Pacific Islands - Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 229

Country: TONGA

Part 1: Recent climate

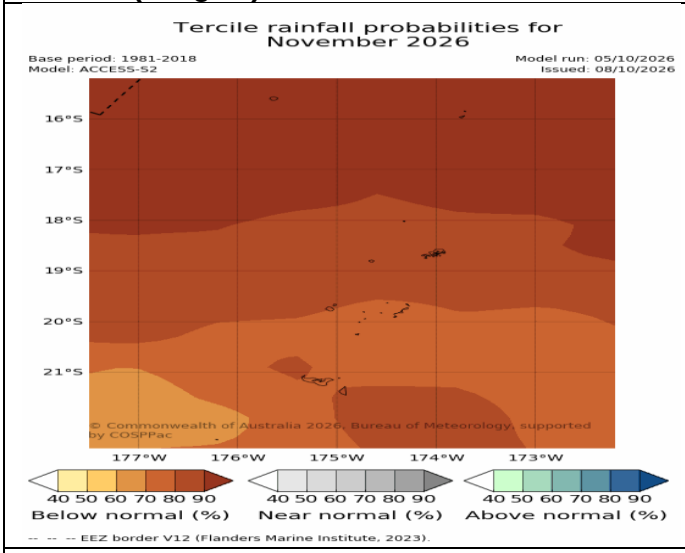
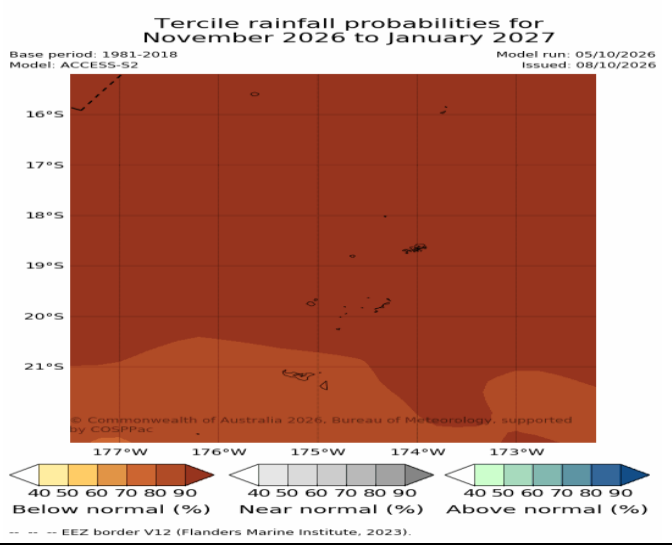
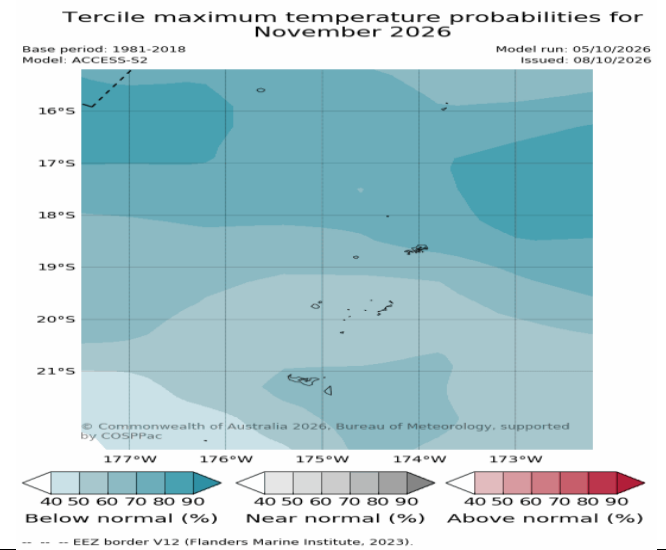
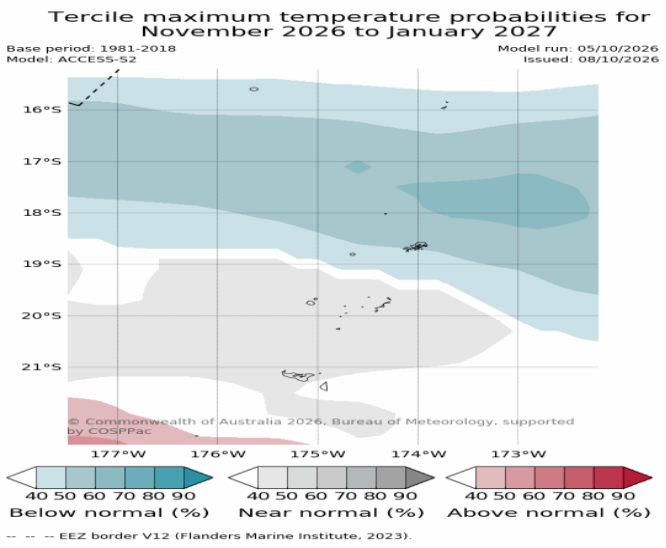
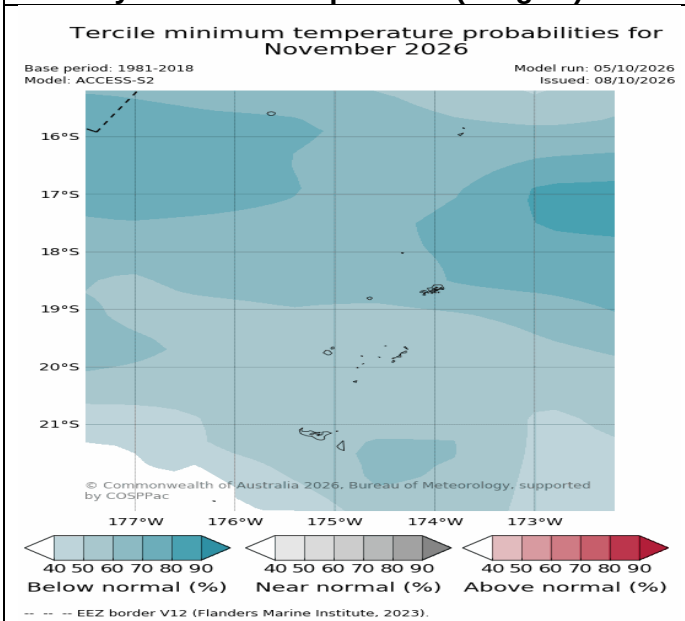
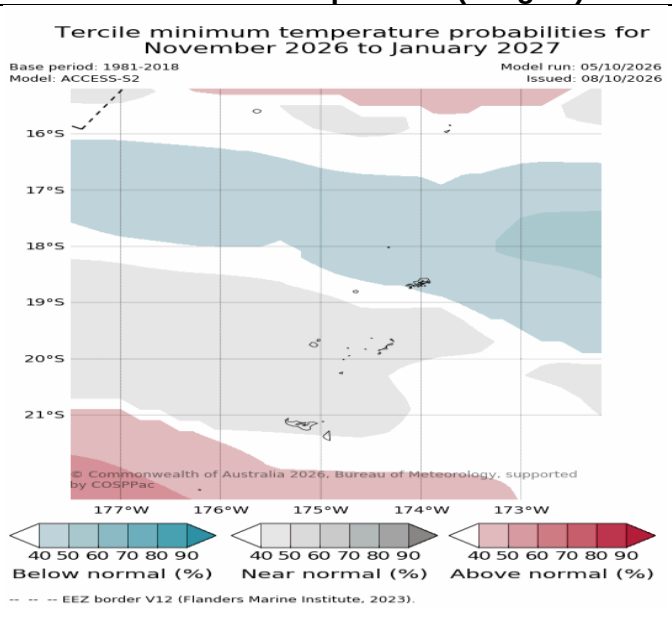
TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	Jul-2026	Aug-2026	Sep-2026				
			Total (mm)	33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	Rainfall (mm)				
Northern Division							
Niuafo'ou (1971-2026)	73.0	13.5		-	-	-	-
Niuatoputapu (1947-2026)	70.9	26.5	76.7	53.0	133.5	101.6	32/77
Central Division							
Vava'u (1947-2026)	40.2	123.3	104.2	80.0	167.0	110.6	36/80
Ha'apai (1947-2026)	22.0	27.6	37.7	61.0	132.7	91.0	17/80
Southern Division							
Fua'amotu (1979-2026)	42.9	80.8	71.3	78.4	124.6	101.2	13/47
Nuku'alofa (1944-2026)	39.5	48.5	58.8	73.9	142.3	102.0	22/82

TABLE 2: Three-month Total Rainfall for July to September 2026

Station	Three-month Total		33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Rainfall (mm)					
Northern Division						
Niuafo'ou (1971-2026)			-	-	-	-
Niuatoputapu (1947-2026)	174.1	Below normal	214.0	365.0	289.8	15/77
Central Division						
Vava'u (1947-2026)	267.7	Normal	259.0	399.0	340.0	30/80
Ha'apai (1947-2026)	87.3	Below normal	218.0	346.0	289.0	**3/80**
Southern Division						
Fua'amotu (1979-2026)	195.0	Below normal	262.0	412.5	347.5	8/47
Nuku'alofa (1944-2026)	146.8	Below normal	273.3	366.4	322.0	**7/82**

Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for November and November 2026 to January 2027

Monthly: November 2026	Seasonal: November 2026 to January 2027
Rainfall (Image 1)	**Rainfall (Image 2)**
	
Monthly Maximum temperature (Image 3):	**Seasonal maximum temperature (Image 4):**
	
Monthly minimum temperature (Image 5):	**Seasonal minimum temperature (Image 6):**
	

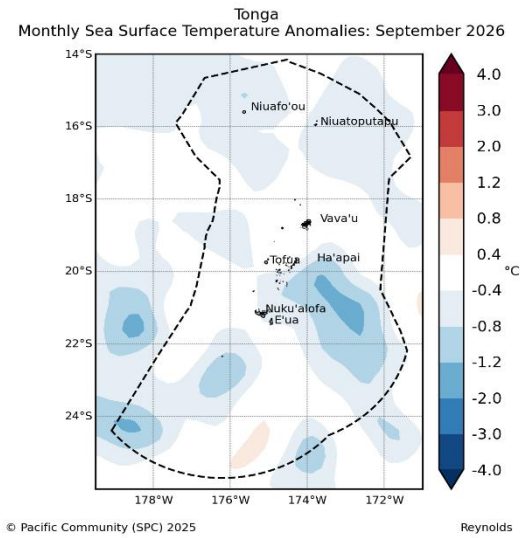
Part 2: Recent Ocean Observation

Monthly/Three months: September and July to September 2026

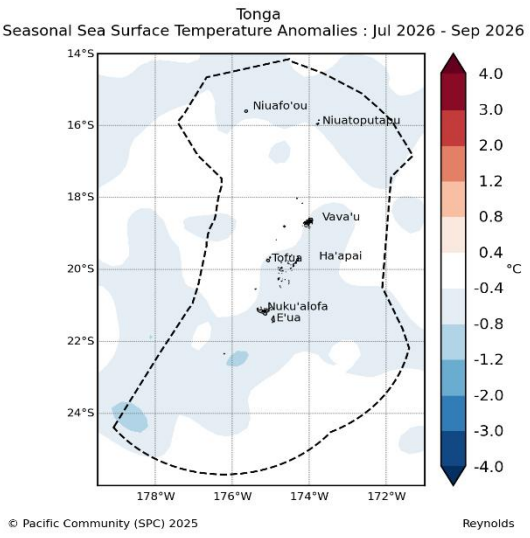
Monthly: September 2026

Last three months: July to September 2026

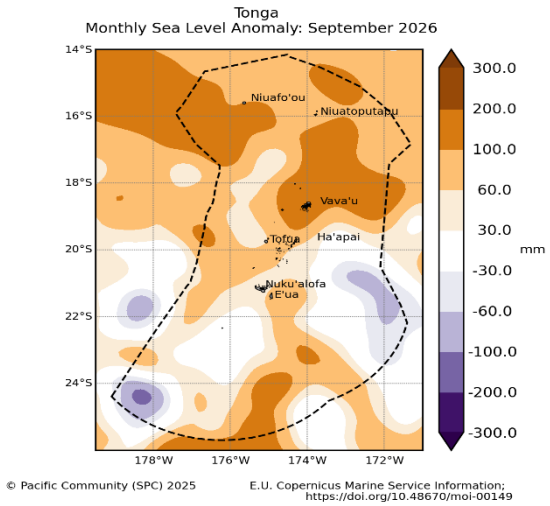
Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (Image 1):



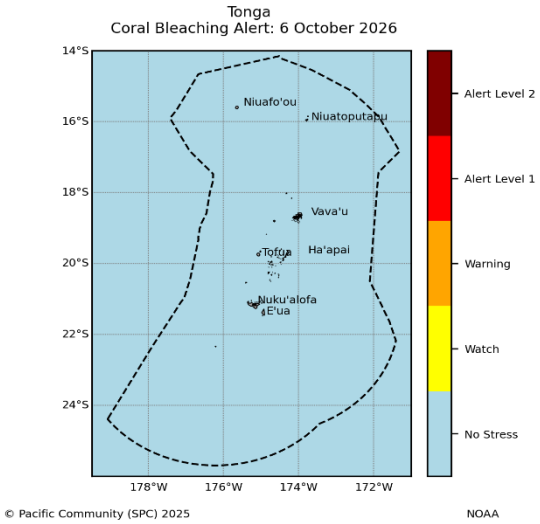
Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (Image 4):



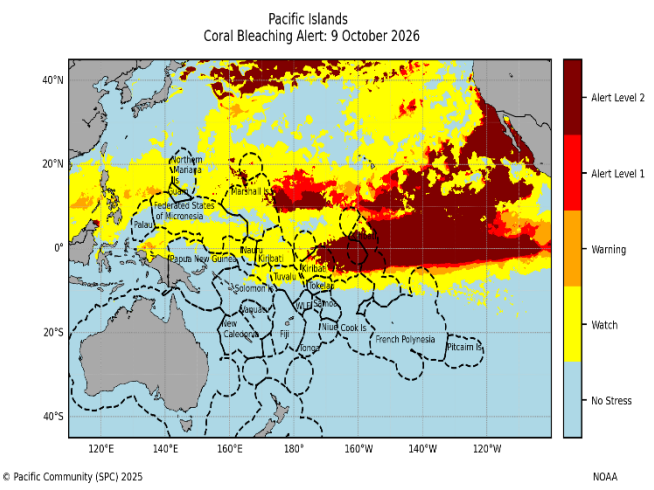
Sea level anomaly (Image 2):



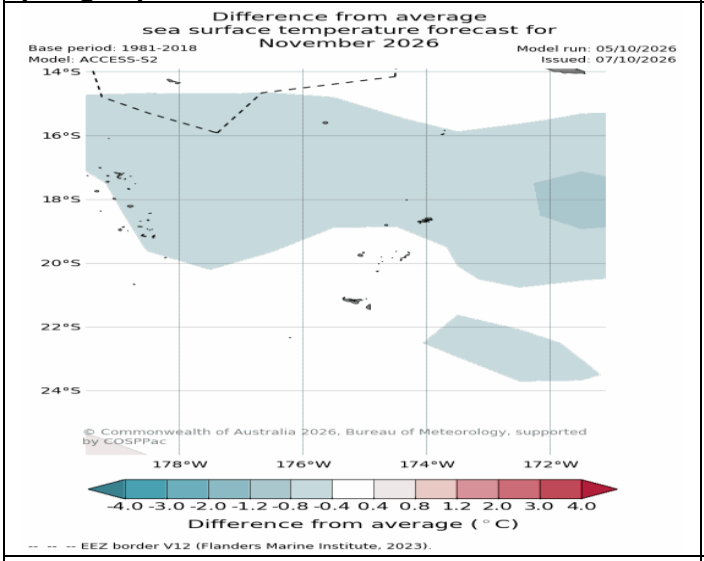
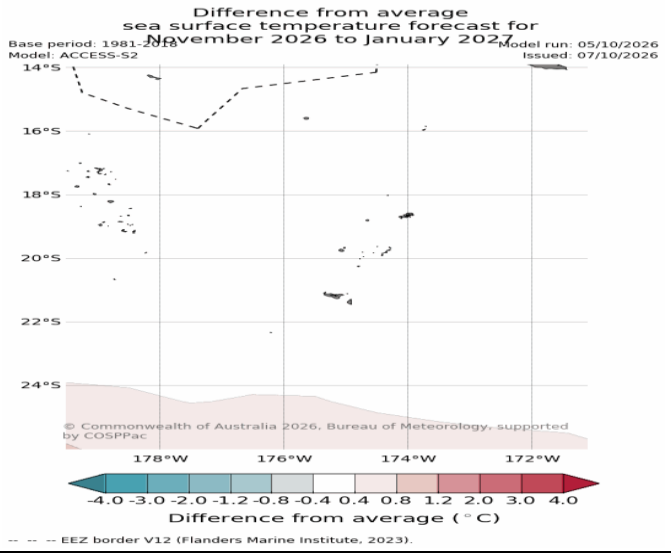
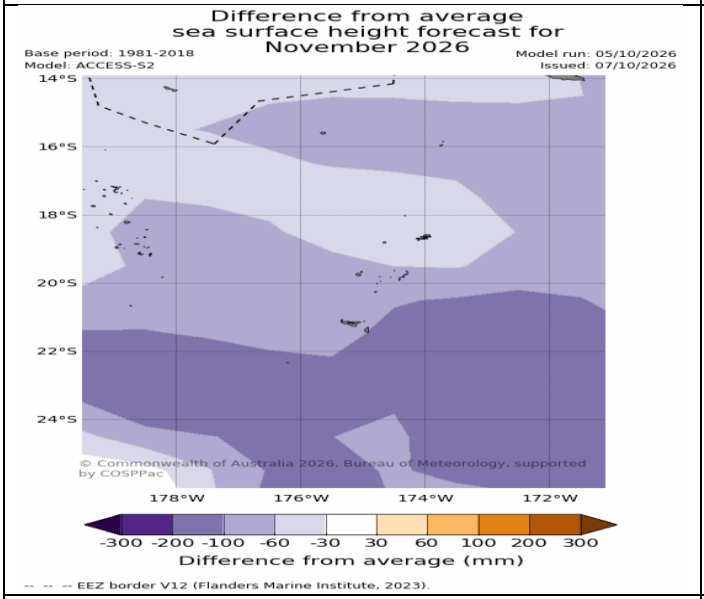
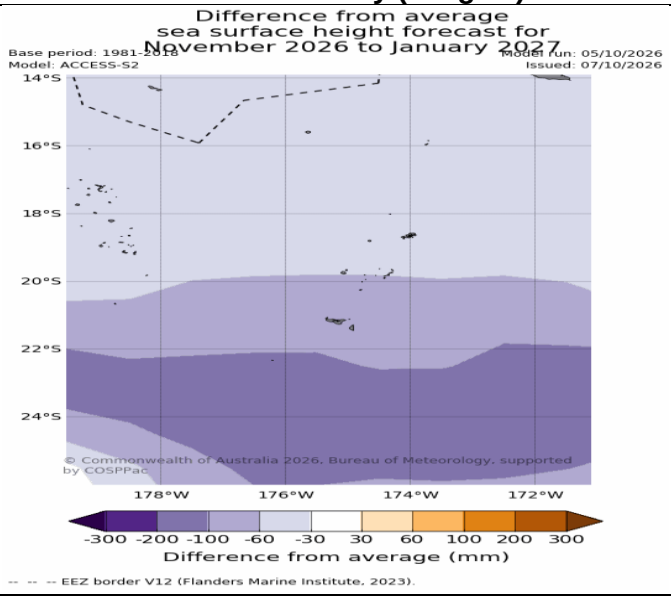
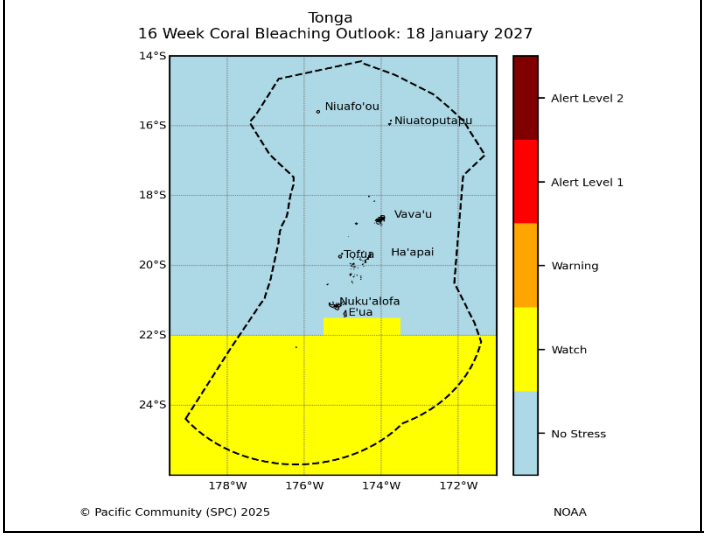
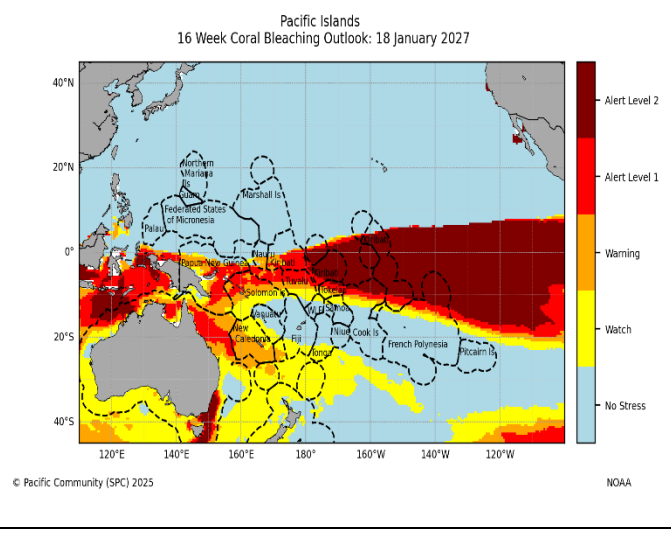
National daily coral bleaching alert (Image 3):



Pacific daily coral bleaching alert (Image 5):



Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for November and November 2026 to January 2027

Monthly: November 2026	**Seasonal: November 2026 to January 2027**
Monthly sea surface temperature anomaly (Image 5):	**Seasonal sea surface temperature anomaly (Image 6):**
	
Monthly sea level anomaly (Image 7):	**Seasonal sea level anomaly (Image 8):**
	
National 4-week Coral Bleaching Outlook (Image 9):	**Pacific 4-week Coral Bleaching Outlook (Image 10):**
	

Summary Statement

Monthly and last three months: September/July to September 2026 statement

The rainfall for September was near-normal over Niuatoputapu and Vava'u and below normal over Ha'apai, Fua'amotu and Nuku'alofa. For the past three months, rainfall was below normal over most of Tonga except Vava'u where rainfall was normal. Ha'apai recorded its 3rd driest while Nukualofa recorded its 7th driest for the same period.

Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for November and November 2026 to January 2027

Monthly/Seasonal rainfall and temperature Outlook statements

The rainfall for November 2026 is likely to be below normal over all of Tonga.

The rainfall for November 2026 to January 2027 is likely to be below normal over all of Tonga.

Maximum and minimum temperatures during November 2026 are likely to be below normal over all of Tonga.

Maximum and minimum temperatures averaged over November 2026 to January 2027 are likely to be near normal over Ha'apai, Fua'amotu and Nuku'alofa and below normal Niuafo'ou, Niuatoputapu and Vava'u.

Part 2: Recent Ocean summary statement

Monthly and last three months: September/July to September 2026

September sea surface temperatures (SSTs) around Tonga were 0.4 to 2.0°C near normal to below normal.

Averaged over July to September 2026, sea surface temperatures around Tonga were 0.4 to 0.8°C near-normal to below normal.

September sea levels around Tonga were 30 to 200 mm near-normal to above normal.

No stress status on coral bleaching for Tonga.

Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for November and November 2026 to January 2027

Ocean Variable statement

November 2026 sea surface temperatures around Tonga are predicted to be 0.4 to 0.8°C near-normal to below normal.

Averaged over November 2026 to January 2027, sea surface temperatures around Tonga are predicted to be 0.4 to 0.4°C near-normal.

November 2026 sea levels around Tonga are predicted to be 30 to 200 mm below normal.

Averaged over November 2026 to January 2027, sea levels around Tonga are predicted to be 30 to 100 mm below normal.

Coral Bleaching outlook indicates a Watch status for the next 12 weeks.

In brief for Teleconference

- Rainfall was near-normal to below normal for September and July–September 2026, except Vava'u, where rainfall was normal during both periods.
- The rainfall outlook indicates below-normal rainfall is likely across all of Tonga in November 2026 and November 2026–January 2027.
- SSTs were near-normal to below normal during September and July–September 2026. The outlook indicates near-normal to below-normal SSTs for November 2026 and near-normal SSTs for November 2026–January 2027.
- Sea levels were near-normal to above normal during September 2026. Below-normal sea levels are predicted for both November 2026 and November 2026–January 2027.

TABLE 3: Stakeholder Engagement – Evaluations of how effective NMS engage with stakeholders (September 2026)

Product	*Stakeholder*	*Total Number of Participants*	*Number of Male*	*Number of Female*	*Disability*	*Age group*	*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							
Outreach programs							
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

Table 4: Impacts of Severe weather and climate events

Country: TONGA

ENSO Phase: El Nino

Synoptic Situation	Date	Type of Hazard	Impacts	Image	Latitude	Longitude	Sectors affected	No. of Deaths
El Nino phase; prolonged below-normal rainfall and dry conditions	June-September	Drought	- Water shortages. - Reduced soil moisture. - Risk of crop failure. - Reduced food production. - Impacts on livestock and household livelihoods.	Figure 1: Field at Pilolevu Airport, Haápai  Source: Photograph taken by Tonga Met staff, Masipa Fifita. Figure 2: Taro plantation at Lotofoa, Haápai  Source: Photo taken by Tonga Met staff, Maama Tapu.	19.783° S	174.450° W	- Water resources - Agriculture - Livestock - Food Security - Health	0