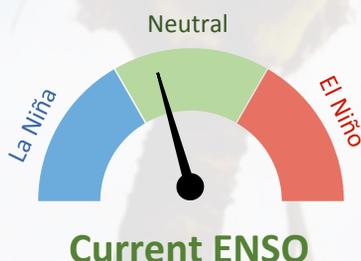


### Recent



Current ENSO

El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are currently near **neutral**.

Sea Surface Temperatures in the equatorial Pacific close to or slightly below normal in the east and slightly above normal in the west.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is slightly positive (+0.5 for July 2017).

**50%** chance of La Niña conditions developing August to October 2016.

Chance of La Niña occurring increases later in the year reaching **55%** In November 2016 – January 2017

Models indicate La Niña strength likely to be **weak or moderate**.



La Niña Watch

### Forecast

## ENSO situation summary

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are near to below average across the eastern Equatorial Pacific Ocean. The NINO 3.4 SST index monthly anomaly is  $-0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Cooler than normal sub-surface ocean waters have remained stable or weakened slightly in the central Equatorial Pacific.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is currently slightly positive (+0.5 for July 2016). Trade winds are slightly stronger than normal in the central and western Pacific (west of about  $150^{\circ}\text{W}$ ). The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was displaced north of its climatological position along the Equator in the central Pacific. Convection and rainfall was below normal in some parts of the western Pacific (e.g. Micronesia), but generally the Maritime Continent (e.g. Indonesia and Papua New Guinea) experienced above normal rainfall and convective activity.

Collectively, these oceanic and atmospheric signals indicate ENSO-neutral conditions. As a whole the tropical ocean-atmosphere system still shows a leaning towards La Niña, but with a slight weakening of the signals that were observed last month (June 2016).

The international guidance still indicate that a transition towards La Niña is the most likely outcome (50% chance) over the next three months (August – October 2016), but this probability is lower than the one that was issued last month. Chances for La Niña becoming established increases later in 2016 to reach about 55% for the November 2015 – January 2017 period. Current ocean – atmosphere conditions and models' forecasts suggest that if La Niña indeed develops, it will remain in the weak category.

## Rainfall outlook for August – October 2016

**Below normal rainfall** for Niue, Tonga, northern Vanuatu, eastern Kiribati, western Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia.

**Normal or below normal rainfall** for the Solomon Islands, southern Vanuatu, the southern Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and the Austral Islands.

**Normal or above normal rainfall** for the Marquesas and the Society Islands

**Above normal rainfall** for Tokelau, the northern Cook Islands, the Tuamotu archipelago and Tuvalu.

## Rainfall outlook table for August – October 2016

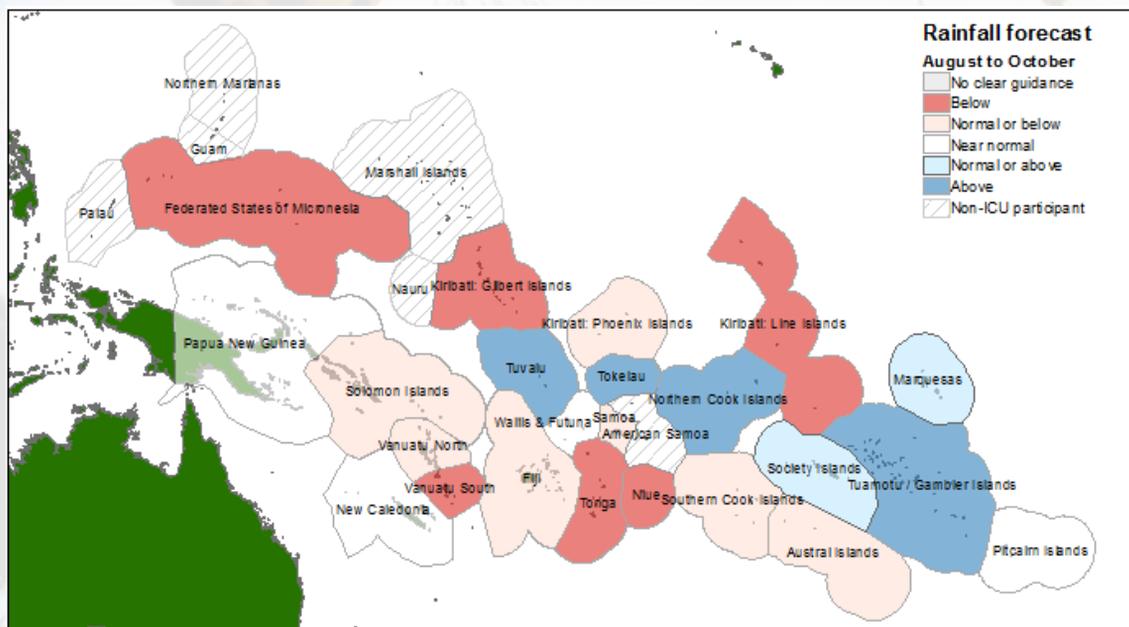
ISLAND	PROBABILITY (%)			OUTLOOK	CONFIDENCE
	Below	Normal	Above		
Tokelau	15	30	55	ABOVE	High
Cook Islands (Northern)	15	35	50	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Tuamotu Islands	20	35	45	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Tuvalu	20	35	45	ABOVE	Moderate-High
Marquesas	25	40	35	AVG - ABOVE	High
Society Islands	25	40	35	AVG - ABOVE	High
New Caledonia	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	High
Papua New Guinea	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate-High
Pitcairn Island	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate
Wallis & Futuna	30	40	30	NEAR NORMAL	Moderate-High
Solomon Islands	35	40	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate-High
Vanuatu (South)	35	40	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate-High
Cook Islands (Southern)	40	35	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate-High
Fiji	40	35	25	AVG - BELOW	High
Samoa	40	35	25	AVG - BELOW	Moderate-High
Austral Islands	40	40	20	AVG - BELOW	Moderate-High
Niue	45	35	20	BELOW	Moderate-High
Tonga	45	35	20	BELOW	Moderate-High
Vanuatu (North)	45	35	20	BELOW	
Kiribati (Eastern)	50	30	20	BELOW	Moderate-High
Kiribati (Western)	50	30	20	BELOW	Moderate
FSM	55	35	10	BELOW	Moderate-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

Drought Watch  
August 2016

## August to October 2016 rainfall forecast



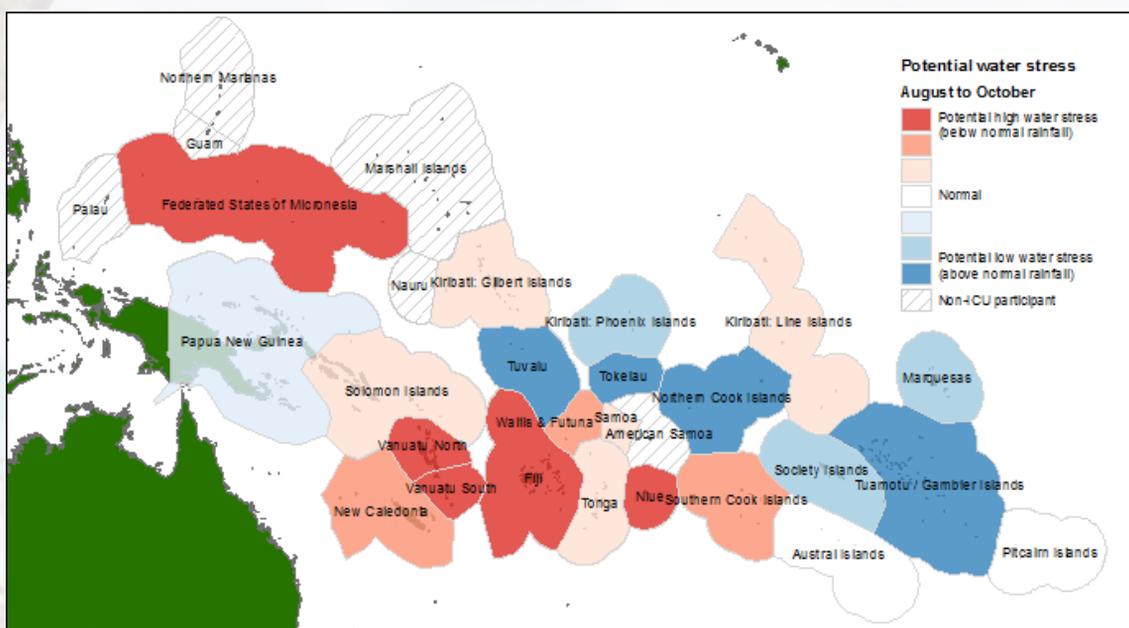
## Regional drought potential advisory

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

**Niue:** Below or well below normal rainfall experienced over 5 of the past 6 months. Below normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months.

**Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu North:** Below or well below normal rainfall experienced over 4 of the past 6 months. Below normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months.

**Fiji, Vanuatu South, New Caledonia:** Below or well below normal rainfall experienced over 4 of the past 6 months. Normal or below normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months for Fiji and Vanuatu South. Near normal rainfall is forecast for New Caledonia.



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.

The contents of this advisory and the Island Climate Update may be freely disseminated provided the source is acknowledged.

For more information see: <http://www.niwa.co.nz/climate/icu>