

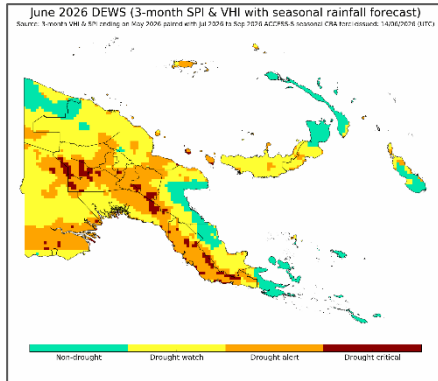
Key messages

Issued 24/06/2026

NCD is now under drought status whilst Chimbu, Enga, Western Highlands, Manus and Central remain in drought alert status at a three months timescale. El Niño has been declared. Climate models forecast it to last until early next year. Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral. However, a positive IOD is likely to develop later in the coming months. The Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) is weak. A weak MJO will most likely have less impact on rainfall over PNG.

Drought Early Warning Status (DEWS)

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



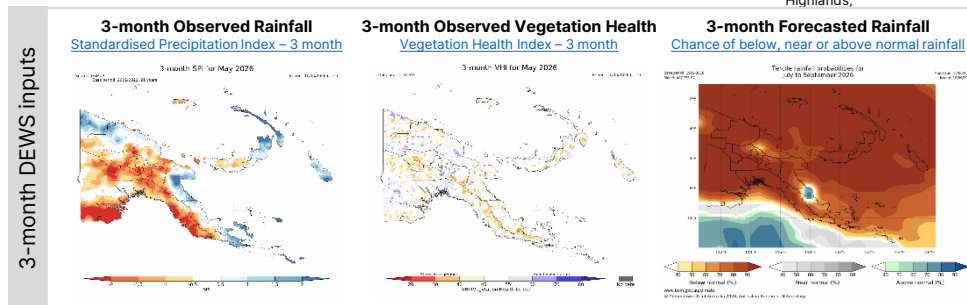
click to enlarge

- NCD is now in drought status at the three months timescale. This is an indication that basic services like water and electricity are likely to be affected.
- In addition, Central, Chimbu, Enga, Hela, Manus and Western Highlands remain in drought alert whilst Eastern & Southern Highlands have transitioned to drought alert at the three months timescale.
- Prolong dry conditions in specific highlands provinces are already affecting agricultural produce and water resources.
- Furthermore, there is high risk of bush fires occurring due to drier vegetation cover.

3-month timescale provincial summary

(A province's overall status is given by its majority status on the map and is presented in this [summary table](#))

Drought Watch	Drought Alert	Drought Critical
Below average rainfall or Stressed vegetation or Dry forecast	(Below average rainfall or Stressed vegetation) and Dry forecast	Below average rainfall and Stressed vegetation and Dry forecast
East Sepik, Gulf, Jiwaka, Madang, Morobe, Oro, West New Britain, Western, East Sepik	Central, Chimbu, Eastern Highlands, Enga, Hela, Manus, Southern Highlands, Western Highlands,	NCD



Links to other timescales:

[1-month Drought Early Warning Status](#)
Drought early warning status using 1-month rainfall, 1-month vegetation health and 3-month rainfall forecast.

[1-month Standardised Precipitation Index](#)
Rainfall over the last month.

[1-month Vegetation Health Index](#)
Vegetation health over the last month.

[6-month Drought Early Warning Status](#)
Drought early warning status using 6-month rainfall, 6-month vegetation health and 3-month rainfall forecast.

[6-month Standardised Precipitation Index](#)
Rainfall over the last 6 months.

[6-month Vegetation Health Index](#)
Vegetation health over the last 6 months.

Provinces at Risk if Drought Occurs

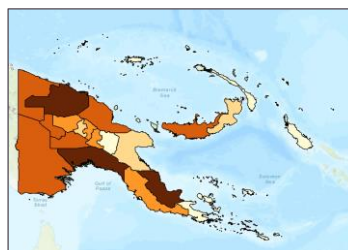
Contextualise drought early warning information with drought risk information.

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.

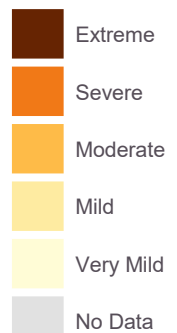
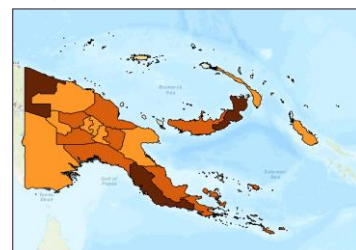
Provinces of concern:

- NCD is at drought critical status with severe exposure and extreme vulnerability levels.
- Central, Chimbu, Eastern Highlands, Enga, Hela, Manus, Southern Highlands & Western Highlands are in drought alert with mild to moderate exposure and moderate to extreme vulnerability levels.

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



Vulnerability - Likelihood of exposed factors to suffer negative impacts when drought occurs.



Climate Context

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

- ACCESS-S rainfall outlook for July and July to September shows below normal rainfall over most of PNG.
- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is in El Niño phase. Climate models forecast El Niño to last until early next year
- Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral. However, a positive IOD is likely to develop later in the coming months.
- The Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) is weak. A weak MJO will most likely have less impact on rainfall over PNG.