Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 115

Country Name: Samoa

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			March 2017				
	January 2017 Total	February 2017 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu	497.5	971.9	219.5	397.0	587.9	501.5	8/65
Nafanua	338.8	641.0	135.1	318.5	400.3	355.2	3/45
Apia	270.4	543.3	91.9	272.9	368.0	309.2	3/128
Faleolo	226.5	275.7	213.3	184.9	246.8	218.2	27/56

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
January 2017 to March 2017

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #111]

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?
Afiamalu	1688.9	1533.1	1981.8	1767.1	27/63	32/28/**40** (0.9)	Near consistent
Nafanua	1114.9	1086.0	1611.0	1270.2	17/43	13/**46**/41 (14.4)	Consistent
Apia	905.6	1003.8	1253.5	1124.3	29/128	22/36/**42** (9.0)	Inconsistent
Faleolo	715.5	682.4	884.2	780.2	22/56	29/34/**37** (0.9)	Near consistent

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for January 2017 to March 2017 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #111)**: Nino 3.4 values from August to October 2016**

*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 May to July 2017

Predictors and Period used: NINO 3.4 indices from February to March 2017

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	46	732.4	54		3.8%	60.0%
Nafanua	49	523.6	51		-2.0	47.7%
Apia	47	410.2	53		1.3%	56.1%
Faleolo	46	311.3	54		1.9%	59.3%

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	29	625.1	**36**	832.5	35	1.0%	29.7%
Nafanua	32	437.9	34	594.1	34	-2.6%	23.8%
Apia	33	333.0	**34**	481.2	33	-2.3%	37.5%
Faleolo	32	273.1	31	374.3	**37**	0.9%	37.5%

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for May to July 2017

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	52	388	27	530	21		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for March 2017:

"Normal rainfall was recorded for Afiamalu and Faleolo whereas "below normal" observed for Apia and Nafanua.

Accumulated rainfall for January 2017 to March 2017, including outlook verification:

"Normal" rainfall was registered for Afiamalu,Nafanua and Faleolo with an exception of Apia received "below normal".

The outlook verification was "near consistent" for Afiamalu and Faleolo. Inconsistent was issue for Apia station. The outlook for Nafanua is consistent.

Outlooks for May to July 2017:

1. **SCOPIC:**
    - The outlook for all stations offers little guidance for the coming season as the chances of "above normal", "normal" and "below normal" rainfall are similar.

    The confidence of the model is "low" to "very low".

2. **POAMA:**

    POAMA favours below normal at Apia, with normal the next most likely category.

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			