



Tonga Climate Update & Climate Outlook

September - November 2026



Issued: 25th September 2026

Rainfall and Meteorological Drought status over the past months up to the end of August 2026

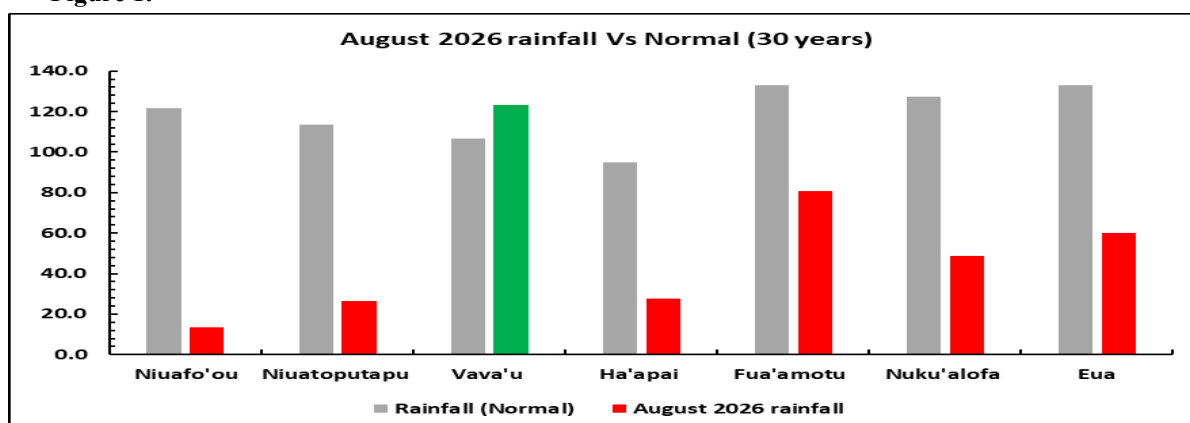
Island Group	Met. Drought Status	Alert Levels
Niuafo'ou	Drought Warning	Drought Alert: Three month rainfall observations within 25 th to 40 th percentile
Niuaatoputapu	Drought Declaration	
Vava'u	Drought Alert	Drought Warning: Three month rainfall observations within 10 th to 25 th percentile
Ha'apai	Drought Declaration	
Tongatapu	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration: Three month rainfall observations less than the 10 th percentile
'Eua	Drought Declaration	

- Below average rainfall recorded across Tonga in August except Vava'u with above average rainfall was observed. Refer to Table 1 & graph below.
- The highest 24 hours rainfall was 34.5mm recorded in Longomapu on the 27th.
- Ha'apai recorded it's 13th lowest August rainfall.
- The mean air temperature was 21.6^oC which was 1.6^oC cooler than average.
- Lowest minimum temperature was 11.3^oC recorded in Hango, 'Eua on the 19th August.
- Highest maximum temperature was 29.6^oC recorded at Nomuka on the 29th.

Table 1.

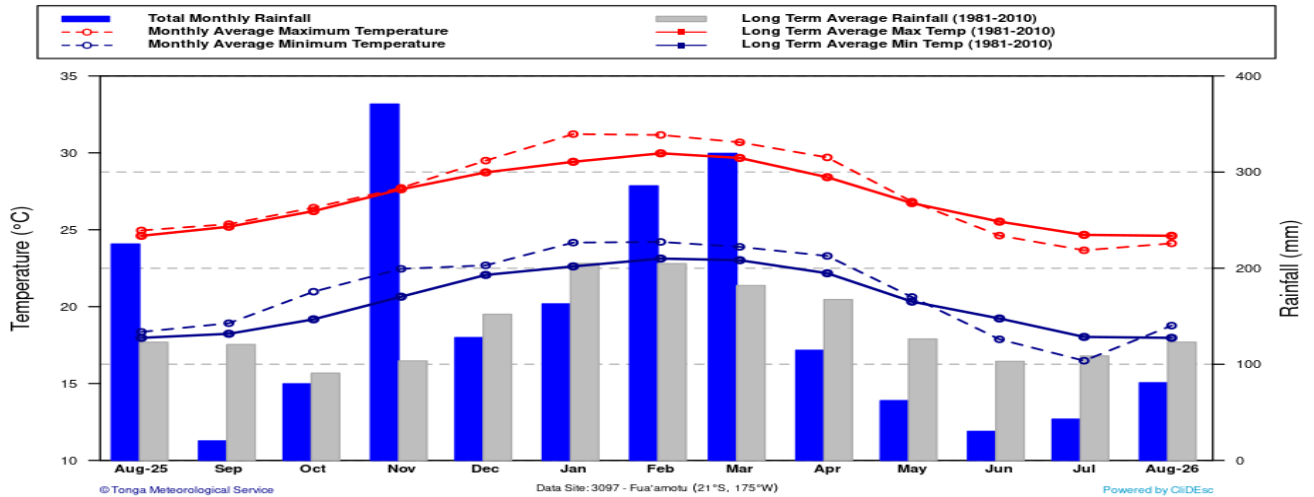
Rainfall totals (mm) for the last six months March to August 2026						
	March	April	May	June	July	August
Niuafo'ou	274.0	113.5	440.0	95.5	73.0	13.5
Niuaatoputapu	138.3	47.8	255.9	5.3	70.9	26.5
Vava'u	188.0	224.6	207.2	148.2	40.2	123.3
Ha'apai	113.0	111.4	96.1	19.9	22.0	27.6
Fua'amotu	319.5	114.6	62.2	30.2	42.9	80.8
Nuku'alofa	313.5	127.5	62.5	37.0	39.5	48.5
'Eua	318.0	95.5	137.5	45.5	27.5	60.0
Below normal		Normal (usual)		Above normal		

Figure 1.

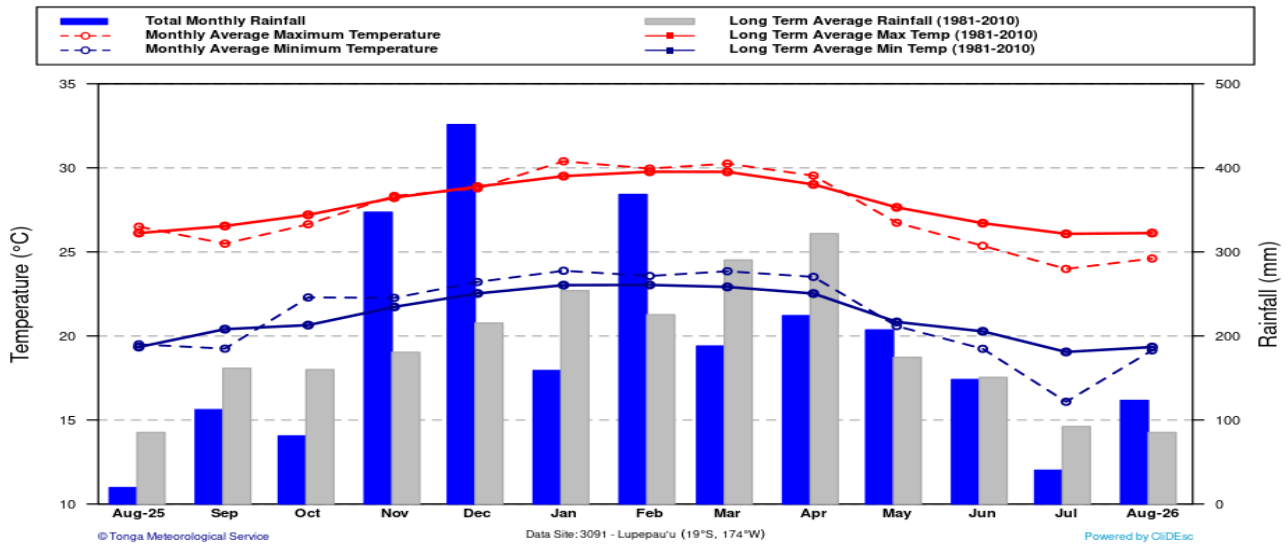


Temperatures & Rainfall for the main islands for the last 13 months

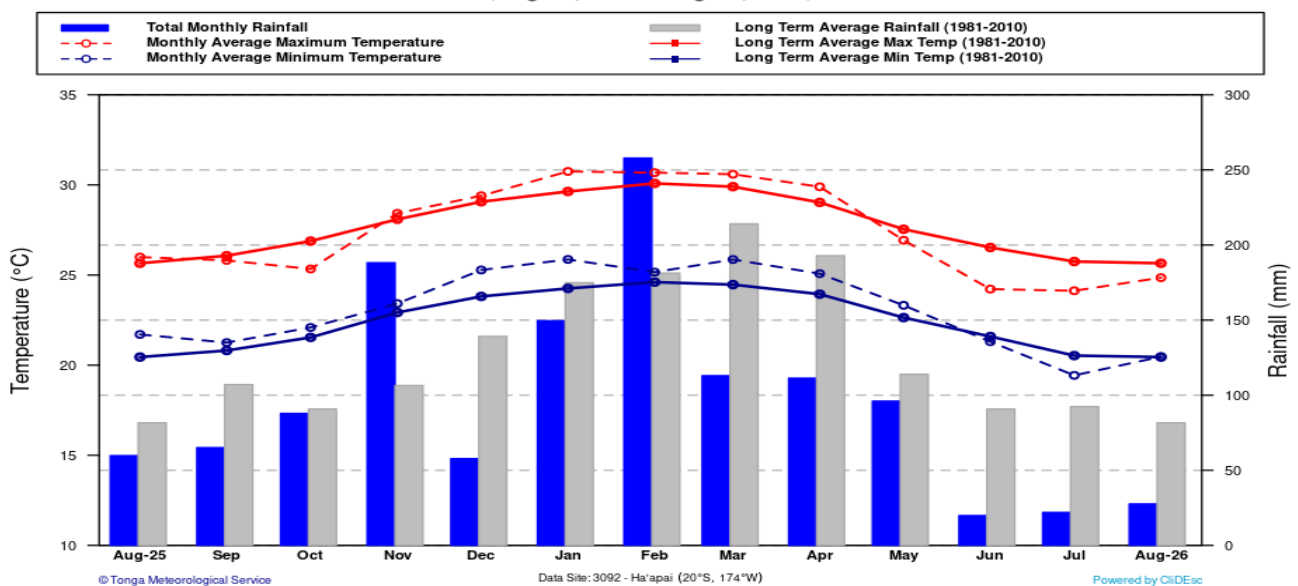
Fua'amotu (3097) - Temperature & Rainfall for the last 13 Months
(August, 2025 - August, 2026)



Lupepau'u (3091) - Temperature & Rainfall for the last 13 Months
(August, 2025 - August, 2026)



Ha'apai (3092) - Temperature & Rainfall for the last 13 Months
(August, 2025 - August, 2026)



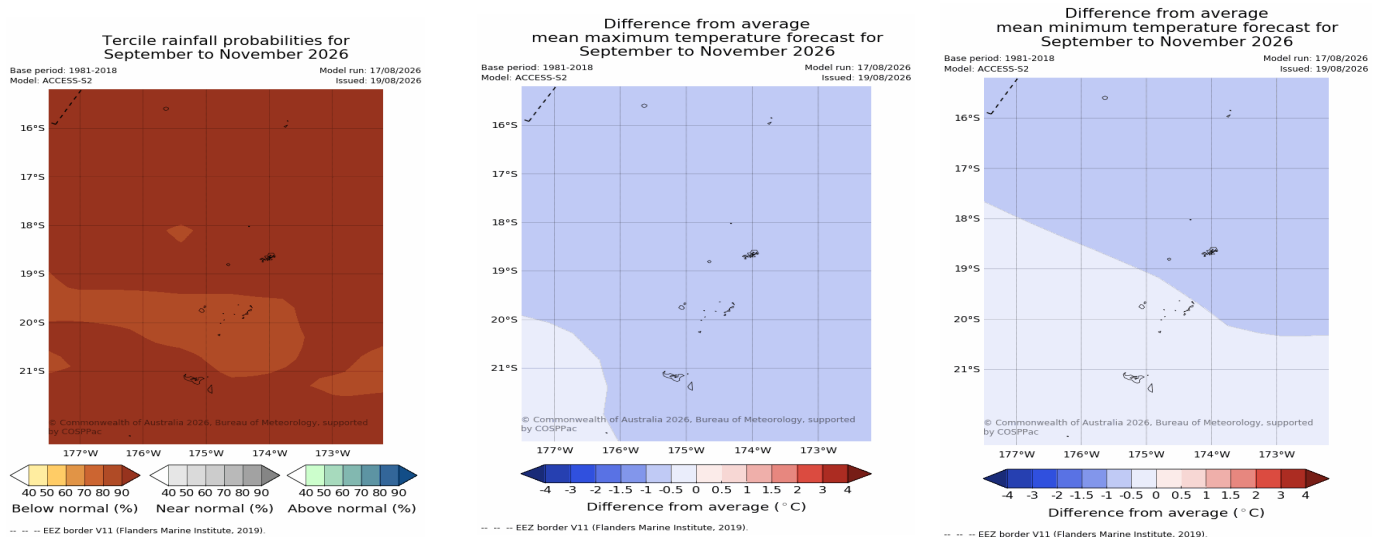
Meteorological Drought Outlook

El Niño is underway and now firmly established in Tonga and in the tropical Pacific. Forecast models are in strong agreement that warming will continue in the tropical Pacific over the next three months and peak in November or December.

Island Group	Current Met. Drought Status	Outlook for Status by end September	Outlook for Status by end October	Outlook for Status by end November
Niuafu'ou	Drought Warning	Drought Claration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration
Niuaatoputapu	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration
Vava'u	Drought Alert	Drought Warning	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration
Ha'apai	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration
Tongatapu	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration
'Eua	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration

Rainfall & Temperature Outlook for September to November 2026 (Part of 'Uluenga, Tanumanga, 'O'oamofangongo, Lihamu'a).

Location	Rainfall Outlook September — November 2026		% Chance, (This is the % chance that this outlook will occur).
Niuafu'ou	Below normal	419 mm – 636mm	80 - 90
Niuaatoputapu	Below normal	394mm – 596mm	80 - 90
Vava'u	Below normal	364mm – 525mm	80 - 90
Ha'apai	Below normal	227mm – 402mm	80 - 90
Fua'amotu	Below normal	246mm – 414mm	70 - 80
Nuku'alofa	Below normal	238mm – 426mm	80 - 90
'Eua	Below normal	246mm – 414mm	80 - 90



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.
- When millipedes are observed inside the house, expect cooler temperatures.

Tongan Calendar and traditional knowledge (Yam):

Parts of 'Uluenga, Tanumanga, 'O'oamofangongo, Lihamu'a (Parts of September to November)

Early yam tubers develop. This is the time when secondary yam tubers push their heads above the at which time the farmers covers them with soil. About last half of October to first half o November, careful usage of food and water is very important to avoid problems.

Important Note:

- It is the dry season which started on 1st May to end of October 2026. On average, during this period, Tonga receive less rainfall than during the wet season.
- Expect cool night time and day time temperature.
- Collect water when it rains and use it wisely.
- Public are advised to ensure that you stay alert at all times
- Get the latest climate & 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 Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO) on the best practices to save lives and property and minimize the effects of natural disaster.

"We advise all stakeholders to keep monitoring their environment for signs of drought, and look out for our monthly updates"

The next Climate update will be issued second week of October 2026 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) 0800638/ 7400062 or our website: <http://www.met.gov.to> for more information.