



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 Chad, Côte d'Ivoire Gambia Guinea-Bissau Mali Mauritania Niger Senegal Togo

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## Seasonal Forecasts of the Agro-hydro-climatic characteristics of the major rainy season in the Gulf of Guinea Countries (PRESAGG - 2023)

**February 24, 2023**

*It is expected for the 2023 major rainy season of the Gulf of Guinea generally average rainfall amounts, a normal start, a normal to late end, medium to short dry sequences and overall average to surplus flows in coastal basins.*

**PRESA-GG 2023** was organized in Lomé, Togo, by The AGRHYMET Regional Climate Center for West Africa and the Sahel (AGRHYMET RCC-WAS) in collaboration with ACMAD, the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) of the Gulf of Guinea countries and basin organizations.

### I. Summaries of forecasts

Seasonal forecasts are based, among other things, on the analysis of the current situation and probable evolutions of Sea Surface Temperatures (SST), forecasts from global centres and statistical models from NMHS data and expert knowledge of climate characteristics in the Gulf of Guinea region. The consensus between these different pieces of information has led to the following forecasts, based on the climatological reference 1991–2020.

- **Overall average to below average cumulative rainfall** is expected for the March-April-May and April-May-June 2023 periods over southwestern Cameroon, southern parts of Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.
- **Average to late season starting dates** on the southeastern part of Côte d'Ivoire, southern Ghana, Togo and the southeastern part of Nigeria. Southern Benin and southwestern Nigeria will have an average to early start;
- **Late to average end of season dates** on the South of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, extreme South of Togo and Benin and extreme South-West of Nigeria. However, in central Ghana, Togo, Benin and southern Nigeria, the end of season dates would be rather normal to early;
- **Short to average dry spells durations at the beginning of the season** throughout the southern strip from central Côte d'Ivoire to southwestern Nigeria, except for the coastal parts of these countries where dry sequences would be rather medium to long, especially in the second half of the season;
- **Average to above average river flows** in the basins located in the East and **average to below average** in the basins located in the West of the Gulf of Guinea. Specifically, above average flows are expected in the **Ouémé** (Benin), Lower **Volta** (Ghana), **Densu, Tano, Ankobra** and **Pra** (Ghana), **Cavally, Comoé** and **Bia** (Côte d'Ivoire) basins and the **Lower Niger Delta**



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(Nigeria) basins. **Average to slightly above average flows** are expected in the **Bandama**, **Agneby** (in Côte d'Ivoire), **Mono** (in Togo and Benin) and **Lac-Togo** basins. Finally, **below average** flows are expected in the lower basin of the **Sassandra**, the coastal basins of **Boubo** and **San Pedro** (in Côte d'Ivoire).

## II. Recommendations

### 1) With regards to the risk of drought

The situations of overall average cumulative rainfall, average to late season starting dates, average to early ending dates of the season imply risks of water deficits in the areas concerned. These drought situations could hinder plant growth and promote the development of crop pests. With regards to this situation, it is recommended to:

- diversify agricultural practices through the promotion of irrigation and market gardening to reduce the risk of reduced production;
- adopt cultivation techniques for soil and water conservation;
- promote crops species and varieties that are most tolerant to water deficit;
- increase vigilance against crop pests (armyworm and other insect pests),
- interact with technicians from the National Meteorology, Agriculture and Hydrology for specific information and agro-hydro-meteorological advice on the actions to be taken.

### 2) With regards to the risk of flooding

Despite the overall average nature of the rainfall totals expected in the southern parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries, it is not excluded to observe heavy rainfall events that can lead to localized flooding. Therefore, it is recommended to:

- maintain vigilance and monitor updates of these seasonal forecasts and short- and medium-range forecasts produced and disseminated by national meteorological and hydrology services,
- Strengthen the monitoring and response capacities of agencies in charge of flood monitoring, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian aid.

### 3) With regards to the opportunities to be taken

In view of the generally normal nature of the major rainy season in the southern parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries in 2023, it is recommended *that agricultural organizations, authorities, water resource managers, projects and NGOs* support producers, including women and youth, better benefit from the rainy season by:

- supporting the deployment of climate-smart techniques to increase crop yields in the face of climate risk factors such as drought, flooding and crop pest outbreaks;
- strengthening agro-hydro-meteorological supervision and assistance systems for producers, particularly for the benefit of the most committed men, women and young people;



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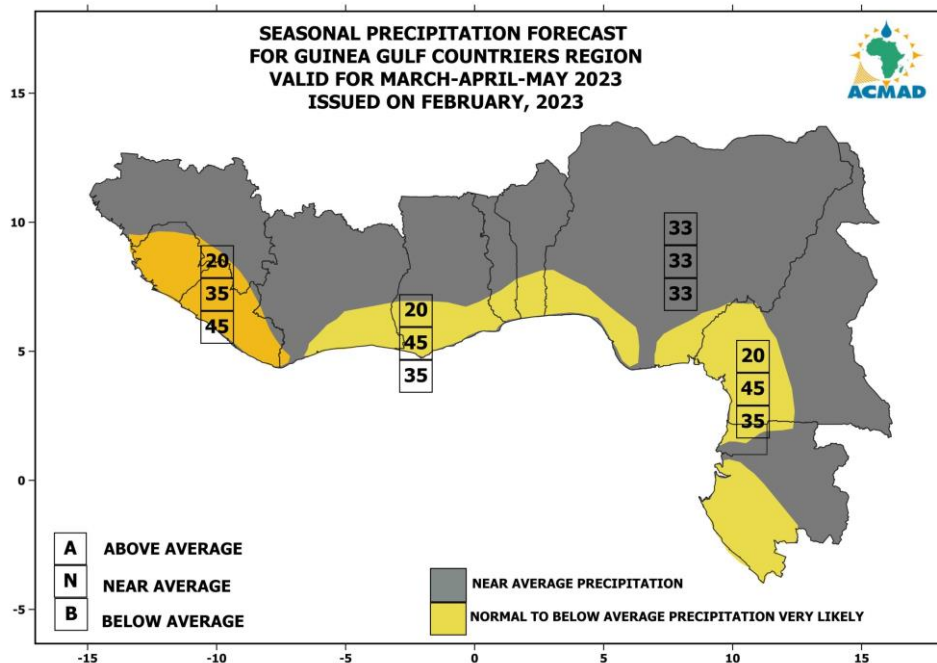
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- facilitating producers' access to improved seeds, quality fertilizers, agricultural equipment, microfinance and techniques adapted to situations of limited water availability,
- taking advantage of average to above average runoff situations to develop fish farming and optimize fishing yields in river basins,
- strengthening the diffusion and communication of hydro-climatic information (including these seasonal forecasts) and community awareness through radio, television, mobile telephony and information platforms for disaster risk reduction,

Finally, it is recommended that stakeholders from different sectors be attentive to the updates that will be made by the AGRHYMET Regional Center, ACMAD and national meteorological and hydrological services throughout the season.

Done at Lomé on 24 February 2023

The Forum





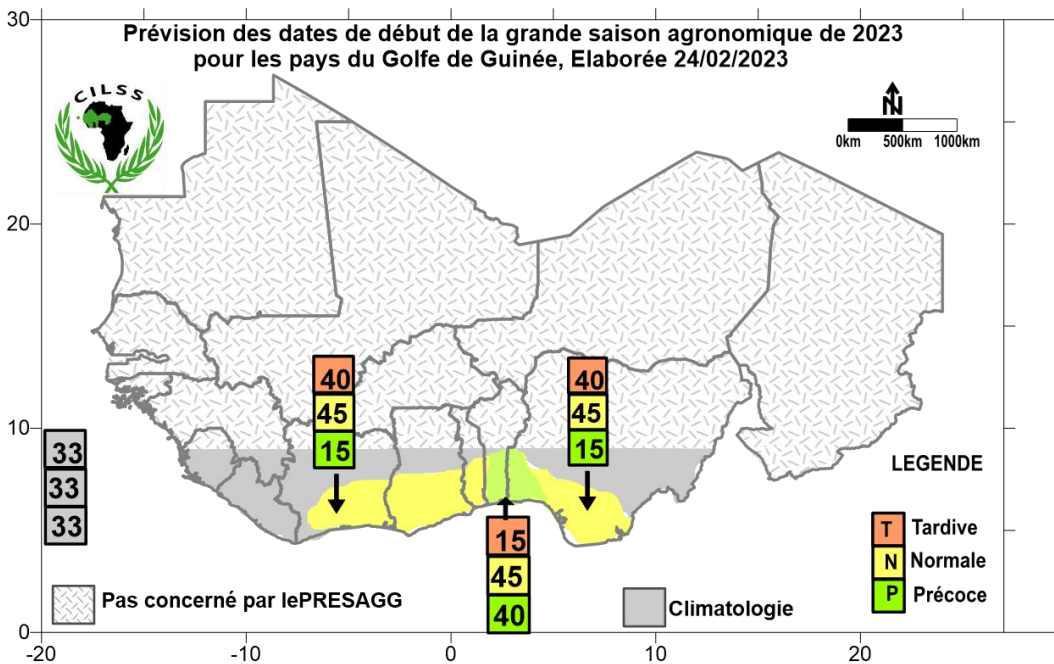
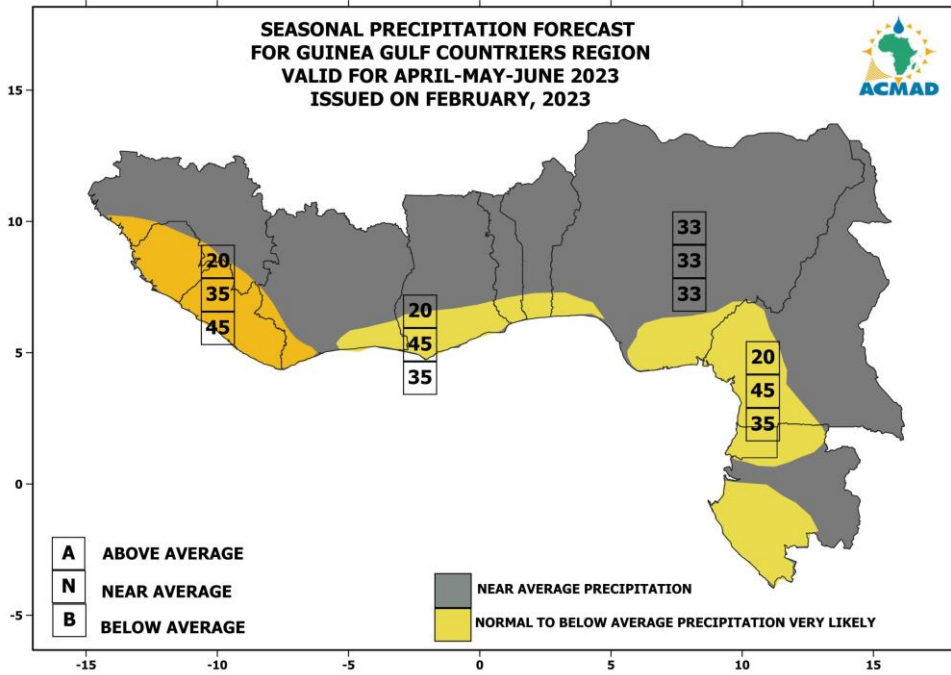
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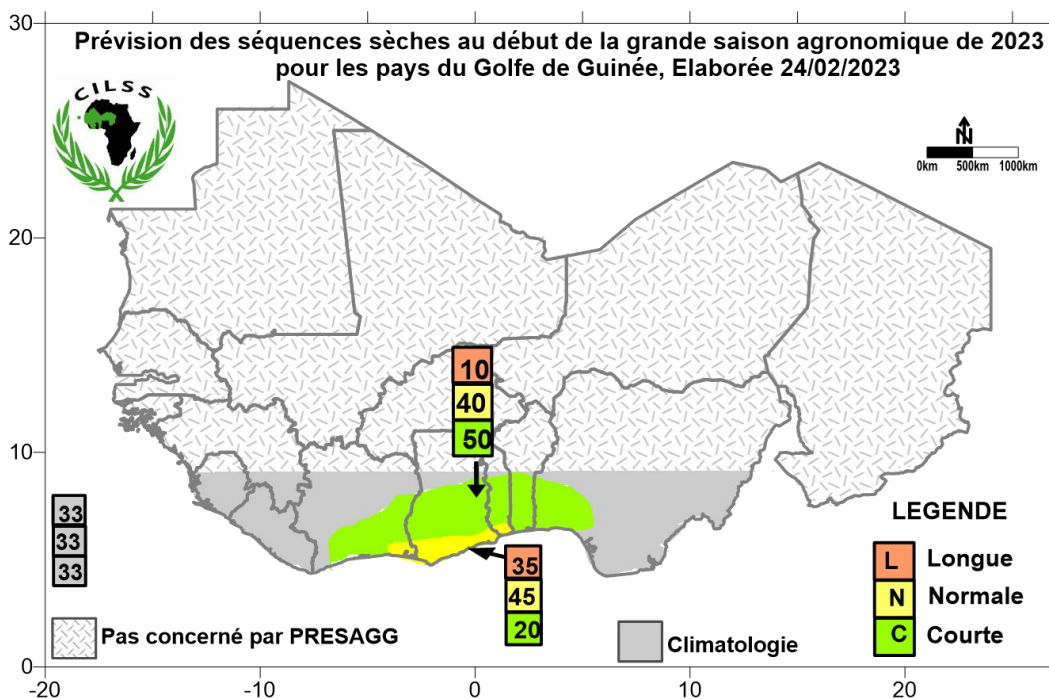
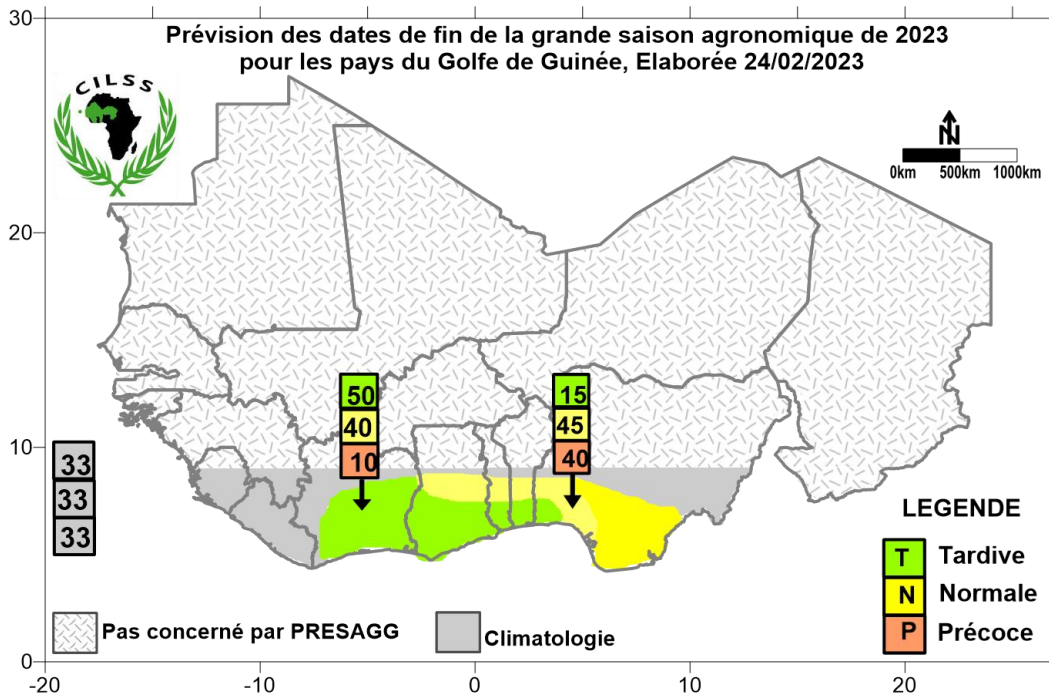
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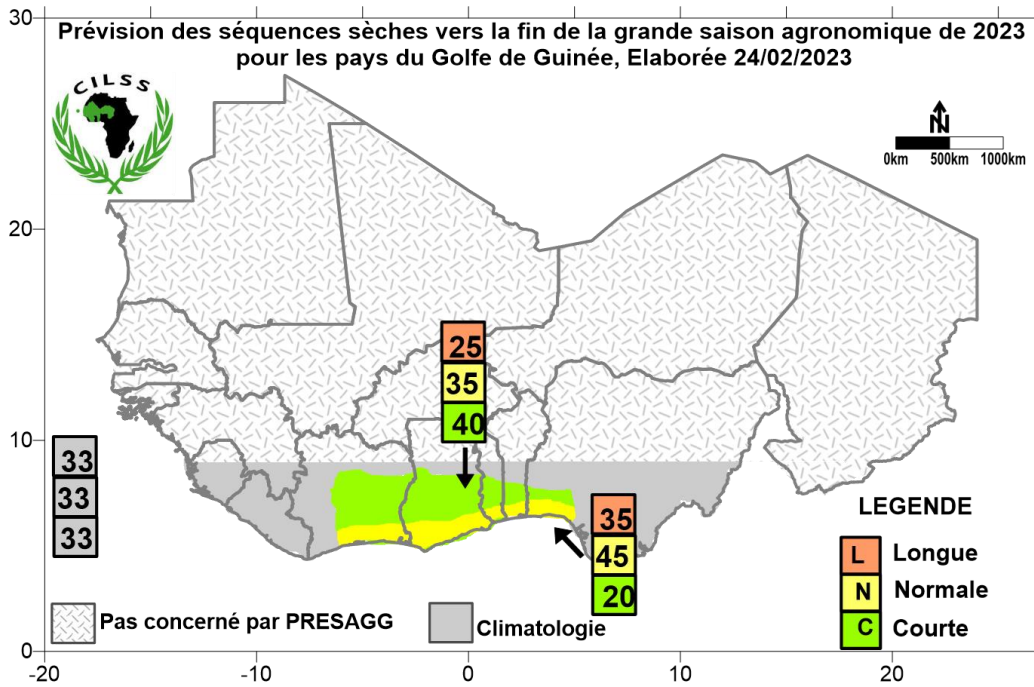
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Forecasts of runoff for the 2023 major season in the Gulf of Guinea countries: [Reference 1991-2020](#)



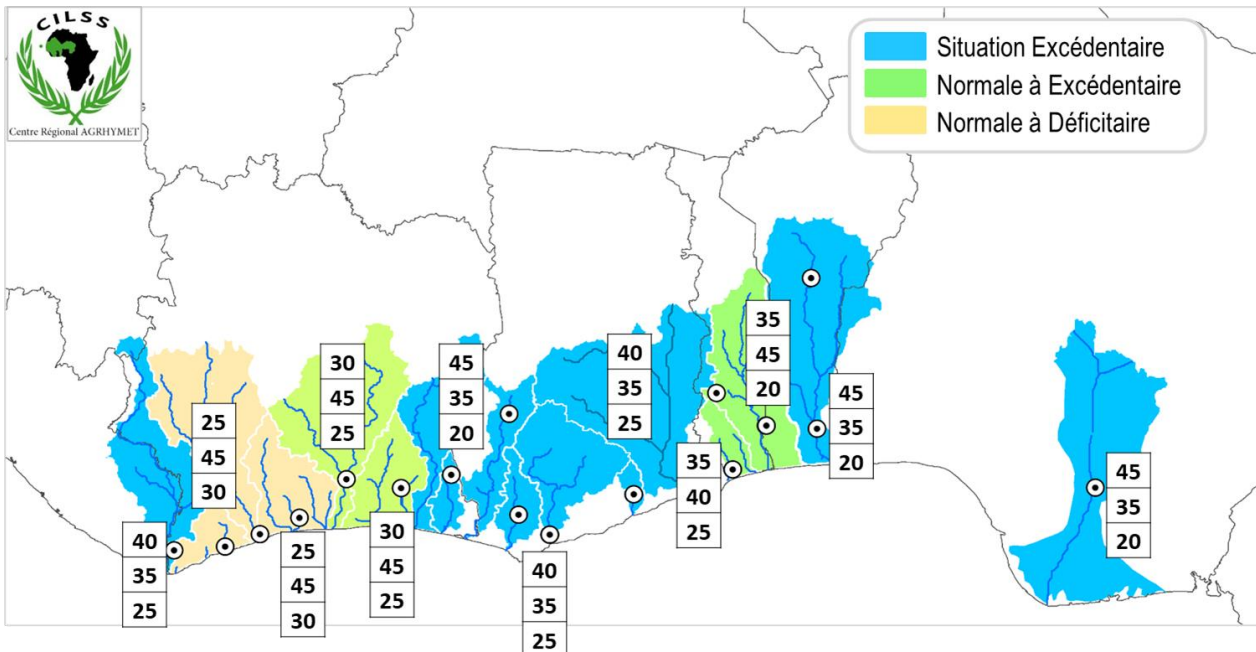
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**Écoulements globalement moyens à déficitaires dans la partie Ouest et moyens à excédentaires au niveau de la partie Est des bassins côtiers du Golfe de Guinée**