



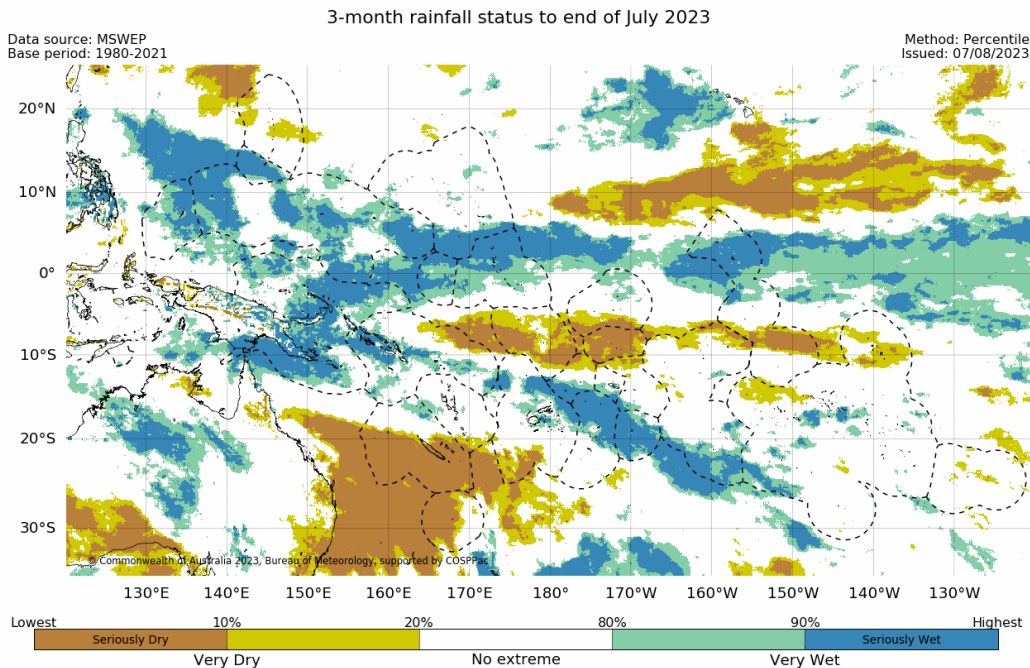
# Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) Regional Early Action Rainfall Watch August 2023

## El Niño-Southern Oscillation Status: as of 31 July 2023

The Bureau's El Niño Alert continues, with El Niño development considered likely in the coming weeks, despite the current lack of atmospheric response. When El Niño Alert criteria have been met in the past, an El Niño event has developed around 70% of the time.

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the tropical Pacific are exceeding El Niño thresholds, with climate models indicating this is likely to continue at least through to the end of the year. In the atmosphere, however, wind, cloud and broad-scale pressure patterns mostly continue to reflect neutral ENSO conditions. This means the Pacific Ocean and atmosphere have yet to become fully coupled, as occurs during El Niño events.

## Rainfall Status: as of 31 July 2023



The 3-month rainfall status for May to July 2023 was Very Dry or Seriously Dry stretching eastwards from northeast Solomon Islands, through Tuvalu, Kiribati (southern halves of central and eastern), northern Wallis and Futuna, Tokelau, far northern Cook Islands, and patches of northern French Polynesia. In addition, a area of Very Dry and Seriously Dry lay over the Coral Sea, southern New Caledonia, far southern Vanuatu, southwest Fiji and southwards towards Norfolk Island.

Conversely, the rainfall status was Very Wet or Seriously Wet for the same period over Palau, Guam, most of FSM, southern RMI, Nauru, Kiribati (Gilbert, north of both Phoenix and Line Islands). The

same status was also observed over most of PNG, Solomon Islands, parts of Fiji, northern half of Tonga, southern Samoa, Niue and patches in southern Cook Islands and French Polynesia.

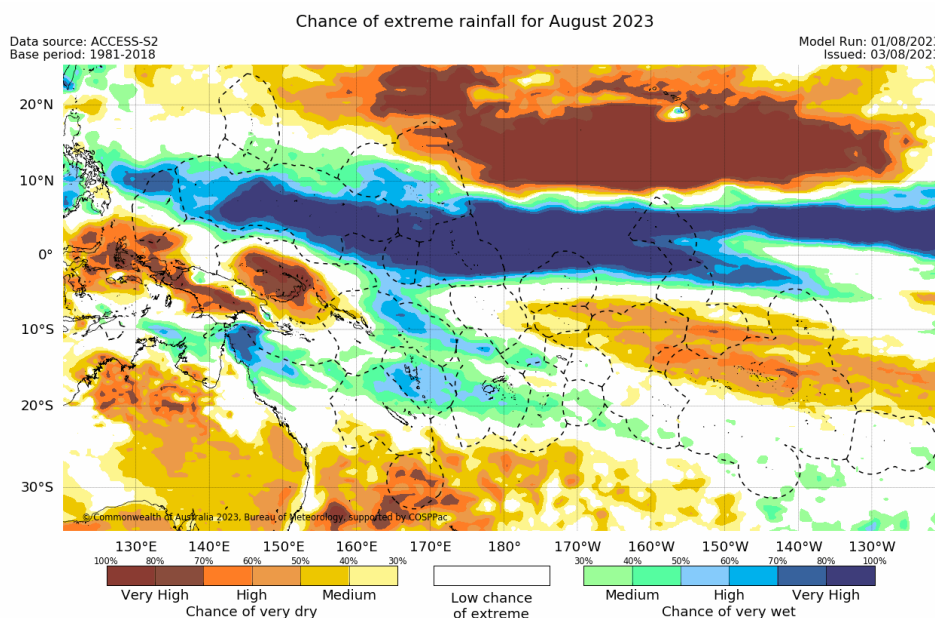
The regional maps are available via [http://access-s.clide.cloud/files/project/EAR\\_watch/pacific/](http://access-s.clide.cloud/files/project/EAR_watch/pacific/)

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.

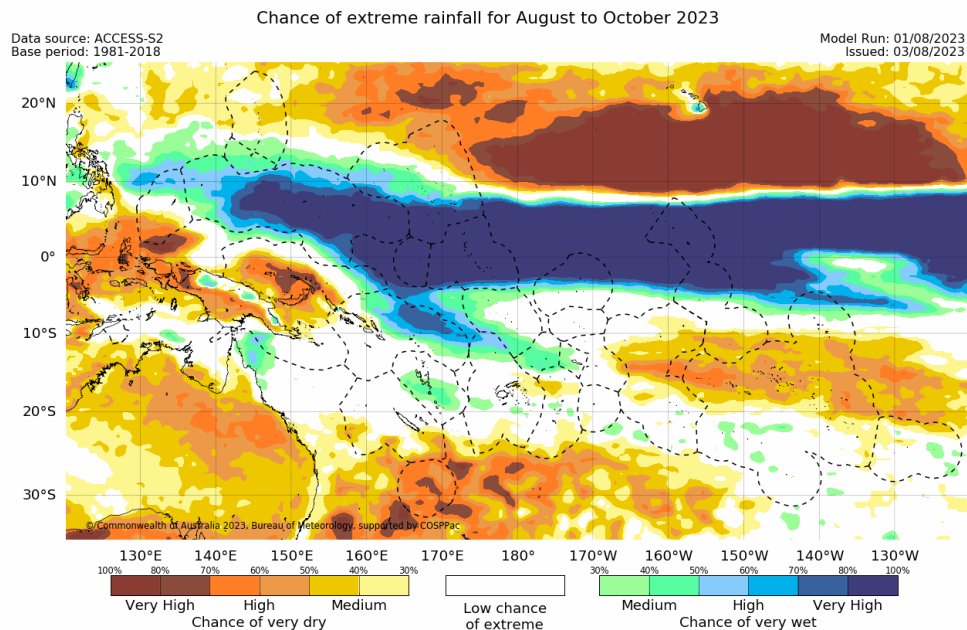
## Monthly Rainfall Watch: August 2023



For August 2023, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category in northern Palau, Guam, southern CNMI, FSM, central and southern RMI, Nauru, Kiribati (Gilbert, northern Phoenix and Line Islands), eastern Solomon Islands, northern New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, Niue, and isolated patches over the southern Cook Islands.

There is a medium to very high chance that rainfall will be in the Very Dry category in northern CNMI, PNG mainland and Islands, western Solomon Islands, northern RMI, far southern New Caledonia, Tokelau, Kiribati (southern Phoenix and Line Islands), northern Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia.

## Seasonal Rainfall Watch: August – October 2023



For August to October 2023, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category stretching from northern Palau east to southeastwards across FSM, Guam, southern CNMI, southern RMI, Nauru, eastern Solomon Islands, western Tuvalu, Kiribati (Gilbert, northern Phoenix and northern Line Islands), while the chances of very wet are medium to high in central and southern Vanuatu, far northern Fiji (Rotuma), Wallis and Futuna, and western Samoa.

In contrast, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Dry range in parts of the PNG Highlands and Islands region, northern CNMI, northern RMI, northern Tonga, central and northern Cook Islands and northern French Polynesia, with patches over western Solomon Islands, plus the south of each of New Caledonia, Fiji, and 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.