

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

### **Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 139 Summary Report**

**Date:** Wednesday 16 April 2019

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

**Host:** SPREP

**Chair:** Tonga

**Apologies:** Tuvalu, Kiribati and Cook Islands

**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 May 2019 and is to be chaired by **Tuvalu**.

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 21 climate officers (9 female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:**

**Fiji:** Jasneel Chandra, Shweta Shiwangni, Bipen Prakash, Arieta Baleisolomone, Rovin Kumar

**Kiribati:**

**Niue:** Higano Laufoli

**Papua New Guinea:** Kila Kila

**Republic of Marshall Islands:** Nover Juria

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

**Solomon Islands:** Max Sitai

**Tonga:** Seluvaia Finaulahi

**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:** Allan Rarai, Daphne Nalawas, Steven Tom, Glenda Pakoa, Terry Roy, Esther ken

**Australia:** Grant Beard

**SPREP:** Philip Malsale

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

**Observations and Verification of January to March 2019 outlooks:**

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending March 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
Savusavu Airfield, Fiji	March	125.0	6	62
Nausori Airport, Fiji	Jan-Mar	1324.8	57	63
Beru, Kiribati	March	468.7	62	65
Butaritari, Kiribati	March	1019.5	81	81
Tarawa, Kiribati	March	811.6	70	70
Beru, Kiribati	Jan-Mar	1199.5	61	63
Butaritari, Kiribati	Jan-Mar	1830.9	80	80
Tarawa, Kiribati	Jan-Mar	1347.3	68	70
Port Moresby, PNG	March	371.4	124	131
Nadzab, PNG	Jan-Mar	692.2	41	44
Port Moresby, PNG	Jan-Mar	1029.6	130	131
Apia, Samoa	March	59.1	1	130
Afiamalu, Samoa	March	137.2	6	67
Nafanua, Samoa	March	67.9	1	47
Faleolo, Samoa	March	111.8	7	58
Auki, Solomon Islands	March	160.4	3	58
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	March	125.1	3	52
Niuatoputapu, Tonga	March	71.5	4	69
Niuafo'ou, Tonga	Jan-Mar	1533.2	42	43
Vava'u, Tonga	Jan-Mar	1635.3	73	73
Ha'apai, Tonga	Jan-Mar	1156.0	71	73
Niu, Tuvalu	March	117.4	5	74
Funafuti, Tuvalu	March	68.5	1	87
Niulakita, Tuvalu	Jan-Mar	1822.9	65	66
Pekoa, Vanuatu	March	111.5	4	49
Lamap, Vanuatu	March	106.0	6	59
Sola, Vanuatu	Jan-Mar	1447.9	43	46
Lamap, Vanuatu	Jan-Mar	411.0	3	59

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

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Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of January to March 2019 period showed 27 consistent, 18 near-consistent and 9 inconsistent outlooks (54 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 (1NC, 1In); Fiji (4C, 6NC, 3In); Kiribati (4C); RMI (2C); Niue (1C); PNG (2C, 2NC, 1In); Samoa (3C, 1NC); Solomon Islands (5C, 2NC); Tonga ( 2NC, 4In); Tuvalu (1C, 3NC) and Vanuatu (5C, 1NC, 1In).

**Overall: 27C, 18NC, 9In.**

### May to July 2019 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 62% of the 60 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 3% in tercile 2, 20% in tercile 3, 5% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 10% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 71% of the 48 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 4% in tercile 2, 23% in tercile 3. 2% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and none have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

**Other matters:** SPREP helped VMGD installed SCOPIC V4.4.16 in 4 computers at the climate division. All countries manage to update their SOI and SST files.

### Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	March 2019	January to March 2019	Verification <sup>†</sup> for January to March 2019 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and above Normal	Normal and above normal	Near-consistent to inconsistent
Fiji	below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Kiribati	Above normal	Above normal	Consistent
RMI	Below normal and normal	Below Normal	Consistent
Niue	Below normal	Below normal	Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Normal and above normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
Samoa	Below normal	Below normal and normal	Near-consistent to inconsistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal and above normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent and Near-consistent

<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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<b>Tonga</b>	Below normal to above normal	Normal and above normal	Near consistent and Inconsistent
<b>Tuvalu</b>	Below normal and normal	Normal and above normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
<b>Vanuatu</b>	Below normal and above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent

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

<b>Country</b>	<b>Date March</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Total Number of Participants</b>	<b>Number of male</b>	<b>Number of female</b>
Cook Islands	16 March 2019	MoT ( Ministry of Transport)	18	13	5
		ICI- Water works			
Fiji – Climate summary	07th March	General public	140	106	34
Fiji: Climate outlook	13 <sup>th</sup> March	General public	124	93	31
Fiji: Climate Outlook for Monasavu	12 <sup>th</sup> March	EFL	13	13	13
Fiji: EAR Watch	11 <sup>th</sup> March	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji: Consultation meeting with sugar industry stakeholders on El Niño	26 <sup>th</sup> March	Sugar industry stakeholders	43	40	3
Kiribati	14 <sup>th</sup> March	Government and Non-Government Entities	123		
Kiribati	14 <sup>th</sup> March	Government and Non-Government Entities	123		
Marshall Islands	23 <sup>rd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> March	WMO and SPREP Reps	7	5	2
Niue - Climate Bulletin	March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public</li> <li>• Government Servants</li> <li>• Private Sectors</li> </ul>	130	70	60

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Niue – Monthly climate briefing	March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public</li> <li>• Government Servants</li> <li>• Private Sectors</li> </ul>	130	70	60
PNG					
Samoa - All Bulletins (Consultation)	6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Health	25	10	15
Samoa-Climate Summary	27 <sup>th</sup> March	RED Cross, Water Authority (SWA), 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
Samoa – EAR Watch	20 <sup>th</sup> March	Disaster Managers, RED Cross, Water Authority	35	25	10
Samoa- Seasonal Rainfall Outlook for April to June 2019.	28 <sup>th</sup> March	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
Samoa – Ocean bulletin	25 <sup>th</sup> March	Maritime, Shipping Corporation, Fire Emergency Services,	30	15	15
Solomon Islands- MalClim	March	Ministry of Health - Vector Borne Division (note: Direct engagement with this sector)	1	1	0
Solomon Islands- Climate Bulletin	March	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Glodridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy	12	10	1
Tonga- Climate Bulletin	March	Agriculture, Water, Health, NGOs, Gov Ministries, Media,	175	93	82

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Tonga - Ocean Bulletin	March	Agriculture, Water, Health, NGOs, Gov Ministries, Media,	175	93	82
Tuvalu					
Vanuatu- EAR Watch	26 <sup>th</sup> March	Communities around Efate and stakeholder email list	15 community notice boards + 142		
Vanuatu – Monthly climate briefing	March	Radio talkback show			
Vanuatu-Climate update	26 <sup>th</sup> March	VMGD Communities	15 Community boards + Stakeholder email list		
Vanuatu-WMO day	22 <sup>nd</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> March	VMGD University of the South Pacific (USP) Agence Universitaire De La Francophonie (AUF) Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) Vila North School Ecole Publique Centre-ville Onesua Presbyterian College Erakor Bilingual School Central School Pikinini Playtime Ecole Colardo Epauto SDA School Woman I Toktok Tugeta Network	245	121	124
<b>Total</b>			<b>2115</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>636</b>

[Note: The above stakeholder data may not total up due to lack of data from NMS or community is counted only in total]