Fiji Meteorological Service

ISO 9001:2015 certified Climate Services

Volume: 22 Issue: 3
Issued: February 27, 2026

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

Current Conditions

Fiji's Climate

From 1st to 26th February, several troughs of low pressure affected the country, bringing widespread frequent showers and occasional periods of heavy rainfall. Intense localized rainfall led to flash flooding in parts of the Western and Central Division, particularly in flood prone and low lying areas. Wet conditions were also experienced across much of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, where afternoon showers and isolated thunderstorms were experienced.

Of the 21 stations that reported in, in time for the compilation of this bulletin, 3 stations reported *well below average* rainfall, 9 *below average, 5 average,* and *4* recorded *above average rainfall.*

The total monthly rainfall for Monasavu, until 25th February, was 405mm, which is in the *below average* category (79% of *normal*) when compared against the WMO standard 30-year normal.

The total 3 monthly rainfall recorded during December - 25th February 2026 period was 1467mm, which is in the *normal* category (81% of normal), while rainfall recorded during the past 6 months (September to 25th February) is classified as *normal* at 2576mm (87% of the *normal*) (Figure 1).

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Status

The current weak La Niña event is weakening. A transition to neutral conditions is most likely to occur from March to May 2026 period.

Sea Surface temperatures (SSTs) are *below average* in the east-central Pacific Ocean and *above average* in the Western and far eastern Pacific.

The latest 30-day average Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) until 23rd February 2026 was +10.7, consistent with La Niña conditions.

Above average trade winds were observed in the central Pacific and *below average* in the western Pacific Ocean. *Below average* cloudiness was observed near the date line for most of February. Overall, most indicators suggest the weak La Niña event is continuing, but gradually weakening.

El Niño-Southern Oscillation and Monasavu Climate Predictions

El-Niño Southern Oscillation Prediction

Most of the latest global models surveyed favor a shift from weak La Nina to ENSO neutral conditions during March to May 2026 period.

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

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

Rainfall Predictions:
Fortnightly: 1st – 14th March & 8th – 21st March

Wetter than average conditions are likely for Viti Levu during the above mentioned periods.

March 2026

There is 75% chance of receiving at least 369mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of at least 369mm of rainfall at the Nadarivatu and Monasavu Dams and 75% chance of receiving at least 386mm of rainfall at Wailoa. There is *high* confidence in this forecast (Table 1).

March to May 2026

During the March to May 2026 period, there is 75% chance of receiving at least 892mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of receiving around 935mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu and Monasavu Dams and 75% chance of receiving around 958mm at Wailoa. The confidence in the generated outlook is *high* (Table 1).

Summary

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

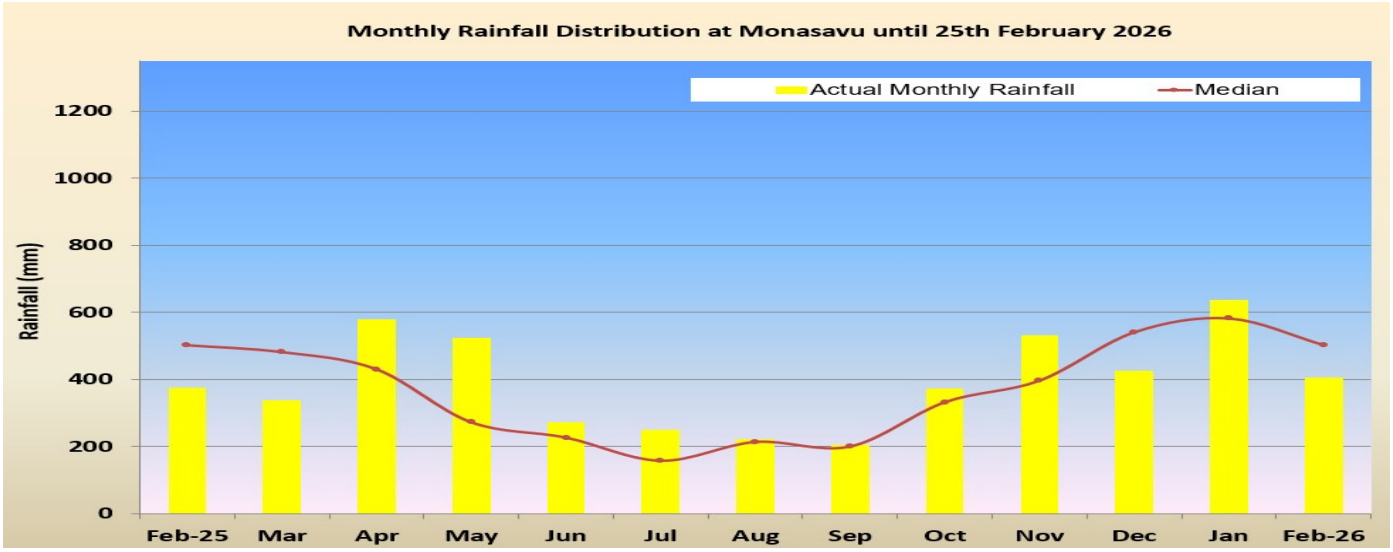


Table 1: Rainfall Outlook: March 2026 & March to May 2026

March Outlook				
	25% chance of at least (mm)	**50% chance of at least (mm)**	**75% chance of at least (mm)**	**Forecast Confidence**
Nadarivatu station	711	528	369	High
Nadarivatu Dam	711	547	383	High
Monasavu Dam	711	547	383	High
Wailoa	672	522	386	High
March to May 2026 Outlook				
	25% chance of at least (mm)	**50% chance of at least (mm)**	**75% chance of at least (mm)**	**Forecast Confidence**
Nadarivatu station	1305	1085	892	High
Nadarivatu Dam	1332	1125	935	High
Monasavu Dam	1332	1125	935	High
Wailoa	1319	1084	958	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: 1st – 14th March & 8th – 21st March

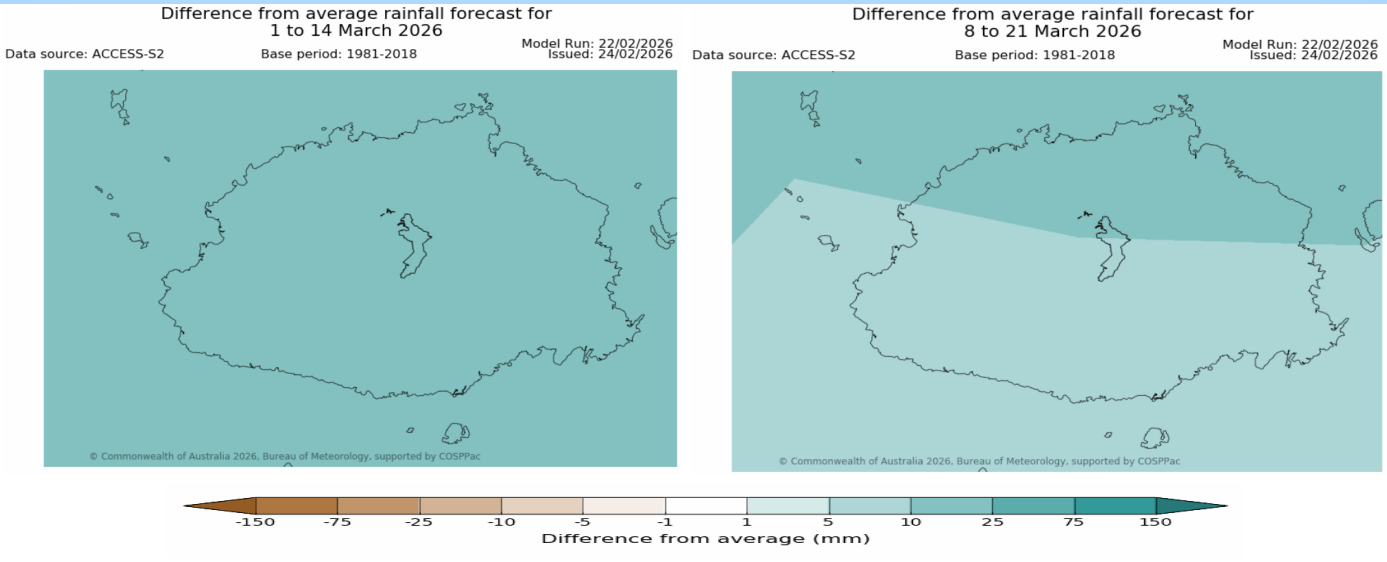


Figure 3: Rainfall Outlook: March & March to May 2026

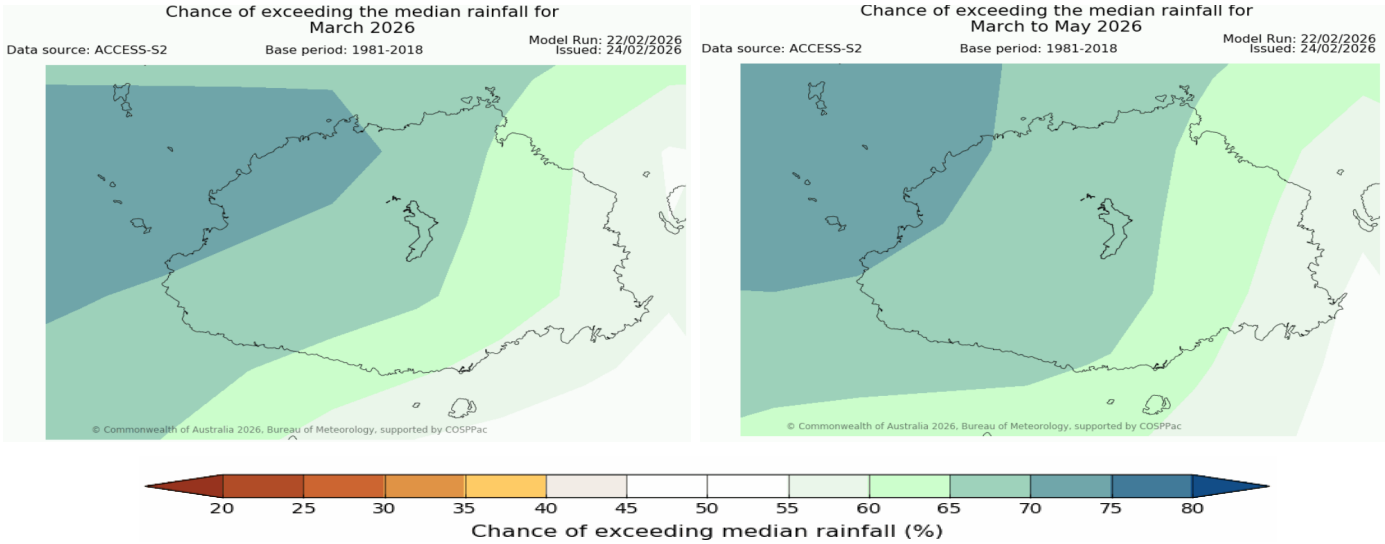
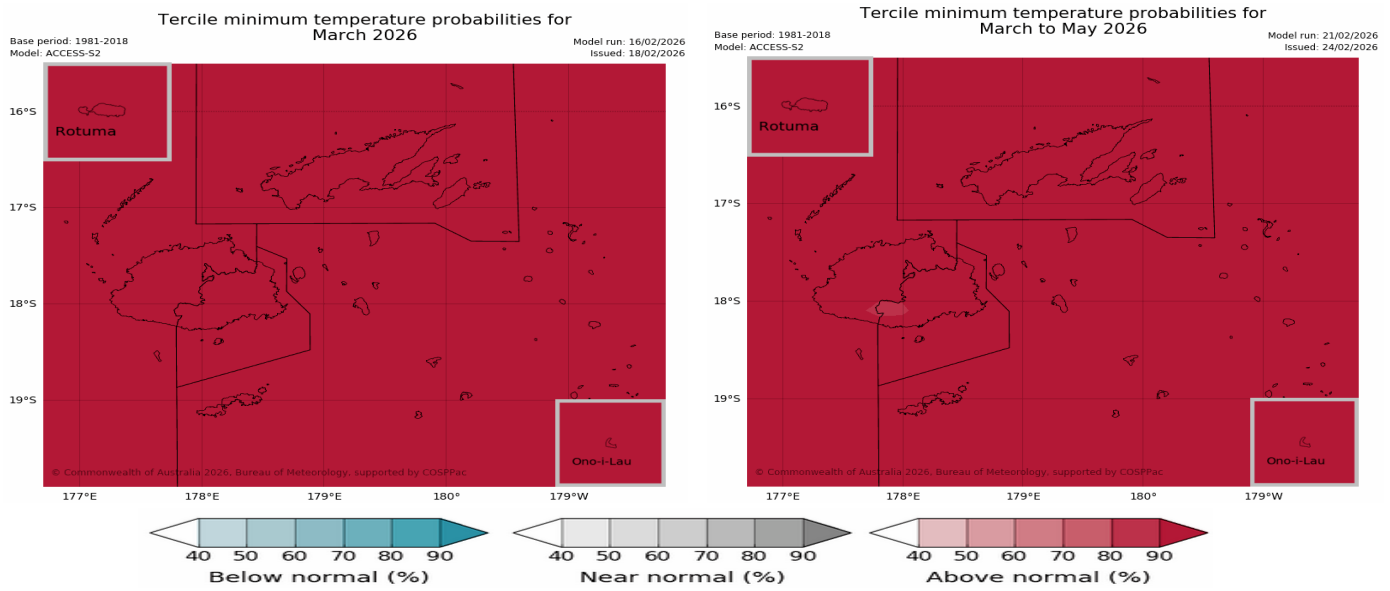
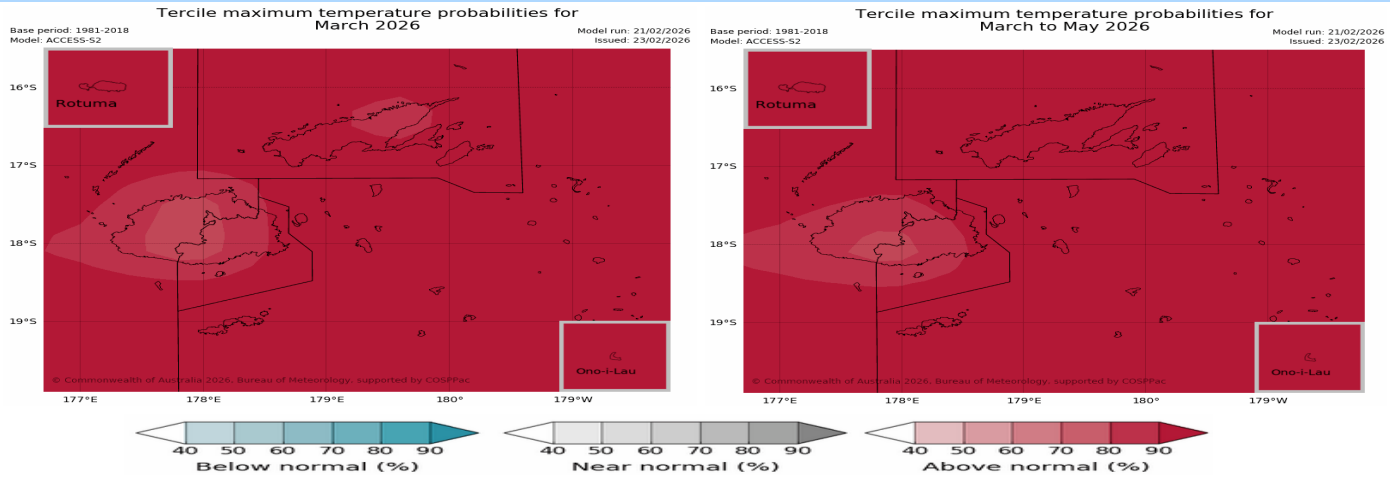


Figure 4: Minimum Air Temperature Predictions: March & March to May 2026



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

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



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