



## METEOROLOGY DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTRY OF METEOROLOGY, ENERGY, INFORMATION, DISASTER MANAGEMENT,  
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & COMMUNICATIONS  
P.O. Box 1380, Domestic Terminal, Fua'amotu Airport, TONGA  
Tel: (676) 35355/35008 Fax: (676) 35123 Email: metstaff@met.gov.to

---

### EL NIÑO IS HERE!

**Tonga to experience warmer temperatures, less rainfall, and more cyclones in the next 6 months (October 2023 - May 2024)**

#### El Nino has been declared

An El Niño has now been declared in the Pacific Ocean. This means that the Central and Eastern Pacific Ocean is now warmer than usual and the atmosphere has responded to this warming.

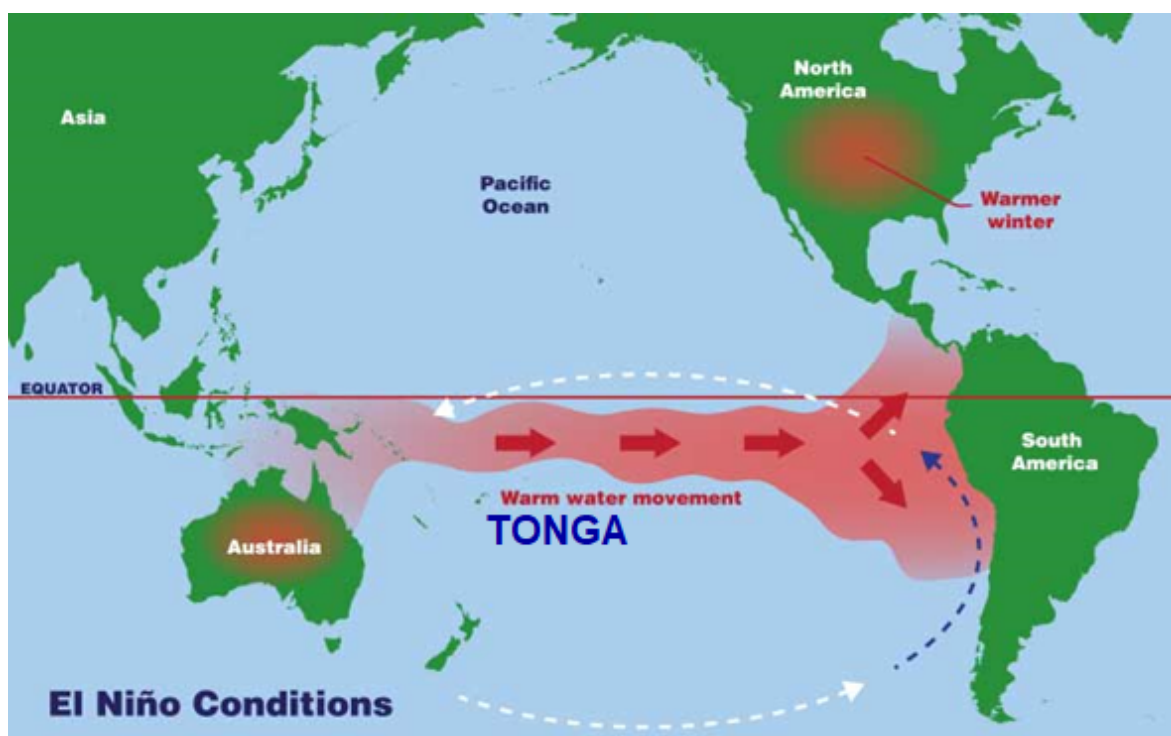


Figure 1: The set-up of El Niño conditions in the South Pacific Ocean.  
(Source: <https://scijinks.gov/el-nino/>)

#### Impact of El Nino on Tonga

The likely impacts of El Nino on Tonga over the next 6 month will include:

1. Warmer temperatures
2. Less rainfall
3. More tropical cyclones in the next cyclone season (1 November 2023 – 30 April 2024)

## The EL NINO prediction

There is general climate model agreement that the El Nino event that has been declared last until at least May 2024.

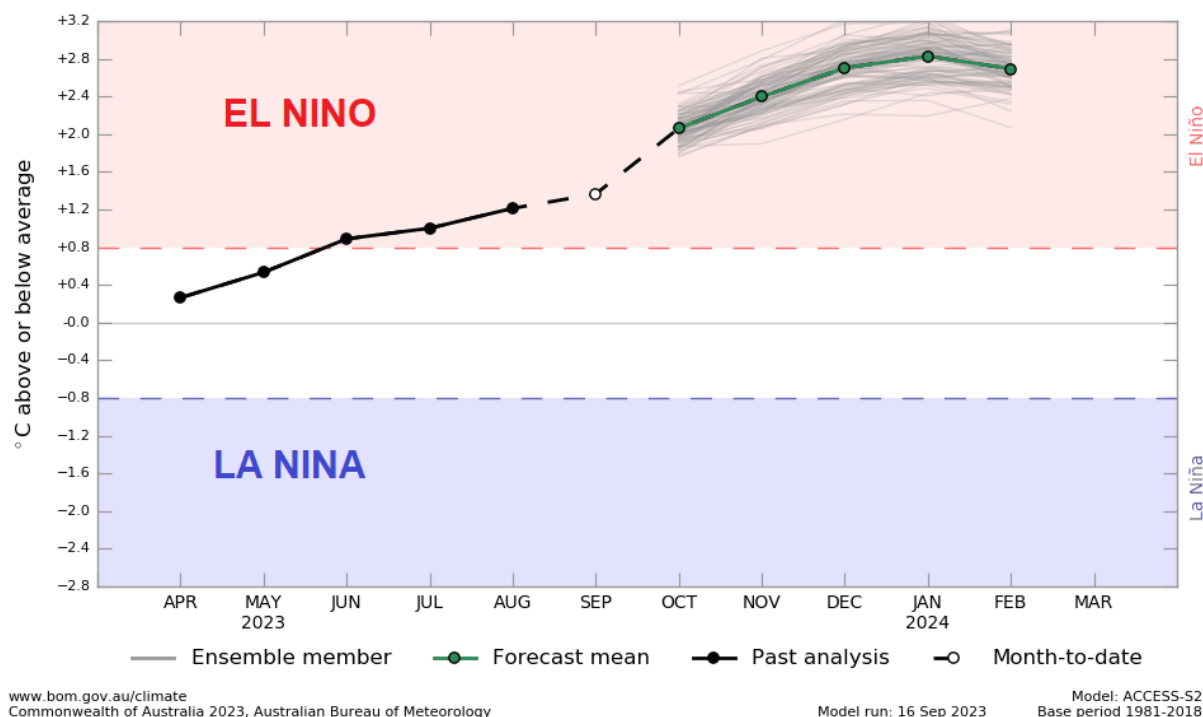


Figure 2: Global climate models agree that the current El Niño will last until the end of summer in May 2024 (Source: Australia Bureau of Meteorology)

## Recommended actions for the next 6 months.

1. Be updated with the latest El Niño Updates from the Meteorology Department.
2. Use rainwater wisely, especially for small island communities dependent on rainwater and collect as much rainwater as possible when it rains.
3. The health sector should prepare for disease outbreaks associated with warmer temperatures, drought and water contamination during cyclone events.
4. The agriculture sector should deploy farming and livestock management methods associated with drought.
5. The fisheries sector should prepare for a reduction in tuna and migratory fish species stocks, possible coral bleaching, and elevated chance of occurrence of algae bloom (red tides).
6. The water sector should closely monitor ground water availability and quality.
7. Emergency managers including village a district emergency management committees should activate preparatory phase of hazard response to drought and tropical cyclones.
8. The infrastructure sector should prepare for a more active tropical cyclone season starting in November.

9. Care givers should prepare for warmer temperatures, access to clean water and a likely increase in cyclone evacuation incidences in the next cyclone season.
  
10. The utilities sector should prepare for a more active cyclone season starting in November.

**For more information on the El Nino**

Contact the Meteorology Department of the Ministry of Environment, Energy, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Meteorology, Information and Communications (MEIDECC) at toll-free number: 0800638 or phone no. 35-009 or Email: [metstaff@met.gov.to](mailto:metstaff@met.gov.to). Also join and follow the Tonga Meteorological Services Facebook page and website at: [www.met.gov.to](http://www.met.gov.to)

**-ENDS-**