



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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- El Nino may return in 2026 and make planet even hotter
- How are flooding and storms affecting wildlife?
- Federal report downplays human role in climate change, scientists say
- Agriculture Climate Change Project to boost heirloom rice farming in Ifugao
- Cool weather from 'amihan' returns to extreme Northern Luzon

### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- CCC Strengthens Climate Action in Romblon
- Romblon receives National Adaptation Plan from CCC

### ABS CBN

#### [El Nino may return in 2026 and make planet even hotter](#)

By: Laurent Thomet

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### BBC

#### [How are flooding and storms affecting wildlife?](#)

By: Zhara Simpson

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### EARTH.COM

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By: Andrei Ionescu

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## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### [Agriculture Climate Change Project to boost heirloom rice farming in Ifugao](#)

By: Marcelo B. Lihgawon

Heirloom rice farming in Ifugao gets a boost, with the province among the beneficiaries of the Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change (APA) project.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### [Cool weather from 'amihan' returns to extreme Northern Luzon](#)

By: Arlie O. Calalo

As expected, the northeast monsoon, locally known as 'amihan', has resurfaced, affecting extreme Northern Luzon, particularly Batanes and Babuyan Islands, the state weather bureau said on Tuesday.

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## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### [CCC Strengthens Climate Action in Romblon](#)

By: Climate Change Commission (CCC)

The Climate Change Commission, led by Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje, presents the National Adaptation Plan to the Province of Romblon, led by Governor Trina Firmalo-Fabric. Municipal officials witness the turnover, including Magdiwang Mayor Noel Joseph Marin Machon; Romblon Mayor Gard Montojo; and representatives of Cajidiocan Mayor Marvin "Greggy" R. Ramos.

## **DAILY TRIBUNE**

### [Romblon receives National Adaptation Plan from CCC](#)

MAGDIWANG, ROMBLON — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) presented the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to the provincial government of Romblon, aiming to support local climate resilience and adaptation programs.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### [El Nino may return in 2026 and make planet even hotter](#)

By: Laurent Thomet

PARIS, France -- The warming El Nino weather phenomenon could form later this year, potentially pushing global temperatures to record heights.

There is a 50- to 60-percent chance of El Nino developing during the July-September period and beyond, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The World Meteorological Organization will issue an update on El Nino on Tuesday.

Here's what you need to know about El Nino and its cooler sister, La Nina:

Why the name?

El Nino and its cooler sister La Nina are two phases of a natural climate pattern across the tropical Pacific known as the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

Peruvian and Ecuadoran fishermen coined the term El Nino ("the boy" or "the Christ Child") in the 19th century for the arrival of an unusually warm ocean current off the coast that reduced their catch just before Christmas.

READ: What are the La Nina and El Nino climate phenomena?

Scientists chose the name La Nina as the opposite of El Nino. Between the two events, there is a "neutral" phase.

El Nino

El Nino can weaken consistent trade winds that blow east to west across the tropical Pacific, influencing weather by affecting the movement of warm water across this vast ocean.

This weakening warms the usually cooler central and eastern sides of the ocean, altering rainfall over the equatorial Pacific and wind patterns around the world.

The extra heat at the surface of the Pacific releases energy into the atmosphere that can temporarily drive up global temperatures, which is why El Nino years are often among the warmest on record.

"All else being equal, a typical El Nino event tends to cause a temporary increase in the global mean temperature on the order of 0.1C-0.2C," Nat Johnson, an NOAA meteorologist, told AFP.

El Nino occurs every two to seven years.

It typically results in drier conditions across southeast Asia, Australia, southern Africa, and northern Brazil, and wetter conditions in the Horn of Africa, the southern United States, Peru and Ecuador.

Another record ?

The last El Nino occurred in 2023-2024, contributing to making 2023 the second highest year on record and 2024 the all-time high.

Carlo Buontempo, director of the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, told AFP in January that 2026 could be "another record-breaking year" if El Nino appears this year.

However, El Nino's impact would be higher in 2027 than in 2026 if it develops in the second half of this year, said Tido Semmler, a climate scientist at Ireland's National Meteorological Service.

"It takes time for the global atmosphere to react to the El Nino," he said.

"Having said this, there is a risk of 2026 being the warmest year on record even without El Nino, due to the global warming trend," Semmler told AFP.

"2027 would face an increased risk of getting a record warm year if El Nino developed in the second half of 2026," he added.

La Nina

The latest La Nina episode was relatively weak and short lived, starting in December 2024 and due to enter a neutral phase during the February-April period.

La Nina cools the eastern Pacific Ocean for a period of about one to three years, generating the opposite effects to El Nino on global weather.

It leads to wetter conditions in parts of Australia, southeast Asia, India, southeast Africa and northern Brazil, while causing drier conditions in parts of South America.

La Nina did not stop 2025 from being the third hottest on record.

New calculation

The NOAA adopted in February a new way of determining El Nino and El Nino events.

The old Oceanic Nino Index (ONI) compared the three-month average sea surface temperature of one region of the Pacific with a 30-year average in the same area.

But as the oceans have been warming rapidly, that old 30-year average can be out of date.

The new method, the Relative Oceanic Nino Index (RONI), compares how warm or cool the east-central Pacific is compared to the rest of the tropics.

The NOAA said RONI is a "clearer, more reliable way" to track El Nino and La Nina in real time.

**BBC**

[How are flooding and storms affecting wildlife?](#)

By: Zhara Simpson

This winter's extreme flooding has destroyed nests, drowned small mammals and threatens a sharp drop in butterflies and other species this spring.

Relentless storms and near-constant rainfall – described as "apocalyptic" by one expert – have brought some of the South West's worst flooding in decades.

While the human impact has been widely felt, nature groups say the toll on local wildlife is only beginning to emerge.

The devastating effect of storms on seabirds, including the thousands of puffins washing up on the coastline in the South West, Channel Islands and France, has been well documented.

The "conveyer belt of storms hitting us" had led to a busy few weeks with a lot of strandings reported, said Rob Deaville, project manager for the Cetacean Stranding Investigation Programme (CSIP) at the Zoological Society of London.

He said the reports had included turtles, some alive and dead, and a lot of the strandings were "likely to be storm related".

On land, habitats for hedgehogs, field voles and other small mammals have been washed out, resulting in them being pushed out of their homes and drowning.

Early nesting birds have lost eggs, and conservationists warn spring may bring noticeably fewer butterflies and insects as floodwaters have swept away eggs and overwintering larvae.

Despite some species being naturally resilient to wet winters, rescue groups said repeated storms and saturated ground were overwhelming animals' ability to cope.

Stephen Hussey, from Devon Wildlife Trust, said slow-moving mammals were among the most at risk.

"They may not be able to move to higher ground and therefore could be overwhelmed very quickly by water," he said.

Field voles, hedgehogs and other ground-nesting species rely on dense vegetation, leaf piles and scrub for shelter during the colder months.

Once floodwater rises, those hiding places disappear in minutes.

Rescue centres said with winters getting "wetter and wetter" and summers getting warmer, fewer hedgehogs were having a full hibernation, leading to health issues and unfamiliar feeding patterns.

Hibernation usually takes place October/November to March/April.

Devon rescue group Prickles in a Pickle said it had received a surge of reports of hedgehogs washed from nests in the Plymouth, Kingsbridge, Ivybridge and Dartmouth areas.

Co-founder Judy Thompson said this winter had been "hard hitting" for the animals.

"They have been flooded out of their homes and at this time of year, food is scarce," she said.

"If they're underweight, or they've struggled into the winter in the first place, this is a double hard hit for them."

Some hedgehogs arriving at the rescue centre felt like "little empty bags of prickles and very, very slim" due to dehydration, Thompson said.

She said they were unable to safely drink the flood water because they could be swept away and their main food source, worms, have been flattened or dried out by the rain.

Thompson said increasing development on and near floodplains was also cutting off wildlife refuges: "Building sites are stealing habitats, leaving wildlife with nowhere to go.

"There needs to be more natural management of floodplains and drainage."

The European hedgehog is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and is classified as "vulnerable to extinction" on the IUCN Red List for British Mammals.

Their numbers have fallen below one million in the UK which is down by 30% in more than 10 years, Devon Wildlife Trust said.

Thompson said: "We can't afford to lose them as fast as we are... I for one don't want to see them disappear."

The true impact of the wet winter may not be visible until spring, when butterflies that usually fill hedgerows and gardens may be noticeably absent.

"A lot of butterflies will have laid their eggs last spring and summer on plant material," Hussey said.

"If the water rises and covers it, those will be lost and washed away."

Orange-tip butterflies, one of the earliest species to emerge, are among those potentially affected.

Eggs and pupae sit low on vegetation over winter, making them vulnerable during prolonged flooding.

Experts said insect losses could ripple up the food chain, affecting birds and small mammals that rely on them.

In Dawlish, Devon, two black swan nests and 10 eggs were washed away after consecutive January storms brought torrential rain and caused the brook to breach its banks.

Don Phillips, head waterfowl warden, said it was not the first time nests had been lost.

"We've had a lot worse storms, but Storm Chandra was a bad one, especially because they were nesting," he said.

Both pairs have since rebuilt their nests in slightly higher locations and are incubating fresh clutches of eggs.

Phillips hopes the improved sites will protect them if more wet weather arrives.

The Met Office said this season for Cornwall, Devon and Dorset ranks in the top five of the wettest winters since records began.

Parts of Cornwall and Devon have seen rainfall totals reach about 150% of the long-term average.

Forecasters said in February, it rained for 49 consecutive days near its stations in Cardinham, 48 days at Exeter Airport and 43 days in Okehampton.

While heavy winter rain is normal for the region, Prof Dave Hodgson - an ecologist at the University of Exeter's Cornwall campus - said the volume and persistence this season felt "a bit apocalyptic".

High winds and saturated ground have also toppled trees, removing nesting cavities for birds and burrows for mammals such as badgers and rabbits.

BBC South West broadcast meteorologist Bee Tucker said there were reasons to be optimistic about the weather.

She said: "This week is likely to see more rain towards the tail end but the next few days should see some much needed drier and brighter weather, with maximum temperatures hitting more 'spring like' values of 13-16 degrees."

"It's inevitably going to wash away butterfly eggs, remove nesting sites and disrupt underground breeding areas," Hodgson said.

However, he believes many species can cope – but only if they have a way out: "A lot of wildlife is able to escape from floods and rainfall, but only if it has the opportunity to do so."

Hodgson said: "Wildlife have relatively simple needs, they're much like people, they're looking for shelter, food, safety from disease and predators and breeding opportunities."

He said the winter should be a "wake-up call" to create more natural flood defences and wildlife-friendly escape routes - higher ground, connected green spaces and undisturbed vegetation can give animals places to retreat during storms.

Hodgson said human infrastructure in the South West had not been designed for this level of sustained rainfall.

Flooding can trigger sewage releases into rivers and estuaries, threatening wildlife with disease and toxic water, "exaggerating the number of wildlife death events".

What can be done to help wildlife?

Link gardens to create escape routes for small mammals

Put out fresh water for hedgehogs- and report sightings in the day times

Leave leaf piles and sheltered spots for insects

Avoid using slug pellets and chemicals in saturated soil

Report stranded wildlife to local rescue services

The Devon Wildlife Trust has advice on its website for how to make your garden or outside area more hedgehog friendly.

Based on climate change models more intense rainfall, storms and flooding are expected in future winters, Hodgson said.

"We need to pay attention to climate change predictions and how we can mitigate these weather events through changing the way that we use the natural environment," he said.

"It's about working with the natural environment – reducing waste, influencing how water and drainage are managed, and ensuring everything operates more sustainably with less impact on biodiversity."

Hodgson said: "It's not just the wildlife charities to solve this, it's on every person to solve it by treading more lightly."

## EARTH.COM

### [Federal report downplays human role in climate change, scientists say](#)

By: Andrei Ionescu

Benjamin Santer has spent much of his career showing that global warming leaves a clear “fingerprint” in the atmosphere.

Now, he’s using the same tools – data, models, and peer review – to respond to what he calls a flat-out wrong claim in a major US government report that cited his research to argue the opposite.

In a new analysis, Santer and colleagues say the US Department of Energy (DOE) report misrepresented evidence about how temperatures are changing through different layers of the atmosphere.

Moreover, the experts warn that the report should not be used to justify rolling back climate regulations.

#### The human signature in climate change

Santer, an Honorary Professor at the University of East Anglia (UEA), was one of the early scientists to identify a human signature in climate change.

His work fed into the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s landmark 1995 conclusion that there was a “discernible human influence” on global climate.

The recent controversy centers on a US Department of Energy (DOE) report released in July 2025. That report cited Santer’s earlier research to support a claim that downplayed human influence on warming.

This argument landed at a politically charged moment, the same day the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed reversing the 2009 “endangerment finding,” the legal foundation for regulating greenhouse gas emissions.

Earlier this month, the Trump administration followed through on revoking that ruling, raising alarms about public health, emissions cuts, and the broader future of environmental regulation in the US.

The DOE report was referenced repeatedly in the EPA proposal, and even after a legal challenge led to the DOE’s author team being dissolved, the report itself remained online and publicly cited.

#### Setting the record straight

“We view it both important and with precedent to rebut an incorrect scientific claim made in the DOE report,” Santer said.

“Setting the record straight in the peer-reviewed literature is particularly important when demonstrably incorrect scientific claims are made in official government reports.”

At the heart of the dispute is something climate scientists have tracked for decades: the way warming shows up differently depending on altitude.

If greenhouse gases are driving climate change, you don’t expect every part of the atmosphere to warm in the same way. The vertical pattern matters.

Santer calls this vertical pattern one of the strongest pieces of evidence we have.

“Changes in the vertical structure of atmospheric temperature are an important ‘fingerprint’ of human effects on global climate. These changes are mainly driven by human caused increases in atmospheric levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases,” he explained.

“Key features of this fingerprint are warming of the troposphere, the lowest layer of the atmosphere, and cooling of the stratosphere, the layer above the troposphere.”

Concerns about the DOE report

Santer and his colleagues argue that the DOE report effectively tried to cast doubt on whether this fingerprint exists, and whether satellite records really show it.

“Satellite observations of this distinctive fingerprint are in agreement with current state-of-the-art climate model estimates of human-caused temperature changes,” he argued.

“This indisputable fingerprint of human effects on climate has been predicted for over 50 years by both simple and more sophisticated climate models, and is identifiable in satellite temperature data.”

“The claim to the contrary made in the US DOE review of climate science is factually incorrect. As our analysis clearly illustrates, the DOE report is not a reliable source of information on the vertical structure of changes in atmospheric temperature, which is a key piece of evidence for human effects on global climate.”

The authors say they’re especially concerned because arguments like this don’t just stay in scientific debates.

They can be pulled into legal and regulatory fights, where the stakes include vehicle emissions rules, power plant standards, and other climate-related policy tools.

The timing of the report

Even if most people never read a technical DOE report, the timing matters. The DOE report appeared the same day the EPA proposed reversing the endangerment finding, a core decision that allows the agency to regulate greenhouse gases as pollutants that endanger public health and welfare.

The new study argues that an official report that misstates the science shouldn’t be treated as a credible reference point in legal decisions about the scientific basis of regulation.

The authors also note that other scientists have raised concerns about the DOE report’s broader approach to climate detection and attribution, not just this one issue about atmospheric layers.

And there’s another twist: after a lawsuit alleging the DOE failed to follow federal advisory procedures, the author team behind the DOE report was dissolved in early September. But the report itself wasn’t retracted or corrected.

“The report is still available on the DOE website and is still being publicly referenced by DOE Secretary Wright as a credible source of information on climate science. It is not.”

Claims must hold up under scrutiny

Underneath the politics, the scientists are arguing for something pretty simple: if government reports make scientific claims – especially claims used to justify major policy shifts – those claims need to hold up under scrutiny.

Santer's team isn't claiming climate models are perfect or that every detail is settled. They're saying the basic vertical fingerprint of human-caused warming is one of the clearest, most consistent signals we have, predicted for decades and confirmed with observations.

And if a report denies that fingerprint while citing the very research that supports it, that's not just a disagreement. In their view, it's misinformation with consequences.

That's why they chose the slow, formal route: publish the rebuttal in peer review, put the evidence on the record, and make it harder for "demonstrably incorrect" claims to hide behind official branding.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [Agriculture Climate Change Project to boost heirloom rice farming in Ifugao](#)

By: Marcelo B. Lihgawon

Heirloom rice farming in Ifugao gets a boost, with the province among the beneficiaries of the Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change (APA) project.

Members of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Ad Hoc Mission recently held a dialogue with representatives of the Hungduan Micro Finance Development Cooperative, Hungduan Heirloom Rice Producers, and Hapao Indigenous Peoples Multipurpose Cooperative, whose areas are within Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.

The APA project will focus on producing heirloom rice, promoting organic agriculture and preserving traditional and indigenous farming practices that have long sustained local communities.

It seeks to safeguard agricultural heritage while equipping farmers with modern tools and knowledge to adapt to a changing climate.

During the dialogue, cooperative members shared their indigenous farming methods and discussed how they managed the effects of climate change and other agricultural challenges affecting productivity of heirloom rice. The GCF team also raised several questions, which the representatives responded to.

As part of the project, beneficiaries will undergo a series of training sessions on the use of the Climate Information Services (CIS) platform. This aims to strengthen farmers' resilience and enhance their adaptive capacity to climate change in their respective communities.

The APA project will be implemented in nine provinces across five regions identified as climate change hotspots based on projections.

In the Cordillera Administrative Region, aside from Ifugao, other areas covered are the provinces of Apayao and Kalinga. (JDP/MBL-PIA CAR, Ifugao)

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [Cool weather from 'amihan' returns to extreme Northern Luzon](#)

By: Arlie O. Calalo

MANILA, Philippines—As expected, the northeast monsoon, locally known as 'amihan', has resurfaced, affecting extreme Northern Luzon, particularly Batanes and Babuyan Islands, the state weather bureau said on Tuesday.

Weather specialist Chenel Dominguez of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in a 5 a.m. briefing that the cool winds brought by amihan would no longer be as strong as in previous months.

She said that the weather bureau Pagasa has not monitored any low-pressure area forming within or outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility over the next 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Metro Manila and the rest of the country would have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the easterlies—winds that pass through the Pacific Ocean and carry warm, humid weather, according to the Pagasa forecaster.

“Hot and humid temperatures would be expected, especially during late morning until mid-afternoon in most parts of the archipelago due to the effects of the easterlies,” she said.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### DAILY TRIBUNE

#### [Romblon receives National Adaptation Plan from CCC](#)

MAGDIWANG, ROMBLON — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) presented the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to the provincial government of Romblon, aiming to support local climate resilience and adaptation programs.

Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje met with Governor Trina Alejandra Q. Firmalo-Fabic to discuss strategies for aligning local initiatives with national climate policies. Municipal officials, including Magdiwang Mayor Noel Joseph Marin Machon, Romblon Mayor Gard Montojo, and representatives from Cajidiocan, attended the meeting.

The NAP serves as a framework to guide local governments in identifying climate actions, strengthening adaptive capacities, and reducing vulnerabilities to climate change impacts. Borje said the plan helps ensure that local initiatives are coordinated with national strategies and address the needs of communities across the province.

Through the plan, CCC seeks to support local government units in improving mitigation and adaptation programs, enhancing the province's readiness against climate-related risks, and protecting lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems.

The CCC continues to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to local governments to promote climate-resilient communities.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [CCC Strengthens Climate Action in Romblon](#)

By: Climate Change Commission (CCC)

The Climate Change Commission, led by Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje, presents the National Adaptation Plan to the Province of Romblon, led by Governor Trina Firmalo-Fabic. Municipal officials witness the turnover, including Magdiwang Mayor Noel Joseph Marin Machon; Romblon Mayor Gard Montojo; and representatives of Cajidiocan Mayor Marvin “Greggy” R. Ramos.

MAGDIWANG, ROMBLON —The Climate Change Commission (CCC), led by Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje, met with Romblon Governor Trina Alejandra Q. Firmalo-Fabic to exchange best practices and strengthen the province’s climate action plan.

The meeting underscored the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building support to enhance Romblon’s resilience and readiness against the impacts of climate change, particularly in the face of increasing climate risks.

Borje expressed the Commission’s appreciation for the opportunity to support the provincial government, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening local climate action efforts.

“Our team at the Climate Change Commission is always ready and willing to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to advance the climate action of the province.”

In line with this, the CCC presented the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) as a framework to help align and anchor the province’s climate initiatives toward a long-term, strategic, and localized approach to climate resilience.

The NAP, developed under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., serves as a national instrument that guides efforts across all levels of governance to address climate risks and reduce the country’s vulnerabilities to climate change impacts.

Borje emphasized the importance of aligning local initiatives with national strategies, stating, “Through the National Adaptation Plan, we aim to ensure that no community is left behind in building resilience and effective adaptation programs. By strengthening coordination across all levels of governance, we can deliver climate solutions that are responsive to local needs while anchored on a clear, long-term national direction.”

Through the NAP, local government units and communities are supported in identifying appropriate climate actions, strengthening adaptive capacities, and building resilience to safeguard lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change.

The CCC remains committed to supporting local government units in strengthening their mitigation and adaptation programs to ensure climate-resilient communities.

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