



Centre for Social Change

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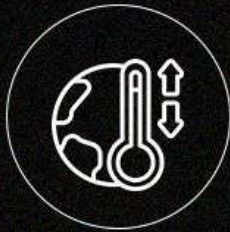
WHAT IS WILDFIRE?

Wildfires (also known as bushfires, brush fires or forest fires) are large, uncontrolled and potentially destructive fires that can affect both rural and urban areas.

They can spread quickly, change direction and even 'jump' across large distances when embers and sparks are carried by the wind.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND WILDFIRE: CO-RELATION

CLIMATE CHANGE DRIVES WILDFIRE



Rising Temperatures

Heat dries out vegetation, turning healthy forests into standing fuel.



Reduced Moisture

Lower air humidity increases the combustibility of the forest floor, making sparks more likely to ignite.



Prolonged Dry Seasons

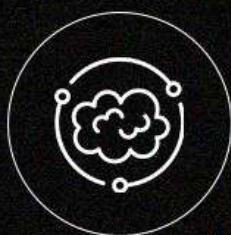
Shifting weather patterns extend the duration of the fire season, giving blazes more time to spread.



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WILDFIRE DRIVES CLIMATE CHANGE IN NEPAL



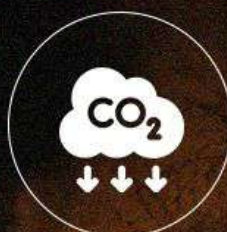
Massive Carbon Release

Wildfires substantially contribute to climate change by releasing stored carbon back into the atmosphere.



The "Black Carbon" Effect

Soot and smoke settle on Himalayan glaciers, darkening the ice and accelerating melting



Lost Carbon Sinks

Destroyed forests can no longer absorb CO₂, weakening Nepal's natural ability to fight global warming.



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Recent data highlights a dangerous shift:

Wildfires in Nepal are no longer just a spring threat. In early 2026, chronic winter droughts and delayed pre-monsoon rains fueled a massive surge in forest fires across the country. In mid-April 2026, smoke from these nationwide fires pushed Kathmandu to become the second most polluted major city in the world. Experts warn that without immediate nature-based solutions and community-led biomass management, climate-driven mega-fires will become a year-round systemic risk.