

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 127

Country Name: Vanuatu

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			March 2018				
	January 2018 Total	February 2018 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Northern Region							
Sola	343.3	165.7	474.4	284.2	447.0	353.3	35/46
Pekoa	283.4	50.5	194.3	193.4	296.2	250.0	18/48
Lamap	178.6	53.2	268.5	198.2	337.8	250.0	30/57
Southern Region							
Bauerfield	114.5	184.0	469.6	247.2	335.4	291.6	39/46
Port Vila	181.5	194.0	265.5	249.7	365.0	306.5	25/66
Whitegrass	66.8	56.5	417.8	143.5	227.5	192.6	45/47
Aneityum	126.2	52.2	571.4	240.6	378.0	311.2	58/67

**TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
January to March 2018**

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #123]

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	983.4	1008	1220	1120	15/45	26:35: 39 (4.9)	Inconsistent
Pekoa	528.2	750	974	807	6/48	28: 39 :33(-0.2)	Near-consistent
Lamap	500.3	641	814	719	8/57	24:32: 44 (11.0)	Inconsistent
Southern Region							
Bauerfield	767.1	798	1035	983	13/46	18: 42 :39(8.0)	Near-Consistent
Port Vila	641.0	756	1002	877	14/66	22:34: 44 (11.1)	Inconsistent
Whitegrass	541.1	495	677	547	23/47	27:35: 38 (3.0)	Near-Consistent
Aneityum	749.8	724	979	855	25/67	27:32: 41 (5.7)	Near- 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 January to March 2018 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #123):
 NINO3.4 SST Anomalies for October –November 2017

**TABLE 3: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using SCOPIC for
 May to July 2018**

Predictors and Period used: NINO 3.4 Anomalies, February – March 2018

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Northern Region						
Sola	30	963	70		14.1	62
Pekoa	37	466	63		8.1	66
Lamap	42	384	58		2.0	64
Southern Region						
Bauerfield	41	438	59		4.9	58
Port Vila	30	398	70		16.1	69
Whitegrass	37	220	62		3.3	58
Aneityum	35	398	65		9.1	68

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Northern Region							
Sola	23	754	34	1184	42	4.4	38
Pekoa	15	328	44	573	41	10.8	43
Lamap	25	307	30	471	45	4.0	41
Southern Region							
Bauerfield	21	314	36	525	43	5.0	40
Port Vila	10	329	42	485	47	18	45
Whitegrass	26	181	25	269	49	8.1	44
Aneityum	23	358	32	520	45	4.9	46

**TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for
May to July 2018**

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Northern Region							
Sola	70	648	18	920	12		
Pekoa	91	278	5	511	4		
Lamap	91	319	5	451	4		
Southern Region							
Bauerfield	70	277	24	502	6		
Port Vila	70	333	24	513	6		
Whitegrass	73	156	18	234	9		
Aneityum	64	336	27	488	9		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for March 2018:

Rainfall for the month of March was above normal for Sola, Bauerfield, Whitegrass and Aneityum. Normal rainfall was recorded at Pekoa, Lamap and Port Vila. Whitegrass recorded its 3rd wettest month of March in 47 years of record.

Accumulated rainfall for January to March 2018, including outlook verification:

Accumulated rainfall was below normal for Northern Region (Sola, Pekoa, Lamap) and Bauerfield and Port Vila. Normal rainfall was recorded for Whitegrass and Aneityum. The outlook verification was near-consistent at near-consistent at Pekoa, Bauerfield, Whitegrass and Aneityum, but inconsistent for at Sola, Lamap, and Port Vila.

Outlooks for May to July 2018:

1. SCOPIC:

The outlook for the season at Sola, Lamap, Port Vila, Bauerfield, Whitegrass, and Aneityum indicates above normal as the most likely outcome, with normal the next mostly likely. Below normal the least likely.

At Pekoa the outlook for the season shows a near- equal likelihood of normal and above normal rainfall in the next three months.

2. POAMA:

The outlook for the season favours below normal rainfall, with normal the next most likely at 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: $X \geq 35$