



Government of Samoa

## MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

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Faamolemole faatuatausi uma mai fesootaiga  
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### **MEDIA RELEASE: SAMOA TROPICAL CYCLONE (TC) OUTLOOK 2019-2020 SEASON**

#### **Outlook for Samoa**

This season 2019-2020, the Meteorology Division of MNRE compared to last tropical cyclone predicts an *elevated risk that 2-3 cyclones* can pass within 400km radius for Samoa compared to last year of 1-2 tropical cyclones based on historical tropical cyclone data, with at least *1 tropical cyclone to reach Category 3 (wind speed at least 178km/h to 111 miles/h) or greater (Cat.4 – Cat.5)*.

The Tropical Cyclone 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, four (4) analogue TC seasons are identical to the current ENSO conditions 1969-1970, 1992-1993, 2002-2003, 2004-2005) and for the region a consensus will be an *average of 9 -12 tropical cyclones (Pacific Island Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF, 2019)*

#### **El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**

Despite Sea Surface temperature (SSTs) being warmer than average, the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains in a **neutral** state (neither El Niño nor La Niña) in the region. Models predict that this status will remain throughout the Tropical Cyclone season 2019/2020.

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, causing floods and landslides. 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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