

Dubai govt artificially creating rainstorms to cool down hot weather

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Dhaka: The government of Dubai has decided to take control over the scorching weather as the temperatures in the popular tourist destination regularly surpass 115 degrees Fahrenheit. Scientists in the UAE are creating rainstorms artificially with electrical charges from drones to manipulate the weather and make it rain across the desert nation.

Meteorological officials released video footage yesterday showing rainfall over Ras al Khaimah, and many other regions.

This new method of cloud seeding gives hope in helping to mitigate drought conditions globally without many environmental concerns.

Every year, the UAE witnesses about 4 inches of rain per year. The government is eyeing regularly zap clouds to generate rain to help alleviate some of the annual heatwaves.

Research from the University of Reading in the UK said scientists created the storms using drones. They hit clouds with electricity creating large raindrops.

The larger raindrops are necessary for the hot country, where smaller droplets often evaporate before even hitting the ground.

In 2017, researchers at the university were awarded USD 1.5 million in funding for what they call "Rain Enhancement Science," also known as man-made rainstorms. The UAE's total investment in rain-making projects is USD 15 million, part of the country's quest to ensure water security.

The UAE is one of the first countries in the Gulf region to opt for cloud seeding technology, the National Center of Meteorology said. A version of the concept is used in at least eight states in the western US, according to reports.

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