

Institute, the oyster is making a return. The reintroduction of oysters to Dublin Bay represents more than ecological restoration – it's a revival of cultural heritage and collective memory.

<https://theconversation.com/thousands-of-oysters-are-being-re-introduced-to-dublin-bay-as-natures-super-water-cleaners-269868>

Tuesday 30th December

After more than three years of dispute, it was agreed at COP30 that next year's summit will take place in Antalya, Turkey, with rival bidder Australia acting as "president of negotiations". It was also agreed that COP32 will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2027. This will be the first-ever COP hosted by one of the least-developed countries. Speaking to the press in Belém, Australian climate minister Chris Bowen explained that there would be a pre-COP meeting in the Pacific next year. Bowen added: "As COP president of negotiations, I would have all the powers of

COP presidency to manage, to handle the negotiations, to appoint co-facilitators, to prepare draft text and to issue the cover decision."

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop30-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-climate-talks-in-bellem/>

Wednesday 31st December

Eternal Lord God,
we give you thanks for bringing us through the changes of time to the beginning of another year.

Forgive us the wrong we have done in the year that is past, and help us to spend the rest of our days

to your honour and glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons-0#mmm59>

Picture on front cover: Image by Moondance from Pixabay

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Prayer guide for the care of creation



December 2025

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;

 **Green Christian**
Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times

Monday 1st December

Join with many other Christians from around the world with the monthly Pray and Fast for the Climate Movement on the first of each month. Prayer points for December will be on their website.

Merciful God, we believe that you uphold and sustain all that you have made, while also lovingly giving us the freedom to live in relationship with the rest of creation. We ask your forgiveness for the ways we have abused that freedom, through what we have done and what we have left undone. We bring our lament and our longing for a renewed earth to you now: (prayer from Christian Climate Action's prayer for climate grief).

<https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/resource/s/>

Tuesday 2nd December

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa said [at the end of G20 summit in late November] that the declaration from [the] summit reflected a "renewed commitment to multilateral cooperation", concluding a meeting that pitted him against his U.S. counterpart. Ramaphosa, host of the Johannesburg summit, pushed through the declaration addressing challenges like the climate crisis despite objections from the United States, which boycotted the event. Addressing the closing ceremony, Ramaphosa said the declaration showed world leaders' "shared goals outweigh our differences". U.S. President Donald Trump boycotted the November 22-23 summit on the grounds of allegations, which have been

comprehensively falsified, that the host country's Black majority government persecutes its white minority. Trump had also rejected South Africa's agenda of helping developing nations transition to clean energy, cut their crippling debt costs and adapt to climate change-induced weather disasters.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/south-africa-says-g20-summit-outcome-renews-commitment-multilateralism-2025-11-23/>

Wednesday 3rd December

December's online workshop is tonight. It will be a gathering to reflect on the loss of species with prayer, music and reflection. The event will be led by Cat Jenkins. 7pm, zoom.

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/remembering-lost-species/>

Thursday 4th December

After all-night negotiations [at COP30] in the Amazonian city of Belém, the Brazilian presidency released a final package termed the "global mutirão" – a name meaning "collective efforts". It was an attempt to draw together controversial issues that had divided the fortnight of talks, including finance, trade policies and meeting the Paris Agreement's 1.5C temperature goal. A "mechanism" to help ensure a "just transition" globally and a set of measures to track climate-adaptation efforts were also among COP30's notable outcomes. Scores of nations that had backed plans to "transition away" from fossil fuels and "reverse deforestation" instead accepted COP30 president André Corrêa do Lago's compromise proposal of "roadmaps"

Saturday 27th December

Each summer, in England, water quality is monitored at over 400 beaches, rivers and lakes which are popular for swimming. At the end of the bathing season, which officially runs from 15th May to 31st September, these bathing water sites are each given a rating based on health-related water quality standards; these range from the minimum 'Sufficient' standard to the top 'Excellent'. Designed to protect public health, these ratings also affect local communities, businesses, tourism, opportunities for recreation and the public's confidence in how well our water system is managed... this year's results show that 417 (93%) bathing water sites in England met at least minimum bathing water standards, with 297 (66%) also meeting the highest 'Excellent' standard – a slight increase from 2024. 32 sites (7%) were rated as 'Poor' – five fewer than last year – meaning that they failed to meet the minimum legal standards for safe bacteria levels and water users are at greater risk of becoming ill from water pollution, including ear, nose, throat and stomach infections.

<https://www.mcsuk.org/news/bathing-water-results-2025/>

Sunday 28th December

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer: fill us with your heavenly gifts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/advent#mmm19>

Monday 29th December

For over 200 years, native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) have been absent in Dublin Bay, writes Fiona Regan. Once abundant along the Irish coast, they thrived in the sheltered estuaries and tidal flats that shaped the city's maritime life. Historical records from the 18th and early 19th centuries describe vast oyster beds stretching across the bay. They were a vital food source, a cornerstone of coastal trade and a symbol of Dublin's connection to the sea. By the mid-1800s, however, the beds had collapsed. A combination of over fishing, industrial pollution, development, habitat destruction, and disease decimated the population. It left behind only fragments of shell in the sediment as traces of what had once been a thriving marine ecosystem... Now, through collaborative efforts led by the Green Ocean Foundation, a not-for-profit marine environmental organisation, as well as local volunteers and the Dublin City University Water

largest and highest value marine markets. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a 184 nation treaty that regulates – or, for the most endangered species, bans – international trade in wildlife products. Species listed on Appendix II can be traded only if the trade is proven sustainable and legal; those on Appendix I cannot be traded commercially at all. DNA evidence from Hong Kong's markets shows fins from CITES-listed species, including critically endangered oceanic whitetip and hammerhead sharks, still traded in massive numbers. Up to 95% of oceanic whitetip shark trade is illegal, despite global protections. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) says findings highlight the need for Appendix I uplisting and tougher enforcement of CITES and fisheries rules
<https://saveourseas.com/new-study-reveals-persistent-illegal-trade-in-protected-sharks>

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

Loving Father,
 Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
 that we may share in the song of the
 angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and
 worship of the wise men.
 Close the door of hate and open the door of
 love all over the world.
 Let kindness come with every gift and good
 desires with every greeting.
 Deliver us from evil by the blessing which
 Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with
 clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy
 to be thy children, and Christmas evening
 bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
 forgiving and forgiven,
 for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

Attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson,
<https://hallow.com/blog/christmas-prayer-catholic-blessings/#st-andrews-novena>

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

May the joy of the angels,
 the eagerness of the shepherds,
 the perseverance of the wise men,
 the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
 and the peace of the Christ-child
 be yours this Christmas;
<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churches-year/times-and-seasons-0#mmm39>

Friday 26th December

There is a rising clamour for reform of the
 UN climate process. It was on the COP
 agenda for the first time in Belém, under the
 title, “arrangements for intergovernmental
 meetings” (AIM). Ideas on the table
 included capping the size of national
 delegations, as well as “sunsetting” agenda
 items and limiting the number of new issues
 that could be added. Ultimately, COP30
 adopted very limited conclusions that simply
*“invited parties to pursue efficiency in the
 consideration of agenda items at sessions”*.
 Talks will continue next year.
<https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop30-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-climate-talks-in-belem/>

outside the formal UN regime. Billed as a
 COP of “truth” and “implementation”, the
 event – which took place 10 years on from
 the Paris Agreement – was seen as a
 moment to showcase international
 cooperation. Yet, the lack of consensus on
 key issues and rising salience of “unilateral
 trade measures” and financial shortfalls
 revealed deep divisions. The event itself
 also faced numerous logistical challenges,
 including a lengthy delay to negotiations
 when a fire broke out, forcing thousands of
 attendees to evacuate.
<https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop30-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-climate-talks-in-belem/>

Friday 5th December

The [G20's] outcome [last month] infuriated
 the United States, next year's G20 host.
 The White House accused South Africa of
 weaponizing its presidency to undermine
 the G20's founding principles on unanimous
 consensus. It said U.S. President Donald
 Trump would restore its “legitimacy” while
 hosting next year. The White House had no
 immediate comment when asked if it
 planned to disinvite South Africa from next
 year's G20 events... President Cyril
 Ramaphosa declined an American offer to
 hand over the rotating G20 presidency to a
 junior diplomat. That ceremony will now
 take place between equivalent diplomats
 [early December] Washington is expected
 to narrow the G20's focus during its
 presidency, which coincides with the United
 States' 250th anniversary, to just the
 leaders' summit and financial forum,
 jettisoning other working groups and

ministers' meetings on energy, health and
 the environment. The International
 Monetary Fund and World Bank are still
 invited, but Washington plans to exclude
 United Nations organisations, a source
 familiar with the plans said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/g20-declaration-defiance-us-marks-rare-victory-multilateralism-2025-11-24/>

Saturday 6th December

The Amazon is often treated as a single
 forest, yet the risks its people face from
 extreme weather vary sharply across
 borders, writes Rhett Ayers Butler. A new
 analysis by researchers from Brazil,
 Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia and the United
 States suggests those risks are also widely
 undercounted. The team compiled more
 than 12,500 reports of storms, floods,
 landslides, droughts and wildfires between
 2013 and 2023, covering five countries.
 Even with major gaps, the picture is grim. In
 a single year, more than 3 million people
 were affected and more than 100,000
 pieces of public infrastructure
 damaged...The broader concern is
 mounting vulnerability. Many affected
 communities depend on forests, rivers and
 small-scale farming. When drought exposes
 riverbeds, food security collapses. When
 floods overwhelm sanitation systems in
 river cities like Manaus, tens of thousands
 are exposed to untreated wastewater. And
 wildfire smoke now reaches major urban
 centers, driving respiratory illness far
 beyond the fire zones. The study concludes
 that the region lacks the shared data,
 coordination and long-term planning

required to cope with worsening climate risks.

<https://news.mongabay.com/short-article/2025/11/weather-disasters-are-surging-in-the-amazon-reporting-isnt/>

Sunday 7th December

Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churches-year/times-and-seasons/advent#mmm19>

Monday 8th December

The seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) will take place from 8 to 12 December 2025 at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya...UNEA-7 will be held under the theme “*Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet*”, sending a strong message to accelerate sustainable. The draft resolutions or decisions submitted by Member States for adoption by UNEA represent current collective thinking on

pressing environmental issues, build consensus and are a vital first step in spurring action. They also define priority areas of work for UNEP and are therefore central in the process.

<https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/resources/updates/towards-the-7th-session-of-the-united-nations-environment-assembly-unea-7/>

Tuesday 9th December

UNEP Executive Director, Inger Andersen, released the first part of her report on UNEA-7 “*Priorities for advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet*” (UNEP/EA.7/2), suggesting possible areas for UNEA-7 resolutions for the consideration of Member States, such as:

- Addressing the global hydrological cycle
- Tackling nutrient pollution
- Critical energy and digital transition minerals
- Protecting the stratosphere
- Deploying and scaling environmentally sustainable artificial intelligence

The second part (UNEP/EA.7/2(II)) of the report takes a broader view, reflecting on UNEA’s evolution over the past decade. It draws lessons from its first ten years and explores how the Assembly can continue to grow as a vital platform for global environmental governance. This reflection aims to ensure UNEA remains responsive, inclusive, and effective in addressing the complex environmental challenges of our time.

<https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/resources/updates/towards-the-7th-session-of-the-united-nations-environment-assembly-unea-7/>

border to be sold as pets, from monkeys and exotic birds to venomous snakes, writes Spoorthy Ramen. The state has three high-traffic border crossings with Mexico and millions of tons of cargo shipped through some of the nation’s busiest airports and seaports. With limited staff, resource-strapped agencies face serious challenges in policing the illegal import of protected plants and animals into California. Poachers also target California’s native plants and reptiles, threatening local species. Meanwhile, some imported animals get loose and become invasive species that destroy ecosystems or may carry diseases, creating public health risks. As traffickers exploit new technologies and follow market demand for different animals, enforcement officials struggle to control the influx of illegally traded species.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2025/11/its-whack-a-mole-alarming-rise-in-pet-trade-fuels-wildlife-trafficking-into-california/>

Sunday 21st December

Heavenly Father,
you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son:

forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:
help us also to prepare your way.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you speak through the prophets:
make us attentive to hear your word.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churches-year/times-and-seasons/advent#mmm19>

Monday 22nd December

The role of nature recovery in driving economic growth is to be set out under new corporate strategy from Natural England published [in November]. Healthy nature is the foundation of a strong and productive economy. This strategy, “*Recovering Nature for Growth, Health and Security*”, reflects Natural England’s ambition to build more diverse partnerships and enhance collaboration with different sectors to realise the opportunities that nature recovery holds for growth... This new strategy clears a pathway to making nature-based solutions an integral part of how we build and invest for the future. It sets out how Natural England will support business to deliver its ambitions while growing nature. A key part of the strategy is a shift away from site-by-site species-by-species interventions and towards achieving nature recovery at scale across whole landscapes and seascapes.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/natural-england-sets-out-new-vision-for-nature-and-growth-with-corporate-strategy>

Tuesday 23rd December

A new study published [in November] in *Science Advances* reveals widespread non-compliance with international trade protections for endangered sharks, showing that global wildlife-trade rules are being routinely violated in one of the world’s

health centres – has limited the ability to provide assistance and delayed the restoration of basic services.

<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/photo-feature/2025/11/19/jamaican-communities-fight-recover-hurricane-melissa>

Thursday 18th December

The absence of the US from talks in Belém sparked expectations that China would assume the mantle of leader. However, Chinese climate leaders consistently refuted these calls. Chinese climate envoy Liu Zhenmin said that the commentators were just “*the west giving us a ‘tall hat’*” – meaning trying to flatter China. Wang Yi, vice-chair of China’s expert panel on climate change, said in an interview with the Guardian that he did not think China “*would like to play a leadership role*”. At the China pavilion, the word “leadership” was rarely, if ever, uttered by the nations’ delegates. However, they still sought to position the country as a strong advocate for multilateral climate action and the global energy transition. Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) head Huang Runqiu said during the first session at the China pavilion, attended by Carbon Brief: “*We have become a committed actor and active contributor to green and low-carbon development.*”

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop30-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-climate-talks-in-belem/>

Friday 19th December

In a world of political uncertainty, democratic checks and balances matter, writes Ruth Chambers. As we approach the

last four months of the sixth Senedd [in Wales] [t]he Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill is one of those pieces of legislation. It will plug much of the governance gap around environmental protection created by Brexit, setting up a new watchdog and building environmental principles into policy making. It will also set a new pathway to recover lost species and habitats, as Wales attempts to shed its sorry crown as one of the most nature depleted countries in the world... While the bill has been consistently welcomed across the political spectrum, it was disappointing to see Laura Anne Jones from Reform vote against it last week. She was the only MS to do so... The bill will lead to the creation of a new oversight body, the Office of Environmental Governance Wales (OEGW). Its role will be to hold Welsh Ministers and public authorities to account on their environmental obligations, regardless of which party controls them. At one end of the spectrum, it will be able to provide advice and publish reports on how well environmental laws are working. At the other, it will be able to enforce non-compliance of environmental laws, including in the High Court if needed, with contempt of court a hopeful deterrent to law breaking. <https://greenallianceblog.org.uk/2025/11/20/at-a-crossroads-why-wales-must-futureproof-its-new-green-governance/>

Saturday 20th December

California has become a wildlife trafficking hotspot in the U.S., with a notable spike in live animals smuggled across the southern

Wednesday 10th December

The next global volcanic disaster is more likely to come from volcanoes that appear dormant and are barely monitored than from the likes of famous volcanoes such as Etna in Sicily or Yellowstone in the US, writes Mike Cassidy. Often overlooked, these “hidden” volcanoes erupt more often than most people realise. In regions like the Pacific, South America and Indonesia, an eruption from a volcano with no recorded history occurs every seven to ten years. And their effects can be unexpected and far-reaching. One volcano has just done exactly that. In November 2025, the Hayli Gubbi volcano in Ethiopia has erupted for the first time in recorded history (at least 12,000 years that we know of). It sent ash plumes 8.5 miles into the sky, with volcanic material falling in Yemen and drifting into air space over northern India. You don’t have to look far back in history to find another example. In 1982, the little-known and unmonitored Mexican volcano El Chichón erupted explosively after lying dormant for centuries... The sulphur from the eruption formed reflective particles in the upper atmosphere, cooling the northern hemisphere and shifting the African monsoon southwards, causing extreme drought [in eastern Africa and Ethiopia in the mid 1980s].

<https://theconversation.com/the-worlds-little-known-volcanoes-pose-the-greatest-threat-266292>

Thursday 11th December

At COP30, rows over the definition of gender emerged across some high-profile negotiation streams. Argentina, Paraguay and the Holy See – the governing body of the Vatican – among others, sought to emphasise binary approaches to gender in COP decisions... At COP30, parties were officially tasked with adopting a new “gender action plan” (GAP), following the renewal of the Lima work programme on gender at COP29 in Baku... The GAP sets out five “priority areas” for action:

1. Capacity-building, knowledge management and communication.
2. Gender balance, participation and women’s leadership.
3. Coherence across different workstreams, processes and other UN conventions.
4. Gender-responsive] implementation and means of implementation.
5. Monitoring and reporting.

In a press conference on 19 November, Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland, UN high commissioner for human rights and chair of the Elders, said: “*Gender equality isn’t an add-on to climate policy, it’s a measure of its effectiveness. When women and gender-diverse people are at the table, climate policies are more ambitious, more inclusive and more durable.*”

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop30-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-climate-talks-in-belem/>

Friday 12th December

A shocking new analysis estimates that almost 13,000 lemurs are slaughtered and eaten every year, writes Liam Gilliver.

Lemurs are at serious risk of being driven into extinction as affluent city dwellers ramp up demand for so-called luxury meat. The small primates, known for their bushy tails and large eyes, are already classed as one of the world's most endangered species. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), more than 90 per cent of the 112 lemur species are threatened with extinction and have been placed on the Red List. While habitat loss, illegal logging and hunting have fuelled the population's demise – a recently discovered appetite for lemur meat poses a new danger. A four-year study in Madagascar has exposed the "startling" extent of the country's backstreet demand for luxury meat, despite a 60-year old ban on hunting lemurs.

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2025/11/26/on-e-of-the-worlds-most-endangered-species-is-being-eaten-into-extinction-researchers-warn>

Saturday 13th December

India's shift to licensed recycling to gain critical minerals takes away work from informal hubs like Delhi's Seelampur district, writes Bhasker Tripathi. In a dim room off a crowded alley in northeast Delhi, Shahjahan sits on the floor peeling wires with a knife. Her two children sort copper beside her, taking care to avoid tripping on scrap when they move across the room. She earns a few hundred rupees, or about \$2, a day by breaking down discarded electronics brought in by small scrap dealers. But the supply of e-waste is thinning, and Shahjahan's income is dwindling as more scrap moves to licensed

plants on the edge of the capital. "*If the work goes, what will we do?*" said Shahjahan, 32, who only gave her first name. India is cracking down on informal recycling in a bid to recover a greater proportion of minerals like copper, a key material in solar panels, batteries and electric vehicles. For people in Delhi's Seelampur district, the transition to formal recycling means the loss of work and income that have sustained the neighbourhood for decades.

<https://www.context.news/just-transition/in-delhis-e-waste-hub-indias-informal-workers-lose-business>

Sunday 14th December

Heavenly Father,
you call us to repent of our sins: soften our proud and stubborn hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you declared the forgiveness of God:
teach us to forgive one another.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you search our hearts and show us the truth: direct us in your way of righteousness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churches-year/times-and-seasons/advent#mmm19>

Monday 15th December

Senior ecologists call for an ecosystem approach as the only way to halt the vanishing of UK wildlife and, critically, protect the ecosystem services that nature provides, writes Brendan Montague. A new report today by the British Ecological Society and National Trust makes clear that human wellbeing over the coming years and decades will not depend on the extinction or abundance of particular wild species in particular places, but on ecosystems continuing to function in a resilient way. The expert authors of the *Aligning Environmental Agendas for Nature Recovery* report [saw] COP30 as a key opportunity for policymakers to align siloed policies tackling climate, nature, human health and prosperity. "*It's hard to think of anything more important*" comments Professor Sir John Lawton in his Foreword. <https://theecologist.org/2025/nov/19/if-ecosystems-go-we-go>

Tuesday 16th December

Electric vehicle charging stations have a stability problem, writes Sarah DeWeerd. As swarms of cars constantly plug in and yank their chargers out at random, every unpredictable connection sends a jolt through the system. Multiply that by a dozen or more fast chargers, and the result is power supply imbalances that can slow charging, stress equipment, and, in the worst cases, ripple instability out into the wider grid. In other words, the strain EVs place on the grid is not just from the massive need for power, it's from the chaos triggered by unpredictable and constantly fluctuating demand at charging stations. A

new study points to an unexpectedly elegant fix: add a device called a distribution static compensator (D-STATCOM). These gadgets aren't new, and they definitely aren't cheap, but they excel at one thing EV stations desperately need—switching between power source and power sink on a millisecond-by-millisecond basis to catch wild swings in demand before they cause trouble.

<https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2025/11/adding-one-elegantly-simple-device-to-charging-stations-could-tame-ev-charging-chaos/>

Wednesday 17th December

Nearly a month after Hurricane Melissa – one of the strongest Atlantic storms ever recorded – swept across Jamaica, killing at least 45 people, injuring hundreds, and leaving a path of destruction, aid groups still face significant logistical challenges to reach those in need, while communities struggle to recover, writes Migue Roth. In mid-November, when The New Humanitarian visited some of the hardest-hit parishes, large parts of the southwest of the island remained in darkness and roads were still blocked. Communication was intermittent in at least 30 communities that were still only accessible by air or by sea; and hopes for a full return to normality were fading amid mud, debris, and growing despair... According to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Melissa left some 30,000 households displaced and affected 182 communities, even as the damage to critical infrastructure – including hospitals and