

## Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

### Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 137 Summary Report

**Date:** Wednesday 13 February 2019

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

**Host:** SPREP

**Chair:** Samoa

**Apologies:** Tuvalu, 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 13 March 2019 and is to be chaired by **Solomon Islands**.

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 30 climate officers (12 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:** Bates Manea

**Fiji:** Arieta Baleisalomone, Jasneel Chandra, Shweta Shiwangni

**Kiribati:** Ms Mwata Keariki, Mr Tebwaau Tetabo

**Niue:** Clemencia Sioneholo, Higano Laufoli, Sean Tukutama, Robert Togiamana

**Papua New Guinea:** Kila Kila and Gabriel Tuno

**Republic of Marshall Islands:** Samson Kanenko

**Samoa:** Faapisa Aiono, Kotoni Faasau, Junior Lepale, Mattaniah Salesa, and Nuutofi Palemia

**Solomon Islands:** Max Sitai and Noel Sanau

**Tonga:** Seluvaia Finaulahi (Left early)

**Tuvalu:** **Vanuatu:** Robson Silas, Allan Rarai, Daphne Nalawas, Stephen Tom, Niel Malosu, Erica Loli, Richy Tausi, Abel Kalo, Moira Yerta

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\* 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 November 2018 to January 2019 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending January 2019 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 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Nausori Airport, Fiji   | January | 643.8                | 61            | 63              |
| Savusavu airfield, Fiji | January | 569.6                | 57            | 60              |
| Nausori Airport, Fiji   | Nov-Jan | 1537.8               | 62            | 63              |
| Nadzab, PNG             | January | 343.6                | 44            | 45              |
| Port Moresby, PNG       | January | 593.4                | 131           | 131             |
| Nadzab, PNG             | Nov-Jan | 656.0                | 43            | 44              |
| Port Moresby, PNG       | Nov-Jan | 719.0                | 116           | 119             |
| Apia, Samoa             | January | 238.7                | 13            | 130             |
| Vava'u, Tonga           | January | 799.3                | 72            | 72              |
| Vava'u, Tonga           | Nov-Jan | 1490.7               | 71            | 71              |
| Ha'apai, Tonga          | Nov-Jan | 1315.0               | 72            | 72              |
| Niulakita, Tuvalu       | January | 671.1                | 61            | 65              |
| Niulakita, Tuvalu       | Nov-Jan | 1586.5               | 63            | 63              |

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of November 2018 to January 2019 period showed 23 consistent, 22 near-consistent and 14 inconsistent outlooks (59 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, 1In); Fiji (5C, 4NC, 4In); Kiribati (4C); RMI (1C, 1NC); Niue (1In); PNG (3C, 5NC, 1In); Samoa (2C, 2NC); Solomon Islands (3NC, 4In); Tonga (1C, 2NC, 3In); Tuvalu (2C, 1NC, 1In) and Vanuatu (4C, 3NC).

**Overall: 23C, 22NC, 14In.**

### March to May 2019 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 52% of the 60 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 18% in tercile 3 and 18% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles. Eight percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles, while only 3% have their highest probability in tercile 2.

POAMA outlooks: 63% of the 48 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 17% in tercile 3. Ten percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles, 8% have their highest probability in tercile 2, while 2% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

**Other matters:** SCOPIC SST files not updating in Cook Island and with Alick and Kasis

**Observed Rainfall and Validation**

| Country                 | January 2019                  | November 2018 to January 2019 | Verification <sup>†</sup> for November 2018 to January 2019 outlooks |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Cook Islands</b>     | Normal                        | Below normal and Normal       | Consistent & Near-consistent   |
| <b>Fiji</b>             | Mostly normal to above normal | Below normal to above normal  | Consistent to Inconsistent   |
| <b>Kiribati</b>         | Above normal                  | Above normal                  | Consistent   |
| <b>RMI</b>              | Below normal and Normal       | Below normal and normal       | Consistent and Near-consistent                                       |
| <b>Niue</b>             | Normal                        | Above normal                  | Inconsistent   |
| <b>Papua New Guinea</b> | Below normal to above normal  | Normal to above normal        | Consistent to inconsistent   |
| <b>Samoa</b>            | Below normal to above normal  | Normal to normal              | Consistent to Near-consistent  |
| <b>Solomon Islands</b>  | Below normal to above normal  | Normal to above normal        | Near-consistent to Inconsistent                                      |
| <b>Tonga</b>            | Normal to Above normal        | Normal to above normal        | Consistent to Inconsistent   |
| <b>Tuvalu</b>           | Normal to above normal        | Normal to above normal        | Consistent to inconsistent   |
| <b>Vanuatu</b>          | Below normal to above normal  | Below normal to normal        | Consistent to Near-consistent  |

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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 Islands     | January 19                 | MoT staff – Ministry of Transport   | 18                           | 14             | 4                |
| Fiji             | None                       |   |                              |                |                  |
| Kiribati         | January 28                 | Internal Stakeholder including the President  | 16                           | 10             | 6                |
| Marshall Islands | January 18                 | Chief Secretary's Office (CSO) and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)   | 3                            | 2              | 1                |
| Niue             | Radio Program 24th January | Public  | 50+                          | 39             | 55               |
|                  | Tide 2019 Calendar         | Fisher men<br>Maritime<br>Public  | 20+                          | 25             | 15               |
|                  | Facebook update            | Public<br>Youth   | 30+                          | 75             | 95               |
|                  | Niue Climate Outlook       | Government departments<br>Farmers   | 20+                          | 115            | 110              |
| PNG              | January                    | None  |                              |                |                  |
| Samoa            | January 23                 | Water Authority(SWA), Tourism Authority (STA), Fire & Emergency Services Authority (FESA), RED Cross, University & College Students | 14                           | 11             | 3                |
| Solomon Islands  | January                    | Ministry of Health - Vector Borne Division (note: Direct engagement with this sector  | 1                            | 1              | 0                |
|                  |                            | NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon Star, paoa FM, World vision Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and energy. | 12                           | 10             | 2                |
| Tonga            | January                    | Distribute Climate outlook via email list to stakeholders.  | 103                          | 75             | 28               |
| Tuvalu           | January                    | None  |                              |                |                  |
| Vanuatu          | 24th & 31st January        | Media (VBTC/TBV, FM96 BUZZ, Vanuatu Live, Telesat KAM TV)   | 3                            | 2              | 1                |

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|              |   |  |            |            |            |
|--------------|---|--|------------|------------|------------|
|              | 24-30<br>January  | Van KIRAP Work plan review<br>(VMGD Agriculture, Fisheries,<br>Tourism, Water, Health and<br>Infrastructure) | 17         | 10         | 7          |
|              | 30/01/2019<br>(2018-2019<br>Mid-Term TC<br>Mid-Season<br>Outlook) | Vanuatu Climate Update<br>Stakeholder's List   | 32         |            |            |
|              |   | NCOF List  | 63         |            |            |
|              | 6/02/2019<br>EAR Watch  | Vanuatu Climate Update<br>Stakeholder's List   | 32         |            |            |
|              |   | NCOF List  | 63         |            |            |
| <b>Total</b> |   |  | <b>497</b> | <b>389</b> | <b>327</b> |