

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 109 Summary Report

Date: Tuesday 11 October 2016

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

Chair: Bureau of Meteorology

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 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 and the Bureau team.
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. Next meeting (Tuesday 8 November - TBC) to be chaired by Niue.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 15 climate officers (11 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Arona Ngari

Fiji: Arieta Baleisolomone

Kiribati: Kamaitia Rubetaake

Niue: Mellisa Douglas, Hingano Laufoli, Sean Tukutama, Clemencia Sioneholo

Papua New Guinea: Nanao Bouauka, Kila Kila, Ruth Apuqahe

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria

Samoa:

Solomon Islands:

Tonga: Uinita Vea and Mele Lakai

Tuvalu: Nico Iona

Vanuatu: Melinda Natapei

The Bureau team: Grant Smith and Simon McGree

OCOFC tables were received from nine participating countries before the meeting.

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

Australian Aid Project: Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)

Observations and Verification of July to September 2016 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending September 2016 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	Sep	227.2	112	118
Penang Mill, Fiji	Sep	1.2	3	106
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	Sep	2.6	5	117
Nadi Airport, Fiji	Sep	7.3	6	75
Yasawa-i-rara, Fiji	Sep	1.4	2	64
Nausori Airport, Fiji	Sep	26.1	3	60
Navua, Fiji	Sep	41.1	4	72
Lakeba, Fiji	Sep	3.0	2	68
Vunisea, Fiji	Sep	21.8	3	80
Ono-i-Lau, Fiji	Sep	23.6	7	69
Labasa Airport, Fiji	Sep	7.9	6	60
Butaritari, Kiribati	Sep	31.4	5	77
Kiritimati, Kiribati	Sep	0.0	8	89
Kwajalein, RMI	Sep	175.3	7	72
Nadzab, PNG	Sep	283.0	40	41
Vanimu, PNG	Sep	283.8	40	54
Niuatoputopu, Tonga	Sep	255.7	61	67
Vava'u, Tonga	Sep	11.9	1	70
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	Sep	9.0	1	72
Fua'amotu, Tonga	Sep	11.9	1	37
Nui, Tuvalu	Sep	31.8	4	71
Niulakita, Tuvalu	Jul-Sep	310.5	6	64
Aneityum, Vanuatu	Jul-Sep	164.7	5	65

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the July to September period showed 11 consistent, 25 near-consistent and 9 inconsistent outlooks (47 stations across 9 countries).

A summary of results (C-consistent, NC-Near Consistent, I-Inconsistent, NA-not available) for each country for the June to August 2016 outlook is as follows:

Cook Islands (1C, 1I); Fiji (1C, 9NC, 2I); Kiribati (1NC, 3I); Niue (1C); PNG (1C, 4NC, 2I); RMI (1C, 1I); Samoa (-); Solomon Islands (-); Tonga (6NC); Tuvalu (4NC) and Vanuatu (6C, 1NC).

Overall: 11C, 25NC, 9I.

Australian Aid Project: Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)

November 2016 to January 2017 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: Eleven percent of the 46 stations outlooks had the highest probabilities in tercile 1, 4% in tercile 2 and 48% in tercile 3. The remaining 37% had either near equal probabilities in two terciles, near equal probabilities in three terciles or a mixed outlook.

POAMA outlooks: Not available this month.

Other Discussion

The partner countries were reminded that outlooks for November 2016 to January 2017 did not use historical data for the last three months (only historical November to January accumulated values). Therefore if data was missing for July to September 2016, outlooks for November 2016 to January 2017 can still be produced.

Simon also let the partner countries representatives know that the final version of SCOPIC 4 was being developed and should be available later this year.

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	September 2016	July to September 2016	Verification [†] for July to September 2016 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal to normal	Above normal	Consistent and inconsistent
Fiji	Below normal and above normal (Rotuma)	Normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Kiribati	Below normal to normal	Below normal to normal	Near consistent to inconsistent
Niue	Above normal	Normal	Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Normal (Port Moresby) and above normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
RMI	Below normal to normal	Normal	Consistent and inconsistent
Samoa			
Solomon Islands			
Tonga	Below normal to above normal	Normal and above normal (Niuatoputapu)	Near consistent
Tuvalu	Below normal	Below normal to normal	Near consistent
Vanuatu	Below normal to normal	Below normal to normal	Consistent to near consistent

[†] 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).