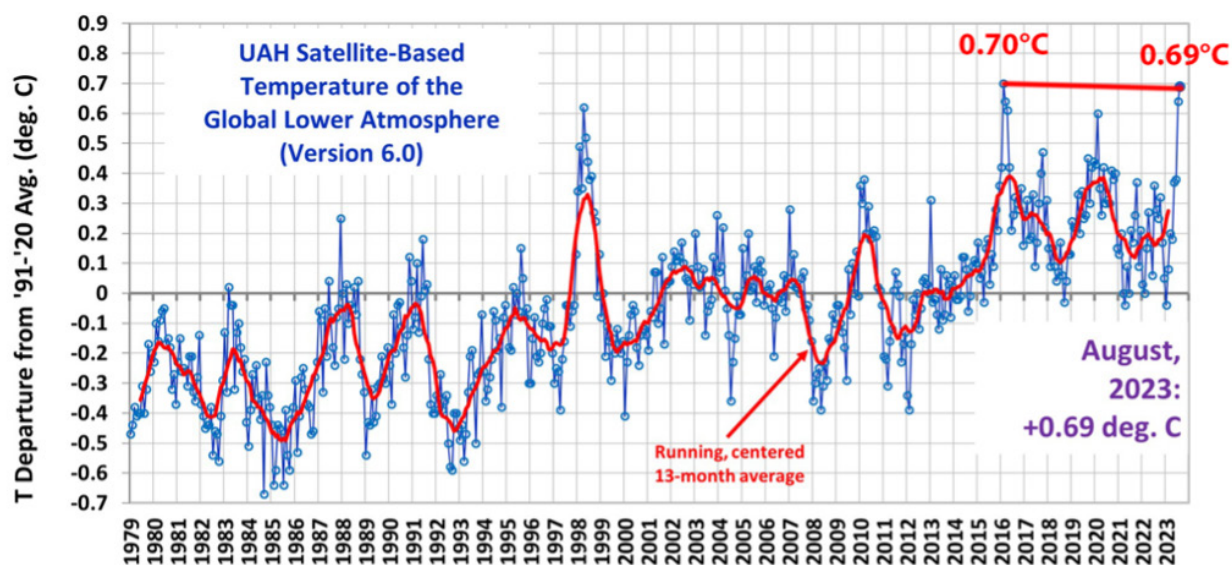


CLIMATE FACT CHECK: AUGUST 2023 EDITION

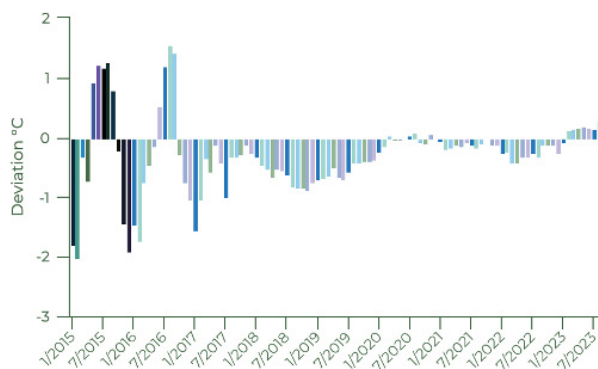
Liar, liar, media screams 'climate' on Maui fire (and more).

August 2023 was the warmest August since the satellite record began in 1979. But it still is not the largest monthly temperature anomaly or deviation from an estimated "average global temperature," the controversial metric invented for the global warming controversy. That record is still held by February 2016.



Another way to consider "average global temperature" is presented by [Temperature.global](https://www.temperature.global/), which uses unadjusted actual surface temperatures collected and calculated on a real-time basis going back to 2015. This data set shows there has been global cooling from January 2015 through August 2023.

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE



Which is better representation? Does that even matter? Remember that the key global warming claim is that every emission warms the planet. While both data sets indicate that August was a relatively warm month, neither supports the notion that emissions have anything to do with that.

Here are 10 other fact checks for claims made in August.

MAUI WILDFIRES CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

The Associated Press immediately blamed the Maui wildfires that started August 8 on climate change in its August 10 report "[Maui's fire became deadly fast. Climate change, flash drought, invasive grass and more fueled it.](#)"

 Associated Press

Fact Check. The wildfires are thought have been started by a power line downed by high winds that ignited non-native grasses during Maui's dry season on [land](#) owned and managed by the County of Maui. The island of Maui has not been particularly warm or dry in 2023. High winds and wildfires are nothing new on Maui.

A wildfire of similar origin and location occurred on Maui in [August 2018](#). The difference between 2023 and 2018 is that firefighters were able to contain the blaze. That ability was compromised this year because the fire hydrants had no water and a Maui government official [delayed](#) release of creek water for hours.

Compounding these errors was the government's failure to have [warning, evacuation or emergency response](#) plans in place. The local utility, Hawaii Electric, had [proposed](#) a wildfire mitigation plan to the Hawaiian government in June 2022, but no action had been taken by the government.

Although Hawaii Gov. Josh Green repeatedly tried to blame climate change, he eventually [admitted](#): "Look guys, we just lost lives because we don't have a water policy or a statewide plan that protects the land from burning." Gov. Green also [admitted](#) personal incompetence: "This is the first time for me as an executive that I've been tasked with something outside my absolute comfort zone. Covid was not difficult for me to deal with because I was a health care provider practicing public health." Even the Washington Post editorial board [condemned](#) govern failure: "Maui officials should have known what was coming."

HURRICANE HILARY 'UNPRECEDENTED'?

About the impending landfall of Hurricane Hilary, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass [declared](#) an August 20 news conference: "This is an unprecedented weather event."

Los Angeles Times

Fact Check. Hurricane Hilary was preceded by a similar tropical storm with high winds and heavy rain that struck Southern California in September 1939. The National Hurricane Center later [acknowledged](#) there was precedence: "It's rare, it doesn't happen all the time, but it certainly has happened enough times in the past that we knew it could happen again... unusual but not unprecedented."



HURRICANE IDALIA UNPRECEDENTED?

NBC Connecticut stated in its report, ["Unprecedented' Hurricane Idalia aftermath seen in before-and-after photos"](#): "Idalia was the first major hurricane to have swept through Florida's Big Bend."



Fact Check. Wrong again. A strong and deadly hurricane swept through Florida's Big Bend area in September 1896.



PENGUIN BABIES KILLED BY GLOBAL WARMING?

Bloomberg reported in "[Our Addiction to Fossil Fuels Is Killing Baby Penguins](#)" that: "As [Antarctic] sea ice melts, the fluffy chicks are drowning before they can learn to swim."

Bloomberg

Record low 2022 Antarctic sea ice led to catastrophic breeding failure of emperor penguins

climate and sea ice scientists. The regional anomaly in the Amundsen and Bellingshausen Seas is likely to have been influenced by the Triple-Dip La Niña that is affecting many areas of the southern Pacific¹⁹, leading to a strongly negative Southern Annular Mode (SAM) which is typically characterised by a deep low pressure in the Amundsen Sea sector²⁰. It is expected that as the La Niña weakens and SAM turns positive, sea ice extent in the region may grow. Nonetheless, our findings show a clear link between negative sea ice anomalies and emperor penguin breeding failures that may represent a snapshot of a future, warming Antarctica where such events become more frequent and widespread, with grave consequences for emperor penguin population viability.

Fact Check. The *Nature* [study](#) that reported on a penguin chick death event during June 2022 specifically attributed the lack of sea ice in a part of Antarctic to the effects of La Nina event, not emissions. While the study authors suggested that more such death events lie in the future should the Antarctic warm, the Antarctic [has not warmed in 70 years](#). [Read more...](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE DEADLY?

In "[Vivek Ramaswamy says 'hoax' agenda kills more people than climate change](#)," Washington Post "fact checker" Glenn Kessler gave Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy four Pinocchios for stating during the August presidential candidate debate that, "The climate change agenda is a hoax ... The reality is more people are dying of bad climate change policies than they are of actual climate change."

The Washington Post

Fact Check. Kessler offered no examples of actual deaths from "climate change," instead falsely attributing various heat wave deaths to climate change and offering World Health Organization predictions of future deaths starting in 2030. Kessler omitted the hundreds of thousands of deaths from climate change policies including deaths from the climate policy-caused war in Ukraine, European energy crisis, frozen wind turbines in Texas, e-vehicle explosions and much more. Kessler should give himself the four Pinocchios. Read more [here](#) and [here](#)...

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

The Pinocchio Test

No matter how you slice it, ^{no} credible research has concluded that thousands of people a year die because of the effects of climate change. We ~~can't find~~ ^{didn't look for} data that suggests green energy policies actually kill even more people — and Ramaswamy's campaign ~~did not~~ ^{we did not ask} provide any source for his claim. ~~He owns~~ ^{I get} Four Pinocchios.

Four Pinocchios

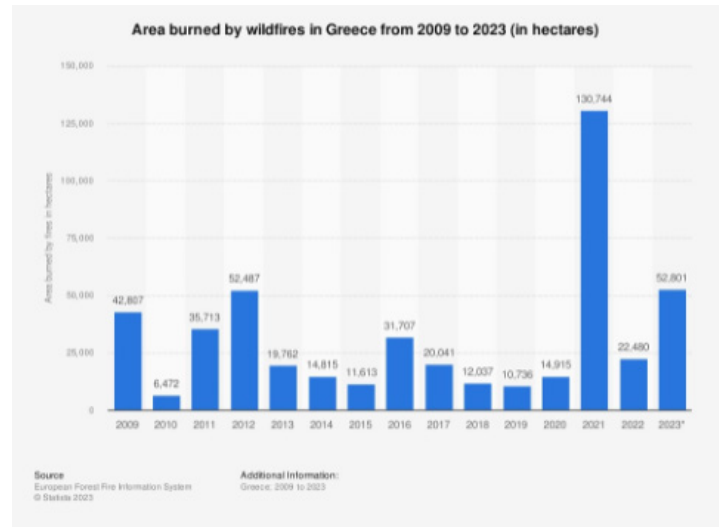


GREEK WILDFIRES CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

CBS News reported in "[Greece is battling Europe's 'largest wildfire ever recorded,' and it's 'still out of control'](#)" that: "Greece has been ravaged by numerous wildfires this summer which the government attributes to climate change."



Fact Check. First, wildfire is endemic to Greece. Homer even mentioned them in the *Iliad*, composed 3,500 years ago. Next, Greek wildfires [do not correlate at all with emissions or warming](#). Fires in Greece have [spiked](#) recently. They have also had many years recently with fewer fires and less land burned. Finally, as is often the case, Greek police have been [arresting arsonists](#) for starting the wildfires.



LOUISIANA WILDFIRES UNPRECEDENTED?

The *Washington Post* reported in "[Louisiana sees 'unprecedented' wildfires amid record heat, drought](#)" that: "The state's largest wildfire on record has burned over 33,000 acres and is just 50 percent contained."



Fact Check. Wildfires are a regular occurrence in Louisiana. Per the 1985 newspaper article below, an average of 67,000 acres burned in the state every year. That's a lot more than has burned this year. Louisiana's 2023 wildfires are not unprecedented.

The Era-Leader
30 Jan 1985, Wed · Page 10

What do you know about trees

More than 13 million acres of trees translate into Louisiana's greatest single land use, forests. Tree farming, tree harvesting and manufacturing wood products together form one of the state's strongest economic cornerstones. Even our cities contain forests.

Yet, Louisianians are sometimes surprised by forest facts. This quiz will help you test your forestry knowledge.

1. Which is true: (a) Trees are Louisiana's No. 1 Crop in total impact, because they generate more economic activity than all the state's other agricultural crops put together. (b) Trees are surpassed only by soybeans among Louisiana's top crops. True, or false?

2. Every American man, woman and child uses a ton of wood a year. True, or false?

3. Harvesting trees and manufacturing wood products provide jobs for how many Louisianians? (a) 10,000 (b) 22,000 (c) 40,000.

4. In Louisiana, wildfires in the forests annually burn an average of some (a) 15,000 acres (b) 38,000 acres (c) 67,000 acres.

5. Of Louisiana's 6,300 wildfires, each year, 80 percent are the result of (a) debris or trash fires that accidentally burn out of control; (b) arsonists who deliberately set fire to someone else's forestland; (c) smokers who carelessly dispose of cigarettes; (d) campers who accidentally let fires get away from them.

6. Complete the following statement by matching information in the column: Louisiana's forestlands are owned by (a) private, non-industrial owners, who own ___%, (b) forest industries, which own ___%, (c) the public, which owns ___%. 1. 67, 2. 26, 3. 7.

7. Which of the following statements is true: (a) Trees growing in urban areas or in a yard are products of nature and do just fine without special attention; (b) Most trees in yards or urban areas are growing under stressful, unnatural conditions of soil, moisture and nutrients and need special attention, including fertilization every year or two and water during dry periods, if they are to be as healthy and live as long as they would in natural forest surroundings.

ANSWERS:

1. (a) Trees are Louisiana's No. 1 Crop in total impact, because they generate more economic activity than all the state's other agricultural crops put together.

2. It is true that every American man, woman and child used a ton of wood a year.

3. (c) Harvesting trees and manufacturing wood products provide jobs for 40,000 Louisianians.

4. (c) In Louisiana, wildfires in the forests burn an average of 67,000 acres a year.

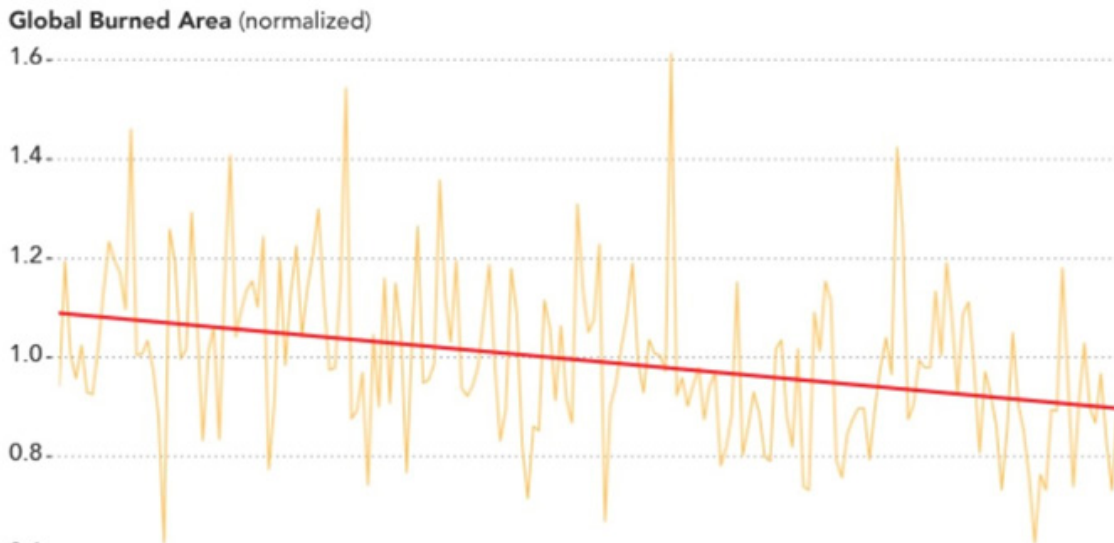
5. (b) Of Louisiana's 6,300 wildfires each year, 80 percent are the result of arsonists who deliberately set fire to someone else's forestland.

6. In Louisiana, 67 percent of the forestland is owned by private, non-industrial owners; 26 percent by forest industries; and seven percent by the public.

7. (b) Most trees in yards or urban areas are growing under stressful, unnatural conditions of soil, moisture and nutrients and need special attention, including fertilization every year or two and water during dry periods, if they are to be as healthy and live as long as they would in natural forest surroundings.

"TWO

By the way, NASA has [reported](#) a decline in global wildfire.



MAINE'S PUFFINS SAVED BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

The Associated Press reports in "[Maine's puffin colonies recovering in the face of climate change](#)," that: Atlantic puffins — clownish seabirds with colorful bills and waddling gaits — had their second consecutive rebound year for fledging chicks after suffering a catastrophic 2021, said scientists who monitor the birds. The news flies in the face of environmental trends, as scientists have said warming waters off New England jeopardize the birds because that reduces the kind of fish they need to feed their chicks."

AP Associated Press

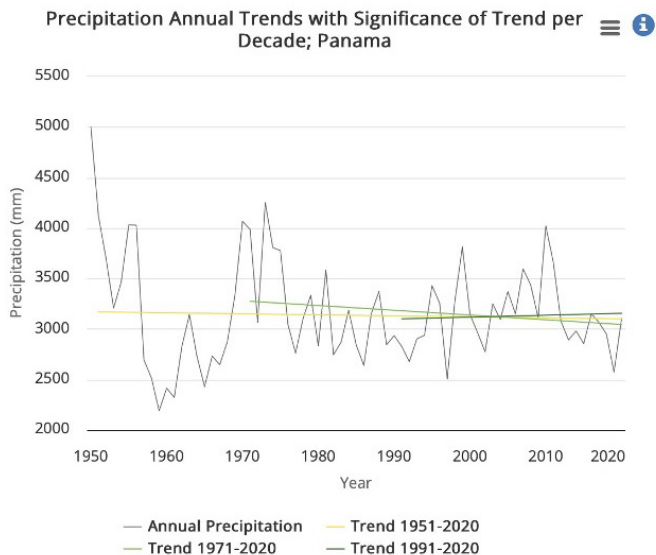
Fact Check. Climate change was blamed in 2021 for puffin breeding problems. Now in 2023, climate change is credited with helping puffin populations recover. Since the key climate change claim is that every emission changes the climate for the worse, it is not plausible that climate change both harmed and helped the puffins within two years. The Associated Press quoted a scientist as stating: "It's a sign the impact of climate change on ecosystems is not always as tidy as we think." It could also be a sign that what is imagined to be "climate change," i.e., more atmospheric CO₂, is really irrelevant and that something else is at work.

PANAMA CANAL WATER LEVEL LOWERED BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

The New York Times blamed climate change for lowering the water level at the Panama Canal in "[Climate Risks Loom Over Panama Canal, a Vital Global Trade Link.](#)"

The New York Times

Fact Check. Precipitation has trending up in Panama since 1990, about the beginning of climate hysteria. There is no correlation between precipitation in Panama and either emissions or warming, per World Bank data.



MONARCH BUTTERFLIES HURT BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

We've been told for years that climate change was hurting monarch butterfly populations. The Associated Press reported in April 2022 that climate change was to blame for "[beloved monarch butterflies now listed as endangered.](#)"

AP Associated Press

Fact Check. A new study in *Current Biology* [reports](#) that: "Humans may have artificially inflated the monarch population by making changes to the habitat of Eastern and North America. The numbers we see now may reflect an expanded population from precolonial sizes." That would mean that "climate change" correlates with more Monarch butterflies.

AUGUST 25, 2023

Editors' notes

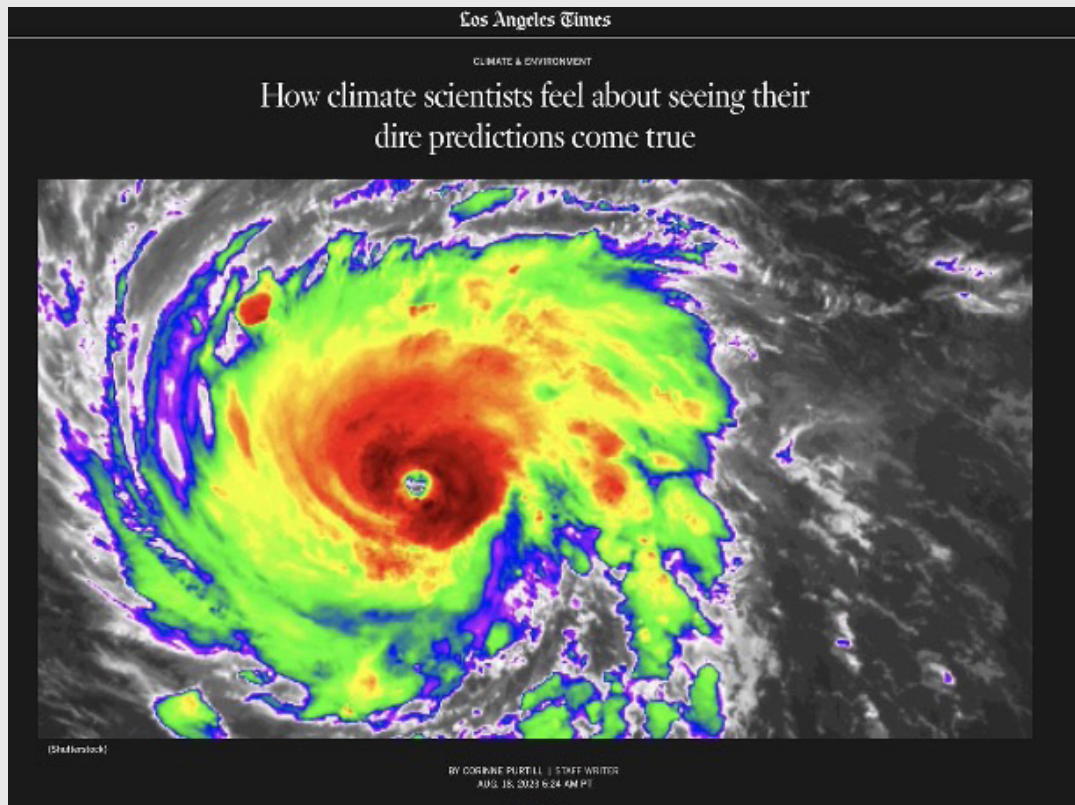
Research suggests monarch butterflies may be in less danger than we think

by Antonella Di Marzio, The College of William & Mary



Monarch butterfly drinking nectar from a milkweed plant. Credit: JanetandPhil o...

We'll close out this month with a final laugh from the Los Angeles Times: "[How climate scientists feel about seeing their predictions come true.](#)"



The article mentions no "dire prediction that has come true." Not one. There is a passing general reference to James Hansen's 1988 Senate testimony, but none of that came true either as detailed in "[Wrong Again: James Hansen 1988 Senate Testimony Edition.](#)" For more predictions that never came true, check out: "[Wrong Again: 50 Years of Failed Eco-pocalyptic Predictions](#)" and "[Wrong Again: 2020's Failed Climate Doomsaying.](#)"

Until next month...