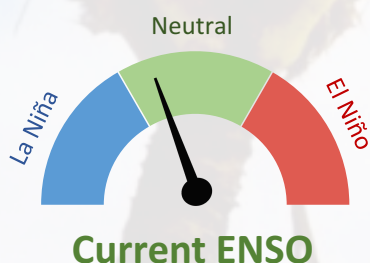


Recent



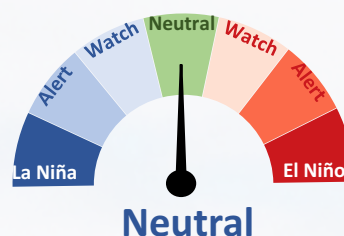
El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are currently near **neutral**, but atmospheric and oceanic signals are **leaning towards La Niña**.

Sea Surface Temperatures are close to or slightly below average in the eastern Equatorial Pacific.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is positive (+0.4 for August 2017).

65% chance for **ENSO-neutral** conditions to persist over **September – November 2017**.

Chance for **ENSO-neutral** conditions persisting until **December 2017 – February 2017** **55%**



Forecast

ENSO situation summary

ENSO (El Niño – Southern Oscillation) **neutral conditions** persisted across the tropical Pacific during August 2017, but several oceanic and atmospheric indicators **leaned toward La Niña**. The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) was, on average, positive during August (+0.4, *i.e.* **on the La Niña side of neutral**) and enhanced equatorial trade winds were reflective of a La Niña-like atmosphere.

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the equatorial Pacific Ocean continued to trend cooler during August 2017 in both the central and eastern equatorial Pacific. The latest monthly SST anomaly, ending 27th August 2017, in the NINO3.4 region (in the central Pacific) is currently 0.02°C (was +0.43°C last month). Slightly cooler than average waters are also present in the far eastern equatorial Pacific.

Subsurface ocean temperatures have also cooled compared to last month, with the latest weekly data showing weak negative anomalies extending from the surface to about 150 meters depth in both the central and eastern Pacific. This is another oceanic indicator leaning in the La Niña direction.

International guidance favours a **persistence of ENSO neutral conditions over the next three-month period (65% chance for September – November 2017)**. The likelihood for La Niña peaks at 25% in the November 2017 – January 2018 period.

While ENSO-neutral conditions remain the most likely outcome through the end of 2017, recent observations indicate that the ocean and atmosphere **may continue to periodically exhibit La Niña-like signatures**.

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Rainfall outlook for September – November 2017

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

Normal or below normal rainfall for Tuvalu, southern Vanuatu, central Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, eastern Kiribati, the Marquesas, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau and the Tuamotu archipelago.

Normal or above normal rainfall for the southern Cook Islands, Palau, American Samoa, Samoa, the Society Islands, Tonga, northern Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna, the Austral Islands, Fiji, Guam, the northern Marianas Islands and Niue.

Above normal rainfall for Papua New Guinea.

Near normal rainfall for New Caledonia and Pitcairn Island.

Rainfall outlook table for September – November 2017


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

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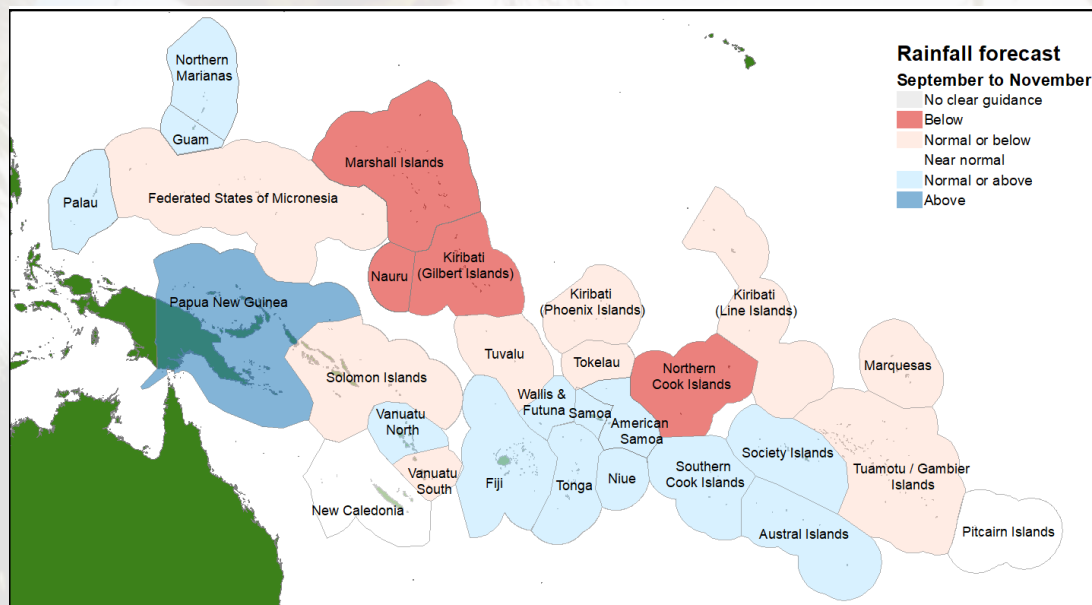
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The Island Climate Update

Drought Watch

September 2017

September to November 2017 rainfall forecast



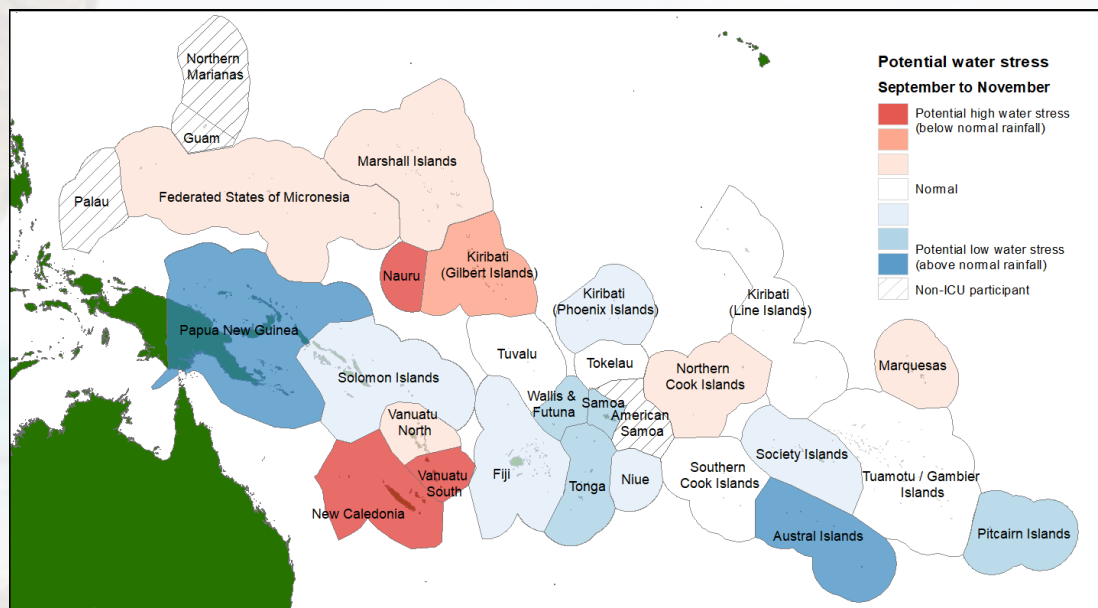
Regional drought potential advisory

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

Nauru, New Caledonia: Below to well below normal rainfall experienced over 4 of the past 6 months. Below normal rainfall is forecast over the next 3 months in Nauru while near normal rainfall is expected in New Caledonia.

Vanuatu (South): Below to well below normal rainfall experienced over the past 3 months with normal or below normal rainfall forecast for the next 3 months.

Kiribati (Gilbert Islands): Below to well below normal rainfall observed for several months with below normal rainfall forecast for the next 3 months.



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