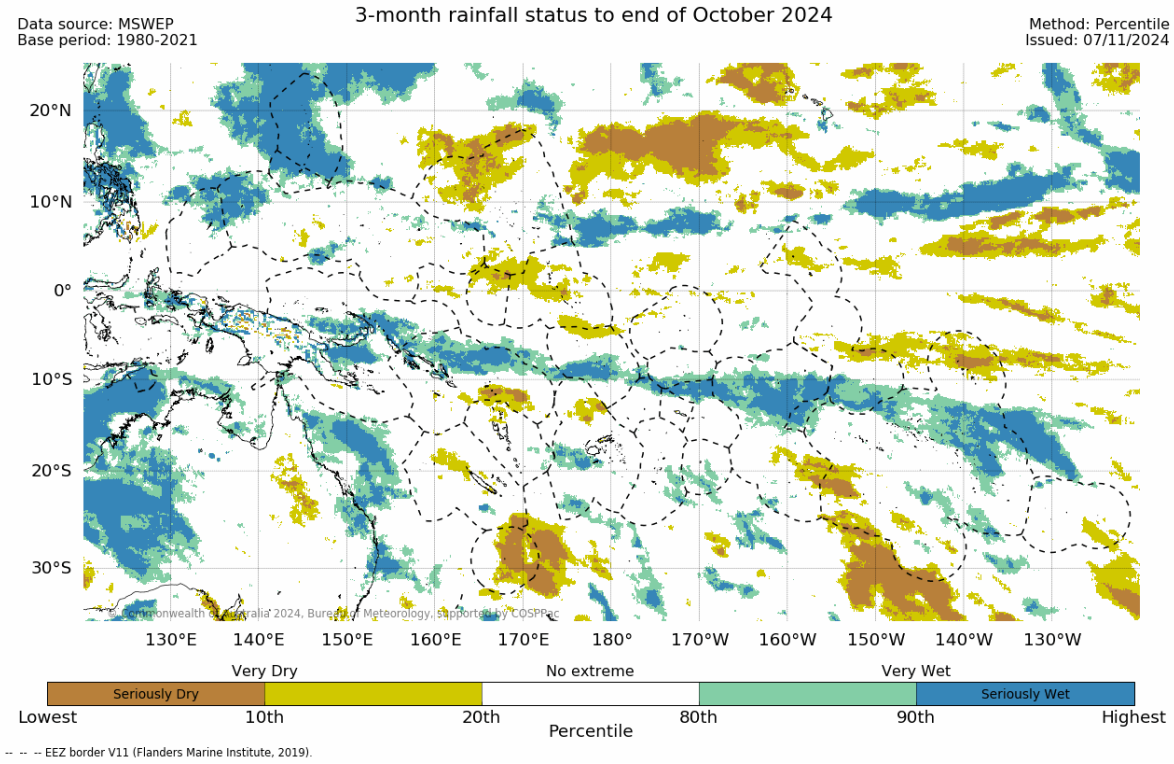
Pacific Islands Early Action Rainfall Watch
November 2024

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

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral, with sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central equatorial Pacific Ocean at ENSO-neutral levels. Atmospheric indices, such as those related to patterns of surface pressure, cloud and trade winds, are broadly consistent with an ENSO-neutral state. While some have displayed La Niña-like signals over recent months, a consistent and sustained shift in the atmosphere has not been observed.

Rainfall Status: as of 31 October 2024



The 3-month rainfall status for August to October 2024 was Very Wet or Seriously Wet over northern Palau, Guam, CNMI, and western FSM in the northern Pacific. A band of Very Wet or Seriously Wet stretched east southeastwards over much of the PNG Islands and the north of the mainland, western and central Solomon Islands, central Tuvalu, northern Wallis and Futuna, northern Samoa, southern Tokelau, northern American Samoa, northern Cook Islands, southern Line Is., and central French Polynesia, plus scattered small patches in southern Fiji, eastern Tonga, southern Niue, southern Cook Islands, and French Polynesia.

The rainfall status was Very Dry or Seriously Dry for August to October over northern and southernmost RMI, northern Nauru, the northern Gilbert, central and northern and Line Is., eastern Solomon Is., northwest New Caledonia, northern Vanuatu, northern Fiji, southeast Cook Is., and northern and southern French Polynesia.

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

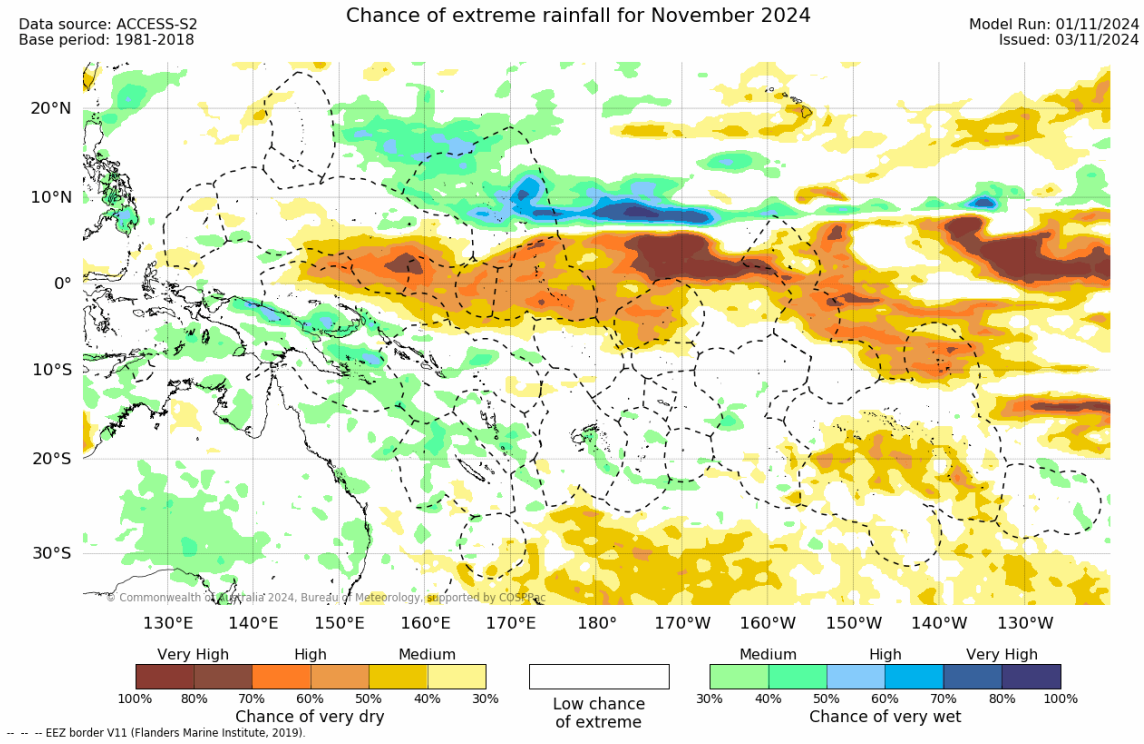
Three-month total rainfall is typically used for monitoring grasslands, shallow rooted plants and small water body (e.g. small water tanks, streams) mositure deficits. Allow for uncertainty associated with island size, topography, geology and soil type.

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.

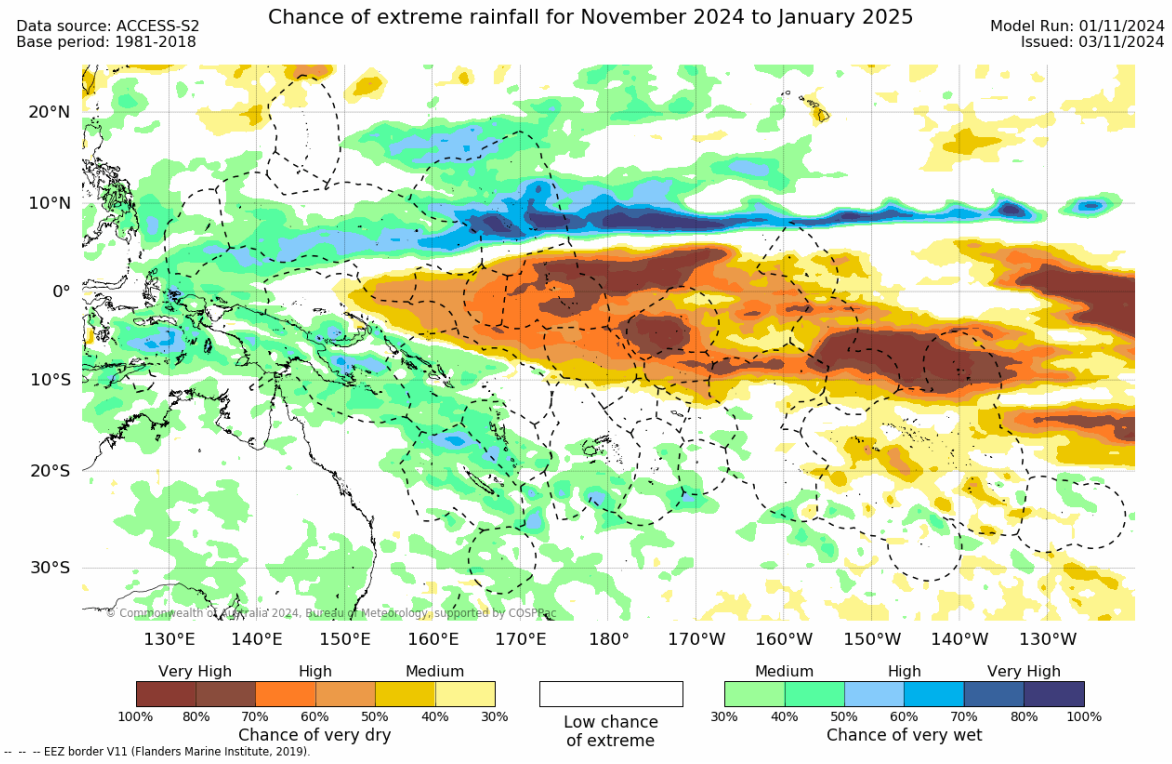
Monthly Rainfall Watch: November 2024



For November 2024, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category (highest quintile, which includes the Seriously Wet category) over northern and central RMI, most of PNG, and in a band stretching in a southeasterly direction from PNG Islands across the southern Solomon Islands, northern New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and patches over eastern Fiji, southern and northernTonga, and central Cook 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 northern PNG EEZ, southeastern FSM, across Nauru, southeast RMI, Kiribati (Gilbert Is., Phoenix and most of Line Is.), northern Solomon Is. EEZ, northern Tuvalu, northern Tokelau, and central and northern French Polynesia. Patches of medium to very high chance that rainfall will be in the Very Dry category over Palau, northern CNMI, southern Caledonia, northern Fiji, southern Cook Is., and Pitcairn Islands.

Seasonal Rainfall Watch: November – January 2024



For November 2024 to January 2025, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category (highest quintile, which includes the Seriously Wet category) over Palau, most of FSM, most of RMI, PNG, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, southern Fiji, and southern Tonga, and patches over Niue, western and southern Cook Is., southern French Polynesia, and eastern 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 an equatorial band east of 150°E covering southeastern FSM, northern PNG, far southern RMI, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, northern American Samoa, Tokelau, northern Cook Islands, northern and central French Polynesia, and western 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.

Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Bureau of Meteorology

Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific