

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

Sea surface temperature anomalies (SSTAs) continue to increase across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. Consensus of model forecasts suggest El Niño may emerge in the next couple of months with higher chance of El Niño to persist until the first quarter of 2024.

El Niño increases the likelihood of below-normal rainfall conditions, which could bring negative impacts (such as dry spells and droughts) in some areas of the country. However, over the western part of the country, above-normal rainfall conditions during the Southwest (SW) Monsoon season or “Habagat” may also be expected.

Assessment in May 2023

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the SW Monsoon, ridge of high-pressure areas (HPAs), low pressure areas (LPAs), frontal system, intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), easterlies, severe thunderstorms and the passage of Super Typhoon (STY) “Betty” with international name “Mawar” (May 27–June 1). STY “Betty” did not make landfall in any part of the country but enhanced the SW monsoon which brought heavy rains in some areas of western Luzon and Visayas where landslides and floods occurred.

Observed rainfall for the month showed that near to above normal rainfall conditions were experienced over most parts of CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol region, Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao. However, below normal rainfall conditions were observed in most parts of Northern and Central Luzon except Ilocos Norte where way below normal rainfall was observed.

Generally, near-average to above-average mean surface air temperatures were observed in most parts of the country except in Ambulong, Coron and Romblon where slightly cooler than average air temperatures were experienced. The temperature ranges were as follows: mountainous areas of Luzon: 17.6°C – 26.8°C; rest of Luzon: 23.0°C – 39.0°C; Visayas: 24.9°C – 36.0°C; mountainous areas of Mindanao: 19.9°C – 33.8°C; rest of Mindanao: 23.5°C – 37.4°C and 26.1°C – 37.4°C in Metro Manila. Moreover, new records of highest maximum temperature were observed over Hinatuan (36.6°C, 30 May) and Zamboanga City (37.4°C, 11 & 13 May).

Outlook for June 2023

The rainy season in the western section of Luzon and Visayas has started. The weather systems that may affect the country during the month are the SW Monsoon, severe thunderstorms, ITCZ, LPAs, ridge of HPA, and one (1) or two (2) tropical cyclones that may enter/develop inside the PAR.

The rainfall forecast for June shows that generally near normal with patches of above normal rainfall condition in some parts of Luzon, Eastern Visayas and CARAGA are expected with a moderate to high probabilities for above normal rainfall.

Meanwhile, near to above-average mean surface air temperatures are predicted in most parts of the country, except for some areas in Southern Luzon that will likely experience slightly below average temperatures. Warm and humid weather conditions may persist. The ranges of forecast temperature are as follows: 14.0°C to 28.5°C in the mountainous areas of Luzon, 16.0°C to 39.0°C over the rest of Luzon, 20.0°C to 38.5°C in Visayas, 16.5°C to 34.5°C in the

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mountainous areas of Mindanao, 20.0°C to 38.0°C over the rest of Mindanao and 22.5°C to 36.5°C in Metro Manila.

PAGASA will continue to monitor the Impending El Niño. Meanwhile, all government agencies and the general public are encouraged to take precautionary measures to mitigate the adverse impacts of the SW Monsoon and impending El Niño. For more information, please call the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at 8284-0800, extension 4920 or 4921.

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