

## **Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)**

### **Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 110 Summary Report**

**Date:** Friday 11 November 2016

**Time:** Australian Eastern Daylight Time 12:00PM (01:00 UTC)

**Chair:** Bureau of Meteorology

**Main purpose for the OCOF:**

- To provide a regular forum for the 11 participating PIC NMSs to discuss the current ENSO status, recent one and three-month rainfall, drought (if present) and their seasonal climate outlooks with other countries and the COMP project team.

In addition, it serves as an online training forum for recent SCOPIC<sup>\*</sup> development and gives the project team and the NMSs an opportunity to discuss other project related matters.

**Agenda:**

1. Brief introduction of PIC participants and the Bureau team.
2. Brief report on current ENSO status.
3. Each NMS report on their past one and three months' rainfall in relation to the current ENSO situation (include ranking and verification), and their three-month outlooks. Wherever appropriate NMS to report on their drought status.
4. Round-table discussion: addressing general concerns/queries on outlooks and SCOPIC.
5. Feedback on COSPPac products and services.
6. Country statements with regards to drought or drought-like conditions, drought module issues/concerns.
7. Next meeting (Tuesday 13 December - TBC) to be chaired by Papua New Guinea.

**Participants:**

The Forum was attended by 16 climate officers (10 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

**Cook Islands:** Bates Manea

**Fiji:** Arieta Baleisolomone, Swastika Prasad

**Kiribati:** Mauna Eria

**Niue:** Mellisa Douglas, Hingano Laufoli, Clemencia Sioneholo, Rossy Mitiepo

**Papua New Guinea:** Kisolet Posanau, Agnes Diap

**Republic of Marshall Islands:** Nover Juria

**Samoa:**

**Solomon Islands:** Noel Sanau

**Tonga:** Uinita Vea and Mele Lakai

**Tuvalu:** Nico Iona, Eli Ene

**Vanuatu:**

**Australia:** Grant Smith, Simon McGree (Bureau of Meteorology), Sandra l'Anson (DFAT)

OCOFC tables were received from 11 participating countries before the meeting.

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\* Seasonal Climate Outlooks in the Pacific Island Countries: climate prediction software developed under the PI-CPP.

## Australian Aid Project: Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)

### Observations and Verification of August to October 2016 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending October 2016 were discussed for each PIC. This month, several countries experienced extreme rainfall as shown in the following table:

Station	Period	Rainfall Amount (mm)	Rainfall Rank	Year of record
Rotuma, Fiji	Aug-Oct	1187.7	92	101
Labasa Airport, Fiji	Aug-Oct	420.7	52	58
Butaritari, Kiribati	Oct	14.3	4	75
Butaritari, Kiribati	Aug-Oct	188.7	6	74
Kwajalein, RMI	Oct	475.7	67	72
Madang, PNG	Oct	81.0	7	67

[Note: The above data may not have undergone quality control]

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the August to October period showed 10 consistent, 25 near-consistent and 22 inconsistent outlooks (57 stations across 11 countries).

A summary of results (C-consistent, NC-Near Consistent, I-Inconsistent, NA-not available) for each country for the June to August 2016 outlook is as follows:

Cook Islands (2I); Fiji (4NC, 8I); Kiribati (1NC, 4I); Niue (1NC); PNG (4NC, 2I); RMI (1C, 1I); Samoa (1C, 3NC); Solomon Islands (3C, 2NC, 1I); Tonga (6NC); Tuvalu (2C, 2NC, 2I) and Vanuatu (3C, 2NC, 2I).

**Overall: 10C, 25NC, 22I.**

### December 2016 to February 2017 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 10% of the 59 stations outlooks had the highest probabilities in tercile 1, 0% in tercile 2 and 51% in tercile 3. The remaining 32% had either near equal probabilities in two terciles or near equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 31% of the 48 stations outlooks had the highest probabilities in tercile 1, 0% in tercile 2 and 67% in tercile 3. The remaining 2% had either near equal probabilities in two terciles or near equal probabilities in three terciles.

### Other matters:

The final version of SCOPIC 4 is being developed and should be available later this year.

**Observed Rainfall and Validation**

<b>Country</b>	<b>October 2016</b>	<b>August to October 2016</b>	<b>Verification<sup>†</sup> for August to October 2016 outlooks</b>
<b>Cook Islands</b>	Below normal and normal	Below normal and Above normal	Inconsistent
<b>Fiji</b>	Normal to above normal	Normal to above normal	Near-consistent to inconsistent
<b>Kiribati</b>	Below normal to normal	Below normal to normal	Near consistent to inconsistent
<b>Niue</b>	Normal	Normal	Near-consistent
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	Below normal to above normal	Normal to above normal	Near-consistent to inconsistent
<b>RMI</b>	Above normal	Normal	Consistent to near-consistent
<b>Samoa</b>	Below normal and above normal	Below normal to normal	Consistent to near-consistent
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	Below normal to normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
<b>Tonga</b>	Normal to above normal	Normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
<b>Tuvalu</b>	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to normal	Near-consistent to inconsistent
<b>Vanuatu</b>	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent

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<sup>†</sup> 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).