

NATIONAL STATEMENT ON TROPICAL CYCLONE SEASON 2019/2020

ISSUED: 01ST NOV 2019

BACKGROUND

- November to April every year is known as a wet season (Auu-meang) in Kiribati and similarly a period that Kiribati usually experiences severe weather and damaging waves that are associated with Tropical Cyclones (TCs).
- The official TC season in the south west Pacific which also covers the Kiribati islands is from 1st November to 31st April.
- As Kiribati is located close to the equator, tropical cyclones are unlikely to develop in the Kiribati waters, however, based on past events, Kiribati can be impacted by heavy rain, damaging winds and storm surges or waves from distant TCs (e.g Cyclone Pam in 2015).
- Historically, there are other severe weather events and damaging waves affecting the Kiribati region during dry season (Auu-maiaki) from May - October but majority of these events occur during the November to April wet season.

TROPICAL CYCLONE OUTLOOK FROM NOVEMBER 2019 to APRIL 2020 (2019/2020)

- TC activity in the western North Pacific is expected to increase through November and possibly into December.
- According to recently run TC models the chances of Kiribati being impacted is LOW or UNLIKELY (0-1), however, the same models predict HIGHER risk for nearby countries such as Tuvalu (for the Gilbert Island group) and Tokelau (for the Phoenix Island group).
- This outlook is based upon the current El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) state which is **Neutral**. Models predict that this neutral state is likely to persist through the TC season.

RECOMMENDATION

- Based on 2019/2020 TC outlook, the public and communities throughout Kiribati should remain vigilant and prepared considering the high risk of TCs to nearby countries.
- It very important to always prepare at this time of the year to reduce the risk of life, livelihoods and properties from TC related impacts.
- Kiribati Meteorological Services will continue to monitor and update you throughout the season.

Further Information:

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***Note:** This information is a summary of the Tropical Cyclone Outlook issued from the Nadi Regional Specilize Meteorological Centre for Tropical Cyclone in the South West Pacific Ocean and NIWA and prepared for guidance only. The Kiribati Meteorological Service has no liability from the use of this guidance information.*