

2. Global Climate Highlights (Information Courtesy NOAA)

- This year tied 1997 as the 11th warmest year since records began in 1880. The annual global combined land and ocean surface temperature was 0.51°C (0.92°F) above the 20th century average of 13.9°C (57.0°F). This marks the 35th consecutive year, since 1976, that the yearly global temperature was above average. The warmest years on record were 2010 and 2005, which were 0.64°C (1.15°F) above average.
- Separately, the 2011 global average land surface temperature was 0.8°C (1.49°F) above the 20th century average of 8.5°C (47.3°F) and ranked as the eighth warmest on record. The 2011 global average ocean temperature was 0.40°C (0.72°F) above the 20th century average of 16.1°C (60.9°F) and ranked as the 11th warmest on record.
- La Niña, which is defined by cooler-than-normal waters in the eastern and central equatorial Pacific Ocean that affects weather patterns around the globe, was present during much of 2011. A relatively strong phase of La Niña opened the year, then dissipated in the spring before re-emerging in October and lasting through the end of the year. When compared to previous La Niña years, the 2011 global surface temperature was the warmest observed during such a year.
- The 2011 globally-averaged precipitation over land was the second wettest year on record, behind 2010. Precipitation varied greatly across the globe. La Niña contributed to severe drought in the Horn of Africa and to Australia's third wettest year in its 112-year period of record.

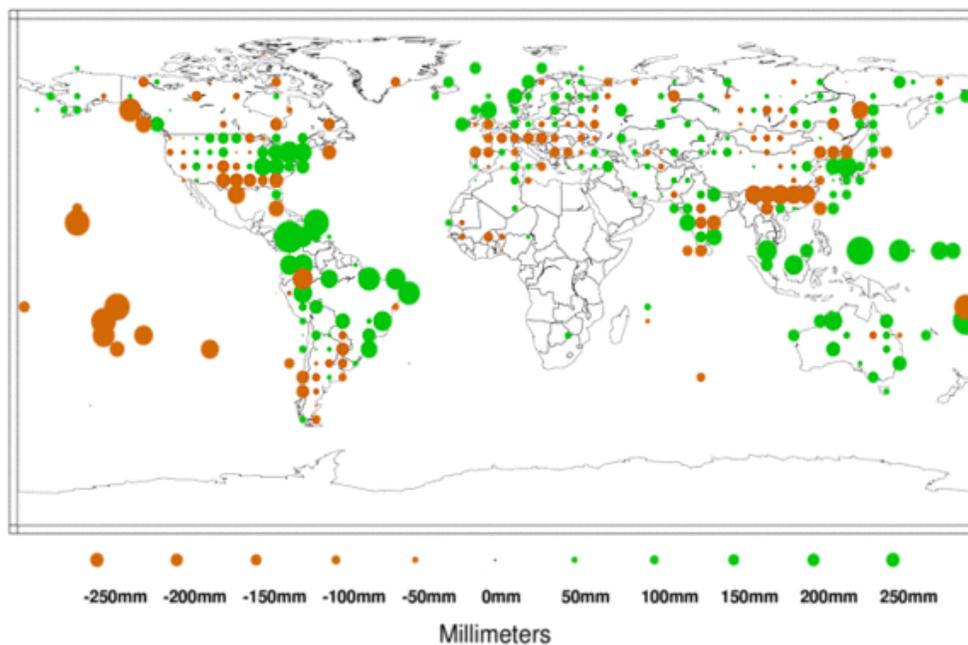


Figure 7: Precipitation Anomalies Jan-Dec 2011 (with respect to a 1961-1990 base period) National Climate Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA

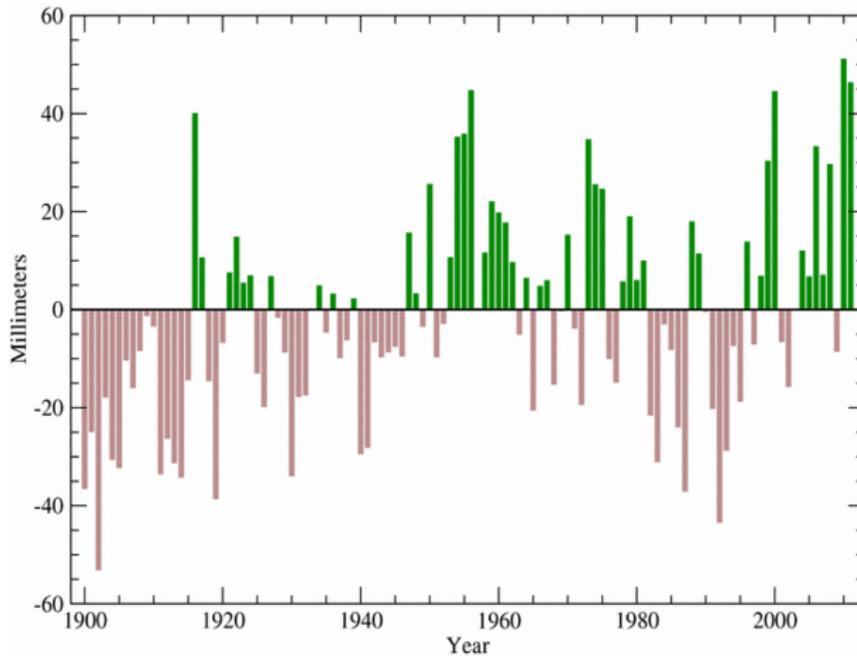


Figure 8: January–December 2011 Global Precipitation Anomalies (with respect to a 1900-2011 base period) - NOAA

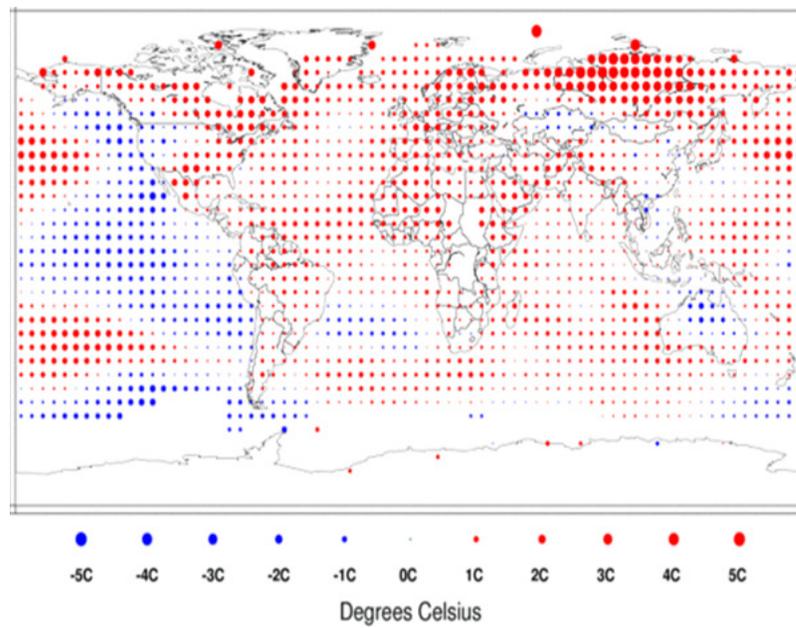


Figure 9: January–December 2011 Blended Land and Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies in degrees Celsius (with respect to 1971-2000 base period) National Climate Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA

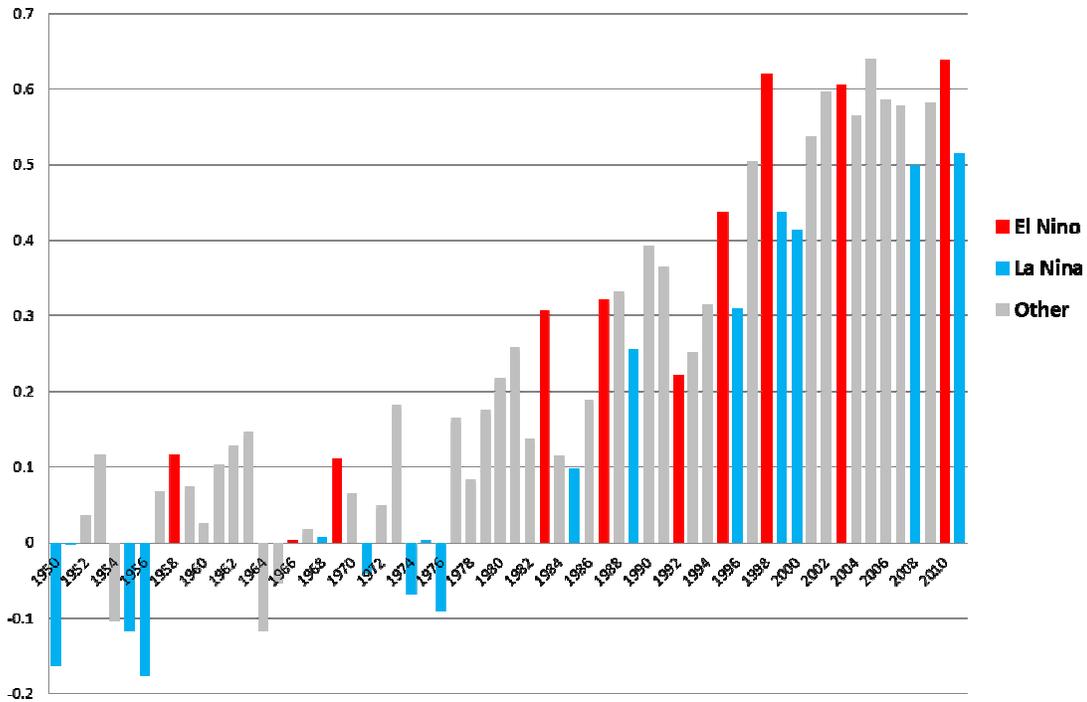


Figure 10: Annual Global Temperature Anomalies -1950-2011- NOAA

References:

- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), 2012, Climate Diagnostics Bulletin – Post-Monsoon Season, National Climate Centre.
- NOAA National Climatic Data Center, State of the Climate: Global Analysis for Annual 2011, published online December 2011, retrieved on February 12, 2012 from <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/global/>.