



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### [Climate change: Why Africa should top the agenda at COP28](#)

By: Afshin Molavi

Take a look at Africa on a typical world map. Straddling the equator, the continent is roughly the same size as Greenland and slightly smaller than Russia. In reality, however, Africa is a massive landmass, a cartographic illusion that's about 14 times larger than Greenland, more than twice as big as Russia and bigger than the US, India, Japan, parts of Europe and China combined.

## BBC

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## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

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## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### [\[Opinion\] Climate change justice](#)

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### [PHL presses for rich nations' climate change commitments](#)

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## **CLIMATE HOME NEWS**

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By Mattias Söderberg

The ongoing debate about climate-induced loss and damage is rife with conflicts. Different perspectives, political views, and ideologies make.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

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## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[Research warns against underestimating climate risk to crops](#)**

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PARIS, France—The risks of harvest failures in multiple global breadbaskets have been underestimated, according to a study Tuesday that researchers said should be a “wake up call” about the threat climate change poses to our food systems.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[UN warns world to prepare for El Niño impact](#)**

By: Agence France-Presse

GENEVA — The United Nations on Tuesday warned the world to prepare for the effects of El Niño, saying the weather phenomenon which triggers higher global temperatures is set to persist throughout 2023.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[People suffer, die under climate change-fueled heatwaves](#)**

ISTANBUL – This summer, climate change has fueled extreme heat waves around the world, triggering weather warnings and claiming numerous lives.

## **PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[\[Opinion\] Preparing for El Niño](#)**

By: Rey Gamboa

With El Niño back once again after seven years, it's time to put more muscle into the El Niño Task Force to carry out the country's Extended Roadmap to Address the Impact of El Niño (E-RAIN) strategy, as well as introduce further improvements to mitigate an foreseen harsher effect on the Philippines.

### **[\[Opinion\] Alarming reports: "A dystopian future of hunger and suffering"](#)**

By: Cherry Balleascas - THE FREEMAN

Two recent news about El Niño and climate change need serious attention and immediate response from all, especially local/national/global officials.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Agri, infra impacted by climate change – DENR](#)**

By Janine Alexis Miguel

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday said that agriculture and infrastructure are the sectors greatly affected by climate change.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## ARAB NEWS

### [Climate change: Why Africa should top the agenda at COP28](https://www.arabnews.com/node/2332846)

By: Afshin Molavi

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Take a look at Africa on a typical world map. Straddling the equator, the continent is roughly the same size as Greenland and slightly smaller than Russia. In reality, however, Africa is a massive landmass, a cartographic illusion that's about 14 times larger than Greenland, more than twice as big as Russia and bigger than the US, India, Japan, parts of Europe and China combined.

Now, consider another map. Imagine if we depicted countries and continents not by their area but by their total carbon dioxide emissions. In that map, Africa would be miniscule.

In fact, according to researchers at the Our World in Data project and the Energy for Growth Hub, Africa has only accounted for about 2.73 percent of global emissions since the dawn of industrialization. If we were to remove South Africa and the countries of North Africa from the data, the remaining sub-Saharan African countries — home to some 1 billion people — have accounted for just 0.55 percent of total emissions.

By contrast, Europe, the launch pad of the Industrial Revolution, has produced 33 percent of cumulative global emissions, while North America and Asia clock in at 29 percent each. Together, these three continents account for more than 80 percent of total emissions.

By now, we all know that climate change is an existential threat to our planet and our way of life. We should also know that the largest emitters are best prepared to adapt to the damages, while the continent that has done the least to contribute to emissions is the most vulnerable.

From changing rainfall patterns and extreme heat to water scarcity and rising food insecurity, the climate-related challenges in Africa are only just beginning. The upcoming COP28 gathering in the UAE is an opportunity for the international community to highlight the continent's vulnerabilities and acknowledge its minimal contribution to the problem.

The top priority for COP28 should be to support the financing needs of African and other emerging and developing countries to support affordable renewable energy. At a recent African Development Bank meeting, COP28 President-designate Sultan Al-Jaber called the lack of available, accessible and affordable finance the “critical challenge” that is “putting the world’s climate goals and Africa’s sustainable development at risk.”

More than a decade ago, developed nations pledged \$100 billion in annual climate finance to developing countries beginning in 2020 to help bridge this funding gap. Those pledges have failed to materialize. Al-Jaber has called wealthy nations’ efforts in this regard “dismal.” While “expectations are high,” he adds, “trust is low.”

Climate finance is rising across the world as countries race to meet net-zero goals and companies opt to green their businesses. But the money is not arriving in Africa. Bogolo Kenewendo, a UN Climate Change High-Level Champions’ special adviser, says that Africa — home to 16 percent of the world’s population and 25 percent of the world’s remaining rainforests — only attracts 3 percent of climate finance. She also notes that just six African countries are on the receiving end of this finance.

For COP28 to have a meaningful impact, leaders must marshal the political will to ensure that past pledges are met and new ones are made. African countries should top these funding goals.

Beyond supporting renewable energy in Africa, however, we must also understand this basic fact: Africa’s emissions are low not because of poor policies or abundant green power; rather, it is due to underdevelopment. Simply put, much of Africa was left behind in the fossil fuel-driven industrialization that has made the world wealthier and healthier and more connected than at any time in human history.

A staggering 600 million Africans lack access to electricity, roughly 43 percent of the continent’s population. This inevitably means that fossil fuels will be needed to get more Africans on the power grid. Yes, renewable energy sources should be cultivated, but Africans deserve the same rights to electricity and power that so many in the developed world take for granted. Fossil fuels will be part of that mix.

“If we’re going to have a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, we’ll need both,” says Nj Ayuk, executive director of the African Energy Chamber. “We’ll need fossil fuels to ensure energy security and drive industrialization in developing nations, even as the world works to pull together the necessary investments, infrastructure and governance to make a world fueled by renewable energy work.”

With Africa's population projected to double by 2050, we should all hope for faster growth to meet the tremendous demand for jobs, infrastructure, healthcare, education and other needs. Greater access to energy will help achieve those goals.

We are all children of Africa — it is the place where humans first roamed the Earth — and humanity's future will increasingly be African. The continent's success in economic development, and in meeting the climate challenge, is in everyone's interests.

The contours of climate change responsibility are as skewed as the average atlas. At COP28, we can finally redraw the map.

**BBC**

**[Climate change: World's hottest day since records China heat](#)**

By: Matt McGrath

The world's average temperature reached a new high on Monday 3 July, topping 17 degrees Celsius for the first time.

Scientists say the reading was the highest in any instrumental record dating back to the end of the 19th century.

The high heat is due to a combination of the El Niño weather event and ongoing emissions of carbon dioxide.

Researchers believe there will be more records in the coming months as El Niño strengthens.

Since the start of this year, researchers have been growing increasingly concerned about rapidly rising temperatures on land and at sea.

Record spring heat in Spain and in many countries in Asia was followed by marine heatwaves in places that don't normally see them, such as in the North Sea.

This week China continued to experience an enduring heatwave with temperatures in some places above 35C, while the southern US has also been subject to stifling conditions.

Against this background, the global average temperature reached 17.01C on 3 July, according to the US National Centers for Environmental Prediction.

This broke the previous record of 16.92C that had stood since August 2016.

Monday's high was also the warmest since satellite monitoring began in 1979.

The El Niño Southern Oscillation, or ENSO, as it is properly called, has three different phases: Hot, cold or neutral. It is the most powerful fluctuation in the climate system anywhere on Earth.



In June, scientists declared that El Niño conditions were present. This means that additional heat is now welling up to the surface of the Pacific ocean, pushing up the global temperature.

"The average global surface air temperature reaching 17C for the first time since we have reliable records available is a significant symbolic milestone in our warming world," said climate researcher Leon Simons.

"Now that the warmer phase of El Niño is starting we can expect a lot more daily, monthly and annual records breaking in the next 1.5 years."

Monday's record temperature comes as the month of June was also confirmed as the hottest June in the global record.

Average temperatures across the planet were 1.46C above the average in the period between 1850 and 1900.

The impact of high temperatures is also being felt at the world's extremes. In Antarctica, the July temperature record was recently broken with a reading of 8.7C taken at Ukraine's Vernadsky Research base.

With El Niño likely to strengthen over the coming months, it's likely that more records will be shattered as the northern hemisphere summer goes on.

"Chances are that July will be the warmest ever, and with it the hottest month ever: 'ever' meaning since the Eemian which is some 120,000 years ago," said Karsten Haustein, from the University of Leipzig.

"While southern hemisphere temperatures will drop a bit in the next few days, chances are that July and August will see even warmer days yet given that El Niño is now pretty much in full swing".

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **UK had hottest June since records began in 1884, with climate change a factor**

By: Sylvia Hui

LONDON—The UK sweltered through its hottest June since records began in 1884, the country's weather agency said Monday, adding that human-induced climate change means such unusual heat will become more frequent in the next few decades.

The average temperature for June in the UK hit 15.8 degrees Celsius (60.4 Fahrenheit)—0.9C hotter than the joint previous record of 14.9 C in 1940 and 1976, according to the Met Office's provisional figures.

Meteorologists say that thanks to climate change, the chance of beating the previous joint record has at least doubled since the 1940s.

“Alongside natural variability, the background warming of the Earth's atmosphere due to human-induced climate change has driven up the possibility of reaching record high temperatures,” said Paul Davies at the Met Office. “By the 2050s, the chance of surpassing the previous record of 14.9 C could be as high as around 50 percent, or every other year.”

Large areas of the country, from the Orkney Islands in northern Scotland to Cornwall in southwest England, set regional high temperature records last month, with many experiencing mean temperatures that were 2.5 C more than average.

The highest temperature recorded last month was 32.2 C—much higher than typical maximum temperatures, which hover around the low 20s for this time of year, the weather agency said.

Fisheries experts say that the hot weather has contributed to the deaths of thousands of fish in canals and rivers. Thunderstorms, pollution and other factors also contributed to the deaths, the Environment Agency said.

“Environment Agency fisheries teams have been responding round the clock to numerous reports of dead or distressed fish across the country,” said the agency's fisheries manager, Graeme Storey.

Met Office scientists have said that 2022 was the hottest year on record for the UK, with an annual mean temperature of 10.03 C, or 0.89 C higher than the 1991-2020 average. Other European countries including France and Spain saw similar record highs last year.

Since records began over a century ago, all of the 10 annual highest temperature records in the UK have occurred from 2003, the scientists added, clearly demonstrating how global warming has affected British climate.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[\[Opinion\] Climate change justice](#)**

By Teresa S. Abesamis

In a recent TV interview, NGO leader Lidy Nakpil advocated more pressure from the Philippines for global recognition of the obligation to the country, which is one of the, if not the greatest, victims of climate change. Typhoons, tsunamis, floods, and destructive weather events have made our island nation more and more vulnerable to changes in the world's deteriorating environment. And most of the victims are among our poorest.

Conference after conference on the subject of climate change have been attended by world leaders; yet in none of these have our own leaders brought our dire situation to the fore. Commitments are made by governments to reduce carbon emissions — which are generally not actually met.

Recently, development banks including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have announced loans to our country to deal with climate change issues, including preventive undertakings such as cleaning up our waterways, and developing disaster management. But these are loans to be paid for by our country.

Why should we be made to pay for disasters suffered by our people which the world knows are generally caused by high carbon emissions mostly generated by rich industrialized nations? There are enough studies that indicate that while we certainly could help reduce disasters by reducing our use and careless disposal of plastic and aluminum packaging, our own contribution to the world's climate change is minimal compared to industrialized nations. We are more the victims rather than the cause.

There has to be a way to render global justice in this matter. Reductions in carbon footprints are not adhered to as promised. Although there has been some progress, there has not been enough to protect our people from disasters over the long run. And it is our poor who will continue to suffer the most.

Obviously, it is not enough to obtain verbal commitments on reducing carbon footprints. Institutional control mechanisms need to be designed and installed globally to ensure climate change justice. The big producers of carbon emissions must be penalized; and the victims must be provided assistance for their sufferings. The recent conference on climate change in Paris featured an attempt to make big carbon emitters pay for their pollution; but this was unsuccessful.

Instead of loans, for example, we should be given grants for dealing with climate disasters such as floods and typhoons. How do we raise money for the grants? The global development community, led for example by the United Nations, through its associated financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF, could set up mechanisms for monitoring countries' contributions to carbon emissions. Global conferences can go beyond verbal commitments, and nations can agree to pay for carbon emissions beyond the maximum globally accepted by scientists as tolerable.

We have to start somewhere. Initially, carbon emissions generated from energy production by countries should be measured. Standards can be set, and penalties agreed on to be paid to institutions assigned to monitor and accept penalties which can then be used to fund grants to victims of climate change.

In addition, grants can be funded for initiatives in reducing pollution, such as innovations in biodegradable packaging materials. Let us recognize that while our contribution to the carbon footprint is minimal by global standards, we do happen to be one of the worst garbage polluters. Our massive tons of plastic and aluminum packaging materials exacerbate our massive floods. We owe it to ourselves to seriously undertake studies on how to reduce these destructive wastes.

I recently discovered packs of facial tissues made from bamboo, made in China. Such paper products have to be readily biodegradable! If we can make facial tissues, we should be able to develop alternative packaging materials out of bamboo. Imagine the impact of such innovations on our flood control and on markets for bamboo products which we can propagate in our country? There is enough know-how in UP Los Baños that needs to be turned into practical how-to's that can be disseminated and advocated.

It is time for our Department of Science and Technology to work with our state universities and colleges to do serious studies on the use of bamboo as a source for alternative packaging materials. Meanwhile, our Department of Agriculture, in coordination with our agricultural schools, should pursue programs to educate our farmers on the cultivation of bamboo products. The bamboo industry is getting ready to bloom with the huge economy of China in the lead. The present market is already too large for the limited supply of bamboo products.

Meanwhile, Malacañang must seriously make plans on how to mobilize global leaders on obtaining climate justice for victims of climate disasters among developing nations, especially the Philippines. We have the moral authority, given global awareness of disasters such as Typhoon Yolanda which killed thousands and left more homeless. This and our sovereign right to the West Philippine Sea have to be priority foreign policy

issues. The victim nations have to get together and assert themselves at these global conferences. Climate justice must be delivered before it is too late.

## [PHL presses for rich nations' climate change commitments](#)

THE PHILIPPINES continues to press for support from developed countries in terms of compensating for damages triggered by climate change, according to an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“We are continuing with our lobby on developed countries to support us,” Gigi Merilo, climate change senior environmental management specialist at DENR, said in mixed English and Filipino in an event hosted by Greenpeace Philippines on Wednesday.

“Maybe we must be steadfast, not only clamor but insistent negotiations for them to really help in being able to adapt to the impacts of climate change — [with the Philippines] being one of the most vulnerable countries,” she added.

Ms. Merilo said the Philippines’ call for support involves capacity building, climate financing, and technology transfer during international climate change negotiations.

In March this year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution led by the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu seeking an International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the obligations of states to combat climate change.

Citing the DENR’s Risk Resiliency Program, Ms. Merilo said they have identified 24 vulnerable provinces in the country which will be prioritized by the agency.

These provinces are Apayao, Kalinga, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Masbate, Sorsogon, Catanduanes, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Western Samar, Southern Leyte, Eastern Samar, Zamboanga del Norte, Bukidnon, Sarangani, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Maguindanao, Sulu, and Lanao del Sur.

Ms. Merilo also said the DENR intends to build a “portfolio of investment projects” such as watershed protection or rehabilitation, coastal and marine protection, water security or water availability, air and solid waste management.

“Those are some of the projects that some [local government units] and communities have been able to identify, and we hope that this can be budgeted through the General Appropriations Act so this will be a public sector investment,” she said.

In the same event, Greenpeace Philippines launched a disaster risk reduction tool kit for communities, citizen groups, and local governments aimed at building climate-friendly and people-centered disaster risk reduction (DRR) management.

The toolkit features 11 case studies from provinces and cities across the country that show localized solutions in addressing climate risk at the height of COVID-19 pandemic.

“We need DRR strategies that support people participation and assert constant preparedness and urgency,” said Greenpeace campaigner Rhea Jane Pescador-Mallari.

“In this toolkit, we showcase emergent, innovative, and grassroots-led programs and practices in order to inspire and motivate local government units and community groups to work together towards climate solutions and climate resilience,” she added. —  
Sheldeen Joy Talavera



## CLIMATE HOME NEWS

### [Identifying loss and damage is tough – we need a pragmatic but science-based approach](#)

By Mattias Söderberg

The ongoing debate about climate-induced loss and damage is rife with conflicts. Different perspectives, political views, and ideologies make it difficult for parties to agree on a way forward.

Since 2019, the Danish NGO DanChurchAid has been monitoring projects, implemented by our local partners, that address loss and damage. I believe our experience can provide some helpful perspective for the ongoing negotiations.

As an NGO working across the humanitarian and development nexus, we were already monitoring, and reporting, on projects related to cutting emissions and adapting to climate change. However, we also wanted to learn more about the efforts to address loss and damage.

Loss and damage is a reality now. The people we meet in the drought-affected Turkana region in Kenya, the flooded villages in South Sudan, and the farmers who lost their livelihoods due to cyclones in Malawi, know what we are talking about.

#### **Defining loss and damage**

Yet at the international level, there is no agreed definition, and no accepted marker to identify the projects. Our solution was to develop our own methodology.

The support we give to communities to reduce exposure to climate-related hazards, for example by setting up an early warning system for cyclones, is labeled as ‘adaptation’.

Meanwhile, the provision of emergency response, for example by delivering cash to families who lost their belongings, is labeled ‘loss and damage’.

One of the first lessons we could draw is that attribution is difficult. Is a drought climate-related or weather related? And are people being displaced as a result of the drought or due to local conflicts?

It is not clear-cut and, in reality, it is often a combination of factors. For people on the ground, the label doesn’t matter. They are concerned about whether any support for them exists at all.

We have therefore chosen a pragmatic, but still science-based, approach. We talk about climate-associated loss and damage, rather than climate-induced loss and damage. A small but important difference that can determine whether a community will receive support or not from a future loss and damage fund.

### **Funding streams**

Our monitoring indicates that the projects are funded from a variety of funding sources, both humanitarian and long-term development funds. That is relevant for the negotiations about 'funding arrangements' for loss and damage.

Most of our support is directed to rapid-onset disasters, such as a hurricane, while few projects have a focus on slow-onset events, like desertification, and non-economic loss. The gap would need to be addressed by the loss and damage fund, as it was also agreed at the Cop27 climate talks last year.

Another lesson relates to how the projects are designed. More than four-fifths of our activities include elements of both loss and damage on one hand, and adaptation or mitigation on the other. That indicates that the projects not only build back to pre-disaster situation after a loss, or damage, but that they do so in a way that improves conditions. It means that communities are more robust when the next extreme event strikes.

The UN negotiations must ensure a new fund will be eligible for cross-cutting activities, addressing both loss and damage and adaptation, to ensure the long-term perspective.

### **Local engagement**

Finally, our monitoring makes it clear, that it is the local communities and local actors themselves, that are spearheading the work. They are the first responders, and those staying behind when the hazard is under control. Yes, they need support, but they are best placed to know what kind of support is needed.

Even if the new loss and damage fund is negotiated within the UN, decisions about the actual destination of the money must engage the local communities that are affected.

We need locally-led actions to address loss and damage, and this must be a priority when the new fund is operationalised.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Cua: Intervention measures a must to prepare for 'possible' climate change woes](#)

By: Chito Chavez

Local government units (LGUs) need to prepare intervention measures after the Philippine, Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) reported the probability heavy rainfall and more typhoons in the latter part of the year.

In a press briefing on Wednesday, July 4, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) national president and Quirino Gov. Dakila Cua described the report as like climate change and not merely an El Nino Phenomenon issue.

With the possible heavy rains and high volume of rainfall, Cua stressed that the LGUs and concerned government agencies should prioritize relevant preparatory measures as excessive rainfall and frequent typhoon occurrences might disrupt the country's 'education calendar' since classes will be suspended during inclement weather conditions.

He also emphasized that authorities must inspect the evacuation facilities in the event the strong rains and typhoons will necessitate the need to evacuate the affected residents of the localities.

In one of the LGUs in Quirino, Cua noted that rescue teams are being trained this early to prepare for any unfavorable eventuality.

Regarding El Nino, Cua emphasized that the agricultural provinces are mostly affected by this weather disturbance, citing that all 'agricultural products' not only rice production are bound to suffer with the lack of water sources.

However, Cua pointed out that the LGUs had consistently coordinated with the Department of Agriculture (DA) with President Ferdinand 'Bong' Marcos Jr. at the helm of leading the distribution of appropriate assistance like 'inputs, fertilizers, seeds and other interventions even in mechanization.'

Cua pointed out that the LGUs had consistently provided their constituents with the 'usual intervention information and education' to raise public awareness on what might transpire during El Nino and reiterate to them the need to conserve the 'limited water resources.'

In the education campaign, Cua lamented that numerous issues crop up as local officials go down to the 'grassroots' and confer with the barangays and farmers where the lack of facilities and infrastructures 'in terms of water management' become evident.

Cua cited the need to install appropriate 'water systems' for domestic use and 'instead of getting from groundwater' other surface water sources may be tapped to augment like making river or canal water 'potable.'

He also mentioned that 'some irrigation facilities' must be rehabilitated to provide more efficient water flow in the rice fields and farm lands.

Cua commended National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen for the plan boost the organization of the farmers groups and irrigation association to make the sector 'well-financed and well-organized and professionally run by themselves.'

"Hindi kami magpapatakbo nyan, sila magpapatakbo (We will not run them, they will supervise them)," Cua noted.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [Research warns against underestimating climate risk to crops](#)

By: AFP

PARIS, France—The risks of harvest failures in multiple global breadbaskets have been underestimated, according to a study Tuesday that researchers said should be a “wake up call” about the threat climate change poses to our food systems.

Food production is both a key source of planet-warming emissions and highly exposed to the effects of climate change, with climate and crop models used to figure out just what the impacts could be as the world warms.

In the new research published in Nature Communications, researchers in the United States and Germany looked at the likelihood that several major food producing regions could simultaneously suffer low yields.

These events can lead to price spikes, food insecurity and even civil unrest, said lead author Kai Kornhuber, a researcher at Columbia University and the German Council on Foreign Relations.

By “increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases, we are entering this uncharted water where we are struggling to really have an accurate idea of what type of extremes we’re going to face,” he told AFP.

“We show that these types of concurring events are really largely underestimated.”

The study looked at observational and climate model data between 1960 and 2014, and then at projections for 2045 to 2099.

Researchers first looked at the impact of the jet stream—the air currents that drive weather patterns in many of the world’s most important crop producing regions.

They found that a “strong meandering” of the jet stream, flowing in big wave shapes, has particularly significant impacts on key agricultural regions in North America, Eastern Europe and East Asia, with a reduction in harvests of up to seven percent. The researchers also found that this had been linked to simultaneous crop failures in the past.

One example was in 2010, when the fluctuations of the jet stream were linked to both extreme heat in parts of Russia and devastating floods in Pakistan, which both hurt crops, Kornhuber said.

### **Risk assessment**

The study also looked at how well computer models assess these risks and found that while they are good at showing the atmospheric movement of the jet stream, they underestimate the magnitude of the extremes this produces on the ground.

Kornhuber said the study should be a “a wake up call in terms of our uncertainties” of the impacts of climate change on the food sector, with more frequent and intense weather extremes and increasingly complicated combinations of extremes.

“We need to be prepared for these types of complex climate risks in the future and the models at the moment seem to not capture this,” he said.

On Monday, United Nations human rights chief Volker Turk warned of a «truly terrifying» dystopian future of hunger and suffering as climate change-driven extremes hit crops, livestock and crucial ecosystems.

He told a UN debate on the right to food that more than 828 million people faced hunger in 2021 and climate change could increase that by 80 million by mid-century, and slammed world leaders for short term thinking.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [UN warns world to prepare for El Niño impact](#)

By: Agence France-Presse

GENEVA — The United Nations on Tuesday warned the world to prepare for the effects of El Niño, saying the weather phenomenon which triggers higher global temperatures is set to persist throughout 2023.

El Niño is a naturally occurring climate pattern typically associated with increased heat worldwide, as well as drought in some parts of the world and heavy rains elsewhere.

The phenomenon occurs on average every two to seven years, and episodes typically last nine to 12 months.

The UN's World Meteorological Organization declared El Niño was already under way and said there was a 90-percent chance that it would continue during the second half of 2023.

“The onset of El Niño will greatly increase the likelihood of breaking temperature records and triggering more extreme heat in many parts of the world and in the ocean,” warned WMO secretary-general Petteri Taalas.

“The declaration of an El Niño by WMO is the signal to governments around the world to mobilise preparations to limit the impacts on our health, our ecosystems and our economies,” said Taalas.

“Early warnings and anticipatory action of extreme weather events associated with this major climate phenomenon are vital to save lives and livelihoods.”

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which feeds into the WMO, announced on June 8 that El Niño had arrived.

“It is expected to be at least of moderate strength,” the WMO said.

It noted that El Niño's warming effect on global temperatures is usually felt most strongly within a year of its onset — in this case in 2024.

### **Triple-dip La Niña over**

El Niño is the large-scale warming of surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Conditions oscillate between El Niño and its generally cooling opposite La Niña, with neutral conditions in between.

El Niño events are typically associated with increased rainfall in parts of southern South America, the southern United States, the Horn of Africa and central Asia.

It can also cause severe droughts over Australia, Indonesia, parts of southern Asia, Central America and northern South America.

The WMO says the last El Niño was in 2015-2016.

From 2020 to early 2023, the world was affected by an unusually protracted La Niña, which dragged on for three consecutive years.

It was the first so-called triple-dip La Niña of the 21st century and only the third since 1950.

La Niña's cooling effect put a temporary brake on rising global temperatures, even though the past eight-year period was the warmest on record.

### **Record predictions**

Wilfran Moufouma Okia, the WMO's head of regional climate prediction services, said that over the next six months, "there will be 10-percent chances for El Niño to weaken".

"So we can rule out the development of La Niña this year," he told reporters.

"The effect of El Niño is usually perceived with a delay in time," he added, with an eye on global temperatures increasing further.

In May, the WMO predicted a 98-percent likelihood that at least one of the next five years — and the five-year period as a whole — will be warmest on record.

Currently the hottest year on record is 2016, when there was an exceptionally strong El Niño, combined with human-induced heating from greenhouse gas emissions.



The UN's World Health Organization said it was helping countries prepare for the impact of El Nino, by pre-positioning stocks.

"In many of the countries that will be most affected by El Niño, there are already ongoing crises," warned Maria Neira, the WHO's environment, climate change and health director.

The UN health agency is particularly concerned about likely increases in cholera, mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria, and infectious diseases like measles and meningitis.

Extreme heat, wildfires and greater food insecurity leading to more acute malnutrition are also a cause for concern, she said.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [People suffer, die under climate change-fueled heatwaves](#)

ISTANBUL – This summer, climate change has fueled extreme heat waves around the world, triggering weather warnings and claiming numerous lives.

From North America to Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, nations are grappling with scorching temperatures.

In the United States, a nationwide alert has been issued as sweltering heat and oppressive humidity blanket various regions.

Mexico has also been severely impacted, with temperatures surpassing 40C (104F). More than 110 people have lost their lives due to the high temperature.

The United Kingdom sweltered through its hottest June since record-keeping began in 1884. The average temperature was 15.8C (60.44F), almost a degree higher than previous highs for the month.

Iran, known for its blistering summers, witnessed temperatures reaching a staggering 50C (122F) in some areas.

In Spain, the mercury soared to a scorching 44C (111.2F). The country faced alarming conditions throughout June, with eight out of its 17 autonomous administrations issuing alerts.

Pakistan and India have also suffered the devastating consequences of the hot spell.

Heatstroke-related incidents claimed the lives of at least 22 people in Pakistan, while more than 150 individuals passed on in India.

Even China has been seeing the hottest days in six decades, with temperatures reaching up to 40C (104F). (Anadolu)

## PHILIPPINE STAR

### [\[Opinion\] Preparing for El Niño](#)

By: Rey Gamboa

With El Niño back once again after seven years, it's time to put more muscle into the El Niño Task Force to carry out the country's Extended Roadmap to Address the Impact of El Niño (E-RAIN) strategy, as well as introduce further improvements to mitigate an foreseen harsher effect on the Philippines.

During the country's last El Niño spell, which lasted 18 months from 2015 to 2016, about five percent of our farmers and 550,000 hectares of farmlands were badly affected by an El Niño-induced drought. Aggregate reports indicated severe effects on a third of the country, where a state of calamity was declared in six cities, 16 provinces, and 65 municipalities.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which monitors weather and climate information across the globe, provides crucial early and reliable warnings of severe weather that are used by decision-makers to be better prepared for climate changes.

For this current El Niño cycle, the WMO is predicting breaking temperature records and more extreme heat in many parts of the world. The warnings by the WMO for countries likely to be most affected by this current El Niño cycle include the need by respective governments to mobilize all preparations to limit the impact on the economies.

### **Agriculture shock**

Numerous studies have shown how El Niño negatively impacts affected countries' gross domestic product (GDP), household incomes, and per capita consumption, and if not managed well, could induce high inflation resulting from raised food prices.

For the Philippines, our agriculture sector will bear one of the biggest shocks that severe droughts can bring. Not many will remember the El Niño of 1997-1998 when the amount of rain in the country fell to half of historical levels, inducing droughts in two-thirds of farmlands. The dryness was so bad that almost 10,000 hectares of natural forests caught fire and were destroyed.

During the last El Niño seven years ago, average rainfall in Luzon decreased by 14 percent, 21 percent in the Visayas, and 35 percent in Mindanao. An estimated \$325 million in crops were damaged, and put in peril the lives of tens of thousands of affected farming families.

While agriculture's contribution to GDP has dropped to barely nine percent over the years, its relevance to the whole economy is still substantial, especially when one takes into consideration downstream agricultural processing, input production, and agriculture-related trading and transporting. More importantly, agriculture employs almost a quarter of the country's workforce.

### **Anticipating the worse**

Having in place an early response system has been recommended to help cushion the impact of income losses. With the help of international aid programs, early interventions to prepare for the worst consist of training the government's national and local agriculture technicians on disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation.

Other major initiatives are cash-for-work, food distribution, public information, water system improvements, and seeds and fertilizer distribution. The distribution of certified seeds for rice, corn, and vegetables in the past have allowed farm families to re-start livelihood opportunities after months of living in uncertain conditions.

During the last El Niño, RAIN was able to successfully stabilize food prices and food supplies nationwide by supporting crop production in unaffected or mildly affected regions. Together with the distribution of food stamps and the removal of rice import quotas, reports showed a substantial reduction in economic losses.

The President had called for the reactivation of the El Niño Task Force two months ago, which should give the team enough lead time to prepare the country for the worst. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) warned that the worst of El Niño would likely be towards the end of the year until the second quarter of 2024.

### **Room for improvement**

Among the areas that the Task Force could improve on are in the faster, more systematic delivery of cash aid. A review of how the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) could quickly make available funds to affected rural and urban households is in order, similar to what happened three years ago when the pandemic lockdowns were ordered.

Redirecting allotted funds for other climate-related activities and budgets should likewise be reviewed, which should give the government more flexibility in adjusting aid distribution where and when best needed.

The United Nations has already warned of global supply and price pressures on rice should droughts badly affect major rice-producing countries. Being partially dependent on rice importation, the Philippines is at risk of disruptions that could lead to rising prices.

The Task Force, likewise, needs, to improve weather forecasting systems and make these accessible to farmers. Having technology play a larger role for our agriculture sector has been a challenge that has been endlessly talked about, but has remained just talk.

Once again, although likely too late, the Philippines needs to improve on its water management system. Not only does this mean better irrigation infrastructure and system for areas that are likely more prone to droughts, but also to stabilize water supplies to urban areas that are most often affected by lowered water levels.

Additionally, a committed and all-encompassing food security program is needed that would put in place sustainable researches on drought- and flood-resistant crop varieties, a network of farmer-friendly grain and food storage systems, and many others.

The latest inflation numbers have just come in, and even if it has dropped to 5.4 percent last month, the average is still high at 7.2 percent. The last thing we need is a new pressure point in the coming months.

## [Opinion] Alarming reports: “A dystopian future of hunger and suffering”

By: Cherry Ballescas - THE FREEMAN

Two recent news about El Niño and climate change need serious attention and immediate response from all, especially local/national/global officials.

First, last Tuesday, PAGASA officially confirmed the onset of El Niño. State meteorologists predict that El Niño will become more powerful in the coming months, especially in the last quarter of this year.

Expect below-normal rainfall conditions, possible stronger typhoons, dry spells, droughts in some parts of the Philippines.

Water supply may also be affected.

Expect the following as well: “the outbreak of diseases, heat stress, respiratory ailments, and devastation on agricultural lands that result in lower crop yields and, consequently, longstanding food shortages; warm ocean waters dispersing and driving schools of fish into deeper waters drastically reducing one’s catch; severe temperatures and lower ocean waters that have also exposed and bleached fragile coral reefs, killed plankton, and triggered fish kills and forest fires, degraded water sources, and other environmental risks.”

Local and national governments especially should already have long and adequately prepared for El Niño.

If not, there is an urgent need to immediately, pro-actively, and effectively prepare/respond to El Niño soonest, NOW, if possible.

Sectors to be affected should also already have been prepared and supported/assisted by governments.

And this as well- “mitigation and adaptation plan set up by the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Unit that includes the promotion of drought-tolerant and early maturing crop varieties, organic fertilizer to increase retention of soil moisture, the adjustment of the planting calendar, and crop shifting.”

The second recent alarming report concerns climate change, which United Nations' human rights Chief Volker Turk warns “threatens to deliver a “dystopian future” of hunger and suffering!”

Turk “slammed world leaders for only thinking of the short term while dealing with the climate crisis.

In a UN Human Rights Council debate on the right to food, he said “that extreme weather events were wiping out crops, herds and ecosystems, making it impossible for communities to rebuild and support themselves.”

Turk shared that “more than 828 million people faced hunger in 2021.”

He also added that climate change “is projected to place up to 80 million more people at risk of hunger by the middle of this century.”

Evoking a "dystopian future," Turk lamented that "our environment is burning. It's melting. It's flooding. It's depleting. It's drying. It's dying."

Turk’s urgent call: "Addressing climate change is a human rights issue... there is still time to act. But that time is now."

Locally, government officials who start the second year of their term this July should heed the urgent calls to immediately address El Niño and climate change.

Beyond their first year address to the public, local and government officials should report about existing mitigation and adaptation measures to effectively respond to El Niño and climate change and the dire impacts especially for the millions of poor throughout the country!

The poor, who are increasing in number locally as well, are already drowning even deeper in poverty.

El Niño and climate change will impoverish even more millions of poor Filipinos who continue to struggle to survive/stay alive amidst these present economic challenges (among others) raised by Prof. Jan Carlo “JC” Punongbayan, PhD, Assistant Professor at the University of the Philippines School of Economics:

First, runaway inflation (of food/non-food items) which “peaked at 8.7% in January 2023, the highest in 14 years and more than double the 4% upper inflation target of government;

Second, growth which slowed down to 6.4% in the first quarter of 2023, possibly due to high inflation and interest rates.

Growth in excess of 9% yearly is still badly needed.

Third, unpaid family workers rose to 4.8 million (in February 2023), with underemployment rate still double-digit 12.9% in April 2023; and,

Fourth, nearly P14 trillion national debt.



## THE MANILA TIMES

### [Agri, infra impacted by climate change – DENR](#)

By Janine Alexis Miguel

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday said that agriculture and infrastructure are the sectors greatly affected by climate change.

Gigi Merilo, DENR climate change senior environmental management service specialist, said during an interview on the sidelines of Greenpeace Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) forum that these two sectors are usually affected by tropical cyclones.

"Those sectors are very evident that they were being damaged and affected first agricultural crops, most specially, and some infrastructures. I don't have the exact data but you will see that it amounts to billions of pesos," she said.

Merilo said the DENR has identified 24 provinces in the country that are vulnerable. This was determined based on three criteria — biodiversity key areas, poverty level and exposure to climate change.

These provinces are Apayao, Kalinga, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Masbate, Sorsogon, Catanduanes, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Western Samar, Southern Leyte, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Zamboanga del Norte, Bukidnon, Sarangani, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Maguindanao, Sulu and Lanao del Sur.

Meanwhile, Merilo said that the developed countries that emit larger carbon footprints should take responsibility in helping the Philippines address climate-related issues.

"It is just that they help us because they caused climate change first, the developed countries. It is only their responsibility to help us as we suffer because of their emissions," she said.

Environmental group Greenpeace Philippines highlighted the call for urgent climate action, especially in communities that have been reeling from the effects of climate change such as strong typhoons, the looming El Niño and urban heat.

"Being in a climate crisis means being in a constant state of emergency," said Greenpeace campaigner Rhea Jane Pescador-Mallari.

"We need DRR strategies that support people participation and assert constant preparedness and urgency," Pescador-Mallari added.

**=END=**