

**Monthly Climate Assessment and Outlook***El Niño Watch*

ENSO-neutral conditions are present in the tropical Pacific and may prevail until the June-July-August (JJA) 2023 season. However, a transition to El Niño in the July-August-September (JAS) 2023 season is likely and may persist until 2024.

El Niño increases the likelihood of below-normal rainfall conditions, which could negatively affect some areas of the country (such as dry spells and droughts). However, over the western part of the country, above-normal rainfall conditions during the Southwest monsoon season (Habagat) may also be expected.

Assessment in March 2023

The Northeast (NE) monsoon, easterlies, isolated thunderstorms, ridge of high-pressure area (HPA), low-pressure areas (LPAs), and shear lines were the weather systems that prevailed in the country during March. Moreover, on March 21 the agency declared the termination of the NE monsoon, indicating the start of the warm and dry season. There is no tropical cyclone (TC) developed during the month, despite several LPAs formed inside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), which brought heavy rains in some areas in Mindanao.

Based on actual rainfall for the month, most parts of the country received way below to below normal rainfall (33 provinces with way below normal and 28 provinces with below normal rainfall). However, most parts of Mindanao and Samar provinces experienced near to above-normal rainfall conditions.

Generally, near to below-average mean surface temperatures were observed in most parts of Luzon and Visayas. Furthermore, near to slightly above-average mean surface temperatures were observed over Mindanao. The actual temperature ranges were as follows: mountainous areas of Luzon: 10.9°C – 28.4°C; rest of Luzon: 15.5°C – 37.0°C; Visayas: 20.0°C – 35.0°C; mountainous areas of Mindanao: 16.5°C – 33.8°C; rest of Mindanao: 21.2°C – 35.9°C and 19.5°C – 36.0°C in Metro Manila.

Outlook for April 2023

The warm and dry climate conditions will continue in April. Weather systems likely to affect the country are the following: Easterlies, Ridge of HPA, LPAs, Localized thunderstorms, Intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), and zero (0) or one (1) TC occurrence for April.

The rainfall forecast for April shows that most parts of Luzon will likely experience below-normal conditions except for the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Bataan, and Cavite which may receive way below-normal rainfall. However, most parts of Visayas and Mindanao will likely experience near-normal rainfall. The probabilistic forecast of below normal in most parts of Luzon also depicts high confidence while near to above-normal rainfall conditions in Visayas and Mindanao.

Meanwhile, near-average to below-average mean surface air temperatures are forecasted in most parts of the country, except for Iba, Clark, Port Area, Alabat, Puerto Prinsesa, Dumaguete City, Dipolog City, Cotabato City, and Davao City which may experience slightly above to above average temperatures. The ranges of forecast temperature are as follows: 12.2°C to 29.0°C in the mountainous areas of Luzon, 15.8°C to 39.4°C over the rest of Luzon, 21.2°C to 36.8°C in Visayas, 15.0°C to 35.0°C in the mountainous areas of Mindanao, 20.4°C to 38.3°C over rest of Mindanao and 20.4°C to 37.8°C for Metro Manila.



Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical
Services Administration (PAGASA)**

CLIMPS-02 Rev.0/06-01-22

PAGASA will continue to monitor closely the development of El Niño and its influence on the country's climate conditions. Therefore, all government agencies and the public are encouraged to take precautionary measures to mitigate its adverse impacts. For more information, please call the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at 8284-0800, extension 4920.

Original Signed:

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Date Issued: 05 April 2023

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