Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 67

Country Name: SAMOA

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			March 2013				
	January 2013 Total	February 2013 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu (1967-2013)	1322.8	613.7	422.5 Normal	392.9	606.5	487	25/60
Apia (1890-2013)	811.8	264.1	271.9 Below normal	273.6	387.8	312.3	41/124
Faleolo (1957-2013)	562.8	177.2	178.3 Normal	175.3	242.9	213.6	18/52
Nafanua (1965-2013)	1125.5	397.2	293.3 Below normal	322.3	397.0	358.4	10/37

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall

January to March 2013

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #63]

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	2359 Above normal	1532.6	2053.8	1714	45/57	29/35/**36** (4.6)	Consistent
Apia	1347.8 Above normal	1003	1251.6	1124.3	92/124	29/34/**37** (6)	Consistent
Faleolo	918.3 Above normal	683.3	875.5	780.2	38/52	31/34/**35** (0.8)	Consistent
Nafanua	1816 Above normal	1090.8	1618.5	1313	29/35	23/37/**40** (8.2)	Consistent

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for January to March 2013 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #63):
SOI values from September to November 2012

*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 2013

Predictors and Period used: SOI values from January to March 2013

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	47	756.9	**53**		4.6	57.1
Apia	49	408.8	**51**		-0.3	47.2
Faleolo	48	316.7	**52**		1.2	52
Nafanua	48	506.7	**52**		0.5	50

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	27	615.5	37	855.6	36	7.1	48.2
Apia	34	330	33	479.1	33	-0.8	29.3
Faleolo	34	271.5	31	382.6	35	-0.9	38
Nafanua	33	415.6	33	572.5	34	-1.9	30.6

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for May to July 2013

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	37	388	30	530	33		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for March 2013:

'Normal rainfall' was recorded at Faleolo and Afiamalu stations while 'below normal' rain was recorded in Apia and Nafanua stations.
The SPCZ was diagonally oriented to the southwest of the Samoa islands partly resulting in cessation of rain to some parts of the country.

Accumulated rainfall for January–March 2013, including outlook verification:

The accumulated rainfall for the identified period is 'above normal' for all stations and therefore 'consistent' with the forecast issued for that period.

Outlooks for May–July 2013:

1. SCOPIC:

The rainfall predicted by the statistical model for the next 3 months is climatology.

The model skill is very low to moderate.

2. POAMA:

The dynamical model outlook is also climatology.

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