

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 162 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 17 March 2021

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Tonga

Apologies: 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 14 April 2021 and is to be chaired by **Tuvalu**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 17 climate officers (11 female) from 10 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea

Fiji: Arieta Baleisolomone and Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Miriam Kataunati and Kamaitia Rubetaake

Niue: Raquel Tanaki and Lenita Togiomana

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau and Kila Kila

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Kotoni Faasau, Mattaniah Salesa and Emmanuel Etimani

Solomon Islands:

Tonga: Seluvaia Finaulahi, Mele and Gary Vite

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa

Australia: Grant Beard

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SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

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

Observations and Verification of December 2020 to February 2021 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending February 2021 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
Rarotonga, Cook Islands	February		551.7	123	123
Penrhyn, Cook Islands	Feb-Mar		182.2	5	83
Penang Mill, Fiji	Feb-Mar		2007.1	106	108
Lakeba, Fiji	Feb-Mar		1187.3	66	71
Rotuma, Fiji	Feb-Mar		1604.9	102	105
Wewak, PNG	February		319.0	65	65
Vanimu, PNG	February		793.6	66	67
Goroka, PNG	February		372.0	55	58
Momote, PNG	February		707.2	60	65
Madang, PNG	Feb-Mar		655.2	4	72
Wewak, PNG	Feb-Mar		580.8	60	64
Vanimu, PNG	Feb-Mar		1342.8	60	61
Misima, PNG	Feb-Mar		505.4	7	91
Apia, Samoa	February		664.7	123	132
Faleolo, Samoa	February		540.6	56	60
Apia, Samoa	Feb-Mar		2078.6	129	130
Afiamalu, Samoa	Feb-Mar		3333.5	61	65
Nafanua, Samoa	Feb-Mar		2480.6	40	42
Faleolo, Samoa	Feb-Mar		1492.9	55	56
Auki, Solomon Islands	February		763.6	59	60
Lata, Solomon Islands	February		666.0	46	59
Niutoputapu, Tonga	Feb-Mar		1214.8	65	69
Fua'amotu, Tonga	Feb-Mar		1003.2	37	41
Ha'apai, Tonga	Feb-Mar		944.2	70	74
Vava'u, Tonga	Feb-Mar		1211.7	68	74
Niulakita, Tuvalu	February		842.4	68	69
Funafuti	February		634.4	81	89
Niulakita, Tuvalu	Feb-Mar		1722.7	64	66
Sola, Vanuatu	February		151.2	4	49

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Bauerfield, Vanuatu	February		116.5	4	49
Lamap, Vanuatu	Feb-Mar		1030.1	57	60
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Feb-Mar		1087.9	43	47

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of December 2020 to February 2021 period showed 37 consistent, 13 near-consistent and 4 inconsistent outlooks (54 stations across 11 countries).

A summary of results (C-Consistent, NC-Near Consistent, In-Inconsistent, N/A-not available) for each country is as follows:

Cook Islands (2C); **Fiji** (8C,2NC); **Kiribati** (4C); **RMI** (); **Niue** (1C); **Palau** (1NC); **PNG** (4C, 1NC, 3In); **Samoa** (2C, 2NC); **Solomon Islands** (4C, 3NC); **Tonga** (4C, 2NC);

Tuvalu (3C, 1NC) and **Vanuatu** (5C, 1NC, 1In).

Overall: 37C, 13NC, 4In.

April to June 2021 Outlooks:

SCOPIE outlooks: 9% of the 59 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 8% in tercile 2, 23% in tercile 3, 9% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 10% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 163 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 14th of April 2021 with Tuvalu as the chair.
- Virtual PICO 8 will be held on the 21st April 2021

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	February 2021	December 2020 to February 2021	Verification* for December 2020 to February 2021 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and above normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
Fiji	Below normal to Above normal	Mostly above normal	Mostly Consistent
Kiribati	Below normal and normal	Below normal	Consistent
RMI			
Niue	Normal	Above normal	Consistent
Palau	Above normal	Normal	Near-Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Mostly above normal	Below normal and above normal	Mostly Consistent and Inconsistent
Samoa	Above normal	Above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
Solomon Islands	Mostly above normal	Mostly normal and above normal	Consistent and Near-Consistent
Tonga	Mostly above normal	Above normal	Mostly Consistent
Tuvalu	Normal and above normal	Below normal to above normal	Mostly Consistent
Vanuatu	Mostly below normal	Mostly above normal	Mostly 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 February 2021	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin	February	Ministry of Transport	30	20	10
Cook Islands- EAR Watch	February	Cook Islands Government			
Fiji-Climate Summary	05 February	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	05 February	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji Climate Outlook	26 February	General public	124	93	31
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	19 February	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-28 February	A range of stakeholders	38	32	6
Kiribati Climate bulletin	29 January	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati -EAR Watch	29 January	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati –Media release	29 January	Media Colleagues- Government and Non Government entities. And Internal staffs.	43	28	15
Kiribati Ocean Bulletin	29 January	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Marshall Island					
Niue-Climate Bulletin	04 and 18 February	General public, Government Officials, Village council and Private sector	30	15	15
		Niue Ekalesia Youth Committee	8	2	6
	03 and 04 February	Niue Girls Brigade	12	10	2
	03 February	Toi Village Community	20	10	10
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	23 February	Stakeholders	25	10	15
		Government Officials/all staff	15	7	8
		Village Council / weather group	15	5	10

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Palau – Local radio talk show on UNDP and UNEP projects with NEMO and NMS	Every Monday of February	Public			
Weather and Climate briefing					
Palau -In Koror State with NEMO and NMS: Gender Training, incorporated into Disaster Framework	10-11 February	All government agency representatives	50	14	36
Palau- In Ngaraard State with NEMO, NWS and Red Cross : CREWS and Traditional Knowledge Project	12 February	Governors and Community	78	38	40
PNG- Climate Bulletin	8 February	MRA, UPNG, Ok Tedi, NMSA, PNG Power, Dept. Of Transport, PAU, WVI, NWS, NDC, Dept. Of Health, CASAPNG, MRA, NCDC, The National, Telikom PNG, DWU, Kina Bank, PNGFA, NARI, BSP, PNGCIR, DFAT, Customs, IOM, DPM, FM100, PNGFM, UNDP, Dept. Of Works. Water PNG, CIC, Dept, of Education, FAO, SMEC, ISS-Shipping, OCCD, Dept. Of Planning, AusAid, UOG.	144	113	31
Papua New Guinea – EAR Watch	13 February	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, DAL provincial officers	131	82	
PNG -DMT meeting	24 February	UNDP, IOM, UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, WHO, UN Women, WVI, Child Fund, IFRC, ICRC, UNRCO, MAF, Australian High Com, NZHS. NWS, NDC, Oxfam	35	20	15
Samoa		<i>No Engagement</i>			
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	January	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Glodridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy,	58	46	12

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		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			
Solomon Islands – EAR Watch	February	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon Star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Glodridge 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, UN Women, Council of Women	53	39	14
Solomon Islands - Ocean Bulletin	February	Climate Change, NDMO, Environment, Tourism, Trade Co., Fisheries, Nature Conservancy, South Pacific Community	14	9	5
Tonga – Climate bulletin	15 February	General public	132	68	34
Tonga- Ocean bulletin	February	General Public			
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	February	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	11	4
Tuvalu – EAR Watch	February	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Monthly Climate briefing	February	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Ocean Bulletin	February	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Vanuatu	18 February	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-Center).	206	104	102

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Vanuatu -EAR Watch	18 February	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-Center).	206	104	102
Vanuatu -Ocean Outlook	18 February	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-Center).	206	104	102
Vanuatu - Noticeboard Update around Efate Island	23 February	Pango (1), Erakor (3), Eratap (3), Teouma (1), Eton (1), Korongo (1), Korangua School (1), Pangpang (1), Epau (1), Ekipe School (1), Epule (1), Onesua College (1), Emua (1), Saama (1), Malatia School (1), Siviri (1), Malafau (1), Tanoliu (1), Mangaliliu (1), Mele School (1), Waisisi (1)	25		
Total			2410	1,380	931

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