

Drought and Flood Monitoring Bulletin

Providing Weather Climate and Water Information for Safety and Sustainable Development

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PREAMBLE

The March Drought and Flood Monitoring Bulletin (DFMB)—has been prepared using the WMO recommended Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) technique. During the period under review, few places in the north witnessed scattered rainfall events, with attendant improvement in horizontal visibility. However, the intensities of the rainfall were not sufficient to dampen the prevailing heat stress in the region. Unlike in the north, most places in the southern and central parts of the country were wet. The maps as usual represent the 1-month (i.e. March, 2018), the 3-month (January - March, 2018), the 6-month (October, 2017 - March, 2018) and the 12-month (April, 2017 - March, 2018) SPIs respectively. They show the degrees of wetness and dryness across the country during the periods under review.

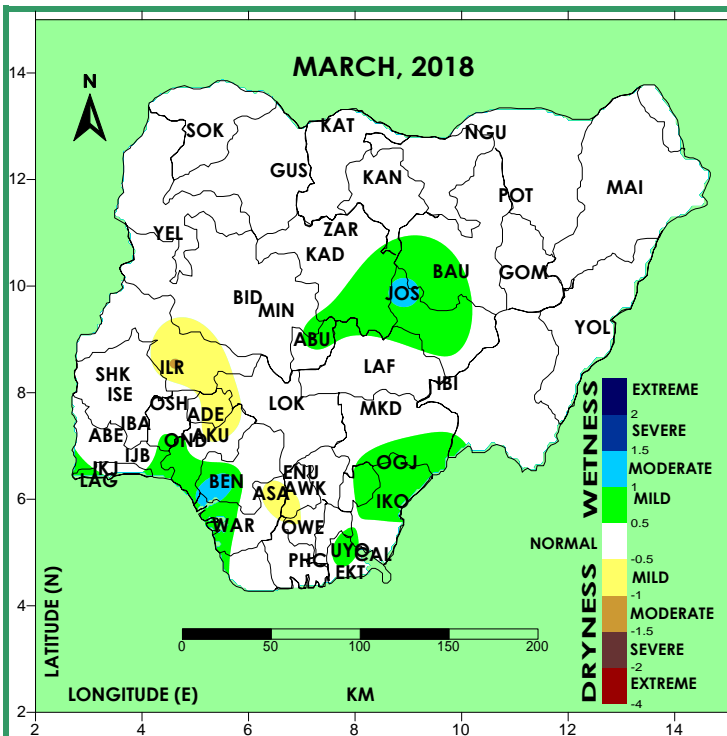


Fig.1: 1-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (for meteorological drought)

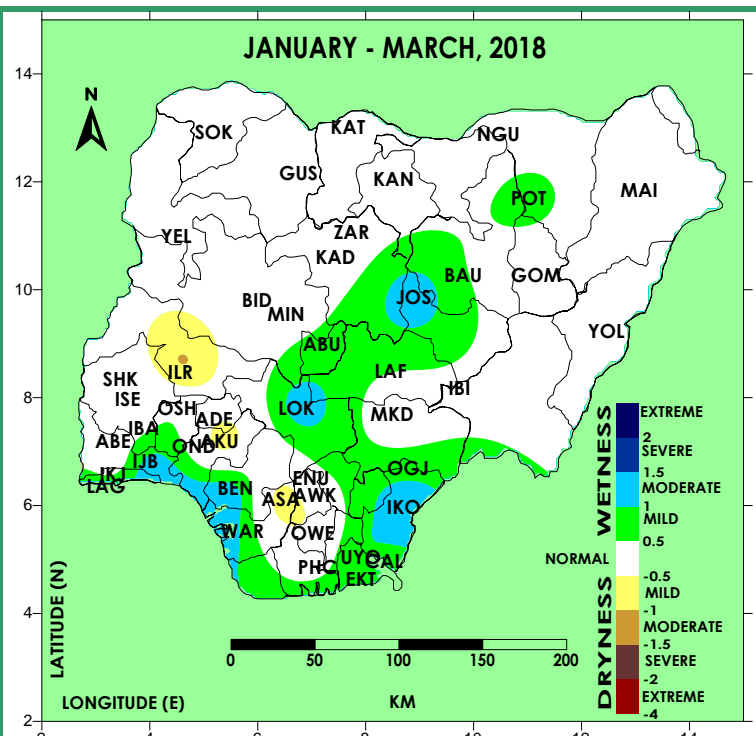


Fig.2: 3-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (for agricultural drought)

OBSERVED FEATURES

Figure 1 is the 1-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) for March. Few places in the Central and Southern States under light green and blue background experienced mild-to-moderate wetness. However, few places in Kwara and parts of Kogi, Ondo, Ekiti, Delta and Anambra States witnessed mild dryness. Other parts of the country were under normal condition.

Unlike the 1-month SPI, the 3-month analysis of cumulative Standardized Precipitation Index (Fig. 2) revealed an extension of the mild-to-moderate wet conditions over parts of Yobe, Plateau, Bauchi, Kogi, Nasarawa, Akwa Ibom, Enugu, Ebonyi, Cross River, Benue, and parts of Oyo, Edo, Delta, Ogun and Osun States. There is gradual recovering of soil moisture in the aforementioned areas which may support dry season farming; while mild dryness were witnessed in few places like Ondo, Delta and Kwara States. The soil conditions in the rest of the country were normal.

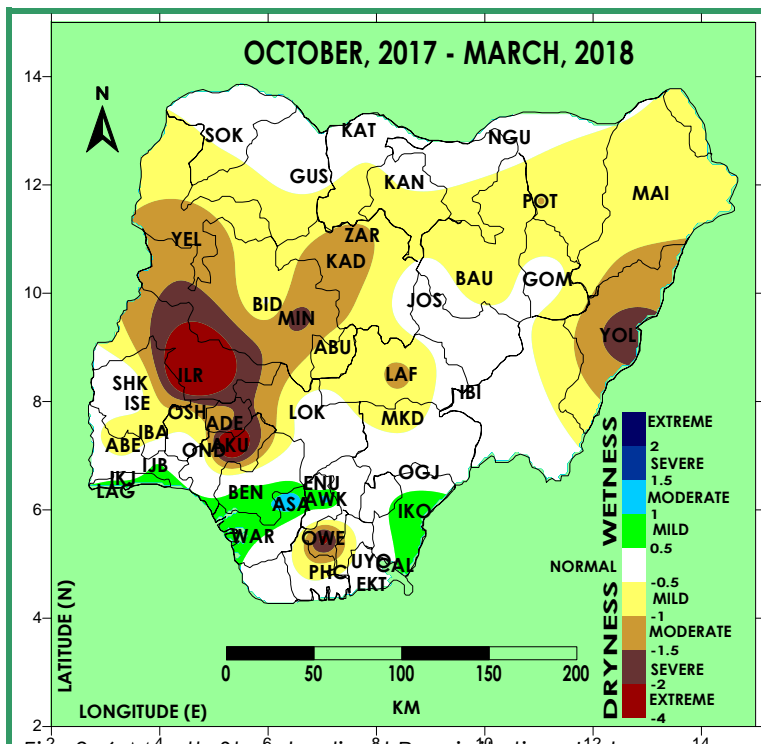


Fig. 3: 6-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (for Groundwater drought)

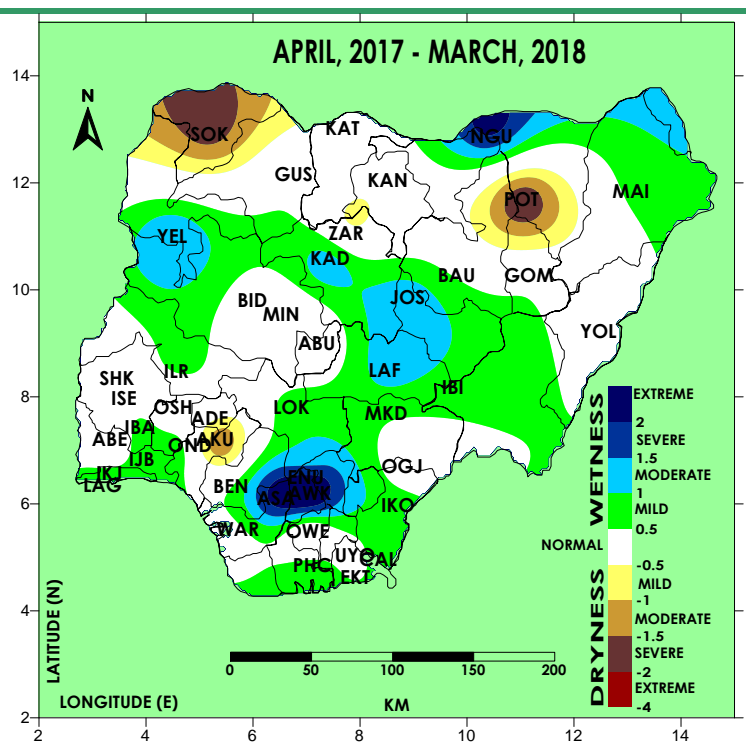


Fig.4: 12-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (for stream-flow and lake storage drought)

Figure 3 shows the six-month cumulative rainfall. The figure shows that places like Borno, Ondo, Ekiti, Imo, FCT and parts of Edo, Nasarawa, Gombe, Niger, Adamawa, Kaduna, Oyo, Osun, Benue, Rivers, Akwa-Ibom States are yet to recover from prevailing dryness. This development however, may have adverse implications on groundwater availability. Mild-to-moderate wetness were observed over parts of Ogun, Delta, Enugu, Anambra and Cross River States, which indicates the recovering of groundwater resources over those areas. Other parts of the country remain under normal conditions.

The 12-month SPI (Fig. 4) indicates stream-flow and surface reservoirs conditions. Mild-to-extreme wet conditions persisted over the Southeastern States extending to Central region of the country and few places in the Northern parts. By implication the reservoir and surface water system of these locations were gradually recovering from the prolonged prevailing dry season. However, mild-to-severe dryness was observed over Sokoto and parts of Yobe, Kebbi, Bauchi, Gombe, parts of Kaduna and Ondo States.

OUTLOOK FOR APRIL, 2018

The present dry conditions across the country may continue in the northern states during the month of April with improved moisture availability and increase in temperature. With expected onset of rainy season especially, in the South and North central, there are possible chances of rainfall over the inland areas of the South and coastal States.

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