

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 132 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 12 September 2018

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

Chair: SPREP

Apologies: Tuvalu and Kiribati

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 10 October 2018 during PICOOF. To be chaired by **SPREP**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 21 climate officers (8 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea

Fiji: Jasneel Chandra

Kiribati:

Niue: Rossy Mitiepo and Sean Tukutama

Papua New Guinea: Nanao Bouauka, Ruth Apuqahe and Justina Kawi

Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kanenko

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

Solomon Islands: Lloyd Tahani, Noel Sanau and Max Sitai

Tonga: Seluvaia Finaulahi

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu: Moira Yerta, Melinda Natapei and Kalo Abel

* 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 June to August 2018 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending August 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	August	14.1	1	81
Rarotonga, Cook islands	August	221.5	111	120
Penrhyn, Cook islands	Jun - Aug	69.9	1	80
Penang Mill, Fiji	August	5.7	5	109
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	August	0.0	1	119
Laucala Bay, Fiji	August	13.2	1	77
Nausori Airport, Fiji	August	34.4	3	62
Navua, Fiji	August	47.6	2	73
Lakeba, Fiji	August	6.9	2	69
Vunisea, Fiji	August	35.6	8	82
Labasa airport, Fiji	August	0.0	3	63
Savusavu Airfield, Fiji	August	12.4	3	63
Penang Mill, Fiji	Jun - Aug	58.7	3	109
Lakeba, Fiji	Jun - Aug	85.1	4	67
Labasa airport, Fiji	Jun - Aug	20.6	1	61
Rotuma, Fiji	Jun - Aug	424.6	10	102
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	August	477.8	72	74
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	Jun - Aug	1129.3	60	65
Majuro, Marshall Islands	Jun - Aug	1103.5	72	74
Madang, PNG	August	260.4	66	69
Port Moresby, PNG	August	79.4	112	119
Niuatoputapu, Tonga	August	220.9	67	71
Niulakita, Tuvalu	August	518.5	65	66
Lamap, Vanuatu	August	175.5	56	58
Sola, Vanuatu	Jun - Aug	255.2	2	43
Lamap, Vanuatu	Jun - Aug	182.3	7	48

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

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Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of June to August 2018 period showed 15 consistent, 30 near-consistent and 11 inconsistent outlooks (56 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 (2C, 4NC, 6In); Kiribati (1C, 2NC); RMI (1NC, 1NC); Niue (1NC); PNG (2C, 5NC, 1In); Samoa (1C, 3NC); Solomon Islands (5C, 1NC, 1In); Tonga (1C, 5NC); Tuvalu (1C, 2NC, 1In) and Vanuatu (6NC, 1In).

Overall: 15C, 30NC, 11In.

October to December 2018 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 15% of the 62 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 2% in tercile 2 and 6% in tercile 3. Thirty nine percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 38% had near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 33% of the 48 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 6% in tercile 2 and 54% in tercile 3. 6% has near-equal probabilities in two terciles, and no station with near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters:

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	August 2018	June to August 2018	Verification [†] for June to August 2018 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and above normal	Below normal and above normal	Consistent
Fiji	Below normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Kiribati	Normal and above normal	Normal	Consistent to Near-consistent
RMI	Normal and above normal	Above normal	Near-consistent and Inconsistent
Niue	Normal	Normal	Near-Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Normal and above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Samoa	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent and near-consistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above 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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Tonga	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent and near-consistent
Tuvalu	Above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Vanuatu	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent to 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 (Suva)	27/8-31/8/18	SRIF, FSC, WAF, EFL, FMS, Marist Brothers, Agriculture	27	16	11
Fiji (Nadi)	20/8-24/8/18	SRIF, FSC, WAF, EFL, NDMO, Agriculture	28	23	5
Marshall Islands	08/17/18	Chief Secretary's Office (CSO), National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)	3	2	1
Papua New Guinea	10-11 Aug	CCDA, NDC, NWS,DMPGM	89	59	30
Papua New Guinea	21-23 August	NWS, CCDA, STS	177	117	60
Papua New Guinea	23-24 August	UNDP, NDC	47	37	10
Tonga	8/08/18	Distribute Climate outlook and second Media release on El Nino and Drought Watch via email list to stakeholders. Also update Monthly Climate summary and Ocean Outlook on website. These are updated on a monthly basis, however for the media release it can be changed to fortnightly depending on the needs to update information according to ENSO status. Stakeholders are: Agriculture & Farmers,	103	75	28

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		<p>NGOs, Govt mins, Helath, Water, Disaster, Media- radio, TV, social media</p> <p>Director gets interviewed by radio and television once media release is out and also demand from public and media (radio) for news.</p>			
Vanuatu [Radio Talk Back Show]	5th September 2018	Water Cluster Water Department Climate Services	3	2	1
Vanuatu Media Release on ENSO update	31st August 2018	All sectors and NGOs via email, & website	181		
Total			658	331	146