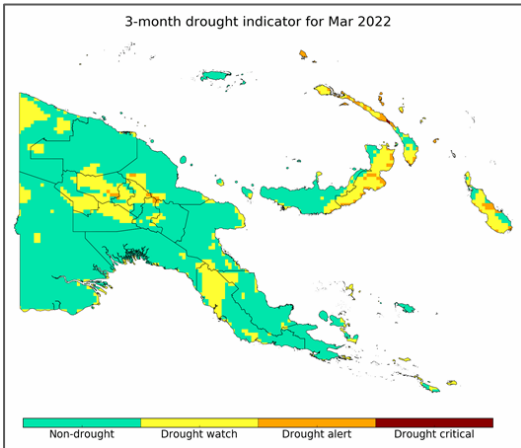


## Key messages

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

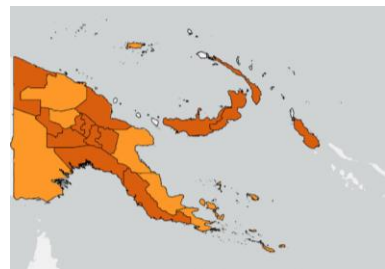
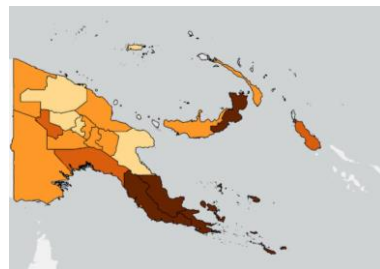
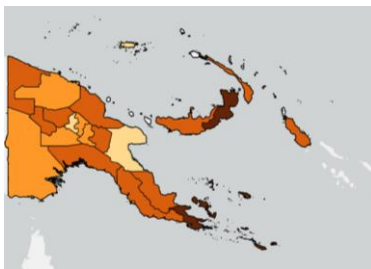
An indication of past drought risk based on drought hazard, exposure and vulnerability.

- 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.