

### 1. IN BRIEF

Rainfall was quite suppressed during April as *average to well below average* rainfall was observed across the country. Most stations across the country recorded *well below average*, with less than twice their normal monthly rainfall. Exception was for Rotuma which received *above average* rainfall, with Monasavu, Udu Point and Savusavu Airfield, recording *average* rainfall.

Overall, out of the 27 rainfall monitoring stations that reported in, in time for the compilation of bulletin, 15 recorded *well below average* rainfall, 8 *below average*, 3 stations with *average* rainfall, while Rotuma was the lone station that recorded *above average* rainfall (Table 2, Figures 1-5).

Monasavu recorded the highest monthly rainfall of 400.2mm, followed by Rotuma with 391.0mm, Lomaivuna with 231.0mm, Savusavu Airfield with 205.3mm, Matei Airfield with 202.6mm, Koronivia with 196.6mm, Navua with 175.0mm, Saqani with 172.5mm, Laucala Bay with 169.0mm, and Nasinu with 166.5mm. (Table 2).

On temperatures, the month's warmest day-time temperature of 35.9°C was observed at RKS Lodoni on the 26<sup>th</sup>,

followed by Rarawai Mill (Ba) with 35.5°C on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Lomaivuna and Ono-i-Lau both with 35.4°C on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, respectively. The month's coolest night-time temperature of 18.3°C was recorded at Monasavu on the 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by Rarawai Mill (Ba) with 19.5°C on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Lomaivuna with 19.7°C on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Udu Point with 20.2°C on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Nadi Airport, Udu Point and Lautoka recorded their monthly highest average maximum temperature of 32.6°C, 31.9°C and 32.3°C. Nadi Airport recorded its daily highest maximum temperature of 35.1°C on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Laucala Bay (Suva), Viwa, Savusavu Airfield, Nabouwalu, Koronivia, Nausori Airport and Monasavu recorded their monthly highest average minimum temperature of 25.4°C, 26.1°C, 26.6°C, 25.3°C, 24.7°C, 24.3°C and 20.4°C (Table 1).

Southeasterly winds were dominant at Nadi Airport, Savusavu Airfield and Matei Airfield, while easterly winds were dominant at Nausori Airport (Figure 7).

Warmer than normal sea surface temperature anomalies were observed at most parts of the country (Figure 8).

### 2. WEATHER PATTERNS

The weather in April was dominated by moist easterly and northerly wind flow with series of trough of low pressure sweeping through the group.

At first, a trough lay to the southwest of Fiji on the 1<sup>st</sup> and affected parts of the country till the 3<sup>rd</sup> with another trough developing to the north, affecting mainly Vanua Levu and Northern Lau group from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>. This trough triggered significant 24-hour rainfall amount being recorded for Savusavu airport with 86.4mm on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>, a trough affected the group, where the highest 24-hour rainfall of the month was recorded in Lomaivuna with 94.5mm on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Occasional showers with thunderstorms and isolated heavy falls were observed in few centres in the interior of the central divisions. Additionally, strong east to southeast winds were also observed in the period from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> which ultimately enhanced isolated heavy falls especially on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile, the dominant easterly wind

flow had continued from the beginning of the month to the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Furthermore, a weak trough developed to the north and briefly drifted eastwards on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Similarly, another trough approached the group from the west on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and swiftly moved eastwards away from the group with trail of moist northerly wind flow prevailing over the group till the 25<sup>th</sup>. Finally, from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the end of the month, a weak trough of low pressure lay slow moving to the southwest of the group with dominant moist easterlies.

Rotuma's weather was dominated by the moist easterly with a series of troughs of low pressure systems for the month of April.

### 3. RAINFALL

Rainfall was quite suppressed during April as *average to well below average* rainfall was observed across the country. Most stations across the country recorded *well below average*, with less than twice their normal monthly rainfall. Exception was for Rotuma which received *above average* rainfall, with Monasavu, Udu Point and Savusavu Airfield, recording *average* rainfall.

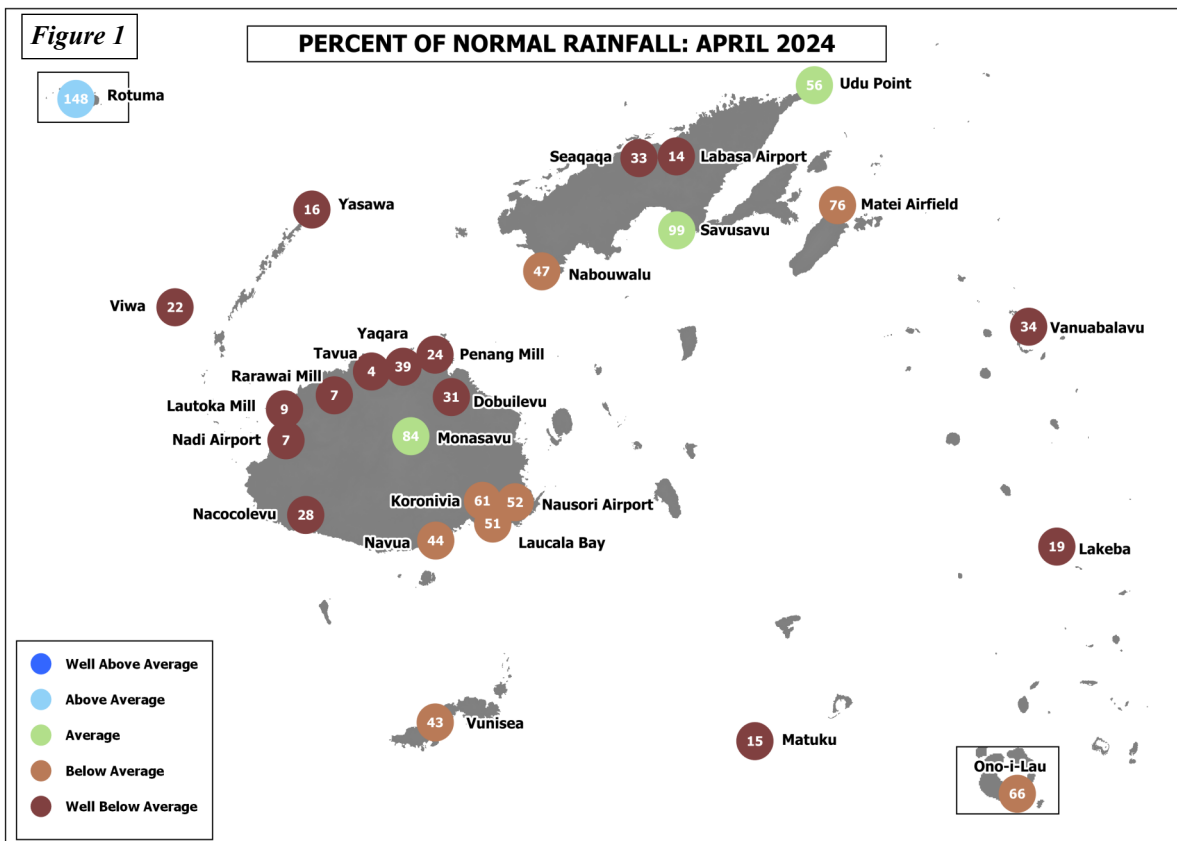
Overall, out of the 27 rainfall monitoring stations that reported in, in time for the compilation of bulletin, 15 recorded *well below average* rainfall, 8 *below average*, 3 stations with *average* rainfall, while Rotuma was the lone station that recorded *above average* rainfall (Table 2, Figures 1-5).

The highest monthly rainfall of 400.2mm was observed at Monasavu, followed by Rotuma with 391.0mm, Lomaivuna with 231.0mm, Savusavu Airfield with 205.3mm, Matei Airfield with 202.6mm, Koronivia with 196.6mm, Navua with 175.0mm, Saqani with 172.5mm, Laucala Bay with 169.0mm, and Nasinu with 166.5mm. On the other hand, Tavua recorded the month's lowest total monthly rainfall of 7.0mm, followed by Momi with 10.0mm and Nadi Airport with 13.7mm. (Table 2).

The highest 24-hour rainfall of 162mm was recorded at Rotuma on the 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by Lomaivuna with 95mm on 9<sup>th</sup>, Savusavu Airfield with 86mm on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Laucala Bay (Suva) with 80mm on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Monasavu with 76mm on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Vunisea with 67mm on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Yaqara with 62mm on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Koronivia with 61mm on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Ono-i-Lau with 59mm on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Monasavu recorded the highest number of rain days (rainfall  $\geq 0.1$ mm) with 28 days, followed by Koronivia with 24 days, Rotuma and Lomaivuna both with 23 days, Savusavu Airfield with 21 days and Nadarivatu with 20 days. Consequently, Tavua and Lautoka both recorded the least number of rain days with 1 day, followed by Rarawai Mill (Ba) with 2 days, Yaqara with 3 days, Momi with 4 days, Nadi Airport with 6 days and Yasawa-I-Rara with 7 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  $\geq 0.1$ mm

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 *normal to above normal* day-time air temperatures were observed across the country during the month. Out of the 23 climate stations that reported in time for the analysis of data, 21 recorded anomalies  $\geq +0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 2 within  $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The warmest days on average were recorded at RKS Lodoni with  $34.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ , followed by Rarawai Mill (Ba) and Seaqaqa both with  $33.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  and Labasa Airfield with  $33.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Consequently, Monasavu recorded the coolest days on average with  $26.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , followed by Matuku with  $30.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  and Yasawa-I-Rara with  $30.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The warmest daily day-time temperatures were recorded during the last week of the month. The month's highest day-time temperature of  $35.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  was observed at RKS Lodoni on the 26<sup>th</sup>, followed by Rarawai Mill (Ba) with  $35.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Lomaivuna and Ono-i-Lau both with  $35.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, respectively. On the other hand, the coolest day-time temperature of  $20.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  was at Matuku on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, followed by Monasavu with  $22.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 6<sup>th</sup> and Savusavu Airfield with  $24.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Nadi Airport, Udu Point and Lautoka recorded their monthly highest average maximum temperature of  $32.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $31.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $32.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ , since observations began in 1942, 1951 and 1905, respectively. Nadi Airport recorded its daily highest maximum temperature of  $35.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 13<sup>th</sup>, since observations began in 1942 (Table 1).

### B. Minimum Night-time Air Temperatures

Generally *normal to above normal* night-time temperatures were recorded over most parts of the country during the month. Of the 23 stations, 18 recorded anomalies  $\geq +0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 2 within  $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and 3 with anomalies  $\leq -0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The coolest days on average was at Monasavu with  $20.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , followed by Rarawai Mill (Ba) with  $22.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Lomaivuna with  $22.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Vaturekuka (Labasa) and Korolevu both with  $22.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Consequently, on average, the warmest night-time temperatures were observed at RKS Lodoni and Savusavu Airfield both with  $26.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ , followed by Rotuma with  $26.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and Viwa with  $26.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The coolest daily night-time temperatures were recorded mostly during the beginning of the month. The lowest night-time temperature of  $18.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  was recorded at Monasavu on the 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by Rarawai Mill (Ba) with  $19.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Lomaivuna with  $19.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Udu Point with  $20.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the other hand, the warmest night-time temperature of  $29.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  was recorded at RKS Lodoni on the 4<sup>th</sup>, followed by Penang Mill with  $28.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Rotuma with  $28.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Laucala Bay (Suva), Viwa, Savusavu Airfield, Nabouwalu, Koronivia, Nausori Airport and Monasavu recorded their monthly highest average minimum temperature of  $25.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $26.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $26.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $25.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $24.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $24.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $20.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , since observations began in 1942, 1978, 1956, 1956, 1950, 1956 and 1980 respectively (Table 1).

**TABLE 1. CLIMATE RECORDS ESTABLISHED IN APRIL 2024**

<u>Element</u>	<u>Station</u>	<u>Observed (record)</u>	<u>On</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Previous (record)</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Records Began</u>
Average Maximum Temperature	Nadi Airport	$32.6^{\circ}\text{C}$	-	New High	$32.2^{\circ}\text{C}$	1974	1942
Average Maximum Temperature	Udu Point	$31.9^{\circ}\text{C}$	-	New High	$31.7^{\circ}\text{C}$	1996	1951
Average Maximum Temperature	Lautoka	$32.3^{\circ}\text{C}$	-	New High	$32.0^{\circ}\text{C}$	1996	1905
Daily Maximum Temperature	Nadi Airport	$35.1^{\circ}\text{C}$	13 <sup>th</sup>	New High	$34.3^{\circ}\text{C}$	1963	1942
Average Minimum Temperature	Laucala Bay	$25.4^{\circ}\text{C}$	-	New High	$24.6^{\circ}\text{C}$	2019	1942
Average Minimum Temperature	Viwa	$26.1^{\circ}\text{C}$	-	New High	$25.8^{\circ}\text{C}$	1996	1978
Average Minimum Temperature	Savusavu Airfield	$26.6^{\circ}\text{C}$	-	New High	$24.9^{\circ}\text{C}$	2002 2003	1956
Average Minimum Temperature	Nabouwalu	$25.3^{\circ}\text{C}$	-	New High	$25.0^{\circ}\text{C}$	1991 2003	1956
Average Minimum Temperature	Koronivia	$24.7^{\circ}\text{C}$	-	New High	$23.8^{\circ}\text{C}$	2008	1950
Average Minimum Temperature	Nausori Airport	$24.3^{\circ}\text{C}$	-	New High	$23.6^{\circ}\text{C}$	2001 2002	1956
Average Minimum Temperature	Monasavu	$20.4^{\circ}\text{C}$	-	New High	$20.1^{\circ}\text{C}$	2001	1980

*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 APRIL 2024**

	RAINFALL					AIR TEMPERATURES								SUNSHINE	
	TOTAL	RAIN		MAX. FALL		AVERAGE DAILY			EXTREME		TOTAL		HRS	%	
	MM	* %	DAYS	MM	ON	MAX.	#	MIN.	#	MAX.	MIN.	C			ON
NADI AIRPORT	13.7	7	6	8	12	32.6	1.9	23.5	0.9	35.1	13	21.1	7	254	132
LAUCALA BAY	169.0	51	18	80	9	31.4	1.1	25.4	1.3	32.9	29	24.0	21	170	112
NACOCOLEVU RESEARCH	44.2	28	8	32	26	31.5	0.4	23.4	1.5	33.7	25	21.0	6	195	135
ROTUMA ISLAND (AWS)	391.0	148	23	162	5	32.6	1.5	26.5	1.4	35.0	3	23.3	6		
VIWA ISLAND	40.5	22	9	23	5	32.9	1.7	26.1	1.4	33.6	10	23.6	6		
YASAWA-I-RARA (AWS)	26.5	16	7	14	24	30.6	-0.4	24.8	0.7	34.0	29	23.0	1		
UDU POINT WEATHER	165.9	56	17	37	2	31.9	1.3	23.6	-1.0	33.1	26	20.2	2		
NABOUWALU	128.3	47	18	33	26	31.1	1.1	25.3	0.9	33.7	27	23.1	6		
LABASA AIRFIELD	30.9	14	15	12	12	33.3	1.8	23.0	1.2	35.1	27	21.2	14		
SAVUSAVU AIRFIELD	205.3	99	21	86	4	30.7	0.7	25.0	1.3	32.8	22	23.5	5		
KORONIVIA RESEARCH	196.6	61	24	61	9	31.5	1.4	24.7	1.8	34.1	24	23.2	14		
NAUSORI AIRPORT	165.2	52	16	38	9	31.2	1.3	24.3	1.4	33.0	24	21.4	6		
NAVUA (AWS)	175.0	44	19	28	9	31.3	1.8	23.7	1.2	33.2	29	21.7	14		
MONASAVU HYDRO DAM	400.2	84	28	76	18	26.4	1.7	20.4	1.4	29.6	26	18.3	7		
FSC LAUTOKA MILL	16.9	9	1	17	23	32.3	1.3	23.8	0.7	33.6	16	22.2	8		
FSC RARAWAI MILL	14.6	7	2	10	2	33.4	1.9	22.5	0.9	35.5	13	19.5	6		
FSC PENANG MILL	60.0	24	17	15	18	31.6	1.0	25.2	2.0	32.7	13	22.8	26		
MATEI AIRFIELD	202.6	76	18	46	7	31.0	1.1	23.3	-0.8	32.0	25	21.9	1		
VANUABALAVU	68.2	34	12	46	6	30.8	0.9	23.5	-0.9	32.7	27	21.6	7		
LAKEBA (AWS)	43.0	19	12	19	25	31.0	1.2	25.6	1.5	32.4	23	22.2	30		
VUNISEA	132.0	43	9	67	1	30.7	1.3	23.9	0.4	32.5	13	22.6	9		
MATUKU	26.8	15	10	12	6	30.0	0.5	24.1	0.1	31.6	22	23.1	20		
ONO-I-LAU (AWS)	122.0	66	8	59	1	32.2	3.3	25.4	1.8	35.4	27	23.2	3		
YAQARA AWS	68.0	39	3	62	30	32.9		25.4		34.3	11	23.6	14		
LEVUKA AWS	15.0		8	4	9	U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
KEIYASI AWS	37.0		9	8	27	U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
LOMAIVUNA AWS	231.0		23	95	9	31.4		22.6		35.4	25	19.7	6		
NADARIVATU AWS	117.0		20	36	30	U/S		U/S		U/S		U/S			
RKS LODONI AWS	128.5		19	17	24	34.2		26.6		35.9	26	24.2	6		
MOMI AWS	10.0		4	7	10	31.8		24.1		33.3	10	21.7	6		
SIGATOKA AWS	30.5		9	12	26	31.4		23.0		33.7	3	20.5	6		
VATUREKUKA AWS	45.5		14	14	4	31.7		22.9		33.8	26	21.5	14		
KOROLEVU AWS	67.0		9	18	26	31.0		22.9		34.2	26	20.8	22		
WAINIKORO AWS	76.0		14	24	4	32.0		23.7		34.2	30	21.9	14		
SAQANI AWS	172.5		19	36	8	32.1		25.2		33.5	2	21.5	30		
SEAQAQA AWS	79.5	33	13	20	12	33.4		23.7		34.9	10	21.3	21		
DOBUILEVU TB3	84.5	31	17	21	8										
NASINU TB3	166.5		17	57	9										
TAVUA TB3	7.0	4	1	7	22										

TEMPERATURE( C) HUMIDITY WIND

	TEMPERATURE( C)		HUMIDITY		WIND
	MEAN	(AVERAGE AT 9AM)	DRY	WET	
NADI AIRPORT	28.0	28.3	25.0	76	28.8 5.4
LAUCALA BAY	28.4	29.2	26.3	80	30.3 8.0
NACOCOLEVU RESEARCH	27.5	28.6	25.8	80	29.3
ROTUMA ISLAND (AWS)	29.6				
VIWA ISLAND	29.5	30.2	27.3	80	32.1
YASAWA-I-RARA (AWS)	27.7				
UDU POINT WEATHER	27.7	28.9	26.4	82	29.8
NABOUWALU	28.2	29.2	26.5	80	30.3
LABASA AIRFIELD	28.1	29.3	26.4	80	30.5 10.7
SAVUSAVU AIRFIELD	28.7	28.6	26.2	82	29.3 7.4
KORONIVIA RESEARCH	28.1	28.8	27.2	88	29.6
NAUSORI AIRPORT	27.7	28.5	26.1	82	29.1 5.4
NAVUA (AWS)	27.5				
MONASAVU HYDRO DAM	23.4	23.1	22.6	96	21.1
FSC LAUTOKA MILL	28.0	26.9	25.9	92	26.5
FSC RARAWAI MILL	28.0	29.0	25.7	77	30.0
FSC PENANG MILL	28.4	28.8	25.9	79	29.6
MATEI AIRFIELD	27.1	29.0	26.5	82	30.0 11.7
VANUABALAVU	27.1	29.0	26.2	80	30.0
LAKEBA (AWS)	28.3				
VUNISEA	27.3	28.5	25.9	81	29.1
MATUKU	27.1	27.8	25.0	80	27.9
ONO-I-LAU (AWS)	28.8				

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 (1981-2010). + :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 (April 2023 - April 2024)

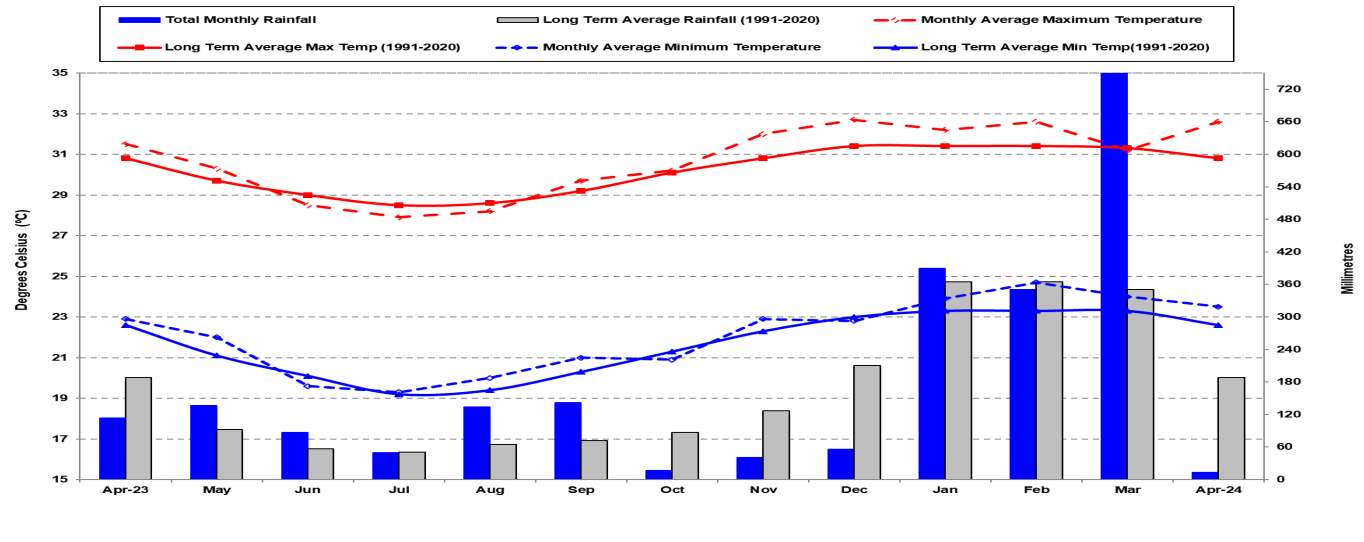


Figure 3

Laucala Bay - (Suva) (Central Division) - Temperature & Rainfall Records for the last 13 Months (April 2023 - April 2024)

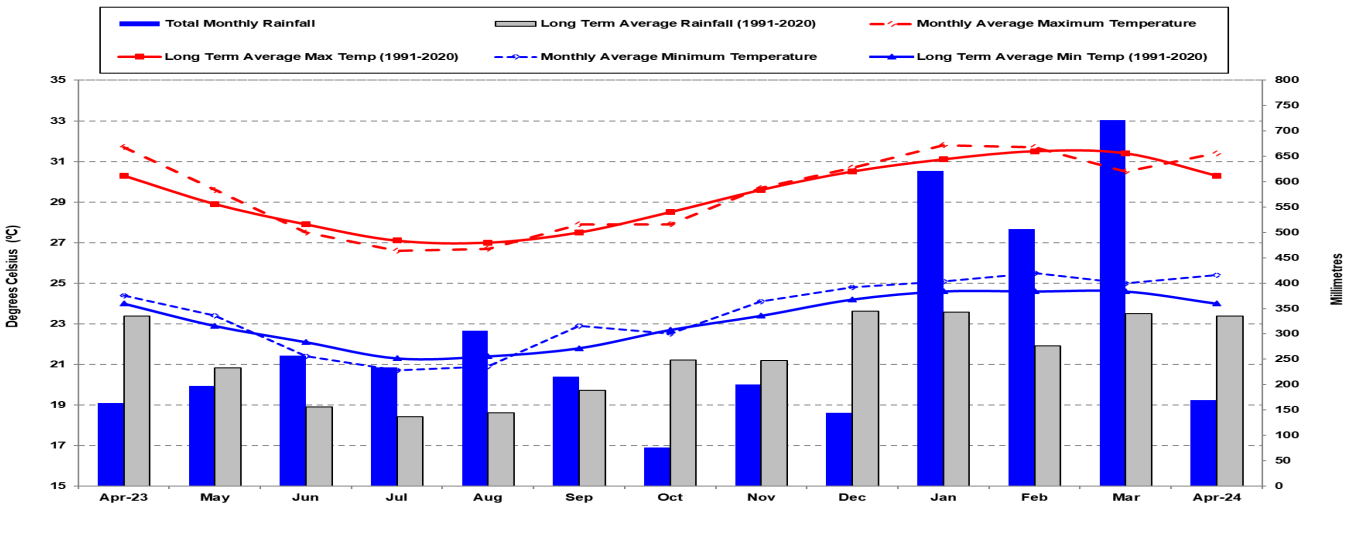


Figure 4

Udu Point (Eastern Division) - Temperature & Rainfall Records for the last 13 Months (April 2023 - April 2024)

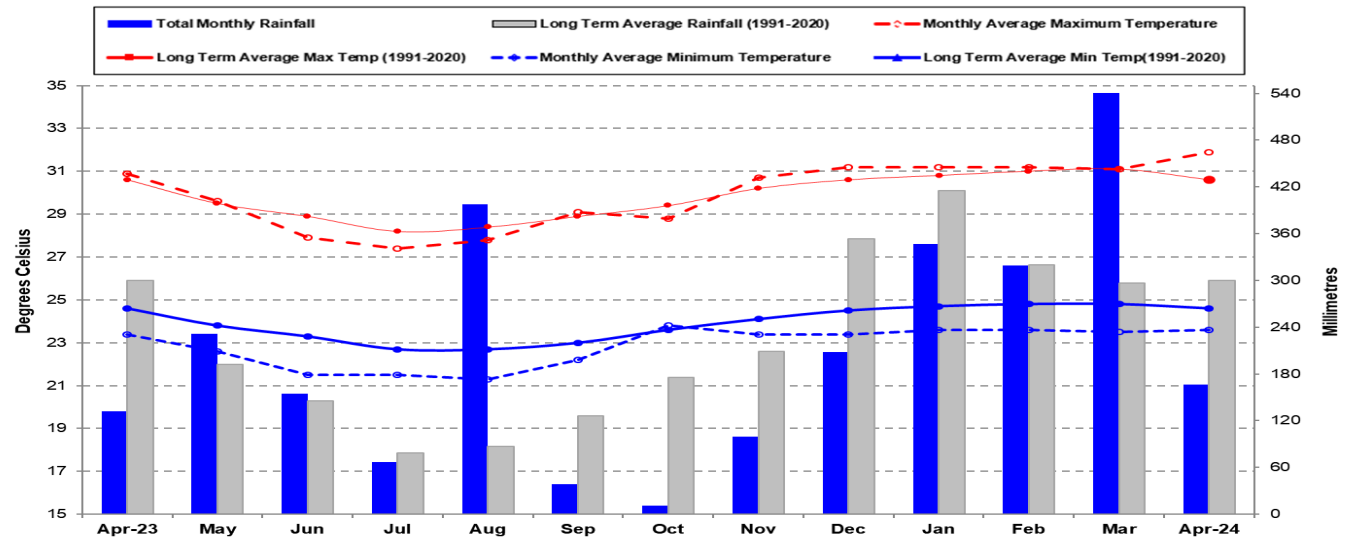
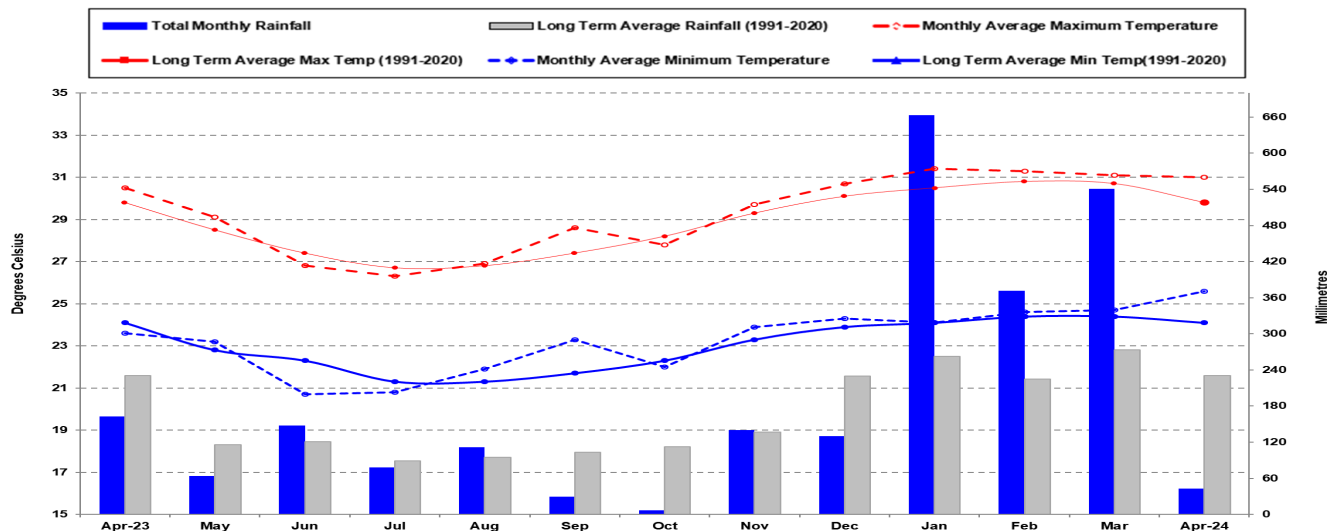


Figure 5

Lakeba (Eastern Division) - Temperature & Rainfall Records for the last 13 Months (April 2023 - April 2024)



### 5. DAILY RAISED PAN EVAPORATION

Daily Evaporation for April 2024

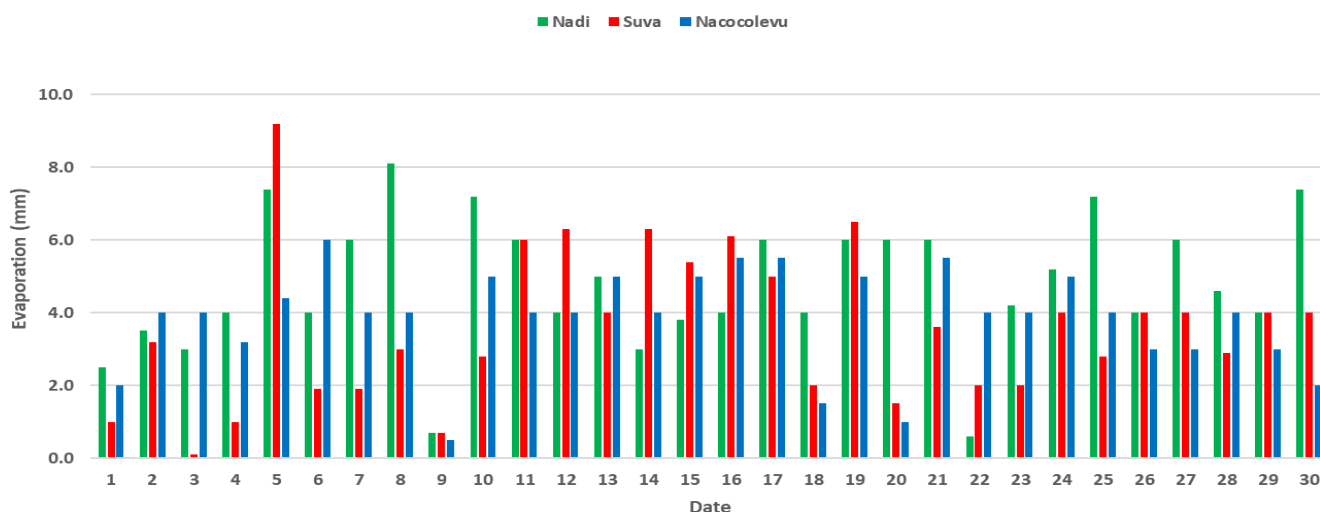


Figure 6: The total monthly raised pan evaporation at Nadi Airport, Laucala Bay (Suva) and Nacocolevu (Sigatoka) were 143.4mm, 107.2mm and 115.1mm, respectively. Nadi’s highest daily evaporation was 8.1mm on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with Suva’s highest daily evaporation of 9.2mm on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and Nacocolevu (Sigatoka) recorded its highest of 6.0mm on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

### 6. SOLAR RADIATION

The Nadi solar radiation instrument was unserviceable during the month of April 2024.



7. WIND SUMMARY

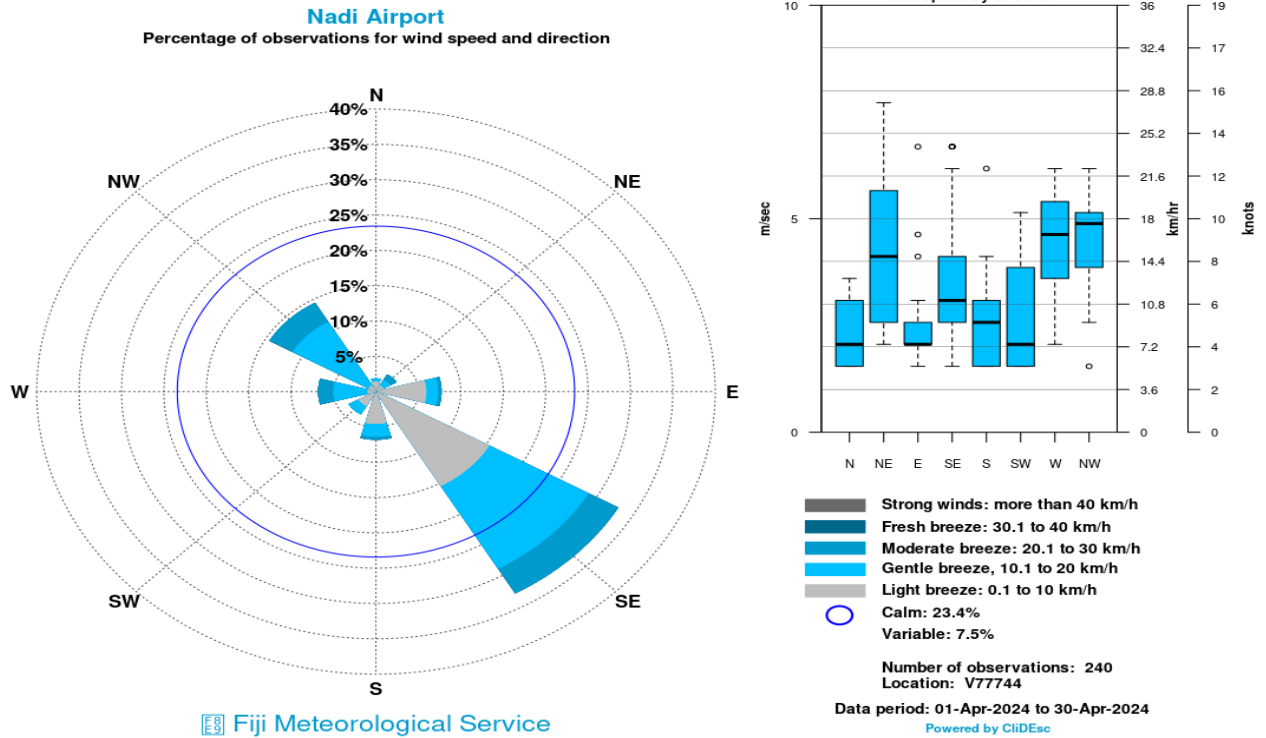


Figure 7a: Looking at Nadi’s 3 hourly observations, southeasterly winds were most dominant during the month, followed by northwesterly and then easterly winds. Wind strength ranged from light to moderate breeze, while 23.4% observations accounted for calm winds.

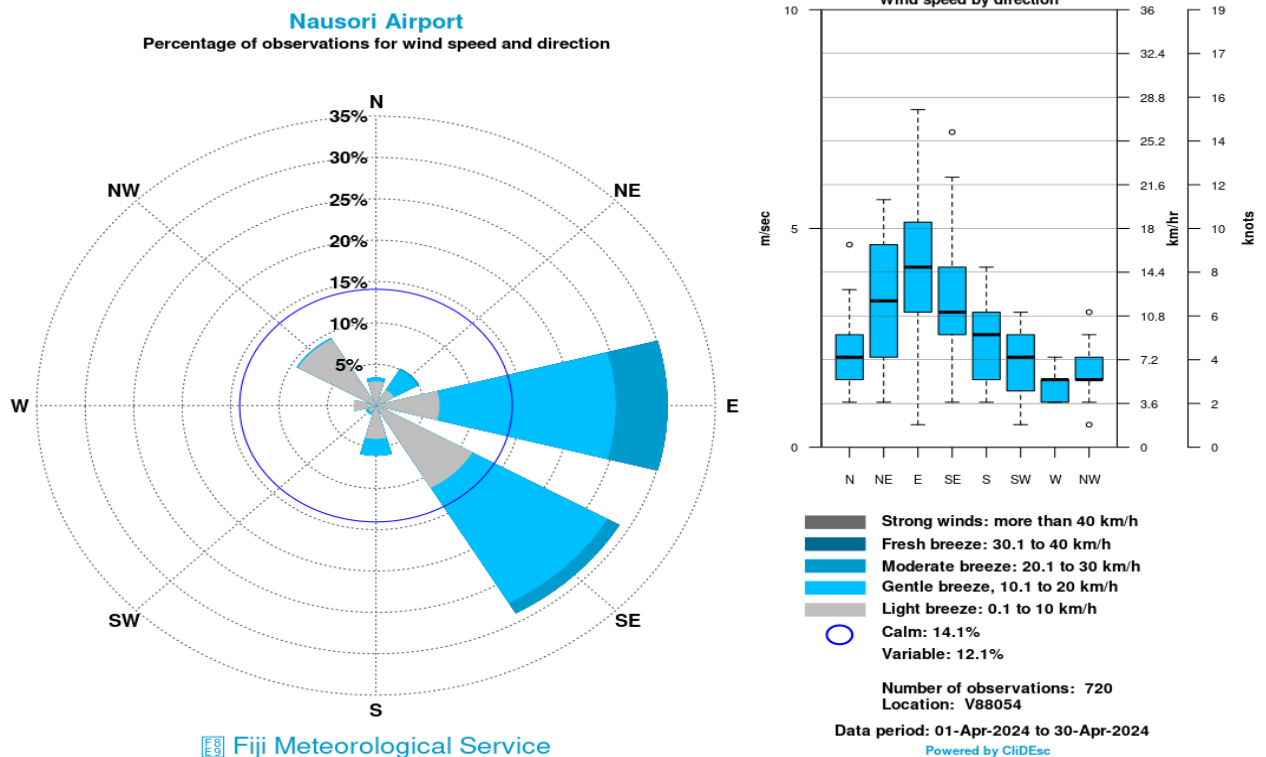
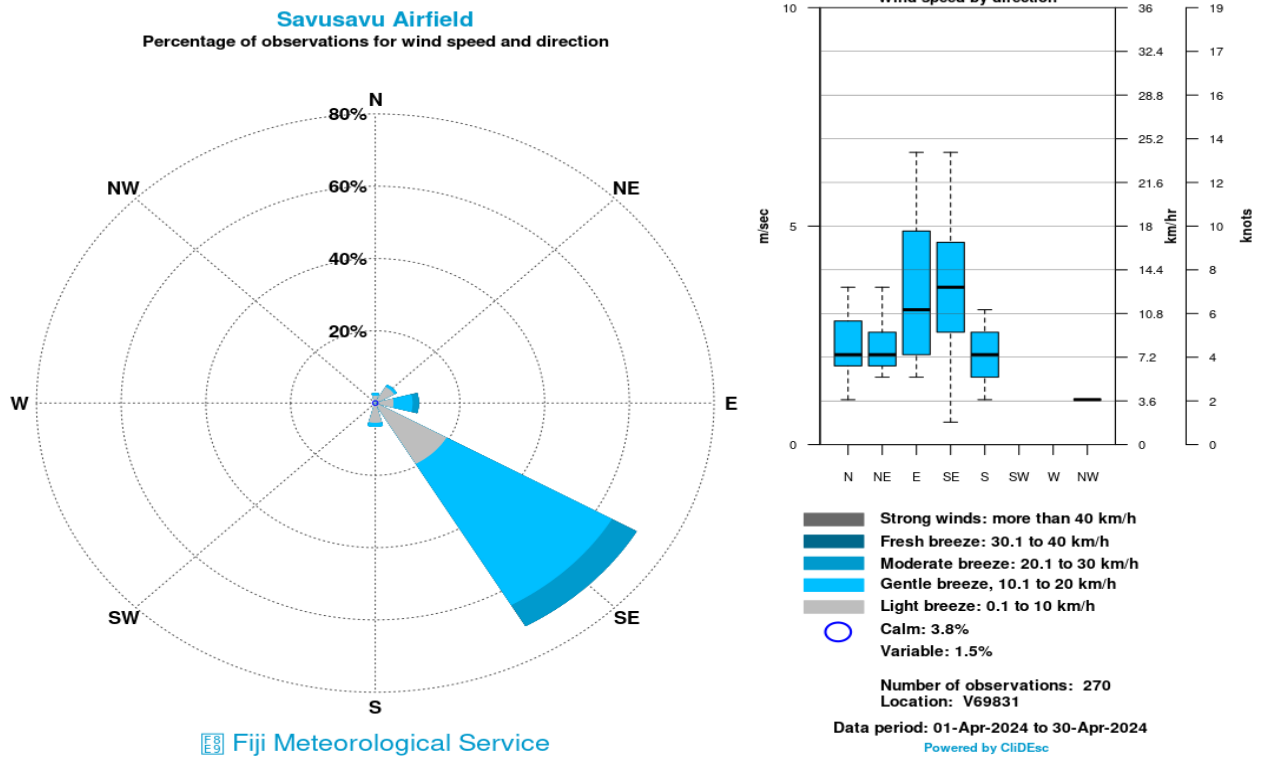
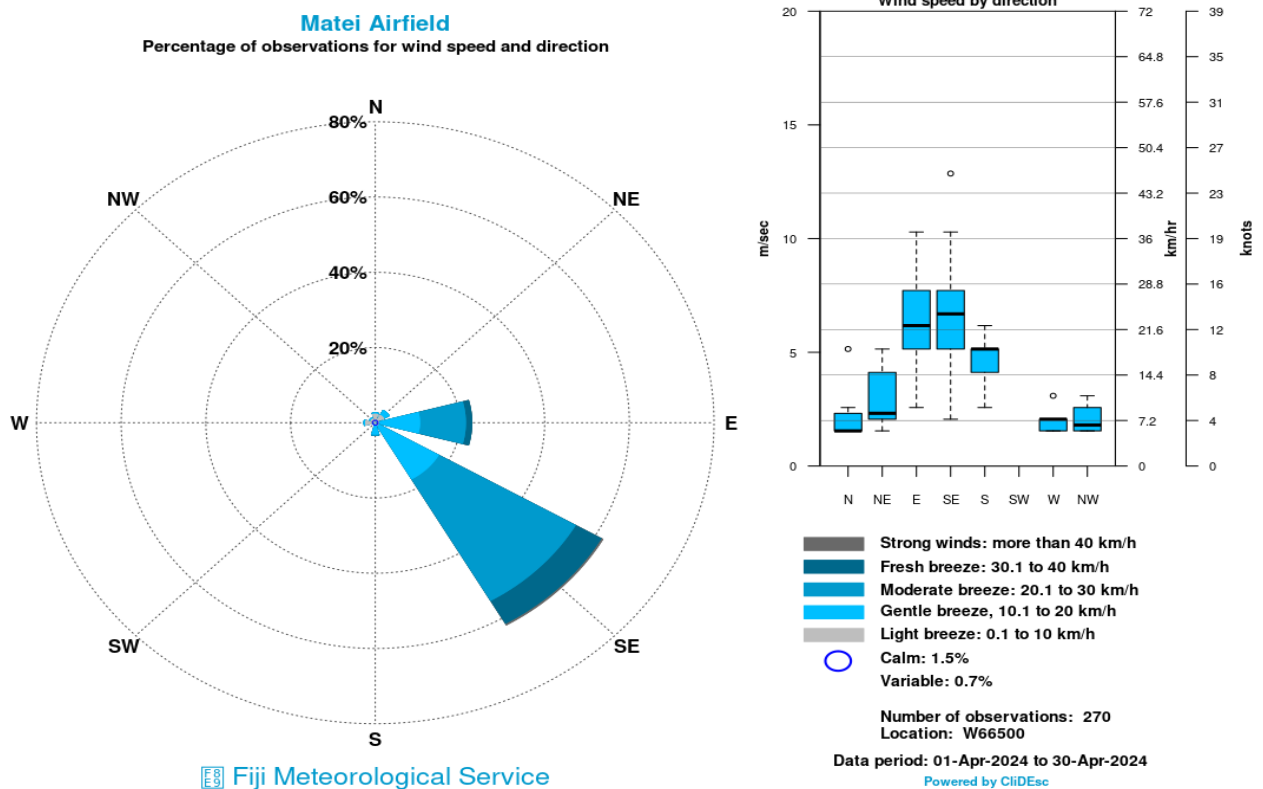


Figure 7b: For Nausori Airport’s hourly wind observations, easterly winds were dominant followed by southeasterly and then northwesterly winds. Wind strength ranged from light to moderate breeze, while 14.1% of observations accounted for calm winds.



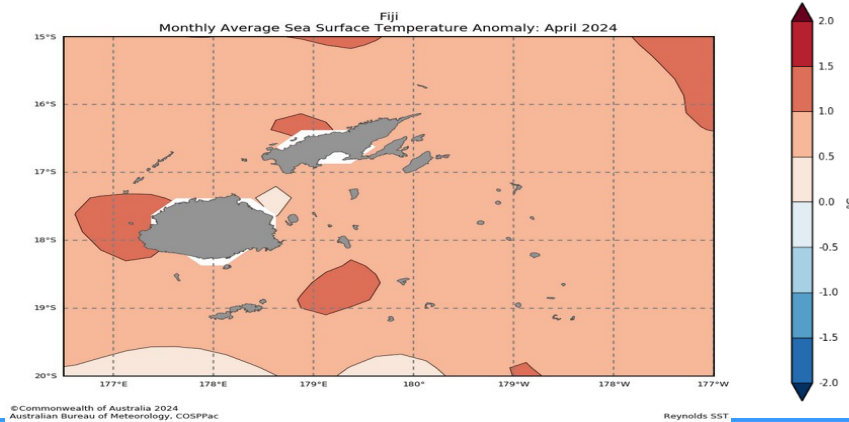
**Figure 7c:** For Savusavu Airfield’s hourly observations (0800hrs to 1600hrs), southeasterly winds were most dominant during the month, followed by easterly and then northeasterly winds. Wind strength ranged from light to moderate breeze, with calm winds observed 3.8% of the time.



**Figure 7d:** For Matei Airfield’s hourly wind observations (0800hrs to 1600hrs), southeasterly winds were dominant followed by easterly and then northeasterly winds. Wind strength ranged from light to fresh breeze, with calm winds observed 1.5% of the time.



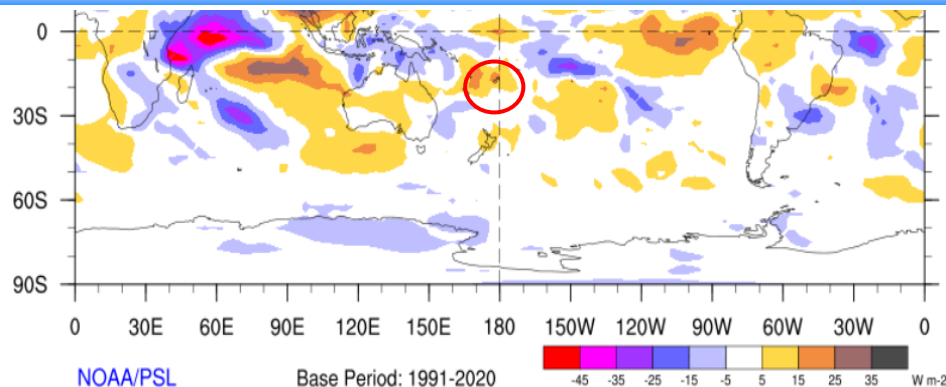
### 8. SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (SST)



**Figure 8:** Warmer than normal sea surface temperature anomalies were observed across most of the Fiji Waters, with anomalies 0.5-1.0°C.

Source: <http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/app.html#climate>

### 9. CLOUD COVER



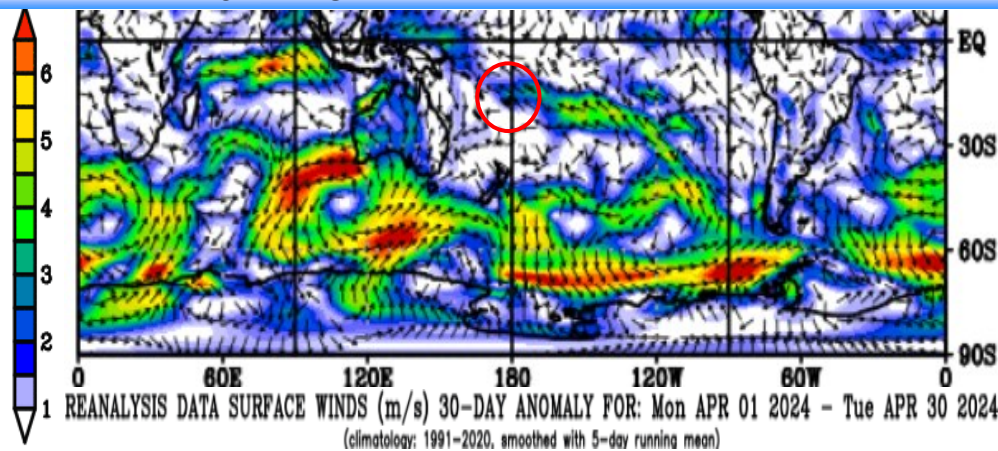
**Figure 9:** Below normal cloud cover was present over the Fiji Group during April, which is related to the more dry days experienced in April (Fiji in red circle).

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

### 10. SEA LEVEL

Monthly sea level anomalies map for the month of April was unavailable at the time of this issue, due to technical difficulties.

### 11. WIND ANOMALIES



**Figure 11:** Southeasterly wind anomalies were observed over the Fiji Group during the month (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)

## 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.