

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 150

Country: Palau

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	Dec-2019	Jan-2020	Feb-2020				Rank
			Total (mm)	33%tile	67%tile	Median	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	Rainfall (mm)				
Koror Airport (1951-2020)	250.4	51.3	267.2	139.0	269.7	199.9	46/69

**TABLE 2: Three-month Rainfall for December 2019 to February 2020**

Station	Three-month Total		33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank	SCOPIC forecast probabilities based on NINO3.4 September - October 2019				Verification: Consistent, Near-consistent, Inconsistent?
	Rainfall (mm)						B-N	N	A-N	LEPS	
Koror Airport (1951-2020)	568.9	Below normal	677.9	939.5	833.9	11/69	43	37	20	26	Consistent

**TABLE 3: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using SCOPIC for April to June 2020**

Predictor and Period used: NINO3.4 for January to February 2020

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS (%) [whole numbers]	Hit-rate (%) [whole numbers]
Koror Airport (1951-2020)	53	946.9	47		0	47

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile Rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile Rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS (%) [whole numbers]	Hit-rate (%) [whole numbers]
Koror Airport (1951-2020)	36	868.1	37	1016.7	27	2	16

**TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for April to June 2020**

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile Rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile Rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)
Koror Airport	40	896.0	33	1067.0	27

### Summary Statements

**Rainfall for February 2020:** For majority of February, trade-winds were moderate to fresh, frequently gusting to strong, and on two occasions gusting to near gale strength (Feb 10 at 28KT and Feb 12 at 34KT). For the most part, February warranted issuance of regional and local advisories for hazardous seas and surf. Prior to February 28 rainfall totals for Koror was about 60% of the Normal and Airai was at 78%. On Friday, February 28, convergent trade-winds northeast of a trough and weak circulation located south of the main islands of Palau generated sporadic showers and at times continuous rain over Palau. On that day, Koror recorded 52.3 mm of rainfall and Airai at 70.6 mm. No mudslides/landslides were reported. The final outcome for February placed Koror below-normal at 86% and Airai above-normal at 108% Rainfall was normal for Koror for the month of February.

**Accumulated rainfall for December 2019 to February 2020, including outlook verification:** Palau recorded below-normal rainfall for the period December to February. The SCOPIC outlook issued in November for this period was consistent as it indicated below-normal as the most likely outcome.

### **Outlooks for April to June 2020:**

- 1. SCOPIC:** The outlook for April to June shows a near-equal likelihood of below-normal and normal rainfall. Above-normal is the least likely.
- 2. POAMA:** The outlook for the April to June shows below-normal as the most likely outcome, with normal the next most likely. Above-normal is the least likely.

**NB: The X LEPS % score has been categorised as follows:**

Very Low:  $X < 0.0$       Low:  $0 \leq X < 5$       Moderate  $5 \leq X < 10$       Good:  $10 \leq X < 15$       High:  $15 \leq X < 25$   
 Very High:  $25 \leq X < 35$       Exceptional:  $X \geq 35$

**Table: 5 Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective NMS engage with stakeholders**

<b>FEB 2020</b>	<b>STAKEHOLDERS National Emergency Committee (NEC) Members</b>	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF MALE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF FEMALE</b>
<b>Monthly Climate Briefing</b>	Office of the Vice President (Vice President/Chair)	28	18	10
	A Minister, Alternate Chair			
	Office of the President (Public Information Officer)			
	National Emergency Management Office (Coordinator)			
	Attorney General’s Office (Attorney General/Designee)			
	Bureau of Youth & Parks & Recreation (Director/Designee)			
	Bureau of Public Health (Director/Designee)			
	Bureau of Public Works (Director/Designee)			
	Bureau of Public Safety (Director/Designee)			
	Palau Community College (President/Designee)			
	Bureau of Education Administration (Director/Designee)			
	Palau Public Utility Corporation (General Manager/Designee)			
	Palau National Communications Corporation (General Manager/Designee)			
	Foreign Affairs (Directors or Designee)			
	Bureau of Domestic Affairs (Director/Designee)			
	Bureau of Agriculture (Director/Designee)			
	Governors’ Association (Designee)			
	Palau Red Cross Society (Executive Director/Designee)			
	National Weather Service (Meteorologist-in-Charge/Designee)			
	Office of Environmental Response and Coordination (National Environmental Planner/Designee)			
	Environmental Quality Protection Board (Executive Officer/Designee)			
Bureau of Aviation (Director/Designee)				
Division of Property & Supply (Chief/Designee)				
Palau Chamber of Commerce				
Palau Visitors Authority (Director/Designee)				
Bureau of Customs & Border Protection (Director/Designee)				
Bureau of Budget and Planning				
Bureau of Tourism				
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>

**Comments:** The National Emergency Committee (NEC) members convened at the end of February to discuss Palau’s conditions. Palau Public Utilities Corporation has reported that water levels are currently near normal and they will continue to monitor water levels closely. Currently, no measures have been implemented on water hours or water rationing at this time.