

Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 116 Summary Report

Date: Tuesday 16 May 2017

Time: Australian Eastern Daylight Time 11:00AM (01:00 UTC)

Chair: Vanuatu

Main purpose for the OCOF:

- To provide a regular forum for the 10 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^{*} 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 (TBC) to be chaired by Cook Islands.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 16 climate officers (7 female) from 8 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Bipen Prakash, Swastika Prasad

Kiribati:

Niue: Hingano Laufoli, Robert Togiama, Sean Tukutama

Papua New Guinea: Kisolet Posanau, Nanao Bouauka, Kila Kila

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria

Samoa: Tile Tofaeono, Junior Lepale, Faapisa Aiono, Vauei Su'a

Solomon Islands: Noel Sanau

Tonga: Mele Lakai

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu: Moirah Yerta

Australia: Grant Beard, Simon McGree, Grant Smith

SPREP: Alexander Montoro, Sunny Seuseu, Philip Malsale

* 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)

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

Observations and Verification of February to April 2017 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending April 2017 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
Penang Mill, Fiji	Apr	32.4	1	107
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	Apr	15.2	1	118
Nadi Airport, Fiji	Apr	48.7	6	75
Lakeba, Fiji	Apr	21.8	1	67
Ono-i-Lau, Fiji	Apr	44.4	7	70
Nabouwalu, Fiji	Apr	71.8	5	99
Nadi Airport, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1345.1	68	74
Vunisea, Fiji	Feb-Apr	733.6	74	81
Rotuma, Fiji	Feb-Apr	1323.8	97	104
Momote, PNG	Feb-Apr	1074.2	61	67
Nafanua, Samoa	Apr	440.5	43	47
Faleolo, Samoa	Apr	311.5	53	56
Faleolo, Samoa	Feb-Apr	800.5	53	56
Niuatoputapu, Tonga	Apr	445.9	62	67
Ha'apai, Tonga	Apr	41.6	6	71
Niuatoputapu, Tonga	Feb-Apr	1294.2	64	65
Vava'u, Tonga	Feb-Apr	1345.1	70	71
Nui, Tuvalu	Apr	413.6	65	72
Funafuti, Tuvalu	Apr	611.0	83	85
Niulakita, Tuvalu	Apr	573.7	63	65
Lamap, Vanuatu	Apr	353.0	53	57
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Apr	598.0	45	45
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Feb-Apr	1161.5	41	45

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the February to April period showed 23 consistent, 26 near-consistent and 4 inconsistent outlooks (53 stations across 11 countries).

A summary of results (C-consistent, NC-Near Consistent, I-Inconsistent, N/A-not available) for each country is as follows:

Cook Islands (1NC, 1I); Fiji (8C, 4NC.); Kiribati (3C, 2NC); Niue (1C); PNG (4NC); RMI (1C, 1NC); Samoa (2C, 1NC, 1I); Solomon Islands (2C, 4NC); Tonga (4C, 1NC); Tuvalu (1C, 2NC, 1I) and Vanuatu (1C, 5NC, 1I).

Overall: 23C, 26NC, 4I.

June to August 2017 Outlooks:

SCOPIE outlooks: In a shift in the statistical outlooks this month compared with last month, 48% (down from 81%) of the 61 station outlooks have near-equal probabilities in three terciles, 28% have the highest probability in tercile 1, and 16% have near-equal probabilities in two terciles. Four stations have the highest probability in tercile 3 and one station has the highest probability in tercile 2.

POAMA outlooks: Eleven countries provided completed POAMA tables this month. Thirty-nine percent of the 46 stations outlooks have the highest probabilities in tercile 1, while the remaining outlooks were distributed fairly evenly among the other categories.

Other matters:

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	April 2017	February to April 2017	Verification [†] for February to April 2017 outlooks
Cook Islands	Above normal	Above normal to normal	Near-consistent & Inconsistent
Fiji	Mainly below normal	Above normal to normal	Consistent to near-consistent
Kiribati	Above normal to below normal	Normal to below normal	Consistent to near-consistent
RMI	Normal and below normal	Above normal and normal	Consistent and near-consistent
Niue	Below normal	Normal	Near-consistent
Papua New Guinea	Above normal to normal	Above normal to normal	Near-consistent
Samoa	Above normal	Mostly above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Solomon Islands			
Tonga	Above normal to below normal	Above normal	Consistent to near-consistent
Tuvalu	Mostly above normal	Above normal to normal	Consistent to near-consistent
Vanuatu	Mostly above normal	Above normal to below normal	Consistent to inconsistent

[†] 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).