

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 138 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 14 March 2019

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Solomon Islands

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 16 April 2019 and is to be chaired by **Tonga**.

Participants:

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

Cook Islands: Bates Manea

Fiji: Jasneel Chandra, Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Ms Kamaitia Rubetaake

Niue: Clemencia Sioneholo, Higano Laufoli, Lenita Togiamana

Papua New Guinea: Kila Kila and Gabriel Tuno

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria

Samoa: Tile Tofaeono, Faapisa Aiono, Junior Lepale, Mattaniah Salesa.

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai and Noel Sanau

Tonga:

Tuvalu:

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

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Vanuatu: Robson Silas, Daphne Nalawas, Kalsuak Gorden, Steven Tom, Glenda Pakoa

Australia: Grant Beard

SPREP: Philip Malsale

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

Observations and Verification of December 2018 to February 2019 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending February 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
Nadi Airport, Fiji	February	84.6	6	77
Naurori Airport, Fiji	Dec-Feb	1355.9	59	63
Beru, Kiribati	February	332.7	58	64
Kanton, Kiribati	February	342.4	59	63
Madang, PNG	February	596.0	71	71
Port Moresby, PNG	February	64.8	6	131
Nadzab, PNG	Dec-Feb	740.2	43	43
Port Moresby, PNG	Dec-Feb	781.0	122	127
Faleolo, Samoa	February	501.6	55	58
Taro, Solomon Islands	February	529.3	3	39
Niuafo'ou, Tonga	February	603.6	44	46
Vava'u, Tonga	February	526.2	69	73
Ha'apai, Tonga	February	524.0	73	73
Nanumea, Tuvalu	February	630.0	74	79
Niu, Tuvalu	February	566.0	67	74
Funafuti	February	668.7	82	87
Niulakita, Tuvalu	February	671.1	67	67
Aneityum, Vanuatu	February	535.0	63	68
Sola, Vanuatu	February	1590.8	40	44

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of December 2018 to February 2019 period showed 12 consistent, 28 near-consistent and 16 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 (2NC); Fiji (3C, 7NC, 3In); Kiribati (4C); RMI (2NC); Niue (1In); PNG (1C, 4NC, 1In); Samoa (2NC, 2In); Solomon Islands (2C, 3NC, 2In); Tonga (2NC, 4In); Tuvalu (1C, 2NC, 1In) and Vanuatu (1C, 4NC, 2In).

Overall: 12C, 28NC, 16In.

April to June 2019 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 53% of the 60 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 17% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 27% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 73% of the 48 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 19% in tercile 3. Six percent have their highest probability in tercile two. 2% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and none have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters: No SCOPIC issue. All countries manage to update their SOI and SST files.

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	February 2019	December 2018 to February 2019	Verification [†] for December 2018 to February 2019 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal to Normal	Normal	Near-consistent
Fiji	Mostly below normal to normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Kiribati	Below normal to above normal	Above normal	Consistent
RMI	Normal and Above normal	Normal	Near-consistent
Niue	Below normal	Above normal	Inconsistent
Papua New Guinea	Mostly below normal and normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Samoa	Above normal	Normal to above normal	Near-consistent to inconsistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Tonga	Normal to Above normal	Normal to above normal	Near consistent to Inconsistent
Tuvalu	Above normal	Above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Vanuatu	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).

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	February	MoT staff – Ministry of Transport	18	14	4
		ICI- Water works			
Fiji: Meeting with the Food and Agricultural Organisation regarding the Drought Early Warning Early Action	06/02/19	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation	3	2	1
Fiji: Teleconference between FMS, EFL and BoM on sub-seasonal to seasonal predictions	14/02/19	Energy Fiji Ltd (EFL) and Australian Bureau of Meteorology	5	5	
Fiji: Meeting with UNDP scoping work for the Pacific Regional Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance	15/02/19	UNDP	6	5	1
Fiji: Meeting with UK Met Office on CommonSensing project	25/02/19	UK Met Office (UKMO)	5	3	2
Fiji: Workshop on Evaluating Climate Change Impacts on Storm Surge/Storm Wave Hazards – Suva	08/02//2019	Ministry of Environment (Japan), Pacific Community, University of the South Pacific (USP), SPREP, Housing Authority, Ministry of Economy (MoE)	19	13	6
Fiji: CommonSensing Relocation Workshop – Suva	28/02/19	CommonSensing Project team, MoE, Department of Environment, Ministry of Lands & Mineral Recourses, USP	25	15	10
Fiji Climate Summary	11/02/19	General public			
Fiji Climate Outlook	13/02/19	General public			

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Climate Outlook for Monasavu	11/02/19	EFL			
EAR Watch	06/02/19	Humanitarian partners			
Kiribati	Climate Bulletin	Drought Committee	10	6	4
Marshall Islands	11 February	Chief Secretary, Deputy Chief Secretary, and Director of National Disaster Management Office and his staffs.	3	2	1
Niue	Climate Bulletin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Government Servants Private Sectors 	130	70	30
	Monthly Climate Briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Government Servants Private Sectors 	130	70	30
	Climate Bulletin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Government Servants Private Sectors 	130	70	30
PNG	CREWS PNG Inception Workshop	All key stakeholders	38	29	9
Samoa	Climate Summary for January 2019 (Email, Website)	RED Cross, Water Authority, Media, Health, Works & Infrastructure, Land & Transport Authority, Agriculture & Fisheries, Fire Services, Ministry of Women, National University of Samoa, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Communication and Information Technology, Disaster Managers, Marines	65	27	38
	EAR Watch (Email, Website)	Disaster Managers, RED Cross, Water Authority	35	25	10
	Seasonal Rainfall Outlook for March to May 2019	RED Cross, Water Authority, Media, Health, Works & Infrastructure, Land & Transport Authority, Agriculture & Fisheries, Fire Services,	65	27	38

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	(Email, Website)	Ministry of Women, National University of Samoa, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Communication and Information Technology, Disaster Managers, Marines			
	Ocean Bulletin for March 2019 (Email, Website)	Maritime, Shipping Corporation, Fire Emergency Services,	30	15	15
Solomon Islands	February 2019	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, etc	60	55	5
Tonga	Climate Bulletin	Govt Ministries, NGOs, Media, Farmers, Website, Facebook	103	75	28
	Ocean Bulletin	Govt Ministries, NGOs, Media, Farmers, Website, Facebook	103	75	28
Tuvalu	No Engagement				
Vanuatu	Van KIRAP review	Sectors (Fisheries, Tourism, Infrastructure, Agriculture) and VMGD	27	19	18
	Monthly Climate Briefing	VMGD/ Ministry of Climate Change	20	8	12
	VCU Distribution	Efate Community Notice boards	10		
	EAR Watch	Email to Stakeholders email List	30	18	12
Total			1070	648	332