

## Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

### Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 202 Summary Report

**Date:** Thursday 18 July 2024

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

**Host:** SPREP

**Chair:** Cook Islands

**Apologies:** Solomon Islands and Chuuk (Duty travel)

**Main purpose for the OCOF:**

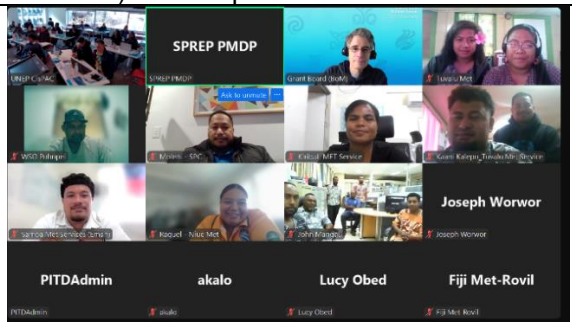
- To provide a regular forum for the 14 participating PIC NMSs to discuss the current ENSO status, recent one and three-month rainfall, drought (if present), their seasonal climate outlooks and stakeholders' engagement with other countries and the SPP (Bureau of Meteorology and SPREP) project team.
- 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 August 2024**.

**Participants:**

The OCOF 202 was attended by 27 climate officers (10 female) from 11 partner PIC NMSs.

<p><b>Cook Islands:</b> Bates Manea, Metua and Bouchard</p> <p><b>Fiji:</b> Rovil Kumar</p> <p><b>FSM (Chuuk):</b></p> <p><b>FSM (Pohnpei):</b> Wallace Jacobs</p> <p><b>Kiribati:</b> Tekaatu Uribano</p> <p><b>Niue:</b> Raquel, Sean and Floyd</p> <p><b>Papua New Guinea:</b></p> <p><b>Palau:</b> Kiku Mochimaru and Maylene Joshua</p> <p><b>Republic of Marshall Islands:</b> Samson Kaneko, and Nover Juria</p> <p><b>Samoa:</b>, Emmanuel Etimani</p> <p><b>Solomon Islands:</b></p>	
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<p><b>Tokelau:</b></p> <p><b>Tonga:</b> Mele Lakai, Selu and Gary</p> <p><b>Tuvalu:</b> Kaani Kalepo, Leiti, Faka and Ene</p> <p><b>Vanuatu:</b> Joseph Worwor, Kalsuak Gordon, John Mangau, Lucy, Abel Kalo, and Winston</p> <p><b>Australia:</b> Grant Beard, Ashley and Elise</p> <p><b>NOAA:</b></p> <p><b>SPREP:</b> Philip Malsale, and Terry Atalifo</p> <p><b>SPC:</b> Moleni Tu'uholoaki, and Zulfikar Begg</p>	
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OCOF tables were received from 14 participating countries before the meeting.

**Observations of April to June 2024:**

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending June 2024 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
Penang Mill, Fiji	June	9.6	10	115
Lautoka, Fiji	June	0.0	1	125
Nadi Airport, Fiji	June	0.0	1	85
Lakeba, Fiji	June	5.5	2	75
Ono-i-Lau, Fiji	June	16.5	5	77
Udu Point, Fiji	June	19.2	5	76
Rotuma, Fiji	June	103.0	7	110
Penang Mill, Fiji	April - June	52.6	3	82
Nadi, Fiji	April - June	52.6	67	74
Nauru	June	6.9	3	75
Nadzab, PNG	June	199.8	49	50
Nadzab, PNG	April - June	467.2	46	47
Lata, Solomon Islands	June	626.0	49	50
Auki, Solomon Islands	June	1134.8	62	62
Lata, Solomon Islands	June	1392.1	47	49
Niuafo'ou, Tonga	June	25	3	52
Niuafo'ou, Tonga	April - June	284.5	5	51
Niu, Tuvalu	June	429.1	77	79
Funafuti, Tuvalu	June	447.7	90	92
Niulakita, Tuvalu	June	420.1	67	72
Niu, Tuvalu	April - June	1010.4	71	79
Niulakita, Tuvalu	April - June	1022.0	65	73
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	June	7.7	3	53
Aneityum, Vanuatu	June	5.3	1	73
Pekoa, Vanuatu	April - June	296.7	5	56

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

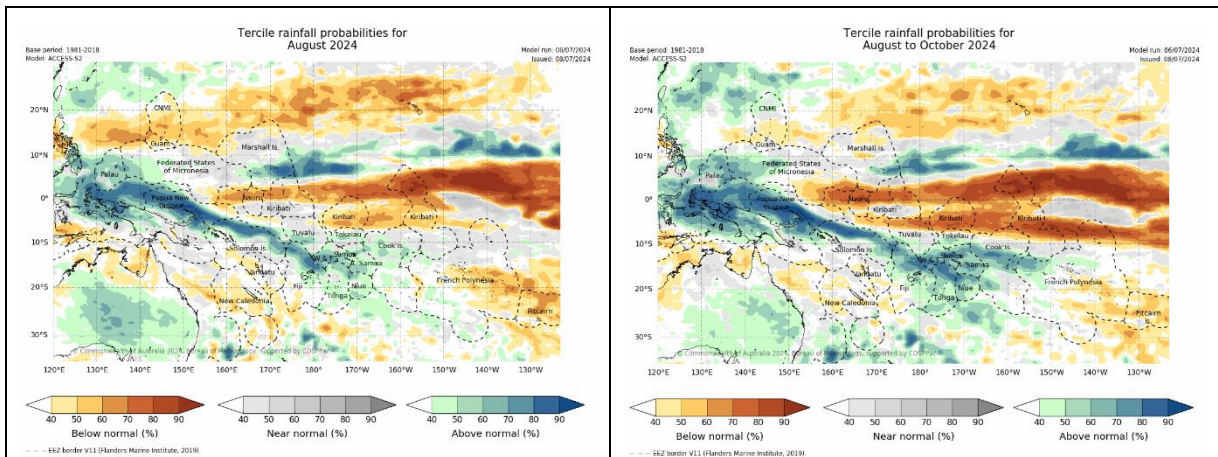
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## August to October 2024 Outlooks:

### ACCESS-S outlooks:

The three-month ACCESS-S rainfall outlook for **August-October 2024** shows above normal rainfall is likely or very likely in a band stretching southeast from Palau and western FSM to the Cook Is and parts of French Polynesia. Another region favouring above normal rainfall extends east from central RMI.

Below normal is likely or very likely in zone situated very close to the equator extending east from far southeast FSM. Other areas where below normal is likely or very likely include patches in each of New Caledonia, Vanuatu and southwest Fiji, central French Polynesia, Pitcairn Islands, Guam, CNMI, and northern RMI.



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

	July to September 2024		
	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			
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			

	Jul-Sep 2024	Aug-Oct 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:

- ENSO and IOD remain neutral. The Bureau's ENSO Outlook is at La Niña Watch due to early signs that an event may form in the Pacific Ocean later in 2024. The chance is about 50%.
- NMHS were encouraged to document climate and weather extreme impacts.
- PICO-15 is scheduled for 14 October.
- OCOF 203 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 15 August 2024.

### Observed Rainfall

Country	June 2024	April to June 2024
Cook Islands	Normal	Below normal to normal
Fiji	Mostly below normal	Mostly below normal
FSM (Chuuk)	Above normal	Normal
FSM (Pohnpei)	Normal	Normal to above normal
Kiribati	Normal to above normal	Normal to above normal
RMI	Normal	Normal
Nauru	Below normal	Below normal
Niue	Below normal	Normal
Palau	Normal	Below normal
Papua New Guinea	Mostly normal	Below normal to above normal
Samoa	Mostly above normal	Above normal
Solomon Islands	Mostly normal	Normal to above normal
Tonga	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal
Tuvalu	Above normal	Above normal
Vanuatu	Mostly normal and above normal	Below normal and normal

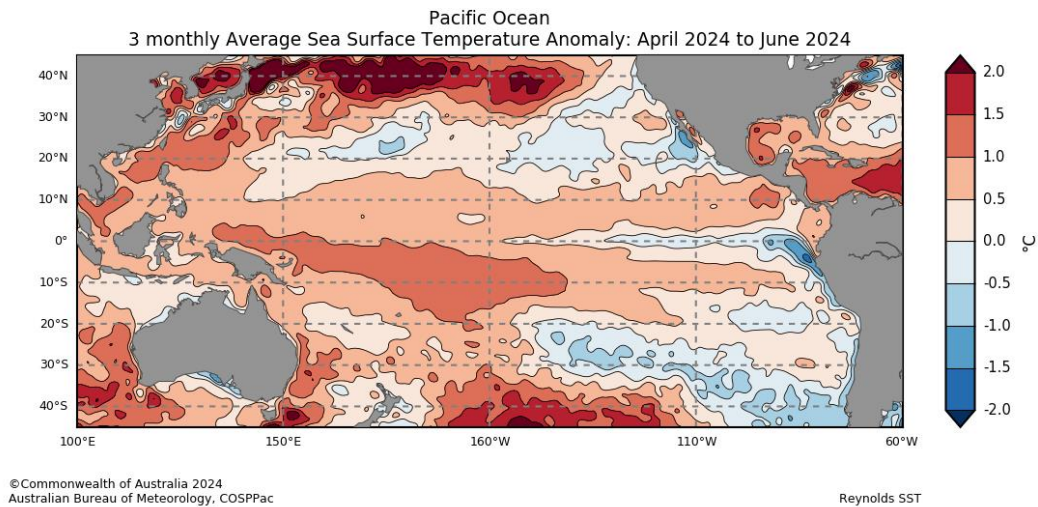
### Ocean Conditions

#### Observations of April to June 2024

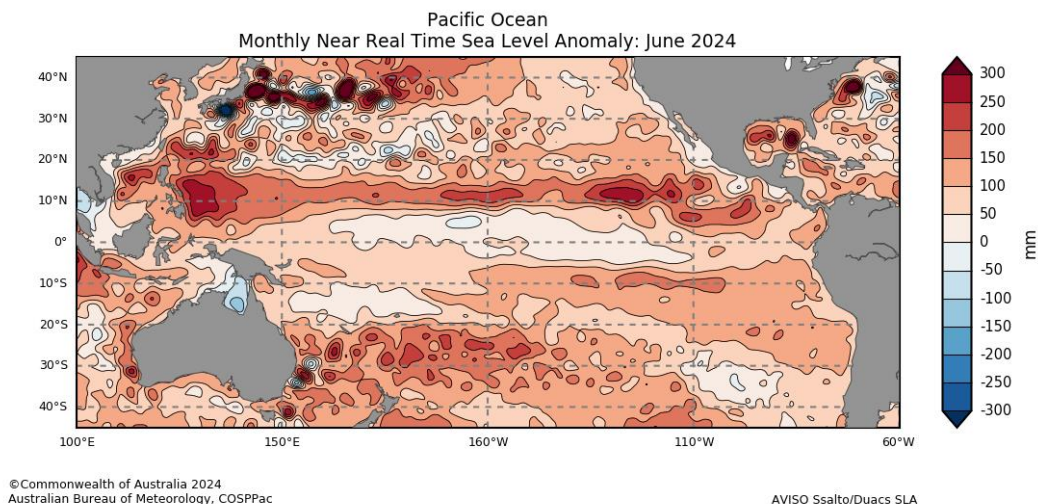
Sea surface temperature (SST):

Near-normal SST anomalies covered most of New Caledonia except for a few patches of above normal, while French Polynesia experienced below to near-normal. For the rest of the countries, above-normal SST anomalies between 0.5 and 1.5°C persisted in most places, except for a few patches of normal anomalies over FSM, Marshall Islands, PNG, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Line Islands (Kiribati) and Cook Islands. Meanwhile, SST anomalies with magnitude between 0.5 to 1.5°C have extended westward along equatorial region. In contrast, below normal SST anomalies have been observed along the coastline of South America.

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Sea levels observed in June were above normal over most COSPPac countries. Patches of anomalies from +200 to +300 mm were observed over northern Palau, along the southeastern Australian coast, and southern New Caledonia's EEZ. Anomalies of up to +250 were observed over most of Palau, northern FSM, northern RMI, with patches over parts of southern Fiji, southern Tonga, and southern French Polynesia. However, near-normal anomalies were observed in southern part of Marshall Islands, Kiribati Islands (northern half of Gilbert Islands, northern most Phoenix Islands, and northern half of Line Islands), southeastern PNG, southern Solomon Islands, parts of Vanuatu, northern half of Fiji, northern Tonga, and part of southern Cook Islands. The rest of the region were observed with anomalies between +50 and +100mm.



### August to October 2024 Outlooks:

Sea surface temperature (SST) outlook: SSTs are generally forecast to be 0.4 to 1.2 °C above normal affecting most of the COSPPac countries except for near-normal SSTs over northern Line Islands

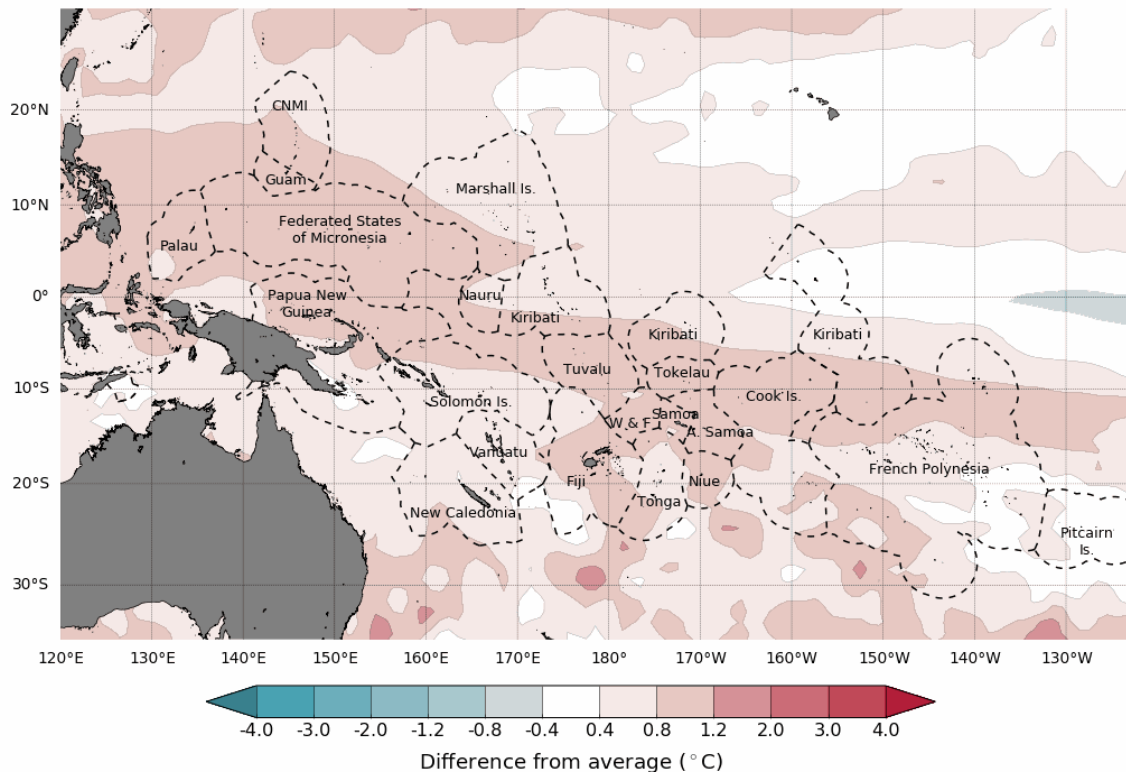
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(Kiribati), Pitcairn Island, part of northern and eastern French Polynesia with a few patches over Cook Islands and northern Phoenix Islands (Kiribati). Also a few patches but above normal up to 2°C is expected for PNG and southern Fiji.

**Sea level outlook:** Sea level is generally near-normal for most of the COSPPac countries. Above normal sea level is forecast for central and southern parts of New Caledonia, parts of southern Fiji, southern Tonga, southern Niue, part of southern Cook Islands, part of FSM and far southern part of French Polynesia. Below-normal sea level is forecast for part of Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, southern Tuvalu, southern Tokelau, Samoa, central Niue, northern and part of central French Polynesia, northern Phoenix Islands and northern Line Islands (Kiribati). Note that this outlook does not include trends of sea level rise.

**Coral Bleaching Outlook:** For the four weeks outlook to 11 August, "Alert Levels 1 and 2" are forecast for part of northern PNG, western Nauru and southern FSM, and a few patch southern Marshall Islands and Kiribati (Gilbert Islands). "Warning" areas is forecast for southern FSM, northern PNG, part of southern Marshall Islands, and Kiribati (part of northern Gilbert Islands). Broad region of "Watch" areas surrounding both the "Alert Levels 1 and 2" and the Warning areas includes northern part of FSM, Marshall Islands, part of Gilbert and Phoenix Islands (Kiribati), Tokelau, Tuvalu, northern Solomon Islands and northern PNG. The remaining countries are predicted to experience "no thermal stress".

Difference from average sea surface temperature forecast for July to September 2024



Base period: 1981-2018  
Model: ACCESS-S2  
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Model run: 03/06/2024  
Issued: 05/06/2024

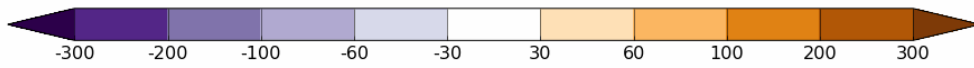
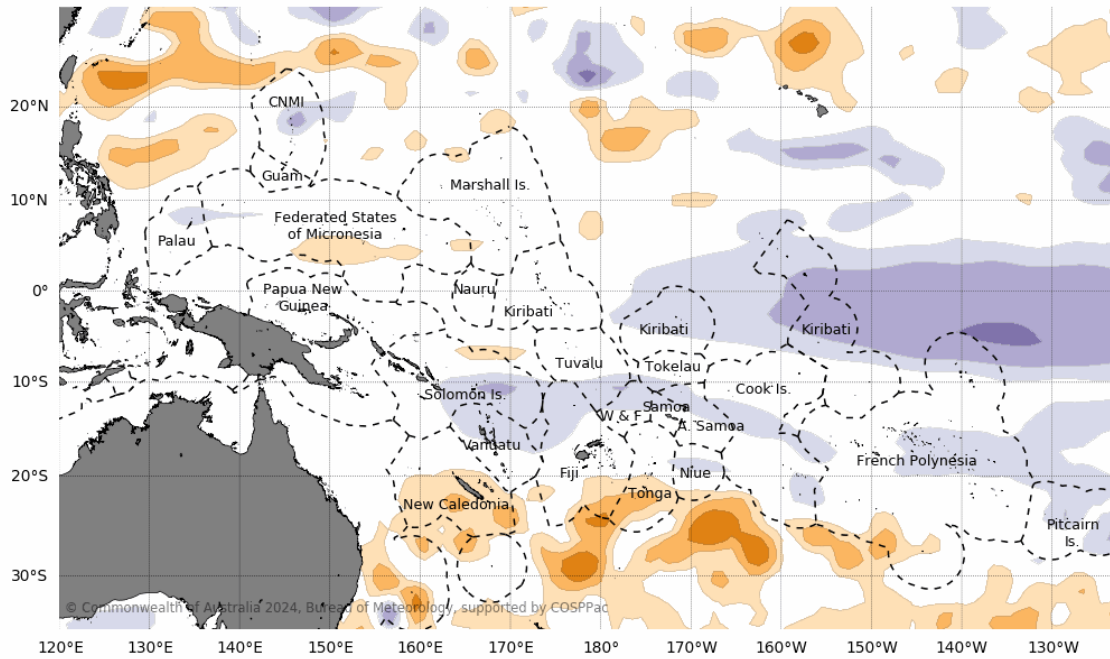
Shapefile data extracted from Flanders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 11. Available online at <http://www.marinerregions.org/>.

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Difference from average sea surface height forecast for August to October 2024

Base period: 1981-2018  
Model: ACCESS-S2

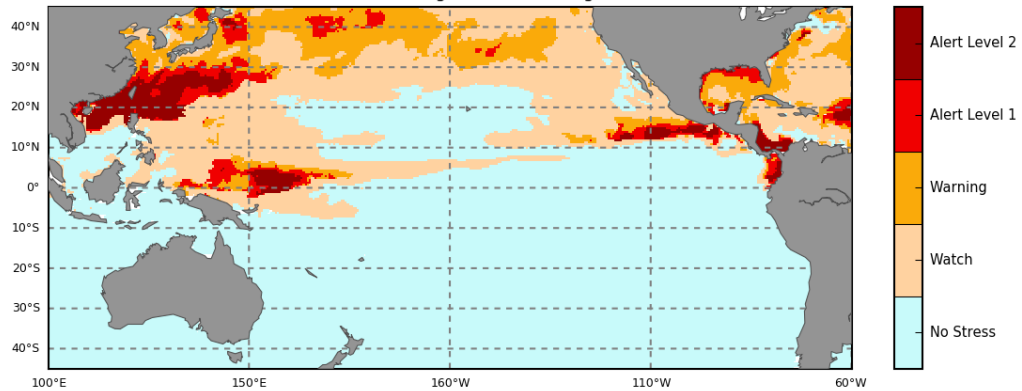
Model run: 06/07/2024  
Issued: 08/07/2024



Difference from average (mm)

-- -- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).

Pacific Ocean  
4 Weeks Coral Bleaching Outlook: 11 August 2024



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Australian Bureau of Meteorology, COSPPac

NOAA Coral Reef Watch

## Observed Conditions

SST: sea surface temperature anomaly

SLA: sea level anomaly

BN: Below Normal

NN: Near Normal

AN: Above Normal

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Country	June 2024	
	SST	SLA
Cook Islands	AN/NN	AN/NN
Fiji	AN/NN	AN/NN
FSM (Chuuk)	AN/NN	AN
FSM (Pohnpei)	AN/NN	AN/NN
Kiribati	AN/NN	AN/NN
Marshall Islands	AN	AN/NN
Nauru	AN	AN/NN
Niue	AN	AN/NN
Palau	AN	AN/NN
Papua New Guinea	AN/NN	AN/NN
Samoa	AN	AN/NN
Solomon Islands	AN/NN	AN/NN
Tonga	AN/NN	AN/NN
Tuvalu	AN	AN
Vanuatu	AN/NN	AN/NN

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

Country	Date June  2024	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – EAR Watch	June	Red Cross, Island Council and Executive Officers, To Tatou Vai	42	?	?
Cook Islands – Monthly Climate Bulletin	June	Climate Change	8	?	?
Cook Islands – Climate Data request	1-30 June	Ministry of Marine Resources, Local Newspaper	2		2
Fiji - Climate Summary	07 June	General public	140	106	34
Fiji - EAR Watch	11 June	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji - Climate Outlook	28 June	General public	124	93	31



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Fiji - Climate Outlook for Monasavu	25 June	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji - Ocean Outlook	20 June	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji - Sugarcane rainfall outlook	11 June	Sugarcane Industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji - Meteorological data request	01-30 June	A range of stakeholders	45	37	8
FSM (Chuuk) - Climate Bulletin	June	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Chuuk) - EAR Watch	June	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Chuuk) – Ocean Outlook	June	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Pohnpei) – Climate bulletin	June	Pohnpei Municipal, Gov't, Kosrae, Municipal Gov't, Pohnpei and Kosrae DCO, Dept. Of Education, Red Cross, Fisheries, Environmental Protection Agency, DECEM, Mayors, Dept. Of Public Safety, Pohnpei Utility Corporation, Tourism, Fisheries.	60	49	11
FSM – EAR Watch	June	Pohnpei Municipal, Gov't, Kosrae, Municipal Gov't, Pohnpei and Kosrae DCO, Dept. Of Education, Red Cross, Fisheries, Environmental Protection Agency, DECEM, Mayors, Dept. Of Public Safety, Pohnpei Utility Corporation, Tourism, Fisheries.	60	49	11
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	10 June	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88
Kiribati – EAR Watch	12 June	Drought committee members	62	35	27
Kiribati -Media release	10 June	KMS Media and KMS Staffs	53	23	30
Kiribati - Ocean Bulletin	10 June	Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88
Kiribati – Climate data request	1-30 June	Government and Non-government sectors and local fishermen	5	1	4
Marshall Island – Climate briefing	21 June	Office of the Chief Secretary and the National Disaster Management Office	6	4	2

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Nauru	June	No engagement			
Niue – Climate Bulletin	June	Niue Government all staff Niue Government officials Village councils General Public	225	90	135
Palau: Ocean Bulletin	3	WSO Palau and social media platform	16+	11+	5+
Palau- Climate and Ocean Services virtual meeting	3	WSO Palau, UNEP Local Project Management Unit (PMU), Director of Koror State Rangers, UNEP Communications Consultant	4	0	4
Palau - Sector Workshop on Developing Climate Sector Action and Communication Plan (CSACP) for Palau	4-5	WSO Palau, UNEP CISPac5 Consultant and Local PMU, Disaster Risk Reduction, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Health and Tourism Sectors.	41+	20+	21+
Palau- Bulletin: PICASO JJA Rainfall Outlook with Rainfall Probability% with APCC ENSO Status, Outlook and History	6	WSO Palau and social media platform	15+	10+	5+
Palau - Data Infographic for Monthly Rainfall and Temperature statistics	6	WSO Palau and social media platform	23+	16+	7+
Palau's - Island Climate Update	6	WSO Palau and social media platform	18+	11+	7+
Palau-EAR Watch	11	WSO Palau and social media platform	16+	12+	4+
Palau-Climate Summary and May 2024 Statistics	13	WSO Palau and social media platform	17+	11+	6+
Palau-Bulletin: PEAC Outlook for June to Aug 2024 including NMME Rainfall, Ocean Temperatures, and SSTs Outlook for June and June to Aug 2024	13	WSO Palau and social media platform	14+	10+	4+
Palau - PEAC Conference Call	14	WSO and WFOs in the Pacific, PEAC, NOAA Regional Climate Services (Hawaii and US), US Drought Monitor	17	13	4
Palau - Sharing: Hawaii and US Pacific Islands	18	WSO Palau and social media platform	16+	10+	6+

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Regional Climate Summary 1st Quarter 2024					
Palau - Tailored OCOF 201 for Social Media	21	WSO Palau and social media platform	15+	11+	4+
Palau- Bulletin : Palau Climate and Ocean Summary and Outlook	21	WSO Palau and social media platform	14+	10+	4+
Palau - Climate Services Market Assessment Field Mission meeting	28	WSO Palau and UNEP Consultant	3	1	2
PNG - Drought Update	28 June	NGOs, Consultants, Construction Companies, Govt Agencies, Companies, General Public	217	117	40
PNG - Weekly Ok Tedi Climate Briefing	20 June	OK Tedi Mine company	15	13	2
Student engagement	June	Pacific Adventist University	6	4	2
PNG – Climate data request	1-30 June	NGOS, Consultants, schools, companies	2	2	0
Samoa – EAR Watch	28 June	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 – Seasonal rainfall Outlook	28 June	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	28 June	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

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Samoa - Climate summary	28 June	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	June	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	June	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	June	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 June	Government ministries. NGOs, Media, Private Sector	155	118	37
Tonga – Ocean Outlook	3 June	Government ministries. NGOs, Media, Private Sector	155	118	37
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	June	MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture All Civil Servants  All Kaupule Secretary	43+	23	10
Tuvalu – EAR Watch	June	MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture All Civil Servants All Kaupule Secretary	43+	23	10
Tuvalu – Ocean Outlook	June	MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture	43+	23	10

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		All Civil Servants All Kaupule Secretary			
Tuvalu - Monthly Climate briefing	June	Climate Division Forecast Division	5	3	3
Vanuatu	May	No engagement			
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,739</b>	<b>1,641</b>	<b>959</b>

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

The discussion can be found in the link below:

[Apologies the session was not recorded.](#)