



NATIONAL STATEMENT FOR TROPICAL CYCLONE SEASON 2019 – 2020

KEY MESSAGES

Tropical Cyclone Outlook

This season 2019 – 2020, the Tropical Cyclone activity for Samoan region is expected to be increased from last season (elevated) with two to three (2 - 3) cyclones that can pass within 400km radius of the country, with at least 1 tropical cyclone to reach Category 3 or greater.

The tropical cyclones are associated with high winds, storm surges, water spouts and extreme rainfall. If conditions change over the coming months then the tropical cyclone outlook will be updated. All communities are urged to remain vigilant, be alert and foremost advance preparedness when a warning is officially announced of an impending tropical cyclone.

ENSO Outlook

The El Nino Southern Oscillation is currently at neutral phase.

Although previous months showed that the Tropical Pacific Ocean has been cooling, Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) are currently warmer than average, while still sustaining within ENSO neutral levels. Although atmospheric indicators fluctuated within El Nino levels in past months, Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) values are predicted to remain within neutral levels. Climate models therefore are currently predicting that an ENSO neutral status will remain all throughout the 2019/2020 season, with a low model confidence.

Climate, Ocean and Tropical Cyclone Outlooks October to December 2019

- Oceanic and atmospheric forecasts for ENSO indicates neutral conditions for the upcoming season are most likely.
- At present, sea surface temperature anomalies across the central Pacific are warm (positive), while the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean is cool (negative).
- 'Average to above average' rainfall is expected for Samoa in October to December 2019 period with low to moderate model confidence.

- The Samoa region will experience an elevated risk for TC activity to pass within the 400km radius of the group.

Climate Review of 2018-2019

- Although the likelihood for an El Nino event to eventuate during the season, atmospheric and ocean index never coupled, hence the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) status remained at neutral state.
- Although no Tropical Cyclone (TC) affected the group, Tropical Disturbances (TD) were observed to cause severe impacts for Samoa. These impacts include flooding in low lying areas, landslides and strong winds for most part of the country. Consequently, 'Average to Above Average' precipitation was recorded for the 2018/2019 season.