

The precipitation patterns over North America during the winter, and over India during the summer monsoon are each strongly linked with tropical Pacific sea surface temperature variability associated with El Niño Southern Oscillation. The question is raised herein whether these regional climates are sensitive not just to a canonical expression of El Niño, but are further sensitive to a diversity in tropical Pacific SST conditions that distinguishes one event from another. Evidence is presented that the teleconnection patterns to each of these regional climates varies depending upon details of the tropical Pacific SST forcing patterns itself. The results, based on atmospheric general circulation model simulations, raises practical considerations concerning tolerance levels for prediction errors in these tropical SST forcing fields.