

Data management and Climate and Ocean Products and Services

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 206 Summary Report

Date: Tuesday 19 November 2024

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

Host: SPREP (Virtual)

Chair: SPREP

Apologies: Tuvalu and Niue

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 December 2024**.

Participants:

The OCOF 206 was attended by 18 climate officers (7 female) from 10 partner PIC NMSs.

<p>Cook Islands:</p> <p>Fiji: Jasneel Chandra</p> <p>FSM (Chuuk): Johannes Berdon</p> <p>FSM (Pohnpei): Wallace Jacobs</p> <p>Kiribati: Mwata Keariki</p> <p>Niue: Clemencia Sioneholo</p> <p>Papua New Guinea:</p> <p>Palau: Kiku Mochimaru, and Maylene</p> <p>Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kaneko</p> <p>Samoa: Kotoni Faasau, Emmanuel Etimani, Mattaniah Salesa, Taumeasina Fomai</p>	
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Solomon Islands: Martin Tugumana and Patcock Tokelau: Tonga: Mele Tuvalu: Vanuatu: John Mangau, Joseph Worworbu, and Lucy Australia: Simon McGree, Grant Smith and Elise Chandler NOAA: Brandon Burunt SPREP: Philip Malsale SPC: Moleni Tu'uholoaki	
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OCOF tables were received from 12 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations of August to October 2024:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending October 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	October	406.7	84	85
Vunisea, Fiji	Aug - Oct	733.7	81	83
Udu Point, Fiji	Aug - Oct	678.9	73	75
Rotuma, Fiji	Aug - Oct	411.5	4	106
Pohnpei, FSM	Aug - Oct	932.9	5	75
Faleolo, Samoa	October	303.2	59	63
Lata, Solomon Islands	October	178.4	5	50
Fua'amotu, Tonga	October	383.7	44	45
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	October	387.0	79	81
Fua'amotu, Tonga	Aug - Oct	565.3	41	45
Nuku'alofa, Tonga	Aug - Oct	627.0	74	80
Funafuti, Tuvalu	Aug - Oct	1143	83	92
Whitegrass, Vanuatu	October	148.3	48	53

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

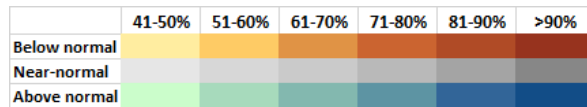
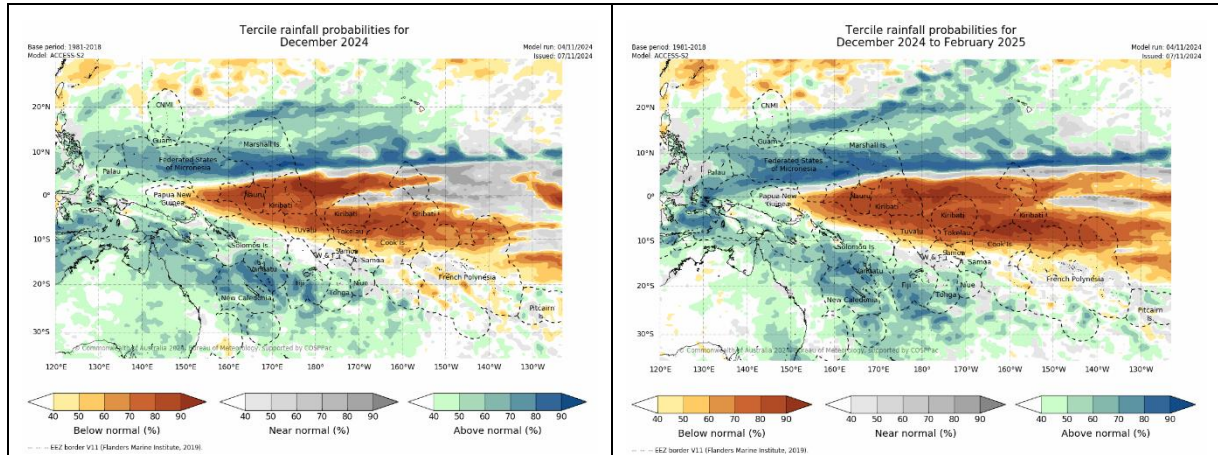
December 2024 to February 2025 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

The three-month ACCESS-S rainfall outlook for **December-February 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 northeastern PNG, southeast FSM, including Nauru, far southern RMI, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tokelau, far northern Fiji, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia.

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





Other matters Discussed:

- Chances of La Niña event happening are less than 60% compare to over 70% in October
- NMHS are encouraged to review their cyclone outlook in January 2025 with the decline chances of La Niña happening.
- Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Cook Islands organised their NCOF in October after PICOF 15
- Samoa planning to organise their NCOF from 25 -29 November 2024
- NMHS were encouraged work on their 2024 State of Climate Report
- NMHS encourage to submit climate impacts since January 2024 to WMO for the Southwest Pacific State of the Climate report by end of January 2025
- NMHS must use the OCOF template circulated as it included latest changes to the documents.
- OCOF 207 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 12 December 2024.

Observed Rainfall

Country	October 2024	August to October 2024
Cook Islands	No report	
Fiji	Mostly normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal
FSM (Chuuk)	Below normal	Normal
FSM (Pohnpei)	Normal	Below normal
Kiribati	Mostly below normal	Mostly below normal
RMI	Normal	Below normal to normal
Nauru	No report	
Niue	Normal	Normal
Palau	Below normal	Below normal



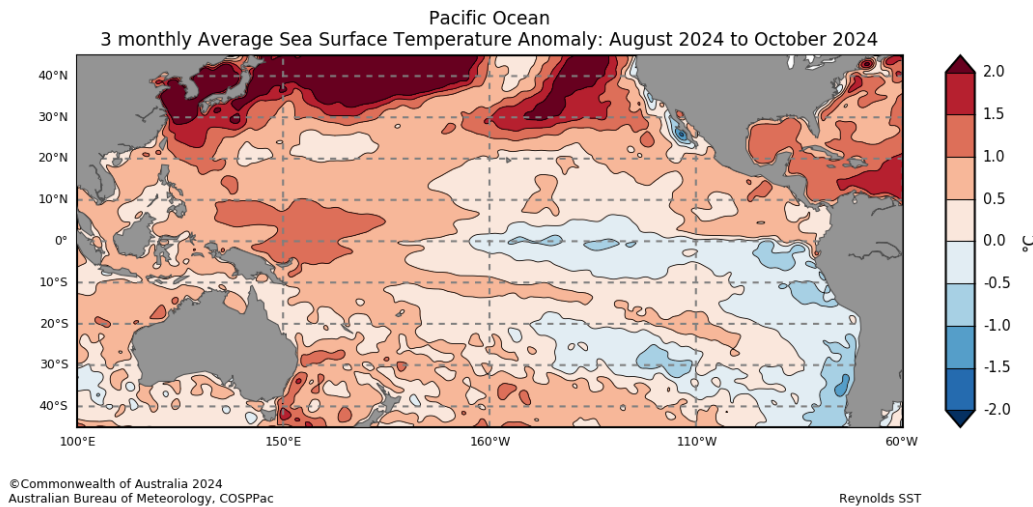
Papua New Guinea	No report	
Samoa	Mostly normal	Mostly normal
Solomon Islands	Mostly normal to above normal	Mostly below normal
Tonga	Mostly normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal
Tuvalu	Mainly above normal	Above normal
Vanuatu	Mostly above normal	Below normal to above normal

Ocean Conditions

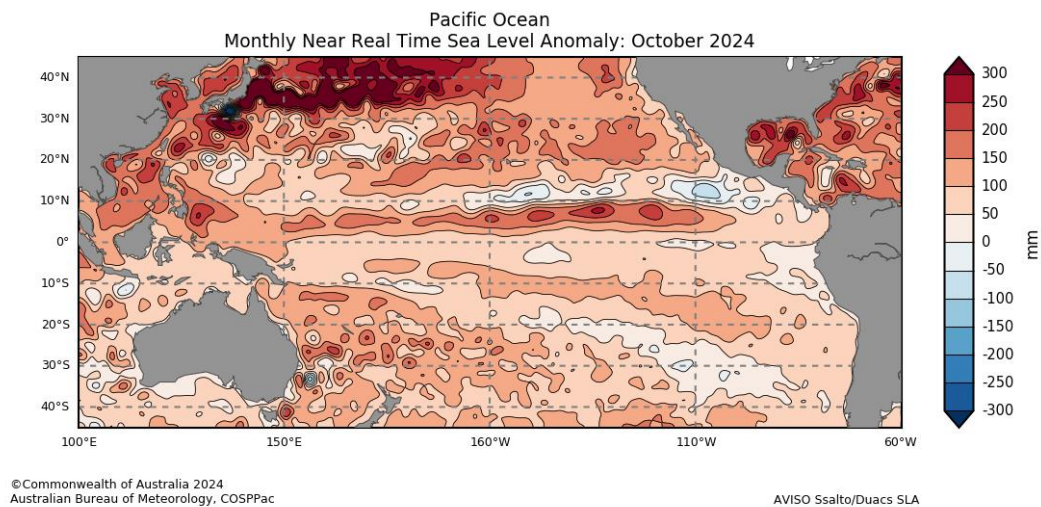
Observations of August to October 2024

Sea surface temperature (SSTs):

Sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies were generally observed to be up to 1.5°C above normal in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, Papua New Guinea (PNG), and the Gilbert Islands. SST anomalies reached up to 1.0°C above normal in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Tokelau, the Cook Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Samoa, Niue, and Fiji. Conversely, a decrease of 0.5 to 1.0°C below normal SST anomalies was noted around the Line Islands (Kiribati), Pitcairn Islands, and southern French Polynesia.



In October, sea levels across most COSPPac countries were above normal. Sea level anomalies ranged from +150 to +300 mm in several regions, including Palau, New Caledonia, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, the Cook Islands, the Gilbert and Line Islands (Kiribati), Vanuatu, and southern French Polynesia. Additionally, sea surface temperature anomalies exceeding +150 mm were observed in Samoa, Niue, Tuvalu, Tokelau, and the Phoenix Islands (Kiribati).



December 2024 to February 2025 Outlooks:

Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) outlook:

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are generally expected to be as much as 1.2°C above normal for most of the COSPPac countries. However, near-normal SSTs, ranging from -0.4 to 0.4°C, are forecast for the Kiribati Islands, parts of Nauru, northern Tuvalu, northern Tokelau, the northern Cook Islands, and central French Polynesia.

Sea Level Outlook:

Sea levels are predicted to be up to 100 mm above normal for Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, and southern Tonga. In contrast, countries such as Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Vanuatu, the southern part of Palau, and the Marshall Islands are expected to experience sea levels near normal and up to 60 mm above normal. Northern Palau, Niue, the Cook Islands, part of Tonga, Fiji, Phoenix Islands, French Polynesia, and the Pitcairn Islands are expected to have sea levels near normal and 30 to 100 mm below normal. Guam, Tuvalu, Nauru, the Gilbert Islands, and Tokelau are projected to experience near-normal sea levels, whereas Samoa's sea level is predicted to be 30 to 100 mm below normal. It is important to note that this outlook does not take into account long-term trends in sea level rise.

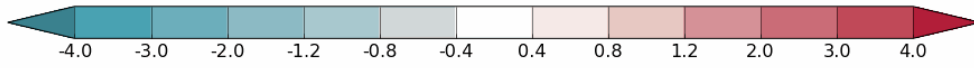
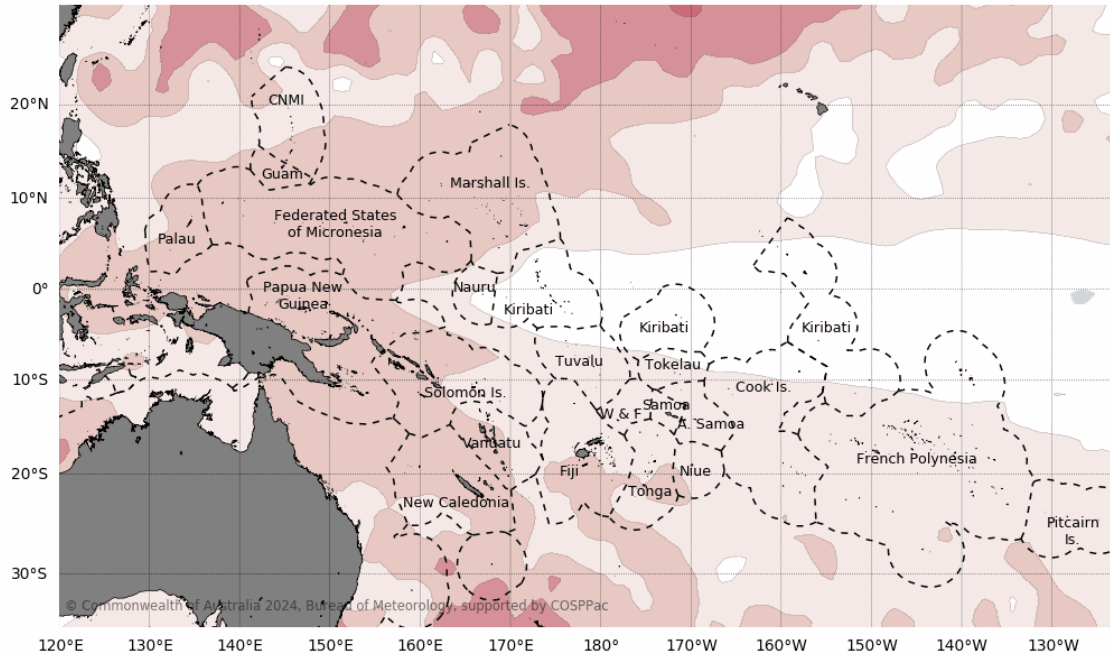
Coral Bleaching Outlook: For the 4-week outlook up to 8 December 2024, "Alert Levels 1 and 2" are forecast for FSM, RMI, Nauru, PNG, and Palau. "Alert Level 1" and "Warning" for the Solomon Islands. The remaining countries are predicted to experience "Watch" and/or "no thermal stress".



Difference from average sea surface temperature forecast for
December 2024 to February 2025

Base period: 1981-2018
Model: ACCESS-S2

Model run: 04/11/2024
Issued: 06/11/2024



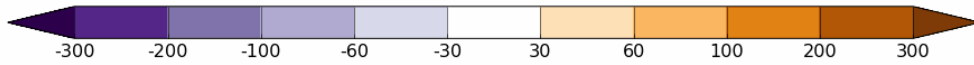
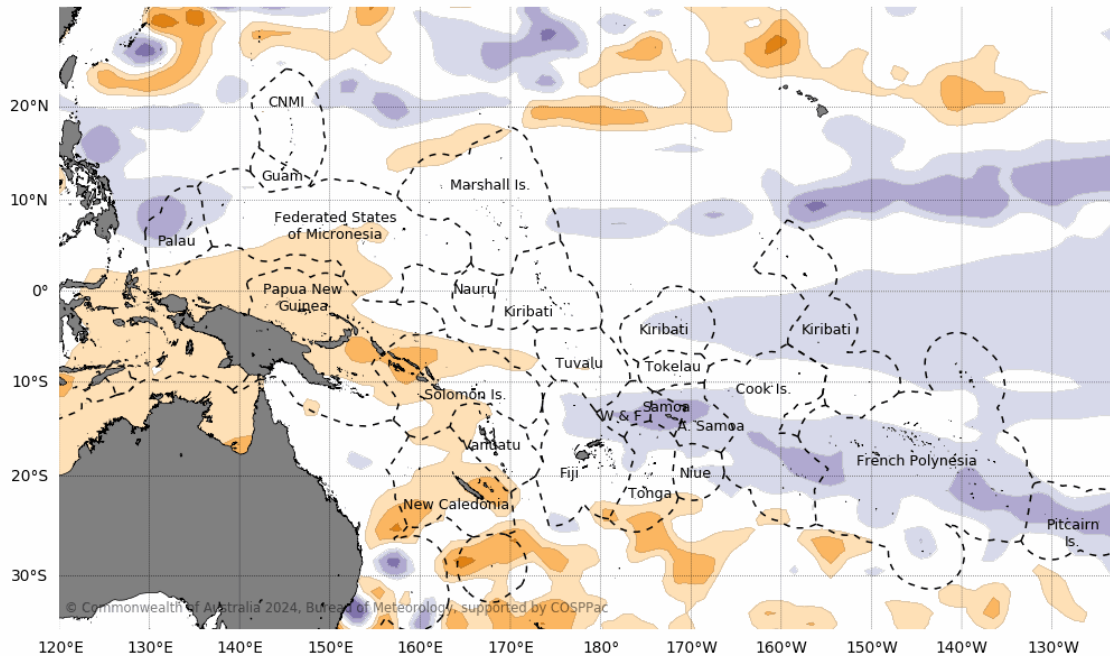
Difference from average (°C)

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

Difference from average sea surface height forecast for
December 2024 to February 2025

Base period: 1981-2018
Model: ACCESS-S2

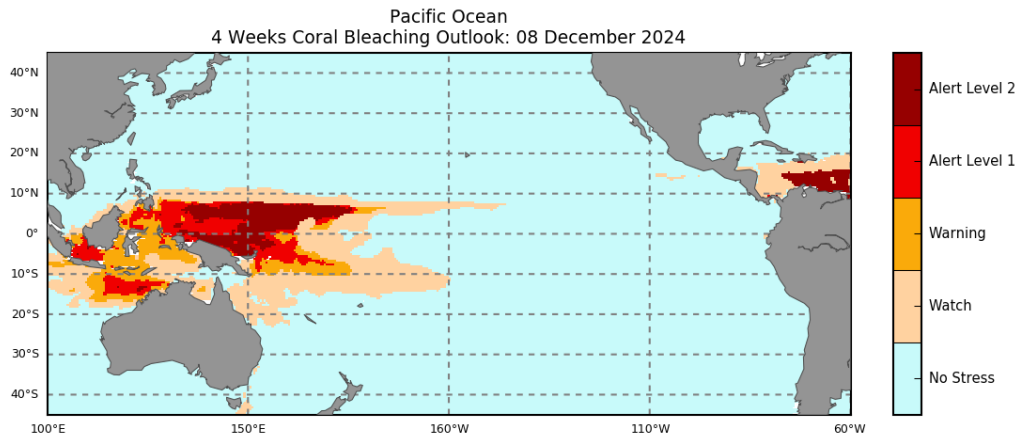
Model run: 04/11/2024
Issued: 06/11/2024



Difference from average (mm)

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





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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

Country	October 2024	
	SST	SLA
Cook Islands	AN/NN/BN	AN/NN
Fiji	AN	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
Papua New Guinea	AN/NN	AN/NN
Samoa	AN/NN	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 October 2024	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female
Cook Islands	October	No Report			
Fiji - Climate Summary	9 October	General Public	140	106	34
Fiji - EAR Watch	11 October	Humanitarian partners	122	96	26
Fiji - Climate Outlook	31 October	General Public	124	93	31
Fiji - Climate Outlook for Monasavu	31 October	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13	
Fiji - Ocean Outlook	18 October	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7
Fiji - Sugarcane rainfall outlook	3 October	Sugar Industry stakeholders	77	60	17
Fiji - Meteorological data request	1-31 October	A range of stakeholders			
FSM (Chuuk) - Climate Bulletin	October	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Chuuk) - EAR Watch	October	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Chuuk) – Ocean Outlook	October	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	15	8	7
FSM (Pohnpei) – Climate bulletin	October	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	60	49	11
FSM – EAR Watch	October	Pohnpei Municipal Gov't, Kosrae Municipal Gov't, Pohnpei and Kosrae DCO, Dept. Of Education, Red Cross, Fisheries, Environmental Protection Agency, DECEM, Mayors,	60	49	11



		Dept. Of Public Safety, Pohnpei Utility Corporation, Tourism, Fisheries, Conservation Society of Pohnpei			
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	10 October	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88
Kiribati – Agrometeorologica bulletin	10 October	Agriculture HODs	4	1	3
Kiribati – EAR Watch	16 October	Drought Committee Members.	62	35	27
Kiribati -Media release	10 October		53	23	30
Kiribati - Ocean Bulletin	10 October	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88
Kiribati – Climate data request	8 October	USP student	1	1	0
Marshall Island – Climate briefing	25 October	Chief Secretary Office and National Disaster Management Office	6	4	2
Marshall Island – Climate Data Request	1-31 October	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	5	5	
Nauru	October	No Report			
Niue	October	No engagement			
Palau - Monthly 24-hr Rainfall, Maximum and Minimum Temperatures Data infographic	4 October	WSO Palau and WSOs in the region, WFO Guam, Pacific ENSO Applications Climate Services (PEAC), NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC), US Drought Monitor for USAPI, Palau Public Utilities Corporation (PPUC), other US partners and social media	14+	10+	4+
Palau - Climate Bulletin: Locally tailored APCC	7 October	WSO Palau and social media	20+	13+	7+
Palau - Locally tailored Island Climate Update	7 October	WSO Palau and social media	14+	10+	4+
Palau -EAR Watch	8 October	WSO Palau and social media	14+	10+	4+
Palau- PICO-15	14-15 October	Regional reps, WSOs and MET services in the region	34	21	13
Palau- Fisheries Bulletin	15 October	WSO Palau, Fisheries and Agriculture stakeholders, and social media	52+	30+	22+



Palau - Regional Training Workshop on Climate Prediction and the PICASO	16-18/ 21-28 October	UNEP-CISPac5 countries and others	18+	11+	7+
Palau - Regional Training Workshop on Climate Prediction and the PICASO Results by APCC and WSO Palau	16-18/21-28 October	UNEP-CISPac5 countries, trainees and trainers	15+	10+	5+
Papua New Guinea	October	No Report			
Samoa – EAR Watch	7 October	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	7 October	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 – Monthly Tropical Cyclone Update	30 October	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	October	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	October	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,	53	39	14



		MECDM, Live and Learn, Tourism, Maritime Service, People with Disability, MID, Ministry of Fisheries, UN Women, Council of Women			
Solomon Islands - Ocean Bulletin	October	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 – 5 th National Climate	October	NDMO, SIBC, Ministry of Agriculture, People with Disability, Solomon Power, Red Cross, Climate change Division, Environment and conservation, Solomon Islands Maritime Authority, World Vision, Oxfam, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Solomon Island National University (marine), SOLKAS and Royal Solomon Islands Police force (RSIPF)	40	30	10
Tonga – Climate Bulletin	3 October	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private Sector	155	188	37
Tonga – Ocean Outlook	3 October	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private Sector	155	188	37
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	26 October	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 – EAR Watch	26 October	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 – Ocean Outlook		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	26 October	Climate section, and Forecast Section	6	4	2
Vanuatu - Weather and Climate Awareness to rural Communities	5 October	VMGD, World Vision, and North Efate Communities	38	26	12
Vanuatu - IDRR Day on Malekula Island, Malampa Province		VMGD, NDMO, Département of Climate Change, ActionAID, Oxfam, RedCross, Save the Children, Secondary Schools on Malekula, DoWR, NGO's general public, etc	364	189	175
Vanuatu – Fisheries bulletin	10 October		website		



Vanuatu - Tourism bulletin	10 October		Website		
Vanuatu - 6th National Climate Outlook Forum	22-25 October	VMGD, NDMO, NDMO Clusters, ActionAID, World Vision, DLA, UNICEF, Fisheries Sector, Tourism Sector, Media Associations, Agriculture Sector, SPREP, Van-KIRAP, COSPPac, Australian High Commission, New Zealand High Commission, Vanuatu Society for People with Disability, Vanuatu Disability People's Advocacy, WHO, French Embassy, Save the Children, Forestry Sector, Livestock, Pacific Fusion Center, Oxfam Vanuatu, IOM, Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP).	96	50	46
Vanuatu – Climate Watch App Training		Secondary School Science Teachers on Malekula Island	20	13	7
Vanuatu - VCCRP ToT on Santo Island	22-25 October	DoCC, DLA, NDMO, VMGD	41	14	27
Vanuatu – Climate Update	31 October	VMGD	Website		
Vanuatu - Climate data	23 October	Department	1	1	
Total			2,742	1,845	1,029

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

The OCOF 206 discussion can be found in the link below:

https://sprep.zoom.us/rec/share/JI_UQsnD_ctUzGRI2ypmlv0l4S5EJLIx7JO2qMCKz_mcpcklksVrFCoEjQ2ylOu.Orf9WxjmCTliQbzW

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