



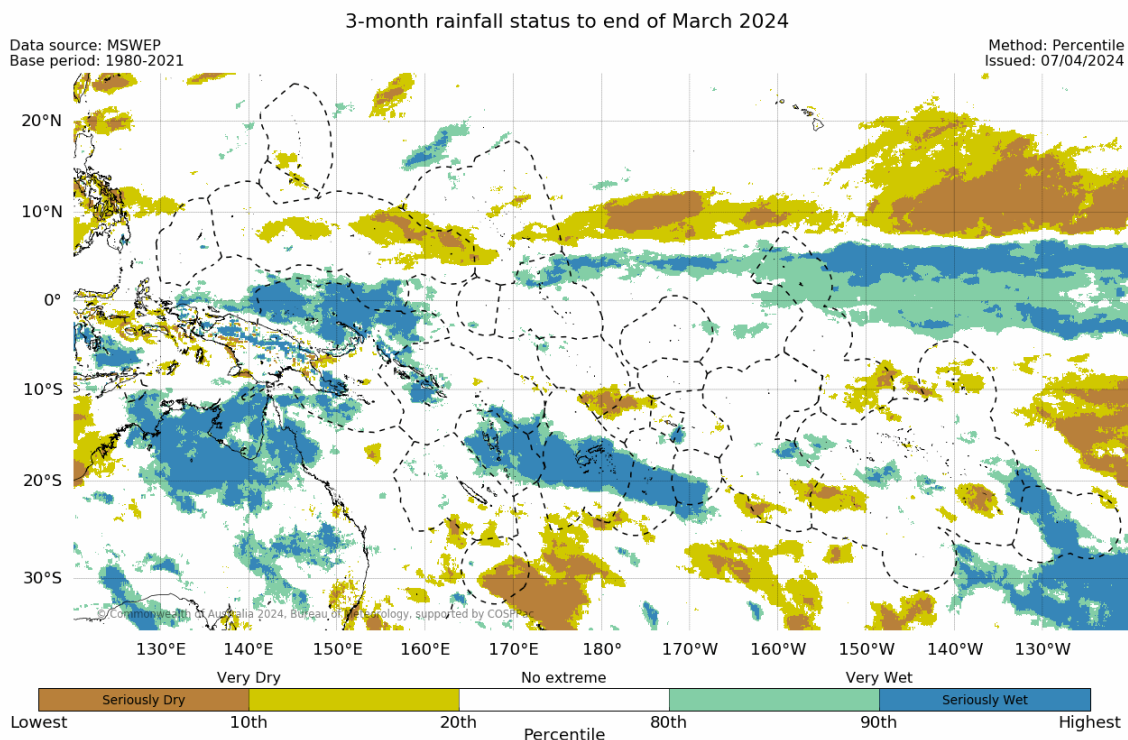
Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)

Regional Early Action Rainfall Watch April 2024

El Niño-Southern Oscillation Status: as of 31 March 2024

The El Niño continues, but is near its end. Climate models indicate sea surface temperatures in the central tropical Pacific are expected to return to ENSO-neutral later in autumn 2024. Oceanic indicators, such as tropical Pacific sea surface temperatures, have been steadily cooling since December, but are still meeting El Niño thresholds. Atmospheric indicators are consistent with a decaying El Niño. Cloudiness near the equatorial Date Line is below average, opposite to that expected during an active El Niño. The 90-day Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is currently -3 , which is consistent with ENSO-neutral. International climate models suggest the central tropical Pacific Ocean will continue to cool in the coming months, with four out of seven climate models indicating the central Pacific is likely to return to neutral ENSO levels by the end of April (i.e., neither El Niño nor La Niña), and all models indicate neutral in May.

Rainfall Status: as of 31 March 2024



The 3-month rainfall status for January to March 2024 was Very Wet or Seriously Wet in the southern hemisphere over northern and southern PNG, western Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, most of Fiji, central Tonga, southern Niue, and over parts of Pitcairn. Patches of Very Wet or Seriously Wet were also observed in southern FSM, and the north of both the Gilbert Islands and Line Islands (Kiribati).

The rainfall status was Very Dry or Seriously Dry for January to March over central and northeastern FSM, patches in southwest and southeast RMI, southern Line Islands (Kiribati), and southern Tuvalu. Patches of Very Dry or Seriously Dry were observed in CNMI, southern New Caledonia, southern

Fiji, southern Tonga, northern Wallis and Futuna, southern Cook Islands, and southern and northern French Polynesia.

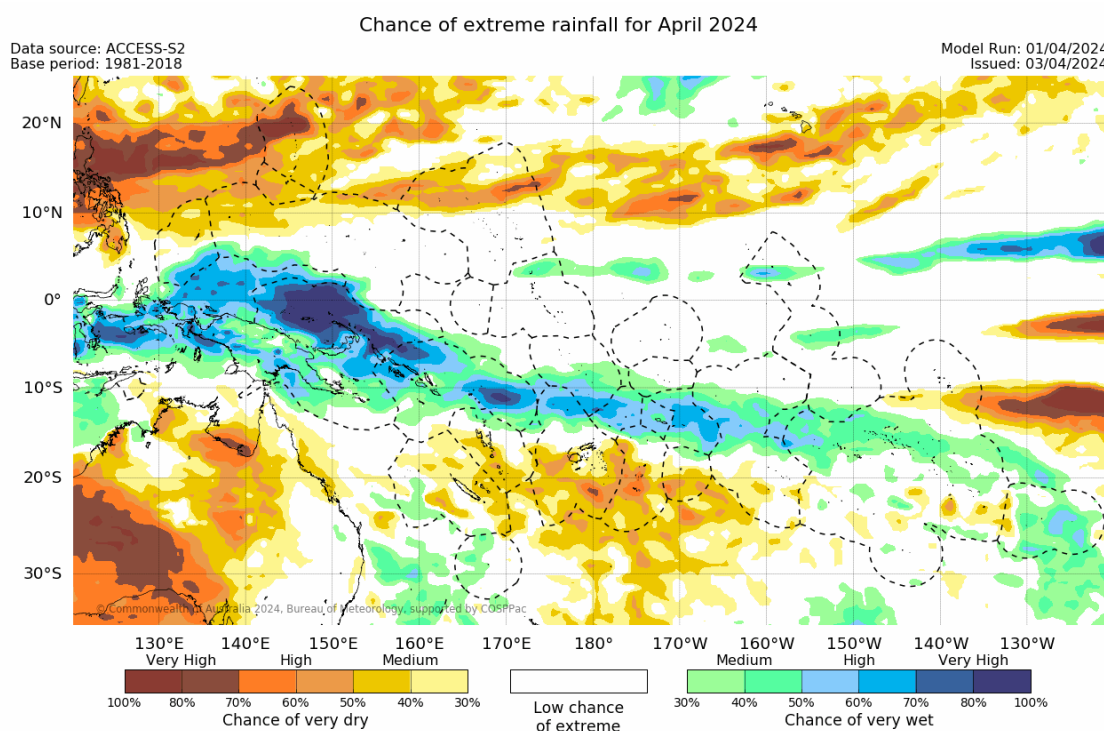
The regional maps are available via http://access-s.clide.cloud/files/project/EAR_watch/pacificx/

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.

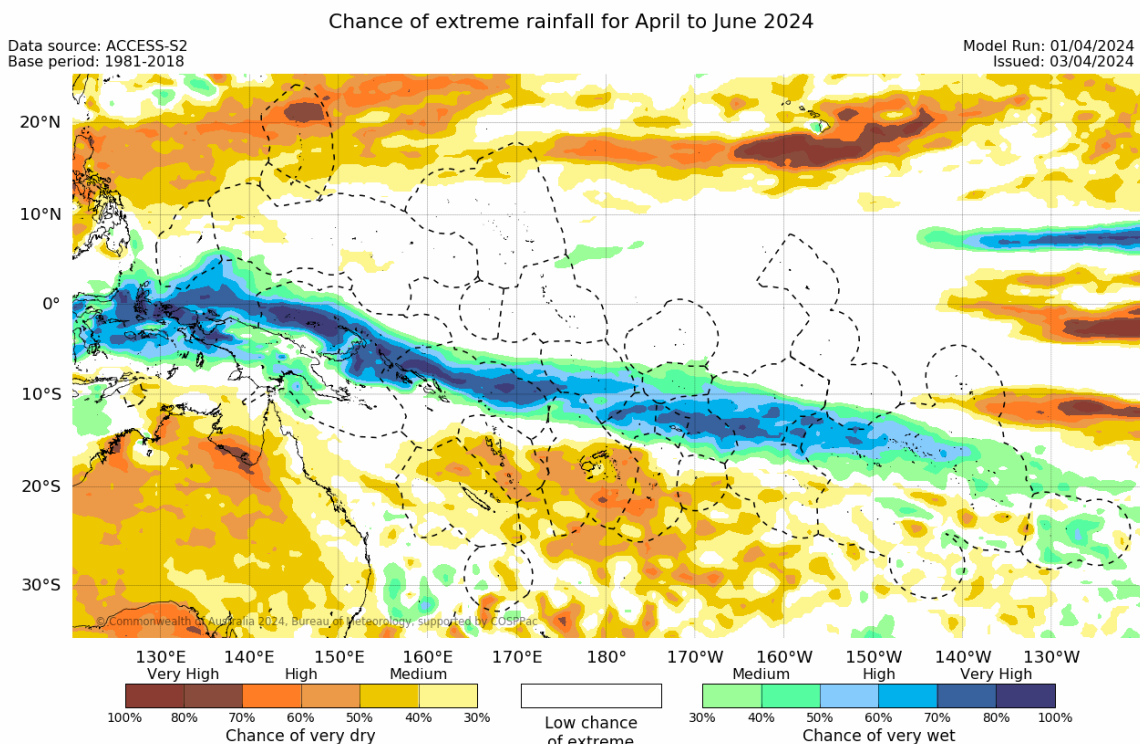
Monthly Rainfall Watch: April 2024



For April 2024, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category (highest quintile, which includes the Seriously Wet category) in a band stretching in a southeasterly direction from southeastern Palau, southwest FSM and PNG in the far west, to Pitcairn Islands in the east. Small patches are also predicted in Kiribati (northern Gilbert Is., northern and central Line Is.), and southwest New Caledonia.

There is a medium to very high chance that rainfall will be in the Very Dry category (lowest quintile, which includes the Seriously Dry category) in a band stretching eastwards from northern Palau across northern FSM, Guam, CNMI, and northern RMI. In the southern hemisphere, there is medium to high chance of the very Dry category over much of New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, central and southern Tonga, southern Niue, southern Cook Islands, and patches over southern and northern French Polynesia..

Seasonal Rainfall Watch: April – June 2024



For April to June 2024, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category (highest quintile, which includes the Seriously Wet category) in a narrow band stretching southeast from southern Palau across PNG, northern Solomon Is, Tuvalu, Fiji (Rotuma), Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, American Samoa, Tokelau, central to northern Cook Islands, the far southern Line Islands, central French Polynesia, and Pitcairn islands.

In contrast, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Dry category (lowest quintile, which includes the Seriously Dry category) in a band stretching from the northern half of Palau across northwest FSM, Guam, CNMI, the far north of RMI, and then further east towards Hawaii. Another band of Very Dry Category stretches from Australia to New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, most of Tonga, Niue, southern Cook Islands, and in patches scattered across French Polynesia.

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 a 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.

