

# UN weather report: Climate woes bad and getting worse faster

November 7 2022, by Seth Borenstein

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Women carry belongings salvaged from their flooded home after monsoon rains, in the Qambar Shahdadkot district of Sindh Province, of Pakistan, Sept. 6, 2022. Earth's warming weather and rising seas are getting worse and doing so faster than before, the World Meteorological Organization warned Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022, in a somber note as world leaders started gathering for international climate negotiations in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. Credit: AP Photo/Fareed Khan, File

Earth's warming weather and rising seas are getting worse and doing so faster than before, the World Meteorological Organization warned Sunday in a somber note as world leaders started gathering for international climate negotiations.

"The latest State of the Global Climate report is a chronicle of climate chaos," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "We must answer the planet's distress signal with action—ambitious, credible climate action."

In its annual state of the climate report, the United Nations' weather agency said that [sea level rise](#) in the past decade was double what it was in the 1990s and since January 2020 has jumped at a higher rate than that. Since the decade began, seas are rising at 5 millimeters a year (.2 inches) compared to 2.1 millimeters (.08 inches) in the 1990s.

The last eight years have been the warmest on record, the WMO said in a report that didn't break new ground but was a collection of recent weather trends, data and impacts in one central place.

"The melting (of ice) game we have lost and also the sea level rate," WMO chief Petteri Taalas told The Associated Press. "There are no positive indicators so far."

The only reason that the globe hasn't broken annual temperature records in the past few years is a rare three-year La Niña weather phenomenon, he said.



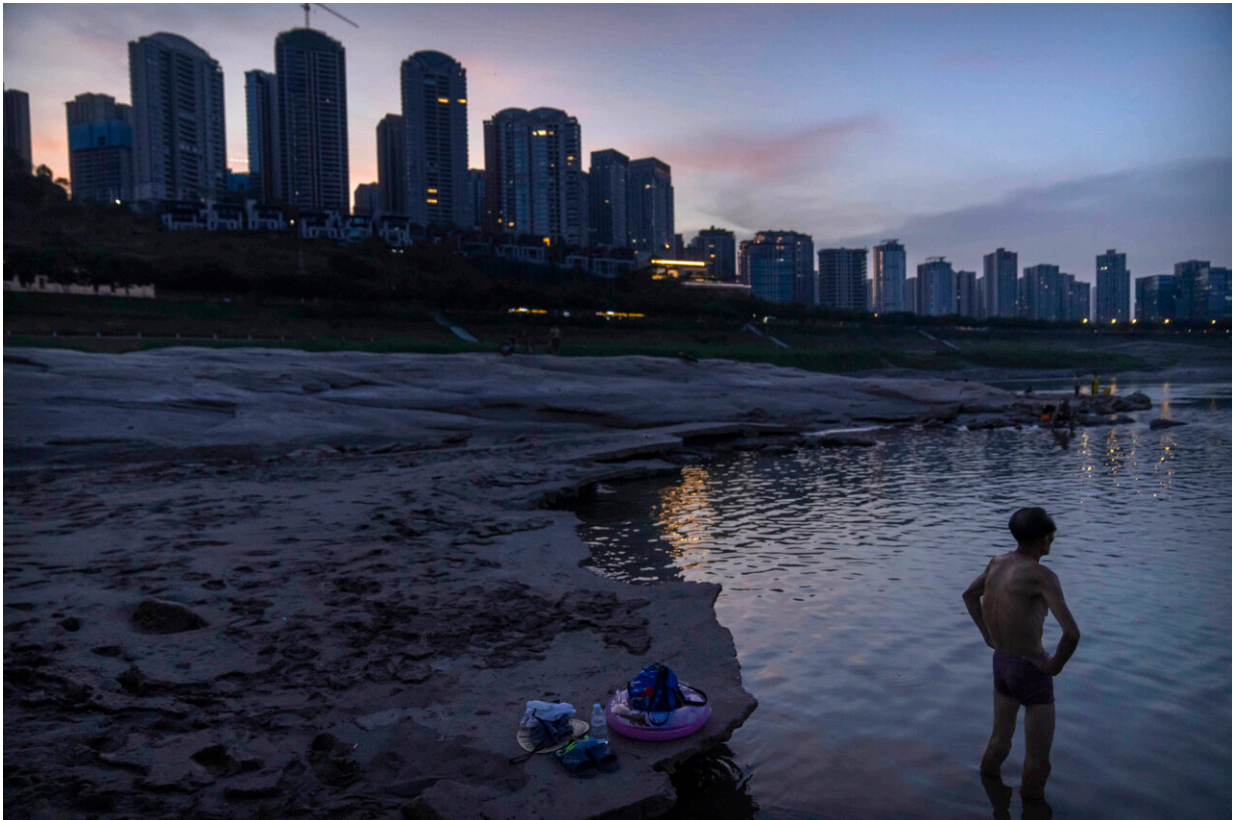
Mohamed Mohamud, a ranger from the Sabuli Wildlife Conservancy, looks at the carcass of a giraffe that died of hunger near Matana Village, Wajir County, Kenya, on Oct. 25, 2021. Earth's warming weather and rising seas are getting worse and doing so faster than before, the World Meteorological Organization warned Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022, in a somber note as world leaders started gathering for international climate negotiations in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. Credit: AP Photo/Brian Inganga, File

The data on sea level and average temperatures are nothing compared to how [climate change](#) has hit people in extreme weather. The report highlights the summer's incredible flood in Pakistan that killed more than 1,700 people and displaced 7.9 million, a crippling four-year drought in East Africa that has more than 18 million hungry, the Yangtze River drying to its lowest level in August, and record heat-waves broiling

people in Europe and China.

"This latest report from the World Meteorological Organization reads like a lab report for a critically ill patient, but in this case the patient is Earth," said climate scientist Jennifer Francis of the Woodwell Climate Research Center in Cape Cod, who wasn't part of the report.

Levels of heat-trapping carbon dioxide, methane and [nitrous oxide](#) all [reached record](#) high levels, with potent methane increasing at a record pace, the report said.



A man stands in shallow water near the dry riverbed of the Yangtze River in southwestern China's Chongqing Municipality, Aug. 19, 2022. Earth's warming weather and rising seas are getting worse and doing so faster than before, the World Meteorological Organization warned Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022, in a somber

note as world leaders started gathering for international climate negotiations in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. Credit: AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein, File



Buffalo feed on grass brought by a ranger as hundreds of animals have died in Kenyan wildlife preserves during East Africa's worst drought in decades, in Samburu County, Samburu National Reserve, Kenya Oct. 14, 2022. Earth's warming weather and rising seas are getting worse and doing so faster than before, the World Meteorological Organization warned Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022, in a somber note as world leaders started gathering for international climate negotiations in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. Credit: AP Photo/Brian Inganga, File



People walk along the dry riverbed of the Jialing River, a tributary of the Yangtze, in southwestern China's Chongqing Municipality, Aug. 20, 2022. Earth's warming weather and rising seas are getting worse and doing so faster than before, the World Meteorological Organization warned Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022, in a somber note as world leaders started gathering for international climate negotiations in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. Credit: AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein, File

That means more than just warming temperatures on land. Ice, both Greenland's [ice sheet](#) and the world's glaciers, are shrinking precipitously, the report said. For the 26th year in a row, Greenland lost ice when all types of ice are factored in. The volume of glacier snow in Switzerland dropped by more than one-third from 2001 to 2022, the

report said.

But 90% of the heat trapped on Earth goes into the ocean and the upper 2000 meters (6561 feet) of the ocean is getting warmer faster. The rate of warming the last 15 years is 67% faster than since 1971, the report said.

That ocean heat "will continue to warm in the future—a change which is irreversible on centennial to millennial time scales," the report said.

Outside experts weren't surprised by the [report](#) and said no one should be.

"What climate scientists have warned about for decades is upon us. And will continue to worsen without action," said University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd. "Two things must go away: Climate delayism and speaking about [climate](#) change impacts in the future tense. It's here."

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