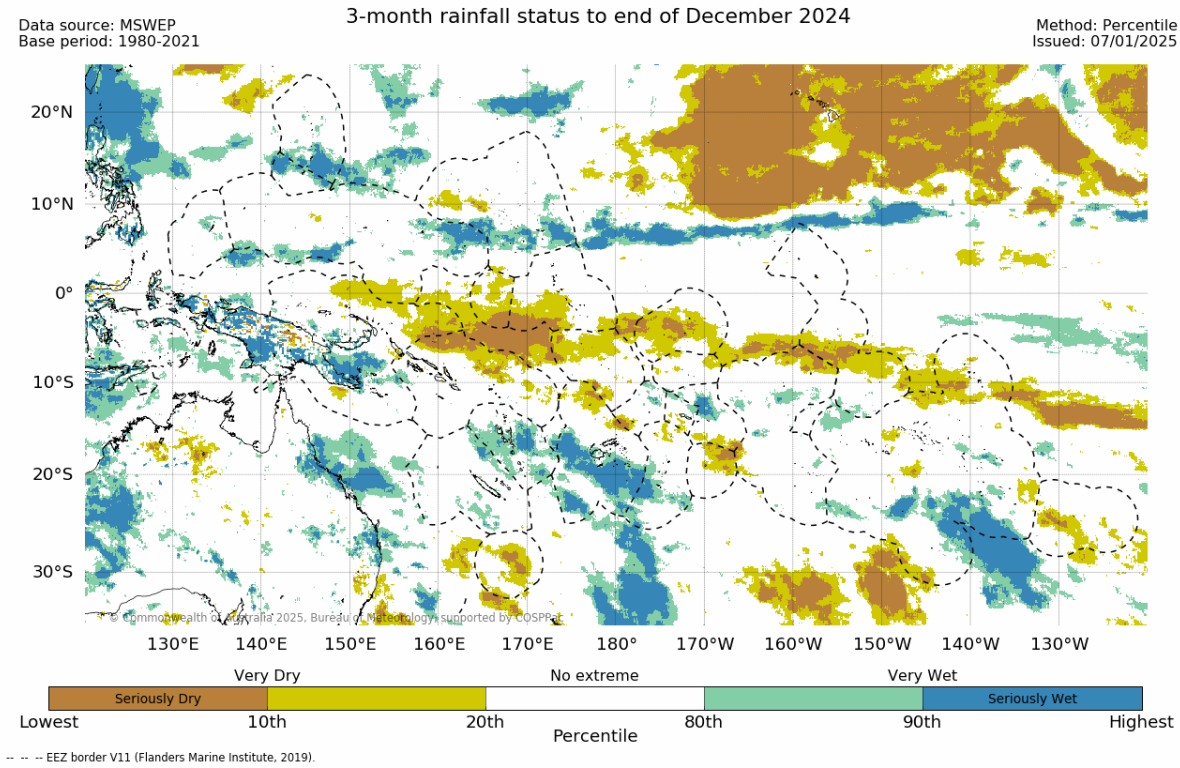
Pacific Islands Early Action Rainfall Watch
January 2025

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

The Pacific Islands Regional Climate Centre (PI-RCC) considers that the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the tropical Pacific remains neutral. While many of the indicators have recently met the threshold for La Niña they have not been sustained for levels or duration sufficient to warrant La Niña status.

Rainfall Status: as of 31 December 2024



The 3-month rainfall status for October to December 2024 was Very Wet or Seriously Wet over northern Guam, southern CNMI, parts of southwest and northeast FSM, and southern RMI in the northern Pacific. Patches of Very Wet or Seriously Wet was over most of PNG mainland, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, most of Fiji, southern Tonga, northern American Samoa, and southeastern French Polynesia.

The rainfall status was Very Dry or Seriously Dry for October to December over Nauru, the southern Gilbert, most of Phoenix, central Line Is., northern Tuvalu, northern PNG, northern Solomon Is., and patches over northern Fiji, Samoa, southern American Samoa, Niue, northern Cook Is., northern French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Is.

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

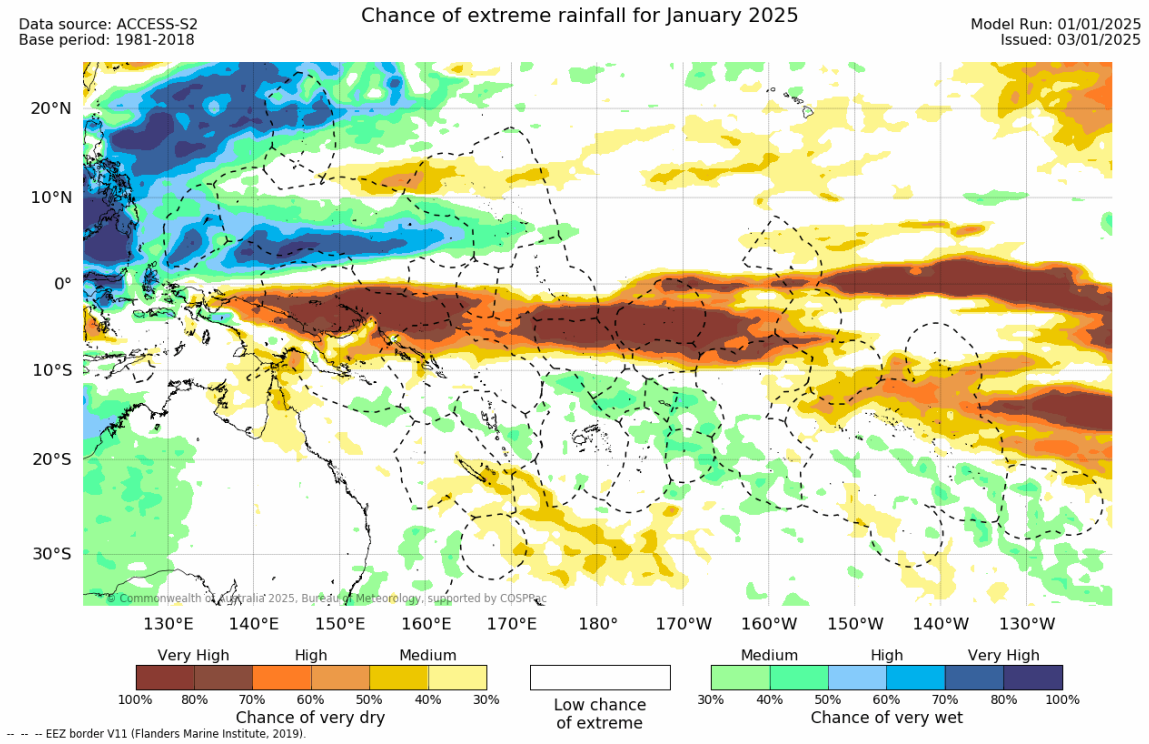
Three-month total rainfall is typically used for monitoring grasslands, shallow rooted plants and small water body (e.g. small water tanks, streams) mositure deficits. Allow for uncertainty associated with island size, topography, geology and soil type.

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.

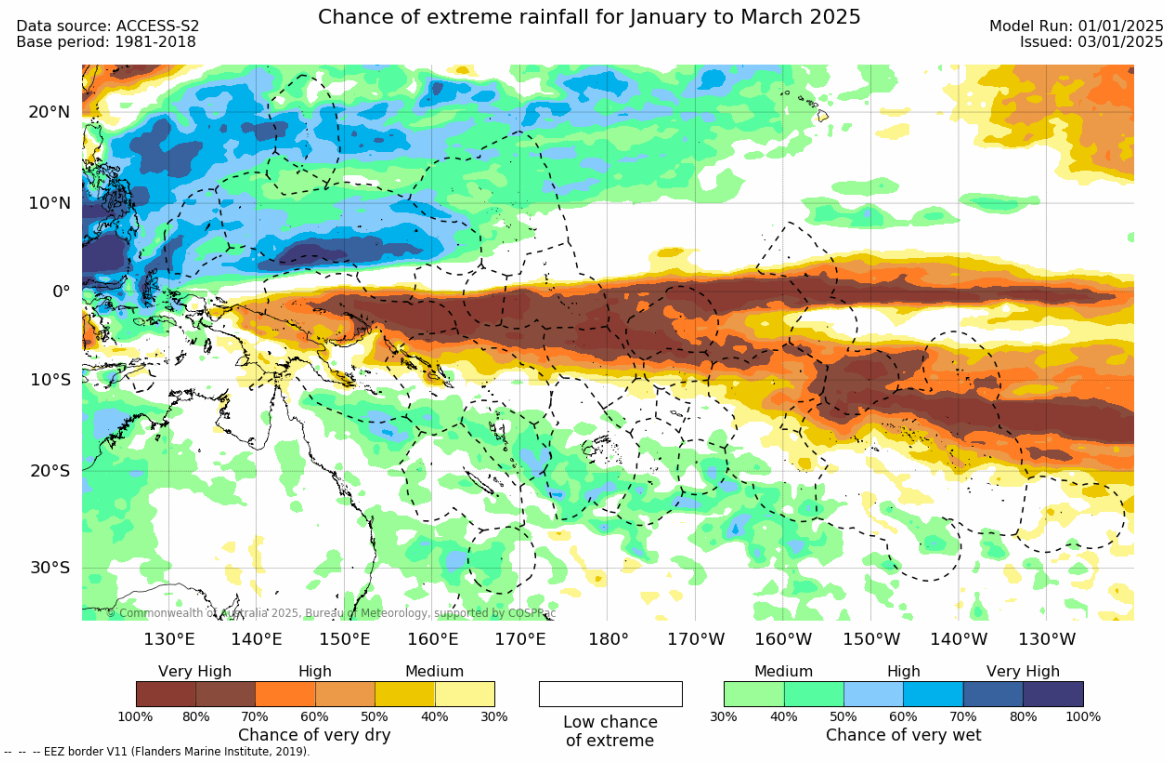
Monthly Rainfall Watch: January 2025



For 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) band stretching from over Palau, most of FSM, CNMI to southern RMI. Patches of medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category over southeast PNG, Vanuatu, northern Fiji, northern Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, American Samoa, Niue, southern Cook Is., central French Polynesia and Pitcairn 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) over northern FSM to northern RMI. Another band from PNG, western and northern Solomon Is., across southern Nauru, Kiribati (southern Gilbert Is., Phoenix and Line Is.), northern Tuvalu, Tokelau, northern Cook Is., and northern French Polynesia. Patches of medium to very high chance that rainfall will be in the Very Dry category over New Caledonia, southern French Polynesia, and eastern Pitcairn Islands.

Seasonal Rainfall Watch: January – March 2025



For January to March 2025, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category (highest quintile, which includes the Seriously Wet category) in band stretching over Palau, most of FSM, Guam, CNMI, to most of RMI in the northern Pacific. Another band stretch over, southeastern PNG, southern Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, southern Fiji, most of Tonga, Niue, southern Cook Is., and 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 an equatorial band east of 135°E covering PNG mainland and PNG Is., southeastern FSM, western and northern Solomon Is., southern Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, northern Wallis and Futuna, northern American Samoa, Tokelau, northern and central 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.