

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 120 Summary Report

Date: Thursday 21 September 2017

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

Chair: Kiribati

Apologies:

Main purpose for the OCOF:

- To provide a regular forum for the 15 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 17 October 2017 (TBC). To be chaired by Niue.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 21 climate officers (9 female) from 15 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Nitoro Manea

Fiji: Arieta Baleisolomone

Federated States of Mironesia: Wallace Jacob, Boyd Mackenzie

Kiribati: Kamaitia Rubetaake, Mauna Eria.

Nauru: Newman Rykers

Niue: Floyd Viliamu

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau

Palau: Kikuko Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson kaneko

Samoa: Faapisa Aiono, Junior Lepale, Nuutofi Tovio Sio, Vaueli Su'a, Mattaniah Salesa.

Solomon Islands: Alick Haruhiru

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

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Tokelau: Meleka Mativa

Tonga: Seluvaia Finaulahi

Tuvalu: Nikotemo Iona

Vanuatu: Moirah Yerta

Australia: Simon McGree, Grant Beard

SPREP: Philip Malsale, Sunny Seuseu

OCOF tables were received from 14 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations and Verification of June to August 2017 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending August 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
Penrhyn, Cook Islands	August	25.2	4	80
Rarotonga, Cook Islands	August	31.6	10	119
Rarotonga, Cook Islands	June - August	154.6	10	119
Penang Mill, Fiji	June - August	62.6	6	108
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia	August	198.6	3	68
Kiritimati, Kiribati	August	0.3	6	93
Nadzab, Papua New Guinea	June - August	748.2	43	43
Momote, Papua New Guinea	June - August	1404.2	64	68
Afiamalu, Samoa	August	360.7	57	62
Nafanua, Samoa	August	251.7	38	42
Apia, Samoa	August	284.2	123	128
Munda, Solomon Islands	August	79	31	56
Taro, Solomon Islands	August	541	36	39
Vava'u, Tonga	August	264.0	67	71
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	August	1.7	1	46

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the June to August period showed 13 consistent, 24 near-consistent and 21 inconsistent outlooks (58 stations across 13 countries).

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

Cook Islands (1NC, 1I); Chuck (1I), Fiji (8C, 4NC); Kiribati (1C,3NC, 1I); Niue (1C); Palau (1C), PNG (2C,2NC 1I), Pohnpei (1I), RMI (1NC, 1I); Samoa (2NC, 2I); Solomon Islands (6NC, 1I); Tonga (1C,

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1NC, 4I), Tuvalu (1C, 2NC, 1I) and Vanuatu (1NC, 6I).

Overall: 13C, 24NC, 21I.

August to October 2017 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 0% of the 62 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 26% in tercile 2 and 2% in tercile 3. Eleven percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 61% had near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 25% of the 51 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 2% in tercile 2 and 57% in tercile 3. Six percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles, while 10% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters:

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	August 2017	June to August 2017	Verification [†] for June to August 2017 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal	Below Normal	Near-consistent to inconsistent
Chuck	Normal	Below Normal	Inconsistent
Fiji	Normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Near- consistent
Kiribati	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
RMI	Below normal and above normal	Below normal and above normal	Near-consistent to inconsistent
Niue	Above normal	Normal	Near-consistent
Palau	Normal	Above normal	Inconsistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Pohnpei	Below normal	Normal	Near-consistent
Samoa	Above normal	Normal to above normal	Near-consistent to Inconsistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Normal and above normal	Near-consistent to Inconsistent
Tonga	Below normal to above normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Tuvalu	Below normal and above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Vanuatu	Below normal and normal	Normal to above normal	Near-consistent to inconsistent

[†] 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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