

Nature's Vicious Cycle

The giant El Nino came out of the Pacific I 1997. It had unimaginable power and lasted for eight months. Weather patterns around the World were changed and about 2100 people were killed. The property damage was assessed at about 33 billion dollars.

The rainfall itself was no surprise by itself. Every three to seven years a pool of hot seawater the size of Canada appeared on the western coast of the two Americas. The Sea heated up just around Christmastime, so the fisherman called this phenomenon El Nino.

The impact of El Nino was different from country to country. Fires raged in Florida. There was too much winter rain in California and rescuers had to help cattle that were deep in mud. The fires after a very dry period destroyed more than 19,000 square mile of rain forests in Brazil. It brought Crop killing rain to East Africa and left people starving. A local villager said: "We have always thought of rain as a blessing, now when we hear thunder it makes us feel very bad."