



Drought Information Statement for Micronesia

Valid March 15, 2024

Issued By: WFO Guam

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- This product will be updated March 29, 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

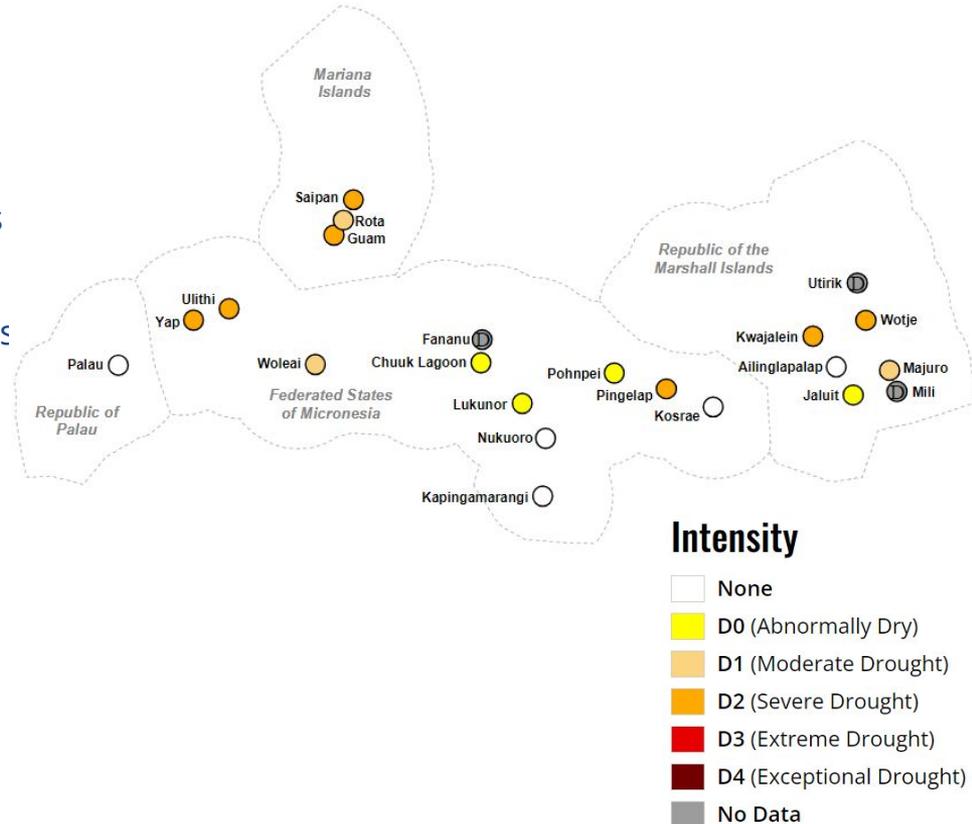




U.S. Drought Monitor

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

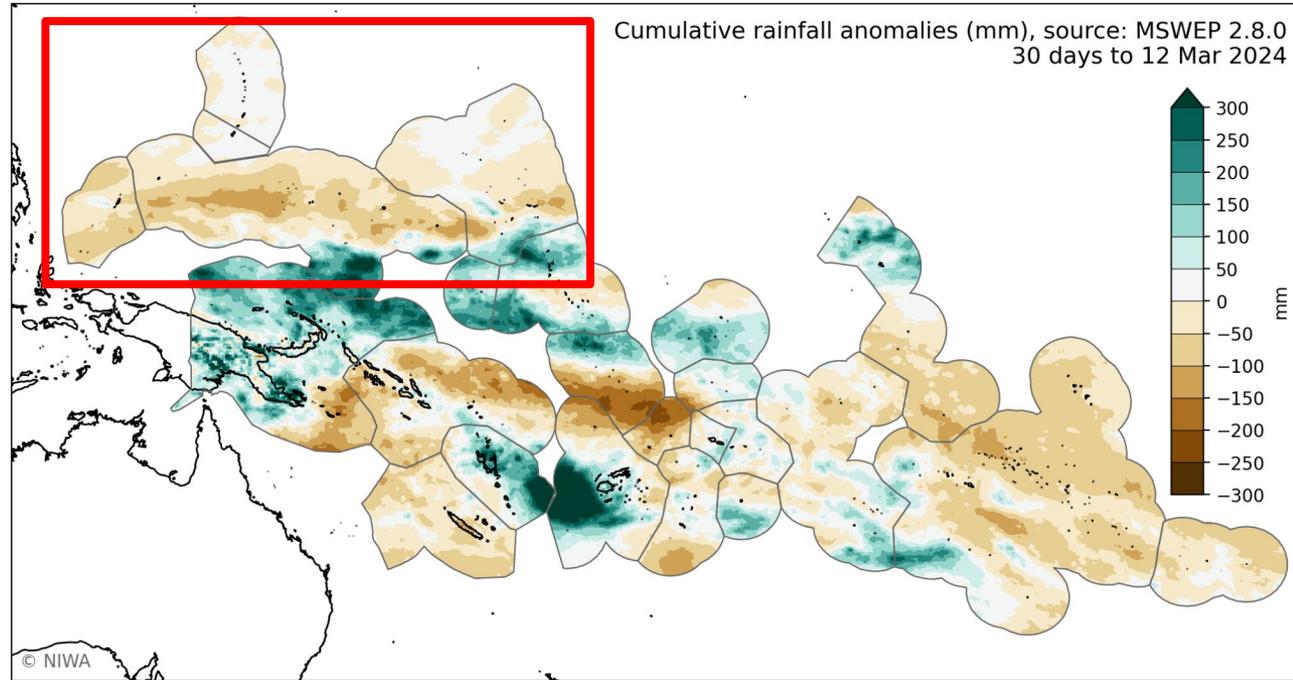
- Drought is expanding across Micronesia
- Drought Intensity
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):**
 - Yap State: Yap, Ulithi and nearby islands
 - Pohnpei State: Pingelap and nearby islands
 - RMI: Wotje, Kwajalein and nearby islands
 - Marianas: Saipan, Tinian, and Guam
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):**
 - Chuuk State: Woleai and nearby islands
 - Marianas: Rota
 - RMI: Majuro
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry):**
 - Chuuk State: Chuuk Lagoon, Lukunor, and nearby islands
 - RMI: Jaluit and nearby islands
 - Pohnpei State: Pohnpei





Rainfall During the Last 30 Days

- Satellite and rain gauge data show **drier than normal conditions across Micronesia during the last 30 days (including most of the northwest Pacific, excluding locations closest to the equator).**
- Wetter than normal conditions during the last 30 days remain near and along 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 on some islands. Water shortages for communities are occurring, especially on the outer islands of **Yap State, Chuuk State, Pohnpei State,** and **northern RMI.**

Agricultural Impacts

- On March 10 and 11, a combination of King Tides and surging trade winds and swell caused inundation across much of the **RMI** and eastern **FSM (Kosrae)**. This follows a large coastal flooding event on January 20. These have resulted in crop damage for islands of **central and eastern Micronesia, and possibly the RMI.** The state of agricultural recover is unclear at this time.
- Wildfires have been reported on **Guam**, with one event burning through a reforestation project. Isolated report of wildfires include **Yap** and **Pohnpei.**

Mitigation Actions

- **Water conservation measures are highly encouraged** as both dry season and the dry phase of El Niño continue to spread across the region.

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.

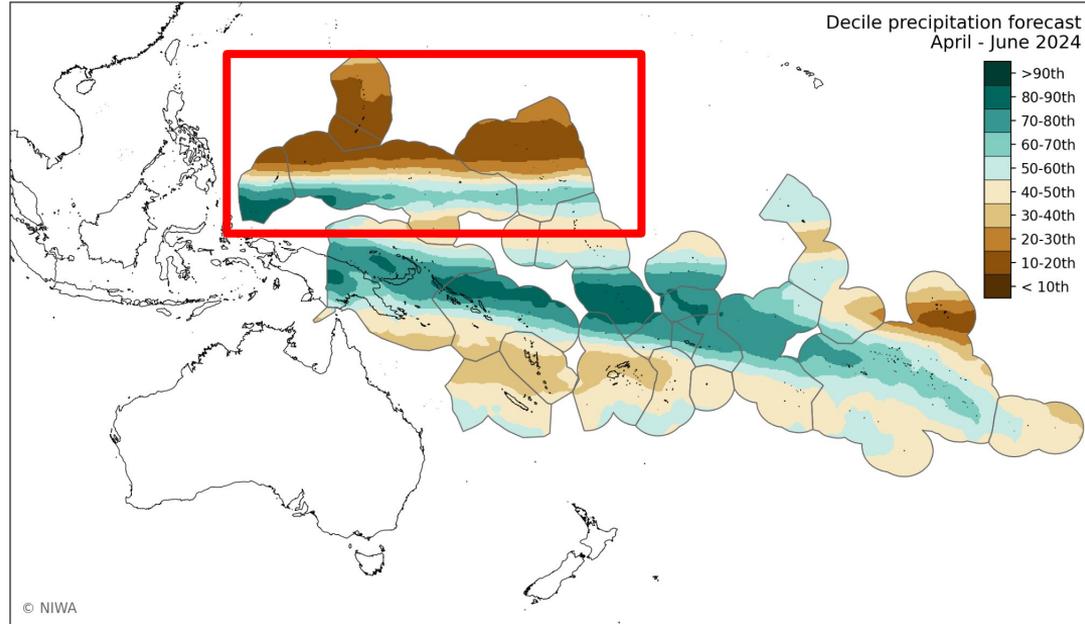




Drought Outlook

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 5N.** However, a trade-wind disturbance over the FSM will provide much-needed rainfall to many islands across Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states, along and south of 7N.
- **Short-term (1-3 Weeks Outlook)**
 - Global model consensus and the Madden-Julian Oscillation favor a slightly wetter than normal pattern over much of the region through the end of March. 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 \(NIWA\)](#)

