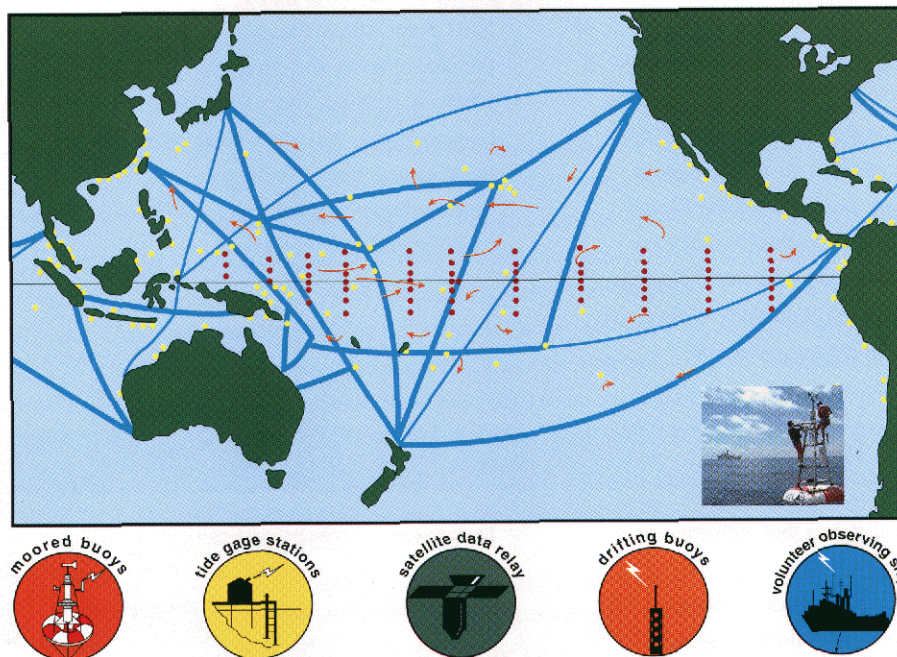


## ENSO Observing System



governments and corporations at all levels need to undertake post-disaster reviews following each major hazard and disaster, whether El Niño-related or not. The impacts of subsequent hazardous events will likely be mitigated, as a result of lessons learned.

### Use of new technologies for information gathering and dissemination

Many governments do not have the human skills and financial resources to carry out national high-tech monitoring and forecasting activities focused on ENSO's extreme events. As a result, their meteorological services depend on the research outputs and forecasts from other countries. While the technology and expertise needed to make El Niño forecasts may be lacking in many countries, it is important for each country and the sub-regions within it to develop the expertise needed to assess the forecasts that have been produced by experts in other countries.

In addition, some countries do not have access to the latest research about climate's influence on society. As a result, trust must be developed between them and those that are climate-related "information donors." Information donors should assist the recipients of their climate-related information to undertake capacity building related to El Niño. As part of the capacity-building process, local officials should be encouraged to monitor as best they can El Niño and La Niña impacts.

Each of the sixteen country-study teams called for improving weather and climate monitoring in their regions. They recognized the value of a well-designed network of recording stations to collect meteorological information. Great value was seen in establishing a

network of fixed ocean buoys in the Indian Ocean similar to the array of buoys completed in the equatorial Pacific in the mid-1990s. Scientists now realize that changes in the Indian Ocean can influence, if not overshadow, the expected impacts of an El Niño in some regions in Asia and Africa.

*It is important for each country and the sub-regions within it to develop the expertise needed to assess the forecasts.*

There is an urgent need to improve the efficiency and transmission (especially timeliness) of early warnings and forecasts of impacts associated with ENSO's extremes, at all levels of government from national to local. Although the Internet provides a useful tool for closely watching changes in the ENSO cycle of warm and cold events, it should serve only to complement national efforts and not replace them.