Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 130 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 11 July 2018

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

Chair: SPREP

Apologies: Kiribati, Tuvalu and 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 15 August 2018 (TBC). To be chaired by **Kiribati**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 20 climate officers (8female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Arona

Fiji: Arieta Baleisolomone and Jasneel Chandra

Kiribati:

Niue: Floyd Viliamu

Papua New Guinea: Gabby Tuno**,** Kisolel Posanau**,** Kila Kila, Agnes Diap, Ruth Apuqahe and Nanao Bouauka

Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kanenko

Samoa: Faapisa Aiono, Kotoni Faasau, Vaueli Su'a, Nuutofi Palemia, Mattaniah Salesa, Junior Lepale

Solomon Islands: Noel Sanau, Lloyd Tahani

Tonga:

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu: Moira Yerta

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

Australia: Grant Beard

SPREP: Philip Malsale

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

Observations and Verification of April to June 2018 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending June 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
Penrhyn, Cook islands	June	20.0	2	80
Penrhyn, Cook islands	Apr to Jun	110.0	1	78
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	Apr to Jun	524.7	105	119
Labasa Airport, Fiji	Apr to Jun	678.6	57	62
Rotuma, Fiji	Apr to Jun	554.6	10	105
Butaritari, Kiribati	Apr to Jun	484.0	8	79
Kirimati, Kiribati	Apr to Jun	102.4	7	93
Tarawa, Kiribati	Apr to Jun	178.5	6	69
Majuro, Marshall Islands	June	422.1	62	64
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	June	400.1	73	74
Majuro, Marshall Islands	Apr to Jun	1428.1	63	64
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	Apr to Jun	1273.4	73	74
Port Moresby, PNG	June	1.4	12	120
Afiamalu, Samoa	Apr to Jun	1406.4	60	64
Lata, Solomon Islands	Apr to Jun	595.6	42	43
Lata, Solomon Islands	Apr to Jun	1859.8	42	42
Niuatoputapu, Tonga	June	31.1	7	72
Fua'amotu, Tonga	June	244.6	37	39
Ha'apai, Tonga	Apr to Jun	648.5	66	71
Fua'amotu, Tonga	Apr to Jun	832.8	37	39
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	Apr to Jun	735.1	70	73
Nanumea, Tuvalu	Apr to Jun	196.7	2	78
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	June	185.8	45	46
Pekoa, Vanuatu	Apr to Jun	280.9	3	48

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of April to June 2018 period showed 25 consistent, 20 near-consistent and 5 inconsistent outlooks (50 stations across 11 countries).

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

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

Overall: 25C, 20NC, 5In.

August to October 2018 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: None of the 60 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 5% in tercile 2 and 2% in tercile 3. Twelve percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 82% had near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 44% of the 48 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 15% in tercile 2 and 27% in tercile 3. Six percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles, while 8% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

We'd expect SCOPIC to have a fairly wide distribution of outlooks because we're in the ENSO transition season when the skills of statistics outlooks is at minimum.

Other matters:

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	June 2018	April to June 2018	Verification† for April to June 2018 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal	Below normal and above normal	Consistent
Fiji	Below normal to Above normal	Below normal	Consistent to Near-consistent
Kiribati	Below normal and normal	Below normal	Consistent to Near-consistent
RMI	Above normal	Above normal	Consistent
Niue	Above normal	Normal	Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Normal (One station)	Near-consistent
Samoa	Below normal and normal	Above normal	Near-consistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Tonga	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Tuvalu	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Vanuatu	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and normal	Near-consistent and inconsistent

Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective country engage with their stakeholders

Country	Date	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Fiji	21-22 June	Disaster Managers	30		

† 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).