

Pacific Islands - Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 197

Country: Kiribati

Part 1: Recent climate

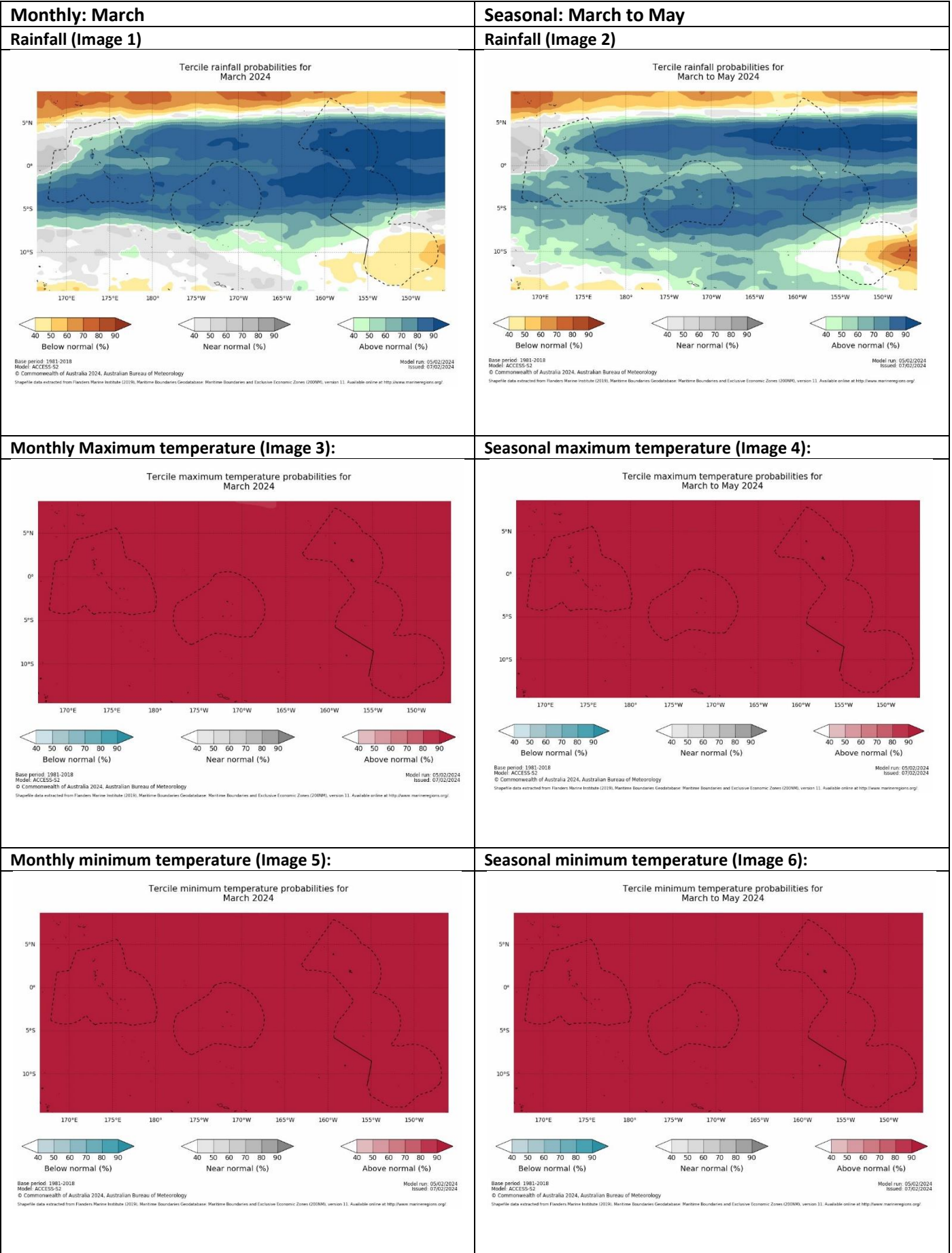
TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	Nov-2023	Dec-2023	Jan-2024				Rank
			Total (mm)	33%tile	67%tile	Median	
			Rainfall (mm)				
Beru (1932-2024)	454.1	303.0	253.7	53.7	232.0	114.0	45/68
Butaritari (1931-2024)	213.1	830.8	531.8	200.3	328.3	268.6	79/87
Kanton (1937-2024)				5.1	60.3	10.8	
Kiritimati (1921-2024)	83.5	100.5	59.6	9.3	42.0	21.7	65/98
Tarawa (1950-2024)	298.9	609.4	317.7	131.7	320.7	222.6	50/77
Arorae (1950-2024)	402.4			45.7	266.7	153.2	

TABLE 2: Three-month Total Rainfall for November 2023 to January 2024

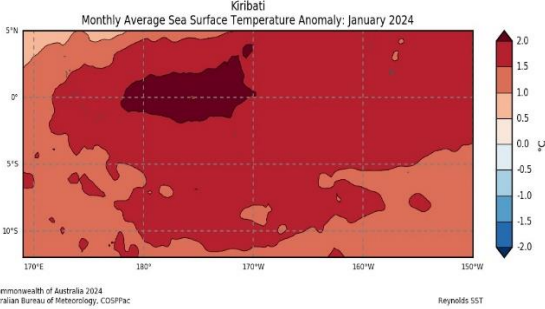
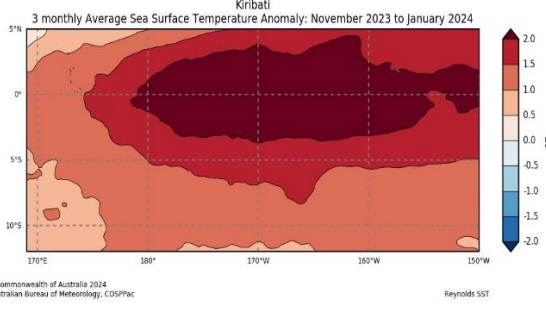
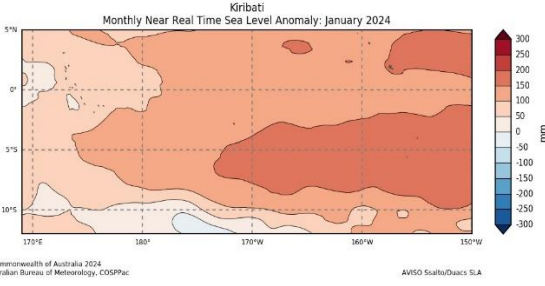
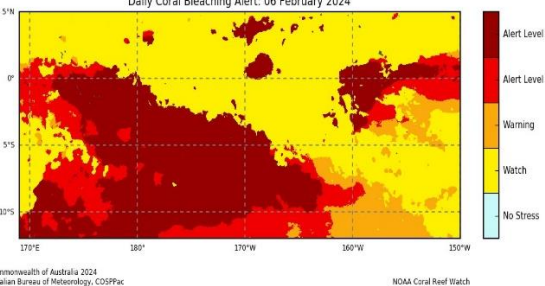
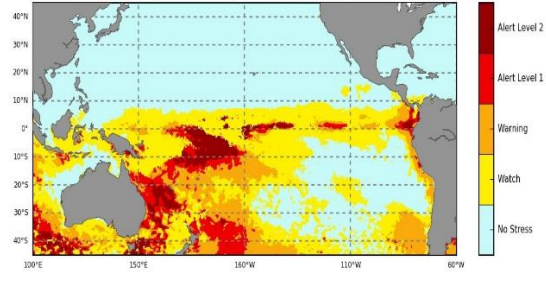
Station	Three-month Total		33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Rainfall (mm)					
Beru (1932-2024)	1010.8	Above normal	161.3	582.0	271.0	61/67
Butaritari (1931-2024)	1575.7	Above normal	540.7	895.0	728.7	82/85
Kanton (1937-2024)			25.7	147.3	57.2	
Kiritimati (1921-2024)	243.6	Above normal	25.0	89.8	41.5	66/81
Tarawa (1950-2024)	1226.0	Above normal	311.4	741.7	489.9	71/77
Arorae (1950-2024)			229.0	682.0	440.0	

Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for March and March to May 2024



Part 2: Recent Ocean Observation

Monthly/Three months: January 2024 and November 2023 to January 2024

<p>Monthly: January 2024</p>	<p>Last three months: November 2023 to January 2024:</p>
<p>Sea Surface Temperature (Image 1):</p>  <p>©Commonwealth of Australia 2024 Australian Bureau of Meteorology, COSPPac</p>	<p>Sea Surface Temperature (Image 4):</p>  <p>©Commonwealth of Australia 2024 Australian Bureau of Meteorology, COSPPac</p>
<p>Sea level (Image 2):</p>  <p>©Commonwealth of Australia 2024 Australian Bureau of Meteorology, COSPPac</p>	
<p>Daily coral bleaching alert (Image 3):</p>  <p>©Commonwealth of Australia 2024 Australian Bureau of Meteorology, COSPPac</p>	 <p>©Commonwealth of Australia 2024 Australian Bureau of Meteorology, COSPPac</p>

Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for March and March to May 2024

Monthly: March	Seasonal: March to May
Monthly sea surface temperature (Image 5):	Seasonal sea surface temperature (Image 6):
<p style="text-align: center;">Difference from average sea surface temperature forecast for March 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Difference from average (°C)</p> <p><small>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 © Commonwealth of Australia 2024, Australian Bureau of Meteorology Shapefile data extracted from Flanders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (EZZs), version 11. Available online at http://www.marinegovernance.org/</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>Model run: 05/02/2024 Issued: 07/02/2024</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Difference from average sea surface temperature forecast for March to May 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Difference from average (°C)</p> <p><small>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 © Commonwealth of Australia 2024, Australian Bureau of Meteorology Shapefile data extracted from Flanders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (EZZs), version 11. Available online at http://www.marinegovernance.org/</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>Model run: 05/02/2024 Issued: 07/02/2024</small></p>
Monthly sea level (Image 7):	Seasonal sea level (Image 8):
<p style="text-align: center;">Difference from average sea surface height forecast for March 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Difference from average (mm)</p> <p><small>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 © Commonwealth of Australia 2024, Australian Bureau of Meteorology Shapefile data extracted from Flanders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (EZZs), version 11. Available online at http://www.marinegovernance.org/</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>Model run: 05/02/2024 Issued: 07/02/2024</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Difference from average sea surface height forecast for March to May 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Difference from average (mm)</p> <p><small>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 © Commonwealth of Australia 2024, Australian Bureau of Meteorology Shapefile data extracted from Flanders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (EZZs), version 11. Available online at http://www.marinegovernance.org/</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>Model run: 05/02/2024 Issued: 07/02/2024</small></p>
4-week Coral Bleaching (Image 9):	
<p style="text-align: center;">Kiribati 4 Weeks Coral Bleaching Outlook: 03 March 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alert Level 2 Alert Level 1 Warning Watch No Stress</p> <p><small>© Commonwealth of Australia 2024 Australian Bureau of Meteorology, COSPPac</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>NOAA Coral Reef Watch</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pacific Ocean 4 Weeks Coral Bleaching Outlook: 03 March 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alert Level 2 Alert Level 1 Warning Watch No Stress</p> <p><small>© Commonwealth of Australia 2024 Australian Bureau of Meteorology, COSPPac</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>NOAA Coral Reef Watch</small></p>

Summary Statement

Monthly and last three months: January 2024/November 2023 to January 2024 statement

The rainfall for January was above normal over Beru, Butaritari and Kiritimati, while at Tarawa it was near-normal. Butaritari recorded its ninth wettest January on record.

For the past three months, rainfall was above normal. Butaritari recorded its fourth wettest, while Beru and Tarawa recorded their seventh wettest November to January on record.

The rainfall data from Kanton and Arorae are not available.

Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for March and March to May 2024

Monthly /Seasonal rainfall and temperature Outlook statements

The rainfall for March and March to May is very likely to be above normal over most of Kiribati, apart from the southern parts of the Line Group where below normal rainfall is likely.

Maximum and minimum temperatures during March and averaged over March to May are very likely to be above normal across the country.

Part 2: Recent Ocean summary statement

Monthly and last three months: January 2024/November 2023 to January 2024

January and averaged November to January, ocean temperatures around Kiribati were 0.5 to 2.0°C above normal.

January sea levels around Kiribati were 50mm to 200mm above normal.

The coral bleaching alert on Alert level 2 for Gilbert, Phoenix and central Line Islands.

Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for March and March to May 2024

Ocean Variable statement

March and averaged over March to May, ocean temperatures around Kiribati are predicted to be 0.4 to 2.0°C above normal. SST anomalies of 1.2 to 2.0°C above normal are likely to be at southern Gilbert, Phoenix and central Line Islands.

March and March to May, sea levels around the Gilbert and northern Line Islands are predicted to be 30mm to 60mm below normal. The rest of the Kiribati islands are anticipated to be near-normal.

The 4 weeks coral bleaching outlook is expected to be on Alert level 2 for parts of southern Gilbert and Phoenix Islands.

IN BRIEF for Teleconference

- Rainfall was generally above normal for both one and three months.
- The rainfall outlook indicates above normal is very likely in March and March to May, except for the southern parts of the Line Group where below average is likely .
- Air temperatures are very likely to be above normal.
- SSTs were above normal for January and November to January. The outlook shows above normal SSTs for the next one and three months.
- Sea-surface heights (SSH) were above normal for January. Below normal sea surface heights are predicted for March and March to May.
- The coral bleaching alert and four week outlook is likely to be Alert Level 2.

• **TABLE 3: Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective NMS engage with stakeholders**

Product	Date: January 2024	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of Male	Number of Female	Comments (If there are comments from you Stakeholders)
Climate Bulletin	9 th	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products	158	70	88	
EAR Watch	11 th	Drought committee members	62	35	27	
Media release	9 th	KMS Media and KMS staff	53	23	30	
Ocean Outlook	9 th	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products	158	70	88	
Climate data request	1-31	Government and Non-government sectors and local fishermen	8	4	4	
Total			439	202	237	