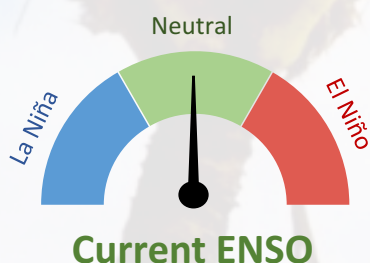


Recent



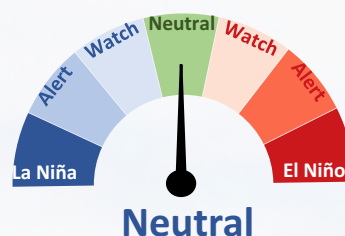
El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are currently near **neutral**, but atmospheric and oceanic signals are mixed.

Sea Surface Temperatures are slightly above average across the Equatorial Pacific.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is positive (+0.9 for July 2017).

59% chance for **ENSO-neutral** conditions to persist over **August – October 2017**.

Chance for **ENSO-neutral** conditions persisting until **November 2017 – January 2017** **46%**



Forecast

ENSO situation summary

ENSO (El Niño – Southern Oscillation) **neutral conditions** (neither El Niño nor La Niña) continued in the tropical Pacific during July 2017, mixed signals were again present this month.

Some **atmospheric patterns have been recently leaning more towards weak La Niña conditions**. The **Southern Oscillation Index** is currently positive (+0.9, *i.e.* on the La Niña side of neutral) and large-scale circulation anomalies along the Equator as well as rainfall anomalies in the western Pacific are consistent with patterns usually associated with a La Niña state.

On the other hand, **Sea-surface temperatures (SSTs)** in the equatorial Pacific Ocean are **slightly above normal** (*i.e.* on the El Niño side of neutral), but these positive anomalies weakened over the course of the month. The latest monthly SST anomaly (data ending 30th July 2017) in the **NINO3.4** region (in the central Pacific) is currently at **+0.43°C** (was +0.5°C last month).

International guidance favors a **persistence of ENSO-neutral conditions over the next three months period (59% chance for August – October 2017)**, a likelihood similar to last month. ENSO-neutral remains the most likely outcome throughout the first quarter of 2018.

Note however that the models used to build this consensus forecast have not picked up yet on the most recent changes shown by the La Niña-leaning atmospheric indicators.

Rainfall outlook for August – October 2017

Below normal rainfall for the northern Cook Islands, the Marshall Islands and Nauru.

Normal or below normal rainfall for Fiji, Niue, Guam, the northern Marianas, eastern Kiribati, western Kiribati, the Marquesas, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, northern Vanuatu and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Normal or above normal rainfall for the Austral Islands, the southern Cook Islands, the Society Islands, American Samoa and Pitcairn Island.

Above normal rainfall for Palau and Papua New Guinea.

Near normal rainfall for Samoa, Tuvalu, southern Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna, central Kiribati, New Caledonia and the Tuamotu archipelago.

Rainfall outlook table for August – October 2017

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

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.

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

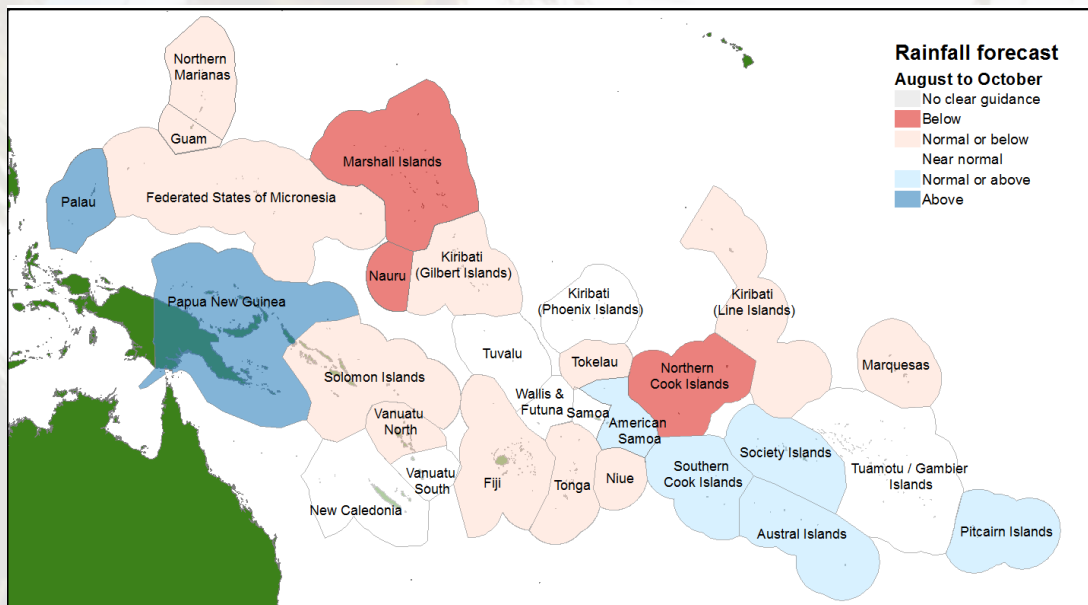
For more information see: <http://www.niwa.co.nz/climate/icu> <https://www.facebook.com/IslandClimateUpdate/>

The Island Climate Update

Drought Watch

August 2017

August to October 2017 rainfall forecast



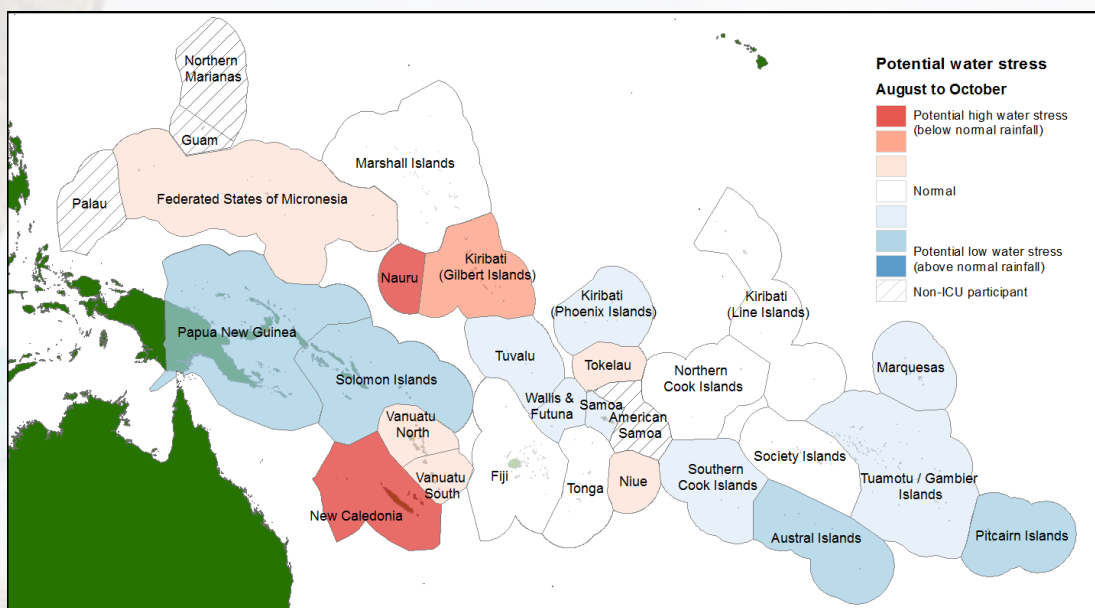
Regional drought potential advisory

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

Nauru: Below to well below normal rainfall experienced over 4 of the past 6 months. Below normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months.

New Caledonia: Well below normal rainfall experienced during June and July. Near normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months

Kiribati (Gilbert Islands): Below or well below normal rainfall experienced over 5 of the past 6 months. Normal or below normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months.



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> <https://www.facebook.com/IslandClimateUpdate/>