

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 196 Summary Report

Date: Thursday 18 January 2024

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

Host: Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Chair: Tonga

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 SPP (Bureau of Meteorology and SPREP) project team.
- In addition, it serves as an online training forum for recent ACCESS 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, CliKp and ACCESS-S
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 **15 February 2024** and is to be chaired by **Tuvalu**.

Participants:

The OCOF 195 was attended by 19 climate officers (10 female) from 9 partner PIC NMSs.

Cook Islands:

Fiji: Jasneel Chandra, and Shweta Shiwangni

FSM (Chuuk): Boyd Mackensie

FSM (Pohnpei): Wallace Jacob

Kiribati: Kamaitia Rubetaake, and Tekaatu Uribano

Niue: Raquel Tanaki

Papua New Guinea: Cater Guri

Palau: Kiku Mochimaru

Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kaneko



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Samoa: Emannuel Etimani and Junior Lepale Solomon Islands: Max Sitai Tokelau: Tonga: Selu Finaulahi Tuvalu: Kaani Kalepo, Elifaleti Ene, and Faoliu Teakau, Simoea Tiute Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa and John Ruben Australia: Grant Beard and Elise Chandler NOAA: SPREP: Philip Malsale SPC: Judith Giblin	
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OCOF tables were received from 14 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations of October to December 2023:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending December 2023 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
Rarotonga, Cook Islands	December	49.9	12	125
Rarotonga, Cook Islands	Oct - Dec	154.4	2	125
Rotuma, Fiji	December	88.1	4	109
Penang Mill, Fiji	Oct - Dec	159.7	4	109
Nadi, Fiji	Oct - Dec	115.4	4	81
Vunisea, Fiji	Oct - Dec	170.7	4	83
Ono-i-Lau, Fiji	Oct - Dec	132.4	8	76
Udu point, Fiji	Oct - Dec	318.8	5	73
FSM (Pohnpei)	December	197.1	7	75
FSM (Kosrae)	December	179.3	1	54
Butaritari, Kiribati	December	830.8	86	86
Tarawa, Kiribati	December	609.4	76	76
Beru, Kiribati	Oct - Dec	1010.7	64	66
Butaritari, Kiribati	Oct - Dec	1246.9	84	86
Tarawa, Kiribati	Oct - Dec	1105.5		76
Nauru	December	537.6	78	82
Nauru	Oct - Dec	1736.5	80	80
Kirakira, Solomon Islands	December	582.6	53	56
Auki, Solomon Islands	Oct - Dec	1202.0	59	60
Hendeson, Solomon Islands	Oct - Dec	928.3	48	49
Honiara, Solomon Islands	Oct - Dec	894.7	65	66
Kirakira, Solomon	Oct - Dec	1595.0	55	55
Niuatoputapu, Tonga	Oct - Dec	288.0	5	71
Vava' u, Tonga	Oct - Dec	205.8	7	77

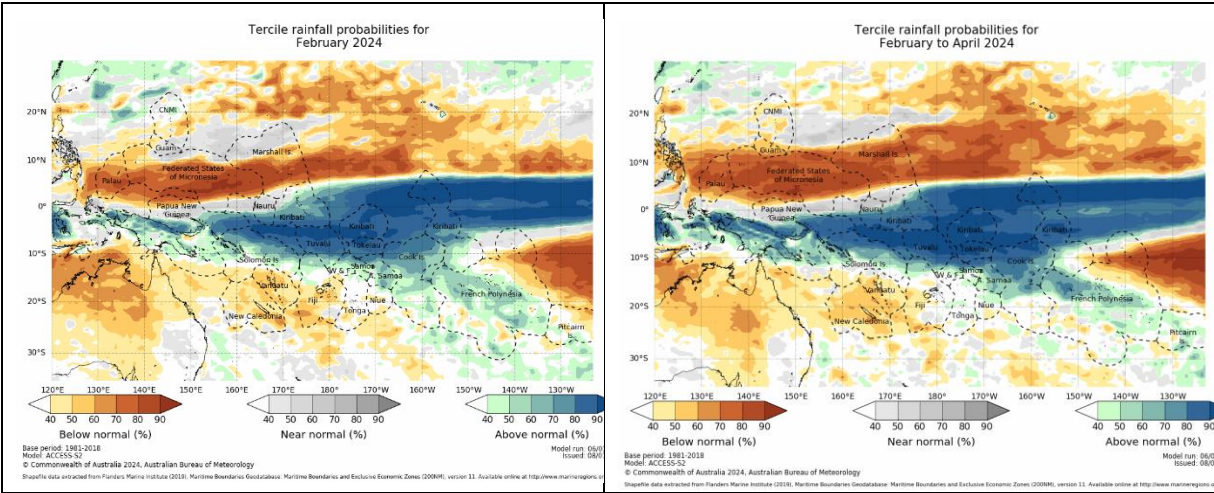
[Note: The above data may not have undergone quality control]

February to April 2024 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

The three-month ACCESS-S rainfall outlook for **February-April 2024** shows rainfall anomalies consistent with a mature El Niño. A region where above normal is very likely affects equatorial regions stretching from PNG in the west, across northern Solomon Islands, Nauru, Kiribati (Gilbert Is, Phoenix Is and much of the Line Is), Tuvalu, Rotuma, northern Wallis and Futuna, Tokelau, American Samoa, parts of Niue's and Samoa's EEZs, the northern and central Cook Is, and central French Polynesia. Above normal is also likely or very likely in northern CNMI.

Below normal is likely or very likely, in Guam, parts of CNMI, Palau, most of both FSM and RMI, southwest Solomon Is, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, central and southwest parts of Fiji's EEZ, and northeast French Polynesia.



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

January to March 2024	
ACCESS- 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	
Kiribati East	
RMI North	
RMI Central	
RMI South	
Nauru	
Niue	
Palau	
PNG Momase	
PNG Is	
PNG South	
PNG Highlands	
Samoa	
Solomon Is West	
Solomon Is Central	
Solomon Is East	
Tonga North	
Tonga Central	
Tonga South	
Tuvalu North	
Tuvalu Central	
Tuvalu South	
Vanuatu North	
Vanuatu South	

Jan-Mar 2024		Feb-Apr 2024
ACCESS-S		
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		
Kiribati East		
RMI North		
RMI Central		
RMI South		
Nauru		
Niue		
Palau		
PNG Momase		
PNG Is		
PNG South		
PNG Highlands		
Samoa		
Solomon Is West		
Solomon Is Central		
Solomon Is East		
Tonga North		
Tonga Central		
Tonga South		
Tuvalu North		
Tuvalu Central		
Tuvalu South		
Vanuatu North		
Vanuatu South		

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Other matters Discussed:

- El Niño continue and may have passed its peak.
- OCOF 197 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 15 February 2024 and Tuvalu to be the chair.
- NMHS were encouraged to document El Niño impacts and start working on their El Niño report.
- New OCOF summary brief will be included in report.

Observed Rainfall

Country	December 2023	October to December 2023
Cook Islands	Below normal	Below normal to normal
Fiji	Below normal to normal	Mostly normal
FSM (Chuuk)	Normal	Normal
FSM (Pohnpei)	Below normal	Below normal to normal
Kiribati	Above normal	Above normal
RMI	Below normal and normal	Below normal and above normal
Nauru	Above normal	Above normal
Niue	Above normal	Above normal
Palau	Below normal	Below normal
Papua New Guinea	<i>No report</i>	
Samoa	Mostly normal	Mostly normal
Solomon Islands	Mostly above normal	Mostly above normal
Tonga	Below normal	Below normal
Tuvalu	Below normal and normal	Normal and above normal
Vanuatu	Below normal and normal	Mostly below normal

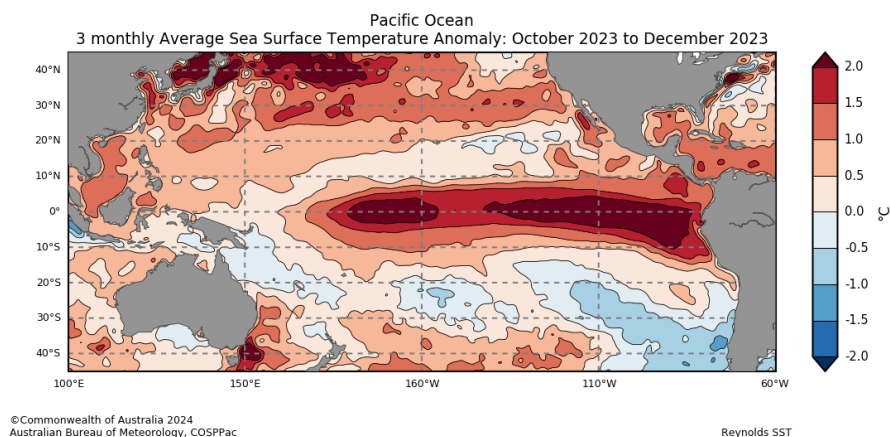
Ocean Conditions

Observations of October to December 2023

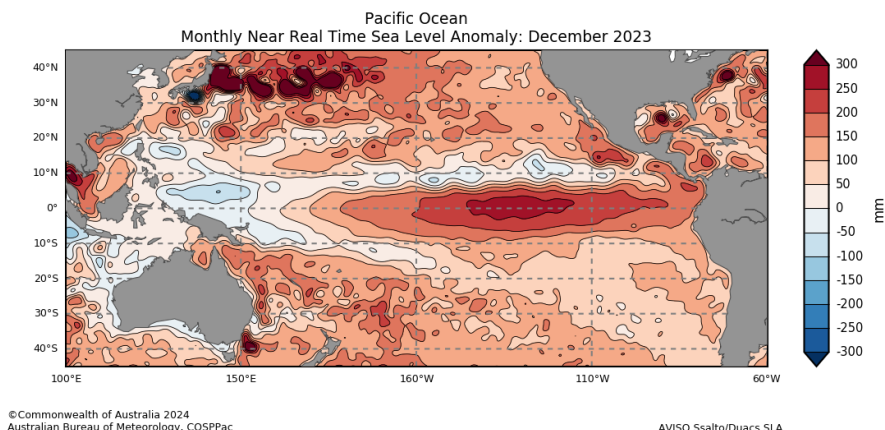
Sea surface temperature:

Three-monthly SST anomalies show above normal temperatures up to 2.0°C persisted in central Line Islands, Gilbert Islands, and northern Phoenix Islands of Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa, Palau and Nauru. Patches of above normal temperatures in northern FSM, northern RMI, southeastern Solomons, northern Fiji and northern Tonga. SST greater than 2.0°C observed in far northern Phoenix Islands and central Line Islands of Kiribati. The remaining COSPPac countries experienced above normal temperatures spanning southeastward from PNG to southern Cook Islands, and along southern FSM and central RMI. Compared with the September to November 2023 SST anomaly pattern, near-equatorial SSTs greater than 2.0°C above normal temperature extents have expanded.

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December sea level was generally 50mm to 200mm above normal over three regions of the Pacific Ocean. The first region is along the 10° North latitude spanning over northern RMI. The second region is along the near-equatorial region stretching from Nauru to central Line Islands of Kiribati. The third region spans southeastward from southern PNG to southern Cook Islands. Anomalies above +200mm were observed in northern and central Line, and northern Phoenix Islands of Kiribati. Patches of +200mm were also observed in southern PNG, southern Solomon, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Niue and southern Cook Islands. Near normal sea level anomalies were observed in Palau, FSM, southern RMI, northern PNG, northeastern Solomon Islands and southern Tuvalu.



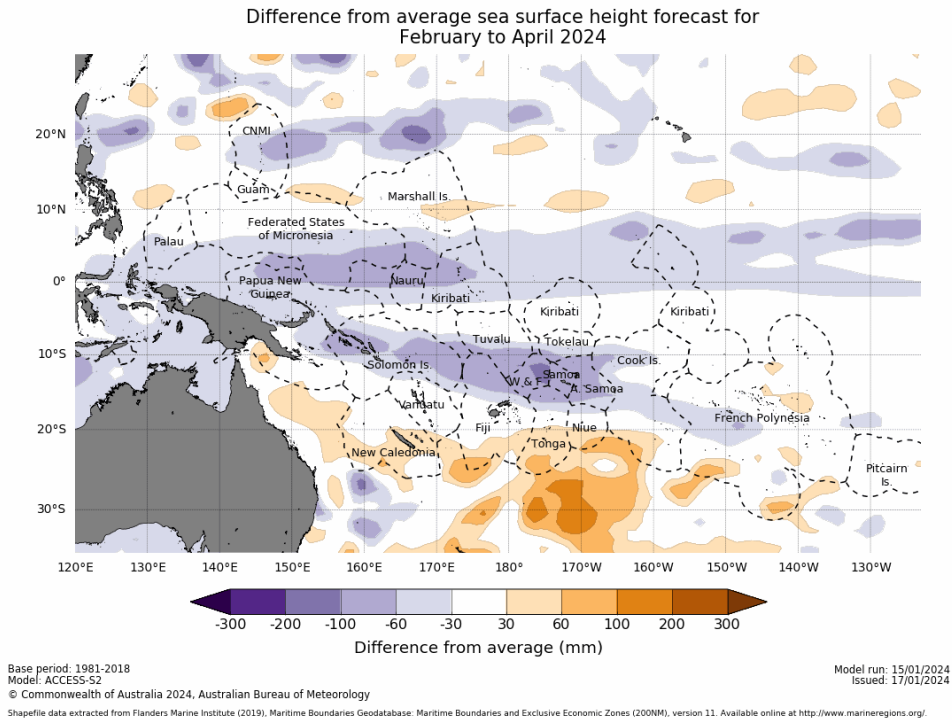
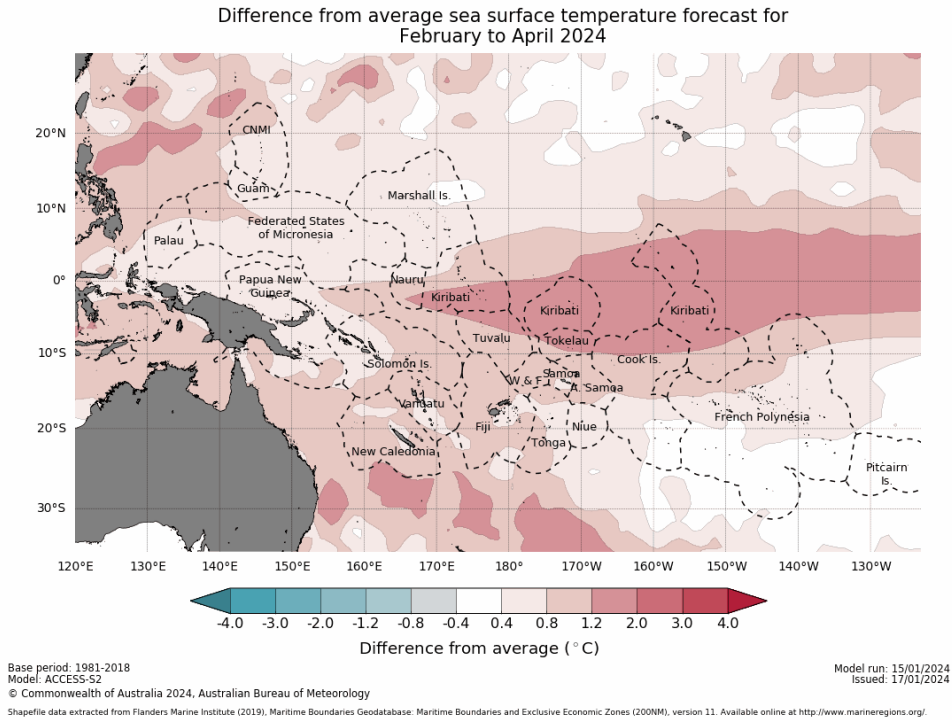
February to April 2024 Outlooks:

Sea surface temperature outlook: SSTs are forecast to be 0.4 to 3.0 °C affecting most of the COSPPac countries. Above normal SSTs of 1.2 to 3.0 °C are forecast for Nauru, Kiribati, and northern Cook Islands. Near-normal SSTs are forecast for parts of northern RMI and southern Cook Islands.

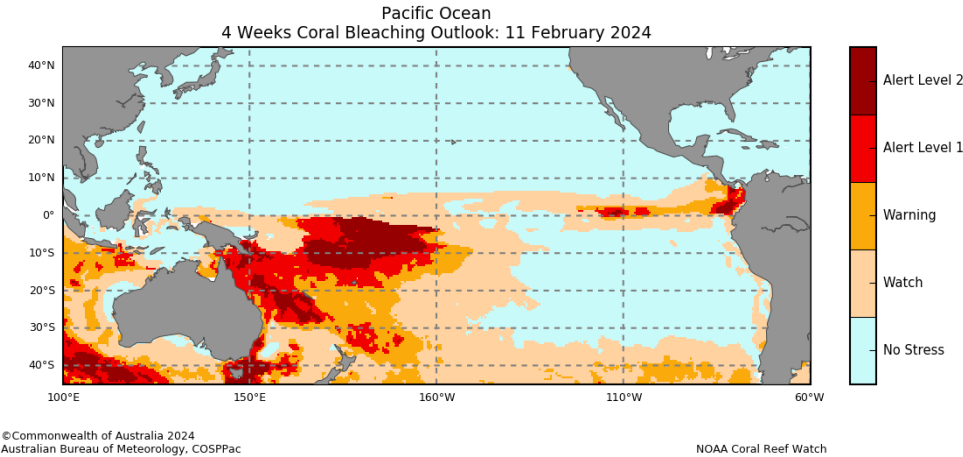
Sea level outlook: Sea level is forecast to be 30-100mm above normal over central RMI, far southern Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Niue, southern Cook Islands and central Line Island of Kiribati. Sea levels forecast to be 30 to 200mm below normal in PNG, Palau, FSM, southern RMI, Nauru, Gilbert and northern Line Islands of Kiribati, northeastern Solomon, southern Tuvalu, Samoa, and northern Cook Islands. Remaining countries are forecast to have near-normal sea levels. Note that this outlook does not include trends of sea level rise.

Coral Bleaching Outlook: For the four weeks outlook to 11 February, "Alert Levels 1 and 2" forecast for Kiribati (southern Gilbert, central and southern Phoenix), Tuvalu, Nauru, Solomons, Fiji, northern Cooks, Samoa, northern Vanuatu and southern PNG. Broad region of 'Warning' areas surrounding the 'Alert 1 and 2' regions, forecast for Tonga, Niue, and parts of Cook Islands. The remaining countries are predicted to experience "no thermal stress".

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Observed Conditions

SST: sea surface temperature anomaly
SLA: sea level anomaly
BN: Below Normal
NN: Near Normal
AN: Above Normal

Country	December 2023	
	SST	SLA
Cook Islands	AN, BN	AN
Fiji	AN, NN	AN
FSM (Chuuk)	NN, AN	NN
FSM (Pohnpei)	NN	BN, NN
Kiribati	AN	AN
Marshall Islands	NN	AN
Nauru	AN	AN
Niue	NN	AN
Palau	AN	BN
Papua New Guinea	AN, NN	AN, NN
Samoa	NN	NN
Solomon Islands	NN	AN, NN
Tonga	AN	AN
Tuvalu	AN	AN, NN
Vanuatu	NN, AN	AN

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

Country	Date December 2023	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – EAR Watch	December	Red Cross, Island Council and Executive Officers, To Tatou Vai, etc.....	39		
Cook Islands - Monthly Climate Briefing	December	Climate Change	8		
Cook Islands - Climate data request	December	Ministry of Marine Resources	1		1
Fiji - Climate Summary	08 December	General public	140	106	34
Fiji - EAR Watch	12 December	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji - Climate Outlook	29 December	General public	124	93	31
Fiji - Climate Outlook for Monasavu	28 December	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji - Annual Climate Summary	20 December	General Public	140	106	34
Fiji - Ocean Outlook	20 December	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji - Sugarcane rainfall outlook	9 December	Sugarcane Industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji - Meteorological data request	01-31 December	A range of stakeholders	30	25	5
Fiji – Sixth National Climate Outlook Forum	06-07 December	Ministry of Agriculture, Tailevu Dairy, Future Farms Pte Limited, Fiji Dairy Pte Limited, Sujose Nursery, FRIEND, Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation, Fiji Crop and Livestock Council, femLINK pacific, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises, Mineral Resources Department, Biosecurity Authority of	33	16	17

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		Fiji, Ministry of Health, SPC, Model Town Charitable Trust, FBC, Fiji TV			
FSM (Chuuk) - Climate Bulletin	December	DCO	4	2	2
FSM (Chuuk) - EAR Watch	December	DCO	4	2	2
FSM (Pohnpei) -	December	No engagement			
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	11 December	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88
Kiribati - Ocean Bulletin	11 December	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88
Kiribati - Media release	11 December	KMS Media and KMS Staffs	53	23	30
Kiribati – EAR Watch	12 December	Drought committee members	62	35	27
Marshall Island – Climate briefing	15 December	Office of the Chief Secretary and the National Disaster Management Office	5	3	2
Nauru	December	No Engagement			
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	December	Private Sector, Government Officials, Government staff, Stakeholders	12	10	12
Palau - UNEP CIS Pac-5 Climate and Ocean Training at BoM	4-15 December	WSO Palau and Niue, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and RMI Climate and MET services	10	6	4
Palau-APCC and UNEP Joint Regional Training Workshop	4-6 December	WSO Palau, Palau PMU and Palau Red Cross, Cook, Niue, Tuvalu and RMI MET services and social media platform	28+	14+	14+
Palau - Weekly Weather Bulletin	5 and 13 December	WSO Palau and social media platform	24+	16+	8+
Palau - Data infographic for November Rainfall	6 December	WSO Palau, WFO Guam, PEAC, US Drought Monitor-USAPI, Regional Climate partners, and social media platform.	10+	6+	4+

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Palau - Joint APCC and UNEP Training Workshop	7-8 December	WSO Palau, Palau PMU and Palau Red Cross, Cook, Niue, Tuvalu and RMI MET services and social media platform.	26+	12+	14+
Palau - EAR Watch	9 December	WSO Palau, never made it to social media platform	13+	9+	4+
Palau - Climate and Ocean Bulletin	19 December	WSO Palau and social media platform	16+	12+	4+
Palau- UNEP CIS Pac-5 Virtual Meeting	19 December	WSO Palau, UNEP Program Coordinator and Financial Officer and Palau PMU team.	6	0	6
Samoa - Climate data request	15 December	USP	1	1	0
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	December	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	December	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
Solomon Islands - Ocean Bulletin	December	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	3 December	Government ministries. NGOs, Media, Private Sector	155	118	37
Tonga – Ocean Outlook	3 December	Government ministries. NGOs, Media, Private Sector	155	118	37
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	5 December	MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture	20+	10	10

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		All Civil Servants All Kaupule Secretary			
Tuvalu – EAR Watch	5 December	MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture All Civil Servants All Kaupule Secretary	20+	10	10
Tuvalu – Ocean Outlook	5 December	MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture All Civil Servants All Kaupule Secretary	20+	10	10
Vanuatu	December	No engagement			
Total			1,848	1,195	616

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