



Climate Update

October to December 2022 Rainfall outlook

Issued: 13 September 2022

Drought warning remains in place for all of Tonga.

- Tonga is currently experiencing drought conditions.
- All public are here by advised to please use water wisely and collect water when it rains.

Recent

August 2022:

Above average rainfall received at Niuatoputapu and Vava'u, while below average rainfall recorded everywhere else. (see graph below). The mean temperature was 24.2°C which was 0.7°C warmer than average. Highest maximum temperature was 31.9°C recorded on the 10th in Nomuka. The lowest minimum temperature was 13.7°C recorded on the 24th in Kaufana, Eua.

August rainfall 2022 (1981-2010)

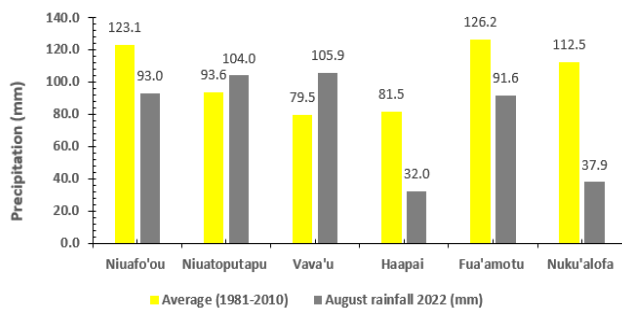


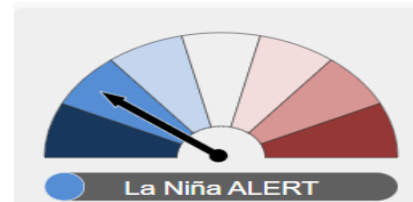
Table 2. Last 6 months rain-

Rainfall totals for Mar – August 2022 (mm)						
	Mar	April	May	June	July	August
Niufo'ou	161.1	142.1	102.7	74.5	80.5	93.0
Niuatoputapu	138.5	69.0	120.0	62.5	91.5	104.0
Vava'u	285.5	346.9	79.1	40.5	76.7	105.9
Ha'apai	420.5	206.4	72.8	18.5	21.2	32.0
Fua'amotu	594.0	276.1	22.3	32.3	22.5	91.6
Nuku'alofa	384.0	300.5	29.0	36.3	20.5	37.9
'Eua	358.5	180.0	n/a	29.5	25.5	62.0

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.

Forecast



The ENSO outlook is at La Niña ALERT, indicating at least a 70% chance of La Niña reforming later this year. La Niña events increase the chances of above-average rainfall for

Table 1: Forecast for October 2022 up to March 2023

Rainfall Outlook for October—December 2022 : Rainfall is forecast to be above average across Tonga.

January — March 2023: Rainfall is forecast to be average to above average for Tonga. Refer to Table 1.

	Oct–Dec 2022 (% chance)	Jan–Mar 2023 (% chance)
Niufo'ou	41	44
Niuatoputapu	45	51
Vava'u	56	46
Ha'apai	54	46
Fua'amotu & 'Eua	53	57
Nuku'alofa	53	49
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 Table 1 & 2) , it is advised to collect water when it rains and use it wisely. 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.

The next Climate update will be issued second week of October 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. Tel: (676) 35 123/740062 or our website; <http://www.met.gov.to> for more information.