



CLIMATE BULLETIN FOR SEA

Climate Monitoring Node – WMO-RCC-SEA – DOST-PAGASA

Issued: February 2024

CLIMATE WATCH FOR RAINFALL DEFICIENCY – EL NIÑO

Areas of Concern:

Cambodia, Thailand, and parts of Lao PDR, Vietnam, East Malaysia, Brunei, East Kalimantan, and Philippines

Area of *moderate* rainfall deficiencies have been observed in some parts of Southeast Asia region, particularly over Cambodia, most parts of Thailand, north and central parts of the Philippines, southern parts of Lao PDR and Vietnam and Sabah recorded *mild to moderate* rainfall deficiencies, while most of the other region received adequate rainfall for the month of January.

Strong warming of sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across the tropical Pacific prevailed during the month with anomalies greater than 1.5°C - 2.0°C in most of the Niño regions. However, the SST anomalies in the western Pacific and over most of the Maritime Continent were near to above average.

IOD values were still positive during the month as SSTs observed over the western equatorial Indian Ocean were warmer than the eastern equatorial Indian Ocean. The SST over the eastern Indian Ocean has returned to near neutral.

A Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) signal was present through most of January, with the active phase over the Eastern Indian Ocean at the start of the month and then over the Maritime Continent (characterized by enhanced convection and precipitation for much of Southeast Asia) from middle of the month, and over the Western Hemisphere (characterized by suppressed convection and precipitation for much of Southeast Asia) towards the end of the month.

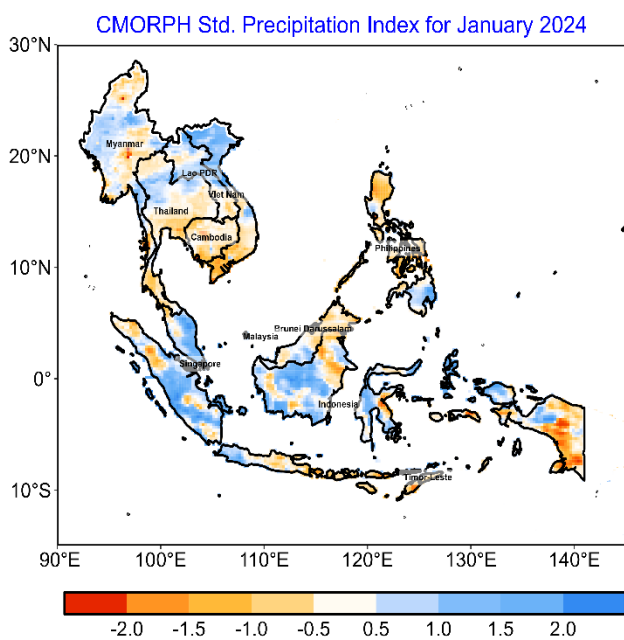


Figure 1: 1-month SPI for January 2024 (reference period, 1991-2020)

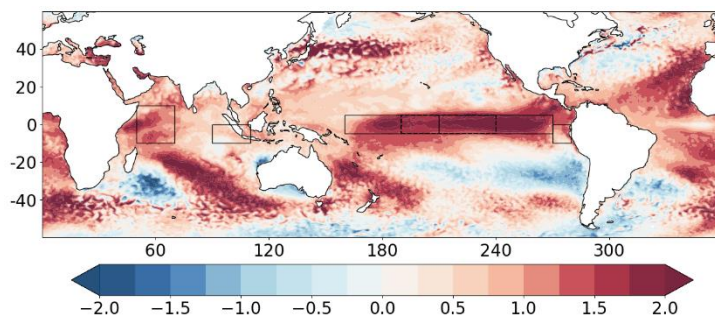


Figure 2: SSTA across the Pacific and Indian Ocean for January 2024 (reference period, 1991-2020)

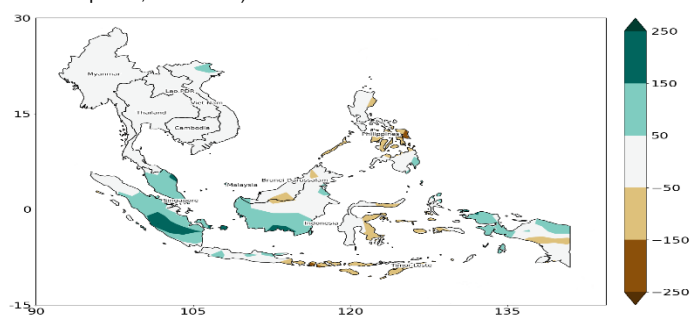


Figure 3: Rainfall Anomaly for December 2023 (reference period, 1991-2020)



Attachment:

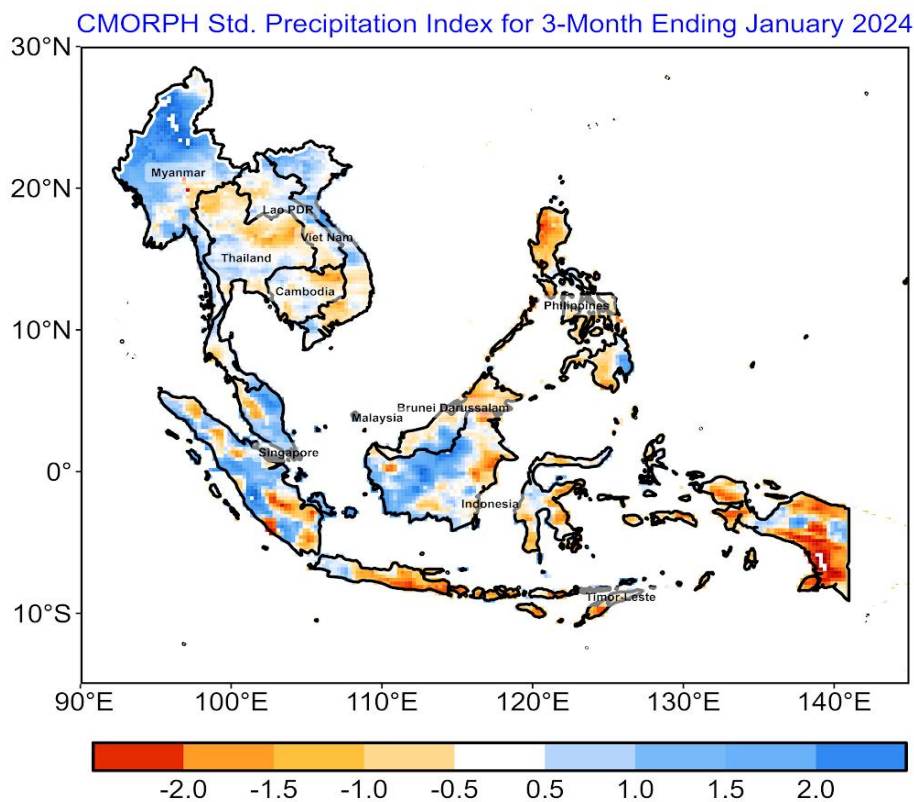


Table 1: McKee and others (1993) SPI value-classification table as recommended in World Meteorological Organization, 2012: Standardized Precipitation Index User Guide (M. Svoboda, M. Hayes and D. Wood). (WMO-No. 1090), Geneva.

Table 1. SPI values

2.0+	extremely wet
1.5 to 1.99	very wet
1.0 to 1.49	moderately wet
-.99 to .99	near normal
-1.0 to -1.49	moderately dry
-1.5 to -1.99	severely dry
-2 and less	extremely dry

Next issuance will be on March 2024.