

## **Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)**

### **Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 169 Summary Report**

**Date:** Wednesday 13 October 2021

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

**Host:** SPREP

**Chair:** Samoa

**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 PICO 9 on **17 November 2021** and is to be chaired by **Palau**.

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 18 climate officers (8 female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:** Bates Manea

**Fiji:** Jasneel Chandra and Arieta Baleisolomone

**Kiribati:** Mwata Keariki and Kamaitia Rubeaake

**Niue:** Raquel Tanaki, Sean Tukutama and Robert Togiamana

**Papua New Guinea:** Kisolet Posanau

**Palau:**

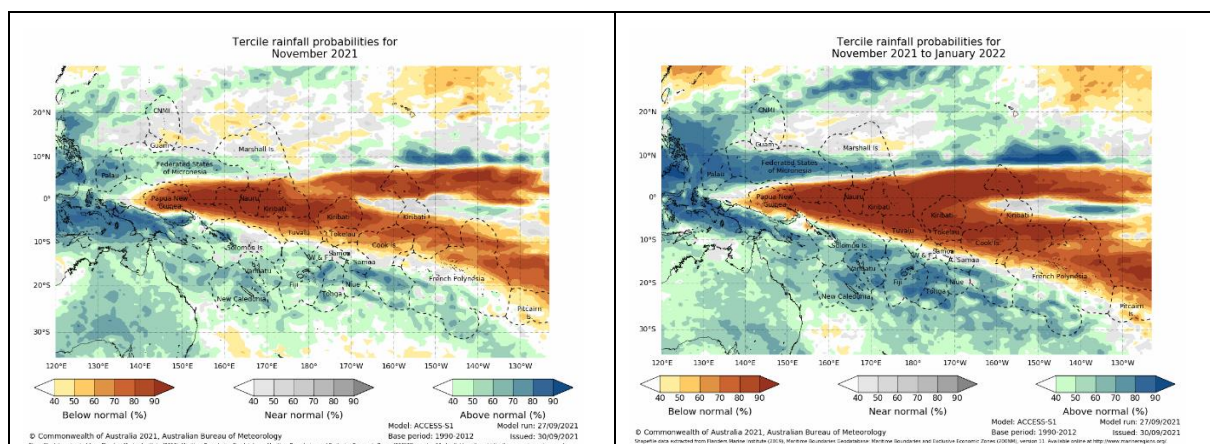
**Republic of Marshall Islands:**

**Samoa:** Kotoni Faasau, Faapisa Aiono, Mattanian Salesa, Junior Lepale, Taumeasina Fomai, Emmanuel Etimani

**Solomon Islands:** Max Sitai

**Tonga:**

**Tuvalu:** Limoni Mativa and Leiti Setefano



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

| November 2021-January 2022 |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
|                            | 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 170 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 17 November 2021
- PICO 9 to be hosted virtually on 21-22 October

**Observed Rainfall**

| Country          | September 2121                 | July to September 2021         |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cook Islands     | Normal                         | Below normal and normal        |
| Fiji             | Below normal to above normal   | Mostly below normal            |
| Kiribati         | Mostly normal                  | Mostly normal                  |
| RMI              |                                |                                |
| Niue             | Above normal                   | Above normal                   |
| Palau            |                                |                                |
| Papua New Guinea |                                |                                |
| Samoa            | Mostly below normal            | Below normal and normal        |
| Solomon Islands  | Mostly normal and above normal | Mostly normal and above normal |
| Tonga            | Mostly below normal and normal | Mostly below normal and normal |
| Tuvalu           | Mostly normal                  | Below normal to above normal   |
| Vanuatu          |                                |                                |

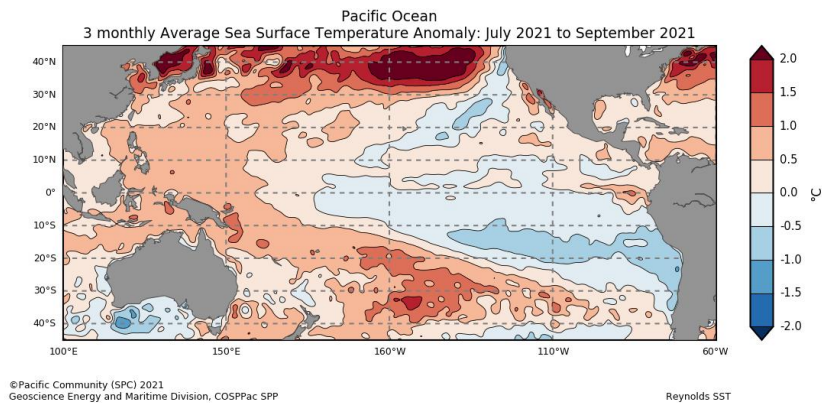
**Ocean Conditions**

**Observations of July to September 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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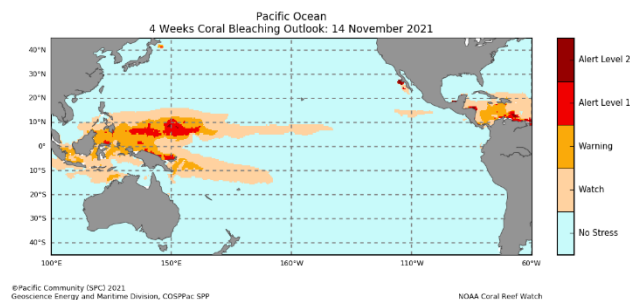
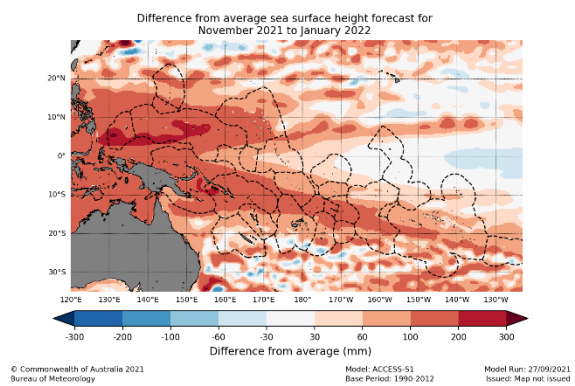
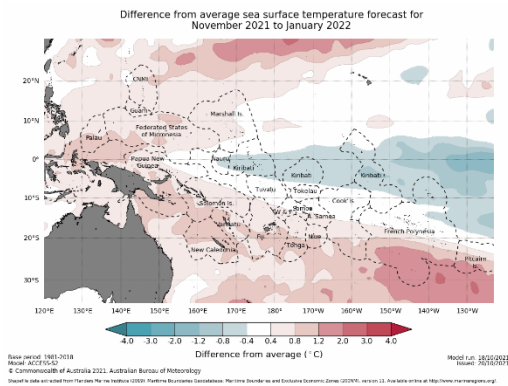
Sea level remained higher than normal for most of the countries from July to September. South of PNG experienced lower than normal conditions.

### November to January 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. Pools of lower sea levels is predicted in southern Fiji and Tonga.

Coral Bleaching Outlook: 4 weeks coral bleaching outlook indicates 'watch and warning for a number of countries and PNG, FSM and Palau is predicted to have 'Alert level 1'.



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### **Observed Conditions**

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                 | September 2021 |     |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----|----------------------|
|                         | SST            | SLA | CB                   |
| <b>Cook Islands</b>     | AN, BN         | AN  | No Stress            |
| <b>Fiji</b>             | AN             | AN  | No Stress            |
| <b>Kiribati</b>         | BN, AN         | AN  | Watch &<br>No Stress |
| <b>RMI</b>              | AN             | AN  | Watch                |
| <b>Niue</b>             | AN             | AN  | No Stress            |
| <b>Palau</b>            |                |     |                      |
| <b>Papua New Guinea</b> |                |     |                      |
| <b>Samoa</b>            | AN             | AN  | No Stress            |
| <b>Solomon Islands</b>  | AN             | AN  | No Stress            |
| <b>Tonga</b>            | AN             | AN  | No Stress            |
| <b>Tuvalu</b>           | AN             | AN  | No Stress            |
| <b>Vanuatu</b>          |                |     |                      |

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

| Country                            | Date<br>September<br>2021 | Stakeholder                      | Total<br>Number of<br>Participants | Number<br>of male | Number<br>of<br>female |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Cook Islands –<br>Climate Bulletin | September                 | Ministry of Transport            | 29                                 | 17                | 12                     |
| Cook Islands -<br>EAR Watch        | September                 | C.I Govt. Stakeholders<br>Public |                                    |                   |                        |

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|   |                                      |  |     |     |    |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----|-----|----|
| Cook Islands – Monthly Climate briefing         | September                            | Climate Change   | 8   | 2   | 6  |
| Fiji-Climate Summary                            | 08 September                         | General public   | 140 | 106 | 34 |
| Fiji-EAR Watch                                  | 08 September                         | Humanitarian partners  | 122 | 96  | 26 |
| Fiji-Climate Outlook                            | 30 September                         | General public   | 124 | 93  | 31 |
| Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu              | 30 September                         | Energy Fiji Limited  | 13  | 13  | -  |
| Fiji-Ocean Outlook                              | 20 September                         | A number of key ocean related stakeholders   | 36  | 29  | 7  |
| Fiji-ENSO Outlook                               | 25 September                         | General Public   | 142 | 116 | 26 |
| Fiji-Meteorological Data Request                | 01-30 September                      | A range of stakeholders  | 31  | 23  | 8  |
| Kiribati - Climate bulletin                     | 21 September                         | Temaiku Mother Community   | 15  | 7   | 8  |
| Kiribati-EAR Watch                              | 21 September                         | Temaiku Mother Community   | 15  | 7   | 8  |
| Kiribati-Climate products                       | 06 September                         | Government and Non Government Organisations and general public subscribed to the products  | 118 | 45  | 73 |
| Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin                        | 21 September                         | Temaiku Mother Community   | 15  | 7   | 8  |
| Kiribati – Climate data request                 | 01-30 September                      | Secondary School   | 3   | 1   | 2  |
| Kiribati-Climate trends and climate projections | 22-23 September                      | Disaster, Climate Change, Agriculture, Geoscience Division, Lands, Human Rights, Employment, Local Council reps (BTC, TUC), Church Faith Base (Catholic, Uniting Church, Mormon). KANGO, KiriCAN, KILGA, Child Fund, Internal Affairs, Disability rep. | 33  | 16  | 17 |
| Marshall Island                                 |                                      |  |     |     |    |
| Niue-Climate Bulletin                           | 22 September NCO                     | General public, Government Officials,  | 50  | 25  | 25 |
|   |                                      | Village council, Private sector, Stakeholder   | 50  | 20  | 30 |
| Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing                 | 07, 14, 28 September - Radio Program | General Public   | 60  | 30  | 30 |
|   |                                      | Government Officials/all staff   | 21  | 9   | 26 |
|   |                                      | Niue High School Students  | 28  | 12  | 16 |
| Palau   |                                      |  |     |     |    |

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|                                    |                 |   |             |              |            |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------|--------------|------------|
|                                    |                 |   |             |              |            |
| PNG                                |                 |   |             |              |            |
| Samoa – CREWS project              | September       | Samoa Fire Emergency Services Authority (SFESA), Samoa, Village Communities   | 270         | 120          | 150        |
| Samoa-Samoa College Open day       | 15-16 September | Samoa College   | 300         | 150          | 150        |
| Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin | September       | 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        | September       | 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   | September       | 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           | September       | General public  | 132         | 66           | 34         |
| Tonga- Ocean bulletin              | September       | General public  | 132         | 66           | 34         |
| Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin          | September       | Met staffs<br>Disaster Members<br>All civil servants and kaupule members  | 15          | 11           | 4          |
| Tuvalu – EAR Watch                 | September       | Met staffs<br>Disaster Members<br>All civil servants and kaupule members  | 15          | 11           | 4          |
| Tuvalu – Monthly Climate briefing  | September       | Met staffs<br>Disaster Members<br>All civil servants and kaupule members  | 15          | 11           | 4          |
| Tuvalu – Ocean bulletin            | September       | Met staffs<br>Disaster Members<br>All civil servants and kaupule members  | 15          | 11           | 4          |
| Vanuatu                            |                 |   |             |              |            |
| <b>Total</b>                       |                 |   | <b>2072</b> | <b>1,214</b> | <b>778</b> |

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