Pacific Islands - Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 198

Country: Kiribati

Part 1: Recent climate

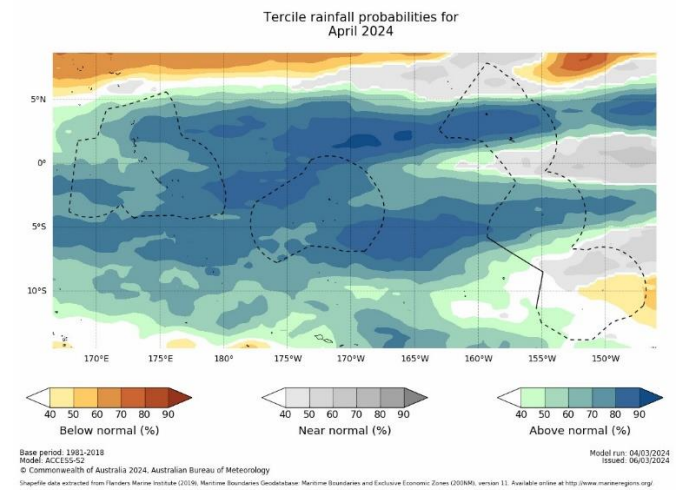
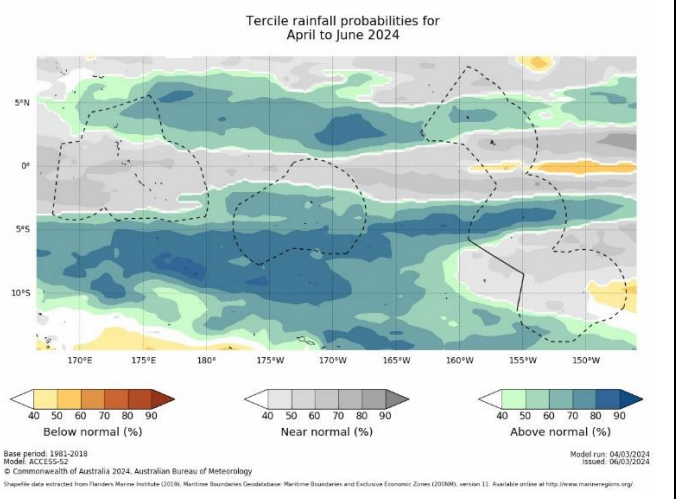
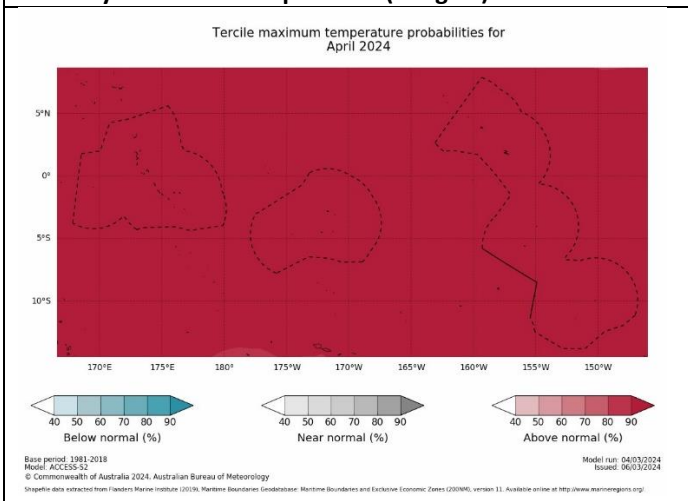
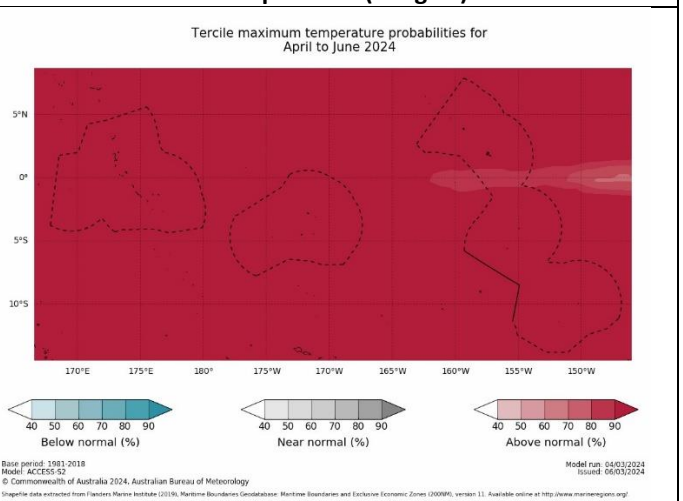
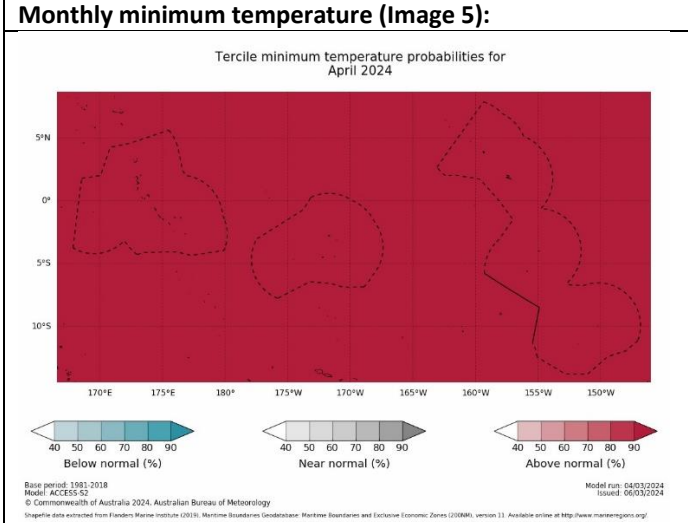
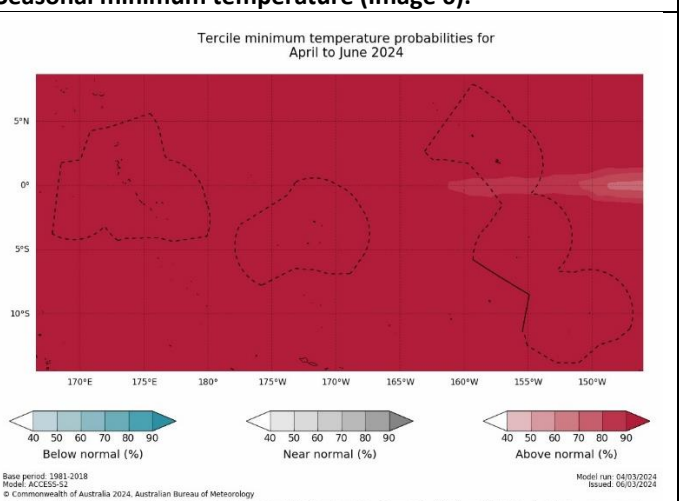
TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	Dec-2023	Jan-2024	Feb-2024				
			Total (mm)	33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	Rainfall (mm)				
Beru (1932-2024)	303.0	253.7	74.9	10.0	148.2	44.0	40/68
Butaritari (1931-2024)	830.8	531.8	343.9	189.3	307.9	258.4	64/87
Kanton (1937-2024)			145.1	4.7	47.0	7.5	57/68
Kiritimati (1921-2024)	100.5	59.6	152.1	15.7	55.6	34.0	85/99
Tarawa (1950-2024)	609.4	317.7	181.3	69.1	263.5	175.2	40/78
Arorae (1950-2023)				15.8	197.0	55.0	

TABLE 2: Three-month Total Rainfall for December 2023 to February 2024

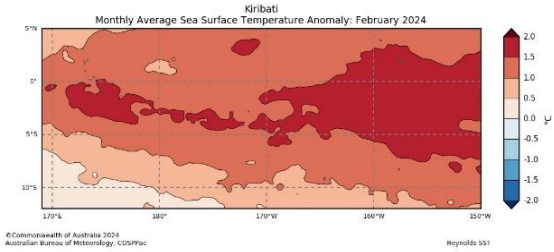
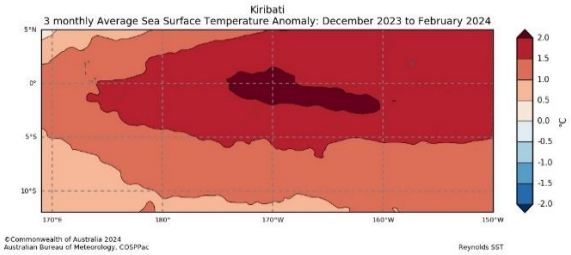
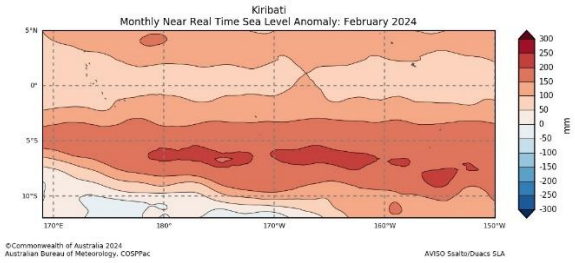
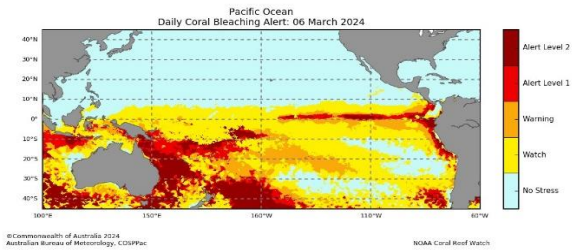
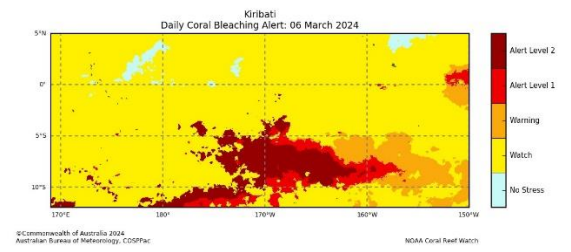
Station	Three-month Total		33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Rainfall (mm)					
Beru (1932-2024)	631.6	Normal	146.0	652.7	344.0	42/67
Butaritari (1931-2024)	1706.5	Above normal	597.6	1070.0	865.0	**85/85**
Kanton (1937-2024)			23.8	207.5	58.4	
Kiritimati (1921-2024)	312.2	Above normal	39.3	130.3	81.0	71/88
Tarawa (1950-2024)	1108.4	Above normal	366.0	859.3	638.1	65/77
Arorae (1950-2023)			219.0	707.0	428.0	

Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for April and April to June 2024

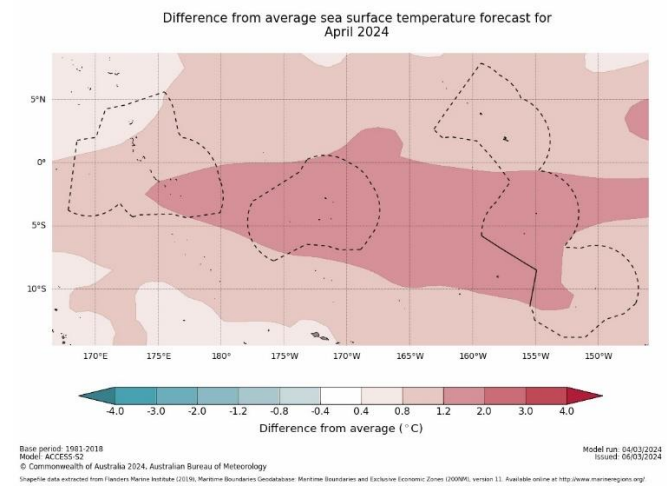
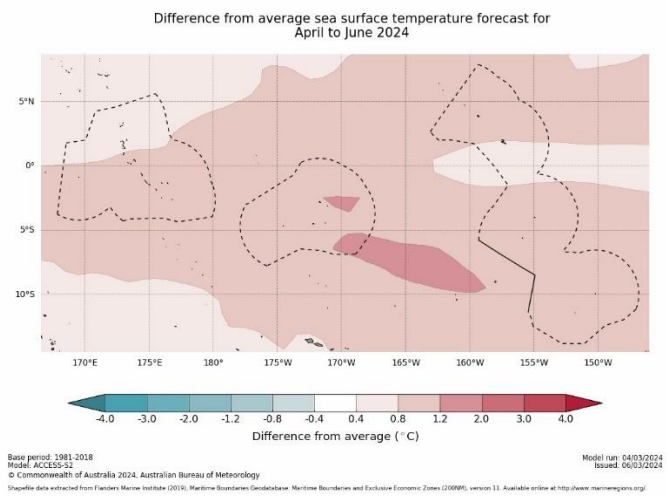
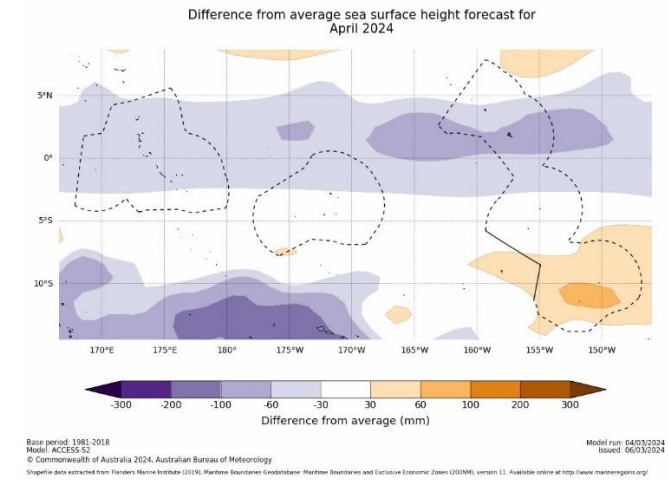
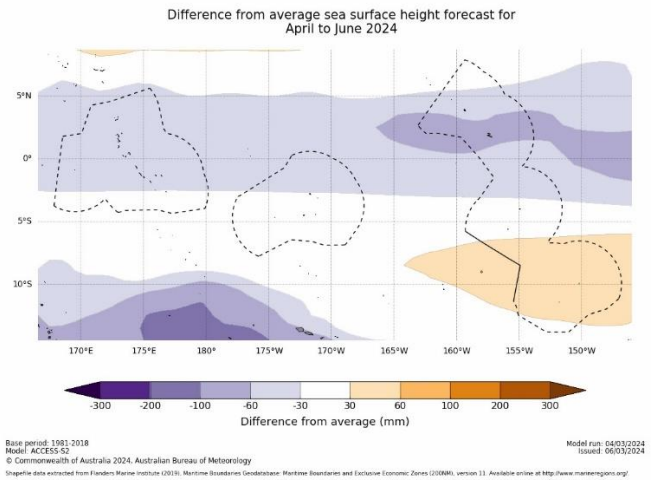
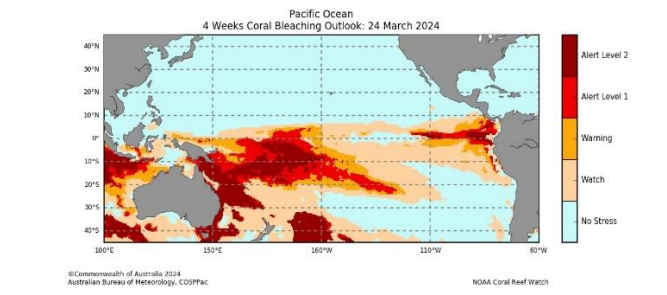
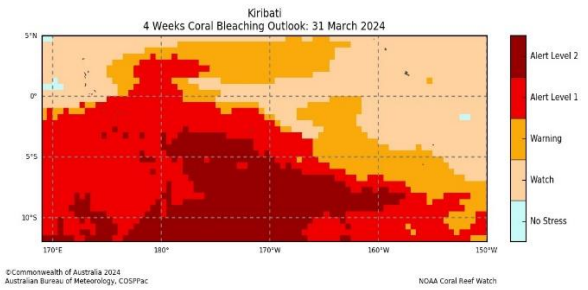
Monthly: April	Seasonal: April to June
Rainfall (Image 1)	**Rainfall (Image 2)**
	
Monthly Maximum temperature (Image 3):	**Seasonal maximum temperature (Image 4):**
	
Monthly minimum temperature (Image 5):	**Seasonal minimum temperature (Image 6):**
	

Part 2: Recent Ocean Observation

Monthly/Three months: February 2024 and December 2023 to February 2024

Monthly: February 2024	**Last three months: December 2023 to February 2024:**
Sea Surface Temperature (Image 1):	**Sea Surface Temperature (Image 4):**
	
Sea level (Image 2):	
	
Daily coral bleaching alert (Image 3):	
	

Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for April and April to June 2024

Monthly: April	Seasonal: April to June
Monthly sea surface temperature (Image 5):	**Seasonal sea surface temperature (Image 6):**
	
Monthly sea level (Image 7):	**Seasonal sea level (Image 8):**
	
4-week Coral Bleaching (Image 9):	
	

Summary Statement

Monthly and last three months: February 2024/December 2023 to February 2024 statement

The rainfall for February was above normal over Butaritari, Kanton and Kiritimati, while it was near-normal at Beru and Tarawa.

For the past three months, above normal rainfall was observed at Butaritari, Kiritimati and Tarawa, while near-normal occurred at Beru. Butaritari posted its wettest December to February in 85 years of record.

The rainfall data for Arorae is not available, while there are no December and January totals for Kanton.

Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for April and April to June 2024

Monthly /Seasonal rainfall and temperature Outlook statements

The rainfall for April is very likely to be above normal over the Gilbert, Phoenix and much of the northern and central Line Islands.

The rainfall for April to June is likely to be above normal over the Phoenix Is, the far northern Gilbert Is, and parts of the northern and central Line Islands.

Maximum and minimum temperatures during April and averaged over aApril to June are very likely to be above normal over the Kiribati region.

Part 2: Recent Ocean summary statement

Monthly and last three months: February 2024/December 2023 to February 2024

February and averaged over December to February, ocean temperatures around Kiribati were 1.0 to 2.0°C above normal.

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

The daily coral bleaching was on watch for the Gilbert Islands and Northern Line Islands, “Warning” for the Southern Line Islands and ”Alert Level 2” for the southern Phoenix Islands.

Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for April and April to June 2024

Ocean Variable statement

April and averaged over April to June, ocean temperatures around Kiribati are predicted to be 0.4 to 2.0°C above normal and 0.4 to 1.2°C above normal, respectively.

April and averaged over April to June, sea levels around the Gilbert, Phoenix and Northern Line Islands are predicted to be near normal and 30 to 100mm below normal. However, the southernmost parts of the Line group are anticipated to be 30 to 100mm above normal.

The 4-week coral bleaching is projected to be “Alert Level 1” and “Watch” for the southern and northern Gilbert Islands, respectively. “Alert Level 2” and “Alert Level 1” are predicted for southern and northern Phoenix Islands, respectively. “Warning” is predicted for the north of the southern Line Islands. “Alert Level 1” is predicted for the south of the southern Line Islands. ”Watch” is predicted for the northern Line Islands.

IN BRIEF for Teleconference

- Rainfall was generally near normal to above normal for December and December to February.
- The rainfall outlook generally indicates above normal most likely in April but normal is likely for some parts of the Kiribati group for April to June.
- Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were above normal for February and December to February. The outlook shows above normal SSTs for the next one and three months.
- Sea-surface heights (SSHs) were above normal for February. Near to below normal SSHs are predicted for April and April to June.
- The coral bleaching four-week outlook is likely to be "Alert Level 2" for southern Phoenix Islands, "Alert Level 1" for southern Gilbert and northern Phoenix Islands, "Warning" for north of the southern Line Islands and "Watch" elsewhere.

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

Product	Date: February 2024	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of Male	Number of Female	Comments (If there are comments from you Stakeholders)
Climate Bulletin	6th	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products	158	70	88	
EAR Watch	13th	Drought committee members.	62	35	27	
Media release	6th	KMS Staff and Media.	53	23	30	
Ocean Outlook	6th	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products	158	70	88	
Climate data request	1st - 22th	Government sectors and fishers.	8	5	3	
		Total	**439**	**203**	**236**	