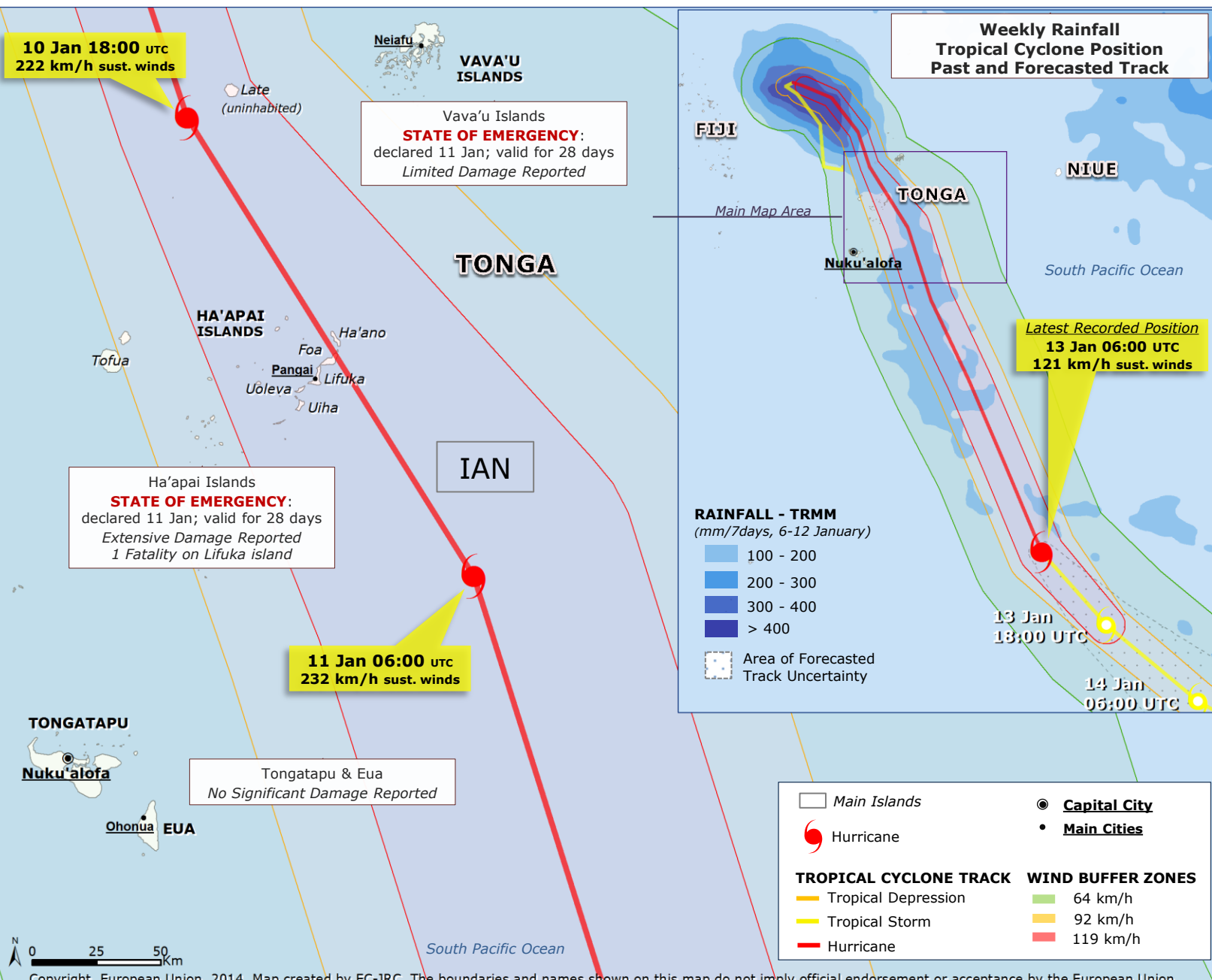


13 January 2014: Tonga – Tropical Cyclone IAN



SITUATION

- Tropical Cyclone **IAN** passed west of the Vava'u Tongan group of islands on 10 January and over the Ha'apai group early on 11 January (UTC), with max sustained winds of over 220km/h.
- The **Ha'apai** group was worst hit by **IAN**'s passage. As of 12 January, one person has reportedly been killed on the island of **Lifuka**. Significant damage was caused to up to 70% of the houses in the same group of islands and 95% of the electricity network was still out of order on 13 January in the afternoon, as reported by local media. Mobile telecommunications have partly been restored. The transportation infrastructure has also been affected, as well as agricultural land.
- In **Vava'u**, the Tropical Cyclone appears to have caused limited damage. There are no power or communication problems on the group of islands.
- On 11 January, the Government of Tonga declared the **Vava'u** and **Ha'apai** Islands in a State of Emergency, valid for the following 28 days.
- As of 13 January, approx. 2 000 people are currently sheltered in 11 evacuation centres in **Ha'apai**, according to OCHA latest Situation Report. The airports in **Vava'u** and **Ha'apai** are operational, despite damages, and so is the port of **Pangai**.
- After passing over **Tonga**, **IAN** continued moving south-east in the South Pacific Ocean, over open waters, weakening. On 13 January, 06:00 UTC, it had a max. sustained wind of 121km/h and it was forecast to weaken further into a Tropical Storm within the next 12h, without approaching any land.

Sources: [GDACS](#), [JTWC](#), [OCHA](#), [AFP](#), [AP Government of Tonga](#), [Local Media \(1, 2, 3, 4\)](#)

