

## 1. IN BRIEF

Rainfall variation during the month ranged from *below* to *above average*. Over half of observation stations recorded *near average* rainfall including a majority of stations on Viti Levu, Kadavu, Rotuma, Taveuni and parts of the Lau Group. Wetter than usual conditions were mainly experienced in Ono-i-Lau, Matuku, Yasawa-i-Rara, Labasa Airport and Savusavu Airfield. Despite Fiji currently in a wet season, dryer than usual conditions were observed in some parts of the Western Division, Laucala Bay, Udu Point and Vanuabalavu.

Overall, out of the 24 rainfall monitoring stations that reported in during the compilation of this bulletin, 5 station reported above average, 12 average and 7 below average (Table 2, Figures 1-5). For January the highest rainfall of 949.0mm was recorded at Nadarivatu, followed by Monasavu with 636.1mm at Monasavu, 564.4mm at Labasa Airfield, 523.3 mm at Savusavu Airfield, 505.6mm at Rarawai Mill, 480.3mm at Penang Mill, 429.5mm at Korolevu and Rotuma with 410.4mm .

As for temperatures, the warmest average day-time temperature was 34.0°C, recorded at Sigatoka, followed by

Momi with 33.3°C, Rarawai Mill (Ba) with 32.7°C, Levuka with 32.6°C, Vanuabalavu with 32.2°C, and Viwa with 32.1°C . The coolest night- time temperature of 18.6°C was observed at Nadarivatu, followed by Monasavu with 19.6°C, Matei Airfield with 21.9°C, Lakeba with 22.5°C, Vanuabalavu with 22.8°C and Udu Point and Navua both with 23.3°C.

Winds at Nadi Airport were predominantly southeasterly, while winds at Nausori Airport and Savusavu were mostly southerly winds, with easterly winds were dominant at Matei Airfield (Figure 8).

Sea surface temperature across Fiji waters generally ranged from *near normal* to *above normal* (Figure 9). Generally *above normal* sea level anomalies persisted across the Fiji Group during January (Figure 11).

Flash flooding was reported in the Central, Western and Northern Divisions, resulting from several occurring low pressure systems and associated heavy rainfall (Figures 12a –12i).

## 2. WEATHER PATTERNS

The weather in January was dominated by a series of troughs of low-pressure, the moist east to southeast winds and dry south to southwest winds which affected the Fiji group. Tropical Depression 07F also affected the country towards the end of the month.

A trough of low pressure brought occasional rain and a few thunderstorms with heavy falls over the northern and eastern parts of the Fiji Group on the 1<sup>st</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup>, then shifted southwest with occasional rain and thunderstorms over most places on the 3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup>. From the 5<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup>, a northeast wind flow produced occasional showers with isolated heavy falls over the interior and eastern parts of the larger islands. Another trough moved in from the west on the 8<sup>th</sup>, spreading clouds and showers across the group on the 9<sup>th</sup>, with occasional showers and isolated heavy falls before departing east on the 10<sup>th</sup>. A southeast wind flow followed on the 10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup>, bringing showers mainly over the interior and eastern areas.

An active trough affected most places from the 12<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup>, with occasional to periods of rain, a few thunderstorms, and isolated heavy falls. Significant 24-hour rainfall to-

tals included Labasa 119.9 mm and Matuku 263.3 mm on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Matei 159.6 mm and Nadarivatu 127.0 mm on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and Tokotoko (Navua) 104 mm on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Showery northwest to northeast flow persisted on the 20<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup>, followed by predominantly southwest winds on the 22<sup>nd</sup>–24<sup>th</sup> bringing occasional showers to the Yasawa and Lau groups and western and southern parts of the larger islands. Showers and cloudy periods then focused again over interior and eastern areas on the 25<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> as winds shifted south to southeast then easterly.

On the 28th, Tropical Depression 07F moved south to the far west of the country, with its convergence zone bringing strong northwest winds up to 55 km/h and gusts up to 83 km/h, plus squally heavy rain. TD07F brushed past the far southwest on the 29th with easing winds and rain, and a southwest flow on the 30th turning southerly on the 31st brought cloudy periods with some showers over the western and southern parts of the larger islands.

Rotuma's weather was mainly affected by a series of troughs of low pressures and the moist easterlies.

### 3. RAINFALL

Rainfall variation during the month ranged from *below* to *above average*. Over half of the observation stations recorded *near average* rainfall including a majority of stations on Viti Levu, Kadavu, Rotuma, Taveuni and parts of central Lau group. Wetter than usual conditions were mainly experienced in Ono-i-Lau, Matuku, Yasawa-i-Rara, Labasa Airport and Savusavu Airfield. Despite Fiji currently in a wet season, dryer than usual conditions were observed in some parts of the Western Division, Laucala Bay, Udu Point and Vanuabalavu.

Overall, out of the 24 rainfall monitoring stations that reported in during the compilation of this bulletin, 5 station reported above average, 12 average and 7 below average (Table 2, Figures 1-5).

The highest rainfall for the month was recorded at Nadarivatu with 949.0mm, followed by Monasavu with 636.1mm at Monasavu, 564.4mm at Labasa Airfield, 523.3mm at Savusavu Airfield, 505.6mm at Rarawai Mill, 480.3mm at Penang Mill, 429.5mm at Korolevu and Rotuma with 410.4mm. In contrast, the lowest rainfall totals for the month were recorded at Viwa with 148.0mm, 169.6mm at Vanuabalavu, 220.4mm at Lakeba, 225.0mm at Tavua, 225.3mm at Nadi Airport, 228.0mm at Lautoka Mill, 234.5mm at Vunisea and 252.4mm at Nacocolevu (Table 2).

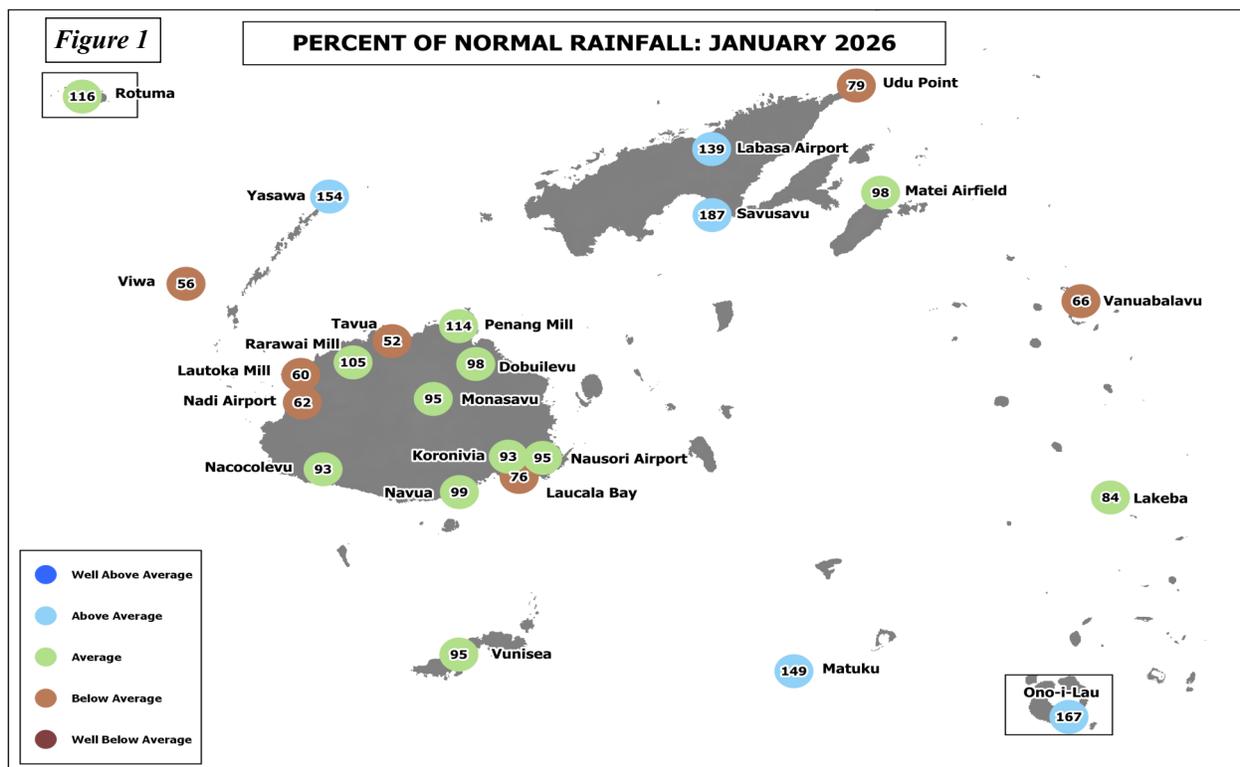
Matuku recorded the highest 24-hour rainfall of 184.0mm on the 13<sup>th</sup>, followed by Matei Airfield with 160.0mm on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 156.0mm at Nadarivatu on the

17<sup>th</sup>, 120.0mm at Labasa Airfield on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 104.0mm on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Navua, 98.0mm at Lakeba on 14<sup>th</sup> and Ono-i-Lau and Yasawa-i-Rara both with 97.0mm on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

A series of low pressure troughs and moist east to southeast winds resulted in flash flooding of several low-level crossings and roads in the Western, Northern and Central Divisions, these events occurred on several occasions during the month but especially between the 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, including Tavua Town on the 17<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the month, surface flooding in parts of the Queens Road, caused hazardous conditions for motorists and pedestrians (Figures 12a - 12i).

The highest number of rain days (rainfall ≥ 0.1mm) was recorded at Monasavu and Nadarivatu both with 28 days, Savusavu Airfield and Doboilevu both with 26 days, Labasa Airport, Matei Airfield and Vunisea all with 25 days, Rotuma and Penang mill both with 24 days and Navua with 23 days. Inversely, Lakeba recorded the least number of rainfall days with 13 days, followed by Vanuabalavu with 15 days, Ono-i-Lau and Nacocolevu both with 17 days and Matuku, Laucala Bay (Suva), Lautoka Mill, Tavua and Levuka all with 18 days.

There were no new rainfall records observed during the month.



Normal: Long term average from 1991 to 2020  
 Well Below Average: Rainfall less than 40% of normal  
 Below Average: Rainfall between 40 to 79%  
 Rain Day: Rainfall ≥ 0.1mm

Average: Rainfall between 80 to 119%  
 Above Average: Rainfall between 120 to 199%  
 Well Above Average: Rainfall greater than or equal to 200% of normal

## 4. AIR TEMPERATURES

### A. Maximum Day-time Air Temperatures

Day-time temperature observations across the country ranged from *below* to *above normal* during the month. From the 22 climate stations that reported in time for the analysis of data, 14 recorded anomalies  $\geq +0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 7 within  $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 1 recorded an anomaly  $\leq -0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The warmest days on average were recorded at Sigatoka with  $34.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , followed by Momi with  $33.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Rarawai Mill (Ba) with  $32.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Levuka with  $32.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Vanuabalavu with  $32.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Viwa with  $32.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  and Labasa Airfield, Lautoka Mill, Laucala Bay (Suva) and Yaqara all with  $32.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Consequently, Nadarivatu recorded the coolest days on average with  $25.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ , followed by Monasavu with  $26.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Matuku with  $30.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Nococolevu, Udu Point and Matei Airfield, all with  $30.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and Ono-i-Lau with  $31.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

January was generally warm, with generally *above normal* day time recorded almost throughout the whole period. The warmest day-time temperature of  $36.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  was observed at Nacocolevu on the 13<sup>th</sup>, followed by Levuka with  $35.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Koronivia with  $35.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Savusavu with  $35.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Momi with  $34.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and Rarawai Mill and Navua both with  $34.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

The coolest day-time temperature was observed at Nadarivatu with  $21.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 14<sup>th</sup>, followed by Monasavu with  $24.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Lakeba with  $25.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Nacocolevu with  $26.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Rotuma with  $26.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 13<sup>th</sup> and Navua with  $26.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There were no new day-time temperature records established during the month.

### B. Minimum Night-time Air Temperatures

During the month, *below normal* to *above normal* night-time temperatures, were recorded across climate stations in the country. Of the 22 stations that reported in, 8 recorded anomalies  $\geq +0.5^{\circ}$ , 9 recorded anomalies within  $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 5 recorded anomalies  $\leq -0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The coolest nights on average were at Nadarivatu with  $18.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ , followed by Monasavu with  $19.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Matei Airfield with  $21.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Lakeba with  $22.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Vanuabalavu with  $22.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  and Udu Point and Navua both with  $23.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ . On the other hand, the warmest nights on average, were observed at Momi with  $26.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Ono-i-Lau with  $25.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Viwa with  $25.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Rotuma and Levuka both with  $25.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Laucala Bay (Suva) with  $25.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Matuku with  $24.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and Vunisea with  $24.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The coolest monthly night time temperature was observed at Nadarivatu on the 26<sup>th</sup>, with a temperature of  $14.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ , followed by Monasavu with  $16.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 27<sup>th</sup>, Udu Point with  $19.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Lakeba with  $20.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Matei Airfield with  $20.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 26<sup>th</sup>, Vanuabalavu with  $20.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 16<sup>th</sup> and Penang Mill with  $20.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Momi recorded the warmest night-time temperature on the 16<sup>th</sup> with  $28.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , followed by  $27.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  at both Matuku and Ono-i-Lau on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, respectively, Levuka and Laucala Bay (Suva) both with  $26.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, respectively, Nacocolevu with  $26.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and Vunisea with  $26.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

There were no new night-time temperature records established during the month.

## TABLE 1. CLIMATE RECORDS ESTABLISHED IN JANUARY 2026

There were no new climate records established during the previous month.

*Note: All comparisons in this summary are with respect to "Climatic Normals". This is defined to be the average climate condition over a 30-year period. Fiji uses 1991-2020 period as its "climatic normal" period.*

**TABLE 2. DAILY CLIMATE REPORTING SITES: SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 2026**

	RAINFALL				AIR TEMPERATURES								SUNSHINE		
	TOTAL	RAIN		MAX.	AVERAGE DAILY				EXTREME		TOTAL				
	MM	* DAYS	% +	FALL	MAX.	#	MIN.	#	MAX.	MIN.	HRS	*			
				MM ON	C	C	C	C	C	C ON	C ON		%		
NADI AIRPORT	225.3	62	19	52	12	31.6	0.2	24.0	0.7	34.7	6	21.7	25	162	78
LAUCALA BAY	262.5	76	18	49	1	32.0	0.8	25.1	0.5	34.5	29	23.5	14	179	96
NACOCOLEVU RESEARC	252.4	93	17	78	4	30.9	-0.6	23.7	1.1	36.1	13	21.3	26	153	134
ROTUMA ISLAND	410.4	116	24	71	14	31.3	0.1	25.3	0.3	33.5	23	23.5	5	206	133
VIWA ISLAND	148.0	56	19	34	28	32.1	0.1	25.5	0.4	33.8	21	23.2	13		
YASAWA-I-RARA	366.0	154	20	97	13	31.9	0.4	23.6	-0.9	34.4	6	21.6	13		
UDU POINT WEATHER	315.5	79	19	66	14	30.9	0.1	23.3	-1.4	33.0	31	19.4	9		
NABOUWALU						OBSERVER ON LEAVE									
LABASA AIRFIELD	564.4	139	25	120	13	32.0	0.1	23.4	1.0	34.4	23	22.4	16		
SAVUSAVU AIRFIELD	523.3	187	26	95	13	31.5	0.9	24.3	0.5	35.0	24	23.0	13		
KORONIVIA RESEARCH	335.0	93	22	50	2	31.9	1.2	24.1	1.0	35.2	16	22.7	14		
NAUSORI AIRPORT	334.9	95	22	67	8	31.6	0.9	24.0	0.6	33.6	23	22.3	14		
NAVUA AWS	368.5	99	23	104	19	31.9	1.7	23.3	0.4	34.8	29	21.7	14		
MONASAVU HYDRO DAM	636.1	95	28	73	11	26.8	1.0	19.6	0.4	30.2	23	16.8	27		
FSC LAUTOKA MILL	228.0	60	18	42	11	32.0	0.6	23.7	-0.1	33.7	13	21.3	2		
FSC RARAWAI MILL	505.6	105	20	71	16	32.7	0.6	23.9	1.3	34.8	22	20.9	27		
FSC PENANG MILL	480.3	114	24	84	31	31.4	0.3	23.8	-0.0	33.0	22	20.7	25		
MATEI AIRFIELD	333.8	98	25	160	14	30.9	0.6	21.9	-2.3	33.3	24	20.1	26		
VANUABALAVU	169.6	66	15	84	24	32.2	2.0	22.8	-1.6	33.9	31	20.5	16		
LAKEBA	220.4	84	13	98	14	31.5	1.1	22.5	-1.6	33.0	8	20.0	15		
VUNISEA AWS	234.5	95	25	30	11	31.9	1.7	24.5	0.5	34.2	8	21.6	25		
MATUKU	346.5	149	18	184	13	30.7	0.7	24.8	0.6	32.5	21	22.4	27		
ONO-I-LAU	291.6	167	17	97	10	31.0	1.0	25.8	1.7	33.3	23	23.8	27		
WAINIKORO AWS	U/S					U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
SAQANI AWS	U/S					U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
SEAQAQA AWS	U/S					U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
KUBULAU AWS	U/S					U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
RKS LODONI AWS	394.5		20	88	14	U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
LOMAIVUNA AWS	U/S					U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
KOROLEVU AWS	429.5		22	88	4	U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
NADARIVATU AWS	949.0		28	156	17	25.7		18.6		29.3	6	14.8	26		
SIGATOKA AWS	U/S					34.0		23.4		34.0	16	20.9	26		
KEYASI AWS	404.0		21	70	11	U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
MOMI AWS	U/S					33.3		26.6		34.9	11	24.6	26		
YAQARA AWS	U/S					32.0		23.9		34.0	6	21.1	25		
LEVUKA AWS	264.0		18	78	14	32.6		25.3		35.3	8	23.2	13		
DOBUILEVU TB3	405.0	98	26	52	11										
NASINU TB3	301.0		22	53	13										
TAVUA TB3	225.0	52	18	57	16										

	TEMPERATURE( C)				HUMIDITY	WIND									
	DRY		WET												
	MEAN	(AVERAGE AT 9AM)	RH%	VP											
					KT										
NADI AIRPORT	27.8	28.7	25.3	75	29.4	7.3									
LAUCALA BAY	28.5	28.8	26.1	80	29.6										
NACOCOLEVU RESEARC	27.3	27.8	26.2	88	27.9										
ROTUMA ISLAND	28.3	28.8	27.4	89	29.6	8.0									
VIWA ISLAND	28.8	29.6	27.1	83	31.0										
YASAWA-I-RARA	27.8	28.3	26.7	89	28.8										
UDU POINT WEATHER	27.1	28.4	26.2	84	28.9										
NABOUWALU						OBSERVER ON LEAVE									
LABASA AIRFIELD	27.7	29.3	26.0	77	30.5	6.8									
SAVUSAVU AIRFIELD	27.9	28.9	26.1	79	29.8	6.2									
KORONIVIA RESEARCH	28.0	28.9	26.5	83	29.8										
NAUSORI AIRPORT	27.8	28.6	26.1	82	29.3	4.8									
MONASAVU HYDRO DAM	23.2	23.8	23.2	96	22.0										
FSC LAUTOKA MILL	27.8	26.7	25.6	92	26.2										
FSC RARAWAI MILL	28.3	29.6	29.2	97	31.0										
FSC PENANG MILL	27.6	29.1	26.1	79	30.1										
MATEI AIRFIELD	26.4	29.0	26.2	79	30.0	6.4									
VANUABALAVU	27.5	29.6	26.4	79	31.0										
LAKEBA	27.0	29.3	26.2	78	30.5										
VUNISEA	U/S														
MATUKU	27.8	28.9	26.3	82	29.8										
ONO-I-LAU	28.4	29.1	26.5	82	30.1										

MEAN TEMPERATURE IS (MAX+MIN)/2; WIND IS MEAN SPEED AT 06,12,18,24 HOURS.  
 \$ :SOLAR RADIATION CALCULATED FROM SUNSHINE DURATION. # :DEPARTURE FROM LONG-TERM AVERAGES (1991-2020). + :NUMBER OF DAYS WITH 0.1 MM OR MORE RAIN. \* :PERCENT OF LONG-TERM AVERAGES.  
 BLUE FONT: MISSING RECORDS OF LESS THAN OR EQUAL(≤) TO 5 DAYS. U/S: UNSERVICEABLE

Figure 2

Nadi Airport (Western Division) - Temperature & Rainfall Records for the last 13 Months (January 2025 - January 2026)

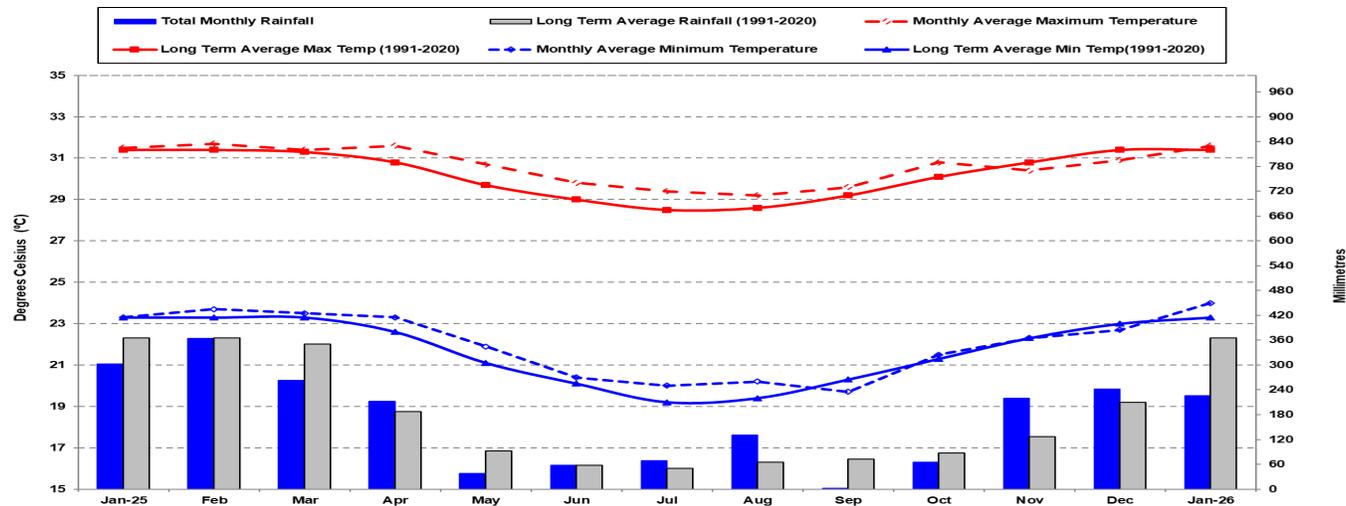


Figure 3

Laulaca Bay - (Suva) (Central Division) - Temperature & Rainfall Records for the last 13 Months (January 2025 - January 2026)

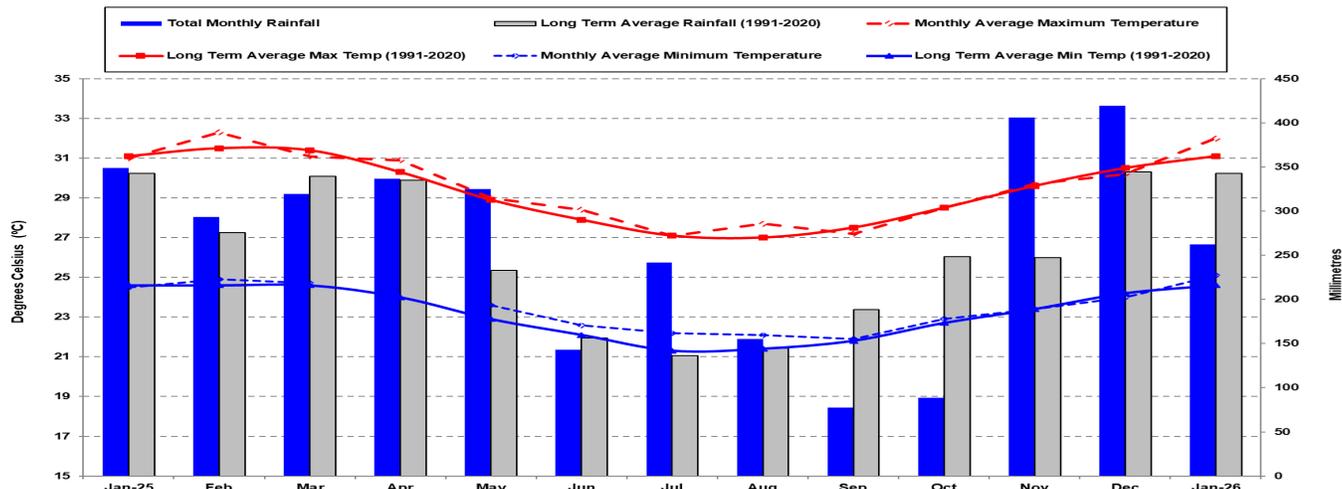
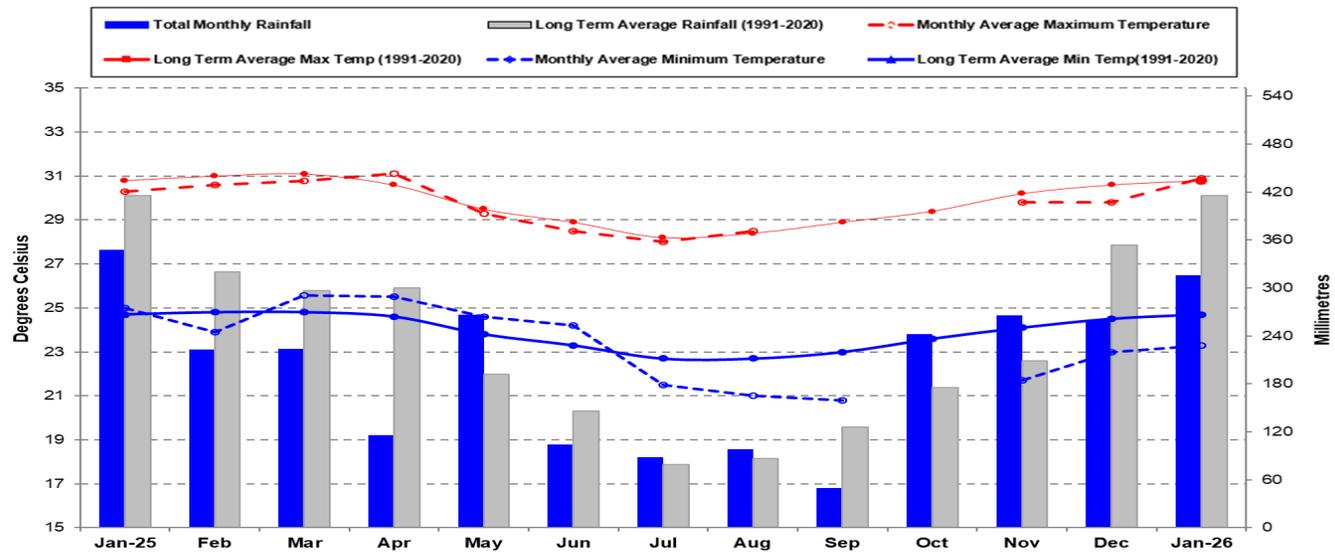
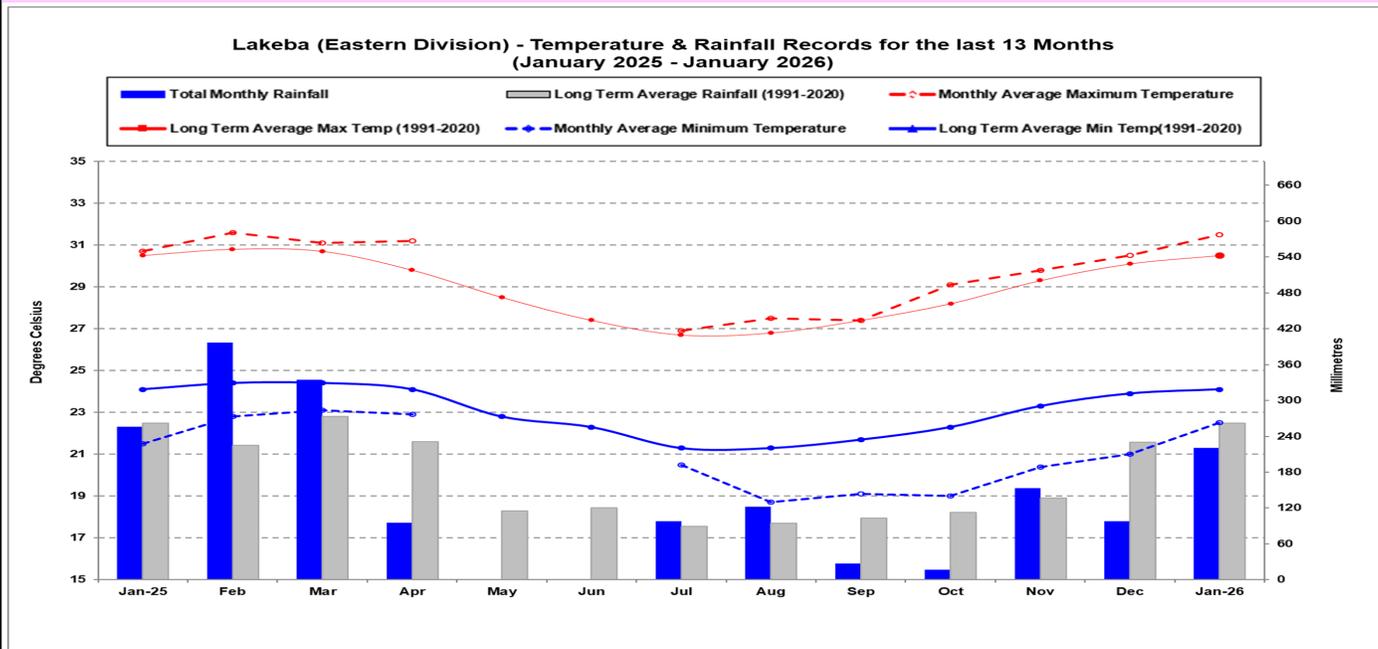


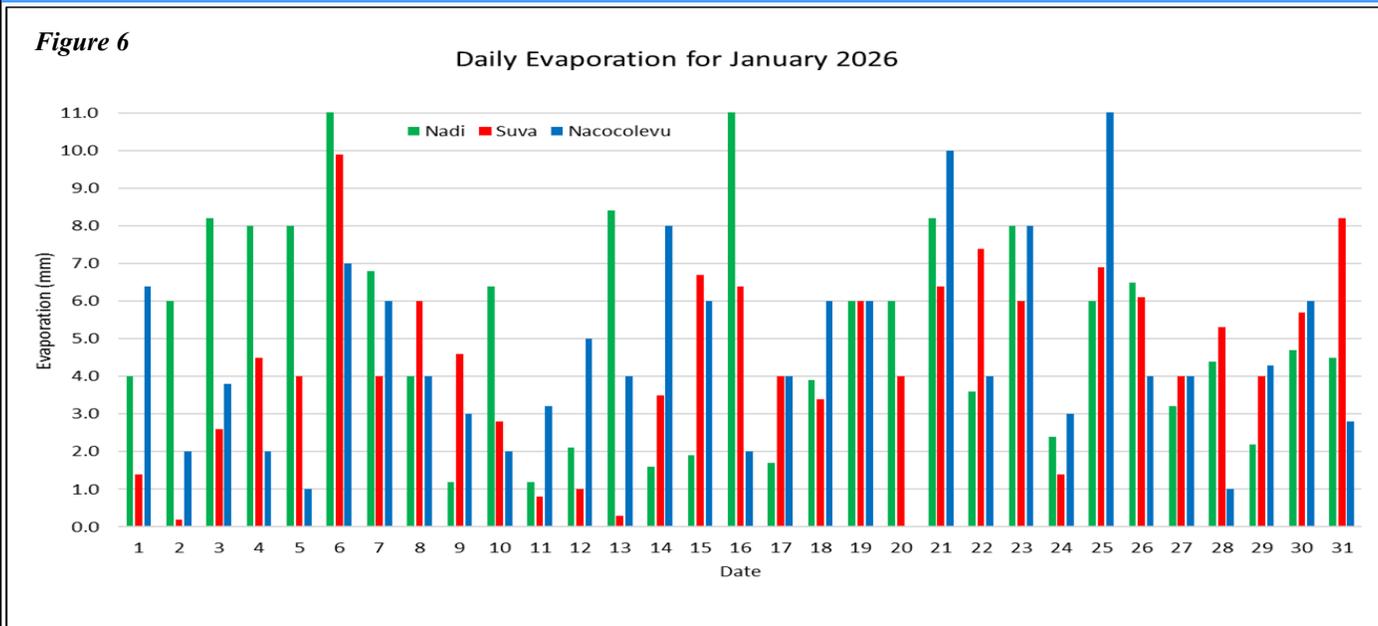
Figure 4

Udu Point (Eastern Division) - Temperature & Rainfall Records for the last 13 Months (January 2025 - January 2026)





### 5. DAILY RAISED PAN EVAPORATION



**Figure 6:** The total monthly raised pan evaporation at Nadi Airport, Laucala Bay (Suva) and Nacocolevu (Sigatoka) were 164.1mm, 137.5mm and 140.5mm, respectively. Nadi’s highest daily evaporation was 13.5mm on the 6<sup>th</sup> with Suva’s highest daily evaporation of 9.9mm on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Nacocolevu (Sigatoka) recorded its highest of 12.0mm on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### 6. SOLAR RADIATION

The Nadi solar radiation instrument was unserviceable during the month of January 2026.

7. WIND SUMMARY

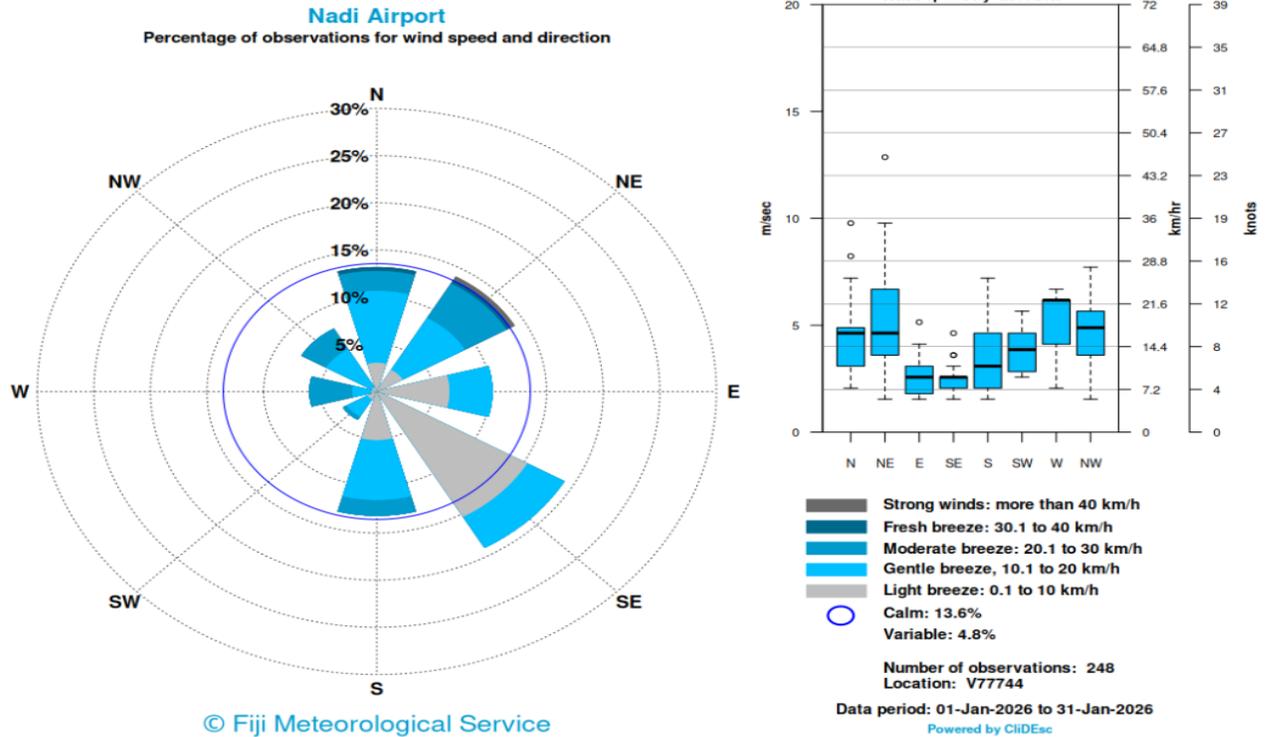


Figure 8a: Southeasterly winds were dominant in Nadi’s 3 hourly observations during the month, followed by northeasterly and then northerly winds. Wind strength ranged from light breeze to strong winds, while 13.6% of observations accounted for calm winds.

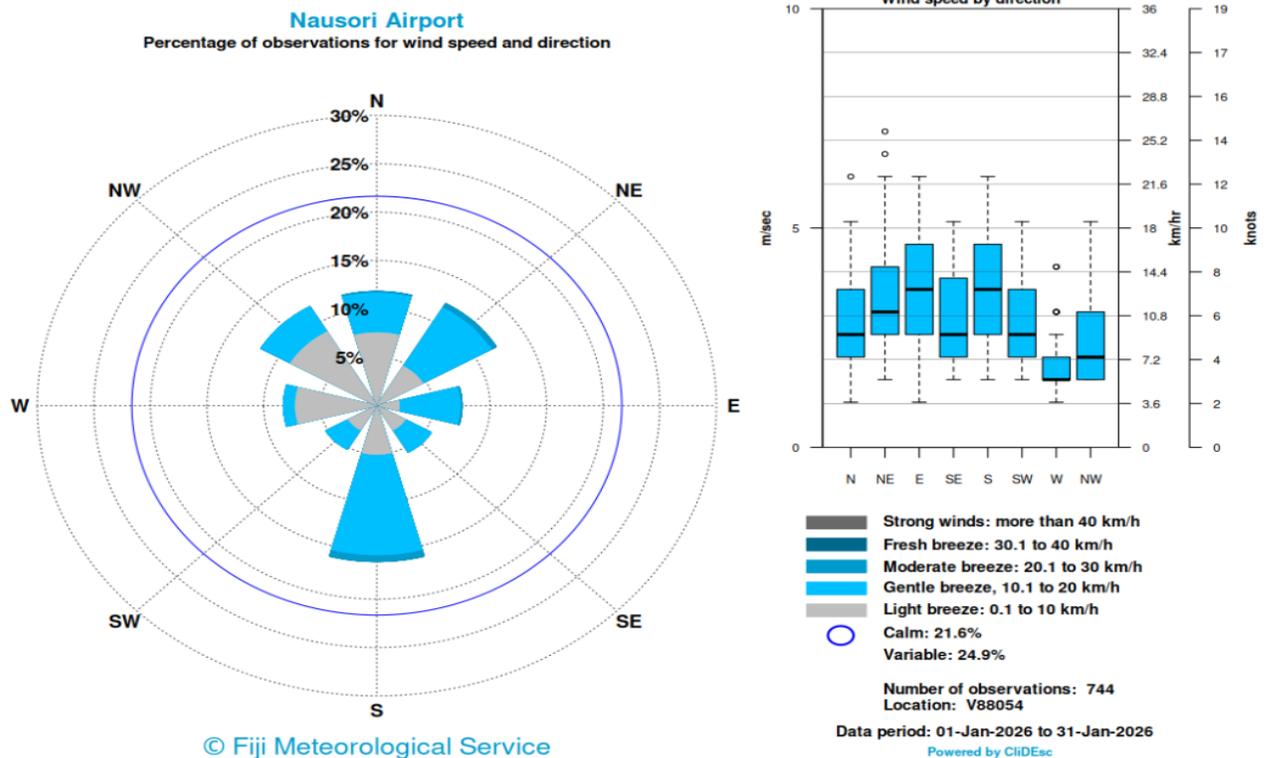


Figure 8b: Nausori Airport’s hourly wind observations for the month were dominated by southerly winds, followed by northeasterly and then northerly winds. Wind strength ranged from light to moderate breeze, while 21.6% of observations accounted for calm winds.

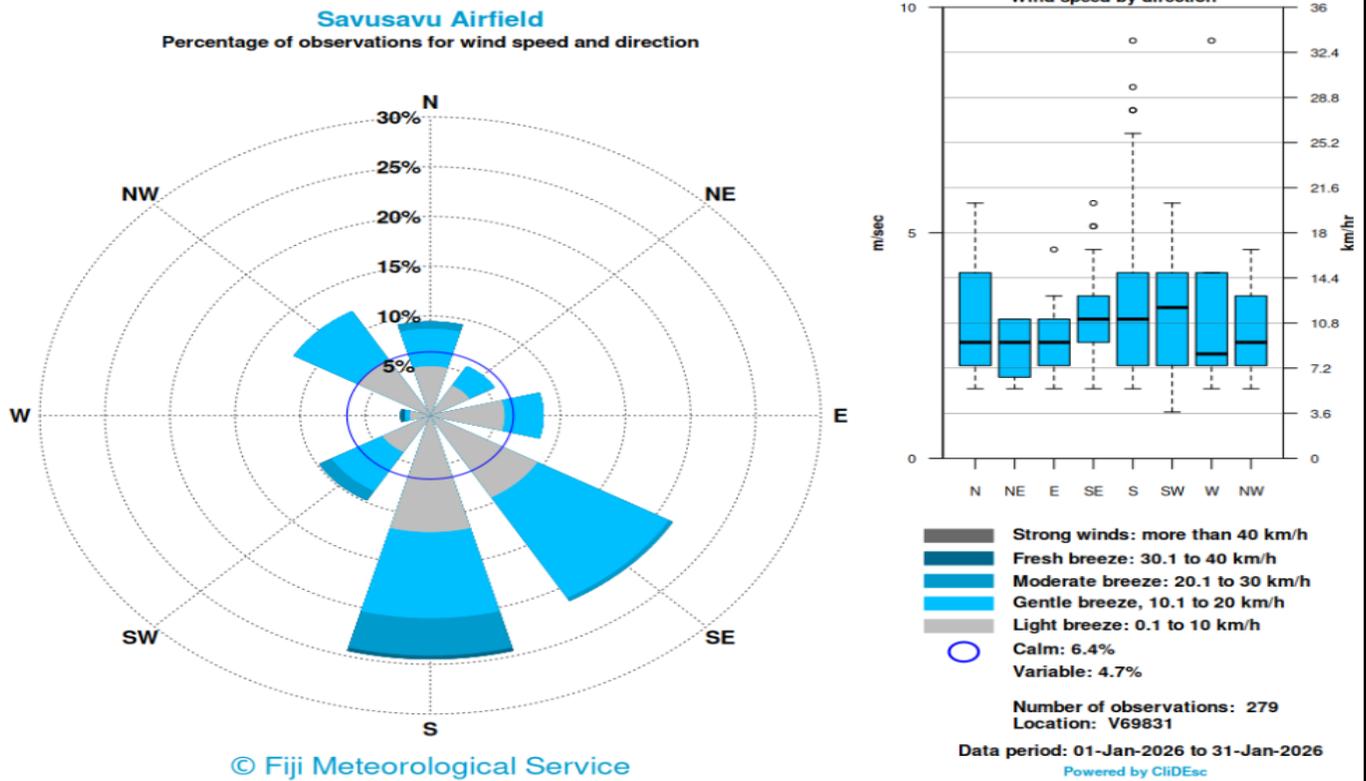


Figure 8c: Savusavu Airfields hourly wind observations (0800hrs to 1600hrs) were dominated by southerly winds during the month, followed by southeasterly and then northwesterly winds. Wind strength ranged from light to fresh breeze, with calm winds observed 6.4% of the time.

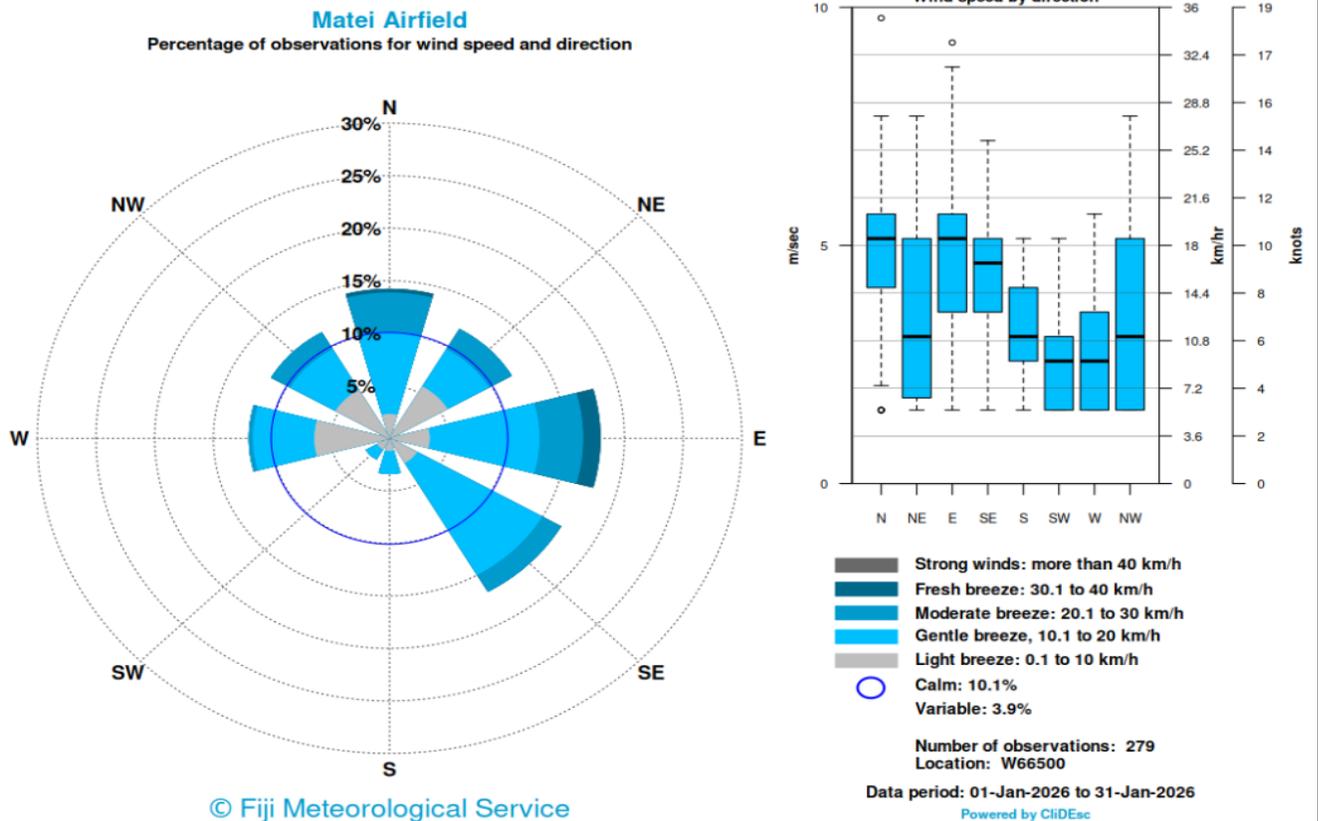
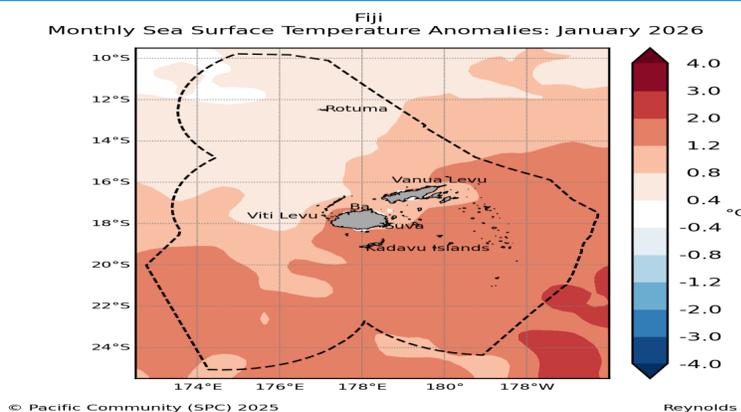


Figure 8d: Easterly winds were dominant in Matei Airfield’s hourly wind observations (0800hrs to 1600hrs) for the month, followed by southeasterly and then northerly winds. Wind strength ranged from light to fresh breeze, with calm winds recorded 10.1% of the time.

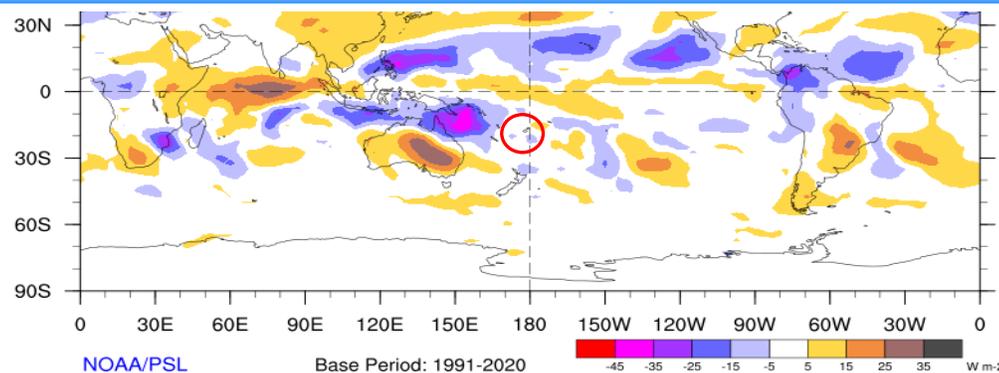
### 8. SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (SST)



**Figure 9:** Sea surface temperature observations across Fiji waters ranged from near normal to above normal, with warm anomalies generally ranging from 0.4 to 2.0°C, and up to 2.0 to 3.0°C in a small region east of Ono-i-Lau.

Source: <https://oceanportal.spc.int/explorer>

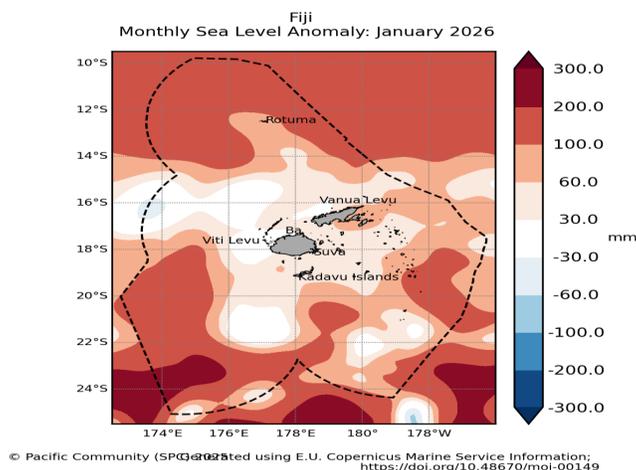
### 9. CLOUD COVER



**Figure 10:** 30-Day Average OLR Anomaly: Near normal cloud cover were pre-sent over the Fiji Group during January (2026/01/02 - 2026/001/31) (Fiji in red circle).

Source: <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/map/clim/olr.shtml>

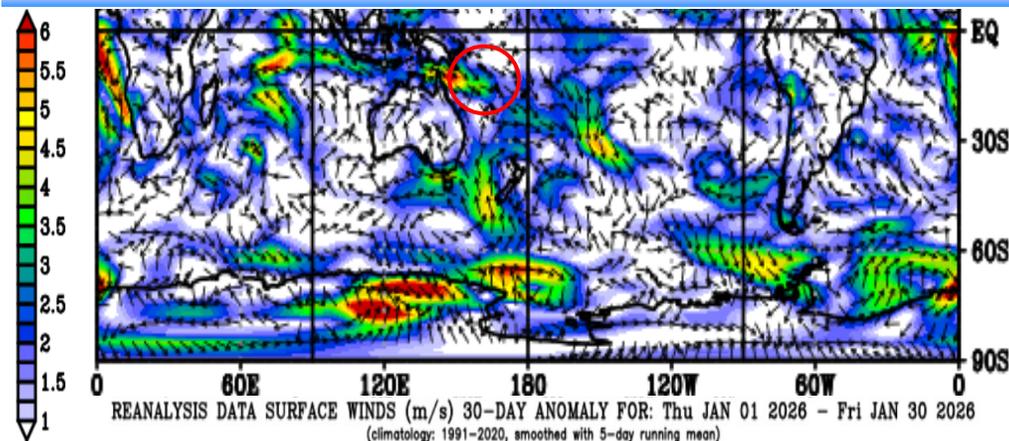
### 10. SEA LEVEL



**Figure 11:** Generally above normal sea level anomalies were present across most of the Fiji Group during January.

Source: <https://oceanportal.spc.int/explorer>

### 11. WIND ANOMALIES



**Figure 12:** During the month north westerly winds were observed over the Fiji Group (base period: 1991-2020) (Fiji in red circle).

Source: [https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/map/images/rnl/sfcwnd\\_30b.rnl.html](https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/map/images/rnl/sfcwnd_30b.rnl.html)

**12. FLASH FLOODING: 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>**

A southeast wind flow from the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> brought some showers over the interior and eastern parts of the larger islands. Following this, an active trough of low pressure with associated cloud and rain affected most parts of the Fiji group from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. These systems resulted in temporary road closures and urban flooding in parts of the Western, Central and Northern Divisions (Figures 12a-g). At the end of the month south-westerly winds prevailed from the 30<sup>th</sup> becoming more southerly from the 31<sup>st</sup> bringing some showers over the western and southern parts of the larger islands, which caused some road closures and surface flooding in the Western and Northern Divisions (figures 12h-i)



Figure 12a: Washed-up log blocks access road into Qauia Village, Central Division on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Source: Fiji Sun.



Figure 12b: Flooded Vunisamaloa road in Western Division, Ba on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Source: Fiji Roads Authority.



Figure 12c: Navidamu road in Macuatu, Northern Division, flooded over on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Source: Fiji Roads Authority.



Figure 12d: Nakama crossing fully submerged on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Northern Division. Source: Fiji Roads Authority.



Figure 12e: Inundation of Kings Road in Ra, Western Division, on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Source: Fiji Roads Authority.



Figure 12f: Urban flooding of parts of Tavua town, Western Division, on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Source: Fiji One News



Figure 12g: Bridge flooding cuts off Buavou Village, Northern Division, on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Source: The Fiji Times.



Figure 12h: Inundation of Taganikula Walana road, Northern division on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Source: Mirchi FM



Figure 12i: Surface flooding in parts of Queens rd., in Saweni, Western Division, on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Source: Fiji One News

### 13. WATERSPOUT EVENT

A waterspout is a rotating column of air that occurs over a body of water, typically visible as a funnel or spray ring extending upward from the sea surface toward the base of a cloud. While similar in appearance to a tornado, waterspouts generally form over water and are often short-lived in nature. Waterspouts are most likely to occur under unstable atmospheric conditions, particularly in association with thunderstorm activity over warm coastal waters. Such conditions were present along the Coral Coast at the time of the event, where active thunderstorms were being experienced in the area.

As warm, moist air rises from the sea surface, it cools and condenses, leading to the development of towering convective cloud. This sustained upward motion supports the development of rotating features within thunderstorms or convective cloud systems. Under suitable conditions, changes in wind speed or direction with height can introduce rotation in the lower atmosphere. As rising air stretches this rotating column vertically, the rotation intensifies and may organize into a visible funnel, made apparent by condensation and sea spray near the surface.

A trough of low pressure moved in to the west on the 8<sup>th</sup>, spreading across the country on the 9<sup>th</sup> and departing east on the 10<sup>th</sup>, bringing cloudy periods with showers, thunderstorms (especially over the west), and isolated heavy falls. On 9<sup>th</sup> January, a waterspout was reported along Fiji's Coral Coast near Sigatoka/Korolevu around midday (figure 13a). Eyewitnesses in nearby coastal communities reported observing a rotating funnel extending from the cloud base to the sea surface, which moved close to shore before dissipating. The event was described as sudden and short-lived, occurring alongside heavy rain and gusty winds. At least one coastal home sustained damage, with reports of roofing materials being torn off (figure 13b). Reports indicated that the waterspout was a localized event associated with thunderstorm activity, noting that such phenomena may pose risks to coastal areas and marine activities even when brief.

A waterspout persists while the supporting updraft remains strong. Once the thunderstorm weakens or environmental conditions become less favorable, the rotating column rapidly loses strength and dissipates, making waterspouts generally brief and localized events.



Figure 13a: Villagers in Korolevu watch as the waterspout moved towards land. Sigatoka on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Source: Fiji One



Figure 13b: The roof of a home destroyed by strong winds in Korolevu, Sigatoka on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Source: FijiVillage

### 14. LIGHTNING STRIKE INCIDENT

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month, in the afternoon, a 29-year-old woman was fatally struck by lightning at the Saint Vincent school grounds, near Natovi Jetty in Tailevu; reports indicate heavy rain set in around midday before a thunderstorm developed, with the strike occurring while the woman was walking towards the jetty. Her passing was later confirmed at the Korovou Hospital.

**15. WIND GUST EVENT 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>**

While TDO7F tracked southward away from the Fiji group, its associated convergence zone brought strong northwest winds up to 55 km/h with gusts up to 83 km/h and squally heavy rain, prompting a strong wind warning for parts of the Western and Northern Divisions. . In the early morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>, a peak wind gust of 70 km/h (37 knots) was recorded in Nadi, along with infrastructure damage, including multiple downed electricity poles in Sabeto.



*Figure 15a: Multiple fallen power lines near Sabeto Mosque, Nadi, from strong wind gusts associated with TDO7F on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Source: Samuela Namasia*

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

**Anomalies** - denote the departure of an element (rainfall, temperature, sea surface temperature, cloud cover, sea level and wind) from its long-period average value for a particular location.

**Trough** - an elongated area of low atmospheric pressure that is associated with a cyclone, or low. Sometimes referred to as a 'trough of low pressure'.

**Rain** - Liquid precipitation in the form of water droplets. Rain falls from dense, continuous clouds, called 'stratiform' clouds.

**Shower** - precipitation from individual clouds, often characterised by the sudden beginning or ending. Showers fall from 'lumpy looking', 'cauliflower' clouds, called 'cumuloform' clouds.

**Trade Winds** - the trade winds are the east to southeasterly winds (in the Southern Hemisphere) which affect tropical and subtropical regions.

**High pressure systems** or anticyclones are atmospheric circulations that rotate anti-clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere. Anticyclones are areas of higher pressure and are generally associated with lighter winds and fine and settled conditions.

**Low pressure systems** or mid-latitude cyclones are atmospheric circulations that rotate clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere (anti-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere). Cyclones are areas of lower pressure and generally associated with stronger winds, unsettled conditions, cloudiness and rainfall.

**Sea Surface Temperature (SST)** - the temperature of the water's surface. It is usually measured using buoys, ship data, and satellites.