Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 161

Country: Vanuatu

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	Nov-2020	Dec-2020	Jan-2021				
			Total (mm)	33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	Rainfall (mm)				
Northern Region							
Sola (1971-2021)	550.5	393.1	379.9	317.0	463.0	388.6	24/49
Pekoa (1971-2021)	465.4	242.1	362.6	227.4	333.8	286.5	37/51
Lamap (1961-2021)	141.0	194.5	617.5	169.1	267.7	213.2	**58/61**
Southern Region							
Bauerfield (1972-2021)	211.0	396.7	574.7	204.8	291.7	251.8	**48/50**
Port Vila (1953-2021)	212.0	450.0	352.5	197.1	313.8	232.1	50/69
Whitegrass (1972-2021)	160.7	42.5	609.2	107.7	190.9	161.2	**50/50**
Aneityum (1952-2021)	271.8	262.4	647.0	153.8	338.9	229.4	**65/70**

TABLE 2: Three-month Rainfall for November 2020 to January 2021

Station	Three-month Total		33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank	SCOPIC forecast probabilities based on NINO3.4 August-September 2020				Verification: Consistent, Near-consistent, Inconsistent?
	Rainfall (mm)						B-N	N	A-N	LEPS	
Northern Region											
Sola (1971-2021)	1323.5	Normal	1045.6	1357.6	1186.0	30/46	24	36	**40**	4	Near-consistent
Pekoa (1971-2021)	1070.1	Above normal	590.9	817.7	622.6	**47/50**	21	28	**51**	18	Consistent
Lamap (1961-2021)	953.0	Above normal	411.7	545.3	467.6	**57/60**	22	34	**44**	12	Consistent
Southern Region											
Bauerfield (1972-2021)	1182.4	Above normal	433.7	680.6	553.3	**47/48**	21	27	**52**	18	Consistent
Port Vila (1953-2021)	1014.5	Above normal	423.7	668.7	567.4	**64/68**	16	36	**48**	24	Consistent
Whitegrass (1972-2021)	812.4	Above normal	257.7	398.9	325.0	**49/49**	16	34	**50**	22	Consistent
Aneityum (1952-2021)	1181.2	Above normal	428.5	672.1	600.0	**66/69**	20	38	**42**	12	Consistent

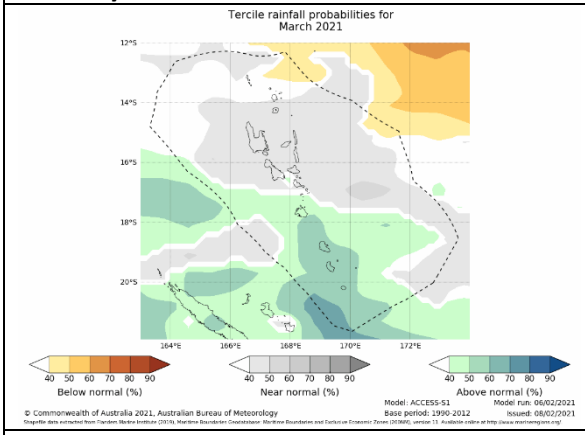
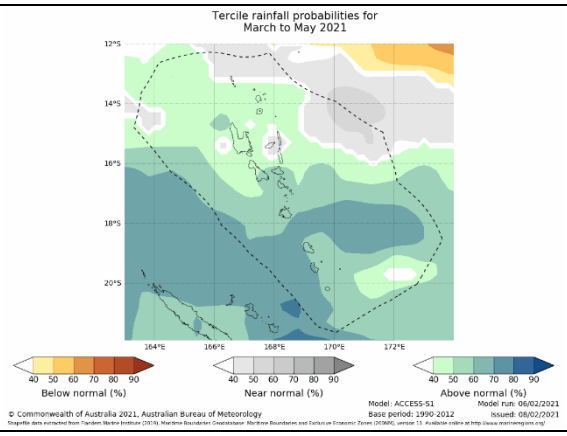
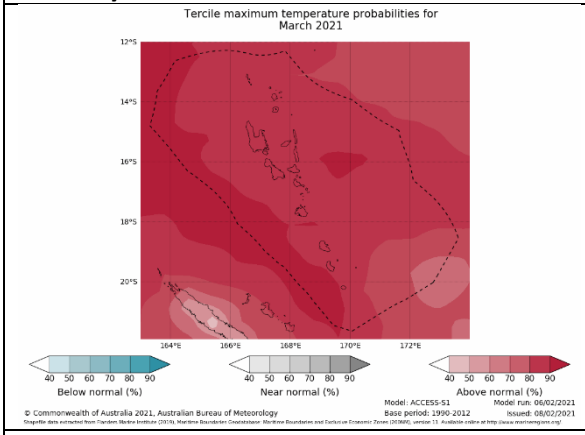
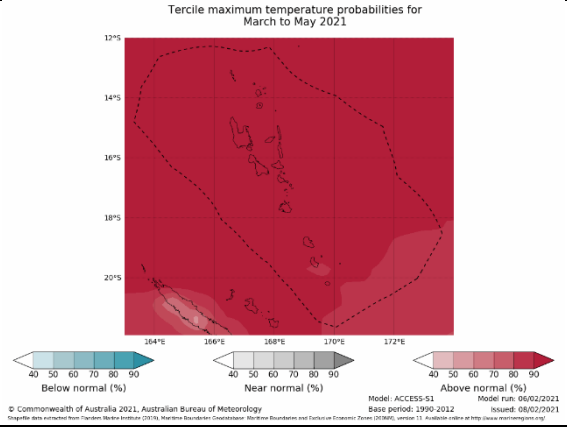
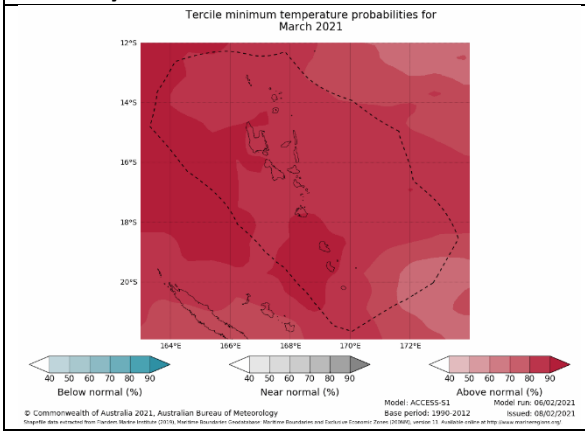
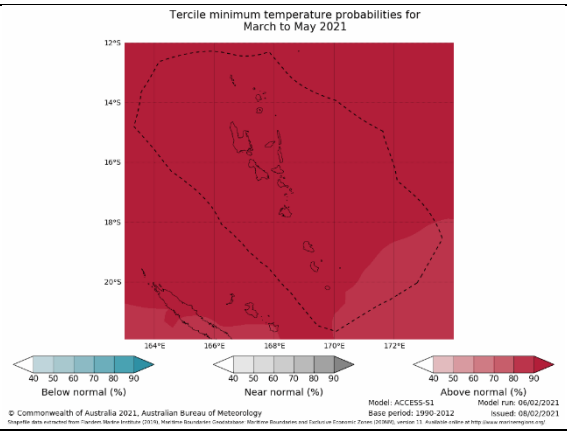
TABLE 3: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using SCOPIC for March to May 2021

Predictor and Period used: NINO3.4 for December 2020 to January 2021

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS (%) [whole numbers]	Hit-rate (%) [whole numbers]
Northern Region						
Sola (1971-2021)	35	1299.0	65		10	65
Pekoa (1971-2021)	44	707.0	56		0	62
Lamap (1961-2021)	44	615.3	56		1	59
Southern Region						
Bauerfield (1972-2021)	42	753.4	58		1	58
Port Vila (1953-2021)	40	704.6	60		5	60
Whitegrass (1972-2021)	35	368.0	65		11	69
Aneityum (1952-2021)	46	715.2	54		0	56

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile Rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile Rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS (%) [whole numbers]	Hit-rate (%) [whole numbers]
Northern Region							
Sola (1971-2021)	17	1156.0	40	1382.9	43	8	44
Pekoa (1971-2021)	23	608.7	38	871.0	39	3	50
Lamap (1961-2021)	25	577.4	32	724.3	43	4	49
Southern Region							
Bauerfield (1972-2021)	26	605.2	36	869.3	38	1	40
Port Vila (1953-2021)	23	613.4	33	819.5	44	6	47
Whitegrass (1972-2021)	22	327.2	28	461.7	50	16	47
Aneityum (1952-2021)	25	596.1	35	850.9	40	2	44

TABLE 4: Monthly and Seasonal Climate Outlooks using ACCESS-S for March to May 2021

Monthly rainfall	Seasonal rainfall
	
Monthly Tmax	**Seasonal Tmax**
	
Monthly Tmin	**Seasonal Tmin**
	

Summary Statements

Rainfall for January 2021:

Rainfall was above normal at all stations except for Sola which recorded normal rainfall. High rainfall was recorded at Lamap, Bauerfield, Whitegrass and Aneityum. Whitegrass station recorded its wettest January in 50 years of record.

Accumulated rainfall for November 2020 to January 2021, including outlook verification:

Accumulated rainfall was above normal at all stations except for Sola which recorded normal rainfall. Extreme rainfall was recorded for all stations except Sola. Whitegrass station recorded its wettest November-January on record, and Bauerfield had its second wettest. The verification of the outlook issued in October was consistent at six sites, and near-consistent at one site.

Outlooks for March to May 2021:

1. **SCOPIC:**

   For Whitegrass, the outlook favours above normal rainfall.

   For Lamap, Port Vila and Aneityum, the outlook shows above normal rainfall as the most likely outcome, with normal the next most likely. Below normal is the least likely.

   For Sola, Pekoa and Bauerfield, the outlook shows a near-equal likelihood of above normal and normal rainfall. Below normal is the least likely.

2. **ACCESS-S:**

   Monthly rainfall:

   Above normal rainfall is favoured for Tafea Province and the most likely outcome for Shefa Province in March. Near normal rainfall is the most likely outcome for Torba, Sanma, Malampa and Penama Provinces.

   Monthly maximum and minimum temperatures:

   Above normal temperatures are favoured for the whole country in March.

   Seasonal rainfall:

   Above normal rainfall is favoured for most of Vanuatu for March to May, while it's the most likely near normal rainfall for Ambae, Maewo and North Pentecost.

   Seasonal maximum and minimum temperatures:

   Above average is favoured for the whole country for the coming three months.

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: $X \geq 35$

TABLE 5: Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective NMS engage with stakeholders

Product	Date: January 2021	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Climate Bulletin					
EAR Watch					
Monthly Climate Briefing					
Ocean Bulletin					
		Total			