

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 153 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 17 June 2020

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Fiji

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 15 July 2020 and is to be chaired by **Kiribati**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 23 climate officers (10 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Arieta Daphne, Jasneel Chandra and Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Mwata Keariki and Miriam Kataunati

Niue: Maxime Edwards and Raquel Tanaki

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

Palau: Kikuko Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Faapisa Aiono, Kotoni Faasau, Junior Lepale, Mattaniah Salesa

Solomon Islands: Max Sita and Lloyd Tahani

Tonga: Mele and Gary Vite

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa, Kalsuak Godden, Kalo Abel and Stephen

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Australia: Grant Beard

SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

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

Observations and Verification of March to May 2020 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending May 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
Udu Point, Fiji	May	303.2	65	72
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	Mar-May	1019.1	112	120
Nadi Airport, Fiji	Mar-May	1118.7	76	77
Laucala Bay, Fiji	Mar-May	1446.9	76	79
Nausori Airport, Fiji	Mar-May	1598.5	62	64
Navua, Fiji	Mar-May	1812.5	74	76
Vunisea, Fiji	Mar-May	1156.9	81	83
Ono-i-Lau	Mar-May	924.0	70	71
Hanan Airport, Niue	May	359.2	109	114
Hanan Airport, Niue	Mar-May	1127	108	114
Koror, Palau	May	587.3	68	69
Wewak, PNG	May	89.8	4	65
Port Moresby, PNG	May	213.8	126	128
Port Moresby, PNG	Mar-May	585.0	112	123
Niutoputapu, Tonga	May	300.7	65	70
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	Mar-May	818.0	68	75
Niulakita, Tuvalu	Mar-May	474.7	6	68
Pekoa, Vanuatu	Mar-May	1472.0	50	50

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of March to May 2020 period showed 8 consistent, 19 near-consistent and 29 inconsistent outlooks (56 stations across 12 countries). Note that there were more inconsistent forecasts arising from the transition to the dry season and the rapid cooling of the Pacific indicating a possible transition to a La Nina event.

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

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

Overall: 8C, 19NC, 29In.

July to September 2020 Outlooks:

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SCOPIC outlooks: 10% of the 61 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, no station in tercile 2, 10% in tercile 3, 11% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 69% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles. The highest percentage is in three terciles because the forecast indices are neutral.

Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 154 will be hosted by SPREP on the 15 July with Kiribati as the chair
- National climate bulletin to upload on PMDP website
- Phone issues with the teleconference. Countries were muted and some were disconnected
- No SCOPIC issue from the countries
- Vanuatu- Collection of impact data for inundation map for Sanma, Malampa and Penama province
- Palau- No more daily and hourly observation. Only Upper air observation
- Samoa- Continue with agro-met and H-CLEWS project

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	May 2020	March to May 2020	Verification* for March to May 2020 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and normal	Below normal and above normal	Inconsistent
Fiji	Mostly normal and above normal	Mostly normal and above normal	Near-Consistent and Inconsistent
Kiribati	Below normal and normal	Below normal and above normal	Consistent and Inconsistent
RMI	Below normal and above normal	Normal and above normal	Near-Consistent and Inconsistent
Niue	Above normal	Above normal	Inconsistent
Palau	Above normal	Normal	Inconsistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Mostly normal and above normal	Mostly Consistent or Near-Consistent
Samoa	Mostly below normal	Below normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Mostly normal and above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Tonga	Below normal to above normal	Mostly above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Tuvalu	Below normal and normal	Mostly below normal	Mostly Inconsistent
Vanuatu	Mostly 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 May 2020	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands- Climate bulletin	May	Ministry of Transport	24	16	8
Fiji Climate Summary	08 May	General public	140	106	34
Fiji- EAR Watch	06 May	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	11 May	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji Climate Outlook	14 May	General public	124	93	31
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	20 May	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 May	General Public	142	116	22
Fiji-Meteorological Data Requests	01-31 May	A range of stakeholders	52	44	8
Kiribati Climate bulletin	12 May	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati -EAR Watch	12 May	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati –Media release	12 May	Media Colleagues- Government and Non Government entities. And Internal staffs.	43	28	15
Kiribati Ocean Outlook	12 May	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Marshall Island – Monthly Climate Briefing	15 May	Office of the Chief Secretary Office(CSO) and National Disaster Management Office(NDMO)	5	2	3
Niue-Climate Bulletin	02 May	General public	13	3	10
	02 May	Stakeholders	20	10	10
	02 May	Government Officials	15	10	5
	02 May	Village Council	20	10	10
	08 May	Education Department	22	6	16

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Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	02 May	Stakeholders	20	15	5
		Weather group	25	10	15
		Government Officials	15	5	10
		Government staff	25	10	15
Palau – Climate briefing	May				
		<i>No Engagement</i>			
Papua New Guinea – Climate Bulletin	21 May	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	145	56
Papua New Guinea – EAR Watch	8 May	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	123	88	35
Papua New Guinea – EAR Watch recirculated by Disaster team	9 May	National Disaster Centre, UNRCO, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, WHO, UNWomen, UNFPA, UNDSS, OHCHR, UNAIDS, WVI, WFP, PNGCC, Caritas, Care International, Child Fund, MSF, Oxfam, Plan International, PSI PNG, Save The Children, ICRC, IFRC, PNG Red Cross Society, World Bank, DFFAT, PRC, EU, JICA, MFAT, USAID, CDC, PNG DisabilitySector Coalition,	121	70	51

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		Department of Education, Department of Agriculture and Livestock			
Samoa – Climate bulletin	27 May	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	27 May	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	May	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	May	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	May	Climate Change, NDMO, Environment, Tourism, Trade Co., Fisheries, Nature Conservancy, South Pacific Community	14	9	5
Solomon Islands – MaClim	May	MEHRD, Prime Minister’s Office, SIBC, Solomon star Newspaper	7	7	0
Tonga- Climate bulletin	05 May	General public	132	66	34
Tonga- Ocean bulletin	05 May	General public	132	66	34
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	May	Met staffs All civil servants and kaupule members		5	1
Tuvalu-EAR Watch		All civil servants kaupule members			
Tuvalu- Monthly Climate bulletin		Met staff All civil servants kaupule members		5	1
Tuvalu-Ocean Bulletin		Met staff All civil servants kaupule members		5	1
Vanuatu- Climate Update	25 May	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	25 May		206	104	102

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Vanuatu Ocean Outlook	25 May	(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
Round island trip	25 May	Notice Boards: Pango, Eratap, Erakor, Teouma, Eton (6), Forari (2), Panpang , Epau, Ekipe (1), Epau (3), Onesua (1), Paunangisu (2), Emua, Sama, Siviri, Makatia (1), Malafau, Tanoliu, Mangaliliu (3), Mele (1).	20	6	14
Digicel SMS	20 May	Torba Province Sanma Province Malampa Province Shefa Province Tafea Province	2,964 27,098 18,271 59,332 8,714	1,521 14,662 9,336 30,831 5,365	1,443 12,436 8,935 28,501 3,349
Total			119,133	63,334	55,749