Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 124

Country Name: Vanuatu

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			December 2017				
	October 2017 Total	November 2017 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Sola	310.7	673.2	430.6	231.5	446.6	352.5	29/44
Pekoa	71.5	284.8	249.5	149.5	216.8	177.4	35/47
Lamap	71.1	72.5	170.6	97.0	166.6	122.3	37/55
Bauerfield	50.3	118.0	185.8	119.1	203.5	171.5	26/45
Port Vila	58.4	66.0	92.0	115.0	211.1	172.0	14/65
Whitegrass	157.1	14.9	136.0	47.9	96.1	73.2	39/47
Aneityum	111.5	143.5	184.5	110.4	241.6	160.5	36/66

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
October to December 2017

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #120]

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	1414.5	902	1341	1148	32/44	28:**36**:**36**(7)	Near consistent
Pekoa	605.8	405	650	512	30/47	26:**41**:23(29)	Consistent
Lamap	314.2	337	457	381	15/55	33:**35**:32(16)	Near consistent
Bauerfield	354.1	343	534	448	18/45	28:**37**:35(15)	Consistent
Port Vila	216.4	312	492	429	12/65	30:**39**:31(24)	Near consistent
Whitegrass	308.0	137	216	184	36/46	24:**43**:33(31)	Near consistent
Aneityum	439.5	295	495	393	39/66	28:**40**:32(25)	Consistent

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for October to December 2017 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #120):
NINO3.4 July-August 2017

*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 February to April 2018

Predictors and Period used: NINO3.4, Nov- Dec 2017

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Sola	45	1162	55		0.1	53
Pekoa	47	855	53		-2.0	49
Lamap	38	702	62		7.1	63
Bauerfield	45	934	55		0.3	56
Port Vila	42	857	58		3.3	63
Whitegrass	42	501	58		2.3	54
Aneityum	47	831	53		-0.8	55

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Sola	26	1042	35	1325	**39**	0.9	40
Pekoa	**34**	748	32	956	**34**	-2.4	17
Lamap	27	636	31	757	**42**	3.0	41
Bauerfield	24	756	37	1001	**39**	2.3	29
Port Vila	24	775	34	924	**42**	6.5	48
Whitegrass	27	416	29	587	**44**	5.3	44
Aneityum	31	680	30	934	**39**	-0.5	35

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

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Sola	27	927	12	1315	**61**		
Pekoa	33	719	24	976	**43**		
Lamap	33	609	24	744	**43**		
Bauerfield	36	796	28	983	36		
Port Vila	36	773	28	911	36		
Whitegrass	33	427	24	580	**43**		
Aneityum	30	733	24	979	**46**		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for December 2017:

Monthly rainfall for December was normal for Sola, Bauerfield, and Aneityum, above-normal for Pekoa, Lamap, and Whitegrass, and below-normal at Port Vila.

Accumulated rainfall for October to December 2017, including outlook verification:

Accumulated rainfall was mixed and evenly split between below-normal, normal and above-normal. The outlook verification was consistent at three stations and near-consistent at the other four.

Outlooks for February to April 2018:

1. **SCOPIC:**

   Sola, Lamap, Port Vila and Whitegrass - the outlook for the season shows above-normal as the most likely, normal as the next most likely, and below-normal as the least likely.

   Bauerfield – the outlook for the season shows near-equal likelihood of normal and above-normal rainfall. Below normal is the least likely.

   Pekoa and Aneityum – the outlook offers little guidance as the chances of above-normal, normal and below-normal are similar.

2. **POAMA:**

   Sola, Pekoa, Lamap, Whitegrass and Aneityum – above-normal is the most likely outcome, with below-normal the next most likely.

   Bauerfield and Port Vila – the outlook offers little guidance as the chances of above-normal, normal and below-normal are similar.

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: $X \geq 35$			