THE CLIMATE IN AFRICA 2017

BRIEF FOR POLICY MAKERS

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PRELIMINARY STATEMENT BASED ON JANUARY-SEPTEMBER TEMPERATURE DATA

ACMAD
HIGH LEVEL STATEMENT FOR POLICY MAKERS

This Brief for Policy and Decision Makers provides a preliminary statement on warming level and rate for all African land masses based on temperature data for the first nine months of the years from 1950 to 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The year 2017 was the third warmest on record over the African land masses since 1950 (Figure 1) following 2010 (the warmest year) and 2016 (the second warmest year);

- The average temperature over the continent was +1.20 degrees Celsius higher than the 1961-1990 average in 2017. It was +1.41 degrees Celsius higher than average in 2010 and +1.26 degrees Celsius in 2016;

- The warming rate (+3.7°C per century) over the last 27 years (Figure 2) is the most alarming signal highlighting the need for urgent action on mitigation and climate resilience.

Figure 1: Ranked temperature anomalies (°C) for Africa during the 1950-2017 period relative to 1961-1990. Coloured bars indicate years that were influenced by El Niño (red), La Niña (blue) and years without strong influence (grey). Data source: NOAA/NCEP/CPC/CAMS.
Figure 2: Temperature anomalies (difference from 1961-1990 average) and trends for African land masses. Coloured bars indicate years that were influenced by El Niño (red), La Niña (blue) and years without strong influence (grey). Data source: NOAA/NCEP/CPC/CAMS.

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