

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 145 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 16 October 2019

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

Host: BoM

Chair: BoM

Apologies: Cook Islands.

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 stakeholder engagements, with other countries and with the SPREP and Bureau of Meteorology project teams.

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 20 November 2019 and is to be chaired by Kiribati.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 15 climate officers (9 female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs. BoM hosted the forum after connections to the conference room were established by SPREP.

Cook Islands: Apology

Fiji: Arieta Baleisolomone and Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Couldn't connect

Niue: Clemencia Sioneholo, Hingano Laufoli-Hipa, Raquel Tanaki and Maxine Edwards

Palau: Couldn't connect

Papua New Guinea: Kila Kila, Nanao and Gabriel Tuno

Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kanenko

Samoa: Mattaniah Salesa and Junior Lepale

Solomon Islands: Lloyd Tahani

Tonga: Couldn't connect

Tuvalu: Couldn't connect

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

Australian Aid Project: Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)

Vanuatu: Moira Yerta and Glenda Pakoa

Australia: Grant Beard

SPREP: Epeli Tagi established phone connections

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

Observations and Verification of July to September 2019 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending September 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
Hanan Airport, Niue	Jul-Sep	645.4	107	110
Port Moresby, PNG	September	102.4	120	122
Port Moresby, PNG	Jul-Sep	195.9	100	104
Henderson, Solomon Islands	September	170.8	42	45
Taro, Solomon Islands	September	541.0	43	43
Henderson, Solomon Islands	Jul-Sep	483.9	42	45
Lata, Solomon Islands	Jul-Sep	1576.9	44	45
Taro, Solomon Islands	Jul-Sep	1402.5	41	41
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	Jul-Sep	574.1	72	75

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of July to September 2019 period showed 15 consistent, 28 near-consistent and 16 inconsistent outlooks (59 stations across 12 countries). A rise in the number of Inconsistent outlooks reflects the fluctuating nature of the main ENSO indicator, NINO3.4.

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

Cook Islands (1C, 1In); Fiji (3C, 7NC, 3In); Kiribati (1C, 2NC, 1In); RMI (1C, 1In); Niue (1NC); Palau: (1NC), PNG (5NC, 3In); Samoa (3NC, 1In); Solomon Islands (1C, 2NC, 4In); Tonga (1C, 2NC, 3In); Tuvalu (2C, 2NC) and Vanuatu (5C, 2NC).

Overall: 15C, 28NC, 16In.

November 2019 to January 2020 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 53% of the 61 stations have near-equal probabilities (i.e. from 28% to 39%) in three terciles and 26% have their highest probability in tercile 2, thereby reflecting the neutral values of NINO3.4. Of the remainder, 18% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles, while 3% have their highest probability in tercile 1.

POAMA outlooks: These are much more emphatic, with 59% of the 49 stations have their highest probability in tercile 3, 24% in tercile 1, and 10% with near-equal probabilities in two terciles. Four percent have their highest probability in tercile 2, and 2% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters: - SPREP help Solomon Island (Lloyd) to update the NINO 3.4 SST

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	September 2019	July to September 2019	Verification[†] for July to September 2019 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and normal	Normal to below normal	Consistent & Near-consistent
Fiji	Mostly normal to above normal	Mostly normal to above normal	Mostly Near-consistent
Kiribati	Mainly normal	Mixed: Above normal to below normal	Mixed: Consistent to Inconsistent
RMI	Normal	Below normal	Consistent and Inconsistent
Niue	Above normal	Above normal	Near-consistent
Palau	Below normal	Normal	Near-consistent
Papua New Guinea	Mostly normal to below normal	Mostly normal to below normal	Near-consistent to Inconsistent
Samoa	Normal to below normal	Mainly above normal	Mainly Near-consistent
Solomon Islands	Mainly above normal	Mainly above normal	Mostly Near-consistent to Inconsistent
Tonga	Mixed: below normal to above normal	Mostly above normal	Mostly Near-consistent to Inconsistent
Tuvalu	Normal to above normal	Mainly above normal	Consistent to Near-consistent
Vanuatu	Mainly normal to above normal	Mainly below normal	Mainly 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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Country Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective country engage with their stakeholders

Country	Date	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands		MoT staff – Ministry of Transport	18	14	4
		ICI – Infrastructure Cook Islands			
Fiji (Suva)	None				
Kiribati	11-13 Dec	Fisheries, Water and Sanitation Engineering Unit, Ministry of Line and Phoenix Islands Development, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Agriculture Division, Disaster Officers	14	5	9
Kiribati	13-14 Dec	ECD KAP III KANGO Fisheries MoE Curriculum Development and Resource Center (CDRC)	13	9	4
Kiribati	19 Dec	OB KMS MFAT DFAT EHU ALD LMD ECD PUB STWSP WSEU	17	10	7
Marshall Islands	21 Dec	Chief Secretary Office (CSO), National Disaster Management	9	2	7

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		Office (NDMO), and Ministry of Public Works and Infrastructures			
Niue	None				
PNG	11 Dec	Disaster Management Meeting	28	16	12
Samoa	19 Dec	Water Authority (SWA), Tourism Authority (STA), Fire & Emergency Services Authority (FESA), RED Cross, University & College Students	14	11	3
Solomon Islands	November 2018	Ministry of Health - Vector Borne Division (note: Direct engagement with this sector)	1	1	0
Solomon Islands	November 2018	Red Cross	1	1	0
		NDMO	3	3	0
		Ministry of Agriculture	2	2	0
		SIBC	1	1	0
		Hydrology	1	1	0
		Solomon Star	1	0	
		PaoaFM	1	1	0
		World Vision	1	0	1
		Ministry of Mines and Energy	1	1	0
Tonga	1-14 Dec	Distribute Climate outlook via email list to stakeholders. Also update Monthly Climate summary and Ocean Outlook on website. These are updated on a monthly basis. Stakeholders are: Agriculture & Farmers, NGOs, Govt mins, Health, Water, Disaster. Media - radio, TV, social media.	103	75	28
Tuvalu	None				
Vanuatu	4 Dec	VMGD and VIT (Vanuatu Institute of Technology) Review of Certificate III Climate Change and Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction	23	13	10
TOTAL			252	166	85