

## **Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)**

### **Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 159 Summary Report**

**Date:** Wednesday 16 December 2020

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

**Host:** SPREP

**Chair:** Solomon Islands

**Apologies:**

**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 13 January 2021 and is to be chaired by **Tonga**.

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 12 climate officers (7 female) from 6 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:**

**Fiji:** Arieta Daphne, Jasneel Chandra, Shweta Shiwangni and Bipen Prakash

**Kiribati:** Miriam Kataunati

**Niue:**

**Papua New Guinea:** Kisolet Posanau and Kila Kila

**Palau:** Kiku Mochimaru

**Republic of Marshall Islands:**

**Samoa:** Faapisa Aiono, Kotoni Faasau and Emmanuel Etimani

**Solomon Islands:** Noel Sanau

**Tonga:**

**Tuvalu:**

**Vanuatu:**

**Australia:** Grant Beard

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**SPREP:** Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

OCOF tables were received from 11 participating countries before the meeting.

### Observations and Verification of September to November 2020 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending November 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
Penryhn, Cook Islands	November	38.6	6	83
Penryhn, Cook Islands	Sep-Nov	170.4	6	81
Rotuma, Fiji	Sep-Nov	1572.6	101	103
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	Sep-Nov	1120.2	73	76
Wewak, PNG	November	350.8	61	63
Faleolo, Samoa	Sep-Nov	711.0	52	57
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	November	435.6	51	53
Auki, Solomon Islands	Sep-Nov	998.3	56	57
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	Sep-Nov	1094.6	45	50
Vava'u, Tonga	November	380.9	69	74
Vava'u, Tonga	Sep-Nov	822.3	72	74
Ha'apai, Tonga	Sep-Nov	665.9	70	74
Sola, Vanuatu	November	550.5	46	48
Pekoa, Vanuatu	November	465.4	48	50
Sola, Vanuatu	Sep-Nov	1452.5	44	47

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of September to November 2020 period showed 13 consistent, 43 near-consistent and zero inconsistent outlooks (56 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** (3C,b8NC); **Kiribati** (4NC); **RMI** (2NC,); **Niue** (1NC); **Palau** (1NC); **PNG** (3C, 5NC); **Samoa** (1C, 3NC); **Solomon Islands** (2C, 5NC); **Tonga** (2C, 4NC);

**Tuvalu** (4NC) and **Vanuatu** (2C, 4NC).

**Overall: 13C, 43NC, 0In.**

### January to March 2021 Outlooks:

SCOPIE outlooks: 8% of the 62 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 6% in tercile 2, 68% in tercile 3, 13% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 5% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

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### Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 160 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 with Tonga as the chair.
- SCOPIC software assistance to Marshall Islands

### Observed Rainfall and Validation

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

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

Country	Date November 2020	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin	November	Ministry of Transport	32	20	12
Cook Islands- EAR Watch	November	Cook Islands Government			
Fiji-3rd National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF)	25-26 November	Disaster Management, Oceans, Fisheries, Utilities, Agriculture, and Media	72	46	26
Fiji-Climate Summary	09 November	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	05 November	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji Climate Outlook	30 November	General public	124	93	31
Fiji-Climate Outlook for Monasavu	11 November	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	20 November	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji-ENSO Update	30/11/20	General Public	142	116	26
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-30 November	A range of stakeholders	27	23	4
Kiribati Climate bulletin	04 November	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati -EAR Watch	10 November	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati –Media release	04 November	Media Colleagues- Government and Non Government entities. And Internal staffs.	43	28	15
Kiribati Ocean Bulletin	04 November	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 November	Office of the Chief Secretary Office(CSO) and National Disaster Management Office(NDMO)	5	2	3
Niue-Climate Bulletin	12 November	General public	50	20	30
		Government Officials	15	10	5

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		Village council / Private sector	20	10	10
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	25 November	Stakeholders	30	20	10
		Government Officials/all staff	14	7	7
		Village Council / weather group	20	15	5
		Facebook	15	5	10
Palau – Media release on PICOF 7	4 November	ROP website	N/A	N/A	N/A
	10 November	WSO Palau Facebook page	78	N/A	N/A
Current State of Climate	11 November	WSO Palau Facebook page	186	N/A	N/A
Papua New Guinea – EAR Watch	12 November	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	140	91	49
PNG-CREWS virtual workshop	19-20 November	DAL, NDC, Red Cross, NWS, FAO, BoM, SPREP, WMO, RIMES, IOM, UNDP	25	12	13
Papua New Guinea – Disaster Management Team Meeting	26 November	National Disaster Centre, National Weather Service, University of Papua New Guinea, Centre of Environmental Protection Authority, National Agriculture Research Institute, Department of Works, Dept. Of Mineral Policy and Geohazard Management	13	7	6
Samoa		<i>No Engagement</i>			
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	November	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	November	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	November	Climate Change, NDMO, Environment, Tourism, Trade Co., Fisheries, Nature Conservancy, South Pacific Community	14	9	5
Tonga – Climate bulletin	17 November	General public	132	66	34

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Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	November	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu – EAR Watch	November	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Monthly Cimate briefing	November	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Ocean Bulletin	November	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Vanuatu- Climate Update	26 November	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	26 November		206	104	102
Vanuatu Ocean Outlook	26 November		206	104	102
			206	104	102
Vanuatu –TV Talkback Show and La Nña Update	02 November	Genera; Public			
Vanuatu – Tropical Cyclone Outlook	02 November	Genera; Public			
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,921</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>1,041</b>

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