



Environment Digest3 **January-March 2016**

Climate Change

The year 2015 has been registered as the hottest year thus far. The persisting heat, which has resulted in South Africa's devastating drought conditions can be attributed to El Niño. Although El Niño events are not new since there is evidence that they have been occurring for hundreds of years, a distinct change in the behaviour of this event during mid-1970's may be an effect of climate change. With the COP21 Conference that took place in Paris in December 2015 and the Paris Agreement that resulted, this is an opportunity to get a glimpse South Africa's climate change policy trail; as well as the challenges related to implementing adaptation and mitigation. South Africa, a nation that has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources has been finding the last few years extremely testing, as unpredictable weather patterns have had diverse effects for a lot of its natural resources across the country.

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Links to useful articles and information relating to climate change.

- <http://www.daff.gov.za/docs/media/Extreme%20heat%20expected%20to%20last%20until%20autumn.pdf>
- <http://www.weathersa.co.za/learning/climate-questions/35-how-does-enso-affect-south-africa>
- <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-01-25/hottest-year-on-record-got-boost-from-el-nino-to-climate-change>
- <http://www.farmersweekly.co.za/article.aspx?id=82563&h=Cloudy-on-climate-change>
- <http://www.nda.agric.za/docs/speeches/Drought%20relief%20update%20and%20country%20readiness%20to%20import%20grains.pdf>
- <http://mg.co.za/article/2016-01-26-sea-levels-rising-much-faster-than-predicted>
- <http://www.politico.eu/article/paris-climate-urgenda-courts-lawsuits-cop21/>
- <http://www.mynewsroom.co.za/water-research-commissions-climate-change-lighthouse-and-cop21/>
- http://us-cdn.creamermedia.co.za/assets/articles/attachments/58092_afdb.pdf
- <http://www.mynewsroom.co.za/water-research-commissions-climate-change-lighthouse-and-cop21/>
- <https://www.enca.com/weather/stron-el-ni%C3%B1o-developing>
- <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/el-nino-over-30m-affected-in-southern-africa-20160104-2>
- https://pmg.org.za/committee-meeting/22236/?utm_source=homepage&utm_medium=featured-card