

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

### **Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 134 Summary Report**

**Date:** Wednesday 14 November 2018

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

**Host:** SPREP

**Chair:** Niue

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

**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 December 2018 during PICOFF. To be chaired by **Papua New Guinea**.

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 18 climate officers (8 female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:** Bates Manea

**Fiji:** Arieta Baleisalomone

**Kiribati:** Leslie James, Tebwaa Tetabo and Mauna Eria

**Niue:** Clemencia Sioneholo and Lenita Tongiamana

**Papua New Guinea:** Kila Kila

**Republic of Marshall Islands:** Nover Juria and Samson Kanenko

**Samoa:** Kotoni Faasau, Junior Lepale, Vaueli Su'a and Mattaniah Salesa

**Solomon Islands:**

**Tonga:**

**Tuvalu:**

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

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**Vanuatu:** Robson Silas, Melinda Natapei, Moira Yerta and Glenda

**Australia:** Grant Beard

**SPREP:** Philip Malsale

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

**Observations and Verification of August to October 2018 outlooks:**

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending October 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
Penang Mill, Fiji	October	341.2	107	109
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	October	220.8	113	119
Laucala Bay, Fiji	October	541.9	73	77
Naursoni Airport, Fiji	October	542.0	60	62
Lakeba, Fiji	October	259.7	63	69
Labasa Airport, Fiji	October	252.7	55	61
Savusavu airfield, Fiji	October	457.9	61	62
Kirimati, Kiribati	October	0.3	8	94
Kwajalein, RMI	October	179.1	5	74
Niuafu'ou, Tonga	October	413.6	43	46
Niuafu'ou, Tonga	Aug-Oct	820.8	43	46
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	October	336.0	44	46
Port Vila	October	310.5	65	66
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Aug-Oct	543.9	44	46
Port Vila	Aug-Oct	480.5	62	66

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of August to October 2018 period showed 7 consistent, 41 near-consistent and 7 inconsistent outlooks (55 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:

Cook Islands (2NC); Fiji (11NC, 2In); Kiribati (3C, 1NC, 1In); RMI (1C, 1NC); Niue (1C); PNG (1C, 6NC, 1In); Samoa (4NC); Solomon Islands (6NC, 1In); Tonga (5NC, 1In); Tuvalu (N/A) and Vanuatu (1C, 5NC, 1In).

**Overall: 7C, 41NC, 7In.**

**December 2018 to February 2019 Outlooks:**

SCOPIC outlooks: 48% of the 56 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 7% in tercile 2 and 32% in tercile 3. Five percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 7% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

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POAMA outlooks: Sixty-two percent of the 45 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 2% in tercile 2 and 36% in tercile 3. There are no station outlooks that have near-equal probabilities in two or three terciles.

**Other matters:**

**Observed Rainfall and Validation**

Country	October 2018	August to October 2018	Verification <sup>†</sup> for August to October 2018 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and normal	Normal	Near-consistent
Fiji	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Near-consistent and Inconsistent
Kiribati	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
RMI	Below normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
Niue	Normal	Below Normal	Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal and above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Samoa	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Near-consistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Near-consistent to Inconsistent
Tonga	Normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Near-consistent to Inconsistent
Tuvalu			
Vanuatu	Below normal to Above normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent

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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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**Country 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 Island	October	Ministry of Transport staff	18	14	4
		ICI – Infrastructure Cook Islands	*	*	*
Fiji (Suva)	18/10-19/10/18	SRIF FSC USP FAO RIMES MHMS NDMO MoE Waterways Red Cross Society	16	11	5
Niue	08th	Niue Council of Women  Ministry of Natural Resources (Niue Met Service, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, And Niue's Ridge to Reef.  Taoga Niue  General Public of Niue			15
	10th	Niue High School students/teachers  Other Ministry present at the EXPO	*	*	*
PNG	October 31st 2018	National Disaster Centre  National Maritime Safety Authority,  Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazards Management  Department of Agriculture and Livestock,  PNG Red Cross,  National Agriculture Research Institute,  Climate Change Development Authority,  University of PNG,  Pacific Adventist University,  United Nations Development Program	35	23	12

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		Department of Transport			
Samoa	26th October	Disaster Advisory Committee (DAC) includes all stakeholders – Agriculture, Tourism, Works & Infrastructure, Forestry,	30	20	10
	31st October	Health, Tourism, Works, Maritime, Fisheries, Forestry, Agriculture, Farmers Association, Media	150	*	*
Solomon Islands	October 2018	Ministry of Health - Vector Borne Division (note: Direct engagement with this sector)	1	1	0
		Red Cross	1	1	0
		NDMO	3	3	0
		Ministry of Agriculture	2	2	0
		SIBC	1	1	0
		Hydrology	1	1	0
		Solomon Star	1	0	
		PaoaFM	1	1	0
		World Vision	1	0	1
		Ministry of Mines and Energy	1	1	0
Tonga	October 2018	Distribute Climate outlook via email list to stakeholders. Also update Monthly Climate summary and Ocean Outlook on website. These are updated on a monthly basis.  Stakeholders are: Agriculture & Farmers, NGOs, Govt mins, Health, Water, Disaster, Media- radio, TV, social media.	103	75	28
<b>TOTAL</b>			367	154	75

There were 7 countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga) who were actively engaged with their stakeholders during the month of October.