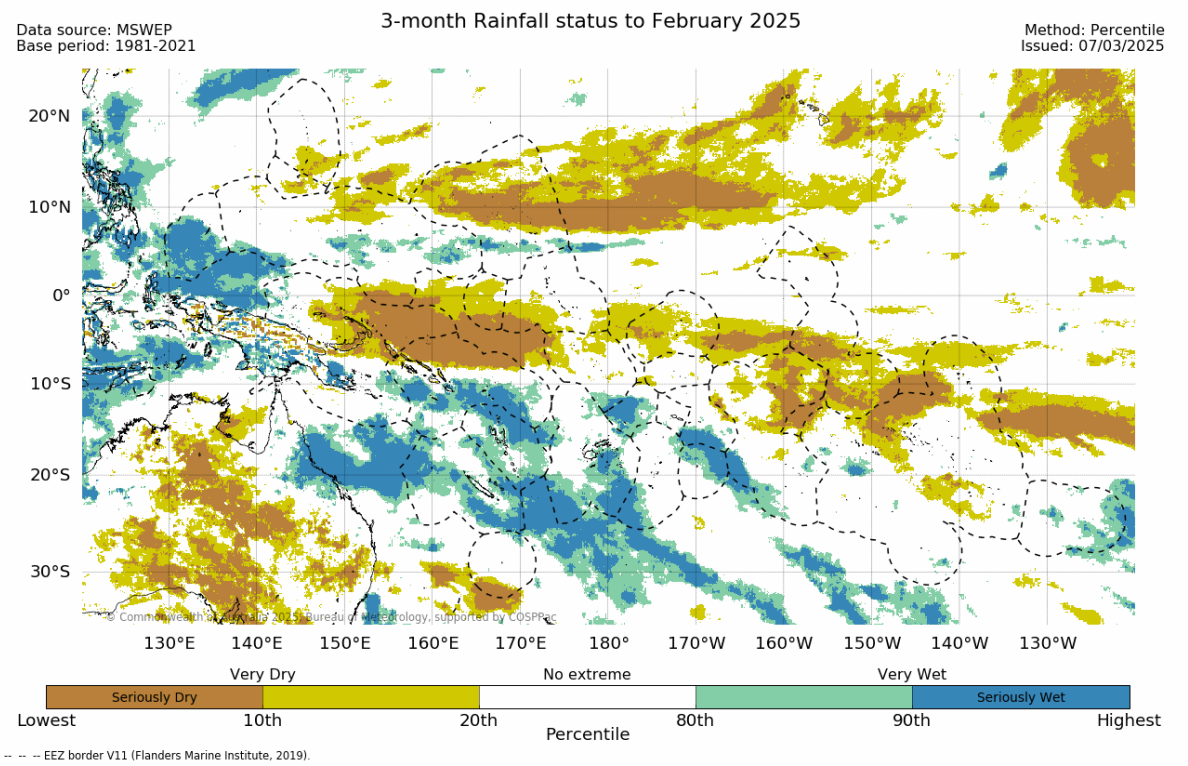
Pacific Islands Early Action Rainfall Watch
March 2025

El Niño-Southern Oscillation Status: as of 28 February 2025

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) has remained neutral despite a brief period from December to February when the tropical Pacific shifted towards a La Niña-like state. SSTs in the central tropical Pacific have risen over the past 4 weeks, with the most recent value of Niño3.4 (−0.30 °C for the week ending 2 March) firmly within the neutral range.

Rainfall Status: as of 28 February 2025



The 3-month rainfall status for December 2024 to February 2025 was Very Wet or Seriously Wet over southern Palau, parts of eastern FSM, and parts of southern RMI in the northern Pacific. Patches of Very Wet or Seriously Wet was over southern and central PNG mainland, southern and eastern Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, southern Fiji, southern Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, southern American Samoa, northern Niue, southwestern Cook Islands, and eastern Pitcairn Island.

The rainfall status was Very Dry or Seriously Dry for December 2024 to February 2025 in a band stretched eastwards over southern CNMI, Guam, parts of northern FSM and to northern RMI in the northern hemisphere. Anothern band of Very Dry or Seriously Dry stretched from PNG Islands, western and northern Solomon Is., Nauru, the western Gilbert, most of Phoenix, southern Line Is., parts of northern Tuvalu, northern Cook Is., and northern and central French Polynesia.

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

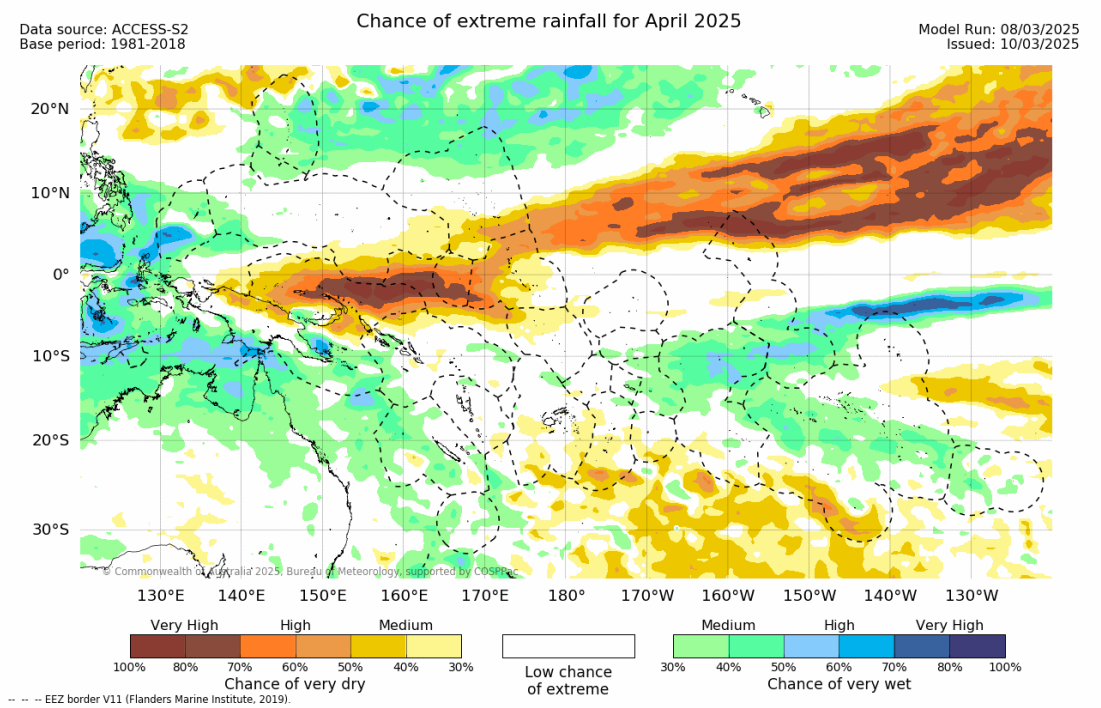
Three-month total rainfall is typically used for monitoring grasslands, shallow rooted plants and small water body (e.g. small water tanks, streams) mositure deficits. Allow for uncertainty associated with island size, topography, geology and soil type.

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.

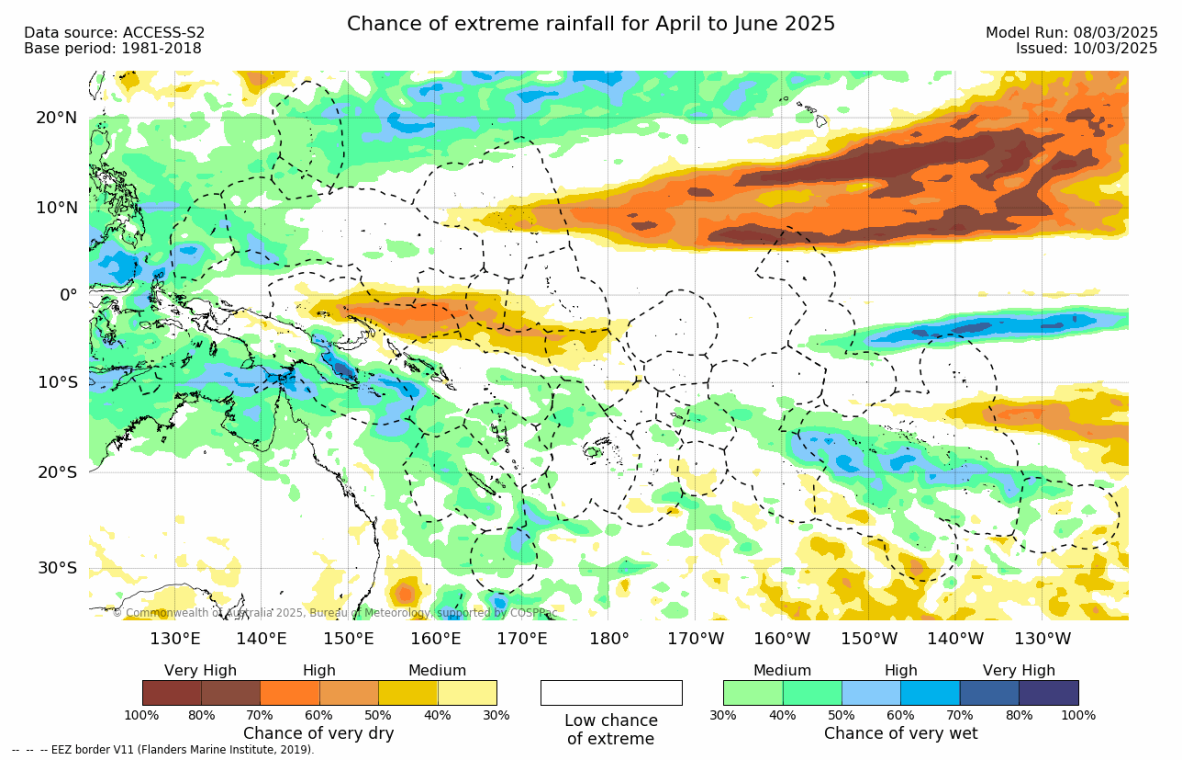
Monthly Rainfall Watch: April 2025



For April 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, western FSM, Guam, CNMI, and northern RMI. Patches of medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category over southeastern PNG, western Solomon Is., western New Caledonia, Fiji (Rotuma), southern Tokelau, Samoa, American Samoa, northern Cook Is., Kiribati (southern Line Is.) far northern and 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) in a band stretching east-northeastwards over northern PNG mainland and PNG Is., southeastern FSM, southern RMI, northern Solomon Is., across Nauru, Kiribati (Gilbert Is., and northern Line Is.), and northern Tuvalu. Patch of medium to very high chance that rainfall will be in the Very Dry category over southern Fiji, central and southern Tonga, southern Niue, southern Cook Is., and southern French Polynesia.

Seasonal Rainfall Watch: April – June 2025



For April to June 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 a band stretching northeast over Palau, western FSM, Guam, CNMI, to northernmost RMI in the northern Pacific. Another band stretch over southeastern PNG, western and southern Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu to northern Fiji, and from Samoa, central American Samoa, central Cook Is., central and southern French Polynesia, and to 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 stretching eastwards from northern PNG Islands, southern FSM, northern Solomon Islands, Nauru, Kiribati (western and southern Gilbert Is), and northern Tuvalu. Patches of medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Dry category over central RMI, southern Niue, northern and southern French Polynesia.

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.