

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 167 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 18 August 2021

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Niue

Apologies:

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 September 2021** and is to be chaired by **Papua New Guinea**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 15 climate officers (8 female) from 12 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea

Fiji: Jasneel Chandra and Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Mwata Keariki

Niue: Raquel Tanaki and Robert Togiamana

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau and Nanao Bouauka

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kaneko

Samoa: Kotonu Faasau

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai

Tonga: Mele

Tuvalu: Limoni Mativa

Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa

Australia: Simon McGree, Elise Chandler, Grant Smith, Grant Beard and Stephanie Jacobs

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SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

SPC: Zulfikar Begg, Herve Damlamian

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

Observations and Verification of May to July 2021 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending July 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	May-Jul		696.2	120	123
Penang Mill, Fiji	May-Jul		517.2	108	112
Nausori Airport, Fiji	May-Jul		846.8	61	65
Navua, Fiji	May-Jul		1021.6	70	76
Lakeba, Fiji	May-Jul		538.1	66	69
Vunisea, Fiji	May-Jul		697.1	80	83
Labasa, Fiji	May-Jul		354.2	57	65
Btaritari, Kiribati	July		553.6	83	84
Btaritari, Kiribati	May-Jul		1360.0	82	83
Majuro, Marshall Islands	May-Jul		1206.8	63	67
Hanan Airport, Niue	May-Jul		574.9	106	114
Wewak, PNG	July		319.8	62	66
Misima, PNG	July		396.8	88	96
Wewak, PNG	May-Jul		943.0	65	66
Faleolo, Samoa	May-Jul		129.8	4	59
Auki, Solomon Islands	May-Jul		401.8	5	59
Niufo'ou, Tonga	May-Jul		820.1	45	47

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

September to November 2021 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

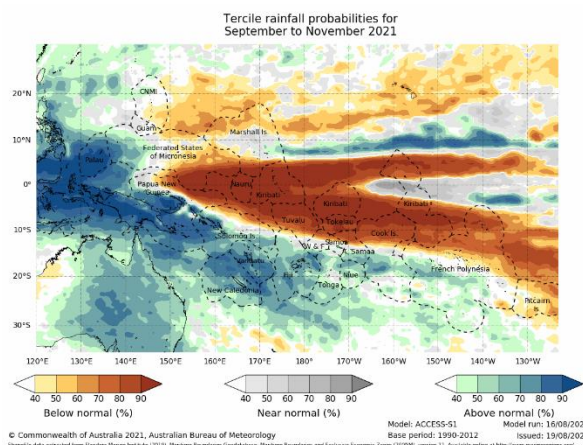
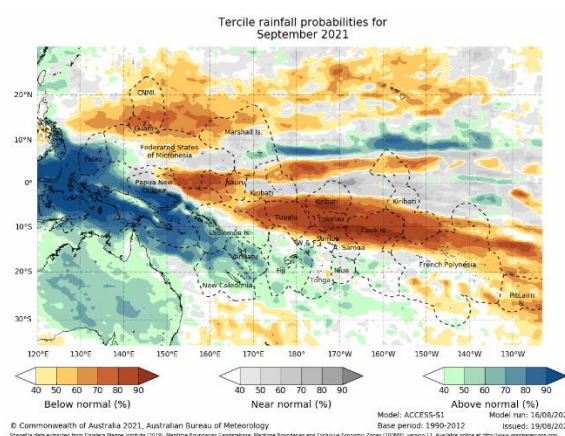
There is a strong dry signal extending east-southeast from eastern FSM to northern French Polynesia. In contrast there is a strong wet signal south of the dry signal covering from Palau to the southern Cook Islands. The strength of the wet signal is higher in the west.

Blank (white) cells indicate the chance is <40% in all categories – so it could be "little guidance" (e.g. 30/36/34), or near-equal in two categories (e.g. 39/37/24).

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	41-50%	51-60%	61-70%	71-80%	81-90%	>90%
Below normal						
Near-normal						
Above normal						

September-November 2021	
	ACCESS-S
Cook Is North	
Cook Is South	
Fiji West	
Fiji Central	
Fiji East	
Fiji North	
Fiji Rotuma	
FSM West	
FSM Central	
FSM East	
Kiribati West	
Kiribati Central	
Kiribati East	
Marshall Is	
Nauru	
Niue	
Palau	
PNG Momase	
PNG Is	
PNG South	
PNG Highlands	
Samoa	
Solomon Is West	
Solomon Is Central	
Solomon Is East	
Tonga North	
Tonga Central	
Tonga South	
Tuvalu North	
Tuvalu Central	
Tuvalu South	
Vanuatu North	
Vanuatu South	



Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 168 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 15th of September 2021 with Papua New Guinea as the chair.
- OCOF new format
 - Too long – follow old format where tables and maps come first and summary statement at the end of documents
 - Cut on ENSO presentation

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- Summarise significant changes
- Insert monthly and seasonal map together
- Change SST map title to SST anomaly

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	July 2021	May to July 2021
Cook Islands	Below normal and normal	Below normal and Above normal
Fiji	Belownormal to above normal	Mostly above normal
Kiribati	Mostly normal	Below normal to above normal
RMI	Below normal	Below normal and above normal
Niue	Above normal	Above normal
Palau	Normal	Normal
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Mostly below normal and above normal
Samoa	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and normal
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal
Tonga	Below normal to above normal	Mostly above normal
Tuvalu	Below normal to above normal	Mostly below normal
Vanuatu	Mostly normal	Mostly normal

Ocean Conditions

Observations and Verification of May to July 2021 outlooks:

Not applicable for OCOF 167

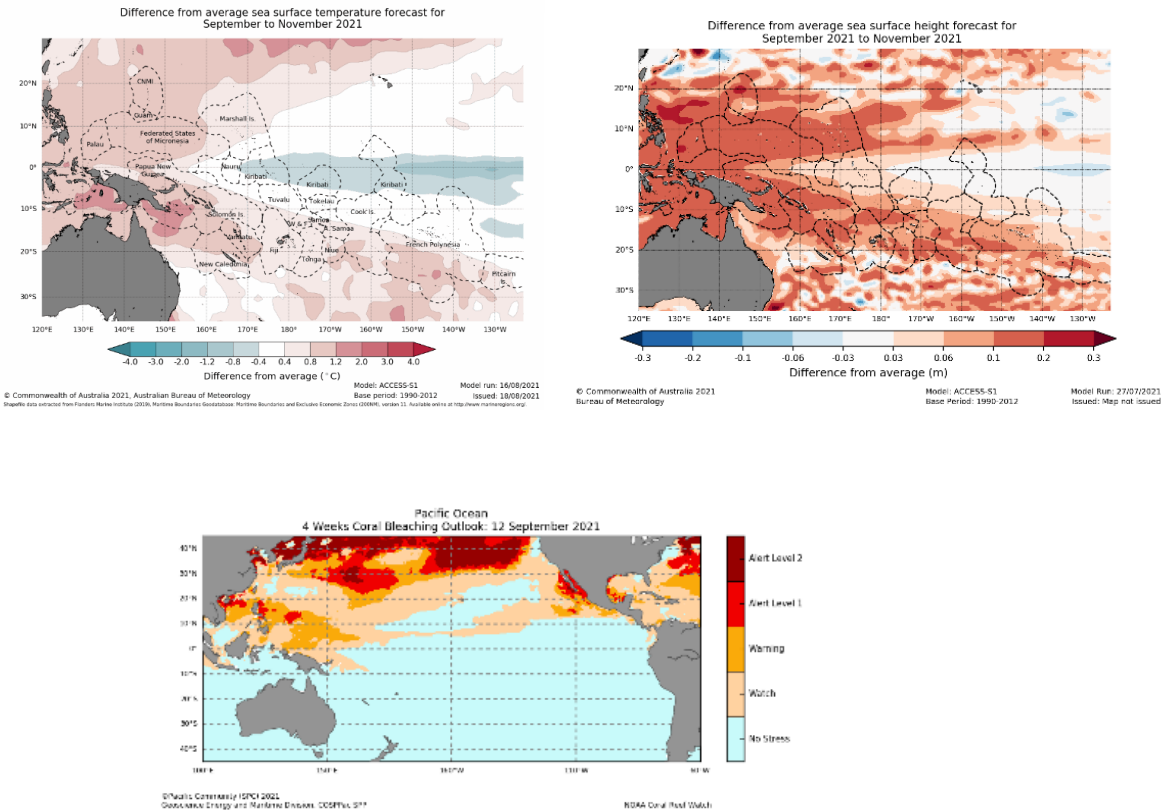
September to November 2021 Outlooks:

Sea surface temperature outlook: Countries in the central equatorial region is expected to have near normal conditions, with Kiribati forecasted to have cooler than normal conditions (-0.4 to -0.8°C). A boomerang shape of warm conditions is likely to persist in the west and remainder of the partner countries.

Sea level outlook: sea level is forecasted to be higher than normal for most of the countries, ranging from 0.2 to 0.3 metres in the western Pacific.

Coral Bleaching Outlook: 4 weeks coral bleaching outlook indicates 'no stress' level for much of the partner countries except for the northern Pacific which is likely to have bleaching watch to alert level 1.

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Observed Conditions and Validation

SST: sea surface temperature anomaly
SLA: sea level anomaly
CB: coral bleaching
BN: Below Normal
NN: Near Normal
AN: Above Normal
Coral Bleaching: (No Stress, Watch, Warning, Alert1, Alert2)

Country	July 2021		
	SST	SLA	CB
Cook Islands	AN	AN	No Stress
Fiji	AN	AN	No Stress
Kiribati	BN, AN	NN, AN	No Stress
RMI	AN, BN	AN	Watch
Niue	AN	AN	No Stress
Palau	AN	AN, NN	Watch
Papua New Guinea	AN	AN	No Stress
Samoa	AN	AN	No Stress
Solomon Islands	AN	AN	No Stress

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Tonga	AN	AN	No Stress
Tuvalu	AN	AN	Watch
Vanuatu	AN	AN	No Stress

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

Country	Date July 2021	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin					
Fiji-Climate Summary	07 July	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	06 July	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	30 July	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	31 July	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	20 July	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji-Sugarcane Climate Outlook	29 July	Sugar Industry Stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-31 July	A range of stakeholders	10	9	1
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	06 July	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	240	45	73
Kiribati-EAR Watch	7 July	Government Sectors, Non- Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs	118	45	73
Monthly media release	7 July	Media Experts	44	25	19
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	06 July	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	240	45	73
Marshall Island – Monthly climate briefing	23 July	NDMO	6	3	3
	16 July	General public, Government Officials,	65	30	35

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Niue-Climate Bulletin	NCO	Village council, Private sector, General Public	85	40	45
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	08 July	General Public	40	20	20
	22 July	Government Officials/all staff	25	9	16
Palau-Weather and Climate Briefing	Every Mondays and Thursdays	Public	N/A	N/A	N/A
PNG- Climate Bulletin	12 July	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		No Engagement			
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	July	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	July	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	July	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	July	General public	132	66	34
Tonga- Ocean bulletin	July	General public	132	66	34

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Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin		No Engagement			
Vanuatu- Gender Consultation on Climate Information with local communities on Santo Island. Location 1: Lonnoc, East Santo. Location 2: Sarakata Side-river.	25 June – 2 July	Men, Women, Youth groups, People living with disability, and the LGBTQ community.	65	29	36
Vanuatu- School Visit to VMGD by Ekiye Primary School, Class 4.	22 July	Data Management Officer briefing students on the functions and the type of information disseminated by the Climate Services Division.	28	16	12
Vanuatu- Updated 25 Community Notice Boards around Efate with the Vanuatu Climate Update Bulletin and the Tide Calendar for August 2021.	29 July	Data Outreach Officer updating noticeboard at Onesua Secondary School.	25		
Vanuatu - Awareness to the youths and other members of the Torress Area Council on the importance of understanding Climate Science information as part of their capacity building.	23-31 July	Torress Area Council (Northern most islands in Vanuatu) – Mini Youth Convention.	100	50	50
Total			2137	1,092	712

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