

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 158 Summary Report

Date: Tuesday 18 November 2020

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Samoa

Apologies: Marshall 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 16 December 2020 and is to be chaired by **Solomon Islands**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 15 climate officers (8 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea, Bouchard Solomona

Fiji: Arieta Daphne, Jasneel Chandra and Bipen Prakash

Kiribati: Miriam Kataunati

Niue: Raquel Tanaki

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

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Koton Faasau

Solomon Islands: Max Sita and Lloyd Tahani

Tonga:

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa

Australia: Grant Beard

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SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

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

Observations and Verification of August to October 2020 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending October 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 | October | 594.5 | 100 | 106 |
| Rotuma, Fiji | Aug-Oct | 1274.5 | 96 | 103 |
| Beru, Kiribati | October | 0.6 | 3 | 63 |
| Kirimati, Kiribati | October | 0.2 | 8 | 95 |
| Beru, Kiribati | Aug-Oct | 55.6 | 4 | 62 |
| Kirimati, Kiribati | Aug-Oct | 1.8 | 3 | 94 |
| Majuro, Marshall Islands | October | 567.7 | 65 | 67 |
| Koror Airport, Palau | Aug-Oct | 1263.9 | 64 | 70 |
| Madang, PNG | October | 479.2 | 64 | 71 |
| Vanimo, PNG | October | 308.8 | 59 | 62 |
| Goroka, PNG | October | 278.8 | 52 | 54 |
| Momote, PNG | October | 382.2 | 62 | 67 |
| Madang, PNG | Aug-Oct | 909.2 | 67 | 71 |
| Faleolo, Samoa | October | 288.1 | 55 | 59 |
| Auki, Solomon Islands | Aug-Oct | 1134.9 | 58 | 58 |
| Taro, Solomon Islands | Aug-Oct | 1228.1 | 40 | 41 |
| Niutoputapu, Tonga | October | 235.1 | 64 | 71 |
| Ha'apai, Tonga | October | 302.0 | 71 | 74 |
| Fua'amotu, Tonga | October | 243.5 | 38 | 41 |
| Niutoputapu, Tonga | Aug-Oct | 877.7 | 69 | 71 |
| Ha'apai, Tonga | Aug-Oct | 736.4 | 73 | 74 |
| Whitegrass, Vanuatu | October | 113.0 | 45 | 49 |

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of August to October 2020 period showed 9 consistent, 50 near-consistent and zero 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 (1C, 1NC); **Fiji** (3C,10NC); **Kiribati** (2NC, 2In); **RMI** (2NC,); **Niue** (1NC); **Palau** (1NC); **PNG** (9NC); **Samoa** (4NC); **Solomon Islands** (7NC); **Tonga** (6NC);

Tuvalu (2C, 2NC) and **Vanuatu** (1C, 5NC).

Overall: 9C, 50NC, 0In.

December 2020 to February 2021 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 23% of the 61 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 5% in tercile 2, 57% in tercile 3, 8% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 7% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 159 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 16 December with Solomon Islands as the chair. OCOF 160 will be on the 13th January 2021
- NCOF – PNG to host their NCOF on the 19 November. Fiji's NCOF towards end of November 2020
- NMS to send in through reports and pictures of La Nina impacts

Observed Rainfall and Validation

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

* 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 October 2020 | Stakeholder | Total Number of Participants | Number of male | Number of female |
|--|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin | October | Ministry of Transport | 32 | 20 | 12 |
| Cook Islands- EAR Watch | October | Cook Islands Government | | | |
| Fiji Climate Summary | 07 October | General public | 140 | 106 | 34 |
| Fiji- EAR Watch | 08 October | Humanitarian partners | 122 | 96 | 26 |
| Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu | 09 October | Energy Fiji Limited | 13 | 13 | - |
| Fiji Climate Outlook | 10 October | General public | 124 | 93 | 31 |
| Fiji-Ocean Outlook | 20 October | 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 Outlook | 26 October | General Public | 77 | 60 | 17 |
| Fiji-Meteorological Data Requests | 01-31 October | A range of stakeholders | 55 | 47 | 8 |
| Kiribati Climate bulletin | 02 October | Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs. | 118 | 45 | 73 |
| Kiribati -EAR Watch | 15 October | Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs. | 118 | 45 | 73 |
| Kiribati –Media release | 06 October | Media Colleagues- Government and Non Government entities. And Internal staffs. | 43 | 28 | 15 |
| Kiribati Ocean Bulletin | 02 October | Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs. | 118 | 45 | 73 |
| Marshall Island – Monthly Climate Briefing | 16 October | Office of the Chief Secretary Office(CSO) and National Disaster Management Office(NDMO) | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Niue-Climate Bulletin | 22 October | General public | 60 | 20 | 40 |
| | | Government Officials | 20 | 10 | 10 |

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| | | Village council / Private sector | 15 | 5 | 10 |
| Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing | 30 October | Stakeholders | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| | | Government Officials/all staff | 15 | 7 | 8 |
| | | Village Council / weather group | 15 | 5 | 10 |
| | | Facebook | 30 | 20 | 10 |
| Palau – Climate briefing | October | <i>No Engagement</i> | | | |
| Papua New Guinea – Climate Bulletin | 20 October | 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 | 13 October | 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 | 140 | 91 | 49 |
| Papua New Guinea – Stakeholders meeting for La Nina preparedness | 30 October | IOM and National Weather Services | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Papua New Guinea - Disaster Awareness and preparedness committee | 08 October | National Disaster Centre, National Weather Service, UPNG, Center of Environmental Protection Authority, NARI, Department of Works, Department of Mineral Policy and Geo-Hazards management. | 13 | 7 | 6 |
| Samoa – Agromet Bulletin | 14 October | MAF, FAO, USP and Samoa Met | 12 | 4 | 8 |

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| Samoa - TC outlook | 31 October | MNRE, Media Outlets, 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 | October | 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 - NCOF | October | Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD, Forestry, Ministry of Health, Solomon Water, MECDM, Live and Learn, Tourism, Maritime Service, People with Disability, MID, Ministry of Fisheries, Sol Tuna Ltd, UN Women, Council of Women, Community Representatives | 58 | 46 | 12 |
| Solomon Islands – EAR Watch | October | 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 | October | Climate Change, NDMO, Environment, Tourism, Trade Co., Fisheries, Nature Conservancy, South Pacific Community | 14 | 9 | 5 |
| Tonga | October | <i>No engagement</i> | | | |
| Tuvalu | October | <i>No engagement</i> | | | |
| Vanuatu- Climate Update | 30 October | 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 | 30 October | | 206 | 104 | 102 |
| Vanuatu Ocean Outlook | 30 October | | 206 | 104 | 102 |
| Vanuatu –Tropical Cyclone outlook media release | 30 October | | 206 | 104 | 102 |

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| Vanuatu – La Nina News article | 03 October | General Public | | | |
| “La Niña and Climate Update Recording” VMGD Free Toll | 05 October | General Public | | | |
| “Climate Awareness” Tafea Province Day celebrations at Korman Stadium | 8 October | General Public | 81 | 57 | 24 |
| Vanuatu – Climate Change Awareness week | 12-16 October | Nambatri Area | 40 | 15 | 25 |
| | | Nambatu Walis Community | 17 | 12 | 5 |
| | | Erasa Community | 11 | 2 | 9 |
| | | Nambatri Bakery | 26 | 16 | 10 |
| | | Ifira Bilingual School (Yr. 7,9) | 64 | 28 | 36 |
| | | Pango Primary School (Yr. 5,6,7,8) | 121 | 69 | 52 |
| | | Pango French School (Yr. 1,6) | 45 | 19 | 26 |
| | | Paunangisu (Climate Change Day) | 144 | 67 | 77 |
| | | Mele School (Yr. 5,6,7) | 83 | 34 | 49 |
| | | Eton (Yr. 4,5) | 57 | 39 | 18 |
| | | Pangpang | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| | | Ekiye (Yr.8) | 32 | 15 | 16 |
| Vanuatu – La Nina SMS | 15 October | Women Weather Watch | 2,964 | 1,521 | 1,443 |
| | | Torba Province | 27,098 | 14,662 | 12,436 |
| | | Sanma Province | 18,271 | 9,336 | 8,935 |
| | | Malampa Province | 59,332 | 30,831 | 28,501 |
| | | Shefa Province | 8,714 | 5,365 | 3,349 |
| | | Tafea Province | | | |
| Total | | | 119,528 | 63,640 | 56,417 |

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