



Samoa Meteorology Division

Early Action Rainfall Watch (EAR Watch)



The EAR Watch provides disaster managers' with a brief summary of recent rainfall patterns, particularly drought and the rainfall outlook for the coming months. Contact the Samoa Meteorology Division for further climate information.

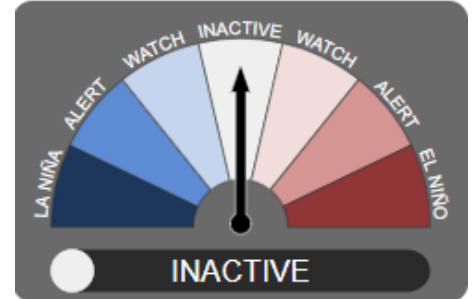
Issued: December 2019

Rainfall Status:

Meteorological Drought exists at Faleolo at the 6-month timescales while a **Drought Watch** is current for Nafanua at the 6 month timescales. **Drought Warning** are current at Apia for 3 and 6 months scale as well as Nafanua at 3 months scale. Afiamalu is experiencing normal conditions.

Rainfall Outlook:

Alert 1 Dry is anticipated for all stations with 'no alert' for Apia.

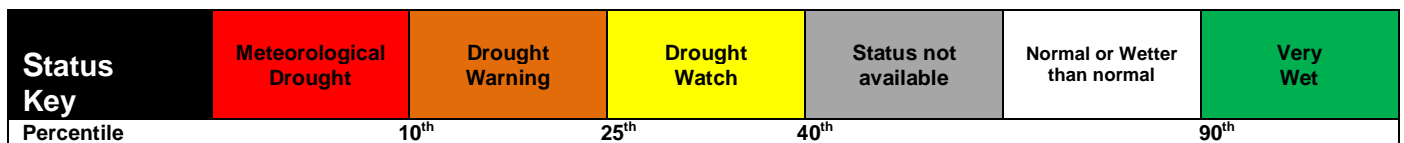


Currently, the ENSO is neutral with 50% chance of El Nino to occur in mid-2019.

Note: Colours do not relate to those below.

Rainfall Status at 30 November 2019 and Outlook for January to March 2020

Rainfall Stations*	Rainfall Status		
	Past 12 months	Past 6 months	Past 3 months
Apia	Normal	Normal	Watch
Afiamalu	Normal	Normal	Watch
Nafanua	Warning	Normal	Warning
Faleolo	Normal	Normal	Warning



← Increasing chance of drier 3 months

Increasing chance of wetter 3 months →

Rainfall Status

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) recognised Percentile method has been used to assess rainfall status. Meteorological Drought is defined as drought assessed by historical rainfall data only.

Rainfall Outlook

Seasonal outlooks have been produced using SCOPIC v4.4.16 which is a decision-support tool used to generate outlooks for temperature, rainfall and other climate related factors <http://cosppac.bom.gov.au/products-and-services/seasonal-climate-outlooks-in-pacific-island-countries/>.

The outlook provides an indication of total three-month rainfall, not how intense the rain may be in any one event, nor how it may vary within the three months. A station is assigned 'No Alert' when near normal rainfall is favoured or there are equal chances of below normal, normal and above normal rainfall. Two months before the dry and wet season, until the start of the season, a second outlook is presented for the upcoming dry or wet season.

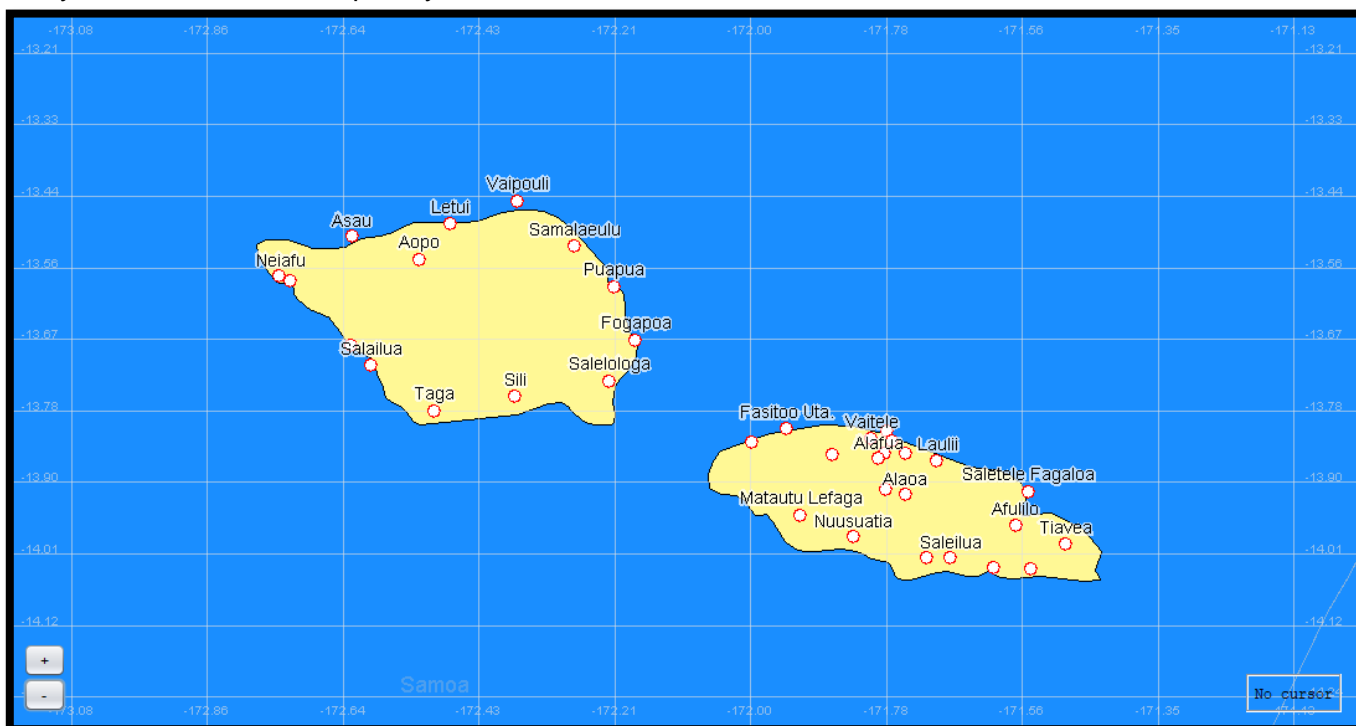
Time periods and impacts

The following table provides examples of impacts that have been associated with drought at the 3, 6 and 12 month periods. Note the periods are estimates only and impacts overlap. Allow for uncertainty associated with seasonality, island size, topography, geology, soil type or socio-economic circumstances. Contact the National Disaster Management Office and relevant Department for further information on impacts.

Sector/ Department	12-month period is most relevant for	6-month period is most relevant for	3-month period is most relevant for
Water	major rivers, deep bores/large aquifer system, reservoirs, dams	small rivers, shallow bores, reservoirs	rainwater tanks, streams, shallow bores
Environment/ Agriculture	coconuts, breadfruit, mango, banana, fruit trees (nonu, lemon, orange), root crops (yam, taamu, cassava), kava	corn, pineapple, pawpaw, taro, kumala, avocado, cocoa, coffee	traditional vegetables, cabbage, tomatoes, beans, eggplant, watermelon, pasture
Fire	All Fires	Structural Fire	Bush and Rubbish Fire
Health	National public health impacts	Increasing public health impacts	Isolated public health impacts
Tourism			

Samoa rainfall monitoring stations

* Only stations over 25 complete years of rainfall data are used in the EAR Watch.



Contact the Samoa Meteorology Division for further information.

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