Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 68

Country Name: Samoa

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			April 2013				
	February 2013 Total	March 2013 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu	613.7	422.5	510.9	270.5	385.6	322.6	52/58
Nafanua	397.2	293.3	260.9	170.7	305.8	234.2	22/39
Apia	264.1	271.9	187.2	176.3	266.8	220.7	44/124
Faleolo	177.2	178.3	124.7	140.5	187.4	158.1	12/52

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
February to April 2013
[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #64]

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	1547.1	1153.7	1550.2	1412	37/56	34/31/**35** (-0.2)	Consistent
Nafanua	951.4	915.3	1126.9	1062.7	14/37	33/33/**34** (-1.1)	Consistent
Apia	723.2	802.8	1022.6	925	20/124	33/**34**/33 (1.2)	Near consistent
Faleolo	480.2	589.7	688.6	628.5	6/52	33/**34**/33 (-2.2)	Near consistent

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for February to April 2013 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #64)**: SOI values for Oct-Dec 2012 period**

---

[*] Forecast is <u>consistent</u> when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) categories coincide (are in the same tercile).

Forecast is <u>near-consistent</u> 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 <u>inconsistent</u> 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 June to August 2013

Predictors and Period used: SOI Values from February to April 2013

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	46	593.0	54		5.0	52.7
Nafanua	49	413.4	51		-2.4	48.6
Apia	50	345.0	50		-0.6	55.3
Faleolo	48	292.5	52		-0.9	59.2

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	24	504.3	**38**	660.2	**38**	7.8	41.8
Nafanua	33	295.3	**34**	491.0	33	-3.5	27.0
Apia	**34**	252.8	33	410.0	33	-0.9	28.5
Faleolo	33	210.5	33	359.9	**34**	-2.5	28.6

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

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	10.0	272	30.0	395	**60.0**		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for April 2013:
'Normal' rainfall was recorded in Apia and Nafanua climate stations. 'Above normal' was recorded at Afiamalu and 'below normal' rainfall recorded for Faleolo climate station.

Accumulated rainfall for February–April 2013, including outlook verification:
The 3-monthly total rainfall was 'normal' for the stations at Afiamalu and Nafanau while 'below normal' for Apia and Faleolo.
The forecast that was issued for this period was 'normal' therefore 'consistent' with the falls recorded at Afiamalu and Nafanua and 'near consistent' with that recorded at Apia and Faleolo.

Outlooks for June–August 2013:
1. **SCOPIC: The forecast by the statistical model is 'climatology' for the Samoan region in the next 3 months.**

2. **POAMA: is biased towards 'above normal' rainfall for the next 3 months**

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