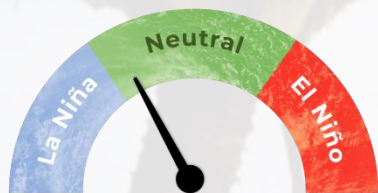


Recent



Current ENSO

ENSO-neutral conditions continued during July 2020, however the tropical Pacific Ocean is trending towards La Niña.

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were cooler than average in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) was +0.5 in July (on the La Niña side of neutral). The 3-month average SOI was +0.0 (neutral).

52% chance for **La Niña** conditions continuing to develop during **August-October 2020**.

Chance for **La Niña** conditions during **November 2020-January 2021**.

49%



La Niña Watch

Forecast

ENSO situation summary

During July, the NINO3.4 Index anomaly (in the central Pacific) was +0.04°C. The NINO 1+2 Index (eastern Pacific) was -0.72°C, decreasing from -0.57°C in June. Upper-oceanic heat content remained lower than normal over the far eastern Pacific with marginally above normal upper-oceanic heat content persisting west of the Date Line. Overall, the pattern remains reflective of developing La Niña conditions. This will continue to generate an atmospheric response, with suppressed rainfall and convection about the equatorial Pacific.

Trade winds during July were stronger than normal in the central Pacific and slightly reduced over the eastern Pacific. Over the coming weeks, trade winds are forecast to continue in a similar fashion, supporting the continuation of the current SST distribution; warmer than average in the west and cooler than average in the east.

Rainfall and convection continued to be below normal across much of the equatorial Pacific during July, consistent with the evolution of ocean temperatures. Rainfall was above normal across Indonesia and the Maritime Continent, also in keeping with a developing La Niña state.

Based on the consensus from international models, the probability for La Niña conditions is 52% for the August-October period. For the November 2020-January 2021 and February-April 2021 periods, the probability for La Niña is 49% and 27%, respectively. The probability for ENSO-neutral conditions increases to 63% during February-April 2021.

Rainfall outlook for August – October 2020

Below normal rainfall for Federated States of Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Guam, Nauru, Kiribati (Gilbert, Phoenix, and Line Islands), Tuvalu, Austral Islands and Pitcairn Islands.

Near or below normal rainfall for Marshall Islands.

Near normal rainfall for New Caledonia, Southern Vanuatu, Southern Cook Islands and Marquesas.

Near or above normal rainfall for Society Islands.

Above normal rainfall for Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Northern Vanuatu, Fiji, Wallis & Futuna, Tonga, Tokelau, Samoa, American Samoa, Niue, and Northern Cook Islands.

No clear guidance (climatology forecast) for Palau and Tuamotu Archipelago.

Rainfall outlook table for August – October 2020

ISLAND	PROBABILITY (%)			OUTLOOK	CONFIDENCE
	Below	Normal	Above		
Wallis & Futuna	14	16	70	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Samoa	17	19	64	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Fiji	17	21	62	ABOVE	High
American Samoa	19	20	61	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Solomon Islands	20	23	57	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Tonga	20	23	57	ABOVE	High
Northern Cook Islands	21	24	55	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Papua New Guinea	13	37	50	ABOVE	High
Vanuatu North	22	31	47	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Niue	28	29	43	ABOVE	High
Tokelau	31	31	38	ABOVE	Moderate
Society Islands	27	33	40	AVG - ABOVE	High
Vanuatu South	29	33	38	NEAR NORMAL	High
Southern Cook Islands	31	39	30	NEAR NORMAL	High
New Caledonia	32	39	29	NEAR NORMAL	High
Marquesas	30	64	6	NEAR NORMAL	High
Palau	34	33	33	CLIMATOLOGY	Moderate
Tuamotu Islands	35	33	32	CLIMATOLOGY	High
Marshall Islands	42	42	16	AVG - BELOW	High
Pitcairn Islands	50	27	23	BELOW	High
Austral Islands	47	31	22	BELOW	High
Tuvalu	53	25	22	BELOW	Moderate-High
Northern Marianas	68	20	12	BELOW	High
Guam	77	13	10	BELOW	Moderate-High
FSM	77	15	8	BELOW	High
Kiribati: Line Islands	94	6	0	BELOW	High
Kiribati: Phoenix Islands	100	0	0	BELOW	High
Kiribati: Gilbert Islands	100	0	0	BELOW	High
Nauru	100	0	0	BELOW	High

Note: Rainfall estimates for Pacific Islands for the next three months are given in terms of tercile probabilities (e.g. 20:30:50). These are derived from the averages of several global climate models. They correspond to the odds of the observed rainfall being in the lowest one third of the distribution, the middle one third, or the highest one third of the distribution. For the long term average, it is equally likely (33% chance) that conditions in any of the three terciles will occur. *If conditions are climatology, we expect an equal chance of the rainfall being in any tercile.

The Island Climate Update bulletin is currently being produced by NIWA in association with the Pacific Island Meteorological Services and other supporting meteorological organisations.

The Island Climate Update is prepared as soon as possible following the end of the month, once the data and information are received from the Pacific Island meteorological services. Delays in data collection and communication occasionally arise. While every effort is made to verify observational data, NIWA does not guarantee the accuracy and reliability of the analysis and forecast information presented, and accepts no liability for any losses incurred through the use of this advisory and its contents.

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For more information see: <https://www.niwa.co.nz/pacific-rim/publications> <https://www.facebook.com/IslandClimateUpdate/>



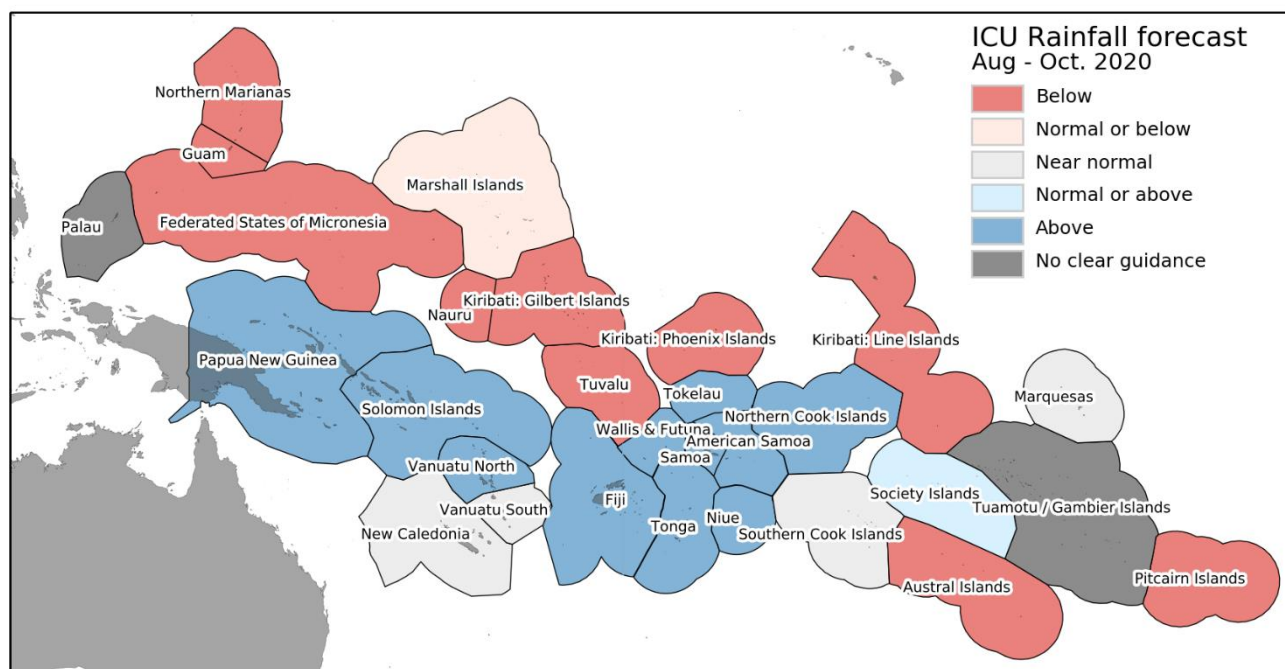
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The Island Climate Update

August – October 2020 rainfall forecast

Drought Watch

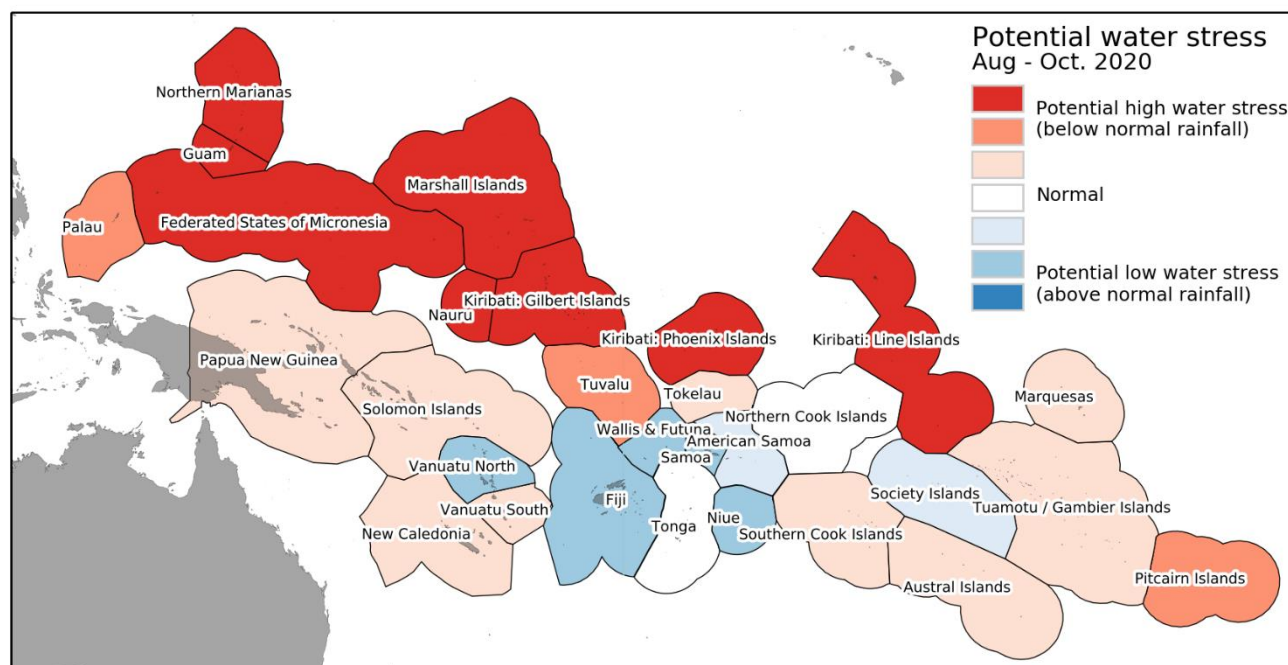
August 2020



Regional drought potential advisory

Based on rainfall anomaly classification over the past six months and forecast rainfall anomaly classification over the next 3 months

Water stress has receded somewhat for some countries in the southern part of the Pacific Region, but many of the countries in the northern part of the Pacific Region may still expect high water stress over the next three months, including **Northern Marianas, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Kiribati (Gilbert, Phoenix and Line Islands)**. These countries have received low rainfall over part of the past six months, and dry conditions are forecast for the next three month period.



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