



El Niño Advisory No. 3

An increased positive sea surface temperature anomaly (SSTA) was observed across the tropical Pacific, indicating a moderate El Niño. Most climate models predict El Niño will strengthen further into a strong one later in the year and will likely continue until the second 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 which may adversely impact the different climate-sensitive sectors including the water resources, agriculture, energy, health, public safety, and many more. However, with the ongoing El Niño, enhanced Southwest monsoon season (Habagat) is favored, which may result in above-normal rainfall conditions over the western part of the country.

Assessment in August 2023

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the Southwest (SW) monsoon, localized thunderstorms, low pressure areas (LPAs), Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), and the passage of two (2) tropical cyclones namely: Super Typhoon (STY) "GORING" and Typhoon (TY) "HANNA. STY GORING (SAOLA) crossed the eastern seaboard of Luzon and the Bashi-Balintang Channel from August 22-30, while TY HANNA (HAIKUI) tracked the northeastern region of the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) from August 30 to September 04. Also, the enhanced SW Monsoon has transpired during the course of these TCs and triggered torrential rains, causing floods and rain-induced landslides in some parts of Luzon and Visayas. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council's (NDRRMC) situational report as of September 04, the combined effects of the enhanced SW Monsoon, Goring, and TY Hanna brought an estimated Php 580 million in damage to agriculture and infrastructure, especially over the most regions of Luzon and Western Visayas. Although most of the dams in Luzon are still below the normal high-water level, the induced rainfall by these weather systems has significantly contributed to the rise in the water level of these dams amidst El Niño.

Rainfall assessment for the month showed that most parts of Northern Luzon, most of the Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, most of Davao Region, Caraga, and BARMM received near- to above-normal rainfall. Conversely, below- to way below-normal rainfall conditions were experienced over most parts of MIMAROPA, CALABARZON, and Bicol Region, some parts of Eastern Visayas, and the rest of Mindanao.

In addition, four (4) provinces have experienced meteorological dry conditions (two consecutive months of below-normal rainfall conditions): Quirino, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, and Misamis Oriental. Whereas Aklan, Capiz, Davao Occidental, South Cotabato, and Sarangani continue to experience dry spell conditions (three consecutive months of below-normal rainfall conditions).

Generally, the mean surface air temperatures observed across the country were near-average to above-average. The recorded temperature ranges are as follows: Metro Manila: 24.2°C – 33.9°C; mountainous areas of Luzon: 16.4°C – 24.4°C; rest of Luzon: 25.2°C – 37.7°C; Visayas: 24.6°C – 36.8°C; mountainous areas of Mindanao: 18.2°C – 33.4°C; and rest of Mindanao: 24.0°C – 36.4°C.

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Moreover, two stations had surpassed their highest recorded extreme maximum temperature for August: Zamboanga City and Infanta at 36.2°C (August 02) and 37.7°C (August 17), respectively.

Outlook for September 2023

The weather systems most likely to affect the country this month are the SW Monsoon, localized thunderstorms, ITCZ, LPAs, and the emergence of two or three tropical cyclones inside the PAR, along with the possible influence of intra-seasonal and inter-annual climate modes like the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), El Niño, and among others.

Moreover, the rainfall forecast for the month shows that generally near-normal condition is expected in most parts of the country aside from below-normal condition over portions of the Bicol Region and Surigao Provinces and above-normal condition over a portion of Bataan. The probabilistic forecast leans toward above-normal rainfall conditions in some areas of western Luzon, while, the probability of receiving below-normal rainfall in most parts of Visayas and Mindanao and in the eastern and northern parts of Luzon is high.

Generally, near-average to above-average surface air temperatures are predicted in most parts of the country except for cooler-than-average air temperatures in some areas of Central Visayas and in the western areas of Southern Luzon. The forecast temperature ranges are as follows: 23.0°C to 35.5°C over Metro Manila, 14.0°C to 26.5°C in the mountainous areas of Luzon, 18.0°C to 36.5°C for the rest of Luzon, 21.0°C to 36.0°C in the Visayas, 16.5°C to 33.5°C in the mountainous areas of Mindanao, and 21.0°C to 37.0°C over the rest of Mindanao.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the SW monsoon activity in line with the ongoing El Niño. Areas potential for meteorological dry spells and drought will be updated and will be disseminated accordingly. Meanwhile, all government agencies and the general public are encouraged to take precautionary measures to mitigate the adverse impacts of the said climate phenomenon. For more information, please call the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at 8284-0800, extension 4920 or 4921.

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