Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 111 Summary Report

Date: Tuesday 6 December 2016

Time: Australian Eastern Daylight Time 12:00PM (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 10 January - TBC) to be chaired by Samoa

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 17 climate officers (7 female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea

Fiji: Bipendra Prakash, Arieta Baleisolomone

Kiribati: Mauna Eria, Tebwaau Tetabo

Niue: Clemencia Sioneholo, Sean Tukutama, Lenita Togiamana

Papua New Guinea: Kisolel Posanau, Ruth Apuqahe, Nanao Bouauka

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Tile Tofaeono, Faapisa Aiono, Vaueli Su'a

Solomon Islands: Noel Sanau

Tonga:

Tuvalu: Niko Iona, Limoni Mativa

Vanuatu:

Australia: Grant Smith, Simon McGree, Adna Kazazic (Bureau of Meteorology)

OCOF tables were received from 8 participating countries before the meeting.

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

Observations and Verification of September to November 2016 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending November 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
Nausori Airport, Fiji	Nov	73.7	6	61
Tokotoko (Navua), Fiji	Nov	72.6	5	71
Labasa Airport, Fiji	Nov	23.4	2	58
Butaritari, Kiribati	Nov	13.4	4	78
Butaritari, Kiribati	Sep-Nov	59.1	1	76
Beru, Kiribati	Sep-Nov	35.6	6	61
Vanimo, PNG	Nov	399.8	58	59
Vanimo, PNG	Sep-Nov	780.0	55	55
Goroka, PNG	Sep-Nov	635.2	47	49
Nafanua, Samoa	Sep-Nov	400.3	3	44
Henderson, Solomon Islands	Nov	328.0	39	42
Honiara, Solomon Islands	Nov	391.0	58	60
Taro, Solomon Islands	Nov	409.0	36	39
Nui, Tuvalu	Nov	101.4	5	71
Niu, Tuvalu	Sep-Nov	224.4	3	71

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the September to November period showed 16 consistent, 19 near-consistent and 5 inconsistent outlooks (40 stations across 8 countries).

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

Cook Islands (2I); Fiji (7C, 5NC); Kiribati (5NC); Niue (1C); PNG (3C, 1NC, 1I); Samoa (2C, 2NC); Solomon Islands (2C, 5NC) and Tuvalu (1C, 1NC, 2I)

Overall: 16C, 19NC, 5I.

January to March 2017 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 30% of the 44 stations outlooks had the highest probabilities in tercile 1, 2% in tercile 2 and 50% in tercile 3. The remaining 18% had either near equal probabilities in two terciles or near equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: Not available this month.

Other matters:

The date of the OCOF in January was discussed in order to determine availabilities of the participants.

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	November 2016	September to November 2016	Verification[†] for September to November 2016 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and above normal	Below normal and Above normal	Inconsistent
Fiji	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to near-consistent
Kiribati	Below normal	Below normal	Near-consistent
Niue	Normal	Normal	Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Samoa	Below normal to normal	Below normal to normal	Consistent to near-consistent
Solomon Islands	Normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to near-consistent
Tuvalu	Below normal to normal	Below normal to normal	Consistent to inconsistent

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

Forecast is <u>near-consistent</u> 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 <u>inconsistent</u> when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) differ by two categories (i.e. terciles 1 and 3).