Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction (COMP)

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No. 118 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 13 July 2017

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

Chair: Fiji

Apologies: Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu

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 (Bureau of Meteorology and SPREP) 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, SPREP and Bureau of Meteorology teams.
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. The next OCOF will be held on 8 August 2017 (TBC). To be chaired by Kiribati.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 14 climate officers (6 female) from 6 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands: Bates Manea

Fiji: Bipen Prakash, Arieta Baleisolomone

Kiribati:

Niue: Hingano Laufoli, Rossy Mitiepo, Robert Togiamana, Sean Tukutama

Papua New Guinea:

Republic of Marshall Islands:

Samoa: Tile Tofaeono, Junior Lepale, Faapisa Aiono, Tofi Palemia, Vaueli Su'a

Solomon Islands:

Tonga: Mele Lakai

Tuvalu:

Vanuatu: Moirah Yerta

* 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)

Australia: Simon McGree

SPREP: Sunny Seuseu, Philip Malsale

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

Observations and Verification of April to June 2017 outlooks:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending June 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
Pekoa, Vanuatu	June	32.5	4	47
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	Apr-Jun	1075.3	44	45
Penang Mill, Fiji	June	12.5	10	108
Nadi Airport, Fiji	June	2.4	6	76
Penang Mill, Fiji	Apr-Jun	207.4	10	107
Nadi Airport, Fiji	Apr-Jun	106.3	5	75
Lautoka Mill, Fiji	Apr-Jun	105.0	7	118
Butaritari, Kiribati	Apr-Jun	392.6	4	78
Nafanua, Samoa	Apr-Jun	1598.9	45	45
Apia, Samoa	Apr-Jun	1363.4	128	128
Faleolo, Samoa	Apr-Jun	876.9	54	54
Afiamalu, Samoa	Apr-Jun	1840.6	62	63
Wewak, PNG	June	375.6	61	62
Kavieng, PNG	June	122.0	8	87
Port Moresby, PNG	June	0.6	4	120
Nadzab, PNG	Apr-Jun	429.2	37	41
Momote, PNG	Apr-Jun	1128.0	65	68
Port Moresby, PNG	Apr-Jun	95.6	11	116
Henderson, Solomon Islands	June	161	40	43
Lata, Solomon Islands	June	554	42	43
Munda, Solomon Islands	June	490	55	56
Lata, Solomon Islands	Apr-Jun	1372	41	42
Niuatoputapu, Tonga	Apr-Jun	1301.6	64	64
Niulakita, Tuvalu	Apr-Jun	1041.8	60	65

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

Validation of forecasts with observed rainfall for the April to June period showed 19 consistent, 30 near-consistent and 7 inconsistent outlooks (56 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 (2NC); Fiji (6C, 5NC, 2I); Kiribati (2C, 2NC); Niue (1NC); PNG (1C, 4NC, 2I); RMI (1NC, 1I); Samoa (4NC); Solomon Islands (1C, 6NC); Tonga (3C, 2NC); Tuvalu (2NC, 2I) and Vanuatu (6C, 1NC).

Overall: 19C, 30NC, 7I.

August to October 2017 Outlooks:

SCOPIC outlooks: 54% of the 59 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 3% in tercile 2 and 17% in tercile 3. Eight percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles and 17% had near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

POAMA outlooks: 38% of the 48 stations have their highest probability in tercile 1, 19% in tercile 2 and 29% in tercile 3. Ten percent have near-equal probabilities in two terciles, while 4% have near-equal probabilities in three terciles.

Other matters:

Observed Rainfall and Validation

Country	June 2017	April to June 2017	Verification† for April to June 2017 outlooks
Cook Islands	Below normal and normal	Normal	Near-consistent
Fiji	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Kiribati	Below normal and normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent and near-consistent
RMI	Normal and above normal	Below normal and normal	Near-consistent
Niue	Below normal	Below normal	Near-consistent
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal.	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Samoa	Above normal	Above normal	Near-consistent
Solomon Islands	Normal and above normal.	Above normal	Consistent or near-consistent
Tonga	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal	Consistent to inconsistent
Tuvalu	Normal and above normal	Normal and above normal	Near-consistent or inconsistent
Vanuatu	Below normal and normal	Normal and above normal	Consistent and near-consistent

† 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).