

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 181 Summary Report

Date: Tuesday 18 October 2022

Time: Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time at 12:00PM (01:00 UTC)

Host: SPREP

Chair: SPREP

Apologies: Republic of Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea and SPC

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 November** and is to be chaired by **Solomon Islands**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 11 climate officers (6 female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Arieta Baleisalomone and Shweta Shiwangni

Kiribati: Tekaatu Uribano and Ueneta Toorua

Niue: Raquel Tanaki

Papua New Guinea:

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Kotonu Faasau and Mattaniah Salesa

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai

Tonga: Seluvaia Finaulahi

Tuvalu:



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Vanuatu: Allan Rarai Australia: Grant Beard and Zhi-Weng Chua SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono SPC:	
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OCOF tables were received from 10 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations of July to September 2022:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending September 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
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	September		0.0	1	123
Nausori Airport, Fiji	September		58.5	6	66
Lakeba, Fiji	September		224.9	70	73
Savusavu Airfield, Fiji	September		29.2	4	64
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	Jul-Sep		40.9	8	122
Nadi Airport, Fiji	Jul-Sep		68.1	8	81
Arorae, Kiribati	September		16.6	4	56
Arorae, Kiribati	Jul-Sep		52.7	1	54
Koror, Palau	September		135.9	5	72
Port Moresby, PNG	September		91.8	120	125
Kavieng PNG	September		20.6	2	95
Port Moresby, PNG	Jul-Sep		157.8	99	106
Kavieng, PNG	Jul-Sep		189.4	1	90
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	September		464.9	51	54
Munda, Solomon Islands	Jul-Sep		462.9	3	61
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	Jul-Sep		108.9	3	78
Nui, Tuvalu	Jul-Sep		256.1	6	77
Funafuti, Tuvalu	Jul-Sep		276.6	4	90

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

November 2022 to January 2023 Outlooks:

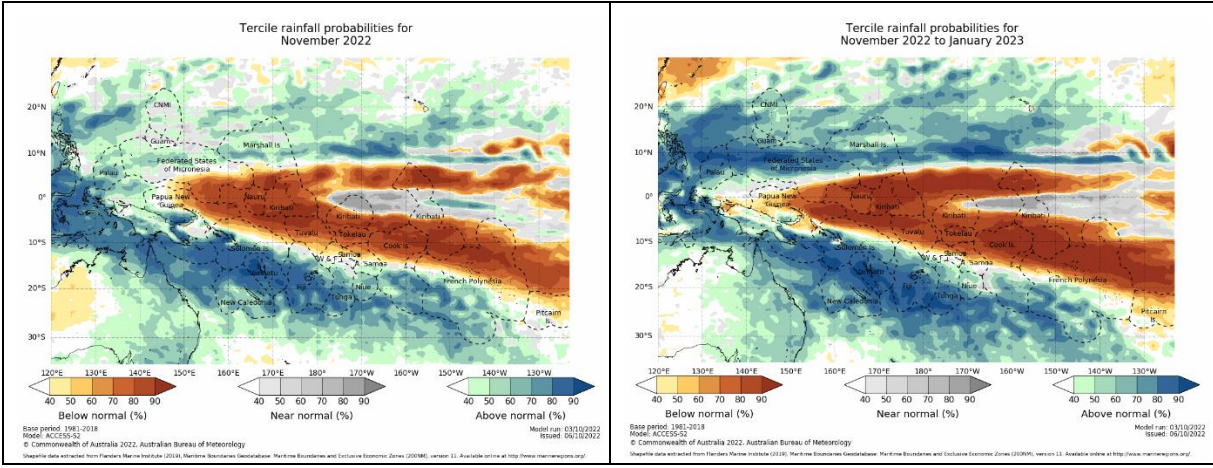
ACCESS-S outlooks:

The ACCESS-S for November to January 2023 shows aspects of a typical La Niña pattern, with a large region where below normal rainfall is very likely stretching east and southeast from FSM and northern PNG in the west, to French Polynesia and Pitcairn Island in the east. The centre of the dry-signal region is situated further west than normal for a classic La Niña.

To the southwest of this region, the ACCESS model shows the opposite signal, that is, moderate to high chances for above average rainfall in a band stretching southeast from Indonesia and Palau across the PNG mainland, the southern half of the Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, most of Fiji, Tonga, Niue, the southern Cook Islands, and southern French Polynesia. Above normal is also favoured across all but the southern fringes of FSM and RMI.

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						

October to December 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 182 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 16 November 2022
- PICOF 11 schedule for the 25th October 2022
- NCOF 2022 schedules for Fiji, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati and Tonga

Observed Rainfall

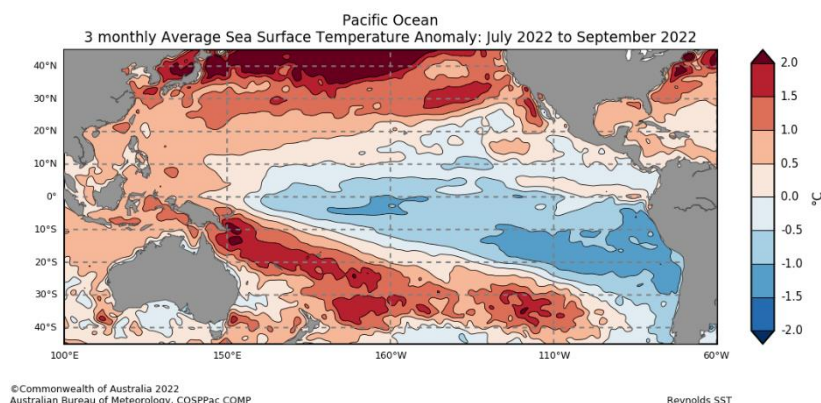
Country	September 2022	July to September 2022
Cook Islands		
Fiji	Mostly below normal and normal	Below normal to above normal
Kiribati	Below normal to above normal	Normal to below normal
RMI	Below normal and above normal	Normal
Niue	Normal	Below normal
Palau	Below normal	Below normal
Papua New Guinea	Below normal and above normal	Below normal and above normal
Samoa	Below normal and normal	Below normal and normal
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and normal
Tonga	Below normal to above normal	Mostly below normal
Tuvalu	Below normal and normal	Below normal
Vanuatu		

Ocean Conditions

Observations of July to September 2022

Sea surface temperature:

Three-monthly SST shows below normal along the central equatorial regions including Nauru, southern Marshall Islands, northern Tuvalu, Kiribati and northern Cook Islands. Near-normal SSTs were observed along 10 degrees North latitude and over northern Marshall Islands, FSM, southern Tuvalu, northern Samoa and central Cook Islands. Above normal temperatures persisted in the remainder partner countries stretching from Palau to southern Cook Islands, with SST anomalies above 1.5°C located southward from PNG to southern Tonga.



Sea level remained higher than normal for most of the countries from July to September, with anomalies above +200mm located from the Solomon Sea to eastern Fiji, plus some similarly elevated patches over southern Tonga, Niue and southern Cook Islands.

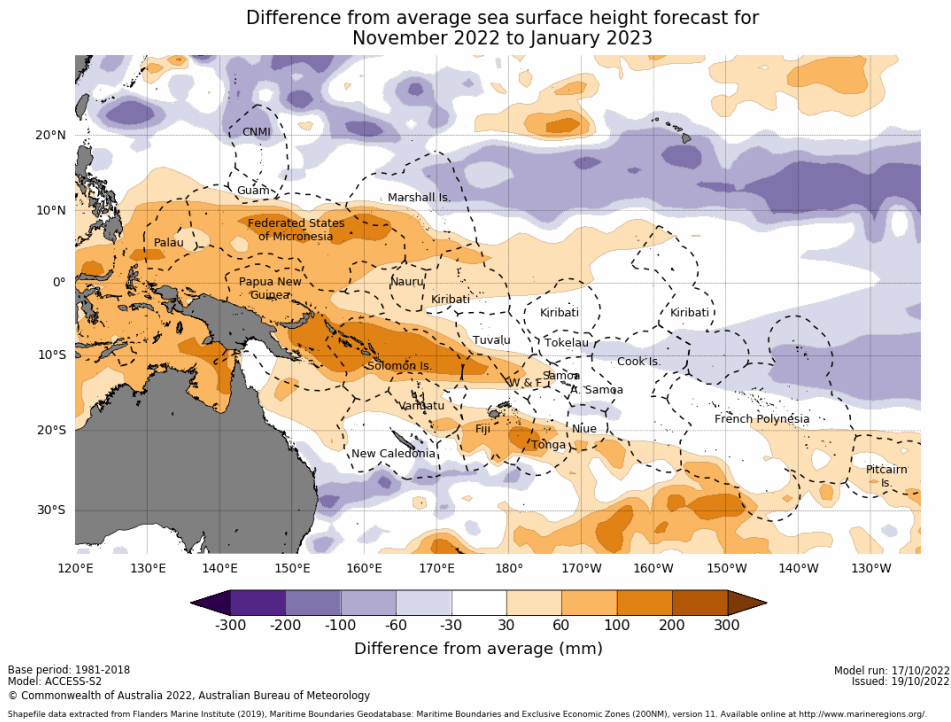
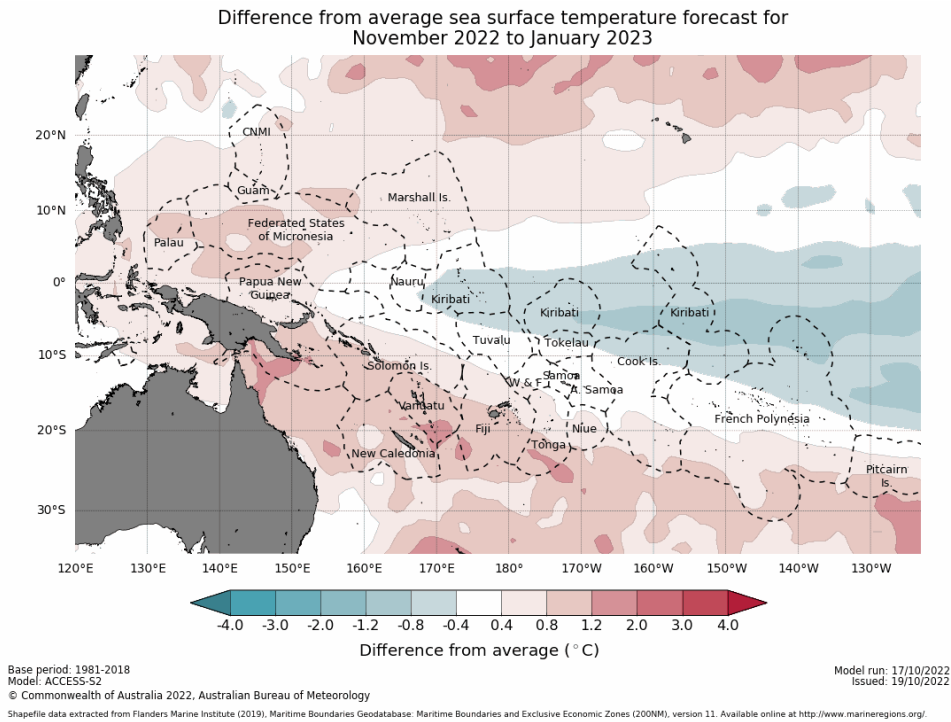
November 2022 to January 2023 Outlooks:

Sea surface temperature outlook: Equatorial zones east of Nauru is forecast to be cooler than normal, with anomalies in the range of -0.4 to -1.2 °C. Central and southern Tuvalu, Samoa, and central Cook Islands are favoured to have near-normal SSTs. Above normal SSTs are predicted in the western Pacific and remainder of the partner countries. SSTs are predicted to be 1.2 to 3.0 °C above normal in a zone stretching south-eastward from PNG to the southern Cook Islands.

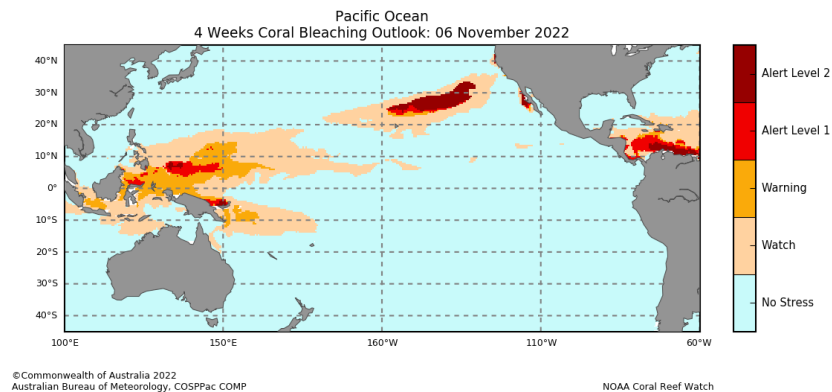
Sea level outlook: Sea level is forecast to be 30-100mm above normal for countries west of the 180° meridian and between 10°N and 10°S, as well as in Vanuatu, southern Fiji, southern Tonga, and southern Niue. Regions where the sea level is forecast to be 100-200mm above normal include the Solomon Sea, Solomon Islands and southern parts of Palau, northern FSM, south-eastern Fiji, and southern Tonga. Pools of below average sea levels are predicted in north-eastern RMI, northern Cook Islands and Kiribati (central and southern Line Islands). Note that this outlook does not include trends of sea level rise.

Coral Bleaching Outlook: 4 weeks coral bleaching outlook indicates 'Alert 2' predicted for parts of northern PNG, 'Alert 1' for Palau and western FSM, with 'Warning' for central FSM, and southern Palau, and Solomon Islands. 'Watch' status for the remainder of FSM, RMI, and remainder of PNG. The remaining countries are predicted to experience no thermal stress.

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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	September 2022		
	SST	SLA	CB
Cook Islands	BN, NN, AN	AN	No Stress
Fiji	AN	AN	No Stress
Kiribati	BN	AN	No Stress
Marshall Islands	NN	AN	Watch
Niue	AN	AN	No Stress
Palau	AN	AN	Alert 1 & Warning
Papua New Guinea	AN	AN	Alert 1-2 & Warning
Samoa	NN	AN	No Stress
Solomon Islands	AN	AN	Watch
Tonga	AN	AN	No Stress
Tuvalu	NN, BN	AN	No Stress
Vanuatu	AN	AN	Watch & No Stress

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

Country	Date September 2022	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands	September	<i>No engagement</i>			
Fiji-Climate Summary	08 September	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	15 September	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	30 September	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	30 September	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-Ocean Outlook	20 September	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji - ENSO update	23 September	General public	142	116	26
Fiji - Meteorological data request	01-30 September	A range of stakeholders	35	24	11
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	9 September	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	118	45	73
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	9 September	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	118	45	73
Kiribati- Media release	9 September	National Media and KMS Staffs	53	23	30
Kiribati - ACCESS-S and EAR Watch virtual training led by COSPPac team	8-9 September	KMS staff	9	3	6
Marshall Island – Climate briefing	23 September	Office of the Chief Secretary and the NDMO	6	3	3

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Niue- Climate Bulletin	7 September	Private Sector, Government Officials and Government staff	50	10	40
Palau- EAR Watch	September	National Emergency Committee (NEC) • Office of the Vice President • Office of the President • NEMO Coordinator • National Weather Service • Bureau of Budget and Planning • Bureau of Tourism • Bureau of Commercial Development • Attorney General's Office • Bureau of Youth, Applied Arts and Careers • Bureau of Public Health • Bureau of Public Work • Bureau of Public Safety • Palau Community College • Bureau of Education Administration • Palau Public Utility Corporation • Palau National Communication Corporation • Bureau of Foreign Affairs& Trade • Bureau of Domestic Affairs • Bureau of Agriculture • Governors Association • Palau Red Cross Society • Environment Quality Protection Board • Bureau of Aviation • Division of Property and Supply • Palau Chamber of Commerce • Palau Visitor's Authority • Bureau of Customs & Boarder Protection • Koror State Government	28	19	9
PNG	September	<i>No engagement</i>			
Samoa – Climate Outlook	30 September	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	30 September	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	30 September	RED Cross, Water Authority (SWA), Media, Health, Works & Infrastructure, Land & Transport Authority, Agriculture & Fisheries, Fire Services, Ministry of	65	27	38

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		Women, National University of Samoa, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Communication and Information Technology, Disaster Managers, Marines			
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	September	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	September	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	September	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	3 September	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private sectors	155	118	37
Tonga – Ocean Bulletin	3 September	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private sectors	155	118	37
Tuvalu -Climate Bulletin	September	Met staffs,	22	17	5
		Disaster Members	2	2	
		TRC	2	1	1
		TuCAN	1	1	
		Agriculture	2		2
Tuvalu -Monthly Climate briefing	September	All civil servants	2		
		All kaupule members			
		Met staffs,	22	17	5
		Disaster Members	2	2	
		TRC	2	1	1
Tuvalu -Ocean Outlook	September	TuCAN	2	1	
		Agriculture	1	1	
		All civil servants	2		
		All kaupule members			
		Met staffs,	22	17	5
		Disaster Members	2	2	
		TRC	2	1	1
		TuCAN	1	1	
		Agriculture	2		2
		All civil servants			
		All kaupule members			

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Vanuatu - Climate bulletin	September	No engagement			
Total			1,711	1,099	612

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