Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 122

Country Name: Vanuatu

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			October 2017				
	August 2017 Total	September 2017 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
NORTHERN REGION							
Sola	352.9	159.5	310.7	209.1	468.8	340.8	22/46
Pekoa	60.4	31.6	71.5	88.1	173.2	132.5	13/47
Lamap	51.3	14.4	71.1	64.4	180.8	105.3	24/57
SOUTHERN REGION							
Bauerfield	50.6	11.9	50.3	56.9	142.8	100.4	14/45
Port Vila	37.4	32.2	58.4	57.2	129.9	93.2	25/65
Whitegrass	1.7	15.8	157.1	19.9	59.1	34.1	43/46
Aneityum	40.0	26.9	111.5	61.3	139.7	89.1	40/66

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
August to October 2017

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #118]

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	823.1	626	944	812	24/44	**51**:28:21(9)	**Near-consistent**
Pekoa	163.5	258	422	343	8/47	**57**:33:10(21)	**Consistent**
Lamap	136.8	219	350	260	8/57	**60**:26:14(16)	**Consistent**
SOUTHERN REGION							
Bauerfield	112.8	209	319	276	6/45	**60**:32:8(27)	**Consistent**
Port Vila	128.0	220	334	294	12/65	**59**:36:5(27)	**Consistent**
Whitegrass	174.6	112	182	149	28/45	**68**:18:14(23)	**Near-consistent**
Aneityum	178.4	274	387	333	12/66	**61**:22:17(14)	**Consistent**

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

*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).

Predictors and Period used for August to October 2017 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #118):
Nino 3.4 SST Anomalies, May - June

TABLE 3: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using SCOPIC for December 2017 to February 2018

Predictors and Period used: Nino 3.4 SST Anomalies, September – October.

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
NORTHERN REGION						
Sola	46	1120.0	54		0.8	48.8
Pekoa	46	756.2	54		0.8	52.2
Lamap	46	581.4	54		2.9	55.6
SOUTHERN REGION						
Bauerfield	39	778.3	61		19.4	65.1
Port Vila	42	708.2	58		16.8	65.6
Whitegrass	44	485.0	56		6.9	57.8
Aneityum	45	723.1	55		7.1	67.7

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
NORTHERN REGION							
Sola	30	1007.5	33	1210.4	**37**	2.0	36.6
Pekoa	28	697.9	35	908.1	**37**	2.3	39.1
Lamap	23	499.7	38	681.7	39	10.5	50.0
SOUTHERN REGION							
Bauerfield	19	652.0	40	894.6	41	20.6	48.8
Port Vila	21	609.8	40	811.6	39	19.8	54.7
Whitegrass	25	355.0	36	542.9	38	11.2	46.7
Aneityum	26	566.6	**37**	873.5	**37**	8.6	40.0

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for December 2017 to February 2018

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
NORTHERN REGION							
Sola	12	855	27	1127	61		
Pekoa	18	693	12	918	70		
Lamap	18	487	12	649	70		
SOUTHERN REGION							
Bauerfield	15	604	5	867	80		
Port Vila	15	579	5	750	80		
Whitegrass	9	332	5	494	86		
Aneityum	6	475	6	899	88		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for October 2017:
Rainfall for the month of October was normal for Sola, Lamap, Port Vila and Aneityum, below normal for Pekoa, and Bauerfield, and above normal for Whitegrass.

Accumulated rainfall for August to October 2017, including outlook verification:
Accumulated rainfall for the period August to October was below normal for most stations (Pekoa, Lamap, Bauerfield, Port Vila and Aneityum) except Whitegrass and Sola which recorded normal rainfall.

Outlooks for December 2017 to February 2018:

1. **SCOPIC:**
   SCOPIC outlook offers little guidance for Sola and Pekoa as the chances of above-normal, normal and below-normal are similar.
   The outlook for remaining sites shows near-equal chances for normal or above-normal rainfall; below-normal is the least likely.

2. **POAMA:**
   Poama outlook favours above-normal rainfall for the coming season for all stations.

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: $X \geq 35$			