Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 121

Country Name: Samoa

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	July 2017 Total	August 2017 Total	September 2017				
			Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu	120.5	360.7	101.4	117.3	218.6	157.9	18/65
Nafanua	142.8	251.1	72.0	105.2	176.0	154.8	9/45
Apia	104.1	284.2	90.6	94.5	173.0	122.0	42/128
Faleolo	26.7	142.7	25.6	55.6	116.2	82.1	7/55

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
July to September 2017
[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #117]

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	582.6	475.9	671.0	589.8	30/63	**37**/36/27 (-1.7)	Near-consistent
Nafanua	466.5	313.4	497.6	392.4	27/45	35/**36**/29 (-2.5)	Consistent
Apia	478.9	251.0	423.0	343.6	101/128	**37**/33/30 (-1.9)	Inconsistent
Faleolo	195.0	207.6	358.2	275.8	17/53	**49**/29/22 (-0.5)	Consistent

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for July to September 2017 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #117):

Nino 3.4 indices from March to May 2017.

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*Forecast is underline 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 November 2017 to January 2018

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

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	56	1761.9	44		11.3%	67.9%
Nafanua	54	1294.9	46		13.2%	67.5%
Apia	55	1055.7	45		9.5%	60.6%
Faleolo	53	791.8	47		2.4%	63.6%

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	**39**	1458.6	38	1969.2	23	12.0%	44.6%
Nafanua	34	1085.3	**36**	1472.0	30	18.1%	60.0%
Apia	**36**	956.9	34	1200.8	30	4.2%	48.5%
Faleolo	**36**	696.8	32	893.0	32	2.8%	23.6%

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for

November 2017 to January 2018

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	33	935	9	1213	**58**		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for September 2017: "Below-normal" rainfalls were recorded for all stations.

Accumulated rainfall for July to September 2017, including outlook verification:

Afiamalu and Nafanua observed "normal" rainfall whereas "above-normal" was received at Apia. Faleolo recorded "below-normal" rainfall.

The outlook verification for Nafanua and Faleolo was "consistent", for Afiamalu it was "near-consistent", while it was inconsistent at Apia.

Outlooks for November 2017 to January 2018:

1. **SCOPIC:**
   - The outlook for Afiamalu shows a near equal likelihood of "below-normal" and "normal".
   - The outlook for the other sites offers little guidance for the coming season as the chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal are similar.

The confidence of the model is "low to high".

POAMA: "Above-normal" rainfall is favoured for Apia for the next season.

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

Very Low: X < 0.0   Low: $0 \leq X < 5$ Moderate $5 \leq X < 10$ Good: $10 \leq X < 15$ High: $15 \leq X < 25$

Very High: $25 \leq X < 35$ Exceptional: $X \geq 35$