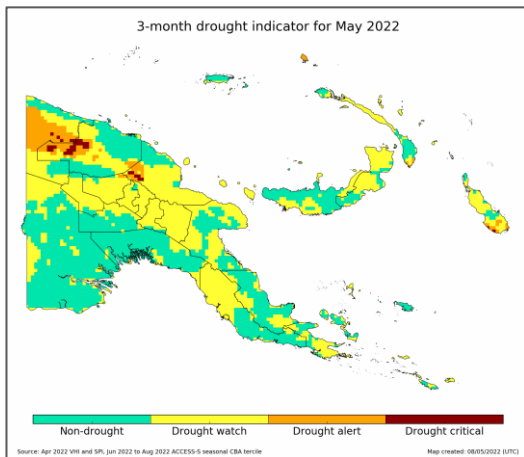


## Key messages

Several north-east and mainland provinces maintain **Drought Watch** (due to a combination of rainfall deficiency, stressed vegetation or a drier outlook). **West Sepik** progresses from Drought Watch to **Drought Alert**. **East New Britain** continues to be at an **extreme risk** level.

## Drought Early Warning Status

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



- [Rainfall over the last month](#) was average to below average for most provinces except Manus and regions of Milne Bay province.
- [Rainfall over the last three months](#) was below average across several northern-mainland and highland provinces. 3-month rainfall deficiencies also persevere in New Ireland and East New Britain.
- [Vegetation health conditions](#) remain similar to April with some mild vegetation stress present over New Ireland, East New Britain, Bougainville and parts of the PNG Highlands.
- At the [6-month timescale](#), East New Britain, Bougainville and New Ireland remain drought affected.

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

● Drought Watch     
 ● Drought Alert     
 ● Drought Critical

Bougainville, Central, Chimbu, East New Britain, Eastern Highlands, Enga, Hela, Jiwaka, Madang, Milne Bay, Morobe, NCD, New Ireland, Western Highlands

West Sepik

None

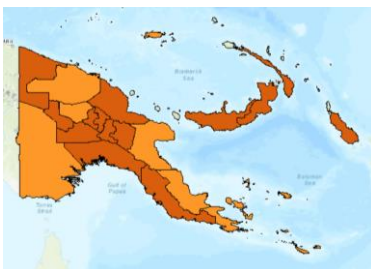
Drought map input details can be found [here](#). [click to enlarge](#)

## Drought Risk Status

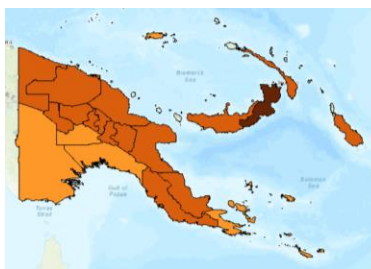
An indication of past drought risk based on drought hazard, exposure and vulnerability.

- East New Britain continues at a high-risk level; it should be closely monitored.
- Risk levels have elevated across PNG with all provinces at a severe or extreme risk level, except for Manus.

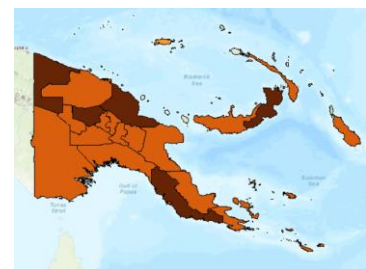
### February 2022



### March 2022



### April 2022



Extreme 0.76-1.00     
  Severe 0.51-0.75     
  Moderate 0.26-0.50     
  Mild 0.01-0.25     
  No Data

### ● March 2022 Provinces in Severe

Bougainville, Chimbu, East Sepik, Eastern Highlands, Gulf Province, Hela, Jiwaka, Milne Bay Province, Morobe, National Capital District, New Ireland, Northern (Oro), Southern Highlands, West New Britain, Western, Western Highlands

### ● March 2022 Provinces in Extreme

Central, East New Britain, Enga, Madang, West Sepik

## Climate Context

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

- ACCESS-S outlooks suggest drier than average conditions will ease from around June onwards, with a wet outlook for most of the country for June.
- La Niña is expected to end by June, with ENSO returning to neutral. Cooler than average sea surface temperatures may continue to linger in the central and eastern tropical Pacific.
- There is the possibility of the development of a moderate to strong negative IOD from June onwards. Model skill is low at this time of the year but there is a consensus between international models.