



World Meteorological Organization

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Experiences in developing the WMO Annual Statement on the Status of the Global Climate

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What is the Statement?

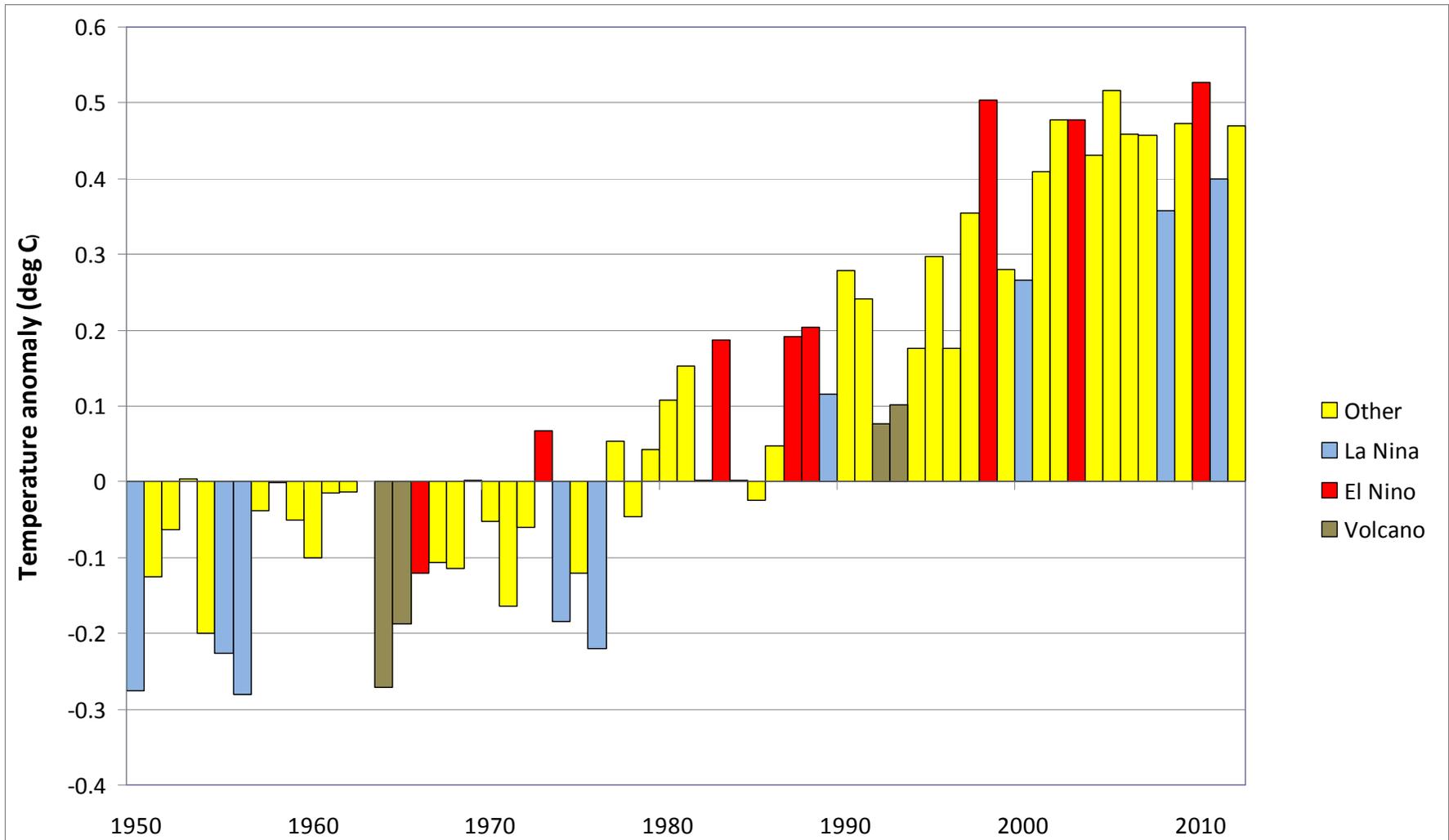
- Two Statements are issued for each year.
- A preliminary Statement is issued in late November/early December (normally using data to end of October)
- A final Statement is issued on World Meteorological Day (23 March or the weekday closest to it)

The Statement is coordinated by an expert from an NMHS – position rotates between WMO regions every 2 years (2012-13: Ahira Sanchez-Lugo, USA)

What are the key elements of the Statement?

- Global temperature anomalies and ranking
- Notable regional/national temperature and precipitation anomalies
- Major extreme events (e.g. drought, flood, tropical cyclones, severe storms, extreme heat/cold)
- Status of key climate drivers (e.g. ENSO)
- Sea ice
- Ozone

Global temperature anomalies



Derivation of global mean temperature

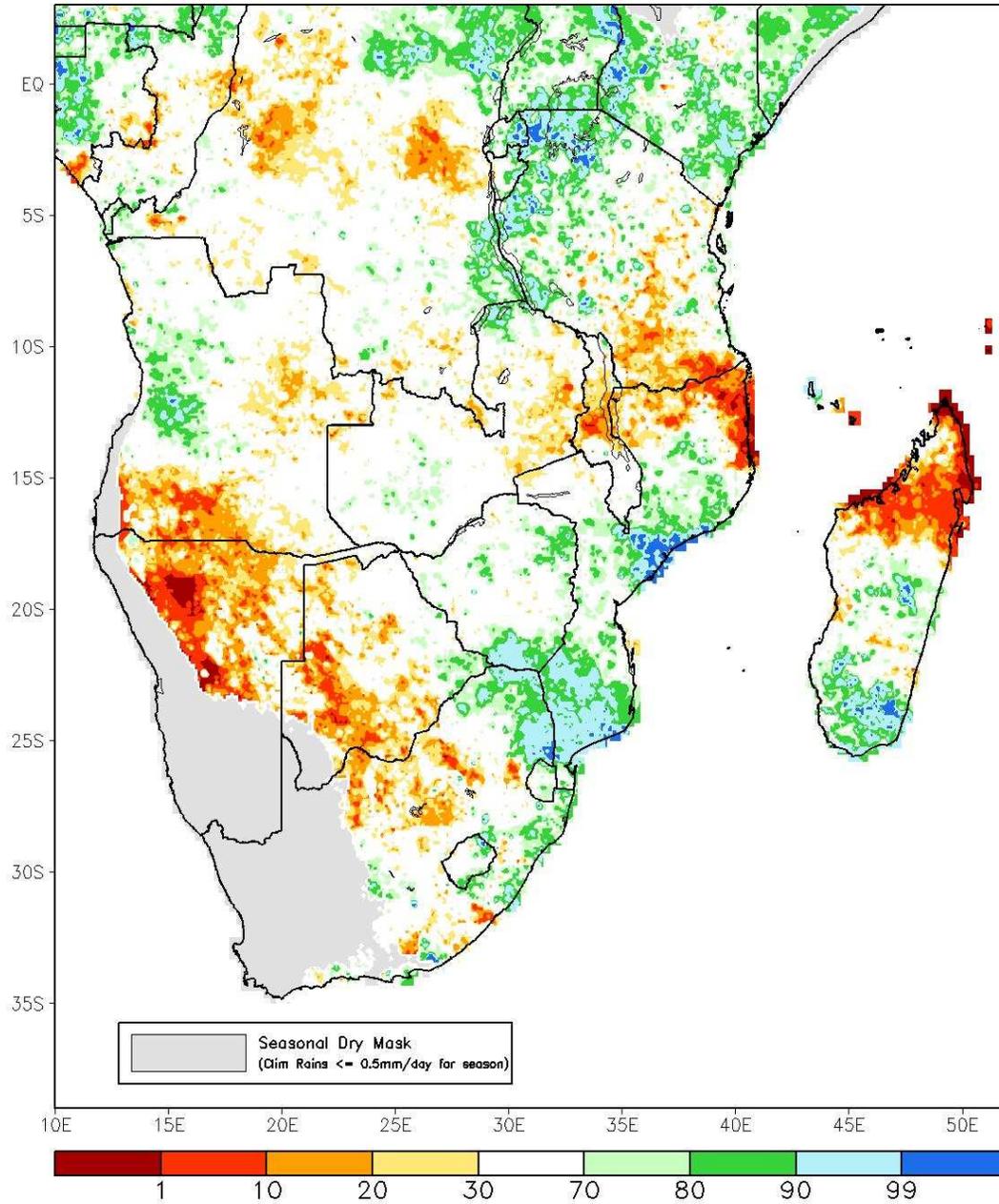
- Uses an average of three major global data sets (NCDC, HadCRU, GISS)
- All data sets rebased to anomalies from 1961-90 normal

Precipitation data much less well-developed – NCDC reports global rankings but source data set has potential issues

How is information obtained?

- Requests for input from Members (formal and informal)
- Published climate monitoring products (e.g. seasonal and annual summaries) on NMHS and RCC websites
- Global centres (e.g. NCDC, GPCC, Hadley Centre, JTWC, NSIDC)
- 'Raw' data (e.g. CLIMAT, synoptic data)
- Remotely sensed products

Seasonal Rainfall Percentile (%)
Based on NOAA/CPC ARC2 Climatology Method
October 01, 2012 – April 08, 2013



Some of the major challenges

- Large parts of the world have little or no national-level information available, so WMO has to fall back on global or remotely-sensed data sets
- Locally published information sometimes hard to find – automatic translation good once a document is found, not so good for finding document in first place
- Continental temperature anomalies are not routinely reported by anyone
- In some cases (e.g. global temperature, sea ice) there are multiple data sets which can give different results

What are particularly useful forms of national input?

- Ranking for the country/regions/specific locations (especially places which have set temperature or precipitation records)
- National input critical for confirming (or not confirming) extremes
- Difficult to obtain good information on impacts – WMO will only use 'officially sourced' information



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Thank you for your attention