

# CLIMATE CHANGE REDRAW THE WORLD

The new edition of *The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World*, published on 3 September, reveals unequivocally how climate extremes are changing the face of the planet forever.

Despite a miserable 'monsoon' summer in Britain, temperatures elsewhere have soared. Eleven of the last 12 years now rank among the warmest on record, with intense rainfall at one extreme matched by devastating drought at the other. Since the last edition of the atlas just 4 years ago, the effects of ill-conceived irrigation projects and global warming have forced cartographers to re-draw coastlines and reclassify land types in many parts of the world.

Editor-in-Chief, Mick Ashworth says:

"We can literally see environmental disasters unfolding before our eyes. We have a real fear that in the near future famous geographical features will disappear forever."

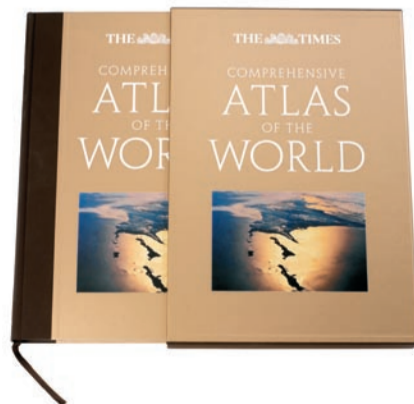
## Changes include:

- The Aral Sea in Central Asia has shrunk by 75% since 1967.
- Lake Chad in Africa has shrunk by 95% since 1963.
- The Dead Sea is 25m lower (more than five double decker buses stacked on top of one another) than it was 50 years ago.
- Sections of the Rio Grande, Yellow, Colorado and Tigris rivers are now drying out each summer. At some times of year the rivers don't even reach the sea.
- The Bangladesh coastline has had to be redrawn as more land is lost to the sea, as a result of heavier monsoons and rising sea levels.

- Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa has lost more than 80% of its ice cap in the last 100 years.
- The Pacific Islands of Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuata are all under serious threat from rising sea levels.

Computer models suggest that the Arctic could be ice-free in late summer by the latter part of this century. Furthermore, heat waves, extreme rainfall and flash floods are projected to increase, posing threats to health, ecosystems and human settlements. At the moment more than 1 billion people do not have access to sufficient fresh water to meet basic needs. An alarming increase in temperature is expected near the poles; and in parts of the Amazon which may become too dry to support the rainforest. Future editions of the atlas will chart these developments intensively.

Four years in the making, *The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World* is the world's most prestigious and authoritative atlas – painstakingly researched by a dedicated team of over 50 cartographers, with changes to the database made every 3.5 minutes using a 24-hour-a-day news feed.



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