

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 152 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 13 May 2020

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: SPREP

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 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 17 June 2020 and is to be chaired by **Tuvalu**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 16 climate officers (8 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Arieta Daphne, Bipen Prakash, Terry Atalifo

Kiribati:

Niue: Lenita Togiamana and Raquel Tanaki

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau and Gabriel Tuno

Palau: Kikuko Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kanenko

Samoa: Faapisa Aiono

Solomon Islands: Max Sita and Noel Sanau

Tonga: Mele and Gary Vite

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa and Kalsuak Godden,

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Australia: Grant Beard

SPREP: Philip Malsale, Kim Doyi and Kwon Heekyoung

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

Observations and Verification of February to April 2020 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending April 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
Penrhyn, Cook Islands	April	40.8	3	81
Laucala Bay, Fiji	April	772.5	76	79
Nausori airport, Fiji	April	685.0	61	64
Navua, Fiji	April	1085.2	75	76
Lakeba, Fiji	April	436.0	75	76
Vunisea, Fiji	April	505.7	80	85
Ono-i-Lau, Fiji	April	358.2	67	73
Nausori airport, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1521.0	61	64
Navua, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1703.4	72	75
Vunisea, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1184.4	81	84
Hanan Airport, Niue	April	507.0	114	115
Nadzab, PNG	Feb-Apr	620.4	40	44
Apia, Samoa	Feb-Apr	1320.9	121	131
Nafanua, Samoa	Feb-Apr	1634.1	45	48
Vava'u, Tonga	April	518.6	72	74
Niuafo'ou, Tonga	Feb-Apr	430.5	4	45
Nanumea, Tuvalu	Feb-Apr	1399.4	78	80
Sola, Vanuatu	April	905.6	48	48
Pekoa, Vanuatu	April	1120.7	50	50
Pekoa, Vanuatu	Feb-Apr	1827.6	50	50

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of February to April 2020 period showed 18 consistent, 23 near-consistent and 14 inconsistent outlooks (55 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 (1NC, 1In); **Fiji** (8C, 5In); **Kiribati** (2C, 1NC); **RMI** (2NC);
Niue (1In); **Palau** (1NC); **PNG** (4C, 3NC); **Samoa** (1C, 1NC, 2In); **Solomon Islands** (4NC, 3In); **Tonga** (1C, 4NC, 1In); **Tuvalu** (2C, 2NC) and **Vanuatu** (4C, 1In).

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Overall: 18C, 23NC, 14In.

June to August 2020 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 44% of the 61 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 2% in tercile 2, 15% in tercile 3, 13% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 26% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 153 will be hosted by SPREP with Tuvalu as the chair
- Virtual PICOF survey monkey to be completed by NMS
- All countries (except RMI, FSM and BOM) agree that zoom will be the best option for OCOF teleconference

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	April 2020	February to April 2020	Verification* for February to April 2020 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and normal	Normal and above normal	Near-Consistent and Inconsistent
Fiji	Mostly normal and above normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent and Inconsistent
Kiribati	Below normal to above normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
RMI	Normal and above normal	Normal	Near-Consistent
Niue	Above normal	Above normal	Inconsistent
Palau	Above normal	Normal	Near-Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Mostly below normal and normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
Samoa	Mostly normal	Above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Solomon Islands	Mostly above normal	Normal and above Normal	Near-Consistent and Inconsistent
Tonga	Normal and above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Tuvalu	Mostly normal	Mostly above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
Vanuatu	Normal and above normal	Normal and above normal	Near-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 countries 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 April 2020	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands- Climate bulletin	April	Ministry of Transport	24	16	8
Cook Islands – EAR Watch	April	Cook Islands Met	12	9	3
Fiji Climate Summary	07 April	General public	140	106	34
Fiji- EAR Watch	07 April	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	09 April	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji Climate Outlook	15 April	General public	124	93	31
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	16 April	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-Sugarcane Climate Outlook	24 April	Sugar Industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji-Meteorological Data Requests	01-30 April	A range of stakeholders	41	31	10
Kiribati Climate bulletin	14 April	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati -EAR Watch	14 April	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati –Media release	14 April	Media Colleagues- Government and Non Government entities. And Internal staffs.	43	28	15
Kiribati Ocean Outlook	14 April	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Marshall Island – Monthly Climate Briefing	20 April	Office of the Chief Secretary Office(CSO) and National Disaster Management Office(NDMO)	4	2	2
Niue-Climate Bulletin	02 April	General public	13	3	10
	02 April	Stakeholders	20	10	10
	16 April	Government Officials	15	10	5
	16 April	Village Council	20	10	10

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	28 April	Education Department	30	10	20
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	21 April	Stakeholders	20	15	5
		Weather group	25	10	15
		Government Officials	15	5	10
		Government staff	25	10	15
Palau – Climate briefing	April	President of the Republic of Palau	1	1	
		Senators of Palau	13	11	2
		Delegates of Palau	16	14	2
		Ministers	8	6	2
		Palau Public Utilities representatives	2	2	
		Media representatives	4	3	1
Papua New Guinea – EAR Watch	23 April	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.	200	139	61
Papua New Guinea – EAR Watch	22 April	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 Management, PNG DFAT, Centre of Environmental Protection Authority, National Capital District Commission, Dept. of Education. UN Agencies: UNDP, FAO, IOM, Oxfam. NGOs: Childfund, WVI, PNGRC. Private: Pacific Hydro Services, PNG Power, Ok Tedi Mining Ltd, Media. Aus DFAT	120	83	37
Samoa – Climate bulletin	27 April	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- Ocean bulletin	27 April	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	April	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	April	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	April	Climate Change, NDMO, Environment, Tourism, Trade Co., Fisheries, Nature Conservancy, South Pacific Community	14	9	5
Solomon Islands – MalClim	April	MEHRD, Prime Minister's Office, SIBC, Solomon star Newspaper	7	7	0
Tonga		No Engagement			
Tuvalu		No Engagement			
Vanuatu- Climate Update	23 April	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), General Public (Website and VMGD call-centre)	206	104	102
Vanuatu- Early Action Rainfall Watch	23 April		206	104	102
Vanuatu Ocean Outlook	23 April		206	104	102
Total			2332	1366	966