

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 144 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 18 September 2019

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Fiji

Apologies: Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga and Palau

Main purpose for the OCOF:

- To provide a regular forum for the 12 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 16 October 2019 and is to be chaired by **Kiribati**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 15 climate officers (7 female) from 6 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Shweta Shiwagni and Rovin Kumar

Kiribati:

Niue: Lenita Togiamana, Raquel and Maxi

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau, Ruth Apuqahe, Gabriel Tuno and Kila Kila

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Kotoni Faasau, Junioe Lepale and Mattaniah Salesa

Solomon Islands: 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: Glenda Pakoa

Australia: Grant Beard

SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

OCOF tables were received from 12 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations and Verification of June to August 2019 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending August 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 |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Oni-i-Lau, Fiji | August | 23.0 | 6 | 72 |
| Butaritari, Kiribati | August | 360.3 | 72 | 80 |
| Butaritari, Kiribati | Jun-Aug | 1213.0 | 73 | 76 |
| Tarawa, Kiribati | Jun-Aug | 830.0 | 61 | 70 |
| Kwajalein, Marshall Islands | Jun-Aug | 498.6 | 5 | 75 |
| Hanan Airport, Niue | August | 237.1 | 105 | 112 |
| Hanan Airport, Niue | Jun-Aug | 651.0 | 109 | 112 |
| Port Moresby, PNG | August | 66.7 | 115 | 120 |
| Port Moresby, PNG | Jun-Aug | 176.3 | 98 | 106 |
| Nafanua, Samoa | August | 27.8 | 4 | 48 |
| Apia, Samoa | Jun-Aug | 677.2 | 128 | 130 |
| Afiamalu, Samoa | Jun-Aug | 977.0 | 60 | 64 |
| Nafanua, Samoa | Jun-Aug | 716.8 | 46 | 48 |
| Kirakira, Solomon Islands | August | 593.6 | 49 | 52 |
| Lata, Solomon Islands | August | 615.3 | 41 | 45 |
| Munda, Solomon Islands | August | 449.5 | 53 | 58 |
| Taro, Solomon Islands | August | 451.9 | 39 | 42 |
| Lata, Solomon Islands | Jun-Aug | 1549.7 | 43 | 45 |
| Taro, Solomon Islands | Jun-Aug | 1284.9 | 38 | 41 |
| Niuafou'ou, Tonga | Jun-Aug | 726.1 | 42 | 44 |
| Nuku'alofa, Tonga | Jun-Aug | 485.0 | 68 | 75 |
| Niu, Tuvalu | August | 410.9 | 69 | 74 |
| Niulakita, Tuvalu | August | 444.3 | 62 | 67 |
| Bauerfield, Vanuatu | August | 17.5 | 4 | 47 |
| Whitegrass, Vanuatu | August | 1.1 | 1 | 48 |

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of June to August 2019 period showed 19 consistent, 28 near-consistent and 12 inconsistent outlooks (59 stations across 10 countries).

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A summary of results (C-Consistent, NC-Near Consistent, In-Inconsistent, N/A-not available) for each country is as follows:

Cook Islands (1C, 1NC); Fiji (2C, 9NC, 2In); Kiribati (3C, 1NC); RMI (1C, 1NC); Niue (1NC); Palau (1NC); PNG (2C, 4NC, 2In); Samoa (1NC, 3In); Solomon Islands (2C, 2NC; 3In); Tonga (1C, 3NC, 2In); Tuvalu (2C, 2NC) and Vanuatu (5C, 2In).

Overall: 19C, 28NC, 12In.

October to December 2019 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 56% of the 61 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, no station in tercile 2, 10% in tercile 3, 21% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 13% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 47% of the 49 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 2% in tercile 2, 47% in tercile 3, 2% in near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 2% in near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters Discussed:

- Climate bulletin survey was sent out to all NMS for their input
- POAMA website server not working in first week of September but now working well
- OCOF 145 will be hosted by BOM since SPREP will be in Noumea for PICO5
- ROK-PI CliPS training and PICO5 in Noumea, New Caledonia from 14-18 October

Observed Rainfall and Validation

| Country | August 2019 | June to August 2019 | Verification [†] for June to August 2019 outlooks |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Cook Islands | Normal and above normal | Below normal and Normal | Near-Consistent and Consistent |
| Fiji | Mostly below normal and normal | Mostly normal to above normal | Consistent to Inconsistent |
| Kiribati | Mostly above normal | Mostly above normal | Consistent and Near-Consistent |
| RMI | Normal | Below Normal | Consistent and Near-Consistent |
| Niue | Above normal | Above Normal | Near-consistent |
| Palau | Above normal | Normal | Near-consistent |
| Papua New Guinea | Mostly normal to above normal | Below normal to above normal | Consistent to Inconsistent |
| Samoa | Mostly below normal | Above normal | Near-consistent to Inconsistent |
| Solomon Islands | Mostly above normal | Mostly above normal | Consistent to Inconsistent |
| Tonga | Below normal and normal | Above normal | Consistent to Inconsistent |
| Tuvalu | Above normal | Normal and above normal | Consistent and Near-Consistent |

[†] 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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|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Vanuatu | Below normal and above normal | Below normal and normal | Consistent and Near-Consistent |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|

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

| Country | Date August | Stakeholder | Total Number of Participants | Number of male | Number of female |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Cook Islands – Climate bulletin | 10/08/19 | MoT | 20 | 14 | 6 |
| Fiji Climate Summary | 07/08/2019 | General public | 140 | 106 | 34 |
| Fiji Climate Outlook | 13/08/2019 | General public | 124 | 93 | 31 |
| Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu | 08/08/2019 | Energy Fiji Limited | 13 | 13 | - |
| Fiji- EAR Watch | 06/08/2019 | Humanitarian partners | 122 | 96 | 26 |
| Fiji- Meteorological Data Requests | 01/08/19 to 31/08/19 | A range of stakeholders | 32 | 27 | 5 |
| Kiribati Climate bulletin | 16/8/19 | Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, General Public and internal staffs. | +104 | +40 | +60 |
| Kiribati -EAR Watch | 16/8/19 | 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 | 16/8/19 | Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, General Public and internal staffs. | +104 | +40 | +60 |

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| Kiribati – Monthly climate briefing | 16/8/19 | Media Collegues-Government and Non-Government entities. And Internal staffs. | 42 | 27 | 15 |
| Kiribati - Rainfall data on dry and wet extremes & Highest tides | 30/8/19 | Ministry of Health and Medical Services (CDSRC Commiittee) | 9 | 3 | 6 |
| Marshall Island - Monthly Climate Briefing | 16/08/19 | Office of the Chief Secretary Office(CSO) and National Disaster Management Office(NDMO) | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Niue - Climate Bulletin | 15/08/19 | General public | 97 | 45 | 52 |
| | 29/08/19 | Government officials | 15 | 6 | 9 |
| Niue – Monthly climate briefing | 26/08/19 | Private Sector Government Officials Government staff | 134 | 65 | 69 |
| Palau-Climate Bulletin | 10/08/19 | MOT | 20 | 14 | 6 |
| PNG-EAR Watch | 22/08/19 | Govt: National Disaster Centre, Dept. of Transport, National Agriculture Research Institute, Dept. of Agriculture and Livestock, Provincial DisasterCoordinators, Civil Aviation SafetyAuthority, Climate Change DevelopmentAuthority, Dept. of Mineral Policy and GeohazardManagment, PNG DFAT, Centre of Environmental Protection Authority, National Capital District Commision, Dept. of Education. UN Agencies : UNDP, FAO, IOM, Oxfam. NGOs : Childfund, WVI, PNGRC. Private: | 70 | 45 | 25 |
| PNG- EAR Watch (circulated by DMT secretariat) | 24/08/19 | Govt: National Disaster Center, Dept. Of Agriculture and Livestock, PNG Defence Force, PNG DisabilitySector Coalition. UN agencies: UN ResidentCoordinators | 52 | 37 | 15 |

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|-------------------------|-------------|--|-----|-----|----|
| | | Office, UNDP, IOM, UNICEF, UNWomen, WHO, UNFPA, UNFAO, UNDSS, OHCHR, OCHA-ROAP, WFP, UNHCR. NGOs: Care Int'l, Childfund, Oxfam, Plan Int'l, SAVE the Children, WVI. ICRC, IFRC and PNGRC. Faith-based Orgs: Caritas Australia/ CPP. Development Partners: UK Embassy, World Bank, DFAT, EU, Japan, MFAT, USAID and ECHO. Private : ExxonMobil | | | |
| PNG-Climate bulletin | 17/08/19 | Govt: National Disaster Centre, Dept. of Agriculture and Livestock, Climate Change Development Authority, National Agriculture Research Institute, Dept. of Transport, Dept. of Mineral Policy and Geohazard Management, Dept. of Works, PNG Fire, National Maritime Safety Authority, Civil Aviation Safety Authority, PNG Forest Authority, National Capital District Commission, PNG Customs Authority, National Dept. of Health, Dept. of Education, Centre for Environmental Protection Authority. UN agencies: UNDP, IOM, UNOCH. Private: PNG Air Services Limited, ExxonMobil, Ok Tedi Mining Ltd, PNG Power Ltd, Global Construction Ltd, Datec, InterOil, Air Niugini, Bank South Pacific, PNG Ports, Media and Universities. | 201 | 147 | 54 |
| Samoa -H-CLEWS Workshop | 28-29/09/19 | MOH MNRE | 29 | | |

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|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|--|----|----|
| Solomon Islands- Climate Bulletin | August | 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 | August | 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 |
| Solomon Islands - MalClim | August | MEHRD Prime Minister's Office SIBC Solomon star Newspaper | 7 | 7 | 0 |
| Tonga – Climate bulletin | 22/08/19 | General public | 95 | 61 | 34 |
| Tonga-Ocean Bulletin | 22/08/19 | General public | 95 | 61 | 34 |
| Tuvalu - Climate Bulletin | August | Governments civil servants, including, departments, Tuvalu Red Cross and Media | All civil servants and NGOs | | |
| Tuvalu-Monthly Climate Briefing | August | Governments civil servants, including all departments, Tuvalu Red Cross and Media | All civil servants and NGOs | | |
| Tuvalu-Ocean bulletin | August | Governments civil servants, including all departments, Tuvalu Red Cross and Media | All civil servants and NGOs | | |
| Vanuatu- Early Action Rainfall Watch | 15, 20, 27/08/19 | VMGD website 62 Stakeholders 20 Community Noticeboards | General Public 62 General | 36 | 26 |
| Vanuatu- Climate Update | 15, 20, 27/08/19 | VMGD website 62 Stakeholders 20 Community Noticeboards 5 Outer stations (Sola, Pekoa, Lamap and Aneityum) | General Public 62 General public | 36 | 26 |

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|---------------------------------|------------------|--|--|-------------|------------|
| Vanuatu-Monthly Climate Summary | 15, 20, 27/08/19 | VMGD website 62 Stakeholders 20 Community Noticeboards 5 Outer stations (Sola, Pekoa, Lamap and Aneityum) | General Public 62 General public | 36 | 26 |
| Vanuatu-Radio Talk Back Show | 30/08/19 | VMGD VBTC | General Public | | |
| Vanuatu Ocean Outlook | 15, 20, 27/08/19 | VMGD website 62 Stakeholders 20 Community Noticeboards 5 Outer stations (Sola, Pekoa, Lamap and Aneityum) | General Public 62 General public | 36 | 26 |
| Total | | | 1835 | 1127 | 641 |

[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]