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Climate Outlook for Hydro-electricity Generation from August to October 2026

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Current Conditions

Fiji's Climate

Generally, cool and relatively dry conditions prevailed across Fiji during July, with persistent southeast trade winds contributing to cooler nights. Several areas experienced unusually low minimum temperatures during the month. Despite the overall dry pattern, periods of cloud, showers and localized falls occurred as troughs of low pressure affected the country.

Of the 22 stations that reported in during the preparation of this bulletin, 18 stations reported *well below average* rainfall and 4 *below average* rainfall.

Monasavu's total monthly rainfall, until 29th July, was 98mm, which is in the *below average* category (51% of *normal*) when compared against the WMO standard 30-year normal.

The total 3 monthly rainfall recorded during May to 29th July 2026 period was 838mm, which is in the *normal* category (112% of *normal*), while rainfall recorded during the past 6 months (February to 29th July) is classified as *normal* at 2456mm (110% of the *normal*) (Figure 1).

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Status

El Niño conditions are currently present and continues to intensify further, becoming stronger across the tropical Pacific Ocean. For Fiji, El Niño are typically associated with drier than normal conditions.

At present, *above average* sea surface temperatures (SSTs) persist across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, and *near normal* to *below average* in the western Pacific Ocean.

The latest 30-day average Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) until 27th July 2026 was -28.5, within El Niño thresholds.

Below average trade winds were observed in the western and central Pacific Ocean. Cloudiness was *above average* along the equator near the Date Line, and in the east-central pacific, while *below average* cloudiness was seen in the far western Pacific.

Atmospheric and oceanic conditions are indicative of the ongoing El Niño event.

El Niño-Southern Oscillation and Monasavu Climate Predictions

El-Niño Southern Oscillation Prediction

Most surveyed global models favor El Niño to persist through the end of 2026 and into early 2027.

Minimum & Maximum Air Temperature Predictions - August & August to October 2026

During August, cool day-time temperatures are likely across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. For August to October 2026 period, day-time temperatures are likely to be *near normal* in the interior of Viti Levu and *below normal* across Vanua Levu. Night-time temperatures are likely to be *below normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu for August and August to October 2026 period (Figure 4 and 5).

Rainfall Predictions:

Fortnightly: 2nd – 15th August & 9th – 22nd August

Wet conditions are likely over Viti Levu during 2nd to 15th August, while drier than normal conditions are likely during 9th to 22nd August.

August 2026

There is 75% chance of receiving at least 36mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of at least 44mm of rainfall at the Nadarivatu and Monasavu Dams and 75% chance of receiving at least 52mm of rainfall at Wailoa. There is *low* confidence in this forecast (Table 1).

August to October 2026

During the August to October 2026 period, there is 75% chance of receiving at least 200mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station and 75% chance of receiving around 211mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu and Monasavu Dams and as well as at Wailoa. There is *low* confidence in the seasonal outlook (Table 1).

Summary

Drier conditions are favored for August, as well as for the August to October 2026 period. There is *low* confidence for August and August to October 2026. Fiji often experiences drier than normal conditions during an El Niño event.

Figure 1

Monthly Rainfall Distribution at Monasavu until 29 July 2026

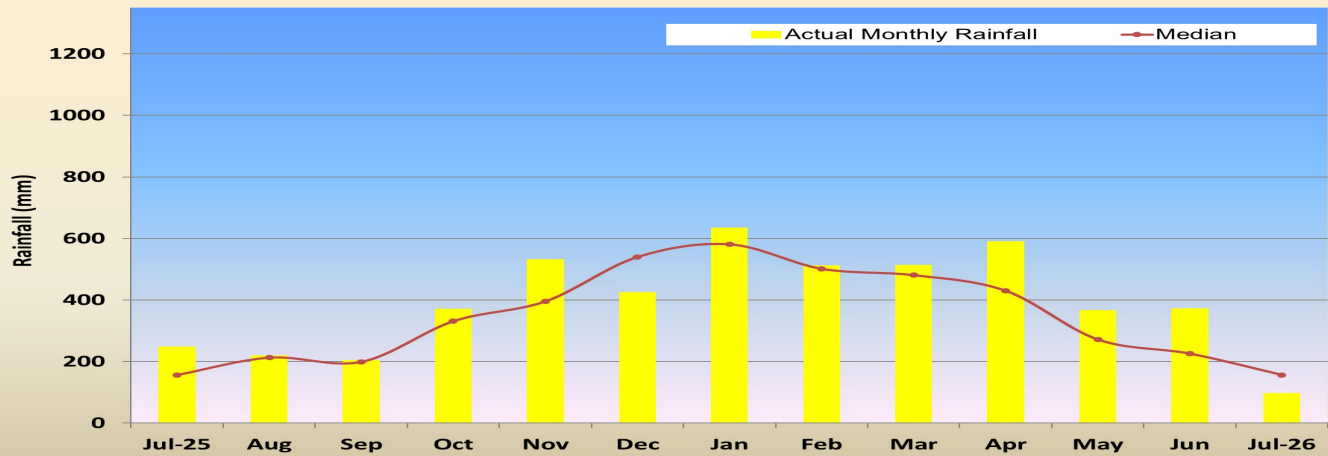


Table 1: Rainfall Outlook: August & August to October 2026

August Outlook				
	25% chance of at least (mm)	50% chance of at least (mm)	75% chance of at least (mm)	Forecast Confidence
Nadarivatu station	126	68	36	Low
Nadarivatu Dam	142	78	44	Low
Monasavu Dam	142	78	44	Low
Wailoa	143	87	52	Low
August to October 2026 Outlook				
	25% chance of at least (mm)	50% chance of at least (mm)	75% chance of at least (mm)	Forecast Confidence
Nadarivatu station	406	294	200	Low
Nadarivatu Dam	437	312	211	Low
Monasavu Dam	437	312	211	Low
Wailoa	450	327	211	Low

The table above provides 25%, 50% and 75% chances of each station receiving the amount of rainfall mentioned above.

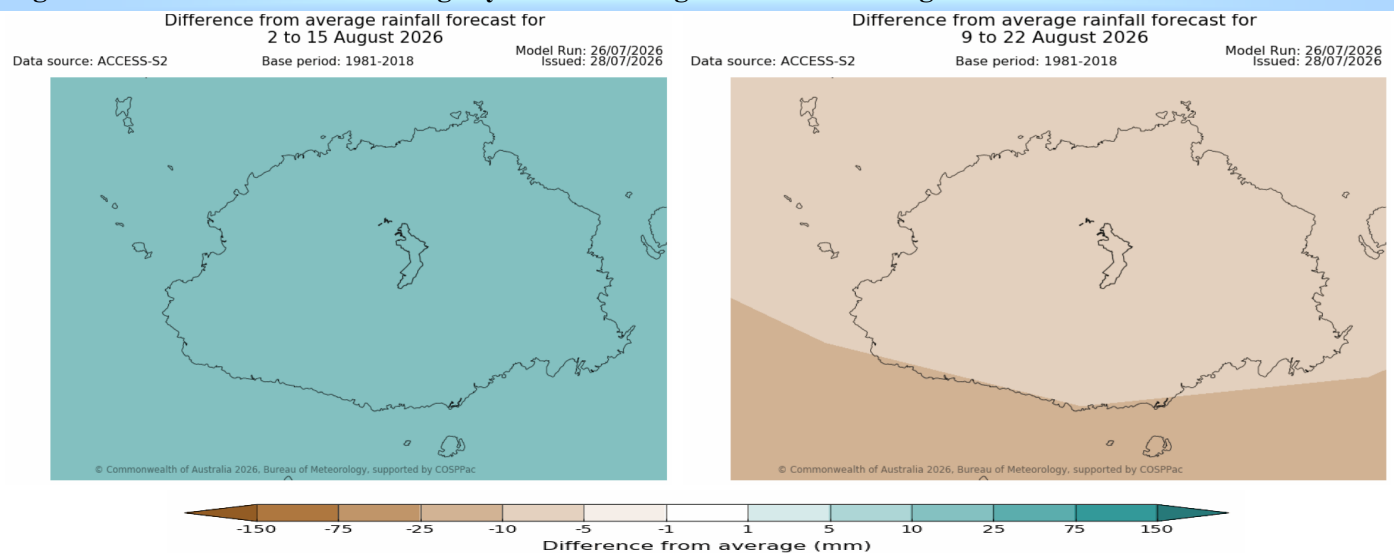
Figure 2: Rainfall Outlook: Fortnightly: 2nd – 15th August & 9th – 22nd August

Figure 3: Rainfall Outlook: August & August to October 2026

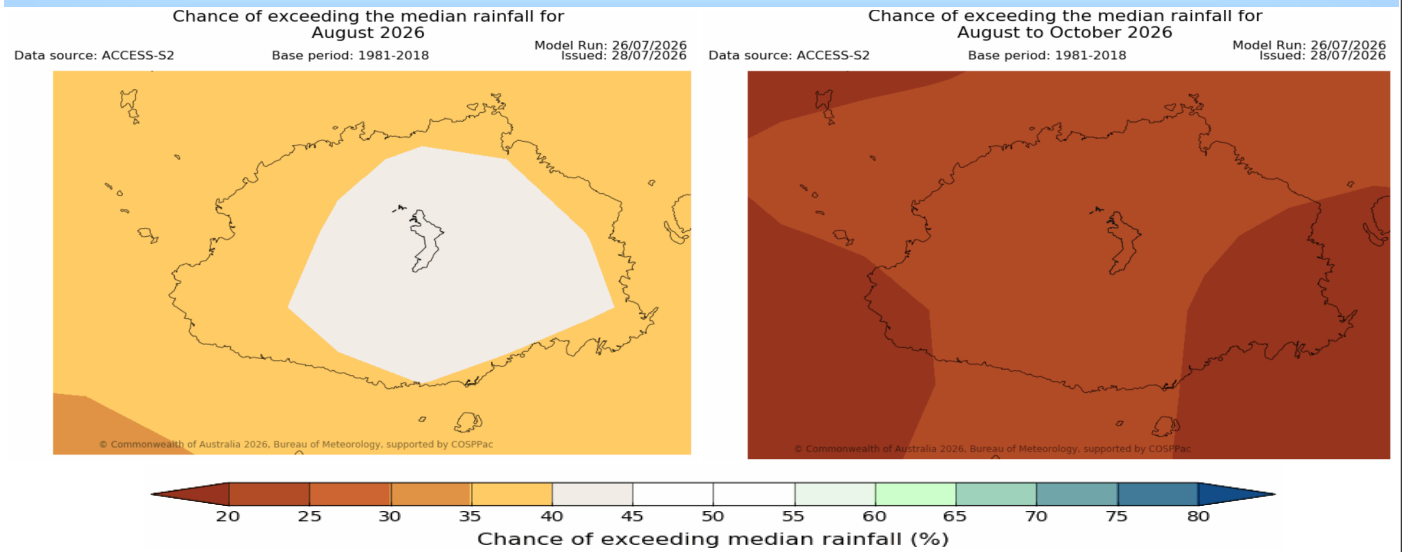
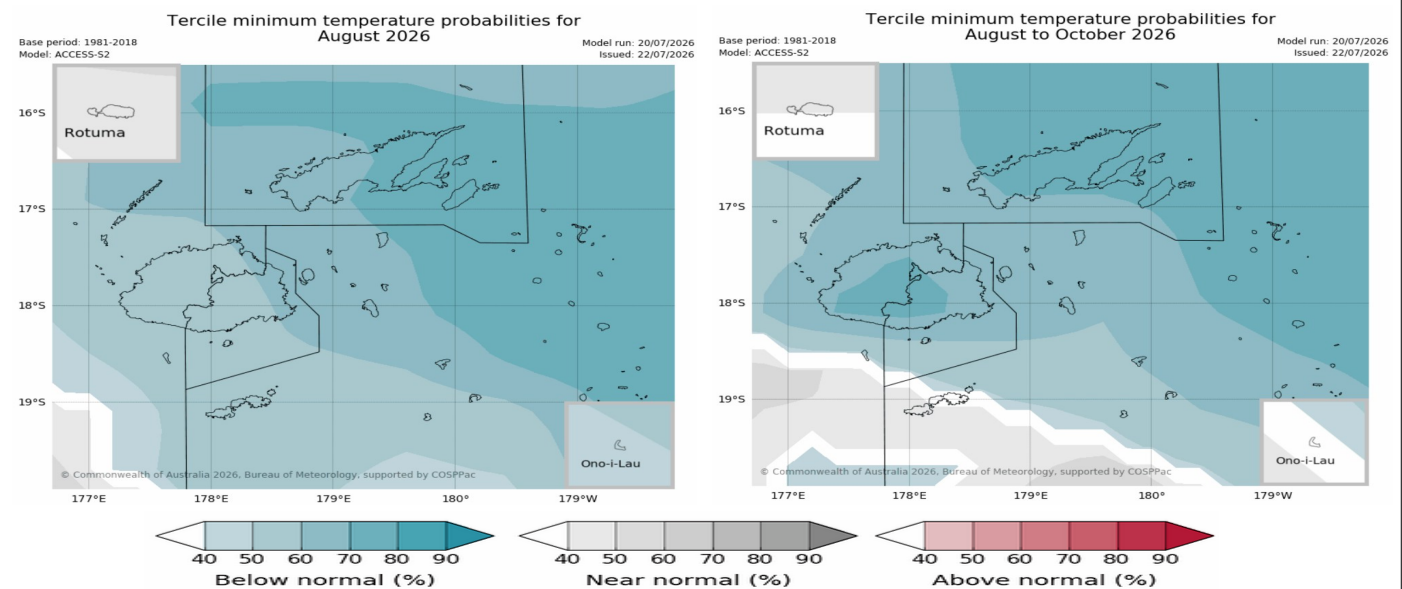
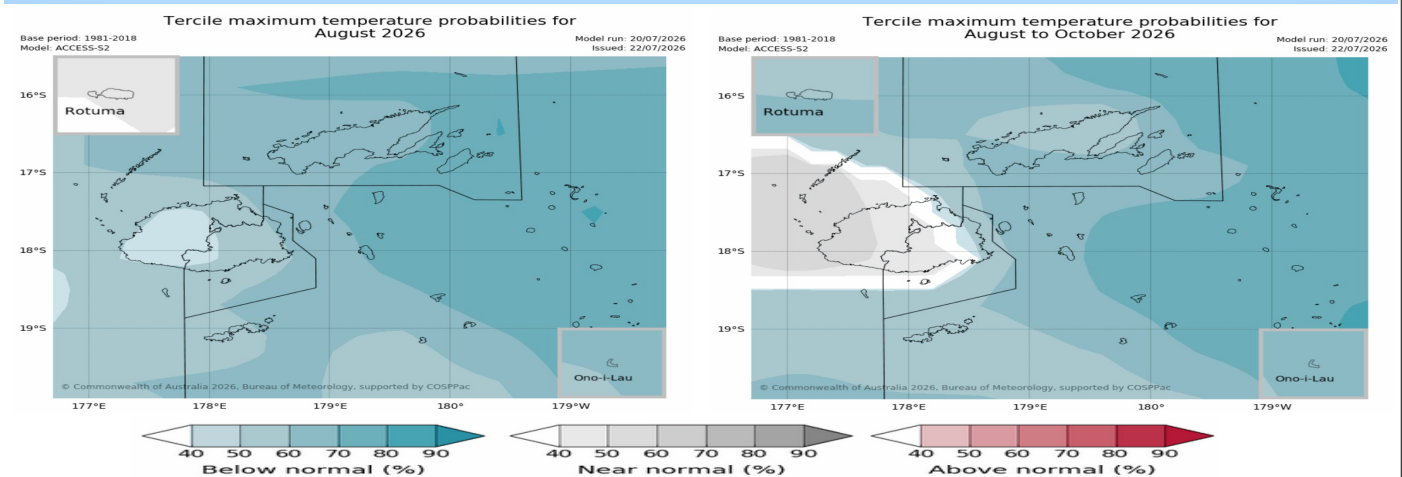


Figure 4: Minimum Air Temperature Predictions: August & August to October 2026



Minimum air temperatures are expected to be *below normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu during August and August to October 2026 period. *Source: ACCESS-S2 Model.*

Figure 5: Maximum Air Temperature Predictions: August & August to October 2026



Maximum air temperatures are likely to be *below normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu during August, while *near normal* temperatures are likely across Viti Levu from August to October 2026 period. *Source: ACCESS-S2 Model.*

Explanatory Notes

Climate Outlook for Hydro-electricity Generation is produced to provide advisories to Energy Fiji Limited (EFL). It aims to provide advanced warning on climate abnormalities for planning on economic generation mix and hydro-storage optimization.

Climate (Rainfall/Air Temperature) Outlook

Above normal – indicates that the rainfall/temperature value lies in the highest third of observation recorded in the standard 30 year normal period.

Near normal – indicates that the rainfall/temperature value lies in the middle third of observation recorded in the standard 30 year normal period.

Below normal – indicates that the rainfall/temperature value lies in the lowest third of observation recorded in the standard 30 year normal period.

Climatology – means that there are equal chances of receiving below normal, normal and above normal rainfall.

Median – rainfall value which marks the level dividing the ranked data set in half, that is, the midpoint of the ordered (lowest to highest) monthly or yearly rainfall totals.

Above Median – rainfall value that lies above the median value.

Below Median – rainfall value that lies below the median value.

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

ENSO is the principal driver of the year-to-year variability of Fiji's climate. There are three phases of this phenomenon, **El Niño**, **La Niña** and **Neutral** conditions. El Niño or La Niña events are a natural part of the global climate system and usually recur after every 2 to 7 years. It normally develops around April to June, attains peak intensity between December to February and usually starts to decay around April to June period the following year. While most events last for a year, some have persisted for up to 2 years. It should be also noted that no two El Niño or La Niña events are the same. Different events have different impacts, but most exhibit some common climate characteristics.

Usually there is a lag effect on Fiji's climate with ENSO events, that is, once an El Niño or La Niña event is established in the tropical Pacific, it may take 2-6 months before its impact is seen on Fiji. Similarly, once an event finishes, it can take 2-6 months for climate to normalise.

El Niño events are associated with warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. El Niño events usually result in reduction of Fiji's rainfall. Often the whole of Fiji is affected in varying degrees and it is quite unusual for one part of the country to experience a prolonged dry spell, while the other is in a wet spell. The relationship and level of rainfall suppression is greater in the Dry Zone than in the Wet Zone. It is the suppression of rainfall during the Cool/Dry Season (May to October) that is normally of most concern. A reduction in Cool/Dry Season rainfall in the Dry Zone results in little or no rainfall until the next Wet Season. While usually the strength of an ENSO event is proportional to its impact on Fiji, at times weak event can also have a significant impact.

La Niña events are associated with cooling of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. Usually La Niña results in wetter than normal conditions for Fiji, occasionally leading to flooding during the Warm/Wet Season (November to April).

During **Neutral** condition, neither El Niño nor La Niña is present, it has little effect on global climate, meaning other climate influences are more likely to dominate.

Lag effects – means that there is a delay in a change of some aspect of climate due to influence of other factors that is acting slowly.

Climate bulletins that can be viewed together with this bulletin include:

- 1) *Fiji Climate Summary* at <https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=FijiClimateSummary> (issued monthly)
- 2) *Fiji Climate Outlook* at <https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=ClimateOutlook> (issued monthly)

This information is prepared as soon as ENSO, climate and oceanographic data is received from recording stations around Fiji and Meteorological Agencies around the world. While every effort is made to verify observational data, Fiji Meteorological Service does not guarantee the accuracy and reliability of the analyses presented, and accepts no liability for any losses incurred through the use of this information and its contents. The information may be freely disseminated provided the source is acknowledged. For further clarification and expert advice, please contact the Fiji Meteorological Service HQ, Namaka, Nadi.

For further information, contact: The Director of Meteorology, Fiji Meteorological Service, Private Mail Bag NAP0351, Nadi Airport, Fiji. Phone: (679) 6724888, Fax: (679) 6720430, E-mail: fms@met.gov.fj or climate@met.gov.fj. URL: <http://www.met.gov.fj>