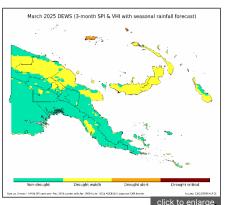


#### Issued 29/03/2025

Bougainville and the New Guinea Islands region have been experiencing drought like conditions since December 2024 despite the wet season. It is likely that water related resources will be affected. In addition, East Sepik, Jiwaka and Madang continue to be in a drought watch status since last two months. El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains at neutral condition despite a shift towards La Niña-like state in the tropical Pacific during December to February. Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is in neutral status. Neutral conditions are most likely to persist for the forecast period.

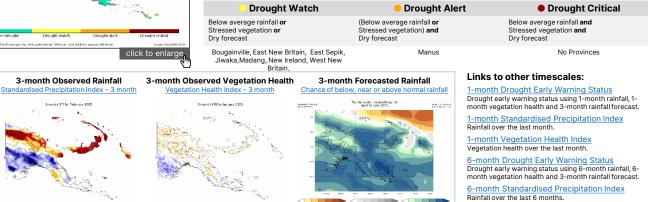
### **Drought Early Warning Status (DEWS)**

Derived from observed 3-month rainfall and vegetation health, along with 3-month forecasted rainfall.



- This month, Bougainville has shifted to drought watch from drought alert status in February & January. This is likely due to wetter conditions. Above average rainfall forecasted may possibly improve situation in the season ahead.
- Manus remains in a drought alert status since February. There are high chances of water related resources been affected.
- East New Britain, East Sepik, Jiwaka, New Ireland and West New Britain are in drought watch status at a three months timescale.
- The New Guinea Islands region has mostly been experiencing drought like conditions since December 2024 despite the wet season.

**3-month timescale provincial summary** (A province's overall status is given by its majority status on the map and is presented in this <u>summary table</u>)



<u>6-month Vegetation Health Index</u> Vegetation health over the last 6 months.

# Provinces at Risk if Drought Occurs

Contextualise drought early warning information with drought risk information.

**Drought risk** is the probability of harmful impacts resulting from interactions between drought hazard, exposure, and vulnerability. Hazard information is given by the Early Warning Status, with drought exposure and vulnerability levels shown in the maps below.

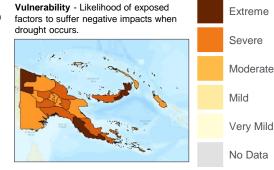
#### **Provinces of concern:**

**3-month DEWS inputs** 

- Manus has a Drought Alert status with mild exposure and moderate vulnerability levels.
- Bougainville, East New Britain, Jiwaka, Madang, New Ireland and West New Britain are at a drought watch status

Exposure - Extent of exposed aspects of the total population and its livelihoods in an area which drought may occur.





# **Climate Context**

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

- ACCESS-S rainfall outlooks for April and April to June, consistently shows average to above average rainfall across PNG except Manus and New Ireland provinces showing normal to below normal rainfall.
- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains at neutral condition despite a shift towards La Niña-like state in the tropical Pacific during December to February. ENSO neutral is likely to remain for sometime.
- Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is in neutral status. Neutral conditions are most likely to persist for sometime.