

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 101

Country Name: Niue

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	January 2016						
	November 2015 Total	December 2015 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Hanan Airport (1950-2016)	154.2	88.6	135.1	184.0	330.0	239.5	15/67

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall November 2015 to January 2016

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #97]

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?)
Hanan Airport	377.9	503.3	680.7	598.0	11/66	62/32/6 (9.0)	Consistent

Period: *below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for November to January 2016 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #97):

Nino 3.4- August to September

* 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
March to May 2016**

Predictors and Period used: NINO 3.4 – December 2015 to January 2016

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Hanan Airport	62	617	38		-0.4	53.8

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Hanan Airport	68	550.0	13	769.7	19	3.5	36.9

**TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for
March to May 2016**

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Hanan Airport	70	544	24	701	6		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for January 2016:

- January rainfall was **Below Normal**.

Accumulated rainfall for November to January 2016, including outlook verification:

- Rainfall for November to January was **below normal**.
- The outlook for November to January favours **below normal** rainfall.
- Verification for the outlook was **consistent** with the observed below normal rainfall.

Outlooks for March to May 2016:

1. SCOPIC:

- The SCOPIC outlook for March to May 2016 favours **below normal** rainfall.
- Confidence in the outlook is **low**.

2. POAMA:

- The POAMA outlook for March to May 2016 favours **below normal** rainfall.

Brief Summary on Drought Monitoring in Niue and what actions have taken place.

Niue Met. Service have been monitoring the drought conditions at different time scales in the 3 months, 6 months, 9 months and 12 months and up to 36 months due to the current El Nino situation here in Niue.

- **Using the 6 months percentile:**

Below the 10 percentile: May, June, August, September and October.

Above the 10 percentile: July, November, December and January

- **Using the 9 months percentile**

Below the 10 percentile: May, July, August, September, October, November, December and January

Above the 10 percentile: June only

- **Using the 12 months percentile:**

Below the 10 percentile: June, July, August, September, October, November, December and January

No months were above the 10 percentile threshold.

The public continue to be aware of the situation with the El Nino conditions. Rainfall amounts have not really exceeded the normal conditions expected and are to remain below normal rainfall for the coming months.

Brief Report on TC Victor

The amount of rainfall within the period of TC Victor from 15th Jan – 20th Jan was only 23.9mm. Less rainfall was received from TC Victor, and much needed rainfall for crops and all living things. Strong to very strong winds was experienced.

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: $X \geq 35$