

La Nina outlook is easing says UN weather agency

May 23 2011



A flooded street in the Colombian city of Rionegro in April 2011. Colombia has blamed last month's devastating floods on the La Nina weather phenomenon. The UN weather agency has said the La Nina weather pattern is easing and there are no signs suggesting a resurgence in the coming months.

La Nina, the disruptive weather pattern behind floods and droughts, is easing and there are no signs suggesting a resurgence in the coming months, the UN weather agency said on Monday.

"The La Nina episode, which caused disastrously wet conditions in certain regions and drought in others, is coming to an end," the World Meteorological Organization said in a statement.

The [weather pattern](#), blamed for extremely heavy downpours in Australia, [Southeast Asia](#) and South America over late 2010 and early

2011, is unlikely to redevelop in the middle of the year, it added.

"Looking ahead beyond mid-year 2011, there are currently no clear indications for enhanced risk of El Nino or La Nina in the second half of the year," it said.

"Near-neutral conditions are currently considered the most likely scenario for the second half of 2011," it added.

La Nina is characterized by unusually cool ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific.

It leads to increased rainfall across the western equatorial Pacific, northern South America and [southern Africa](#) over December to February.

At the same time, drier than normal conditions are observed along coastal Ecuador, northwestern Peru and equatorial eastern Africa during the same period.

It also leads to sharply lower conditions throughout the world, including cooler than normal temperatures in Japan, southern Alaska and Brazil.

El Nino, meanwhile is the opposite condition of [La Nina](#). It is characterised by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific.

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Citation: La Nina outlook is easing says UN weather agency (2011, May 23) retrieved 10 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-05-la-nina-outlook-easing-weather.html>

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