



**FIJI METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE
GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF FIJI**

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**“ONE TO TWO TROPICAL CYCLONES LIKELY FOR FIJI
THIS CYCLONE SEASON”**

Highlights

- For the upcoming 2019-20 Tropical Cyclone Season, normal tropical cyclones are anticipated for Fiji. In other words, **one to two** tropical cyclones are anticipated to affect Fiji, of which **one** may reach **category 3 or stronger intensity**.
- Similarly, **five to eight** tropical cyclones (TCs) are expected to occur in the RSMC-Nadi Area of Responsibility; covering an area from Solomon Islands to French Polynesia.
- The ENSO Neutral conditions currently persist in the tropical Pacific Ocean and is predicted to remain Neutral throughout the TC season. Therefore, ENSO-neutral conditions have greatly influences this season's TC Outlook.
- All communities should remain alert and prepared throughout the 2019-20 TC season and take heed of tropical cyclone alerts, warnings and advisories seriously whenever it is issued to reduce the risk on life, livelihoods and property.

The official 2019-20 Tropical Cyclone (TC) Season extends between 1st of November 2019 and 30th April 2020. The peak period for TC activities in the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) Nadi– Tropical Cyclone Centre (TCC) Area of Responsibility (AoR) is usually from January to March.

RSMC Nadi - TCC is responsible for monitoring TC activity in the area bounded from 160 degrees East to 120 degrees West Longitude and from Equator to 25 degrees South Latitude. (*refer to figure 1*).

TC activity in the 2019-20 TC season within the RSMC-Nadi Area of Responsibility (AoR) is predicted to be near normal or below normal (moderate confidence), that is, five to eight TCs are expected to form.

In addition, two to four tropical cyclones may reach severe TC intensity (Category 3 status or above) in RSMC-Nadi AoR.

This outlook is based upon the current El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions including model indication of neutral conditions persisting throughout the TC season.

For Fiji:

- The risk of tropical cyclone activity is likely to be near normal during the TC season. In other words, one to two tropical cyclones could pass through Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (*refer to figure 2 & 4*).
- Furthermore, there is increased risk of severe tropical cyclones for Fiji this season as one of two tropical cyclones likely to pass through Fiji's EEZ may attain category three intensity or higher (*refer to figure 3 & 5*).
- When tropical cyclones move over or pass close to the Fiji group, the risks that are likely during such event are damaging winds, heavy rain which leads to flooding and landslides and storm surge that can result in sea flooding of low-lying coastal areas.
- Historical records show that tropical cyclones have occasionally formed in our region outside the official TC Season, including May, June, July, September and October. Therefore, it is critically important that all communities are prepared and remain vigilant at all times.

For other Pacific Island countries:

- There is increased risk of tropical cyclone activities for Tuvalu, Tokelau and Samoa, normal risk for Solomon Islands, Wallis & Futuna, New Caledonia, Tonga, Niue, Southern Cook Islands, and Austral Islands, reduced risk for Vanuatu, Northern Cook Islands, Society Islands, Tuamotu Archipelago and Pitcairn Islands and unlikely for others (*refer to figure 4*).
- Similarly, for **severe TCs**, there is increased risk for Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Wallis & Futuna, Tokelau, Samoa, Tonga and Niue, normal risk for New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Austral Islands, reduced risk for Northern and Southern Cook Islands, Society Islands including Tuamotu Archipelago and unlikely for others (*refer to figure 5*).
- Refer to (*refer to figure 2 & 3*) for predicted number of TCs and severe TCs for other Pacific Island countries.

All communities should remain alert and prepared throughout the 2019-20 TC season and take heed of TC alerts, warnings and advisories seriously whenever it is issued from their respective National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to reduce the effects on life and property.

It should be noted that the predictions provided are only to be used as guidance and the given range of TC numbers is indicative only. It is expected that the total number of TCs could be in the vicinity of the listed values, and not necessarily within the given range.

A detailed version of the 2019-20 TC Seasonal Outlook issued by the Fiji Meteorological Service is available on the official website of the department at www.met.gov.fj.

For more information and clarification: please contact the Director of Meteorology, Mr. Misaeli Funaki on 9905379 or misaeli.funaki@met.gov.fj.

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Figure 1: Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre (RSMC) Nadi - Tropical Cyclone Centre (TCC) Area of Responsibility (AoR), shaded area.

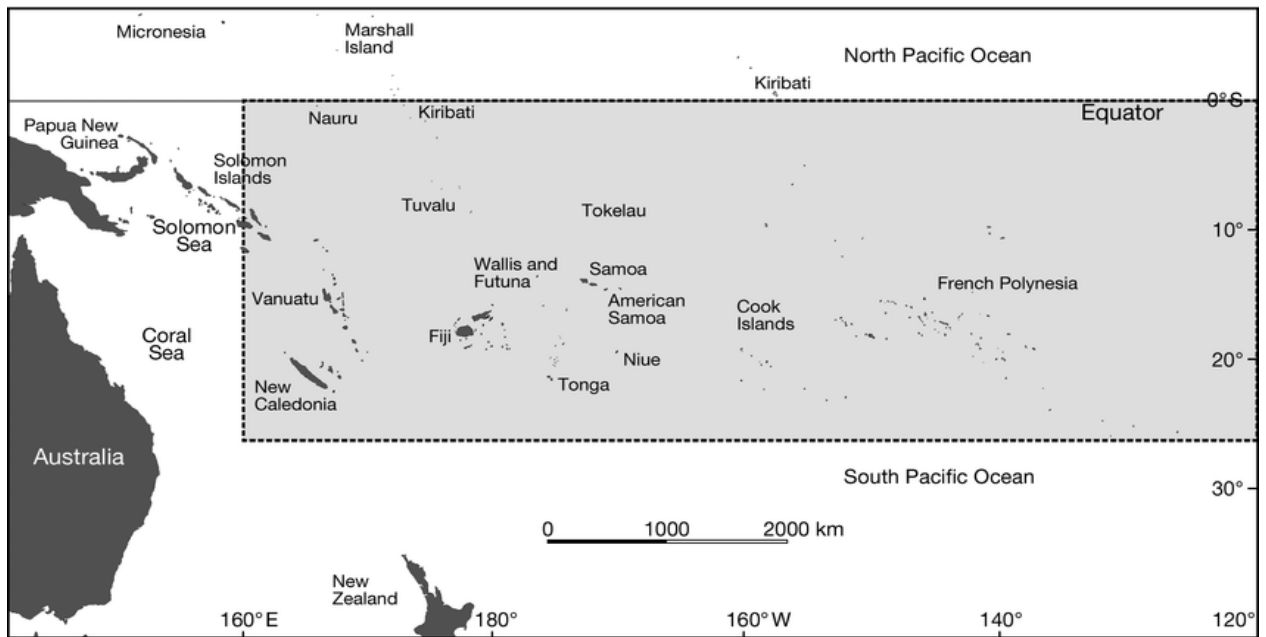


Figure 2: Predicted number of tropical cyclones (Category 1 - 5) in RSMC Nadi – TCC AoR for the 2019_20 TC Season.

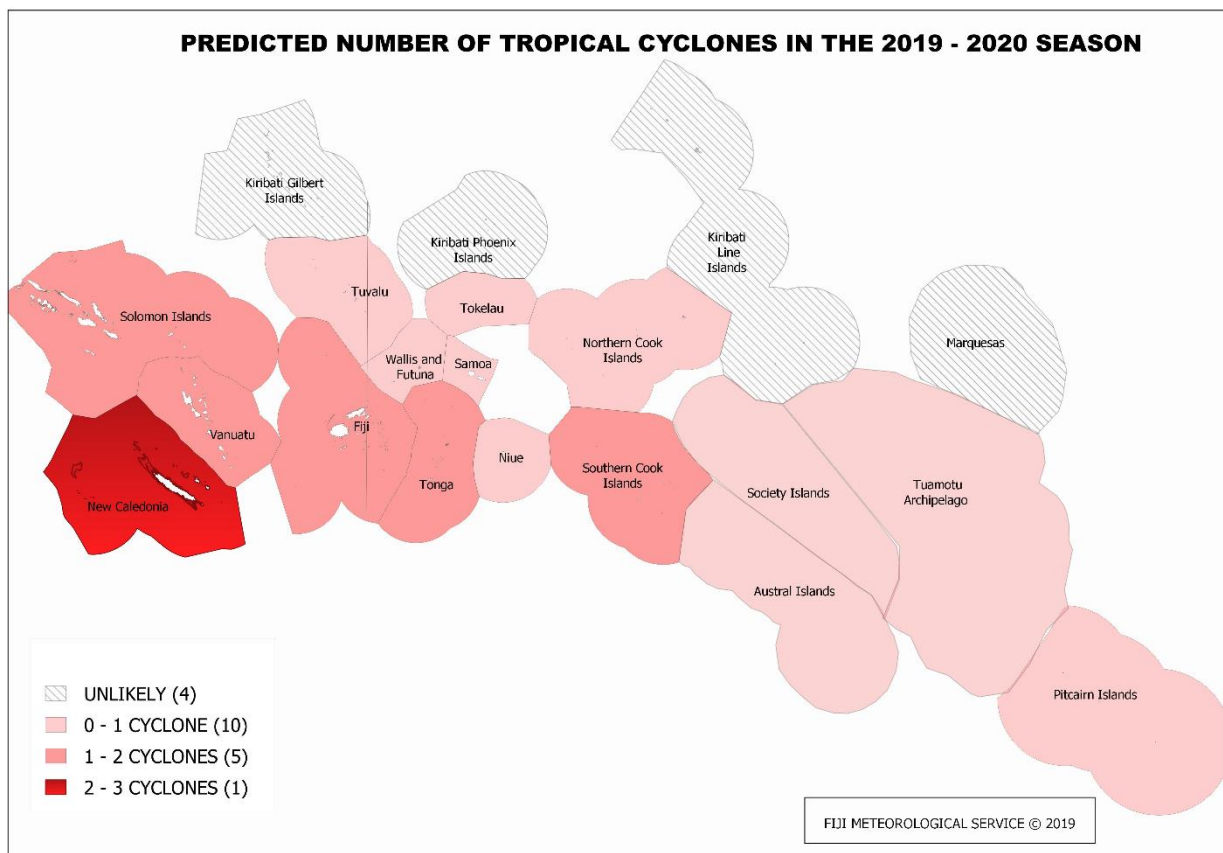


Figure 3: Predicted number of severe tropical cyclones (Category 3-5) in RSMC Nadi – TCC AoR for the 2019_20 TC Season.

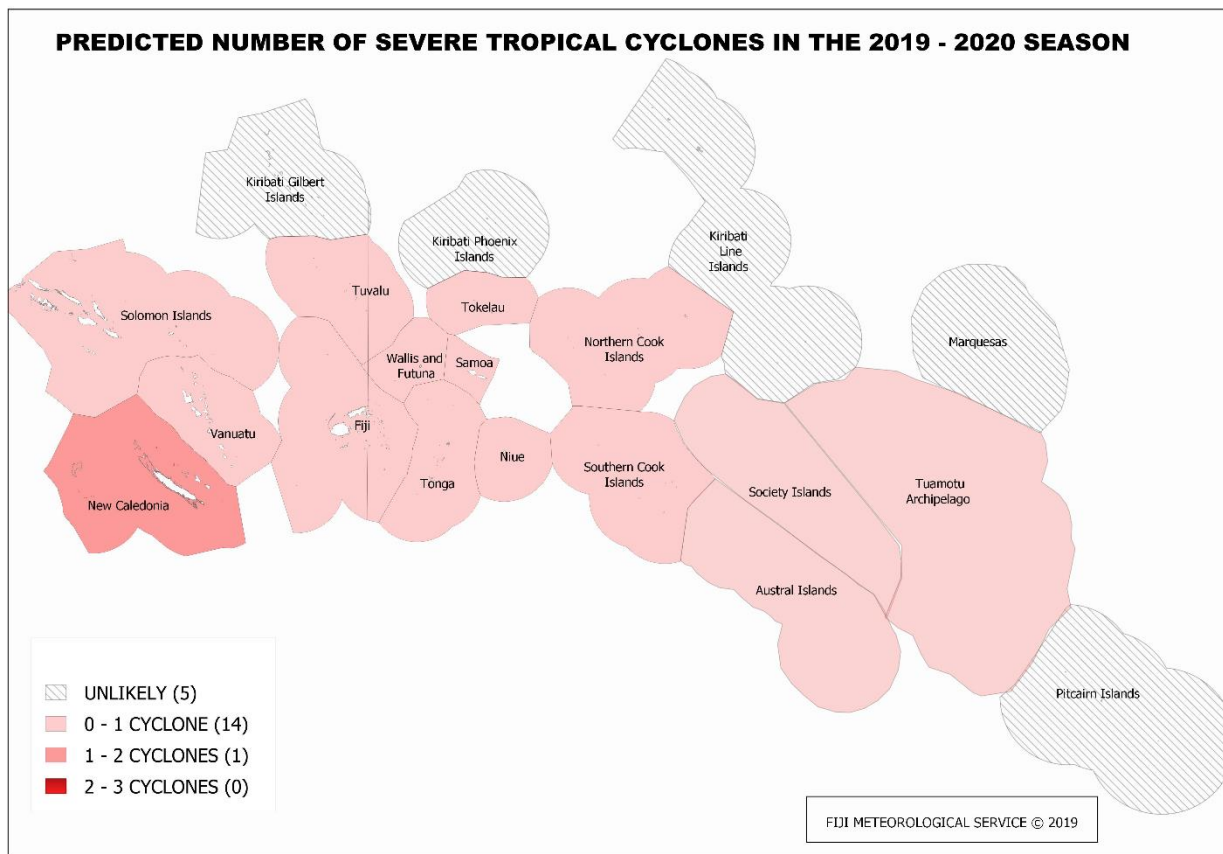


Figure 4: Tropical cyclone risk during the 2019_20 TC season in RSMC Nadi – TCC AoR in comparison to climatology.

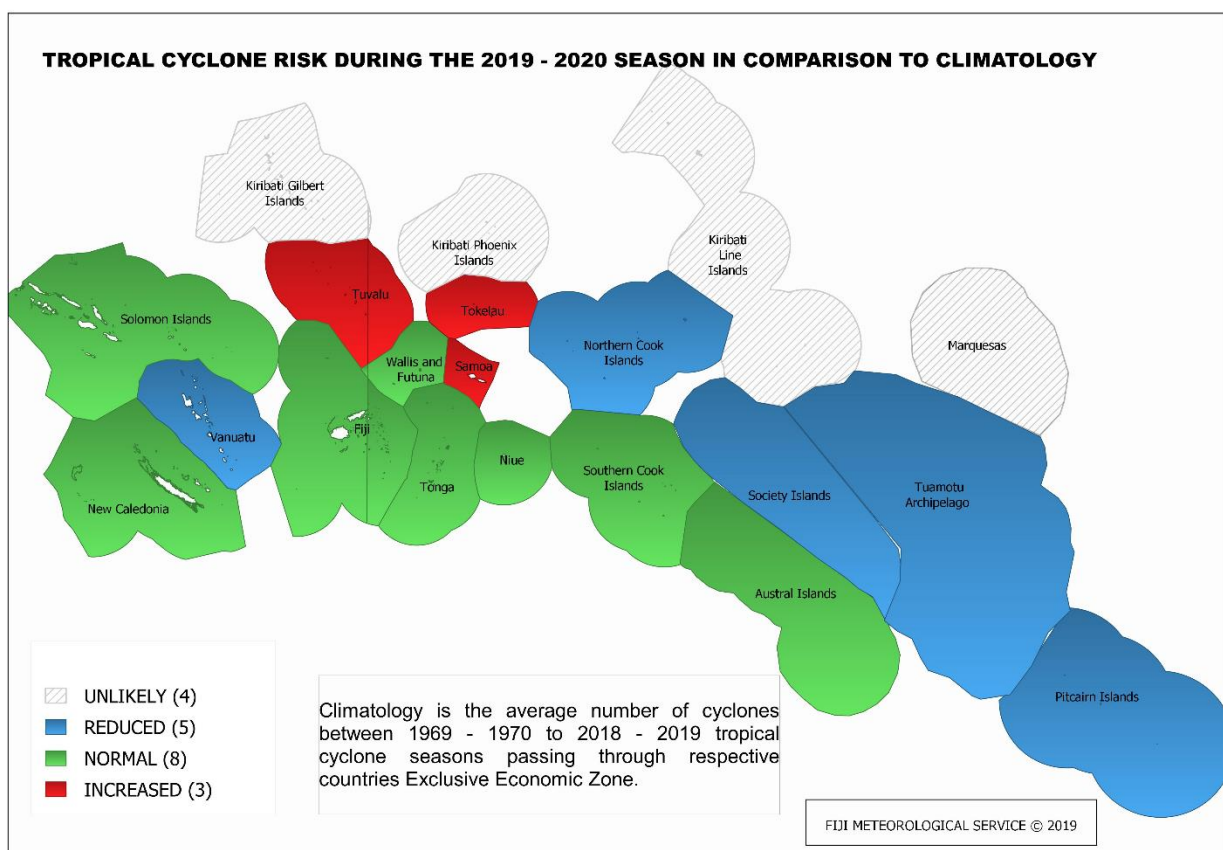
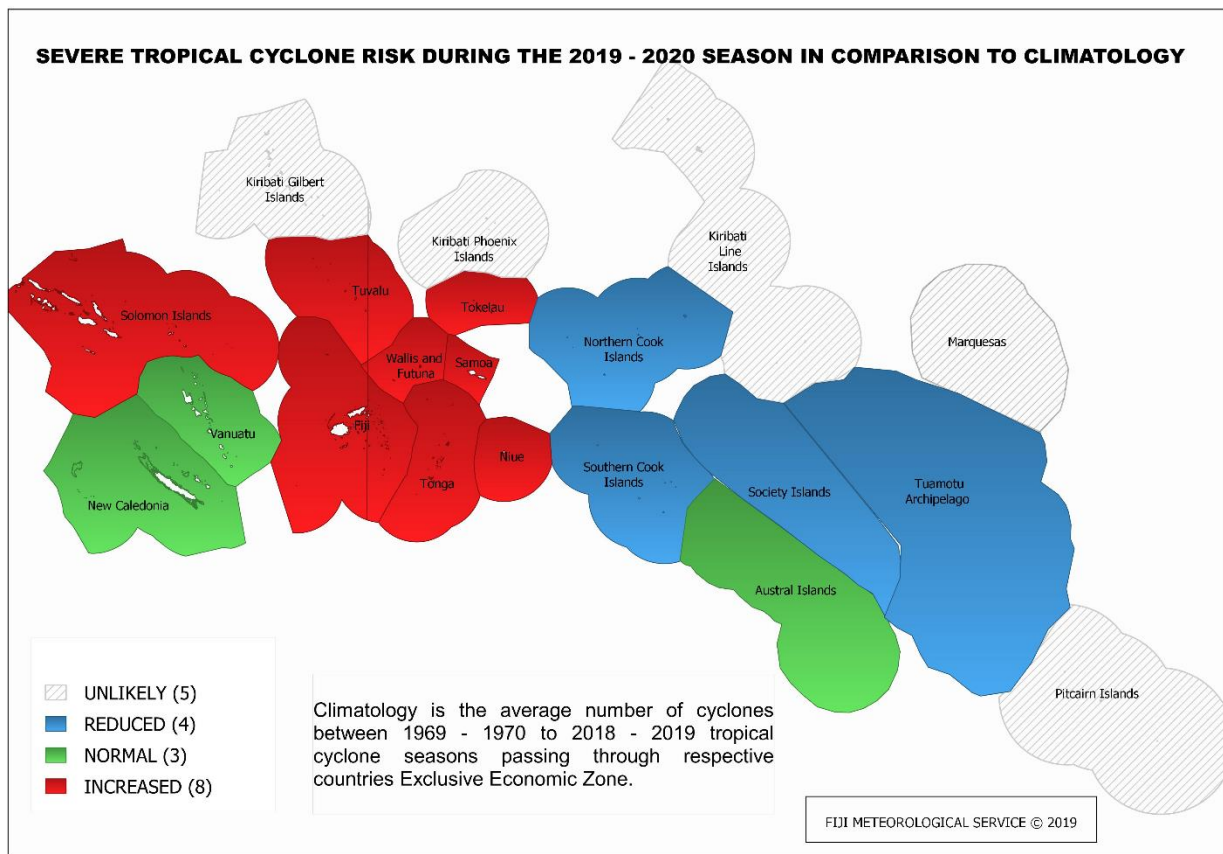


Figure 5: Severe tropical cyclone risk during the 2019_20 TC season in RSMC Nadi – TCC AoR in comparison to climatology.



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