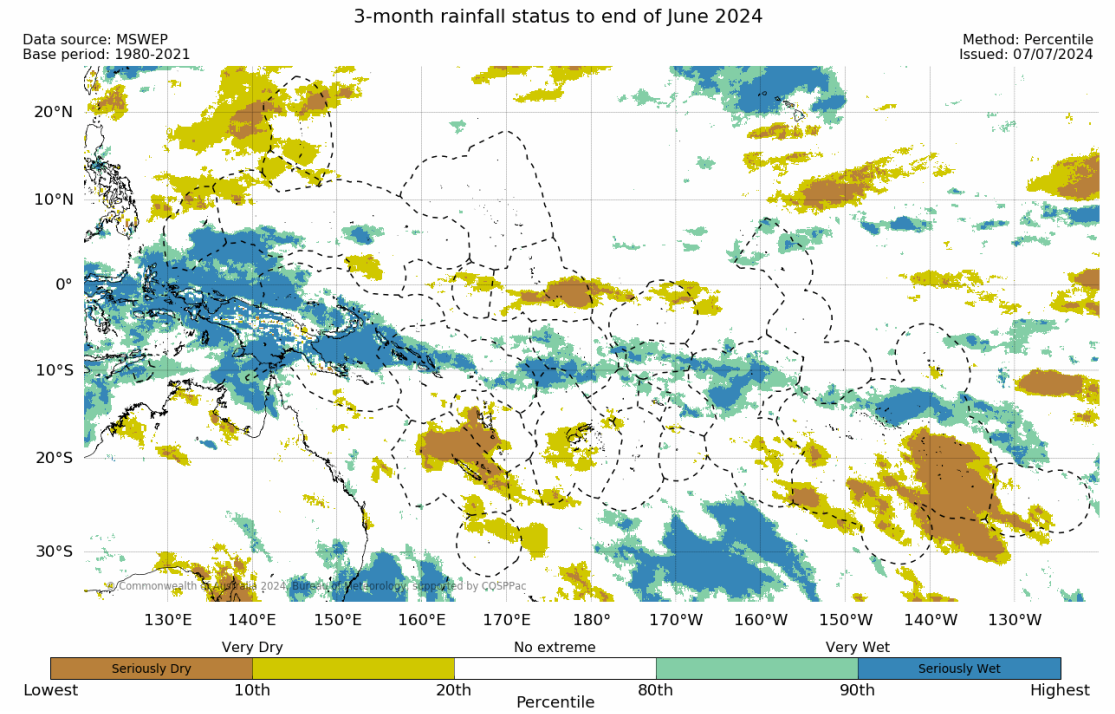
Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)
Regional Early Action Rainfall Watch
July 2024

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

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral. The Bureau's ENSO Outlook is at La Niña Watch due to early signs that an event may form in the Pacific Ocean later in the year. A La Niña Watch does not guarantee La Niña development, only that there is about an equal chance of either ENSO-neutral or a La Niña developing.
While phenomena such as La Niña provide broad indications of the expected climate, the long-range forecast provides better guidance for local rainfall and temperature patterns.

Rainfall Status: as of 30 June 2024



The 3-month rainfall status for April to June 2024 was Very Wet or Seriously Wet over southern Palau, southwest FSM, most of PNG, most of Solomon Islands, far northern Fiji, western and southern Tuvalu, Tokelau, northeast Wallis and Futuna, patches in both Samoa and American Samoa, northern Cook Islands, far northern and southern Line Islands, and northern French Polynesia.

The rainfall status was Very Dry or Seriously Dry for April to June over northern Palau, northwest FSM (Yap), Guam, CNMI, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, central Fiji, Nauru, Kiribati (central Gilbert, and northern Phoenix Is.), patches in southern Cook Islands, plus central and southern French Polynesia, and western Pitcairn Islands.

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

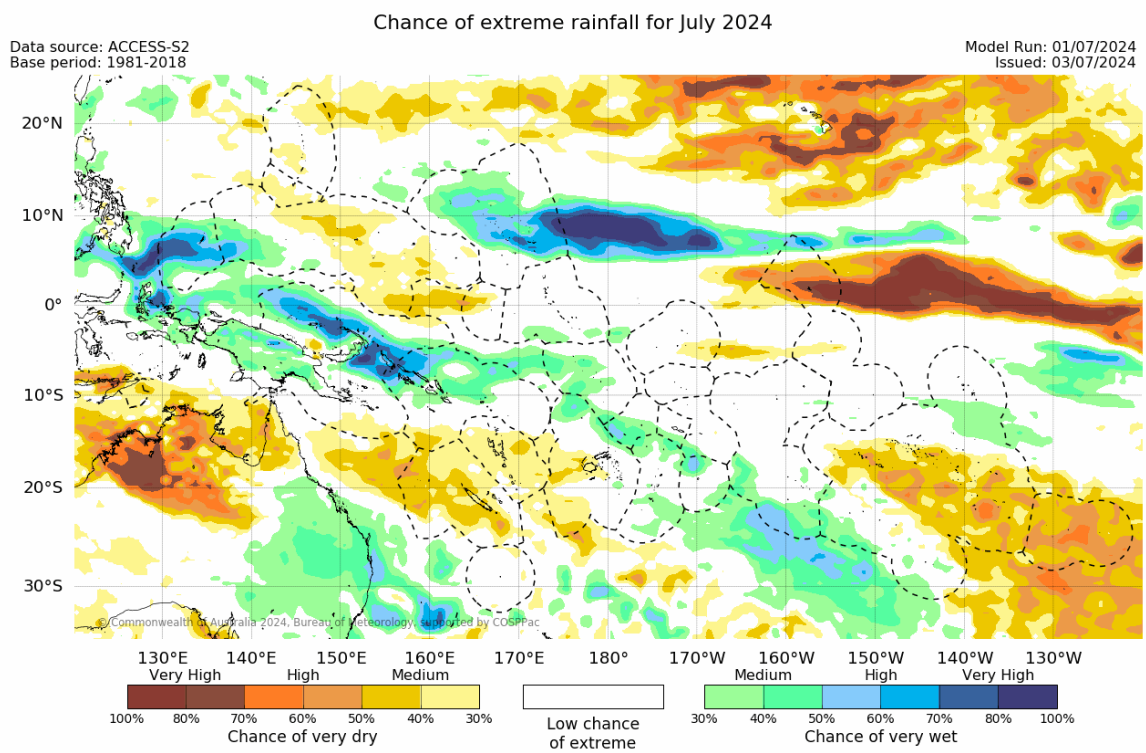
Three-month total rainfall is typically used for monitoring grasslands, shallow rooted plants and small water body (e.g. small water tanks, streams) mositure deficits. Allow for uncertainty associated with island size, topography, geology and soil type.

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.

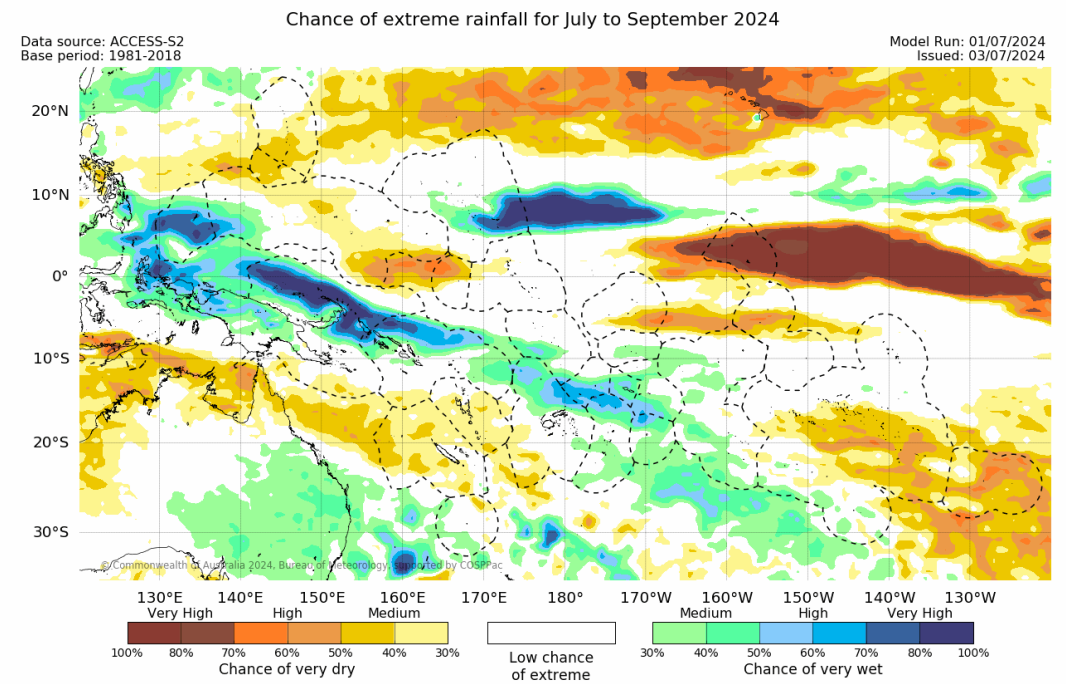
Monthly Rainfall Watch: July 2024



For 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 band stretching in a southeasterly direction from Palau and western FSM to the PNG mainland, PNG Islands, across the Solomon Islands to Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna, southern Cook Islands, and southern French Polynesia in the east. Patches of rainfall in the Very Wet category are also predicted in RMI, Kiribati (southern Gilbert), northern Fiji, northern and southern Tonga, southern Samoa, southwest American Samoa, northern Niue and northern French Polynesia.

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 CNMI and Guam southeast to central FSM to western Nauru. There is another band from the Coral Sea region across to New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and western Fiji. The forecast is similar over the northern Line Islands, central French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Islands.

Seasonal Rainfall Watch: July – September 2024



For July to September 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 FSM across PNG, northern Solomon Is, southwestern Tuvalu, northern Fiji, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, American Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Niue, and parts of the Cook Islands. Rainfall in the Very Wet category is also predicted for central RMI, and for small patches in southern French Polynesia.

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 extending southeast from CNMI and Guam, to central FSM, Nauru, and the northwest Gilbert Is. Another band of Very Dry category stretches from northern Australia to New Caledonia, Vanuatu and western Fiji. A separate Very Dry band is predicted over Kiribati (southern Phoenix Is. and northern and central Line Is.), while a broad region is forecast for central 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 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.