

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

### **Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 173 Summary Report**

**Date:** Wednesday 16 February 2022

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

**Host:** SPREP

**Chair:** Tuvalu

**Apologies:** Tonga and Cook 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 March 2022** and is to be chaired by **Cook Islands**.

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 19 climate officers (12 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:**

**Fiji:** Shweta Shiwangni, Jasneel and Arieta Baleisolomone

**Kiribati:** Mwata Keariki

**Niue:** Raquel Tanaki, Robert Togiamana, Floyd Vatiamu and Jedaiah Tukuitoga

**Papua New Guinea:** Nanao Bouauka and Kisoel Posanau

**Palau:** Kiku Mochimaru

**Republic of Marshall Islands:**

**Samoa:** Kotoni Faasau, Emmanuel Etimani, Taumeasina Fomai, Matthaniah Salesa

**Solomon Islands:** Max Sitai

**Tonga:**

**Tuvalu:** Niko Iona, Leiti Tausi and Simoea Tiute

**Vanuatu:** Glenda Pakoa

**Australia:** Elise Chandler, Grant Smith, Janita Pahalad and Clare Mullen

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**SPREP:** Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

**SPC:** Zulfikar Begg

OCOF tables were received from 11 participating countries before the meeting.

### Observations of November 2021 to January 2022:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending January 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	January		994.2	110	113
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	January		776.2	118	122
Nadi Airport, Fiji	January		871.8	78	81
Nausori Airport, Fiji	January		564.3	59	66
Labasa Airport, Fiji	January		697.2	58	64
Udu point, Fiji	January		622.9	66	73
Rotuma, Fiji	January		556.7	102	110
Penang Mill, Fiji	Nov 21-Jan 22		1625.6	103	107
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	Nov 21-Jan 22		1356.9	118	122
Nadi Airport, Fiji	Nov 21-Jan 22		1486.6	78	79
Vanimo, PNG	January		674.8	71	71
Wewak, PNG	Nov 21-Jan 22		794.2	64	65
Auki, Solomon Islands	Nov 21-Jan 22		1294.8	53	58
Honiara, Solomon Islands	Nov 21-Jan 22		828.6	40	64
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	Nov 21-Jan 22		1548.0	51	53
Funafuti, Tuvalu	January		616.4	82	90
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	January		529.5	51	51
Port Vila, Vanuatu	January		516.0	46	51
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	January		388.7	64	70
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Nov 21-Jan 22		1046.2	46	49
Port Vila, Vanuatu	Nov 21-Jan 22		1021.0	65	69

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

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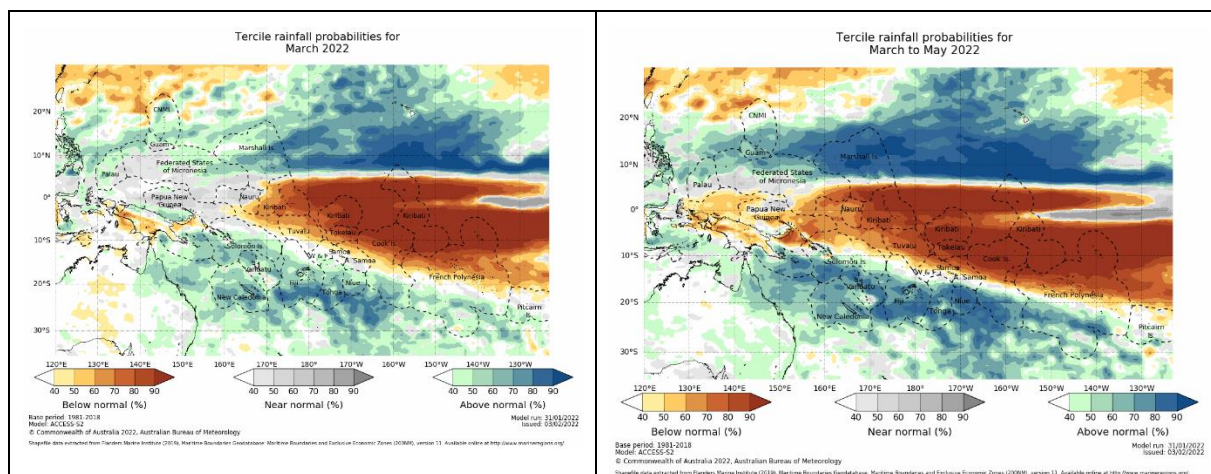
## March to May 2022 Outlooks:

### ACCESS-S outlooks:

Below normal rainfall is forecasted southern RMI, southern and highlands of PNG and New Guinea Islands, western Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Samoa, northern Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia.

In contrast, the models show an increased chance of wetter conditions very likely in far northern FSM, north and central RMI, eastern Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Niue and southern Cook Islands. 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						

March to May 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	
RMI South	
Nauru	

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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 174 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 16 March 2022
- SPREP continue to work on SPI drought indices

### Observed Rainfall

Country	January 2022	November 2021 to January 2022
Cook Islands	Above normal	Normal and Above Normal
Fiji	Above normal	Mostly above normal
Kiribati	Below normal and normal	Mostly Below normal
RMI	Below normal	Below normal and normal
Niue	Above Normal	Above Normal
Palau	Normal	Normal
Papua New Guinea	Mostly normal and above normal	Mostly normal and above normal
Samoa	Mostly normal	Below normal to above normal
Solomon Islands	Normal and above normal	Above normal
Tonga		

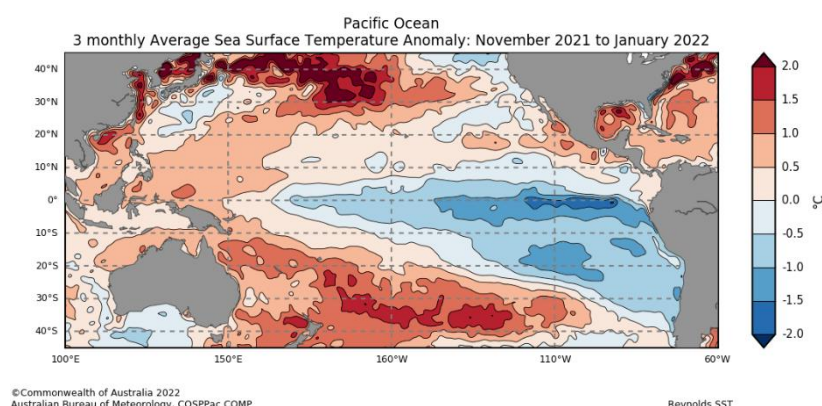
<b>Tuvalu</b>	Mostly above normal	Below normal to above normal
<b>Vanuatu</b>	Mostly above normal	Above normal

## Ocean Conditions

### Observations of November 2021 to January 2022

Sea surface temperature:

3 monthly SST shows cooler conditions prevailed along the central equatorial regions including parts of Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu and Cook Islands. Boomerang shape of 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 north and south of the equator around 10° latitudes

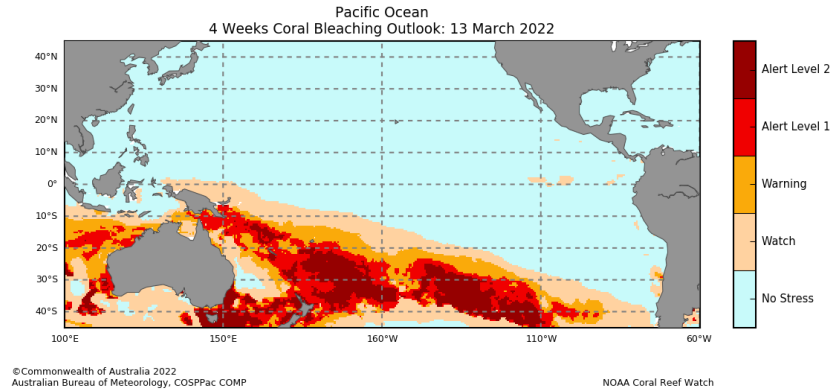
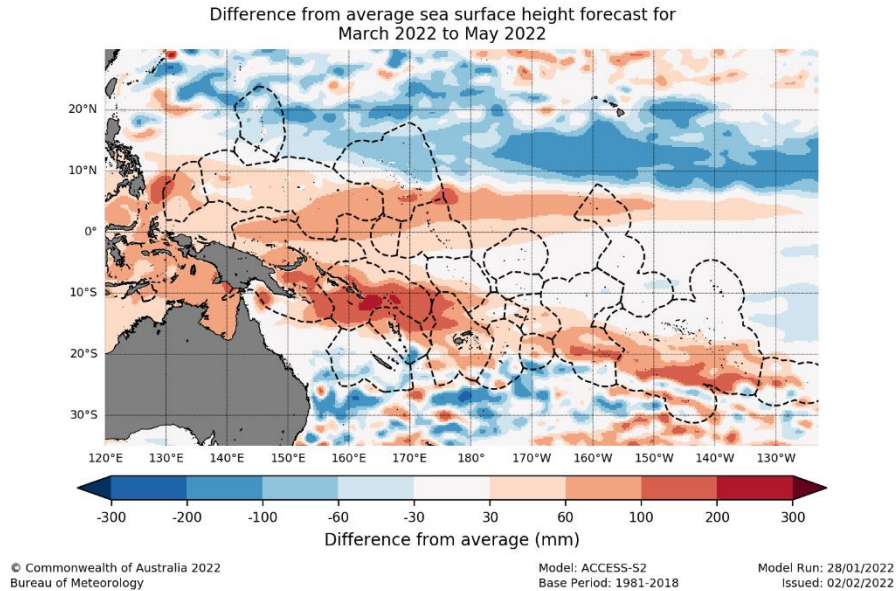
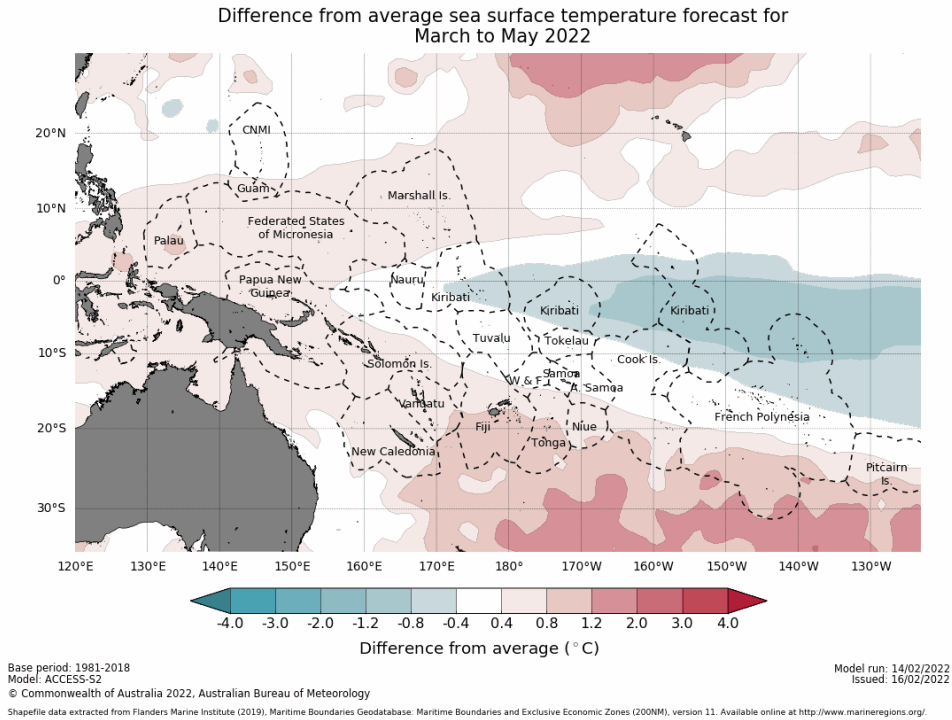
### March to May 2022 Outlooks:

Sea surface temperature outlook: Equatorial zones east of Kiribati (Gilbert Islands) is forecasted to have cooler than normal conditions with temperature in the range of  $-0.4$  to  $-3$  °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: sea level is forecasted to be higher than normal for countries near or in the Western Warm Pool (Palau, FSM, southern RMI, central and southern Tuvalu, PNG, Solomon Islands, northern Fiji), ranging from 30 to 200 mm in the western Pacific. Pools of lower sea levels is predicted in southern Vanuatu, north and southern Cook Islands and Kiribati (central and southern Phoenix and 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, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Tonga is 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)

Country	January 2022		
	SST	SLA	CB
<b>Cook Islands</b>	BN, AN	AN	No Stress, Watch & Warning
<b>Fiji</b>	AN	AN	Watch & Warning
<b>Kiribati</b>	BN, NN	AN	Watch & No Stress
<b>Niue</b>	AN	AN	Watch
<b>Palau</b>	AN	AN	Watch
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	AN, BN	NN, AN	Warning & Alert1-2
<b>Samoa</b>	AN	AN	Watch
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	AN	AN	Watch
<b>Tonga</b>	AN	AN	Watch
<b>Tuvalu</b>	AN	AN	Watch & No Stress
<b>Vanuatu</b>	AN	AN	Warning & Alert1-2

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

Country	Date January  2022	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin	January	Ministry of Transport	29	17	12
Cook Islands - EAR Watch	January	C.I Govt. Stakeholders Public			
Cook Islands – Monthly Climate briefing	January	Climate Change	8	2	6
Fiji-Climate Summary	11 January	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	11 January	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	31 January	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	31 January	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	20 January	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji-ENSO Outlook	25 January	General public	142	116	26
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-31 January	A range of stakeholders	44	40	4
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	30 January	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	118	45	73
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	30 January	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	118	45	73
Kiribati-Media release	30 January	National Media and KMS Staffs	53	23	30
Marshall Island	21 January	CSO and NDMO	6	3	3
Niue-Monthly Climate Briefing	31 January	Government Officials and staff,	65	30	35
		Village council, private sector and Stakeholder	70	30	40
Palau					



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PNG- Climate bulletin	27 January	National Disaster Centre, Climate Change Development Authority, Provincial Disaster coordinators, Universities, NWS Staff, Mining & 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 & Copra Industry, National Capital District Commission, Mineral Resource Authority, Media, PNG Power, Telikom, OkTedi, CASAPNG, Dept Planning, Dept Works, Date	164	128	36
PNG-Climate data request	1-31 January	Investment Promotion Authority, PSM (Engineering Consultants), EASPNG (Consultants)	5	4	1
Samoa	January	No engagement			
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	January	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	January	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	January	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					
Tuvalu-Climate Bulletin	January	Met staffs,	6	5	1
		Disaster Members	9	6	3
		All civil servants and kaupule members			
Tuvalu -EAR Watch	January	Met staffs,	6	5	1
		Disaster Members	9	6	3
		All civil servants and kaupule members			
Tuvalu -Monthly Climate briefing	January	Met staffs,	6	5	1
		Disaster Members	9	6	3

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		All civil servants and kaupule members			
Tuvalu -Ocean Outlook	January	Met staffs,	6	5	1
		Disaster Members	9	6	3
		All civil servants and kaupule members			
Vanuatu-Community Climate centre climate briefing	14 January	Water Sector, Tourism Sector, National Disaster Management Office, Van-KIRAP, VMGD, Youth Representatives, Save the Children	20	15	5
Vanuatu-Climate Update	27 January	VMGD-Van-KIRAP Staffs, Oxfam Vanuatu, Action Aid Vanuatu, University of the South Pacific (USP), Vanuatu Statistics Office, SPREP, Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Media-Vanuatu, Vanuatu Red Cross Society, Matevulu College, Onesua Presbyterian College, Aore Adventist College, Tafea College, CSU, Vanuatu Care International, Save the Children Vanuatu, UNDP, Shefa Education, Live & Learn, UN-Women, Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC), GCF Private Consultants, Vanuatu Society of People Living with Disability, Unelco Vanuatu, World Health Organization, Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department (Staffs), General Public (Website and VMGD Call-Center)	206	104	102
Vanuatu-EAR Watch	27 January	VMGD-Van-KIRAP Staffs, Oxfam Vanuatu, Action Aid Vanuatu, University of the South Pacific (USP), Vanuatu Statistics Office, SPREP, Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Media-Vanuatu, Vanuatu Red Cross Society, Matevulu College, Onesua Presbyterian College, Aore Adventist College, Tafea College, CSU, Vanuatu Care International, Save the Children Vanuatu, UNDP, Shefa Education, Live & Learn, UN-Women, Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC), GCF Private Consultants, Vanuatu Society of People Living with Disability, Unelco Vanuatu, World Health Organization, Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department (Staffs), General Public (Website and VMGD Call-Center)	206	104	102
Vanuatu-Ocean Outlook	27 January	VMGD-Van-KIRAP Staffs, Oxfam Vanuatu, Action Aid Vanuatu, University of the South Pacific (USP), Vanuatu Statistics Office, SPREP, Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Media-Vanuatu, Vanuatu Red Cross Society, Matevulu College, Onesua Presbyterian College, Aore Adventist College, Tafea College, CSU, Vanuatu Care International, Save the Children Vanuatu, UNDP, Shefa Education, Live & Learn, UN-Women,	206	104	102

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		Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC), GCF Private Consultants, Vanuatu Society of People Living with Disability, Unelco Vanuatu, World Health Organization, Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department (Staffs), General Public (Website and VMGD Call-Center)			
Vanuatu-Climate data request	1-31 January	French Architect (Construction Project for the Vanuatu National University)	1	1	
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,081</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>795</b>

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