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INSIDE TODAY: Our spotlight on the north of the island



Mediterranean warming fast

London.—Global warming is on track to disrupt the Mediterranean region more than any droughts or heatwaves in the past 10,000 years, turning parts of southern Europe into desert by the end of the century, scientists said yesterday.

Average temperatures in the region have already risen by 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 Fahrenheit) since the late 19th century, well above the world average of 0.85C (1.5F), according to the study led

by France's Aix-Marseille University. Man-made climate change "will likely alter ecosystems in the Mediterranean in a way that is without precedent" in the past 10,000 years unless governments quickly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the researchers wrote in the journal *Science*.

With unchecked warming, deserts would expand in southern Spain and Portugal, northern parts of Morocco, Algeria

and Tunisia and other regions including Sicily, southern Turkey and parts of Syria, it showed. And it would dramatically shift vegetation in the region, famed for umbrella pines, olive groves, and holm oaks. Last year, almost 200 governments agreed in Paris to limit the rise in average world surface temperatures to "well below" 2C above pre-industrial times, ideally 1.5C. Governments will meet in Morocco next month to review the accord.

Only the 1.5C global goal would ensure Mediterranean ecosystems stay within bounds of the past 10,000 years, the study said. Debate about cutting emissions "is urgent for such sensitive regions," lead author Joel Guiot of Aix-Marseille University told *Reuters*.

The Mediterranean is sensitive to global warming partly because Atlantic storms are likely to shift northwards, meaning more sun and less rain.



Students from Queens College ready for the big event.

Majorca set for Halloween: See Inside

Illegal selling out of control in the Playa de Palma: PAGE THREE

Spanish economy shows resilience as new government nears: See Inside



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