

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 141 Summary Report

Date: Tuesday 12 June 2019

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Vanuatu

Apologies: Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea

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 17 July 2019 and is to be chaired by **Marshall Islands**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 20 climate officers (8 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Shweta Shiwagni, Jasneel Chandhara and Arieta Baleisolomone

Kiribati: Kamaitia Rubetaake and Miriam Kataunati

Niue: Lenita Togiamana, Raquel Tanaki and Maxine Edwards

Papua New Guinea:

Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kanenko

Samoa: Kotoni Faasau, Mattaniah Salesa, Faapisa Aiono

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai,

Tonga: Seluvaia Finaulah

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: Allan Rarai, Glenda Pakoa, Kalsuak Godden, Kalo Abel

Australia: Grant Beard

SPREP: Philip Malsale

OCOF tables were received from 11 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations and Verification of March to May 2019 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending May 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
Penrhyn, Cook Islands	Mar-May	240.8	7	79
Rarotonga, Cook Islands	Mar-May	790.1	110	121
Nadi Airport, Fiji	May	2.2	3	77
Nausori Airport, Fiji	May	65.9	2	63
Labasa Airport, Fiji	May	5.1	2	64
Navua, Fiji	Mar-May	1613.7	69	75
Udu Point, Fiji	Mar-May	1514.9	70	70
Tarawa, Kiribati	May	297.5	63	70
Beru, Kiribati	Mar-May	1280.0	62	63
Butaritari, Kiribati	Mar-May	2304.9	80	80
Tarawa, Kiribati	Mar-May	1939.6	70	70
Vanimo, PNG	May	102.0	8	66
Henderson, Solomon Islands	May	26.8	3	44
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	Mar-May	524.3	4	52
Niufo'ou, Tonga	May	373.5	46	48
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	Mar-May	917	73	74
Nanumea, Tuvalu	May	408.4	76	79
Funafuti, Tuvalu	May	391.2	81	87
Niulakita, Tuvalu	May	634.4	67	67
Pekoa, Vanuatu	Mar-May	444.2	5	49
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Mar-May	412.4	3	47

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of March to May 2019 period showed 20 consistent, 16 near-consistent and 15 inconsistent outlooks (51 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 (2In); Fiji (2C, 6NC, 5In); Kiribati (4C); RMI (1C, 1NC); Niue (1NC); PNG (2C, 1NC, 1In); Samoa (1C, 1NC, 2In); Solomon Islands (5C, 1NC, 1In); Tonga (1C, 3NC, 2In); Tuvalu (2C, 2NC) and

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Vanuatu (2C, 2In).

Overall: 20C, 16NC, 15In.

July to September 2019 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 47% of the 60 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 12% in tercile 2, 20% in tercile 3, 13% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 8% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 60% of the 48 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 8% in tercile 2, 25% in tercile 3, 6% in near-equal probabilities in two terciles and no station has near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters: No issue with SCOPIC software. The update version 4.4.17-rc2 is available online with link send to all NMS.

Observed Rainfall and Validation

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

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

Country	Date May	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Early Action Rainfall Watch Training	15-17	Cook Islands Meterological Services SPREP	13	8	5
Cook Islands – EAR Watch stakeholders workshop	20 - 21	Cook Islands Meterological Services SPREP	24	12	12
Cook Islands – COSPPac steering committee meeting	22-24	NMS Directors, SPREP, SPC, BOM, GA, DFAT	40	27	13
Fiji Climate Summary	07/05/2019	General public	140	106	34
Fiji Climate Outlook	13/05/2019	General public	124	93	31
Climate Outlook for Monasavu	09/05/2019	EFL	13	13	-
EAR Watch	09/05/2019	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji ENSO update	24/05/2019	General public	124	93	31
Fiji- Meteorological Data Requests	01/05/19 to 31/05/19	A range of stakeholders	79	72	7
Kiribati Climate bulletin	7th	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, General Public and internal staffs.	+104	+40	+60
Kiribati Ocean Outlook	7th	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, General Public and internal staffs.	+104	+40	+60
Kiribati Media Release	7th	Media Collègues- Government and Non- Government entities. And Internal staffs.	42	27	15
Marshall Island - Monthly Climate Briefing	17th	Chief Secretary Office, National Disaster Management Office	3	2	1

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Niue - Climate Bulletin	9 th 14-15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Girls & Boys Brigade Taoga Niue Niue Council Of Women PMCU (Project Management) Police Department NDMO (Niue Disaster Management Organisation) Education 	50	20	30
	29 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Government Servants Private Sectors 	130	70	60
Niue – Monthly climate briefing	9 th 14-15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Girls & Boys Brigade Taoga Niue Niue Council Of Women PMCU (Project Management) Police Department NDMO (Niue Disaster Management Organisation) Education 	130	70	60
	29 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Government Servants Private Sectors 	130	70	60
PNG – Seasonal Climate Outlook	1 st	Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL), Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA), National Disaster Center (NDC), National Maritime Services Authority (NMSA), PNG Power, Central Provincial Disaster Center, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Vision, DMPGM, NWS and the media	28	17	11
PNG – Climate bulletin	May	Agriculture, Health, Mining, Transport, Media, Education, Lands, National Planning, CCDA, PNGNDC, NMSA, DMPGM, UNDP, World Vision, NARI, UPNG, PAU, PNG Power, Eda Ranu, Red Cross, Water Aid, National Statistics Office (NSO), Water PNG,	140	95	45

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		Ports Services, other climate infor users.			
PNG- EAR Watch	May	Agriculture, Forestry, Health, Mining, Transport, Lands & Physical Planning, National Planning, CCDA, PNGNDC, NMSA, Provincial Disaster Coordinators, DMPGM, UNDP, World Vision, Oxfam, NARI, UPNG, PAU, PNG Power, Eda Ranu, Red Cross, Water Aid, NSO, Works Department, Water PNG, Port Services, other NGO's who have DRR teams.	185	125	56
Samoa-Climate Bulletin	23 th & 24 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- Monthly Climate Briefing	25 th & 26 th	Ministry of Health	8	3	5
Samoa- Ocean Bulletin	25 th & 26 th	Maritime, Shipping Corporation, Fire Emergency Services,	30	15	15
Solomon Islands- Climate Bulletin	May	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Glodridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD	13	12	1
Solomon Islands – EAR Watch	May	Red Cross, NDMO,Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD	13	12	1
Tonga - Climate Outlook	16 th	Government /Ministries General public	93	61	32
Tonga Climate Summary	16 th	Government /Ministries General public	93	61	32

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Tonga - Ocean Bulletin	17 th	Government /Ministries General public	93	61	32
Tuvalu	May	No Engagement			
Vanuatu- Early Action Rainfall Watch	17 th	VMGD Stakeholders Community Noticeboards VCAN and VHT website	20 Community boards 34 Emails VCAN + VHT Website		
Vanuatu- Climate Update	17 th	VMGD Stakeholders Community Noticeboards VCAN and VHT website	20 Community boards 34 Emails VCAN + VHT Website		
Vanuatu-Monthly Climate Summary	17 th	VMGD Stakeholders Community Noticeboards VCAN and VHT website	20 Community boards 34 Emails VCAN + VHT Website		
Vanuatu-Radio Talk Back Show	14 th	VMGD VBTC	General Public		
Total			2041	1348	773

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