



Ecological Threat Report 2021

Why in News

Recently, the **Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP)**, an international think tank released the **Ecological Threat Report (ETR) 2021**: Understanding ecological threats, resilience and peace.

- This is the **second edition** of the ETR, which **covers 178 independent states** and territories.
- The **ETR includes the most recent and respected scientific research** on population growth, [water stress](#), [food insecurity](#), [droughts](#), [floods](#), [cyclones](#), and [rising temperature](#).

Key Points

▪ Conflict and Ecological Threats:

- **Around 1.26 billion people across 30 countries** are suffering from both extreme ecological risk and low levels of resilience.
 - These countries are least likely to be able to mitigate and adapt to new ecological threats, leading to mass displacement.
- As many as **13 countries faced extremely high** and 34 others faced high ecological threats.
- The most vulnerable countries are clustered in the **Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia**.
- **Ecological degradation and conflict work** in a vicious circle, whereby one degradation of resources leads to conflict and vice versa.
- [Climate change](#) will have an amplifying effect, causing further ecological degradation and pushing some countries through violent tipping points

▪ Food Risk:

- Global food insecurity has **increased by 44% since 2014**, affecting 30.4 % of the world's population in 2020, and is likely to rise further.
- As a region, **south Asia is the worst-placed**, with water and food risks driving the average ETR score in the region.
- [Covid-19](#) has **amplified food insecurity further** and will likely have a long-lasting negative impact on world hunger due to stagnant economic growth.

▪ Water Risk:

- **By 2040 over 5.4 billion people** will live in countries facing extreme water stress.
 - Lebanon and Jordan are the countries most at risk.
- **Sub-Saharan Africa has the most countries** with the lowest levels of social resilience combined with the highest population growth.
 - 70% of its population suffer from inadequate access to safely managed water, which will be compounded by high population growth.

▪ Rapid Population Growth:

- Eleven countries are projected to **double their population between 2021 and 2050**. They are all in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The three countries with the largest projected increases in population are **Niger, Angola and Somalia**, where the populations will increase by 161, 128 and 113% respectively.
- **Temperature Anomalies and Natural Disasters:**
 - From 1990 to 2020, a total of **10,320 natural disasters occurred globally**. **Flooding** has been the **most common natural disaster**, accounting for 42% of the total disaster count.
 - In 2020, **177 countries and territories recorded a warmer average temperature** compared to their historical average temperatures.
- **Recommendations:**
 - The report recommended a policy to **combine health, food, water, refugee relief, finance, agricultural and business development** into one integrated agency in high-risk areas and empowering local communities.

Internal Displacement in India

- According to report titled The '**Lost at Home**' published last year by the [United Nation Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#), more than **five million people were internally displaced in India** due to natural disasters, conflict and violence in 2019, constituting the **highest number of new internal displacements in the world** during the period followed by the Philippines, Bangladesh and China.
 - Almost 33 million new displacements were recorded in 2019 - **around 25 million were due to natural disasters** and **8.5 million as consequence of conflict and violence**.

[Source: DTE](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/ecological-threat-report-2021>