

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 156 Summary Report

Date: Tuesday 15 September 2020

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Papua New Guinea

Apologies: Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

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 14 October 2020 and is to be chaired by **Palau**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 20 climate officers (13 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Arieta Daphne and Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Miriam Kataunati, Kamaitia Rubetaake

Niue: Hingano Laufoli, Raquel Tanaki, Maxime Edwards and Sean Tukutama

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau, Kila Kila and Nanao Bouauka

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria

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

Solomon Islands: Max Sita and Noel Sanau

Tonga: Selu Finaulahi

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu:

Australia: Grant Beard

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SPREP: Philip Malsale

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

Observations and Verification of June to August 2020 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending August 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	Jun-Aug	480.8	66	70
Beru, Kiribati	Aug	11.9	5	63
Kirimati, Kiribati	Aug	00.0	1	96
Beru, Kiribati	Jun-Aug	35.7	1	61
Tarawa, Kiribati	Jun-Aug	98.6	8	84
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	Aug	133.1	1	76
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	Jun-Aug	511.8	7	76
Koror Airport, Palau	Aug	532.1	66	70
Vanimu, PNG	Aug	263.0	59	65
Nafanua, Samoa	Jun-Aug	654.3	46	49
Faleolo, Samoa	Jun-Aug	501.6	54	57
Taro, Solomon Islands	Aug	575.8	43	43
Niuatoputapu, Tonga	Aug	267.9	71	73
Niuatoputapu, Tonga	Jun-Aug	620.2	69	73
Niulakita, Tuvalu	Aug	1061.3	63	68
Pekoa, Vanuatu	Aug	189.9	45	50

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of June to August 2020 period showed 16 consistent, 31 near-consistent and 12 inconsistent outlooks (59 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** (5C,7NC, 1In); **Kiribati** (1NC, 3In); **RMI** (2NC.); **Niue** (1C); **Palau** (1NC); **PNG** (1C, 5NC, 3In); **Samoa** (2NC, 2In); **Solomon Islands** (2C, 5NC); **Tonga** (4C, 1NC, 1In); **Tuvalu** (2C, 2NC) and **Vanuatu** (1C, 3NC, 2In).

Overall: 16C, 31NC, 12In.

October to December 2020 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: None of the 61 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 10% in tercile 2, 16% in tercile 3, 41% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 33% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

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Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 157 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 14 October with Palau as the chair
- Virtual PICO 7 – NMS to send in nomination
- Samoa requested for Tropical Cyclone Outlook for their CEO briefing

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	August 2020	June to August 2020	Verification* for June to August 2020 outlooks
Cook Islands	Normal and above normal	Normal	Near-Consistent
Fiji	Below normal to normal	Below normal and above normal	Mostly Near-Consistent and Consistent
Kiribati	Mostly below normal	Mostly below normal	Mostly Inconsistent
RMI	Below normal	Below normal and normal	Near-Consistent
Niue	Normal	Normal	Consistent
Palau	Above normal	Normal	Near-Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Normal and above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Samoa	Mostly below normal	Above normal	Near-Consistent and Inconsistent
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
Tonga	Mostly above normal	Mostly above normal	Mostly consistent
Tuvalu	Normal and above normal	Normal and above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
Vanuatu	Normal and above normal	Mostly normal and 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 countries engage with their stakeholders

Country	Date August 2020	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands- Climate bulletin	August	Ministry of Transport	29	18	11
Cook Islands- EAR Watch	August	Cook Islands Government			
Fiji Climate Summary	07 August	General public	140	106	34
Fiji- EAR Watch	04 August	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	11 August	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji Climate Outlook	11 August	General public	124	93	31
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	20 August	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-Meteorological Data Requests	01-31 August	A range of stakeholders	41	36	5
Kiribati Climate bulletin	11 August	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati -EAR Watch	11 August	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati –Media release	11 August	Media Colleagues- Government and Non Government entities. And Internal staffs.	43	28	15
Kiribati Ocean Bulletin	11 August	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Marshall Island – Monthly Climate Briefing	21 August	Office of the Chief Secretary Office(CSO) and National Disaster Management Office(NDMO)	5	2	3
Niue-Climate Bulletin	11 August	General public	60	20	40
	20 August	Government Officials	20	10	10
	25 August	Village Council	15	5	10
	25 August	Private sector/Education Deaprtment	40	20	20

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Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	26 August	Stakeholders	25	10	15
		Government Officials	10	6	4
		Government staff/officials	20	5	10
		Facebook Users	30	15	15
		Village Council	15	5	10
Palau – Climate briefing	August	<i>No Engagement</i>			
Papua New Guinea – Climate Bulletin	28 August	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.	205	158	47
Papua New Guinea – EAR Watch	20 August	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	126	78	48
Papua New Guinea - Disaster Management Team Virtual meeting	27 August	National Disaster Centre, National Weather Service, UNRCO, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, WHO, UNWomen, PNGRCS, ICRC, UNRCO-AROB, UNAIDS, AHC, NZHC, EU, USAID, PNGDF, Child Fund, Oxfam, WVI, NDOH, NCC.	37	29	8
Samoa – Climate Summary	31 August	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	31 August	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	August	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD	58	46	12
Solomon Islands – EAR Watch	August	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD	53	39	14
Solomon Islands - Ocean Bulletin	August	Climate Change, NDMO, Environment, Tourism, Trade Co., Fisheries, Nature Conservancy, South Pacific Community	14	9	5
Tonga- Climate bulletin	August	General Public	132	66	34
Tonga- Ocean bulletin	August	General Public	132	66	34
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	August	Met staff	24	20	4
Tuvalu-EAR Watch		Disaster members	36	20	16
Tuvalu- Monthly Climate briefing		All civil servants and kaupule members			
Tuvalu- Ocean bulletin					
Vanuatu- Climate Update	24 August	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	24 August		206	104	102
Vanuatu Ocean Outlook	24 August		206	104	102

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Vanuatu – Round Island trip	25 August	Notice Boards: Mangaliliu (1), Sama Village (1), Forari, Eton, Takara, Teouma.	2	2	0
Total			2,709	1,551	1089

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