

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 163 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 14 April 2021

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Tuvalu

Apologies: Palau

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 19 May 2021 and is to be chaired by **Cook Islands**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 17 climate officers (9 female) from 10 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea

Fiji: Jasneel Chandra and Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Miriam Kataunati and Mwata Keariki

Niue: Raquel Tanaki and Floyd

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau and Kila Kila

Palau:

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Kotoni Faasau, Faapisa Aiono and Junior Lepale

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai

Tonga: Seluvaia Finaulahi and Mele

Tuvalu: Raymorn Limoni

Vanuatu: John Mangau

Australia: Grant Beard and Simon McGree

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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 January to March 2021 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending March 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
Rotuma, Fiji	March		157.0	7	108
Penang Mill, Fiji	Jan-Mar		1872.0	106	122
Lakeba, Fiji	Jan-Mar		1079.1	63	70
Rotuma, Fiji	Jan-Mar		1388.5	98	108
Hanan Airport, Niue	March		121.0	12	116
Vanimu, PNG	March		141.6	6	69
Wewak, PNG	Jan-Mar		650	63	65
Port Moresby, PNG	Jan-Mar		838.6	126	133
Taro, Solomon Islands	March		439.6	42	46
Niufo'ou, Tonga	March		76.6	3	50
Fua'amotu, Tonga	Jan-Mar		1045	38	42
Nanumea, Tuvalu	March		108.6	8	81
Niulakita, Tuvalu	March		148.3	6	69
Lamap, Vanuatu	March		458.5	56	61
Lamap, Vanuatu	Jan-Mar		1294.1	58	61
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	Jan-Mar		867.4	46	50

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of January to March 2021 period showed 35 consistent, 18 near-consistent and 2 inconsistent outlooks (55 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 (1C, 1NC); **Fiji** (8C,2NC); **Kiribati** (4C); **RMI** (); **Niue** (1NC); **Palau** (1NC); **PNG** (5C, 4NC); **Samoa** (2C, 2NC); **Solomon Islands** (3C, 3NC, 1In); **Tonga** (5C, 1NC);

Tuvalu (4C) and **Vanuatu** (3C, 3NC, 1In).

Overall: 35C, 18NC, 2In.

May to July 2021 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 14% of the 59 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 15% in tercile 2, 55% in tercile 3, 3% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 15% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

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Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 164 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 19th of May 2021 with Cook Islands as the chair.
- Virtual PICO 8 will be held on the 21st April 2021 and Climate officers are invited to join
- La Niña and tropical cyclone impacts pictures to be circulated to SPREP for PICO 8
- WMO day organised by PNG, Vanuatu, Fiji, Kiribati and Tuvalu

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	March 2021	January to March 2021	Verification* for January to March 2021 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below 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	Below normal	Normal	Near-consistent
Palau	Normal	Normal	Near-Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Mostly below normal and above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
Samoa	Mostly below normal	Above normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
Solomon Islands	Mostly normal and above normal	Mostly normal and above normal	Mostly Consistent and Near-consistent
Tonga	Below normal and normal	Normal and above normal	Mostly Consistent
Tuvalu	Below normal	Mostly below normal	Consistent
Vanuatu	Below normal to above normal	Mostly 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 March 2021	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin	March	Ministry of Transport	28	18	10
Cook Islands- EAR Watch	March	Cook Islands Government and NGOs			
Fiji-Climate Summary	05 March	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	05 March	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji Climate Outlook	29 March	General public	124	93	31
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	19 March	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji-ENSO outlook	26 March	General Public	142	116	26
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-31 March	A range of stakeholders	53	42	11
Kiribati Climate bulletin	5 March	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati -EAR Watch	5 March	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati –Media release	5 March	Media Colleagues- Government and Non Government entities. And Internal staffs.	43	28	15
Kiribati Ocean Bulletin	5 March	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Marshall Island					
Niue-Climate Bulletin	11 and 18 March	General public, Government Officials, Village council and Private sector	68	33	35
		Niue Ekalesia Youth Committee	8	2	6
	02 and 16 March	Niue high school	14	7	7
		30 March	Niue High school and Education Department	40	20
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	27 March	Stakeholders	20	15	1
		Government Officials/all staff	20	10	10

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		General Public	440	130	310
Palau – Local radio talk show on UNDP and UNEP projects with NEMO and NMS	Every Monday	Public			
Palau -Melekeok Elementary Weather and climate outreach	March	Students in 2 nd and 6 th grade, teachers and parents	26	8	18
PNG- Climate Bulletin	9 March	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.	142	102	40
Papua New Guinea – EAR Watch	17 March	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, DAL provincial officers	137	87	50
Samoa – Climate Summary	16 March	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			
Samoa-EAR Watch	16 March	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			

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		Technology, Disaster Managers, Marines			
Samoa -ocean Bulletin	16 March	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			
Samoa- Climate Outlook	16 March	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			
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	March	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, Sol Tuna Ltd, UN Women, Council of Women, Community Representatives	58	46	12
Solomon Islands - NCOF	March	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, Sol Tuna Ltd, UN Women, Council of Women, Community Representatives	58	46	12
Solomon Islands – EAR Watch	March	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	March	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC,Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Glodridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD.	14	9	5
Tonga – Climate bulletin	27 March	General public	100	66	34

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Tonga- Ocean bulletin	27 March	General Public	100	66	34
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	March	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	11	4
Tuvalu – EAR Watch	March	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Monthly Cimate briefing	March	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Ocean Bulletin	March	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Vanuatu	March	No Engagement			
Total			2400	1,390	1006

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