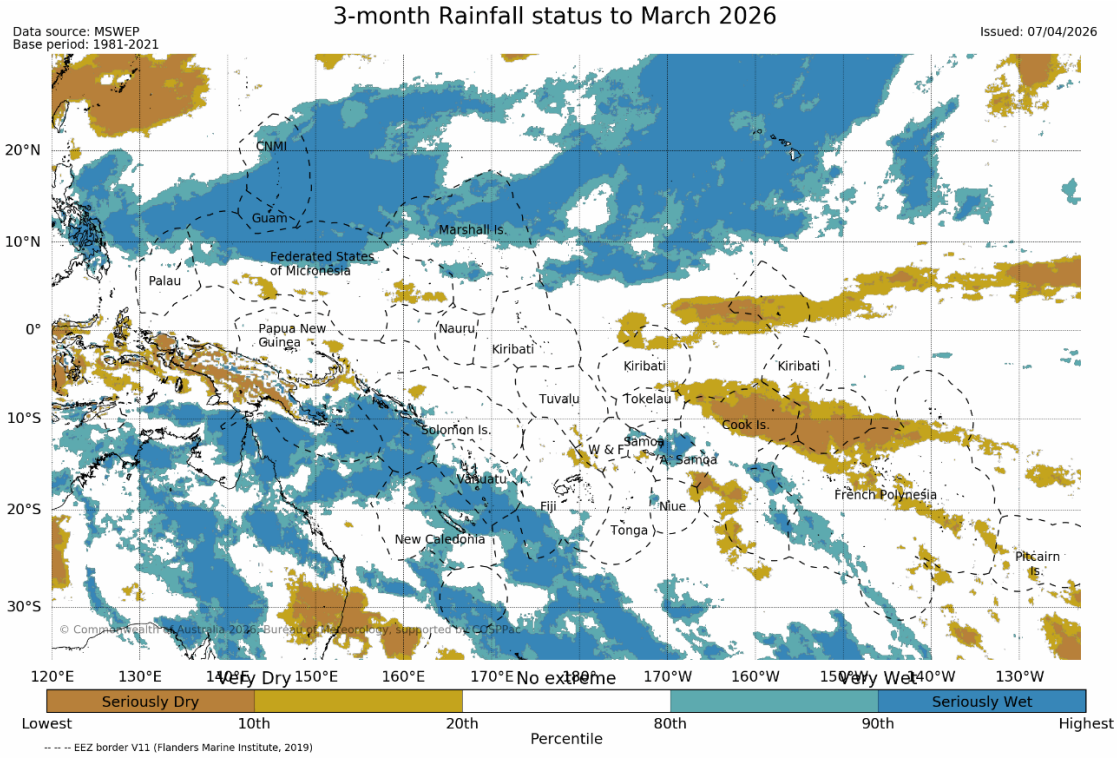
Pacific Islands Early Action Rainfall Watch
April 2026

El Niño-Southern Oscillation Status: as of 31 March 2026

The 2025–2026 La Niña event has ended. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central tropical Pacific have been within the ENSO-neutral range in the past six weeks.. Atmospheric indicators, including trade winds, surface pressure, and cloud patterns across the tropical Pacific, are consistent with an ENSO-neutral state. All models, including the Bureau's, indicate continued warming in the tropical Pacific over the coming months. ENSO-neutral conditions are expected to persist until at least late May, with a transition toward El Niño levels likely by August. While models vary in the timing a sustained El Niño event will depend on sufficient ocean–atmosphere coupling.

Rainfall Status: as of 31 March 2026



The 3-month rainfall status for January to March 2026 was Very Wet or Seriously Wet over CNMI, Guam, northern Palau, northern FSM, and northern and central RMI in the north Pacific. Very Wet or Seriously Wet areas were also observed over parts of southeast PNG, Solomon Is., central and southern Vanuatu, New Caledonia, southern Fiji, northern American Samoa EEZ, Niue, southeastern Cook Islands, and patches over southwest French Polynesia, in the south Pacific.

The rainfall status was Very Dry or Seriously Dry for January to March 2026 over eastern and southern FSM in the north Pacific. Very Dry or Seriously Dry areas were also observed over PNG mainland and northern parts of PNG Is., northern Solomon Is., Kiribati (northern Phoenix and northern and southern Line Islands), southern Tuvalu, Wallis & Futuna, Samoa, northern and parts of southern Cook Is., central and northern French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Is., in the south Pacific.

The regional maps are available via https://access-s.clide.cloud/

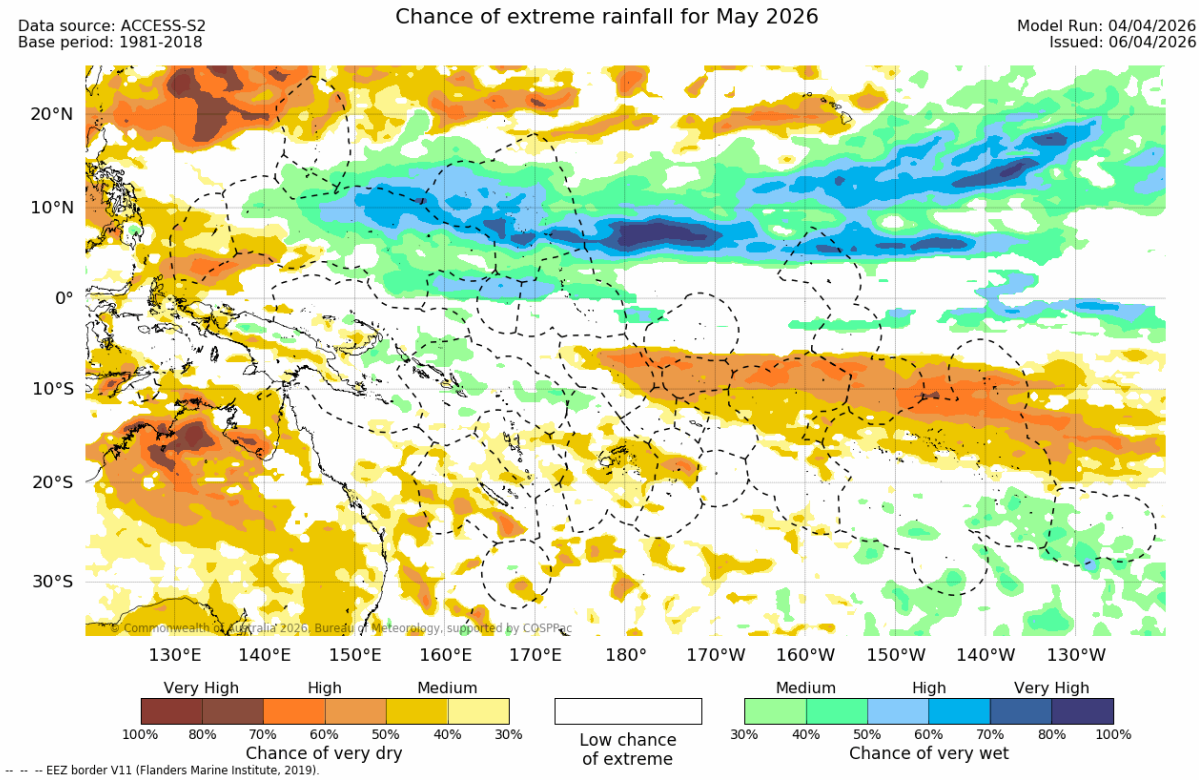
Three-month total rainfall is typically used for monitoring grasslands, shallow rooted plants and small water body (e.g. small water tanks, streams) mositure deficits. Allow for uncertainty associated with island size, topography, geology and soil type.

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.

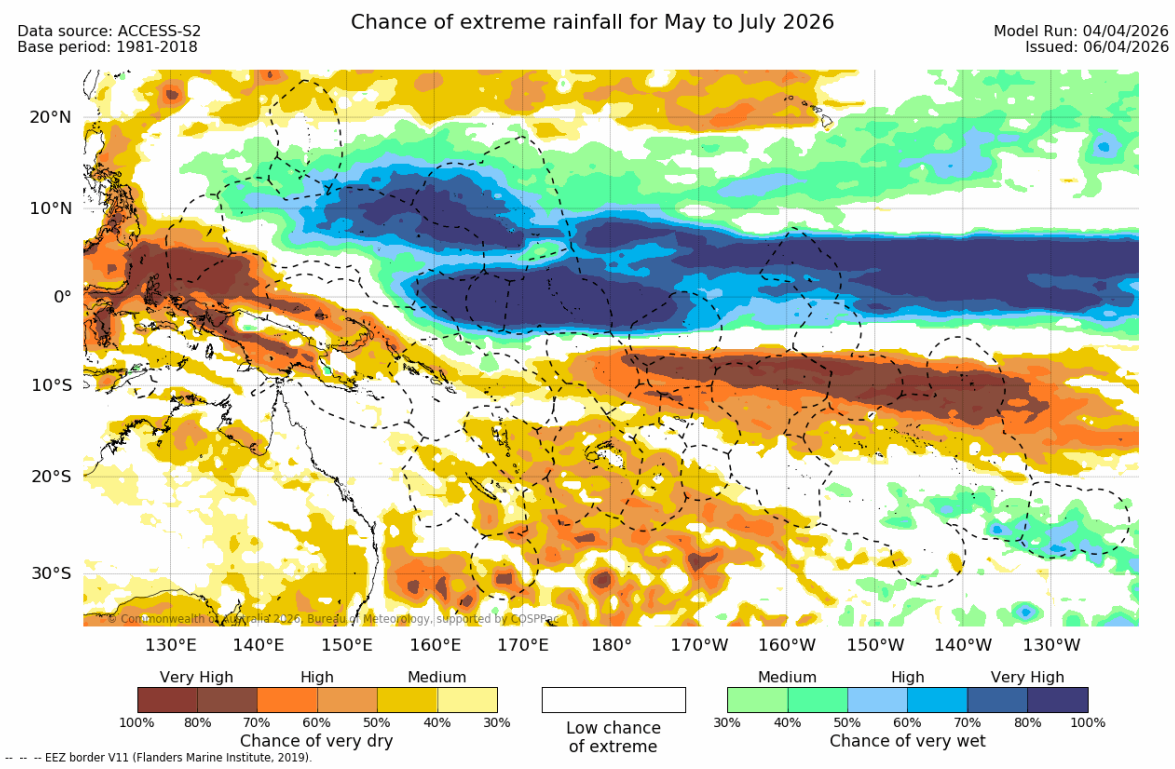
Monthly Rainfall Watch: May 2026



For May 2026, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category (highest quintile, which includes the Seriously Wet category) over Guam, FSM, , and RMI in the north Pacific. There is also a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category over parts of PNG Is., parts of Solomon Islands, Nauru, Kiribati (northern Gilbert Is. and northern Line Is.), southern French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Islands in the south Pacific.

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 CNMI and Palau in the north Pacific. There is also a medium to very high chance of rainfall in ther Very Dry category over highlands, Gulf and northern regions of PNG, New Caledonia,Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Kiribati (southern Phoenix Is. and southern Line Is.), northern Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, American Samoa, most of Cook Is., central and northern French Polynesia in the south Pacific.

Seasonal Rainfall Watch: May – July 2026



For May to July 2026, 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 eastwards over Guam, southern CNMI, FSM, RMI and Nauru in the north Pacific. There is also another band of medium to high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category (highest quintile, which includes the Seriously Wet category) Kiribati (Gilbert, northern Phoenix Is., and northern Line Is.), southern French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Islands in the south Pacific.

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) over Palau and northern CNMI in the north Pacific. There is also a medium to very high chance of rainfall in ther Very Dry category in a band stretching southeastwards from PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati (southern Phoenix and southern Line Is.), Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, American Samoa, Niue, Tonga, northern Cook Is., central and northern French Polynesia in the south Pacific.

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.

Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific