

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 168 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 15 September 2021

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Papua New Guinea

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 together with PICOF 9 on **21-22 October 2021** and is to be chaired by **PICS Panel chairs**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 19 climate officers (10 female) from 11 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea

Fiji: Jasneel Chandra, Arieta Baleisolomone and Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Mwata Keariki

Niue: Raquel Tanaki, Sean Tukutama and Robert Togiamana

Papua New Guinea: Kila Kila

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Mattanian Salesa, Junior Lepale, Taumeasina Fomai

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai

Tonga: Mele

Tuvalu: Limoni Mativa, Leiti Setefano and Niko Iona

Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa

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

SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

SPC: Zulfikar Begg

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

Observations of June to August 2021:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending August 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	Jun-Aug		522.4	113	123
Ono-i-Lau, Fiji	June		25.8	8	74
Labasa Airport, Fiji	June		2.0	5	65
Nausori Airport, Fiji	Jun-Aug		55.5	7	80
Butaritari, Kiribati	Jun-Aug		1102.0	75	83
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	August		87.1	1	77
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands	Jun-Aug		408.7	2	77
Misima, PNG	Jun-Aug		1162.4	86	93
Henderson, Solomon Islands	August		148.6	41	47
Honiara, Solomon Islands	August		178.2	62	66
Kirakira Solomon Islands	Jun-Aug		1398.8	51	54
Vava'u, Tonga	August		267.0	71	75
Niulakita, Tuvalu	August		423.2	63	69
Aneityum, Vanuatu	August		4.5	1	70
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	Jun-Aug		61.2	4	49
Aneityum, Vanuatu	Jun-Aug		142.1	2	70

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

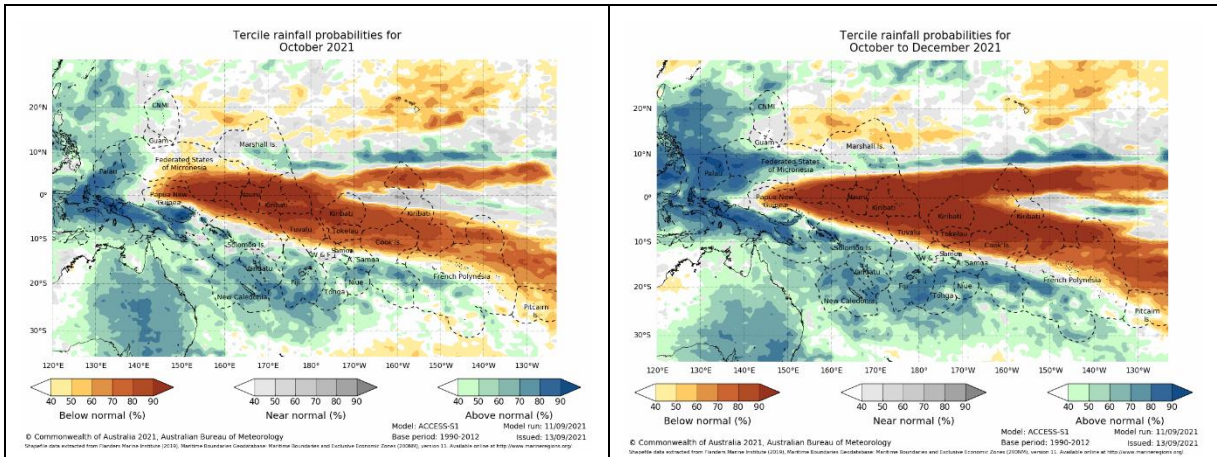
October to December 2021 Outlooks:

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 southern French Polynesia. The strength of the wet signal is higher in the west.

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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).



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

October-December 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 169 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 21-22 October 2021 as part of PICOE.
- EAR Watch regional training for countries that produce this product.
- NINO 3.4 files available online if countries have issues with SST predictors

Observed Rainfall

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

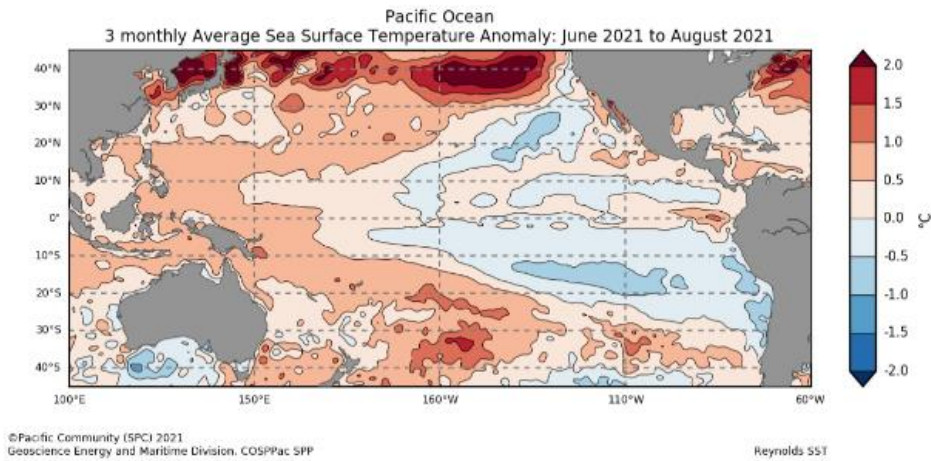
Ocean Conditions

Observations of June to August 2021

Sea surface temperature:

3 monthly sst shows near normal conditions in the central equatorial regions with parts of Kiribati having slightly cooler than normal conditions. Boomerang shape of warmer than normal conditions persisted in the west and remainder of the partner countries.

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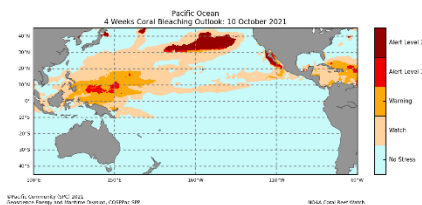
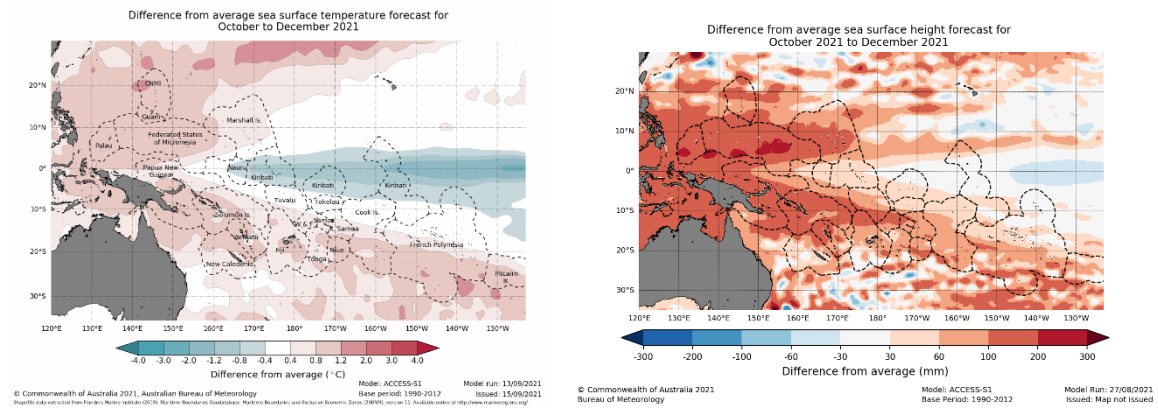
Sea level remained higher than normal for most of the countries from June to August. South of PNG and Northern Line Islands of Kiribati experienced lower than normal conditions.

October to December 2021 Outlooks:

Sea surface temperature outlook: Equatorial zones east of Nauru is forecasted to have cooler than normal conditions with temperature difference of 0.4 to 2°C. A boomerang shape of warm conditions is predicted in the western 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 30 to 300 mm 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 north western Pacific which is likely to have bleaching watch to alert level 1.



Observed Conditions

SST: sea surface temperature anomaly

SLA: sea level anomaly

CB: coral bleaching

BN: Below Normal

NN: Near Normal

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AN: Above Normal

Coral Bleaching: (No Stress, Watch, Warning, Alert1, Alert2)

Country	August 2021		
	SST	SLA	CB
Cook Islands	AN	AN	No Stress
Fiji	AN	AN	No Stress
Kiribati	BN, AN	NN, AN	Watch & No Stress
RMI	AN	AN	Watch
Niue	AN	AN	No Stress
Palau	AN	AN	Watch & Warning
Papua New Guinea	AN	AN, NN	Watch
Samoa	AN	AN	No Stress
Solomon Islands	AN	AN	No Stress
Tonga	AN	AN	No Stress
Tuvalu	AN	AN	No Stress
Vanuatu	AN, NN	AN	No Stress

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

Country	Date August 2021	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin		Ministry of Transport	29	17	12
Cook Islands - EAR Watch		C.I Govt. Stakeholders Public			
Cook Islands – Monthly Climate briefing		Climate Change	8	2	6
Fiji-Climate Summary	06 August	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	05 August	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	31 August	General public	124	93	31


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Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	30 August	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	20 August	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-31 August	A range of stakeholders	34	30	4
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	03 August	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	240	45	73
Kiribati-EAR Watch	11 August	Government Sectors, Non- Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs	240	45	73
Kiribati-Monthly media release	03 August	Media Experts	166	25	19
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	03 August	Government Sectors, Non-Government Organisations, Fisheries (coastal and offshore) Sector, SPREP, General Public and internal staffs.	240	45	73
Marshall Island – Monthly climate briefing	20 August	NDMO	6	3	3
Niue-Climate Bulletin	24 August NCO	General public, Government Officials,	45	20	25
		Village council, Private sector, Stakeholder	60	30	30
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	19 August - Radio Program 31 August	General Public	50	25	25
		Government Officials/all staff	25	9	16
		Niue High School Students	2	0	2
Palau-Weather and Climate Briefing	Every Mondays and Thursdays	Public	N/A	N/A	N/A
PNG- Climate Bulletin	17 August	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

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PNG-EAR Watch	23 August	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 Hydo Services, PNG Power, Ok Tedi Mining Ltd, Media. Aus DFAT, DAL Provincial Officers	140	91	49
Samoa – CREWS project	3-5 August	Red Cross, SFESA, Sataua Village response team	60	12	18
Samoa-Climate Bulletin	06 August	Health/Fire Emergency/ Disaster Management/Tourism/ Electric Power Corporation/Media Outlets/Agriculture/Samoa Water Authority/Environment and Conservation/Fisheries	60	12	18
Samoa- EAR Watch	06 August	Health/Fire Emergency/ Disaster Management/Tourism/ Electric Power Corporation/Media Outlets/Agriculture/Samoa Water Authority/Environment and Conservation/Fisheries	60	12	18
Samoa-Monthly Climate bulletin	06 August	Health/Fire Emergency/ Disaster Management/Tourism/ Electric Power Corporation/Media Outlets/Agriculture/Samoa Water Authority/Environment and Conservation/Fisheries	60	12	18
Samoa- Ocean bulletin	06 August	Health/Fire Emergency/ Disaster Management/Tourism/ Electric Power Corporation/Media Outlets/Agriculture/Samoa Water Authority/Environment and Conservation/Fisheries	60	12	18

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Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	August	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	August	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	August	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	August	General public	132	66	34
Tonga- Ocean bulletin	August	General public	132	66	34
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin		No Engagement			
Vanuatu- Climate Update	07 August	Local Community Noticeboard around Efate Island	25		
Vanuatu – Monthly Tide calendar	07 August	Local Community Noticeboard around Efate Island	25		
Vanuatu- Training on understanding the different products and services of weather, Climate Variability and Climate Change in Vanuatu and the Climate Smart Agriculture recommendations and practices.	09-13 August	Women's group 	78		78
Total			2681	1,113	817

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