Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 114

Country Name: Samoa

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			February 2017				
	December 2016 Total	January 2016 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu	834.2	497.5	971.9	398.2	626.6	518.2	57/64
Nafanua	757.3	338.8	641.0	321.6	463.6	396.0	42/45
Apia	560.4	270.4	543.3	270.0	398.0	339.2	112/128
Faleolo	382.7	226.5	275.7	186.7	277.1	235.7	37/56

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
December 2016 to February 2017

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #110]

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	2303.6	1620.4	2225.4	1925.3	44/62	28/30/**42** (9.4)	Consistent
Nafanua	1737.1	1166.0	1564.3	1322.3	31/40	13/43/**44** (23.2)	Consistent
Apia	1374.1	1005.2	1310.9	1137.0	89/126	22/38/**40** (11.7)	Consistent
Faleolo	884.9	762.4	921.4	842.7	33/54	28/34/**38** (2.3)	Consistent

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for November to January 2017 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #110):
Nino 3.4 values from July to September 2016

*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 April to June 2017

Predictors and Period used: NINO 3.4 indices from December 2016 to February 2017

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	50	847.5	50		-1.9%	29.1%
Nafanua	46	658.8	54		0.5%	59.1%
Apia	49	539.2	51		-1.3%	53.0%
Faleolo	46	397.0	54		-0.6%	62.3%

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	30	752.3	**37**	952.4	33	-1.7%	36.4%
Nafanua	28	509.4	**40**	735.1	32	-0.2%	43.2%
Apia	31	455.0	**36**	648.0	33	-1.8%	28.8%
Faleolo	31	343.4	**37**	458.3	32	-2.1%	37.7%

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for April to June 2017

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	**67**	486	12	628	21		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for February 2017: "Above normal" rainfall recorded for Afiamalu, Nafanua and Apia, while Faleolo received "normal rainfall".

Accumulated rainfall for December 2016 to February 2017, including outlook verification:

All stations observed "above normal" rainfall.

The outlook verification was "consistent" for all stations.

Outlooks for April to June 2017:

1. SCOPIC:

- The outlook for April to June for Afiamalu, Apia and Faleolo offers little guidance for the coming seasons as the chances of "above normal", "normal" and "below normal" rainfall are similar.
- Nafanua station shows the most likely outcome is "normal", with "above normal" rainfall the next most likely.
- The confidence of the is "very low"

2. POAMA: "Below normal" rainfall was favour 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			