

Rapid retreat of Tibet's glaciers alarms researchers

(Taken from <http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article41927.ece>)

1 Researchers in China documented what **they** describe as the rapid retreat of glaciers on
2 the Tibetan Plateau, the source of many of the subcontinent's rivers, **and** warned of the
3 dangers to the water supply and livelihoods of millions in India, downstream of these
4 rivers.
5 Research teams from Greenpeace China and Green Earth Volunteers, a Beijing-based
6 group, documented in recent weeks receding snowlines and extensive flooding in the
7 upper reaches of several Himalayan rivers, as a result of increased glacial melts.
8 "This year, there was massive flooding in Qinghai province [in northwest China]," said
9 Li Yan, a campaigner at Greenpeace China, which recently conducted a study of glacial
10 melts near the sources of the Yellow and Yangtze rivers. "Glacial retreat on the plateau
11 has been very obvious, and there is direct evidence that the glaciers are retreating very
12 rapidly."
13 Conservationists attribute the increased pace of glacial retreat this past decade to rising
14 temperatures and global warming. Government officials, in China and India, have in the
15 past downplayed the reports as alarmist. **But** in recent months, even former officials and
16 government agencies in China began to voice **their** concerns more forcefully about the
17 fate of the Tibetan Plateau's glaciers.
18 "Due to global warming, glaciers on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau are retreating
19 extensively at a speed faster than in any other part of the world," Qin Dahe, a former
20 director of the China Meteorological Administration, said recently. **He** added that "In
21 the short term, this will cause lakes to expand and bring floods and mudflows. In the
22 long run, glaciers are vital lifelines for Asian rivers such as the Indus and the Ganges.
23 Once **they** vanish, water supplies in those regions will be in peril."

1. Read the text about Tibet's glaciers retreat and answer the following questions (in English).

- Which is the area affected by this phenomenon?
- Which are the organizations involved in the research?
- According to the scientists, what are the causes of the glacial retreat?
- Which were the main consequences of this phenomenon?
- What will be the results in the short and the long terms?

2. Answer in Spanish

1. What do the following words refer to in the text?

they (L.1)

their (L.16).....

he (L.20)

they (L.23)

2. What word/s are used instead of glacial melt?

.....

3. What kind of relation do these words express? (addition, opposition/contrast, cause/consequence, time)

and (L.2)

But (L.15)

Key

- Which is the area affected by this phenomenon? The Tibetan Plateau.
- Which are the organizations involved in the research?: Research teams from Greenpeace China and Green Earth Volunteers.
- According to the scientists, what are the causes of the glacial retreat?: They attribute glaciers' retreat to rising temperatures and global warming.
- Which were the main consequences of this phenomenon?: Receding snowlines and massive flooding.
- What will be the results in the short and the long terms?: In the short term, glaciers' retreat will cause lakes' expansion, flooding and mudflows and in the long term, water supplies to some areas could be at risk.

1. they (1.1): Researchers
their (1.18): former officials and government agencies
he (1.22): Qin Dahe
they (1.25): glaciers
2. glacial retreat
3. and (1.2): addition
But (1.17): contrast