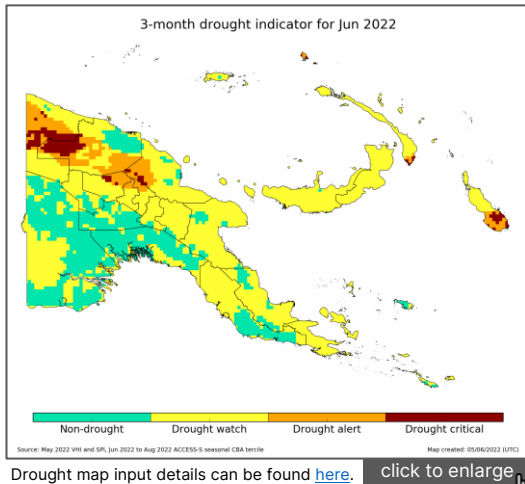


Key messages

Gulf, Southern Highlands and Western have no drought conditions. Well below average Mar-May rainfall triggers **Drought Watch for several provinces** but a wetter forecast for the coming months indicates limited cause for concern for all provinces except East/West Sepik. **East New Britain** continues to be at **extreme drought risk** for the last three months.

Drought Early Warning Status

Derived from observed rainfall, vegetation health and forecasted rainfall.



- [Rainfall over the last month](#) was well below average for most provinces except Hela, Southern Highlands and Western.
- [Rainfall over the last three months](#) was below/well below average across for most provinces except Southern Highlands and northern parts of Western, Gulf and Central which all received average/above average rainfall in this time period.
- [Vegetation health conditions](#) indicate mildly stressed vegetation in East/West Sepik and parts of the PNG Highlands.
- At the [6-month timescale](#), Bougainville remains drought affected.
- Despite a [wet forecast](#) for most PNG provinces over the coming months, well below average Mar-May rainfall is contributing to a Drought Watch status for most provinces.

3-month timescale provincial summary (detailed status table [here](#))

● Drought Watch ● Drought Alert ● Drought Critical

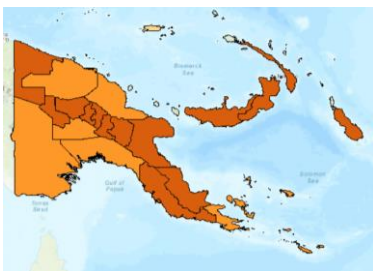
All provinces except Gulf and Southern Highlands

Drought Risk Status

An indication of past drought risk based on drought hazard, exposure and vulnerability.

- East New Britain remains at a high-risk level as it has been in recent months; it needs to be closely monitored.
- Risk levels have elevated across PNG with all provinces at a severe or extreme risk level, except for Manus.

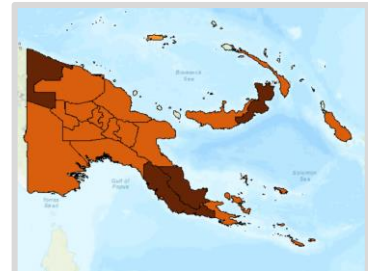
March 2022



April 2022



May 2022



Extreme 0.81-1.00
 Severe 0.61-0.80
 Moderate 0.41-0.60
 Mild 0.21-0.40
 Very Mild 0.01-0.20
 No Data

● Provinces in Severe this month

Bougainville, Chimbu, East Sepik, Eastern Highlands, Enga, Gulf Province, Hela, Jiwaka, Madang, Milne Bay Province, Morobe, National Capital District, New Ireland, Southern Highlands, West New Britain, Western, Western Highlands

● Provinces in Extreme this month

Central, East New Britain, Northern (Oro), West Sepik

Climate Context

A summary of the relevant climate drivers affecting PNG over the coming months

- ACCESS-S outlooks suggest a wet outlook for most of the country for July though East and West Sepik retain a dry outlook.
- La Niña continues to weaken and ENSO is expected to return to neutral over the next two months. However, cooler than average sea surface temperatures look likely to linger in the central and eastern tropical Pacific which could induce a weak La Niña-like effect.
- The IOD is currently in a neutral state. There is the possibility of the development of a moderate to strong negative IOD during the next two months.