Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 121

Country Name: Vanuatu

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			September 2017				
	July 2017 Total	August 2017 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
NORTHERN REGION							
Sola	77.5	352.9	159.5	165.1	259.3	227.2	14/45
Pekoa	62.8	60.4	31.6	63.0	137.0	82.4	11/47
Lamap	10.5	51.3	14.4	40.3	105.1	72.2	6/57
SOUTHERN REGION							
Bauerfield	22.1	50.6	11.9	40.9	93.2	60.2	4/45
Port Vila	80.8	37.4	32.2	46.4	104.9	74.4	19/65
Whitegrass	2.4	1.7	15.8	18.7	61.5	29.7	14/45
Aneityum	26.7	40.0	26.9	60.1	121.0	94.2	12/66

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
July to September 2017

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #117]

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	589.9	529.3	847.2	646.5	17/43	**48**:29:23(8.4)	Near-consistent
Pekoa	154.8	202.1	395.6	320.7	8/47	**52**:32:16(16.0)	Consistent
Lamap	76.2	196.8	299.3	242.6	2/57	**47**:38:15(8.8)	Consistent
SOUTHERN REGION							
Bauerfield	84.6	183.2	284.5	237.0	3/45	**57**:29:14(26.7)	Consistent
Port Vila	150.4	211.9	334.6	258.5	16/65	**54**:30:16(18.7)	Consistent
Whitegrass	19.9	107.4	188.4	130.0	1/45	**59**:22:19(13.5)	Consistent
Aneityum	93.6	274.0	381.0	342.4	2/66	**48**:30:22(7.2)	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 July to September 2017 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #117):

Nino 3.4 for April – May 2017

TABLE 3: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using SCOPIC for November 2017 to January 2018

Predictors and Period used: NINO3.4, August – September 2017

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Sola	47	1183.1	**53**		4.2	60
Pekoa	45	621.2	**55**		9.9	67
Lamap	43	467.3	**57**		22.6	76
Bauerfield	40	590.5	**60**		27.0	77
Port Vila	45	573.9	**55**		28.0	78
Whitegrass	46	335.6	**54**		13.4	69
Aneityum	47	602.3	**53**		8.8	61

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Sola	**28**	1040.3	**36**	1356.4	**36**	5.1	43
Pekoa	**29**	590.9	**35**	819.7	**36**	17.5	46
Lamap	**29**	439.9	**35**	549.9	**36**	14.7	52
Bauerfield	26	450.8	36	685.3	**38**	20.9	57
Port Vila	26	432.9	**40**	670.3	34	22.5	47
Whitegrass	24	268.0	**40**	405.5	36	23.0	51
Aneityum	**28**	428.5	**37**	678.0	**35**	11.7	51

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for November 2017 to January 2018

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Sola	33	922	9	1239	**58**		
Pekoa	**46**	599	12	686	42		
Lamap	**46**	389	12	534	42		
Bauerfield	36	447	15	673	**49**		
Port Vila	36	409	15	561	**49**		
Whitegrass	36	229	12	342	**52**		
Aneityum	30	431	24	668	**46**		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for September 2017:

Monthly rainfall for September was below-normal for all stations in Vanuatu. Bauerfield has experienced its 4th driest month of September. At Lamap, this is the 6th driest September month.

Accumulated rainfall for July to September 2017, including outlook verification:

Accumulated rainfall has most stations with below-normal rainfall, except Pekoa which received normal rainfall.

Outlooks for November 2017 to January 2018:

1. **SCOPIC:**

   SCOPIC offers little guidance for Sola, Pekoa, Lamap, and Aneityum. At Port Vila and Whitegrass, the outlook for the next three months shows normal as the mostly likely outcome with above-normal as the next most likely, and below-normal the least likely. The outlook for Bauerfield shows a near-equal likelihood of above-normal and normal rainfall. Below-normal is the least likely.

2. **POAMA:**

   Sola, and Whitegrass have outlooks that favour above-normal rainfall, with below-normal as the next most likely.

   For stations Pekoa and Lamap the outlook shows below-normal as the most likely, with above-normal the next most likely.

   At Bauerfield, Port Vila and Aneityum, the outlook shows above-normal as the mostly likely, below-normal as the next most likely, and normal the least likely.

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			