



Government of Samoa

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

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17 October 2017.

MEDIA RELEASE: SAMOA TROPICAL CYCLONE (TC) OUTLOOK 2017-2018 SEASON

Outlook for Samoa

This season 2017-2018, the Samoa Meteorology Division predicts a below normal risk of 1-2 cyclones that can pass within 400km radius of Samoa based on historical tropical cyclone data, with at least 1 tropical cyclone to reach Category 3 (wind speed of at least 178km/h or 111 mph) or greater (Cat.4 – Cat.5).

The TC Outlook is based on statistical analyses of historical tropical cyclones data that occurred dating back to the 1970's in similar ENSO-Neutral conditions, the same methodology developed by regional centers, with national Tropical Cyclone Outlooks utilizing national datasets.

For Samoa, (5) analogue (mapped) seasons are identical to the current ENSO conditions. (refer to Table 1: 1970-71, 1978-79, 1995-96, 2005-06, 2007-08).

Season	# of TC		Category					Tropical Cyclone Names
	Region	Samoa	Cat1	Cat2	Cat 3	Cat 4	Cat 5	
1970/71	8	0						-
1978/79	10	1			1			Meli
1995/96	8	0						-
2005/06	8	3	1	1	1			Tam, Urmil, Wati
2007/08	6	1				1		Daman
Total	40	5	1/5	1/5	2/5	1/5	0/5	
Average	8	1						
Round up	8	1						

Source: Samoa Meteorological Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains in **neutral** conditions (neither El Niño nor La Niña) in the region. Sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies for September show SSTs were cooler than average in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

The MNRE - Meteorology Division will continue to monitor the development of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and will advise the general public if there are significant changes to the outlook presented.

Tropical Cyclones are associated with high winds, storm surges, water spouts and extreme rainfall. All communities are urged to remain vigilant, be alert and foremost advance preparedness when a warning is officially announced of an impending tropical cyclone.

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