

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 170 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 17 November 2021

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Palau

Apologies: Tuvalu and SPC

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 **15 December 2021** and is to be chaired by **Solomon Islands**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 16 climate officers (10 female) from 7 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Jasneel Chandra, Shweta Shiwangni and Arieta Baleisolomone

Kiribati: Mwata Keariki and Kamaitia Rubeaake

Niue: Raquel Tanaki, Maxime Edwards, Lenita Togiamana and Rossy Mitiepo

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Koton Faasau, Mattanian Salesa, Taumeasina Fomai and Emmanuel Etimani

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai

Tonga:

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu:

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Australia: Simon McGree, Elise Chandler, Grant Smith and Janita Pahalad

SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

SPC:

OCOF tables were received from 9 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations of August to October 2021:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending October 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	Aug-Oct		100.0	9	111
Butaritari, Kiribati	October		8.8	3	84
Tarawa, Kiribati	October		0.9	2	74
Koror Airport, Palau	October		660.2	71	71
Koror Airport, Palau	Aug-Oct		1425.1	69	70
Taro, Solomon Islands	October		455	42	43
Taro, Solomon Islands	Aug-Oct		1139.0	38	42
Niutoputapu, Tonga	October		20.6	3	72
Funafuti, Tuvalu	October		463.5	85	89
Pekoa, Vanuatu	October		722.2	51	51
Lamap, Vanuatu	October		289.0	54	60
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	October		241.9	45	49
Port Vila, Vanuatu	October		250.5	65	69
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	October		154.6	46	50
Aneityum, Vanuatu	October		247.3	63	70
Lamap, Vanuatu	Aug-Oct		526.5	54	60

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

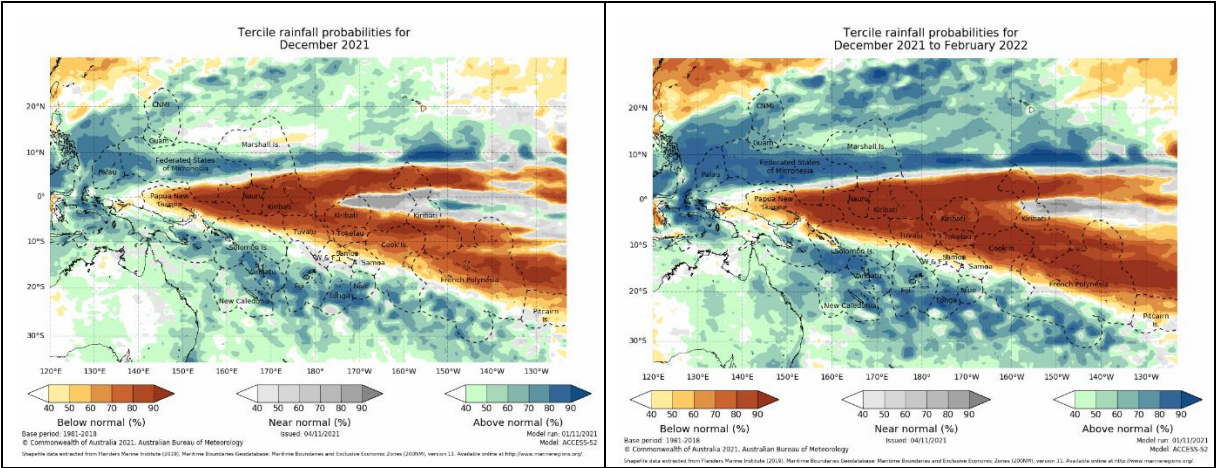
December 2021 to February 2022 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

There is a strong dry signal extending east-southeast from northern PNG to northern French Polynesia, with a second band just north of the equator extending to eastern Kiribati. In contrast there is a strong wet signal covering from Palau to the southern Cook Islands. The strength of the wet signal is higher in the west. The pattern is reasonably consistent with a possible La Niña.

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						

December21-February 22 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	

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Tonga Central	
Tonga South	
Tuvalu North	
Tuvalu Central	
Tuvalu South	
Vanuatu North	
Vanuatu South	

Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 171 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 15 December 2021
- Nino3.4 SST anomalies are not link to table 1 and 2 on OCOF document. So NMS can work on their OCOF tables even when SST anomalies are not updated.
- Coral bleaching Alert and Outlook maps to be specific for countries especially during warning
- NCOF organised by Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu while Fiji planning for December 2021.

Observed Rainfall

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

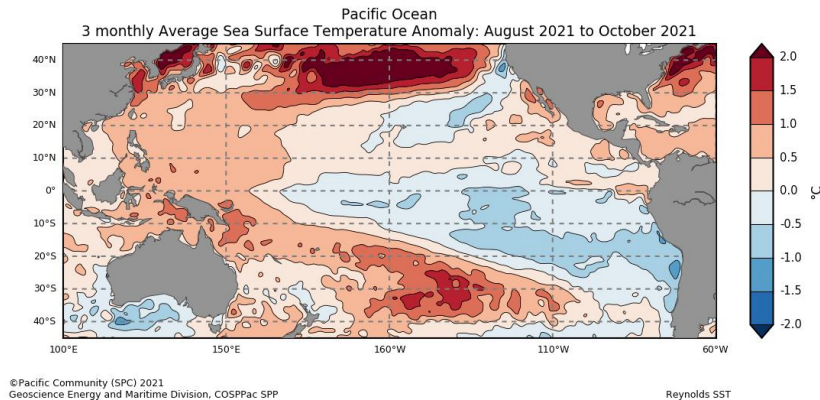
Ocean Conditions

Observations of August to October 2021

Sea surface temperature:

3 monthly SST shows near normal to slightly cooler 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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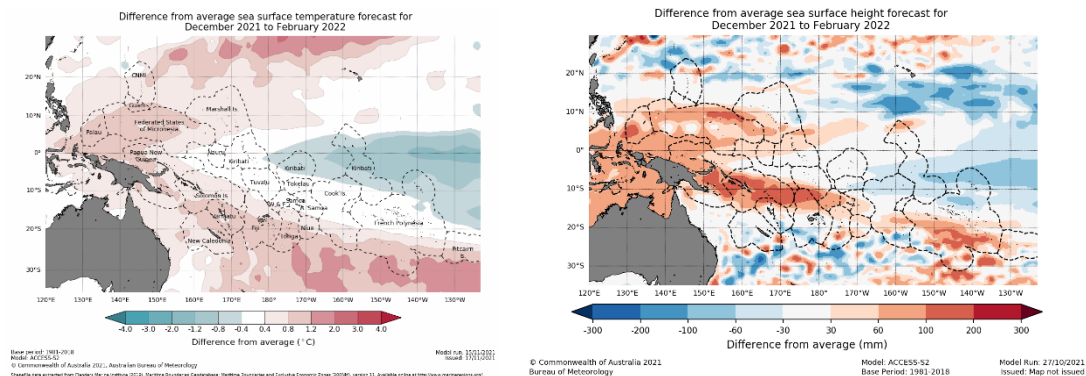
Sea level remained higher than normal for most of the countries from August to October, with highest anomalies north and south of the equator around 10° latitudes

December to February 2021 Outlooks:

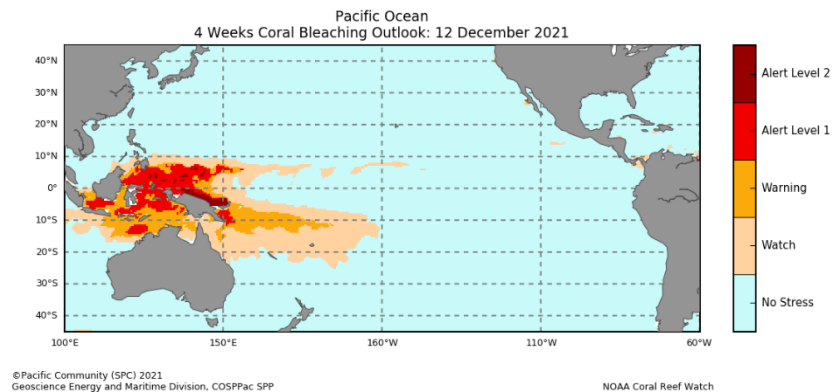
Sea surface temperature outlook: Equatorial zones east of Kiribati (Gilber Islands) is forecasted to have cooler than normal conditions with temperature difference of 0.4 to 3 °C. Nauru, Tuvalu, most of the Cook Islands favoured to be neutral. A boomerang shape of warm conditions is predicted in the western and remainder of the partner countries.

Sea level outlook: sea level is forecasted to be higher than normal for countries near or in the Western Warm Pool (Palau, FSM, southern RMI, north Tuvalu, PNG, Solomon Islands, northern Fiji, Samoa) , ranging from 30 to 200 mm in the western Pacific. Pools of lower sea levels is predicted in southern Fiji and Vanuatu, northern Cook Islands and Kiribati (Line Islands). Note that this outlook does not include trends of sea level rise.

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" (Alert Level 2 close to northern coastlines of PNG).



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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	October 2021		
	SST	SLA	CB
Cook Islands	AN, NN	AN	No Stress
Fiji	AN	AN	No Stress
Kiribati	NN, AN	NN, AN	No Stress
RMI	AN	AN	Watch
Niue	AN	AN	No Stress
Palau	AN	AN	Warning & Alert1
Papua New Guinea	AN	AN	Warning & Alert1
Samoa	AN	AN	No Stress
Solomon Islands	AN	AN	Watch
Tonga	AN	AN	No Stress
Tuvalu	AN	AN	No Stress
Vanuatu	AN	AN	No Stress
FSM	AN	AN	Warning & Alert Level 1

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

Country	Date October 2021	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin	October	Ministry of Transport	29	17	12
Cook Islands - EAR Watch	October	C.I Govt. Stakeholders Public			
Cook Islands – Monthly Climate briefing	October	Climate Change	8	2	6
Fiji-Climate Summary	07 October	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	06 October	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	29 October	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	30 October	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	20 October	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji-Sugarcane Climate Outlook	31 October	Sugar Industry Stakeholder	77	60	17
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-31 October	A range of stakeholders	34	23	11
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	7 October	Government and Non Government Organisations and General public subscribed to the products.	118	45	73
	26 October	Buota village Communities	12	6	6
Kiribati -Media release	7 October	Media Outlets	13	7	6
Kiribati-PICOF 9	21-22 October	NMHS in the Pacific, Regional Organisations (SPREP, SPC) and Met Agencies around the globe (NOAA, APCC, NIWA, WMO, BOM, Meteo France, RCC members, ECCC, COSPPac, University of Hawaii)	70	30	40
Kiribati-National Seasonal Forecasting	05-06 October	NMHS in the Pacific (Cook Island, Fiji, PNG, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) and Facilitators from BOM, SPREP and PICS panel Chairs/Secrétariat.	30	10	20
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	7 October	Government and Non Government Organisations and General public subscribed to the products.	118	45	73

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	26 October	Buota village Communities	12	6	6
Marshall Island	22 October	Office of the Chief Secretary (CSO) and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)	5	2	3
Niue-Climate Bulletin	22 October NCO	Government Officials and staff,	35	14	21
		General public and Private sector, Stakeholder	20	15	5
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	09 October - Radio Program	Stakeholders and Village council	27	11	16
		Government Officials/all staff	40	20	20
Palau -Weather and climate briefing on radio, talkshow and social media	Every Thursday	Public			
Palau – Weather and climate briefing	15 and 20 October	Palau Media Council Rotary Club	17	9	8
Palau -PICO 9	21-22 October		3	0	3
PNG					
Samoa – PICO 9	21-22 October	SPREP, WMO, BOM, APCC, NOAA, SPC, NIWA, NMS and partners	50	25	25
Samoa-NCOF	28 October	SPREP, WMO, SMET	80	40	40
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	October	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	October	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	October	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

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Solomon Islands – PICO 9	21-22 October	Solomon Islands Meteorological Service	2	2	0
Tonga – Climate bulletin	October	General public	132	66	34
Tonga -PICO 9	21-22 October	NMS	2		2
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	October	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	11	4
Tuvalu – EAR Watch	October	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	11	4
Tuvalu – Monthly Climate briefing	October	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	11	4
Tuvalu – Ocean bulletin	October	Met staffs Disaster Members All civil servants and kaupule members	15	11	4
Vanuatu	October	No engagement			
Total			1,433	930	592

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