

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

### **Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 160 Summary Report**

**Date:** Wednesday 13 January 2021

**Time:** Australian Eastern Standard Time at 12:00PM (01:00 UTC)

**Host:** SPREP

**Chair:** Vanuatu

**Apologies:** Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, PNG, Tonga, Tuvalu

**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 17 February 2021 and is to be chaired by **Tonga**.

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 6 climate officers (4 female) from 5 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:**

**Fiji:**

**Kiribati:**

**Niue:** Raquel Tanaki and Ashleigh Pihigia

**Papua New Guinea:**

**Palau:** Kikuko Mochimaru

**Republic of Marshall Islands:**

**Samoa:** Kotoni Faasau

**Solomon Islands:** Max Sita

**Tonga:**

**Tuvalu:**

**Vanuatu:** Glenda Pakoa

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

**Australia:** Grant Beard

**SPREP:** Tile Tofaeono

OCOF tables were received from 10 participating countries before the meeting.

### Observations and Verification of October to December 2020 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending December 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
Penrhyn, Cook Islands	December	13.0	2	83
Penrhyn, Cook Islands	Oct-Dec	126.8	3	82
Penang, Fiji	Oct-Dec	891.1	100	106
Rotuma, Fiji	Oct-Dec	1444.1	102	105
Tarawa, Kiribati	Dec	19.8	7	73
Beru, Kiribati	Oct-Dec	11.7	2	62
Kavieng, PNG	December	128.0	6	94
Vanimu, PNG	Oct-Dec	885.4	55	60
Apia, Samoa	December	778.8	127	130
Afiamalua, Samoa	December	1316.1	63	68
Nafanua, Samoa	December	870.0	45	46
Faleolo, Samoa	December	607.7	58	59
Apia, Samoa	Oct-Dec	1283.3	123	130
Afiamalua, Samoa	Oct-Dec	2244.5	62	67
Nafanua, Samoa	Oct-Dec	1491.2	42	45
Faleolo, Samoa	Oct-Dec	1135.1	56	58
Taro, Solomon Islands	December	351.7	41	43
Lata, Solomon Islands	Oct-Dec	751.7	5	46
Niutoputapu, Tonga	December	540.1	66	69
Niutoputapu, Tonga	Oct-Dec	1097.9	66	69
Vava'u, Tonga	Oct-Dec	994.0	71	74
Nanumea, Tuvalu	December	60.6	5	79
Nanumea, Tuvalu	Oct-Dec	170.4	5	79
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	December	396.7	48	48
Port Vila, Vanuatu	December	450.0	67	68

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of October to December 2020 period showed 28 consistent, 24 near-consistent and 2 inconsistent outlooks (54 stations across 11 countries). Note that the low number of inconsistent forecasts is what would be hoped for during a well established and maturing La Niña event.

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

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** (6C, 5NC); **Kiribati** (4NC); **RMI** (N/A);  
**Niue** (1NC); **Palau** (1NC); **PNG** (5C, 2NC, 1In); **Samoa** (3C, 1NC);  
**Solomon Islands** (2C, 4NC, 1In); **Tonga** (5C, 1NC); **Tuvalu** (2C, 2NC) and  
**Vanuatu** (5C, 1NC).

**Overall: 28C, 24NC, 2In.**

### February to April 2021 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 41% of the 59 stations have their highest probability in tercile 3, 25% in tercile 1, and 12% in tercile 2. Of the remaining 22%, 14% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 8% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

### Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 161 will be hosted by SPREP on 17 February with Tonga as the chair

### Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	December 2020	October to December 2020	Verification* of October to December outlooks
<b>Cook Islands</b>	Below normal	Below normal	Near-Consistent
<b>Fiji</b>	Mostly above normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent to Near-Consistent
<b>Kiribati</b>	Below normal	Below normal	Near-Consistent
<b>RMI</b>			
<b>Niue</b>	Above normal	Above normal	Near-Consistent
<b>Palau</b>	Normal	Normal	Near-Consistent
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	Below normal to above normal	Mostly normal to above normal	Mostly Consistent or Near-Consistent
<b>Samoa</b>	Above normal	Above normal	Mainly Consistent
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	Mostly below normal to normal	Below normal to above normal	Mostly Consistent or Near-Consistent
<b>Tonga</b>	Below normal to above normal	Above normal to normal	Mainly Consistent
<b>Tuvalu</b>	Below normal to above normal	Mostly below normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
<b>Vanuatu</b>	Mostly above normal	Above normal	Mainly 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**

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