

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 133 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 10 October 2018

Time: Australian Eastern Daylight Time at 12:00PM (01:00 UTC)

Location: Nadi, Fiji (During PICO4)

Chair: SPREP

Apologies: 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), 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 14 November 2018. To be chaired by **Niue**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 10 climate officers (3 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea

Fiji: Jasneel Chandra

Kiribati: Tebwaau Tetabo

Niue: Lenita Tongiamana

Papua New Guinea: Ruth Apuqahe

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria

Samoa: Faapisa Aiono

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai

Tonga:

Tuvalu: Niko Iona

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

Australian Aid Project: Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)

Vanuatu: Robson Silas

Australia: Simon McGree

SPREP: Philip Malsale

OCOF tables were received from 10 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations and Verification of July to September 2018 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending September 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	Years of record
Rotuma, Fiji	September	98.3	8	102
Penang Mill, Fiji	Jul-Sept	48.4	3	108
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	Jul-Sept	27.4	3	119
Nadi Airport, Fiji	Jul-Sept	48.2	4	77
Viwa, Fiji	Jul-Sept	53.4	2	36
Nausori, Fiji	Jul-Sept	246.9	5	62
Labasa, Fiji	Jul-Sept	54.2	5	61
Savusavu Airfield, Fiji	Jul-Sept	172.5	9	61
Butaritari, Kiribati	September	327.0	74	79
Madang, PNG	September	251.4	63	69
Nadzab, PNG	September	157.0	36	44
Kavieng, PNG	September	372.0	85	91
Madang, PNG	Jul-Sept	609.4	59	69
Goroka, PNG	Jul-Sept	369.0	46	52
Port Moresby, PNG	Jul-Sept	148.2	95	102
Faleolo, Samoa	September	22.1	6	56
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	September	623.1	50	50
Auki, Solomon Islands	Jul-Sept	775.7	51	56
Niulakita, Tuvalu	September	364.9	62	66
Niulakita, Tuvalu	Jul-Sept	1212.2	65	65
Pekoa, Vanuatu	September	315.0	47	48

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of July to September 2018 period showed 13 consistent, 34 near-consistent and 5 inconsistent outlooks (52 stations across 10 countries).

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

Australian Aid Project: Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)

Cook Islands (1C, 1NC); Fiji (10NC, 2In); Kiribati (2C, 2NC); RMI (2NC); Niue (1In); PNG (1C, 8NC); Samoa (3C, 1NC); Solomon Islands (7NC); Tonga (); Tuvalu (3C, 1In) and Vanuatu (3C, 3NC, 1In).

Overall: 13C, 34NC, 5In.

November 2018 to January 2019 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 28% of the 54 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 4% in tercile 2 and 11% in tercile 3. Thirty-three percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 24% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 42% of the 43 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 5% in tercile 2 and 42% in tercile 3. Nine percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles, and 2% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters:

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	September 2018	July to September 2018	Verification [†] for July to September 2018 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and above normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
Fiji	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and normal	Near-consistent and Inconsistent
Kiribati	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
RMI	Below normal and normal	Normal and above normal	Near-consistent
Niue	Normal	Below Normal	inconsistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
Samoa	Below normal and normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Near-consistent
Tonga			
Tuvalu	Normal to above normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent and Inconsistent
Vanuatu	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).

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

Country	Date	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Marshall Islands	10/5/2018	National Disaster Management Office & Red Cross	NDMO-4 Red Cross-4	NDMO-3 Red Cross-2	NDMO-1 Red Cross-2
Kokopo, East New Britain Province, PNG	APEC 12th Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum on 25th-26th September	Lead: APEC Authority with coordination from Climate Change Office and NDMO	58 29 locals and 29 internationals	46	12
Total			62	51	15