

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 175 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 20 April 2022

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: SPREP

Apologies: Solomon 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.
- To celebrate reaching the OCOF 175 milestone

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 **18 May 2022** and is to be chaired by **Kiribati**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 31 climate officers (15 female) from 11 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea and Arona Ngari

Fiji: Shweta Shiwangni, Jasneel Chnadra, Arieta Baleisolomone, Terry Atalifo

Kiribati: Mwata Keariki, Kamaitia Rubetaake, Manua Eria

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

Papua New Guinea: Nanao Bouauka, Solace and Kisolet Posanau

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru, Mayline Joshua, Maria Ngemaes

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria, Samson Kaneko, Reginal White

Samoa: Kotonu Faasau

Solomon Islands:

Tonga: Seluvaia Finaulahi, Mele and Ofa Faanunu

Tuvalu: Niko Iona, Leiti Tausi and Simoea Tiute, Taula Katea

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Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa

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

SPREP: Philip Malsale, Tile Tofaeono, Tagaloa Cooper, Salesa Nimehi, Azarel Mariner, Siosina Lui,

SPC: Zulfikar Begg, Jens Kruger, Merana Kitoni, Molly Tora, Andrick Lal, Judith Giblin and Azaria Pickering

OCOF tables were received from 12 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations of January to March 2022:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending March 2022 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
Vunisea, Fiji	March		453.0	77	86
Savusavu, Fiji	March		345.7	55	64
Penang Mill, Fiji	Jan-Mar		2241.4	112	113
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	Jan-Mar		2071.6	121	122
Nadi Airport, Fiji	Jan-Mar		2042	78	79
Vunisea, Fiji	Jan-Mar		1085.6	79	86
Labasa Airport, Fiji	Jan-Mar		1628.9	56	63
Udu Poiint , Fiji	Jan-Mar		1219.6	64	73
Kiritimati, Kiribati	March		11.0	4	97
Arorae, Kiribati	March		6.8	5	56
Kiritimati, Kiribati	Jan-Mar		30.4	5	96
Majuro, RMI	March		498.1	65	68
Kwalalein, RMI	March		281.2	72	78
Hanan Airport, Niue	Jan-Mar		1389.7	111	117
Wewak, PNG	March		63.6	71	71
Momote PNG	March		122.4	64	65
Vanimo, PNG	Jan-Mar		1313.8	60	66
Faleolo, Samoa	March		93.8	4	61
Auki, Solomon Islands	Jan-Mar		1565.4	56	61
Fua'amotu, Tonga	March		594.0	43	43
Niutoputapu, Tonga	Jan-Mar		1113.5	65	72
Fua'amotu, Tonga	Jan-Mar		1302.8	42	43
Nanumea, Tuvalu	March		13.5	2	82
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Jan-Mar		1670.7	50	50
Port Vila, Vanuatu	Jan-Mar		1667.0	70	70
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	Jan-Mar		1197.5	50	51

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

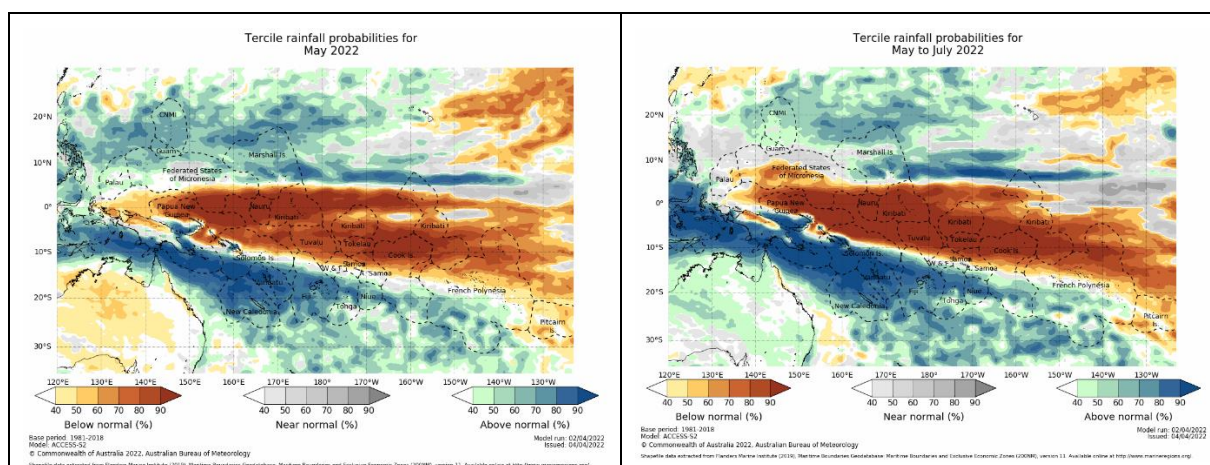
May to July 2022 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

The ACCESS-S May to July outlooks shows below normal rainfall is forecasted for northern PNG Islands, southern FSM, southern RMI, northern Solomon Islands, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Samoa, American Samoa, northern and central Cook Islands, northern and central French Polynesia and northern Pitcairn Island.

In contrast, the models show an increased chance of wetter very likely in Palau, western and eastern FSM, CNMI, Guam, central and northern RMI, western and southeast PNG, southern Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, parts of 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).



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

May to July 2022	
	ACCESS-S
Cook Is North	
Cook Is South	
Fiji West	
Fiji Central	
Fiji East	
Fiji North	
Fiji Rotuma	
FSM West	

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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 176 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 18 May 2022
- Climate Officers to register for PICO 10 and Pacific Climate Change Forum
- Send in their Cyclone and La Niña impacts picture to SPREP for PICO 10

Observed Rainfall

Country	March 2022	January to March 2022
Cook Islands	Normal and above normal	Above Normal
Fiji	Below normal to above normal	Mostly above normal
Kiribati	Mostly below normal	Normal and below normal
RMI	Above normal	Above normal
Niue	Above Normal	Above Normal
Palau	Above normal	Above normal

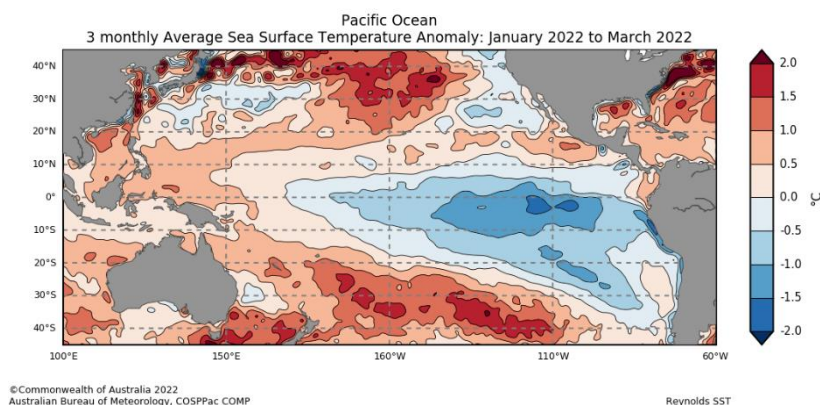
Papua New Guinea	Mostly below normal	Mostly below normal and above normal
Samoa	Below normal	Mostly normal
Solomon Islands	Below normal and normal	Mostly normal and above normal
Tonga	Mostly normal to above normal	Above normal
Tuvalu	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal
Vanuatu	Normal and above normal	Normal and above normal

Ocean Conditions

Observations of January to March 2022

Sea surface temperature:

3 monthly SST shows cooler conditions along the central equatorial regions including parts of Kiribati and northern Cook Islands. Warmer than normal conditions persisted in the west and remainder of partner countries in a boomerang shape, with significant SST anomalies above and below 20 degrees North and South latitudes.



Sea level remained higher than normal for most of the countries from January to March, with significant sea level anomalies located southeast Palau and within the Solomon Sea between PNG and Solomon Islands.

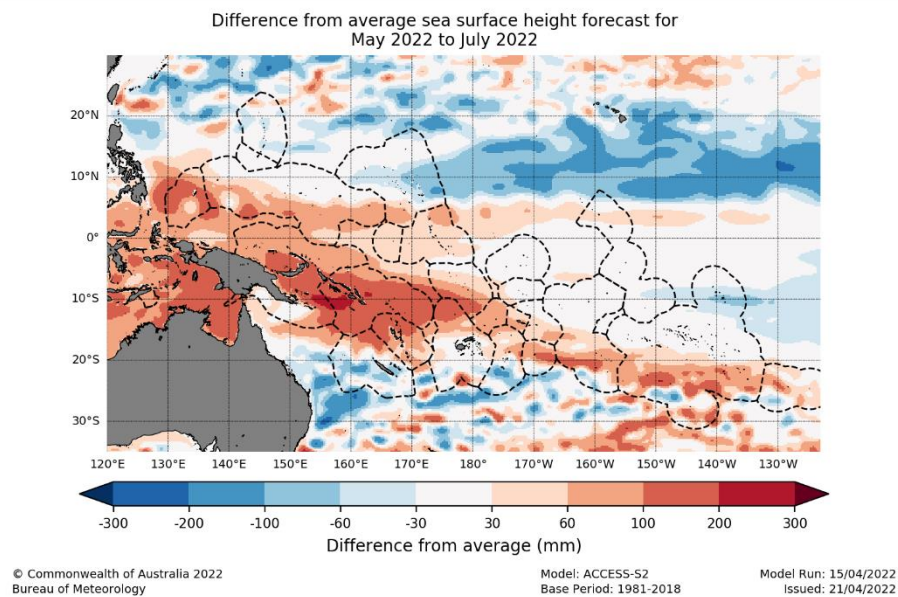
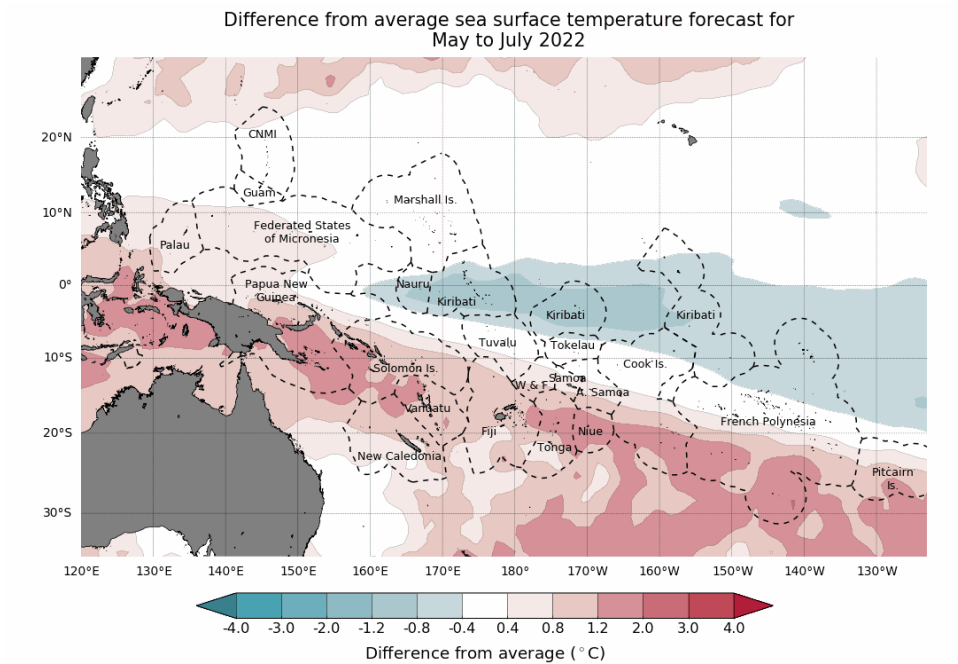
May to July 2022 Outlooks:

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. Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, parts of Cook Islands are favoured to be neutral. A boomerang shape of warm conditions is predicted in the western and remainder of the partner countries.

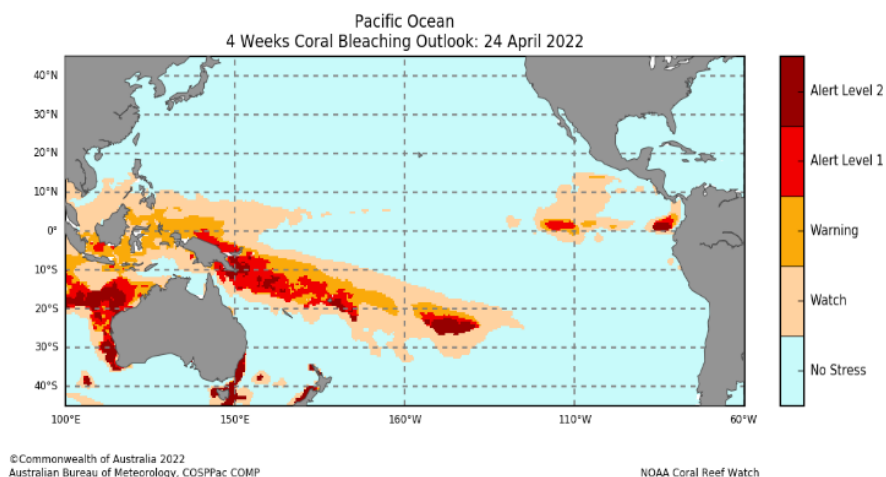
Sea level outlook: sea level is forecasted to be higher than normal for countries near or in the Western Warm Pool (Palau, southern FSM, southern RMI, central and southern Tuvalu, PNG, Solomon Islands, northern Vanuatu and northern Fiji), ranging from 30 to 300 mm in the western Pacific, with significant sea level anomalies of 200-300mm in the Solomon Sea. Pools of lower sea levels is predicted in central and northern RMI, central and southern Fiji, north and southern Cook Islands and Kiribati (Phoenix and central to southern Line Islands). Note that this outlook does not include trends of sea level rise.

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Coral Bleaching Outlook: 4 weeks coral bleaching outlook indicates 'watch and warning for a number of countries and PNG, Solomon Islands, and Fiji 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	March 2022		
	SST	SLA	CB
Cook Islands	NN, AN	AN	No Stress & Watch
Fiji	AN	AN	Watch, Warning & Alert 1
Kiribati	BN	AN	No Stress
Marshall Islands	NN, AN	AN	No Stress
Niue	AN	AN	Watch
Palau	AN	AN	Watch
Papua New Guinea	AN	AN	Warning & Alert 1-2
Samoa	NN	AN	Watch
Solomon Islands	AN	AN	Watch & Alert 1
Tonga	AN	AN	Warning & Alert 1-2
Tuvalu	NN	AN	No Stress & Watch
Vanuatu	AN	AN	Warning & Alert 1

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

Country	Date March 2022	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin	March	Ministry of Transport	29	17	12
Cook Islands - EAR Watch	March	C.I Govt. Stakeholders Public			
Cook Islands – Monthly Climate briefing	March	Climate Change	8	2	6
Cook Islands	March	MMR (Ministry of Marine Resources)	1		1
Fiji-Climate Summary	07 March	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	14 March	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	31 March	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	30 March	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	18 March	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji-ENSO Outlook	25 March	General public	142	116	26
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-31 March	A range of stakeholders	35	25	10
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	03 March	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	118	45	73
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	03 March	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	118	45	73
Kiribati-Media release	03 March	National Media and KMS Staffs	53	23	30
Marshall Island – Climate briefing	25 March	RMI National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)	6	3	3
Niue-Monthly Climate Briefing	15 March	Government Officials and General public	87	37	50
	23 March	Village council and private sector	59	28	31

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Niue- Climate bulletin	21 March	Private Sector, Government Officials, Government staff	75	45	30
Palau	March	<i>No engagement</i>			
PNG- Climate data request	01-30 March	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 March	Kumul Petroleum Holdings Ltd, NARI, UPNG, Morobe Alluvial Mining Ltd,	8	6	2
Samoa – EAR Watch	March	RED Cross, Water Authority (SWA), Media, Health, Works & Infrastructure, Land & Transport Authority, Agriculture & Fisheries, Fire Services, Ministry of Women, National University of Samoa, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Communication and Information Technology, Disaster Managers, Marines	65	27	38
Samoa - Ocean Outlook	March	RED Cross, Water Authority (SWA), Media, Health, Works & Infrastructure, Land & Transport Authority, Agriculture & Fisheries, Fire Services, Ministry of Women, National University of Samoa, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Communication and Information Technology, Disaster Managers, Marines	65	27	38
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	March	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

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Solomon Islands – EAR Watch	March	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	March	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	03 March	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private sectors	155	118	37
Tonga – Ocean Bulletin	03 March	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private sectors	155	118	37
Tuvalu -Climate Bulletin	March	Met staffs, Disaster Members All civil servants All kaupule members	22 9	17 6	5 3
Tuvalu -EAR Watch	March	Met staffs, Disaster Members All civil servants All kaupule members	22 9	17 6	5 3
Tuvalu -Monthly Climate briefing	March	Met staffs, Disaster Members All civil servants All kaupule members	22 9	17 6	5 3
Tuvalu -Ocean Outlook	March	Met staffs, Disaster Members All civil servants All kaupule members	22 9	17 6	5 3
Vanuatu	March	<i>No engagement</i>			
Total			2,092	1,333	657











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

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OCOF 175 Celebration pictures

Country	Pictures	
All	 	
	 	
Cook Islands	 	
Fiji	 	
Kiribati	 	

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Niue		
RMI		
Palau		
Papua New Guinea		
Tuvalu		

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SPC		
SPREP		