



# Drought Information Statement for Micronesia

Valid March 29, 2024

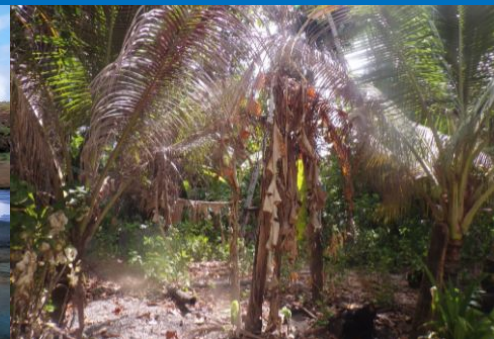
Issued By: WFO Guam

Contact Information: [nws.gum.operations@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.gum.operations@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated April 12, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/gum/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



Photo courtesy FSM Adaptation Fund

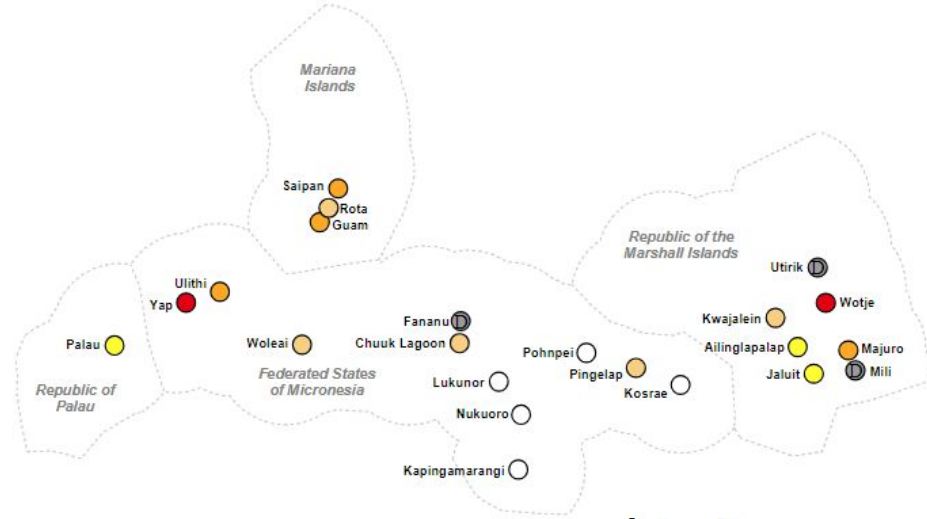




# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Micronesia and the rest of the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands

- Drought is spreading and worsening in some areas of Micronesia.
- Drought Intensity:
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought):**
    - Yap State: Yap Proper
    - RMI: Wotje and nearby islands
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):**
    - Yap State: Ulithi and nearby islands
    - RMI: Majuro and nearby islands
    - Marianas: Saipan, Tinian, and Guam
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):**
    - Yap State: Woleai and nearby islands
    - Chuuk State: Chuuk Lagoon and nearby islands
    - Pohnpei State: Pingelap and nearby islands
    - Marianas: Rota
    - RMI: Kwajalein
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry):**
    - Republic of Palau: Palau
    - RMI: Ailinglapalap, Jaluit and nearby islands



## Intensity

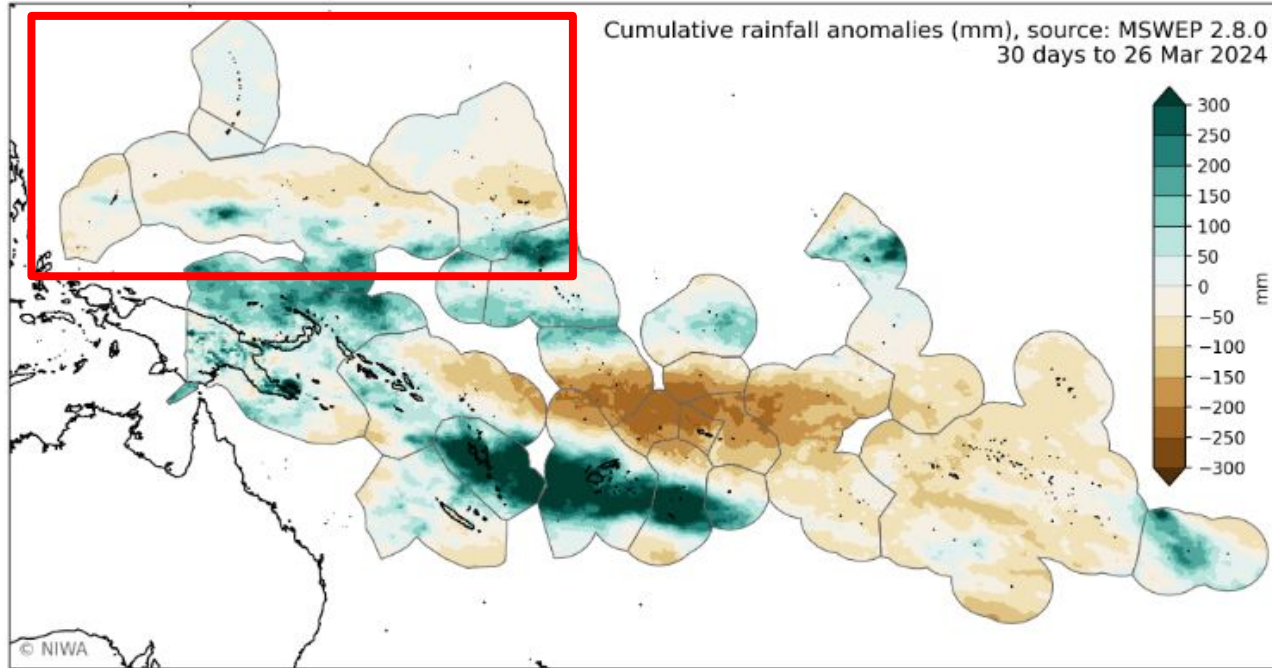
- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data





# Rainfall During the Last 30 Days

- Satellite and rain gauge data show **drier than normal conditions across much of Micronesia during the last 30 days; particularly for areas north of 6N.**
- A trade wind disturbance last week brought much-needed rainfall to areas of the FSM, particularly to Pohnpei and Chuuk States.
- Wetter than normal conditions during the last 30 days remain generally south of 6N to near the equator.



Map courtesy of the [National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research \(NIWA\)](#)





# Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Water catchment levels are low or nearly empty on some islands. Water shortages for communities are occurring, especially on the outer islands of **Yap State** and **northern RMI**. Much-needed rainfall fell across many areas of Pohnpei and Chuuk States, bringing short term relief to islands of both states.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Agricultural recovery from crop damage across the **RMI** and the **FSM** from the King Tide and trade wind inundation on March 10 and 11, and the mid-January coastal flooding event remains unknown.
- Agricultural strain is being reported from assessment teams and residents from islands across **Yap State**: taro patches drying up and coconuts drying out; and many reports of yellowing crops.
- Wildfires have been reported on **Guam**, with one event burning through a reforestation project. Wildfires have also been reported the last couple weeks in **Palau, Yap** and **Pohnpei**.

## Mitigation Actions

- **Water conservation measures are highly encouraged** as both dry season and the dry phase of El Niño continues across the region.
- The **Republic of Palau is now on Stage 1 of the Drought Action Plan** due to drying conditions there.

## Preparedness Actions

- Residents should report agricultural and hydrologic impacts to local DCOs and WSOs. Reports from the islands are critical for decision-making and government responses.



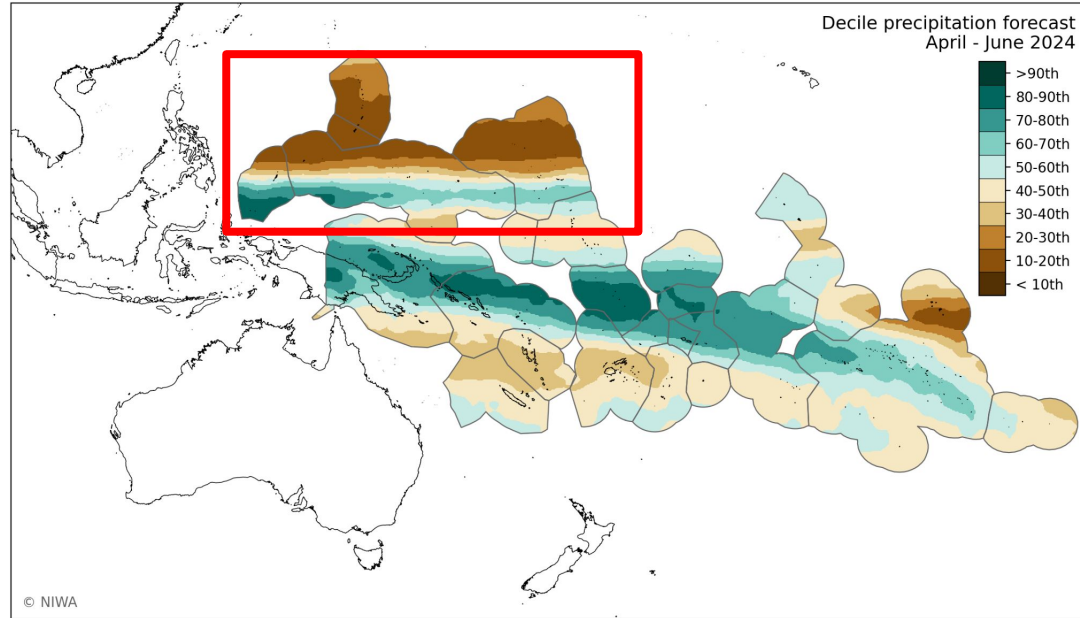




# Drought Outlook

The latest El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- **Worsening drought is favored across much of Micronesia, especially islands near and north of 7N.** However, trade-wind disturbances moving through the region will provide some rain to **Palau and Kosrae**, along with the southern islands of the **RMI**, **Pohnpei**, and **Chuuk** states near and south of 6N.
- Short-term (1-3 Weeks Outlook)
  - Global model consensus and the current phase of the [MJO](#) favor a drier than normal pattern over much of the region through the mid April. See [CPC - Global Tropics Hazard Outlook](#) for more info.
- Seasonal (3 Month Outlook)
  - The rainfall forecast through June remains drier than normal for islands near and north of 5N-7N latitude.



Map courtesy of the [National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research \(NIWA\)](#)

