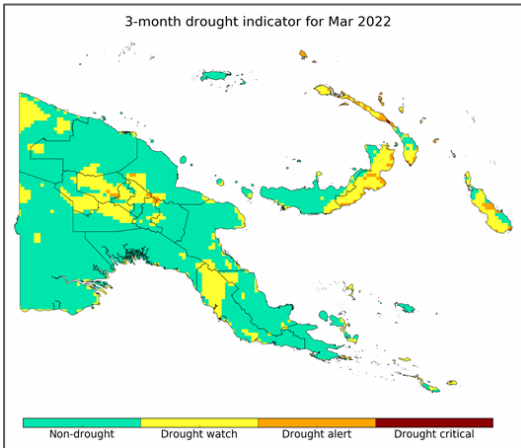


Key messages

New Ireland remains at **Drought Alert** and East New Britain was **most at risk** in February. Recent rainfall provided **partial easing** of drought conditions in the north-east, but deficiencies remain at longer timescales.

Drought Early Warning Status

Derived from observed rainfall and vegetation health; and forecasted rainfall.



Drought map input details can be found [here](#). [click to enlarge](#)

- [February rainfall](#) was above average over East Sepik, Northern (Oro), Milne Bay, Bougainville and East New Britain and below average over Enga, Hela and Highland provinces.
- [December – February rainfall](#) was well-above average in northern mainland PNG and below average in Central Province and Highland provinces.
- [February vegetation health conditions](#) remain similar to January with a slight reduction in area of stressed vegetation in the North-East islands.
- At the [6-month timescale](#), East and West New Britain, Bougainville and New Ireland remain drought affected (albeit to a lesser degree than in November).

3-month timescale provincial summary

Drought Watch	Drought Alert	Drought Critical
Bougainville, East New Britain, Enga, Hela, Jiwaka, NCD, Western Highlands	New Ireland	None

Drought Risk Status

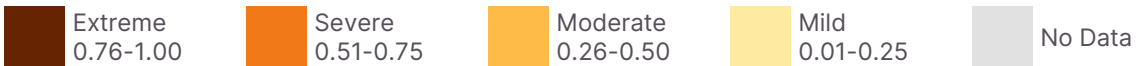
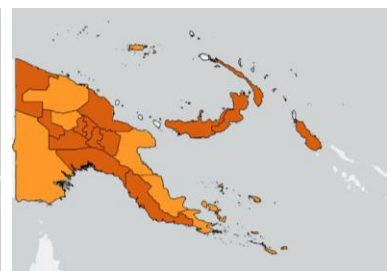
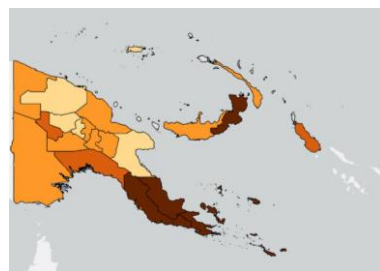
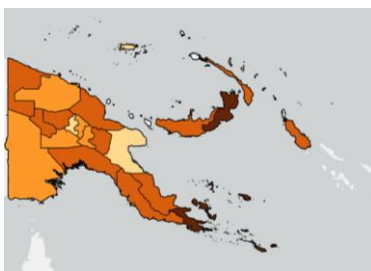
An indication of past drought risk based on drought hazard, exposure and vulnerability.

- East New Britain has been consistently at-risk in the previous three months; it should be closely monitored.
- In February there are no extreme risk levels, however a large portion of provinces are still at severe risk.

December 2021

January 2022

February 2022



February 2022 Provinces in Severe

February 2022 Provinces in Extreme

Bougainville, East New Britain, West New Britain, New Ireland, Central, Gulf, Hela, Southern Highlands, Western Highlands, Jiwaka, Chimbu, Eastern Highlands, Madang, West Sepik

None

Climate Context

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

- La Niña remains active with most model outlooks showing a return to neutral ENSO late in autumn. A weak La Niña is likely contributing to wetter than average conditions over the south-east and drier than average conditions over the eastern islands.
- ACCESS-S long-term outlooks suggest drier than average conditions for the eastern islands may ease around June–July.