

July hottest month measured, 2019 set to be among warmest years

August 5 2019, by Marlowe Hood



Meteo France measured 42.6C in Paris on July 25—more than 2C hotter than the previous high, set more than 70 years ago

July was the hottest month across the globe ever measured, and 2019 is on track to be one of the warmest years, according to data released

Monday by the European Union's Earth observation network.

Searing heatwaves saw records tumble across Europe last month, with unusually high temperatures around the Arctic Circle as well.

Wildfires unprecedented in scope and intensity burned in Siberia and Alaska, releasing more than 100 million tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere across June and July.

At the same time, Greenland's ice sheet shed massive amounts of melted ice daily, totalling nearly 200 billion tonnes in July alone, according to the Danish Meteorological Institute.

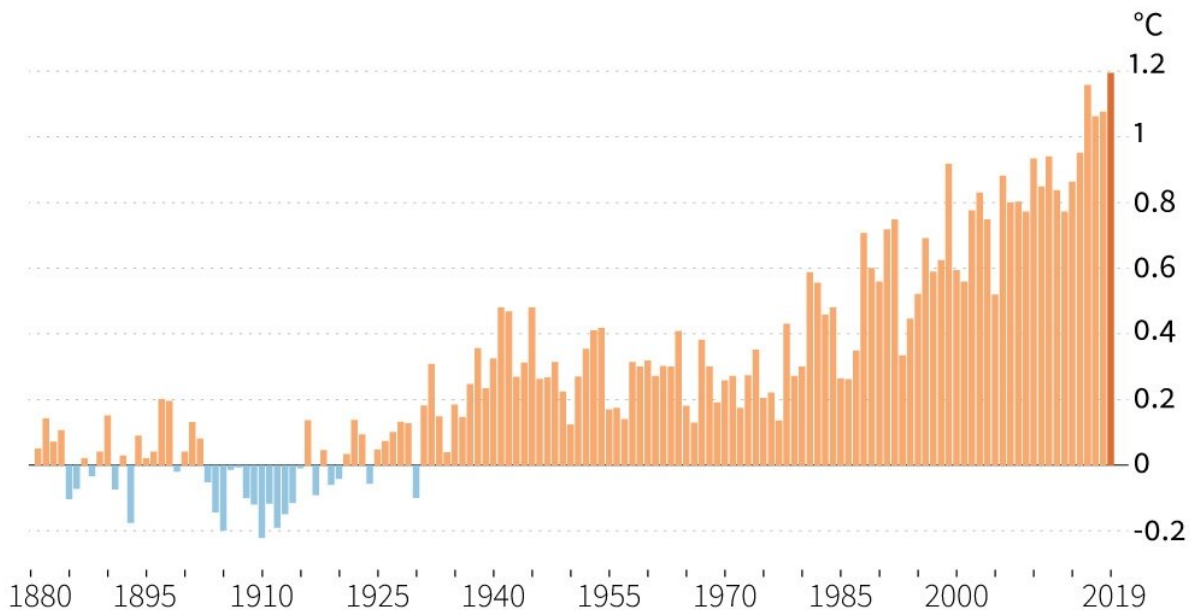
"While July is usually the warmest month of the year for the globe, according to our data it also was the warmest month recorded globally, by a very small margin," Jean-Noel Thepaut, head of the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service, said in a statement.

"With continued greenhouse gas emissions and the resulting impact on global temperatures, records will continue to be broken in the future."

Compared with the 1981-2010 period, average July temperatures this year rose highest in Alaska, Greenland, Siberia, central Asia, Iran and large swathes of Antarctica. Africa and Australia were also well above average.

July 2019: hottest month on record

Temperature in July compared to pre-industrial (1850-1900) average



Source: Copernicus Climate Change Service

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July 2019 was the hottest of all months ever recorded

Globally, July 2019 was marginally warmer—by 0.04 degrees Celsius (0.072 Fahrenheit)—than the previous record-hot month, July 2016.

'Not science fiction'

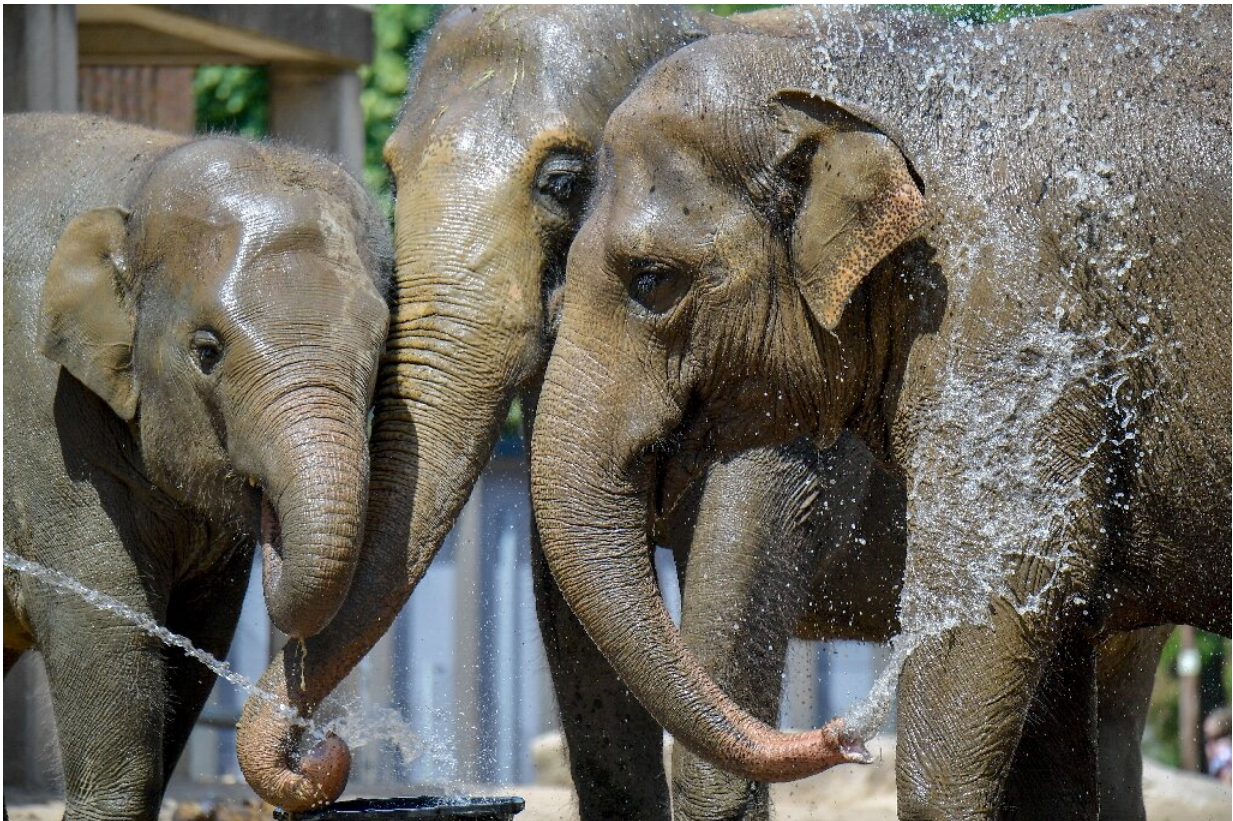
The new record is all the more notable because the 2016 record followed a strong El Nino, which boosts average global temperatures beyond the impact of global warming alone.

El Ninos are naturally occurring weather events triggered by periodic warming—every three to seven years—in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

"July has rewritten climate history, with dozens of new temperature records at local, national and global levels," World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement a few days ago.

Global warming, he added, was clearly to blame.

"This is not science fiction," he said. "It is the reality of climate change."



Asian elephants on June 25, 2019 in Berlin keep their cool

Every month so far in 2019 ranks among the four warmest on record for

the month in question, with June being the hottest June measured, the Copernicus team said in a press release.

Accurate temperature records extend into the 19th century, starting around 1880.

The Copernicus service is the first of the world's major satellite-based climate monitoring networks to report average July temperatures.

'Not your grandfather's summer'

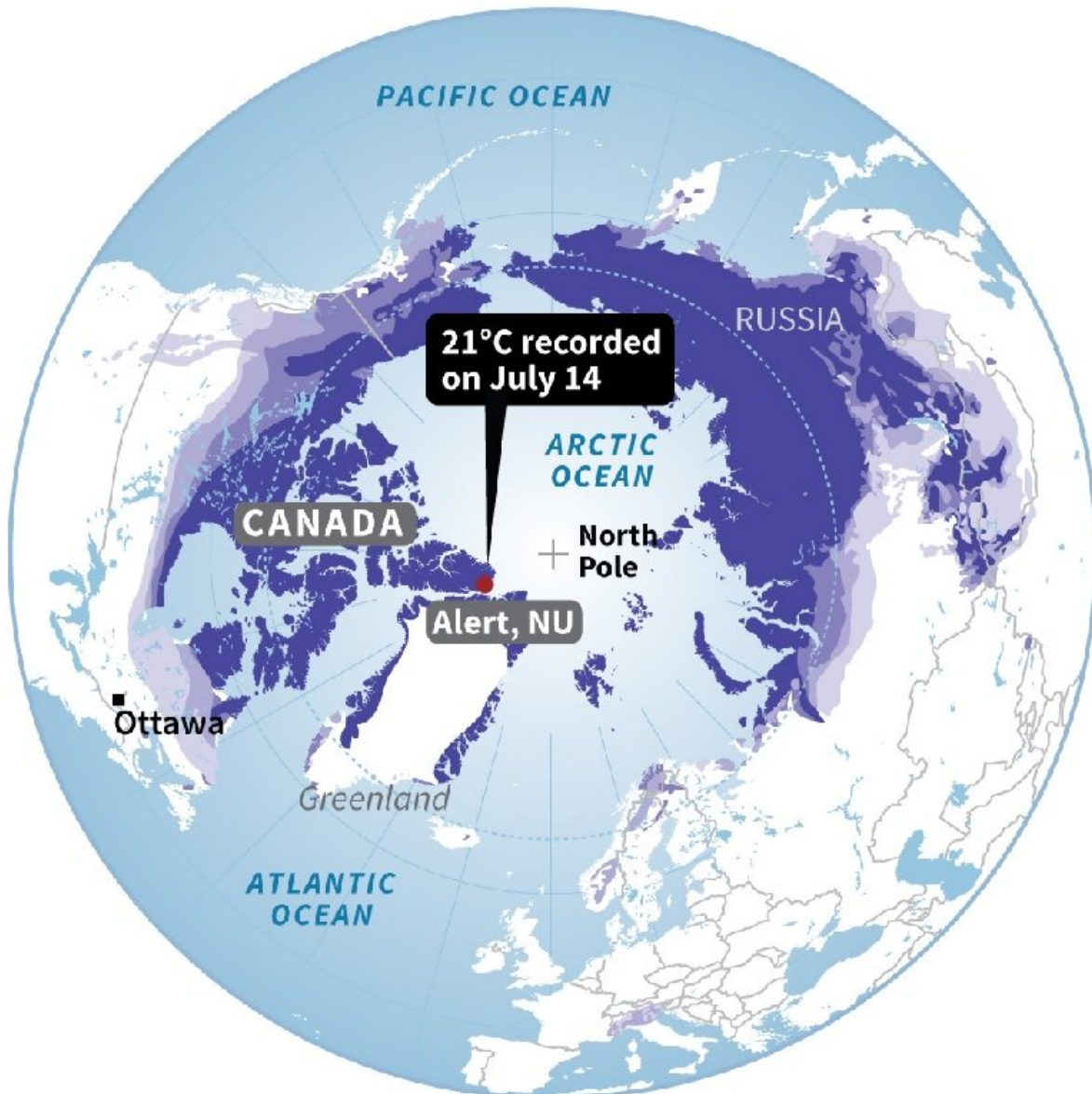
The margin of increase is small enough, it noted in a press release, that other networks—such as the US government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—may report temperatures equal to or slightly below the July 2016 record.

"Typically, there is a difference between the values provided by the global temperature datasets of various institutions, and the Copernicus difference between July 2019 and 2016 temperatures is smaller than this margin," the agency said in a statement.

"We have always lived through hot summers, but this is not the summer of our youth. This is not your grandfather's summer," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said late last week.

Arctic temperature record

In the world's northernmost permanent settlement



Permafrost in the Northern Hemisphere:

Continuous cover Discontinuous Sporadic Isolated

Source: Woods Hole Research Center

© AFP

July 14 say record temperature at the world's northernmost settlement

"All of this means that we are on track for the period from 2015 to 2019 to be the five hottest years on record."

Every year in the 21st century except one has been among the hottest on record, a fact that defies explanation without the dominant influence of manmade global warming, scientists say.

Europe has endured two exceptionally strong heatwaves in a matter of weeks.

Record highs tumbled across France, with the mercury peaking at 46C on June 28 in the southern town of Verargues. The previous record, set back in 2003, was 44.1C.

The second wave of heat saw Paris's all-time high pulverised last month: Meteo France measured 42.6C in the French capital on July 25—more than 2C hotter than the previous high, set more than 70 years ago.

In the first half of the year, temperature records were also shattered in New Delhi, Anchorage, Santiago and part of the Arctic Circle.

The Paris Climate Agreement enjoins nations to cap global warming at "well below" 2 C above pre-industrial level. The year 2018 was about 1C above it.

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