



Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)

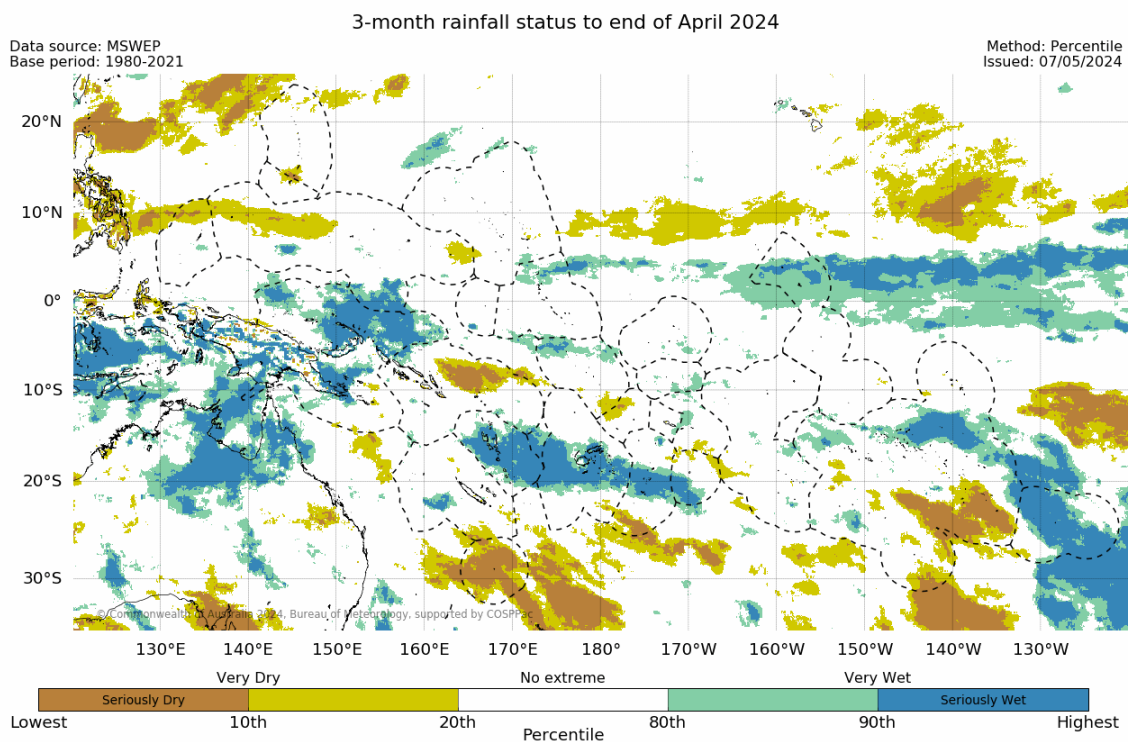
Regional Early Action Rainfall Watch May 2024

El Niño-Southern Oscillation Status: as of 30 April 2024

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central Pacific have been steadily cooling since December 2023. This surface cooling is supported by a significant amount of sub-surface cooling underneath the central and eastern Pacific. Recent cloud and surface pressure patterns are also neutral.

Both Bureau and international climate models suggest ENSO will likely remain neutral until at least July 2024. El Niño and La Niña predictions made in mid-autumn tend to have lower accuracy than predictions made at other times of the year, meaning that current forecasts of the ENSO state beyond July should be used with caution.

Rainfall Status: as of 30 April 2024



The 3-month rainfall status for February to April 2024 was Very Wet or Seriously Wet in the over northern and southern PNG, far northwest Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, most of Fiji's main islands, central Tonga, southwest Niue, far northern Gilbert Islands, northern Line Islands, and north-central French Polynesia.

The rainfall status was Very Dry or Seriously Dry for February to April over northern Palau, western FSM, northeast Solomon Islands, far southern Tonga, and southeast French Polynesia. Small patches of Very Dry or Seriously Dry were observed in CNMI, southern New Caledonia, southern Fiji, southern Tuvalu, and northern Wallis and Futuna.

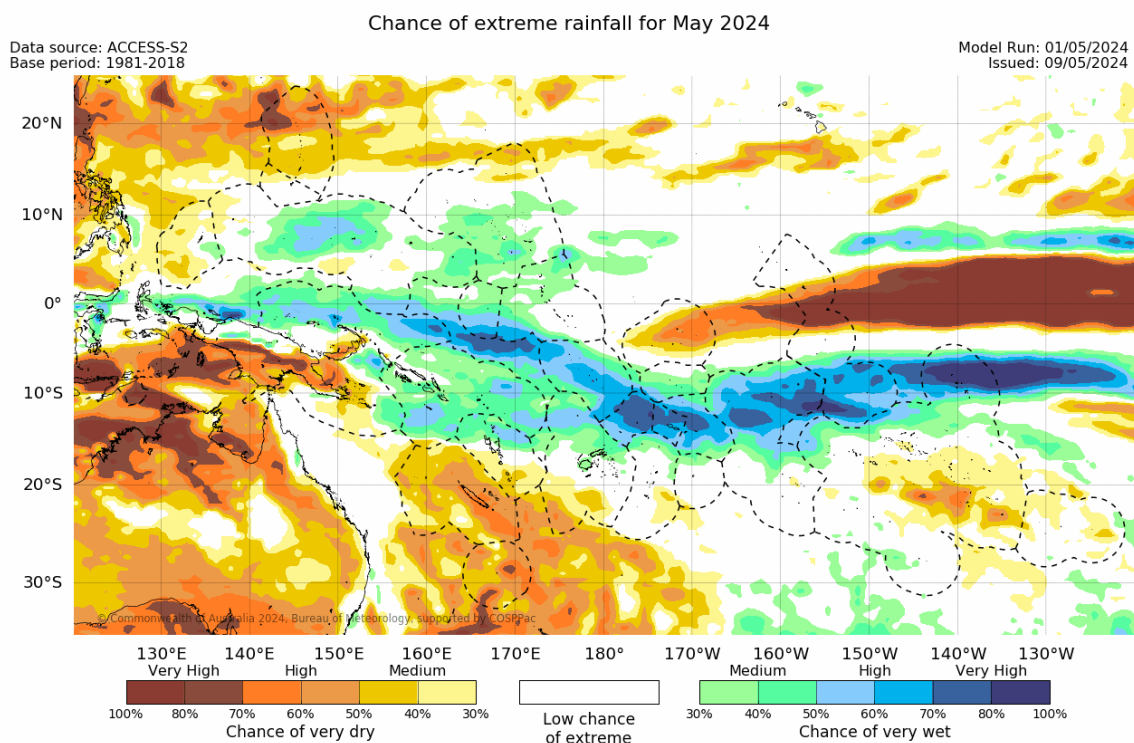
The regional maps are available via http://access-s.clide.cloud/files/project/EAR_watch/pacific/

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.

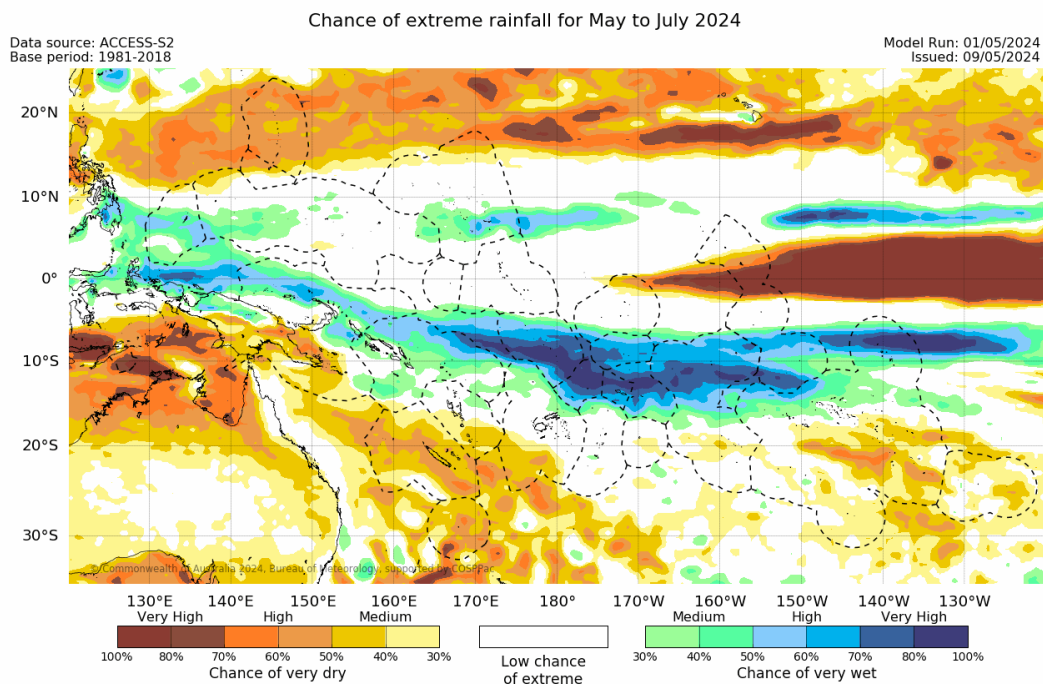
Monthly Rainfall Watch: May 2024



For May 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 northern PNG Islands, across the Solomon Islands, northern Vanuatu in the far west, to northern French Polynesia in the east. Patches are also predicted in central and southeast FSM, central and southern RMI, and Kiribati (northern Gilbert Is., southern Line Is.).

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) from western and northern Palau across northwest Guam, CNMI, and northern RMI towards Hawaii. There is a similar situation over much of PNG mainland, New Caledonia, southern Vanuatu, southern Fiji, southeast Tonga, Kiribati (northern Phoenix and central Line Is.), central French Poynesia, and patches over Pitcairn Islands.

Seasonal Rainfall Watch: May – July 2024



For May to July 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 Palau and western FSM across PNG, Solomon Is, Tuvalu, northern Fiji, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, American Samoa, Tokelau, far southern Phoenix Islands, central to northern Cook Islands, the southern Line Islands, and northern French Polynesia. Small patches are also predicted for central to southern RMI.

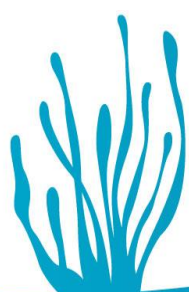
In contrast, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Dry category (lowest quintile, which includes the Seriously Dry category) in a broad band north of about 12°N affecting the northern fringe of Palau, much of Guam, CNMI, and the far north of RMI. Another band of Very Dry Category stretches from Australia and the PNG mainland to New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and southern Fiji. A separate band is predicted over Kiribati (far northern Phoenix Islands and central Line Is.), while a broad region is forecast for southern French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Islands. Smaller patches are also predicted for Niue, and southern Cook 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 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.



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

