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

Country Name: Vanuatu

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
Northern Region							
Sola	**129.5**	**280.3**	**85.3**	313.6	451.3	386.7	2/45
Pekoa	**87.2**	**181.9**	**11.0**	235.5	341.1	289.1	1/46
Lamap	**61.0**	**232.9**	**26.2**	173.0	275.2	221.1	1/56
Southern Region							
Bauerfield	**63.7**	**190.1**	**37.2**	211.5	325.6	257.0	2/45
Port Vila	**73.1**	**228.3**	**24.8**	200.4	325.4	245.7	2/64
Whitegrass	**35.7**	**102.2**	**54.2**	109.2	221.8	168.2	9/45
Aneityum	**52.3**	**256.4**	**89.3**	161.6	345.2	246.7	10/65

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall

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	**495.1**	1031.5	1356.4	1183.1	4/43	**60**:29:11 (6.1)	Consistent
Pekoa	**280.1**	603.9	826.0	625.1	3/45	**61**:37:02(16.9)	Consistent
Lamap	**320.1**	447.0	551.3	473.1	8/53	**70**:26:04 (8.2)	Consistent
Southern Region							
Bauerfield	**29.1**	450.9	691.6	590.6	2/43	**66**:33:01(22.5)	Consistent
Port Vila	**326.2**	449.5	675.4	586.6	8/63	**79**:20:01(22.5)	Consistent

*Forecast is <u>consistent</u> when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) categories coincide (are in the same tercile)

Forecast is <u>near-consistent</u> 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 <u>inconsistent</u> when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) differ by two categories (i.e. terciles 1 and 3).

| Whitegrass | **192.1** | 270.8 | 415.6 | 344.5 | 8/44 | **77**:19:04(8.8) | Consistent |
| Aneityum | **398.0** | 462.6 | 606.1 | 686.8 | 16/64 | **71**:18:11(4.6) | Consistent |

November 2015 to January 2016
[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #97]

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for November to January 2016 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #97):
Nino 3.4SST Anomalies, July-September 2015

TABLE 3: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using SCOPIC for March to May 2016

Predictors and Period used: Nino 3.4 SST Anomalies, November 2015 – January 2016

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Northern Region						
Sola	89	1274.9	11		15	75
Pekoa	59	714.0	41		-2.4	58
Lamap	50	636.2	50		-3.3	13
Southern Region						
Bauerfield	73	757.7	27		3.3	61
Port Vila	74	720.9	26		3.2	61
Whitegrass	80	358.3	20		5.7	59
Aneityum	55	704.1	45		-3.0	44

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Northern Region							
Sola	79	1134.0	17	1372.2	04	16	44
Pekoa	82	609.7	9	868.9	9	6	27
Lamap	39	277.2	35	720.8	26	-3.5	25
Southern Region							
Bauerfield	53	610.0	36	882.4	11	0.3	30
Port Vila	45	636.0	41	828.9	14	1.5	39
Whitegrass	51	320.7	45	456.6	04	8.5	28
Aneityum	50	600.5	32	889.4	18	-0.9	19

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)		
Northern Region							
Sola	**85**	928	06	1363	09		
Pekoa	**82**	617	13	808	05		
Lamap	**82**	574	13	721	05		
Southern Region							
Bauerfield	**67**	590	27	817	06		
Port Vila	**67**	506	27	772	06		
Whitegrass	**76**	304	15	405	09		
Aneityum	**48**	598	40	862	12		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for January 2016:
➢ Rainfall for January 2016 was below normal for all stations. Pekoa and Lamap recorded the driest on record while Sola, Bauerfield and Port Vila recorded the second driest on record.

Accumulated rainfall for November to January 2016, including outlook verification:
➢ Accumulated rainfall for the past three months was below normal for all stations (Sola, Pekoa, Lamap, Bauerfield, Port Vila, Whitegrass and Aneityum).
➢ The outlook was consistent for all stations with Bauerfield recording the second driest for the three months on record.

Outlooks for March to May 2016:
1. SCOPIC:
   Using Nino 3.4 SST Anomalies;
➢ The outlook favours *below normal* rainfall for Sola, Pekoa, Bauerfield, Whitegrass and Aneityum with normal being the next most likely.
➢ The most likely outcome at Lamap and Port Vila *is below normal* with normal being the next most likely.

2. POAMA:

➢ The POAMA Outlook favours *below normal* for all stations with normal being the next most likely at Pekoa, Lamap, Bauerfield, Port Vila, Whitegrass and Aneityum. The next most likely at Sola is above normal.

Drought Watch: *Using 6month SPI method*

In drought: all seven (7) stations

Sola since April 2015

Pekoa since October 2015

Lamap since October 2015

Bauerfield since November 2015

Port Vila since September 2015

Whitegrass since January 2016

Aneityum since January 2016

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