

Pacific Islands - Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 221

Country: Kiribati

Part 1: Recent climate

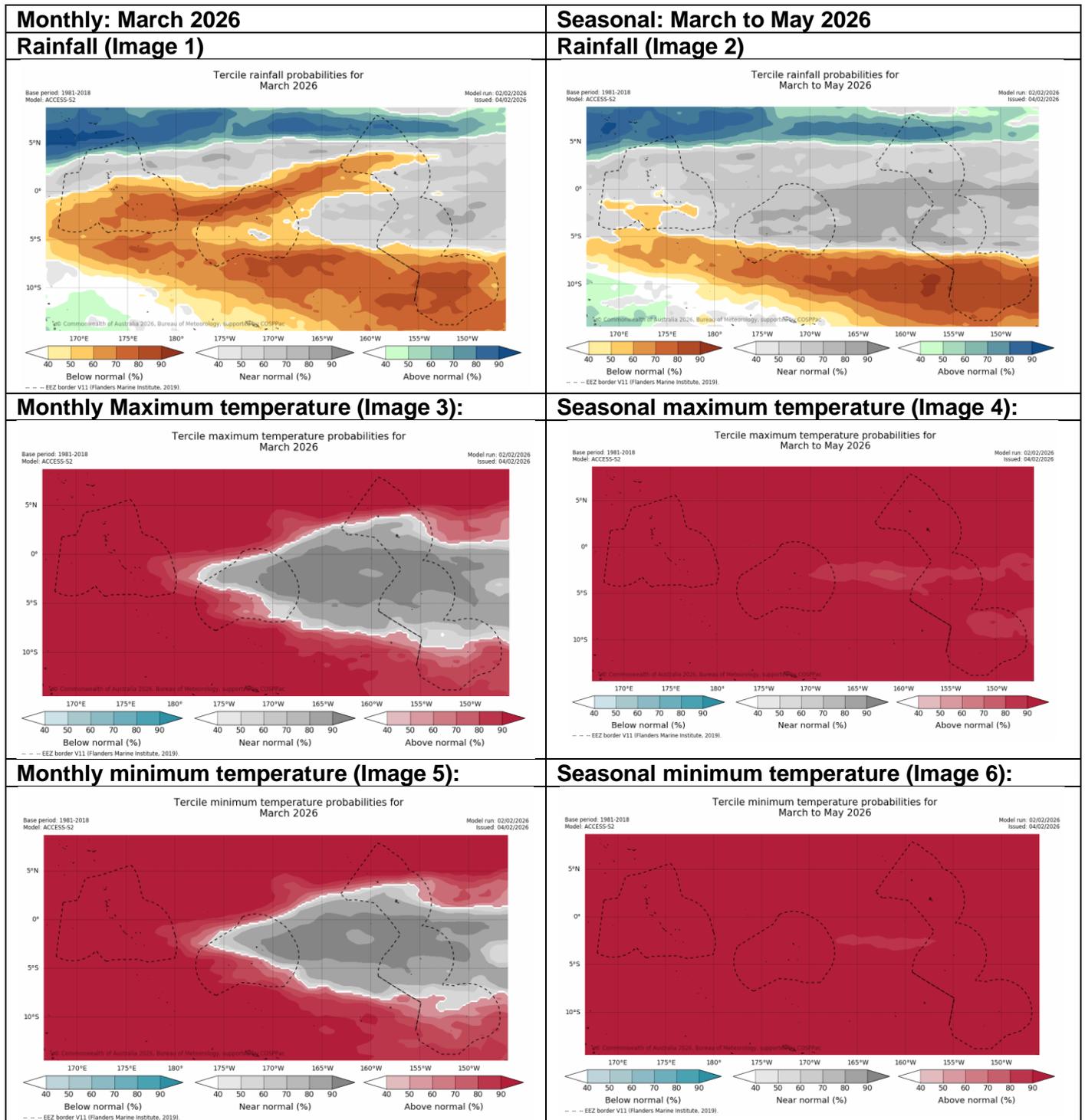
TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	Nov-2025	Dec-2025	Jan-2026				Rank
			Total (mm)	33%tile	67%tile	Median	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	Rainfall (mm)				
Beru (1932- 2026)	16.0	26.7	116.8	55.0	240.0	114.0	35/70
Butaritari (1931-2026)	208.8	284.0	282.7	201.0	336.0	268.6	46/89
Kanton (1937-2026)	2.9	0.9	0.0	5.6	61.0	10.8	1/66
Kiritimati (1921-2026)	2.6	8.0	3.7	9.8	42.3	22.4	15/100
Tarawa (1950-2026)	29.5	179.2	157.9	131.7	309.4	215.0	32/79

TABLE 2: Three-month Total Rainfall for November 2025 to January 2026

Station	Three-month Total		33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Rainfall (mm)					
Beru (1932-2026)	159.5	Below normal	160.0	600.0	271.0	22/69
Butaritari (1931-2026)	775.5	Normal	566.2	900.4	728.7	49/87
Kanton (1937-2026)	3.8	Below normal	24.6	154.6	57.2	4/62
Kiritimati (1921-2026)	14.3	Below normal	29.8	89.8	42.0	16/84
Tarawa (1950-2026)	366.6	Normal	302.2	756.0	491.0	31/78

Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for March and March to May 2026

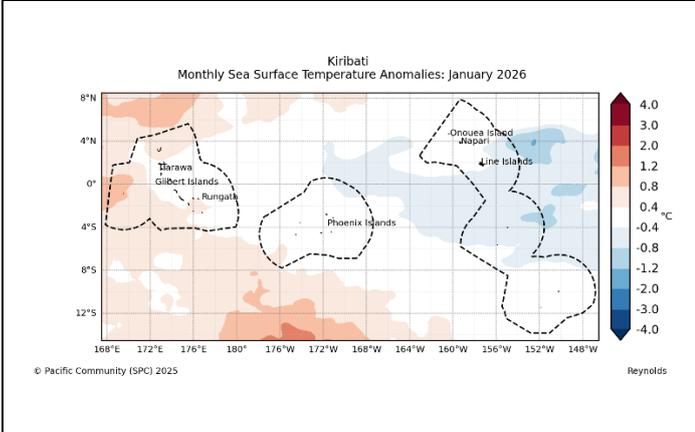


Part 2: Recent Ocean Observation

Monthly/Three months: January and November 2025 to January 2026

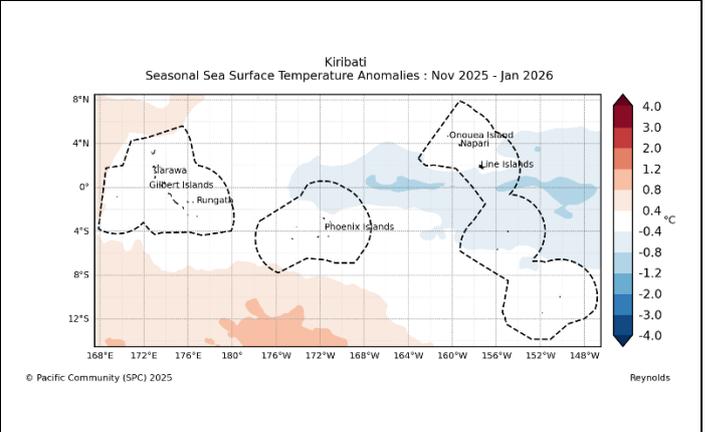
Monthly: January 2026

Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (Image 1):

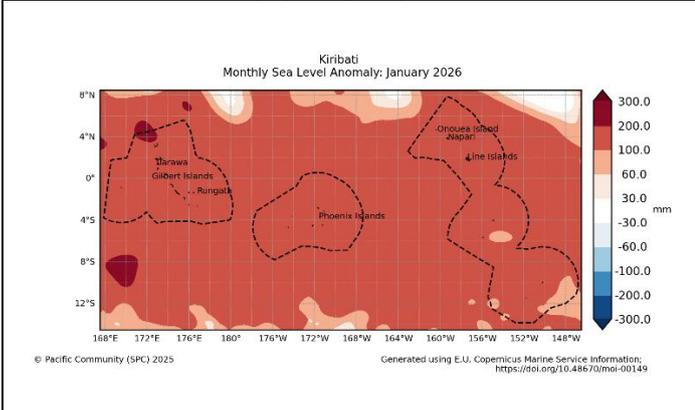


Last three months: November 2025 to January 2026

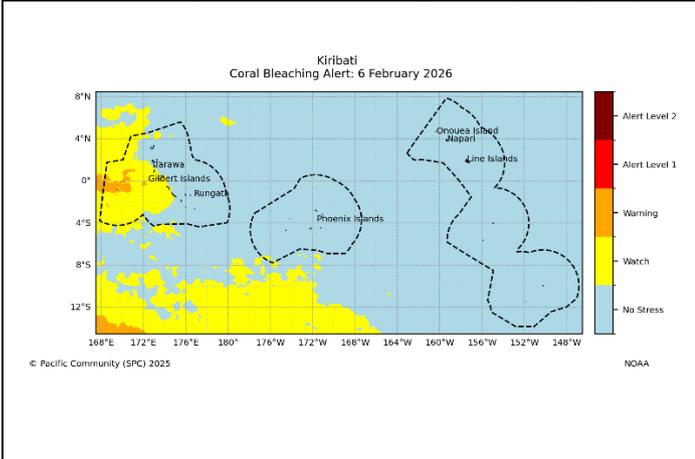
Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (Image 4):



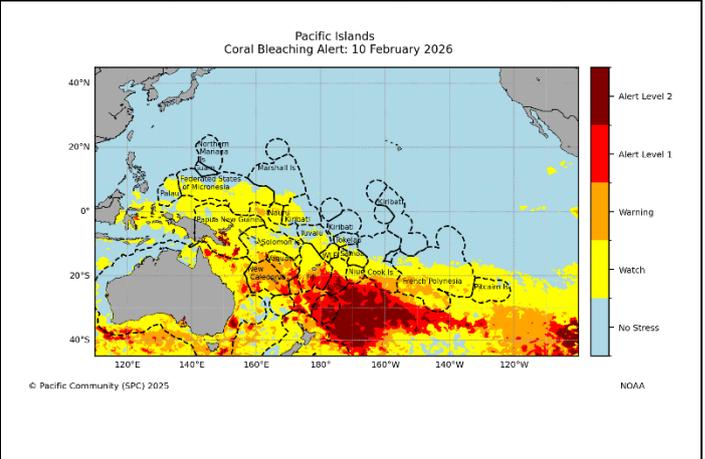
Sea level anomaly (Image 2):



National daily coral bleaching alert (Image 3):



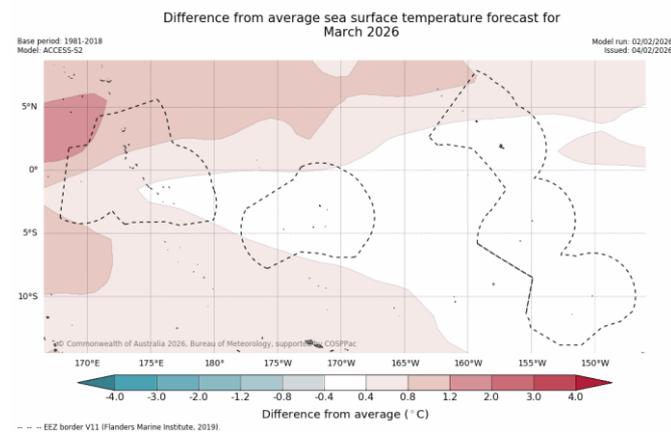
Pacific daily coral bleaching alert (Image 5):



Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for March and March to May 2026

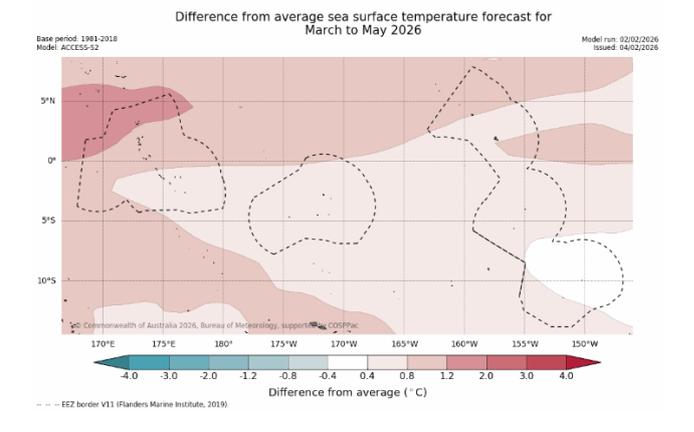
Monthly: March 2026

Monthly sea surface temperature anomaly (Image 5):

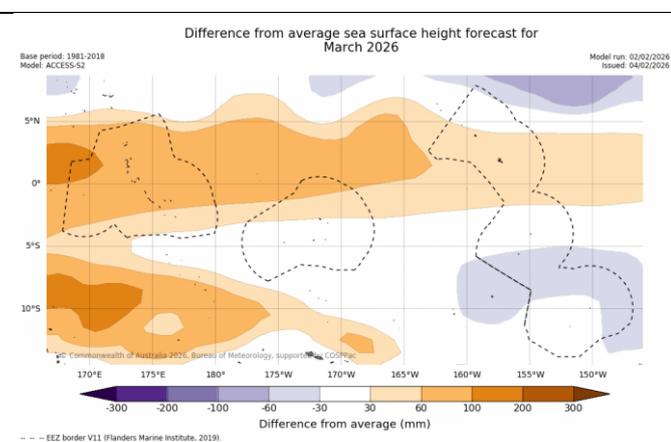


Seasonal: March to May 2026

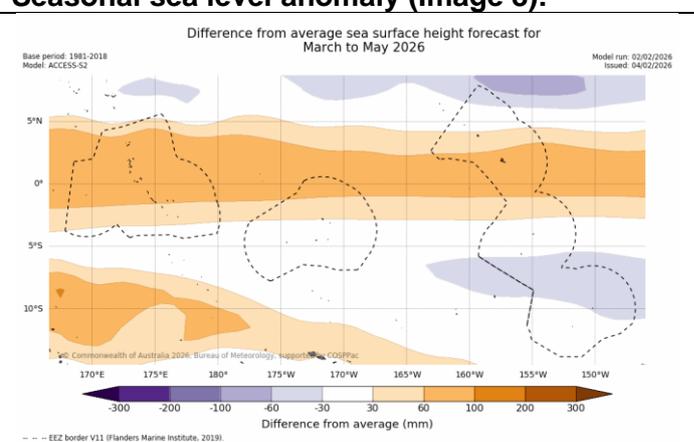
Seasonal sea surface temperature anomaly (Image 6):



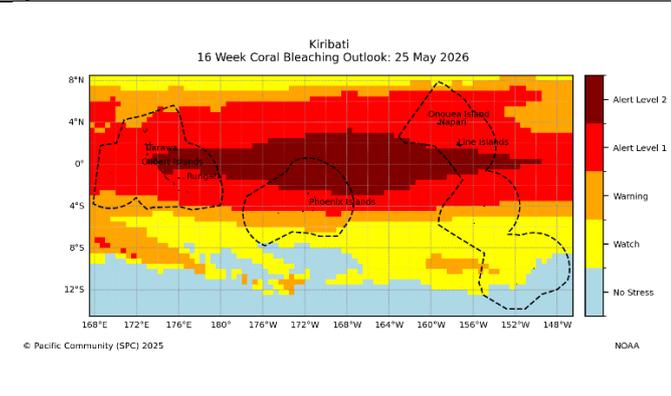
Monthly sea level anomaly (Image 7):



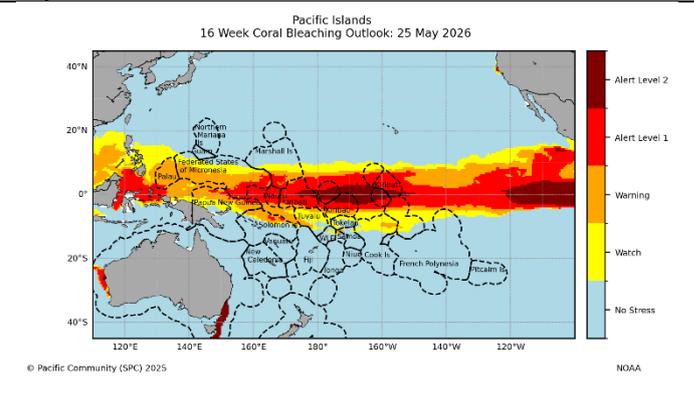
Seasonal sea level anomaly (Image 8):



National 4-week Coral Bleaching Outlook (Image 9):



Pacific 4-week Coral Bleaching Outlook (Image 10):



Summary Statement

Monthly and last three months: January/November 2025 to January 2026 statement

The rainfall for January was below normal over Kanton and Kiritimati while the rest were near-normal. Kanton recorded its driest January on record.

For the past three months, rainfall was below normal over Beru, Kanton and Kiritimati while the remaining stations were near-normal. Kanton recorded its fourth driest for November 2025 to January 2026.

Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for March and March to May 2026

Monthly /Seasonal rainfall and temperature Outlook statements

The rainfall for March 2026 is very likely to be below normal over most parts of the Kiribati region. In northern Gilbert and some areas in the Line shows March's rainfall is likely to be near-normal.

The rainfall for March to May 2026 is likely to be below normal over some parts of the Gilbert islands and southern Line islands. In the Phoenix and Northern Line islands, the outlook shows March to May 2026 rainfall is likely to be near-normal.

Maximum and minimum temperatures during March 2026 are very likely to be above normal over the Gilbert and some parts of the Line and Phoenix groups. However, the rest of the Phoenix and Line islands are very likely to be near-normal.

Maximum and minimum temperatures averaged over March to May 2026 are very likely to be above normal over Kiribati.

Part 2: Recent Ocean summary statement

Monthly and last three months: January/November 2025 to January 2026

January sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were -0.4 to 0.4°C near-normal to 0.4 to 0.8°C above normal over the Gilbert islands, near-normal over the Phoenix Islands, and near-normal to 0.4 to 0.8°C below normal over the Line Islands.

Averaged over November 2025 to January 2026, sea surface temperatures around the Line and Phoenix Islands were 0.4 to 0.8°C below normal. SSTs were -0.4 to 0.4°C near-normal over the Gilbert islands.

January sea levels around Kiribati were 100 to 200mm above normal.

A coral bleaching Watch status is currently in effect for the Gilbert islands as of 6 February 2026.

Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for March and March to May 2026

Ocean Variable statement

March 2026 sea surface temperatures around the Gilbert and Northern Line islands are predicted to be 0.4 to 1.2°C above normal. SSTs are predicted to be -0.4 to 0.4°C near-normal over the Phoenix Islands and the central and southern Line Islands.

Averaged over March to May 2026, sea surface temperatures around Kiribati are predicted to be 0.4 to 2.0°C above normal.

March and averaged over March to May 2026 sea levels around Kiribati are predicted to be 30 to 100mm above normal.

Coral Bleaching outlook indicates Alert Levels 1 and 2 status for the next 4 weeks.

In brief for Teleconference

- Rainfall was below normal over Kanton and Kiritimati for January and November 2025 to January 2026, except Beru where rainfall was near-normal for January but below normal in November 2025 to January 2026. The rest of the stations were near-normal for both periods.
- The rainfall outlook generally indicates a below average most likely in March 2026 but near-normal for total rainfall over March to May 2026.
- SSTs were below normal, near-normal and above normal for January and below normal to near-normal from November 2025 to January 2026. The outlook shows near-normal to above normal SSTs for the next one month and above normal SSTs for the next three months.
- Sea levels were above normal for January. Above normal sea levels are also predicted for March and March to May 2026.

TABLE 3: Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective NMS engage with stakeholders (January 2026)

Product	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of Male	Number of Female	Disability	Comments (If there are comments from you Stakeholders)
Climate Bulletin	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88	1	
EAR Watch	Drought Committee members.	62	35	27	0	
Briefing Note on Ocean parameters.	Offshore and Coastal Fisheries	4	3	1	0	
Agromet Bulletin	Agriculture and Livestock Division (ALD)	4	1	3	0	
Ocean Outlook	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88	1	
Media release	All media outlets	12	6	6	0	
Climate data request	KIC	1	0	1	0	
Total		241	115	126	1	

Stakeholder category	Do your products reach this group? (Y/N)	Tailored product? (Y/N)
Agriculture sector	Y	Y
Disaster Risk Reduction sector	Y	N
Energy sector	Y	N
Health sector	Y	N
Water sector	Y	N
Fisheries and Aquaculture sector	Y	Y
Tourism sector	Y	N
Maritime sector	Y	N
Research & education sector	Y	Y
Women's [] organisations	Y	N
National disability organisations	Y	N
Community based organisations (e.g. councils)	Y	N
Products offered in local dialects/ languages	Y	N

Table 4: Impacts of Severe weather and climate events

Date(s)	Phenomena/Event	Location	Image
9 th January 2026	Moderate winds, cloudiness from bands of clouds associated with a trough slowly moving over the western Kiribati group.	Betio, Tarawa.	
25 th January 2026	Isolated rainfall with gust of winds up to 26 knots, from convective cloud bands associated with the ITCZ slowly moving over the northern islands.	Around Tarawa and data reported moderate winds from Beru station, max 14knots, northwesterly.	No image available.