

Pacific Islands - Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 221

Country: Tonga

Part 1: Recent climate

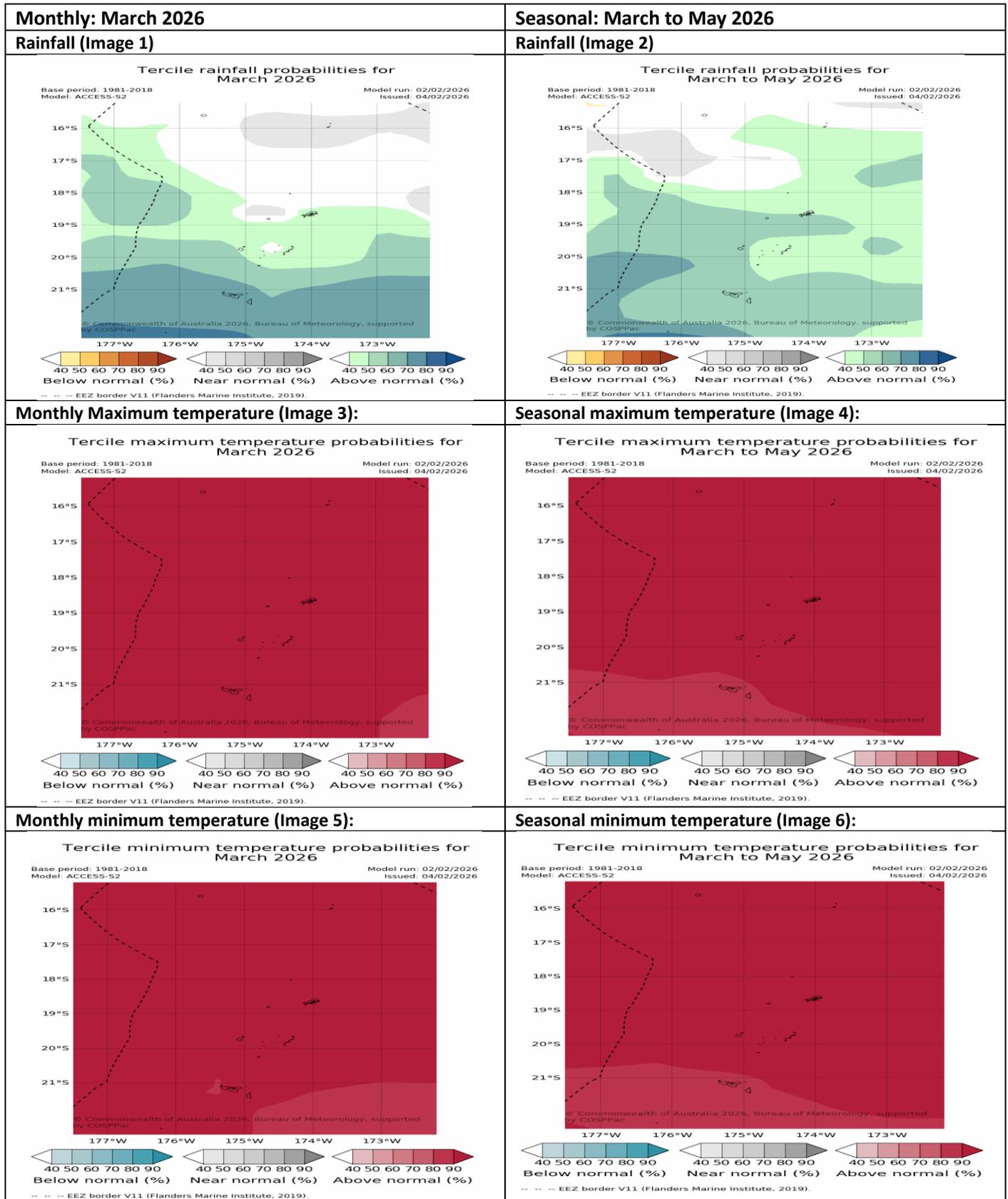
TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	Nov-2025	Dec-2025	Jan-2026				Rank
			Total (mm)	33%tile	67%tile	Median	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	Rainfall (mm)				
<i>Northern Division</i>							
Niuafo'ou (1971-2025)	395.5	155.5	192.5	209.3	359.7	244.2	17/51
Niuaotoputapu (1947-2025)	466.2	189.0	118.8	211.5	296.3	243.0	12/79
<i>Central Division</i>							
Vava'u (1947-2025)	342.3	451.5	158.9	173.0	312.0	246.8	21/80
Ha'apai (1947-2025)	181.8	57.8	125.6	125.0	245.7	193.6	28/80
<i>Southern Division</i>							
Fua'amotu (1979-2025)	370.4	127.8	162.9	133.0	303.6	208.4	17/47
Nuku'alofa (1944-2025)	334.0	115.0	86.5	130.8	257.0	197.5	19/82

TABLE 2: Three-month Total Rainfall for November 2025 to January 2026

Station	Three-month Total		33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Rainfall (mm)					
<i>Northern Division</i>						
Niuafo'ou (1971-2025)	743.5	Normal	694.3	950.0	783.0	22/47
Niuaotoputapu (1947-2025)	774.0	Normal	597.3	847.3	748.0	40/74
<i>Central Division</i>						
Vava'u (1947-2025)	952.7	Above normal	482.6	810.0	627.0	63/79
Ha'apai (1947-2025)	365.2	Normal	329.2	570.6	456.0	29/79
<i>Southern Division</i>						
Fua'amotu (1979-2025)	661.1	Above normal	392.1	628.5	487.0	32/46
Nuku'alofa (1944-2025)	535.5	Normal	333.7	573.7	435.7	51/82

# Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for March and March to May 2026



# Part 2: Recent Ocean Observation

## Monthly/Three months: January and November to January 2026

Monthly: January 2026	Last three months: November to January 2026
<p><b>Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (Image 1):</b></p> <p>Monthly Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies: January 2026</p> <p>Tonga</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025</p> <p>Reynolds</p>	<p><b>Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (Image 4):</b></p> <p>Seasonal Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies : Nov 2025 - Jan 2026</p> <p>Tonga</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025</p> <p>Reynolds</p>
<p><b>Sea level anomaly January 2026 (Image 2):</b></p> <p>Monthly Sea Level Anomaly: January 2026</p> <p>Tonga</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025</p> <p>Reynolds</p>	
<p><b>National daily coral bleaching alert (Image 3):</b></p> <p>Coral Bleaching Alert: 5 February 2026</p> <p>Tonga</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025</p> <p>NOAA</p>	<p><b>Pacific daily coral bleaching alert (Image 5):</b></p> <p>Coral Bleaching Alert: 5 February 2026</p> <p>Pacific Islands</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025</p> <p>NOAA</p>

# Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for March and March to May 2026

Monthly: March 2026	Seasonal: March to May 2026
<p><b>Monthly sea surface temperature anomaly (Image 5):</b></p> <p>Tonga Monthly Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies: March 2026</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025 ACCESS-S2</p>	<p><b>Seasonal sea surface temperature anomaly (Image 6):</b></p> <p>Tonga Sea Surface Temperature Seasonal : Mar - May 2026</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025 ACCESS-S2</p>
<p><b>Monthly sea level anomaly (Image 7):</b></p> <p>Difference from average sea surface height forecast for March 2026</p> <p>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 Model run: 02/02/2026 Issued: 04/02/2026</p> <p>© Commonwealth of Australia 2026, Bureau of Meteorology, supported by COSPPac</p> <p>--- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).</p>	<p><b>Seasonal sea level anomaly (Image 8):</b></p> <p>Difference from average sea surface height forecast for March to May 2026</p> <p>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 Model run: 02/02/2026 Issued: 04/02/2026</p> <p>© Commonwealth of Australia 2026, Bureau of Meteorology, supported by COSPPac</p> <p>--- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).</p>
<p><b>National 4-week Coral Bleaching Outlook (Image 9):</b></p> <p>Tonga 4 Week Coral Bleaching Outlook: 2 March 2026</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025 NOAA</p>	<p><b>Pacific 4-week Coral Bleaching Outlook (Image 10):</b></p> <p>Pacific Islands 4 Week Coral Bleaching Outlook: 2 March 2026</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025 NOAA</p>

## Summary Statement

### Monthly and last three months: January 2026/November to January 2026 statement

The rainfall for January was near normal over Ha'apai and Fua'amotu and below normal over Niuafo'ou, Niuatoputapu, Vava'u, and Nuku'alofa.

For the past three months, rainfall was above normal over Vava'u and Fua'amotu and normal over Niuafo'ou, Niuatoputapu, Ha'apai and Nuku'alofa.

## Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for March and March to May 2026

### Monthly /Seasonal rainfall and temperature Outlook statements

The rainfall for March is very likely to be above normal over Vava'u, Ha'apai and Tongatapu. In Niuafo'ou and Niuatoputapu the outlook shows March's rainfall is likely to be near-normal.

The rainfall for March to May very likely to be above normal over most of the countries except Niuafo'ou, they are likely to have a near normal rainfall.

Maximum and minimum temperatures during March and averaged over March to May are very likely to be above normal over most of the countries.

## Part 2: Recent Ocean summary statement

### Monthly and last three months: January 2026/November to January 2026

January sea surface temperatures (SSTs) around Tonga were 1.2 to 3.0°C above normal.

Averaged over November to January, sea surface temperatures around Tonga were 0.8 to 2.0°C above normal.

January sea levels around Tonga were 30 to 100mm above normal.

Coral bleaching Alert Level 1 with patches of Alert Level 2 are currently in effect for Tongatapu and Ha'apai and a Watch status for Vava'u, Niuafo'ou and Niuatoputapu.

## Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for March and March to May 2026

### Ocean Variable statement

March 2026 sea surface temperatures around Tonga are predicted to be 0.4 to 1.2°C above normal.

Averaged over March to May 2026, sea surface temperatures around Tonga are predicted to be 0.4 to 1.2°C above normal.

March 2026 sea levels around Tonga are predicted to be -30 to 30mm near-normal and -30 to -60mm below normal.

Averaged over March to May 2026, sea levels around Tonga are predicted to be -30 to 30mm near-normal and -30 to -60mm below normal.

Coral Bleaching 4-week outlook indicates an Alert Level 2 for most of the country except for an Alert Level 1 for Niuafo'ou and Niuatoputapu.

## In brief for Teleconference

- Rainfall was near normal to below normal for November and above normal to normal for November to January.
- The rainfall outlook generally indicates above normal and near normal rainfall most likely in March 2026 and above average for total rainfall for March to May 2026.
- SSTs were above normal for January and November to January. The outlook shows above normal SSTs for the next one and three months.
- Sea levels were above normal for November. Above normal sea levels are predicted for March and March to May 2026.
- As of 5<sup>th</sup> of February, Coral Bleaching is at Alert Level 1 for central and southern Tonga, and at Watch for the rest of Tonga. The four-week outlook places most of Tonga under Alerts Level 2 and Level 1.

**TABLE 3: Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective NMS engage with stakeholders (November 2025)**

Product	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of Male	Number of Female	Disability	Comments (If there are comments from you Stakeholders)
Climate Bulletin	Government Ministries, NGO's, Media, Private Sector		32	42	3	
EAR Watch						
Monthly Climate Briefing						
Ocean Outlook	Government Ministries, NGO's, Media, Private Sector		32	42	3	
Climate data request						
Total			64	84	6	

Stakeholder category	Do your products reach this group? (Y/N)	Tailored product? (Y/N)
Agriculture sector	Y	N
Disaster Risk Reduction sector	Y	N
Energy sector	Y	N
Health sector	Y	N
Water sector	Y	N
Fisheries and Aquaculture sector	Y	N
Tourism sector	Y	N
Maritime sector	Y	N
Research & education sector	Y	N
Women's [] organisations	Y	N
National disability organisations	Y	N
Community based organisations (e.g. councils)	Y	N
Products offered in local dialects/ languages	Y	N