

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 140 Summary Report

Date: Tuesday 14 May 2019

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Tuvalu

Apologies: Cook Islands, Kiribati and 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 12 June 2019 and is to be chaired by **Vanuatu**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 15 climate officers (4 female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Shweta Shiwagni, Jasneel Chandhara, Terry Atalifo, Arieta Baleisolomone

Kiribati:

Niue: Lenita Togiamana, Floyd Viliamu and Maxine Edwards

Papua New Guinea: Kila Kila

Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kanenko

Samoa: Kotoni Faasau, Mattaniah Salesa

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai, Noel Sanau

Tonga:

Tuvalu: Eli Ene, Niko Iona

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

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Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa

Australia: Grant Beard

SPREP: Philip Malsale

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

Observations and Verification of February to April 2019 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending April 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
Navua, Fiji	April	1023.4	74	75
Naurori Airport, Fiji	April	647.3	60	63
Navua, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1728.3	71	74
Naurori Airport, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1328.3	57	63
Butaritari, Kiribati	April	885.9	81	81
Butaritari, Kiribati	Feb-Apr	2295.7	80	80
Tarawa, Kiribati	Feb-Apr	1842.5	70	70
Kwajalein, RMI	April	29.0	7	75
Goroka, PNG	April	103.0	5	55
Wewak, PNG	Feb-Apr	352.6	5	62
Niutoputapu, Tonga	April	346.7	57	59
Niuafo'ou, Tonga	Feb-Apr	1180.7	42	43
Niu, Tuvalu	April	661.6	74	74
Niu, Tuvalu	Feb-Apr	1345.0	67	74
Niulakita, Tuvalu	Feb-Apr	1387.7	65	67
Lamap, Vanuatu	April	411.0	56	59
Aneityum, Vanuatu	April	664.2	66	68
Aneityum, Vanuatu	Feb-Apr	1381.5	64	68

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of February to April 2019 period showed 24 consistent, 19 near-consistent and 9 inconsistent outlooks (52 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 (N/A); Fiji (5C, 6NC, 2In); Kiribati (3C); RMI (2C); Niue (1C); PNG (4C, 1NC); Samoa (1C, 3NC); Solomon Islands (4C, 2NC; 1In); Tonga (2NC, 4In); Tuvalu (2C, 1NC, 1In) and Vanuatu (2C, 4NC, 1In).

Overall: 24C, 19NC, 9In.

June to August 2019 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 57% of the 58 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 5% in tercile 2, 22% in tercile 3, 5% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 10% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 76% of the 46 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, none in tercile 2, 22% in tercile 3. No station in near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 2% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters: No issue with SCOPIC and outlook

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	April 2019	February to April 2019	Verification [†] for February to April 2019 outlooks
Cook Islands			
Fiji	Mostly above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Kiribati	Normal to above normal	Above normal	Consistent
RMI	Below normal	Below Normal	Consistent
Niue	Below normal	Below normal	Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal and normal	Normal to above normal	Mostly Consistent
Samoa	Mostly normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Tonga	Normal and above normal	Normal and above normal	Near consistent and Inconsistent
Tuvalu	Normal and above normal	Above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Vanuatu	Normal and 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 April	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands		<i>No participation in OCOF</i>			
Fiji Climate Summary	05/04/2019	General public	140	106	34
Fiji Climate Outlook	09/04/ 2019	General public	124	93	31
Climate Outlook for Monasavu	09/04/ 2019	EFL	13	13	-
EAR Watch	05/04/ 2019	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook	25/04/2019	Sugar industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Consultation meeting with Ministry of Health & Medical Services	10/04/ 2019	Ministry of Health & Médical Services	15	10	5
Kiribati Climate Outlook	5th	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, General Public and internal staffs.	~104+	~40+	~60+
Kiribati Ocean Outlook	5th	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, General Public and internal staffs.	~104+	~40+	~60+
Kiribati Climate Briefing	4th	Drought Committee Members (Water and Sanitation Engineering Unit, Public Utilities Board, Agriculture, Environment and Conservation Division, Health and Medical Services)	10	5	5
Marshall Island - Monthly Climate Briefing	20 th	Chief Secretary Office, National Disaster Management Office	3	2	1
Niue - Climate Bulletin	April	- Public - Government Servants - Private Sectors	130	70	60

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Niue – Monthly climate briefing	April	- Public - Government Servants - Private Sectors	130	70	60
PNG - Climate Bulletin	April	All	152		
PNG - Disaster Monthly Meeting	25 th	All	25		
Samoa-Climate Bulletin	25 th & 26 th	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	27 th	Disaster Managers, RED Cross, Water Authority	35	25	10
Samoa- Monthly Climate Briefing	25 th & 26 th	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 th & 26 th	Maritime, Shipping Corporation, Fire Emergency Services,	30	15	15
Solomon Islands- MalClim	April	Ministry of Health - Vector Borne Division (note: Direct engagement with this sector	1	1	0
Solomon Islands- Climate Bulletin	April	Red Cross, NDMO,Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Glodridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy	12	10	1
Solomon Islands – EAR Watch	April	Red Cross, NDMO,Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision,	12	10	1

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		Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy			
Tonga - Climate Outlook	17 th	General public	93	61	32
Tonga Climate Summary	19 th	General public	93	61	32
Tonga - Ocean Bulletin	17 th	General public	93	61	32
Tuvalu - Climate Bulletin	April	All Government Civil Servants (Including all departments)/ Tuvalu Red Cross/Tuvalu Media.			
Tuvalu - EAR Watch	April	All Government Civil Servants (Including all departments)/ Tuvalu Red Cross/Tuvalu Media.			
Tuvalu - Monthly Climate Briefing	April	All Government Civil Servants (Including all departments)/ Tuvalu Red Cross/Tuvalu Media.			
Tuvalu - Ocean Bulletin	April	All Government Civil Servants (Including all departments)/ Tuvalu Red Cross/Tuvalu Media.			
Early Action Rainfall Watch	17 th	VMGD General Public	20 Community boards 34 Emails VCAN + VHT Website		
Vanuatu-Climate Update	17 th	VMGD General Public	20 Community boards 34 Emails VCAN + VHT Website		
Vanuatu-Monthly Climate Summary	17 th	VMGD General Public	20 Community boards 34 Emails VCAN + VHT Website		
Vanuatu-Radio Talk Back Show	23 rd	VMGD VBTC	General Public		

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Vanuatu-VMGD Ocean Refresher Training	23 rd – 26 th	VMGD Climate Officers	14	11	3
Vanuatu-Monthly Climate Briefing	29 th	VMGD USP UNSW Sydney VAN-Kirap Action Aid WWW	11	6	5
Vanuatu-TV Talk Back Show	30 th	VMGD VBTC	General Public		
Total			1835	920	566

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