

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 149 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 19 February 2020

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Solomon Islands

Apologies: Tuvalu and Samoa

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 18 March 2020 and is to be chaired by **Tonga**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 23 climate officers (14 female) from 10 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea

Fiji: Terry Atalifo, Bipen Prakash, Shweta Shiwagni and Arieta Daphne

Kiribati: Miriam Kataunati and Mwata Keariki

Niue: Hingano Laufoli-Hipa, Raquel Tanaki, Rossy Mitiepo and Ann

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau, Nanao Bouauka, Kila Kila, Gabriel Tuno and Kasis Inape

Palau: Kikuko Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria and Samson Kanenko

Samoa:

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai, Noel Sanau and Lloyd Tahani

Tonga: Mele

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

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Tuvalu:

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 November 2019 to January 2020 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending January 2020 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
Nadi Airport, Fiji	January	127.5	6	79
Koror Airport, Palau	January	51.3	1	69
Wewak, PNG	January	239.4	63	65
Wewak, PNG	Nov 19- Jan 20	724.8	60	62
Munda, Solomon Islands	Nov 19- Jan 20	602.3	5	58
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Nov 19- Jan 20	328.5	3	47
Port Vila, Vanuatu	Nov 19- Jan 20	236.2	3	67

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of November 2019 to January 2020 period showed 11 consistent, 43 near-consistent and 3 inconsistent outlooks (57 stations across 12 countries).

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

Cook Islands (2NC);	Fiji (2C, 10NC, 1In);	Kiribati (2C, 2NC);	RMI (2NC);
Niue (1NC);	Palau (1NC);	PNG (8NC);	Samoa (2NC, 2In);
Solomon Islands (2C 5NC);	Tonga (3C, 3NC);	Tuvalu (1C, 3NC) and	Vanuatu (1C, 4NC).

Overall: 11C, 43NC, 3In.

March to May 2020 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 34% of the 61 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, no station in tercile 2, 18% in tercile 3, 8% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 39% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 67% of the 49 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 6% in tercile 2, 16% in tercile 3, 6% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and there are 4% with near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

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Other matters Discussed:

- Password to download SCOPIC provided to Niue to download new SCOPIC version
- Discuss about ACCESS-S
- Discuss about new version of SCOPIC to be out soon
- OCOF 150 will be hosted by SPREP with Tonga as the chair

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	January 2020	November 2019 to January 2020	Verification [†] for November 2019 to January 2020 outlooks
Cook Islands	Normal	Below normal and normal	Near-Consistent
Fiji	Mostly below normal	Mostly below normal	Mostly Near-Consistent
Kiribati	Below normal to above normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
RMI	Normal	Normal	Near-Consistent
Niue	Normal	Below normal	Near-Consistent
Palau	Below normal	Below normal	Near-Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Near-Consistent
Samoa	Mostly above normal	Normal to above normal	Near-consistent and Inconsistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Mostly below normal	Consistent to Near-Consistent
Tonga	Normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
Tuvalu	Mostly above normal	Below normal and above normal	Mostly Near-Consistent
Vanuatu	Below normal to normal	Mostly below normal	Mostly 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).

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

[Note: The stakeholder data below may not total up due to lack of data from NMS or no participation

Country	Date January 2020	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate bulletin		Ministry of Transport	22	16	6
Cook Islands – EAR Watch		Ministry of Transport Cook Island Red Cross	22	16	6
Fiji Climate Summary	09/01/20	General public	140	106	34
Fiji Climate Outlook	10/01/20	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	09/01/20	Electric Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji- EAR Watch	06/01/20	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji - ENSO Outlook	24/01/20	General Public	142	116	26
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	16/01/20	Reef Explorer Fiji limited, Maritime Safety Authority, World wildlife fun, wildlife conservation society and Tourism sector.	36	29	7
Fiji Sugarcane Climate Outlook	24/01/20	Sugar Industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji-Meteorological Data Requests	01/01/20 to 31/01/20	A range of stakeholders	66	62	4
Kiribati Climate bulletin	16th January	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	111	41	70
Kiribati -EAR Watch	16th January	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	111	41	70
Kiribati Ocean Outlook	16th January	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	111	41	70
Kiribati –Media Release	16th January	Media Collègues- Government and Non-Government entities. And Internal staffs.	43	28	15
Marshall Island – Monthly Climate Briefing	17 January	Office of the Chief Secretary Office(CSO) and National Disaster Management Office(NDMO)	4	2	2

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Niue - Climate Bulletin	02 January	General public	60	20	40
	16 January	Government officials	20	10	10
	30 January	Village council and Private sector	15	5	10
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	28 January	Stakeholder, Government Officials, Government staff, Village Council	75	22	43
Palau – Climate briefing	January	Office of the Vice President (Vice President/Chair), A Minister, Alternate Chair, Office of the President (Public Information Officer), National Emergency Management Office (Coordinator), Attorney General's Office (Attorney General/Designee), Bureau of Youth & Parks & Recreation (Director/Designee), Bureau of Public Health (Director/Designee), Bureau of Public Works (Director/Designee), Bureau of Public Safety (Director/Designee), Palau Community College (President/Designee), Bureau of Education Administration (Director/Designee), Palau Public Utility Corporation (General Manager/Designee), Palau National Communications Corporation (General Manager/Designee), Foreign Affairs (Directors or Designee), Bureau of Domestic Affairs (Director/Designee), Bureau of Agriculture (Director/Designee), Governors' Association (Designee), Palau Red Cross Society (Executive Director/Designee), National Weather Service (Meteorologist-in-Charge/Designee), Office of Environmental Response and Coordination (National Environmental Planner/Designee), Environmental Quality Protection Board (Executive Officer/Designee), Division of Property & Supply (Chief/Designee), Palau Chamber of Commerce, Palau Visitor's Authority (Director/Designee), Bureau of Customs & Border Protection (Director/Designee), Bureau of Budget and Planning, Bureau of Tourism	27	17	10
PNG		No engagement			
Samoa – Climate Summary	13 January	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	65	27	38

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		Technology, Disaster Managers, Marines			
Samoa –EAR Watch	30 January	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- Ocean bulletin	13 January	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-Seasonal Rainfall Outlook	13 January	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- Agro-Met briefing	17 January	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), University of the South Pacific (USP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE-Met Division)	8	6	2
Solomon Islands- Climate Bulletin	January	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	January	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 - Ocean Bulletin	January	Climate Change, NDMO, Environment, Tourism, Trade Co., Fisheries, Nature Conservancy, South Pacific Community	14	9	5
Solomon Islands – MalClim	January	MEHRD, Prime Minister's Office, SIBC, Solomon star Newspaper	7	7	0
Tonga –Climate bulletin	12 January	General public	100	66	34
Tonga –Ocean bulletin	12 January	General public	100	66	34
Tuvalu		No Engagement			

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Vanuatu- Climate Update	16 January	VMGD-Van-KIRAP Staffs, Oxfam Vanuatu, Action Aid Vanuatu, University of the South Pacific (USP), Vanuatu Statistics Office, SPREP, Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Media-Vanuatu, Vanuatu Red Cross Society, Matevulu College, Onesua Presbyterian College, Aore Adventist College, Tafea College, CSU, Vanuatu Care International, Save the Children Vanuatu, UNDP, Shefa Education, Live & Learn, UN-Women, Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC), GCF Private Consultants, Vanuatu Society of People Living with Disability, Unelco Vanuatu, World Health Organization, Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department (Staffs), Others.	206	104	102
Vanuatu- Early Action Rainfall Watch			206	104	102
Vanuatu Ocean Outlook			206	104	102
Vanuatu – Climate Summary			206	104	102
Vanuatu –Climate Awareness	20 January	Sama Community	70	28	40
	22 January	Siviri Community	16	8	6
	23 January	Malafau community	23	8	15
	24 January	Tanolu community	40	17	23
	29 January	Lelepa community	19	9	10
Total			2849	1606	1194