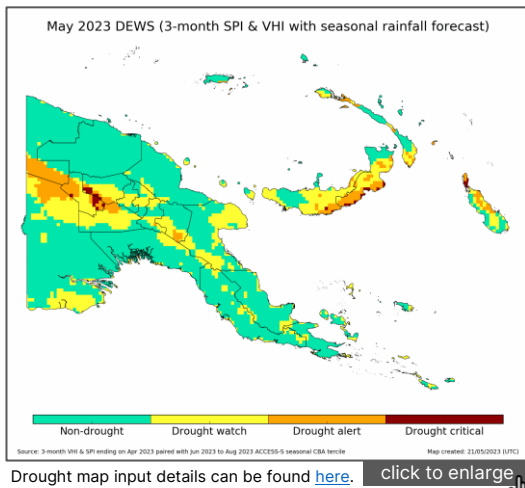


Key messages

Drought Critical areas have emerged in Enga and Southern Highlands provinces. East New Britain and southern parts of West Sepik remain at Drought Alert. East and West New Britain and West Sepik have continued to be at high-risk levels over the last three months. New Ireland is now of Drought Watch status resultant of recent rainfall. ENSO is currently neutral but with increased chances of El Niño later this year.

Drought Early Warning Status

Derived from observed rainfall, vegetation health and forecasted rainfall.



- [Rainfall over the last month](#) was below average across East New Britain, Morobe, NCD, Northern, Madang, Enga, Western Highlands, Jiwake and West Sepik provinces.
- [Rainfall over the last three months](#) was below average across West New Britain, West Sepik, Hela, Enga, Jiwaka, Western Highlands, Morobe as well as parts Western, Gulf and Central provinces. Average to above rainfall was observed in other provinces.
- [Vegetation health conditions](#) at the 3-month timescale indicate stress remaining in Bougainville, New Ireland and Enga provinces from recent dry conditions. Morobe, Central and Northern provinces also showing some stress from last month.
- [Forecasts for the upcoming season](#) indicate below average rainfall for (southern parts of) West Sepik, Enga, Hela, West New Britain and East New Britain,

3-month timescale provincial summary (detailed table [here](#) – select 'Download')

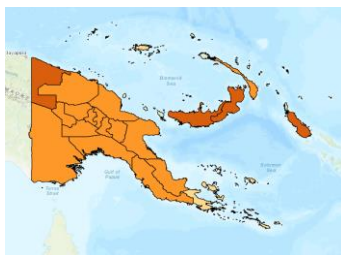
Drought Watch	Drought Alert	Drought Critical
Bougainville, Enga, Hela, Jiwaka, NCD, Southern Highlands, Eastern Highlands, West New Britain, New Ireland	East New Britain	No provinces

Drought Risk Status

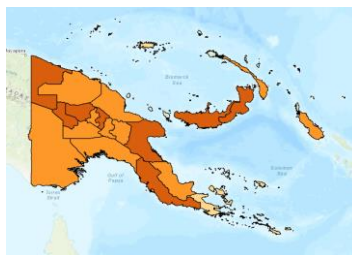
An indication of past drought risk based on drought hazard, exposure and vulnerability.

- East and West New Britain and West Sepik remain at high-risk levels.
- Western Highlands has increased from moderate to severe risk since last month, it should be closely monitored.

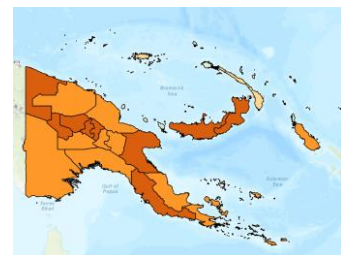
February 2023



March 2023



April 2023



● Provinces in Severe this month

East New Britain, West New Britain, Central, Morobe, Western Highlands, Jiwaka, Enga, Hela, and West Sepik.

● Provinces in Extreme this month

None

Climate Context

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

- ACCESS-S outlook for June to August forecasts below average to average rainfall in Bougainville, Hela, Gulf, Southern Highlands, Western, northern parts of Central and lower parts of West Sepik. The rest of the country is forecasted to receive average to above average rainfall.
- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is at neutral conditions with the western and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean being warmer than average. Climate models suggest further warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean is likely. This means there is an increased chance of El Niño forming later in the year - however for an El Niño declaration both oceanic and atmospheric criteria need to be satisfied.
- The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. Climate models suggest that positive IOD event may develop during June to August.
- A strong Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) pulse lies over the Maritim Continent and is forecast to move into the western Pacific region in the second half of May. An MJO pulse over the western Pacific would weaken trade winds across the equatorial Pacific Ocean and further drive the Pacific Ocean and atmosphere towards El Niño.