientists say being outside in Kuwait City could be life-threatening - not only to birds. A recent study also linked 67% of heat-related deaths in the capital to climate change.

Published on: March 21, 2022

Source: <https://thehimayantimes.com/environment/kuwait-among-worlds-hottest-places-lags-on-climate-action>

Tropical forests turn down the planet's heat by 1C, scientists find

Tropical forests cool the world by more than 1 degree Celsius, increase rainfall, and shield people and crops from deadly heat, researchers said, showing the climate benefits of trees go beyond sucking planet-warming carbon dioxide out of the air. The planet has already heated up by about 1.1C, bringing more extreme weather and higher sea levels. Besides cooling, forests - including in tropical countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Brazil and the Democratic Republic of Congo - also

provide food and livelihoods, clean the air, support human health and are an essential habitat for wildlife.

Published on: March 24, 2022

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/environment/tropical-forests-turn-down-the-planets-heat-by-1c-scientists-find>

Good reads:

How rising fuel prices is changing the way people commute

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/art-culture/2022/03/28/how-rising-fuel-prices-is-changing-the-way-people-commute>

Breath of fresh air

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/editorial/2022/03/30/avoiding-maladaptation>

Climate change displacing the most vulnerable

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2022/03/09/climate-change-displacing-the-most-vulnerable>

Climate change: A matter of political will

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2022/03/14/climate-change-a-matter-of-political-will>

Fire and wildfire: Hunting in pairs in Nepal

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/fire-and-wildfire-hunting-in-pairs-in-nepal>

Birds are laying eggs earlier as climate change shifts springs

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/world/2022/03/26/birds-are-laying-eggs-earlier-as-climate-change-shifts-springs>

Climate change impacts on women

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/blogs/climate-change-impacts-on-women>

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