

Data management and Climate and Ocean Products and Services

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 209 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 19 February 2025

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

Host: SPREP (Virtual)

Chair: Palau

Apologies: Pohnpei

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 **12 March 2025**.

Participants:

The OCOF 208 was attended by 18 climate officers (9 female) from 11 partner PIC NMSs.

<p>Cook Islands: Bates Manea</p> <p>Fiji: Douglas Fong, Kasanita Hicks, and Jasneel Chandra</p> <p>FSM (Chuuk): Boyd Mackenzie</p> <p>FSM (Pohnpei):</p> <p>Kiribati: Mwata Keariki and Miriam Kataunatu</p> <p>Niue: Raquel Tanaki</p> <p>Papua New Guinea:</p> <p>Palau: Kiku Mochimaru</p> <p>Republic of Marshall Islands:</p> <p>Samoa: Kotoni Faasau and Taumeasina Fomai</p>	
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<p>Solomon Islands: Martin Tugumana, and Padlock Bii</p> <p>Tokelau:</p> <p>Tonga: Mele Lakai</p> <p>Tuvalu: Kaani Kalepo, Elifaleti Ene, Simoea Tiute, and Leiti Fasiai</p> <p>Vanuatu: Glenda Pakoa</p> <p>Australia: Elise Chandler, and Grant Beard</p> <p>NOAA:</p> <p>SPREP: Philip Malsale</p> <p>SPC: Moleni Tu'uholoaki</p> <p>WMO: Tile Tofaeono</p>	
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OCOF tables were received from 14 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations of November 2024 to January 2025:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending January 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
Vunisea, Fiji	Nov - Jan	929.6	79	86
Kosrae, FSM	January	671.1	43	53
Pohnpei, FSM	Nov - Jan	1598.7	71	75
Hanan Airport, Niue	January	502.7	109	112
Niuaotoputapu, Tonga	January	623.9	78	78

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

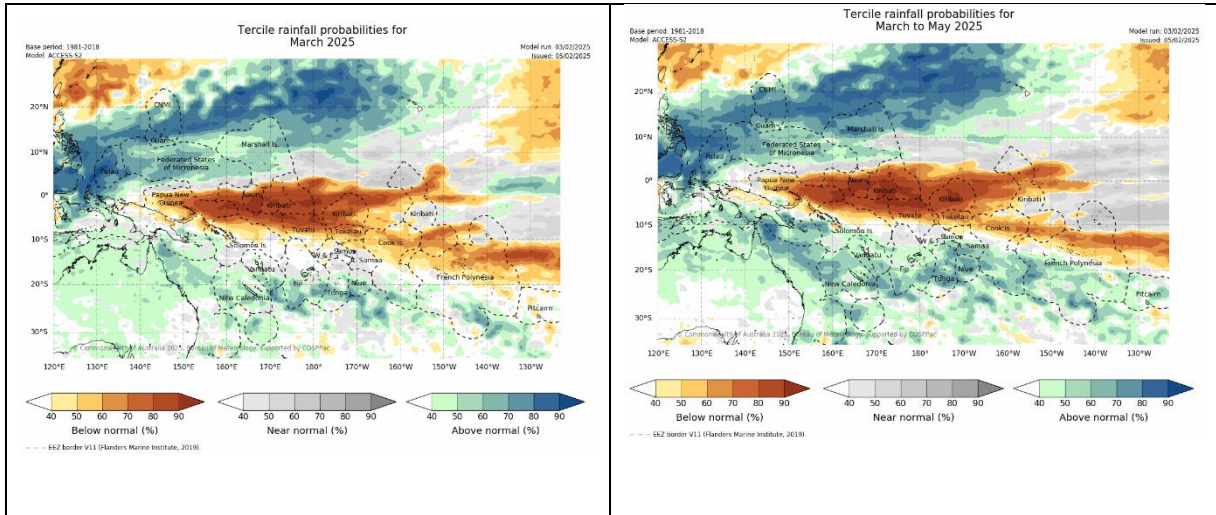
March to May 2025 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

The three-month ACCESS-S rainfall outlook for **March-May 2025** still depict a typical La Niña signal, with a below average rainfall along the equator extending eastwards from northern PNG to northern French Polynesia. Therefore, below normal is likely or very likely in a zone centred on the equator extending northern PNG, southern FSM, including Nauru, far southern RMI, Kiribati (except far northern and central Line Is.), northern Solomon Is., northern and central Tuvalu, Tokelau, northern Cook Islands, southern Line Is., and northern French Polynesia., and above average wrapping around the dry signal.

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





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

Other matters Discussed:

- ENSO has remained neutral for the past 6 months, despite changes in sea surface temperature patterns consistent with a developing La Niña.
- ENSO dials removed from BOM and this is encouraging stakeholders to move to dynamical models
- OCOF 210 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 12 February 2025.

Observed Rainfall

Country	January 2025	November 2024 to January 2025
Cook Islands	Normal	Normal
Fiji	Mostly normal to above normal	Mostly above normal
FSM (Chuuk)	Below normal	Below normal
FSM (Pohnpei)	Above normal	Normal to above normal
Kiribati	Mostly normal	Below normal and normal
RMI	Below normal	Below normal to normal
Nauru	No report	
Niue	Above normal	Above normal
Palau	Normal	Normal
Papua New Guinea	Normal	Normal
Samoa	Mostly normal	Mostly normal
Solomon Islands	Mostly normal	Mostly normal



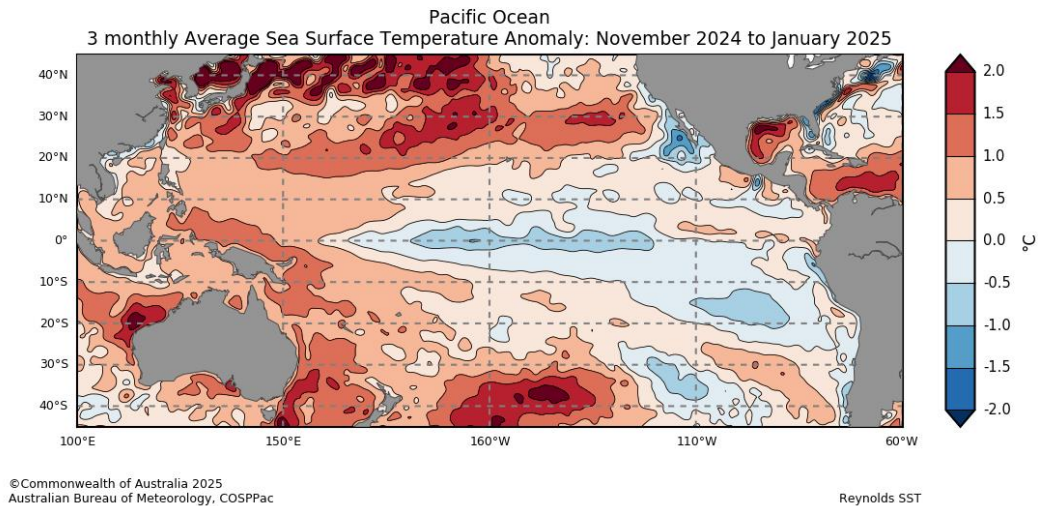
Tonga	Mostly normal	Mostly normal
Tuvalu	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal
Vanuatu	Normal to above normal	Normal to above normal

Ocean Conditions

Observations of November 2024 to January 2025

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs):

SST anomalies were generally observed to be above normal for most places in the region except for central equatorial Pacific; above normal SST anomalies of up to 1.5°C were observed over Palau, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Caledonia. In countries such as Tuvalu, Nauru, Tokelau, FSM, RMI, Samoa, Tonga, Niue, and Cook Islands, above-normal SST anomalies of up to 1.0°C were observed. However, SST anomalies were near-normal in parts of the Kiribati Islands, such as Gilbert. Additionally, SST anomalies in the Phoenix Islands and Line Islands (Kiribati) were at the utmost 1.0°C below normal to near-normal.

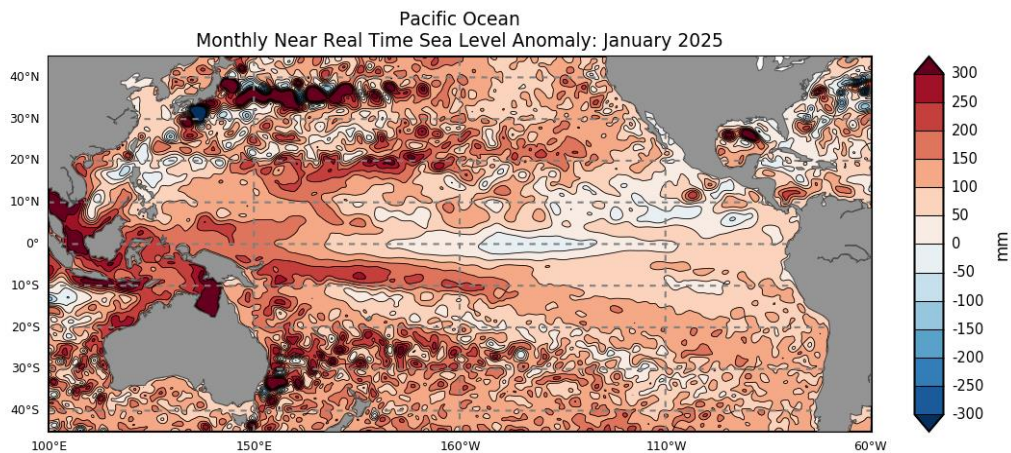


Sea Levels:

Sea levels:

In January 2025, sea levels across most countries were above normal. Sea level anomalies were utmost +300 mm over Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tuvalu, and Tonga and +200 mm over Palau and Nauru. Sea levels with the utmost of +250 mm were observed for the rest of the countries.





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AVISO Ssalto/Duacs SLA

March to May Outlooks:

Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) Outlook:

SSTs are generally expected to be as much as 1.2°C above normal for most of the Pacific countries apart from the utmost 0.8°C above normal in countries including Tuvalu, Nauru, Kiribati, Cook Islands and Tokelau.

Sea Level Outlook:

Sea levels are predicted to be up to 60mm above normal with a few patches of up to 100mm for PNG, the Solomon Islands, and Guam. Mostly near-normal with a few utmost patches of 60mm sea levels are predicted for New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Nauru and Vanuatu. In regions such as Palau, RMI and FSM EEZs, some areas are forecast to be below normal, near normal and above normal. Countries such as Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Kiribati are expected to experience sea levels near normal and up to 60 mm below normal. It is important to note that this outlook does not take into account long-term trends in sea level rise.

Coral Bleaching Outlook:

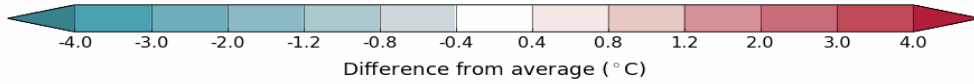
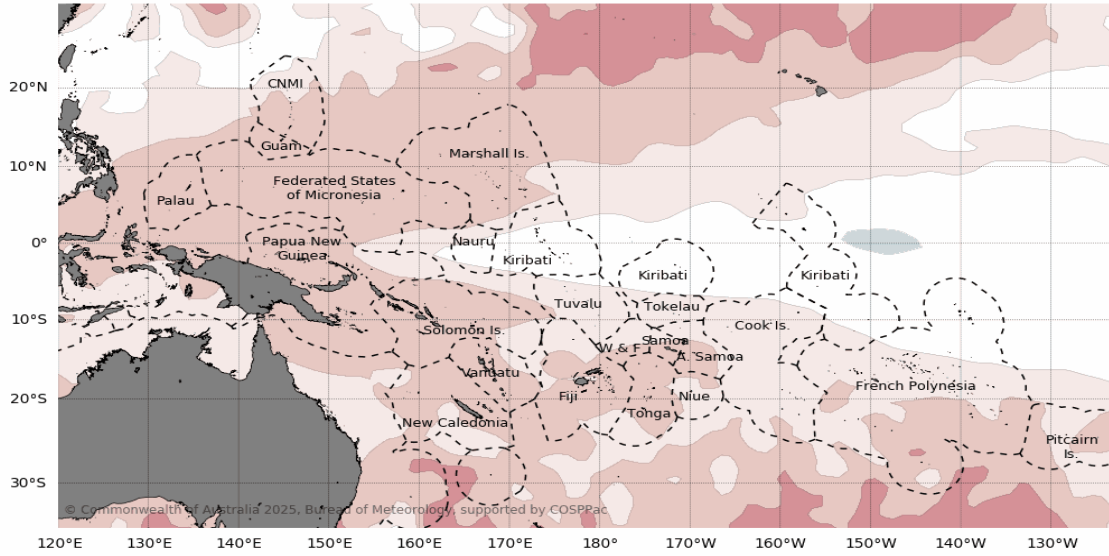
For the 4-week outlook up to 2 March 2025, "Alert Levels 1 and 2" are forecast for PNG and Solomon Islands; Alert Level 1 for Fiji, Vanuatu and Tonga; Warning and Watch for Niue, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Palau, Cook Islands and Samoa. No stress for FSM and RMI.



Difference from average sea surface temperature forecast for
March to May 2025

Base period: 1981-2018
Model: ACCESS-S2

Model run: 03/02/2025
Issued: 05/02/2025

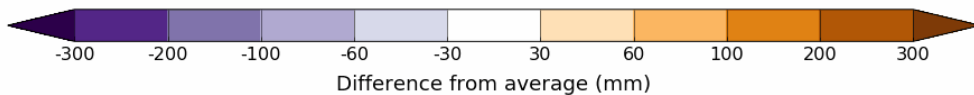
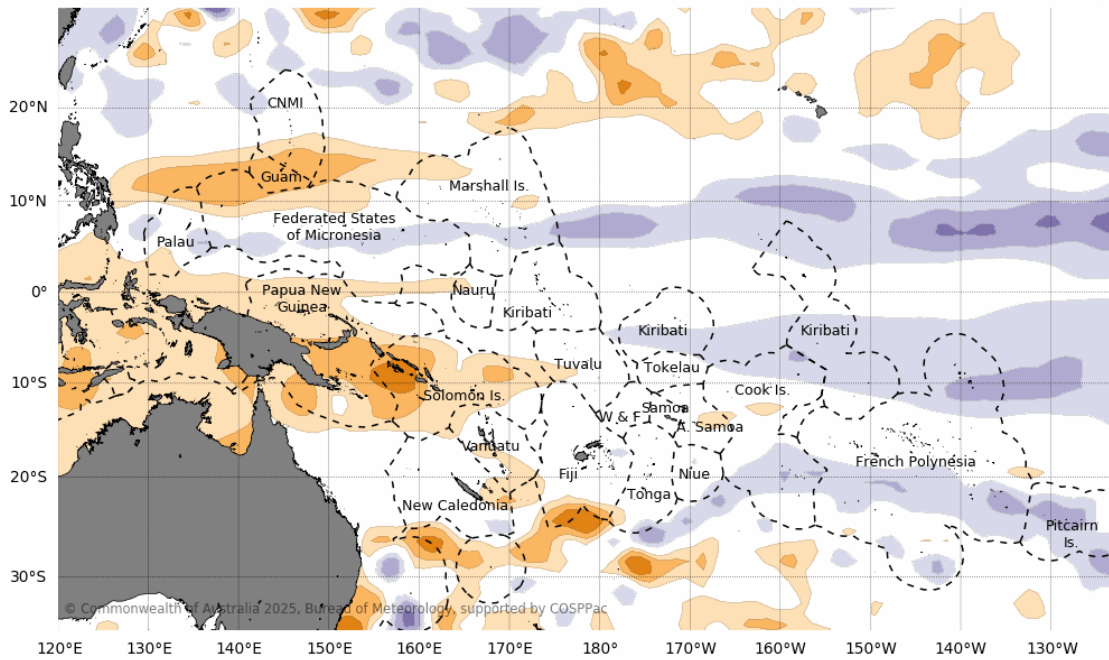


-- -- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).

Difference from average sea surface height forecast for
March to May 2025

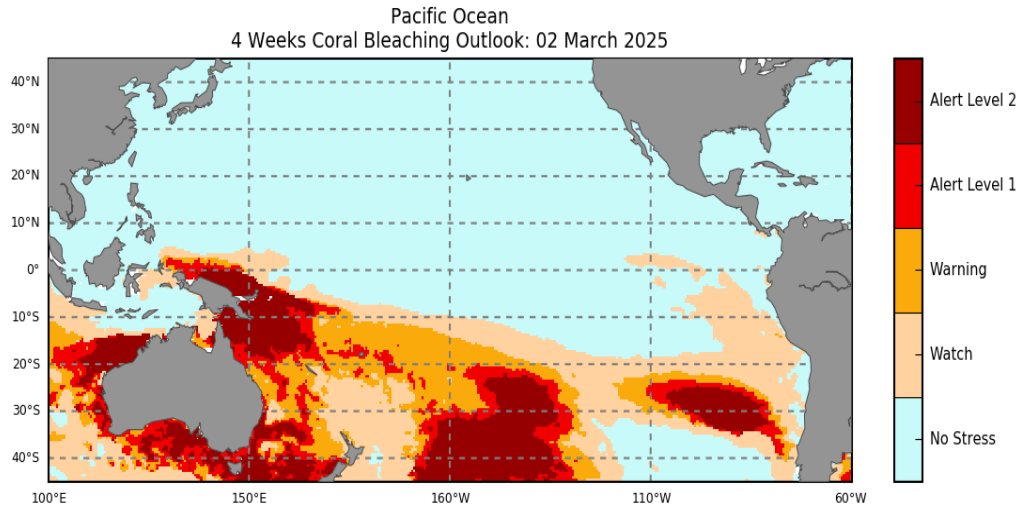
Base period: 1981-2018
Model: ACCESS-S2

Model run: 03/02/2025
Issued: 05/02/2025



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





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NOAA Coral Reef Watch

Observed Conditions

SST: sea surface temperature anomaly

SLA: sea level anomaly

BN: Below Normal

NN: Near Normal

AN: Above Normal

Country	January 2025	
	SST	SLA
Cook Islands	AN/NN	AN/NN
Fiji	AN	AN/NN
FSM (Chuuk)	AN	AN
FSM (Pohnpei)	AN	AN
Kiribati	AN/NN/BN	AN/NN
Marshall Islands	AN/NN	AN
Nauru	NN	AN
Niue	AN	AN/NN
Palau	AN	AN
Papua New Guinea	AN	AN
Samoa	AN	AN/NN
Solomon Islands	AN	AN/NN
Tonga	AN/NN	AN/NN
Tuvalu	AN/NN	AN/NN
Vanuatu	AN	AN/NN



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

Country	Date January 2025	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands – Climate Bulletin	January	Climate Change, Red Cross, Island Council and Executive Officers, To Tatou Vai, etc	53		
Cook Islands – EAR Watch	January	Climate Change, Red Cross, Island Council and Executive Officers, To Tatou Vai, etc	53		
Cook Islands – Ocean Bulletin	January	Climate Change, Red Cross, Island Council and Executive Officers, To Tatou Vai, etc	53		
Cook Islands – Climate data request	January	Several agencies	5	2	3
Fiji - Climate Summary	8 January	General Public	140	106	34
Fiji - EAR Watch	9 January	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji - Climate Outlook	31 January	General Public	124	93	31
Fiji - Climate Outlook for Monasavu	31 January	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	
Fiji - Ocean Outlook	20 January	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji - Sugarcane rainfall outlook	31 January	Sugar Industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji - Meteorological data request	1-31 January	A range of stakeholders			
FSM (Chuuk) - Climate Bulletin	January	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Chuuk) - EAR Watch	January	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Chuuk) – Ocean Outlook	January	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Pohnpei) – Climate bulletin	January	Pohnpei Municipal Gov't, Kosrae Municipal Gov't, Pohnpei and Kosrae DCO, Dept. Of Education, Red Cross,	63	51	12



		Fisheries, Environmental Protection Agency, DECEM, Mayors, Dept. Of Public Safety, Pohnpei Utility Corporation, Tourism, Fisheries, Conservation Society of Pohnpei			
FSM – EAR Watch	January	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, Conservation Society of Pohnpei	63	51	12
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	9 January	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88
Kiribati – EAR Watch	13 January	Drought Committee Members.	62	35	27
Kiribati -Media release	9 January	Media Outlets in Kiribati (BPA, Government Communications, Church Faith Based).	53	23	30
Kiribati - Ocean Bulletin	9 January	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88
Kiribati – Climate data request	1-31 January	MISE, students	2	2	0
Marshall Island – Climate briefing	17 January	Chief Secretary Office and National Disaster Management Office	6	4	2
Marshall Island – 2 nd National Climate Outlook Forum	20-21 January	NDMO-Outer Islands Disaster Focal Points & RMI Stakeholders	32	27	5
Nauru	January	No report			
Niue - Climate Bulletin	January	Government all staff General Public	630	320	310
Niue- Climate Data request	1-31 January	Water Sector	1	0	1
Palau -Quality Checking Koror data in CliDE with Koror Historical Observations in xmACIS	Dec. 19 email, Reply received Jan. 3, 7, 2025	WSO Palau and NOAA NWS PRH Climate Service	14	10	4
Palau - Monthly 24-Hour Rainfall and Average Temperature Infographic	6 January	Guam Forecasters, WSO Palau, PEAC rep, NOAA NWS PRH Climate Science/Services MET, NOAA MET Tech, USAPI Drought Monitor rep, Desert Research Institute rep, CRRF, Retired WFO Guam WCM, PPUC rep	48	31	12



Palau - Monthly 24-Hour Rainfall and Average Temperature Infographic	6 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and Regional PMU, department of Transportation, Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works, Palau Housing Authority) and Social Media	99	41	58
Palau - Fisheries Weekly Bulletin	7 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and Regional PMU, Department of Transportation, Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works, Palau Housing Authority) and Social Media	100	41	59
Palau - Ngeremlengui State AWS data	7-9 January	WSO Palau and Ngeremlengui Governor	3	1	2
Palau - WSO Palau data for July 2024 Monthly Rainfall and Dec 2024 Corrections and Comments section in CLiDE	7-8 January	WSO Palau Staff MET, Climate and Data Officer, BoM: Simon, Ibrahim and Mark	4	3	1
Palau - UCSD AWSs error and duplicated product	8 January	Coral Reef Research Foundation (CRRF) and WSO Palau	4	0	4
Palau's Island Climate Update	9 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and Regional PMU, Department of Transportation, Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works, Palau Housing Authority), WSO Palau, and Social Media	112	50	62
Palau - PICASO and APCC Bulletin	9 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and Regional PMU, Department of Transportation, Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works, Palau Housing Authority), WSO Palau and Social Media	112	50	62
Palau - EAR Watch	10 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and Regional PMU, Department of Transportation, Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works, Palau Housing Authority), WSO Palau, and Social Media	112	50	62
Palau - ACCESS-S Exceedance Graphics request	13 January	BoM and WSO Palau	2	0	2
Palau - Question on ENSO Outlook	13 January	BoM and WSO Palau	2	0	2



Information from BoM for EAR Watch					
Palau- Rainfall and Air Temperature Bulletin	13 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and Regional PMU, Department of Transportation , Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works, Palau Housing Authority), WSO Palau, and Social Media	116	54	62
Palau - PEAC and NOAA Climate Bulletin	14 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and Regional PMU, Department of Transportation , Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works, Palau Housing Authority), WSO Palau and Social Media	114	52	62
Palau - PEAC Climate Conference Call	13 January	WSO Palau and social media	14	10	4
Palau - Fisheries Weekly Bulletin	14 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and Regional PMU, Department of Transportation , Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works) and Social Media	100	41	59
Palau - Climate Bulletin	16 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and Regional PMU, Department of Transportation, Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works, Palau Housing Authority), WSO Palau and Social Media	114	52	62
Palau - Ocean Bulletin	16 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and regional MU, Department of Transportation , Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works) and Social Media	100	41	59
Palau - Heads Up ! Infographic	16 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and Regional PMU, Department of Transportation , Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works, Palau Housing Authority) and Social Media	113	50	63
Palau Weekly Fisheries Bulletin	21 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and Regional PMU, Department of Transportation , Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works) and Social Media	100	41	59
Palau -Virtual Meeting on	23 January	Coral Reef Research Foundation	4	0	4



Weather and Climate,					
Palau - Request for a WSO Palau Station Visit, Weather and Climate briefing, Watched videos on Pacific Adventures of the Climate Crab, How Hurricanes Form, and Tsunamis : Know What to Do.	24 January	US Embassy parents and children	17	3	15
Palau-Weekly Fisheries Bulletin	28 January	Various stakeholders (16 State Gov't offices, MOH, JICA, Japan Embassy, NEMO, Palau and Regional PMU, Department of Transportation, Red Cross, PALARIS, CIP and Public Works, Palau Housing Authority) and Social Media	100	41	59
Papua New Guinea – Climate bulletin	14 January	Govt agencies, NGOs, Schools, Private companies, individuals, international partners	212		
PNG - Drought Update	31 January	NGOs, Govt Agencies, Schools, Private companies, individuals, international partners	240		
PNG - Climate data request	1-31 January	Private sector	2	2	
Samoa	January	No Engagement			
Solomon Islands – Malaria Outlook	10 January	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	January	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	53	39	14
Solomon Islands - Ocean Bulletin	January	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



Solomon Islands – Malaria Outlook	January	Guadalcanal Council of Women	40	30	10
Solomon Islands - Data request	1-31 January	USP Student, Solomon Power Project, Ministry of Infrastructure Development Projects, Leileigela Conservation Trust Board, Ministry of agriculture and Livestock (MAL), Phd student (Agricultural research)	7	6	1
Tonga – Climate Bulletin	3 January	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private Sector	255	188	37
Tonga – Ocean Outlook	3 January	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private Sector	255	188	37
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	20 January	MET Staff, Disaster Dept, TRC, TuCAN, Agriculture, Head Quarter, (PWIDW), All-Island, Council, Permanent Sec, Gov, Fisheries Dept, Health Dept, TEC Dept, Environment, Climate Change, Tuvalu Maritime School	64	41	23
Tuvalu – EAR Watch	22 January	MET Staff, Disaster Dept, TRC, TuCAN, Agriculture, Head Quarter, (PWIDW), All-Island, Council, Permanent Sec, Gov, Fisheries Dept, Health Dept, TEC Dept, Environment, Climate Change, Tuvalu Maritime School	64	41	23
Tuvalu – Ocean Outlook	22 January	MET Staff, Disaster Dept, TRC, TuCAN, Agriculture, Head Quarter, (PWIDW), All-Island, Council, Permanent Sec, Gov, Fisheries Dept, Health Dept, TEC Dept, Environment, Climate Change, Tuvalu Maritime School	67	44	23
Tuvalu - Monthly Climate briefing	January	Climate section, and Forecast Section	5	2	3
Tuvalu - CliIDE user training	29-31 January	Met staff	16		
Vanuatu – Fisheries bulletin	7 January	Website Fisheries Dept.	3	2	1
Vanuatu - Tourism bulletin	7 January	Website Tourism Dept	2	1	1
Vanuatu – Agro-Met Bulletin	20 January	Website Agriculture Dept.	1		
Total			4,696	2,327	1,680

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

The OCOF 209 discussion can be found in the link below:

Link- https://sprep.zoom.us/rec/share/qHfJbfGnTSLMJLZaS11Ad6M2qYVRuV1GzHnmRBaf-EUiBtBYiK_1hc2y8Rlvay1.u3dSoo5yydNOqMzV

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