Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 125

Country Name: Vanuatu

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			January 2018				
	November 2017 Total	December 2017 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Northern Region							
Sola	673.2	430.6	**343.3**	310.0	451.3	386.7	21/46
Pekoa	284.8	249.5	**283.4**	227.4	340.4	287.9	23/48
Lamap	72.5	170.6	**178.6**	172.4	274.4	218.8	22/58
Southern Region							
Bauerfield	118.0	185.8	**114.5**	205.2	320.1	254.4	8/47
Port Vila	66.0	92.0	**181.5**	199.9	322.9	243.2	18/66
Whitegrass	14.9	136.0	**66.8**	111.4	220.1	168.9	13/47
Aneityum	143.5	184.5	**126.2**	158.5	338.9	238.0	17/67

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
November 2017 to January 2018
[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #121]

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)?
Northern Region							
Sola	**1447.1**	1040.3	1356.4	1183.1	35/44	28:**36**:**36**(5.1)	**Near-consistent**
Pekoa	**817.7**	590.9	819.7	621.2	31/47	29:35:**36**(17.5)	**Near-consistent**
Lamap	**421.7**	439.9	549.9	467.3	18/55	29:35:**36**(14.7)	**Inconsistent**
Southern Region							
Bauerfield	**418.3**	450.8	685.3	590.5	14/45	26:36:**38**(20.9)	**Inconsistent**
Port Vila	**339.5**	432.9	670.3	573.9	10/65	26:**40**:34(22.5)	**Near-consistent**
Whitegrass	**217.7**	268.0	405.5	335.6	10/46	24:**40**:36(23.0)	**Near-consistent**
Aneityum	**454.2**	428.5	678.0	602.3	24/66	28:**37**:35(11.7)	**Consistent**

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

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*Forecast is <u>consistent</u> when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) categories coincide (are in the same tercile).

Forecast is <u>near-consistent</u> 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 <u>inconsistent</u> 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 March to May 2018

Predictors and Period used: Nino 3.4 SST Anomalies, Dec 2017 –Jan 2018

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Northern Region						
Sola	34	1286.9	**66**		13.1	66.7
Pekoa	44	714.0	**56**		0.9	66.0
Lamap	45	636.1	**55**		-0.0	57.1
Southern Region						
Bauerfield	44	757.7	**56**		1.0	60.0
Port Vila	39	720.9	**61**		6.9	61.5
Whitegrass	35	363.4	**65**		12.1	71.7
Aneityum	47	704.1	**53**		-0.8	55.4

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Northern Region							
Sola	19	1140.1	37	1376.9	**44**	11.5	46.7
Pekoa	26	614.4	35	871.0	**39**	2.3	53.2
Lamap	24	572.3	34	724.3	**42**	4.0	51.8
Southern Region							
Bauerfield	27	605.2	33	887.0	**40**	1.5	37.8
Port Vila	25	635.3	34	824.0	**41**	4.1	44.6
Whitegrass	24	327.2	29	461.7	**47**	14.3	45.7
Aneityum	25	596.1	36	874.1	**39**	1.8	43.1

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for

March to May 2018

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Northern Region							
Sola	36	928	24	1363	**40**		
Pekoa	**55**	617	18	808	27		
Lamap	**55**	574	18	721	27		
Southern Region							
Bauerfield	**58**	590	21	817	21		
Port Vila	**58**	506	21	772	21		
Whitegrass	**49**	304	27	405	24		
Aneityum	**46**	598	33	862	21		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for January 2018:
Rainfall recorded for the month of January was normal for Sola, Pekoa and Lamap (Northern region), and below normal for Bauerfield, Port Vila, Whitegrass and Aneityum (Southern region).

Accumulated rainfall for November 2017 to January 2018, including outlook verification:
Accumulated rainfall for the period November – January was above normal at Sola, normal for Pekoa and Aneityum, and below normal for the rest of the stations (Lamap, Bauerfield, Port Vila and Whitegrass). Forecast verification is near-consistent for all stations except for a consistent rating at Aneityum and an inconsistent outcome at both Lamap and Bauerfield.

Outlooks for March to May 2018:
1. **SCOPIC:**
   The outlook for March to May shows above-normal as the most likely outcome for Sola, Pekoa, Lamap, Bauerfield, Port Vila and Whitegrass , with normal being the next most likely.
   The outlook shows a near-equal likelihood of above-normal and normal rainfall for Aneityum. Below-normal is the least likely.

2. **POAMA:**
   The outlook shows below-normal as the most likely outcome for all stations, except at Sola where above-normal is the most likely.

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: $X \geq 35$