

## **Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)**

### **Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 125 Summary Report**

**Date:** Tuesday 13 February 2018

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

**Chair:** SPREP

**Apologies:** Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga

**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 14 March 2017 (TBC). To be chaired by Vanuatu

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 18 climate officers (9 female) from 7 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:** Bates Nitoro Manea

**Fiji:** Swastika Prasad

**Kiribati:** Kamaitia Rubetaake and Mwata Keariki.

**Niue:** Clemencia Sioneholo, Rossy Mitiepo, Robert Togiamana and Floyd

**Papua New Guinea:** Kisolel Posanau, Kila Kila and Nanao Bouauka

**Republic of Marshall Islands:** Samson Kanenko

**Samoa:** Tile Tofaeono, Kotoni Faasau, Faapisa Aiono, Junior Lepale, Mattaniah Salesa and Vaueli Su'a.

**Solomon Islands:**

**Tonga:**

**Tuvalu:**

**Vanuatu:**

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

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**Australia:** Grant Beard

**SPREP:** Philip Malsale

OCOF tables were received from 11 participating countries before the meeting.

**Observations and Verification of November 2017 to January 2018 outlooks:**

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending January 2018 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
Laucala Bay, Fiji	November 17- January 18	1338.0	71	76
Navua, Fiji	November 17- January 18	1575.3	67	71
Vunisea, Fiji	November 17- January 18	895.7	72	80
Kiritimati, Kiribati	January 2018	2.3	10	92
Majuro, Marshall Islands	January 2018	400.3	58	64
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	January 2018	367.3	73	74
Majuro, Marshall Islands	November 17- January 18	1158.8	60	64
Vanimo, PNG	January 2018	110.2	7	67
Kavieng, PNG	January 2018	497.0	81	87
Port Moresby, PNG	January 2018	320.8	120	130
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	January 2018	446.5	69	74
Niuatoputapu, Tonga	November 17- January 18	1210.0	65	66
Funafuti, Tuvalu	January 2018	189.2	6	86
Niulakita, Tuvalu	January 2018	134.3	5	65

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Henderson, Solomon Islands	January 2018	504	41	44
Honiara, Solomon islands	January 2018	489	57	63
Auki, Solomon Islands	November 17- January 18	1307	50	54
Henderson, Solomon Islands	November 17- January 18	1117	41	43
Honiara, Solomon islands	November 17- January 18	1057	55	60

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the November 2017 to January 2018 period showed 15 consistent, 39 near-consistent and 4 inconsistent outlooks (58 stations across 11 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); Fiji (6C, 6NC); Kiribati (4NC); RMI (2 NC), Niue (1NC); PNG (1C, 8NC); Samoa (4NC); Solomon Islands (5C, 1NC,1I) Tonga (1C, 5NC), Tuvalu (1C, 3NC) and Vanuatu (1C, 4NC, 2I).

**Overall: 15C, 39NC, 4I.**

**March to May 2018 Outlooks:**

SCOPIC outlooks: 11% of the 55 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 9% in tercile 2 and 24% in tercile 3. Twenty four percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 33% had near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 65% of the 48 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 4% in tercile 2 and 17% in tercile 3. Four percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles, while 10% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

**Other matters:**

**Observed Rainfall and Validation**

Country	January 2017	November 2017 to January 2018	Verification <sup>†</sup> for November 2017 to January 2018 outlooks
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<sup>†</sup> 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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<b>Cook Islands</b>	Below normal to normal	Below normal to normal	Near-consistent and consistent
<b>Fiji</b>	Below normal to Above normal	Below normal to above normal	Near-consistent to consistent
<b>Kiribati</b>	Below normal and normal	Above normal	Near-consistent
<b>RMI</b>	Above normal	Above normal	Near-consistent to inconsistent
<b>Niue</b>	Normal	Above normal	Near-consistent
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Near-consistent to consistent
<b>Samoa</b>	Normal	Above normal	Near-consistent
<b>Tonga</b>	Below normal and above normal	Normal and above normal	Near-consistent to consistent
<b>Tuvalu</b>	Below normal to normal	Below normal to normal	Near-consistent to consistent
<b>Vanuatu</b>	Below normal to normal	Below normal to above normal	Near-consistent and inconsistent