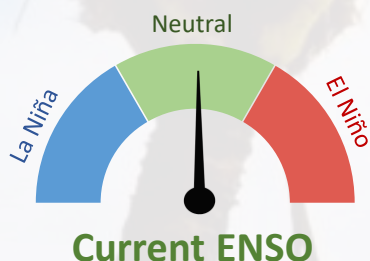


Recent



Current ENSO

ENSO-neutral conditions continued during October 2019.

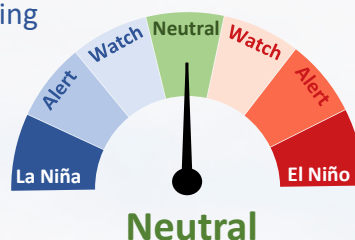
Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) warmed considerably during October in the central Pacific but were still in the neutral range.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) was -0.5 in October (on the El Niño side of neutral).

68% chance for ENSO-neutral conditions persisting during November 2019 – January 2020.

Chance for ENSO-neutral conditions during February – April 2020.

71%



Forecast

ENSO situation summary

ENSO-neutral conditions continued during October 2019, although the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) and sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were on the El Niño side of neutral.

The NINO3.4 Index (in the central Pacific) for the month of October (to the 27th) was +0.54°C, a substantial increase compared to September. Above average warmth continued in the NINO4 region (west-central Pacific) with a monthly anomaly of +0.95°C. The NINO 1+2 Index was cooler than average, with a monthly anomaly of -0.48°C.

Upper-oceanic heat content anomalies increased across the tropical Pacific during October, in response to weaker than normal trade winds throughout the month as well as a strongly positive Pacific Meridional Mode (well above average SSTs in the sub-tropical northeast Pacific).

While the ENSO status will most likely remain “neutral” over the next season, the atmosphere may respond in an El Niño Modoki-like (i.e. central Pacific) fashion at times.

According to the consensus from international models, oceanic ENSO-neutral conditions are most likely at 68% chance for the November – January period. For the February – April 2020 period, the probability for neutral conditions is 71%. For May – July 2020, the probability for neutral conditions and El Niño is 57% and 33%, respectively.

Rainfall outlook for November 2019 – January 2020

Below normal rainfall for Papua New Guinea, Kiribati (Gilbert, Phoenix, Line Islands), Southern Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Tokelau, Niue, Northern Cook Islands, the Marquesas Islands, and Pitcairn Islands.

Near or below normal rainfall for Palau and Tonga.

Near normal rainfall for the Solomon Islands, Samoa and American Samoa

Near or above normal rainfall for the Southern Cook Islands, the Austral Islands and the Tuamotu Archipelago.

Above normal rainfall for the Northern Marianas Islands, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Northern Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna, Fiji, and the Society Islands.

Forecast

Rainfall outlook table for November 2019 – January 2020


ISLAND	PROBABILITY (%)			OUTLOOK	CONFIDENCE
	Below	Normal	Above		
Marshall Islands	4	6	90	ABOVE	High
Guam	12	16	72	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Northern Marianas	12	19	69	ABOVE	High
FSM	18	23	59	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Nauru	24	24	52	ABOVE	Moderate
Fiji	25	29	46	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Society Islands	28	30	42	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Tuvalu	29	32	39	ABOVE	Moderate
Wallis & Futuna	29	32	39	ABOVE	Moderate
Vanuatu North	32	32	36	ABOVE	Moderate
Tuamotu Islands	28	32	40	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate-High
Southern Cook Islands	30	33	37	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate-High
Austral Islands	30	36	34	AVG - ABOVE	High
Samoa	32	35	33	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate
American Samoa	33	35	32	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate
Solomon Islands	33	39	28	NEAR NORMAL	High
Palau	36	34	30	AVG - BELOW	Moderate-High
Tonga	40	31	29	AVG - BELOW	Moderate-High
Niue	44	29	27	BELOW	Moderate-High
Pitcairn Islands	47	27	26	BELOW	Moderate-High
Kiribati: Gilbert Islands	48	26	26	BELOW	Moderate
Papua New Guinea	43	32	25	BELOW	High
Tokelau	49	26	25	BELOW	Moderate
Vanuatu South	53	25	22	BELOW	Moderate-High
Northern Cook Islands	62	19	19	BELOW	Moderate-High
New Caledonia	58	25	17	BELOW	High
Kiribati: Phoenix Islands	76	13	11	BELOW	Moderate-High
Kiribati: Line Islands	72	21	7	BELOW	High
Marquesas	93	5	2	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/>



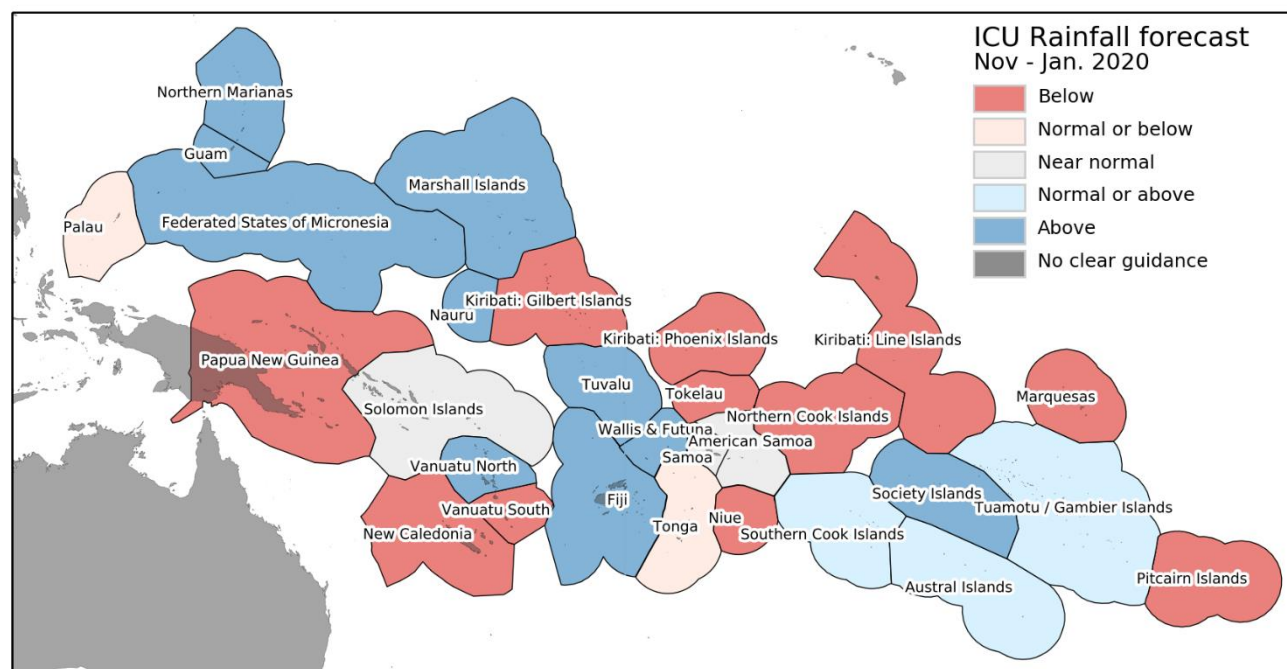
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The Island Climate Update

Drought Watch

November 2019

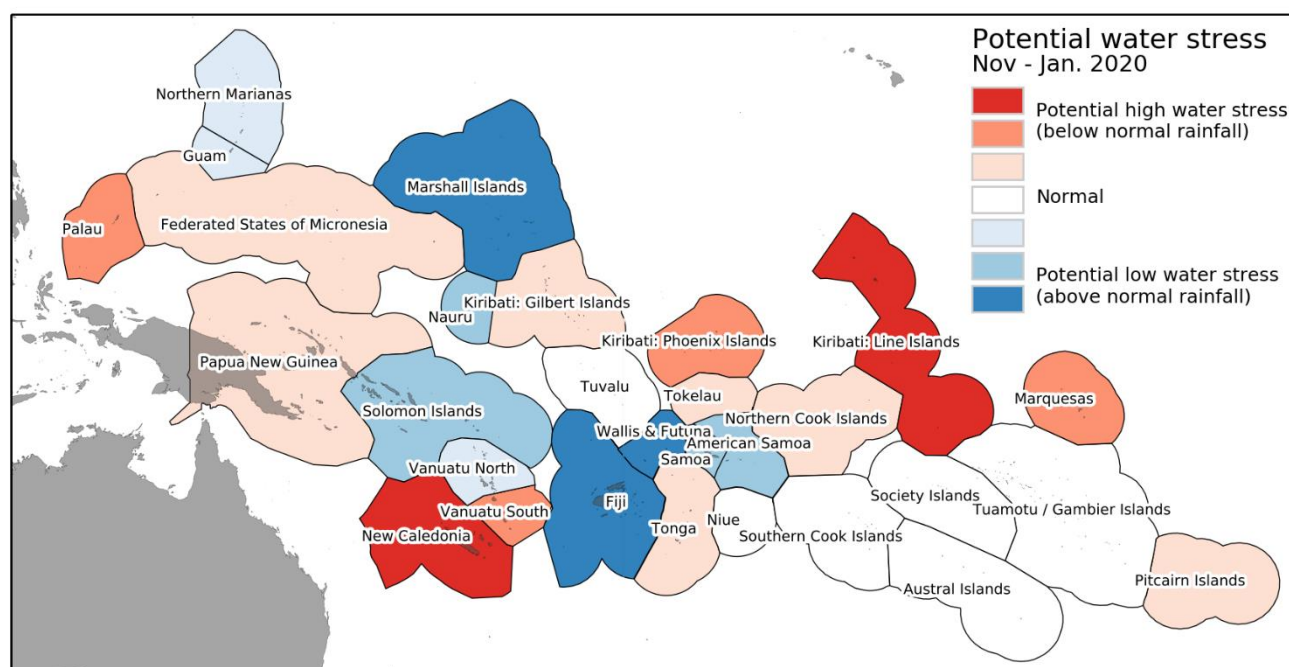
November 2019 to January 2020 rainfall forecast



Regional drought potential advisory

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

Countries to watch for potential water stress are **New Caledonia, Kiribati (Phoenix Islands, Line Islands), Palau, Southern Vanuatu and the Marquesas Islands** as they have received low rainfall over part of the past 6 months, and dry conditions are forecast for the next three month period (November 2019 to January 2020).



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