

UN predicts above-average temperatures

Global warming caused by humans as powerful as weather phenomenon, say experts

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Many parts of the world are likely to experience above-average temperatures over the next few months, even without a natural El Niño effect, according to weather experts.

The UN's World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said the signal from human-induced climate change was now as powerful as the natural phenomenon, which drives warmer temperatures.

El Niño is a naturally occurring phenomenon in the Pacific with a warming influence on global temperatures. It is also linked to heavy rain, flooding and drought.

“With more than 90% of the energy trapped by greenhouse gases going into the ocean, ocean heat content is at record levels. Thus, 2016 was the warmest year on record as a result of a combination of a strong El Niño and human-induced global warming. 2019 was the second-warmest year on record.

“We have just had the warmest January on record. The signal from human-induced climate change is now as powerful as that from a major natural force of nature.