

## **Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)**

### **Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 136 Summary Report**

**Date:** Wednesday 16 January 2019

**Time:** Australian Eastern Daylight Time at 12:00PM (01:00 UTC)

**Host:** SPREP

**Chair:** RMI

**Apologies:** Tuvalu.

**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), their seasonal climate outlooks and stakeholders engagement 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), their three-month outlooks and their stakeholders engagement. 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 13 February 2019 and is to be chaired by **Samoa**.

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 21 climate officers (13 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:** Arona Ngari

**Fiji:** Arieta Baleisolomone, Jasneel Chandra, Shweta Shiwangni

**Kiribati:** Ms Mwata Keariki, Mr Tebwaau Tetabo, Kamaitia Rubetaakea

**Niue:** Clemencia Sioneholo and Lenita Tongiamana

**Papua New Guinea:** Ruth Apuqahe and Agnes Diap

**Republic of Marshall Islands:** Samson Kanenko

**Samoa:** Faapisa Aiono, Kotoni Faasau, Junior Lepale, Mattaniah Salesa, and Nuutofi Palemia

**Solomon Islands:** Max Sitai

**Tonga:** Seluvaia Finaulahi

**Tuvalu:**

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

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**Vanuatu:** Moira Yerta and Glenda Pakoa

**Australia:** Grant Beard

**SPREP:** Salesa Nihmei

OCOF tables were received from 10 participating countries before the meeting and from one following the meeting.

### Observations and Verification of October to December 2018 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending December 2018 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	Years of record
Ono-i-Lau, Fiji	December	19.6	3	71
Suva, Fiji	Oct-Dec	1224.2	71	77
Naursoni Airport, Fiji	Oct-Dec	1436.0	62	62
Butaritari, Kiribati	December	605.2	77	80
Hanan Airport, Niue	December	525.3	112	114
Honiara, Solomon Islands	December	397.2	57	63
Vava'u, Tonga	December	537.7	68	72
Ha'apai, Tonga	December	707.1	72	72
Fua'amotu, Tonga	December	276.8	36	40
Vava'u, Tonga	Oct-Dec	921.3	67	72
Ha'apai, Tonga	Oct-Dec	1018.2	71	72
Niulakita, Tuvalu	December	614.7	64	65

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of October to December 2018 period showed 15 consistent, 31 near-consistent and 14 inconsistent outlooks (60 stations across 11 countries).

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

Cook Islands (1C, 1In); Fiji (3C, 5NC, 5In); Kiribati (2C, 3NC); RMI (2C); Niue (1In); PNG (2C, 7NC); Samoa (1C, 3NC); Solomon Islands (4NC, 3In); Tonga (1C, 2NC, 3In); Tuvalu (1C, 3NC) and Vanuatu (2C, 4NC, 1In).

**Overall: 15C, 31NC, 14In.**

### February to April 2019 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 52% of the 60 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 17% in tercile 3 and 17% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles. Twelve percent have near-equal probabilities in three terciles, while only 3% have their highest probability in tercile 2.

POAMA outlooks: 58% of the 48 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 31% in tercile 3. Six percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles, 5% have their highest probability in tercile 2, while there are no stations having near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

**Other matters:**

**Observed Rainfall and Validation**

<b>Country</b>	<b>December 2018</b>	<b>October to December 2018</b>	<b>Verification<sup>†</sup> for October to December 2018 outlooks</b>
<b>Cook Islands</b>	Below normal and normal	Below normal	Mixed: Consistent & Inconsistent
<b>Fiji</b>	Mostly normal to above normal	Mostly normal to above normal	Mostly Near-consistent and Inconsistent
<b>Kiribati</b>	Normal to above normal	Mainly normal	Near-consistent to Consistent
<b>RMI</b>	Normal	Below normal	Consistent
<b>Niue</b>	Above normal	Above normal	Inconsistent
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	Mostly normal to above normal	Mostly normal to below normal	Mainly Near-consistent
<b>Samoa</b>	Above normal	Mainly normal	Mainly Near-consistent
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	Mainly above normal	Normal to above normal	Near-consistent to Inconsistent
<b>Tonga</b>	Above normal	Normal to above normal	Mostly Near-consistent to Inconsistent
<b>Tuvalu</b>	Below normal to above normal	Mainly above normal	Mainly Near-consistent
<b>Vanuatu</b>	Mainly normal to above normal	Normal to above normal	Mainly Near-consistent to Consistent

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<sup>†</sup> 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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**Country Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective country engage with their stakeholders**

Country	Date	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands		MoT staff – Ministry of Transport	18	14	4
		ICI – Infrastructure Cook Islands			
Fiji (Suva)	None				
Kiribati	11-13 Dec	Fisheries, Water and Sanitation Engineering Unit, Ministry of Line and Phoenix Islands Development, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Agriculture Division, Disaster Officers	14	5	9
Kiribati	13-14 Dec	ECD KAP III KANGO Fisheries MoE Curriculum Development and Resource Center (CDRC)	13	9	4
Kiribati	19 Dec	OB KMS MFAT DFAT EHU ALD LMD ECD PUB STWSP WSEU	17	10	7
Marshall Islands	21 Dec	Chief Secretary Office (CSO), National Disaster Management	9	2	7

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		Office (NDMO), and Ministry of Public Works and Infrastructures			
Niue	None				
PNG	11 Dec	Disaster Management Meeting	28	16	12
Samoa	19 Dec	Water Authority (SWA), Tourism Authority (STA), Fire & Emergency Services Authority (FESA), RED Cross, University & College Students	14	11	3
Solomon Islands	November 2018	Ministry of Health - Vector Borne Division (note: Direct engagement with this sector)	1	1	0
Solomon Islands	November 2018	Red Cross	1	1	0
		NDMO	3	3	0
		Ministry of Agriculture	2	2	0
		SIBC	1	1	0
		Hydrology	1	1	0
		Solomon Star	1	0	
		PaoaFM	1	1	0
		World Vision	1	0	1
		Ministry of Mines and Energy	1	1	0
Tonga	1-14 Dec	Distribute Climate outlook via email list to stakeholders. Also update Monthly Climate summary and Ocean Outlook on website. These are updated on a monthly basis.  Stakeholders are: Agriculture & Farmers, NGOs, Govt mins, Health, Water, Disaster. Media - radio, TV, social media.	103	75	28
Tuvalu	None				
Vanuatu	4 Dec	VMGD and VIT (Vanuatu Institute of Technology) Review of Certificate III  Climate Change and Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction	23	13	10
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>252</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>85</b>