

Dear readers,

I hope you've had a chance to switch off after the past few busy months, or that you'll get a break before the thrill of COP26. From now on, we'll be sending this email towards the end of each month as we monitor the news around a host of big events coming up. In September, we'll see the 76th UN General Assembly, in October we'll focus on the run up to the G20 and in November you can expect a special round-up of the COP26 Climate Summit, so stay tuned!

If you want your colleagues or friends to sign up to this newsletter, please send them [this link](#).

Best,
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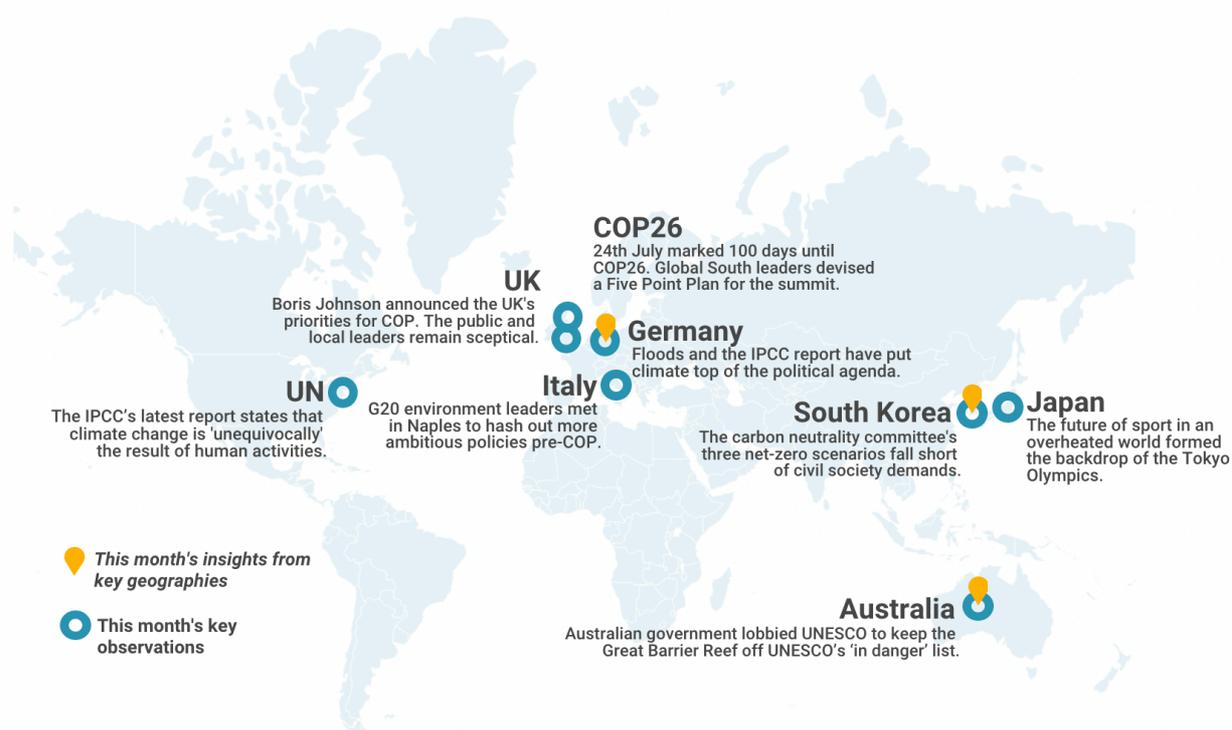


This month's key observations

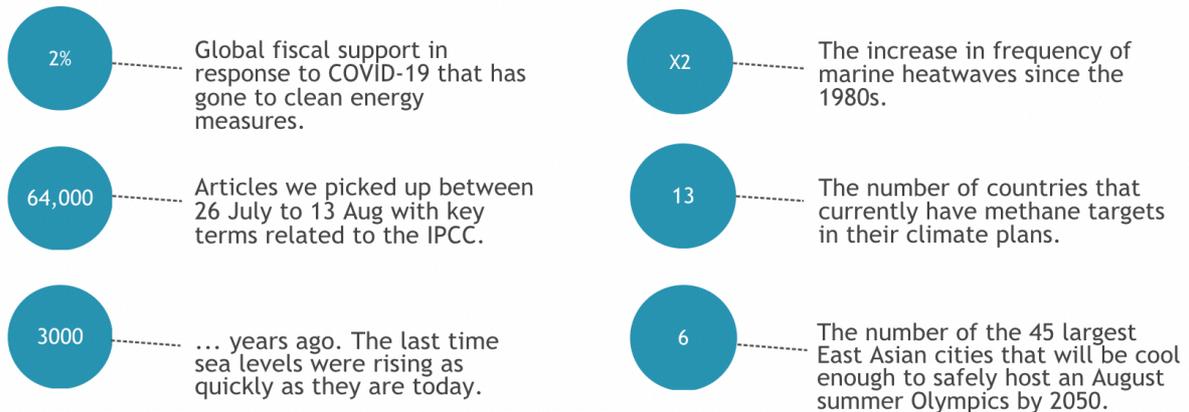
Overall, coverage for monitored topics in top-tier international media increased by 190% in comparison to the June/July period (estimated using Factiva), while social media engagement increased by 70% (according to Talkwalker). The significant increase is due to the avalanche of coverage of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) landmark report.

This month we focus on three main news stories:

- **The milestone (24 July) that marked 100 days left until Glasgow's COP26.** On that day, the lack of action and real commitments led experts and campaigners to question Boris Johnson's ability to deliver a successful summit. They continued to press for less talk and more action.
- **Coverage of the long-awaited IPCC climate report.** The report is the UN body's starkest warning yet and it made headlines across the world. Dubbed a 'code-red for humanity' by the UN Secretary General, scientists left no room for doubt - climate change is unequivocally the result of human activities and we are speeding headfirst into more intense and common extreme weather and increasingly unpredictable and irreversible climate changes if we do not act now.
- **Climate coverage related to the Tokyo Olympics,** where questions about the future of sport in an overheated world provided a concerning backdrop to the Games.



This month in numbers



International media coverage

Less than 100 days left 'till Glasgow

The 24 July marked 100 days to go until the doors of COP26 open in Glasgow. In a speech at [London's Kew Gardens](#), US special climate envoy John Kerry set the tone by stating that COP26 is a [crucial moment](#) worldwide. "In little more than 100 days, we can save the next hundred years" he said. [Boris Johnson appeared in a video](#), urging that the time had come to "make a difference now to protect the planet for generations to come". Alluding to the nation's offshore wind capacity, [he touted the UK as "the Saudi Arabia of wind"](#) and applauded his own government's steps to net-zero.

But such self congratulation was met with a [chorus of disapproval from climate experts](#) and campaigners, who called for ["deeds not words"](#). Or, as [elegantly put by British academic Rachel Kyte](#): "If only words put out fires and diverted floods". These experts warned that Johnson remains wilfully unprepared for the COP and [urged the Prime Minister](#) to redouble his efforts immediately.

Later, in response to the IPCC report, Boris Johnson unveiled the UK's priorities in the run up to the COP, stressing the importance of ["coal, cars, cash and trees"](#). These include a commitment to restore nature and deliver the long-overdue climate finance of USD 100 billion a year to developing countries. Despite all the government's talk, the public remains sceptical. Half of respondents [in a poll for the Independent](#) were unsure of the COP26 summit's goals, with the majority doubtful that Johnson can deliver a successful deal for the climate. Likewise local UK leaders are sceptical, [like the Mayor of Newham](#) in

London, who have said the government is not providing enough resources and investment to achieve net-zero. Meanwhile, Global South leaders have devised a Five-[Point Plan](#) for COP26 as experts zoom in on what the [Glasgow PACT](#) should look like.

Just ahead of the 100-day mark, [a new report by the International Energy Agency](#) showed [that only 2% of global COVID-19 recovery cash](#) has gone to the renewable energy transition. On 22 July, [G20 environment leaders gathered in Naples](#) to hash out more ambitious policies pre-Glasgow, but reports reveal that [negotiations](#) were fraught as nations failed to reach an agreement on phasing out coal or ending fossil fuel subsidies. The lack of concrete net-zero actions and timelines concern commentators, [who worry that not enough has been done](#) yet to ensure COP26 is a success. The inclusivity of the event was also questioned - countries in the Global South [continued to express concerns](#) that attending the conference will be an insurmountable task due to high costs, [quarantines](#), travel bans and a lack of vaccinations.

Coverage highlights

- [100 days to Cop26: protesters urge Boris Johnson to take climate talks seriously](#) (The Guardian)
- [Boris Johnson urged to step up efforts to get agreement at climate summit](#) (The Independent)
- [Countries Have 100 Days Before a Landmark Climate Conference. Will They Come Together in Time?](#) (TIME)
- [The clock is ticking to make Cop26 a success](#) (Rachel Kyte for The Times)
- [Fraught G20 meeting on new climate targets highlights divisions](#) (The Financial Times)
- [The Guardian view on the climate summit: 100 days to save the world](#) (The Guardian)
- [With 100 days until COP26, the Paris agreement pledges are crucial](#) (The Financial Times)
- [How a Glasgow PACT can advance the climate agenda at Cop26](#) (Climate Home News)

The IPCC's starkest warning yet

The [IPCC's long-awaited climate report](#), released on 9 Aug, triggered an avalanche of climate news - from 26 July to 13 August we picked up over 64,000 articles globally using keywords related to the IPCC (using the social listening tool Talkwalker). The report - which was signed by nearly 200 UN member countries [after a novel two-week Zoom negotiation](#) - served as a stark and timely warning on the state of the climate and the

future we are currently heading for. Dubbed a [“code red” for humanity](#) by the UN’s Antonio Guterres, the landmark report leaves no space for doubt - climate change [is unequivocally](#) the result of human activities and is increasing heatwaves, droughts and flooding to the point where we are dangerously close to breaching important temperature targets (like 1.5°C).

Headlines around the world centred on the IPCC. Some highlighted the irreversibility of certain climate impacts, like sea level rise and glacial retreat (see [Business Green](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#)), while others honed in on the rate of warming ([like CNN](#)) or the projected increase in extreme weather (see [The Washington Post](#)). *Hot tip - read this excellent [Carbon Brief round-up of the main IPCC headlines](#) for more.*

The frank report puts [increased pressure on Glasgow](#). Politicians are now being squeezed between the science, which is confirming a sense of alarm, the capital markets, which are scared investments will lose value, and the concerned public, which is becoming ever-more engaged, [according to E3G’s Tom Burke](#). COP26 president Alok Sharma [called the report](#) a “wake up call for the world”, [but also highlighted that](#) “the future is not yet written”, and that the worst of climate change is still avoidable, if we act now. The IPCC report is yet another tool negotiators can use to extract more ambitious outcomes from the COP, [according to Bloomberg Green](#).

The IPCC report also placed [methane solidly on the agenda](#) - only 13 countries have methane emissions targets in their climate plans today, despite the fact that methane is a more potent greenhouse gas than CO2 (28 more times over a 100 year period). [This has to change](#) if we are to avoid climate catastrophe, scientists warned this month.

Coverage highlights

- [Climate change: IPCC report is 'code red for humanity'](#) (BBC)
- [IPCC report prompts calls to tackle methane emissions at Cop26](#) (Climate Home News)
- [Extreme weather tormenting the planet will worsen because of global warming, U.N. panel finds](#) (The Washington Post)
- [Major New Climate Report Puts Pressure on COP26 to ‘Consign Coal to History’](#) (Bloomberg Green)
- [Climate scientists have done their bit. Now the pressure is on leaders for COP26](#) (CNN)

The future of the Olympics in a heating world

The Tokyo Olympics saw the US bring home 113 medals, followed by China's 88 and Japan's 58, and at the time of writing the Paralympics is set to provide even more sports-fuelled excitement.

But behind the celebrations, concerns about the way in [which heat extremes](#) are impacting sports led [to coverage about the future of sport in an overheated world](#). Climate change, as well as the compounded urban heat island effect, has made Tokyo [nearly 3°C hotter](#) than it was in 1900. But it's not just about the heat - a 'wet-bulb globe' temperature is used to assess the overall health impact of heat, humidity and wind, all of [which have combined to make the Tokyo Olympics](#) one of the hottest ever.

By [2050, there is a risk that no more than six of the 45 largest East Asian cities](#) will be cool enough to safely host an August Olympics. And it's not just Asia - increasing heat may completely wreck the chances of cities like New York, Rome, Athens, Baku and Chicago hosting the summer Olympics. For Alejandro de la Garza of TIME, watching the Olympics amid the endless compounding climate disasters (like the floods in Germany and China and wildfires across Greece) [brings an uneasiness](#) - as we plan Olympic Games far into the 2030s, he questions why we are not thinking beyond business as usual and asks if the ways in which we plan these multi-national events needs to change.

Coverage highlights

- [Climate change makes for a hot Olympics](#) (The Independent)
- ['Hottest games ever': At the Tokyo Olympics, elite sport met the climate crisis](#) (Climate Home News)
- [How future Olympics and athlete health could be threatened by climate change](#) (USA Today)
- [The Summer Olympics vs Global warming](#) (Nikkei Asia)

Insights from key geographies

Below is a brief summary of media coverage in three key countries, and news

that helped shape the narrative.

South Korea

[There has been increasing public awareness](#) of climate change and the IPCC report has been [well received](#) here - many have since raised voices for urgent and ambitious action. Presidential candidates have talked up their pledges for it, and the national assembly has [discussed bills](#) to cement the 2050 carbon neutrality goal into law. However, the government's and policy-makers' efforts are [falling short](#). The carbon neutrality committee's three net-zero scenarios are all disappointing, falling short of what civil society has demanded. For example, the ruling party has [passed a bill](#) that only aims to cut GHG emissions by 35% (or more) from 2018 levels. So there is still a huge gap between what needs to be done and what the government is actually doing.

Germany

The deadly July floods and the launch of the IPCC report have put climate on the top of the public agenda in Germany. The parties competing in the federal elections on 26 Sept are engaging in a [rhetorical race](#) to the top for more climate action (except the far right AfD party), and a competition about the best, cheapest and fairest measures to reduce emissions. However, the Green Party's proposal to install a climate ministry with a veto right over other ministries, in case they are not compatible with the Paris Climate Agreement, has [met with resistance](#) from potential coalition partners. The 2038 coal exit has come under fire again and most chancellor candidates are in favour of an earlier exit if possible.

On 21 July, Germany and the US [reached an agreement](#) that will allow the completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. That means the transatlantic relationship has been painstakingly repaired but makes Germany responsible for putting Ukraine into a difficult position with Russia.

Australia

The [IPCC report](#) has failed to move the Australian government to make further climate commitments, despite evidence that Australia has already warmed 1.4°C. The government's response sought to downplay its polluting role and shift attention to developing countries' emissions. There is, however, evidence that Australia is increasingly sensitive to international climate condemnation. For example, the government launched an unprecedented [diplomatic lobbying mission](#) to prevent UNESCO from downgrading the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef as 'in danger' due to climate change. As Australia

moves closer to the COP26 Summit, it is expected to come under greater pressure to deliver a net-zero target from US, UK and European [diplomatic representatives](#). Even so, it is widely believed that Australia's position will be largely insufficient, based on both the science but also the diplomatic expectations at the summit.

Climate coverage with the highest social media engagement

Of all the English-language articles and social media posts related to COP26, NDCs and international climate diplomacy posted over the month, the following pieces attracted the most public engagement on social media, measured by the total number of shares, likes, retweets and mentions. This is compiled using Talkwalker.

Articles from climate and foreign affairs journalists

[IPCC report's verdict on climate crimes of humanity: guilty as hell](#) - Damian Carrington

[Reduce methane or face climate catastrophe, scientists warn](#) - Fiona Harvey

['Consider not rinsing plates before dishwashing', suggests Prime Minister's COP26 spokeswoman](#) - Ben Riley Smith

[Government climate tsar still drives a diesel car](#) - Ben Riley Smith

[A brain drain among government scientists bogs down Biden's climate ambitions](#) - Christopher Flavelle

Online Media

[Thunberg calls out climate impact of fashion brands in Vogue interview](#) - Vogue Scandinavia has featured Greta Thunberg on the cover of its first issue. Thunberg told Vogue that fashion brands needed to take responsibility for the environmental impact of their products. (BBC)

131.2K

engagements

[Climate change: IPCC report is 'code red for humanity'](#). - The new IPCC report shows that human activity is changing the climate in unprecedented and sometimes irreversible ways, requiring cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases, fast. The BBC quotes UN chief Guterres that the report "is a code red for humanity". (Matt McGrath - BBC)

125K

engagements

[Major climate changes inevitable and irreversible - IPCC's starkest warning yet](#) - The Guardian's coverage of the IPCC report links findings to recent extreme weather, quoting Ed Hawkins: "We are already experiencing climate change, including more frequent and extreme weather events, and for many of these impacts there is no going back." (Fiona Harvey - Guardian)

58.3K

engagements

[Climate change report from IPCC a 'code red for humanity', United Nations chief warns](#) - ABC news open with the stark fact that 'the Earth could be just 10 years from heating by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius', and reports that the UK has called for the rest of the world to take action ahead of COP26. (Michael Slezak and Penny Timms - ABC News)

25.9K

engagements

[Climate change: Five things we have learned from the IPCC report](#) - BBC list their top 5 take-aways from the report. #1: 'Climate change is widespread, rapid and intensifying - and it's down to us'. (Matt McGrath - BBC)

18.1K

engagements

Social media

Our planet is worth more than fossil fuel profits. Oil and gas companies like @shell @exxonmobil @chevron @bp_plc @totalenergies_fr have known for decades that their toxic pollution is causing climate disaster, but they chose to put profit for a few above the health of people and planet. ([Greenpeace](#) on Instagram)

158.5K

engagements

As the world is facing a summer of extreme weather events supercharged by the climate crisis, we need to remember that plastic pollution is also a climate, health and social justice issue. ([Greenpeace](#) on Instagram)

106.3K

engagements

Okay, we'll do that if you... don't approve a massive new oil field and pull millions of barrels of fossil fuels out of the ground until 2050. #StopCambo #COP26 ([Gemma Styles](#), writer and influencer, on Twitter)

9.5K
engagements

@BorisJohnson the deliberate devastation of whole communities isn't a joke - when a PM & old Etonian lies about working class history to cover up his inaction as host of world climate conference, it's not funny, it's disrespectful & devious #apologise ([Caroline Lucas](#), Green MP for Brighton, UK, on Twitter)

8.1K
engagements

Live monitoring dashboards

Bookmark this: live snapshots on COP26 and climate diplomacy

The Talkwalker Global Dashboard shows statistics and top articles for the global conversation about coronavirus in mainstream and social media in the past seven days.

[ENTER GLOBAL DASHBOARD](#)

The Talkwalker GSCC Dashboard shows statistics and top articles in the media space on key issues we care about: climate, energy, transport, finance and nature, across mainstream and social media from the past 30 days.

[ENTER GSCC DASHBOARD](#)

This monthly email provides a snapshot and brief analysis of the major themes in the international media coverage of climate and energy. The media monitoring service will be provided every month in the run-up to the COP26 negotiations, taking place in November [2021](#) in the UK.

The analysis provides an assessment of how - and how much - climate and international diplomacy is being discussed in international media. Drawing together insight from the social listening tool Talkwalker and English-language media coverage from the database Factiva, as well as global intel and analysis from the GSCC network.

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