



## Climate Update

### August to October Rainfall outlook

Issued: 18 July 2022

#### Below average rainfall observed across the country in June.

- Niuafo'ou and Niuatoputapu is currently experiencing drought condition.
- A drought watch is in force for Ha'apai and the rest of Tonga islands.
- All public are here by advised to please use water wisely and collect water when it rains.

#### Recent

##### June 2022:

Rainfall continued to be below average throughout the country with Ha'apai recording the lowest June rainfall. and it is also the lowest May rainfall since its record (see graph below). The mean temperature was 25.2°C which was 0.8°C warmer than average. Highest maximum temperature was 31.3°C recorded on the 30<sup>th</sup> in Nomuka. The lowest minimum temperature was 13.2°C recorded in Kaufana, 'Eua on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

June 2022 rainfall Vs Average (1981-2010)

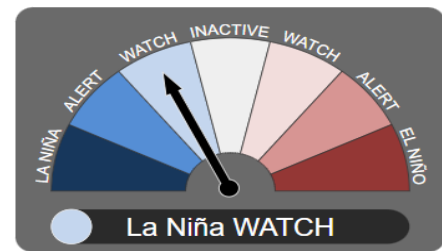
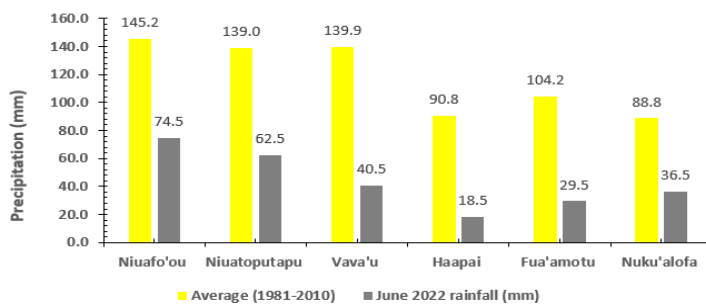


Table 2. Last 3 months rain-

Rainfall totals for April – June 2022 (mm)			
	April	May	June
Niuafo'ou	142.4	102.7	74.5
Niuatoputapu	69.0	120.0	62.5
Vava'u	346.9	79.1	40.5
Ha'apai	206.4	72.8	18.5
Fua'amotu	276.1	22.3	32.3
Nuku'alofa	300.5	29.0	36.3
'Eua	n/a	n/a	23.6
	Below average	Average (usual)	Above average

##### Note:

It is still the dry season which started on 1st May 2022 and will last till end of October 2022. It is also called the cool dry season. On average, during this period we receive less rainfall than during the wet season.

According to the current status, previous 3 months rainfall and rainfall outlook (Refer Table1 & 2) , it is advised to collect water when it rains and use it wisely especially the Niuas, Ha'apai and the rest of Tonga. 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.

#### Forecast

##### Rainfall Outlook for August – October 2022

Rainfall is forecast to be average or above average across Tonga.

##### Rainfall outlook for November 2022 – January 2023

Rainfall is forecast to be above average for Tonga.

	August–October 2022 (% chance)	November 2022 – January 2023 (% chance)
Niuafo'ou	41	47
Niuatoputapu	43	52
Vava'u	41	63
Ha'apai	47	47
Fua'amotu & 'Eua	36	54
Nuku'alofa	44	55

Table 1: Forecast for August 2022 up to January 2023

#### Traditional knowledge indicators for the winter season.

- Shorter days and cooler temperatures act as a signal to the trees and plants around us to get ready for winter.
- When leaves of trees falls it indicates that winter is coming. Leaves fall off trees so that the trees can survive the winter.
- Rooster crows at night before 12 midnight is an indication that it will be a very cold night.
- If millipedes are observed inside the house, expect cooler temperatures.
- If you see rain has just started and you see roosters/hens hiding or finding shelter then its indicating that the rain will last long.

The next Climate update will be issued third week of August 2022 or earlier

##### 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](mailto:metstaff@met.gov.to). Tel: (676) 35 123/740062 or our website; <http://www.met.gov.to> for more information.