



COMITE PERMANENT INTER-ETATS DE LUTTE CONTRE LA SECHERESSE DANS LE SAHEL
PERMANENT INTERSTATE COMMITTEE FOR DROUGHT CONTROL IN THE SAHEL
COMITÉ PERMANENTE INTER-ESTADOS DE LUTA CONTRA A SECA NO SAHEL
اللجنة الدائمة المشتركة لمحاربة التصحر في الساحل



Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo

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AGRHYMET CCR-AOS

Seasonal Forecasts of Agro-hydro-climatic characteristics of the major rainy season in the Gulf of Guinea countries (PRESAGG - 2025)

February 21, 2025

For the 2025 major rainy season in the southern parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries, average to below average rainfall totals are expected in southeastern Nigeria, southwestern Côte d'Ivoire and average to above average rainfall in the southwestern parts of Nigeria, southeastern Ghana and southern Benin, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire; an early to average onset, an early to average cessation and long to average dry spell durations are expected over most of the Gulf of Guinea area; average to above average flows in the western coastal basins and above average to average flows in the eastern coastal basins.

Organized in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, by AGRHYMET Regional Climate Centre for West Africa and the Sahel (AGRHYMET CCR-AOS), in collaboration with ACMAD, the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) of the Gulf of Guinea countries and river basin organizations, the 2025 edition of **PRESA-GG** reached the following conclusions.

I. Forecast summaries

The seasonal forecasts are based on, among other things, the analysis of the current situation and likely changes in Ocean Surface Temperatures (OST), forecasts from global climate centers, statistical analyses of data from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), and expert knowledge of the climate characteristics in the Gulf of Guinea area. Based on the 1991-2020 climatological baseline, the consensus between the various pieces of information analyzed led to the following forecasts:

- **Average to below average rainfall totals are expected over the March-April-May (MAM) period** in southeastern Nigeria and southwestern Côte d'Ivoire. In the southwestern parts of Nigeria, southern Benin, Togo, southeastern Ghana and southeastern Côte d'Ivoire, cumulative rainfall is expected to be average to above average. An average situation is expected in the other parts of the area covered by the forecast. Over the period **April-May-June (AMJ)**, the same seasonal configuration is expected, with a greater spatial extension for the average to above average situation, particularly in Nigeria, Benin, Togo and Ghana.
- **Late to normal onset dates** are expected over the southwestern part of Côte d'Ivoire and in the coastal areas of Ghana, Togo and Benin. In the southeastern part of Côte d'Ivoire, southern Ghana, central Togo, Benin and southern Nigeria, the onset dates of the season are expected to be early to normal.



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- **Early to normal end-of-season dates** are expected in the southern band of the Gulf of Guinea countries, from central Côte d'Ivoire to southern Nigeria. However, normal to late end-of-season dates are expected in the far south of Nigeria.
- **Long to normal dry spell durations** are expected at the beginning of the main rainy season in the southern strip of the Gulf of Guinea countries, from southern Côte d'Ivoire to south-central Nigeria.
- **Long to normal dry spell durations** are expected towards the end of the season in all southern parts of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria.
- **Average to above average flows** relatively to the 1991-2020 hydrological normal are expected in all coastal basins in the Gulf of Guinea countries. Specifically, above average flows are expected in the lower parts of the Cavally (in Côte d'Ivoire), Mono (in Togo and Benin) and Ouémé (in Benin) rivers; the coastal basins: Bia, the western part of San-Pedro and the eastern part of Agneby (in Côte d'Ivoire) and Tano and Ankobra (in Ghana); in the coastal basins of Boubo (in Côte d'Ivoire), Pra and Densu (in Ghana), Lake Togo (in Togo), lower Comoé and the eastern part of San-Pedro. In the basins of Couffo (in Benin), Sassandra and the western part of Agneby (in Côte d'Ivoire), flows are expected to be average to below average.

II. Potential impacts of forecasts

The potential negative impacts of the 2025 seasonal forecasts in the southern parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries could be as follows:

- In areas where above-average rainfall and runoff are expected, the risk of extreme events, such as flooding, remains very high. Similarly, the expected early onset of the season in most of the area would be favorable to flooding quite early.
- In areas where late onset dates, long dry spells and early cessation dates are expected, the risk of poor rainfall distribution is high. This could have negative impacts on crop growth. In basins where flows are expected to be below average, water supplies to dams, irrigated perimeters and fish production in flood-prone areas would be negatively impacted.

As for the potential positive impacts, they would be as follows:

- In areas where an early onset of the rainy season, above-average rainfall totals and flows are expected, stakeholders could seize these opportunities to increase agricultural, energy and fisheries production.

III. Recommendations

1) With regard to the risk of drought

Below average cumulative rainfall forecast for southeastern Nigeria and southwestern Côte d'Ivoire, early end-of-season dates and long dry spell durations pose a risk of water deficits in the areas concerned. These water deficits could disrupt plant growth and favor the development of crop pests. To reduce these risks, it is recommended to:



- Ensure regular and timely dissemination of weather, climate and hydrological information to users and decision-makers throughout the rainy season.
- Promote interaction with Meteorology, Agriculture and Hydrology technicians for specific information and advice on the actions to be taken.
- Promote the deployment of climate-smart techniques adapted to drought, including: the selection of species or varieties tolerant to water deficit, supplementary irrigation, and the efficient use of agrometeorological advice.
- Promote risk transfer to protect producers against the effects of crop losses through the subscription to index-based agricultural insurances.

2) With regard to the risk of flooding

The southern parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries are quite vulnerable to the risk of flooding due in particular to their denser population, their high level of anthropization, the rapid saturation of the soil and the low level of maintenance of sanitation networks. The forecast for the 2025 rainy season would be favorable to flooding, especially in areas where above average flows are expected. To reduce these risks, it is recommended to:

- Strengthen community awareness of the risks and their capacity to take preventive actions.
- Maintain permanent monitoring and ensure the production and dissemination of short- and medium-range forecasts, in particular by the national meteorological and hydrological services.
- Strengthen the response capacities of flood management, disaster risk management and humanitarian aid agencies, as well as the efforts of the press, communication platforms, NGOs and country early warning systems.
- Avoid the occupation of flood prone zones by homes, animals and crops.
- Ensure the safety of vulnerable people, including children, the elderly and those with limited mobility.

3) With regard to the risk of diseases

Wetlands and flooded areas can be favorable to the development of disease germs (cholera, malaria, dengue fever, schistosomiasis, etc.). Similarly, the long dry spells expected in some areas could lead to the proliferation of other epidemic disease germs. To this end, it is recommended to:

- Strengthen the capacities of national health systems and national disaster risk reduction platforms.
- Disseminate alert information on climate-sensitive diseases and raise awareness among the population, in collaboration with the meteorological, water resources and health services.
- Strengthen vigilance against crop diseases and pests by taking steps to prevent invasions (armyworm and other insect pests).
- Clean up populated areas and avoid contact with contaminated water, through drainage and rainwater evacuation operations.

4) With regard to the opportunities to seize

In view of the generally average to above average nature of rainfall in the Gulf of Guinea countries, it is recommended *that the authorities, NGOs and projects* support the various producers, including women and young people, to make better use of the rainy season by:

- supporting the deployment of techniques to increase crop yields and enhance water resources;
- strengthening agro-hydro-meteorological assistance to producers, including women and youth engaged in productivity;
- facilitating producers' access to improved seeds, adequate agricultural equipment, micro-finance, index-based agricultural insurance and other adapted technologies;
- taking advantage of average to above average situations to develop fish farming and optimize fishing yields in river basins.

Finally, it is recommended that stakeholders in the various sectors pay attention to the updates that will be made by the national meteorological and hydrological services, AGRHYMET CCR-AOS and ACMAD throughout the rainy season.

Done in Abidjan, 21 February 2025

The Forum

