



Drought Information Statement for Micronesia

Valid April 26, 2024

Issued By: WFO Guam

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- This product will be updated May 10, 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

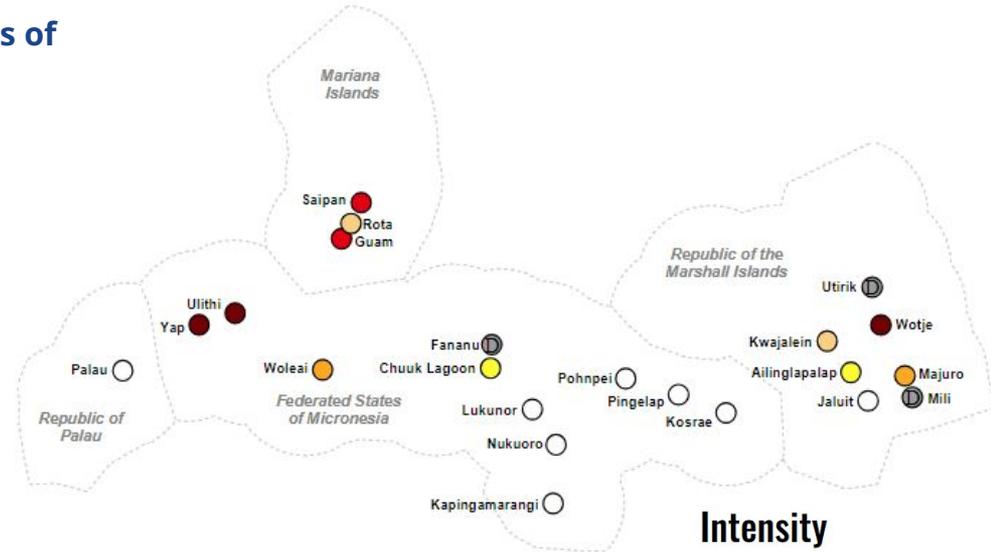




U.S. Drought Monitor

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:
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):**
 - Yap State: Yap Proper, Ulithi
 - RMI: Wotje and nearby islands
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):**
 - Marianas: Saipan, Tinian and Guam*
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):**
 - Yap State: Woleai and nearby islands
 - RMI: Majuro and nearby islands/atolls
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):**
 - Marianas: Rota
 - RMI: Kwajalein and nearby islands
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry):**
 - Chuuk State: Chuuk Lagoon and nearby islands
 - RMI: Ailinglapalap and nearby islands



Intensity

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

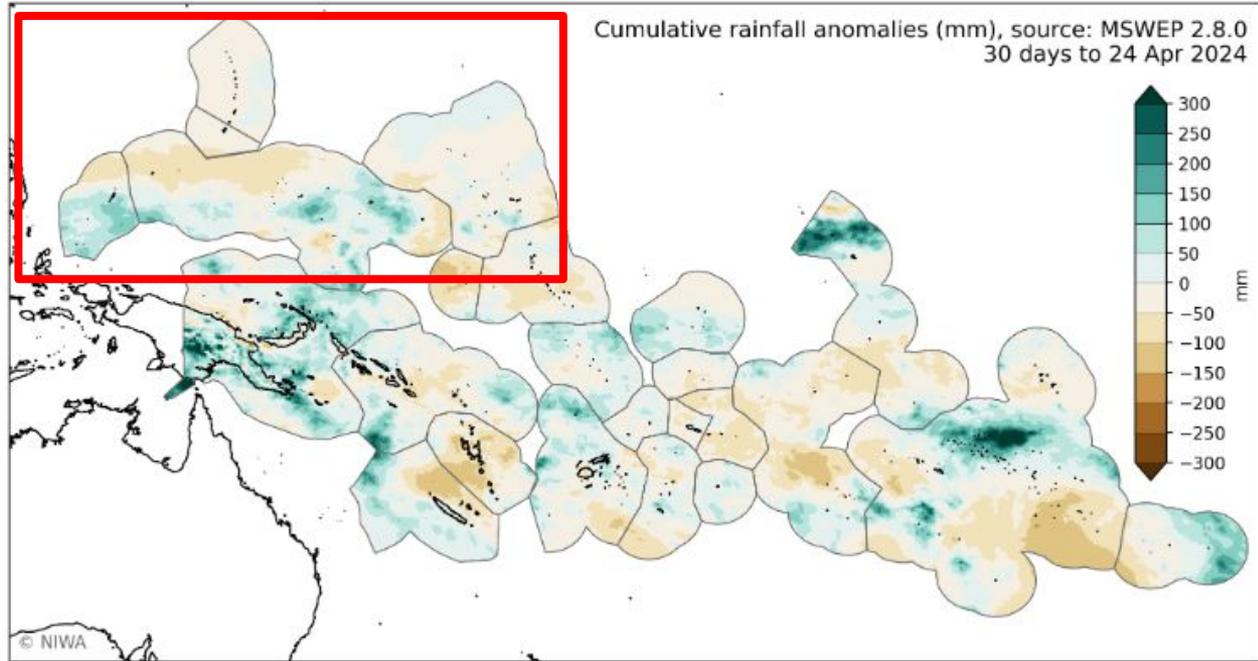
*Guam: Significant rains fell midweek over Guam, but after the weekly reporting period. Next week's analysis could show some improvement for Guam.





Rainfall During the Last 30 Days

- Satellite and rain gauge data show **drier than normal conditions across parts of Micronesia during the last 30 days; particularly for areas north of 7N.**
- Trade wind disturbances have brought much-needed rainfall to areas of the FSM, particularly to Pohnpei, Kosrae and Chuuk States; the southern islands of RMI, and to Palau.
- Wetter than normal conditions during the last 30 days remain generally south of 7N to near the equator. Much of Guam received 3 to 6 inches of rain on 24 April during a heavy rain event.



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 for islands in **Yap State**, and the **northern RMI**. Much-needed rainfall fell across **Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae States**, as well as **Palau** and the **southern RMI**.

Agricultural Impacts

- Agricultural strain was 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. Recent wildfires have also been reported in **Palau, Yap** and **Saipan**.

Mitigation Actions

- **Water conservation measures are highly encouraged** for those locations experiencing extreme to exceptional drought as both dry season and the dry phase of the waning El Niño continues.
- Although receiving much needed rainfall in the last week, the **Republic of Palau remains on Stage 1 of the Drought Action Plan**.

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.

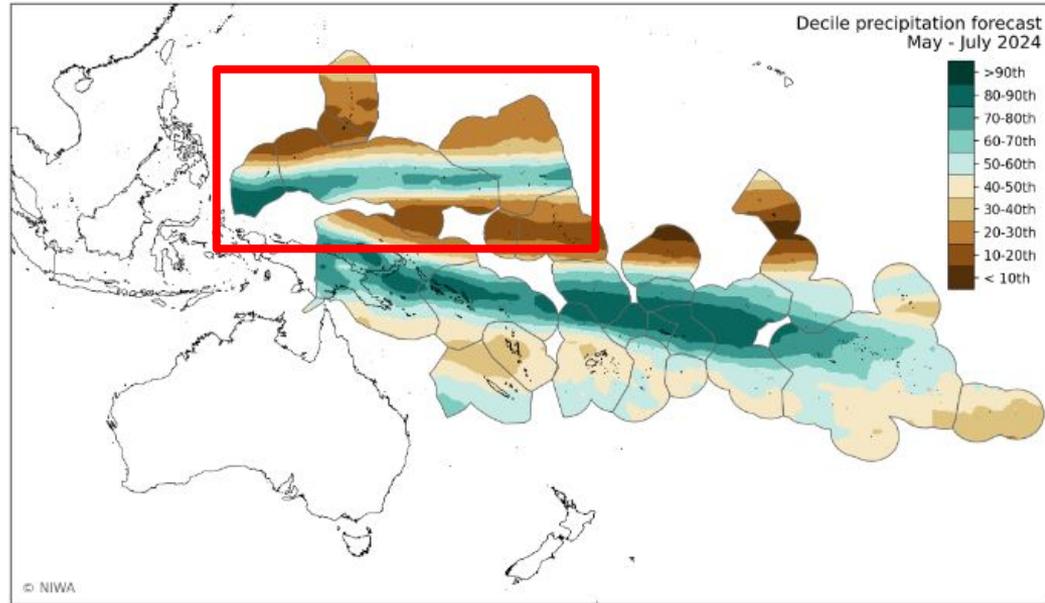




Drought Outlook

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

- **Worsening drought is favored across Yap State in Micronesia, and the northern Marshall Islands.** Trade-wind disturbances will provide additional showers to the main islands of the region, including **Majuro, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Palau.**
- **Short-term (1-3 Weeks Outlook)**
 - Global model consensus and a weak [MJO](#) favor a drier than normal pattern for the region in Week 1. The MJO could strengthen in Week 2 bringing near or above-normal rainfall to areas south of 7N. See [CPC - Global Tropics Hazard Outlook](#) for more info.
- **Seasonal (3 Month Outlook)**
 - The rainfall forecast through July remains drier than normal for islands near and north of 7-8N latitude; and wetter than normal to the south.



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

