

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 164 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 19 May 2021

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Cook Islands

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 June 2021 and is to be chaired by **Fiji**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 25 climate officers (11 female) from 10 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea

Fiji: Jasneel Chandra, Bipen Prakash, Arieta Baleisolomone and Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Miriam Kataunati and Kamaitia Rubetaake

Niue: Raquel Tanaki, Robert Togiamana, Lenita Togiamana, Sean Tukutama and Floyd

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau and Nanao Bouauka

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Kotoni Faasau, Emmanuel Etimani, Taumeasina Fomai, Mattaniah Salesa and Junior Lepale

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai

Tonga:

Tuvalu: Leiti Setefanno and Simoea Tiute

Vanuatu: John Mangau and John Ruben

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Australia: Grant Beard, Stephanie Jacobs and Elise Chandler

SPREP: Philip Malsale

SPC: Zulfikar Begg and Herve Damlamian

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

Observations and Verification of February to April 2021 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending April 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
Penrhyn, Cook Islands	Feb-Apr		250.6	7	81
Rarotonga, Cook Islands	Feb-Apr		923.2	113	123
Navua, Fiji	April		133.1	3	77
Lakeba, Fiji	April		57.2	5	69
Rotuma, Fiji	April		552.3	105	109
Rotuma, Fiji	Feb-Apr		1268.9	98	108
Kiritimati, Kiribati	Feb-Apr		127.5	10	97
Koror, Palau	April		488.7	67	70
Koror, Palau	Feb-Apr		1039.9	66	70
Wewak, PNG	Feb-Apr		756.2	61	63
Taro, Solomon Islands	April		245.6	42	46
Auki, Solomon Islands	Feb-Apr		1326.1	55	60
Lata, Solomon Islands	Feb-Apr		1715.3	44	46
Niulakita, Tuvalu	Feb-Apr		1320.0	64	69

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of February to April 2021 period showed 19 consistent, 24 near-consistent and 16 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 (2C); **Fiji** (2C, 5NC, 4 In); **Kiribati** (3C, 2NC); **RMI** (2C); **Niue** (1NC); **Palau** (1C); **PNG** (1C, 5NC, 3In); **Samoa** (1C, 1NC, 2In); **Solomon Islands** (4C, 3NC); **Tonga** (2C, 3NC, 1In);

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

Overall: 19C, 24NC, 16In.

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June to August 2021 Outlooks:

SCOPIIC outlooks: 18% of the 62 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 16% in tercile 2, 29% in tercile 3, 13% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 24% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 165 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 16th of June 2021 with Fiji Islands as the chair.
- SOI file issue have been flagged with BOM and have resolved. Countries have received updated SOI file send by SPREP
- Inform climate officers about changes to the OCOF tables to include Oceans in the coming months

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	April 2021	February to April 2021	Verification* for February to April 2021 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and above normal	Below normal and above normal	Consistent
Fiji	Mostly below normal and normal	Mostly below normal and normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Kiribati	Below normal and normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
RMI	Normal and above normal	Above normal	Consistent
Niue	Normal	Below normal	Near-consistent
Palau	Above normal	Above normal	Consistent
Papua New Guinea	Mostly normal and above normal	Normal and above normal	Mostly consistent and Inconsistent
Samoa	Below normal and normal	Above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Solomon Islands	Mostly normal and above normal	Mostly normal and above normal	Consistent and Near-consistent
Tonga	Mostly below normal and above normal	Mostly below normal and normal	Mostly consistent and Near-consistent
Tuvalu	Mostly above normal	Normal and above normal	Consistent to Inconsistent
Vanuatu	Mostly Below normal	Mostly below normal	Mostly Inconsistent

* 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 April 2021	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin	April	Ministry of Transport	28	18	10
Cook Islands- EAR Watch	April	Cook Islands Government and NGOs			
Fiji-Climate Summary	11 April	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	09 April	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	29 April	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	30/04/21	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	20 April	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji Sugarcane Climate Outlook	23 April	Sugar Industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-30 March	A range of stakeholders	33	26	7
Fiji - Infield interview of sugar sector to determine weather and climate information needs	13 to 16 April	A range of Sugar Industry stakeholders, including farmers			
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	01 April	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati - EAR Watch	01 April	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati –Media release	01 April	Media Colleagues- Government and Non Government entities. And Internal staffs.	43	28	15
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	01 April	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 April	NDMO	5	2	3

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Niue-Climate Bulletin	01 to 22 April	General public, Government Officials, Village council Private sector	60	30	30
			45	20	25
	April	Facebook	-	-	-
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	17 April	Stakeholders	20	10	10
		Government Officials/all staff	35	17	18
		Village council	15	5	10
Palau-Weather and Climate Briefing	Every Thursdays on Government Radio and T.V.	Public	N/A	N/A	N/A
PNG- Climate Bulletin	9 April	National Disaster Centre, Climate Change Development Authority, Provincial Disaster Coordinators, Universities, NWS staff, Mining and Energy sector, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water PNG, Forestry, Tourism Promotion Authority, Education, Health, Aviation, Shipping, Transport, Banking institutions, World Vision, UNDP, AHC/DFAT, Customs and Immigration, National Maritime Safety Authority, Coffee and Copra industry, National Capital District Commission, Mineral Resource Authority, Media	145	103	42
Papua New Guinea – EAR Watch	19 April	National Disaster Centre, Climate Change Development Authority, Provincial Disaster Coordinators, Universities, NWS staff, Mining and Energy sector, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water PNG, Forestry, Tourism Promotion Authority, Education, Health, Aviation, Shipping, Transport, Banking institutions, World Vision, UNDP, AHC/DFAT, Customs and Immigration, National Maritime Safety Authority, Coffee and Copra industry, National Capital District Commission, Mineral Resource Authority, Media	138	80	58
Papua New Guinea – Disaster Management Team meeting	22 April	National Disaster Centre, NWS, FAO, AHC, UNDP, UNHCR, UNDSS, UNRCO, STC, MSF, ICRC, Child Fund, UN Women, UNICEF, IOM	27	17	10
Samoa – Monthly Climate briefing	23 April	DMO, Water Resource Division (WRD), Met staff	17	10	7
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	April	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,	58	46	12

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		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 - NCOF	April	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	April	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	April	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	17 April	Government Ministries, NGOs, Media, General public	104	59	45
Tonga- Ocean bulletin	17 April	Government Ministries, NGOs, Media, General public	104	59	45
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	April	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	11	4
Tuvalu – EAR Watch	April	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Monthly Climate briefing	April	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Ocean Bulletin	April	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Vanuatu- Climate Bulletin	19 April	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	212	113	99

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		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).			
Vanuatu-EAR Watch	19 April	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).	212	113	99
Vanuatu-Ocean Outlook	19 April	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).	212	113	99
Vanuatu -Climate Update	19 April	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	212	113	99

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		People Living with Disability, Unelco Vanuatu, World Health Organization, Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department (Staffs), General Public (Website and VMGD Call-Center)			
Vanuatu-Notice board VCU and Tide calendar	23 April	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)	20 Communities 4 schools		
Total			2800	1,649	1,127

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