

## **El Niño is back and may make 2024 the warmest year on record**

The El Niño Southern Oscillation, or ENSO, as it is properly called, threatens to warm the world beyond the 1.5°C, as a limit. It may bring about extreme weather, peaking by December, and lasting till March 2024.

The phenomenon occurs every 2 to 7 years when the waters of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of South America are warmed up vast and sending substantial amounts of heat to the atmosphere. It is the most powerful variation in the climate system anywhere on Earth

The year following the occurrence of an El Niño usually turns out to be a warm one.

El Niño impacts may lag behind by a few months but will affect all parts of the world. It may cause drier weather conditions in Australia and parts of Asia, with the potential weakening of the monsoon in India. Southern US states will likely be wetter in the coming winter. Drought conditions may prevail in parts of Africa.

The human and economic cost of El Niño impacts looms large in national and global economies. The strong El Niño in 1997-98 cost over \$5 trillion with around 23,000 deaths from storms and floods.

Global temperatures are currently around 1.1°C above the average in the period from 1850-1900. An El Niño event could cause an increase of up to 0.2°C bringing the temperature closer to the symbolic 1.5°C agreed within Paris climate agreement.