



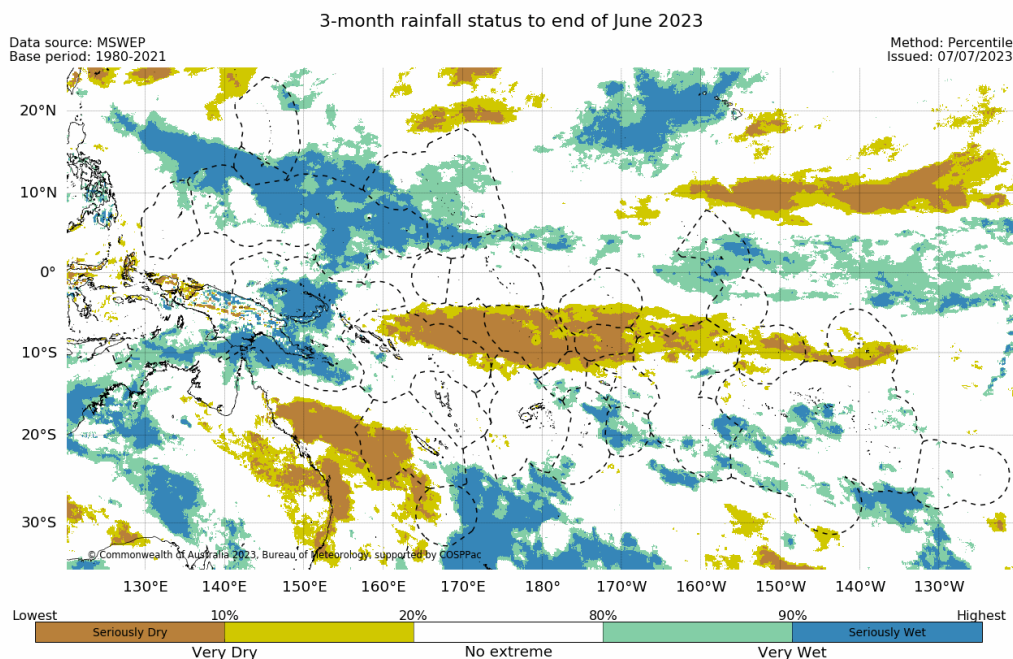
Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)

Regional Early Action Rainfall Watch July 2023

El Niño-Southern Oscillation Status: as of 30 June 2023

The Bureau's ENSO Outlook remain El Niño ALERT. When El Niño Alert criteria have been met in the past, an El Niño event has developed around 70% of the time. Central and eastern Pacific sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are exceeding El Niño thresholds. Models indicate a high likelihood of further warming, with SSTs exceeding El Niño thresholds until at least the beginning of the southern hemisphere summer. In terms of atmospheric indicators, recent values of the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) have risen back to neutral levels. Sustained changes in wind, cloud and broad-scale pressure patterns towards El Niño-like patterns have not yet been observed. This means the Pacific Ocean and atmosphere have yet to become fully coupled, as occurs during El Niño events.

Rainfall Status: as of 30 June 2023



The 3-month rainfall status for April to June 2023 was Very Dry or Seriously Dry stretching eastwards from eastern Solomon Islands, through Tuvalu, northern Fiji, Kiribati (southern halves of central and eastern), northern Wallis and Futuna, Tokelau, patches in Samoa and American Samoa, northern Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia. In addition, a area of Very Dry and Seriously Dry lay over the Coral Sea, western New Caledonia and southeast towards Norfolk Island.

Conversely, the rainfall status was Very Wet or Seriously Wet over the same period over northern Palau, Guam, northern and southern CNMI, FSM, northern and central RMI and the northern Line Islands (Kiribati). The same status was also observed over most of PNG, southern Wallis and Futuna, northern Tonga, American Samoa, Niue, southern Cook Islands and French Polynesia.

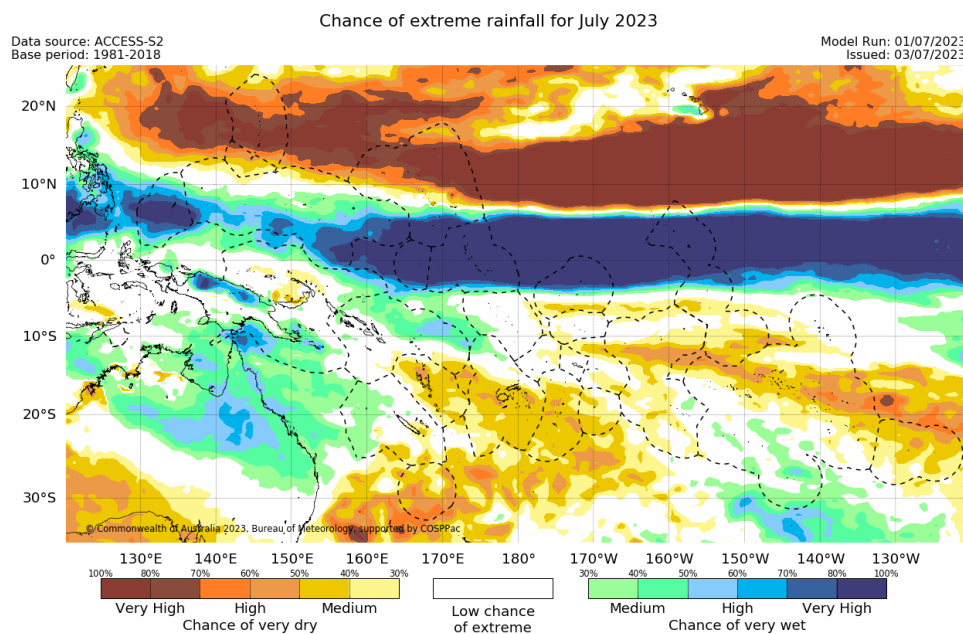
The regional maps are available via http://access-s.clide.cloud/files/project/EAR_watch/pacificx/

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.

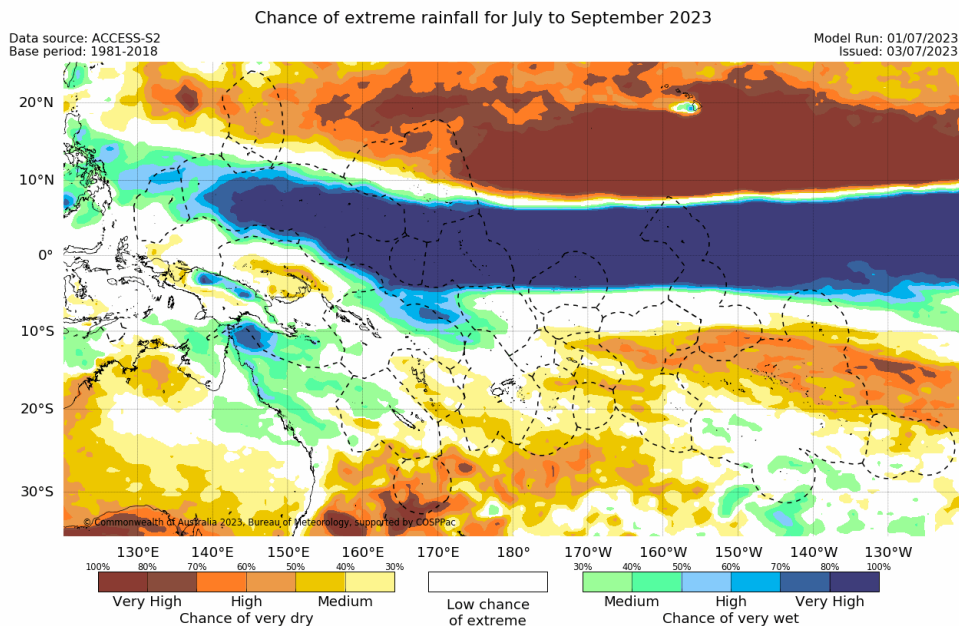
Monthly Rainfall Watch: July 2023



For July 2023, there is a medium to high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet or Seriously Wet category in Palau, central and southern FSM, southern RMI, Nauru, Kiribati (Gilbert, northern Phoenix and Line Islands), northern Solomon Islands, western Tuvalu and northern Fiji. There is also a region of Very Wet or Seriously Wet conditions over Momase region of PNG, southeast PNG mainland towards the Coral Sea and over western New Caledonia.

There is a medium to very high chance that rainfall will be in the Very Dry or Seriously Dry category in Guam, CNMI, northern RMI, PNG Islands, southern New Caledonia, Vanuatu, mainland Fiji, Tonga, Niue, Kiribati (southern Phoenix and Line Islands), eastern Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, southern Tokelau, and American Samoa, most of Cook Islands, central French Polynesi and the Pitcairn Islands.

Seasonal Rainfall Watch: July – September 2023



For July to September 2023, there is a high to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet or Seriously Wet category stretching from northern Palau east to southeastwards across FSM, southern RMI, Nauru, northeast Solomon Islands, Kiribati (Gilbert, northern Phoenix and northern Line Islands) and western Tuvalu, while the chances of very wet are medium to high in a zone stretching from southeastern PNG across the Coral Sea and towards northwest New Caledonia.

In contrast, there is a medium to high chance of rainfall in the Very Dry or Seriously Dry ranges in parts of the PNG Highlands and Islands, southern New Caledonia, Vanuatu, southern Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, southern Tokelau, American Samoa, Niue, most of Cook Islands, central and northern French Polynesia and Pitcairn Islands.

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.