

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

### **Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 143 Summary Report**

**Date:** Wednesday 14 August 2019

**Time:** Australian Eastern Daylight Time at 11:00AM (01:00 UTC)

**Host:** SPREP

**Chair:** Cook Islands

**Apologies:** Tuvalu 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. 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 18 September 2019 and is to be chaired by **Fiji**.

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 28 climate officers (14 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:** Bates Manea

**Fiji:** Terry Atalifo, Bipen Prakash, Shweta Shiwagni, Jasneel Chandhara and Arieta Baleisolomone

**Kiribati:** Mwata Keariki and Miriam Kataunati

**Niue:** Lenita Togiamana, Clemencia Sioneholo and Hingano Laufoli and Floyd

**Papua New Guinea:** Kisolet Posanau, Ruth Apuqahe, Agnes Diap, Gabriel Tuno, Nathan Kima, Cater Guri

**Republic of Marshall Islands:** Nover Juria, Samson Kanenko

**Samoa:** Kotoni Faasau, Junioe Lepale, Mattaniah Salesa and Faapisa Aiono

**Solomon Islands:** Hellen

**Tonga:**

**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:** Glenda Pakoa, Daphne Nalawas, Kalsuak Godden

**Australia:** Grant Beard

**SPREP:** Philip Malsale

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

**Observations and Verification of May to July 2019 outlooks:**

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending July 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
Vunisea, Fiji	July	254.3	80	82
Tarawa, Kiribati	July	334.3	64	70
Butaritari, Kiribati	May-July	1252.2	69	76
Tarawa, Kiribati	May-July	1020.3	66	70
Majuro, Marshall Islands	July	180.8	4	66
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	July	121.2	2	75
Wewak, PNG	July	58.8	6	64
Apia, Samoa	July	370.6	130	130
Afiamalu, Samoa	July	497.1	63	68
Nafanua, Samoa	July	404.7	47	48
Faleolo, Samoa	July	205.0	58	59
Apia, Samoa	May-July	849.0	129	130
Afiamalu, Samoa	May-July	1190.1	60	66
Nafanua, Samoa	May-July	947.2	46	47
Faleolo, Samoa	May-July	652.2	57	57
Auki, Solomon Islands	May-July	370.9	3	57
Lata, Solomon Islands	May-July	1431.6	42	45
Taro, Solomon Islands	May-July	1114.4	36	40
Funafuti, Tuvalu	July	93.0	5	87
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	July	7.3	5	47

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of May to July 2019 period showed 24 consistent, 16 near-consistent and 9 inconsistent outlooks (49 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 (2 NC); Fiji (5C, 7NC, 1In); Kiribati (3C, 1NC); RMI (2C); Niue (1In); PNG (4C, 1NC, 2In); Samoa (1NC, 3In); Solomon Islands (4C, 2NC; 1In); Tonga (N/A); Tuvalu (2C, 2NC) and Vanuatu (4C, 1In).

**Overall: 24C, 16NC, 9In.**

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### September to November 2019 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 70% of the 54 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, no station in tercile 2, 17% in tercile 3, 4% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 9% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 43% of the 42 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 7% in tercile 2, 33% in tercile 3, 17% in near-equal probabilities in two terciles and no station has near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

### Other matters Discussed:

- PNG (Kasis) and Niue requested SCOPIC software version 4.4.17-rc2.
- PNG and Cook Islands yet to produce EAR Watch for this month.

### Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	July 2019	May to July 2019	Verification <sup>†</sup> for May to July 2019 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and normal	Normal	Near-consistent
Fiji	Mostly normal and above normal	Below normal to above normal	Mostly Consistent and Near-consistent
Kiribati	Mostly above normal	Mostly above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
RMI	Below normal	Below Normal and normal	Consistent
Niue	Above normal	Above Normal	Inconsistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Samoa	Above normal	Above normal	Near-consistent to Inconsistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal and above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Tonga			
Tuvalu	Below normal and normal	Normal and above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
Vanuatu	Mostly below normal	Mostly Below normal	Mostly 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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**Country Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective country engage with their stakeholders**

Country	Date July	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Early Action Rainfall Watch Training	July	No engagement			
Fiji Climate Summary	05/07/2019	General public	140	106	34
Fiji Climate Outlook	11/07/2019	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	09/07/2019	EFL	13	13	-
EAR Watch	08/07/2019	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji- Meteorological Data Requests	01/07/19 to 31/07/19	A range of stakeholders	54	47	7
Fiji -ENSO Outlook	25/07/2019	General public	142	116	26
Fiji Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook	30/07/2019	Sugar industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji-Stakeholder engagement on ocean and tides	15/07/19 to 16/07/19	Pacific Blue Foundation, USP, Fiji Ports, Fiji Navy, Government Shipping Service, FNU, WWF, WCS, Mineral Resources Department, Conservation International and Vuda Marina	36	26	10
Kiribati Climate bulletin	22th July 2019	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, General Public and internal staffs.	+104	+40	+60
Kiribati -EAR Watch	22th July 2019	OB, KMS, Disaster, Climate Change, WSEU, PUB, EHU, ECD, KRC, TTM, Lands, Aviation, Marine Guard, BPA, Mineral, Commerce, COSPAC, IFRC	32	10	22
Kiribati Ocean Outlook	22th July 2019	Government Sectors, Non-Government	+104	+40	+60

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		Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, General Public and internal staffs.			
Kiribati Media Release	22th July 2019	Media Collègues-Government and Non-Government entities. And Internal staffs.	42	27	15
Marshall Island - Monthly Climate Briefing	July	Office of the Chief Secretary Office(CSO) and National Disaster Management Office(NDMO)	4	2	2
Niue - Climate Bulletin	23rd	Niue's National Boys' Brigade	10	8	2
	27th	Niue's National Girls Brigade	30		30
	11th – 25th	HOD (Head of departments) Government officials National Girls & Boys Brigade Taoga Niue Niue Council Of Women Education	70	40	30
Niue – Monthly climate briefing	23rd	Niue's National Boys' Brigade	10	8	2
	27th	Niue's National Girls Brigade	30		30
PNG-EAR Watch	19th July	DOT, Geohazard, UPNG, DAL, CASAPNG, NARI, NDC (PDC), NMSA, CCDA, DOE (Education), UNDP, FAO, PNGRC, USAID, CHILD FUND, AUS DFAT, IOM, OXFAM.	61	38	23
PNG-State of the Environment Workshop	24th – 26th July	Lead : Center for Environment Protection Authority	46	27	19
PNG-Monthly Disaster Briefing	29th July	Disaster Managers Lead : UNDP and National Disaster Centre	20	12	8

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Samoa-Climate Bulletin	31st	Ministry of Health	6	4	2
Samoa- EAR Watch	June	Disaster Managers, RED Cross, Water Authority, Ministry of Health	35	25	10
Samoa-Climate Daily Observations (Website)	1st – 31st	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
Solomon Islands-Climate Bulletin	July	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	July	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	July	No participation			
Tuvalu - Climate Bulletin	July	Governments civil servants, including, departments, Tuvalu Red Cross and Media	All civil servants and NGOs		
Tuvalu-EAR Watch	July	Governments civil servants, including all departments, Tuvalu Red Cross and Media	All civil servants and NGOs		
Tuvalu-Monthly Climate Briefing	July	Governments civil servants, including all departments, Tuvalu Red Cross and Media	All civil servants and NGOs		
Tuvalu-Ocean bulletin	July	Governments civil servants, including all departments, Tuvalu Red Cross and Media	All civil servants and NGOs		

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Vanuatu- Early Action Rainfall Watch	5 July	VMGD Stakeholders Community Noticeboards VCAN and VHT website	20 Community boards 34 Emails VCAN + VHT Website		
Vanuatu- Climate Update	17 July	VMGD Stakeholders Community Noticeboards VCAN and VHT website	20 Community boards 34 Emails VCAN + VHT Website		
Vanuatu- Monthly Climate Summary	17 July	VMGD Stakeholders Community Noticeboards VCAN and VHT website	20 Community boards 34 Emails VCAN + VHT Website		
Vanuatu-Radio Talk Back Show	17 July	VMGD VBTC	General Public		
Vanuatu Ocean Outlook	18 July	Stakeholders email	62		
Vanuatu Public Service day exhibition	25-26 July	General public			
<b>Total</b>			<b>1627</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>506</b>

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