Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 122

Country Name: Samoa

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			October 2017				
	August 2017 Total	September 2017 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu	360.7	101.4	369.3	244.9	415.6	334.3	38/66
Nafanua	251.1	72.0	237.5	172.9	345.5	238.3	23/46
Apia	284.2	90.6	177.9	144.0	235.9	183.0	63/128
Faleolo	142.7	25.6	263.5	128.1	191.3	155.3	48/56

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
August to October 2017

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #118]

Station	Three-month Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking	Forecast probs.* (include LEPS)	Verification* (Consistent, Near-consistent Inconsistent)?
Afiamalu	831.4	589.2	826.5	718.4	42/63	**41**/35/24 (0.6)	Inconsistent
Nafanua	560.6	457.8	611.1	535.1	24/45	**40**/28/32 (-0.9)	Near-consistent
Apia	552.7	364.3	528.9	438.2	95/128	**45**/30/25 (2.6)	Inconsistent
Faleolo	431.8	281.9	421.5	351.8	38/54	**47**/29/24 (1.7)	Inconsistent

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for August to October 2017 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #118):

Nino 3.4 indices from May to June 2017.

*Forecast is consistent when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) categories coincide (are in the same tercile).
Forecast is near-consistent when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) differ by only one category (i.e. terciles 1 and 2 or terciles 2 and 3).
Forecast is inconsistent when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) differ by two categories (i.e. terciles 1 and 3).

TABLE 3: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using SCOPIC for December 2017 to February 2018

Predictors and Period used: Nino 3.4 value from September to October 2017.

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	45	1927.4	**56**		8.9%	62.5%
Nafanua	39	1325.6	**61**		25.1%	67.5%
Apia	45	1138.8	**55**		11.5%	57.6%
Faleolo	46	854.2	**54**		3.1%	59.3%

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	30	1621.3	33	2244.7	**37**	12.2%	48.2%
Nafanua	14	1179.4	**43**	1610.7	**43**	27.9%	57.5%
Apia	25	1012.3	**37**	1321.1	**37**	11.7%	47.0%
Faleolo	30	763.4	35	916.7	**36**	2.1%	35.2%

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for December 2017 to February 2018

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	27	892	15	1361	**58**		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for October 2017:

'Normal rainfall' recorded in all stations whereas Faleolo observed 'above normal'.

Accumulated rainfall for August to October 2017, including outlook verification:

'Above normal' rainfall observed for all stations except Nafanua recorded 'normal' accumulated rainfall.

The outlook issued was verified to be 'inconsistent' for all stations whereas 'near consistent' for Nafanua station.

Outlooks for December 2017 to February 2018:

1. **SCOPIC:**
   The outlook for Afiamalu and Faleolo offers little guidance as the chances of above normal, normal and below normal are similar.

   The outlook for Nafanua and Apia in the coming season shows a near-equal likelihood of 'above normal' and 'normal' rainfall. 'Below normal' is the least likely.

   The confidence of the model ranges from low to very high.

2. **POAMA:** "Above normal" is favoured for Apia in the next coming season.

NB: The X LEPS % score has been categorised as follows:

Very Low: X < 0.0	Low: 0 ≤ X < 5	Moderate 5 ≤ X < 10	Good: 10 ≤ X < 15	High: 15≤ X < 25
Very High: 25 ≤X < 35	Exceptional: X ≥ 35			