Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 112 Summary Report

Date: Tuesday 17 January 2017

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 14 February - TBC) to be chaired by the Solomon Islands

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 17 climate officers (9 female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Arona Ngari

Fiji: Arieta Baleisolomone, Swastika Prasad

Kiribati: Kamaitia Rubewtaake, Tebwaau Tetabo

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

Papua New Guinea: Kisolel Posanau, Kila Kila

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Tile Tofaeono, Junior Lepale, Vaueli Su'a

Solomon Islands: Noel Sanau

Tonga:

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu: Melinda Natapei

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

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

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

Observations and Verification of October to December 2016 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending December 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
Penang Mill, Fiji	Dec	713.2	102	104
Yasawa-i-Rara, Fiji	Dec	670.6	64	64
Laucala Bay (Suva), Fiji	Dec	761.8	75	75
Nausori Airport, Fiji	Dec	924.2	61	61
Tokotoko (Navua), Fiji	Dec	927.6	71	71
Lakeba, Fiji	Dec	453.5	64	68
Ono-i-Lau, Fiji	Dec	273.5	64	71
Penang Mill, Fiji	Oct-Dec	911.7	102	104
Yasawa-i-rara, Fiji	Oct-Dec	918.4	64	64
Laucala Bay (Suva), Fiji	Oct-Dec	621.7	75	75
Nausori Airport, Fiji	Oct-Dec	535.1	61	61
Tokotoko (Navua), Fiji	Oct-Dec	554.6	71	71
Kiritimati, Kiribati	Dec	0	1	78
Nafanua, Samoa	Dec	757.3	40	42
Taro, Solomon Islands	Dec	409	39	39
Taro, Solomon Islands	Oct-Dec	1097	36	37
Haapai, Tonga	Dec	318.2	63	70
Nui, Tuvalu	Dec	81.4	1	69
Nui, Tuvalu	Oct-Dec	274	3	69
Lamap, Vanuatu	Dec	34.6	2	54

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the October to December period showed 16 consistent, 34 near-consistent and 2 inconsistent outlooks (52 stations across 11 countries).

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

Cook Islands (1C, 1NC); Fiji (2C, 8NC); Kiribati (5NC); Niue (1NC); PNG (1C, 2NC, 2I); RMI (2C); Samoa (1C, 3NC); Solomon Islands (4C, 3NC); Tonga (3C, 3NC), Tuvalu (3NC) and Vanuatu (2C, 5NC).

Overall: 16C, 34NC, 2I.

February to April 2017 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 15% of the 52 stations outlooks had the highest probabilities in tercile 1, 6% in tercile 2 and 35% in tercile 3. The remaining 44% had either near equal probabilities in two terciles or near equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: Not available this month.

Other matters:

SCOPIC v4.4.15 will be released soon. The ranking error in Explore Data will be fixed in this version and the Predictor period setter has been changed from 2 to 1. Currently when a 2-month NINO3.4 SSTA is selected the actual months used are 3 months (2 selected months and 1 prior).

Grant Beard has re-joined the team on a part-time basis and will be assisting with the OCOF over the next few months.

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	December 2016	October to December 2016	Verification† for October to December 2016 outlooks
Cook Islands	Normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent and near-consistent
Fiji	Above normal	Above normal	Consistent to near-consistent
Kiribati	Below normal and normal (Tarawa only)	Below normal	Near-consistent
Niue	Normal and above normal	Normal	Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Samoa	Above normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent to near-consistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent to near-consistent
Tuvalu	Below normal and above normal (Niulakita only)	Below normal and above normal	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).