Fiji Meteorological Service

ISO 9001:2015 certified Climate Services

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Climate Outlook for Hydro-electricity Generation from January to March 2026

Current Conditions

Fiji's Climate

In the month of December, until the 29th, several troughs of low pressure systems, with associated heavy rain and wind affected the Fiji Group. Tropical Depression TD03F passed north of the country during the middle of the month, bringing torrential rainfall and strong northerly winds which resulted in flash floods in residential and town areas in parts of the Northern, Central, Western and Eastern Divisions.

Of the 20 stations that reported in, in time for the compilation of this bulletin, 7 stations reported *below average* rainfall, 4 *average, 8 above average,* while Viwa was the lone station that recorded *well above average* rainfall.

The total monthly rainfall for Monasavu, until 29th December, was 414mm, which is in the *below average* category (64% of *normal*) when compared against the WMO standard 30-year normal.

The total 3 monthly rainfall recorded during October - 29th December 2025 period was 1317.9mm, which is in the *normal* category (88% of normal), while rainfall recorded during the past 6 months (July to 29th December) is classified as *normal* at 1992.4mm (90% of the *normal*) (Figure 1).

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Status

The current weak La Niña event is favored to be short lived and likely to continue through the next 1 to 2 months. A transition to neutral condition is most likely to occur during the first quarter of 2026.

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across the central equatorial and eastern Pacific Ocean are currently *average* to *below average*, while remaining above average in the western Pacific.

The latest 30-day average Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) until 27th December 2025 is -1.1, which is within ENSO neutral thresholds.

Near average trade winds were observed in the central Pacific and *above average* in the western Pacific Ocean. *Below average* cloudiness was observed near the date line for most of December. Overall, ENSO indicators still indicate an active La Niña event.

El Niño-Southern Oscillation and Monasavu Climate Predictions

El-Niño Southern Oscillation Prediction

The latest global models surveyed favor the continuation of La Nina until the start of 2026, where then a transition to ENSO neutral is likely during the first quarter of the year.

Minimum & Maximum Air Temperature Predictions - January & January to March 2026

Above normal day and night time temperatures are likely across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu in January and through the January to March 2026 period (Figure 4 and 5).

Rainfall Predictions:
Fortnightly: 3rd – 16th January & 10th – 23rd January

There is no strong biasness for drier or wetter than usual conditions across the interior of Viti Levu from 3rd to 16th January, while Rainfall across Viti Levu is likely to be above median from 10th to 23rd January.

January 2026

There is 75% chance of receiving at least 346mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of at least 363mm of rainfall at the Nadarivatu and Monasavu Dams and 75% chance of receiving at least 341mm of rainfall at Wailoa. There is *very high* confidence in this forecast (Table 1).

January to March 2026

During the January to March 2026 period, there is 75% chance of receiving at least 1294mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of receiving around 1342mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu and Monasavu Dams and 75% chance of receiving around 1252mm at Wailoa. The confidence in the generated outlook is *very high* (Table 1).

Summary

Rainfall outlook for the month of January and the January to March 2026 period are likely to be wetter than normal. There is *very high* skill confidence in the rainfall outlook for the month of January as well as for the January to March 2026 period.

Figure 1

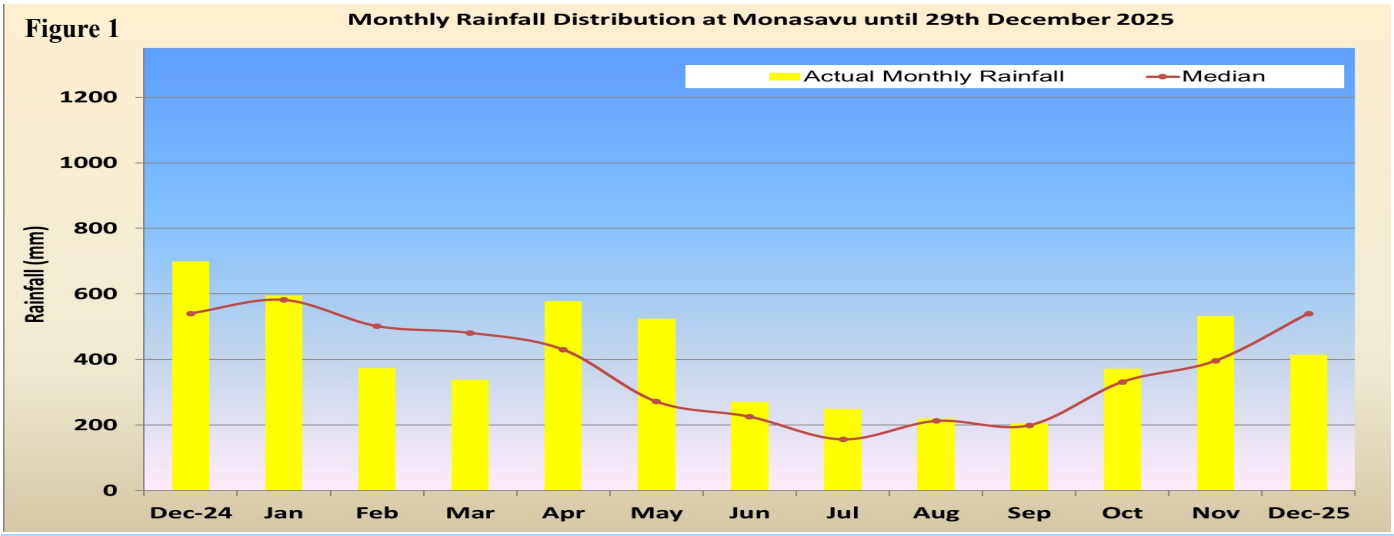


Table 1: Rainfall Outlook: January 2026 & January to March 2026

January Outlook				
	25% chance of at least (mm)	**50% chance of at least (mm)**	**75% chance of at least (mm)**	**Forecast Confidence**
Nadarivatu station	734	465	346	Very High
Nadarivatu Dam	732	467	363	Very High
Monasavu Dam	732	467	363	Very High
Wailoa	670	452	341	Very High
January to March 2026 Outlook				
	25% chance of at least (mm)	**50% chance of at least (mm)**	**75% chance of at least (mm)**	**Forecast Confidence**
Nadarivatu station	1772	1533	1294	Very High
Nadarivatu Dam	1814	1575	1342	Very High
Monasavu Dam	1814	1575	1342	Very High
Wailoa	1735	1502	1251	Very High

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

Figure 2: Rainfall Outlook: Fortnightly: 3rd – 16th January & 10th – 23rd January

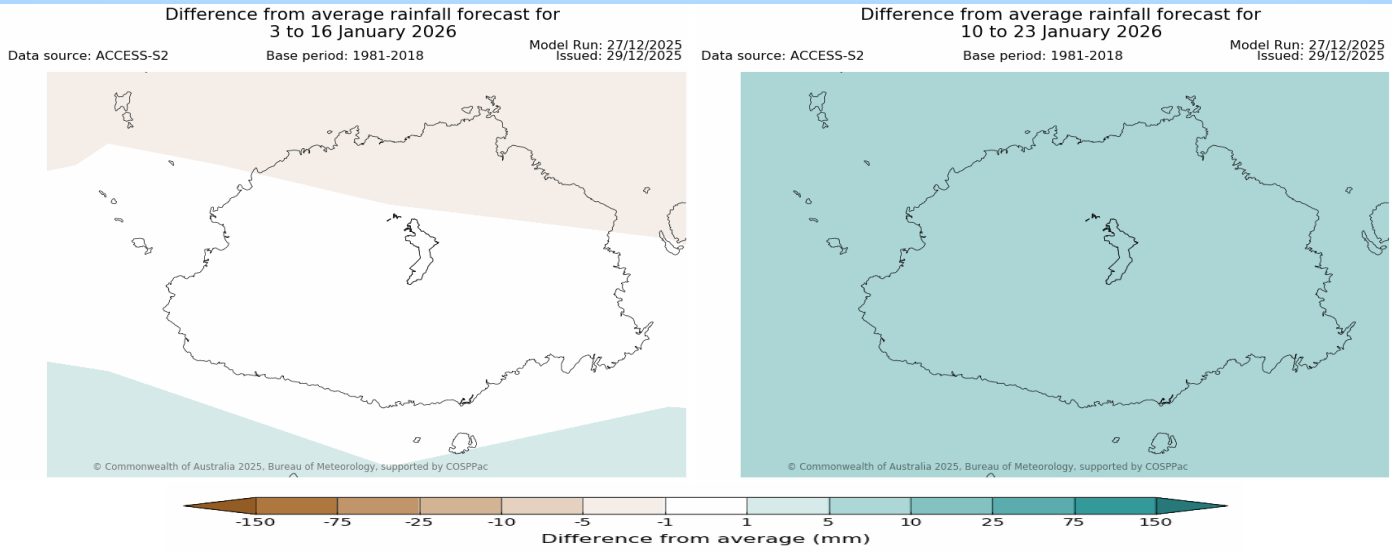


Figure 3: Rainfall Outlook: January & January to March 2026

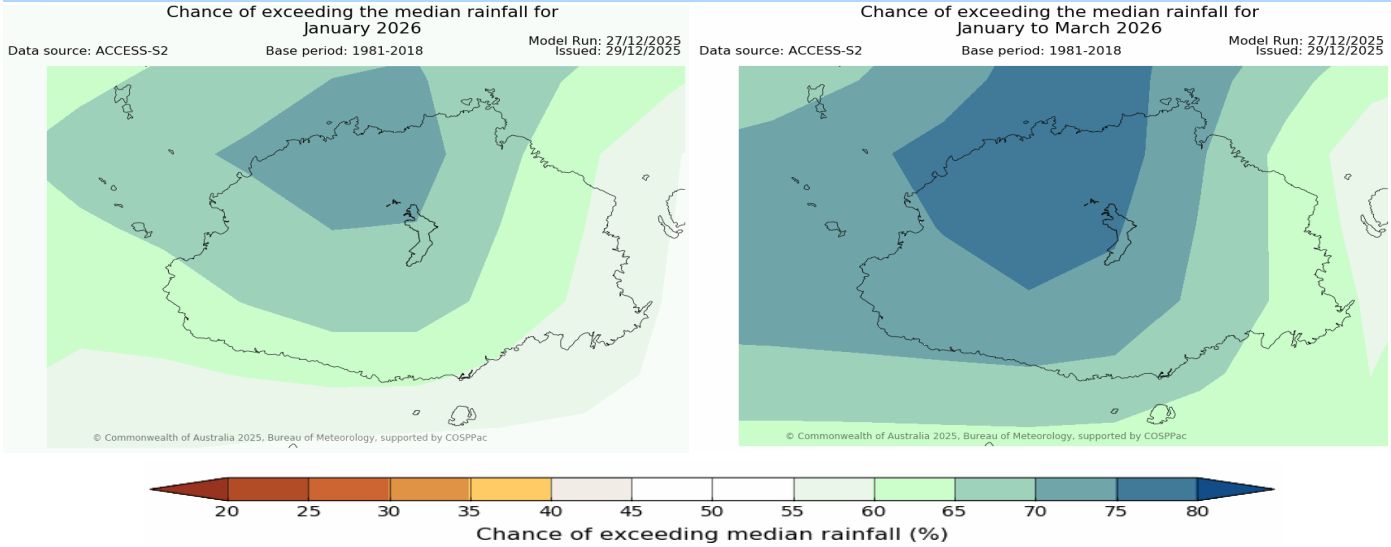
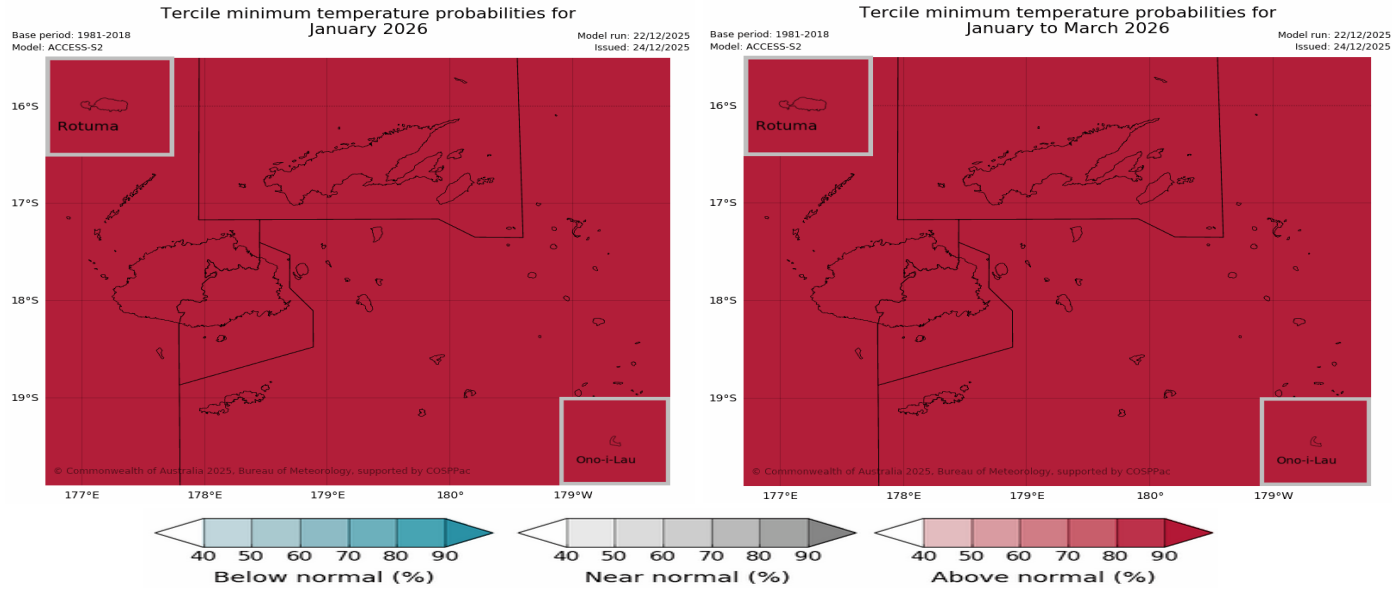
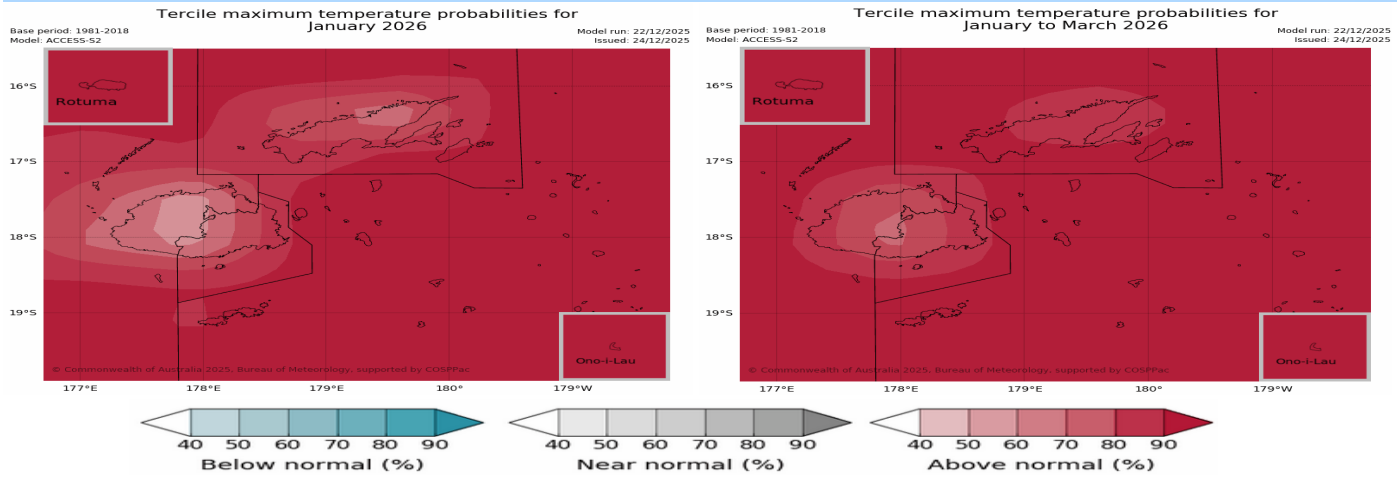


Figure 4: Minimum Air Temperature Predictions: January & January to March 2026



Minimum air temperatures are expected to be *above normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, during January and January to March 2026 period. *Source: ACCESS-S2 Model.*

Figure 5: Maximum Air Temperature Predictions: January & January to March 2026



Maximum air temperatures are likely to be *above normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, during January and January to March 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)*

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