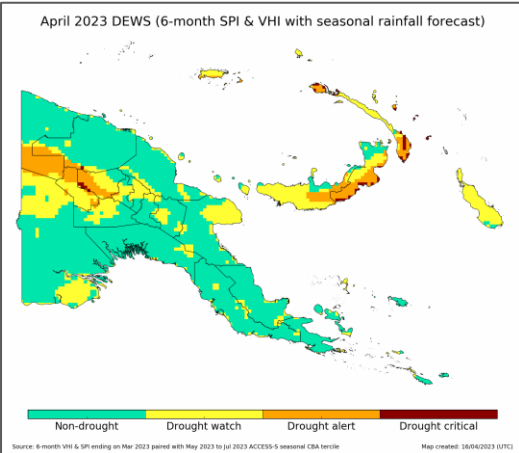


Key messages

East New Britain, West New Britain and West Sepik provinces continue to remain at severe drought risk whilst Bougainville has reduced risk levels to a moderate level. At six months timescale, East New Britain and Enga provinces are at drought alert level. ENSO is currently at neutral conditions and is likely to continue into May. However, there is an increased chance of El Niño forming later in the year.

Drought Early Warning Status

Derived from observed rainfall, vegetation health and forecasted rainfall.



- [Rainfall over the last month](#) was below average to average across the country except Wewak and Bougainville received above average rainfall.
- [Rainfall over the last three months](#) was below average to average across most parts of the country except Wewak, Milne Bay, and Southern Highlands received above average rainfall.
- [Vegetation health conditions](#) shows stress remaining in Bougainville, and Enga from previous months. Morobe and Western Provinces also showing some stress since last month.
- [Forecasts for the upcoming season](#) indicate below average to average rainfall for the Islands region including Bougainville, Hela, Gulf, Southern Highlands, Western, northern parts of Central and lower parts of West Sepik. Rest of the country is forecasted to receive average to above average rainfall.
- At the [6-month drought timescale](#), Enga, East New Britain and New Ireland shows critical drought alert from previous months.

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

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

● Drought Watch	● Drought Alert	● Drought Critical
Bougainville, Hela, Jiwaka, Manus, New Ireland, West New Britain, Western Highlands	East New Britain, Enga	

Drought Risk Status

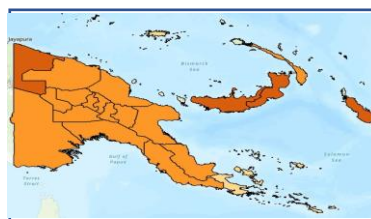
An indication of past drought risk based on drought hazard, exposure and vulnerability.

- East New Britain, West New Britain and West Sepik remain at severe drought risk from previous months whilst Bougainville has reduced risk level to moderate.
- Central, Enga, Hela, Jiwaka and Morobe have increased risk levels to severe in the last month and therefore will be monitored closely.

January 2023



February 2023



March 2023



● Provinces in Severe this month

● Provinces in Extreme this month

Central, East New Britain, Enga, Hela, Jiwaka, Morobe, West New Britain, West Sepik

Climate Context

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

- ACCESS-S outlook for the coming season indicate below average to average rainfall in the Islands region including Bougainville, Hela, Gulf, Southern Highlands, Western, northern parts of Central and lower parts of West Sepik. Rest of the country is forecasted to receive average to above average rainfall.
- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is at neutral conditions and is likely to continue into May. However, there is an increased chance of El Niño forming later in the year
- Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) has recently been active in the Western Pacific which may have affected rainfall in parts of the country. It is forecasted to move into central and eastern Pacific in the next one to two weeks.
- The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) remains within neutral conditions as last month. However conditions are likely to reach positive thresholds in the coming months.