FLOOD & DROUGHT BULLETIN

MAY 2026

GHANA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

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INTRODUCTION

The Flood and Drought bulletin is a monthly analysis of rainfall in Ghana prepared and released by the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet). The bulletin provides an authoritative and scientific understanding of rainfall variability which is essential for accurate hydrological modeling, climate change assessments, and effective water resource planning to mitigate risks associated with extreme events like droughts and floods.

Among other services and products, the Flood and Drought bulletin complements the objectives of GMet in line with the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) to improve co-production, tailoring, delivery and use of science-based climate predictions and services focused on the five pillars of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO): agriculture and food security, disaster risk reduction, energy, health and water.

The analysis in the Flood and Drought bulletin is based on the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) developed by McKee et al. (1993) for the purpose of defining and monitoring drought. Drought is an insidious natural hazard that results from lower levels of precipitation than what is considered normal. When this phenomenon extends over a season or a longer period of time, water becomes increasingly insufficient to meet the demands of human activities and the environment. Drought must be considered a relative, rather than absolute, condition. Drought means different things to different users such as water managers, agricultural producers, hydroelectric power plant operators and wildlife biologists. Even within sectors, there are many different perspectives of drought because impacts may differ markedly. Droughts are commonly classified by type as meteorological, agricultural and hydrological, and differ from one another in intensity, duration and spatial coverage (WMO, 2012).

THE STANDARDIZED PRECIPITATION INDEX (SPI)

SPI indicator, which was developed by McKee et al. (1993), and described in detail by Edwards and McKee (1997), measures precipitation anomalies at a given location, based on a comparison of observed total precipitation amounts for an accumulation period of interest (e.g. 1, 3, 12, 48 months), with the long-term historic rainfall record for that period. This indicator measures anomalies of accumulated precipitation during a given period. In calculating SPI, precipitation is the only required input parameter (McKee and others, 1993, 1995). The SPI calculation for any location is based on the long-term precipitation record for a desired period. This long-term record is fitted to a probability distribution, which is then transformed into a normal distribution so that the mean SPI for the location and desired period is zero (Edwards and McKee, 1997).

The SPI is designed to quantify the precipitation deficit for multiple timescales and can be calculated from 1 month up to 72 months. Statistically, 1–24 months is the best practical range of

application (Guttman, 1994, 1999). The Flood and Drought bulletin of Ghana considers only the 1-month, 3-month, 6-month and 12-month SPI due to limited availability of data.

1-month SPI: The 1-month SPI compares the precipitation of a specific month with the precipitation totals from the same month for all the years included in the historical record.

3-month SPI: The 3-month SPI provides a comparison of the precipitation over a specific 3 consecutive month period with the precipitation totals from the same 3-month period for all the years included in the historical record.

6-month SPI: The 6-month SPI compares the precipitation for a specific 6 consecutive months with the same 6-month period over the historical record.

12-month SPI: The 12-month SPI is a comparison of the precipitation for 12 consecutive months with that recorded in the same 12 months in all previous years of available data.

These timescales reflect the impact of drought on the availability of the different water resources. Meteorological and soil moisture conditions (agriculture) respond to precipitation anomalies on relatively short timescales, for example 1 to 3 months (SPI-1 to SPI-3), whereas streamflow, reservoirs, and groundwater respond to longer-term precipitation anomalies, for example 3 months to 12 months (SPI-3 to SPI-12) or longer (EDO, 2020). A real strength of the SPI is its ability to be calculated for many timescales, which makes it possible to deal with many of the drought types described above. The ability to compute the SPI on multiple timescales allows for temporal flexibility in the evaluation of precipitation conditions in relation to water supply.

In the Flood and Drought bulletin, the SPI values for any given location and accumulation period, are classified into nine different precipitation regimes (from dry to wet), as shown in Table 1. As can be seen, increasingly severe rainfall deficits (i.e., meteorological droughts) are indicated as SPI decreases below -0.5, while increasingly severe excess rainfall is indicated as SPI increases above 0.5.

ANOMALY	*RANGE OF SPI VALUES*	*PRECIPITATION REGIME*	*COLOUR*
Negative	Min <= SPI <= -2.0	Extreme dry	
	-2.0 < SPI <= -1.5	Severe dry	
	-1.5 < SPI <= -1.0	Moderate dry	
	-1.0 < SPI <= -0.5	Mild dry	
None	-0.5 < SPI <= 0.5	Normal precipitation	
Positive	0.5 < SPI <= 1.0	Mild wet	
	1.0 < SPI <= 1.5	Moderate wet	
	1.5 < SPI <= 2.0	Severe wet	
	2.0 < SPI <= Max	Extreme wet	

Table 1: SPI classification scheme used in the Flood and Drought bulletin

SPI ANALYSIS FOR MAY 2026

The SPI analysis for rainfall in May 2026 has been generated in multiple timescales of 1-month (May 2026), 3-month (March 2026 – May 2026), 6-month (December 2025 - May 2026) and 12-month (June 2025 – May 2026). The maps generated depict the severity (positive or negative) of rainfall anomalies under review.

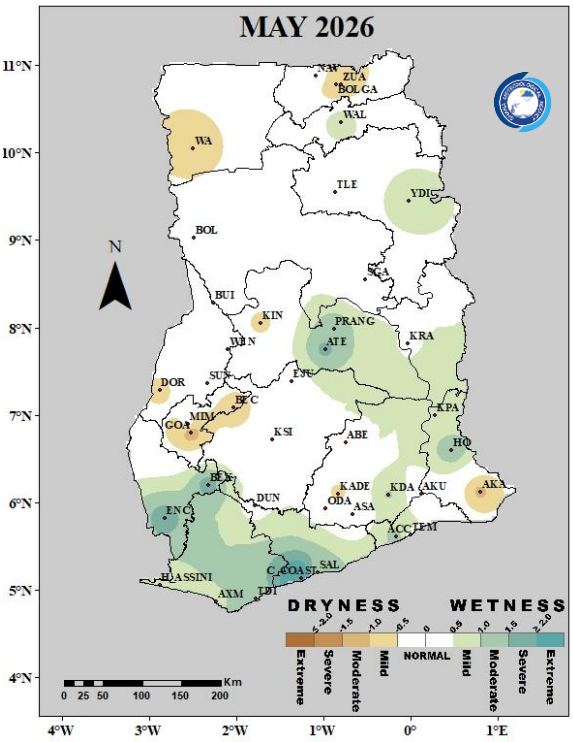

Fig. 1(a): 1-Month SPI *(for meteorological drought)*: May 2026

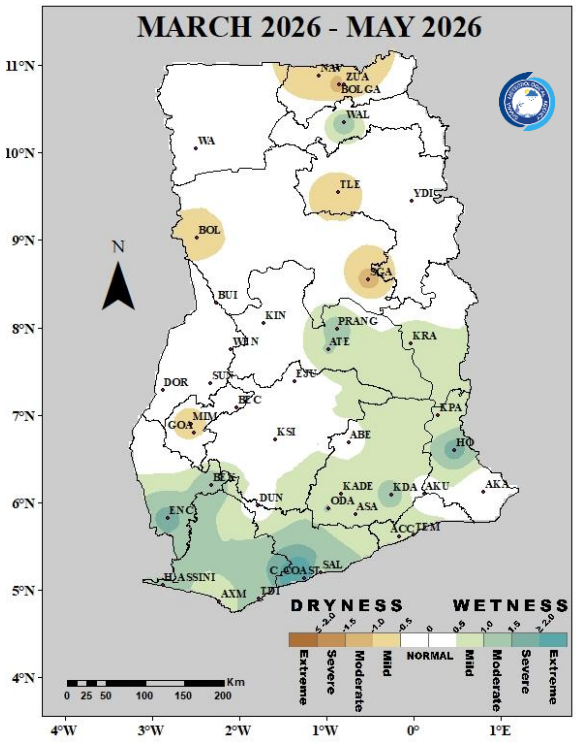

Fig. 1(b): 3-Month SPI *(for agricultural drought)*: March 2026 – May 2026

1-Month SPI (May 2026).

The 1-month SPI for May 2026, illustrated in Fig. 1(a), indicates normal condition prevailed across most parts of the country. In the Savannah zone, mild dry condition was observed in Wa, Bolgatanga and Zuarungu, while Walewale experienced mild wet condition. Within the Transition zone, moderate to severe wet conditions were recorded around Prang and Atebubu, whereas mild to moderate dry conditions were evident in the western parts of the zone, particularly around Kintampo and Dormaa. The Forest zone generally experienced mild to severe wet conditions, notably in Sefwi Bekwai, Enchi, Takoradi and Ho. However, mild to moderate dry conditions were observed in Mim, Goaso, Bechem and Kade. In the Coastal Zone, the western sector recorded moderate to extreme wet conditions, especially around Cape Coast, Saltpond and Accra, while Akatsi experienced moderate dry condition.

3-Month SPI (March 2026 - May 2026)

The 3-month SPI depicted in Fig. 1(b) indicates that normal condition dominated much of the country during the March–May 2026 period. Across the Savannah zone, mild to moderate dry conditions were observed in Bole, Tamale, Navrongo, Bolgatanga and Zuarungu, while Walewale recorded mild wet condition. In the Transition Zone, mild to moderate wet conditions were evident around Prang, Atebubu and Kete Krachi, whereas Salaga experienced moderate dry condition. The Forest zone was characterized largely by mild to severe wet conditions, particularly in Sefwi Bekwai, Enchi, Takoradi, Koforidua and Ho. In contrast, Mim and Goaso recorded mild dry condition. The Coastal zone generally experienced mild to moderate wet conditions, with Accra, Tema and Saltpond exhibiting positive moisture anomalies, while Cape Coast recorded extreme wet condition.

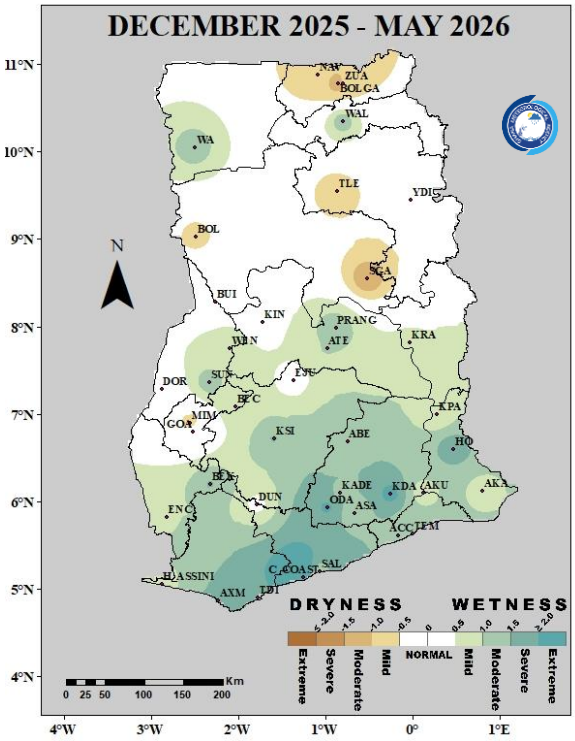

Fig. 1(c): 6-Month SPI *(for hydrological drought)*: December 2025 – May 2026

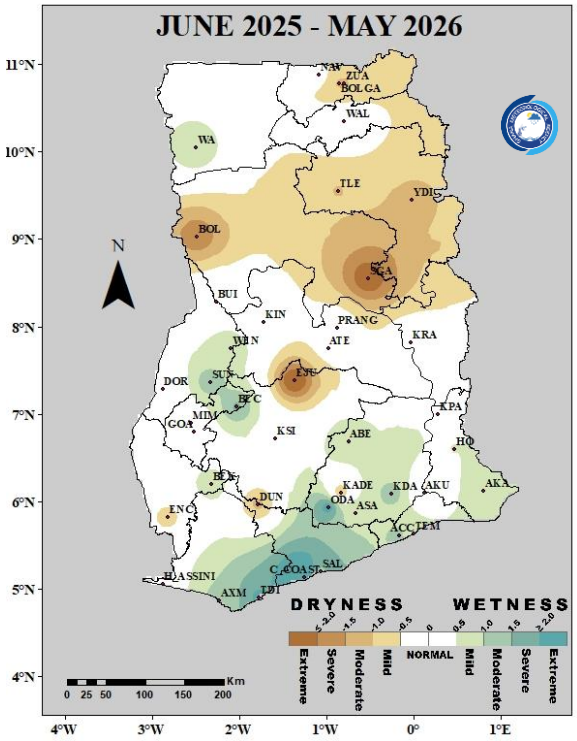

Fig. 1(d): 12-Month SPI *(for streamflow and lake storage drought)*: June 2025 – May 2026

6-Month SPI (December 2025 - May 2026)

The 6-month SPI presented in Fig. 1(c) indicates that normal condition predominated across much of the Savannah zone. However, moderate wet condition was observed in Wa and Walewale, while mild to moderate dry conditions persisted over Bole, Tamale, Navrongo, Bolgatanga and Zuarungu. Within the Transition zone, mild to moderate wet conditions were recorded in Sunyani, Wenchi, Prang, Atebubu and Kete Krachi, whereas Salaga continued to experience moderate dry condition. The Forest Zone generally exhibited mild to severe wet conditions, particularly in Axim, Takoradi, Akim Oda, Koforidua and Ho. In contrast, Mim recorded mild dry condition. The

Coastal zone was characterized mainly by mild to moderate wet conditions, especially in Accra, Tema and Saltpond, while Cape Coast experienced extreme wet condition.

12-Month SPI (June 2025 - May 2026)

The 12-month SPI presented in Fig. 1(d) reveals predominantly mild to severe dry conditions across much of the Savannah zone, particularly around Bole, Tamale, Yendi, Bolgatanga and Zuarungu. In contrast, Wa experienced mild wet condition. Within the Transition zone, extreme dry conditions were observed in Ejura and Salaga, while Sunyani and Wenchi recorded mild to moderate wet conditions. The Forest zone was characterized largely by normal condition, with moderate to severe wet conditions occurring in Axim, Takoradi, Akim Oda, Koforidua and Bechem. Conversely, mild to moderate dry conditions were evident in Enchi, Dunkwa and Kade. The Coastal zone generally exhibited mild to moderate wet conditions, particularly in Akatsi, Tema, Accra and Saltpond, while Cape Coast recorded extremely wet conditions, indicating persistent moisture surpluses over the longer-term period.

STATIONS

Station	Abbreviation	Station	Abbreviation	Station	Abbreviation
Abetifi	ABE	Enchi	ENC	Sunyani	SUN
Accra	ACC	Goaso	GOA	Takoradi	TDI
Akatsi	AKA	Half Assini	H_ASSINI	Tamale	TLE
Akim Oda	ODA	Ho	HO	Tema	TEM
Akuse	AKU	Kade	KADE	Wa	WA
Asamankese	ASA	Kete Krachi	KRA	Walewale	WAL
Atebubu	ATE	Kintampo	KIN	Wenchi	WEN
Axim	AXM	Koforidua	KDA	Yendi	YDI
Bechem	BEC	Kpandu	KPA	Zuarungu	ZUA
Bole	BOL	Kumasi	KSI		
Bolga	BOLGA	Mim	MIM		
Bui	BUI	Navrongo	NAV		
Cape Coast	C_COAST	Prang	PRANG		
Dormaa	DOR	Salaga	SGA		
Dunkwa	DUN	Saltpond	SAL		
Ejura	EJU	Sefwi Bekwai	BEK		

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