NEWS ROUNDUP
12 OCTOBER 2026 | 08:00 am

- El Niño set to intensify, last until February 2027: UN weather body
- Mexican president urges residents to shelter as Hurricane Simon approaches
- Brian Poe named honorary advisor of Climate Field School
- Climate crisis is coming to crush many of world's best surf breaks, study warns
- UN: El Niño will intensify, then peak in December
- 'Overshoot is not a reason to surrender': UN calls for accelerated climate action ahead of COP31 summit

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- The warning came with rain
- Climate Conference
- PH urges global action on climate forecasts

ABS CBN

El Niño set to intensify, last until February 2027: UN weather body

This year's El Niño will intensify before peaking in December and is nearly 100% certain to last until February 2027, the World Meteorological Organization said in its monthly climate bulletin on Thursday (October 8), with sea surface temperatures set to break records.

AL JAZEERRA

Mexican president urges residents to shelter as Hurricane Simon approaches

The Mexican community of Cabo Corrientes faces the risk of a direct hit as the Category 4 storm churns off Jalisco.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Brian Poe named honorary advisor of Climate Field School
By: Jan Escosio

Reaffirms support for climate resilience in Siargao

THE GAURDIAN

Climate crisis is coming to crush many of world's best surf breaks, study warns
By: Damian Carrington

Changing tide levels, shifting sands and hardened shorelines put waves at risk, affecting more than just surfers

THE PHIIPPINE STAR

UN: El Niño will intensify, then peak in December
By: Artemio Dumlao, Ric Sapnu

GENEVA – El Niño will intensify even more before peaking in December, the United Nations said on Thursday, warning it could be among the strongest witnessed since at least 1950.

UN NEWS

'Overshoot is not a reason to surrender': UN calls for accelerated climate action ahead of COP31 summit

Ahead of the summit, leaders gathered for a pre-conference in the South Pacific this week to prepare for the intense negotiations to come and set the agenda.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

The warning came with rain
By: Robert E.A. Borje

National agencies must make climate risk part of ordinary planning and budgeting.

MANILA STANDARD

Climate Conference

Climate Change Commission (CCC) vice-chairperson and executive-director Robert Borje warns that the current El Niño will intensify to very strong levels and will highly likely persist through February 2027, citing a World Meteorological Organization forecast. Borje speaks at the Pre-COP31 plenary on priorities for Antalya, ahead of the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31). He urges United Nations member states to turn climate forecasts into global preparedness and early action. He said risks can compound across water, food, energy, health and local economies, although effects will vary by location.

THE MANILA TIMES

PH urges global action on climate forecasts
By Catherine S. Valente

THE Philippines urged countries to translate climate forecasts into early action and preparedness ahead of the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), warning that intensifying El Niño conditions could compound risks to water, food, energy, health and local economies.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

El Niño set to intensify, last until February 2027: UN weather body

This year's El Niño will intensify before peaking in December and is nearly 100% certain to last until February 2027, the World Meteorological Organization said in its monthly climate bulletin on Thursday (October 8), with sea surface temperatures set to break records.

UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said the strengthening event would affect economies, ecosystems and communities worldwide.

"It is likely to bring above-average temperatures to much of the globe and shift rainfall patterns, increasing the risk of drought and floods in different parts of the world," he told reporters.

The UN weather body said sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific, the region at the heart of the El Niño phenomenon, were expected to reach a record 3.7 degrees Celsius (6.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above normal from October to December.

The forecast temperature anomaly is significantly higher than the previous record of 2.6C from November 2015 to January 2016, it said.

WMO forecasts indicate the event could be one of the strongest since at least 1950.

El Niño is the warm phase of the naturally occurring El Niño-Southern Oscillation cycle, a climate pattern that influences weather around the world.

It tends to cause higher global temperatures and disrupt rainfall patterns across large regions, bringing drought in some areas and heavy rains in others. It typically occurs every two to seven years.

Mean global temperatures in August reached 16.96C, tying with July 2023 as the hottest month on record, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Researchers at the University of Chicago's Climate Impact Lab predicted last month that this year's "super-El Niño" was likely to result in as many as 451,000 excess deaths across the globe from June to February 2027.

AL JAZEERRA

Mexican president urges residents to shelter as Hurricane Simon approaches

The Mexican community of Cabo Corrientes faces the risk of a direct hit as the Category 4 storm churns off Jalisco.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has urged residents along the Pacific Ocean to stay indoors as Hurricane Simon's powerful winds and heavy rains pound coastal communities.

As of Sunday, the hurricane's eye was moving offshore of Mexico's Jalisco state, with winds of at least 240km/h (150mph).

Torrential rain has already battered residents living between the Sierra Madre mountain range and the ocean. Communities in hilly and mountainous areas have been warned to brace for mudslides.

Simon reached Category 4 strength, on a scale of five, on Saturday, as part of an unusually active Pacific hurricane season.

"With the approaching impact of Category 4 Hurricane Simon, we urge residents of coastal municipalities in Jalisco, Colima, Nayarit and Michoacan to remain sheltered until authorities officially declare that the danger has passed," Sheinbaum wrote in a post on the social media platform X on Sunday.

In a midday advisory, the United States' National Hurricane Center (NHC) warned that Simon could produce "additional rainfall totals of 8 to 16 inches (20 to 41 cm) over portions of southwestern Mexico".

Precipitation totals as high as 76 cm (30 inches) were possible in areas of Michoacan, Colima, and Jalisco until Monday.

It's not clear whether the storm will make landfall. But the greatest risk of a direct hit lies at the moment with Cabo Corrientes, a town that sits on a cape in Jalisco, jutting into the Pacific Ocean.

Mexico's National Civil Protection Coordination (CNPC) placed 28 municipalities in Jalisco and Colima under its highest cyclone alert level, while another 93 municipalities were under a high alert level, according to civil protection bulletins.

Businesses in popular tourist destinations like Puerto Vallarta boarded up windows and placed sandbags at entrances as the storm approached.

Jalisco's Governor Pablo Navarro warned that the high-powered hurricane was creating "high-risk marine conditions" along the coast of his state, with waves reaching as high as eight metres (26 feet).

On Sunday, he also shared video on social media of the storm surge crashing onto sidewalks and flooding waterways.

"Here is the current state of Jalisco's beaches this morning — from Barra de Navidad to Puerto Vallarta — as Hurricane Simon passes through," he wrote in the video's caption.

"I ask everyone to heed official instructions, take precautions and avoid putting themselves at risk. The safety of Jalisco's families is the top priority."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Brian Poe named honorary advisor of Climate Field School

By: Jan Escosio

Reaffirms support for climate resilience in Siargao

DEL CARMEN, Surigao del Norte — Rep. Brian Poe of the FPJ Panday Bayanihan party-list has been named honorary adviser of the Climate Field School, reaffirming his commitment to advancing climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods in Siargao.

Poe was represented by his chief for political affairs, Leaross Valerio, at the Siargao Climate and Circular Economy Forum held in Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte, within the Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape.

The forum brought together national and local government officials, development partners and community stakeholders to advance climate resilience, environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods, particularly for farmers and fisherfolk in island communities.

Among the key participants were Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum Jr.; Interior and Local Government Assistant Secretary for International Relations Lilian de Leon; European Union representative Tsvetomir Svilenov; United Nations Development Programme Philippines Deputy Resident Representative Amanthi Wickramasinghe; and Del Carmen Mayor Alfredo “JR” Coro II.

Representing Poe, Valerio conveyed the lawmaker’s support for the Climate Field School and its mission to bring science, technology and practical climate solutions closer to farmers and fisherfolk.

“The farmers and fisherfolk are the reason there is a Climate Field School. This recognition reminds us of whom this school is ultimately meant to serve. Para po ito sa inyo,” Valerio said on Poe’s behalf.

Valerio also emphasized the importance of ensuring that the experiences and concerns of local communities inform policymaking and legislative initiatives, particularly those involving climate adaptation, agricultural and fisheries support, and sustained public investment in climate resilience.

The forum underscored the need to protect natural ecosystems while strengthening local economies. Coro stressed that environmental protection and economic development must go hand in hand.

“Protecting nature and building a strong local economy are not two separate goals or jobs. They are one same job,” the mayor said.

Solidum likewise highlighted the role of science and technology in translating environmental priorities into practical solutions.

“A circular Siargao must be a climate-resilient Siargao,” he said.

THE GAURDIAN

Climate crisis is coming to crush many of world's best surf breaks, study warns
By: Damian Carrington

Changing tide levels, shifting sands and hardened shorelines put waves at risk, affecting more than just surfers

The climate crisis is coming for some of the world's greatest surf breaks, submerging some as sea level rises and wiping out others as classic breaks get crushed against coastal developments.

Analysis of dozens of famous waves in world surfing reserves (WSR) found more than three-quarters were at high risk because of changing tide levels, hardened shorelines and shifting sands.

The impacts matter not only to the surfers catching the waves but also to the communities that depend on the multibillion-dollar surf economy, often located in places with little else.

The waves rated at most risk in the study include the "bombing barrels" of Croyde beach in north Devon, UK, the point breaks at Noosa in Australia and Oriente Salvaje, El Salvador, and Santa Cruz reefs of California such as Sewer Peak and Wind and Sea.

The best surfing waves are created by intricate combinations of sea-floor shape, swell direction and tide. "Surf breaks are incredibly unique oceanographic phenomena – a confluence of all these factors that fit together just right to make the wave happen – and so those processes are really sensitive," said Dan Reineman, an associate professor at California State University Channel Islands and a co-author of the study.

Global heating is pushing up sea level and changing rainfall patterns that affect sediment movement, which can upset the delicate balance and destroy the wave. However, the researchers said the expert local knowledge of surfers could be tapped to help protect the waves.

Trent Hodges, a co-author of the study and a senior programmes manager at Save the Waves Coalition, which launched the WSR programme in 2009, said: "Climate change will impact surf breaks all over the world in different ways, depending on their unique geographies. We learned directly from the local surfers how they are seeing their waves change. It's a canary in the coalmine too – when a wave changes, that often means the beach is changing, and everybody enjoys the beach."

The study, published in the journal Climatic Change, concludes: "Climate change and coastal management both have significant negative implications for the future viability of multiple surf

breaks of global significance and, therefore, the myriad distinct local communities, cultures and economies they support."

Almost 200 local experts analysed 57 surf breaks in all but two of the 13 WSRs, spread across eight countries. The researchers said thousands of other surf waves around the world faced similar peril.

A key finding was that where coastlines were more natural, they could adapt better to the changes brought by the climate crisis, by shifting inland and relocating sediments. Development such as sea walls, jetties and groynes made the beaches and waves less resilient, Reineman said.

Adam Hall, a co-founder of the North Devon WSR, was one of the local surfers who contributed to the study. He said: "North Devon is so special. We have Saunton Sands, a world-renowned longboarding wave with really long, mellow rides, and the UK's best beach break at Croyde. We've got left- and right-hand point breaks and a sheltered spot for when it gets too windy and too big. Whatever you want to do, we've got it."

He said surfing was very important for the local economy, and not just in summer. "Surfers will come throughout the year. They fill up the pubs, restaurants and car parks when the swells are good in January, February and March, where if you go to any other tourist destination that doesn't have surf, they're dead on their knees."

The researchers want more local surfers to use the tools developed to assess their own breaks and work with local authorities and other groups to protect waves from coastal development and climate change.

Some places already do this, such as the city of Gold Coast in Australia, which has put surf protection in planning law; New Zealand, which designates surf breaks of "national significance"; and Peru's Ley de rompientes (law of the breakers) that protects listed surf breaks.

"Surfing is a huge driver of local economies," Hodges said. "So whether you're a surfer or not, that money supports local businesses, hotels, lodgings and so on."

In Santa Cruz, surfing brings in about $200m (£151m) a year, he said.

"In the east of El Salvador, you have some of the most perfect point break waves you will find, and the entire economy there is pretty much dependent on surfing," Hodges added.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

UN: El Niño will intensify, then peak in December

By: Artemio Dumlao, Ric Sapnu

GENEVA – El Niño will intensify even more before peaking in December, the United Nations said on Thursday, warning it could be among the strongest witnessed since at least 1950.

The naturally occurring weather phenomenon is set to bring higher temperatures to much of the planet, the UN's weather and climate agency said, with its impact compounding the effects of man-made climate change.

"El Niño will continue to intensify ahead of its forecast peak in December," the World Meteorological Organization said in its monthly Global Seasonal Climate Update.

"It is likely to bring above-average temperatures to much of the globe and shift rainfall patterns, increasing the risk of drought and floods in different regions," it added.

The Philippines is strengthening the use of climate and rice data to help farmers make timely decisions on planting, irrigation, and drought preparedness as El Niño risks intensify.

The Philippine Rice Research Institute and Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration are working to translate weather forecasts and rice production data into practical information that farmers can use in managing crops. – AFP

UN NEWS

‘Overshoot is not a reason to surrender’: UN calls for accelerated climate action ahead of COP31 summit

Ahead of the summit, leaders gathered for a pre-conference in the South Pacific this week to prepare for the intense negotiations to come and set the agenda.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed joined senior government figures and top policy makers in Tuvalu and Fiji – two Pacific island nations facing the brunt of rising seas and intensifying floods – to lay out the UN’s climate priorities.

“We must take urgent action to ensure every child born today across the Pacific Islands can grow up, prosper and live on the islands they call home,” she told the pre-COP in Fiji.

‘Keeping 1.5 alive’
A key priority raised by the UN Deputy Secretary-General was “keeping 1.5 alive” – referencing the 2015 Paris Agreement target to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

As the world is heading to exceed the 1.5°C target, Ms Mohammed urged states not to give up.

“Overshoot is not a reason to surrender,” she said in Tuvalu. “It is a call to accelerate – to make overshoot as short and small as possible and bring temperatures back down below 1.5 as quickly as possible.”

Reduce emissions, boost security
She called on leaders to deliver on promises made at previous climate conferences, most notably the 2023 Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28) where leaders agreed to transition away from fossil fuels, triple renewable capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030.

She highlighted the benefits of this transition to renewables by linking it directly to energy security.

“For the 655 million people still living without electricity, clean power means a mother surviving birth with the lights on, and a child doing her homework after dark,” she said in Fiji.

“It frees economies from the price swings from impacts of global conflicts on fossil fuels.”

Protect and adapt
At the same time, with the impacts of global warming already being felt, the UN Deputy Secretary-General also called for stronger adaptation and protection measures.

She urged countries to expand early warning systems, which help predict extreme weather events and alert communities before disaster strikes.

“An early warning that reaches a family hours before a cyclone gives them time to get to safety,” she explained in Fiji.

These systems must be complemented by resilient infrastructure, secure water supplies and healthy ecosystems, she stressed, highlighting ongoing efforts in Pacific communities to strengthen coastal resilience and restore marine ecosystems.

Fair funding
To enable this transition, a quick, fair and clear funding scheme is critical.

She reiterated that developed countries should take the lead – pointing to the Baku to Belém Roadmap which aims to mobilise at least $1.3 trillion annually in climate finance for developing countries by 2035.

Crucially, she emphasised that funding must be easy to access.

“Every dollar has to arrive where it is meant to go. A small island ministry with a handful of staff should be able to reach concessional finance quickly and simply,” she said in Fiji.

“The UN's message remains emphatic: Keep the promise of Paris, fight harder, and make the tragic overshoot as small and short as possible,” she emphasised.

=END=

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

The warning came with rain
By: Robert E.A. Borje

National agencies must make climate risk part of ordinary planning and budgeting.

Seventeen years ago, the warning came with rain and with water rising faster than many families could move.

On 26 September 2009, tropical storm “Ondoy” (Ketsana) dumped extraordinary rainfall over Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Streets became rivers. Homes became islands. Families climbed to rooftops, waited for rescue and watched familiar neighborhoods disappear beneath floodwater.

The disaster did not end there. Days later, typhoon “Pepeng” (Parma) battered Northern Luzon, bringing floods and landslides that compounded the country’s losses. In the years that followed, a succession of powerful storms — including “Sendong,” “Pablo,” “Yolanda,” “Ompong” and “Odette” — would leave their own marks on communities from Mindanao to the Visayas and Luzon.

Each storm had its own geography and its own grief. But together, they told a larger story.

The storms did not create the climate crisis. They exposed what the country could no longer ignore: climate risk could enter a home, close a school, erase a livelihood, displace a family and strain an economy in the same terrible moment.

The warning was followed by a firm decision.

In October 2009, the Climate Change Act created the Climate Change Commission (CCC). The law recognized that climate change could not be confined to one department or reduced to disaster response. It had to shape development itself.

That decision was carried by public servants and legislators who understood the scale of the challenge. Senator Loren Legarda became one of the country’s most persistent champions of climate action in the Senate. In the House, Representative Roilo Golez championed House Bill No. 5982, which passed as RA 9729, while Representative Rufus Rodriguez helped advance the legislative work that gave climate governance a stronger institutional foundation.

Their efforts were part of a broader national movement — one sustained by Congress, local governments, civil society, the private sector, academe and communities that refused to treat climate change as a distant or abstract concern.

Much has changed since then.

Under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., climate governance has gained renewed momentum. The country completed its first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and its Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan. Local Climate Change Action Plan submissions have risen to nearly 91 percent. In 2024, the People's Survival Fund's initial P1-billion allocation was fully committed for the first time. The Climate Change Expenditure Tagging is providing datasets to analyze more deeply how public funds are being spent for transformative climate action.

These are real gains. They reflect work across government and society. But anniversaries should not become inventories of documents.

Seventeen years later, the harder question is no longer whether or not creating the Commission was the right decision. Emphatically, it is whether we have equipped that decision to work.

We gave the CCC a mandate that reaches across the whole machinery of government: connect science with policy, national plans with local action, public budgets with climate risk, and domestic priorities with international commitments.

Did we also give it the means to carry that weight?

A commission expected to coordinate agencies, support local governments, track climate action and represent the country abroad cannot run on mandate alone. A mandate, after all, is not a resource. We cannot ask one institution to hold the thread across government, then give it too little with which to stitch.

This is not a call for one agency alone. It is an invitation to renew a national compact. Congress must continue to provide the authority and resources that climate governance requires. National agencies must make climate risk part of ordinary planning and budgeting. Local governments must turn plans into protection on the ground. The private sector, academe and civil society must help expand knowledge, innovation, accountability and investment.

The cost of inaction is visible, though no single figure captures it. The NAP estimates that climate inaction could cost P645 billion a year across eight priority sectors in the 2030s.

Yet even that is not the whole bill. The plan acknowledges that health impacts, lost ecosystem services and other social costs are not comprehensively captured. A damaged road is easier to price than a family uprooted, a childhood interrupted by evacuation, or a reef that may not return.

Some losses can be counted. Others are simply carried.

This is why President Marcos' call for predictive governance matters. A forecast has value only when it changes a decision — where we build, what we fund and whom we protect before a hazard becomes a disaster.

Today, a strong El Niño threatens to intensify into a very strong event. The recent Pacific Pre-COP31 meeting in Fiji raised the same question at the global level: will ambition be matched by means?

Developing countries may need $310 to 365 billion each year for adaptation by 2035. International public adaptation finance, however, reached only $26 billion in 2023.

The lesson is the same from Fiji to the barangay. Plans require institutions. Institutions require people, authority, information and sustained resources. Support cannot rise with disaster and recede with the headlines.

Perhaps the Commission's 17th anniversary is useful because it asks more than what we have built. It asks whether we have helped it bear the weight we placed upon it.

Hindi sapat ang atas kung kapos ang kakayahang tumupad. (A mandate is not enough if the capacity to fulfill it is lacking.)

The warning came with rain in 2009. It came again in many forms, across many places, in the years that followed. The answer must be broad enough to honor every loss. And strong enough to arrive before the next one.

MANILA STANDARD

Climate Conference

Climate Change Commission (CCC) vice-chairperson and executive-director Robert Borje warns that the current El Niño will intensify to very strong levels and will highly likely persist through February 2027, citing a World Meteorological Organization forecast. Borje speaks at the Pre-COP31 plenary on priorities for Antalya, ahead of the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31). He urges United Nations member states to turn climate forecasts into global preparedness and early action. He said risks can compound across water, food, energy, health and local economies, although effects will vary by location.

THE MANILA TIMES

PH urges global action on climate forecasts

By Catherine S. Valente

THE Philippines urged countries to translate climate forecasts into early action and preparedness ahead of the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), warning that intensifying El Niño conditions could compound risks to water, food, energy, health and local economies.

Climate Change Commission (CCC) Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje made the call during a Pre-COP31 plenary discussion on priorities for the conference, citing a World Meteorological Organization forecast that El Niño would intensify and would persist until February 2027.

“The forecast gives us a clear warning, but also a window to prepare and respond,” Borje said. “We must build right at first sight so every investment reduces risk rather than locks it in.”

The official said climate forecasts should guide government decisions before their effects escalate, in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s push for predictive governance.

For the Philippines, this means incorporating climate risk assessments into policies and investments involving agriculture, water security, public infrastructure and community livelihoods, he said.

Borje urged countries to use COP31 to support the preparation and implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), which guide their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

He cited the Philippines’ NDC Implementation Plan, National Adaptation Plan and National Climate Risk Management Framework as existing mechanisms for integrating climate considerations into national economic decisions.

The Philippine official called for increased and more accessible climate financing, saying current funding falls far short of developing countries’ needs.

The United Nations Environment Program estimates that developing countries will require $310 billion to $365 billion annually for adaptation by 2035.

However, international public adaptation finance for developing countries totaled only $26 billion in 2023, less than one-tenth of the estimated annual requirement.

While water and wastewater systems receive the largest sectoral share of tracked adaptation finance, Borje said the overall amount remains insufficient.

“A large share of an inadequate pool remains inadequate,” the CCC official said.

He also raised concerns over limited and poorly tracked financing for oceans, which are vital to small island developing states and archipelagic countries such as the Philippines.

Borje called for climate finance that is adequate, predictable, new, additional, scaled up and readily accessible to developing countries.

He said funding flows should be transparently measured, provided on fair terms and directed to national and local institutions responsible for implementing climate programs.

Public and concessional financing remain essential, Borje said, adding that private funding should complement rather than replace governments’ responsibilities.

He also called for faster technology transfer and capacity-building to help developing countries respond to climate risks.

Borje said the conference’s Action Agenda could help advance the goal of making COP31 an “implementation COP” by supporting practical partnerships in energy, water, oceans and resilience, while linking multi-hazard early warning systems to early action.

He said the success of the conference would ultimately depend on whether its negotiations produced agreements that reach vulnerable communities, protect lives and sustain development.

COP31 will be held in November at the Antalya Expo Center in Türkiye.

=END=