

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 151 Summary Report

Date: Thursday 17 April 2020

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Vanuatu

Apologies: Solomon 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 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 13 May 2020 and is to be chaired by **Tuvalu**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 21 climate officers (11 female) from 11 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea

Fiji: Arieta Daphne

Kiribati: Miriam Kataunati

Niue: Hingano Laufoli-Hipa, Raquel Tanaki and Maxime Edwards

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau

Palau: Kikuko Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria and Samson Kanenko

Samoa: Faapisa Aiono and Kotoni Faasau

Solomon Islands:

Tonga: Mele

Tuvalu: Eli Ene

Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa, Kalsuak Godden, Niel Malosu, Albert Willie, Stephen Tom, John Reuben, Daphne Nalawas

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Australia: Grant Beard, Simon McGree, Elise Chandler

SPREP: Philip Malsale

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

Observations and Verification of January to March 2020 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending March 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	March	785.4	76	77
Vunisea, Fiji	March	575.1	80	84
Nausori Airport, Fiji	March	716.9	62	64
Savusavu Airport, Fiji	Jan -Mar	358.6	1	59
Tarawa, Kiribati	March	515.7	67	71
Tarawa, Kiribati	Jan -Mar	1293.4	64	71
Madang, PNG	March	492.0	65	71
Nadzab, PNG	March	288.8	43	45
Goroka, PNG	March	416.0	56	58
Apia, Samoa	March	127.9	5	131
Nafanua, Samoa	March	100.9	3	48
Faleolo, Samoa	March	62.3	2	59
Apia, Samoa	Jan -Mar	1595.3	119	131
Afiamalu, Samoa	Jan -Mar	2781.3	62	66
Nafanua, Samoa	Jan -Mar	2067.7	43	46
Faleolo, Samoa	Jan -Mar	1187.8	54	59
Niuafo'ou	March	87	3	49
Niutoputapu, Tonga	March	61.9	1	70
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	March	539.0	76	76
Funafuti, Tuvalu	March	130.7	7	88
Nanumea, Tuvalu	Jan -Mar	1619.3	78	80
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	March	67.0	5	49

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of January to March 2020 period showed 24 consistent, 26 near-consistent and 7 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:

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Cook Islands (1NC, 1In); **Fiji** (8C, 5NC); **Kiribati** (2C, 1NC); **RMI** (2NC);
Niue (1C); **Palau** (1C); **PNG** (2C, 6NC); **Samoa** (4In);
Solomon Islands (7NC); **Tonga** (3C, 2NC, 1In); **Tuvalu** (3C, 1NC) and **Vanuatu** (4C, 1NC, 1In).

Overall: 24C, 26NC, 7In.

April to June 2020 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 48% of the 61 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 2% in tercile 2, 11% in tercile 3, 8% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 31% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters Discussed:

- Discuss about ACCESS-S
- OCOF 152 will be hosted by SPREP with Tuvalu as the chair
- Virtual PICOF on the 21st April 2020

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	March 2020	January to March 2020	Verification* for January to March 2020 outlooks
Cook Islands	Normal and above normal	Normal and above normal	Near-Consistent and Inconsistent
Fiji	Mostly normal and above normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
Kiribati	Mostly above normal	Mostly above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
RMI	Below normal	Normal	Near-Consistent
Niue	Normal	Below normal	Consistent
Palau	Below normal	Below normal	Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Mostly above normal	Mostly normal and above normal	Mostly Near consistent
Samoa	Below normal	Above normal	Inconsistent
Solomon Islands	Normal and above normal	Mostly Normal	Near-Consistent
Tonga	Below normal and above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Tuvalu	Below normal to above normal	Above normal	Mostly Consistent
Vanuatu	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to 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

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

Country	Date March 2020	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands	March	No Engagement			
Fiji Climate Summary	06 March	General public	140	106	34
Fiji- EAR Watch	06 March	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	10 March	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji Climate Outlook	12 March	General public	124	93	31
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	18 March	Reef Explorer Fiji Limited, Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji, World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, Ministry of Fisheries and Tourism Sector	36	29	7
Fiji-ENSO Update	25 March	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-Meteorological Data Requests	01-31 March	A range of stakeholders	58	49	9
Kiribati Climate bulletin	11th March	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati -EAR Watch	11th March	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati Ocean Outlook	11 March	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati –Media Release	12 March	Media Collègues- Government and Non-Government entities. And Internal staffs.	43	28	15
Marshall Island – Monthly Climate Briefing	20 March	Office of the Chief Secretary Office(CSO) and National Disaster Management Office(NDMO)	4	2	2
Niue - Climate Bulletin	10 March	Go Girl's and Boy's Brigade leaders	13	3	10
	12 March	General public	20	10	10
	12 March	Stakeholders	15	10	5
	12 March	Government Officials	20	10	10
	12 March	Village Council	14	7	7

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Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	20 March	Stakeholder, Government Officials, Government staff	90	45	45
Palau – Climate briefing	March	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	28	18	10
Papua New Guinea – EAR Watch	17 March	Govt: National Disaster Centre, Dept. of Transport, National Agriculture Research Institute, Dept. of Agriculture and Livestock, Provincial Disaster Coordinators, Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Climate Change Development Authority, Dept. of Mineral Policy and Geohazard Managment, 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: Pacific Hydo Services, PNG Power, Ok Tedi Mining Ltd, Media. Aus DFAT and Universities	115	80	35

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Samoa – Climate bulletin	31 March	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	31 March	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	31 March	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
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	March	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 – EAR Watch	March	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	March	Climate Change, NDMO, Environment, Tourism, Trade Co., Fisheries, Nature Conservancy, South Pacific Community	14	9	5
Solomon Islands – MalClim	March	MEHRD, Prime Minister's Office, SIBC, Solomon star Newspaper	7	7	0
Tonga –Climate bulletin	03 March	General public	100	66	34
Tonga –Ocean bulletin	03 March	General public	100	66	34
Tuvalu		No Engagement			
Vanuatu- Climate Update	31 March	VMGD-Van-KIRAP Staffs, Oxfam Vanuatu, Action Aid Vanuatu, University of the South Pacific (USP), Vanuatu Statistics Office, SPREP, Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office	206	104	102
Vanuatu- Early Action Rainfall Watch	31 March		206	104	102

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Vanuatu Ocean Outlook	31 March	(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), General Public (Website and VMGD call-centre)	206	104	102
School Visit	06 March	Pikinini Play time School –Grade 6	30	14	16
Total			2439	1527	1020