

## UN: 2010 tied for warmest year on record

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A swath of paddy fields is submerged by floodwaters in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011. The United Nations plans to seek \$51 million to help Sri Lanka's recover from deadly floods that affected up to 1 million people. (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena)

(AP) -- Last year tied with 1998 and 2005 for the warmest year on record, providing further evidence that the planet is slowly heating up, the U.N. weather agency said Thursday.

The [World Meteorological Organization](#) said average temperatures around the world in 2010 were 0.95 degrees Fahrenheit (0.53 Celsius) above the 1961-90 mean that is used for comparison purposes.

"The 2010 data confirm the Earth's significant long-term warming trend," said Michel Jarraud, the agency's top official.

He added that the ten warmest years after records began in 1854 have all

occurred since 1998.

WMO's figures are based on data collected by Britain's Meteorological Office, the U.S. National Climatic Data Center and [NASA](#).

Recent warming has been especially strong in Africa, parts of Asia, and parts of the Arctic, the agency said.

Significantly cooler weather was registered mainly toward the end of the year, especially in northern Europe, parts of Russia and in the eastern United States.

The Geneva-based global weather agency also noted that last year's [extreme weather](#) - notably the [heat wave](#) in Russia and monsoon flooding in Pakistan - has continued into the new year.

It cited heavy floods in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Brazil and Australia as examples.

**More information:** <http://www.wmo.int>

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