



TONGA METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Climate Update

May—July 2022 Rainfall Outlook:



Issued: 13 April

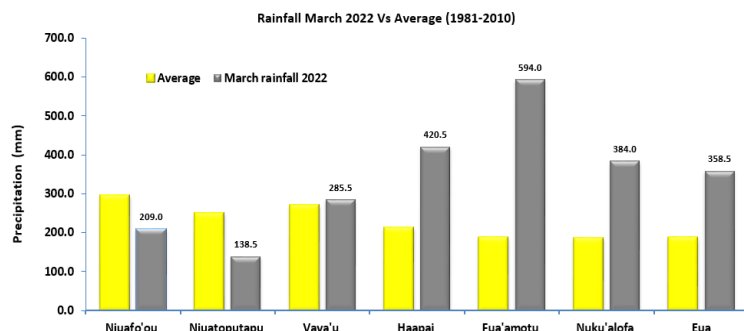
La Niña remains active, but gradually easing.

The 2021-2022 La Niña event has weakened slightly in the tropical Pacific over the past fortnight. Climate outlooks indicate a return to neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) levels neither La Niña nor El Niño-late in the southern hemisphere autumn (April to May 2022). Even as La Niña weakens, it may continue to influence global weather and climate, and is likely contributing to the wetter than average rainfall in most of Tonga. La Niña increases the chance for above average rainfall for Tonga.

Recent

March 2022:

Extremely high rainfall (594.0mm) was recorded in Fua'amotu which places it the highest March rainfall since its record started. The previous March rainfall record in Fua'amotu was 507.3mm recorded in 2014. The next highest rainfall recorded in March was received in Ha'apai and Tongatapu. (see graph below). Highest one day rainfall was 112mm recorded at Fua'amotu on the 8th. The mean temperature was 27.0°C which was 0.1°C cooler than average. Highest maximum temperature was 32.9°C recorded on the 9th in Nuku'alofa. The lowest minimum temperature was 17.2°C at Hango, 'Eua on the 27th.



Forecast

Rainfall Outlook for May—July 2022

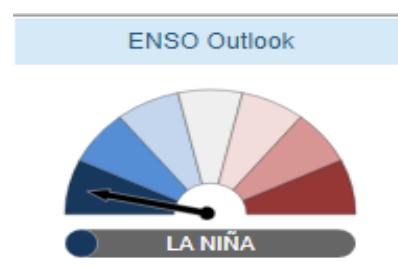
Rainfall is forecast to be average or above average across the country during this period.

Rainfall outlook for July—September 2022

Rainfall is forecast to be average to above average across the country.

	May-July 2022 (%) chance	July – September 2022 (%)
Niuafo'ou	60-70	60-70
Niuaotoputapu	60-70	60-70
Vava'u	70-80	60-70
Ha'apai	50-60	50-60
Fua'amotu & 'Eua	40-50	50-60
Nuku'alofa	40-50	50-60

Table 1: Forecast for the next 3months



Rainfall totals for January - March 2022 (mm)			
	January	February	March
Niuafo'ou	n/a	344.5	209
Niuaotoputapu	313.5	661.5	138.5
Vava'u	575.5	406.0	285.5
Ha'apai	265.5	233.5	420.5
Fua'amotu	198.4	510.4	594.0
Nuku'alofa	167.5	356.0	384.0
'Eua	267.0	267.5	358.5
	Below average	Average (usual)	Above average

Note:

It's still the wet season which started on 1st November 2021 and will last till end of April 2022. It is also the warm and cyclone season.

According to the rainfall outlook and the current ENSO status, public are advised to ensure that you stay alert at all times and get the latest weather forecast and warnings from the Met service. It is also advisable to seek advice from relevant authorities of sensitive sectors, e.g. Agriculture, Water, Health and the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) on the best practices to save lives and property and minimize the effects of natural disaster.

Traditional knowledge indicators for the wet season.

- If you see bees building their nests indoors and lower near the ground in shelters or empty containers and coconuts, then it is an indication that there will be a cyclone in the season.
- When you see flowers starting to bloom especially the traditional flowers and also bananas starting to bear fruits then you know summer is coming.
- If you see plenty cockroaches in the house than usual and that they also fly, it indicates that rain is near within a few hours.
- If rain has just started and you see roosters/hens not hiding or finding shelter and Rooster continue to crow then its indication that the rain will not last long

The next Climate update will be issued early May 2022

Disclaimer:

This summary is prepared as soon as possible following the end of the month, once climate data is received from recording stations around Tonga. Delays in data collection, communication and processing occasionally arise. While every effort is made to verify observational data, the Tonga Meteorological Service makes no statements, representations, or warranties about the accuracy or completeness of, and you should not rely on, any information contained in this report. Despite our best efforts, TMS makes no warranties that the information in this publication is free of numerical errors. TMS disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs you might incur as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way, and for any reason. This information should be used as a guidance only. For further information about this forecast should be directed to the Director of the Tonga Meteorological Service, at P.O. Box 1380, Nuku'alofa. Or email at metstaff@met.gov.to. Tel: (676) 35 123/7400062 or our website; <http://www.met.gov.to> for more information.