

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 157 Summary Report

Date: Tuesday 14 October 2020

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Palau

Apologies: Cook Islands, 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 November 2020 and is to be chaired by **Samoa**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 14 climate officers (10 female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Arieta Daphne

Kiribati: Mwata Keariki and Miriam Kataunati

Niue: Rossy Mitiepo, Raquel Tanaki and Robert Togiamana

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

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru and Rick

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria

Samoa:

Solomon Islands: Max Sita

Tonga:

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa

Australia: Grant Beard

Australian Aid Project: Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)

SPREP: Philip Malsale and Azarel Mariner

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

Observations and Verification of July to September 2020 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending September 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 |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Rotuma, Fiji | September | 501.9 | 98 | 104 |
| Rotuma, Fiji | Jul-Sept | 1197.6 | 98 | 103 |
| Beru, Kiribati | Jul-Sept | 64.9 | 6 | 62 |
| Tarawa, Kiribati | Jul-Sept | 84.8 | 8 | 86 |
| Nafanua, Samoa | September | 348.2 | 44 | 48 |
| Faleolo, Samoa | September | 183.6 | 53 | 58 |
| Nafanua, Samoa | Jul-Sept | 683.0 | 45 | 48 |
| Auki, Solomon Islands | September | 543.8 | 58 | 58 |
| Henderson, Solomon Islands | September | 270.3 | 46 | 46 |
| Honiara, Solomon Islands | September | 209.0 | 62 | 65 |
| Auki, Solomon Islands | Jul-Sept | 1101.3 | 58 | 58 |
| Niutoputapu, Tonga | September | 235.1 | 64 | 71 |
| Ha'apai, Tonga | September | 302.0 | 71 | 74 |
| Niutoputapu, Tonga | Jul-Sept | 671.6 | 69 | 71 |
| Ha'apai, Tonga | Jul-Sept | 555.8 | 70 | 74 |
| Niulakita, Tuvalu | September | 328.2 | 62 | 68 |
| Niulakita, Tuvalu | Jul-Sept | 981.6 | 64 | 68 |
| Sola, Vanuatu | September | 471.4 | 45 | 48 |

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of July to September 2020 period showed 12 consistent, 32 near-consistent and 15 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,5NC, 2In); **Kiribati** (2NC, 2In); **RMI** (2NC,); **Niue** (1C); **Palau** (1NC); **PNG** (5NC, 4In); **Samoa** (2NC, 2In); **Solomon Islands** (6NC, 1In); **Tonga** (1C, 4NC, 1In);

Tuvalu (2C, 2NC) and **Vanuatu** (1C, 3NC, 2In).

Overall: 12C, 32NC, 15In.

November 2020 to January 2021 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 13% of the 61 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, no station in tercile 2, 39% in tercile 3, 7% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 11% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 158 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 18 November with Samoa as the chair
- Virtual PICO 7 – NMS to send in fisheries nomination. There will also be a trial run on the 20th October 2020 at 3pm Samoa time. Climate officers encourage to join PICO 7
- La Niña media release and send in any news item regarding this event

Observed Rainfall and Validation

| Country | September 2020 | July to September 2020 | Verification* for July to September 2020 outlooks |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Cook Islands | Below normal and normal | Below normal and above normal | Inconsistent |
| Fiji | Normal and above normal | Below normal to above normal | Mostly Near-Consistent and Consistent |
| Kiribati | Mostly below normal | Normal and below normal | Near-Consistent and Inconsistent |
| RMI | Normal and above normal | Normal | Near-Consistent |
| Niue | Normal | Normal | Consistent |
| Palau | Normal | Normal | Near-Consistent |
| Papua New Guinea | Mostly below normal and above normal | Below normal to above normal | Near-Consistent and Inconsistent |
| Samoa | Above normal | Above normal | Near-Consistent and Inconsistent |
| Solomon Islands | Mostly above normal | Normal and above normal | Mostly Near-Consistent |
| Tonga | Normal and above normal | Mostly above normal | Mostly Near-Consistent |
| Tuvalu | Below normal to above normal | Mostly above normal | Near-Consistent and Consistent |
| Vanuatu | Normal | 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).

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

| Country | Date September 2020 | Stakeholder | Total Number of Participants | Number of male | Number of female |
|--|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Cook Island | September | <i>No engagement</i> | | | |
| Fiji Climate Summary | 07 September | General public | 140 | 106 | 34 |
| Fiji- EAR Watch | 08 September | Humanitarian partners | 122 | 96 | 26 |
| Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu | 09 September | Energy Fiji Limited | 13 | 13 | - |
| Fiji Climate Outlook | 14 September | General public | 124 | 93 | 31 |
| Fiji-Ocean Outlook | 22 September | 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 | 23 September | General Public | 142 | 116 | 26 |
| Fiji-Meteorological Data Requests | 01-30 September | A range of stakeholders | 45 | 35 | 10 |
| Kiribati Climate bulletin | 02 September | Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs. | 118 | 45 | 73 |
| Kiribati -EAR Watch | 11 September | Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs. | 118 | 45 | 73 |
| Kiribati –Media release | 02 September | Media Colleagues- Government and Non Government entities. And Internal staffs. | 43 | 28 | 15 |
| Kiribati Ocean Bulletin | 02 September | Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs. | 118 | 45 | 73 |
| Marshall Island – Monthly Climate Briefing | 18 September | Office of the Chief Secretary Office(CSO) and National Disaster Management Office(NDMO) | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Niue-Climate Bulletin | 01 September | Education Department | 21 | 10 | 11 |

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|--|-----------------|--|-----|-----|----|
| | 15 September | | 18 | 6 | 12 |
| | 29 September | | 15 | 5 | 10 |
| | 25 September | Niue Ekalesia Youth Committee | 11 | 6 | 5 |
| Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing | 30 September | Stakeholders | 25 | 10 | 15 |
| | | Government Officials | 15 | 7 | 8 |
| | | Village Council | 15 | 5 | 10 |
| Palau – Climate briefing | September | <i>No Engagement</i> | | | |
| Papua New Guinea – Climate Bulletin | 22 September | 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. | 212 | 157 | 55 |
| Papua New Guinea – EAR Watch | 10 September | 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 Hydo Services, PNG Power, Ok Tedi Mining Ltd, Media. Aus DFAT | 130 | 82 | 48 |
| Papua New Guinea – Stakeholders meeting | 5 September | PNGNWS and Department of Agriculture and Livestock | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Papua New Guinea - Disaster Management Team meeting | 24 September | 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. | 26 | 20 | 6 |

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| Samoa – Youth initiative workshop (Cocoa farming) | 23-25 September | Youth Cocoa farmers in Savaii, Chamber of Commerce, UNDP and SPREP | 54 | 36 | 18 |
| Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin | September | 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 | September | 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 | September | Climate Change, NDMO, Environment, Tourism, Trade Co., Fisheries, Nature Conservancy, South Pacific Community | 14 | 9 | 5 |
| Tonga- Climate bulletin | September | <i>No engagement</i> | | | |
| Tuvalu- Climate Bulletin | | Met staffs | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| | | Disaster Members | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| | | All civil servants and kaupule members | | | |
| Tuvalu-EAR Watch | | Met staffs | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| | | Disaster Members | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| | | All civil servants and kaupule members | | | |
| Tuvalu- Monthly Climate briefing | | Met staffs | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| | | Disaster Members | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| | | All civil servants and kaupule members | | | |
| Tuvalu- Ocean Bulletin | | Met staffs | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| | | Disaster Members | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| | | All civil servants and kaupule members | | | |
| Vanuatu- Climate Update | 28 September | 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 | 206 | 104 | 102 |
| Vanuatu- Early Action Rainfall Watch | 28 September | | 206 | 104 | 102 |
| Vanuatu Ocean Outlook | 28 September | | 206 | 104 | 102 |

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| | | Vanuatu, World Health Organization, Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department (Staffs), General Public (Website and VMGD call-centre) | | | |
| Vanuatu – La Niña Alert media release | 10 September | Media (Dailypost Newspaper) | General public | | |
| Vanuatu – La Nina awareness | 28 September | 5 communities – Eapau, Waisisi, Prima, Meleamat and Tamate community | 317 | 195 | 122 |
| Total | | | 2,632 | 1,603 | 1029 |

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