

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 131 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 15 August 2018

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

Chair: Papua New Guinea

Apologies: Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Cook Islands

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), their seasonal climate outlooks and stakeholders engagement 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), their three-month outlooks and their stakeholders engagement. 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 12 September 2018 (TBC). To be chaired by **Kiribati**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 16 climate officers (10 female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Arieta Baleisolomone and Jasneel Chandra

Kiribati: Mwata Keariki

Niue: Clemensia Sioneholo, Lenita Togiama

Papua New Guinea: Gabby Tuno, Kisolet Posanau, Ruth Apuqahe and Nanao Bouauka

Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kanenko

Samoa: Faapisa Aiono, Kotoni Faasau, Vaueli Su'a, Mattaniah Salesa

Solomon Islands:

Tonga: Seluvaia Finaulahi

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu: Moira Yerta

Australia: Grant Beard

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

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SPREP: Philip Malsale

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

Observations and Verification of May to July 2018 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending July 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	May to Jul	106.6	3	79
Nadi Airport, Fiji	July	0.5	4	77
Lakeba, Fiji	July	13.6	1	67
Labasa Airport, Fiji	May to Jul	65.4	5	62
Rotuma, Fiji	May to Jul	378.7	7	103
Majuro, Marshall Islands	May to Jul	1379.6	64	64
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	May to Jul	1192.9	73	74
Fua'amotu, Tonga	July	68.7	1	39
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	July	108.6	1	74
Nanumea, Tuvalu	May to Jul	227.2	6	77
Sola	July	42.4	3	44
Pekoa	July	23.2	5	48
Lamap	July	15.0	3	58
Port Vila	July	19.0	5	66
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	July	71.8	5	56
Sola, Vanuatu	May to Jul	518.4	3	43

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of May to July 2018 period showed 20 consistent, 25 near-consistent and 12 inconsistent outlooks (57 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 (1C, 1 NC); Fiji (3C, 4NC, 5In); Kiribati (2C, 2NC); RMI (1C, 1NC); Niue (1NC); PNG (2C, 6NC); Samoa (2C, 2NC); Solomon Islands (3C, 3NC, 1In); Tonga (3C, 1NC, 2In); Tuvalu (2C, 1NC, 1In) and Vanuatu (1C, 3NC, 3In).

Overall: 20C, 25NC, 12In.

September to November 2018 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 29% of the 62 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, none in tercile 2 and 11% in tercile 3. Twenty six percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 34% had near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

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POAMA outlooks: 50% of the 48 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 8% in tercile 2 and 42% in tercile 3. No station has near-equal probabilities in two terciles, and 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	July 2018	May to July 2018	Verification [†] for May to July 2018 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent to Near-consistent
Fiji	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Kiribati	Below normal and normal	Below normal	Consistent to Near-consistent
RMI	Normal to above normal	Above normal	Consistent to Near-Consistent
Niue	Normal	Normal	Near-Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Normal and above normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
Samoa	Normal	Below normal and normal	Near-consistent and Inconsistent
Solomon Islands	Normal and above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Tonga	Below normal and normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Tuvalu	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Vanuatu	Below normal	Below normal to above normal	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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Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective country engage with their stakeholders

Country	Date	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands	After 15 August	Watsan – ICI, Marine Resources – MMR, EMCI, MoT, Climate Change -OPM			
Fiji	11/07	FemLink Pacific/ Women's Weather Watch Preparedness Workshop			
Kiribati	17th July 2018	Government Media-Broadcasting and Publications Authority	Radio news is aired on AM Frequency covering all islands so assuming all households having radios and tuning at the time were reached.		
Niue	05th June 2018	Health Project Management Coordinate Unit (PMCU) Niue Youth Council Tāoga Niue Transport Crown Law Office Other Participants Peleni's Travel Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue (EKN) Niue Bulk Fuel Niue High School Education NZ High Commission External Affairs	27	10	17

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		<p>Niue Chamber/Oma Tafua</p> <p>Niue Public Service Commission (NPSC)</p> <p>Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)</p> <p>Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue Cabinet & Parliament</p> <p>Niue Public Service Commission (NPSC)</p> <p>Makefu Village Council/USP</p>			
PNG	July 16th to 20th	<p>Disaster Managers (Oxfam, IOM, DFAT (Australian High Commission), Department of Agriculture & Livestock, PNG Red Cross, National Broadcasting Commission, National Disaster Centre, University of Papua New Guinea, Pacific Adventist University, Geo-hazards Management Division, United Nations Development Fund, The National Newspaper and PNG Loop News/TV Wan)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Total with NWS & team = 33</p>	<p>15</p> <p>18</p>	<p>9</p> <p>15</p>
Solomon Islands	14/08/2018	Solomon Islands Meteorological Services	3	3	0
Vanuatu	23 – 27 Jul	<p>VMGD, Hydrology, SPREP, IFRC, BOM, Vanuatu Red Cross Society, Public works Department, Tourism Department, Environment Department, Media (Daily post Newspaper, Independent newspaper VBTC), health and OXFAM</p>	22	15	7