



Fiji Meteorological Service

ISO 9001:2015
certified Climate Services

Volume: 20 Issue: 6
Issued: May 29, 2024

Climate Outlook for Hydro-electricity Generation from June to August 2024

Current Conditions

Fiji's Climate

The weather across the country from 1st to 28th May was dominated by few troughs of low-pressure systems, afternoon showers, with fine weather experienced over most parts of Fiji.

Overall, out of the 16 rainfall stations that reported in, in time for the compilation of this bulletin, 2 recorded *well above average*, 8 *above average*, 2 *average*, 2 *below average* and 2 recorded *well below average*.

At Monasavu, when comparing the total monthly rainfall against the 30-year average, *above average* rainfall was received at Monasavu during May 2024.

The total monthly rainfall for Monasavu (until 28th May) was 436mm, which was 139% of the *normal*. During March to 28th May, Monasavu recorded 1706mm of rainfall, which was 132% of the *normal*, while in the past 6 months (December to 28th May), 3487mm of rainfall was registered (112% of the *normal*) (Figure 1).

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Status

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were *above average* in the central and western Pacific Ocean. In contrast, SSTs ranged from *near average to below average* in the east-central and eastern Pacific Ocean.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) for April 2024 was –6.3, with the 5-month running mean of –2.9. The latest 30-day value to 27th May 2024 was 2.3.

Trade winds have been mostly close to average across much of the equatorial Pacific. Cloudiness near the equatorial Date Line is currently close to average, although it has been slightly above average during most of May.

Overall, the oceanic and atmospheric indicators are indicative of neutral ENSO conditions.

El Niño-Southern Oscillation and Monasavu Climate Predictions

El-Niño Southern Oscillation Prediction

Climate models on average show that the current ENSO-neutral state will persist until at least July 2024 and then transition to La Niña during August to October 2024.

Minimum & Maximum Air Temperature Predictions - June & June to August 2024:

Both minimum and maximum temperatures are likely to be *above normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu during June and June to August 2024 period (Figure 3).

Rainfall Predictions:

Fortnightly: 1st - 14th June & 8th - 21st June

Rainfall across Viti Levu is likely to be below median from 1st - 14th June and as well as from 8th - 21st June.

June 2024

There is 75% chance of receiving at least 40mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of at least

48mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu Dam and Monasavu, and 75% chance of receiving at least 53mm of rainfall at Wailoa. There is good confidence in this forecast (Table 1).

June to August 2024

For the June to August 2024 period, there is 75% chance of receiving at least 190mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of at least 204mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu Dam and Monasavu, and 75% chance of receiving at least 219mm of rainfall at Wailoa. There is high skill on the generated outlook (Table 1).

Summary

Most parts of Viti Levu are likely to experience drier conditions in June and as well as for the June to August 2024 period.

Figure 1

Monthly Rainfall Distribution at Monasavu until 28th May 2024

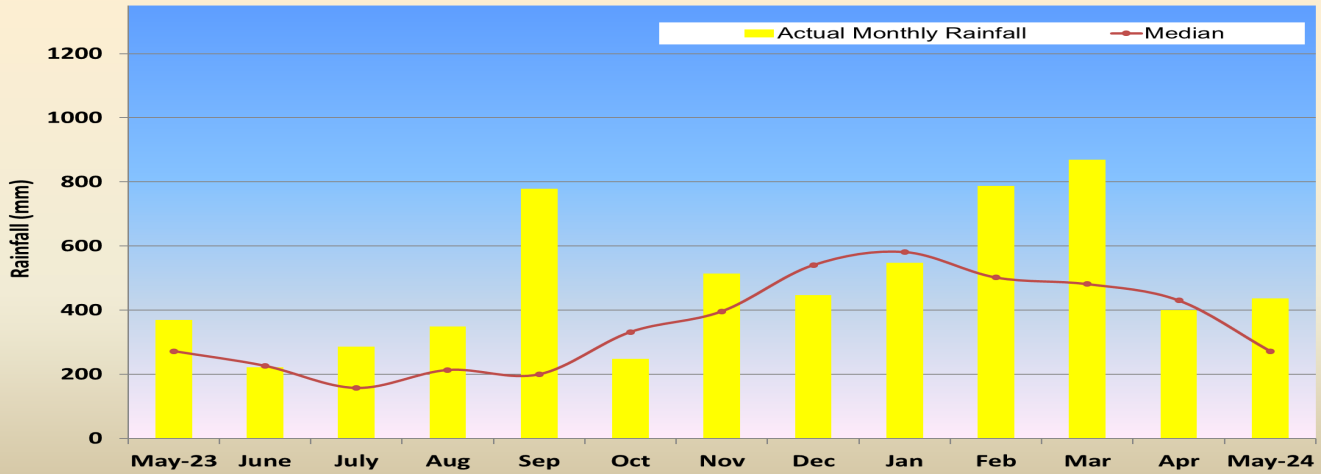


Table 1: Rainfall Outlook: June & June to August 2024

June Outlook				
	25% chance of at least (mm)	50% chance of at least (mm)	75% chance of at least (mm)	Forecast Confidence
Nadarivatu station	150	60	40	Good
Nadarivatu Dam	176	66	48	Good
Monasavu Dam	176	66	48	Good
Wailoa	171	80	53	Good
June to August Outlook				
	25% chance of at least (mm)	50% chance of at least (mm)	75% chance of at least (mm)	Forecast Confidence
Nadarivatu station	400	263	190	High
Nadarivatu Dam	428	287	204	High
Monasavu Dam	428	287	204	High
Wailoa	457	302	219	High

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

Figure 1: Rainfall Outlook: Fortnightly: 1st - 14th June & 8th - 21st June

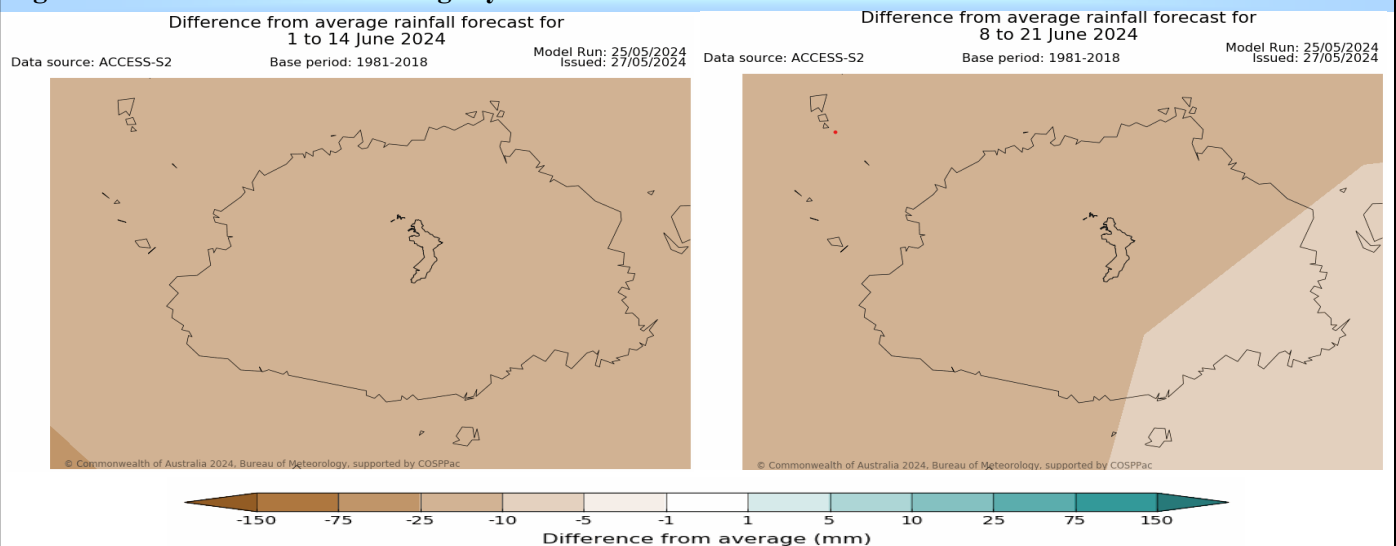


Figure 2: Rainfall Outlook: June & June to August 2024

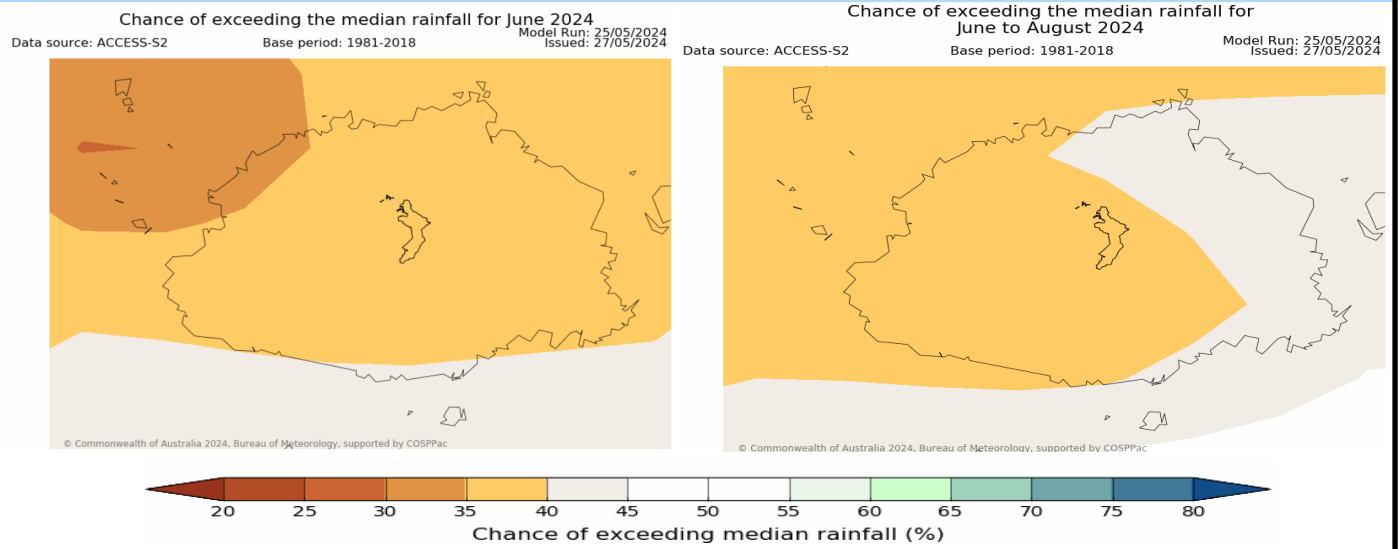
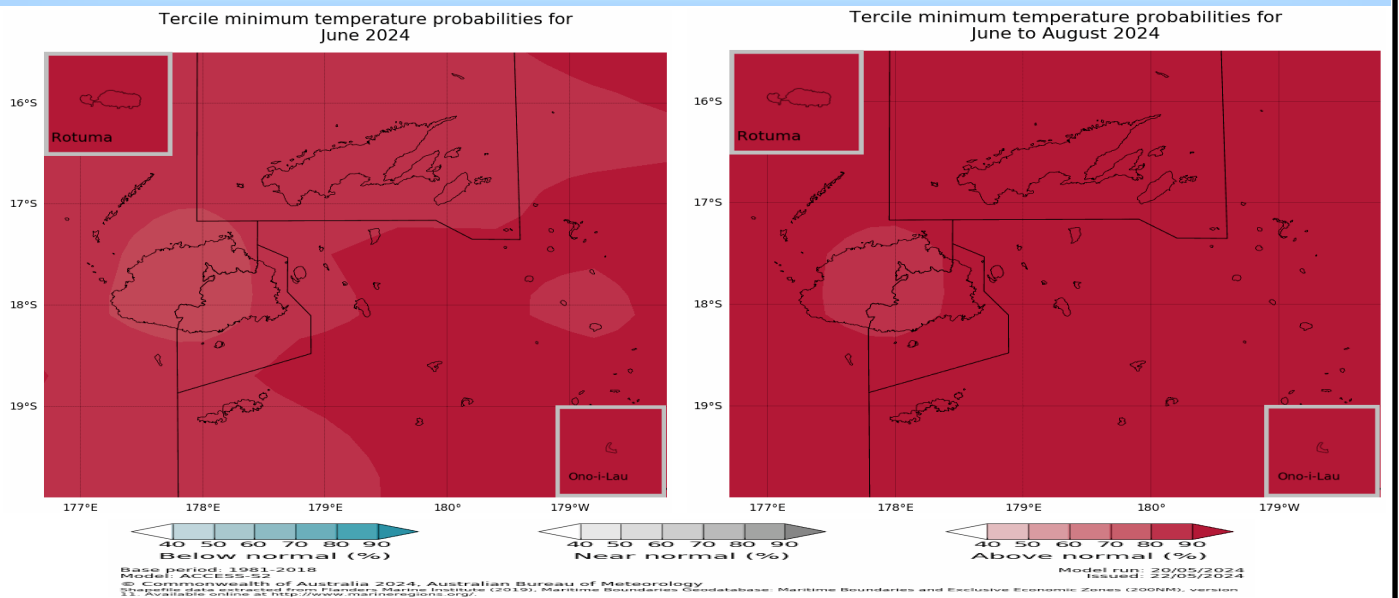
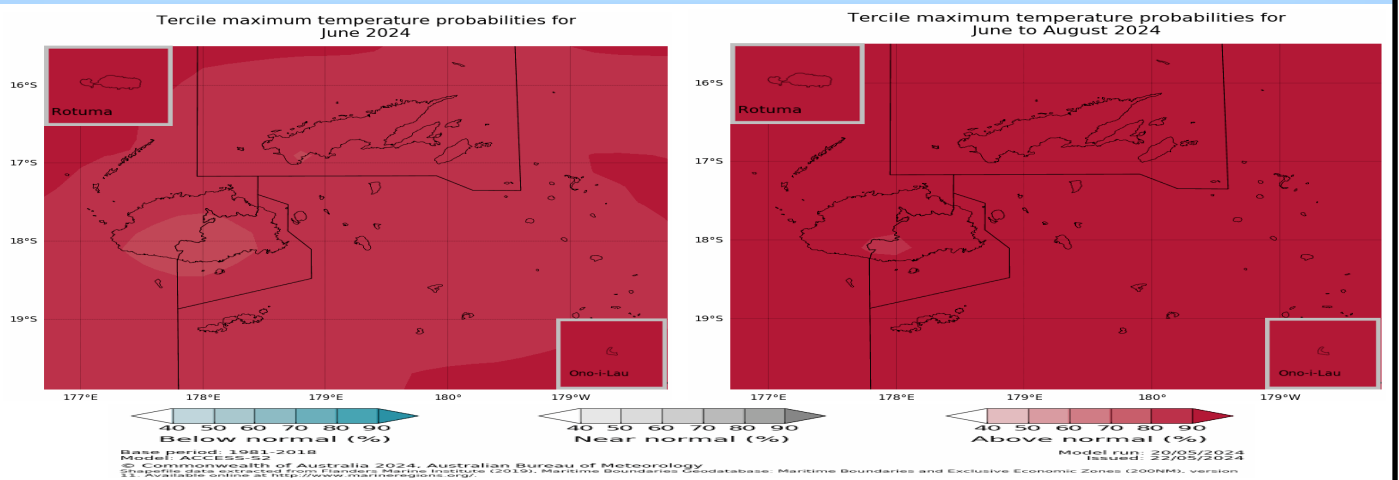


Figure 3: Minimum Air Temperature Predictions: June & June to August 2024



Minimum air temperatures are expected to be *above normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, during June and June to August 2024 period. Source: ACCESS-S2 Model.

Figure 3: Maximum Air Temperature Predictions: June & June to August 2024



Maximum air temperatures are likely to be *above normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, during June and June to August 2024 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)

This information is prepared as soon as ENSO, climate and oceanographic data is received from recording stations around Fiji and Meteorological Agencies around the world. While every effort is made to verify observational data, Fiji Meteorological Service does not guarantee the accuracy and reliability of the analyses presented, and accepts no liability for any losses incurred through the use of this information and its contents. The information may be freely disseminated provided the source is acknowledged. For further clarification and expert advice, please contact the Fiji Meteorological Service HQ, Namaka, Nadi.

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