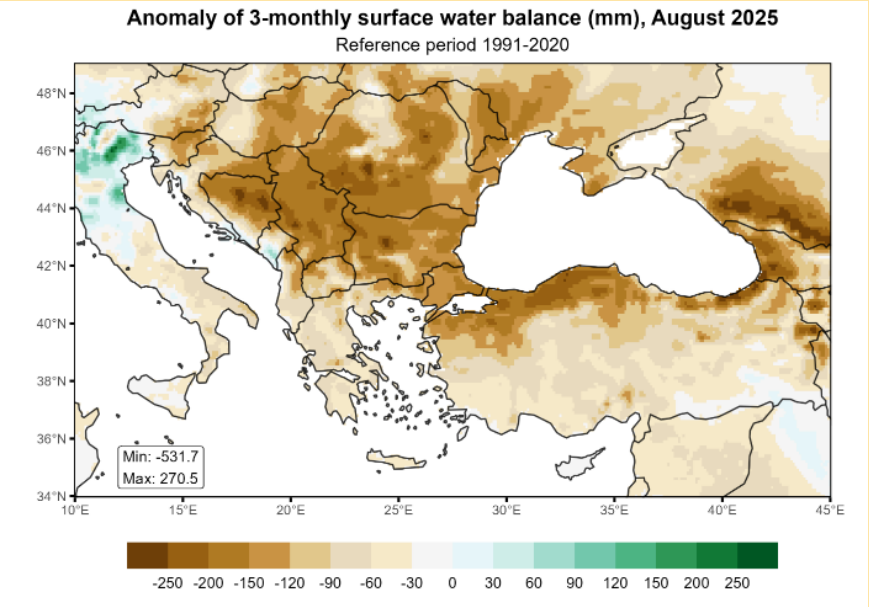
DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN

August 2025

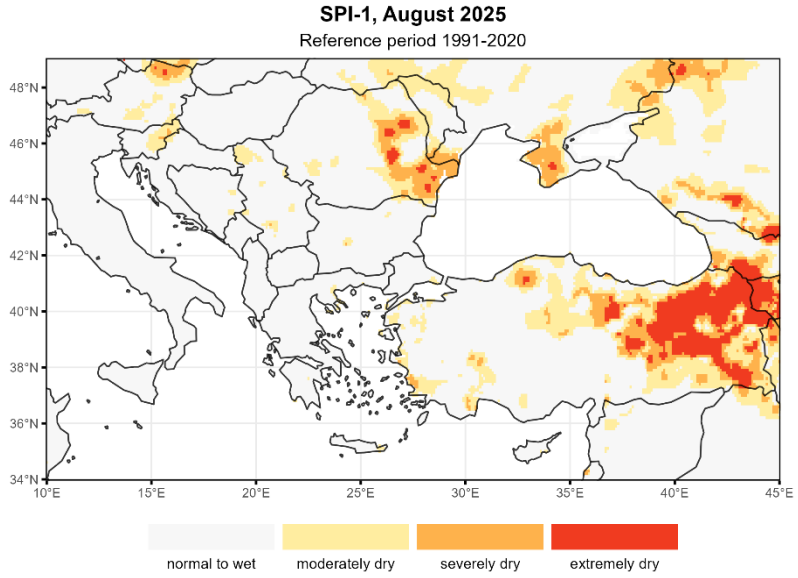
HOT SPOT

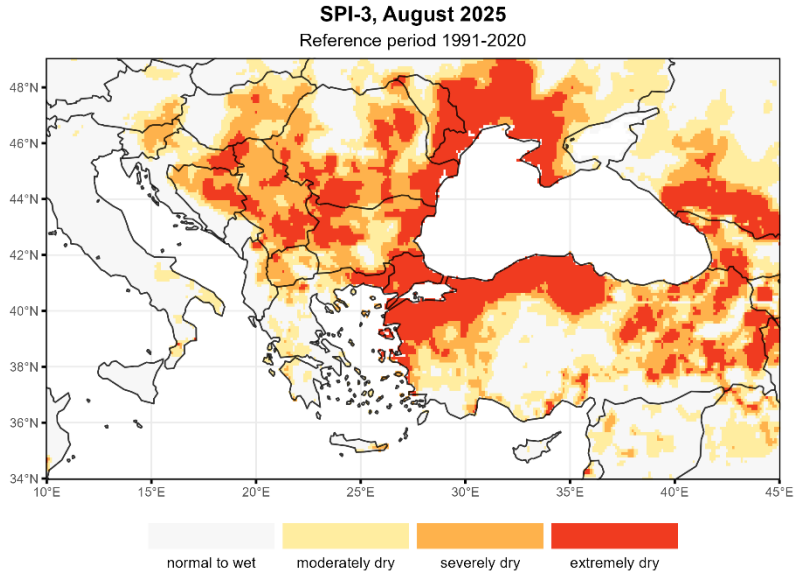


- 3-monthly overview of surface water balance conditions between June and August reveal nearly the entire region concluded this summer period with less than normal accumulated surface water balance. Only across far southeastern Turkey and along the Adriatic Sea did this summer's surface water balance accumulate to average values for this time of the year, while surplus was limited to localised part of southern Montenegro, of up to 90 mm.
- Accumulated deficit was the greatest all along Turkey's north and across wider central part of Balkan Peninsula, between central Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosporus Strait and eastern Romania. From June to August alone, these parts of the region experienced up to 250 mm of surface water balance deficit, locally the accumulated deficit was even higher.
- Most of such deficit was created in June on the account of extreme evaporative demand due to much higher than normal air temperatures, as well as extreme lack of rain. Across central part of the Balkan Peninsula between 75 and 150 mm of precipitation was lacking this June.
- Lack of rain and warmer than normal air temperatures persisted also in July and August although to a lesser degree, and with the centre of weather conditions favourable for drought generally moved towards the eastern parts of the region. Areas experiencing highest lack of rain recorded between 50 and 75 mm of rainfall deficit in July, and mostly up to 50 mm in August. Additional water was lost from plants and soil due to the continuation of higher than usual air temperatures.

PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS

Figures below show standardized precipitation index (**SPI**) **for August 2025 at one- and 3-monthly scales**. Unitless SPI values present the deviation of the accumulated precipitations from the long-term mean, suggesting how (in)frequent the occurrence of such value was in the past. SPI values lower than -1 that go as low as -1.5, -2 or below -2 and shall correspond respectively to the occurrence of such precipitation deficit in 9.2 %, 4.4 % or 2.3 % of the time in a long-term series of data, are arbitrary grouped into drought intensity classes labelled as moderate, severe or extreme. Monthly SPI indicates drought conditions that may have impact on vegetation health, while 3-monthly SPI can be indicative also for surface water status.



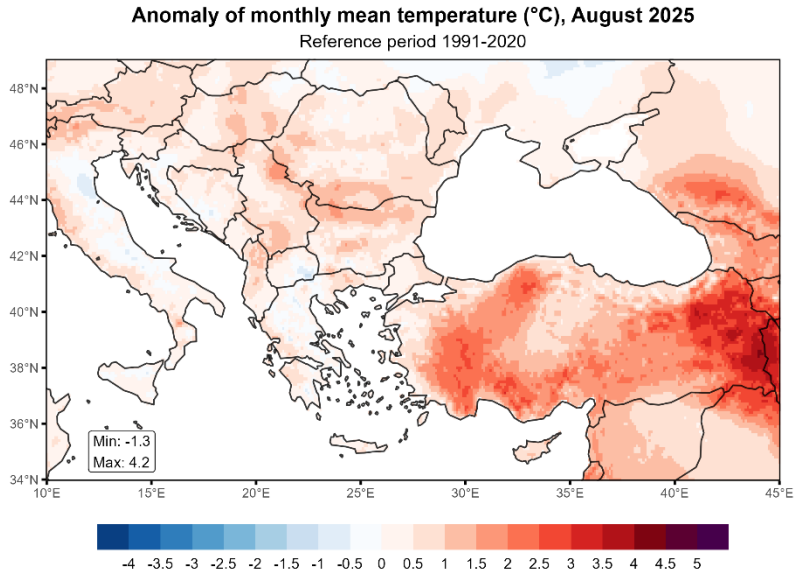


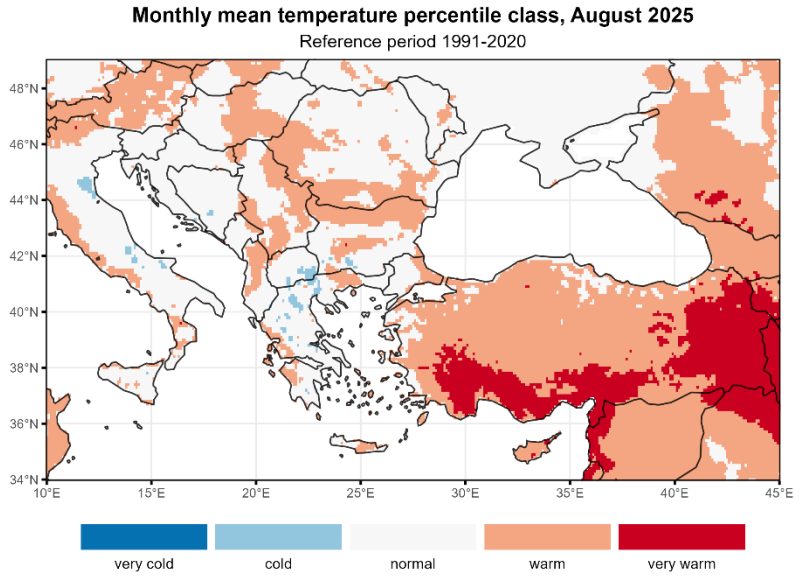
- Although August rainfall rate show general tendency towards less-than-normal across the region, its vast part recorded a monthly deficit of not more than 50 mm.
- Slightly higher precipitation deficit, of up to 75 mm, was present in eastern part of Slovenia, over the Carpathians and along Turkey's north, while in far northeastern Turkey monthly rainfall rate was up to 125 mm short of its August average.
- Unusually high amount of rain was recorded along southern Adriatic Sea coastline where it exceeded the monthly average for 75–150 mm. Localised areas in western Hungary, central North Macedonia and along western Albania also recorded some monthly surplus, of up to 50 mm.

- The monthly precipitation deficit experienced across the region indicates moderately dry August across eastern Slovenia, northern Moldova and locally in Aegean Turkey, and severely to extremely dry August in eastern half of Romania and eastern third of Turkey.
- 3-monthly overview of precipitation condition show severely to extremely dry June-August period across nearly the entire region with the exception of its western coastal belt, most of Greece and central Turkey and locally in its north. It mostly came on the account of extremely dry June, in central and southern parts of the region and across northern half of Turkey also due to noticeably dry July and August.

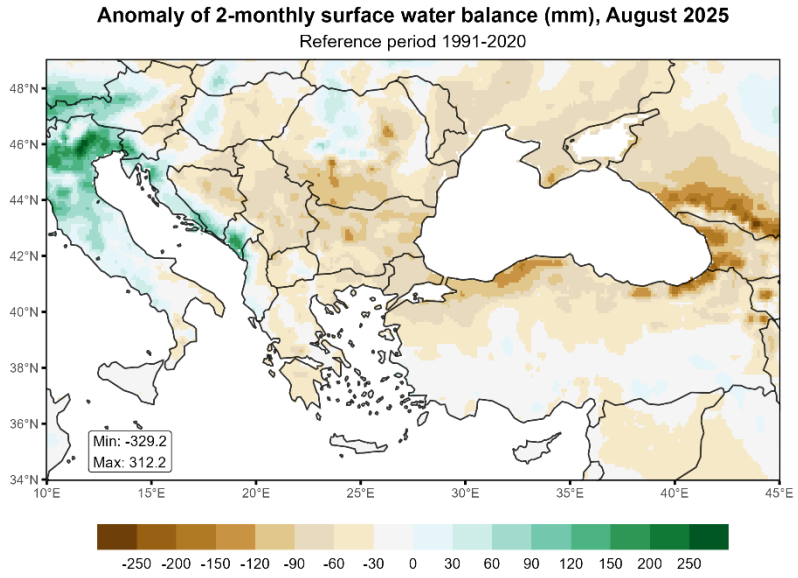
AIR TEMPERATURE AND SURFACE WATER BALANCE

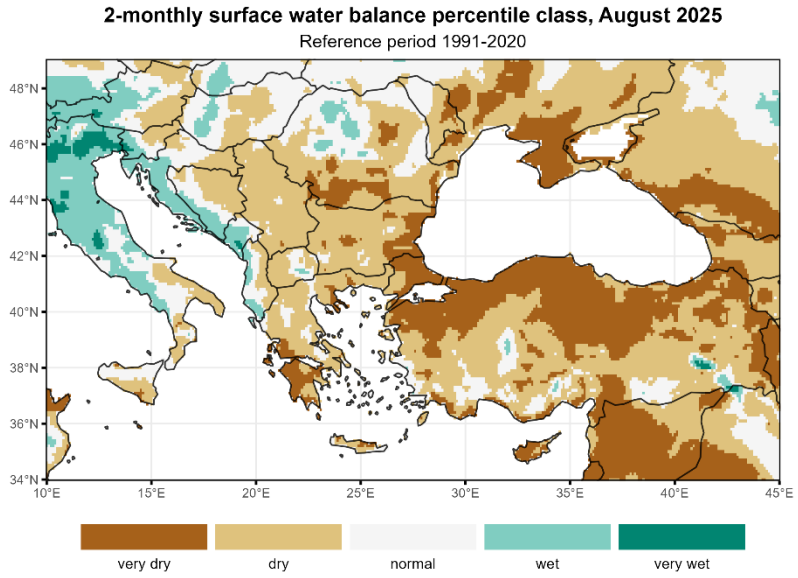
Figures below show anomalies of **monthly mean air temperature and 2-monthly accumulated surface water balance** (precipitation reduced for evapotranspiration) in absolute units and in percentile classes for **August 2025** in comparison to the 1991-2020 reference datasets. The two extreme percentile classes have a 5-percent range, and each of the middle three classes has a 30-percent range. A percentile value (class) indicates the position of a score within an ordered dataset, showing the percentage of scores that fall below (within) it.





- August air temperatures were in general warmer than normal in the region, although across most part of Balkan Peninsula monthly mean was not more than 1 °C above the average, which ranks within the normal deviation from the long-term. Only locally across its central part was August up to 2 °C warmer than usual.
- Considerably warmer was August across most of Turkey where air temperatures, averaged over a month, were across nearly the entire country at least 1 °C higher than normal. It was up to 3 °C warmer than usual over much of the western third of the country and over its central-south, and up to 4 °C across Turkey's east.
- In comparison to the 1991-2020, August was across southern half of Turkey one of the warmest in the local long-term records, and this way continued a run of consecutively unusually warm months in recent period: along Turkey's south, all months since June inclusive scored among the warmest five percentiles of the long-term, and in its south-east since May, inclusive.





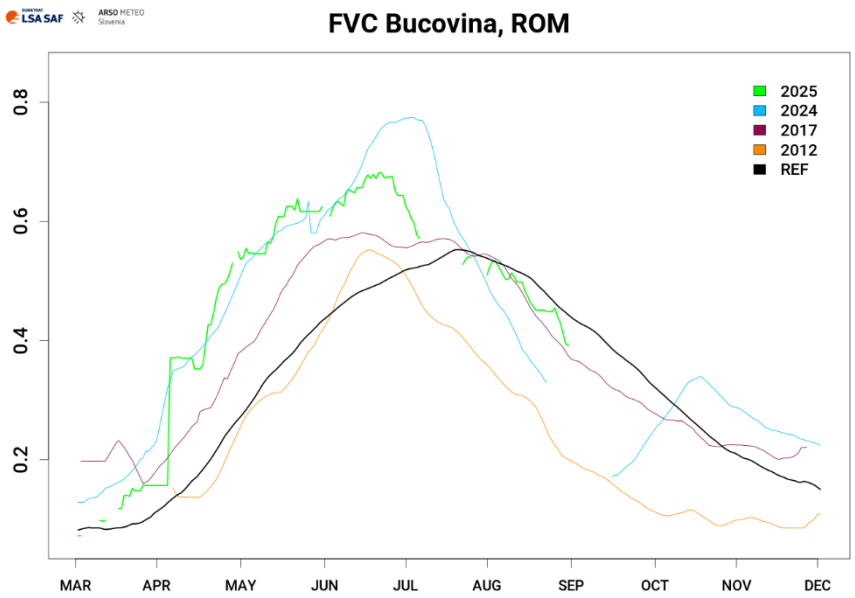
- Across vast part of the region, high to very high surface water balance deficit prevailed in July as well as August while the belt along the Adriatic Sea, from Slovenia to Montenegro, experienced wet to very wet surface water balance during both months. Meanwhile, North Macedonia and Albania recorded changing surface water balance conditions, from noticeable deficit in July to wet surface water balance levels in August.
- 2-monthly surface water balance accumulations reveal noticeable surplus of 90–150 mm along most of the Adriatic Sea coastline, across most of Montenegro up to 200 mm. In western Hungary, northwestern quarter of Romania and much of Albania, the July-August surface water balance accumulated to average values or surplus of up to 60 mm, indicating normal to wet levels.
- Areas experiencing unusually high deficit, ranking among the driest five percentiles, were in July concentrated across Turkey's north and the region's southwestern part, from North Macedonia to southwestern Greece, and in August across central and eastern Turkey.
- Across wider central, eastern and southern Balkan Peninsula as well as northern half of Turkey, the July-August surface water balance accumulations were mostly up to 90 mm lower than normal for this time of the year, in central Balkan Peninsula and along Turkey's northern coastline even higher, up to 150 mm, locally up to 200 mm lower than the local July-August average.

VEGETATION DEVELOPMENT

Fraction of vegetation cover (FVC) *is a vegetation index based on remote-sensing (satellite) measurements, and shows fraction of the total pixel area covered by green vegetation. As such, it has in combination with atmospheric parameters proved useful also for drought monitoring. Values vary according to the vegetation stage and possible damages, including those by extreme weather conditions. In general, they are low at the beginning of the growing season, highest at full seasonal development, then drop with vegetation senescence. Line shape depends on the sort of vegetation at the given location.*

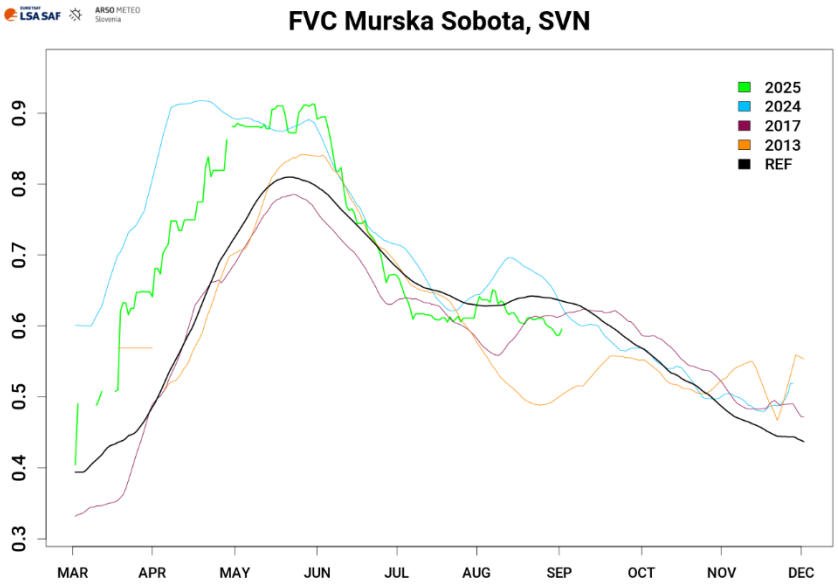
Graphs below show the **fraction of unit area covered with green vegetation** in accordance with FVC index, as recorded **on 31 August 2025** at selected locations across southeastern Europe. Current year's values are presented in green line, while graphs include also the reference line (long-term average), and lines for the previous year, drought year 2017 and drought year 2012 (or 2013) for comparison. Missing values or sharp changes may be linked to prolonged cloudy weather, snow cover, extreme weather events, human intervention or changes to product by the product provider.

ROMANIA

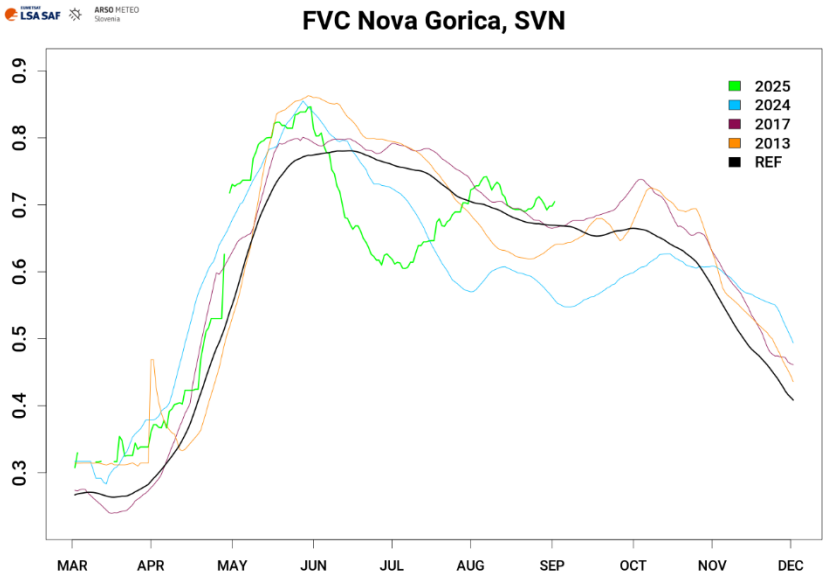


- According to FVC, vegetation in Bucovina, northern Romania experienced an abundant first half of the season. After the onset of favourable weather conditions in late March vegetation growth soon resulted in about 20 % greater part of unit area covered with green canopy.
- Vegetation cover remained about 20 % higher than normal throughout the rest of spring and into early summer, after which the onset of unfavourable weather conditions prevented further vegetation development just before the peak part of the season.
- FVC values show more or less continuous decline from mid-June onward, more rapidly so during second half of June, during which the abundant level of cover was brought down to the average before the end of the month, and in late August.
- According to FVC, vegetation development during July and August progressed similarly as it did in drought year 2017.

SLOVENIA

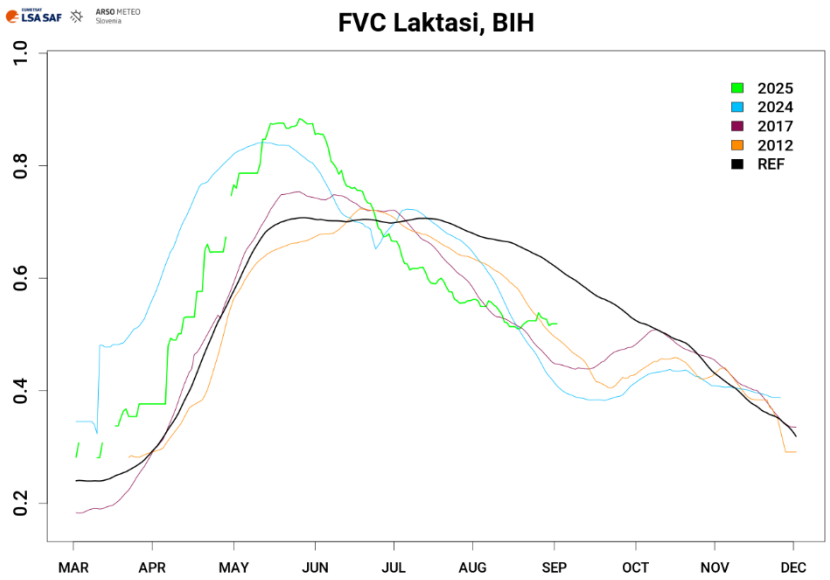


- In Murska Sobota, northeastern Slovenia, vegetation growth began almost a month earlier this year and in favourable weather conditions continued to advance its regular progress throughout the entire first half of the season.
- Peak level of vegetation cover was in late May stretching across 90 % of the unit area, exceeding the average for 10 %. Unfavourable weather conditions during summer months brought vegetation cover down to the average levels before the end of June, after which it continued to decline at the rate higher than normal and remained under-average throughout most of July and August.

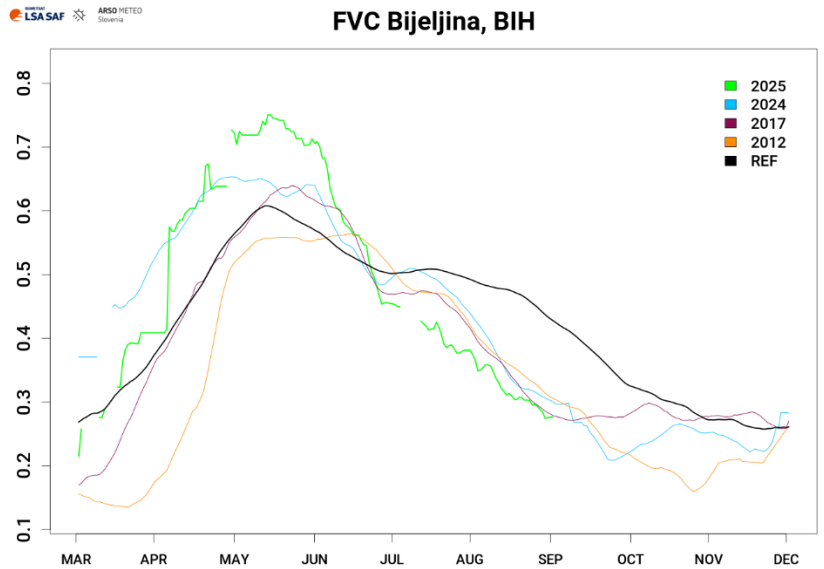


- Vegetation in Nova Gorica, western Slovenia began its growing season on the base of higher than normal FVC at the end of winter, resulting in slightly advancing its usual level of development.
- Seasonal peak was in mid-May exceeded for about 10 %, but due to unfavourable weather conditions was cut short soon after its onset. It was followed by a period of drastic decline in FVC levels up until early July, during which the level of cover with green canopy dropped from about 85 % to 60 %.
- Vegetation seemed to recover in growth and expansion as FVC slowly returned to average levels by early August, and remained about that level throughout the rest of the month.

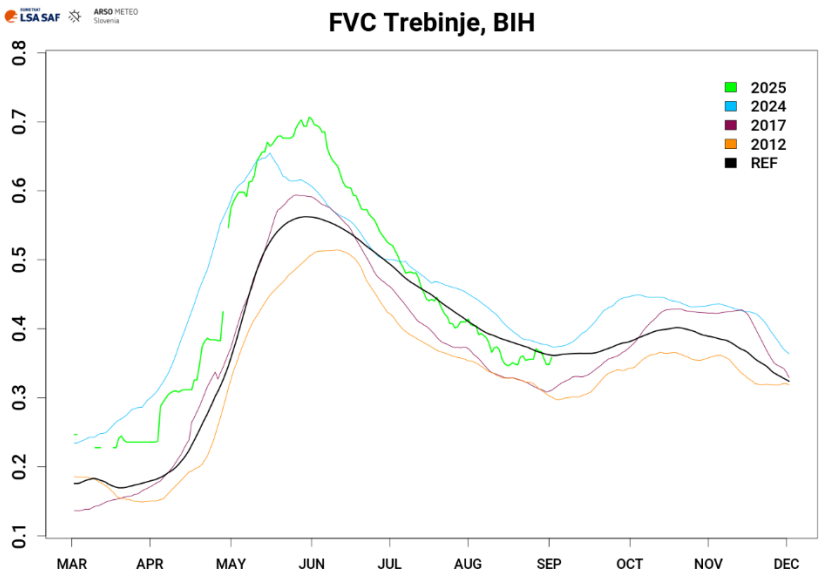
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA)



- This year, vegetation in Laktasi, northwestern Bosnia and Herzegovina had an early start to the season, about 2–3 weeks ahead of its usual onset of growth. As favourable weather conditions supported its development at the rate of growth, its level of cover at the time of seasonal peak in mid-May well exceeded its long-term average, for up to 20 %.
- Instead of the usual lengthy period of seasonal peak, unfavourable weather conditions sped up the senescence of green canopy to early June already, after which the level of cover with healthy vegetation kept declining continuously, from 90 % to under-average 55 % before the end of August.

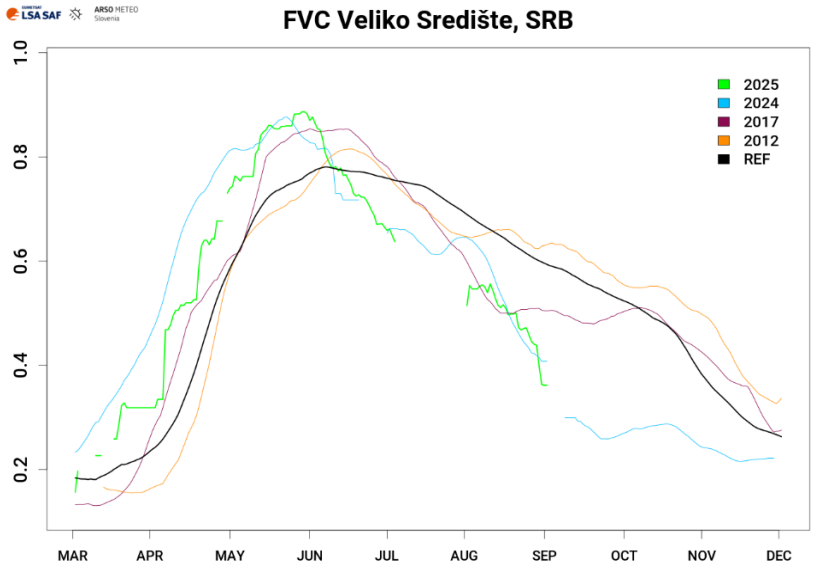


- Vegetation in Bijeljina, northeastern Bosnia and Herzegovina boosted into growth in first half of March and progressed in development at the rate higher than normal throughout spring months. The usual level of peak cover was reached a month in advance, and it continued to expand up to the seasonal peak time in mid-May when FVC shows about 15 % greater than normal level of peak cover.
- Due to unfavourable weather conditions of summer months, a continuous decline in FVC level at the rate much higher than normal can be observed from June through till the end of August, resembling the patters from drought year 2017. At the end of August, green canopy was covering not more than 30 % of the unit area, about 15 % less than normally for this time of the year.

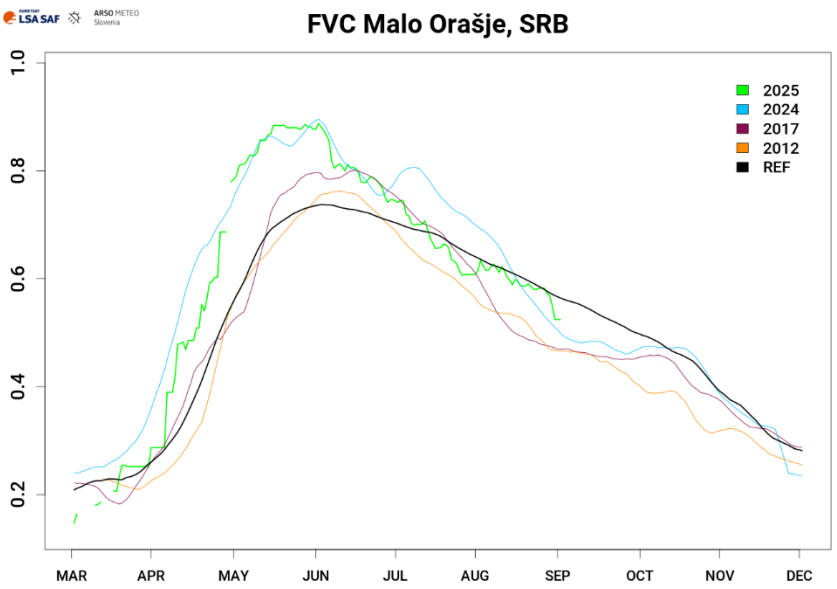


- Vegetation season in Trebinje, southern Bosnia and Herzegovina began on the base of slightl above-average level of cover, but also up to 2 weeks earlier. With its regular rate of growth, it kept advancing in level of cover throughout spring and well exceeded the seasonal peak in late May for up to 15 %.
- Senescence phase was sped up due to unfavourable weather conditions in June which lasted throughout all summer months. Abundant level of cover at the seasonal peak went through a continuous 3-monthly decline at the unusually high rate, falling below the average by mid-July and remained lower than normal till the end of August.

SERBIA

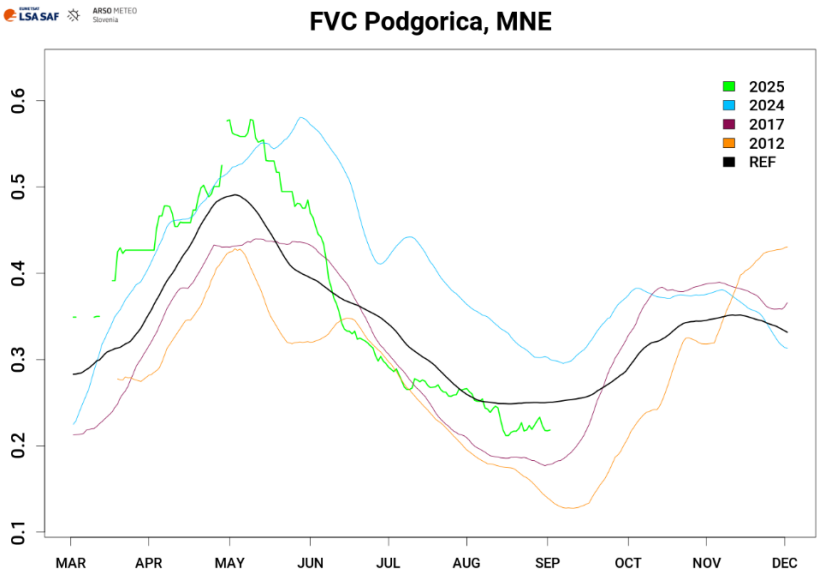


- Vegetation in Veliko Srediste, northeastern Serbia began about 2 weeks earlier than normal and by progressing at its usual rate of development it covered up to 15 % greater than normal unit of area just before the seasonal peak time in early June.
- With June came unfavourable weather conditions that lasted all summer, and thus brought level of cover with green canopy down at the rate much higher than normal for the senescence phase. Exceeded level of cover was lost before mid-June, after which it kept declining faster than normal throughout all summer, sitting at 35 % of unit area instead of its usual 60 % at the end of August.



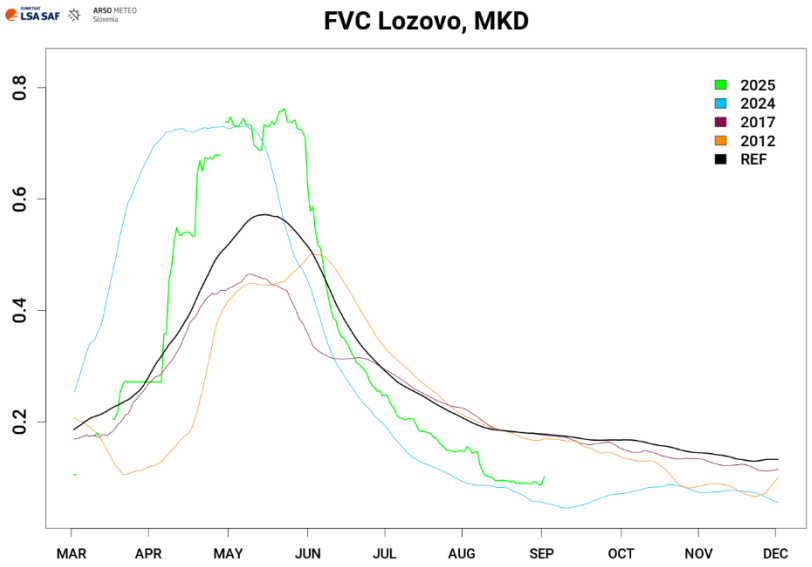
- Although vegetation season in Malo Orasje, central Serbia began on the base of lower than normal level of cover at the end of winter, its growth and development throughout spring progressed at the rate higher than usual, thus advancing its regular development and reaching an abundant extent of cover with green canopy at the time of seasonal peak in late May, about 20 % greater than usual.
- The senescence phase that followed was sped up due to unfavourable weather conditions, resulting in loss of the above-average level of cover before mid-July. According to FVC, the decline in level of cover with green canopy slowed down since late July, as FVC remained just below the average.

MONTENEGRO

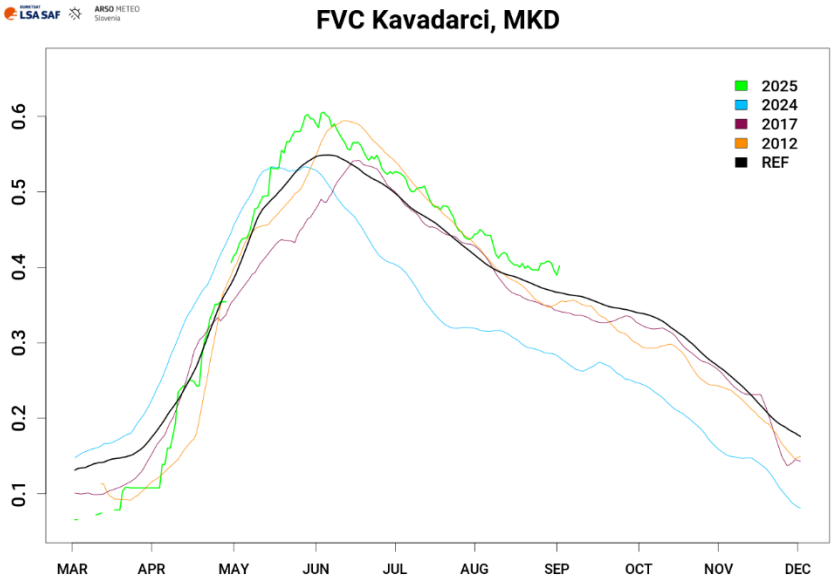


- In Podgorica, southern Montenegro, vegetation season began on the higher than usual base of cover but progressed slower than normal throughout spring. Additional boost in growth during seasonal peak resulted in more than 10 % greater unit of area covered with green canopy in early May.
- Senescence progressed at the regular rate throughout May but was sped up during unfavourable weather conditions in first half of June. FVC dropped for 15–20 % during that time, then continued at the regular senescence rate, thus remaining under-average throughout summer months.

NORTH MACEDONIA

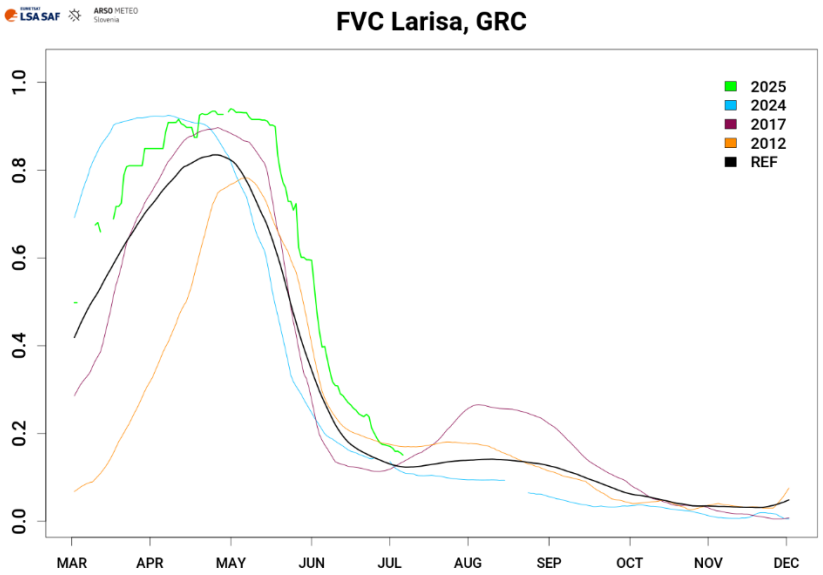


- Vegetation season in Lozovo, central North Macedonia began more or less as usual but experienced an abundant boost in growth throughout the second half of spring, around the time of seasonal peak. Peak level of cover was exceeded by 15–20 % and lasted for a lengthier period of time, from the end of April till the beginning of June.
- From June onward, FVC began to drop drastically due to unfavourable weather conditions. Continuous decline throughout summer months saw the extent of area covered with green vegetation drop from approximately 75 % in early June down to just 10 % by the end of August.

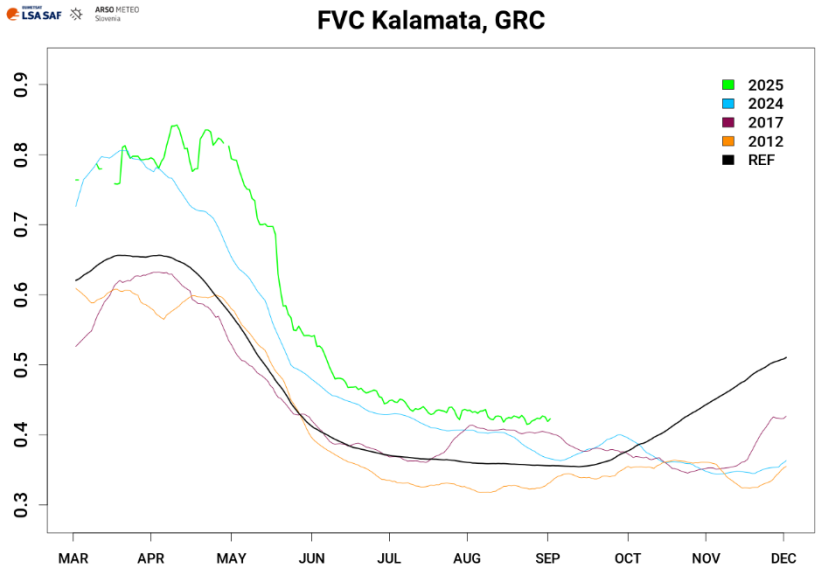


- Although vegetation in Kavadarci, southern North Macedonia entered vegetation season on the base of much lesser extent of cover at the end of winter, it lkicked into growth in early April and progressed as usual throughout the growing part of the season, even slightly exceeding the peak level of cover in late May.
- Senescence phase that followed progressed at its usual rate from June onward, resulting in continuously slightly above-average level of cover with green canopy throughout summer months.

GREECE

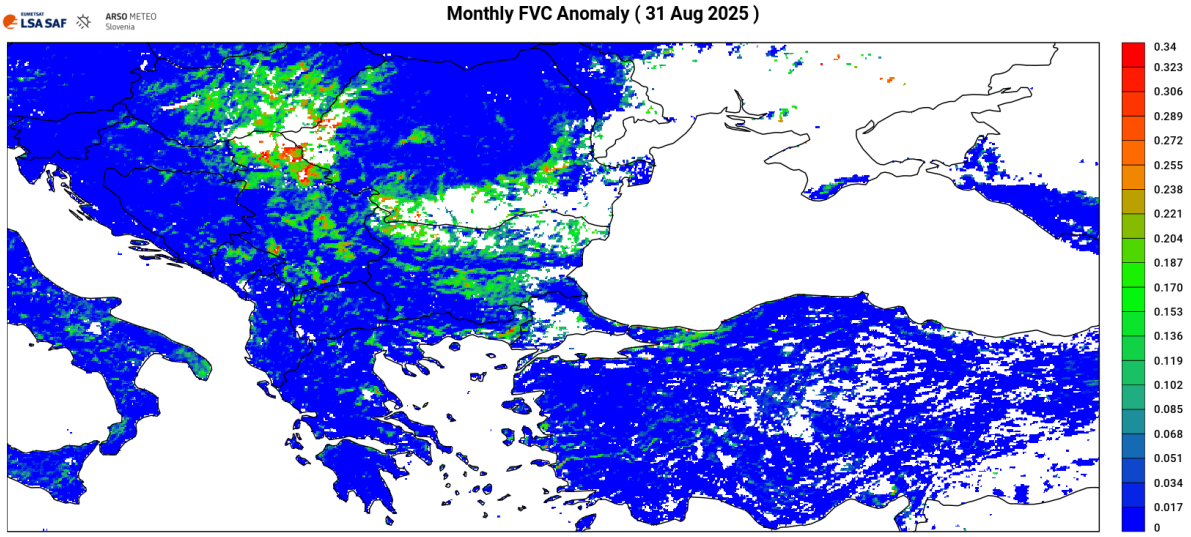


- Vegetation in Larisa, central-eastern Greece, experienced above-average growing part of the season as FVC continuously remained 10 % greater than usual throughout spring and the seasonal peak. Its peak period was extended and lasted up to 2 weeks longer than normal, up to mid-May.
- Senescence phase thus began later, in second half of May, and progressed at its usual rate, meaning the unit of area was losing its green vegetation extent 1–2 weeks later than normal throughout June and July. There has been no record of data afterwards, possibly due to extreme weather events or prevented detection of green canopy.



- Favourable growing conditions in Kalamata, southern Greece reflected in seasonal peak period that well exceeded its usual extent, for 15–20 %, and lasted up to three weeks longer than normal.
- Senescence took place only in early May, about 2–3 weeks later than usual, and throughout May progressed slightly faster than normal but nevertheless kept level of cover with green canopy about 10 % above the long-term average throughout the rest of the dormancy season.

Figure below shows negative anomaly of **accumulated 30-day FVC** as recorded on **31 August 2025** in comparison to the average of the past 21 years (2004–2024), and is used experimentally.



While vegetation across northwestern part of the region and northern Romania and northern Moldova appear to follow their regular or even above-average level of cover, it seems to record under-average levels across much of the central and eastern parts of Balkan Peninsula. Two distinct but noticeable areas record at least 15 % lesser levels of cover with green canopy, locally even higher than 35 %, mostly expanding across the Great Plain including greater part of central and southern Hungary, across much of Serbia and far western Romania, and the second a wide stretch along the lower Danbue River and Danube Delta. Several localities across southern parts of the region, namely across Bulgaria, North Macedonia and wider Aegean Sea area also record green vegetation expanding over up to 15 % lesser than normal unit of area.

DROUGHT IMPACT REPORTS

HUNGARY

After the worst drought in decades in 2022, Hungary is this year also facing extreme drought, with the state **declaring drought emergency**. Summer crops were severely affected by the lack of rainfall in June and early July. The development of **corn and sunflower crops** were legging behind, the stands were underdeveloped in many places, with less green mass than usual at this time of year, and in the central part of the country, for example, corn did not formed ears. The scorching sun not only reduced the quantity but also the quality through reduced nutritional value of the plants, while pathogens and pests multiplied faster. A very poor harvest was expected across larger part of the country as estimates suggest the fall of average yield of corn, sunflower and **soybeans** by 30–40 %, and the outlook was encouraging in only a few regions. Severe drought could lead to further increases in food prices. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6] The Homokhatsag region in southern Hungary, traditionally growing corn, grain and sunflower, turned into a semi-desert. Due to the severe drought in the Danube-Tisza region, central Hungary, more and more producers were considering giving up farming as agriculture production is lacking a season's worth of precipitation. [7] The **grape** harvest in the Kunsag wine region, central Hungary, started with a weak to average yield, but promising quality. [8]

About 80 % of over 2400 fish farming water areas registered in the country were affected to some extent by this year's drought, which in some regions proved to be more severe than in drought year 2022, while significant **fish mortality** occurred in fewer than 10 water bodies so far this year, including Tisza watershed, over Transdanubia and in Homokhatsag. [9, 10, 11] Due to the combined effect of the lack of precipitation and summer heat, a situation requiring some kind of intervention arose in four-fifths of water areas. One of the most catastrophic situations was in the Homokhatsag, southern Hungary where the **groundwater level** has dropped to an unprecedented depth. Gravity water replenishment was not possible in this region as in many places a level difference of more than 40 m would have to be overcome. [9] Extreme heat and drought have lowered the **Lake Balaton**'s water level to 71 cm, which is nearly 49 cm below the usual summer maximum. The water deficit showed in visible changes to the lake, such as the emergence of the sandbanks around Balatonfoldvar. [12] The water level of **Lake Belso** in Tihany, western Hungary significantly receded and the coastal and shallower parts have dried out, revealing stone formations at the bottom of the lakebed. [13] The **Zagyva River** almost completely dried up due to drought. Riverbed got covered with green vegetation and water was almost invisible in the Szolnok section, central Hungary, posing pressure and unfavourable living conditions for **wildlife**. [14, 15]

[1] https://piacesprofit.hu/cikkek/klimablog/magyarorszag-legpusztitobb-aszalyai.html?oldal=3&utm_source=rss&utm_medium=referral
[2] https://propeller.hu/itthon/4285730-agrar-aszaly-hoseg?utm_source=hirkereso.hu&utm_medium=referral
[3] https://www.agroinform.hu/szantofold/a-napraforgo-is-bajban-van-de-a-kukorica-szenvedi-meg-leginkabb-az-aszalyt-84781-001?utm_source=hirkereso&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=HIRpromo&utm_content=84781
[4] https://www.agroinform.hu/idojaras_hirek/aszalyjelentes-ahol-meg-zold-a-tabla-ott-is-kerdeses-a-termes-84328-001?utm_source=hirkereso&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=HIRpromo&utm_content=84328
[5] https://hang.hu/belfold/legkori-aszaly-es-hostressz-var-a-novenyekre-179258
[6] https://www.agroinform.hu/kerteszet_szoleszet/osszeszamolni-is-nehez-mekkora-az-idei-kar-84976-001?utm_source=hirkereso&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=HIRpromo&utm_content=84976
[7] https://infostart.hu/belfold/2025/08/12/a-duna-tisza-koze-mar-felig-sivatag-termelok-sora-hagyna-fel-a-gazdalkodassal
[8] https://www.agroinform.hu/kerteszet_szoleszet/aszaly-forrosag-es-vadkar-is-neheziti-az-idei-szuretet-a-kunsagi-borvideken-84488-001?utm_source=hirkereso&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=HIRpromo&utm_content=84488
[9] https://profitline.hu/erdemes-meg-horgaszni-valahol-hol-mennyi-hal-pusztult-el-nyaron-az-aszaly-miatt-477573 ==
[10] https://novekedes.hu/agrarium/a-halastavak-horgaszvizek-80-szazalekanal-okozott-gondot-az-idei-elhuzodo-aszaly
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[12] https://www.agroinform.hu/idojaras_hirek/eszrevetted-ezert-ert-iden-csak-terdig-a-viz-a-balatonban-84928-001?utm_source=hirkereso&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=HIRpromo&utm_content=84928
[13] https://promotions.hu/belfoldi-hirek/2025/08/09/balaton-to-magyar-stonhenge-felfedezes
[14] https://www.vg.hu/vilaggazdasag-magyar-gazdasag/2025/08/zagyva-medre-zoldben-viz?utm_source=hirkereso&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=hiraggregator
[15] https://www.vg.hu/vilaggazdasag-magyar-gazdasag/2025/08/folyo-zagyva-kiszaradhat?utm_source=hirkereso&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=hiraggregator

CROATIA

Due to the lack of precipitation, especially during June and July, damage was recorded to numerous agricultural **crops and perennial plantations** amounted to between 30 and 100 %, depending on the crop. As a result, several city and municipal committees, especially in northeastern part of Croatia, submitted requests for the declaration of a natural disaster due to drought. [1] Varaždin County **declared a natural disaster due to drought** and above-average high temperatures for two of its cities and nine municipalities. [2, 3] In mid-August, a natural disaster of drought was declared for the entire area of Koprivnica-Krizevci County, that is 22 municipalities and three cities. [4] Bjelovar-Bilogora County declared a natural disaster due to the drought in the Grubisno Polje area and the municipalities of Dezanovac, Dulovac and Severin. The drought caused material damage to agricultural crops, including arable crops, **meadows, pastures, and vegetable and fruit crops**. [5]

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[4] https://www.24sata.hr/news/prirodna-nepogoda-proglasena-za-prostor-cijele-koprivnicko-krizevacke-zupanije-1069242
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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Drought and high air temperatures severely impacted **corn** yield across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Reports of negatively impacted corn came from Semberija, northeastern Bosnia and Herzegovina as well. Drought impacts on corn crops triggered earlier harvet this year. The silage failed in both quality and quantity, similarly as in Lijevce Polje, central Bosnia and Herzegovina where corn yield and quality were unsatisfactory. As stalks did not reach their full height it became clear there would not be enough quality fodder this year, posing worries for farmers of **reduced income** but also difficulties to preserve their livestock during winter. [1, 2, 3] In Gradacac, known as a **fruit** growing region in northeastern part of the country, extremely high temperatures during the key part of the growing season significantly reduced fruit crop yields, particularly affecting local producers whose farms rely exclusively on fruit growing. [4]

[1] https://www.akta.ba/vijesti/bih/194789/usora-susa-smanjuje-prinos-kukuruza-i-ugrozava-stoku
[2] https://lat.rtrs.tv/vijesti/vijest.php?id=612135
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SERBIA

The intense drought this season significantly reduced agricultural yields, especially on farms without irrigation systems. The lack of rainfall during the key periods of plants development led to a decrease in the size and quality of the corn cobs, which negatively affected the overall **corn** production throughout Serbia. It was expected that due to largely destroyed corn harvest, corn price would be very high, and that there would not be enough **livestock feed**. The first sunflower harvest, done on about a third of the plotted area, indicated that yield would reach only 25 % of the expected, while the **soybean** crop will be even smaller, about 15 % of the expected. [1, 2, 3] Due to drought and heatwave conditions in Banat region, northeastern Serbia there would be no harvest on some **corn** plots. In Kikinda, northeastern Serbia drought also accelerated the ripening of **sunflowers**, so the harvest begun earlier. The first yields showed poorer grain quality, a lot of empty grain and unfertilized plants, and gave indications of a yield only about 40 % of the expected. [4]

The heat became increasingly difficult for both people and animals to bear, and due to drought **livestock** farmers struggled with water shortages and burnt **pastures**. Cows across Vojvodina, northern Serbia gave **less milk**, and losses were recorded also in **poultry production**. Due to heat the chickens ate less, grew more slowly and were up to a fifth lighter at the end of fattening, while some of the poultry died. [5, 6] This year, the **trees and grass** took on the autumn colors almost three months before the onset of this season. In Cuburski Park in the country's capital, which had been in such poor condition since June, some young trees have dried up and some had bare treetops in the surrounding area. [7] Due to high air temperatures and drought that dried up **Rakos springs** on Suva Planina, southeastern Serbia, **herds** of about 1000 cows and 300 horses needed to be supplied with additional water via tanks since June. [8]

By mid-August, a **state of emergency** due to natural disaster of drought was declared by several

municipalities in western part of the country. Municipality of Sjenica declared it for its entire territory. In order to alleviate the consequences of **water shortages** in rural areas affected by the long-term drought, the Serbian Armed Forces were engaged in providing assistance in water supply to households in several villages in the territory of Bujanovac, Krusevac and Sjenica, and in digging new and arranging existing watering holes in Sjenica for watering cows, sheep and horses. [9, 10, 11] The municipality of Arilje declared it due to difficult water supply in the face of drought. The most vulnerable were its residents of the higher parts of the municipality who needed to be supplied with drinking water from tankers. [12] A prolonged dry period caused serious disturbances in the water supply across the municipality of Nova Varos, due to which temporary **water supply restrictions** were introduced. In the city zone, in the Branosevac and Sanac settlements, water ceased to be supplied during nitghttime, between 10 pm and 5 am, while in rural areas the restrictions were even more pronounced, limiting water supply in some areas to only morning hours from 6 am to 10 am, and in others only from 3 pm to 8 pm. According to the Right to Water initiative, 108 locations throughout Serbia were reportedly experiencing drinking water problems during June, July and August, of which some areas had no water at all and in others restrictions were in place for weeks. [13, 14]

Water level of **Gruzansko Lake**, central Serbia, which supplies drinking water to Kragujevac and several surrounding municipalities with more than 300,000 inhabitants, dropped significantly by early August, as almost all tributary rivers dried up due to the long-term drought followed by extreme temperatures. The water loss was especially visible on the northern side of the lake, towards the villages of Dragusica, Toponica, Kusovac and Radmilovic, where the water receded more than 100 m off the shore. [15] Due to the lack of precipitation and high temperatures, as many as 85 % of rivers are at their **biological minimum**, and some have already completely dried up, accoring to the Republic Hydrometeorological Institute. The Rzav River, western Serbia, which supplies water to the city of Cacak and the municipalities of Arilje, Pozega, Lucani and Gornji Milanovac, kept declining throughout August due to prolongued drought. The **hydroelectric power plants** in Bajina Basta and Zvornik, western Serbia reported having problems due to very low water levels on the Sava River. [16, 17, 18]

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ROMANIA

Accoridng to some reports, Romania is facing its worst drought in 13 years. In Timis County, western Romania, dry and hot weather conditions of the last three months affected between 40 % and 70 % of the summer crops, especially **corn and sunflowers**. Overall, corn and sunflower crops show visible

aspects of damage. Corn crops were reported small, cobs anot formed, and due to the extremely high heat in July the pollination process could not take place; even if the cobs were formed, they had a very small amount of grains. The sunflower crops were also small, the inflorescence was small to medium in size, and the grains were dry. [1, 2, 3]

The extreme heat wave and severe drought favored the outbreak of severe **wildfires** in Mehedinti and Giurgiu counties, southern Romnia, where dozens of hectares of dry vegetation were caught in flames. [4] A forest fire had been devastating the Danube Delta for ten days in first half of August. The flames consumed 55 ha of forest and equally large areas of reedbeds, brushwood and dry vegetation. [5]

The **Danube Delta** was faced with its biggest ecological crisis in 20 years also due to low water levels. Locals could no longer use their boats, dead **fish** was reportedly seen on the banks, and many canals were no longer **navigable**. **Tourism** was also taking a heavy hit. Under such conditions, the fish population, flora and fauna in the area were seriously affected and migratory birds were left without food. The flow of the **Danube River** at the entrance to the country was in late August stationary at 2150 m^3/s, well below the multiannual average of August (4300 m^3/s), while downstream flow was progressively more reduced. In some areas of the Lake Razelm in Danube Delta, water level dropped below navigable levels, and the Ceamurlia, Baia and Zmeica gullies also dried up to a worrying extent, up to 60 %. [6]

Several areas in the country affected by drought faced strict **water supply regimes**. In Buzau, southeastern Romania, drinking water was supplied only four days a week. In Gorj community, water was provided to its residents based on odd and even days of the month. [7]

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BULGARIA

The ongoing drought and record high temperatures negatively impacted grain production in Bulgaria, as they were scorching the crops and interrupting their development. Significantly weaker harvest was expected especially for **sunflower** and **corn**, with some regions expected to bear no yield at all. Sunflower harvest was considered at about 50 % compared to the last year, due to which the sunflower oil prices were also expected to rise. In Vratsa region, northwestern Bulgaria, some farmers recorded up to 100 % corn losses and were faced with bankruptcy. [1, 2, 3, 4]

Prolonged drought and high temperatures of July and August drastically lowered the water level in **Batak Dam**, southwestern Bulgaria, one of the most visited places in Bulgaria. According to the Eastern Aegean Region Basin Directorate, the water level of the dam was in late August at 30 %, compared to about 60 % last year. In just two months the shore receeded by tens of metres. **Fish died** en masse due to low water level, and the lake island, an attraction for tourists and fishermen in the center of the

reservoir, merged with the shore and became accessible on foot. According to the locals, such an event was last observed more than 30 years ago. [5, 6] The **Koprinka** and **Zhrebchevo dams** across central Bulgaria were also drying up. The land was observed covered with cracks, dry trees and roots and dust that resembled a lunar landscape. [7]

Following a significant decrease in the flow rate of water sources due to drought, the use of drinking water for non-potable purposes was in late August prohibited in 23 settlements of the Targovishte municipality, northeastern Bulgaria, and valid until the end of October for the settlements in which a **water supply regime** had been introduced. [8]

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GREECE

According to the Climatic Bulletin August 2025, August was in most parts of Greece characterised by a lack of precipitation, only north-western Greece recorded significant precipitation, at the end of the month. [1] Due to the hot and dry weather conditions, **wildfires** broke out in various areas, in Attica, Peloponnese, Chios, Zakynthos, Epirus. [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] Copernicus satellite images showed the affected areas. [2, 7] Since spring, forestry authorities in Central Greece and Peloponnese have been observing an "epidemic" of **forest dieback**, mainly in pine and fir forests. The main cause of the 'dead fir syndrome' was prolonged lack of rain, and secondary the insect and fungal infestations. The phenomenon was however not unprecedented, extensive tree dieback was also observed during the severe drought of 1987. [8]

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Methodology

DMCSEE Drought monitoring bulletin is prepared on the basis of climatological reanalysis, remote-sensing data and online media reports. Calculations of meteorological variables and indices (air temperature, precipitation, evapotranspiration, surface water balance, SPI, SPEI, EDDI) are based on the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) ERA5-Land monthly averaged data (https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/datasets/reanalysis-era5-land-monthly-means?tab=overview), using 1991-2020 as a reference period. Remote-sensing product is based on the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) Land SAF MSG Daily Fraction of Vegetation Cover [LSA-421] product (https://lsa-saf.eumetsat.int/en/data/products/vegetation/#FVC), presented for the confirmed locations, using long-term averages from 2004 to the last full calendar year (currently up to and including 2024). Information on drought impacts is obtained from freely available online reports of national authorities and media newspapers.