Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 127

Country Name: Samoa

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			March 2018				
	January 2018 Total	February 2018 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu	877.6	1237.4	352.1	392.9	584.5	489.5	18/66
Nafanua	690.5	850.1	252.3	312.3	397.0	354.4	8/46
Apia	412.7	895.0	262.7	272.7	366.9	309.0	41/129
Faleolo	277.8	594.5	235.9	185.1	246.0	215.9	36/57

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
January to March 2018
[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #123]

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	2467.1	1546.4	1971.1	1763.7	53/64	32/30/**38** (1.3)	Consistent
Nafanua	1792.9	1090.8	1605.7	1237.2	35/44	15/**43**/42 (14.7)	Near consistent
Apia	1570.4	1002.3	1252.5	1115.6	116/129	25/34/**41** (9.0)	Consistent
Faleolo	1108.2	685.0	879.9	776.7	52/57	29/33/**38**	Consistent

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for January to March 2018 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #123):
NINO 3.4 values of October to November 2017

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[*]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 May to July 2018

Predictors and Period used: NINO 3.4 value from February to March 2018

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	39	732.9	61		5.5	51.8
Nafanua	48	527.6	52		-1.6	46.7
Apia	39	411.3	61		4.7	55.9
Faleolo	39	325.6	61		4.1	61.8

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	21	628.5	39	839.0	**40**	5.1	23.2
Nafanua	30	452.1	**35**	617.9	**35**	-2.6	11.1
Apia	29	333.2	35	489.7	**36**	-1.1	44.1
Faleolo	29	274.6	25	390.9	**46**	2.2	38.2

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for May to July 2018

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	**58**	388	12	530	30		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for March 2018: "Below normal" rainfall was recorded at Afiamalu, Nafanua and Apia, while Faleolo received "normal" rainfall.

Accumulated rainfall for January to March 2018, including outlook verification:

All stations observed "above normal" rainfalls.

The outlook verification for Afiamalu, Apia and Faleolo was "consistent". "Near-consistent" was the verification for Nafanua.

Outlooks for May to July 2018:
1. **SCOPIC:**
    - The outlook for Nafanua and Apia offers little guidance as the chance of "above normal", "normal" and "below normal" are similar.
    - Afiamalu's outlook shows near-equal likelihood of "above normal "and "normal" rainfall.
    - The outlook for Faleolo shows the most likely outcome is "above normal", with "below normal" the next most likely.

    The confidence of the model is "moderate" to "very low".

2. **POAMA:**
    - "Below normal" rainfall is favoured for Apia 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