

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 165 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 16 June 2021

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Fiji

Apologies: Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Cook 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 **15 July 2021** and is to be chaired by **Kiribati**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 18 climate officers (11 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Jasneel Chandra, Arieta Baleisolomone and Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Mwata Keariki and Kamaitia Rubetaake

Niue: Raquel Tanaki, Robert Togiamana and Sean Tukutama

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau, Kila Kila, Nanao Bouauka, Gabriel Tuno and Kasis Inape

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria

Samoa: Faapisa Aiono

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai

Tonga: Mele

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu:

Australia: Grant Beard and Stephanie Jacobs

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SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

SPC:

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

Observations and Verification of March to May 2021 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending May 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
Penang Mill, Fiji	May		400.9	109	112
Laucala Bay, Fiji	May		508.9	76	80
Nausori Airport, Fiji	May		624.4	65	65
Navua, Fiji	May		717.2	76	77
Lakeba, Fiji	May		402.1	71	71
Vunisea, Fiji	May		394.1	84	85
Labasa Airport, Fiji	May		293.6	64	66
Udu Point, Fiji	May		326.2	70	73
Nausori Airport, Fiji	Mar-May		1443.3	61	65
Kiritimati, Kiribati	Mar-May		124.6	9	96
Majuro, Marshall Islands	May		731.8	67	67
Majuro, Marshall Islands	Mar-May		1435.6	64	67
Koror, Palau	May		562.9	67	70
Koror, Palau	Mar-May		1259.9	70	70
Faleolo, Samoa	May		41.5	6	60
Faleolo, Samoa	Mar-May		236.2	2	59
Munda, Solomon Islands	May		424.5	55	60
Taro, Solomon Islands	Mar-May		1227.2	41	44
Niufofo'ou, Tonga	May		466.2	50	50
Ha'apai, Tonga	May		235.2	70	74
Funafuti, Tuvalu	May		77.3	5	89
Niulakita, Tuvalu	May		74.3	4	69

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of March to May 2021 period showed 28 consistent, 25 near-consistent and 5 inconsistent outlooks (58 stations across 12 countries).

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

Overall: 28C, 25NC, 5In.

July to September 2021 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 14% of the 63 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 5% in tercile 2, 17% in tercile 3, 25% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 38% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 166 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 15th of July 2021 with Kiribati as the chair.
- ACCESS-S training in June/July 2021
- Seasonal forecasting tool survey to be complete by 25 June
- Samoa NCOF in October 2021

Observed Rainfall and Validation

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

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

Country	Date May 2021	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin					
Fiji-Climate Summary	07 May	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	06 May	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	28 May	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	28 May	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	20 May	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji ENSO update	25 May	General Public	142	116	26
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-31 May	A range of stakeholders	20	14	6
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	03 May	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati - EAR Watch	03 May	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	118	45	73
Kiribati -Monthly Climate briefing	03 May	Media Colleagues – Government and Non- Government entities. Internal Staffs	43	28	15
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	03 May	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 May	NDMO	5	2	3
	01 to 22 April	General public, Government Officials,	60	30	30

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Niue-Climate Bulletin		Village council Private sector	45	20	25
	April	Facebook	-	-	-
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	19 May	Stakeholders	20	10	10
		Government Officials/all staff	45	17	28
		Village council	25	10	15
Niue –Climate Bulletin	15 May 20 May	General Public, Government Officials, Village council and Private sector	95	40	55
Palau-Weather and Climate Briefing	Every Mondays and Thursdays	Public	N/A	N/A	N/A
PNG- Climate Bulletin	13 May	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	17 May	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	27 May	NDC, WHO, UNDP, UNRCO, NZHC, WVI, MSF, MAF, ICRC, IOM, NWS, UNDSS, UNAIDS, Caritas Australia, UNHCR, UNFPA, DFAT, UNICEF, UNFPA	30	16	14
Samoa – Monthly Climate briefing	20 May	Health, Water Resource Division (WRD),	10	5	5
Samoa – Climate bulletin		Health/Fire Emergency/ Disaster Management/Tourism/ Electric Power Corporation/Media Outlets/Agriculture/Samoa Water Authority/Environment and Conservation/Farmers Association/Fisheries	60	12	18

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Samoa-Ocean Bulletin		Health/Fire Emergency/ Disaster Management/Tourism/ Electric Power Corporation/Media Outlets/Agriculture/Samoa Water Authority/Environment and Conservation/Farmers Association/Fisheries	60	12	18
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	May	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	May	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	May	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	May	General public	132	66	34
Tonga- Ocean bulletin	May	General public	132	66	34
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	May	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	11	4
Tuvalu – EAR Watch	May	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Monthly Climate briefing	May	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Ocean Bulletin	May	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Vanuatu- Climate Bulletin	19 May	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	212	113	99

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		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).			
Vanuatu-EAR Watch	19 May	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 May	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 May	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,	212	113	99

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		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-Notice board VCU and Tide calendar	23 May	Pango (1), Erakor (3), Eratap (3), Teouma (1), Eton (1), Korongo (1), Korangua School (1), Pangpang (1), Epau (1), Ekiye 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			3053	1,726	1,199

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