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MANILA STANDARD

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Science-based climate action pushed for LGUs
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THE Climate Change Commission (CCC) stressed the need to make local climate plans better by using scientific data and creating practical solutions that fit each community's specific risks and goals.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

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By: Rowegie Abanto

MANILA — State weather bureau PAGASA has resumed issuing heat index forecasts amid the strong to very strong El Niño that could peak before the end of the year and last through the first half of 2027.

On Tuesday, PAGASA said sixteen areas could experience danger-level heat index ranging from 42 to 43 degrees Celsius.

Here are some tips on how to deal with the El Niño heat, based on reminders and advisories from PAGASA and the Department of Health, as posted by disaster agency NDRRMC.

1. Stay hydrated: Drink plenty of water and avoid alcoholic and caffeinated beverages.

2. Dress for heat: Wear lightweight, breathable clothing and/or light-colored clothing to reflect heat.

3. Stay indoors: Schedule heavy-duty activities for the beginning or end of the day, when it is cooler.

4. Be cool: Take showers or baths and use cold packs or damp towels to cool your body.

5. Use sunscreen: If going outside cannot be avoided, wear sunscreen 30 minutes before going out and use an umbrella or a hat to protect yourself from sun exposure.

6. Eat light: Choose easy-to-digest foods such as fruit or salads. It is better to put them in a cooler or carry an ice pack. Meats and dairy products can spoil quickly in hot weather.

ECO BUSINESS

UN report urges investment in Ocean Carbon Intelligence to safeguard the ocean's climate role

The world must strengthen its understanding of the ocean's carbon system if it is to safeguard one of the planet's most important climate allies, according to the UN's 2026 Climate Technology Progress Report released today.

The report highlights Ocean Carbon Intelligence, a framework that connects ocean science, monitoring technologies, data infrastructure and analytical tools to improve understanding of ocean carbon dynamics and support evidence-based climate action.

As governments, researchers and investors increasingly look to ocean-based climate solutions to help address climate change, the report identifies sustained investment in ocean observation, data infrastructure and modelling as essential for closing critical knowledge gaps, strengthening climate decision-making and supporting the responsible development of ocean-based climate technologies.

According to the report, the ocean absorbs around 30 per cent of human-induced carbon dioxide emissions and approximately 90 per cent of excess heat generated by climate change. But rising temperatures, acidification, deoxygenation, pollution, and ecosystem degradation are disrupting the ocean processes that enable this critical climate-regulating function.

Produced by the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre in collaboration with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Technology Executive Committee (TEC), the report warns that climate change is already affecting the ocean's ability to absorb and store carbon. Growing scientific evidence indicates that warming, acidification, and other pressures are altering the physical, chemical, and biological processes that underpin the ocean's role as a global carbon sink.

As one of the world's largest carbon sinks, the ocean absorbs substantial amounts of human-caused carbon dioxide. Yet warming waters and changes in ocean chemistry are placing this critical function under increasing pressure, potentially weakening the ocean's ability to store carbon and support climate stability in the future.

"A weaker ocean carbon sink leaves more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and makes climate goals harder and more costly to achieve. The ocean has helped buy humanity time in the fight against climate change. We cannot afford to take that role for granted," said Martin Krause, Director, Climate Change Division at UNEP.

While interest in ocean-based climate solutions is growing due to its climate regulatory role, major gaps in ocean observations, data systems and scientific understanding continue to limit the ability of governments and investors to assess climate risks and make informed decisions.

“As Pacific COP31 Envoy for the Ocean, I believe we have both an opportunity and a responsibility to place the ocean where it belongs: at the heart of global climate action” said the Honourable Inia Seruiratu MP, UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), Pacific Climate Envoy for the Ocean. “This will require bold leadership, stronger partnerships and sustained investment, while recognising that science, innovation and Indigenous knowledge together offer our best pathway towards a more resilient future.”

The report highlights both the opportunities and limitations of ocean-based climate technologies, including blue carbon ecosystem restoration and emerging marine carbon dioxide removal approaches.

It emphasises that these technologies can complement, not replace, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and must be guided by strong science, transparency, environmental safeguards, and effective governance.

“With pressures on the ocean increasing and the need for effective climate action growing, the priority must be ensuring ocean-based climate solutions are guided by science, equity and transparency,” concluded UNEP’s Martin Krause. “Ocean innovation has significant potential, but its success will depend on strong governance, public trust and sustained investment in knowledge, capacity and international cooperation.”

GMA NEWS

9 areas to experience 'danger' level heat index on Nov. 4, 2026

At least nine areas are forecast to experience heat index values at the "danger" level on Wednesday, November 4, the state weather bureau PAGASA said Tuesday afternoon.

43 degrees Celsius

- Dumangas, Iloilo

42 degrees Celsius

- Coron, Palawan
- San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
- Cuyo, Palawan
- Borongan, Eastern Samar
- Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur
- Butuan City, Agusan del Norte
- Iloilo City, Iloilo
- La Granja, La Carlota City, Negros Occidental

PAGASA warned that heat index values ranging from 42 to 51 degrees Celsius, classified as the danger level, could cause heat cramps and heat exhaustion, while prolonged exposure could result in heat stroke.

Heat stroke is likely when the heat index reaches the "extreme danger" level of 52 degrees Celsius or higher.

The heat index refers to the temperature felt by the human body when relative humidity is factored in with the actual air temperature.

High humidity slows the evaporation of sweat, making it harder for the body to cool itself.

PAGASA advised the public to limit outdoor activities and use umbrellas or caps when going outside. It also recommended drinking plenty of water and avoiding beverages such as tea, coffee, alcohol, and soft drinks.

PAGASA typically releases heat index data during the dry season, from March until the onset of the rainy season.

"However, the prevailing El Niño condition has urged for this off-season issuance to provide guidance for possible occurrences of associated extreme heat events," PAGASA said. — VBL, GMA News

MANILA BULLETIN

Almost all coral reef ecosystems face risk of collapse in 50 years, study warns

The world's coral reef ecosystems almost all face a high risk of collapse in the next 50 years, mostly due to warming oceans and heat waves, according to a global assessment released Thursday.

It's the latest dose of bad news for coral reefs, which are critical sources for seafood and tourism and often serve as buffers from coastal erosion and storms. Sometimes dubbed "rainforests of the sea," they have some of the world's richest biodiversity. They support a quarter of marine species as well as coastal communities and businesses.

Some 96% of shallow-water reef systems are already critically endangered and could disappear by 2075, the International Union for Conservation of Nature announced on the sidelines of a U.N. biodiversity conference in Albania.

Most of the world's famous reef systems — including the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Coral Triangle in the Western Pacific Ocean and Southeast Asia, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System and the Red Sea coral reefs — are all critically endangered, the highest level of threat.

"The risk of coral reef collapse is escalating, but this must be a wake-up call rather than a cause for despair," said Mishal Gudka, the scientific lead of the global IUCN Red List of Coral Reef Ecosystems assessment, the first of its kind.

"Coral reefs have shown a remarkable ability to bounce back from devastating bleaching events," he said. "Pockets of surviving, resilient coral reefs can still remain in the future, so we must do everything within our reach to set them up for success."

When a reef collapses, hard corals disappear and are replaced by algae, rubble and sponges. As a result, the reef no longer supports a diverse ecosystem that can include everything from tiny invertebrates to reef fish like grouper.

"Coral reefs are one of the clearest vital signs of the ocean's health," Grethel Aguilar, the IUCN director general, said in a statement.

The assessment, spanning 127 tropical and subtropical ecoregions, and encompassing 72,726 square miles (188,362 square kilometers) of coral reefs globally, called climate change the "single most consistent threat driving coral reef decline worldwide."

A week ago, another study in the journal Nature by the IUCN found that nearly 44% of reef-building coral species face an elevated risk of extinction due to climate change. A year ago,

a survey found that harmful bleaching of the world's coral has grown to include 84% of the ocean's reefs — the most intense of its kind in recorded history.

The year 2024 was Earth's hottest on record, and much of that is going into oceans. The average annual sea surface temperature of oceans away from the poles was a record 69.57 degrees Fahrenheit (20.87 degrees Celsius).

Beyond combating rising global emissions, experts said efforts to reduce pollution, overfishing and coastal development can help reefs survive.

"We know what is needed: ambitious emissions reductions, stronger protection and restoration efforts, and sustained investment in resilient coastal ecosystems and the communities that depend on them," Aguilar said.

Andrew Baker, director of the Coral Reef Futures Lab at the University of Miami, sought to inject some hope after reviewing the assessment. He said stopping global warming and pollution isn't the only way to save corals.

"It means finding new ways to restore corals using emerging technology and innovative approaches," he said, "that can throw a lifeline to struggling reefs and buy us critically needed time to make these transitions."

PHILIPPINE STAR

Rain or shine: Mixed weather expected across Philippines
By: Ian Laqui

MANILA, Philippines — Rains are expected in Metro Manila and parts of Northern Luzon due to two weather systems, the state weather bureau PAGASA said.

In its weather forecast on Tuesday, November 3, PAGASA said the northeast monsoon, locally known as “amihan,” may affect extreme Northern Luzon.

Amihan may bring partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated light rains over the Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region and Cagayan Valley.

However, PAGASA said it is not expected to have a significant impact on residents in the area.

Meanwhile, Metro Manila and the rest of the country may expect partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to localized thunderstorms.

Class suspensions due to high heat index
Some areas and schools in Southern Luzon and the Visayas have also suspended classes due to high heat indices.

The following areas have suspended classes:

- Cavite City (42°C): In-person classes in all levels of public schools, except Cavite City National Science High School
- Mulanay, Quezon (42°C): All levels, public and private schools
- Himamaylan, Negros Occidental (41°C): All levels, public and private schools
- Hinigaran, Negros Occidental (41°C): All levels, public and private schools

Meanwhile, the following schools have also suspended classes due to high heat indices:

- Mabini Colleges Inc., Camarines Norte: Face-to-face and online classes for high school
- Carlos Hilado Memorial State University: Shift to online asynchronous learning from November 3 to 4 and on November 6
- University of the Philippines Visayas, Iloilo City campus: Shift to remote or asynchronous learning mode.

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By: Kristine Daguno-Bersamina

MANILA, Philippines — State weather bureau PAGASA warned of dangerous heat conditions in 16 areas across the country on Tuesday, November 3, with the heat index expected to peak at 43 degrees Celsius.

Heat index refers to the temperature felt by the human body when relative humidity combines with actual air temperature.

Under PAGASA's classification, "danger" levels range from 42°C to 51°C. Prolonged exposure to these conditions may cause heat cramps and heat exhaustion and could lead to heat stroke.

Here are the areas under danger-level heat index:

43°C

- Iloilo City, Iloilo
- San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
- Catarman, Northern Samar

42°C

- Bacnotan, La Union
- Camiling, Tarlac
- Sangley Point, Cavite City, Cavite
- Mulanay, Quezon
- Cuyo, Palawan
- Daet, Camarines Norte
- Legazpi City, Albay
- Virac, Catanduanes
- Roxas City, Capiz
- Siquijor, Siquijor
- Borongan, Eastern Samar
- Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte
- Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur

What to do under extreme heat

Amid soaring temperatures, the public is advised to take the following precautions to avoid heat-related illnesses:

- Avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, especially during the hottest hours of the day.
- Stay in shaded or well-ventilated areas whenever possible.
- Wear lightweight and loose-fitting clothing.
- Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- Use umbrellas, hats or caps when outdoors.
- Watch for symptoms of heat-related illnesses, including headaches, vomiting and muscle cramps. Seek medical attention if symptoms worsen.

THE MANILA TIMES

Withstanding Tropical Climate Tests: LUXEED's Rigorous Quality Control Fortifies Mobility Readiness in Southeast Asia

WUHU, China, Nov. 03, 2026 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- On October 22-23, global partner representatives from Southeast Asian countries including Thailand and Indonesia visited the LUXEED Super Factory, touring this intelligent automotive manufacturing base and witnessing LUXEED's smart manufacturing capabilities in automated production, digital management and rigorous quality traceability. As one of the activities of the 2026 Chery International User Ecosystem Summit, the visit also highlighted LUXEED's rigorous quality-control achievements in meeting Southeast Asia's tropical climate challenges. The tour also offered a glimpse of LUXEED's broader intelligent ecosystem, where AiMOGA robots serve as a key smart-ecosystem partner alongside the brand's vehicles.

Rigorous Quality Control Requirements Under Tropical Climate

The Southeast Asian market lies in the tropics, with high temperatures, heavy rainfall and complex road conditions, imposing higher requirements on battery safety, the reliability of the three-electric system and vehicle sealing for new energy vehicles.

During the tour, the smart manufacturing level displayed in LUXEED Super Factory's four core process workshops left a deep impression on Southeast Asian partners. More than 2,000 intelligent devices operate at the factory daily. Powered by an AI system with an autonomous closed loop of "perception-analysis-decision-execution-evolution," the factory achieves an average production beat of one vehicle rolling off the line every minute. Key processes including stamping, welding, painting and final assembly achieve a high automation rate. In the welding workshop alone, nearly 900 high-precision robots form a team of "digital craftsmen," working in effective coordination and performing precision operations.

Luxury Felt First on the Production Line

Through ultimate intelligent driving, to unveil the aspirational mobility - the visit gave Southeast Asian partners a set of visible manufacturing standards: a vehicle's luxury is first defined in the process, then safeguarded throughout by quality traceability. These solid manufacturing foundations will become LUXEED's strong backing as it deepens its presence in the Southeast Asian market. LUXEED's intelligent ecosystem also extends beyond the vehicle to AiMOGA robots, bringing smart-mobility experiences from the cabin into more of life's moments.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

GMA NEWS

Ahead of COP31: Climate Change Commission launches PH hub

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Tuesday launched the Philippine hub for the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) to showcase the country's climate action, resilience models, solutions, and policy priorities.

COP31 or the 31st Conference of Parties is annual United Nation's climate conference where governments to discuss, negotiate, and advance global action on climate change.

This year, it will be held in Antalya, Türkiye, from November 9 to 20, 2026.

According to CCC, the PH hub will not only allow the country to share its existing actions regarding climate change but the physical space will also be where our delegation can share lessons, innovations, and approaches that can contribute to the global conversations.

The launching of COP31 Philippine hub also coincides with the presentation of the Philippines' 2026 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the most up-to-date version of our climate action plan; parties to the Paris Agreement are expected to submit one every five years.

In the 2026 NDC, the Philippines recommitted to an emission reduction target of 75%, as we adjust our unconditional emissions reduction target from 2.1% to 7%.

Unconditional targets are emissions reduction the country plans to do on its own. The remaining 68% relies on international support.

The 2026 NDC also has the following priorities:

- Adaptation Co-Benefits: Enhanced infrastructure resilience, ecosystem protection, and public health aligned with the NAP.
- Gender equality, disability, and social inclusion: Improving access and quality of life, and empowering women, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.
- Just Transition: Establishing a rights-based, people-centered Framework.
- Local Governments: Recognizing their critical role in implementing PAMs nationwide.
- Youth: Creating opportunities for jobs, skills development, and leadership.
- Nature-Based Solutions & Circular Economy: Maximizing mitigation and adaptation benefits across all sectors.
- SDGs: Directly contributing to key Sustainable Development Goals.

MANILA TIMES

Science-based climate action pushed for LGUs
By: Allen Limos

THE Climate Change Commission (CCC) stressed the need to make local climate plans better by using scientific data and creating practical solutions that fit each community's specific risks and goals.

The agency said there is a need to strengthen the Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plans (eLCCAPs) of local government units (LGUs) to ensure that their climate actions are scientifically sound and inclusive by conducting a workshop with officials from Iloilo, Misamis Oriental, and Oriental Mindoro.

"It is through a science-driven eLCCAP that a provincial government can determine with mathematical precision which barangay requires an early warning system first, which critical watershed demands immediate ecological restoration, and which agricultural assistance programs must be restructured to withstand rising heat index levels," said CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera during the workshop, stressing that the initiative aims to cater to the local needs of each community to fortify their climate resilience.

As of October 2026, 91 percent of LGUs nationwide submitted their climate plans. However, only 68 percent relied on science, highlighting the need to improve LGUs' technical skills so their plans are based on actual evidence and local vulnerabilities. Allen Limos

The two-day Transformative Actions for Climate and Ecological Protection and Development was held to review climate data, share best practices, and improve their eLCCAPs.

During the workshop, the provinces reviewed climate hazards, impacts, and adaptive capacity, refined impact chain analyses, and created priority recommendations. Their feedback will help improve the eLCCAP Quality Assurance Tool and guide the creation of an eLCCAP Quality Assurance Guide. "The eLCCAP turns our highest national commitments — our National Adaptation Plan and our Nationally Determined Contribution — from high-level policy declarations into concrete, life-saving local actions," Herrera added.

The workshop also highlighted the need for climate action plans to be gender-responsive and socially inclusive. Herrera stressed the importance of including women in climate consultations and planning, noting that climate change disproportionately burdens women due to their household and caregiving roles.

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