

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 87

Country Name: SAMOA

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	November 2014						
	September 2014 Total	October 2014 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu	107.6	189.7	612.6	284.7	428.2	330.3	52/57
Nafanua	69.8	175.4	321.9	206.4	306.3	249.8	32/45
Apia	54.5	169.9	387.5	163.1	298.4	219.9	79/92
Faleolo	50.4	143.5	324.8	132.5	198.4	166.5	41/45

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall September to November 2014

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #83]

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	909.9	716.5	1034.5	833.9	31/57	46/36/18 (22.2)	Near Consistent
Nafanua	567.1	552.0	745.9	668.8	18/44	44/37/19 (9.2)	Near Consistent
Apia	611.9	493.2	692.1	601.4	47/92	42/39/19 (9.1)	Near Consistent
Faleolo	518.7	376.4	517.6	434.5	30/44	38/30/32 (-0.1)	Inconsistent

Period: *below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for September to November 2014 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #82):

Nino 3.4 Values from May to July 2014

* 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
January 2015 to March 2015**

Predictors and Period used: Nino 3.4 Values of September to November 2014

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	66.3	1775.1	33.7		22.7	68.8
Nafanua	68.9	1303.7	31.1		25.3	66.7
Apia	60.5	1056.8	39.5		7.6	59.4
Faleolo	53.9	856.3	46.1		-2.2	50.0

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	38	1562.7	38	1981.8	24	4.5	43.8
Nafanua	45	1097.2	34	1609.2	22	16.9	51.9
Apia	44	917.0	31	1171.4	25	13.3	50.0
Faleolo	38	758.3	26	897.3	36	-3.3	25.0

**TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for
December 2014 to February 2015**

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	15	892.0	33	1361.0	52		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for November 2014:

All stations registered **'above normal'** rainfall in November 2014.

Accumulated rainfall for September to November 2014, including outlook verification:

Afiamalu, Nafanua and Apia stations recorded **'normal'** rainfall whilst Faleolo received **'above normal'** over the September to November 2014 period.

All stations were **'near consistent'** with the September to November outlook with an exception of Faleolo station which was **'inconsistent'**.

SCOPIC 4 is a useful tool with regards to monitoring rainfall in Samoa. It helps us provide the Australian and New Zealand government agencies in Samoa with information on the extent of rainfall deficiencies. They like the new drought map – Sunny Seuseu

Outlooks for January to March 2015:

1. SCOPIC:

- For Afiamalu the chances of **'above normal'** and **'normal'** are similar with **'below normal'** rainfall the least most likely.
- For Nafanua and Apia; **'below normal'** rainfall is favoured with **'normal'** the next most likely.
- For Faleolo the outlook offers little guidance as the chances of **'above normal'** and **'below normal'** are similar with **'normal'** rainfall the least likely.
- The confidence of the model outlook is **'very low'** for Faleolo, **'low'** for Afiamalu, **'good'** for Apia and **'high'** skill for Nafanua station.

2. POAMA: **'Above normal'** rainfall is favoured for Apia for January to March 2015 period.

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: $X \geq 35$