



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



“50 years of commitment to serving the people of the Sahel and West Africa”

AGRHYMET CCR-AOS

Seasonal Forecasts of the Agro-hydro-climatic Characteristics of the Main Rainy Season in the Gulf of Guinea Countries (PRESAGG - 2026)

February 27, 2026

For the 2026 rainy season in the southern parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries, generally average to below-average rainfall is expected, with a high probability of above-average rainfall in the first part of the season in some areas of southern Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire; an early to normal onset; an early to normal cessation; short to normal dry spells; and average to above-average runoff in coastal basins. However, the second half of the rainy season is expected to be less wet.

Organized in Lomé, Togo, by AGRHYMET Regional Climate Centre for West Africa and the Sahel (AGRHYMET CCR-AOS), in collaboration with ACMAD, the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of the Gulf of Guinea countries, the River Basin Organizations in charge of coastal basins, and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the 2026 edition of **PRESA-GG** reached the following conclusions:

I. Forecast summaries

Seasonal forecasts are based on, among other things, the analysis of the current situation and likely changes in Sea Surface Temperatures (SST), 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 and hydrological references periods, the consensus among the various analyzed data has led to the following forecasts:

- **Average to above-average rainfall totals** are expected over **March-April-May (MAM)** period in most of the southern region of the Gulf of Guinea countries, except in certain localities in the far south, west and central Nigeria, eastern Côte d'Ivoire, and central and southern Ghana where rainfall totals are expected to be rather normal to below average. Over the period of **April-May-June (AMJ)**, the expected rainfall totals would be predominantly below average to average across the entire southern part of the Gulf of Guinea countries, except for some localities in southern and central Nigeria and southern and northern Ivory Coast.



- **Early to normal onset of the main rainy season** are planned across the entire southern strip of the Gulf of Guinea countries, from Nigeria to Ivory Coast.
- **Early to normal cessation of the main season** are expected in southwestern Nigeria and in the southern parts of Benin, Togo, and Ghana (except in the western area bordering Ivory Coast). In the southern half of Ivory Coast, extending to the portion bordering Ghana, the end of the season is expected to be average to early.
- **Short to normal dry spell durations (long consecutive number of dry days)** are expected at the beginning of the major rainy season across the entire southern band of the Gulf of Guinea countries, from the southwestern part of Nigeria to Ivory Coast, except in the central parts of Benin, Togo, Ghana and the central-western part of Ivory Coast where the dry spells are expected to be rather medium to long.
- **Short to normal dry spell durations** are expected towards the end of the main rainy season in the southern half of Ivory Coast and the western part of Ghana. In the southern band covering central and eastern Ghana, the southern parts of Togo and Benin and the western part of Nigeria, dry spells are expected to be fairly normal to long.
- **Near average flows** are expected in most coastal basins of the Gulf of Guinea countries, except in the Agneby basin (in Ivory Coast) and the Lower Niger Delta (in Nigeria) where flows are expected to be above normal.

II. Potential impacts of the forecasts

The potential negative impacts of the 2026 seasonal forecasts in the southern parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries could be as follows:

- In areas where early onset of the season are expected, short dry spells and normal to above-average rainfall and river flows, heavy rainfall events that could lead to more or less localized flooding are possible, particularly in the first half of the main rainy season.
- In areas where normal to below-normal rainfall totals, early end-of-season dates and normal runoff are expected, there is a risk of poor rainfall distribution which could lead to negative impacts on crop growth and water availability for hydroelectric dams, irrigated areas and fish production.

As for the potential positive impacts, they can be best leveraged in areas where an early start to the rainy season is expected, with above-average rainfall and runoff. In these areas, stakeholders could seize the opportunities offered by the season to increase agricultural, energy, and fisheries production.



III. Recommendations

1) Facing the risk of drought

The low rainfall totals forecast, particularly in the second half of the season across most of the southern Gulf of Guinea countries, and the early end of the season suggest a risk of water shortages in the affected areas. These water shortages could disrupt plant growth and promote the development of crop pests. To mitigate these risks, it is recommended to:

- To ensure regular and timely dissemination of meteorological, climatological and hydrological information as well as specific advice to users and decision-makers, throughout the rainy season.
- Promote the deployment of climate-smart techniques adapted to drought, including: the choice of species or varieties tolerant to water deficit, supplementary irrigation, the efficient use of agrometeorological advice and the development of other income-generating activities.
- Promote risk transfer to protect producers against the effects of crop losses, through the subscription of index-based agricultural insurance.

2) Facing the risk of flooding

The southern parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries are quite vulnerable to flooding, due in particular to high population density, rapid soil saturation, and poor maintenance of sanitation networks. The conditions forecast for the 2026 rainy season could therefore lead to flooding. To reduce these risks, it is recommended to:

- to support community awareness activities on risks and to strengthen their capacity to undertake preventive actions and to avoid the occupation of flood-prone areas.
- maintain continuous monitoring of risks and their impacts through the regular production and dissemination of information by the meteorological and hydrological services of the countries and regional institutions such as AGRHYMET CCR-AOS and ACMAD.
- Strengthen and support the efforts of the medias, communication platforms, NGOs and EWS in countries in disseminating and making information available in a timely manner.
- strengthen the response capacities of agencies in charge of flood management, disaster risk management and humanitarian aids.
- to ensure the safety of vulnerable people, including children, women, the elderly and those with limited mobility.

3) Facing the risk of diseases

Wetlands and flooded areas can be favorable to the development of disease-causing germs (cholera, malaria, dengue fever, schistosomiasis, etc.). Similarly, the expected rainfall deficits, particularly in

the second half of the main rainy season, could lead to the proliferation of other epidemic disease germs. Therefore, it is recommended to:

- Raising awareness among the population and issuing warnings about climate-sensitive germ diseases, in collaboration with meteorological, water resources and health services.
- Strengthen the response capacities of health services and national disaster risk reduction platforms.
- Strengthen vigilance and means of prevention against crop diseases and pests (army beetle and other harmful insects).
- To clean up urban areas to avoid stagnation and contact with contaminated water, through drainage and rainwater evacuation operations.

4) To capitalize on the opportunities provided by the rainy season

Given the generally normal to below-average rainfall during the main rainy season in the countries of the Gulf of Guinea, it is recommended *to the authorities, NGOs and Projects*, to support farmers, including women and young people, to better benefit from the rainy season by:

- Supporting the deployment of techniques to increase crop yields and efficient water resource management;
- Strengthening agro-meteorological assistance to farmers, especially the most committed, who are mostly women and young people;
- Facilitating access for producers to improved seeds, suitable agricultural equipment, microfinance, index-based agricultural insurance and other appropriate technologies;
- Taking advantage of normal to surplus situations to develop fish farming and optimize fishing yields in the Agniby and Lower Niger Delta river basins.

Finally, stakeholders in various sectors are advised to pay close attention to updates that will be provided by national meteorological and hydrological services, AGRHYMET CCR-AOS and ACMAD, throughout the rainy season.

Done in Lomé, on February 27, 2026

The Forum

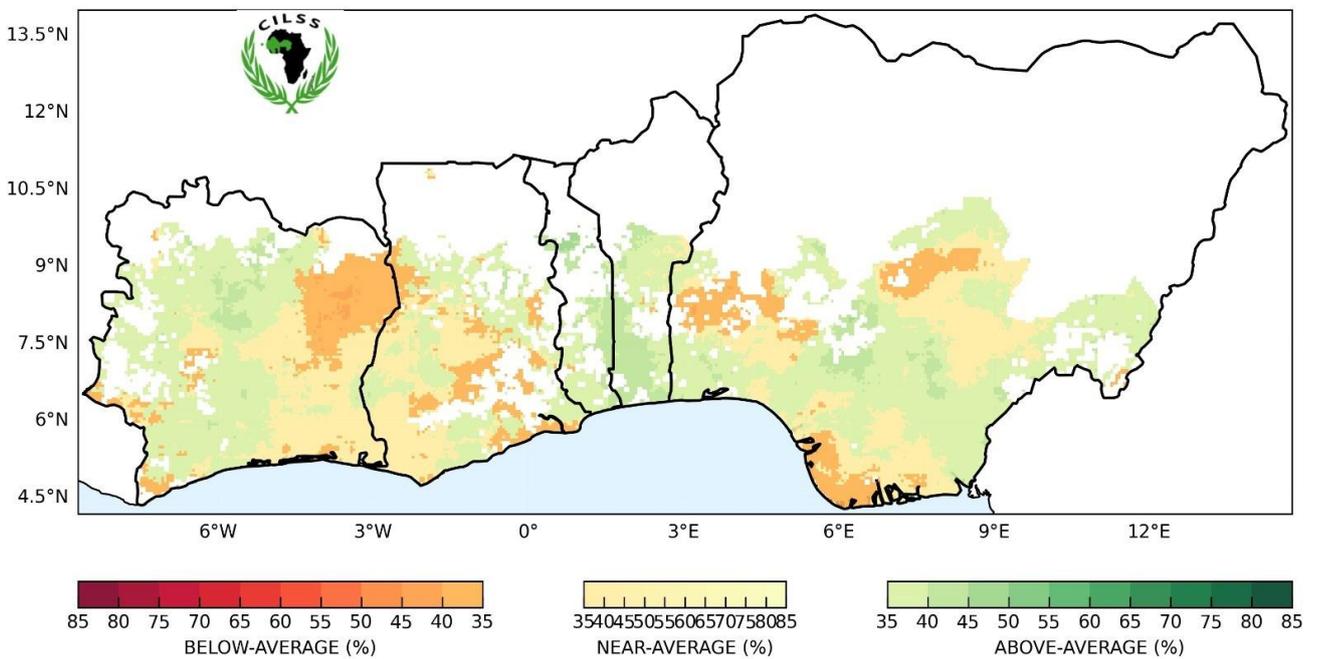


ANNEXES



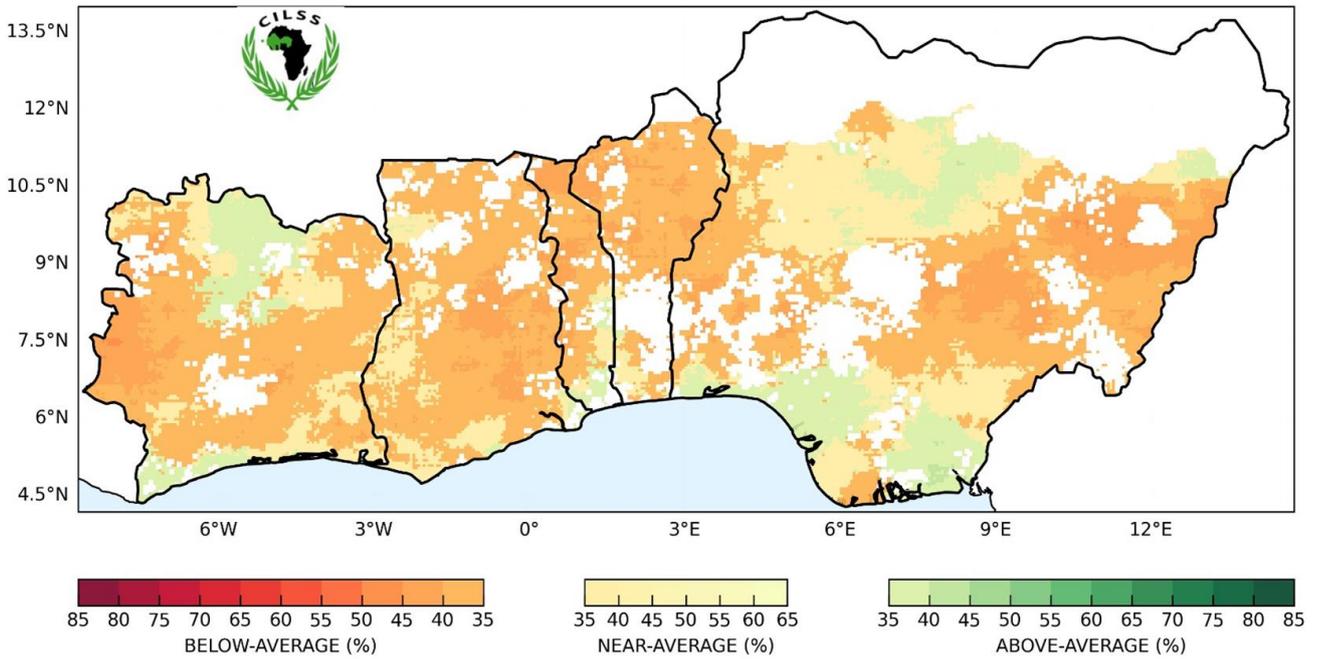
A) Rainfall Accumulation Forecast

**Probabilistic Seasonal Forecast
Consolidated Weighted MarAprMay-2026 IC: February**

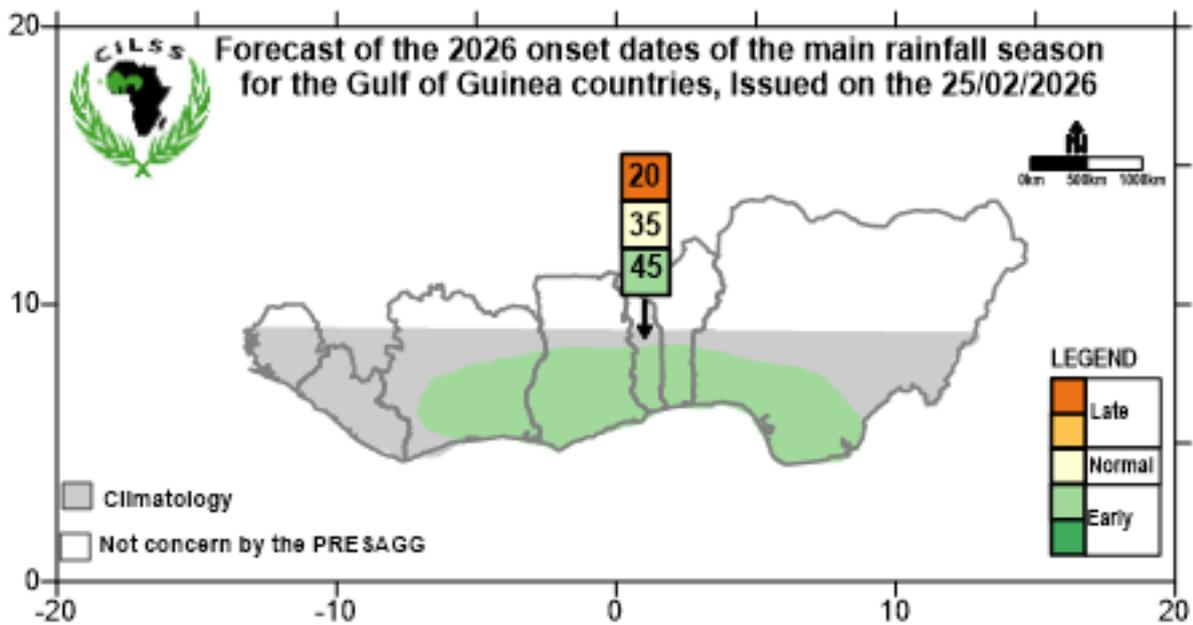


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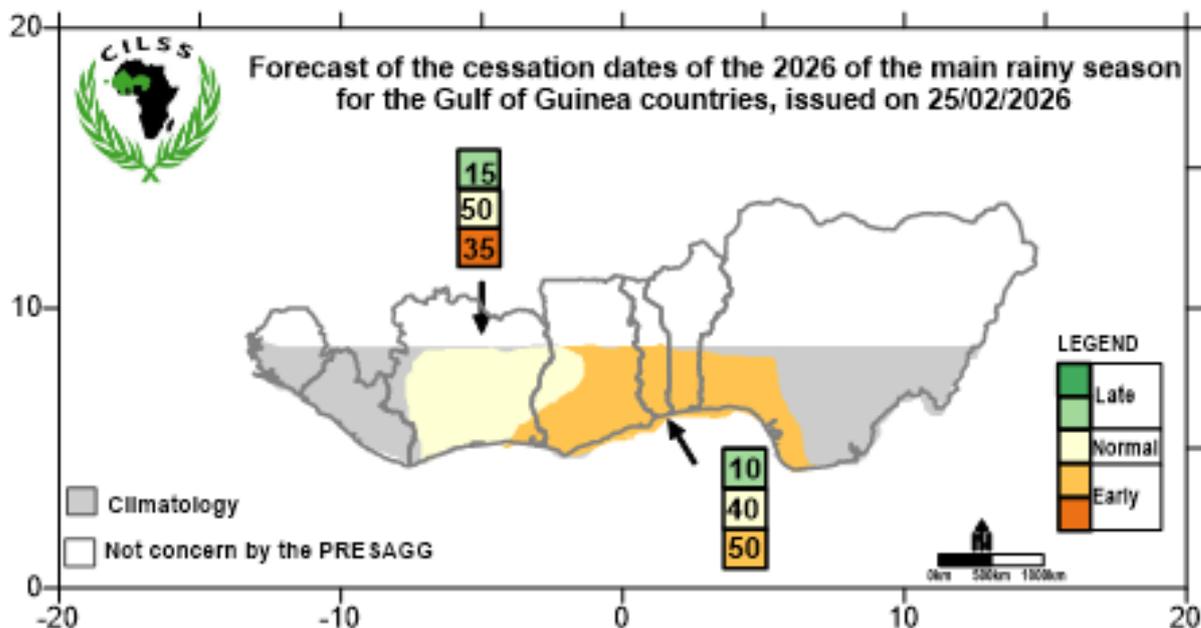
**Probabilistic Seasonal Forecast
Consolidated EqualWeighted AprMayJun-2026 IC: February**



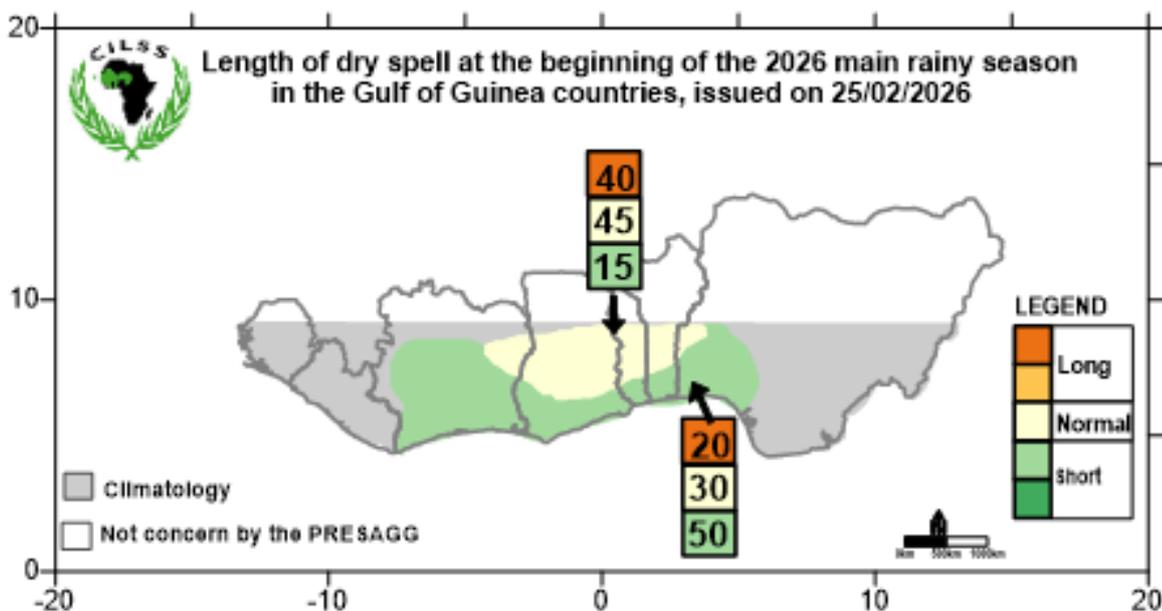
B) Predicted start dates for the season



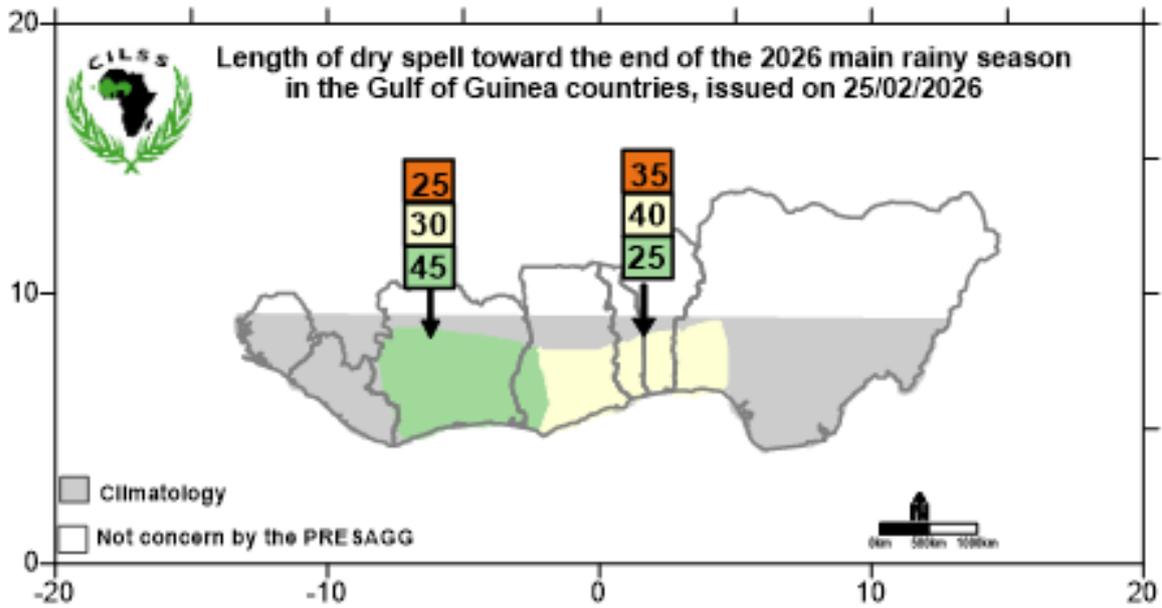
C) Forecast of end-of-season dates



D) Dry spells at the start of the season



E) Dry spells towards the end of the season



F) Forecasting flows in coastal river basins

