Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 200 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 16 May 2024

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

Host: SPREP

Chair: Vanuatu

Apologies: None

Main purpose for the OCOF:

- To provide a regular forum for the 14 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 SPP (Bureau of Meteorology and SPREP) project team.
- In addition, it serves as an online training forum for recent ACCESS development and gives the project team and the NMSs an opportunity to discuss other project-related matters.

Agenda:

- 1. Special agenda for the 200th OCOF, including video reports from the PICs.
- 2. Brief introduction of PIC participants, SPREP, SPC and Bureau of Meteorology teams.
- 3. Report on current ENSO status.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Round-table discussion: addressing general concerns/queries on outlooks and SCOPIC, CliKp and ACCESS-S
- 6. Feedback on COSPPac products and services.
- 7. Country statements with regards to drought or drought-like conditions, drought module issues/concerns.
- 8. The next OCOF will be held on **13 June 2024.**

Participants:

The OCOF 200 was attended by 64 climate officers (19 female) from 14 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea Fiji: Jasneel Chandra, and Shweta Shiwangni FSM (Chuuk): Boyd Mackensie, Sanchez and Sosten FSM (Pohnpei): Joe, Wallace, Sammy, Junior Kiribati: Mwata Keariki, Miriam, Tekaatu Niue: Sean Tukutama, Floyd Viliamu, Robert Togiamana, Shane Tohovaka, Jiare Rigamoto, Helena Tongakilo & Rossy Mitiepo Papua New Guinea: Nathan Yuave, Kasis

Tauala Katea

Papua New Guinea: Nathan Yuave, Kas Inape, Justina Kawi, Agnes Diap, Kila Kila



OCOF tables were received from 14 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations of February to April 2024:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending April 2024 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	April	60	6	114
Lautoka, Fiji	April	16.9	2	125
Nadi Airport, Fiji	April	13.7	1	82
Lakeba, Fiji	April	43.0	4	72
Labasa, Fiji	April	30.9	4	69
Penang Mill, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1490.5	104	114
Lautoka, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1320.0	114	124
Nadi Airport, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1353.2	77	81
Laucal Bay, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1397.3	76	83
Nausori, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1331.5	61	68
Navua, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1584.5	72	79
Vunisea, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1200.3	83	87
Labasa, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1511.4	64	67
Savusavu, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1338.0	63	63

Nafanua, Samoa	Feb-Apr	643.5	4	52
Auki, Solomon Islands	April	408.5	58	63
Auki, Solomon Islands	Feb-Apr	1559.1	62	63
Ha'apai, Tonga	April	40.6	6	78
Fua'amotu, Tonga	April	22.3	4	45
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	Feb-Apr	1015.0	73	79
Pekoa, Vanuatu	Feb-Apr	1370.3	51	54
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Feb-Apr	1339.5	48	52

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

June to August 2024 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

The three-month ACCESS-S rainfall outlook for **June-August 2024** is similar to the outlook for May-July. A relatively thin band where above normal is likely or very likely, stretches east-southeast from alau across northern PNG, the northern Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, the southern Phoenix Is, Wallis and Futuna, Tokelau, Samoa, American Samoa, northern far Tonga, the eastern half of Niue, most of the Cook Is, the southern Line Islands, and northern French Polynesia. Another region favouring above normal rainfall extends east from Palau over western FSM, and central RMI.

Below normal is likely or very likely, in Guam, CNMI, far northern RMI, south to southeast PNG, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, southern Fiji, southeastern central French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Islands. An equatorial band favouring below normal rainfall extends east from southeast FSM, Nauru, northern Gilbert, across the Date Line and affects the northern parts of both the Phoenix and Line Islands.



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

м	ay to July 20	24	
	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			

	May-Jul 2024	Jun-Aug 2024
	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		
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:

- ENSO is neutral. There are some early signs that a La Niña might form in the Pacific Ocean later in 2024.
- NMHS were encouraged to finalise El Niño impacts report.
- OCOF 201 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 13 June 2024

Observed Rainfall

Country	April 2024	February to April 2024	
Cook Islands	Normal and above normal	Normal	
Fiji	Mostly below normal	Mostly above normal	
FSM (Chuuk)	Normal	Normal	
FSM (Pohnpei)	Below normal and normal	Normal and above normal	
Kiribati	Below normal to above normal	Mostly above normal	
RMI	Below normal and normal	Below normal	
Nauru	No report	No report	
Niue	Below normal	Below normal	
Palau	Normal	Normal	
Papua New Guinea	Mostly below normal	Below normal and above normal	

Samoa	Below normal and normal	Below normal	
Solomon Islands	Below normal and above normal	Mostly normal	
Tonga	Below normal and normal	Below normal to above normal	
Tuvalu	Normal	Below normal to above normal	
Vanuatu	Mostly below normal and normal	Mostly above normal	

Ocean Conditions

Observations of February to April 2024

Sea surface temperature (SST):

Above-normal SST anomalies up to 1.5°C persisted in most places in the region, with a few patches more than 1.5°C over Kiribati (central Line Islands and Gilbert Islands) and northern Cook Islands. Nearnormal SST observed in Palau, northern part of FSM, most of Marshall Island, central PNG, southern Vanuatu, southern Fiji and southern French Polynesia, with a few patches over southern Tonga, Niue and Cook Islands. Compared with November 2023 to January 2024, the SST anomaly pattern with magnitude greater than 2.0°C above normal, which were dominant across tropical equatorial region from central to eastern Pacific, have fully dissipated in the February to April 2024 period.



April sea level was generally near-normal along the equator between Nauru and 110°W longitude, southern Tuvalu, central Fiji, central Tonga and parts of Solomon Islands. Additionally, near normal sea level accompanied by a few patches of below normal was observed in southeastern PNG, southern part of Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, northern New Caledonia, Samoa, northern part of Niue, and central Cook Islands. The rest were generally above normal sea level ranging from 50 to 200mm, with a few patches greater than 200mm over Solomon Islands, Palau, Tonga, southern Fiji, southwestern New Caledonia and southern Cook Islands.



June to August 2024 Outlooks:

Sea surface temperature (SST) outlook: SSTs are generally forecast to be 0.4 to 1.2 °C above normal affecting most of the COSPPac countries except for a few patches up to 2°C over Tuvalu, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Gilbert Islands (Kiribati) and near normal over PNG, Fiji, French Polynesia, FSM, Line Islands (Kiribati) and Pitcairn Islands.

Sea level outlook: Sea level is generally near-normal for most of the COSPPac countries. Above normal sea level is forecast for part of the countries north of 20°N and south of 20°S. They are parts of Guam, and northern half of Marshall Islands in the Northern Hemisphere (up to 60mm). In the Southern Hemisphere (up to 100mm), they are central and southern parts of New Caledonia, parts of southern Fiji, southern Tonga, southern Niue, part of southern Cook Islands, and far southern part of French Polynesia. Above normal (up to 60mm) is also forecast for part of southern Line Islands (Kiribati). Within the 20°N and 20°S lies two main bands of below normal sea level extending from west to east. The first band lies along the equator with part over central Gilbert Islands, northern edge of Phoenix Islands and central Line Islands. The second band extends eastwards from southern Tonga, Samoa, northern Niue, part of southern Tuvalu, northern Tonga, Samoa, northern Niue, part of southern Cook Islands, and parts of central French Polynesia. The rest of the regions are forecast to be near-normal. Note that this outlook does not include trends of sea level rise.

Coral Bleaching Outlook: For the four weeks outlook to 23 June, "Alert Levels 1 and 2" are forecast for Palau, northern half of PNG, southern FSM, part of northern Solomon Islands, southern Nauru, Kiribati (southern Gilbert, and Phoenix Islands), and part of Tuvalu. "Warning" areas is forecast for northern Palau, most of southern half of FSM, northern Nauru, southern Marshall Islands, parts of northern and southern Gilbert Islands, and parts of northern and southern Line Islands. Broad region of "Watch" areas surrounding both the "Alert Levels 1 and 2" and the Warning areas includes northern part of FSM, southern part of Marshall Islands, central Gilbert Islands, Phoenix Islands, Tokelau, Samoa, northern Cook Islands, northern Fiji, northern Solomon Islands and central PNG. The remaining countries and some parts of the countries mentioned above are predicted to experience "no thermal stress".





Shapefile data extracted from Flanders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 11. Available online at http://www.marineregions.org/



Observed Conditions

SST: sea surface temperature anomaly SLA: sea level anomaly BN: Below Normal NN: Near Normal AN: Above Normal

Country	Apr	il 2024
Country	SST	SLA
Cook Islands	AN/ NN	AN/NN/BN
Fiji	AN/NN	AN/ NN
FSM (Chuuk)	AN/NN	AN
FSM (Pohnpei)	AN/NN	NN/AN
Kiribati	AN/NN	AN/NN
Marshall Islands	AN/NN	AN/NN
Nauru	AN/NN	NN/AN
Niue	AN/NN	AN/NN
Palau	AN/NN	NN/AN
Papua New Guinea	AN/NN	AN/NN/BN
Samoa	AN	NN/BN
Solomon Islands	AN/NN	AN/NN
Tonga	AN/NN	AN,/NN
Tuvalu	AN	AN/NN
Vanuatu	AN/NN	NN/BN

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

Country	Date April	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
	2024				
Cook Islands- EAR Watch	April	Red Cross, Island Council and Executive Officers, To Tatou Vai	39		
Cook Island – Monthly Climate Briefing	April	Climate Change	8		
Cook Islands – Climate Data Request	April	Ministry of Marine Resources, Local Newspaper	2		2
Fiji - Climate Summary	08 April	General public	140	106	34
Fiji - EAR Watch	15 April	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji - Climate Outlook	30 April	General public	124	93	31
Fiji - Climate Outlook for Monasavu	30 April	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji - Ocean Outlook	19 April	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji - Sugarcane rainfall outlook	11 April	Sugarcane Industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji - Meteorological data request	01-30 April	A range of stakeholders	69	53	16
FSM (Chuuk) - Climate Bulletin	April	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Chuuk) - EAR Watch	April	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Chuuk) – Ocean Outlook	April	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Pohnpei) – Climate bulletin	April	Pohnpei Municipal, Gov't, Kosrae, Municipal Gov't, Pohnpei and Kosrae DCO, Dept. Of Education, Red Cross, Fisheries, Environmental Protection	54	43	11

		Agency, DECEM, Mayors, Dept. Of Public Safety, Pohnpei Utility Corporation, Tourism, Fisheries.			
FSM – EAR Watch	April	Pohnpei Municipal, Gov't, Kosrae, Municipal Gov't, Pohnpei and Kosrae DCO, Dept. Of Education, Red Cross, Fisheries, Environmental Protection Agency, DECEM, Mayors, Dept. Of Public Safety, Pohnpei Utility Corporation, Tourism, Fisheries.	54	43	11
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	8 April	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88
Kiribati – EAR Watch	12 April	Drought committee members	62	35	27
Kiribati - Media release	8 April	KMS Media and KMS Staffs	53	23	30
Kiribati - Ocean Bulletin	8 April	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88
Kiribati – Climate data request	1-30 April	Government and Non-government sectors and local fishermen	9	6	3
Marshall Island – Climate briefing	19 April	Office of the Chief Secretary and the National Disaster Management Office	6	4	2
Marshall Island – Climate bulletin	22-26 April	Climate Change WeeksGovernment Agencies, Middle School and High School Students	64	30	34
Marshall Island – Ocean Outlook	22-23 April	Climate Change WeeksGovernment Agencies, Middle School and High School Students	52	33	19
Nauru	April	No report			
Niue	April	No engagement			
Palau-Data request for Wind Forecast	1	Coral Reef Research Foundation and WSO Palau	2	0	2
Palau-Data Request for Monthly Rainfall and Temps for Palau Climate Stats Yearbook	1	Office of Planning & Statistics, Bureau of Budget & Planning, Ministry of Finance	2	1	1
Palau-NIWA Island Climate Update	5	Social media and WSO Palau	13+	9+	4+
Palau-OCOF 200 Video	7	WSO Palau, SPREP	2	1	1
Palau-EAR Watch	8	WSO Palau and social media	15+	10+	5+
Palau-Climate Story and Palau	8	WSO Palau and social media	17+	11+	6+

Palau-Rainfall April La Nina 2023 vs April El Nino 2024					
Palau Island Climate Update	9	WSO Palau, social media, agriculture	14+	10+	4+
Palau-Pacific ENSO Applications Climate Services (PEAC) Outlook	12	WSO Palau and social media	18+	12+	6+
Palau-APCC Outlook Tailored for Palau	12	WSO Palau, social media	15+	11+	4+
Palau-OCOF Outlook Bulletin	16	WSO Palau, social media, agriculture	15+	10+	5+
Palau-Climate and Ocean Bulletin	19	WSO Palau, social media, agriculture sector	18+	12+	6+
Palau-APCC Regional Outlook	19	WSO Palau, social media	13+	9+	4+
Palau-Climate data request	1-30 April	VMJ Construction Company and WSO Palau, Customer and WSO Palau, Bureau of Agriculture and WSO Palau, Paddling Palau and WSO Palau	8	4	4
PNG - Drought Update	25 April	NGOs, Consultants, Construction Companies, Govt Agencies, Companies, General public	217	177	40
PNG - Weekly Ok Tedi Mine Climate Briefing	12 April	OK Tedi Mine	16	14	2
PNG – Climate data request	1-30 April	NGOS, Consultants, schools, Construction Companies, Govt Agencies, Companies	5	4	1
Samoa – EAR Watch	6 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 – Seasonal rainfall Outlook	6 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 - Climate summary	6 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	6 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
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	3 April	Government ministries. NGOs, Media, Private Sector	155	118	37
Tonga – Ocean Outlook	3 April	Government ministries. NGOs, Media, Private Sector	155	118	37
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	26 April	MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture All Civil Servants All Kaupule Secretary	20+	10	10

Tuvalu – EAR Watch	26 April	MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture All Civil Servants	43+	23	13
Tuvalu – Ocean Outlook	26 April	All Kaupule Secretary MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture All Civil Servants All Kaupule Secretary	43+	23	13
Tuvalu - Monthly Climate briefing	26 April	MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture All Civil Servants All Kaupule Secretary	43+	23	13
Vanuatu - Climate Update	10 April	VMGD Website/Social Media	750		
Vanuatu- Ocean Outlook	10 April	VMGD Website/Social Media	709		
Vanuatu-Agro-met Bulletin	19 April	VMGD Website			
Vanuatu-Tourism Climate Bulletin	15 April	VMGD Website/Social Media	273		
Vanuatu-Fisheries Climate Bulletin	15 April	VMGD Website/Social Media	492		
Vanuatu - Climate data request	1-30 April	Research Student – USP WFD, VMGD	2	2	
Vanuatu- Social Media Products : - ENSO Status – Neutral	16 April 26 April	General Public	1914		
- Dry Season TK Indicators					
Vanuatu-VBTC News	22 April	- VBTC, VMGD, General Public			
Total			6,432	1,551	824

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

The discussion can be found in the link below.

Link: <u>https://sprep.zoom.us/rec/share/LaeFUMKL-</u> <u>PSSYTev0xKtMIIYBf7kwZlyKP1wHAmNQB6B8o9Pebm6mMibW4_XRtr1.RzAs-cLKp45-zrI7</u> Passcode: Qv%jL3Eu