

The Regional effects of El Nino in the Pacific

| Country | | El Niño Effects | Signal |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| *Cook Islands | North | Increased Rainfall | Very strong |
| | South | Decreased Rainfall | Strong |
| Fiji | | Decreased Rainfall | Strong |
| Kiribati | | Increased Rainfall | Very Strong |
| Micronesia | | Decreased Rainfall | Strong |
| Palau | | Decreased Rainfall | Strong |
| *Papua New Guinea | North | Increased Rainfall | Moderate to Weak |
| | South | Decreased Rainfall | Moderate |
| Samoa | | Decreased Rainfall | Moderate |
| Solomon Islands | | Decreased Rainfall | Strong (no signal in North) |
| Tonga | | Decreased Rainfall | Strong |
| *Tuvalu | North | Increased Rainfall | Strong |
| | South | Decreased Rainfall | Moderate |
| Vanuatu | | Decreased Rainfall | Strong |

* The Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu cover a wide geographical area and as a result different regions within each country experience different El Niño effect.

- The **signal** refers to how severe the El Niño impacts are going to be on a region. When a signal is high it generally means that the effects will be quite pronounced, when the signal is low it generally means that the effects will be relatively less severe.

- La Niña events generally have the opposite effects of El Niño events however; La Niña events are generally relatively weaker than El Niño and as a result the effects during a La Niña are less severe.

- Event intensities vary from year to year and as a result local, short-term rainfall forecasts also need to be monitored to know exactly what the localized effects will be

Extracted from a draft report by Cynthia Thomson, IRI Climate & Society masters intern with IFRC Pacific regional office, August 2009