

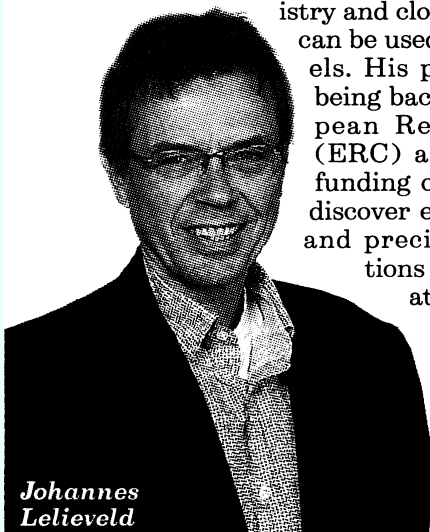
# 'Cyprus to get hotter and drier'

**GLOBAL WARMING MODEL SAYS ISLAND SET TO GET WARMER BUT THERE'S LITTLE REASON TO CHEER**

**A** Dutch scientist says Cyprus looks set to get less rain and more heat-waves by the mid-century.

That is the glum outlook for the island according to researcher Johannes Lelieveld who has been studying clouds and precipitation at The Cyprus Institute since 2009.

Lelieveld's research team has developed a new numerical method to consistently compute atmospheric trace gas, aerosol chemistry and cloud processes that can be used in climate models. His project, which is being backed by the European Research Council (ERC) and has received funding of €2.2m, aims to discover exactly how cloud and precipitation formations are influenced by atmospheric chemical composition changes.



*Johannes Lelieveld*

Lelieveld's model system facilitates air quality and climate studies and provides

input to climate impact assessments.

The project is already into its third year and with two years still remaining, the results have already shown that Cyprus - along with the Eastern Mediterranean - are likely to feel the brunt of climate

change in the coming years.

"We know that the Mediterranean region is sensitive to climate change", Lelieveld told The Cyprus Weekly in an interview this week.

"Now if temperatures rise in say areas like Germany or Siberia it will not be a problem for the population there but it is a problem for areas in the Mediterranean and Middle East.

"The projection we have based on the data that we have accumulated and imputed into the climate model sees Cyprus seeing 20% less rain by the mid-century while the outbreaks of heat-waves will be more frequent."

He added, "This will obviously have an impact on people in the region and could affect things like agriculture."

Cyprus and indeed the Mediterranean has already begun feeling the bite of climate change. According to researchers of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, global warming is contributing to a rise in both the magnitude and the frequency of wintertime droughts in the Mediterranean region.

Of the 12 driest winters it has experienced since 1902, ten occurred during the past 20 years.

According to scientists, Cyprus is suffering from one of the most intense and exceptional climate changes in the Mediterranean region.

The amount of rainfall has been decreasing over the last 30 years, and there are concerns about supply of drinking water to the island despite welcome rain this year driving reservoirs to satisfactory levels.

Although the Medium annual rainfall in the first 30 years of the century was 559 mms, in the last 30 years it has been reduced to 462 mms, which is 17% lower than at the beginning of century.

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**FORECAST:** *Cyprus is likely to see 20% less rain by the mid-century while the outbreaks of heat-waves will be more frequent*

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