

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 121 Summary Report

Date: Tuesday 17 October 2017

Time: Australian Eastern Daylight Time 11:00AM (01:00 UTC)

Chair: Niue

Apologies: Tonga, Kiribati, Solomon Islands

Main purpose for the OCOF:

- To provide a regular forum for the 11 participating PIC NMSs to discuss the current ENSO status, recent one and three-month rainfall, drought (if present) and their seasonal climate outlooks with other countries and the COMP (Bureau of Meteorology and SPREP) project team.

In addition, it serves as an online training forum for recent SCOPIC* development and gives the project team and the NMSs an opportunity to discuss other project related matters.

Agenda:

1. Brief introduction of PIC participants, SPREP and Bureau of Meteorology teams.
2. Brief report on current ENSO status.
3. Each NMS report on their past one and three months' rainfall in relation to the current ENSO situation (include ranking and verification), and their three-month outlooks. Wherever appropriate NMS to report on their drought status.
4. Round-table discussion: addressing general concerns/queries on outlooks and SCOPIC*.
5. Feedback on COSPPac products and services.
6. Country statements with regards to drought or drought-like conditions, drought module issues/concerns.
7. The next OCOF will be held on 14 November 2017 (TBC). To be chaired by Samoa.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 14 climate officers (8 female) from 7 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Nitoro Manea

Fiji: Swastika Prasad

Kiribati:

Niue: Sean Tukutama, Hingano Laufoli, Clemencia, Colleen Kulatea

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau, Nanao Bouauka

Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson kaneko

Samoa: Junior Lepale, Tile Tofaeono, Mattaniah Salesa, Vaueli Su'a and Nuutofi Palemia

Solomon Islands:

Tonga:

Tuvalu: Nikotemo Iona

Vanuatu: Moirah Yerta

* Seasonal Climate Outlooks in the Pacific Island Countries: climate prediction software developed under the PI-CPP.

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Australia: Simon McGree, Grant Beard

SPREP: Philip Malsale

OCOF tables were received from 11 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations and Verification of July to September 2017 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending September 2017 were discussed for each PIC. This month, several countries experienced extreme rainfall as shown in the following table:

Station	Period	Rainfall Amount (mm)	Rainfall Rank	Year of record
Rarotonga, Cook Islands	July-September	111.4	5	119
Savusavu, Fiji	September	35.7	5	60
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	July-September	41.0	7	118
Savusavu Airfield, Fiji	July-September	139.5	5	60
Majuro, Marshall islands	September	531.6	62	64
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	September	560.3	73	73
Majuro, Marshall islands	July-September	1179.8	58	64
Vanimo, PNG	September	315.2	59	62
Momote, PNG	September	450.6	61	64
Nadzab, PNG	July-September	711.8	41	42
Vanimo, PNG	July-September	844.8	54	58
Momote, PNG	July-September	1526.0	66	68
Auki, Solomon Islands	September	360	54	55
Honiara, Solomon Islands	September	181	57	62
Lata, Solomon Islands	September	559	39	43
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	September	11.9	4	45
Lamap, Vanuatu	July-September	76.2	2	57
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	July-September	84.6	3	45
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	July-September	19.9	1	45
Aneityum, Vanuatu	July-September	93.6	2	66

[Note: The above data may not have undergone quality control]

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Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the July to September period showed 23 consistent, 24 near-consistent and 10 inconsistent outlooks (57 stations across 7 countries).

A summary of results (C-consistent, NC-Near Consistent, I-Inconsistent, N/A-not available) for each country is as follows:

Cook Islands (1NC, 1I); Fiji (7C, 5NC); Kiribati (1C, 4NC, 1I); Niue (1NC); PNG (2C, 2NC, 1I); RMI (1I, 1NC); Samoa (2C, 1NC, 1I); Solomon Islands (2C, 2NC; 2I); Tonga (1C, 4NC, 1I) and Vanuatu (6C, 1NC).

Overall: 23C, 24NC, 9I.

November 2017 to January 2018 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 2% of the 60 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 32% in tercile 2 and 10% in tercile 3. Fifteen percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 42% had near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 29% of the 49 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 2% in tercile 2 and 69% in tercile 3. Zero percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles, while 0% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters:

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	September 2017	July to September 2017	Verification [†] for July to September 2017 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal	Below Normal	Near-consistent to inconsistent
Fiji	Below normal to normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Near-consistent
Kiribati	Below normal to normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent to Near-consistent
RMI	Above normal	Above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Niue	Above normal	Above normal	Near-consistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Normal and above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Samoa	Below normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Solomon Islands	Normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Tonga	Normal to above normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Tuvalu	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to normal	Consistent to inconsistent

[†] Forecast is consistent when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) categories coincide (are in the same tercile).

Forecast is near-consistent when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) differ by only one category (i.e. terciles 1 and 2 or terciles 2 and 3).

Forecast is inconsistent when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) differ by two categories (i.e. terciles 1 and 3).

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Vanuatu	Below normal	Below normal to normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
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