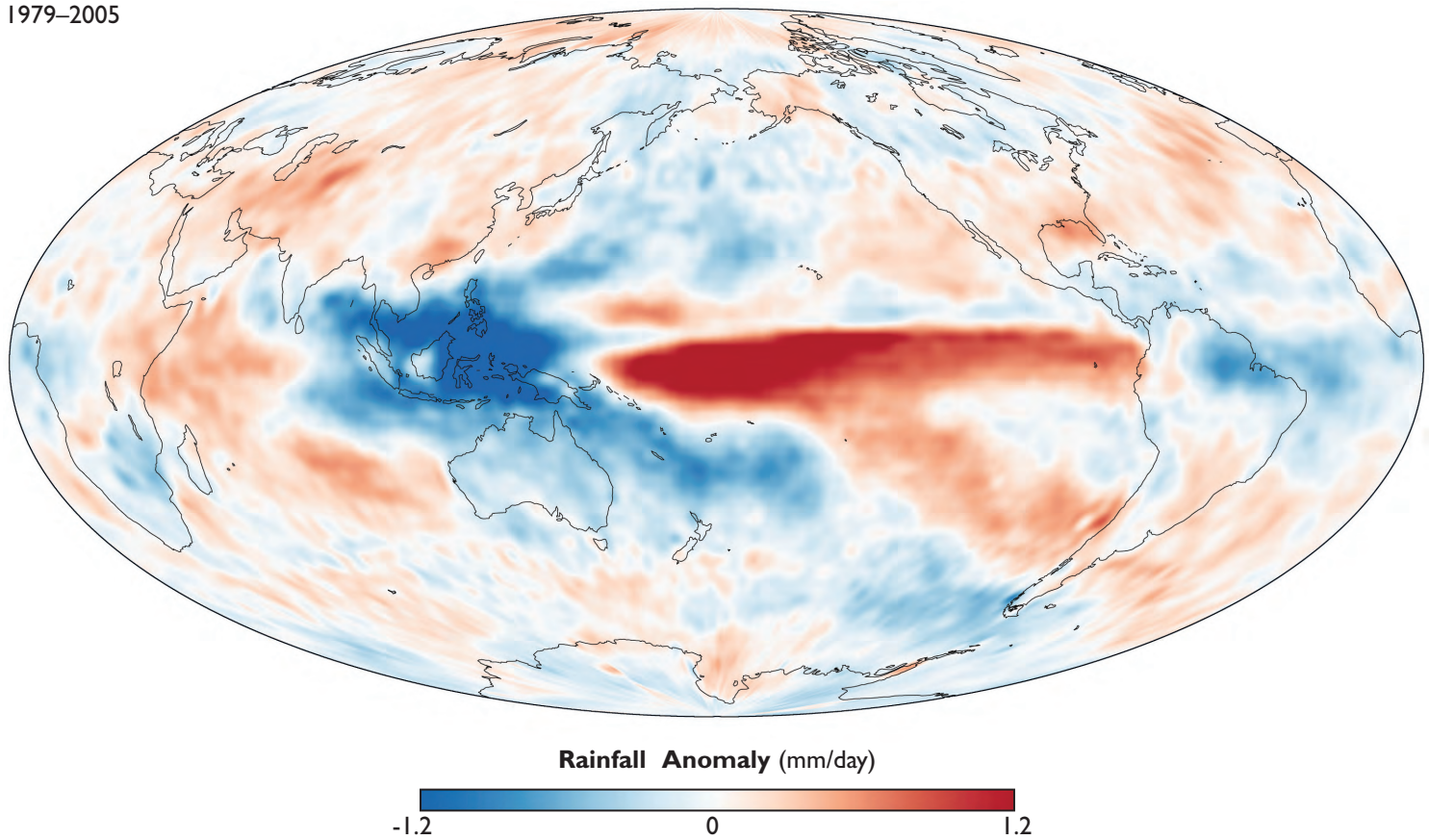


1979–2005



The differences between the average precipitation in El Niño years and the average precipitation in La Niña years between 1979 and 2005 demonstrates the global impact of these events, which are focused in the tropical Pacific Ocean. Red shading indicates much more precipitation during El Niño years, while blue shading indicates higher precipitation during La Niña years. A number of features can be seen to extend from the tropics to middle latitudes and even to polar regions, indicating the long-distance connections of climate variations. (Data from the Global Precipitation Climatology Project.)