

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 66

Country Name: SAMOA

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			February 2013				
	December 2012 Total	January 2013 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu (1967-2012)	1068.1	1322.8	613.7 Normal	397	693.5	511.8	37/59
Apia (1890-2012)	382.4	811.8	264.1 below normal	269.9	404	346.5	39/124
Faleolo (1957-2012)	307.5	562.8	177.2 below normal	187.4	281.9	235.7	16/52
Nafanua (1965- 2012)	512.2	1125.5	397.2 Normal	269.4	473.6	398	19/37

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall December 2012 to February 2013

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #62]
 Period: *below normal/normal/above normal

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	3004.6 Above normal	1527.7	2220.2	1926.3	53/56	32/ 37 /31 (13.1)	Near-consistent
Apia	1458.3 Above normal	1005.2	1289.7	1134.8	95/123	31/ 36 /33 (12.6)	Near-consistent
Faleolo	1047.5 Above	761.3	911.9	842.7	45/50	33/ 34 /33 (2.0)	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).

	normal						
Nafanua	2034.9 Above normal	1197.5	1653.8	1322.3	24/30	26/42/32 (33.9)	Near- consistent

Predictors and Period used for December 2012 to February 2013 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #62): SOI values from August to October 2012

TABLE 3: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using SCOPIC for April to June 2013

Predictors and Period used: SOI values from December 2012 to February 2013

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	53	839.3	47		2.8	52.7
Apia	52	530.3	48		0.1	51.2
Faleolo	52	396.4	48		-1.8	40.8
Nafanua	54	626.6	46		1.9	52.8

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	37	720.9	29	991.7	34	2.7	43.6
Apia	35	452.8	32	633.6	33	-0.9	22
Faleolo	35	343.1	33	459.4	32	-2.2	16.3
Nafanua	37	500	28	746.4	35	-1	44.4

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for April to June 2013

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	30	486	57	628	13		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for February 2013:

'Normal' rainfall was recorded at Afiamalu and Nafanua stations while 'below normal' rainfall was recorded in Apia and Faleolo.

The decline in February rainfall for Samoa compared to December 2012 and January 2013 is partly due to the SPCZ being disorganized and fragmented over the month. A ridge of high pressure to the northeast of Samoa was also the dominant weather feature in February hence, clear days observed at times across the country.

Accumulated rainfall for December 2012–February 2013, including outlook verification:

Accumulated rainfall is 'above normal' for all stations due to displacement of very active SPCZ over Samoa in the last two months.

Forecast issued for the identified period was 'near consistent' for all stations.

April–June 2013:

1. SCOPIC:

Outlook generated from Scopic predicts climatology or 'normal' rainfall across Samoa in the next 3 months

2. POAMA:

The dynamical model also predicts climatological 'normal' for Samoa in the next 3 months.

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: $X \geq 35$