

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 177 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 15 June 2022

Time: Australian Eastern Standard Time at 11:00AM (01:00 UTC)

Host: SPREP

Chair: Niue

Apologies:

Main purpose for the OCOF:

- To provide a regular forum for the 12 participating PIC NMSs to discuss the current ENSO status, recent one and three-month rainfall, drought (if present), their seasonal climate outlooks and stakeholders engagement with other countries and the COMP (Bureau of Meteorology and SPREP) project team.
- In addition, it serves as an online training forum for recent SCOPIC development and gives the project team and the NMSs an opportunity to discuss other project related matters.

Agenda:

1. Brief introduction of PIC participants, SPREP, SPC and Bureau of Meteorology teams.
2. Report on current ENSO status.
3. Each NMS report on their past one and three months' rainfall in relation to the current ENSO situation (include ranking and verification), their three-month outlooks and their stakeholders engagement. Wherever appropriate NMS to report on their drought status.
4. Round-table discussion: addressing general concerns/queries on outlooks and SCOPIC
5. Feedback on COSPPac products and services.
6. Country statements with regards to drought or drought-like conditions, drought module issues/concerns.
7. The next OCOF will be held on **20 July 2022** and is to be chaired by **PNG**.

Participants:

The Forum was attended by 17 climate officers (11 female) from 10 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Shweta Shiwangni, Jasneel Chnadra and Arieta Baleisolomone

Kiribati: Mwata Keariki and Kamaiti Rubetaake

Niue: Raquel Tanaki

Papua New Guinea: Kila Kila

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands: Nover Juria and Samson Kanenko

Samoa: Kotoni Faasau and Taumeasina Fomai

Solomon Islands: Max Sitai

Tonga: Seluvaia Finaulahi and Mele

Tuvalu: Simoea Tiute and Niko Iona

Vanuatu:

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Australia: Simon McGree, Olivia Warrick, Elise Chandler, Grant Smith, Janita Pahalad and Clare Mullen

SPREP: Philip Malsale and Tile Tofaeono

SPC: Judith Giblin

OCOF tables were received from 12 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations of March to May 2022:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending May 2022 were discussed for each PIC. This month, several countries experienced extreme rainfall as shown in the following table:

Station	Period		Rainfall Amount (mm)	Rainfall Rank	Years of record
Nausori Airport, Fiji	Mar-May		654.1	6	66
Rotuma, Fiji	Mar-May		543.6	5	108
Butaritari, Kiribati	May		68.7	4	85
Tarawa, Kiribati	May		30.4	6	75
Arorae, Kiribati	May		2.7	1	56
Kiritimati, Kiribati	Mar-May		68.8	6	97
Butaritari, Kiribati	Mar-May		419.5	8	85
Tarawa, Kiribati	Mar-May		108.3	4	75
Arorae, Kiribati	Mar-May		39.7	1	54
Majuro, RMI	Mar-May		1278.9	62	68
Koror Airport, Palau	May		612.7	70	71
Koror Airport, Palau	Mar-May		1421.4	71	71
Wewak, PNG	May		75.2	4	67
Kavieng, PNG	May		39.0	1	92
Port Moresby	May		182.8	124	130
Wewak, PNG	Mar-May		245.4	3	64
Momote, PNG	Mar-May		513.8	3	71
Taro, Solomon Islands	May		152.1	2	45
Fua'amotu, Tonga	May		22.3	1	42
Niuafo'ou	Mar-May		406.2	4	49
Niuaatoputapu, Tonga	Mar-May		327.5	4	67
Fua'amotu, Tonga	Mar-May		892.4	38	42
Nanumea, Tuvalu	May		33.5	2	82
Nanumea, Tuvalu	Mar-May		131.5	2	82
Bauerfield, Vanuatu	May		326.7	45	50
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	May		372.5	51	51
Aneityum, Vanuatu	May		629.2	69	70
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	Mar-May		748.7	48	51

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Whitegrass, Vanuatu	Mar-May	1240.7	64	70
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[Note: The above data may not have undergone quality control]

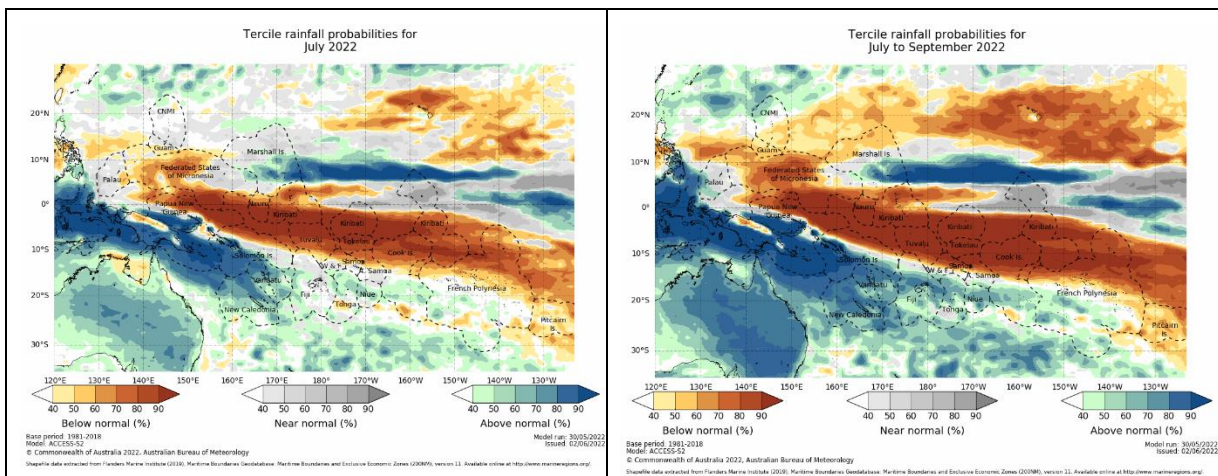
July to September 2022 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

The ACCESS-S for July to September shows a large region of dry signal very likely to affect Guam, FSM, northern PNG, northern Solomon Islands, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tokelau, northern and central Cook Islands, northern French Polynesia and Pitcairn Island.

The models show an increased chance of wetter very likely for central RMI, most of PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji, northern and central Tonga, Niue, southern Cook Islands and parts of southern French Polynesia.

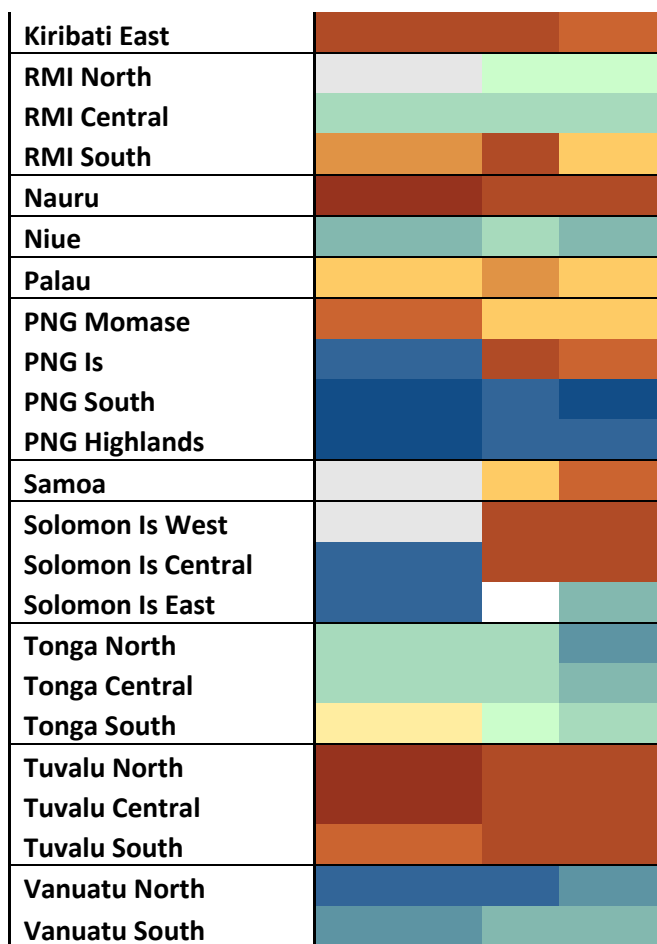
Blank (white) cells indicate the chance is <40% in all categories – so it could be "little guidance" (e.g. 30/36/34), or near-equal in two categories (e.g. 39/37/24).



	41-50%	51-60%	61-70%	71-80%	81-90%	>90%
Below normal						
Near-normal						
Above normal						

June to August 2022			
	ACCESS-S	C3S	CLIKP
Cook Is North			
Cook Is South			
Fiji West			
Fiji Central			
Fiji East			
Fiji North			
Fiji Rotuma			
FSM West			
FSM Central			
FSM East			
Kiribati West			
Kiribati Central			

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Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 178 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 20 July 2022
- Kiribati -Currently in State of Emergency (Drought)
- BoM to add ITCZ and SPCZ monthly climatology positions to rainfall maps
- BoM to provide zero and one month lead time model outlook (3-months)

Observed Rainfall

Country	May 2022	March to May 2022
Cook Islands	Normal to above normal rainfall	Normal to above normal rainfall
Fiji	Mostly normal	Below normal to above normal
Kiribati	Below normal	Below normal
RMI	Below normal and above normal	Above normal
Niue	Normal	Above Normal
Palau	Above normal	Above normal
Papua New Guinea	Mostly below normal and normal	Mostly below normal

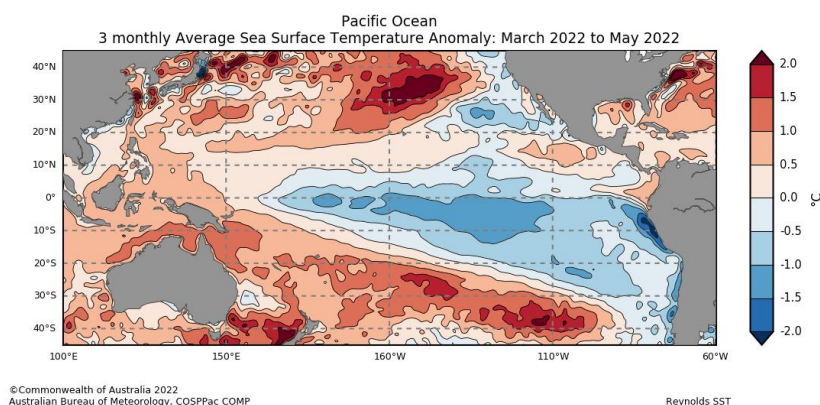
Samoa	Normal	Below normal
Solomon Islands	Below normal and normal	Mostly below normal and normal
Tonga	Mostly below normal	Above normal
Tuvalu	Below normal to above normal	Below normal and normal
Vanuatu	Normal and above normal	Mostly normal and above normal

Ocean Conditions

Observations of March to May 2022

Sea surface temperature:

3 monthly SST shows cooler conditions along the central equatorial regions including Nauru, southern Marshall Islands, northern Tuvalu, Kiribati and northern Cook Islands. Warmer than normal conditions persisted in the west and remainder of partner countries in a boomerang shape, with significant SST anomalies above and below 20 degrees North and South latitudes.



Sea level remained higher than normal for most of the countries from March to May, with significant sea level anomalies located southeast Palau and within the Solomon Sea between PNG and Solomon Islands.

July to September 2022 Outlooks:

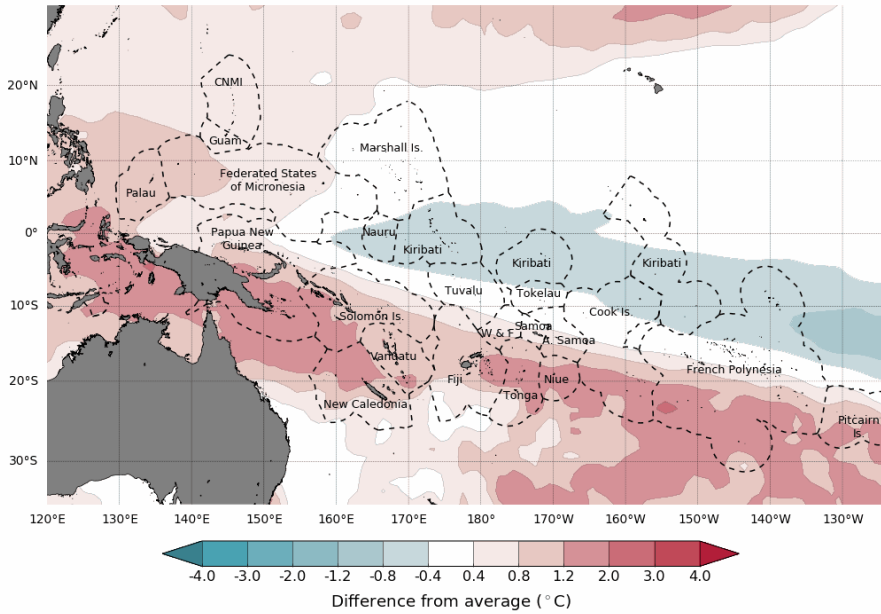
Sea surface temperature outlook: Equatorial zones east of Nauru is forecasted to have cooler than normal conditions with temperature in the range of -0.4 to -0.8 °C. Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, central Cook Islands are favoured to be neutral. A boomerang shape of warm conditions is predicted in the western and remainder of the partner countries. Significant temperatures of 1.2 to 2.0 °C are located southeastward from PNG.

Sea level outlook: sea level is forecasted to be higher than normal for countries near or in the Western Warm Pool (Palau, southern FSM, southern RMI, Tuvalu, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and northern Fiji), ranging from 30 to 300 mm in the western Pacific, with significant sea level anomalies of 100-200mm in the Bismarck Sea, Solomon Sea and east of Solomon Islands. Pools of lower sea levels is predicted in central and northern RMI, northern Cook Islands and Kiribati (southern Line Islands). Note that this outlook does not include trends of sea level rise.

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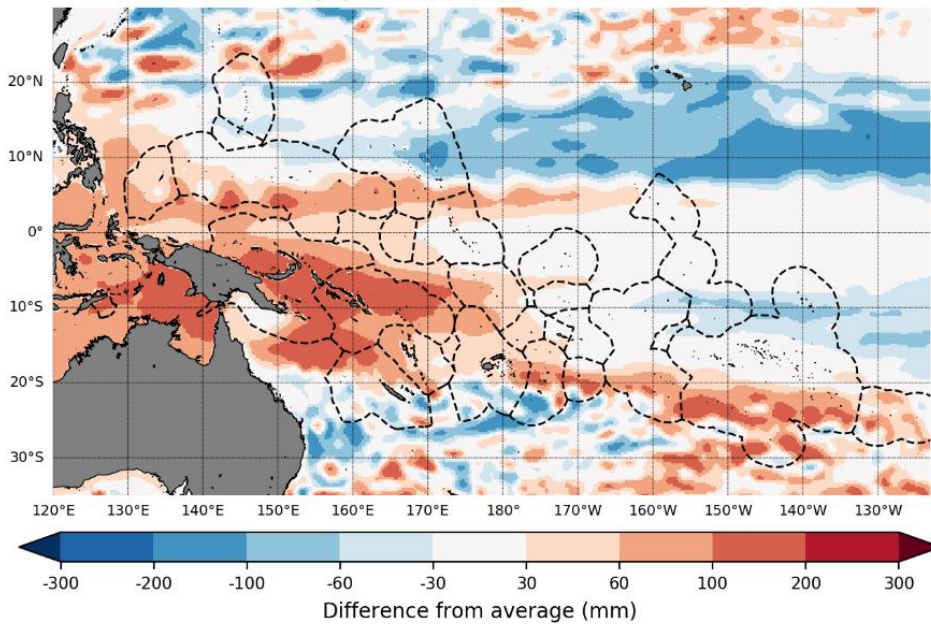
Coral Bleaching Outlook: 4 weeks coral bleaching outlook indicates 'watch and warning' for Solomon Islands, PNG, Palau, FSM, southern Marshall Islands and northern Gilbert Islands. 'Alert level 1 and 2' is predicted for PNG, and Palau. The remaining countries are predicted to experience no thermal stress.

Difference from average sea surface temperature forecast for July to September 2022



Base period: 1981-2018
 Model: ACCESS-S2
 © Commonwealth of Australia 2022, Australian Bureau of Meteorology
 Model run: 13/06/2022
 Issued: 15/06/2022
 Shapefile data extracted from Flanders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 11. Available online at <http://www.marinerregions.org/>.

Difference from average sea surface height forecast for July 2022 to September 2022

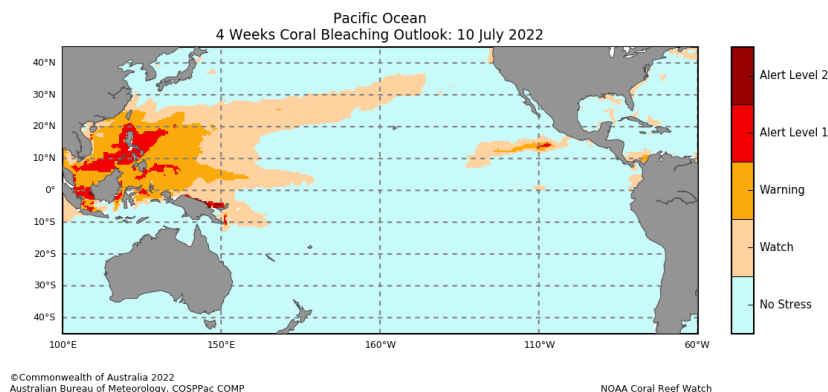


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 Bureau of Meteorology

Model: ACCESS-S2
 Base Period: 1981-2018

Model Run: 28/05/2022
 Issued: 07/06/2022

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Observed Conditions

SST: sea surface temperature anomaly

SLA: sea level anomaly

CB: coral bleaching

BN: Below Normal

NN: Near Normal

AN: Above Normal

Coral Bleaching: (No Stress, Watch, Warning, Alert1, Alert2)

Country	May 2022		
	SST	SLA	CB
Cook Islands	BN, AN	AN	Watch & No Stress
Fiji	AN	AN	Watch
Kiribati	BN	AN	Watch & No Stress
Marshall Islands	NN	AN	No Stress
Niue	AN	AN	No Stress
Palau	NN, AN	AN	Watch
Papua New Guinea	AN, NN	AN	Warning & Alert 1-2
Samoa	AN	AN	Watch
Solomon Islands	AN	AN	Watch & Alert 1
Tonga	AN	AN	Watch
Tuvalu	NN	AN	No Stress & Watch
Vanuatu	AN	AN	Watch

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Country Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective countries engage with their stakeholders

Country	Date May 2022	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin	May	Ministry of Transport	29	17	12
Cook Islands - EAR Watch	May	C.I Govt. Stakeholders Public			
Cook Islands – Monthly Climate briefing	May	Climate Change	8	2	6
Cook Islands- Climate data request	May	MMR (Ministry of Marine Resources)	1		1
Fiji-Climate Summary	06 May	General public	140	106	34
Fiji-EAR Watch	13 May	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji-Climate Outlook	31 May	General public	124	93	31
Fiji -Climate Outlook for Monasavu	30 May	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji-EAR Watch wrokshop	18-19 May	FMS Officers	6	3	3
Fiji-ENSO Outlook	24 May	General public	142	116	26
Fiji-Meteorological Data Request	01-31 May	A range of stakeholders	53	37	16
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	06 May	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	118	40	22
Kiribati -Ocean Bulletin	06 May	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	118	40	22
Kiribati- Media release	06 May	National Media and KMS Staffs	53	23	30
Marshall Island – Climate briefing	25 May	RMI National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)	6	3	3
Niue-Monthly Climate Briefing	10 May	Government Officials and stakeholders	25	9	16
	17 May	Village council reps, private sector and Niue high school students	25	5	20

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Niue- Climate bulletin	31 May	Private Sector, Government Officials, Government staff	50	20	30
Palau-Workshop in Peleliu state (Teams: training on initial damage assessments, Tropical Cyclone Refresher course and introduction to Weather Ready Nation)	12 May	Peleliu Government Palau Public Utilities Corporation_Peleliu Peleliu Rangers Women's Association Medical Records personnel Peleliu Police Palau National Communications Corporation	75	38	37
PNG- Climate data request	01-31 May	SMEC International, UPNG Students	6	1	5
Samoa – EAR Watch	10 May	RED Cross, Water Authority (SWA), Media, Health, Works & Infrastructure, Land & Transport Authority, Agriculture & Fisheries, Fire Services, Ministry of Women, National University of Samoa, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Communication and Information Technology, Disaster Managers, Marines	65	27	38
Samoa - Ocean Outlook	10 May	RED Cross, Water Authority (SWA), Media, Health, Works & Infrastructure, Land & Transport Authority, Agriculture & Fisheries, Fire Services, Ministry of Women, National University of Samoa, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Communication and Information Technology, Disaster Managers, Marines	65	27	38
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	May	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC,Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Glodridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD, Forestry, Ministry of Health, Solomon Water, MECDM,Live and Learn,Tourism, Maritime Service, People with Disability, MID, Ministry of Fisheries, Sol Tuna Ltd, UN Women, Council of Women, Community Representatives	58	46	12
Solomon Islands – EAR Watch	May	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC,Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Glodridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD, Forestry, Ministry of Health, Solomon Water, MECDM,Live and Learn,Tourism, Maritime Service, People with Disability, MID, Ministry of Fisheries, UN Women, Council of Women.	53	39	14

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Solomon Islands - Ocean Bulletin	May	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon Star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Glodridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD.	14	9	5
Tonga – Climate Bulletin	03 May	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private sectors	155	118	37
Tonga – Ocean Bulletin	03 May	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private sectors	155	118	37
Tuvalu-Climate Bulletin	May	Met staffs, Disaster Members All civil servants All kaupule members	22 7	17 4	5 3
Tuvalu -EAR Watch	May	Met staffs, Disaster Members All civil servants All kaupule members	22 7	17 4	5 3
Tuvalu -Monthly Climate briefing	May	Met staffs, Disaster Members All civil servants All kaupule members	22 7	17 4	5 3
Tuvalu -Ocean Outlook	May	Met staffs, Disaster Members All civil servants All kaupule members	22 7	17 4	5 3
Vanuatu	May	<i>No engagement</i>			
Total			1,795	1,130	553

Note: The stakeholder data above may not total up due to lack of data from NMS or no participation