

SUMMARY OF CYCLONES AFFECTING FIJI 1977-1987 (incl)

1977

ANNE Moderate. Affected Eastern Division Islands of
25-26 Dec Naitamba, Vanua Mbalavu, Katafanga and Thikobia-i-Lau.

1978

BOB Moderate. Affected western Viti Levu, Yasawa and
4-5 Jan Mamanutha groups. 1 death, housing damage
 particularly around Nadi.

? Several islands affected
4 Feb

ERNIE Minor. Storm force winds Thikobia and north eastern
18-19 Feb Vanua Levu.

FAY Moderate. Affected Kia, Thikobia, Taveuni and
29-30 Dec eastern Vanua Levu. Coastal damage from storm surge
 and heavy surf in Lau group.

1979

MELI Severe. Straight line through Lau, Kadavu, Rewa and
26-28 Mar Nadroga provinces. Storm surge up to 3m with wave
 wash to 6m. Severe devastation 53 dead, 300
 injured, 15000 homeless, 263 school units destroyed,
 11 vessels lost. In some areas 90-100% of crops and
 trees were destroyed.

1980

PENI Minor. Gale force winds in Mamanuthe group and
2-5 Jan extreme western Viti Levu.

TIA Moderate. Affected western Vanua Levu and many
24 Mar islands of Eastern Division. Moderate flooding in
 Vanua levu and Taveuni, storm surge in Savusavu area
 and landslides in Koro and Nggamea. 4 dead, 504
 homes and 31 school units destroyed.
 Telecommunications facilities, roads and social
 infrastructure were substantially damaged or
 disrupted in the worst affected areas.

WALLY Severe. Affected Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Severe
3-5 Apr wind, landslide and flood damage. 18 dead, 10,000
 homeless. Extensive damage to roads, severe crop,
 livestock and pasture losses.

1981

ARTHUR Severe. Affected Yasawa and Mamanuka groups and
Jan western Viti Levu. 952 homes and all schools in
 Yasawa and Mamanuca groups, Lautoka, Nadi and Nadroga
 areas destroyed. Losses to 1981 sugar earnings
 estimated at \$US30 million.

1982

HETTIE No details but caused 3 deaths.
Jan

1983

OSCAR Severe. Affected Viti Levu, Yassawa and Mamanuca
1-2 Mar groups. 7 dead, 2355 homes destroyed and 2786
damaged. Widespread destruction of homes and tourist
centres in Nadi and Sigatoka regions. Aust
assistance 2000 Blankets, 3000 tent fly sheets (as
tarpaulins) 300 water tanks, medical stores and food.
Expenditure approx \$A700,000.

SARAH Minor. Affected east Fiji. No reported damage.
27 Mar

TOMASI Minor. Passed east of Fiji. Wind effect only.
2 Apr

1984

No details available but no serious cyclone occurred.

1985

ERIC Moderate. Affected Yassawa and Mamanuca groups,
17-18 Jan Viti Levu and Lau causing mainly wind damage but some
flash flooding. 19 dead 30 injured, many houses
damaged and crops destroyed. Communications and
infrastructure badly damaged.

NIGEL Moderate. Affected Viti Levu with most damage being
19-20 Jan caused by flooding. Further housing damage so that
total homeless for 2 cyclones was 20,000. Major
damage from both cyclones to power and
telecommunications networks on Viti Levu.

GAVIN Moderate. Affected Yasawa and Mamanuca groups, Vanua
6-8 Mar western Viti Levu. Most damage was caused by
flooding but temporary housing still in use after
Tropical Cyclones ERIC and NIGEL was wind damaged.

1986

MARTIN Moderate. Affected Labasa area of Vanua Levu and
10-14 Apr eastern Viti Levu as well as outlying islands. 7/8
dead. 65 homes destroyed and many others damaged by
wind, flooding and landslides. Some housing damage
and loss of 20% of sugar crop. Request for 300 tents
altered in favour of grant from bilateral aid funds.

RAJA Moderate. Affected Rotuma, Vanua Levu, Taveuni and
29-30 Dec Lau group. Wind and storm surge damage to housing,
schools and crops.

1987

No significant cyclones to date.

Notes:

1. Consolidated details of all cyclones are only available for the period up to 1982. A further Fiji Meteorological Service Summary of cyclones affecting the country since that date is expected but no date of publication has been given. Consequently details for the last 5 years are taken from NDO records and, although covering the major cyclones in the period, cannot be said to be complete.
2. In general it can be said that Fiji is affected by an average of 3 cyclones per year of which one will cause significant damage.