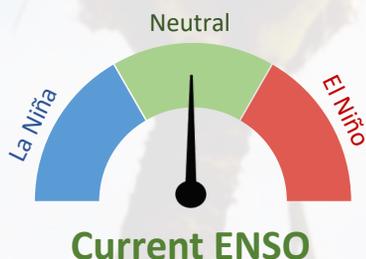


Recent



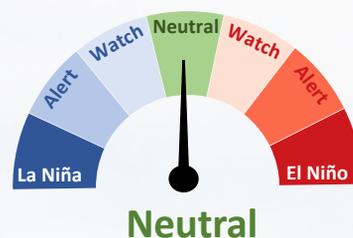
ENSO (El Niño – Southern Oscillation) neutral conditions persisted in the tropical Pacific during May 2018.

Sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific are now near or slightly above average.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) was in the neutral range (+ 0.3 in May 2018).

67% chance for **ENSO-neutral** conditions to continue during **June – August 2018**.

Chance for **El Niño** conditions to emerge during **August – October 2018** **45%**



Forecast

ENSO situation summary

ENSO-neutral conditions persisted in the tropical Pacific during May 2018. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean continued to warm during May and are now near or slightly above average. **The NINO3.4 is currently close to zero** (+0.01°C for May 2018).

In the subsurface ocean, (within the first 150 metres of the ocean) **positive temperature anomalies** extend from the western Pacific (near 160°E) to the South American coast. Significant positive anomalies (> +3.0°C) have now persisted in the central Pacific (170-150°W), centred at about 125-150m depth, for the third consecutive month while another area warmer than +3.0°C developed around 50m depth in the eastern Pacific between 130-95°W.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) has gradually decreased over the last 3 months and is currently neutral with a value of **+0.3 for May 2018**. **April and May 2018 rainfall and convection anomalies** in the tropical Pacific were significantly different than the preceding two months. Convective activity is now centred over the western Indian Ocean and Africa, **a stark change from the La Niña-driven pattern** (of convective forcing in the West Pacific) during early 2018.

The analysis of several atmospheric and oceanic indicators showed that **the climate system remained in an ENSO-neutral state during May 2018**. The presence of warmer than average subsurface ocean waters in the Pacific, warming NINO indices, and convective anomalies that **lean in the direction of El Niño** may indicate the direction of the system for later in 2018. In the meantime, **ENSO-neutral is expected to continue over the next several months (67% chance over June – August 2018)**. The forecast models then favour El Niño conditions during the late winter and spring (August – October 2018).

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Rainfall outlook for June – August 2018

Below normal rainfall for the Solomon Islands, northern Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna, the Tuamotu archipelago, the Kiribati island groups, New Caledonia, the northern Cook Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Nauru and the Marquesas.

Normal or below normal rainfall for Fiji, Palau, southern Vanuatu, Samoa and the Society Islands.

Near normal rainfall for Papua New Guinea.

Normal or above normal rainfall for Guam, the northern Marianas Islands, Tonga, the Marshall Islands, Niue, American Samoa, the Austral Islands, the southern Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Pitcairn Island.

Rainfall outlook table for June – August 2018

ISLAND	PROBABILITY (%)			OUTLOOK	CONFIDENCE
	Below	Normal	Above		
Guam	15	45	40	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate-High
N. Marianas	15	45	40	AVG - ABOVE	High
Tonga	25	35	40	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate
Marshall Islands	25	35	40	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate
Niue	25	35	40	AVG - ABOVE	High
American Samoa	25	35	40	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate
Austral Islands	25	40	35	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate-High
Cook Islands (Southern)	25	40	35	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate-High
FSM	25	40	35	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate
Pitcairn Island	25	40	35	AVG - ABOVE	Moderate-High
Papua New Guinea	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate
Fiji	35	40	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
Palau	40	35	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
Vanuatu (South)	40	35	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
Samoa	40	35	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
Society Islands	40	35	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate
Solomon Islands	45	35	20	BELOW	Moderate
Vanuatu (North)	45	35	20	BELOW	Moderate-High
Wallis & Futuna	45	35	20	BELOW	Moderate
Tuamotu Islands	45	35	20	BELOW	Moderate
Kiribati (Eastern)	45	35	20	BELOW	Moderate-High
Central Kiribati (Phoenix)	45	35	20	BELOW	Moderate-High
New Caledonia	50	30	20	BELOW	High
Cook Islands (Northern)	50	30	20	BELOW	High
Tokelau	50	30	20	BELOW	Moderate-High
Tuvalu	50	30	20	BELOW	High
Nauru	50	30	20	BELOW	High
Kiribati (Western)	50	30	20	BELOW	High
Marquesas	50	30	20	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.

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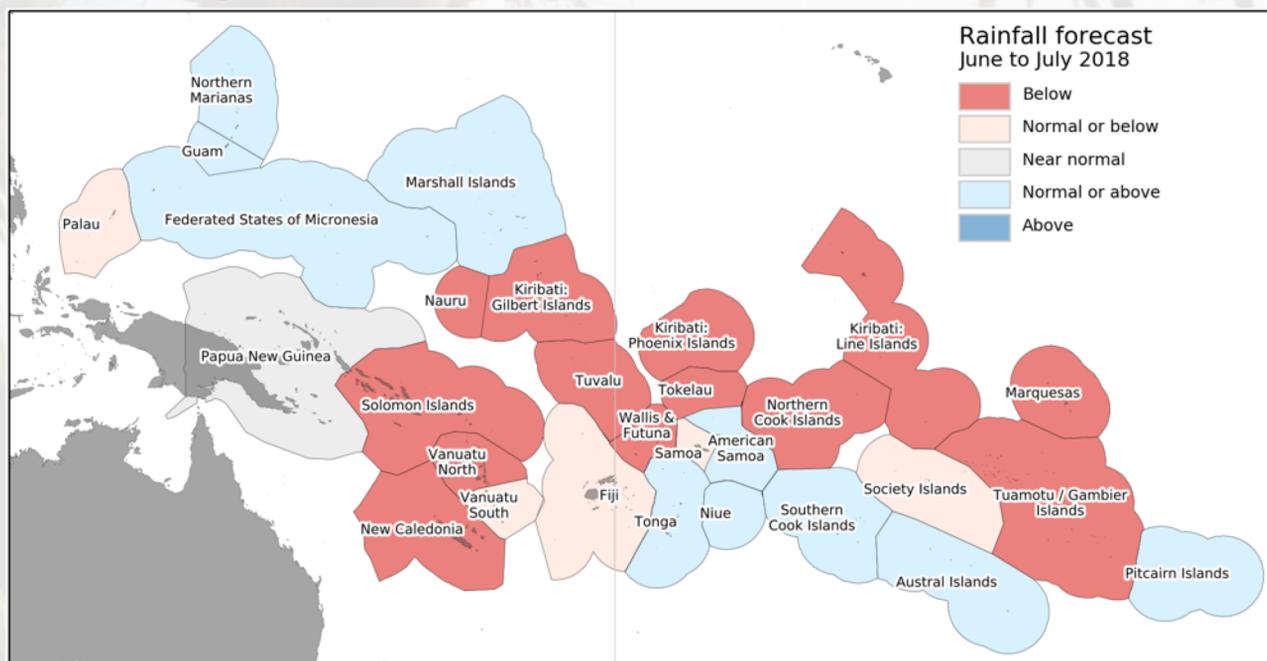
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The Island Climate Update

Drought Watch

June 2018

June to August 2018 rainfall forecast

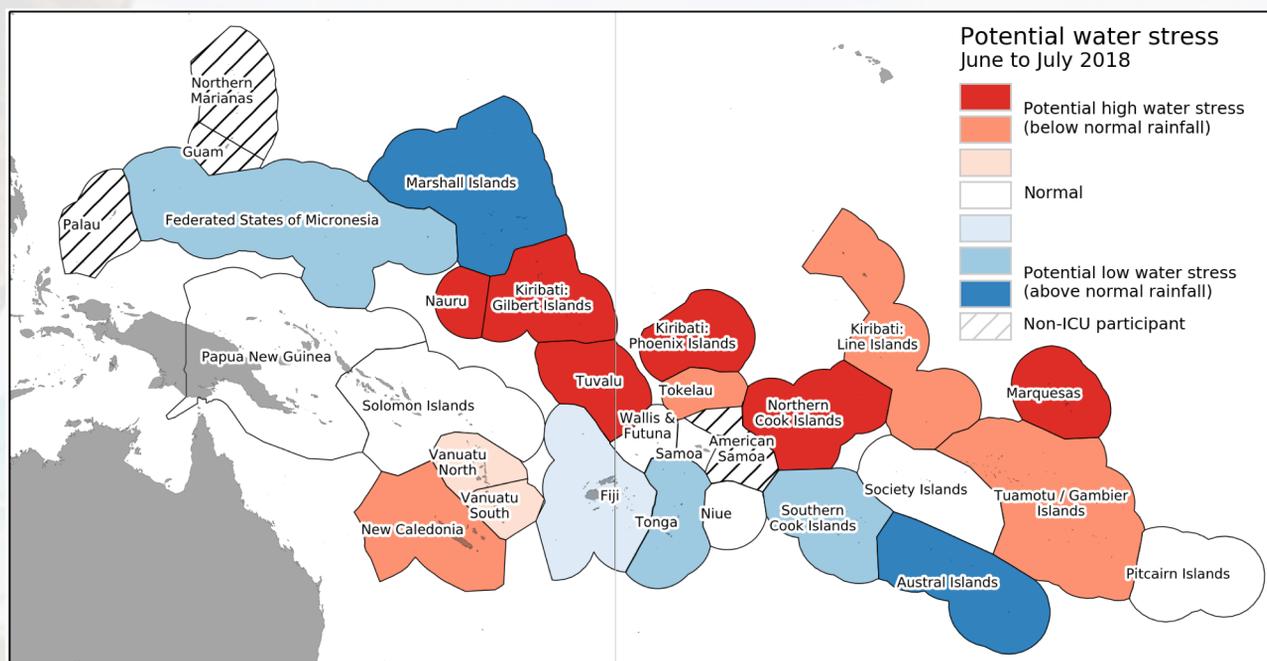


Regional drought potential advisory

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

Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati (Gilbert, Phoenix), Tuvalu, Northern Cook, Islands, Marquesas: Below to well below normal rainfall experienced over the last several months. Below normal rainfall is forecast for these island groups over the next three months.

New Caledonia, Tokelau, Kiribati (Line Islands), Tuamotu Archipelago: Below or well below normal rainfall experienced over some of the last several months. Normal or below normal rainfall is forecast over the next three months.



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