Data management and Climate and Ocean Products and Services

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 217 Summary Report

Date: Wednesday 15 October 2025

Chair: *No Teleconference due to PICOF 17 taking place the following week*

Apologies:

Main purpose for the OCOF:

- To provide a regular forum for the 15 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 Data management and Climate and Ocean Products and Services (SPREP, SPC and Bureau of Meteorology) project team.
- In addition, it serves as an online training forum for recent SCOPIC, and 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, Bureau of Meteorology, WMO, and NOAA 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 stakeholder's 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. Any other climate extreme events during the past one and three months.
7. The next OCOF will be held on **13 November 2025** and be chair by **Yap.**

Participants:

The OCOF 217 for this month was postpone due to the upcoming PICOF 17

Cook Islands:	
Fiji:	
FSM (Chuuk):	
FSM (Pohnpei):	
FSM (Yap):	
Guam:	
Kiribati:	
Niue:	
Papua New Guinea:	
Palau:	
Republic of Marshall Islands:	
Samoa:	

Solomon Islands: **Tokelau**: **Tonga:** **Tuvalu:** **Vanuatu:** **Australia:** **NOAA:** **SPREP**: **SPC:** **WMO:**	

OCOF tables were received from 15 participating countries before the meeting. Samoa, and Tokelau have yet to send through their tables.

Observations of July to September 2025:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending September 2025 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 Is	Jul – Sep	220.0	10	127
Lautoka, Fiji	September	2.1	6	126
Nadi Airport, Fiji	September	1.6	3	84
Vunisea, Fiji	September	19.0	2	88
Kosrae, FSM	Jul – Sep	1958.6	49	50
Beru, Kiribati	Jul – Sep	35.6	1	67
Butaritari, Kiribati	September	19.7	6	88
Kanton, Kiribati	Jul – Sep	63.5	4	65
Nauru	September	0.0	1	76
Wewak, PNG	September	270.2	62	67
Goroka, PNG	September	20.6	1	62
Munda, Solomon Is	September	505.4	61	64
Fua'amotu, Tonga	September	20.3	3	46

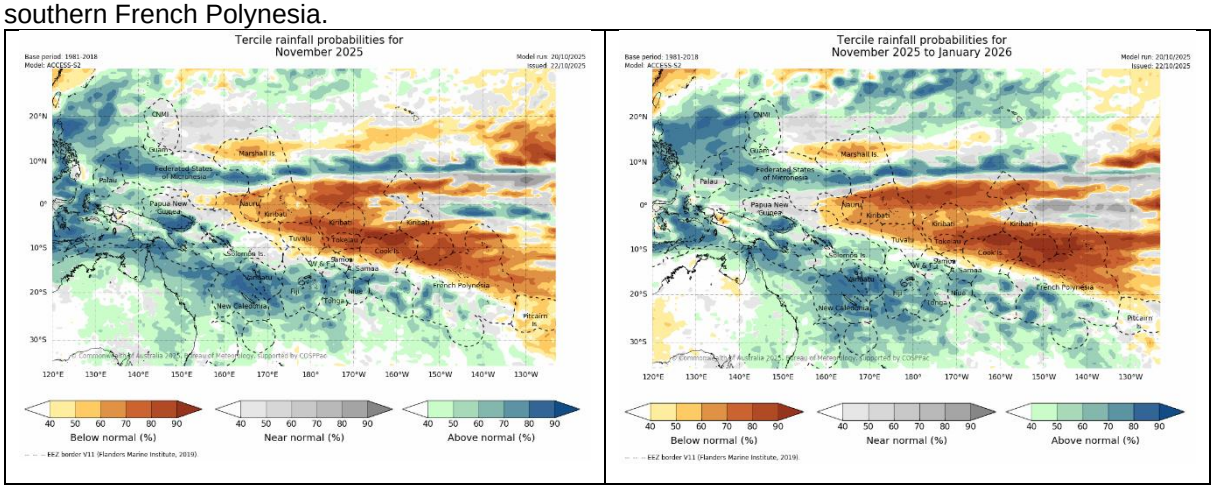
[Note: The above data may not have undergone quality control]

November 2025 to January 2026 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

The three-month ACCESS-S rainfall outlook for **November-January 2026** shows strong probabilities for below normal rainfall likely or very likely in a band stretching northeast over northern FSM to northern and central RMI. Another band of below normal rainfall stretching southeast likely or very likely over Nauru, and Kiribati (Gilbert, Phoenix, and most Line Islands), most of Tuvalu, Tokelau, northern Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia. There are also patches of below normal probabilities over northern Pitcairn Islands.

Above normal rainfall is likely or very likely in a band stretching south-eastward from CNMI, Guam, Palau, most of FSM, and southern RMI in the north Pacific. Another band of above normal rainfall is likely or very likely in a band stretching south-eastward from PNG, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, American Samoa, Niue, southern Cook Islands, and southern French Polynesia.



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

Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 218 will be hosted by SPREP via Zoom on 13 November 2025 and chaired by Yap.

Observed Rainfall

Country	September 2025	July to September 2025
Cook Islands	Normal	Below normal
Fiji	Normal to Below normal	Below normal to Above normal
FSM (Chuuk)	Above normal	Normal
FSM (Pohnpei and Kosrae)	Normal to Above normal	Above normal
FSM (Yap)	Above normal	Below normal
Kiribati	Below normal	Normal to below normal
RMI	Normal	Normal to Above normal
Nauru	Below normal	Below normal
Niue	Below normal	Below normal

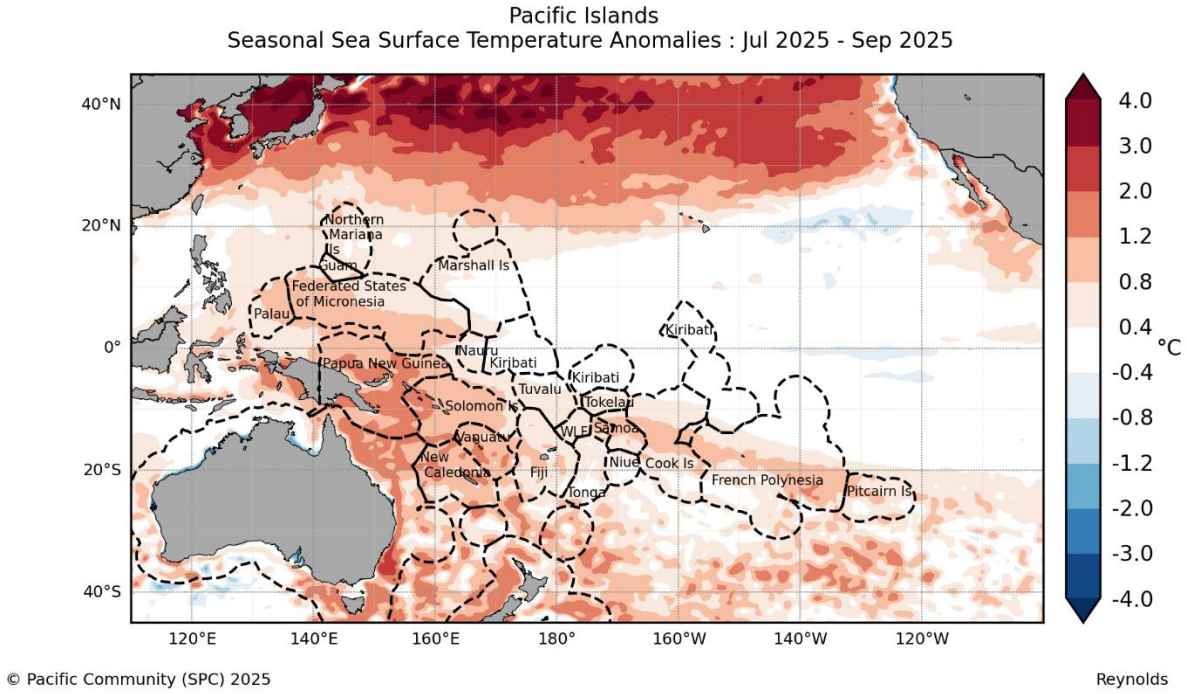
Palau	Normal	Normal
Papua New Guinea	Below normal to Above normal	Normal to above normal
Samoa		
Solomon Islands	Below normal to above normal	Below normal to above normal
Tonga	Normal to below normal	Normal to below normal
Tuvalu	Normal to above normal	Normal to above normal
Vanuatu	Below normal to Above normal	Normal to above normal

Ocean Conditions

Observations of July to September2025:

Sea surface temperature:

Three-monthly SST anomalies were above normal over most of the COSPPac countries, except for near-normal SST anomalies in a few countries. Above-SST anomalies up to 2.0°C were observed in PNG, with patches over Vanuatu, New Caledonia, parts of the Solomon Islands, and southern French Polynesia. Anomalies up to 1.2 °C were observed in Palau, FSM, Samoa, American Samoa, the central Cook Islands, and the central French Polynesia, with patches over Fiji, the Pitcairn Islands, and Tonga. The SST anomalies for the remaining countries were at most 0.8°C above normal.

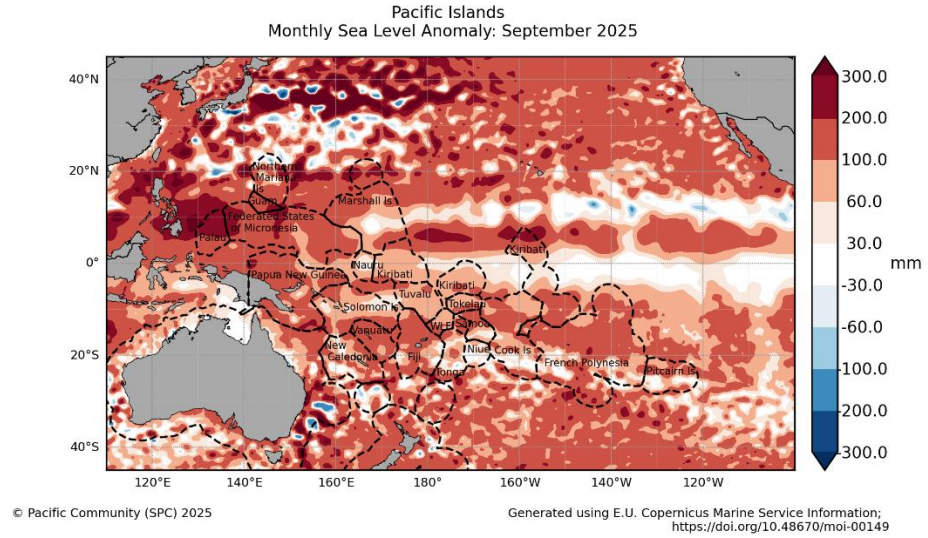


Sea Levels:

September Sea levels:

In September, sea levels were generally above normal across most COSPPac countries. However, a few countries recorded near-normal sea levels.

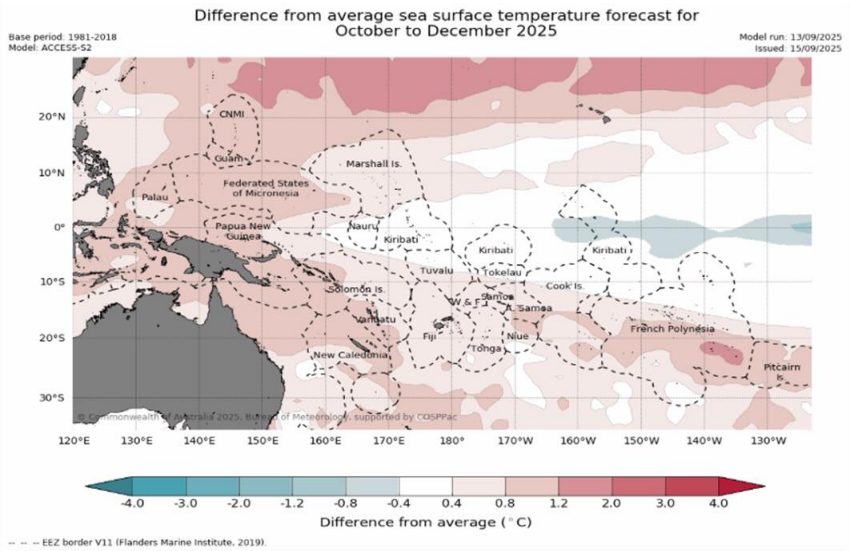
Positive sea level anomalies exceeding +200 mm were observed in Palau, Guam, and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), with patches recorded over the Cook Islands. The rest of the countries experienced sea levels up to +200mm, except for some patches of near-normal over parts of Nauru, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Fiji, New Caledonia, Niue, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, the Pitcairn Islands, the Line Islands, and the Marshall Islands.



October to December Outlooks:

Sea surface temperature (SST) outlook:

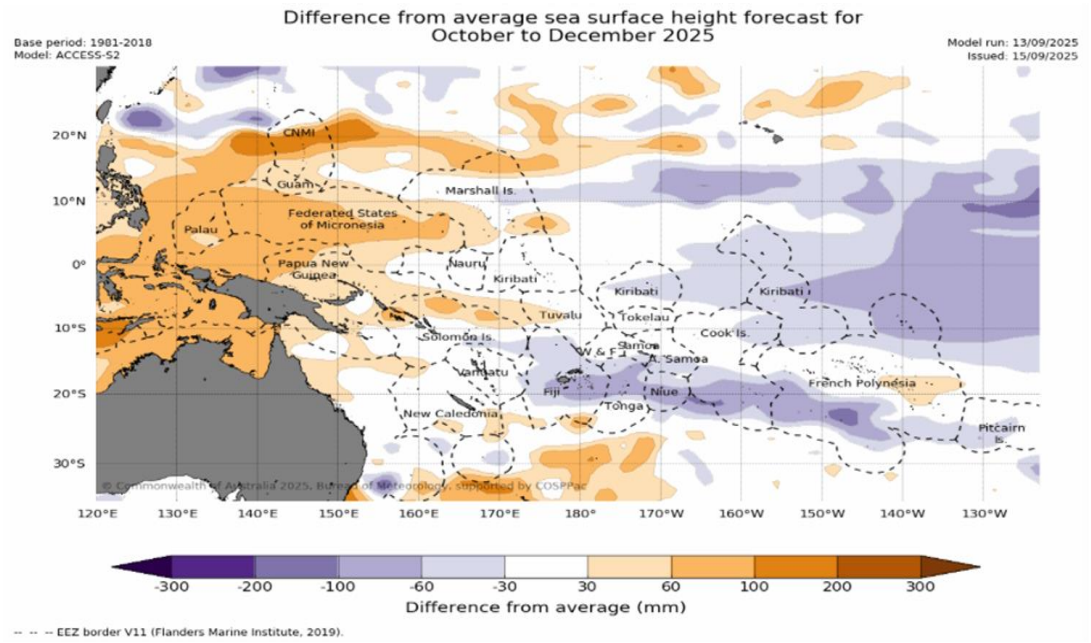
SSTs are forecast to be above normal across most of the Pacific Islands, except for near-normal SSTs to be observed over Nauru, the northern half of Tuvalu, southern Niue, northern Tokelau, Kiribati Islands, northern Cook Islands and northern French Polynesia and below normal over part of the northern Line Islands. Above-normal SSTs of up to 2.0°C are predicted for southern French Polynesia, while the rest of the countries are forecast to be 1.2°C or 0.8 °C above normal.



Sea level outlook:

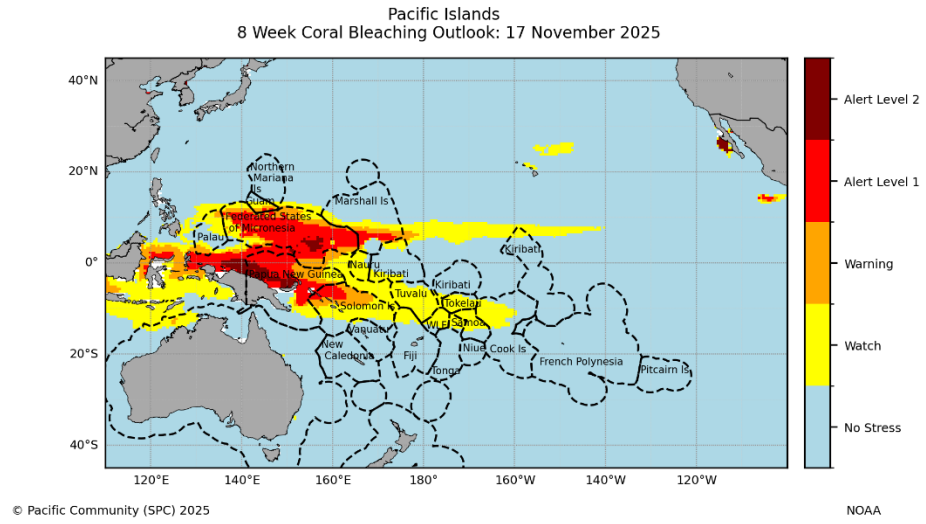
Sea levels are forecast to be as high as 100mm over Palau, FSM, western PNG, and the northern Marshall Islands, with patches over the Solomon Islands and Fiji, and as high as 60mm over New Caledonia. In contrast, sea levels are predicted to be below normal as low as 200mm over southern French Polynesia, 100mm over Fiji, Tonga, Niue, southern Cook Islands, and Line Islands (Kiribati), and as low as 60mm over northern Phoenix Islands (Kiribati) and Pitcairn Islands. The remaining parts of the countries mentioned already, and countries such as Vanuatu, Nauru and the Gilbert Islands (Kiribati), are forecast to have sea levels near normal.

Note that this outlook does not include trends of sea level rise.



Coral Bleaching Outlook:

For the 8-week outlook to 17 November, "Alert Levels 1 and 2" are to be observed in FSM and PNG. "Alert Level 1" over the southern Marshall Islands and part of the Solomon Islands. "Warning" for part of Solomon Islands. 'Watch' or 'No Stress' over other countries.



Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific

Observed Conditions

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

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

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

Country	Date September 2025	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female	Disability	Age group
Cook Islands – EAR Watch	September	Climate Change, Red Cross, Island Council and Executive Officers, To Tatou Vai, etc	53				
Cook Islands – Climate data request	September	To Tatou Vai, and MMR	5	2	3		
Fiji – Climate Outlook	September	General public	124	93	31	3	
Fiji – EAR Watch	September	Humanitarian Partners	122	96	26		
Fiji – Ocean Outlook	September	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7		
Fiji – Climate Summary	September	General public	140	106	34	3	
Fiji – Climate Outlook for Monasavu	September	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13			
Fiji – Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook	September	Sugarcane Industry stakeholders	77	60	17		
Fiji – Annual Climate Summary	September	A range of stakeholders	140	106	34	3	
Fiji – Meteorological Data Request	September	A range of stakeholders	24	13	11		
FSM (Chuuk) -Climate Bulletin	September	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	23	12	11		20-60
FSM (Chuuk) -EAR Watch	September	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	23	12	11		20-60
FSM (Chuuk) – Ocean Outlook	September	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	23	12	11		20-60
FSM (Pohnpei) – Climate bulletin	September	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	66	53	13		25-60

FSM (Pohnpei) - Ocean Bulletin	September	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	66	53	13		26-61
FSM (Pohnpei) – EAR Watch	September	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	66	53	13		26-61
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	September	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88	1	25-65
Kiribati – EAR Watch	September	Drought Committee Members.	62	35	27	0	25-55
Kiribati – Briefing note on Ocean Parameters	September	Offshore and Coastal Fisheries	4	3	1	0	
Kiribati - Media release	September	All Media Outlets	12	6	6	0	25-50
Kiribati - Ocean Outlook	September	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88	1	25-65
Kiribati – Agromet Bulletin	September	Agriculture and Livestock Division (ALD)	4	1	3	0	
Kiribati – Climate Data request	September	Kiribati Housing Corporation	1	1	0	0	25-60
Marshall Island – EAR Watch	September	National Disaster Management Office, WASH Cluster	16	12	4		
Marshall Island – Climate briefing	September	Chief Secretary Office and National Disaster Management Office	7	4	3		
Nauru	September	No engagement					

Niue - Climate Bulletin	September	No engagement					
Niue- EAR Watch	September	No engagement					
Niue – Monthly Climate Briefing	September	No engagement					
Niue - Drone training	September	No engagement					
Palau-Weekly Fisheries Bulletin	September		152	62	90		25-60
Palau-Weekly Weather Bulletin	September		152	62	90		25-60
Palau-Weekly Climate Bulletin	September		152	62	90		25-60
Palau-Ocean Bulletin	September		152	62	90		25-60
Palau-EAR Watch	September		152	62	90		25-60
Palau-Locally Tailored Tropical Pacific Monthly and Seasonal with ENSO Update	September		152	62	90		25-60
Palau-Island Climate Update (ICU)	September		152	62	90		25-60
Palau-PICASO and APCC ENSO Update	September		152	62	90		25-60
Palau-Infographic for Monthly 24-hour Rainfall and Averaged Temperatures (Manual and AWSs)	September		152	62	90		25-60

Palau-Social media card on Surf build up	September		152	62	90		25-60
Palau-Social media card 6 second video: Potential for Locally Heavy Showers & Gusty Winds (Monsoon)	September		152	62	90		25-60
Palau-Social media card: Surf and hazardous seas	September		152	62	90		25-60
Palau-Social media card: Small craft advisory	September		152	62	90		25-60
Palau-Red-Cross Society Anticipatory Action Workshop	September		17	7	10		25-60
Virtual meeting with Reps from BoM, COSPPac, WSO Palau regarding RMI EAR Watch	September		4	0	4		25-60
Papua New Guinea – Drought Update	September	Govt agencies, private companies NGOs, public	242	189	53		
Papua New Guinea – Climate data request	September		5	4	1		
Solomon Islands – Seasonal Outlook	September	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon Star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge 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	60	46	14		30 and above

		Ltd, UN Women, Council of Women, Community Representatives					
Solomon Islands – EAR Watch	September	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon Star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge 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.	55	41	14		30 and above
Solomon Islands – SAPE Farm	September	Farm Manager	1	1	0		30 and above
Solomon Islands – Adaliua Farm	September	Ministry of Agriculture Extension Division Officer (Malaita)	1	1	0		30 and above
Solomon Islands – Malaria Outlook	September	Ministry of Health & Medical Services (The National Vector Borne Disease Control program)	4	4	0		30 and above
Solomon Islands – Ocean Outlook	September	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon Star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD	31	24	7		30 and above
Solomon Islands – Climate Data Request	September	Katahira Engineers International (KEI)	1	1	0		30 and above
Tonga – Climate Bulletin	September	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private Sector	74	32	42	3	
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	September	MET Staff, Disaster Dept, TRC, TuCAN, Agriculture, Head Quarter, (PWIDW), All-Island Counsil, Permanent, Sec Gov, Fisheries Dept, Health Dept, TEC Dept, Environment, Climate Change, Tuvalu Maritime, School, Fusialofa Association, Tuvalu National Woman Counsil (TWC)	62	39	23	1	

Tuvalu – EAR Watch	September	MET Staff, Disaster Dept, TRC, TuCAN, Agriculture, Head Quarter, (PWIDW), All-Island Counsil, Permanent, Sec Gov, Fisheries Dept, Health Dept, TEC Dept, Environment, Climate Change, Tuvalu Maritime, School, Fusialofa Association, Tuvalu National Woman Counsil (TWC)	62	39	23	1	
Tuvalu – Monthly Climate Briefing	September	Climate section, and Forecast Section	6	4	2		
Tuvalu – Ocean Outlook	September	MET Staff, Disaster Dept, TRC, TuCAN, Agriculture, Head Quarter, (PWIDW), All-Island Counsil, Permanent, Sec Gov, Fisheries Dept, Health Dept, TEC Dept, Environment, Climate Change, Tuvalu Maritime, School, Fusialofa Association, Tuvalu National Woman Counsil (TWC)	62	39	23	1	
Vanuatu – Climate Update	September	Website					
Vanuatu – Virtual Monthly Climate Briefing	September	Community Climate Centres, Climate Champions, NDMO,Rural Communities, Water Department, DLA	23	11	12	0	
Vanuatu – Community Climate Centre Workshop Erromango Island, Pentecost Island, and Ambrym Island	September	Community Leaders, Church members, DLA, VCCRP Project (GCF Funded), Teachers, Chiefs, students, etc	160	74	86	15	
Vanuatu – Awareness Tanna Island	September	Community Leaders, Church members, DLA, Teachers, Chiefs, students, etc.	206	86	120	0	
Vanuatu – Awareness Freshwota Community, Port Vila	September	Community Members, Students, etc	34	18	16	0	
Vanuatu – Awareness at West Coast Santo, Malo Island	September	Community Leaders, Church members, DLA, Teachers, Chiefs, students, etc	230	120	110	7	

and Santo Inland Areas							
		Total	**4,739**	**2,501**	**2,185**	**39**	**20-60**

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