

# CLIMATE FACT CHECK: OCTOBER 2025 EDITION

Debunking false claims about disappearing islands, coral reefs, hot cities, monsoons, & hurricanes

## September 29th: No, Reuters, climate change is not threatening Europe's resources

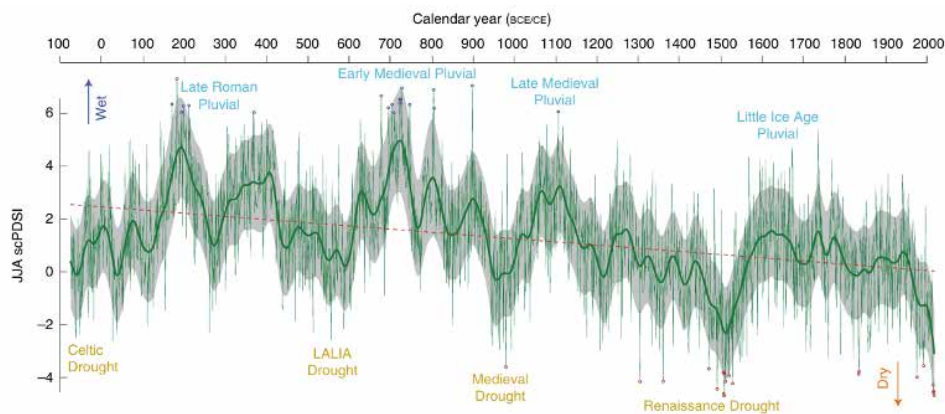


REUTERS

**Claim:** In the article, "[Climate change and pollution threaten Europe's resources, EU warns](#),"

Reuters asserts that climate change poses a "direct threat" to Europe's natural resources, citing an EU environment agency report that warns of worsening droughts and extreme weather.

**Fact-Check:** Europe's resource problems are caused by overuse and poor water resource management, not human-caused climate change. Europe's worst droughts occurred long before today's modest warming. The [megadrought of 1540](#), for instance, lasted an entire year, with contemporaneous records describing riverbeds across central Europe running dry, with widespread crop failure, and thousands of deaths. The "Renaissance Drought" can be seen in a [2021 reconstruction](#) of the Central European Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI). More recent severe droughts struck in the [1920s](#) and [1940s](#), periods that cannot be blamed on modern greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

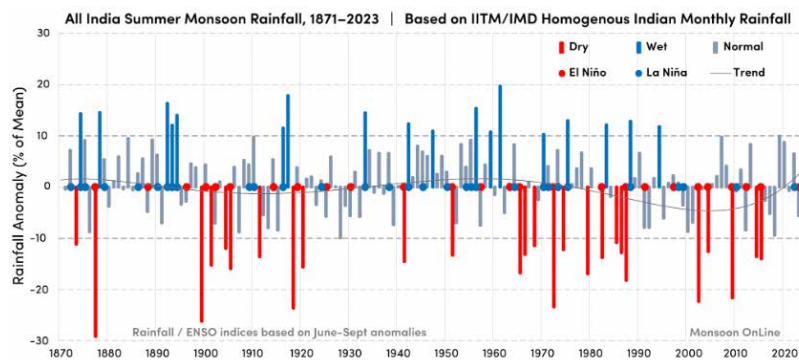


## October 1st: Climate change is not making the South Asian Monsoon more dangerous, Phys.org



**Claim:** A [recent post](#) at *Phys.org* claims that climate change is leading to more intense and erratic monsoon rains, and thus more danger to the people living in South Asia. They go further, saying, "climate change is causing longer dry spells punctuated by bursts of extreme rain."

**Fact-Check:** This is false. [Historical data](#) show that Indian summer monsoon rainfall has neither increased nor decreased since 1871. In fact, last year's monsoon was [touted as beneficial](#) for crop production after mild drought had hampered crop production over the preceding few years. A [peer-reviewed study](#) published in *Gondwana Research* reinforces this, stating that their examination of historic data "implies that increased global warming does not necessarily entail changes in the South Indian monsoon rainfall." Moreover, late in the *Phys.org* article, even the author admits that "the full impact of climate change on monsoon patterns is not entirely clear because of the complexities involved in the seasonal rains."



## October 7th: The Guardian Is Wrong: Cities Are Hotter Because of the Urban Heat Island (UHI) Effect, Not Increased CO<sub>2</sub>

**Claim:** *The Guardian* [published an article](#) asserting that global warming has caused a sharp rise in the number of extremely hot days in cities worldwide, citing an International Institute for Environment and Development analysis that claims urban residents from London to Tokyo now experience 25 percent more hot days each year than they did in the 1990s.

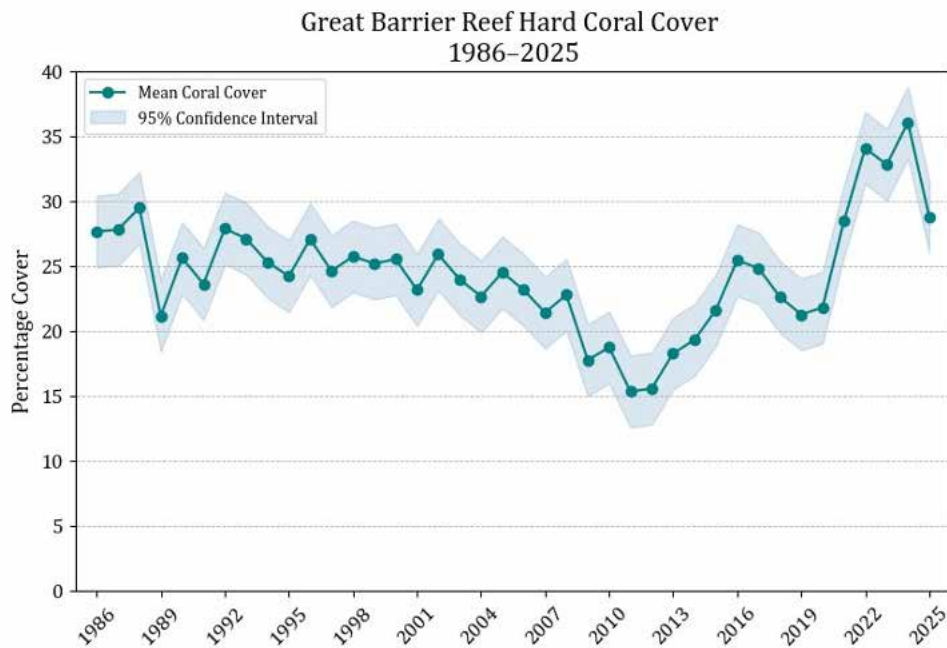
**Fact-Check:** Cities are not thermometers for the planet. They are microclimates dominated by concrete, asphalt, and glass, which trap heat and bias local temperature readings upward. [Peer-reviewed research](#) published in the *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology* shows that urbanization is a major driver of observed warming at city weather stations. The paper found that urban heat island (UHI) effects contributed to 22% of the raw observed warming trend on average, and up to 65% at suburban and urban stations. When examining rural stations, the effect nearly vanishes. This demonstrates that much of the increase in urban temperatures is the UHI, not global climate change.

## October 9th: Is global warming killing our coral reefs?



**Claim:** A [recent article](#) in *The Hill* by Rebecca Vega Thurber, the director of the Marine Science Institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara, criticized President Trump's remark during his United Nations address, calling climate change a "con job." The author contends that her work on coral reefs, primarily off the coast of Florida and in the French South Pacific, contradicts the President's claim because an increase in "marine heatwaves" is wreaking havoc on reefs worldwide.

**Fact-Check:** While corals can bleach due to heat stress, bleaching is not the same as dying, it is an adaptive response to stressors. Cold weather, [fertilizer runoff](#) in river or stream discharge, and [exposure to ultraviolet \(UV\) radiation](#) can cause or jointly contribute to bleaching events. The latter can be caused by [localized drops in sea level](#) or by prolonged periods with clear, still water, such that UV can penetrate several meters down without being mixed via wave activity. A [2019 paper](#) found that French Polynesian reefs have an "outstanding rate of coral recovery, with a systemic return to pre-disturbance state within only 5 to 10 years." What's more, hard [coral cover in the Great Barrier Reef](#) off the coast of Queensland, Australia—the largest in the world—reached a record high in 2022 and again in 2024.



Data source: AIMS Reef Reporting Dashboard,  
<https://apps.aims.gov.au/reef-monitoring/sector/ca/manta>

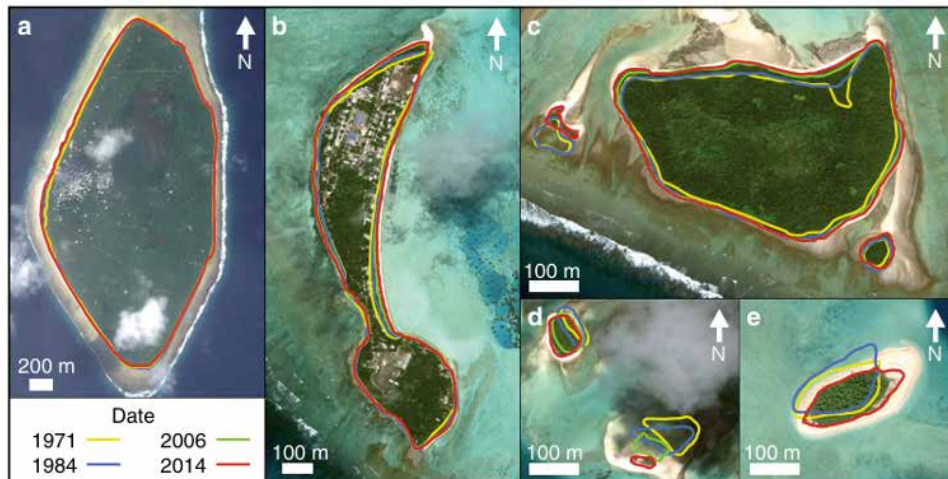
Chart: Chris Martz

## October 15th: Al Jazeera Is Wrong, Tuvalu's Islands Are Growing, Not Disappearing



**Claim:** In *Al Jazeera's* [article](#), "'We don't want to disappear': Tuvalu fights for climate action and" reporter Lyndal Rowlands claims that the Pacific island nation of Tuvalu is on the brink of disappearing beneath rising seas.

**Fact-Check:** This is false. Multiple peer-reviewed studies show that Tuvalu is not sinking. Rather, it is growing. Recent satellite and aerial analyses reveal that Tuvalu's total land area has [increased by 2.9%](#) over the past four decades, with 74% of its islands expanding in size. Rather than drowning, Tuvalu's natural processes of sediment deposition and coral accretion are exceeding the local rate of sea level rise (SLR).



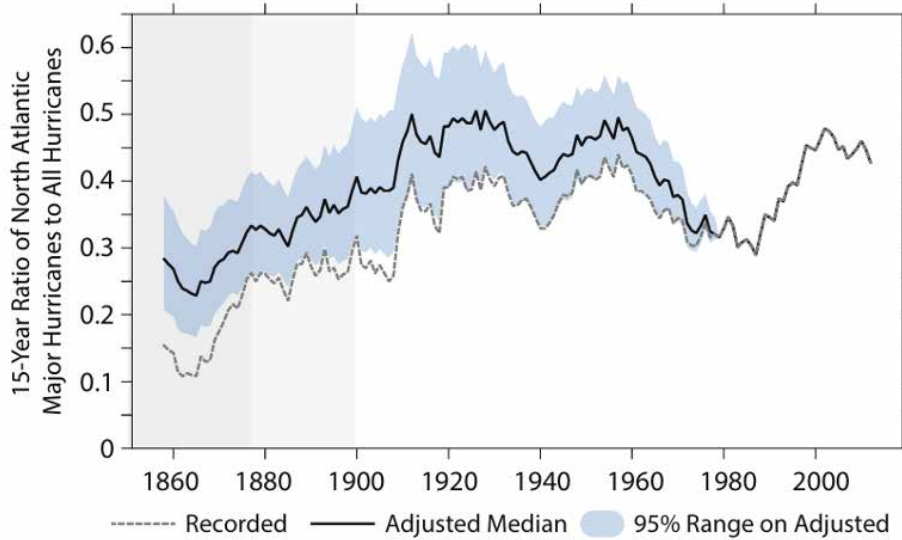
## October 23rd: No, climate change did not make Hurricane Melissa worse



**Claim:** An [article](#) written by *NBC Connecticut* meteorologist Steve Glazier claims that the anomalously high sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the Caribbean Sea were 600 times more likely because of global warming. As such, these "climate-fueled" waters provided more fuel to allow Tropical Storm Melissa to intensify into a category four hurricane, whereas it wouldn't have done so in the absence of GHG emissions. These figures are derived from Climate Central's "[Climate Shift Index](#)."

**Fact-Check:** The Caribbean is warm enough at this time of the year, every year, to support a major hurricane—even a category five. Slightly warmer waters are not going to make any significant difference in intensification rate or peak strength. Historical records show similar or stronger storms in the past—such as the [1935 Labor Day Hurricane](#), which struck the Florida Keys with estimated winds of 185 mph. There is [no evidence](#) to suggest that Atlantic basin hurricanes have become stronger over the last 175 years. [Peer-reviewed research](#) in *Nature Communications* found no increase in Atlantic major hurricane frequency since 1851. What's more, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's [Sixth Assessment Report](#) found no

detectable increase in either global tropical cyclone frequency or intensity. Climate Central's "Climate Shift Index" is comparing 30 years of observational data to climate model simulations, which are calibrated to the same observational data, creating a closed loop of reasoning.



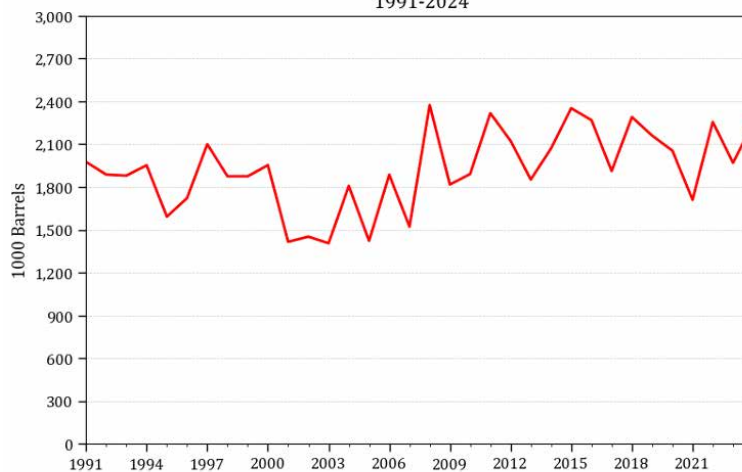
## October 27th: Are rising temperatures coming for our cranberries?!

the guardian

**Claim:** Environmental advocacy nonprofit *Inside Climate News* ran a [headline claiming](#) that cranberry farms in Massachusetts are struggling to produce harvests because of rising surface air temperatures. As such, they say that farmers are choosing to restore their cranberry bogs into wetlands to ensure that the land remains protected.

**Fact-Check:** The majority of cranberries are grown in Wisconsin, not Massachusetts. According to the [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#), 59.4% of the cranberry harvest in 2024 came from Wisconsin, with 4.9 million barrels filled. Still, [USDA data reveal](#) that cranberry production in Massachusetts has actually *increased* over the last 30 years despite the fact that temperatures (mostly overnight lows) have increased gradually over that same time interval.

Massachusetts Cranberry Production  
1991-2024



Data source: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Massachusetts/Publications/Annual\\_Statistical\\_Bulletin/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Massachusetts/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/index.php)

Chart: Chris Martz

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- [Coral Recoveries and Growth Show The Hill Is Misleading About Global Warming Killing Reefs](#)
- [False, Yahoo News, Cape Coral Isn't Sinking](#)

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