

24 hour vigil. DESNZ. March 5th 12 noon - Thursday March 6th 12noon.

Places affected by Climate Emergency remembered on each hour

We remember this hour – Valencia in Spain. At the end of October, after a prolonged drought in Spain, a year's worth of rain fell in some areas in just 8 hours. The resulting floodwaters caused the deaths of at least 232 people and substantial property damage. A total of 36,000 people needed some form of rescue. Many of the fatalities were trapped in their cars in underground garages due to the rapid rise in water levels. 1,800 businesses were completely destroyed with damage to many more.

We remember this hour – the Philippines. By mid-November, six major storms had hit the Philippines in under a month. This was an unprecedented occurrence. By the end of November, 200,000 individuals were displaced. The unrelenting barrage of typhoons overwhelmed many of the country's systems, exhausting supplies and overstressing emergency responders.

We remember this hour – the central American country of Honduras. In November Tropical Storm Sara brought torrential rain and flooding cutting off 1,700 villages. Heavy rainfall created impassable roads and mudslides, causing many homes to be flooded. 250,000 people were impacted with over 5,000 homes suffering extensive damage, and 6 people lost their lives. Rebuilding communities is hampered because 10 bridges were destroyed and a further 19 were badly damaged.

We remember this hour – the island of Mayotte (off the South-East coast of Africa) where Cyclone Chido made landfall in December. Chido was considered the worst storm to affect Mayotte in 90 years, with the cyclone reportedly destroying approx. 80% of the island's structures. Thousands were feared dead, 5,600 were injured. In addition 45 people in Mozambique and 13 in Malawi lost their lives to Cyclone Chido.

We remember this hour – the southern provinces in Thailand. In December flooding impacted five southern provinces of Thailand, affecting at least 128,000 homes. 2000 villages reported flooding, and 8 people lost their lives. In the previous months, an additional 27 people had lost their lives to flooding in the southern provinces.

We remember this hour – Mecca in Saudi Arabia. In early January the National Meteorological Department issued red alerts for Mecca, Madinah and the port city Jeddah. Unprecedented torrential rains and severe floods transformed streets into rivers and swept cars away. Human chains were used to rescue children from cars. Earlier in the year the Gulf states were battered by record-breaking rainfall, leaving more than two dozen people dead.

We remember this hour – the town of Irupi in Brazil. Irupi is 360km north-east of Rio de Janeiro and has 14,000 inhabitants. In January a storm caused severe flooding in Irupi. Streets were inundated, cars were swept away, and properties were damaged.

We remember this hour – the remote village of Epuyen in Argentina. In January strong winds and high temperatures fed a blaze that tore through grassland and forest near the village of Epuyen, reducing areas of pristine wilderness to a smouldering ruin. An area roughly the size of 1,600 football fields caught fire in only five hours. 17 out of 23 Argentinian provinces suffered extreme temperatures during January.

We remember this hour – Santa Caterina state in Brazil. In January 6 cities declared state of emergencies due to flooding. More than half the volume of rain expected for the entire month of January fell in 3 hours causing floods and triggering landslides. There was one fatality, and 3,000 people displaced.

We remember this hour – Los Angeles. Throughout the middle of January, a series of 14 destructive wildfires affected the Los Angeles area. The fires were exacerbated by drought conditions, low humidity, and the hurricane-force Santa Ana winds. The wildfires killed at least 29 people, forced more than 200,000 to evacuate, and destroyed more than 18,000 homes and structures. The wildfires burned over 57,000 acres of land in total.

We remember this hour – Isiolo in Kenya. In mid-January a fierce wildfire consumed hundreds of hectares of livestock pasture used by for pastoralists in the Isiolo area. It destroyed approximately 6000 acres of livestock pasture that the local pastoralists had been conserving for two years for later use by their animals.

We remember this hour – Gilan Province in Iran. In late January heavy hail and flooding struck Gilan Province, causing disruptions and damage. Streets were submerged, and homes, infrastructure, vehicles, and agricultural land was damaged.

We remember this hour – Bintulu in the Sarawak region, Malaysia. At the end of January Bintulu experienced flooding that was described as the worst ever recorded, with more than 4,800 people evacuated. Several areas were impacted including residential neighbourhoods and petrochemical production plants, which have never experienced flooding before.

We remember this hour – Northern Queensland in Australia. In early February 2 people died due to torrential rain and flooding that inflicted “incredible” devastation on communities in Queensland. The region experienced 2m rainfall in a few days. Farmers and their crops were hit particularly hard.

We remember this hour – Hokkaido in Japan. In early February 120cm of snow fell in 12 hours – the highest ever recorded 12-hour total. Snow accumulations reached 1.3m leading to widespread disruption, including road closures, suspension of train services, flight cancellations, and hundreds of school closures.

We remember this hour – Rosario in Argentina. In the 1st week of February an intense hailstorm with hurricane-force winds caused havoc in Rosario. The area experienced widespread flooding causing significant material damage to the city.

We remember this hour – Patagonia in Argentina. By the 2nd week of February Patagonia was experiencing its worst wildfire season in decades. An area the size of Vancouver had burned since January, forcing hundreds of people to evacuate their homes. Central and northern Argentina were especially hot in January and February with maximum temperatures 3-5°C above normal.

We remember this hour – Ica in Peru. In mid-February Ica experienced torrential rain. Houses were swept away after the intense rains caused landslides. Significant damage was experienced by a large number of homes as well as health centres, police stations, schools, commercial premises, and agricultural areas. One of the most affected locations was the Regional Hospital of Ica, where the Intensive Care Unit collapsed due to rainwater.

We remember this hour – Guarulhos, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In mid-February a powerful storm caused severe flooding across areas of São Paulo submerging vehicles and causing much disruption. The storm led to massive power outages, affecting 77,000 homes in São Paulo. Many residents took refuge in the subway stations, several of which became over-crowded.

We remember this hour – Elba Island off the coast of Italy. In the 2nd week of February heavy rainfall caused flash floods on Elba Island. Streets were submerged, with cars floating in the floodwaters. Firefighters on the island rescued 28 people from cars that were trapped on roads after mudslides.

We remember this hour – Kefalonia in Greece. In mid-February heavy rainfall led to severe flooding and landslides across the island of Kefalonia. Rainfall totals exceeded 15cm over two days, causing widespread damage. Multiple people, including children, ended up trapped in their vehicles. The rainfall was described as “unprecedented”.

We remember this hour – Gaborone the capital of Botswana. In the 2nd half of February the President of Botswana reported that flash floods had killed 7 people (including 3 children) and uprooted thousands after days of heavy rain.

We remember this hour – Bandar Lampung in Sumatra, Indonesia. On 22nd & 23rd February heavy rainfall caused flash floods and landslides that resulted in casualties. There were 5 fatalities, and 11,500 affected homes.