



Kiribati Meteorological Service  
Member of WMO

**Contacts:**  
Tel (686) 75126511 & 75125444  
Email: [cmo@met.gov.ki](mailto:cmo@met.gov.ki)  
Website: [www.met.gov.ki](http://www.met.gov.ki)

### Outline:

1. Climate Summary
2. ENSO Update
3. Rainfall Outlooks for 3months period.
4. Regional rainfall maps for 3months period.

### Important Notes:

The forecast confidence score has been categorised as follows:

**Very Low:**  $X < 0.0$ , **Low:**  $0 \leq X < 5$ , **Moderate:**  $5 \leq X < 10$ , **Good:**  $10 \leq X < 15$ , **High:**  $15 \leq X < 25$ , **Very High:**  $25 \leq X < 35$ , **Exceptional:**  $X \geq 35$

### ENSO Active Periods based on Historical data:

April to June– months it tends to develop in.

October to February– tends to reach their maximum strength when developed.

Typically persists for 9-12 months, though occasionally persisting for up to 2 years

Typically recur every 2 to 7 years.



Australian Government  
Bureau of Meteorology

NIWA  
Taihoro Nukurangi

# Kiribati Climate Outlook

*December 2018 to February 2019*

Kiribati Meteorological Service Division  
Office of Te Beretitenti

## I. CLIMATE OUTLOOK SUMMARY

DECEMBER 2018

**El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**- remains at El Niño ALERT while the SSTs is above El Nino thresholds.

**Statistical prediction tool**– Above normal rainfall is predicted for all stations.

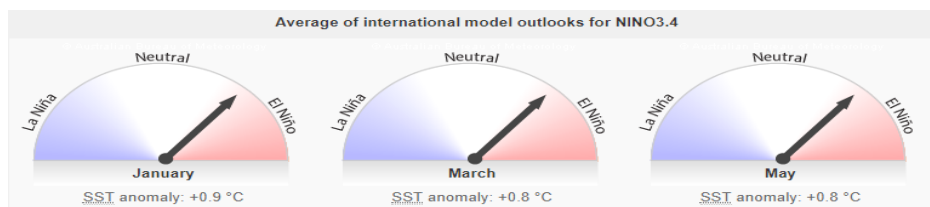
**Dynamical models**– Above normal rainfall and Normal rainfall is most likely the outcome of Kiribati.

## 2. EI NINO - SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) UPDATE

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains at El Nino Alert meaning the chance of El Niño forming in the coming months is around 70%.

Sea Surface Temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean remains above El Niño thresholds, but atmospheric indicators have yet to show a consistent El Niño signal. This suggests that the tropical Pacific atmosphere and ocean are not reinforcing with each other. Most models indicate SSTs in the tropical Pacific Ocean are likely to remain near or above El Niño levels until at least the middle of 2019. If SSTs did maintain their current anomalous warmth through summer, it would increase the chance of El Niño emerging in 2019.

### ENSO Outlook for January, March and May 2019



The arrows on the dials above indicate the combined average of monthly NINO3.4 outlooks from a survey of international global climate models. Note that the individual model runs vary around the average.

## 3. RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR 3 MONTHS PERIOD - SCOPIC OUTLOOK

### Butaritari

(December 2018 to February 2019)

The most likely outcome is above normal and normal rainfall is the next most likely for the next three months.

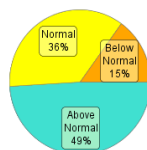
Forecast confidence is very high.

**3 months rainfall ranges:**

**Above normal >1025.7mm**

**Normal >mm but <673.3mm**

**Below normal <673.3mm**



### Tarawa

(December 2018 to February 2019)

The most likely outcome is above normal rainfall for the next three months.

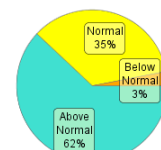
Forecast confidence is very high.

**3 months rainfall ranges:**

**Above normal >852.7mm**

**Normal >385.2mm but <852.7mm**

**Below normal <385.2mm**



## SCOPIC OUTLOOK

### Beru

(December 2018 to February 2019)

The most likely outcome is Above normal for next three months.

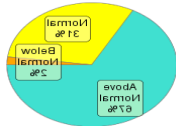
Forecast confidence is exceptional.

3 months rainfall ranges:

Above normal >660.0mm

Normal >163.0mm, <660.0mm

Below normal <163.0mm



### Kiritimati

(December 2018 to February 2019)

The most likely outcome is above normal for next three months.

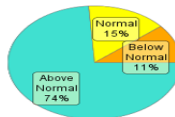
Forecast confidence is exceptional.

3 months rainfall ranges:

Above normal >153.8mm

Normal >55.1mm but <153.8mm

Below normal <55.1mm



### Kanton

(December 2018 to February 2019)

The most likely outcome is above normal for next three months.

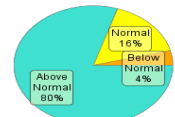
Forecast confidence is exceptional.

3 months rainfall ranges:

Above normal > 203.3mm

Normal >29.4mm but <203.3mm

Below normal <29.4mm



## 4. ISLAND CLIMATE UPDATE OUTLOOK

### Kiribati Groups

The most likely outcome is Average above normal for all islands in Kiribati.

Forecast confidence is high.

Island	Below	Normal	Above	Outlook	Skill
Eastern	25	40	45	AVG-Above	High
Phoenix	15	40	45	AVG-Above	Moderate-High
Western	20	35	45	AVG-Above	High

## 5. REGIONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK MAPS FOR 3 MONTHS PERIOD

Precipitation for December 2018-February 2019

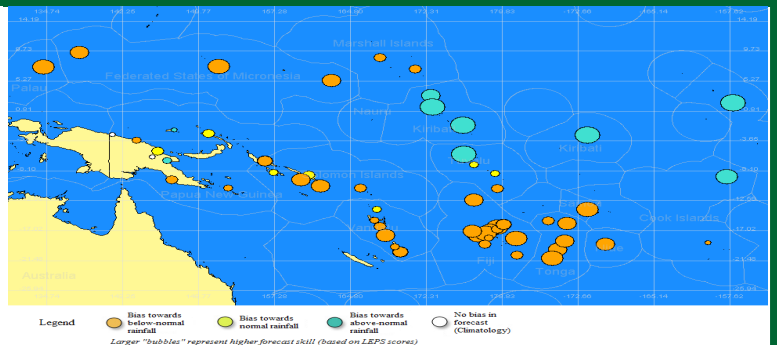
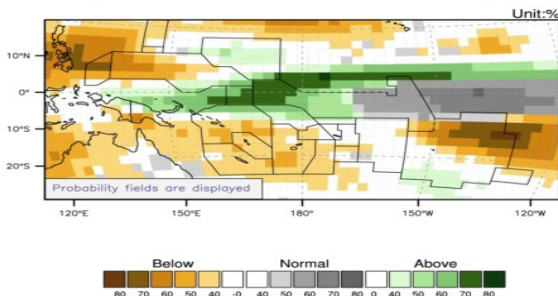


Fig 1. APCC Outlook: Above Normal is expected for the Gilbert group.

Fig 2. SCOPIC Outlook: Above Normal rainfall in Gilbert, Phoenix and Line Islands.

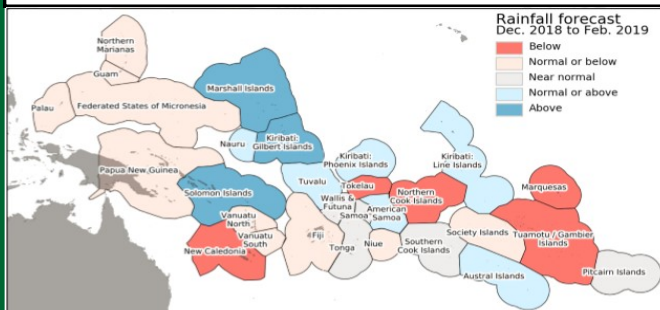


Fig 3. Island Climate Update Outlook: Normal or Above for the Line and Phoenix Islands while Gilbert Islands is above normal rainfall.

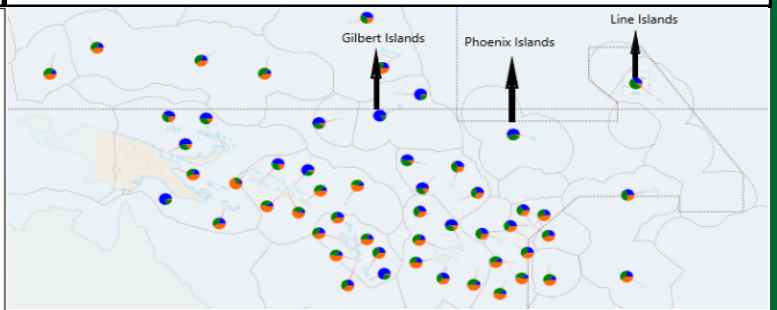


Fig 4. PICASO Outlook: Above normal for the Phoenix and Gilbert islands while the Line Islands is Normal rainfall.

This summary report is prepared as soon as possible by the end of the month, once climate data completed from the operational meteorological stations around Kiribati together with the ENSO information which is received from various Meteorological Agencies around the world. Every effort is made to verify observational data. The Kiribati Meteorological Service does not guarantee the accuracy and reliability of the analysis and rainfall predictions presented, and accepts no liability for any losses incurred through the use of this summary and its contents. The contents of the summary may be freely disseminated provided the source is acknowledged. All enquiries on this report should be directed to the Kiribati Meteorological Service HQ at Temakin Betio. For further information please contact: Chief Meteorological Officer, Kiribati Meteorological Services (686) 75126511 Email cmo@met.gov.ki