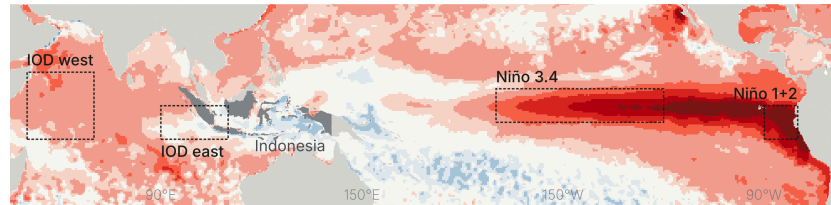


A LANDSCAPE 360 OCCASIONAL FACT SHEET

The Super El Niño Near Its Peak

The damage so far, the outlook to the end of the event and the odds of a La Nina after it



Sea surface temperature anomaly, °C
September 27 to October 3, 2026

Figure 1. Sea surface temperature anomaly against the 1991 to 2020 average, mean of September 27 to October 3, 2026. The warm tongue runs from the date line to Peru, and the seas west of Sumatra run cool. Boxes mark the Niño regions and the two poles of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). Source: NOAA OISST v2.1 via NOAA CoastWatch.

Table 1. The toll in Indonesia to mid-October 2026.

INDICATOR	2026	COMPARISON
Hotspots, SiPongi, to October 17	1,224,060	70,350 at high confidence
Hotspots, Suomi NPP, to October 16	547,167	81 percent of 2015 to date
Official burned area, January to July	202,011 ha	137,007 ha in 2019
Fire emissions, to October 15	673 Mt CO ₂ e	74 percent of 2015 to date
Respiratory infections, to October 12	277,075	62,400 children under five
Flights hit by smoke, to October 9	1,673	907 cancelled or postponed
Rice output, September to November	7.06 Mt	11.95 percent below 2025
Hydropower lost, southern Sulawesi	650 MW	From about 850 to 250 MW

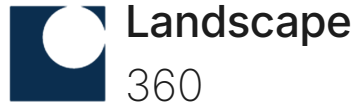
Note. Rice output is the BPS projection. Sources: SIPONGI KEMENHUT; NASA FIRMS; GFED5.1; Kemenkes; Kemenhub; BPS; PLN.

An Event Near Record Strength

The 2026 El Niño has grown faster than any on record. The Oceanic Niño Index (ONI) of the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) of NOAA rose from -0.21°C in January to March to 2.16°C in July to September, above the 1.79°C of 1997 and the 1.73°C of 2015 at the same point. The weekly Niño 3.4 anomaly reached 3.3°C in the week centered on October 7, the highest since the weekly record began in 1981. Off Peru the sea ran 5.2°C above normal. A positive IOD of 0.88°C cooled the seas west of Sumatra and deepened the drought.

The Fires and the Drought

By early September the dry season covered 80.7 percent of the country. Kalimantan carried half of all hotspots, Central Kalimantan alone 318,098, and Papua and Sumatera about 15 percent each. October has burned faster than September, at 18,300 hotspots a day against 15,900. Peat produced two thirds of the emissions. West and Central Kalimantan have kept their fire emergencies in force into October, and the smoke closed schools across peninsular Malaysia on October 9.



Published for the internal network by **Landscape Advisory**, a member of **The Landscape Group**. It accompanies the Climate Change Updates section of Landscape 360.

Citylofts Sudirman, 20th floor, #2019
Jl. K.H. Mas Mansyur 121
RT.13/RW.11, Karet Tengsin
Tanah Abang
Jakarta Pusat, 10220
DKI Jakarta, Indonesia

Tel. +62 21 2555-8646
Email. 360@landscape.id
Website. www.landscape.id

WEEKLY NIÑO 3.4

+3.3°C

Week centered on October 7, the highest since weekly records began in 1981.

HOTSPOTS THIS YEAR

1,224,060

SiPongi, January 1 to October 17.

LA NINA WITHIN A YEAR

4 of 9

Strong El Niños since 1950 followed by a La Nina within a year.

The Peak, the End and the La Nina

The event should peak at a record level in November or December and fade through the first half of 2027. A La Nina could follow late in 2027.

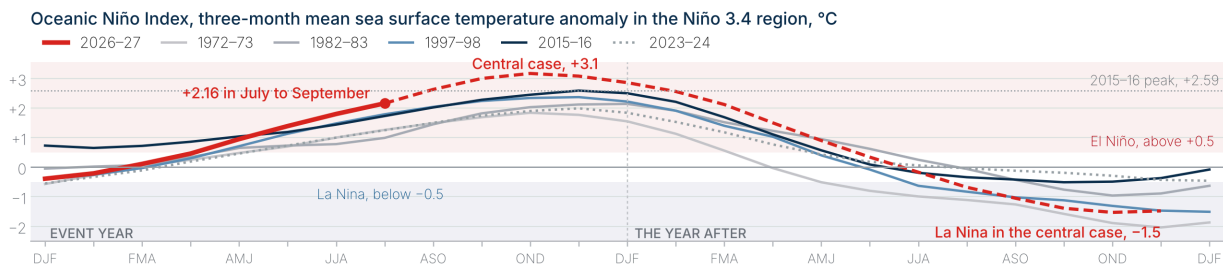


Figure 2. The ONI in 2026 and five earlier strong El Niños. The 2026 line is observed to July to September and follows the central case of the ENSONINAID26 model after that. Sources: NOAA CPC; Landscape Advisory.

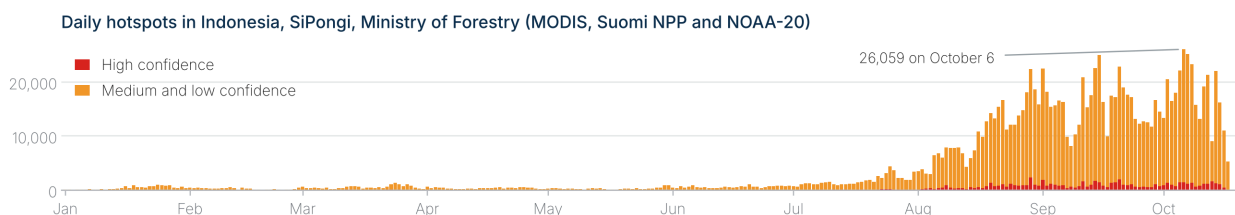


Figure 3. Daily hotspots, January 1 to 04:14 WIB on October 17, 2026. Source: SIPONGI KEMENHUT.

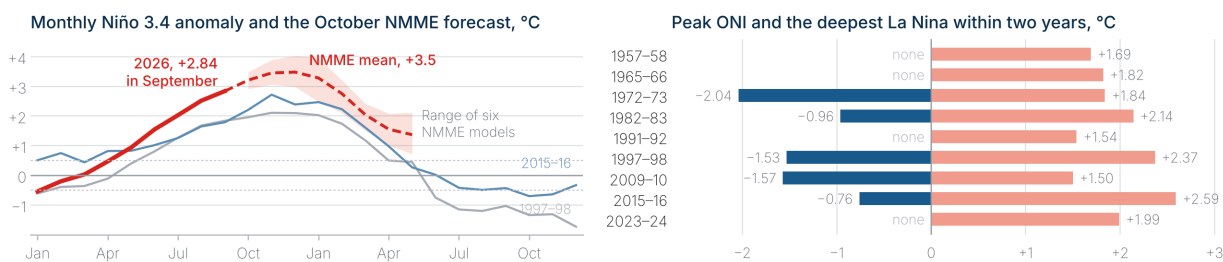


Figure 4. Left, monthly Niño 3.4 with the October forecast of the North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME), read from the CPC plume chart. Right, the nine El Niños since 1950 with an ONI of 1.5°C or more, and the deepest La Nina within about two years. Sources: NOAA OISST v2.1; NOAA CPC; Landscape Advisory.

The Wider Toll

Copernicus found September 1.63°C warmer than the pre-industrial average. The Panama Canal cut daily transits from 36 to 32. Drought cut harvests in Central America, Ethiopia and Kenya. UNICEF counts 347 million children in areas facing unusual rain or drought, and the World Food Programme warns that 49 million people could fall into acute hunger.

The Peak

On October 8 the CPC gave an 83 percent chance that its index for October to December would pass 2.5°C, above every El Niño since 1950. The NMME mean peaks at 3.5°C in December.

Sources and method

Ocean and forecasts: NOAA CPC ONI, weekly OISST and ENSO discussion of October 8; NOAA OISST v2.1; NMME, October 2026; BoM; WMO; all accessed October 19, 2026. Analogs use ONI events of 1.5°C or more.

The End of the Event

The NMME mean falls to 1.4°C by May 2027, and the CPC expects neutral conditions from April to June. BMKG expects late rains over 61 percent of the country, so fires may run into November.

The Odds of a La Nina

The CPC gives a La Nina 13 percent for May to July 2027, its last forecast season. Four of nine strong El Niños since 1950 were followed by a La Nina within a year. Model studies find that extreme La Ninas will nearly double in frequency under warming, mostly after extreme El Niños. The ENSONINAID26 central case has a La Nina of -1.5°C at the end of 2027.

Fires and impacts: SIPONGI KEMENHUT; GFED5.1NRT; Kemenkes; BPS; BMKG; C3S; UNICEF; WFP; ACP. Model: ENSONINAID26 and *Floods After Fires*, landscape.id.