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Fiji Climate Summary March 2026

ISO 9001:2015 certified Climate Services

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1. IN BRIEF

Variable rainfall was recorded during March, with rainfall ranging from *well below average* to *above average.* Although it was the Wet Season, majority of the stations received suppressed rainfall, particularly in the Central and Eastern Divisions.

Overall, out of the 26 rainfall monitoring stations that reported in during the compilation of this bulletin, 5 stations reported *above average*, 6 *average*, 13 *below average,* and 2 *well below average* rainfall (Table 2, Figures 1-5).

The month's highest rainfall of 640.3mm was recorded at Rarawai Mill (Ba), followed by 568.5mm at Nadarivatu, 514.6mm at Monasavu, 440.3mm at Nadi Airport, 401.7mm at Nacocolevu, and 365.0mm at Tavua.

On temperatures, the month's warmest day-time temperature of of 35.5°C was observed in Momi on the 7th, followed by both Rarawai Mill (Ba) and Nacocolevu with 34.8°C on the 21st and 22nd, respectively, Labasa Airfield with 34.5°C on the 26th. The month's lowest night-time temperature of 16.9°C was recorded at Nadarivatu on the 24th, followed by Monasavu with 18.8°C on the 25th, Seaqaqa with 20.3°C on the 14th, and Vunisea, Matei Airfield, Vanuabalavu and Lakeba, all with 21.0°C on the 1st, 2nd, and 7th, respectively.

Winds were predominantly southeasterly at Nadi Airport, Savusavu Airfield and Matei Airfield, and easterly at Nausori Airport (Figure 8).

A*bove normal* sea surface temperature anomalies were observed across the Fiji Waters, during the month (Figure 9). Generally, *above normal* sea level anomalies persisted across the Fiji Group during March (Figure 11).

TC Urmil caused flash flooding across the Fiji Group (Figures 12a –12g). Unfortunately, a causality was reported when a child drowned after being swept into a creek in Namoli at Kaleli Settlement, outside Lautoka City. A trough of low-pressure caused flash flooding across the Western Division on the 18th (Figures 12h-i).

2. WEATHER PATTERNS

March, was characterized by generally wet and unsettled weather conditions driven by active troughs of low pressure and a moist, unstable wind flow ranging from northerly to southeasterly.

The month began with an active convergence zone linked to Tropical Cyclone Urmil, which moved to the far south of Fiji. This system directed a northerly wind flow over the country, bringing periods of rain, heavy at times, until around the 3rd. As the trough shifted west of the group by the 4th, winds turned northeasterly, producing showers over the Western Division, Kadavu, nearby smaller islands, and southern Lau. The moist conditions also triggered severe afternoon thunderstorms with heavy rainfall and intense lightning, mainly over southern Viti Levu and southwestern Vanua Levu. By the 5th, winds became easterly, bringing more settled conditions. From the 7th to the 12th, a weak trough to the east affected eastern areas, resulting in showers. Northeasterly winds from the 8th created favorable conditions for severe thunderstorms, which brought heavy rain and lightning across parts of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Another trough approached from the west on the 13th, bringing showers across most areas before moving away by the 14th. Winds shifted between easterly and northeasterly through mid-month. A slow-moving trough over the eastern group from the 19th to the 24th brought showers mainly to eastern areas, while fine weather prevailed elsewhere. Severe afternoon thunderstorms occurred on several days within this period. From the 25th onward, easterly to southeasterly winds dominated, bringing showers to eastern regions. By the 27th, conditions improved with isolated showers in the east and afternoon thunderstorms inland. Strong southeasterly winds developed from the 28th, leading to more stable conditions, especially in western areas, before easing at month's end.

Rotuma experienced mixed weather, with east–southeast winds and passing low-pressure systems bringing both rainy and settled conditions.

*Previously known as the Fiji Islands Weather Summary and Monthly Weather Summary

3. RAINFALL

Rainfall was quite variable during the month, with rainfall ranging from *well below average* to *above average.* Although we are still in the Wet Season, majority of the stations received suppressed rainfall. Penang Mill, Dobuilevu, Navua, Koronivia, Laucala Bay (Suva), Yasawa-i-Rara, Rotuma, Seaqaqa, Labasa Airport, Udu Point, Vanuabalavu, Lakeba and Matuku recorded *below average* rainfall, while Nausori Airport and Vunisea received *well below average* rainfall.

Overall, out of the 26 rainfall monitoring stations that reported in during the compilation of this bulletin, 5 stations reported *above average*, 6 *average*, 13 *below average,* and 2 *well below average* rainfall (Table 2, Figures 1-5).

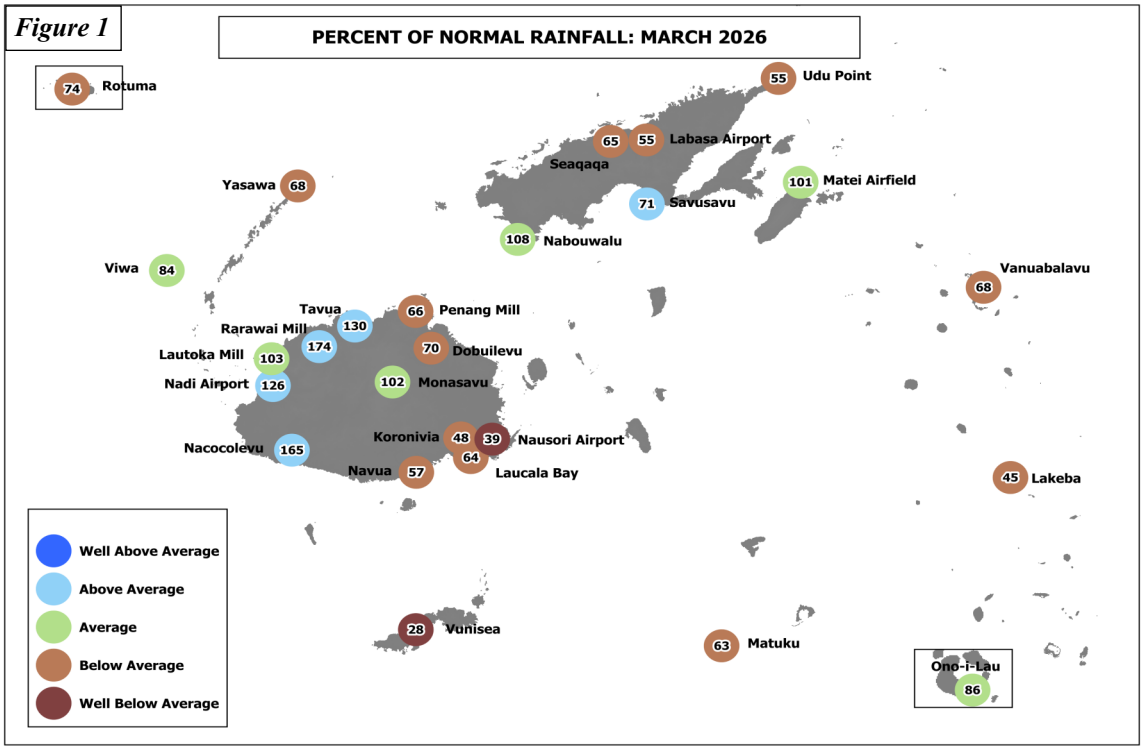
The month's highest rainfall of 640.3mm was recorded at Rarawai Mill (Ba), followed by 568.5mm at Nadarivatu, 514.6mm at Monasavu, 440.3mm at Nadi Airport, 401.7mm at Nacocolevu, 365.0mm at Tavua, 339.1mm at Lautoka, and 331.2mm at Nabouwalu. On the other hand, Vunisea recorded the month's lowest total monthly rainfall of 85.9mm, followed by Lakeba with 120.1mm, Nausori Airport with 135.5mm, Matuku with 148.2mm, Savusavu Airfield with 149.9mm, and Vanuabalavu with 151.6mm (Table 2).

During the passage of Tropical Cyclone Urmil, periods of localized heavy rainfall caused flash flooding across the Fiji Group, that is from the 1st to the 3rd of March. The highest 24-hour rainfall of 247.0mm was recorded at Rarawai Mill (Ba) on the 1st, followed by Nadi Airport with 189.0mm on the 2nd, Nadarivatu with 179.0mm on the 1st, Tavua with 119.0mm on the 2nd, Monasavu with 109.0mm on the 1st, and both Levuka and Lautoka Mill with 101.0mm on the 1st and 17th, respectively.

Monasavu and Koronivia recorded the highest number of rain days (rainfall≥0.1mm) with 27 days, followed by Rotuma with 25 days, Levuka and Nabouwalu both with 24 days, and Nadarivatu, Matei Airfield, Dobuilevu, RKS Lodoni and Savusavu Airfield all with 23 days. Consequently, both Labasa Airfield and Rarawai Mill (Ba) recorded the least number of rainfall days with 13 days, followed by Lakeba and Vunisea both with 14 days, Ono-i-Lau and Lautoka Mill both with 15 days, Tavua with 16 days, and Viwa, Seaqaqa and Saqani all with 17 days.

There were no new rainfall records observed during the month.

Figure 1



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

Generally, *above normal* day-time temperatures were observed across the country during the month. Out of the 24 climate stations that reported in time for the analysis of data, 19 recorded anomalies ≥+0.5°C, and 5 recorded anomalies within ± 0.5°C.

On average, the warmest days were recorded at Momi with 34.0°C, followed by Nacocolevu with 33.1°C, Rarawai Mill (Ba) with 32.9°C, Labasa Airfield with 32.8°C, Viwa with 32.4°C, Vanuabalavu with 32.3°C, and Penang Mill with 32.2°C. Consequently, Nadarivatu recorded the coolest days on average with 26.4°C, followed by Monasavu with 26.8°C, Matei Airfield with 31.1°C, Vunisea with 31.2°C, Udu Point with 31.3°C, Matuku with 31.3°C, and both Nabouwalu and Sigatoka with 31.4°C.

The highest day-time temperature of 35.5°C was observed in Momi on the 7th, followed by both Rarawai Mill (Ba) and Nacocolevu with 34.8°C on the 21st and 22nd, respectively, Labasa Airfield with 34.5°C on the 26th, and Vanuabalavu with 34.2°C on the 25th, Laucala Bay (Suva), Viwa, Yasawa-i-Rara and Koronivia, all with 34.0°C on the 5th, 6th and 9th, respectively.

The coolest day-time temperature was observed at Nadarivatu with 21.8°C on the 2nd, followed by Monasavu with 22.3°C on the 2nd, Lautoka Mill with 25.9°C on the 3rd, Rarawai Mill (Ba) with 26.1°C on the 3rd, Sigatoka with 26.3°C on the 1st and Koronivia with 26.4°C on the 1st.

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

B. Minimum Night-time Air Temperatures

Above to *below normal* night-time temperatures were recorded at majority of the climate stations during March. For the 22 stations that reported in, 11 recorded anomalies ≥+0.5°C, 5 recorded anomalies within ± 0.5°C and 6 recorded anomalies ≤ -0.5°C.

The coolest nights on average were at Nadarivatu with 19.2°C, followed by Monasavu with 20.3°C, Seaqaqa with 21.7°C, both Vunisea and Matei Airfield with 22.4°C, Vanuabalavu with 23.1°C, Labasa Airfield, Navua and Sigatoka, all with 23.2°C, and Rarawai Mill (Ba) with 23.3°C. Consequently, on average, the warmest nights were observed at Yaqara with 26.4°C, followed by Momi with 26.3°C, Rotuma with 26.0°C, Viwa with 25.8°C, Ono-i-Lau with 25.3°C, and both Matuku and Laucala Bay (Suva) with 25.2°C.

The month's coolest night time temperature was observed at Nadarivatu on the 24th, with a temperature of 16.9°C, followed by Monasavu with 18.8°C on the 25th, Seaqaqa with 20.3°C on the 14th, Vunisea, Matei Airfield, Vanuabalavu and Lakeba, all with 21.0°C on the 1st, 2nd, and 7th, respectively, and Rarawai Mill (Ba) with 21.3°C on the 16th.

The warmest night-time temperature was recorded at Yaqara with 28.4°C on the 28th, followed by 27.5°C at Rotuma on the 1st, Momi, Viwa and Levuka, all with 27.4°C on the 14th, 16th and 23rd, respectively, Matuku with 27.0°C on the 6th, Ono-i-Lau with 26.9°C on the 13th, and Laucala Bay (Suva) with 26.5°C on the 29th.

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

TABLE 1. CLIMATE RECORDS ESTABLISHED IN MARCH 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 MARCH 2026

	RAINFALL					AIR TEMPERATURES								SUNSHINE	
	TOTAL		RAIN DAYS		MAX. FALL	AVERAGE DAILY				EXTREME				TOTAL	
	MM	* %	+	MM	ON	MAX. C	# C	MIN. C	# C	MAX. C	ON	MIN. C	ON	HRS	* %
NADI AIRPORT	440.3	126	18	189	2	31.5	0.3	23.6	0.3	33.1	28	22.0	19	191	99
LAUCALA BAY	217.5	64	19	40	4	32.0	0.6	25.2	0.6	34.0	5	24.0	2	190	106
NACOCOLEVU RESEARC	401.7	165	18	88	1	33.1	1.2	23.5	0.8	34.8	22	21.7	19	175	120
ROTUMA ISLAND	255.5	74	25	62	1	31.9	0.8	26.0	1.0	32.8	26	24.0	2	254	153
VIWA ISLAND	214.5	84	17	59	1	32.4	0.5	25.8	0.9	34.0	6	24.6	1		
YASAWA-I-RARA	173.9	68	20	40	1	31.9	0.5	24.0	-0.6	34.0	9	22.1	13		
UDU POINT WEATHER	159.8	55	19	33	1	31.3	0.3	24.3	-0.5	32.8	29	23.0	2		
NABOUWALU	331.2	108	24	64	4	31.4	0.4	U/S		33.0	9	U/S			
LABASA AIRFIELD	186.4	55	13	89	1	32.8	0.8	23.2	0.7	34.5	26	21.7	14		
SAVUSAVU AIRFIELD	149.9	71	23	32	17	31.5	0.6	U/S		33.5	13	U/S			
KORONIVIA RESEARCH	178.4	48	27	40	1	31.6	0.6	24.3	0.8	34.0	9	23.4	30		
NAUSORI AIRPORT	135.5	39	19	43	1	31.7	0.8	24.0	0.4	33.9	10	22.6	30		
NAVUA AWS	212.5	57	22	42	21	31.8	1.3	23.2	0.3	33.7	9	21.4	19		
MONASAVU HYDRO DAM	514.6	102	27	109	1	26.8	0.8	20.3	0.7	28.8	11	18.8	25		
FSC LAUTOKA MILL	339.1	103	15	101	17	32.0	0.6	23.5	-0.4	33.9	25	22.0	29		
FSC RARAWAI MILL	640.3	174	13	247	1	32.9	0.7	23.3	0.5	34.8	21	21.3	16		
FSC PENANG MILL	231.7	66	18	61	26	32.2	0.9	24.4	0.7	33.4	11	22.9	17		
MATEI AIRFIELD	253.7	101	23	59	26	31.1	0.4	22.4	-2.1	31.9	6	21.0	2		
VANUABALAVU	151.6	68	19	29	3	32.3	1.7	23.1	-1.6	34.2	25	21.0	2		
LAKEBA	120.1	45	14	34	30	31.7	1.0	23.4	-0.9	33.0	12	21.0	7		
VUNISEA	85.9	28	14	37	1	31.2	0.6	22.4	-1.8	33.5	11	21.0	1		
MATUKU	148.2	63	22	46	18	31.3	0.8	25.2	0.6	32.6	17	23.6	19		
ONO-I-LAU	168.1	86	15	69	2	31.5	1.4	25.3	0.9	34.0	10	23.0	30		
WAINIKORO AWS	U/S					U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
SAQANI AWS	190.5		17	79	1	U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
SEAQAQA AWS	233.5	65	17	62	1	31.5	0.2	21.7	-0.3	33.7	14	20.3	14		
KUBULAU AWS	U/S					U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
RKS LODONI AWS	286.0		23	39	26	U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
LOMAIVUNA AWS	U/S					U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
KOROLEVU AWS	256.0		20	56	1	U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
NADARIVATU AWS	568.5		23	179	1	26.4		19.2		28.4	7	16.9	24		
SIGATOKA AWS	U/S					31.4		23.2		33.3	9	21.6	19		
KEYASI AWS	U/S					U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
MOMI AWS	U/S					34.0		26.3		35.5	7	24.6	18		
YAQARA AWS	U/S					U/S		26.4		U/S		23.2	4		
LEVUKA AWS	296.0		24	101	1	33.1		25.6		36.1	17	23.1	1		
DOBUILEVU TB3	245.5	70	23	54	2										
NASINU TB3	187.0		22	44	1										
TAVUA TB3	365.0	130	16	119	2										

	TEMPERATURE(C)		HUMIDITY	WIND
	MEAN	DRY (AVERAGE AT 9AM)	WET (AVERAGE AT 9AM)	RH% AT 9AM	VP AT 9AM	KT
NADI AIRPORT	27.6	28.2	25.0	77	28.6	5.7
LAUCALA BAY	28.6	29.0	26.2	80	30.0	
NACOCOLEVU RESEARC	28.3	28.0	25.6	83	28.3	
ROTUMA ISLAND	29.0	29.8	26.8	78	31.4	4.9
VIWA ISLAND	29.1	30.4	27.4	80	32.5	
YASAWA-I-RARA	28.0	28.8	26.9	86	29.6	
UDU POINT WEATHER	27.8	29.1	26.7	83	30.1	
NABOUWALU	U/S	29.3	26.2	78	30.5	5.1
LABASA AIRFIELD	28.0	29.2	26.1	78	30.3	7.7
SAVUSAVU AIRFIELD	U/S	28.9	26.1	79	29.8	6.5
KORONIVIA RESEARCH	28.0	28.7	26.4	84	29.4	
NAUSORI AIRPORT	27.8	28.5	26.2	83	29.1	4.2
MONASAVU HYDRO DAM	23.5	23.4	22.4	92	21.5	
FSC LAUTOKA MILL	27.8	26.0	24.7	90	25.1	
FSC RARAWAI MILL	28.1	28.8	28.3	96	29.6	
FSC PENANG MILL	28.3	29.2	26.4	80	30.3	
MATEI AIRFIELD	26.8	29.2	26.4	80	30.3	9.3
VANUABALAVU	27.7	30.2	26.7	77	32.1	
LAKEBA	27.5	29.7	26.5	78	31.2	
VUNISEA	26.8	27.2	24.3	79	27.0	
MATUKU	28.2	29.4	26.3	78	30.7	
ONO-I-LAU	28.4	29.9	26.5	77	31.6	

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 GREEN FONT: AWS READING

Figure 2

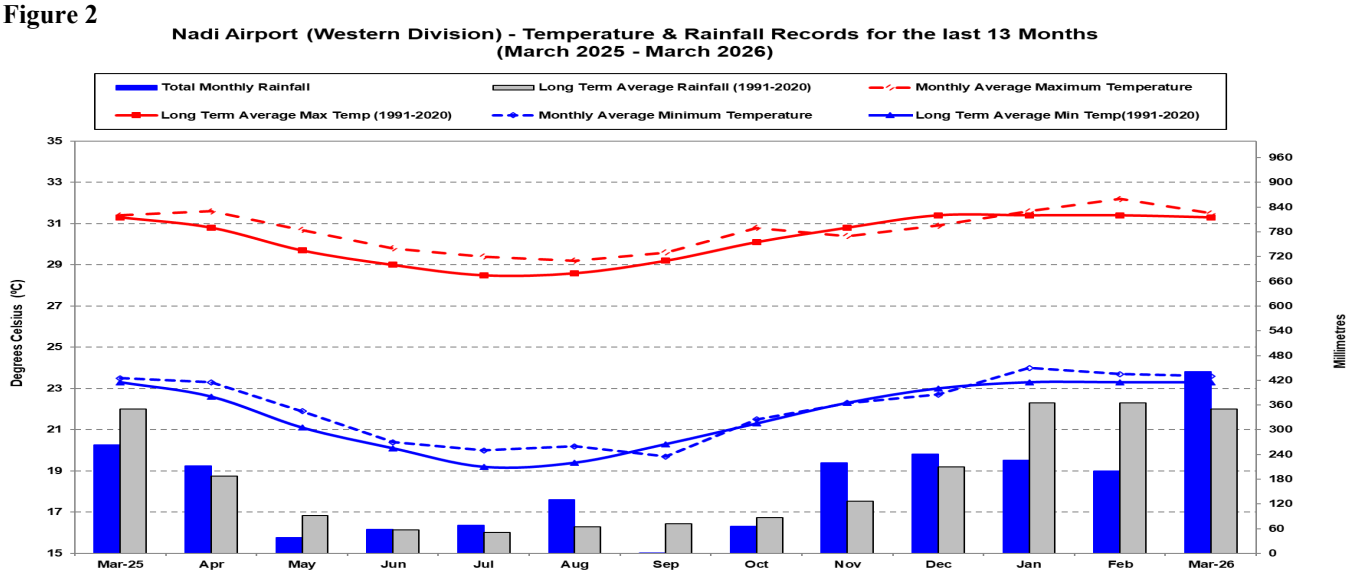


Figure 3

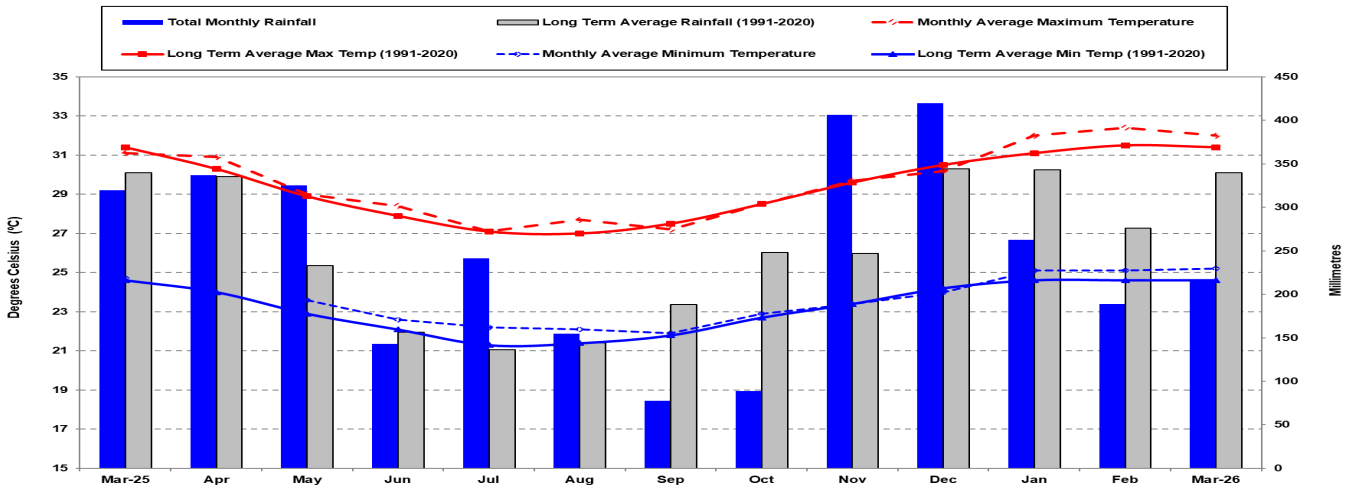


Figure 4

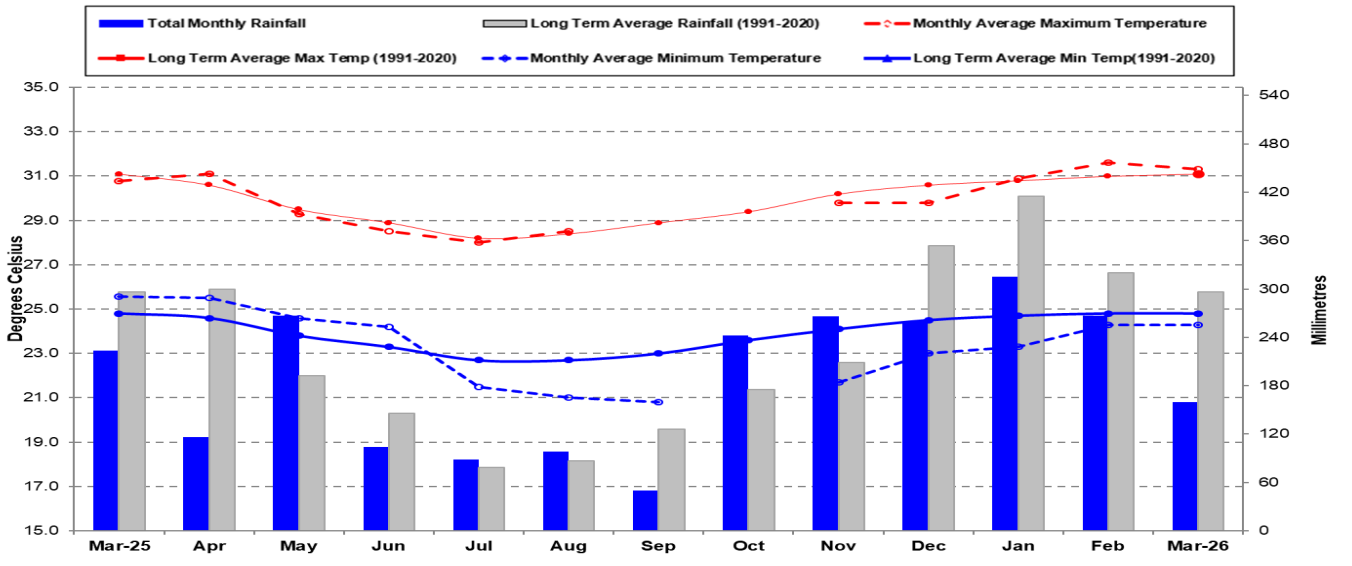
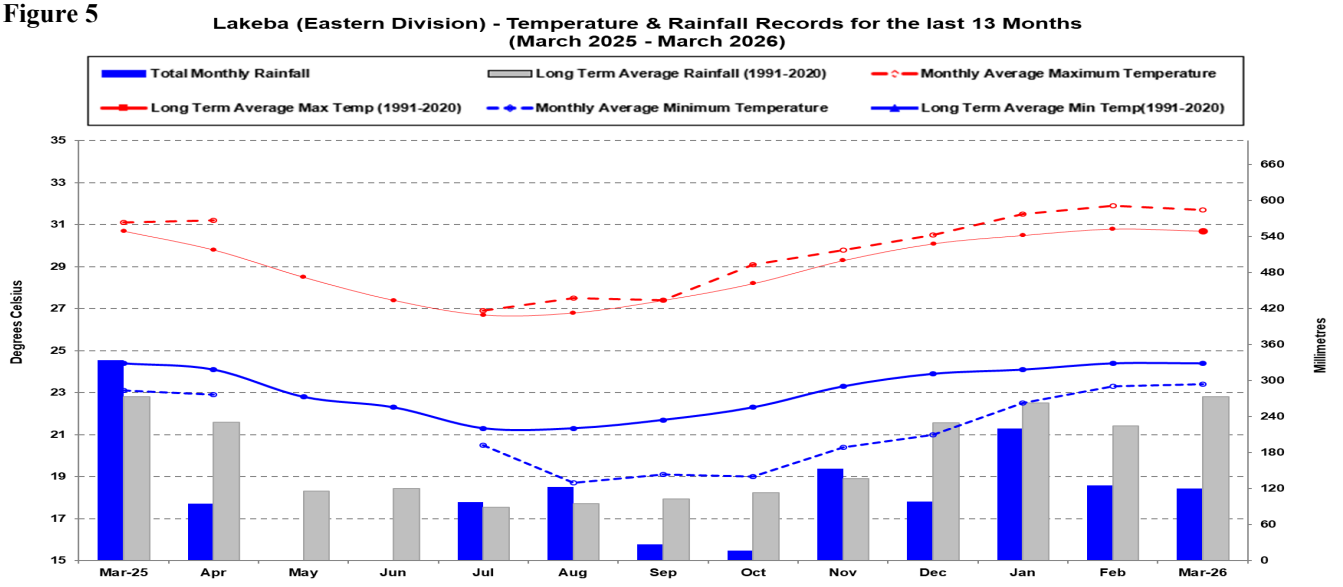


Figure 5



5. DAILY RAISED PAN EVAPORATION

Figure 6

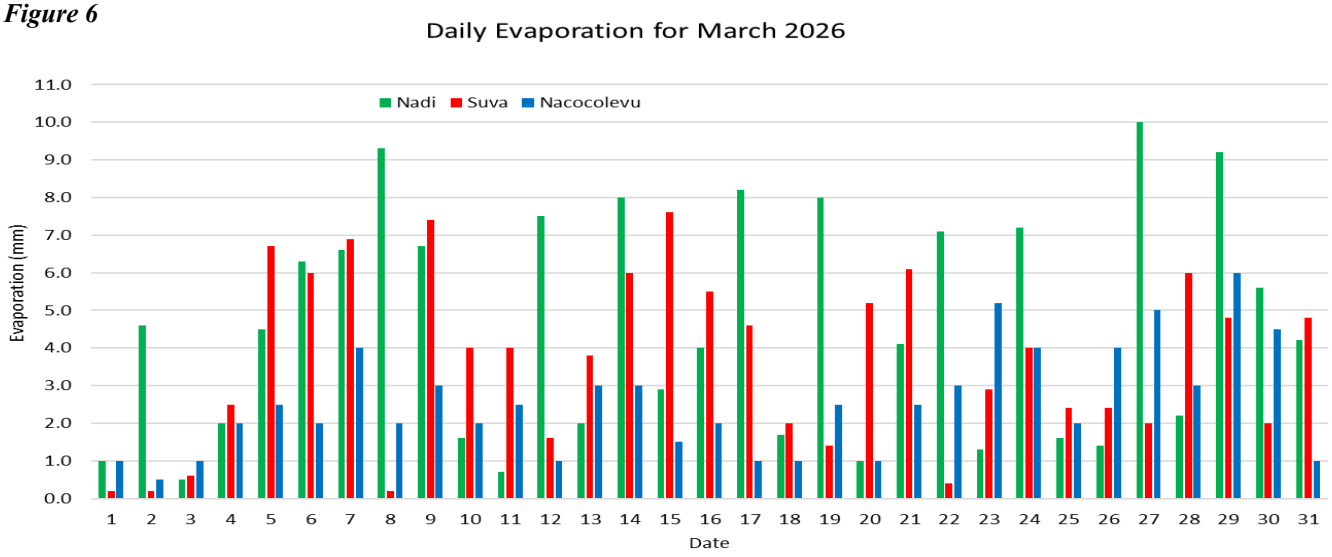


Figure 6: The total monthly raised pan evaporation at Nadi Airport, Laucala Bay (Suva) and Nacocolevu (Sigatoka) were 141.0mm, 114.2mm and 78.7mm, respectively. Nadi's highest daily evaporation was 10.0mm on the 27th with Suva's highest daily evaporation of 7.6mm on the 15th, and Nacocolevu (Sigatoka) recorded its highest of 6.0mm on the 29th.

6. SOLAR RADIATION

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

7. WIND SUMMARY

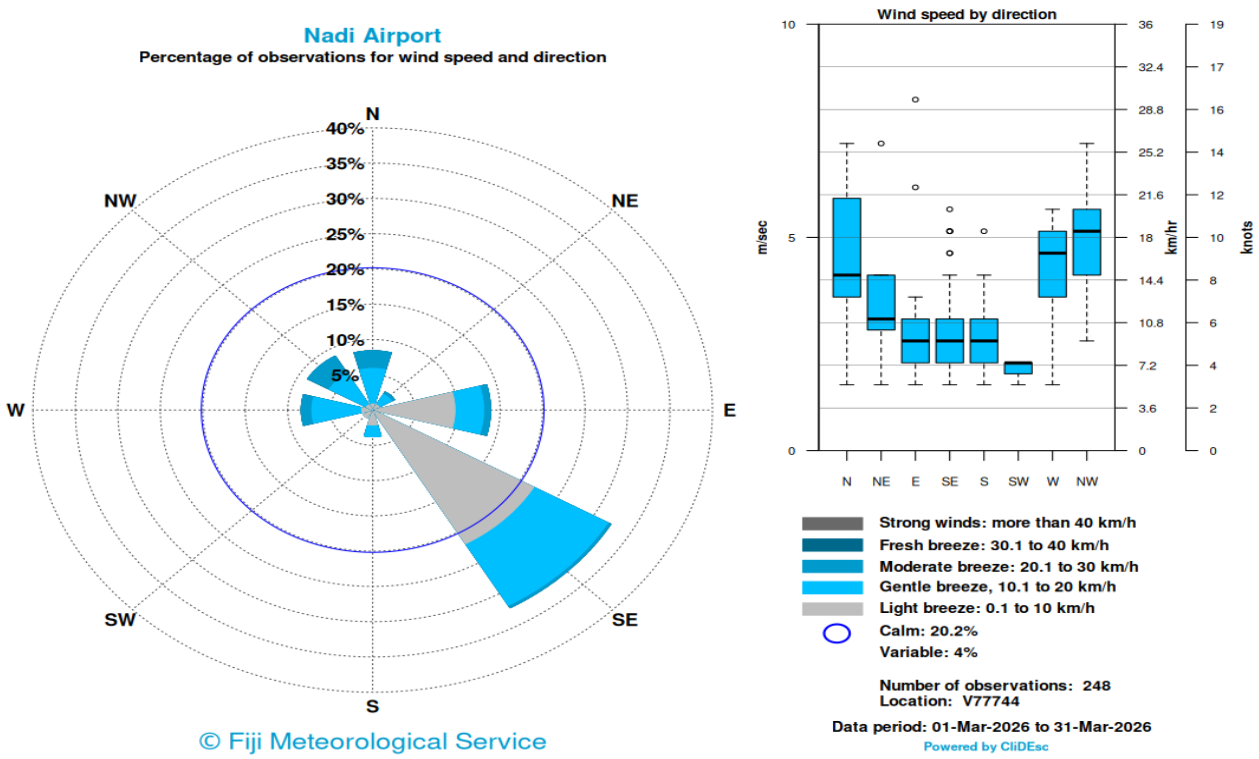


Figure 8a: Southeasterly winds were dominant in Nadi's 3 hourly observations during the month, followed by easterly and then northwesterly winds. Wind strength ranged from light to moderate breeze, while 20.2% of observations accounted for calm winds.

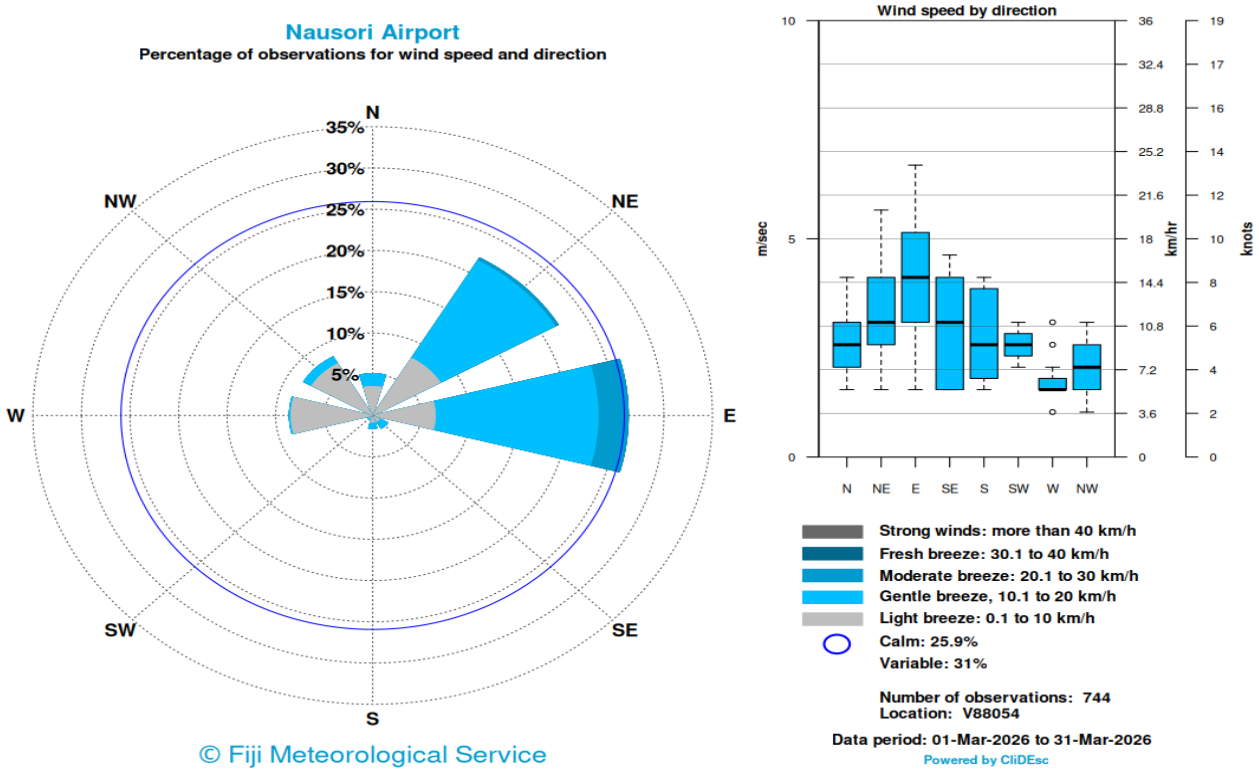


Figure 8b: Nausori Airport's hourly wind observations for the month were dominated by easterly winds, followed by northeasterly and then westerly winds. Wind strength ranged from light to moderate breeze, while 25.9% of observations accounted for calm winds.

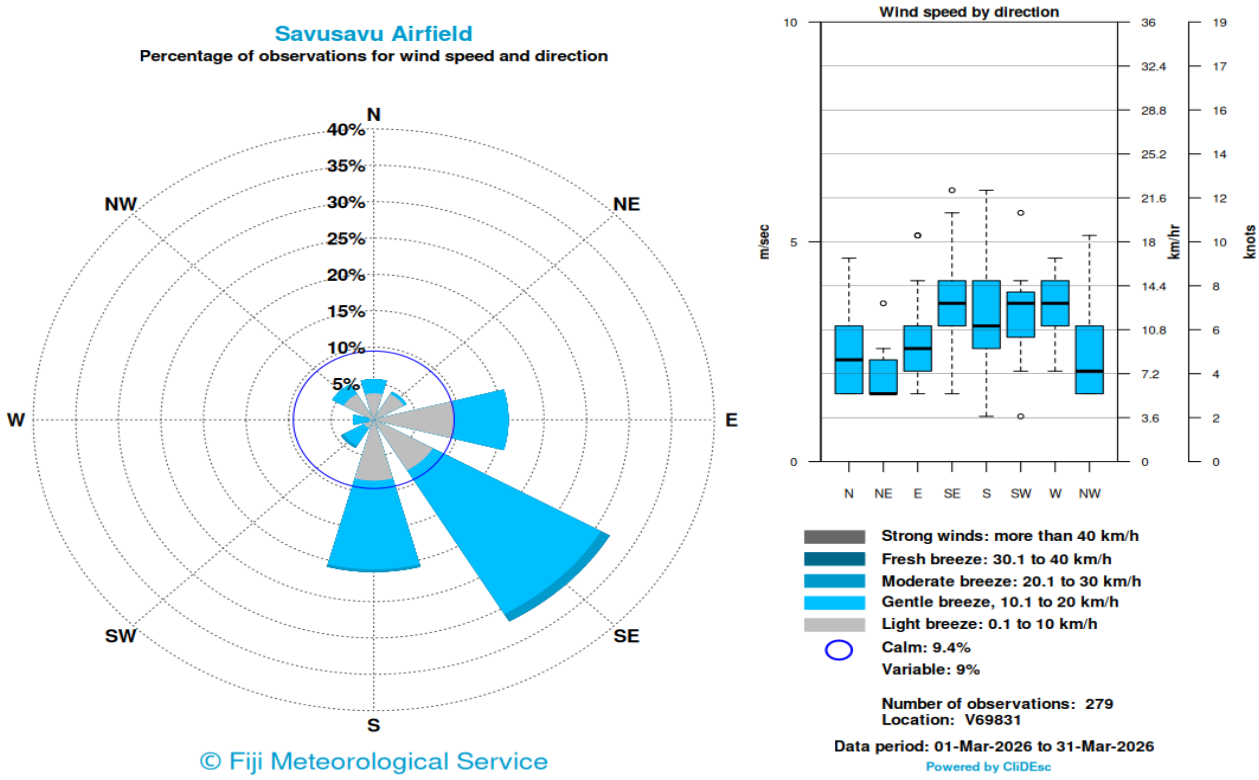


Figure 8c: Savusavu Airfield's hourly wind observations (0800hrs to 1600hrs) were dominated by southeasterly winds during the month, followed by southerly and then easterly winds. Wind strength ranged from light to moderate breeze, with calm winds observed 9.4% of the time.

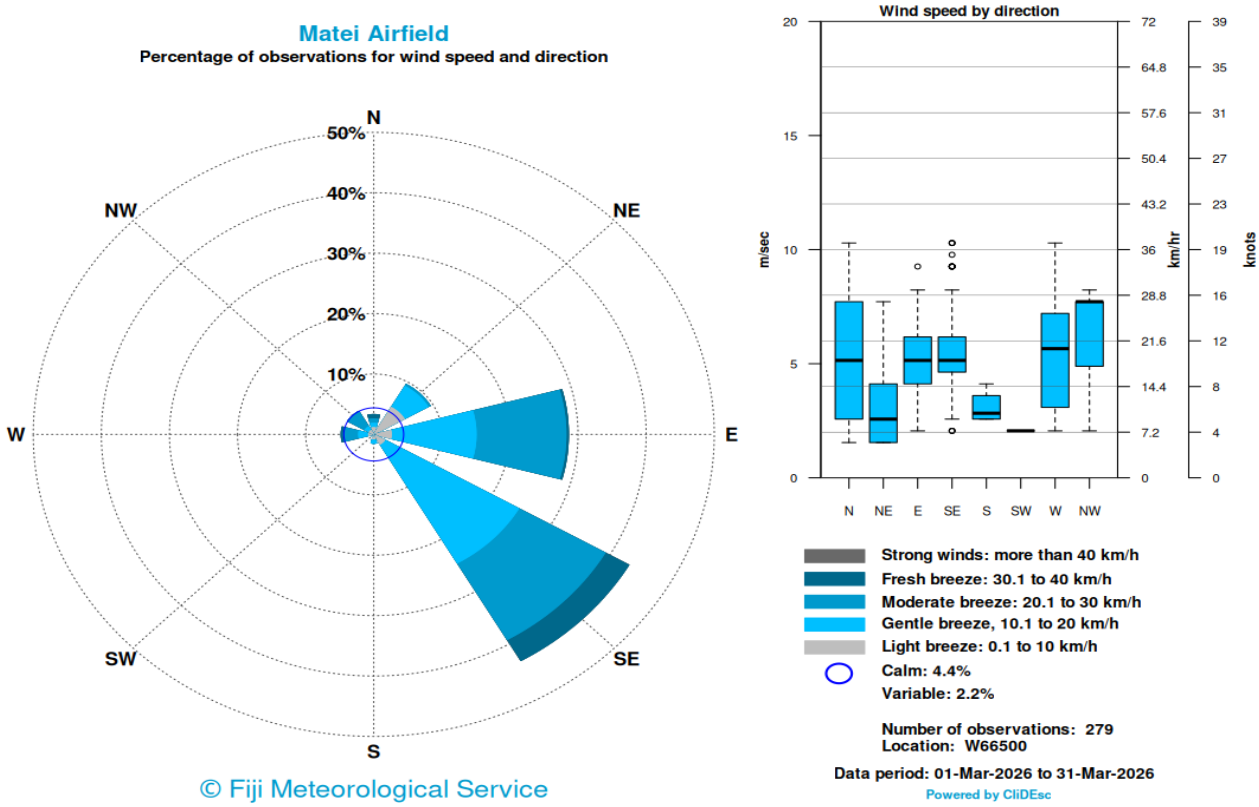


Figure 8d: Southeasterly winds were dominant in Matei Airfield's hourly wind observations (0800hrs to 1600hrs) for the month, followed by easterly and then northeasterly winds. Wind strength ranged from light to fresh breeze, with calm winds recorded 4.4% of the time.

8. SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (SST)

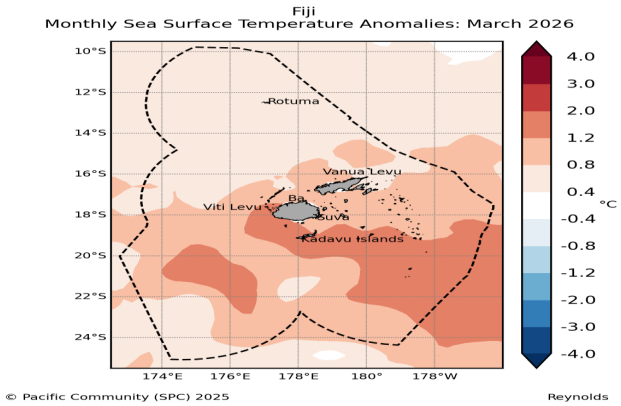


Figure 9:

Above normal sea surface temperature anomalies were observed across waters in Fiji, with warm anomalies generally ranging from 0.4 to 2.0°C.

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

9. CLOUD COVER

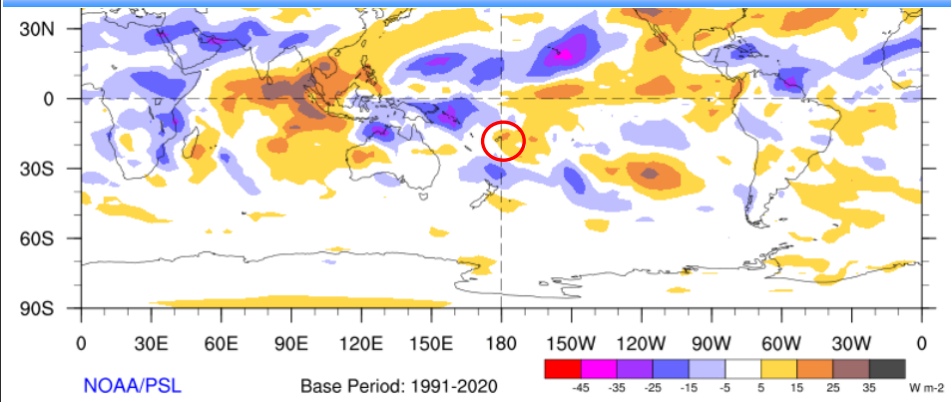


Figure 10:

30-Day Average OLR Anomaly: Below normal cloud cover were present over the Fiji Group during the month (2026/03/07- 2026/04/05) (*Fiji in red circle).*

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

10. SEA LEVEL

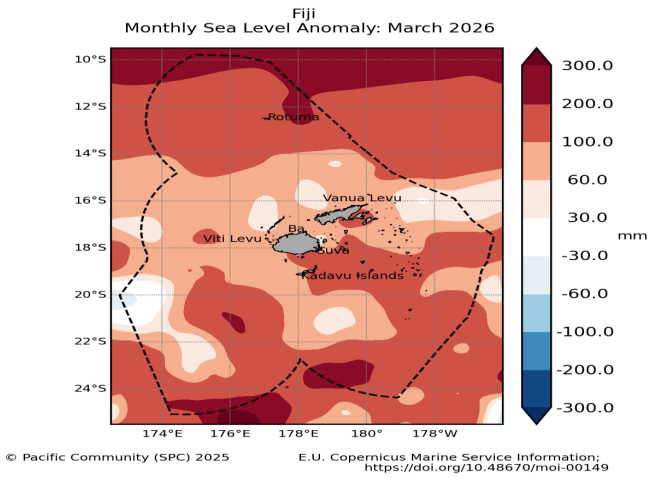


Figure 11:

Above normal sea level anomalies were present across the Fiji Group during March.

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

11. WIND ANOMALIES

Wind anomalies map for the month of March could not be generated due to Technical difficulties.

12. FLASH FLOODING : 1st to 4th, and 18th

During the beginning of the month, TC Urmil brought heavy rain, which led to flash flooding across Fiji. This caused the closure of multiple low-level crossings and left several areas inaccessible (Figures 12a-g). The drowning of a child swept into a creek in Namoli at Kaleli Settlement, outside Lautoka City, was classified as the first death associated with Tropical Cyclone (TC) Urmil. On the 18th, an active trough of low pressure approached from the west with northerly winds, bringing occasional rain and heavy falls over most places. Lautoka Mill recorded about 100mm of rainfall within 12 hours, especially during the early hours, while significant flash flooding of several roads was reported (Figures 12h-i).

Figure 12a: Rakiraki Town, Western Division, on the 1st. Source: Fiji Roads Authority.

Figure 12b: Naboutini, Central Division, on the 1st. Source: Fiji Roads Authority.

Figure 12c: Ba Town, Western Division, on the 1st. Source: Fiji Sun.

Figure 12d: Nakama Crossing, Labasa, Northern Division, on the 2nd. Source: Fiji Roads Authority.

Figure 12e: Nadroumai Crossing, Sigatoka, Western Division, on the 3rd. Source: Fiji Roads Authority.

Figure 12f: Holika Road, Ba, Western Division, on the 3rd. Source: Fiji Roads Authority.

Figure 12g: Road collapse in Nabukelevu-i-ra Road in Kadavu, Eastern Division on the 4th. Source: Fiji Roads Authority.

Figure 12h: Toge Crossing, Ba, Western Division, on the 18th. Source: Fiji Roads Authority

Figure 12i: A heavy vehicle fell into a hole, due to flooded roads in Lautoka, Western Division, on the 18th. Source: Fiji News & Sports

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.