NiMet Nigerian Meteorological Agency

NIGERIAN METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

NATIONAL WATHER FORECASTING AND CLIMATE RESEARCH CENTRE
NNAMDI AZIKIWE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ABUJA NIGERIA.

Drought and Flood Monitoring Bulletin

Providing Weather Climate and Water Information for Safety and Sustainable Development

Monthly Bulletin ***ISSN 2315-9804*** ***FEBRUARY, 2018***

PREAMBLE

The February Drought and Flood Monitoring Bulletin (DFMB) has been prepared using the WMO recommended Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) technique. During this period, few places in the north recorded scattered rainfall events, which resulted in improved horizontal visibility; but the intensity was not sufficient to dampen the effects of existing 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. February, 2018), the 3-month (December, 2017 - February, 2018), the 6-month (September, 2017 - February, 2018) and the 12-month (March, 2017 - February, 2018) SPIs respectively. They show the degrees of wetness and dryness across the country during the periods under review.

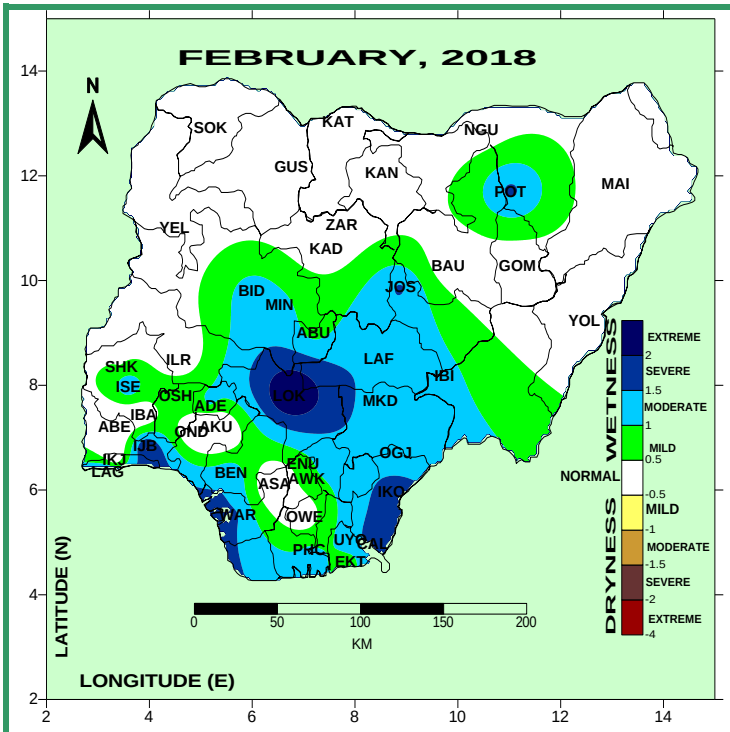

Fig.1: 1-Month Standardized Precipitation Index
(for meteorological drought)

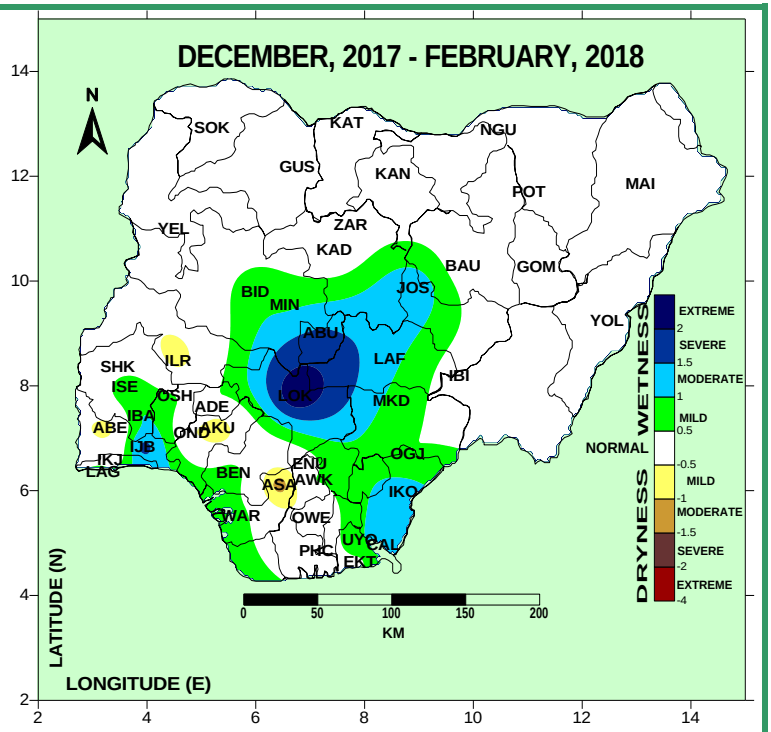

Fig.2: 3-Month Standardized Precipitation Index
(for agricultural drought)

OBSERVED FEATURES

Shown in Fig.1 is the1-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) for February. Most Parts of southern and central States experienced mild to extreme wetness including few places in the extreme north including parts of Bauchi, Yobe and Gombe. Other parts of the country were under normal condition.

Figure 2 shows the analysis of 3-month cumulative Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI). Mild positive soil moisture were observed over the coastal region and extended to Akwa Ibom, Enugu, Ebonyi, Cross River, Benue, parts of Oyo, Edo, and Osun States. The soil moisture wetness intensified in the central parts of the country which may aid dry season farming; while mild dryness were witnessed in few places like Akure, Asaba, Ilorin and Abeokuta. The soil conditions in the rest of the country were normal.

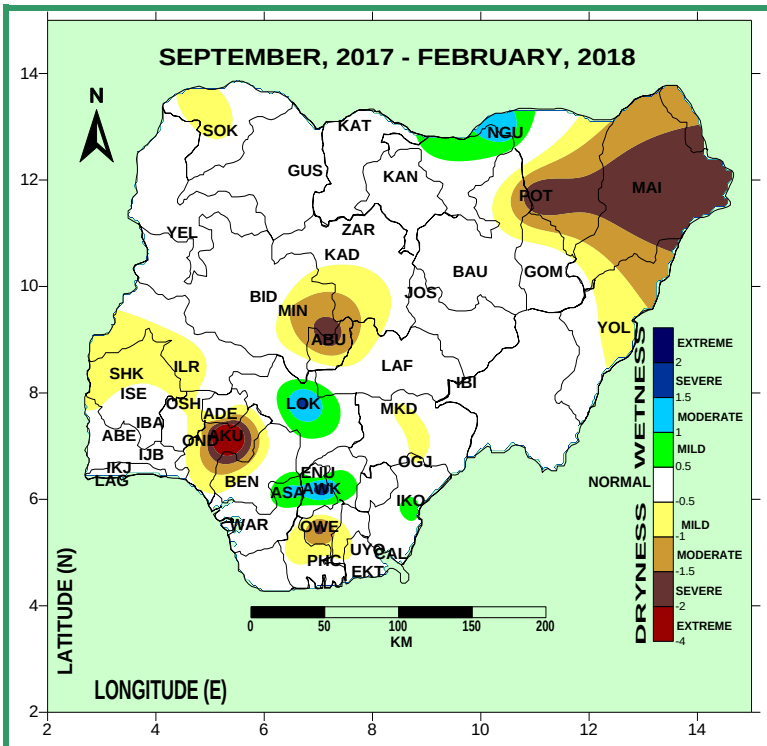

Fig. 3: 6-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (for Groundwater drought)

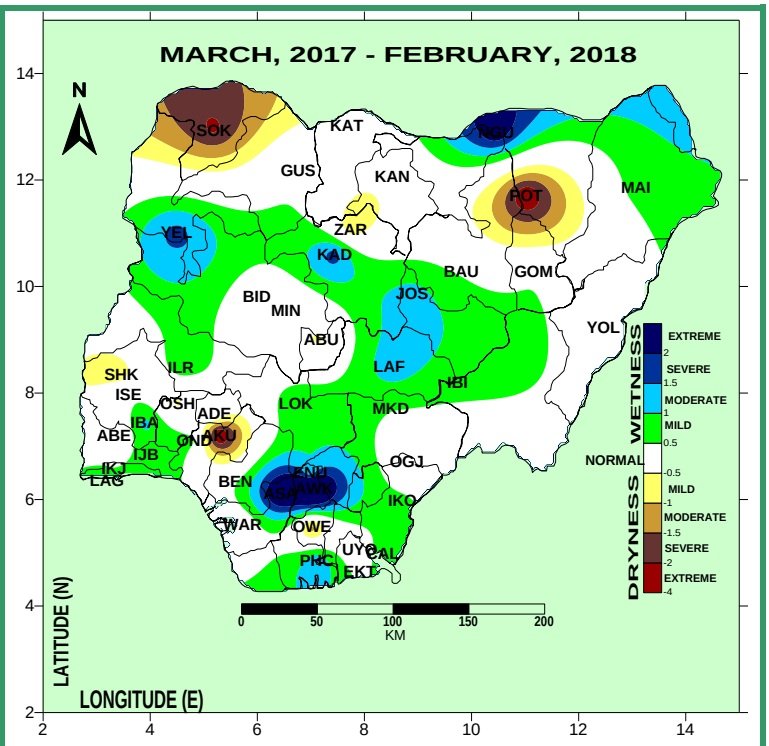

Fig.4: 12-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (for stream-flow and lake storage drought)

Figure 3 shows the six-month cumulative rainfall. Places such as Borno, Ondo, Ekiti, Imo, FCT and parts of Edo, Nasarawa, Gombe, Niger, Adamawa, Kaduna, Oyo, Osun, Benue, Rivers, Akwa-Ibom States experienced mild-to-extreme dryness with the attendant adverse implications on groundwater availability. On the contrary, persistence of mild to moderate wetness were observed over parts of Kogi, Delta, Anambra and Cross River States which indicates the recovering of groundwater resources in those places. 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 not under threat despite the prolonged prevailing dry season. However, mild-to-extreme dryness still persists in Sokoto and parts of Yobe, Kebbi, Bauchi, Gombe, Kaduna and Oyo States.

OUTLOOK FOR MARCH, 2018

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

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