

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 205 Summary Report

Date: Thursday 17 October 2024

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

Host: SPREP (Virtual)

Chair: SPREP- The country outlooks were discussed during the PICO 15

Apologies: Nil

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 **19 November 2024**.

Participants:

The OCOF 205 held together with PICO 15 and was attended by 23 climate officers (7 female) from 13 partner PIC NHMS.

Cook Islands: Bates Mania
Fiji: Arieta Balesolomone
FSM (Chuuk): Boyd Mackenzie
FSM (Pohnpei): Wallace Jacobs
Kiribati: Miriam Kataunati
Papua New Guinea: Kasis Inape
Palau: Kiku Mochimaru
Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kaneko
Samoa: Kotoni Faasau
Solomon Islands: David Hiba, Max Sitai, Martin Tugumana
Tokelau:
Tonga: Selu Ilolahia, Mele, Gary
Tuvalu: Kaani Kalepo, and Limoni Mativa
Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa, and Lucy Obed
Australia: Simon McGree, and Elise Chandler
NOAA: Brandon Burunt
SPREP: Philip Malsale, Terry Atalifo, Salesa Nimehi, Patricia Mallam, Pomate Skelton
SPC: Moleni Tu'uholoaki
CSIRO: Leanne Webb
NIWA: Ben Noll
APCC: Jin Ho Yoo, Jeongmin Han, Hyungju Lee, Daeun Jeong, Sangwon Moon, Jongwha Lee
Pacific Disability Forum: Katabwena Tebaiti
WMO: Tile Tofaeono



OCOF tables were received from 13 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations of July to September 2024:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending September 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
Lautoka, Fiji	September	24.6	26	114
Udu Point, Fiji	July - Sept	563.8	73	74
Kanton, Kiribati	September	6.1	5	66
Butaritari, Kiribati	July - Sept	204.8	3	87
Kiritimati, Kiribati	July - Sept	11.0	8	99
Nadzab, PNG	September	228.0	48	50
Nadzab, PNG	July - Sept	789.6	49	49

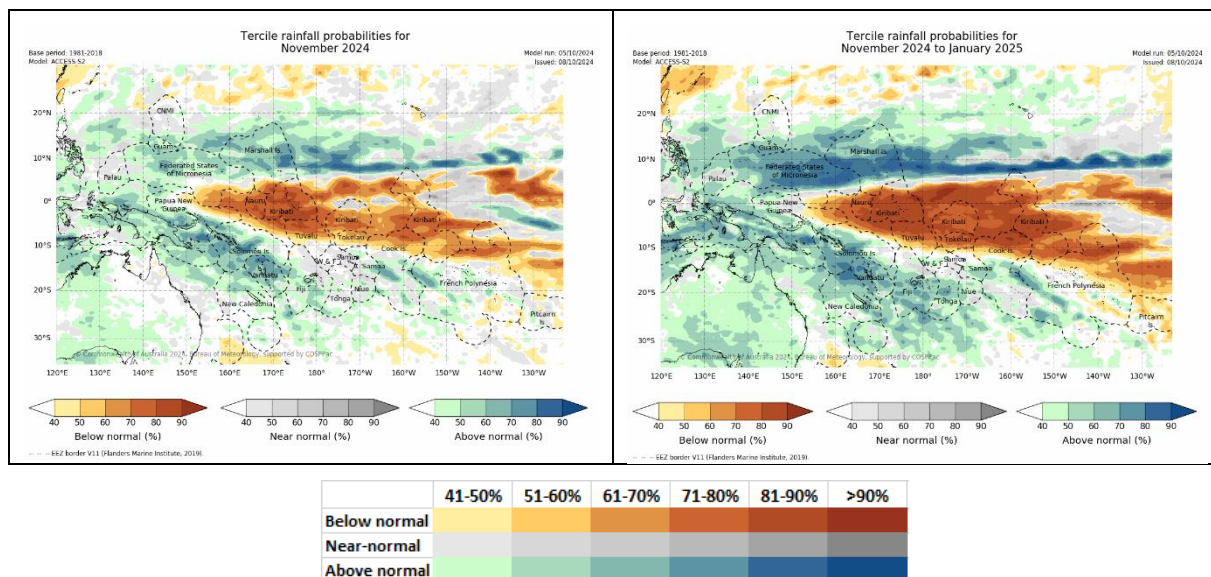
[Note: The above data may not have undergone quality control]

November 2024 to January 2025 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

The three-month ACCESS-S rainfall outlook for **November 2024-January 2025** looks like a typical La Niña signal, with a below average along the equator, and above average wrapping around the dry signal. Therefore, below normal is likely or very likely in zone centred on the equator extending east from southeast FSM, including Nauru, far southern RMI, Kiribati, most of Tuvalu, Tokelau, northern Cook Islands, northern French Polynesia, and most of Pitcairn.

Above normal rainfall is likely or very likely in most of Palau, Guam, northern and southern CNMI, most of FSM, most of RMI, PNG, Solomon Is, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, most of Tonga, and Niue. Patches are also likely or very likely over Wallis and Futuna, southern American Samoa, central Cook Islands, and southern French Polynesia.



Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 206 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 14 November 2024.

Observed Rainfall

Country	September 2024	July to September 2024
Cook Islands	Normal and above normal	Normal
Fiji	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal
FSM (Chuuk)	Above normal	Normal
FSM (Pohnpei)	Below normal and normal	Below normal and normal
Kiribati	Below normal and normal	Mostly below normal and below normal
RMI	Below normal and above normal	Below normal

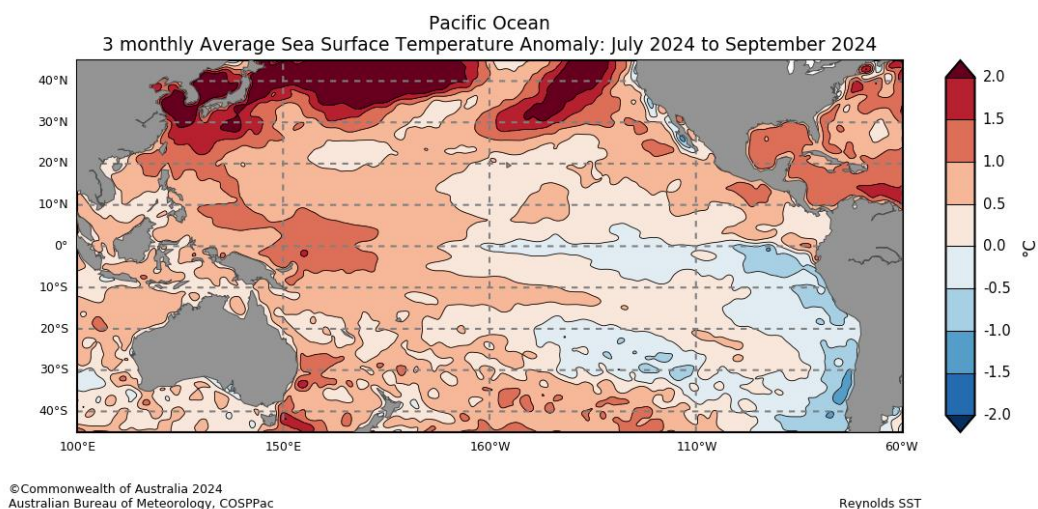
Nauru	No report	
Niue	No report	
Palau	Above normal	Normal
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to above normal	Normal and above normal
Samoa	No report	
Solomon Islands	Mostly below normal	Mostly below normal to normal
Tonga	No report	
Tuvalu	No report	
Vanuatu	No report	

Ocean Conditions

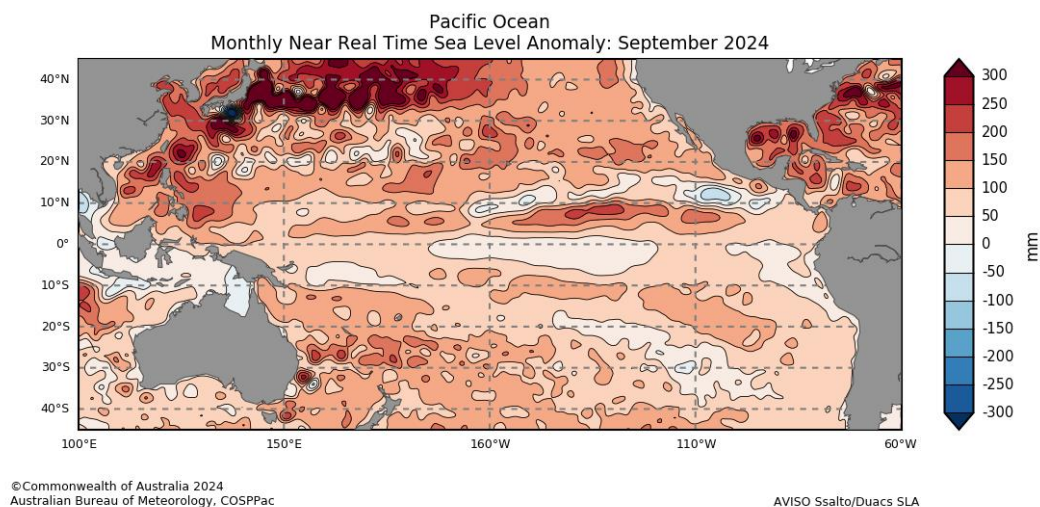
Observations of July to September 2024

Sea surface temperature (SSTs):

The sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies were utmost 1.5°C above normal in Nauru, PNG, Palau, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, southern Tonga and Gilbert Islands (Kiribati), with a few patches where anomalies were as high as 2.0°C over PNG. The SST anomalies for the rest were near-normal to utmost 1.0°C above-normal except for a few patches ranging from 0.5 to 1.0°C and as high as 2.0°C below normal SST anomalies were observed in French Polynesia.



In September, sea levels were 50 to 150mm above normal for most of the COSPPac countries, but they were near-normal to above normal in some countries such as PNG, Kiribati (Phoenix Islands and Northern Line Islands), Tuvalu, Niue and Samoa. There were some patches with anomalies as high as +250 observed in Palau, southern Tonga, southern Fiji, New Caledonia, and along the southeastern coastline of Australia, and as low as -200 along the southeastern coastline of Australia.



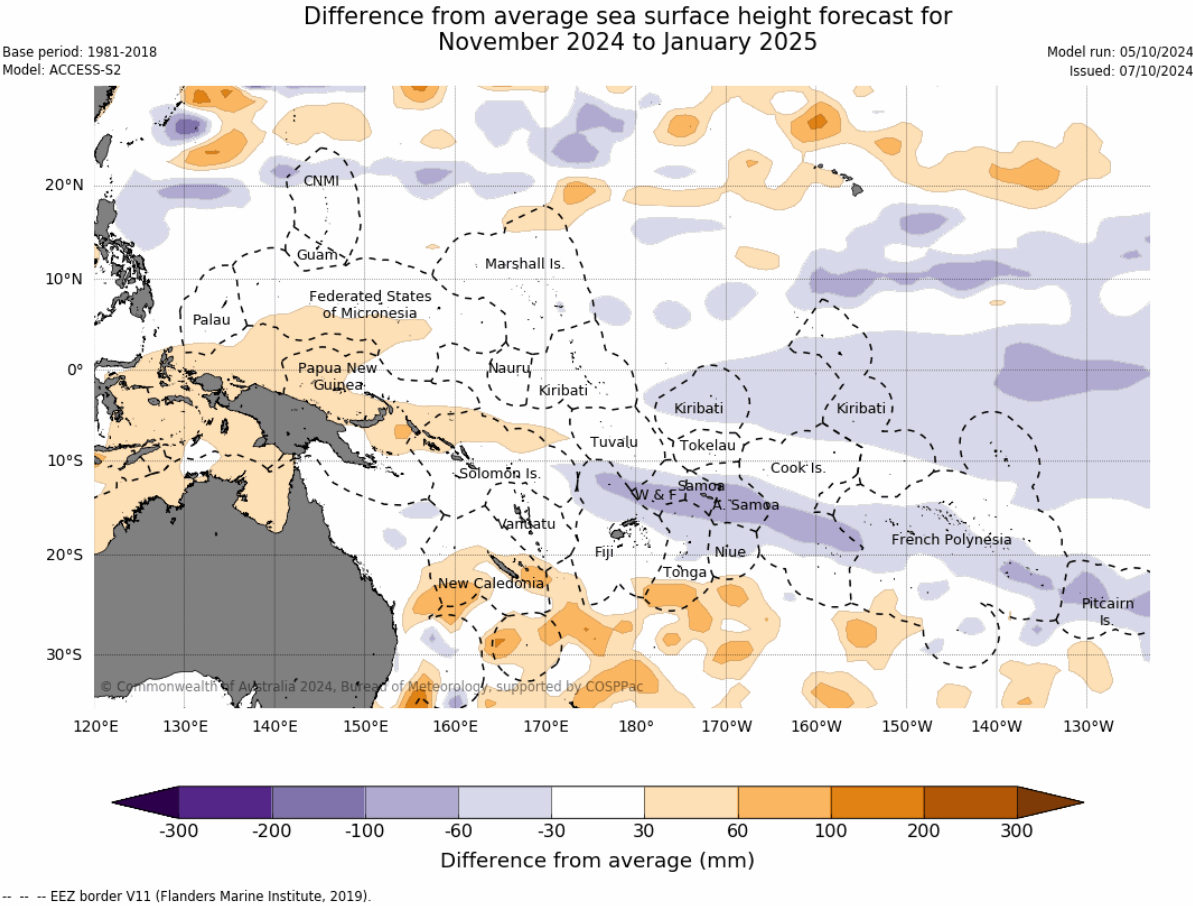
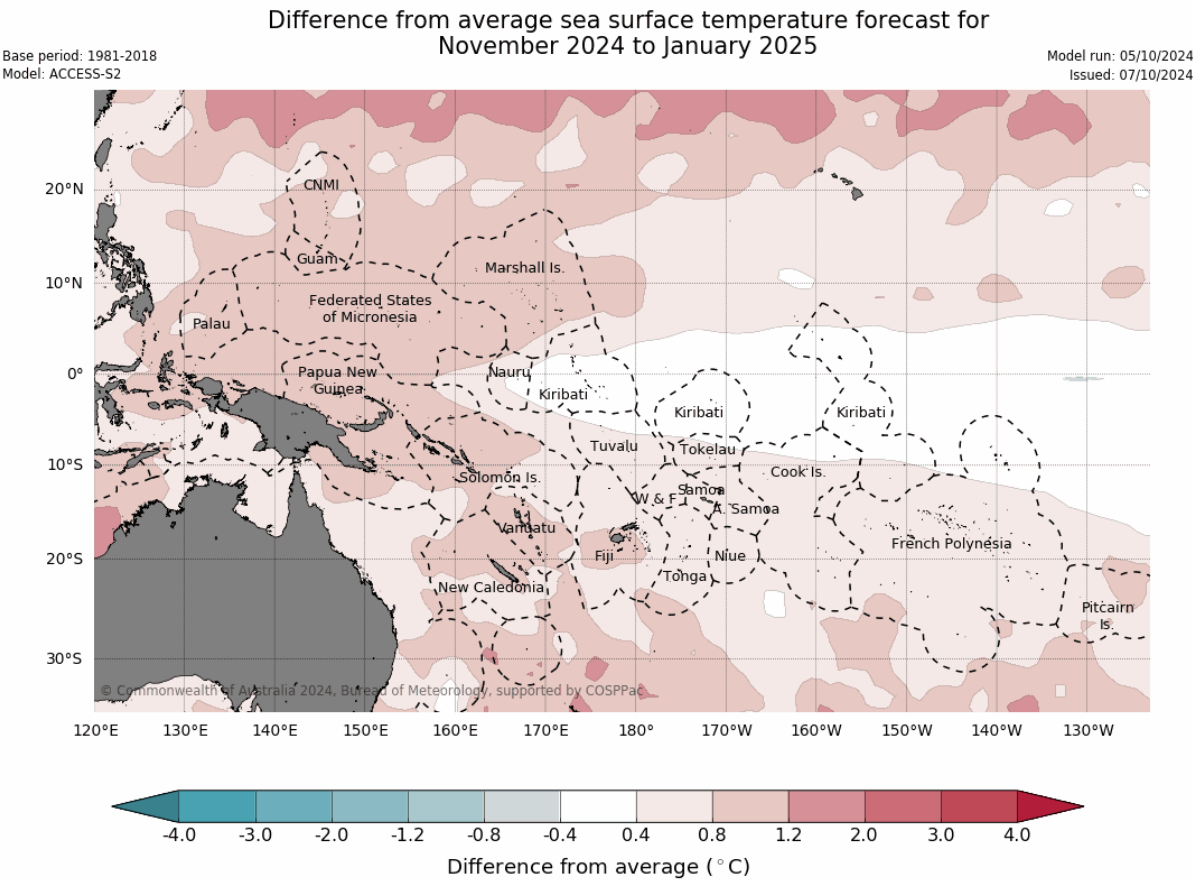
November 2024 to January 2025 Outlooks:

Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) outlook: SSTs are generally forecast to be up to 1.2°C above normal for most of the COSPPac countries. However, near-normal SSTs of -0.4 to 0.4°C are expected over parts of Kiribati (Gilbert Islands, central and northern Line Islands and Phoenix Islands), part of Nauru, the northern part of Tuvalu, part of Tokelau, the northern part of Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia.

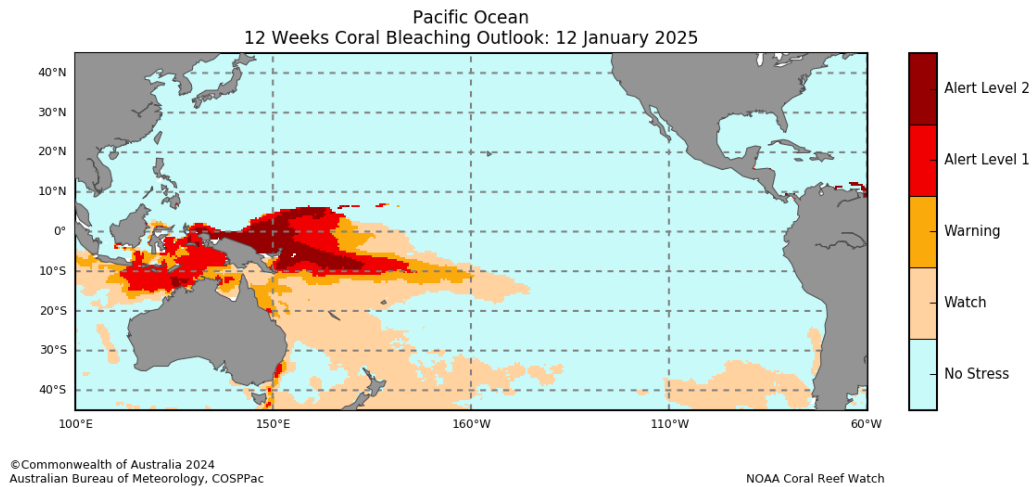
Sea Level Outlook: Sea Levels are forecast to be near normal to 30 to 100mm below normal over central and northern Fiji, central and northern Tonga, Samoa Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Pitcairn Islands. Near normal to 30 to 60mm below normal sea levels over part of Kiribati Islands (Phoenix Islands and Line Islands) and Niue. Near normal to 30 to 60mm above normal sea levels are forecast for PNG, Solomon Islands, FSM, RMI, Palau, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and southern Tonga. A few patches utmost 200m sea levels are predicted over southern Tonga and New Caledonia. Near normal sea levels are predicted for Nauru, Gilbert Islands (Kiribati), Tokelau, Guam and Nauru.

Coral Bleaching Outlook: For the 12-week period up to 12 January, "Alert Levels 1 and 2" are predicted for Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, southern Palau, and Federated States of Micronesia. Alert level 1 is forecast for Tuvalu, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tokelau, the northern part of Fiji, and Nauru. A "Watch" is predicted for Vanuatu and New Caledonia. 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	September 2024	
	SST	SLA
Cook Islands	AN/NN/BN	AN/NN
Fiji	AN/NN	AN/NN
FSM (Chuuk)	AN	AN/NN
FSM (Pohnpei)	AN	AN/NN
Kiribati	AN/NN/BN	AN/NN
Marshall Islands	AN	AN/NN
Nauru	AN	AN/NN
Niue	AN/NN	AN/NN
Palau	AN	AN/NN
Papua New Guinea	AN/NN	AN/NN
Samoa	AN/NN	AN/NN
Solomon Islands	AN/NN	AN/NN
Tonga	AN/NN	AN/NN
Tuvalu	AN/NN	AN/NN
Vanuatu	AN/NN	AN/NN

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

Country	Date September 2024	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – EAR Watch	September	Red Cross, Island Council and Executive Officers, To Tatou Vai, etc	58		
Cook Islands – Monthly Climate Briefing	September	Climate Change	10	4	6
Cook Islands – Climate Data request	September	Ministry of Marine Resources, Local Newspaper, To Tatou Vai	5	2	3
Fiji - Climate Summary	10 September	General Public	140	106	34
Fiji - EAR Watch	11 September	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji - Climate Outlook	30 September	General public	124	93	31
Fiji - Climate Outlook for Monasavu	30 September	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	-
Fiji - Ocean Outlook	20 September	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji - Sugarcane rainfall outlook	09 September	Sugar Industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji -ENSO Outlook	25 September	General Public	142	116	26
Fiji - Meteorological data request	01-30 September	A range of stakeholders	20	17	3
FSM (Chuuk) - Climate Bulletin	September	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Chuuk) - EAR Watch	September	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Chuuk) – Ocean Outlook	September	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Pohnpei) – EAR Watch	September	Pohnpei Municipal, Gov't, Kosrae Municipal Gov't, Pohnpei and Kosrae DCO, Dept.Of Education, Red Cross, Fisheries, Environmental	60	49	11

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		Protection Agency, DECEM, Mayors, Dept. Of Public Safety, Pohnpei Utility Corporation, Tourism, Fisheries			
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	10 September	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88
Kiribati – EAR Watch	19 September	Drought Committee Members	62	35	27
Kiribati -Media release	10 September	Media Outlets in Kiribati (BPA, Government Communications, Church Faith Based)	53	23	30
Kiribati - Ocean Bulletin	10 September	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products	158	70	88
Kiribati – Community Awareness	27 September	Betio Community	24	2	22
Kiribati – Climate data request	01-30 September	Water and Sanitation Unit (MISE).	2	2	
Marshall Island – Climate briefing	20 September	Chief Secretary Office and National Disaster Management Office	7	6	2
Nauru	September	No report			
Niue	September	No report			
Palau	September	No engagement			
PNG – Disaster Climate Briefing	26 September				
PNG - Weekly Ok Tedi Climate Briefing	29 September	OK Tedi Staff	11	10	1
PNG – Climate data request	01-30 September	Consultants, companies & students	4	3	1
Samoa	September	No report			
Solomon Islands – Climate bulletin	September	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

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Solomon Islands – EAR Watch	September	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goodridge 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	14	9	5
Solomon Islands - Ocean Bulletin		Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goodridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD	14	9	5
Tonga	September	No report			
Tuvalu	September	No report			
Vanuatu	September	No report			
Total			1,402	894	466

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:

Link: https://sprep.zoom.us/rec/share/XSktuHldin-uGHqN_X6SFA7M14_FyVenpw_ory6npXPWsb8xzKqnMJNZJlpjuuTZ.PKnXKZiv8fAXuxOi

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