

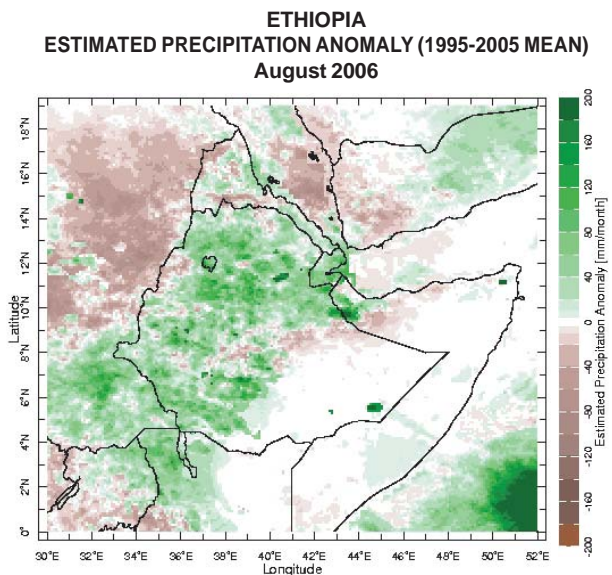
Hot Topic More than 650 people killed in floods in Ethiopia and surrounding countries in August

Heavy rainfall during the months of July and August (see map below) resulted in very destructive flooding in many parts of Ethiopia and locations in surrounding countries. As of 19 September, at least 647 people in Ethiopia had died in the flooding, over 363,000 people had been affected (IRIN, OCHA), and "substantial" losses of livestock and crops had occurred. Throughout Ethiopia, more than 145,000 people were displaced from their homes.

In Sudan, there was extensive flooding along the Nile River; the Blue Nile reached a record high stage in Khartoum on 23 August. Heavy rains and flooding, particularly in northern, western, and central areas, affected approximately 24,000 people. At least 10,000 homes and tens of thousands of square kilometers of farmland have been damaged (OCHA).

Flooding associated with heavy rain caused damage in other neighboring countries as well. In Kenya's northern district of Marsabit, days of heavy rains resulted in flooding that killed four people, displaced over 2000 people, and killed 600 goats (IRIN). In the town of Tessenei in western Eritrea, 1,000 people lost their homes after the heaviest rains in 11 years, according to OCHA. Heavy rains and flooding along eastern Uganda's Ngenge and Atari Rivers killed three people and destroyed crops, livestock and other property.

The latest IRI seasonal precipitation forecast for the October-December 2006 season (see map at right), during the heart of the short rains in East Africa, indicates a slightly-enhanced probability of above-normal precipitation in western Ethiopia, southern Sudan, northeastern Uganda, most of Kenya, and a small section of southern Somalia.



El Niño/La Niña Update

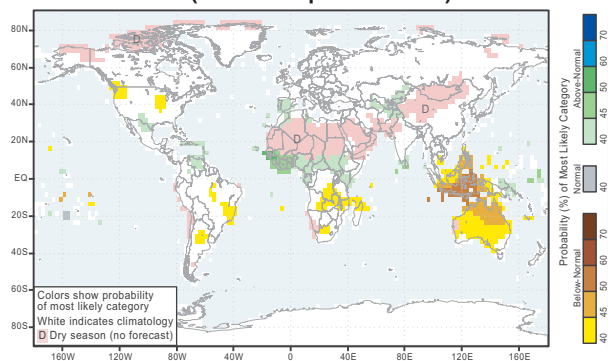
Tropical Pacific SST anomalies have recently exceeded the thresholds for El Niño conditions. These conditions must persist, however, to be considered an El Niño event. Based on the latest observations and forecasts, the probability of developing an El Niño event during the September-October-November 2006 season is approximately 55%.

See the back page for more on El Niño, La Niña and the ENSO.

Hot Topic Multiple impacts from monsoon flooding in South Asia

Monsoon rainfall caused destructive flooding during August across much of South Asia, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh. In Afghanistan, 33 people were killed and more than 14,600 people were displaced in the southeastern provinces of Ghazni, Paktia and Paktika due to two weeks of flooding. At least 1,960 homes and 75,000 hectares of farmland were destroyed. (IRIN, IRIN) At least 230 people have been killed and 1,000 villages have been submerged in northern Pakistan since flooding began there in mid-July. Tens of thousands of hectares of crops have been lost in the hardest hit provinces of North West Frontier, Punjab and Balochistan. Some of the flooding has affected areas that are trying to recover from the earthquake that struck the region in October 2005, forcing many families to return to relief camps. (IRIN, IRIN, IRIN, IRIN) *(continued on reverse)*

WORLD
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY FORECAST
for the season October - December 2006
(made in September 2006)



The forecast map shows the probability for rain accumulations falling in a given category (wet, near-normal, or dry) for the season, determined over a recent 30-year period. These categories are called "terciles". The most likely tercile is shown by color band. For example, the shade of green or blue indicates the probability of the wet tercile; the shade of yellow, orange, etc. indicates the probability of the dry tercile. The gray areas show where the near normal tercile has the highest probability. For regions that remain white, there is no indication of greater likelihood for one category (i.e. each category has a probability of 33.3%). The probability of a preferred tercile must be at least 40% in order for the forecast to show up as a non-white color. For additional information, see http://iri.columbia.edu/climate/forecast/net_asmt/.

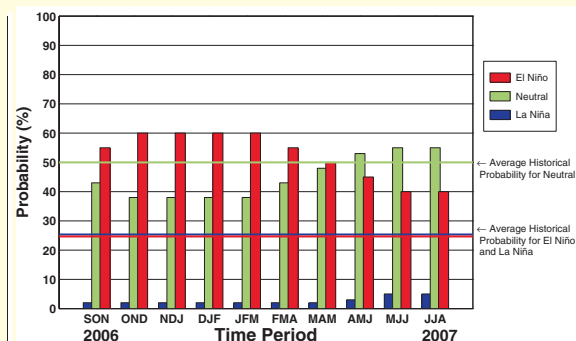
Climate Digest Highlights

<http://iri.columbia.edu/climate/highlight/>

El Niño/La Niña Update

Thresholds for El Niño conditions, in terms of tropical Pacific sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies, have been crossed recently. As of mid-September, SSTs exceed 0.5°C above average throughout much of the equatorial Pacific, meet the IRI's threshold of 0.7°C for this time of year in the eastern-central Pacific, and are more than 1.0°C above-average near the dateline. Note that the actual criteria for El Niño conditions includes the provision that the anomalies, especially in the eastern-central Pacific, remain at or above these levels for at least three months to be considered an El Niño event. Based on the latest observations and forecasts, the probability of developing an El Niño event during September-October-November 2006 season is approximately 55%.

IRI PROBABILISTIC ENSO FORECAST*



*Based on sea surface temperature departures from the long-term average over the "NINO 3.4" region (120-170W, 5S-5N).

For more details view the IRI ENSO Update/Forecast at <http://iri.columbia.edu/climate/ENSO/currentinfo/update.html>.

Hot Topic

Multiple impacts from monsoon flooding in South Asia (continued from front page)

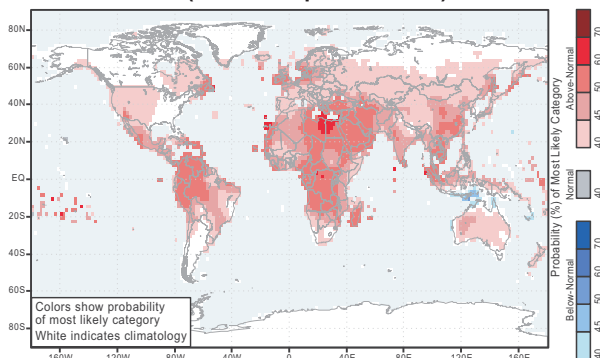
Heavy monsoon rainfall impacted Western Nepal with flooding occurring in the plains and landslides affecting the hilly regions. As of 12 September, more than 10,000 mt of grain had been destroyed. Nearly 60 people had been killed since 24 August in 14 western districts, with the remote areas of Bajura, Baitadi, Nawalparasi, Banke, Bardiya and Achham among those most affected. According to government estimates, the flooding and landslides affected nearly 50,000 people and killed as many as 2,000 animals. (IRIN, IFRC, IFRC Map, OCHA Map, OCHA Map, IRIN)

Monsoon-related flooding continued in India during August and early September as well (Aug 2006 CID).

More than 1 million people in the eastern state of Orissa lost their homes in the flooding, and at least 150 people and tens of thousands of animals were killed in the districts of Jodhpur and Barmer in the northern state of Rajasthan (Reuters, AFP). Offers of assistance came from the United Nations after flooding earlier in the season, which as of 12 August, had killed more than 160 people and affected at least 6 million people in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat (Times of India, Reuters).

The latest IRI seasonal precipitation forecast for the October-December 2006 season indicates a slightly-enhanced probability of above-normal precipitation for sections of northeastern Afghanistan, northern Pakistan, and northern India.

WORLD TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY FORECAST for the season October - December 2006 (made in September 2006)



For the October-December 2006 season, IRI's forecast indicates a substantially enhanced probability for above-normal temperatures in: some of the Pacific Islands; eastern Newfoundland, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Panama; northern portions of South America including most of Colombia, Venezuela and Guyana; Denmark, Ireland, the U.K., Netherlands, Greece and Turkey; most of the north, central and westernmost portions of Africa; the western portion of the Middle East; and in Asia, Cambodia, Laos Thailand, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

The temperature probability forecast shows the probability for temperatures falling within a given category or tercile (warm, near-normal, or cool) for the season, determined over a recent 30-year period. The most likely tercile is shown by color band. For example, the shade of pink, orange, or red indicates the probability of the warm tercile; the shade of blue or purple indicates the probability of the cool tercile. Gray areas show where the near normal tercile has the highest probability. In white areas, there is no indication of greater likelihood for one category (i.e. each category has a probability of 33.3%). The probability of a preferred tercile must be at least 40% in order for the forecast to show up as a non-white color. For additional information, see http://iri.columbia.edu/climate/forecast/net_asmt/.

The Climate Digest Highlights are derived largely from the Climate Information Digest. View it at <http://iri.columbia.edu/climate/cid>.