



NIGERIAN METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

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Drought and Flood Monitor Bulletin

Providing Weather, Climate and Water Information for Safety and Sustainable Development

Monthly Bulletin

JULY, 2011 Edition

PREAMBLE

The month of July is relatively wetter than June, as a greater part of the country experienced mild to moderate dryness except for Sokoto and Gusau that had extreme and severe dry conditions respectively. The recovery from the dry condition of the preceding month was very significant over the southern part of the country, particularly in Lagos state which witnessed flood episodes that seriously paralyzed socio-economic activities in the state (Plate 1; Thisday Newspaper, 12th July, 2011).

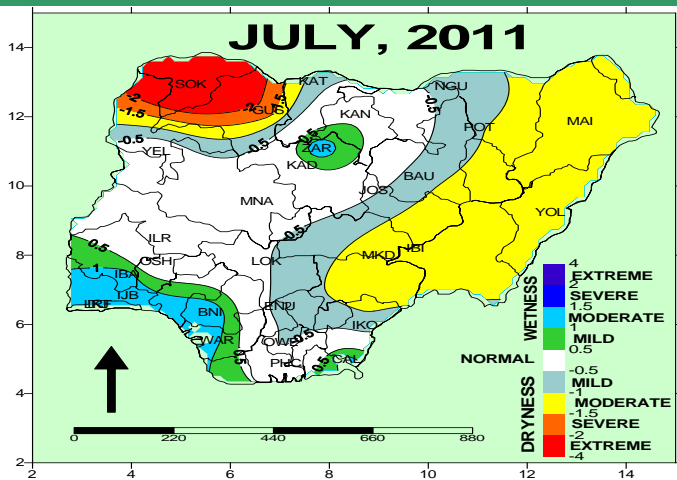


Fig. 1: 1-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (for meteorological and agricultural drought)

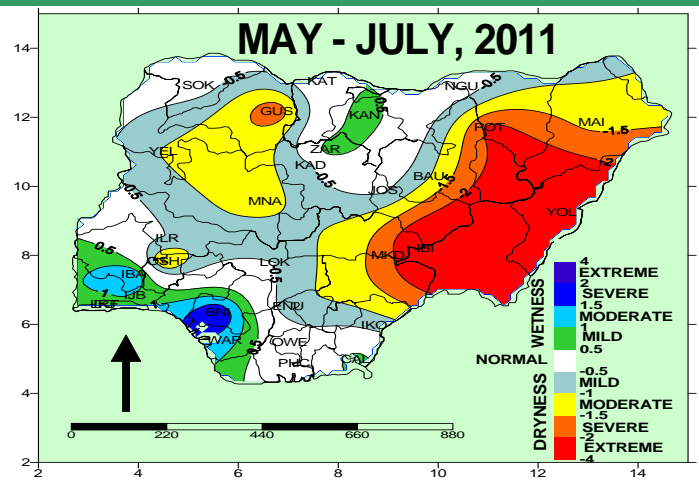


Fig.2 : 3-Months Standardized Precipitation Index (for meteorological and agricultural drought)

OBSERVED CLIMATIC FEATURES

The 1-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) analysis of the country reveals that the extreme North and few other areas in the region experienced normal to extreme dry conditions, notably Sokoto area. However, Zaria and environs are under mild to moderate wetness. The Southern part of the country on the other hand, had normal to moderate wetness except for places like Enugu and Ikom that remained normal to mildly dry (Fig.1). The 3-month SPI analysis shows severe to extreme dryness particularly around the Northeastern flank of the country, which has persisted since May, affecting crop development in the region. Most other areas of the North remained moderately dry while normal to extreme wet conditions prevailed in the South.

Plate 1: A flooded road in Lagos Metropolis on 10 July 2011



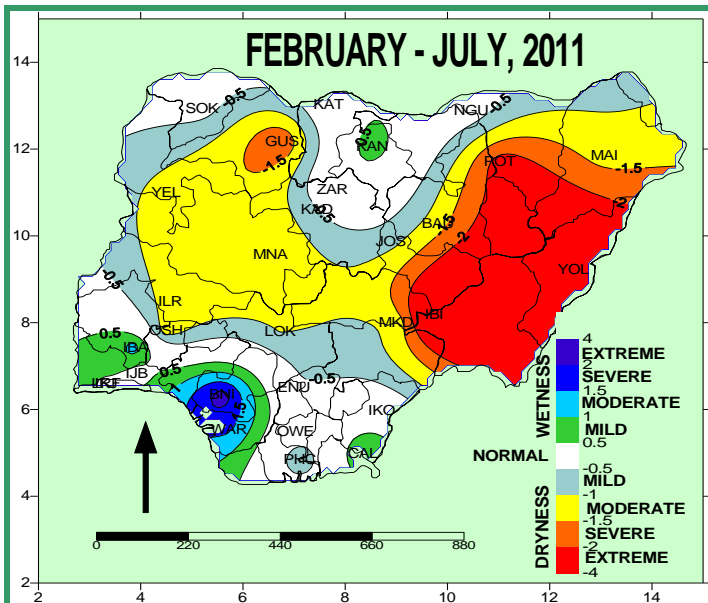


Fig. 3: 6-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (for Groundwater drought)

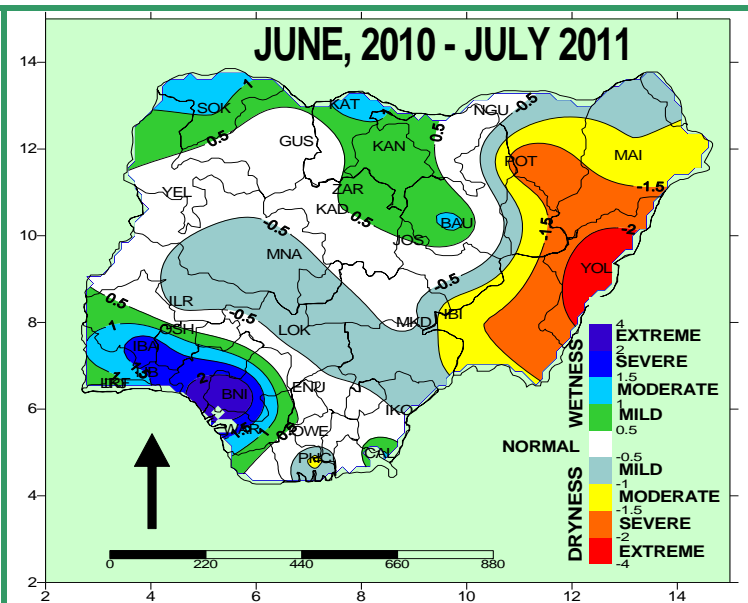


Fig. 4 : 12-Months Standardized Precipitation Index (for stream-flow and lake storage drought)

The analysis of the cumulative 6-month SPI shows that the groundwater aquifers in most parts of the country may remain relatively threatened particularly with the dominating mild to extreme dry conditions over the entire Northern area except for places in and around Kano that had normal to mild wet condition. Residents of the region are therefore advised to refrain from excessive tapping of the groundwater to forestall undue depletion of the resource. Normal to extreme wet conditions still dominate the South with pocket of mild dry condition at Port-Harcourt (Fig. 3).

Analyses of the cumulative 12-month SPI for stream-flow and lake storage monitoring indicate that although dry conditions persist in the Northeastern flank, especially Yola and environs, the rest of the country was under the influence of normal to extreme wetness.

CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR AUGUST, 2011

Given the observed widespread recovery from dryness, wetter conditions are expected to prevail in most parts of the country in August, particularly in the North. This will favour rain-fed agriculture; reservoir storage and may likely lead to prospects of flood especially over some parts in the Northwest and Southern areas.

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