



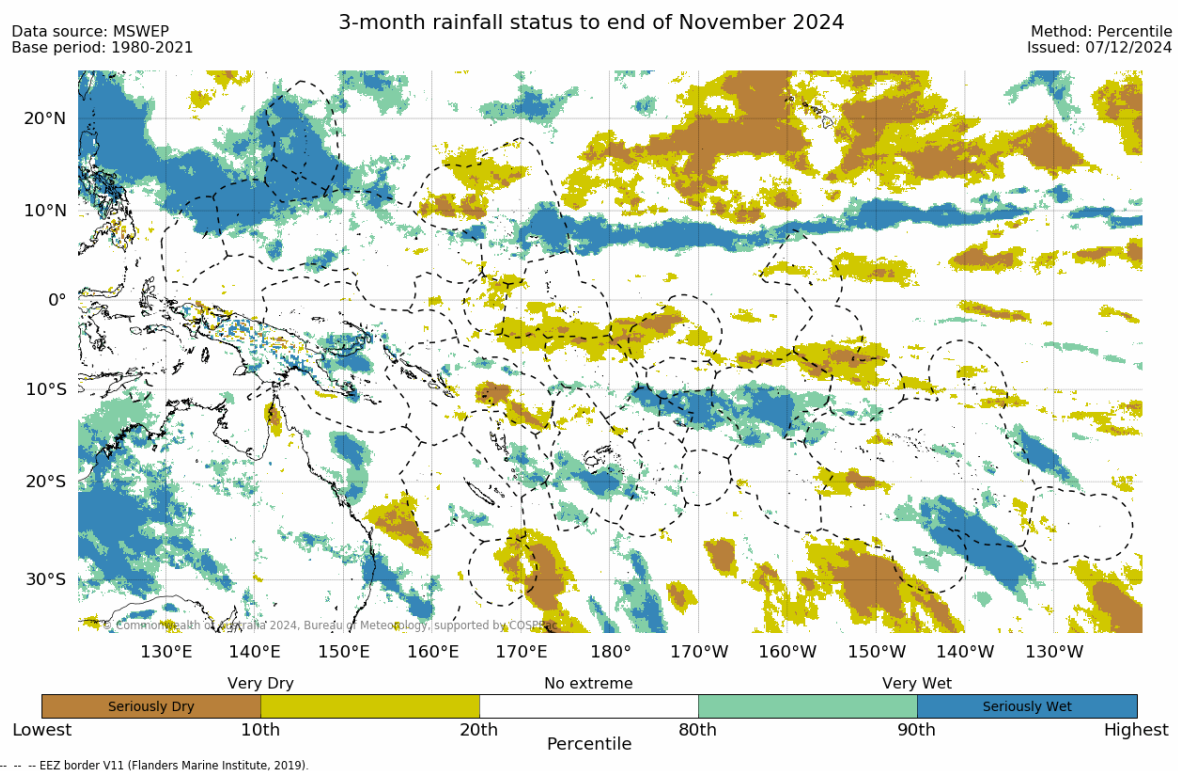
SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

Pacific Islands Early Action Rainfall Watch December 2024

El Niño–Southern Oscillation Status: as of 30 November 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. Ocean temperatures in the central equatorial Pacific have started to warm in recent weeks, away from the La Niña threshold, although they are still cooler than the historical average.

Rainfall Status: as of 30 November 2024



The 3-month rainfall status for September to November 2024 was Very Wet or Seriously Wet over northern Palau, Guam, most of CNMI, northwest FSM, and southeast RMI in the northern Pacific. Patches of Very Wet or Seriously Wet was over PNG Islands, eastern Vanuatu, southern Fiji, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, American Samoa, and French Polynesia.

The rainfall status was Very Dry or Seriously Dry for September to November over northwest RMI, northern parts of Nauru, the southern Gilbert, western Phoenix, central Line Is., northern Tuvalu, eastern Solomon Is., and patches over northern Fiji, northern Cook Is., French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Is.

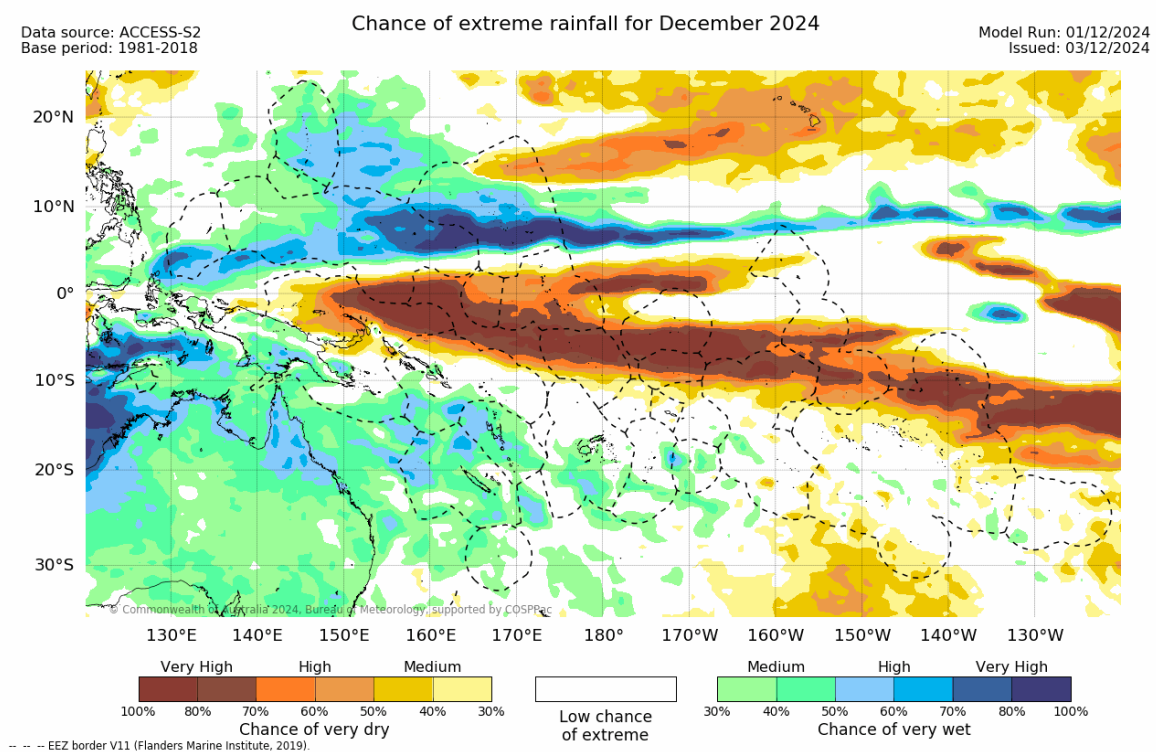
The regional maps are available via http://access-s.clide.cloud/files/project/EAR_watch/pacific/

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.

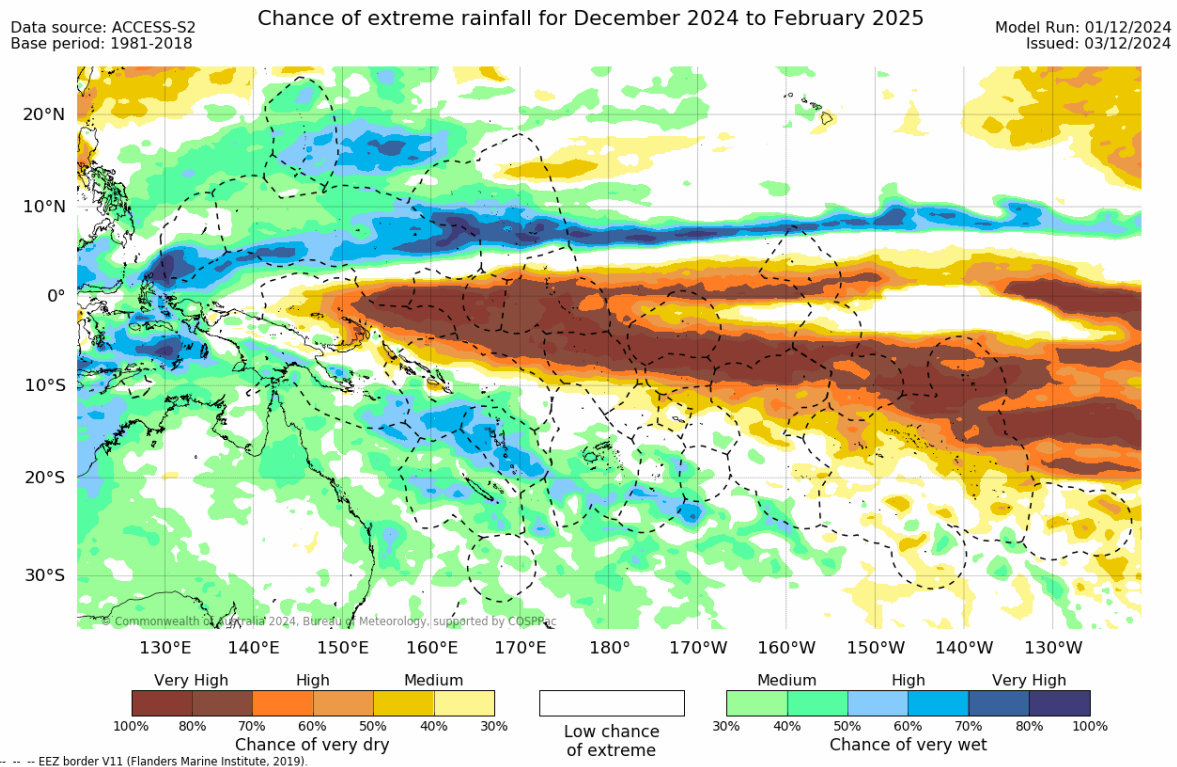
Monthly Rainfall Watch: December 2024



For December 2024, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category (highest quintile, which includes the Seriously Wet category) band stretching from over southern Palau, most of FSM, Guam, CNMI to central RMI. Another band stretching in a southeast direction over PNG mainland, southern Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, southern Fiji, and patches over southern Tonga, and Niue.

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 PNG Islands, southeastern FSM, across Nauru, northern RMI, Kiribati (Gilbert Is., southern Phoenix and most of Line Is.), northern Solomon Is. EEZ, Tuvalu, Tokelau, northern Cook Is., and central and northern French Polynesia. Patches of medium to very high chance that rainfall will be in the Very Dry category over northern Wallis and Futuna, northern Samoa, northern American Samoa, southern French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Islands.

Seasonal Rainfall Watch: December 2024 – February 2025



For December 2024 to February 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 most of Palau, most of FSM, Guam, CNMI, most of RMI, southern PNG, southern Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, southern Fiji, most of Tonga, and Niue.

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 140°E covering PNG Is., southeastern FSM, far northern and southern RMI, northern Solomon Is., Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, northern Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, northern American Samoa, Tokelau, northern Cook Islands, northern and central French Polynesia, and eastern 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.



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