

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 172 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 19 January 2022

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Vanuatu

Apologies: Tonga, Solomon Islands and Marshall 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, SPC 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 **16 February 2022** and is to be chaired by **Tonga**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 17 climate officers (11 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates

Fiji: Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Mwata Keariki

Niue: Raquel Tanaki, Maxime Edwards, Mahalo and Helen

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Kotoni Faasau, Faapisa Aiono, Emmanuel Etimani, Taumeasina Fomai, Matthaniah Salesa

Solomon Islands:

Tonga:

Tuvalu: Leiti and Simoea

Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa

Australia: Elise Chandler

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SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

SPC: Zulfikar Begg and Judith Giblin

OCOF tables were received from 8 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations of October to December 2021:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending December 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
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	December		438.6	115	122
Nadi Airport, Fiji	December		373.3	74	80
Tarawa, Kiribati	December		12.6	3	74
Butaritari, Kiribati	Oct-Dec		155.0	5	84
Tarawa, Kiribati	Oct-Dec		27.3	2	74
Hanan Airport, Niue	December		476.3	109	117
Koror Airport, Palau	Oct-Dec		1249.7	66	77
Wewak, PNG	Oct-Dec		864.6	61	64
Vanimo, PNG	Oct-Dec		916.2	57	61
Port Moresby, PNG	Oct-Dec		411	107	117
Auki, Solomon Islands	December		575.4	54	58
Honiara, Solomon Islands	December		405.6	60	66
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	December		761.6	54	54
Lata, Solomon Islands	December		623.4	46	47
Taro, Solomon Islands	December		351.7	41	44
Honiara, Solomon Islands	Oct-Dec		745.1	59	64
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	Oct-Dec		1416.6	53	53
Taro, Solomon Islands	Oct-Dec		1112.3	41	42

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

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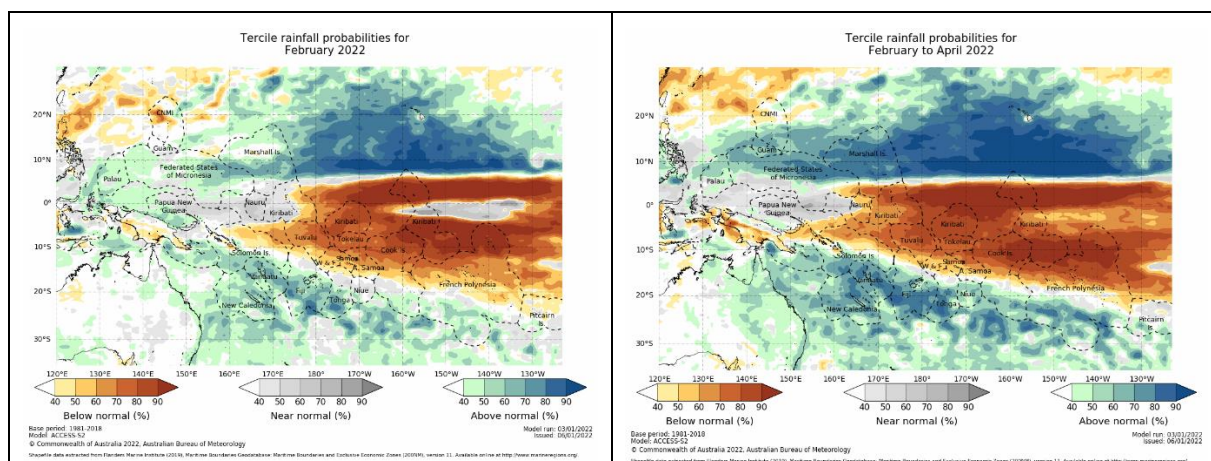
February to April 2022 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

There is a strong dry signal likely to affect southern RMI, southern and highlands of PNG, northern Solomon Islands, Kiribati (north of Gilbert Islands, Phoenix Islands and Line Islands), southeast Tuvalu, northern Samoa, northern Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia.

In contrast, the models show an increased chance of wetter conditions very likely in central FSM, north and central RMI, southeast PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, southern Cook Islands and southern French Polynesia. Rainfall outlook for the remaining COSPPac region are near normal.

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						
Near-normal						
Above normal						

February to April 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	
RMI North	
RMI Central	

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RMI South	
Nauru	
Niue	
Palau	
PNG Momase	
PNG Is	
PNG South	
PNG Highlands	
Samoa	

Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 173 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 16 February 2021
- Countries to document La Niña impacts

Observed Rainfall

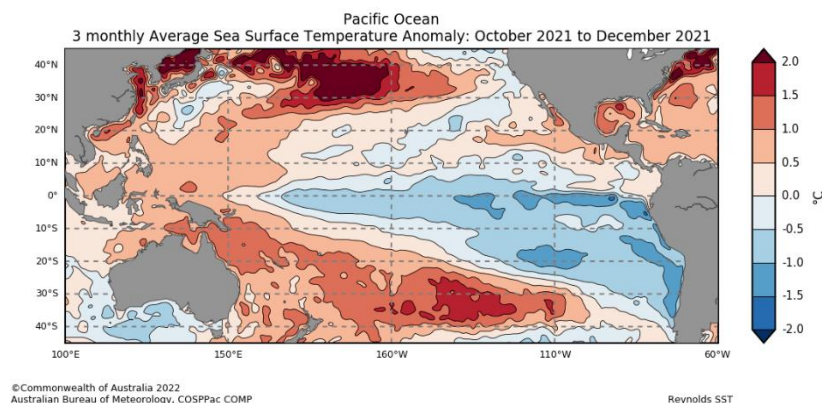
Country	December 2121	October to December 2021
Cook Islands	Below normal and above normal	Normal
Fiji	Mostly normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal
Kiribati	Mostly below normal	Below normal
RMI	Below normal and normal	Normal
Niue	Above normal	Above normal
Palau	Above normal	Above normal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

Ocean Conditions

Observations of October to December

Sea surface temperature:

3 monthly SST shows cooler conditions prevailed along the central equatorial regions including parts of Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu and Cook Islands. Warmer than normal conditions persisted in the west and remainder of the partner countries.



Sea level remained higher than normal for most of the countries from September to November, with highest anomalies in the western Pacific

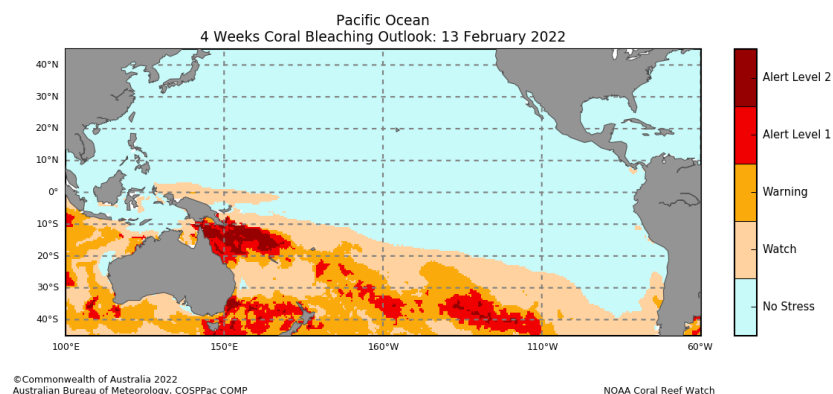
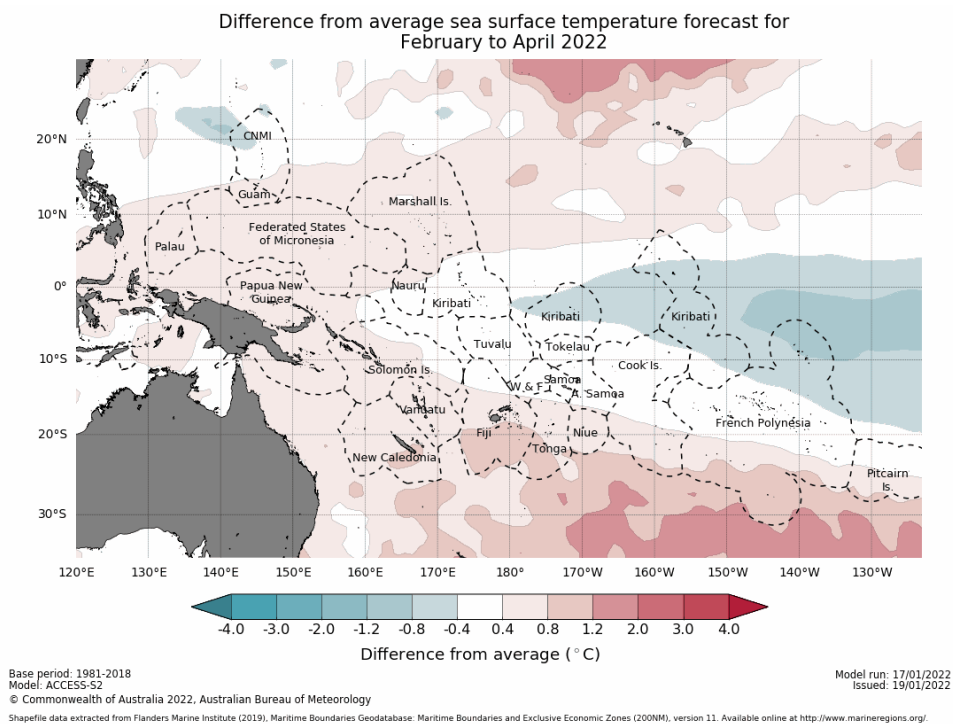
February to April 2022 Outlooks:

Sea surface temperature outlook: Equatorial zones east of Kiribati (Gilber Islands) is forecasted to have cooler than normal conditions with temperature in the range of -0.4 to -2 °C. Nauru, Tuvalu, parts of Samoa and the Cook Islands are favoured to be neutral. A boomerang shape of warm conditions is predicted in the western and remainder of the partner countries.

Sea level outlook was not updated at the time of this summary.

Coral Bleaching Outlook: 4 weeks coral bleaching outlook indicates 'watch and warning for a number of countries and PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tongais predicted to have 'Alert level 1 and 2"

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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)

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Country	December 2022		
	SST	SLA	CB
Cook Islands	AN, BN	AN	Watch & No Stress
Fiji	AN	AN	Warning & Watch
Kiribati	BN, AN	AN	No Stress
Marshall Islands	AN	AN	No Stress
Niue	AN	AN	Watch
Palau	AN	AN	Warning & Alert1
Papua New Guinea	AN	AN	Warning & Alert 1-2
Samoa	AN	AN	Watch
Solomon Islands	AN	AN	Watch ,Warning & Alert level 1

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

Country	Date December 2021	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin	December	Ministry of Transport	29	17	12
Cook Islands - EAR Watch	December	C.I Govt. Stakeholders Public			
Cook Islands – Monthly Climate briefing	December	Climate Change	8	2	6
Fiji-Climate Summary	15 December	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	15 December	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	30 December	General public	124	93	31

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Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	31 December	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	20 December	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-31 December	A range of stakeholders	36	28	8
Fiji-Fourth National Climate Outlook Forum	09/12/21 to 10/12/21	Energy Fiji Limited, Department of Energy, Total Energies Fiji, Fiji Gas, Blue Gas, Exxon Mobil Fiji, International Renewable Energy Agency, The University of the South Pacific, University of Fiji, Fiji Sugar Cooperation, Nabou Green Energy Ltd, GreenCo Fiji Ltd, Paradise Technology Limited, Fem Link, National Disaster Management Office, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Fiji Times, Fiji One, Fiji Sun, Fiji Village	39	28	11
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	30 December	Government and Non-Government Organisations and general public subscribed to the products.	118	40	22
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	30 December	Government and Non Government Organisations and general public subscribed to the products.	118	40	22
Kiribati-Media release	30 December	National Media and KMS Staffs	53	23	30
Kiribati-Tide Calendar and extreme spring tide table	21 December	Government and Non Government Organisations and general public subscribed to the products.	118	40	22
Marshall Island	12 December	Office of the Chief Secretary (CSO) and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)	6	3	3
Niue-Monthly Climate Briefing	16 December	Government Officials and staff,	25	9	16
		General public	40	20	20
	08 and 23 December	New Zealand High commission staff and Niue Met Staff	15	7	8
Niue –Climate Bulletin	17 December	Government Officials	15	10	5
		General public and private sector	120	50	60
Palau	December	No engagement			

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PNG – Climate data	1-31 December	Kumul Petroluem Holdings, UN Office of Project Services and PNG Chemical Engineering Consultancy Ltd	6	5	1
Samoa- Climate outlook and cyclone briefing	December	No engagement			
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	December	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	December	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	December	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	December	No report			
Tuvalu	December	No report			
Vanuatu-NCOF	December	Late report			
Total			1,306	753	375

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