Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 115

Country Name: Vanuatu

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			March 2017				
	January 2017 Total(mm)	February 2017 Total(mm)	Total(mm)	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Sola	295.3	401.6	**185.6**	285.6	447.6	370.7	2/41
Pekoa	79.2	144.2	**258.8**	193.2	302.7	243.2	26/46
Lamap	34.6	156.3	**212.5**	195.3	344.4	254.0	22/56
Bauerfield	200.4	225.0	**255.1**	245.6	336.5	292.5	18/44
Port Vila	107.5	248.0	**286.8**	248.3	366.0	306.8	29/65
Whitegrass	42.2	333.9	**87.1**	143.6	227.9	193.2	6/45
Aneityum	54.6	314.8	**109.9**	242.9	382.1	311.3	3/65

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
January to March 2017

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #111]

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?
Sola	**882.5**	1004.4	1220.2	1127.1	8/40	28:**36**:**36** (14.5)	**Near-consistent**
Pekoa	**482.2**	756.7	975.8	825.2	5/47	27:**37**:36 (0.6)	**Near-consistent**
Lamap	**403.4**	642.0	816.6	722.6	3/57	21:32:**47** (11.4)	**Inconsistent**
Bauerfield	**680.5**	800.4	1046.6	984.6	9/45	15:**46**:39 (19.2)	**Near-consistent**
Port Vila	**642.3**	760.2	1008.3	881.4	14/65	19:36:**45** (12.9)	**Inconsistent**
Whitegrass	**463.2**	497.4	687.1	553.0	16/45	28:35:**37** (15.4)	**Inconsistent**
Aneityum	**479.3**	732.4	982.0	863.3	6/66	26:30:**44** (0.9)	**Inconsistent**

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for January to March 2017 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #111):
NINO 3.4 (Oct-Nov 2016)

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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 2017

Predictors and Period used: NINO3.4 Feb-Mar

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Sola	44	995.0	**56**		14.3	63.4
Pekoa	47	464.0	**53**		10.3	69.6
Lamap	48	356.6	**52**		4.2	65.5
Bauerfield	47	427.5	**53**		3.7	59.1
Port Vila	46	403.2	**54**		14.3	67.2
Whitegrass	48	222.5	**52**		6.0	59.1
Aneityum	45	436.0	**53**		8.6	65.6

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Sola	29	751.4	35	1186.0	**36**	3.6	36.6
Pekoa	26	326.3	**37**	560.2	**37**	11.0	50.0
Lamap	31	310.6	34	471.5	**35**	4.8	49.1
Bauerfield	29	310.2	**36**	526.7	35	5.5	36.4
Port Vila	24	349.1	**38**	488.4	**38**	15.6	46.9
Whitegrass	**34**	181.2	33	272.7	33	8.3	34.1
Aneityum	31	357.6	34	522.4	**35**	4.1	40.6

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for May to July 2017

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Sola	**64**	648	12	920	24		
Pekoa	**67**	278	12	511	21		
Lamap	**67**	319	12	451	21		
Bauerfield	**55**	333	27	513	18		
Port Vila	**55**	277	27	502	18		
Whitegrass	**61**	156	24	234	15		
Aneityum	**45**	336	39	488	16		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for March 2017:
Rainfall for the past month was normal for Pekoa, Lamap, Bauerfield and Port Vila. Sola, Whitegrass and Aneityum recorded below normal rainfall.

Accumulated rainfall for January to March 2017, including outlook verification:
Rainfall for the past three months was below normal throughout the country.

The outlook was near-consistent for Sola, Pekoa and Bauerfield, and inconsistent for Port Vila, Lamap, Whitegrass and Aneityum.

Outlooks for May to July 2017:
1. SCOPIC:
Using February to March NINO 3.4 SST Anomalies:

The outlook offers little guidance for Sola, Lamap, Bauerfield, Whitegrass and Aneityum as the chances of above-normal, normal and below-normal rainfall are similar.
The outlook for Pekoa and Port Vila shows a near equal likelihood of above-normal and normal rainfall. Below normal rainfall is the least likely.

2. POAMA:
The outlook favours below-normal rainfall at most sites.

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			