



## UN Weather Agency: El Niño to Intensify From August

The United Nations weather agency has warned that a strong El Niño is expected to intensify from August, raising global temperatures and significantly altering rainfall patterns. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) estimates that the likelihood of El Niño continuing until at least November is 90% or higher. El Niño, characterised by unusually warm sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, is forecast to develop steadily into a strong event between August and October 2026.

The WMO also expects a positive Indian Ocean Dipole, in which the western Indian Ocean becomes warmer than average while the eastern region becomes cooler. Together, the two phenomena could amplify drought, flooding and wildfire risks, particularly around the Indian Ocean basin. The WMO said it was increasing support to help countries minimise the effects.

“El Niño is strengthening—adding fuel to a planet already on fire with scorching heat domes, apocalyptic wildfires and record hot seas,” UN Secretary-General António Guterres said.



## Europe's Record-Low River Levels Stoke Energy Crisis Fears

Europe's record-low river levels are disrupting freight, reducing electricity generation and raising fears of an energy crisis as extreme heat and erratic rainfall intensify.

Hungarian Prime Minister Péter Magyar said the Paks nuclear plant, which normally supplies almost half the country's electricity, was operating below 50% capacity and could shut completely next week. Danube water levels may remain too low for the plant to restart for several weeks. “An energy crisis situation could arise beginning Monday,” Magyar posted on X, urging “coordinated steps and restraint” to avoid more severe consequences. Hungarians have been asked to limit evening electricity use, including avoiding electric-vehicle charging and switching off air conditioners. Carmakers and battery manufacturers must also reduce their power and water consumption.

Romania has meanwhile closed one reactor at the Cernavodă nuclear plant for safety reasons and plans to shut another.



## Colombia's 2025 Forest Loss Hits Two-Decade Low

Colombia recorded its lowest deforestation levels in two decades between 2022 and 2025, according to the Environment Ministry and the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies. Forest loss totalled 119,483 hectares in 2025, representing a 31% reduction from the 2021 baseline of 174,000 hectares.

The country therefore exceeded its target of a 20% reduction from the 2021 baseline for a fourth consecutive year. However, deforestation increased slightly from 113,608 hectares in 2024, showing that recent progress remains fragile.

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### 50%

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