

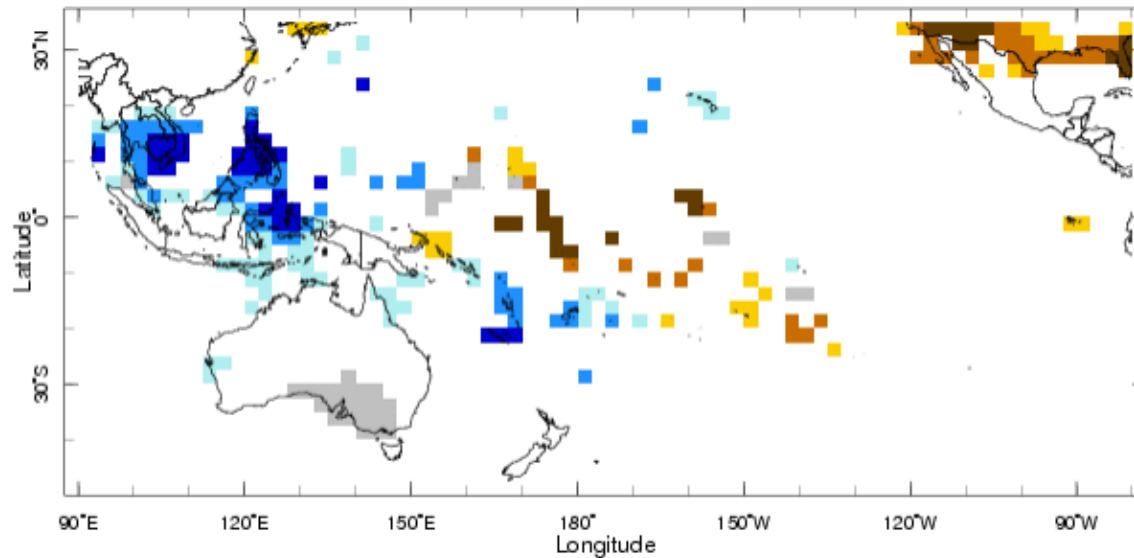
Pacific Regional Forecast: Total Rainfall for February-April 2012

Produced by the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society

Forecast Update: La Niña redeveloped in August and is now of weak to moderate strength. It is likely to affect rainfall patterns in some areas.

IRI Global Forecast Map: Colours show whether the season of February-April 2012 will be unusually wet or dry.

- The colours on this map show *areas with a greater chance of having an unusually wet or dry season*. The darker the colour, the more confidence we have.
- For more information to help interpret the forecast, see accompanying document called: 'Important Forecast Guidance and Resources'.



How confident can we be that the next 3 months will be unusually wet?

Low Confidence
(35% to 40% Chance)

Medium Confidence
(45% to 50% Chance)

High Confidence
(55% Chance or Greater)

How confident can we be that the next 3 months will be unusually dry?

Low Confidence
(35% to 40% Chance)

Medium Confidence
(45% to 50% Chance)

High Confidence
(55% Chance or Greater)

Areas of Concern

IRI's forecast shows substantially increased chances of **unusually wet** conditions, implying enhanced flood risk for parts of:

- New Caledonia
- Vanuatu

In the Western Pacific, **sea levels** are also predicted to be slightly higher due to the La Niña. This could increase the chance of inundation during storms.

IRI's forecast shows substantially increased chances of **unusually dry** conditions, implying enhanced drought risk for:

- Kiribati (main and east)
- Nauru
- Tuvalu (already facing a water shortage emergency due to drought)

What can I do?

Given the notably increased risk of heavy rains in parts of Australia, Fiji, New Caledonia, Niue, and Tonga, we strongly recommend making contact with national met services and monitoring weather forecasts on shorter timescales over the course of the season to anticipate the specifics in terms of where, when and how severe rainfall events might be. You may also want to consider advanced planning for implications of above-normal rainfall on disaster management, health, WAT SAN and livelihoods for instance.

Given the notably increased risk of drought in Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu (which is already facing a water shortage emergency due to drought), we strongly recommend monitoring for any emerging drought conditions that would activate your regional drought contingency plans. You might also consider some pre-emptive actions such as hand washing campaigns, water conservation etc, as appropriate.