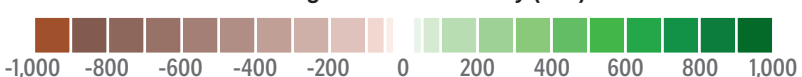


# Why the haze returned this year

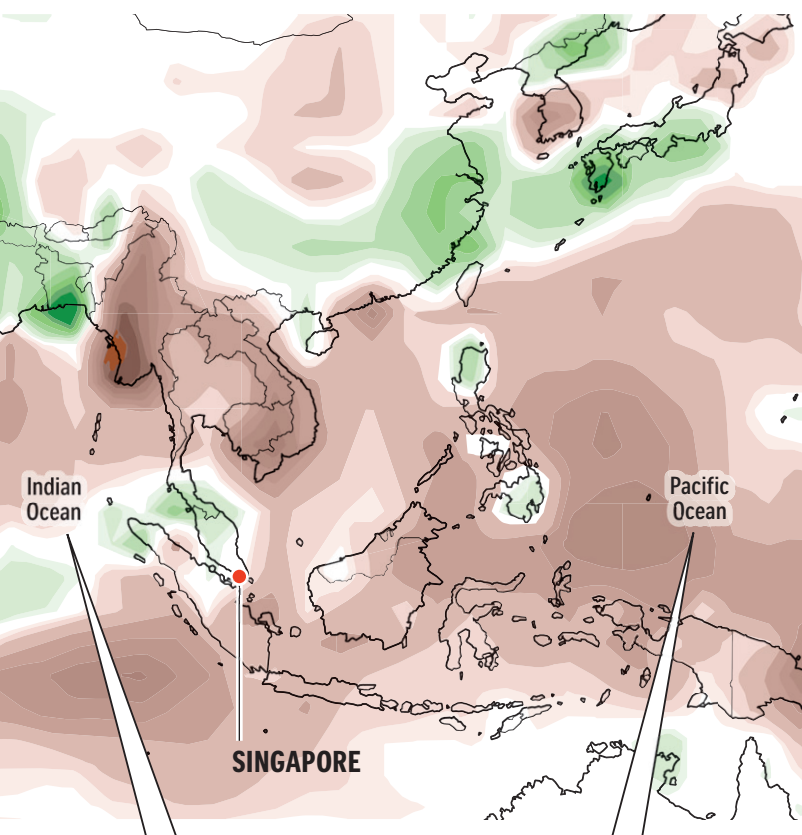
Last month's haze was no match compared to the 2015 haze crisis, the region's most severe on record. Drier-than-usual weather affected South-east Asia this year but it was not as widespread as in 2015.

June-August rainfall anomaly (mm)



**2015**

In 2015, two climate phenomena occurred at the same time, leading to hotter and drier weather in South-east Asia. They are: the positive phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), and a strong El Nino.



## IOD

- An IOD is associated with changes in atmospheric pressure and sea surface temperature across the Indian Ocean.

- In its positive phase, it causes weather on the eastern end of the Indian ocean basin, where Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia are, to be

**hotter and drier than usual.**

## El Nino

- An El Nino, on the other hand, refers to changes in the ocean and atmosphere patterns in the Pacific.

- In 2015, a severe El Nino

**drew rainclouds away from South-east Asia towards the central Pacific instead.**

## The result

As the maritime continent is situated between the two oceans, it was affected by changes in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, causing widespread **drier-than-usual weather across South-east Asia.**

**2019**

In 2019, drier-than-usual weather returned because the IOD was once again in its positive phase. However, El Nino conditions were not detected in this part of the world this year.

