

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 124

Country Name: Samoa

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			December 2017				
	October 2017 Total	November 2017 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu	369.3	554.2	700.1	440.0	657.5	532.8	45/65
Nafanua	237.5	409.0	593.0	333.6	474.2	399.8	36/43
Apia	177.9	367.7	592.2	279.3	431.2	368.0	112/127
Faleolo	263.5	228.9	437.9	208.0	308.1	265.8	51/56

**TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
October to December 2017**

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #120]

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	1623.6	1129.0	1498.2	1266.3	46/64	31/35/34 (6.6)	Near consistent
Nafanua	1239.5	781.3	1026.5	903.8	38/40	30/37/33 (14.5)	Near consistent
Apia	1137.8	718.2	900.7	817.7	124/127	31/35/34 (3.9)	Near consistent
Faleolo	991.3	548.1	696.6	611.6	52/55	35/33/32 (5.2)	Inconsistent

Period: *below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for October to December 2017 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #120):

Nino 3.4 values of July to August 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 February to April 2018

Predictors and Period used: Nino 3.4 values of November to December 2017.

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	52	1426.2	48		-1.2%	55.4%
Nafanua	42	1056.2	58		2.4%	62.2%
Apia	43	929.0	57		2.5%	58.2%
Faleolo	55	629.8	45		0.7%	55.4%

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	32	1253.6	33	1549.2	35	-1.7%	35.7%
Nafanua	23	915.3	40	1132.8	37	2.5%	33.3%
Apia	27	808.6	36	1014.7	37	0.9%	49.3%
Faleolo	36	591.1	30	692.6	34	1.8%	37.5%

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

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	24	795	27	1108	49		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for December 2017: “Above normal” rainfall was recorded across all stations.

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

All stations recorded “above normal” rainfall.

The outlook verification for Afiamalu, Nafanua and Apia were “near consistent”. Faleolo recorded “inconsistent”.

Outlooks for February to April 2018:

1. SCOPIC:

The outlook for Afiamalu and Faleolo offers little guidance for the coming season as the chances of above normal, normal and below normal rainfall are similar.

The outlook for Nafanua and Apia shows a near equal likelihood of above normal and normal rainfall.

The confidence of the model is very low to low

2. POAMA:

Above-normal rainfall is the most likely outcome for Apia in the coming 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: $X \geq 35$