

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

### **Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 174 Summary Report**

**Date:** Wednesday 16 March 2022

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

**Host:** SPREP

**Chair:** Cook Islands

**Apologies:** RMI, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and PNG

**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 **20 April 2022** and is to be chaired by **Fiji**.

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 14 climate officers (7 female) from 7 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:** Bates Manea

**Fiji:** Jasneel Chandra and Arieta Baleisolomone

**Kiribati:** Mwata Keariki and Kamitia Rubetaake

**Niue:** Raquel Tanaki, and Julyn Motuse

**Papua New Guinea:**

**Palau:** Kiku Mochimaru

**Republic of Marshall Islands:**

**Samoa:** Kotoni Faasau, Emannuel Etimani, Taumeasina Fomai, Matthaniah Salesa and Junior Lepale

**Solomon Islands:** Max Sitai

**Tonga:**

**Tuvalu:**

**Vanuatu:**

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

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**SPREP:** Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

**SPC:** Zulfikar Begg and Judith Giblin

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

### Observations of December 2021 to February 2022:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending February 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	February		679.2	105	113
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	February		700	119	122
Nadi Airport, Fiji	February		623.0	77	80
Navua, Fiji	February		148.5	8	77
Penang Mill, Fiji	Dec 21-Feb 22		2172.7	108	109
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	Dec 21-Feb 22		1914.8	112	122
Nadi Airport, Fiji	Dec 21-Feb 22		1868.1	79	79
Hanan Airport, Niue	February		594.9	116	117
Hanan Airport, Niue	Dec 21-Feb 22		1457.5	115	117
Apia, Samoa	February		761.7	126	133
Nafanua, Samoa	February		774.3	45	50
Auki, Solomon Islands	February		669.2	59	61
Taro, Solomon Islands	February		475.8	42	45
Auki, Solomon Islands	Dec 21-Feb 22		1807.1	58	58
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	Dec 21-Feb 22		1631.2	50	52

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

### April to June 2022 Outlooks:

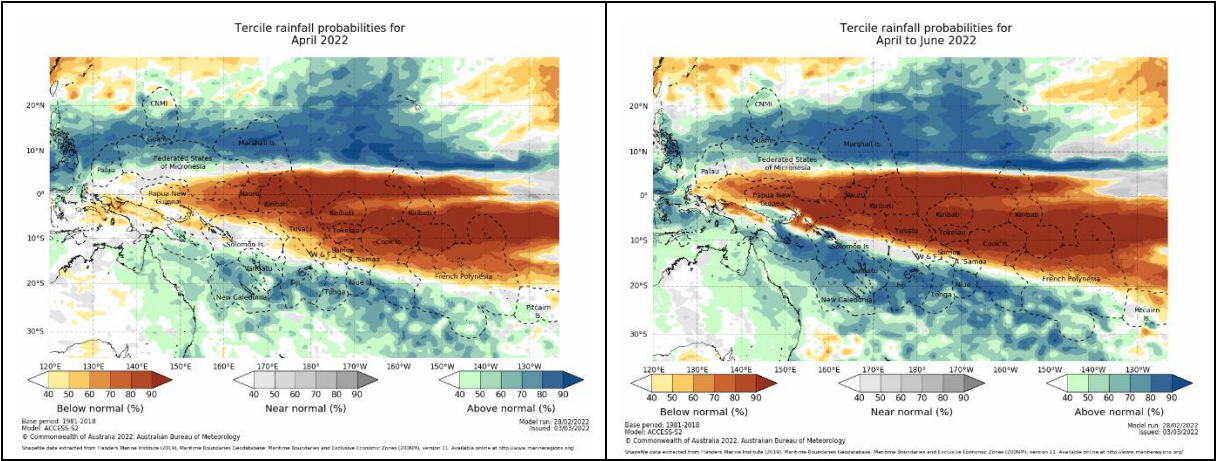
ACCESS-S outlooks:

The outlooks shows below normal rainfall is forecasted for southern Palau, southern FSM, southern RMI, northern and eastern parts of PNG, western and northern Solomon Islands, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa, Tokelau, American Samoa, northern and central Cook Islands, central and northern French Polynesia and Pitcairn Island.

In contrast, the models show an increased chance of wetter conditions for northern Palau, northern FSM, central and northern RMI, southeast PNG, southern Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, southern Cook Islands and southern French Polynesia.

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						

March to May 2022			
	ACCESS-S	C3S	CLIKP
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			
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 175 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 20 April 2022
- BOM will provide funding for NMS to celebrate OCOF 175
- SPREP completed check on new SCOPIC version and waits for BOM's approval before distributing to NMS

### Observed Rainfall

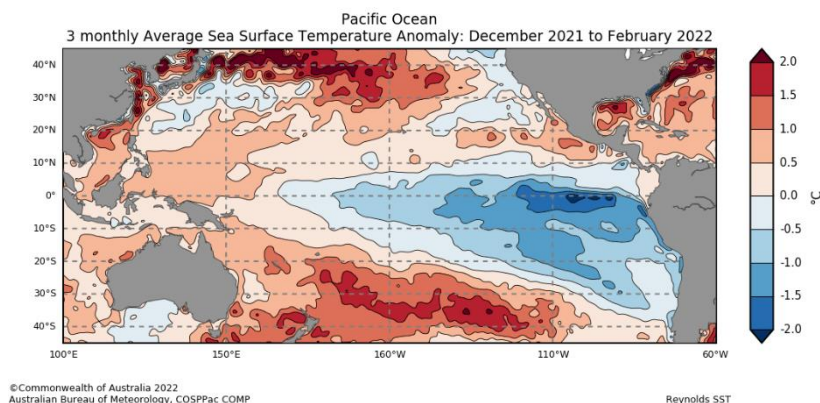
Country	February 2022	December 2021 to February 2022
<b>Cook Islands</b>	Below normal and normal	Normal and Above Normal
<b>Fiji</b>	Mostly normal and above normal	Above normal
<b>Kiribati</b>	Below normal and normal	Mostly Below normal
<b>RMI</b>	Normal and above normal	Below normal
<b>Niue</b>	Above Normal	Above Normal
<b>Palau</b>	Above normal	Above normal
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>		
<b>Samoa</b>	Above normal	Normal and above normal
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	Normal and above normal	Above normal
<b>Tonga</b>		
<b>Tuvalu</b>	Below normal	Below normal to above normal
<b>Vanuatu</b>		

### Ocean Conditions

#### Observations of December 2021 to February 2022

Sea surface temperature:

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



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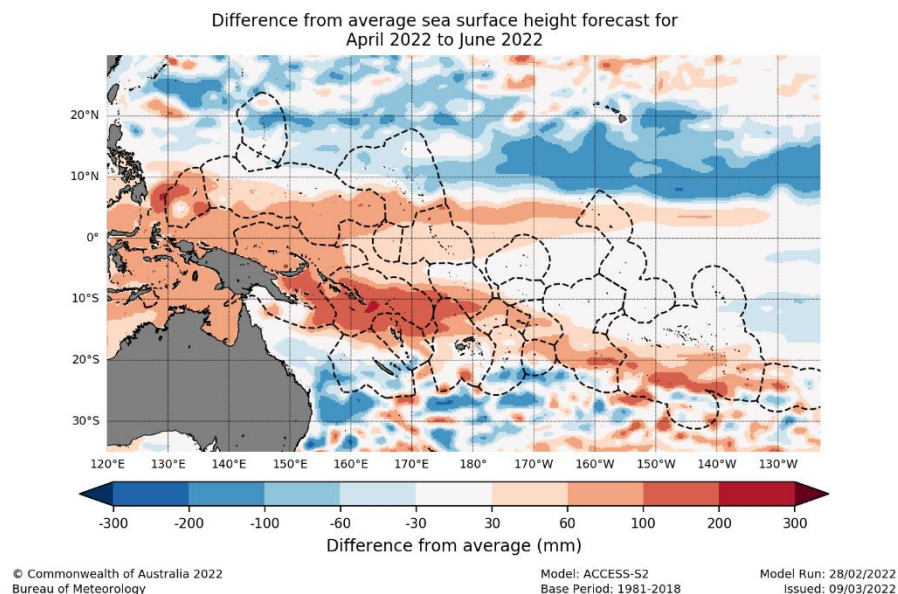
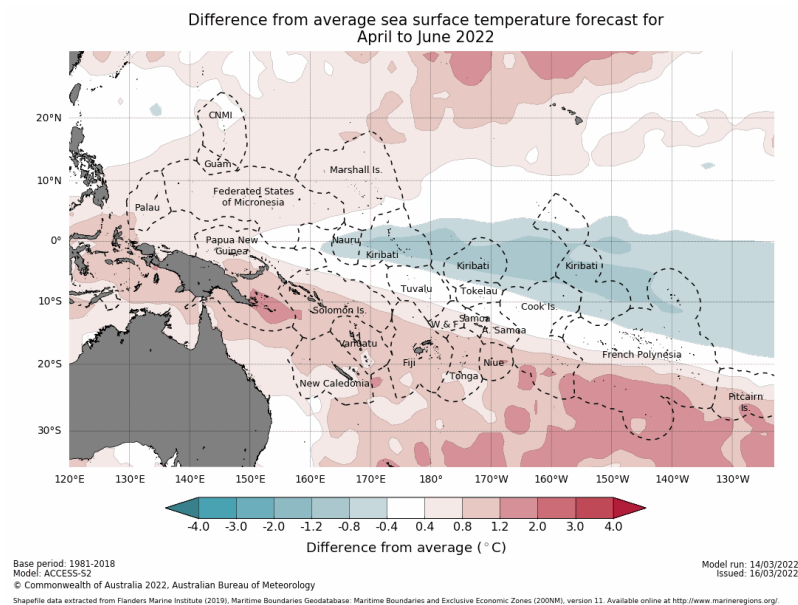
Sea level remained higher than normal for most of the countries from January to February. Below normal anomalies located north of the equator around 10° latitudes.

### April to June 2022 Outlooks:

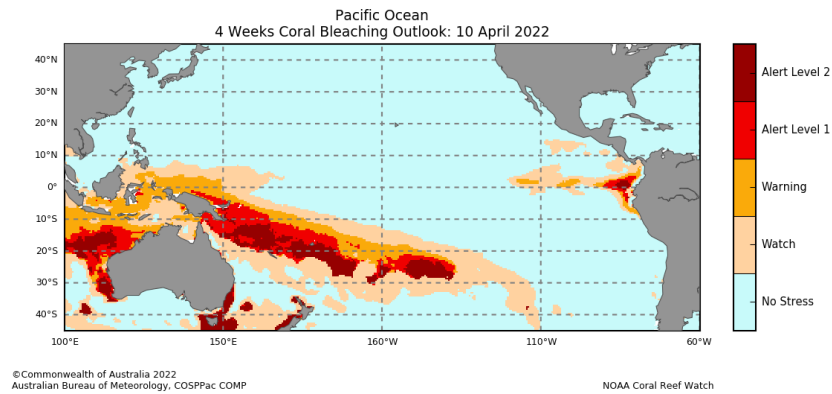
**Sea surface temperature outlook:** Equatorial zones east of Nauru is forecasted to have cooler than normal conditions with temperature in the range of  $-0.4$  to  $-1.2$  °C. Tuvalu, parts of Cook Islands are favoured to experience near normal conditions.. A boomerang shape of warm conditions is predicted 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 300 mm in the western Pacific. Pools of lower sea levels is predicted in southern Vanuatu, north and southern Cook Islands and Kiribati (Phoenix Islands, and central to southern 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, with PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Niue and Cook Islands 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	February 2022		
	SST	SLA	CB
Cook Islands	BN, AN	AN	No Stress, Watch & Warning
Fiji	AN	AN	Alert 1
Kiribati	BN, NN	AN	Watch & No Stress
Marshall Islands	NN, AN	AN	Watch & No Stress
Niue	AN	AN	Watch
Palau	AN	AN	Watch & No Stress
Papua New Guinea	AN, NN	AN	Warning & Alert 1-2
Samoa	NN	AN	Watch & Warning
Solomon Islands	AN	AN	Watch, Warning & Alert 1
Tonga	AN	AN	Warning & Alert 1-2
Tuvalu	NN	AN	Watch & No Stress
Vanuatu	AN, NN	AN	Warning & Alert 1

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

Country	Date February  2022	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin	February	Ministry of Transport	29	17	12
Cook Islands - EAR Watch	February	C.I Govt. Stakeholders Public			
Cook Islands – Monthly Climate briefing	February	Climate Change	8	2	6
Cook Islands – Climate Data Request	1-28 February	MMR (Ministry of Marine Resources)	1		1
Fiji-Climate Summary	07 February	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	14 February	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	28 February	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	28 February	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	21 February	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-28 February	A range of stakeholders	56	44	12
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	28 February	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	118	45	73
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	28 February	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	118	45	73
Kiribati-Media release	28 February	National Media and KMS Staffs	53	23	30
Marshall Island	18 February	CSO and NDMO	6	3	3
Niue-Monthly Climate Briefing	February	Government Officials	15	10	10
		Village council, private sector and Stakeholder	70	30	40
		General Public	50	20	30

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Palau		<i>No engagement</i>			
PNG					
Samoa -Climate Data request	February	Construction company	1	1	
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	February	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	February	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	February	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	February	Met staffs,	22	17	5
		Disaster Members	9	6	3
		All civil servants and kaupule members			
Tuvalu -EAR Watch	February	Met staffs,	22	17	5
		Disaster Members	9	6	3
		All civil servants and kaupule members			
Tuvalu -Monthly Climate briefing	February	Met staffs	22	17	5
Tuvalu -Ocean Outlook	February	Met staffs,	22	17	5
		Disaster Members	9	6	3
		All civil servants and kaupule members			
Vanuatu					
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,200</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>375</b>

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