

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 176 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 18 May 2022

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Kiribati

Apologies: 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 **15 June 2022** and is to be chaired by **Niue**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 8 climate officers (19 female) from 11 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Shweta Shiwangni, Jasneel Chnadra and Arieta Baleisolomone

Kiribati: Mwata Keariki

Niue: Raquel Tanaki, Robert Togiamana, Sean Tukutama, Floyd Viliamu, Jedaiah Tukuitoga

Papua New Guinea: Nanao Bouauka

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands: Reginal White

Samoa: Kotonu Faasau

Solomon Islands: Lloyd Tahani and Noel Sinau

Tonga: Seluvaia Finaulahi

Tuvalu: Simoea Tiute

Vanuatu: John Ruben

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Australia: Simon McGree, Olivia Warrick, Elise Chandler, Grant Smith, Janita Pahalad and Clare Mullen

SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

SPC: Zulfikar Begg

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

Observations of February to April 2022:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending April 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
Nausori Airport, Fiji	April		159.7	8	66
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	Feb-Apr		1560.3	117	122
Nadi Airport, Fiji	Feb-Apr		1325.3	72	79
Nausori Airport, Fiji	Feb-Apr		621.2	4	66
Tarawa, Kiribati	April		9.5	2	75
Arorae, Kiribati	April		30.2	5	54
Kiritimati, Kiribati	Feb-Apr		57.5	5	97
Arorae, Kiribati	Feb-Apr		47.7	3	54
Majuro, RMI	April		610.1	67	68
Majuro, RMI	Feb-Apr		1331.5	67	68
Hanan Airport, Niue	Feb-Apr		1239.5	112	117
Koror, Palau	April		555.5	70	71
Koror, Palau	Feb-Apr		1092.7	71	71
Wewak, PNG	Feb-Apr		339.8	6	64
Henderson, Solomon Islands	April		346.6	45	48
Honiara, Solomon Islands	April		439.4	65	68
Auki, Solomon Islands	Feb-Apr		1358.7	58	61
Niutoputapu, Tonga	April		69.0	3	72
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	Feb-Apr		1040.5	73	78
Fua'amotu, Tonga	Feb-Apr		1380.5	43	43
Nanumea, Tuvalu	April		84.5	6	82
Funafuti, Tuvalu	April		65.5	3	90
Nanumea, Tuvalu	Feb-Apr		191.9	2	82
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Feb-Apr		1346.1	48	50
Port Vila, Vanuatu	Feb-Apr		1357.5	70	70
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	Feb-Apr		918.9	48	51

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

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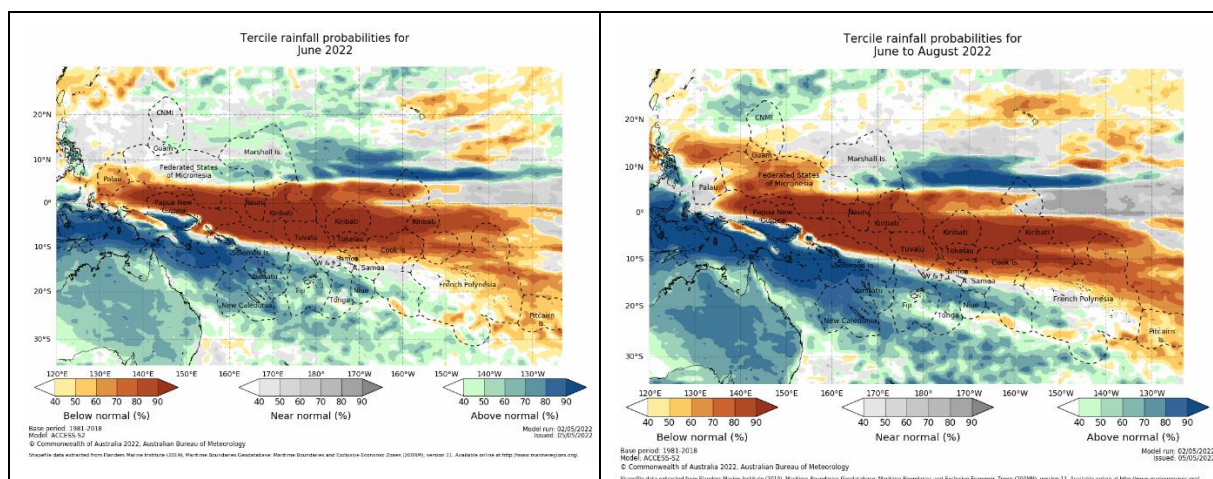
June to August 2022 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

The ACCESS-S June to August shows a larger region of dry signal than the forecast issued last month very likely to affect Palau, southern FSM, PNG Islands, southern RMI, northern Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, northern and central Cook Islands, northern French Polynesia.

The models show an increased chance of wetter very likely for central and northern RMI, eastern PNG, southern Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, and southern Cook Islands.

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						

June to August 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	
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 177 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 15 June 2022
- BOM to provide final review on SCOPIC version 4.4.18 prior to distribution to NMS
- Countries to send in OCOF reports early. Late reports will no be reviewed
- Kisolet Posanau left PNG NMS on 16 May to resume new role as Project Director for PNG Electrification Partnership (PEP) program

Observed Rainfall

Country	April 2022	February to April 2022
Cook Islands		
Fiji	Below normal to above normal	Mostly below normal and above normal
Kiribati	Mostly below normal	Mostly below normal
RMI	Above normal	Above normal
Niue	Normal	Above Normal
Palau	Above normal	Above normal
Papua New Guinea	Mostly below normal and normal	Normal and above normal
Samoa	Below normal and normal	Normal and above normal
Solomon Islands	Mostly normal and above normal	Mostly normal and above normal

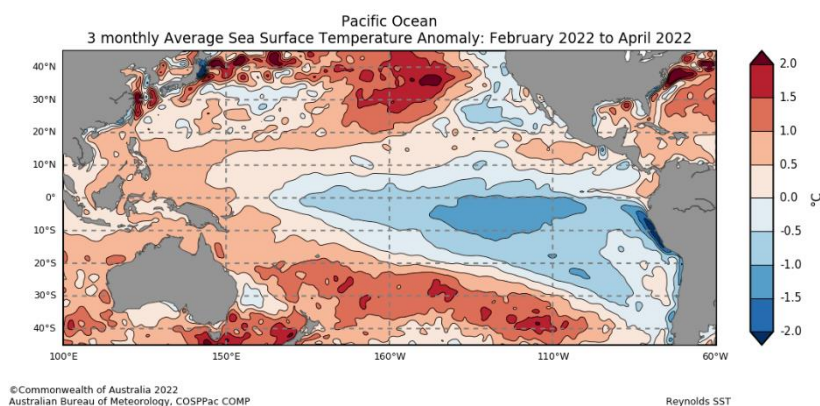
Tonga	Mostly below normal and above normal	Mostly above normal
Tuvalu	Below normal	Below normal
Vanuatu	Mostly normal	Mostly above normal

Ocean Conditions

Observations of February to April 2022

Sea surface temperature:

3 monthly SST shows cooler conditions along the central equatorial regions including parts of Kiribati and the northern Cook Islands. Warmer than normal conditions persisted in the west and remainder of partner countries in a boomerang shape with SST anomalies of 0.5-1.0°C. Significant SST anomalies of 1.0 to over 2.0°C were observed above and below 20 degrees North and South latitudes.



Sea level remained higher than normal for most of the countries from February to April, with significant sea level anomalies above 300mm located southeast Palau, over Solomon Islands and within the Solomon Sea between PNG and Solomon Islands.

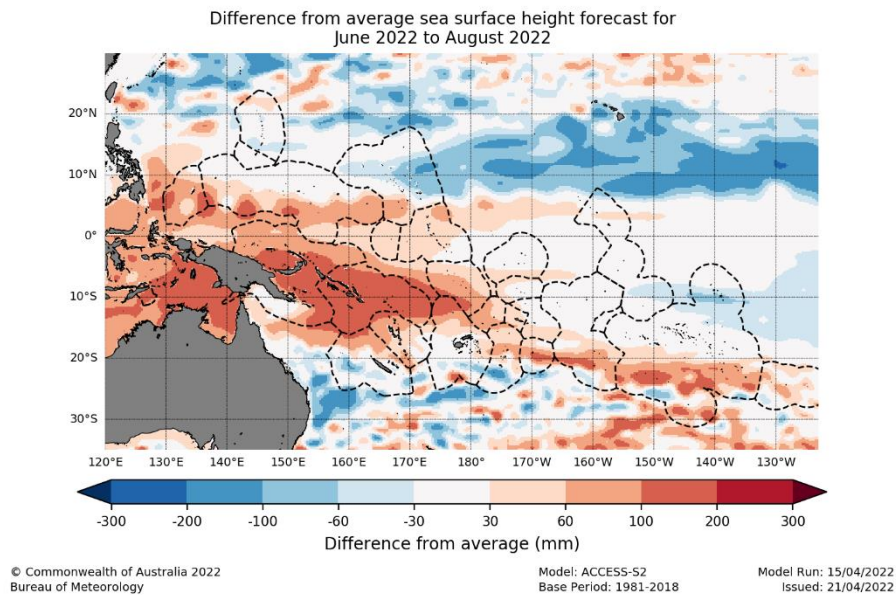
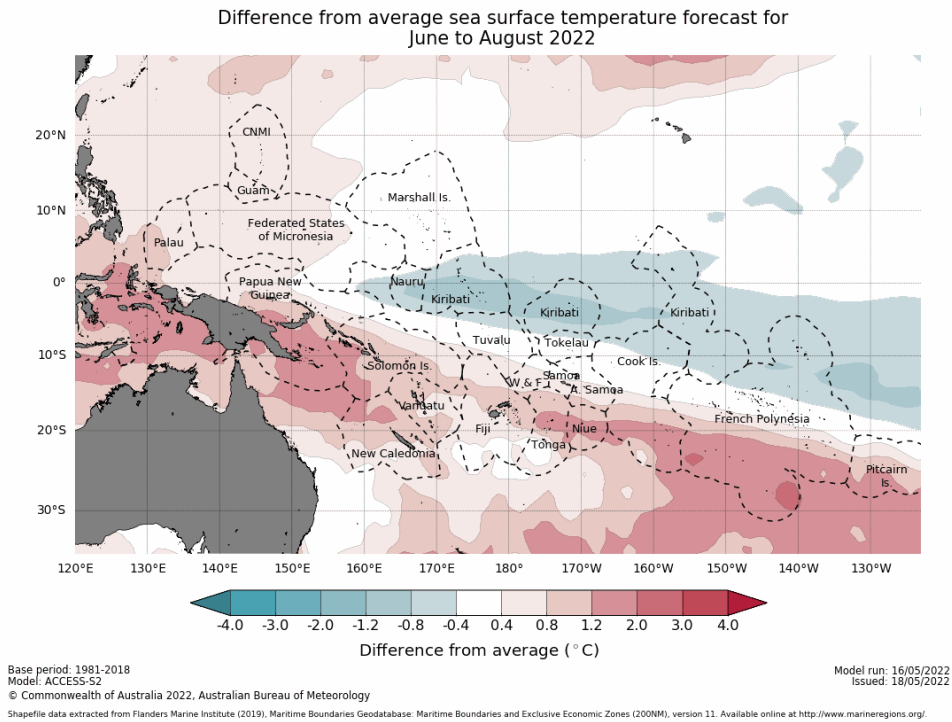
June to August 2022 Outlooks:

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, central Cook Islands are favoured to be neutral. Slight warm conditions in the Northwest Pacific with more significant SST differences from Palau stretching southeastward to southern Cook Islands.

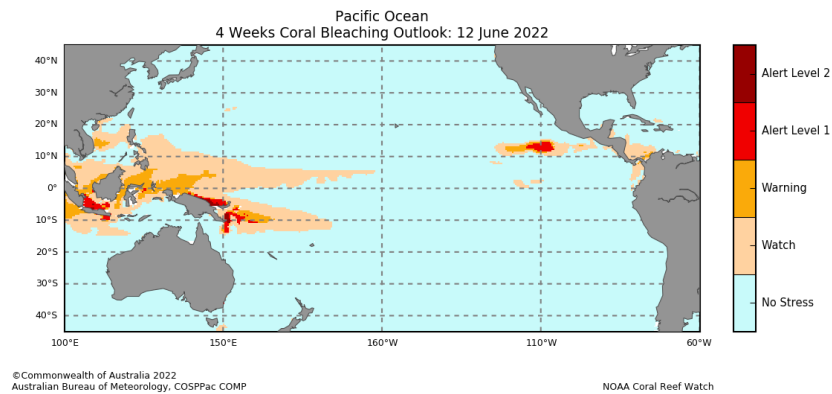
Sea level outlook: Sea level is forecasted to be higher than normal for countries near or in the Western Warm Pool (Palau, southern FSM, southern RMI, central and southern Tuvalu, PNG, Solomon Islands, northern Vanuatu and northern Fiji), ranging from 30 to 200 mm in the western Pacific. Pools of lower sea levels is predicted in northern RMI, southern Fiji, and Kiribati (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 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	April 2022		
	SST	SLA	CB
Cook Islands	NN, AN	AN	No Stress & Watch
Fiji	AN	AN	Watch
Kiribati	BN	AN	No Stress
Marshall Islands	NN	AN	No Stress
Niue	AN	AN	Watch
Palau	AN	AN	Watch
Papua New Guinea	AN	AN	Warning & Alert 1-2
Samoa	NN, AN	AN	Watch
Solomon Islands	AN	AN	Watch, Warning & Alert 1
Tonga	AN	AN	Watch
Tuvalu	NN	AN	No Stress & Watch
Vanuatu	AN	AN	No Stress & Watch

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

Country	Date April 2022	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands		<i>No engagement</i>			
Fiji-Climate Summary	07 April	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	14 April	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	29 April	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	29 April	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Sugarcane Climate Outlook	30 April	Sugar industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-30 April	A range of stakeholders	46	35	11
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	07 April	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	118	45	73
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	07 April	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	118	45	73
Kiribati-Media release	07 April	Media outlets	13	7	6
Marshall Island – Climate briefing	24 April	Chief secretary office and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)	6	4	2
Niue-Monthly Climate Briefing	21 April	Government Officials and General public	67	27	40
		Village council and private sector	19	8	11
Niue- Climate bulletin	30 April	Private Sector, Government Officials, Government staff	60	30	30
Palau – Radio Talk back show	18 April	All sectors			
Palau - Training	19-20 April	For Sonsorol and Tobi State offices that include State officials, rangers, Protected Areas Networks(PAN), and Governors.	30	13	17

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Palau - Training	21 April	Boat Collector Officer, Clerk, President of Nger er a Lukes, Treasurers, PAN Officer, President of Ngeaur Uab, Boat Crew, S-Boat Captain, Senior Citizen, Politicians, State Gouvernement Transportation Dept.	14	8	6
Palau - Training	26 April	Ngarchelong State Employees, Ngerchelongs PAN Rangers, Palau Visitor's Authority, Tourist Dept, Tourist Receptionist, Secretary, Chief of Iyebukl	20	10	10
Palau - Training	28 April	Governor, Speaker, Teachers, School Counselor, Assistant Clerk, Sergeant at Arms, Ranger, PNCC rep, Bio Security Officer, KPS Operator	13	7	6
PNG	April	<i>No engagement</i>			
Samoa-Climate bulletin	05 April	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 – EAR Watch	05 April	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 - Monthly climate bulletin	02 April	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	05 April	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

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Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	April	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	April	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	April	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	13 April	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private sectors	155	118	37
Tonga – Ocean Bulletin	13 April	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private sectors	155	118	37
Tuvalu -Climate Bulletin	April	Met staffs,	22	17	5
		Disaster Members	9	6	3
		All civil servants			
		All kaupule members			
Tuvalu -EAR Watch	April	Met staffs,	22	17	5
		Disaster Members	9	6	3
		All civil servants			
		All kaupule members			
Tuvalu -Monthly Climate briefing	April	Met staffs,	22	17	5
		Disaster Members	9	6	3
		All civil servants			
		All kaupule members			
Tuvalu -Ocean Outlook	April	Met staffs,	22	17	5
		Disaster Members	9	6	3
		All civil servants			
		All kaupule members			
Vanuatu	April	<i>No engagement</i>			
Total			1,819	1,137	682

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