Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 119 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 08 August 2017

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

Chair: Papua New Guinea

Apologies: Cook Islands, Niue

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 19 September 2017 (TBC). To be chaired by Niue.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 15 climate officers (11 female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Arieta Baleisolomone

Kiribati: Kamaitia Rubetaake, Mauna Eria.

Niue:
Papua New Guinea: Nanao Bouauka, Kisolel Posanau, Kila Kila.

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria

Samoa: Faapisa Aiono, Tofi Palemia, Vaueli Su'a, Mattaniah Salesa.

Solomon Islands: Noel Sanau

Tonga: Mele Lakai, Seluvaia Finaulahi

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu: Moirah Yerta

Australia: Simon McGree, Grant Beard

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

SPREP: Philip Malsale

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

Observations and Verification of May to July 2017 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending July 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
Penang Mill, Fiji	July	1.4	4	108
Lakeba, Fiji	July	26.6	6	67
Ono-i-lau, Fiji	July	20.1	5	71
Savusavu Airfield, Fiji	July	17.0	3	62
Rotuma, Fiji	July	434.6	98	104
Vanimo, PNG	July	384.2	61	63
Momote, PNG	July	808.4	69	69
Port Moresby, PNG	July	0.2	2	118
Vanimo, PNG	May- July	826.0	57	62
Momote, PNG	May -July	1531.2	68	69
Port Moresby, PNG	May - July	1.4	1	109
Afiamalu, Samoa	May - July	1482.6	61	63
Nafanua, Samoa	May - July	1301.2	45	45
Apia, Samoa	May - July	1148.7	128	128
Faleolo, Samoa	May - July	592.1	55	55
Niuatoputapu, Tonga	May -July	931.0	67	67
Vava'u, Tonga	May - July	630.5	64	71
Ha'apai, Tonga	May -July	494.0	64	70
Lamap, Vanuatu	July	10.5	1	57
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	July	2.4	2	45
Aneityum, Vanuatu	July	26.7	3	66
Lata, Solomon Islands	May-July	1365.0	41	42

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the May to July period showed 9 consistent, 37 near-consistent and 1 inconsistent outlooks (47 stations across 10 countries).

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

Cook Islands (2NC); Fiji (3C, 9NC); Kiribati (3NC, 1I); Niue (1C); PNG (1C, 3NC); RMI (2NC); Samoa (1C, 3NC); Solomon Islands (2C, 5NC); Tonga (6NC) and Vanuatu (1C, 6NC).

Overall: 9C, 37NC, 1I.

August to October 2017 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 73% of the 55 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 0% in tercile 2 and 11% in tercile 3. Nine percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 7% had near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 55% of the 42 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 7% in tercile 2 and 31% in tercile 3. Five percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles, while 2% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters:

Observed Rainfall and Validation

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