



Global Fire Outbreaks Hit Record High

Scientists warned that climate change and a strengthening El Niño are fuelling record-breaking wildfires across Africa and Asia, with worse conditions expected as the northern hemisphere enters summer.

From January to April, fires burned more than 150 million hectares worldwide — 20% above the previous record — according to World Weather Attribution researchers. Africa alone lost 85 million hectares, driven by rapid swings between extreme rainfall and severe drought.

Heavy rains created abundant grass growth, which later dried into fuel for savannah fires intensified by heatwaves. In Asia, nearly 44 million hectares burned, almost 40% above the previous record set in 2014, affecting countries including India, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and China.

Scientists warned that wildfire risks may soon escalate further in Australia, Canada, the United States and the Amazon rainforest.



Emerging Market Green Bonds Regain Momentum

Green bond issuance in developing economies rose 53 percent to \$24 billion during the first four months of 2026, according to Bloomberg. The increase suggests that sustainable finance continues to attract investor interest despite higher borrowing costs and ongoing energy market volatility.

The rebound reflects a broader shift in green finance from long term ambition to practical economic resilience. Governments and companies are increasingly using green bonds to fund renewable energy projects, grid modernisation, and cleaner infrastructure that can reduce exposure to volatile fossil fuel prices.

The trend is particularly significant for fast growing regions across Asia and Africa, where energy demand is rising rapidly and infrastructure investment needs remain high. If momentum continues, green bonds could play a larger role in connecting climate goals with investable, large scale development projects.



Corporate Clean Power Targets Face an AI Stress Test

Microsoft is reportedly considering delaying or scaling back its goal to match 100 percent of its electricity use, every hour of the day, with carbon free power by 2030.

The challenge highlights growing pressure on corporate climate targets as artificial intelligence increases data centre energy demand. The broader takeaway is that clean energy credibility will depend not only on renewable purchases, but also on when and where clean power is available.

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