



Fiji Meteorological Service

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Climate Outlook for Hydro-electricity Generation from March to May 2025

Current Conditions

Fiji's Climate

The weather across the country during 1st to 25th February, was dominated by a series of trough of low pressure systems, as well as the presence of Tropical Cyclone Rae. Heavy rainfall, leading to flooding events, were experienced in some parts of the country, especially in the Northern and Eastern Divisions.

There were 22 rainfall stations that reported in, in time for the compilation of this bulletin, with 4 stations reporting *below average*, 10 *average*, 7 *above average* and 1 stations reporting *well above average* rainfall.

The total monthly rainfall at Monasavu, until 25th February was 358mm, which is in *below average* category (70% of *normal*), when compared against the WMO standard 30-year average.

During December 2024 until 25th February, Monasavu recorded 1652mm of rainfall, which was 91% of the *normal*, while in the past 6 months (September to 25th February, 2975mm of rainfall was recorded (101% of

the *normal*) at the station (Figure 1).

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Status

ENSO status is currently in neutral, however, most models favor borderline La Niña conditions during February to April period. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are currently *above average* in the far western Pacific, *below average* in the central and east-central Pacific, and *near to above average* in the eastern Pacific.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) for December 2024 was 0.8, with the 5-month running mean of 2.0. The latest 30-day value to 18th February 2025 was 20.8.

Trade winds have been closer to average in the western and the central Pacific. Cloudiness have been below average. Overall, ENSO indicators currently reflect neutral conditions, with the likelihood of a borderline La Niña developing in the coming months.

El Niño-Southern Oscillation and Monasavu Climate Predictions

El-Niño Southern Oscillation Prediction

Recently surveyed global climate models, on average favor borderline La Niña conditions during the February to April period, with a return to ENSO-neutral conditions likely during the March to May period.

Minimum & Maximum Air Temperature Predictions - March & March to May 2025:

Day and night time temperatures are both likely to be *above normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu during March as well as the March to May 2025 period (Figure 3).

Rainfall Predictions:

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

Rainfall across Viti Levu is likely to be above median from 1st to 14^h March, as well as from 8th to 21st March.

March 2025

There is 75% chance of receiving at least 348mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of at least

370mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu Dam and Monasavu, and 75% chance of receiving at least 367mm of rainfall at Wailoa. There is high confidence in this forecast (Table 1).

March to May 2025

For the March to May 2025 period, there is 75% chance of receiving at least 917mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of at least 967mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu Dam and Monasavu, and 75% chance of receiving at least 993mm of rainfall at Wailoa. There is high confidence on the generated outlook (Table 1).

Summary

Wetter than normal conditions are likely, for March, as well as the March to May 2025 period.

Skill confidence is high for both the above forecasted periods.

Monthly Rainfall Distribution at Monasavu until 25th February 2025

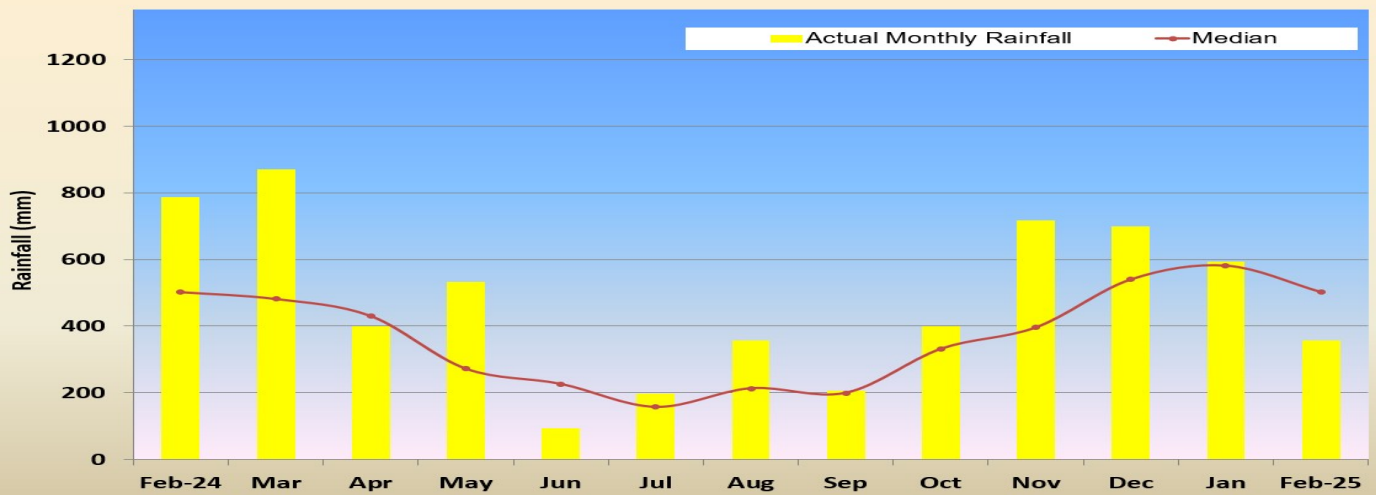


Table 1: Rainfall Outlook: March & March to May 2025

March Outlook				
	25% chance of at least (mm)	50% chance of at least (mm)	75% chance of at least (mm)	Forecast Confidence
Nadarivatu station	611	504	348	High
Nadarivatu Dam	637	526	370	High
Monasavu Dam	637	526	370	High
Wailoa	627	492	367	High
March to May Outlook				
	25% chance of at least (mm)	50% chance of at least (mm)	75% chance of at least (mm)	Forecast Confidence
Nadarivatu station	1326	1104	917	High
Nadarivatu Dam	1384	1181	967	High
Monasavu Dam	1384	1181	967	High
Wailoa	1350	1192	993	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 March & 8th – 21st March

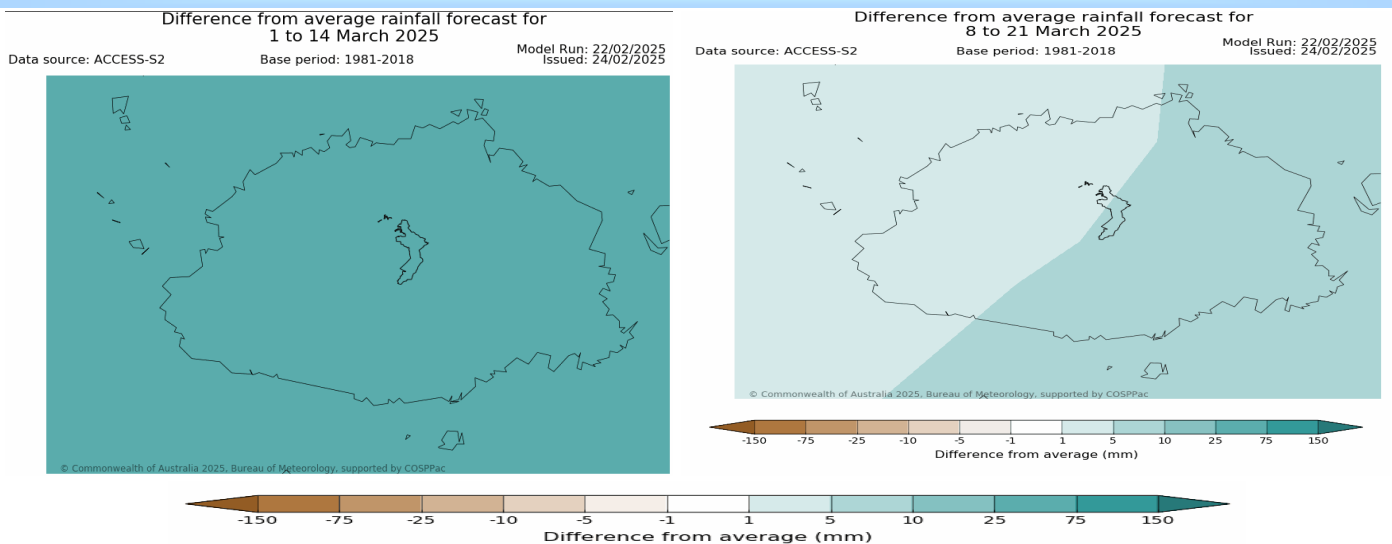


Figure 2: Rainfall Outlook: March & March to May 2025

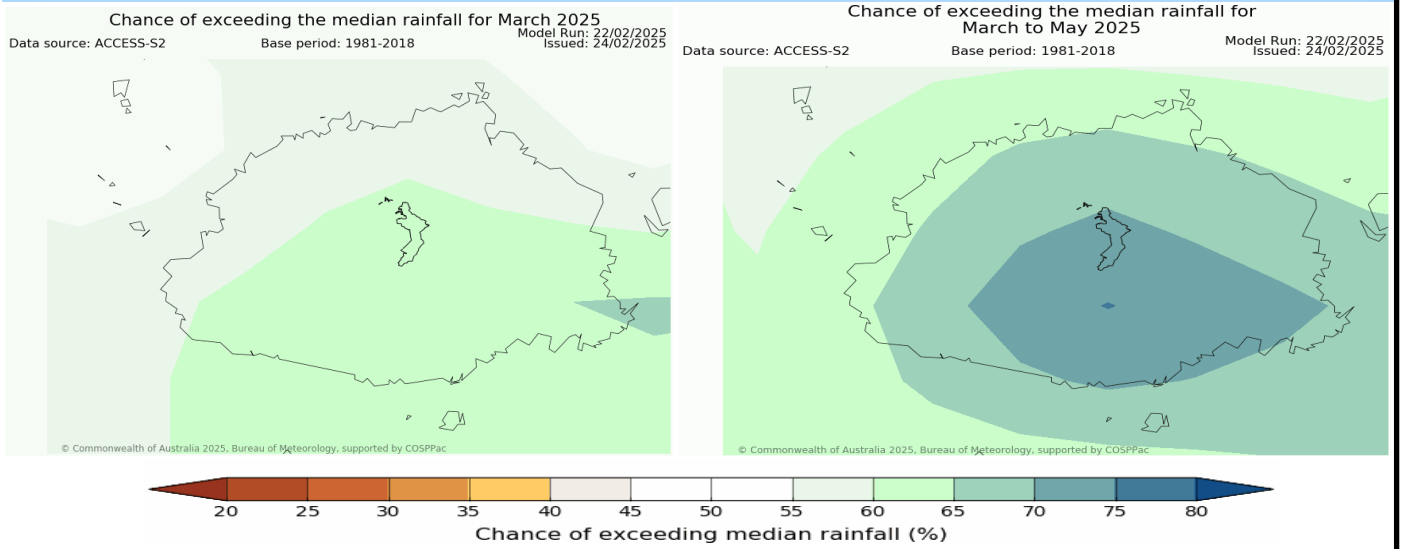
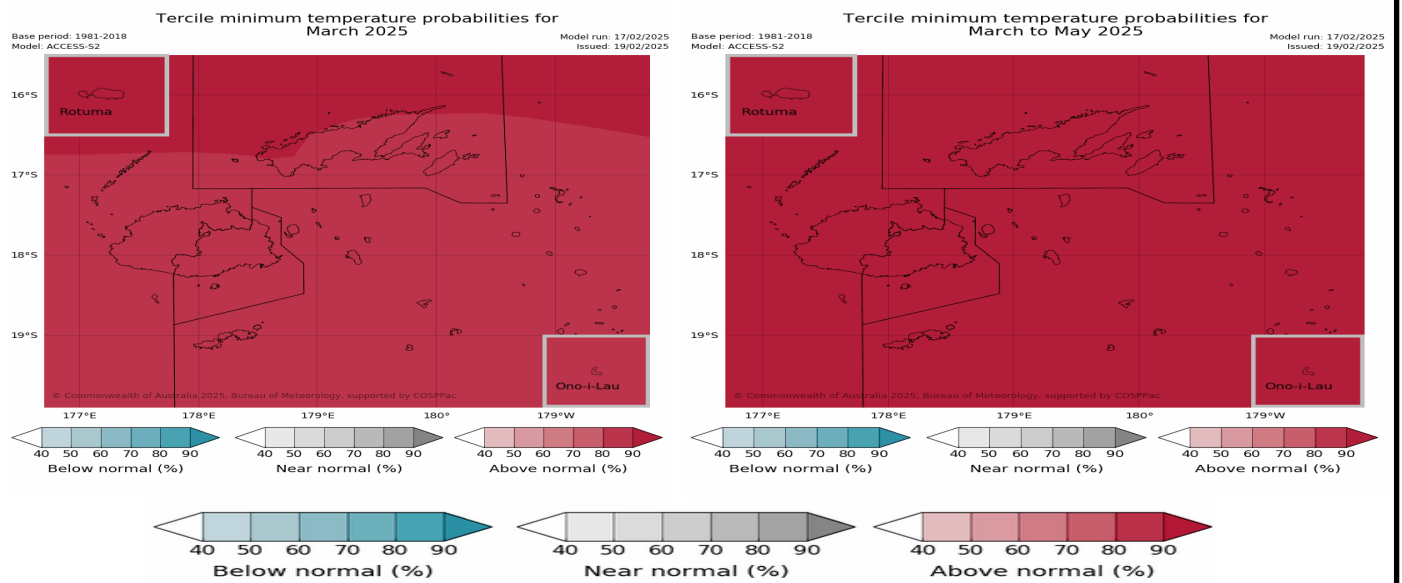
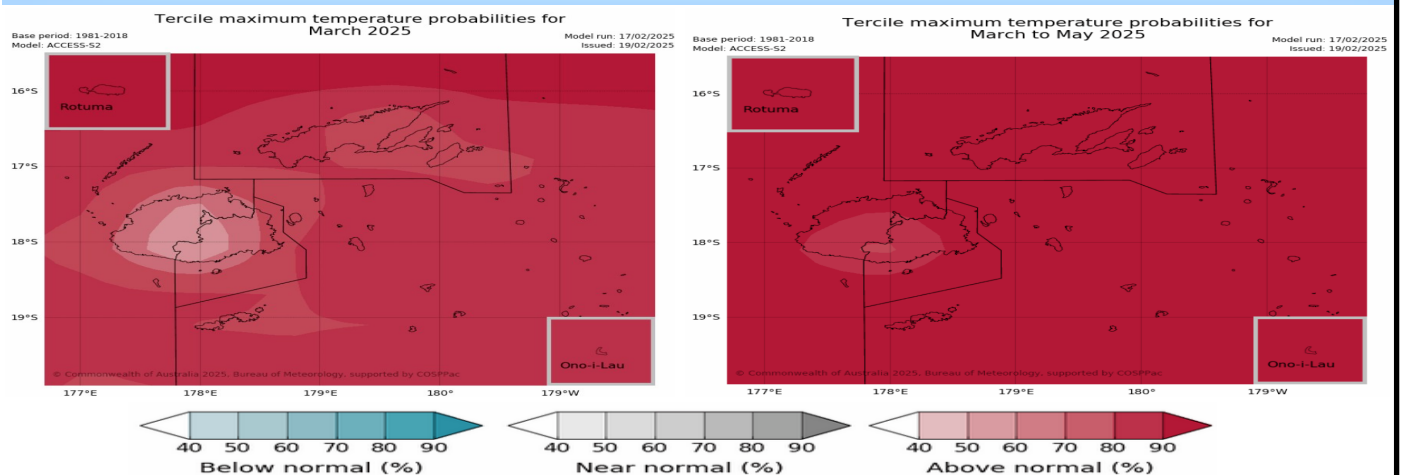


Figure 3: Minimum Air Temperature Predictions: March & March to May 2025



Minimum air temperatures are expected to be *above normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, during March and March to May 2025 period. Source: ACCESS-S2 Model.

Figure 3: Maximum Air Temperature Predictions: March & March to May 2025



Maximum air temperatures are likely to be *above normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, during March and March to May 2025 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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