

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 166 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 15 July 2021

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Kiribati

Apologies: Solomon 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 **18 August 2021** and is to be chaired by **Niue**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 24 climate officers (16 female) from 11 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates

Manea

Fiji: Jasneel Chandra, Arieta Baleisolomone and Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Mwata Keariki and Kamaitia Rubetaake

Niue: Raquel Tanaki

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau, Kila Kila, Nanao Bouauka, Nathan, Solace Roy

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria

Samoa: Faapisa Aiono, Junioe Lepale, Emmanuel Etimani, Kotoni Faasau

Solomon Islands:

Tonga: Mele and Seluvaia Finaulahi

Tuvalu: Leiti Setefano, Limoni Mativa, Simoea Tiute

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Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa

Australia: Simon McGree, Elise Chandler and Stephanie Jacobs

SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

SPC:

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

Observations and Verification of April to June 2021 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending June 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	June		266.3	119	123
Rarotonga, Cook Islands	April-June		888.1	121	123
Rotuma, Fiji	April-June		1104.7	97	107
Kiritimati, Kiribati	April-June		86.9	7	96
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	June		117.1	6	77
Majuro, Marshall Islands	April-June		1290.3	64	67
Koror, Palau	June		1360.2	67	70
Wewak, PNG	June		318.0	62	66
Wewak, PNG	April-June		874.6	60	64
Faleolo, Samoa	April-June		176.4	3	58
Honiara, Solomon Islands	June		26.1	6	67
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	June		591.0	55	55
Auki, Solomon Islands	April-June		472.3	6	59
Niufofo'ou, Tonga	April-June		861.5	44	47
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	April-June		533.2	69	76
Nanumea, Tuvalu	June		69.2	4	81
Pekoa, Vanuatu	June		26.5	3	51
Lamap, Vanuatu	June		26.5	3	60
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	June		33.0	2	49

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the months of April to June 2021 period showed 23 consistent, 24 near-consistent and 9 inconsistent outlooks (56 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** (8C, 2NC, 2In); **Kiribati** (2C, 2NC); **RMI** (2C, 2NC, 1In); **Niue** (1NC); **Palau** (1C); **PNG** (2C, 4NC); **Samoa** (1C, 3NC); **Solomon Islands** (3C, 4NC); **Tonga** (1C, 4NC, 1In); **Tuvalu** (1C, 2NC, 1In) and **Vanuatu** (1C, 1NC, 4In).

Overall: 23C, 24NC, 9In.

August to October 2021 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: None of the 62 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 8% in tercile 2, 2% in tercile 3, 16% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 74% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 167 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 18th of August 2021 with Niue as the chair.
- Change to OCOF contents to include oceans and more on ACCESS-S maps. New changes to start in August 2021
- SCOPIC files

Observed Rainfall and Validation

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

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

Country	Date June 2021	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin		Ministry of Transport	30	12	18
Cook Islands – Climate Briefing		Climate Change	10	6	4
Fiji-Climate Summary	05 June	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	04 June	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	30 June	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	30 June	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	18 June	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-30 June	A range of stakeholders	19	13	6
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	06 June	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	240	45	73
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	06 June	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	240	45	73
Marshall Island – Monthly climate briefing	24 June	NDMO	5	2	3
Niue-Climate Bulletin	04 June	General public, Government Officials,	20	10	10
	17 June	Village council, Private sector, General Public	20	12	8
	18 June	Stakeholders	25	10	15

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Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing		Government Officials/all staff	15	7	8
		Village council	15	5	10
Palau- Weather and Climate Briefing	Every Mondays and Thursdays	Public	N/A	N/A	N/A
PNG- Climate Bulletine	16 June	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
Samoa – Monthly Climate briefing	06 June	Health/Fire Emergency/ Disaster Management/Tourism/ Electric Power Corporation/Media Outlets/Agriculture/Samoa Water Authority/Environment and Conservation/Fisheries	60	12	18
Samoa – Climate bulletin	06 June	Health/Fire Emergency/ Disaster Management/Tourism/ Electric Power Corporation/Media Outlets/Agriculture/Samoa Water Authority/Environment and Conservation/Farmers Association/Fisheries	60	12	18
Samoa – Climate bulletin	06 June	Health/Fire Emergency/ Disaster Management/Tourism/ Electric Power Corporation/Media Outlets/Agriculture/Samoa Water Authority/Environment and Conservation/Farmers Association/Fisheries	60	12	18
Samoa-Ocean Bulletin	06 June	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	June	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

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Solomon Islands – EAR Watch	June	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	June	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	June	General public	132	66	34
Tonga- Ocean bulletin	June	General public	132	66	34
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	June	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	11	4
Tuvalu – EAR Watch	June	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Monthly Cimate briefing	June	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	10	5
Tuvalu -Ocean Bulletin	June	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	9	6
Vanuatu- Climate & Agriculture workshop with farmers at the Department of Agriculture, Port Vila	4 June	Agriculture (Local farmers)	18	8	10
Vanuatu- Traditional Knowledge workshop on Epi Island	11 June	Local community	43	25	18
Vanuatu- Climate 101 Training at the Department of Agriculture, Port Vila	23 June	Tourism, Fisheries, Water, Agriculture, Vanuatu Red Cross Society	17	13	4
Vanuatu -	25 June	Fisheries, Local Community	55	39	16

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Tails Training with the Department of Fisheries at South Coast, Malekula Island					
Total			2041	1,006	607

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