



TV

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UN IN ACTION

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BOLIVIA'S GLACIER: A VANISHING FUTURE

VIDEO

SNOWY PEAKS OF GLACIERS

LANDSCAPES / GLACIERS

STREAM

GLACIOLOGISTS HIKE

EDSON RAMIREZ ON CAMERA

GLACIOLOGISTS HIKE SUMMIT

AUDIO

NARRATION

For thousands of years, the glaciers of Bolivia have been considered sacred. Their snow peaked summits rising toward the sky...reaching toward the sun. (12)

They provide some of the world's most breathtaking scenery...and something even more precious – water. (7)

But all that's changing ...and the consequences are devastating says this man says South America's leading glaciologist Edson Ramirez. (8.5)

EDSON RAMIREZ: (English) **M**

"It's very sad to find that the glaciers are actually disappearing. It's very dramatic, very, very dramatic." (6)

NARRATION

To show just how dramatic the loss, he takes us here - nearly 5,300 meters high -

to the summit of Bolivia's Chacaltaya glacier. (9)

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE – SKIERS GO DOWN THE SUMMIT SLOPE

Just a decade ago, it was the highest ski run in the world... but today...this is all that's left. (7)

DRIED UP CHACALTAYA GLACIER

According to Ramirez the snow and ice covering the glacier has shrunk a startling 90% since 1940. (7)

EDSON RAMIREZ ON CAMERA

EDSON RAMIREZ: (English) **M**
"The glacier is dead. Chacaltaya is dead."
(3)

ANDEAN GLACIERS

NARRATION

And he fears that neighboring glaciers in the Andes will share a similar fate, Many he warns may disappear within 40 years - due to both global warming and an increase in a climate change phenomenon known as El Nino. (14)

MONTAGE OF OIL BURNING OIL RIGS AND GRAPHICS

EDSON RAMIREZ ON CAMERA

EDSON RAMIREZ: (English) **M**
"If the people not react now in the next years it will be too late. We don't have a lot of time." (6)

ANDEAN VILLAGERS

NARRATION

But for tens of thousands of people in agricultural communities who rely on water from glacial lakes and streams for their livelihood it may already be too late...

GLACIER

People like seventy year-old Felicia Garcia.

(14)

FELICIA GARCIA ON CAMERA

FELICIA GARCIA: (Spanish) **F**
"The ice is melting because the sun is too hot, our water is drying up. We don't have it for our fields and at times not even to drink." (21)

NARRATION

FELICIA FARMS

The effect on crops here is disastrous. Felicia's harvest is half of what it was - there's barely enough to sell - and she fears soon, they'll have no food left at all. (11)

DRIED UP CROPS – MAIZE WORMS

FELICIA GARCIA: (Spanish) **F**

FELICIA GARCIA ON CAMERA

"God gave us everything, he can also take it away. The water, everything." (6)

NARRATION

ANDEAN COMMUNITY

Already the community that she's always known is disappearing...the men forced to leave in search of jobs, leaving women like her alone to try to keep their farms alive, tend to whatever livestock remains, and raise their families. (17)

LIVESTOCK / CHILDREN

FELIX IN HIS PROPERTY

Seeing these changes have been devastating says village leader Felix Quispe...His family worked this land for generations. (9)

FELIX QUISPE: (Spanish) **M**

FELIX ON CAMERA

"It is very sad, many people have left, houses are abandoned, some don't even

have roofs. This hurts me a lot, it affects me very much.” (12)

NARRATION

FELIX IN FIELD

Felix himself has been forced to leave behind the life he loves...to sell toilet paper and clean windows (*sound up: city noise*)... he joins so many others forced to migrate here to the adjoining cities of La Paz and El Alto. (16)

URBAN SLUMS

CONSTRUCTION IN CITY

But for him, and the cities' now nearly two million inhabitants, time may also be running out...their water supply is running low. (9)

GUTIERREZ ON CAMERA

JOSE GUTIERREZ: (English) **M**
“This is the reservoir that provides water to one of the main cities in Bolivia.” (5)

RESERVOIR

NARRATION

With some 20% of the reservoirs water supply coming from glaciers, many climate change experts, like Jose Gutierrez, are very worried. (8.5)

GUTIERREZ ON CAMERA

JOSE GUTIERREZ: (English) **M**
“What the world will do when two million people will not have water for drinking?” (5)

HYDROELECTRICAL POWER PLANT

NARRATION

And water is also needed to generate an estimated 90% of the cities' electricity. (6)

JOSE GUTIERREZ: (English) **M**

GLACIERS / STREAMS / LIVESTOCK

“The world needs to know what is happening in Bolivia. We are losing something that is a human right, a source of life. Water for drinking, for food, for the animals, for electricity. They don’t have a future. We do not have a future.” (21)

NARRATION

ANDEAN VILLAGERS

And they will not he says, until countries around the world agree to reduce their carbon emissions and protect those who for now are left with an uncertain future...and memories of a once happy past. (13)

GLACIER IN DISTANCE

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Andi Gitow for the United Nations.