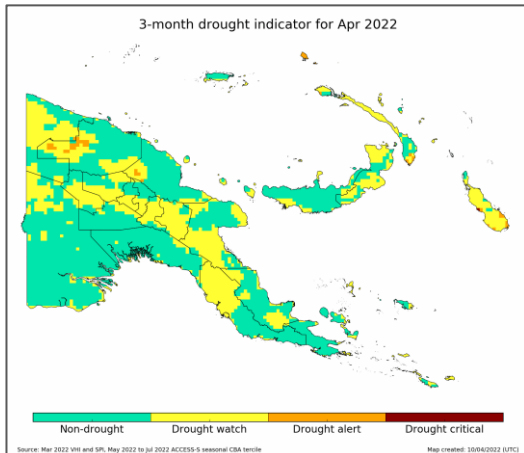


Key messages

New Ireland no longer at Drought Alert, however **Drought Watch remains active** across most north-eastern provinces that experienced severe rainfall deficiency in the past months. East New Britain was **most at risk** in February.

Drought Early Warning Status

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



- [March rainfall](#) was notably below average for most provinces except Central Gulf, Southern Highlands and Western.
- [January–March rainfall](#) was below average across provinces in the PNG highlands and in New Ireland, East/West New Britain and Bougainville which is contributing to the drought watch status for these provinces.
- [March vegetation health conditions](#) remain similar to February 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, Morobe, NCD, New Ireland, West Sepik, Western Highlands

None

None

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

Drought Risk Status

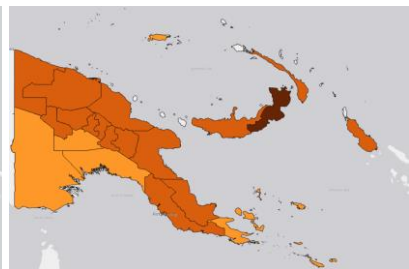
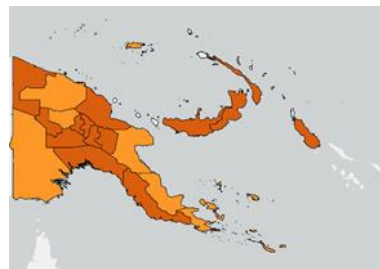
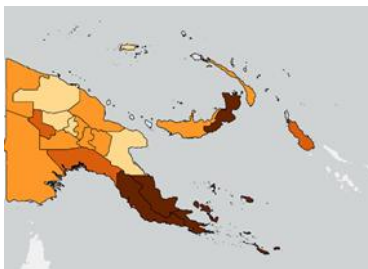
An indication of past drought risk based on drought hazard, exposure and vulnerability.

- East New Britain is still at a high-risk level as it has been in recent months; it should be closely monitored.
- Most provinces are at a severe or moderate risk level; this is the second month with little to no extreme levels.

January 2022

February 2022

March 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

● March 2022 Provinces in Extreme

Bougainville, Central, Chimbu, East Sepik, Eastern Highlands, Enga, Hela, Jiwaka, Madang, Morobe, National Capital District, New Ireland, Northern (Oro), West New Britain, West Sepik, Western Highlands

East New Britain

Climate Context

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

- ACCESS-S outlooks suggest a wet signal over the south of the mainland for May, becoming more widespread from June onwards.
- La Niña is expected to end during May, with ENSO returning to neutral.
- There is the possibility of the development of a negative IOD from June onwards, but model skill is very low at this time of the year. Skill sharply increases from late May onwards.