



Healthy Environment is also a Human Right



Last year The United Nations General Assembly declared that everyone on the planet has a right to a healthy environment, a move backers say is an important step in countering the alarming decline of the natural world.

Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 unequivocally recognizes the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all people. It also invites governments to further consider the matter at the UN General Assembly.

By recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the General Assembly could catalyze more ambitious, coherent and coordinated action to protect the environment. General Assembly recognition of the rights to water and sanitation achieved this.

Human rights may be recognized by governments, but they do not emanate from governments.

They are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings.

They are inherent to us all.

As with the rights to water and sanitation, there can be no doubt that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right.

However, recognition of rights at all levels of law and policy creates better conditions for action and accountability.

In this case, this is not only important but urgent.

An estimated one in six premature deaths are caused by pollution. Tens of millions of people are displaced each year by climate change. Biodiversity loss threatens the collapse of entire ecosystems.

We need the international community to act with single-minded purpose and solidarity to deploy every possible resource to protect and fulfil the human right to a healthy environment.

Failure to rise to this challenge is not an option.

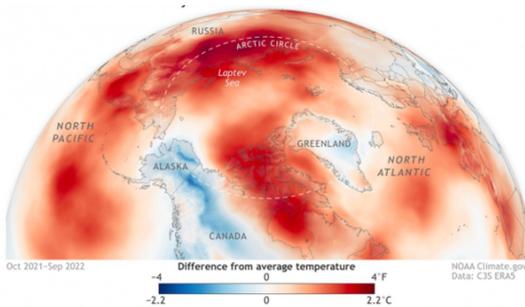
The Human Rights Council's recognition of the right to a healthy environment generated important momentum for this approach and further recognition can magnify this impact.

Ultimately, however, we need more action to realize this right for all people.

We need to protect the environment for current and future generations.



Climate change is transforming the Arctic



21 December 2022

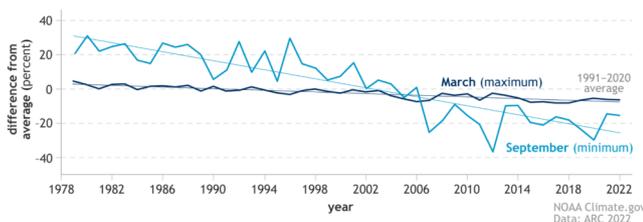
A typhoon, smoke from wildfires and increasing rain are not what most imagine when thinking of the Arctic. Yet these are some of the climate-driven events included in a detailed annual update on the transformation of the once reliably frozen, snow-covered region which is heating up faster than any other part of the world.

The 2022 Arctic Report Card from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is compiled by 147 experts from 11 nations and provides an important insight into the rapid change in the Arctic and its impact on the environment, ecosystems, economies and local communities.

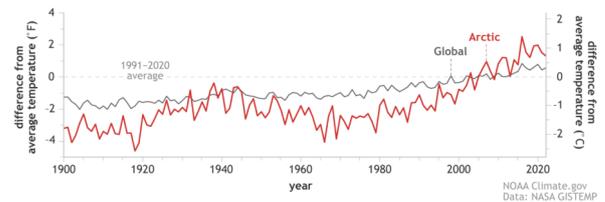
It is yet another piece of evidence of the many changes in the Earth system being monitored by the WMO community.

“The 2022 Arctic Report Card underscores the urgency to confront the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gases and taking steps to be more resilient,” said NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad, Ph.D.

Arctic sea ice extent 1979-2022



Arctic warming outpacing the global average



Major findings in this year’s report include:

Arctic annual air temperatures from October 2021 to September 2022 were the sixth warmest dating back to 1900, continuing a decades-long trend in which Arctic air temperatures have warmed faster than the global average. The Arctic’s seven warmest years since 1900 have been the last seven years.

Arctic sea ice extent (coverage) was higher than many recent years, but much lower than the long-term average. Multiyear ice extent, sea-ice thickness and volume rebounded after a near-record low in 2021, but was below conditions in the 1980s and 1990s, with older ice extremely rare. Open water developed near the North Pole for much of the summer, allowing polar-class tourist and research vessels easy access. The Northern Sea Route and Northwest Passage were also largely open.

Satellite records from 2009 to 2018 show increasing maritime ship traffic in the Arctic as sea ice declines. The most significant increases in traffic are occurring among ships traveling from the Pacific Ocean through the Bering Strait and Beaufort Sea. This opens economic opportunities for new trade routes and also poses potential human-caused stresses on Arctic people and ecosystems.

The August 2022 sea surface temperatures continued to show a warming trend that has been observed since 1982 for much of the ice-free Arctic Ocean. In the Barents and Laptev seas, August 2022 mean sea surface temperatures were 3.5 to 5.5 degrees Fahrenheit (2 to 3°C) warmer than 1991–2020 August mean values while unusually cool August sea surface temperatures of 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit (3 degrees Celsius) below the trend occurred in the Chukchi Sea, likely driven by late-summer sea ice in the region that was kept in place by the winds.

Source :<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/climate-change-transforming-arctic>

Cameroon becomes 6th African country to join the UN Water Convention



Cameroon became the 47th Party to the United Nations [Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes \(Water Convention\)](#) following the approval of accession at the highest level by the Cameroon President on 7 July 2022 and the deposit on 1 November 2022 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the instruments of ratification at the UN headquarters in New York.

This is an important step for the wider region, as Cameroon shares most of its water resources with other states including Chad, Nigeria, Niger, the Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. In the face of rising water stress, cooperation on these shared waters is essential to ensure economic development, climate change adaptation and to preserve regional stability.

The Minister of Water Resources and Energy, M. Gaston Eloundou Essomba announced that “the accession to the Water Convention brings many opportunities to strengthen Cameroon’s water management system and our shared water resources through increased cooperation between states in the Lake Chad, Niger, and Congo River basins as well as coastal rivers to promote sustainable development and peace”.

The Water Convention requires Parties to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, to use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way, and to ensure their sustainable management through cooperation.



Weather forecasting enters new era

14 December 2022

Europe’s Meteosat Third Generation Imager MTG-I1 has been successfully launched – the first of a new generation of meteorological satellites which will help the WMO community to improve forecasts of severe weather as well as long-term climate monitoring.

It was successfully launched on an Ariane-5 rocket on 13 December from Europe’s Spaceport in French Guiana. It is now on its way to its correct orbit, 36,000km above the Equator.

MTG-I1 will ensure the continuity of data for weather forecasting from geostationary orbit for the next 20 years and significantly enhances the current imager capabilities and near real-time lightning imaging – a new capability for European weather satellites.



“Meteosat Third Generation is a European success story. The purpose of this multi-billion-euro investment is to provide meteorological services with a vastly increased amount of more precise information which will help them protect lives, property and infrastructure. This system will, literally, save lives,” said Phil Evans, Director General at EUMETSAT

The MTG-I satellites carry two new instruments, a Flexible Combined Imager and Europe’s first Lightning Imager, to deliver high-quality data for better short-term weather forecasting.

The innovative Lightning Imager will be able to capture individual lightning events in the sky, whether day or night. This is the first time a geostationary weather satellite can detect lightning across Europe, Africa and the surrounding waters.

Source :<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/weather-forecasting-enters-new-era>

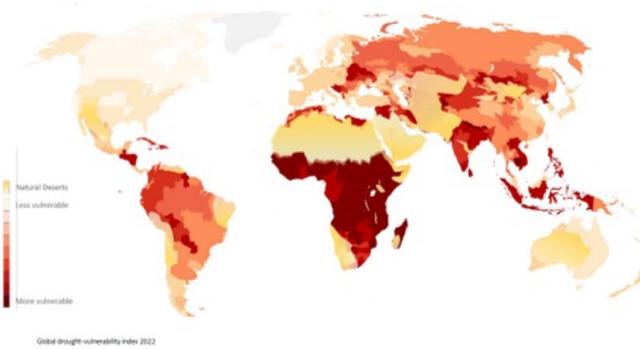
Drought in numbers 2022



World “at a crossroads” in drought management, up 29% in a generation and worsening, says UN

Humanity is “at a crossroads” when it comes to managing drought and accelerating mitigation must be done “urgently, using every tool we can,” says a new report from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

[Drought in Numbers, 2022](#). The report, an authoritative compendium of drought-related information and data, helps inform negotiations of one of several decisions by UNCCD’s 196 member states, to be issued 20 May at the conclusion of COP15.



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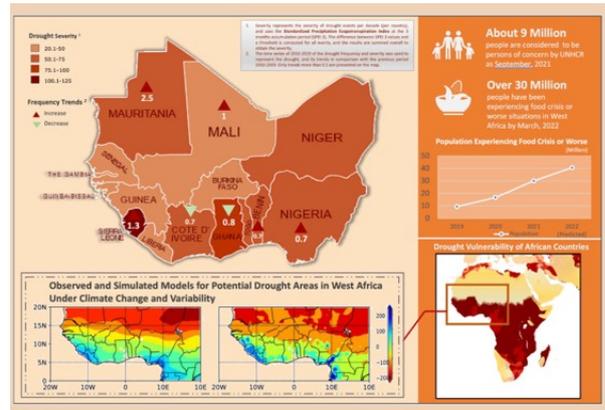


The report creates a compelling call to action. For example:

- Since 2000, the number and duration of droughts has risen 29%
- From 1970 to 2019, weather, climate and water hazards accounted for 50% of disasters and 45% of disaster-related deaths, mostly in developing countries
- Droughts represent 15% of natural disasters but took the largest human toll, approximately 650,000 deaths from 1970-2019
- From 1998 to 2017, droughts caused global economic losses of roughly USD 124 billion
- In 2022, more than 2.3 billion people face water stress; almost 160 million children are exposed to severe and prolonged droughts

Unless action is stepped up:

- By 2030, an estimated 700 million people will be at risk of being displaced by drought
 - By 2040, an estimated one in four children will live in areas with extreme water shortages
- By 2050, droughts may affect over three-quarters of the world’s population, and an estimated 4.8-5.7 billion people will live in areas that are water-scarce for at least one month each year, up from 3.6 billion today. And up to 216 million people could be forced to migrate by 2050, largely due to drought in combination with other factors including water scarcity, declining crop productivity, sea-level rise, and overpopulation



We need to build a future,
Where people live in harmony with nature

HPA

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