Pacific Islands - Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 223

Country: Kiribati

Part 1: Recent climate

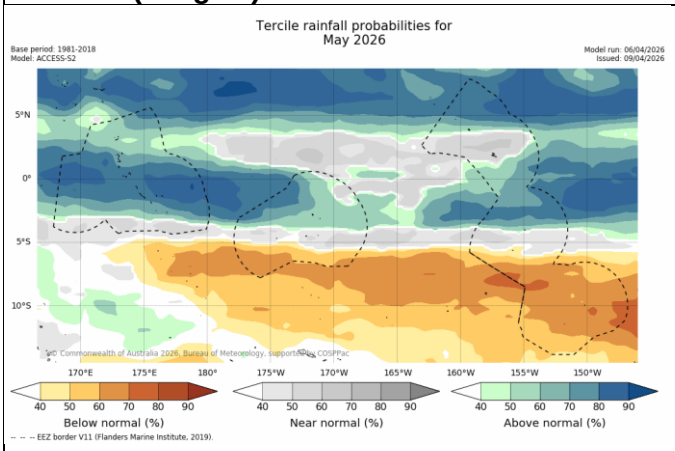
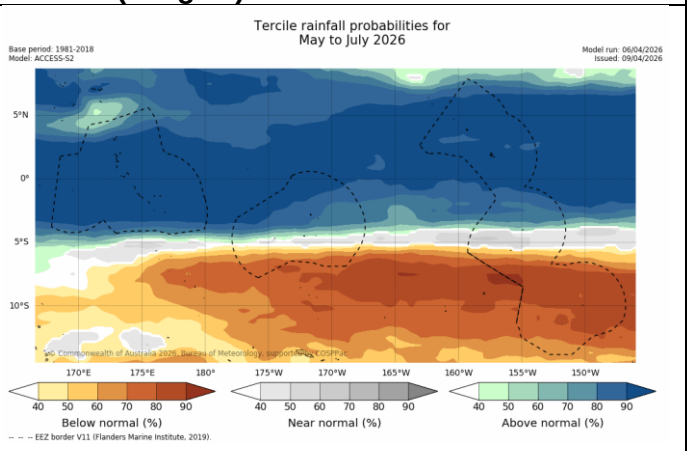
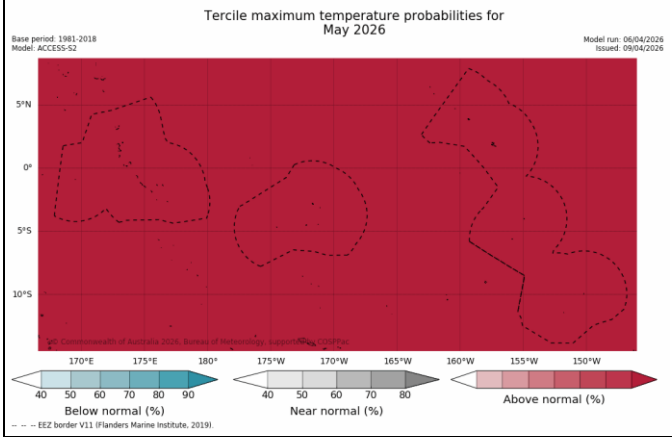
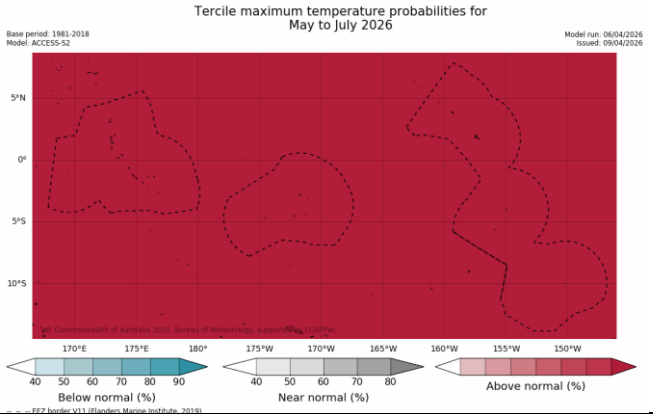
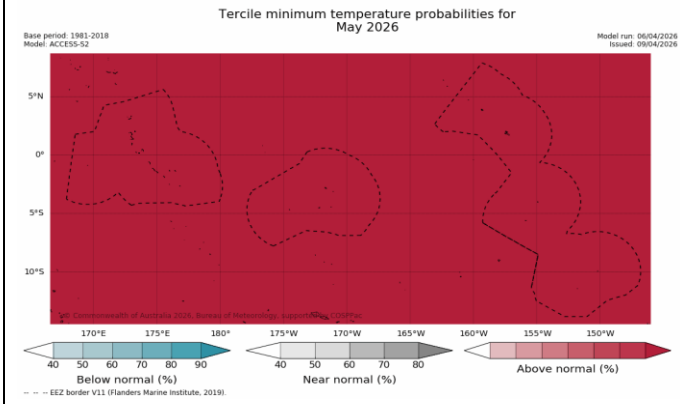
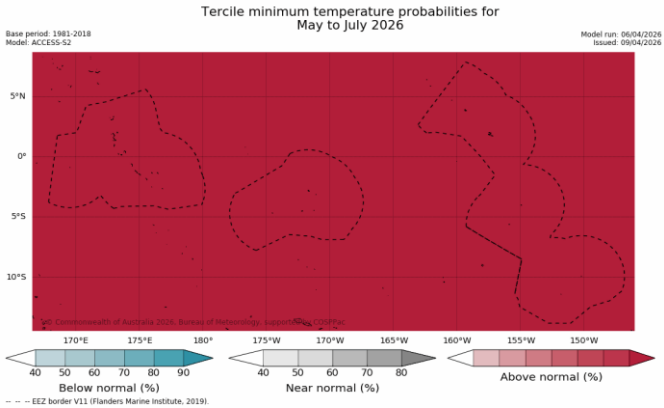
TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	Jan-2026	Feb-2026	Mar-2026				
			Total (mm)	33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	Rainfall (mm)				
Beru (1932-2026)	116.8	33.2	59.9	26.1	150.0	55.3	38/71
Butaritari (1931-2026)	282.7	212.5	111.4	186.9	402.0	281.0	13/88
Kanton (1937-2026)	0.0	15.5	21.3	20.1	66.0	35.0	26/67
Kiritimati (1921-2026)	3.7	3.2	11.1	74.9	144.8	95.0	**5/102**
Tarawa (1950-2026)	157.9	92.0	79.7	96.3	270.9	170.1	25/77

TABLE 2: Three-month Total Rainfall for January to March 2026

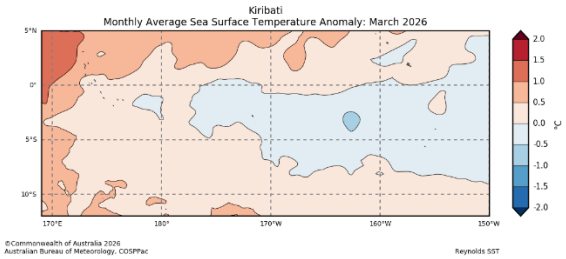
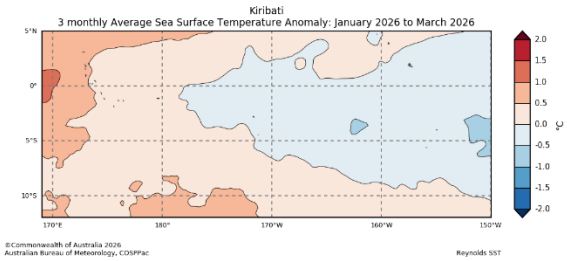
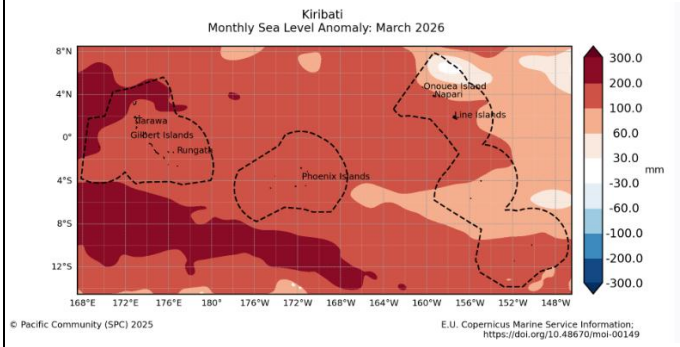
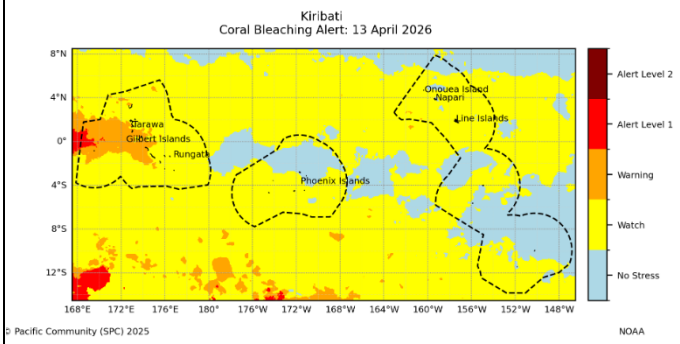
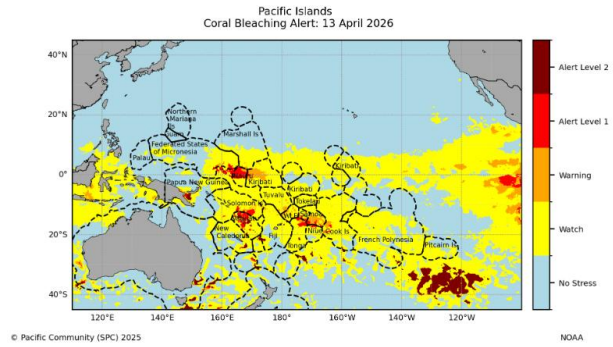
Station	Three-month Total		33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Rainfall (mm)					
Beru (1932-2026)	209.9	Normal	122.7	487.7	266.0	30/69
Butaritari (1931-2026)	606.6	Below normal	674.7	1121.7	833.4	23/87
Kanton (1937-2026)	36.8	Below normal	45.3	175.0	104.5	22/62
Kiritimati (1921-2026)	18.0	Below normal	113.2	280.0	197.0	**4/100**
Tarawa (1950-2026)	329.6	Below normal	332.3	945.9	590.5	26/77

Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for May and May to July 2026

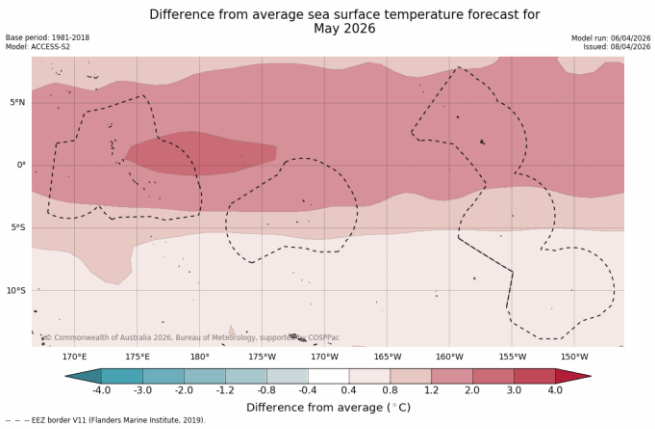
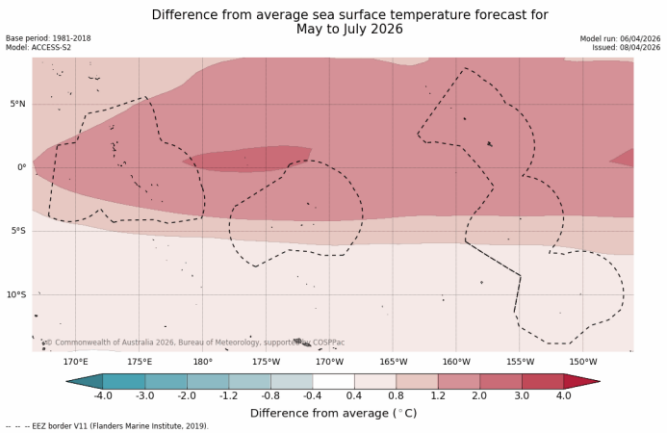
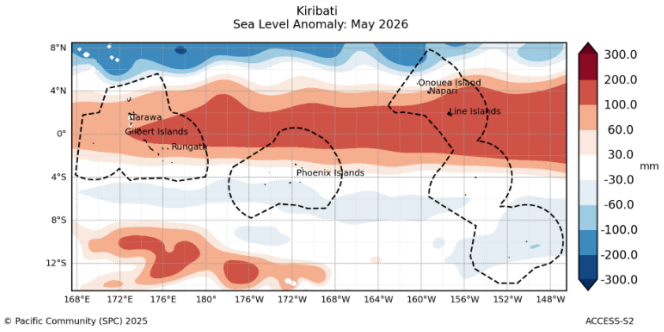
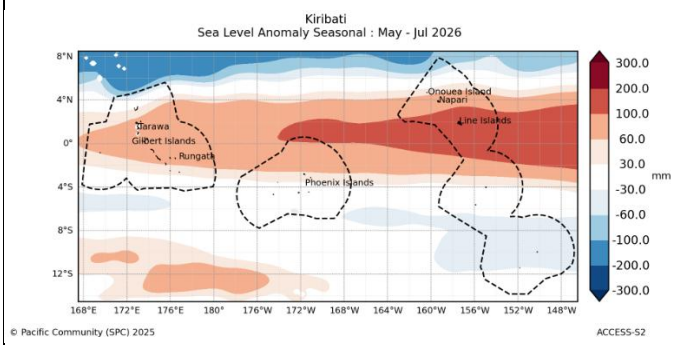
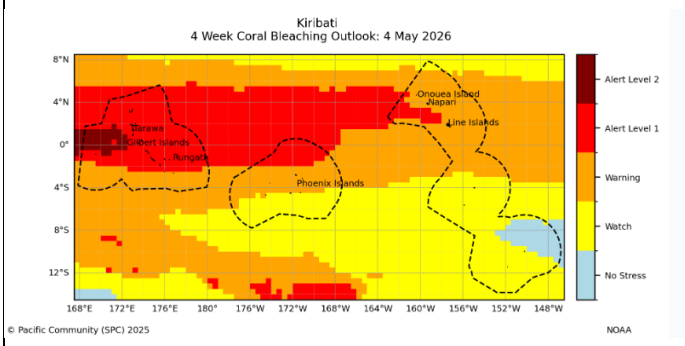
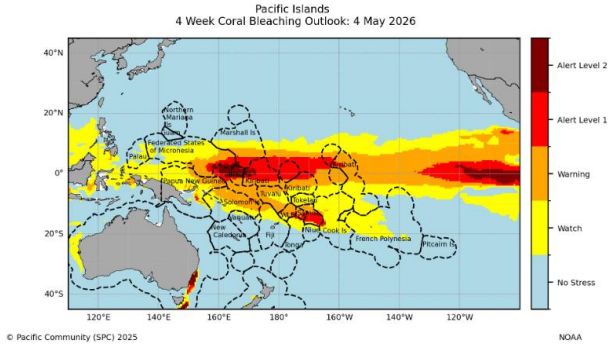
Monthly: May 2026	Seasonal: May to July 2026
Rainfall (Image 1)	**Rainfall (Image 2)**
	
Monthly Maximum temperature (Image 3):	**Seasonal maximum temperature (Image 4):**
	
Monthly minimum temperature (Image 5):	**Seasonal minimum temperature (Image 6):**
	

Part 2: Recent Ocean Observation

Monthly/Three months: March and January to March 2026

Monthly: March 2026	Last three months: January to March 2026
Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (Image 1):	**Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (Image 4):**
	
Sea level anomaly (Image 2):	
	
National daily coral bleaching alert (Image 3):	**Pacific daily coral bleaching alert (Image 5):**
	

Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for May and May to July 2026

Monthly: May 2026	Seasonal: May to July 2026
Monthly sea surface temperature anomaly (Image 5):	**Seasonal sea surface temperature anomaly (Image 6):**
	
Monthly sea level anomaly (Image 7):	**Seasonal sea level anomaly (Image 8):**
	
National 4-week Coral Bleaching Outlook (Image 9):	**Pacific 4-week Coral Bleaching Outlook (Image 10):**
	

Summary Statement

Monthly and last three months: March/January to March 2026 statement

The rainfall for March was below normal over Butaritari, Kiritimati, and Tarawa, while near-normal over Beru and Kanton. Kiritimati recorded its fifth driest March.

For the past three months, rainfall was below normal for all stations except Beru, which was near-normal. Kiritimati recorded its 4th driest January to March.

Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for May and May to July 2026

Monthly /Seasonal rainfall and temperature Outlook statements

The rainfall for April 2026 is very likely to be above normal across most Kiribati groups. Near normal is likely for Kiritimati and some islands in the Phoenix, while the southern tip of the Phoenix and the Line groups are likely to be below normal.

The rainfall for May to July 2026 is very likely to be above normal for the Gilbert and northern Line and Phoenix groups. Below normal rainfall is very likely over the Southern Phoenix and Line groups.

Maximum and minimum temperatures during May and May to July 2026 are very likely to be above normal over Kiribati.

Part 2: Recent Ocean summary statement

Monthly and the last three months: March/January to March 2026

March and averaged over January to March 2026, sea surface temperatures (SSTs) around most of the Kiribati region were up to 1.0°C above normal, while some parts of the Line and Phoenix groups had SSTs that were -0.5°C below normal.

March sea levels around Kiribati were 60 to 200mm above normal.

A coral bleaching watch and warning status is currently in effect for all the Kiribati groups as of [13 April 2026].

Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for May and May to July 2026

Ocean Variable statement

May and averaged over May to July 2026 sea surface temperatures around Kiribati are predicted to be 0.8 to 2.0°C above normal.

May and averaged over May to July 2026, sea levels across most of the Gilbert and northern Line and Phoenix regions are predicted to be 60 to 200mm above normal. The rest of the islands are expected to be -30 to 30mm near-normal to -30 to -60 below normal.

Coral Bleaching outlook indicates Alert Level 1 status over the Gilbert and some areas in the Phoenix and Line groups, while the rest are anticipated to be on watch and warning levels for the next 4 weeks.

In brief for Teleconference

- Rainfall was below normal in March over most stations, however, Beru and Kanton were near-normal. Averaged over January to March 2026 was below normal at all stations except Beru (near normal).
- The rainfall outlook generally indicates above normal most likely in May and averaged over May to July 2026 across most of Kiribati.
- SSTs were above normal for March and January to March 2026. The outlook shows above normal SSTs for the next one and three months.
- Sea levels were above normal during March, and it is expected to remain **a**bove normal over the next one and three months over most of the islands however, near normal to below normal sea levels is still expected for the rest of the islands.
- Coral bleaching was on watch and warning levels. The outlook shows alert level 1 over the Gilbert and some areas in the Phoenix and Line groups.

TABLE 3: Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective NMS engage with stakeholders (February 2026)

Product	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of Male	Number of Female	Disability	Comments (If there are comments from you Stakeholders)
Climate Bulletin	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88	1	
EAR Watch	Drought Committee members.	62	35	27	0	
Briefing Note on Ocean parameters.	Offshore and Coastal Fisheries	4	3	1	0	
Agromet Bulletin	Agriculture and Livestock Division (ALD)	4	1	3	0	
Ocean Outlook	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88	1	
Media release	All media outlets	12	6	6	0	
Climate data request	Insurance & Student,	3	1	2	0	

National Climate Outlook Forum (24-25 March)	Island Mayors and Clerks, Key stakeholders including people with disability	51	27	24	2	
School competition on Drawing, Speech and Science experiment or modelling during the World Met Celebration (26 March)	Primary, Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools.	18	7	11	0	
	Total	312	150	162	3	

Stakeholder category	**Do your products reach this group? (Y/N)**	**Tailored product? (Y/N)**
Agriculture sector	Y	Y
Disaster Risk Reduction sector	Y	N
Energy sector	Y	N
Health sector	Y	N
Water sector	Y	N
Fisheries and Aquaculture sector	Y	Y
Tourism sector	Y	N
Maritime sector	Y	N
Research & education sector	Y	Y
Women's [] organisations	Y	N
National disability organisations	Y	N
Community based organisations (e.g. councils)	Y	N
Products offered in local dialects/ languages	Y	N

Table 4: Impacts of Severe weather and climate events

Period	Country	ENSO phase	Synoptic Situation	Hazard Type	Impacts (text/image)	Sector Affected	Number of Fatalities
30th Mar	Kiribati	La Nina	Two active low-pressure systems at north and south of the Kiribati group (28th March).	Storm surge	   Coastal inundation, water contamination, road interruption	Transport Health Housing Infrastructure Private sector Utilities	0
31st Mar	Kiribati	La Nina		Strong wind	   Fallen trees are causing road interruptions and damage to properties.	Housing Transport	0