

Trends in tropical bands broadcasting 2023

by Anker Petersen

Since the Danish Short Wave Club International published the first annual Tropical Bands Survey in 1973, I have registered which stations are active, based upon loggings from our members and other DX-ers around the world. Here is an updated status outside Europe and North America, where Clandestine and Pirate stations are not included.

Active domestic transmitters on 2200 – 5800 kHz

Region	1973	1985	1997	2009	2023
Central Africa	102	76	40	18	1
Southern Africa	57	39	33	20	4
Middle East	9	4	1	0	0
Indian Subcontinent	62	45	45	29	1
South East Asia	40	29	21	4	2
Indonesia	171	105	65	13	2
China, Taiwan, Mongolia	119	110	75	32	19
CIS (former USSR)	61	59	47	7	2
Far East	38	28	28	9	6
Papua New Guinea	17	20	20	15	0
Australia and other Pacific	10	4	13	8	10
Central America, Mexico	21	23	24	5	0
Caribbean	29	3	3	2	3
Northwestern South America	98	41	19	3	1
Ecuador	47	33	22	5	0
Peru	78	69	78	28	6
Bolivia	35	42	25	14	1
Brazil	107	87	67	35	7
Southern South America	5	2	1	0	1
Total	1106	819	627	247	66

During the past year the previous trend, that Tropical stations slowly disappear, continued throughout the world with a loss of more stations. China is now dominating, while most All India Radio stations have closed down. A year ago the Total was also 66. The reason is, that other media get higher priority, than keeping elderly Shortwave transmitters alive.

Here are some of the stations on the Tropical Bands, which have closed down during 2022:

kHz	kW	Station	Country	Last log
2325	0,4	Station X, Wee Waa, NSW	Australia	JUL22
4885	5	R Dif. Acreana, Rio Branco, AC	Brazil	JAN22
4895	10	Mongolian R, Mörön	Mongolia	MAR22
4925	5	R Educação Rural, Tefé, AM	Brazil	JUN22
5130	15	R Sadaye Zindagi	Kyrgyzstan	MAR22