

# Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum No: 65

**Country Name: SOLOMON ISLANDS**

**TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall**

Station (include data period)	JANUARY 2013						
	November 2012 Total	December 2012 Total	Total (mm)	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Auki (1962 – 2012)	178	256	<b>Normal</b> 293	292	420	348	18 of 52
Henderson (1975 – 2012)	27	575	<b>Below</b> 150	175	260	211	11 of 39
Honiara (1954 – 2012)	28	467	<b>Normal</b> 219	188	293	239	26 of 58
Kirakira 1965 – 2012)	191	480	<b>Normal</b> 319	223	419	297	24 of 46
Lata (1975 – 2012)	312	371	<b>Above</b> 534	345	483	381	30 of 39
Munda (1962 – 2012)	280	265	<b>Above</b> 488	284	405	353	41 of 52
Taro (1975 – 2012)	220	99	<b>Below</b> 72	218	258	238	<b>Lowest of 36</b>

**TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall  
November 2012 to January 2013**

**Predictor: SST 1&9**

Stations	Three-month Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking	Forecasted probs. * (Include LEPS)	Verification (Consistent, Near-consistent Inconsistent?)
Auki (1962 – 2012)	728	778	971	886	14 of 49	23/ <b>43</b> /34 (34.4)	Near consistent
Henderson (1975 – 2012)	752	437	656	571	30 of 38	<b>57</b> /24/19 (29.9)	Inconsistent
Honiara (1954 – 2012)	714	511	634	569	40 of 56	<b>43</b> /37/20 (27.1)	Inconsistent
Kirakira 1965 – 2012)	991	702	926	802	33 of 44	30/ <b>38</b> /32 (30.9)	Near consistent
Lata (1975 – 2012)	1217	1046	1302	1115	25 of 38	9/40/ <b>52</b> (14.6)	Near consistent
Munda (1962 – 2012)	1033	805	976	846	37 of 51	<b>38</b> /33/28 (0.0)	Inconsistent
Taro (1975 – 2012)	391	599	776	694	4 of 33	36/20/ <b>44</b> (12.5)	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).

**TABLE 3: Seasonal Climate Outlooks for March to May 2013**

**Predictors and Period used: December SST 1 & 9 – one month**

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Auki	53	825	47		-0.8	60.0
Henderson	52	520	48		0.4	54.1
Honiara	57	609	43		6.0	62.1
Kirakira	24	898	46		-2.7	48.9
Lata	70	1108	30		27.4	75.7
Munda	47	914	53		-2.9	39.2
Taro	57	880	43		1.8	60.0

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile Rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile Rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Auki	40	732	29	936	31	-2.5	30.0
Henderson	35	437	38	590	27	9.0	45.9
Honiara	36	543	34	672	30	2.2	19.0
Kirakira	33	853	39	1006	28	-1.3	40.0
Lata	45	996	43	1180	12	19.4	43.2
Munda	31	805	34	999	35	-2.8	27.5
Taro	40	780	29	930	31	-2.9	25.7

**TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for March - May 2013**

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Honiara	26.67	460	36.67	625	36.67		

**Summary Statement:**

**January 2013 rainfall:**

Normal to above normal rainfall was recorded in some parts of eastern, central and western region in January 2013.

Auki, Honiara (central) and Kirakira (eastern) recorded normal rainfall while, Lata (eastern) and Munda (western) recorded above normal rainfall during the month. Henderson (central) and Taro (western) recorded below normal rainfall. According to the rainfall recorded at Taro, was the lowest monthly total rainfall of 72mm for the month of January over 36 years period.

As such, report has been received from Taro Meteorological Station that the island now experiencing dry condition. The total monthly rainfall over the past month has decreasing compared to the previous month record.

**November 2012 to January 2013 rainfall: (Include a summary statement on verification)**

Rainfall prediction for the period – November 2012 to January 2013 was normal to below normal for central region and parts of eastern region while above normal was likely for Taro and no rainfall guidance for Munda in the western region.

According to the forecast verification, Auki, Kirakira and Lata were near consistent while Henderson, Honiara and Taro were inconsistent to their forecast. Only Munda was consistent to its forecast for the period.

### **Outlooks for March – May 2013:**

#### **1. SCOPIC:**

The climate outlook for the period – March to May 2013 is likely to be near normal to below normal for Henderson, Lata and Munda while no rainfall guidance is likely for Honiara and Munda.

The forecasting skills for the period are very low for Auki, Kirakira, Munda and Taro while moderate to high skills are for Henderson, Honiara and Lata.

#### **2. POAMA:**

Still can't access the Poama website ....

### **Drought monitoring**

A drought warning is current for Taro Island rainfall. In January 2013, Taro Island recorded the lowest monthly total rainfall of 72mm over 36 year for the month and the trend for decreasing rainfall seems obvious compared for the December 2012 monthly total rainfall.

Report from the Taro Meteorological station confirmed that offices and residential rainwater tanks have been emptied over the past two past months and effect of the meteorological drought has impacted on wells water sources on the island.

**NB: The X LEPS % score has been categorised as follows:**

Very Low:  $X < 0.0$       Low:  $0 \leq X < 5$       Moderate  $5 \leq X < 10$       Good:  $10 \leq X < 15$       High:  $15 \leq X < 25$   
Very High:  $25 \leq X < 35$       Exceptional:  $X \geq 35$