



Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)

Regional Early Action Rainfall Watch March 2023

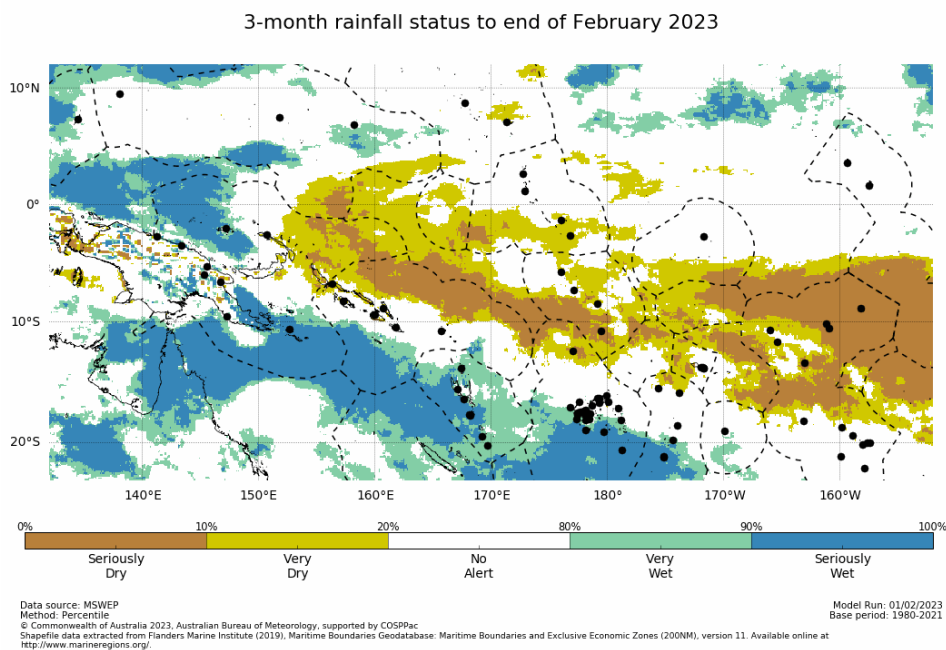
El Niño-Southern Oscillation Status: as of 28 February 2023

La Niña has weakened in the tropical Pacific Ocean and is likely near its end. Ocean indicators of La Niña have returned to neutral levels, while atmospheric indicators that remain at La Niña levels have started to weaken.

For Pacific Island countries in the western and central Pacific region, there is a small region where below normal rainfall is likely or very likely stretching east and southeast from northeastern PNG islands in the west, to a larger region in central Kiribati in east, and further to Cook Islands and French Polynesia and Pitcairn Island in the southeast.

To the southwest of this region, the ACCESS model shows the opposite signal, that is, moderate to high chances for above average rainfall in a band stretching northern PNG EEZ, the southern Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, most of Fiji, central and southern Tonga and Niue. Above normal is also favoured in southern Palau and northern and eastern FSM.

Rainfall Status: as of 28 February 2023



The 3-month rainfall status for December 2022 to February 2023 was Very Dry or Seriously Dry in the northeast New Guinea Islands, northern Solomon Islands, far southeast FSM, small patches of RMI, Nauru, Kiribati (especially south of the equator), Tuvalu, far northern Fiji, far northern Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, Tokelau, Samoa, American Samoa, the northern and central Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia.

Conversely, the status was Very Wet or Seriously Wet over the same period in western Palau, patches of central and northern FSM, southeastern and northwest PNG, the far south of the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, southern Fiji, southern Tonga, and patches in Niue.

The regional maps are available via http://access-s.clide.cloud/files/project/EAR_watch/pacific/

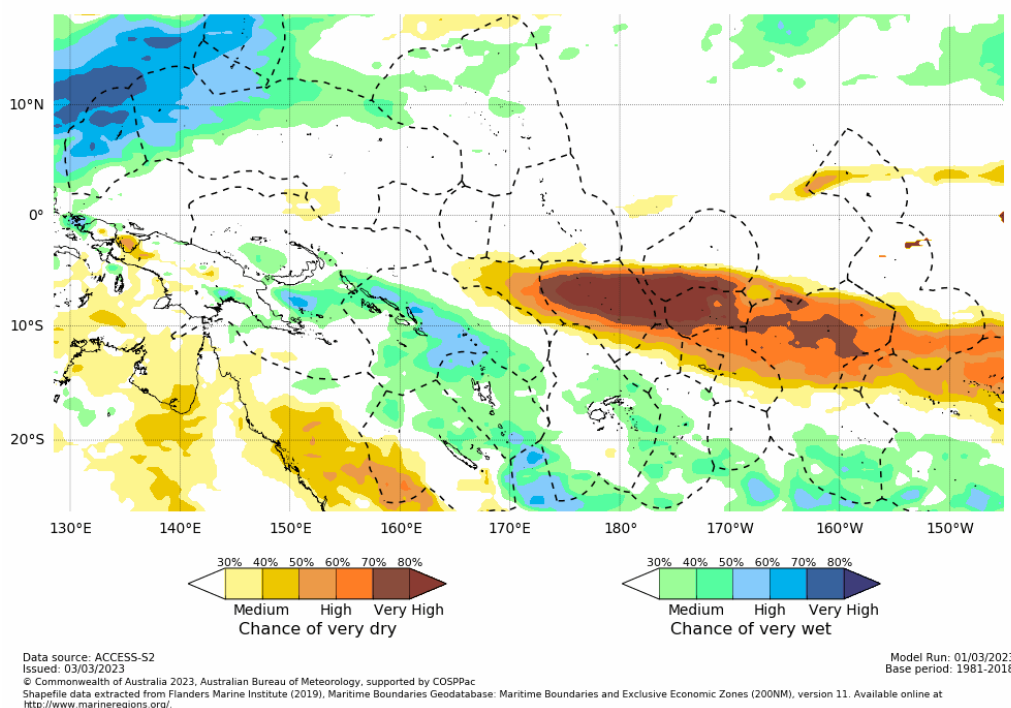
Three-month total rainfall is typically used for monitoring grasslands, shallow rooted plants and small water body (e.g. small water tanks, streams) moisture deficits. Allow for uncertainty associated with island size, topography, geology and soil type.

Rainfall Status

- Estimates of moisture/water stress are based on recent rainfall compared with historical observations using the Percentile (Decile) Index.
- Definitions: "Very Dry" = rainfall in the lowest 20% of the historical record for that location and season, "Very Wet" = rainfall in the highest 20% for that location and season, "Seriously Dry" = rainfall in the lowest 10% of the historical record for that location and season, "Seriously Wet" = rainfall in the highest 10% for that location and season.

Monthly Rainfall Watch: March 2023

Chance of extreme rainfall for March 2023

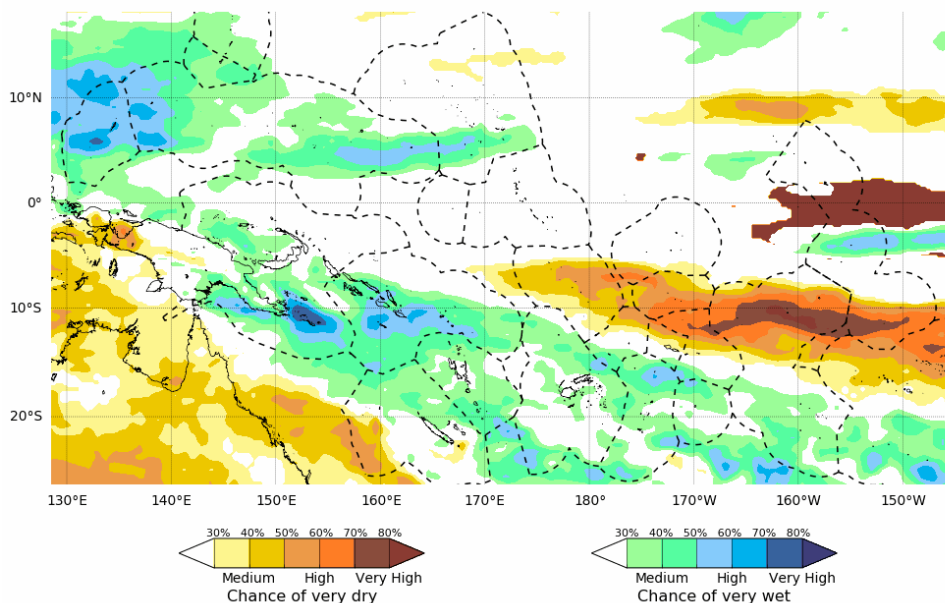


For March 2023, there is a high to very high chance that rainfall will be in the Very Dry or Seriously Dry ranges in parts of Kiribati (southern Phoenix, and southern Line Islands), Tuvalu, northern Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, Tokelau, northern American Samoa, the northern Cook Islands and northern French Polynesia.

There is a high to very high chance that rainfall will be in the Very Wet or Seriously Wet ranges across western FSM, and small parts of Vanuatu.

Seasonal Rainfall Watch: March– May 2023

Chance of extreme rainfall for March to May 2023



Data source: ACCESS-S2
Issued: 03/03/2023

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Shapefile data extracted from Flanders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 11. Available online at <http://www.marinerregions.org/>.

Model Run: 01/03/2023
Base period: 1981-2018

For March to May 2023, there is a high to high chance of rainfall in the Very Dry or Seriously Dry ranges in northeast Tuvalu, the far south of central Kiribati plus the southern and central parts of eastern Kiribati, northern Wallis and Futuna, Tokelau, northern Samoa, northern American Samoa, northern Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia.

There is a high to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet or Seriously Wet ranges in Palau, western and eastern FSM, southwest RMI, southeastern PNG, and parts of Tonga.

Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall Watch

- Information provided has been interpreted on a divisional scale where possible as Pacific Island Countries can experience a high range of rainfall variability within country. It is possible to have forecasts which simultaneously favour above and below normal rainfall in different parts of the one country.

- Definitions: "Chance of Very Dry" = percent chance of rainfall in the lowest 20% of the historical record for that location and season, "Chance of Very Wet" = percent chance of rainfall in the highest 20% for that location and season. Medium, High and Very High refer to the percent probability level where Very High has the highest confidence and represents the range 70% and above.

- Local Met Services should be contacted for detailed information and outlooks. This product is not to be distributed to the public or other organisations.