Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 135
Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 12 December 2018

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Papua New Guinea

Apologies: Tonga 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 16 January 2019 during PICOF. To be chaired by **Republic of Marshall Islands.**

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 20 climate officers (7 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Arona Ngari

Fiji: Jasneel Chandra

Kiribati: Leslie James and Mwata Keariki

Niue: Clemencia Sioneholo, Lenita Tongiamana, Sean Tukutama

Papua New Guinea: Kila Kila and Kisolel Posanau

Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kanenko

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

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai

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, Allan Rarai, Glenda Pakoa, Kalsuak Godden and Kalo Abel
Australia: Simon McGree
SPREP: Philip Malsale

OCOF tables were received from 9 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations and Verification of September to November 2018 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending November 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
Labasa Airport, Fiji	November	51.0	6	60
Savusavu Airfield, Fiji	November	92.7	6	62
Rotuma, Fiji	November	89.9	1	105
Naursori Airport, Fiji	November	444.4	57	63
Laucala Bay, Fiji	Sep-Nov	1122.7	70	77
Nausori Airport, Fiji	Sep-Nov	1100.3	56	62
Lakeba, Fiji	Sep-Nov	559.2	60	68
Rotuma, Fiji	Sep-Nov	364.0	1	101
Butaritari, Kiribati	Sep-Nov	580.5	8	80
Kirimati, Kiribati	Sep-Nov	9.9	2	92
Tarawa, Kiribati	Sep-Nov	258.2	6	69
Majuro, RMI	Sep-Nov	718.4	6	65
Port Moresby, PNG	November	0.0	2	121
Kavieng, PNG	Sep-Nov	982.4	82	89
Apia, Samoa	November	112.3	15	129
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	November	367.8	46	51
Lata, Solomon islands	November	628.6	44	44
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	Sep-Nov	1247.1	45	48
Sola, Vanuatu	November	92.8	3	47
Pekoa, Vanuatu	November	34.2	3	48
Lamap, Vanuatu	November	8.0	3	58
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Sep-Nov	645.4	43	46

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of September to November 2018 period showed 15 consistent, 19 near-consistent and 15 inconsistent outlooks (49 stations across 9 countries).

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

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Cook Islands (); Fiji (6NC, 7In); Kiribati (1C, 2NC, 1In); RMI (2C); Niue (1C); PNG (3C, 3NC, 1In); Samoa (3C, 1NC); Solomon Islands (3C, 1NC, 3In); Tonga (); Tuvalu (1C, 3NC) and Vanuatu (1C,3NC, 3In).

Overall: 15C, 19NC, 15In.

January to March 2019 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 52% of the 42 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 10% in tercile 2 and 26% in tercile 3. Ten percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 2% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 60% of the 42 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, none in tercile 2 and 31% in tercile 3. Seven percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles, and 2% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters:

Observed Rainfall and Validation

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

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[†] 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 November	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Fiji (Suva)	26/11-30/11	BMKG FMS	13	11	2
	26/11-27/11	Lautoka City Council Nadi Town Council FMS Ministry of Local Government & Housing	40	25	15
Kiribati		None			
Marshall Islands	11/16/18	Chief Secretary Office (CSO) and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)	3	2	1
Niue	8/11/18	• Ministry of Natural Resources (Niue Met.Service, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, And Niue's Ridge to Reef • Niue Council of Women • Taoga Niue • General Public of Niue	5		
	10/11/18	Niue High School Students	50		
	20/11/18	Public	50		
PNG		None			
Samoa	29th -30th	Samoa Water Authority(SWA), Samoa Tourism Authority (STA), Fire & Emergency Services Authority (FESA), Samoa RED Cross Society, University (USP) & College Robert Louis Stevenson's Students	14	11	3
Solomon Islands	November	Ministry of Health - Vector Borne Division (note: Direct engagement with this sector	1	1	0

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Solomon Islands	November	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
		Goldridge Mining			
		Ministry of Mines and Energy	1	1	0
Tuvalu		Islands Kaupule Council	8	7	1
		Government Civil Servants			
		Red Cross	1	1	
		Media	1		1
		TANGO	1	1	
		Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu (Church Congrégation)	1	1	
Vanuatu	19th Nov – 23rd Nov	Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazards Department (VMGD)	25	21	4
	19th Nov – 14th Dec	Students (Aore Adventist College, Onesua Presbyterian College)	6	4	2
TOTAL			231	94	30