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GHANA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

CERTIFIED PROVIDER OF AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

ISO-9001: 2015

SEASONAL FORECAST (SON) 2026

Figure 1: Group Picture of Team

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The opinions/views expressed in GMet publications attributed to specific authors are indeed those published by the Author.

Seasonal Forecast (SON) 2026

Focus on
The Minor Rainfall Season for the Southern Sector, Ghana

"Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow" ~

World Meteorological Day 2026 Theme

(World Meteorological Organization)

A publication of Ghana Meteorological Agency

Research and Applied Meteorology Department

Foreword

The Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) is pleased to present the **Seasonal Forecast (SON) 2026 for Ghana with special focus on the Southern Ghana Minor Rainy Season (September–October–November)**, reaffirming our commitment to providing timely, reliable and actionable climate information. This forecast supports evidence-based planning and decision-making by government, businesses, development partners and the public in managing weather- and climate-related risks.

Climate variability and climate change continue to shape Ghana's socio-economic development, manifesting in rising temperatures, increasing rainfall variability, prolonged dry spells, intense rainfall events and recurring floods. These challenges underscore the need for robust early warning systems and dependable climate information to strengthen preparedness, build resilience, and safeguard lives, livelihoods and infrastructure.

This forecast was developed using state-of-the-art global and regional climate prediction models, analyses of oceanic and atmospheric conditions, historical climate records, and expert interpretation by GMet's Research and Applied Meteorology Department. It offers guidance on the expected onset, rainfall distribution, dry spells, cessation, season length and temperature conditions across southern Ghana. For operational planning, users are encouraged to consult this seasonal outlook alongside GMet's daily, weekly, monthly and subseasonal forecasts.

We encourage Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, Farmers, Water and Energy managers, Disaster Risk Management institutions, Health Authorities, the private sector and the media to make full use of this forecast; both to reduce climate-related risks and to seize emerging opportunities.

On behalf of the Ghana Meteorological Agency, I extend sincere thanks to the Research and Applied Meteorology Department, all contributing staff, and our regional and international partners for their continued dedication and collaboration. GMet remains committed to delivering accurate, timely, and user-focused weather and climate services in support of Ghana's development agenda and the Early Warnings for All initiative.

Preface

Ghana's unpredictable weather and climate patterns have brought serious challenges in recent years, ranging from floods, droughts, heat stress, and flash floods, resulting in loss of lives, widespread damage to infrastructure and property, and disruption to people's livelihoods. High interannual variability in rainfall, marked by uncertainty in the onset of rains, extended dry spells and sudden heavy downpours, together with rising temperatures, has disrupted socio-economic activities across the country. These changes have affected agricultural production, heightened food insecurity, strained water and energy resources, and impacted other weather- and climate-sensitive sectors of Ghana's economy, placing an increasing financial and emotional burden on affected communities, who often struggle to rebuild their lives.

These challenges underscore the urgent need for effective early warning systems and integrated disaster risk reduction strategies across all weather-sensitive sectors, including agriculture and food security, water resources, energy, health, maritime affairs and local governance, among others.

Access to timely seasonal weather information is not merely a technical requirement: it is a lifeline. Reliable forecasts help farmers decide when to plant, which varieties to grow, and whether to opt for drought-tolerant or flood-resistant crops. For water managers, they inform reservoir operations to secure supply. For the energy sector, they support planning for fluctuations in hydropower generation. For emergency services, they ensure that resources and personnel are in place before a crisis hits.

The Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet), as part of its legal mandate, generates, disseminates and communicates climate information across time scales to support decision-making by stakeholders and partners. One such product is the seasonal forecast, produced several times a year. These forecasts draw on the coupling of atmospheric, oceanic and land conditions by global and regional climate prediction centres, consensus outcomes from Continental and Regional Climate Outlook Forums, and in-depth expert assessment by GMet's Research and Applied Meteorology Department.

The 2026 Southern Ghana minor rainy season is expected to develop against the backdrop of evolving global climate drivers, particularly the anticipated development of El Niño conditions over the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. While El Niño does not determine

Ghana's seasonal rainfall on its own, it is a major large-scale climate driver that can influence atmospheric circulation and moisture transport over West Africa. Forecasts from leading global climate centres indicate a high likelihood of El Niño persisting into the latter part of 2026, which may increase the probability of a delayed onset, below-average rainfall in some areas, longer dry spells, and warmer-than-normal temperatures during the minor rainy season. Nevertheless, the final seasonal outcome will also depend on regional drivers such as sea surface temperature patterns over the tropical Atlantic and Gulf of Guinea, as well as other atmospheric conditions affecting the West African monsoon.

The 2026 minor rainy season forecast for Southern Ghana includes projections on the onset of rains, total rainfall amounts, dry spells, cessation date, season length and temperature conditions. Specific advisories accompany the forecast to support evidence-based decision-making and strategic planning.

About GMet

GMet, established under Act 682 (2004), is mandated to provide meteorological services and ensure the application of international standards and practices in meteorology across the country. The Agency advises government on weather and climate matters, and issues forecasts for aviation, maritime operations, offshore installations, and other socio-economic sectors. GMet's information, advisories and warnings support agriculture, aviation, transport, hydrology, energy and water resource management, and help mitigate natural hazards such as floods, storms and droughts to safeguard socio-economic development.

With a vision to lead meteorological services in the sub-region, GMet's mission is to provide efficient weather and climate services for Ghana's sustainable growth. Its key climate services span nowcasts, public weather forecasts, aeronautical and marine/inland water forecasts, sub-seasonal to seasonal (S2S) predictions, climate projections, flood and drought bulletins, agrometeorological and climatological summaries, numerical weather prediction (using the Weather Research and Forecasting model), equipment calibration, and the provision of high-quality climate data.

GMet's climate services, including the Ghana Climate Atlas, are aligned with the Early Warnings for All initiative (EW4All) and the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS). Certified to ISO 9001 under a Quality Management System (QMS), these services comply with international standards, enabling the delivery of tailored climate information for resilient decision-making.

Contents

FORECAST SUMMARY

Rainfall Onset: The onset of the minor rainy season is expected to be late to normal across most of southern Ghana, with most places in the transition zones and southern parts of the Western North region experiencing an early to normal onset. The Transition Zone is forecast to see onset mainly between the second week of August and the first week of September, while the Forest Zone is expected to see onset between the fourth week of August and the second week of September. Along the East Coast, onset is generally expected between the second and fourth weeks of September.

Seasonal Rainfall: Most areas of southern Ghana are expected to receive below-normal to normal rainfall during the September–October–November season. However, localized areas including Bogoso, Tarkwa, Ho, and surrounding communities are likely to experience normal to above-normal rainfall. Seasonal totals are forecast to range from approximately 110–210 mm along the East Coast, 220–350 mm along the West Coast, 300–430 mm across much of the Forest Zone, and 250–430 mm within the Transition Zone.

Dry Spells: During the early part of the season, generally normal to relatively short dry spells are expected over most of southern Ghana, although comparatively longer dry spells are anticipated along portions of the East Coast. During the latter half of the season, dry spell durations are expected to vary spatially across the country, with most inland areas experiencing conditions close to climatological averages.

Rainfall Cessation: Cessation of the rainy season is expected to be generally normal to late, although localized early cessation is forecast for a few areas, particularly in portions of the Transition and Forest Zones. Coastal areas, especially the East Coast, are expected to cease within their climatological period to late cessation.

Length of Season: The overall length of the rainy season is expected to be spatially variable, near normal in many areas, but shorter in parts of the East Coasts including Accra, Tema, and surrounding areas.

Temperature Outlook: Generally, seasonal average temperatures are expected to remain above normal. Mean temperatures are forecast to exceed 27°C across the northern parts of southern Ghana and portions of the Transition Zone, while much of the southern coastal and forest areas are expected to record mean temperatures between 26°C and 27°C, or slightly lower over the highland and western coastal areas.

Special Focus on the Southern Sector Minor Rainfall Season

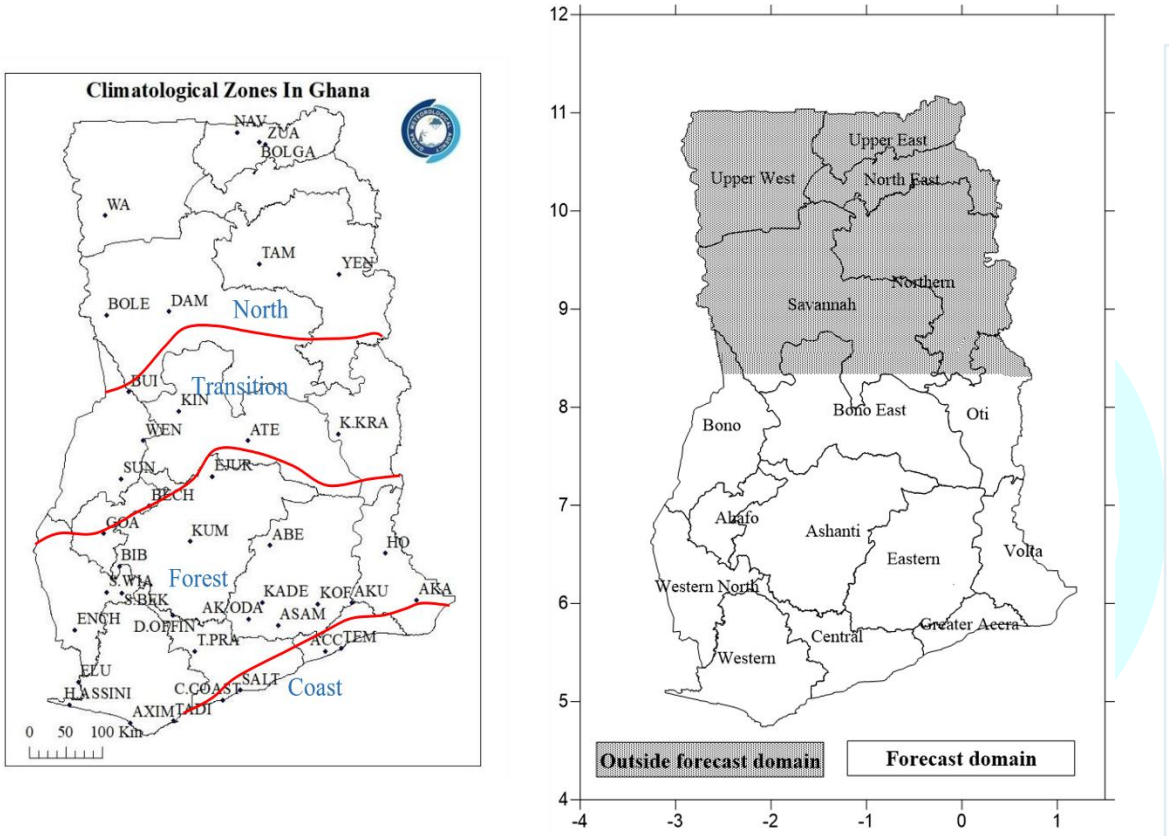

Figure 2: Map of Climatic Zones & Minor Season Legend, in Ghana

Coverage Note

This forecast **(Onset, Early Dry Spell, Late Dry Spell, Cessation, Length of Season)** covers only the southern half of Ghana (latitude 8° and below), where the bimodal rainfall regime occurs.

It does not apply to the northern half of Ghana, except for the cumulative rainfall (total rainfall) and Temperature, which experiences a unimodal rainfall season.

***NOTE**: Forecast of the Agro-Climatic Characteristics (Onset, Early Dry Spell, Late Dry Spell, Cessation and Length of Season) of the 2026 Minor (September–November) Rainfall Season for Southern Ghana: This forecast covers only the southern half of Ghana (Latitude 8° and below) where the bimodal rainfall regime occurs. It does not apply to the northern half of Ghana, which experiences a unimodal rainfall season.*

Table 1. List of Abbreviated Station Names

Station	Abbreviation	Station	Abbreviation
Akim Oda	A_ODA	Half Assini	H_ASS
Abetifi	ABE	Ho	HO
Accra	ACC	Kete Krachi	K_KRA
Ada	ADA	Kade	KADE
Akatsi	AKA	Koforidua	KDUA
Akuse	AKU	Kintampo	KINT
Asamankese	ASAM	Kumasi	KSI
Atebubu	ATE	Mim	MIM
Axim	AXIM	Navrongo	NAV
Babile	BAB	Prang	PRANG
Bechem	BECH	Sefwi Bekwai	S_BEK
Bimbila	BIM	Salaga	SALA
Bole	BOLE	Saltpond	SALT
Bolgatanga	BOLGA	Sunyani	SUNY
Bui	BUI	Tamale	TAM
Cape Coast	C_COAST	Takoradi	TDI
Dormaa Ahenkro	D_AHEN	Tema	TEMA
Damongo	DAM	Vea	VEA
Dunkwa Offin	DUNK	Wa	WA
Ejura	EJURA	Walewale	WALE
Enchi	ENCH	Wenchi	WEN
Garu	GARU	Yendi	YEN
Goaso	GOA	Zuarungu	ZUA

1.0 2026 MINOR SEASON FORECAST FOR SOUTHERN GHANA

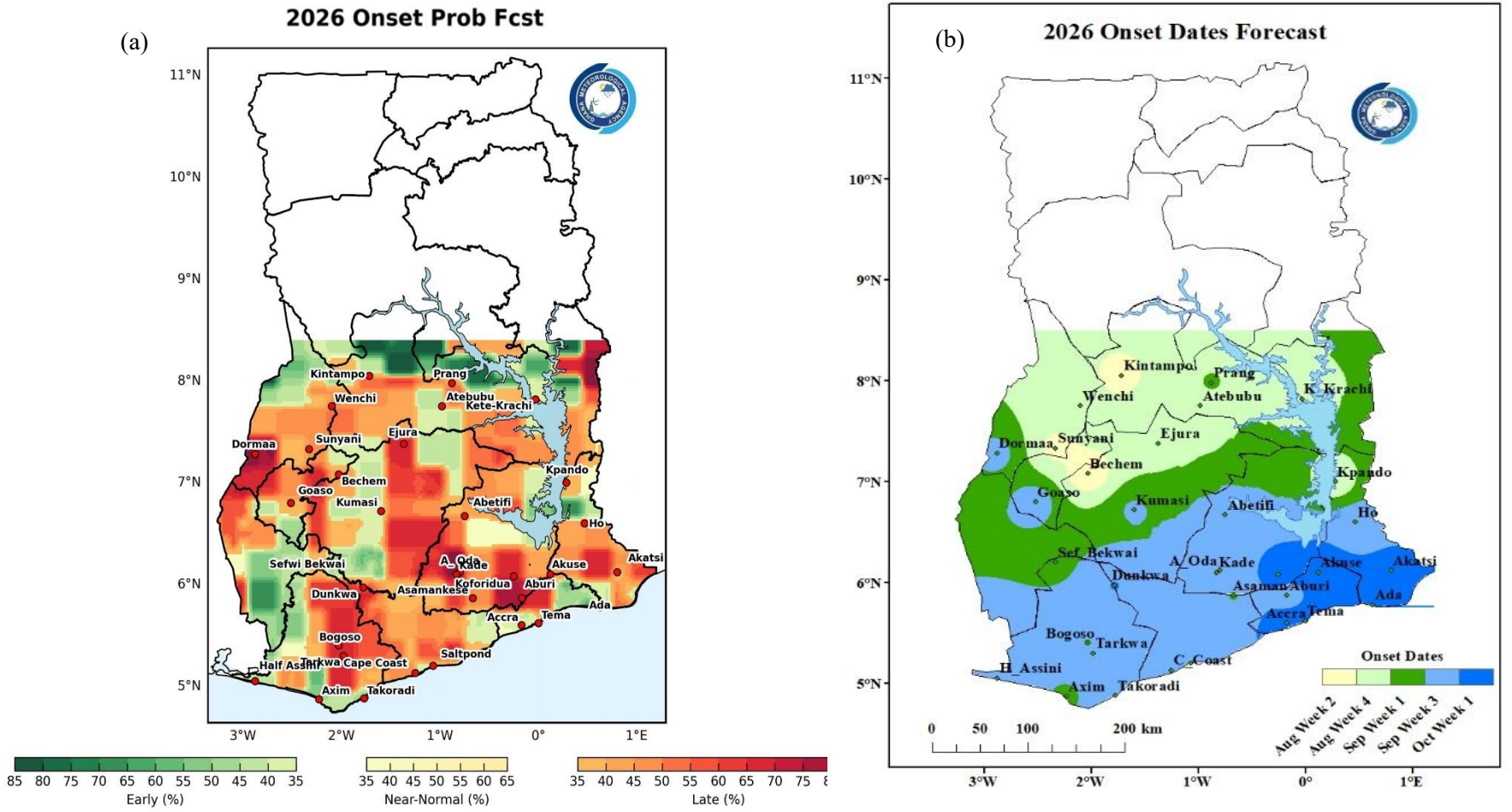

Figure 3: (a): Onset Probability Forecast Map 2026 (b)Onset Dates Forecast Map 2026

Table 2. Onset Dates for 2026 Season & Long-Term Mean (Normal) of the Onset Dates

ZONE	Normal Onset Dates (LTM)	Forecast Onset Dates
Transition Zone	3rd Week of August – 1st Week of September	2nd Week of August – 1st Week of September
Forest Zone	3rd Week of August – 1st Week of September	4th Week of August – 2nd Week of September
West Coast	4th Week of August – 2nd Week of September	4th Week of August – 1st Week of September
East Coast	1st Week of September – 3rd Week of September	2nd Week of September – 4th Week of September

NB: Long-Term Mean (LTM) is the 30-year average condition of a given Zone from 1991- 2020.

1.2 Cumulative Rainfall Forecast Maps for the SON Season, 2026

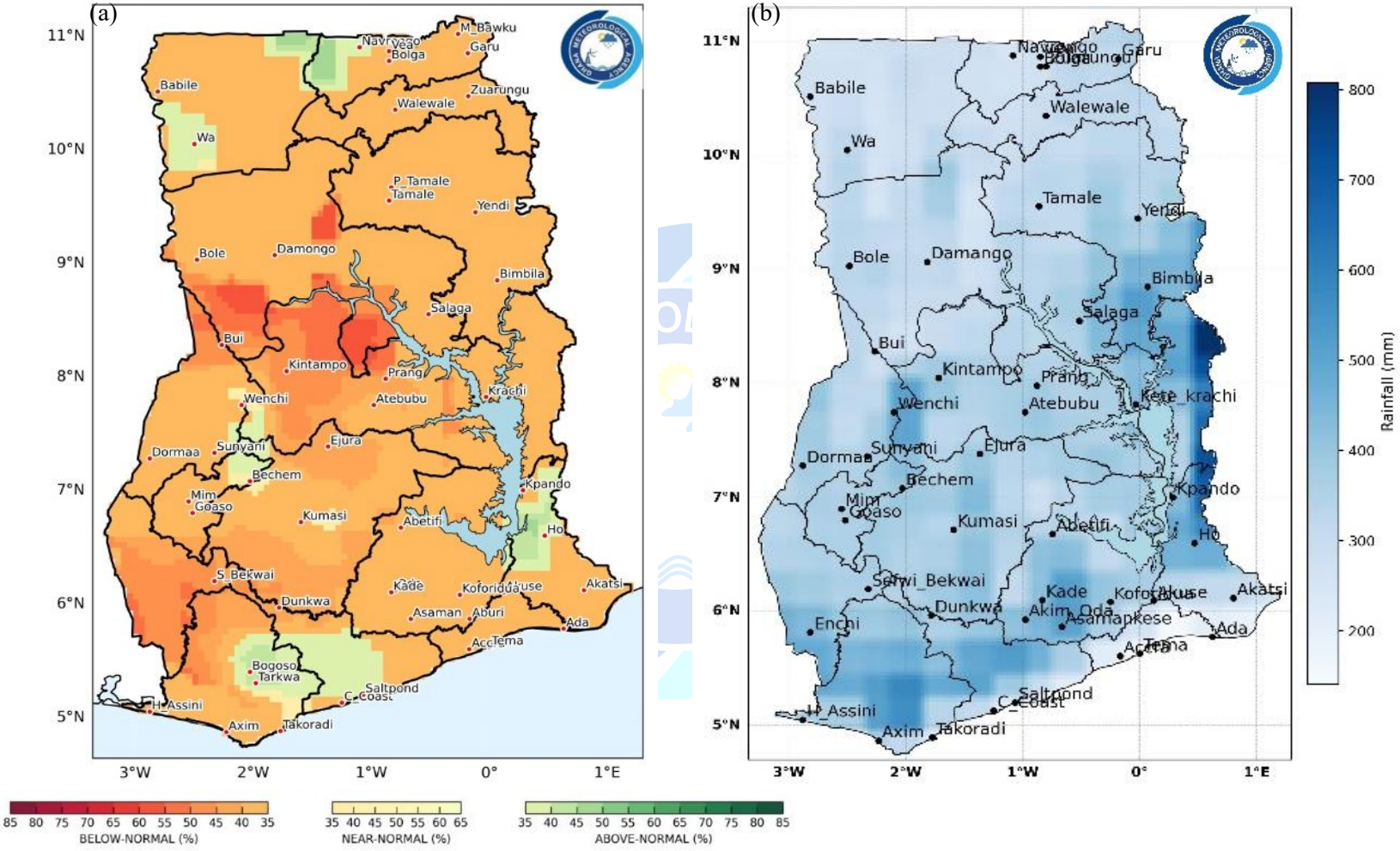

Figure 4: 3(a): SON Rainfall Probability Forecast Map 2026 (b) SON Rainfall Forecast Map 2026

Table 3. Forecast of Total Rainfall Amount for the 2026 Minor Season

ZONE	LTM (mm)	2026 SON (mm)
East Coast	126 - 402	110-210
West Coast	264 - 480	220-350
Forest	311 - 498	300-430
Transition	334 - 443	250-430
North	312 - 527	300-410
Upper East	224 - 272	219-255
Upper West	260 - 293	233-290

NB: Long-Term Mean (LTM) is the 30-year average condition of the given Zone from 1991- 2020.

1.3 First (Early) Dry Spell Days Forecast Maps for the 2026 Minor Season

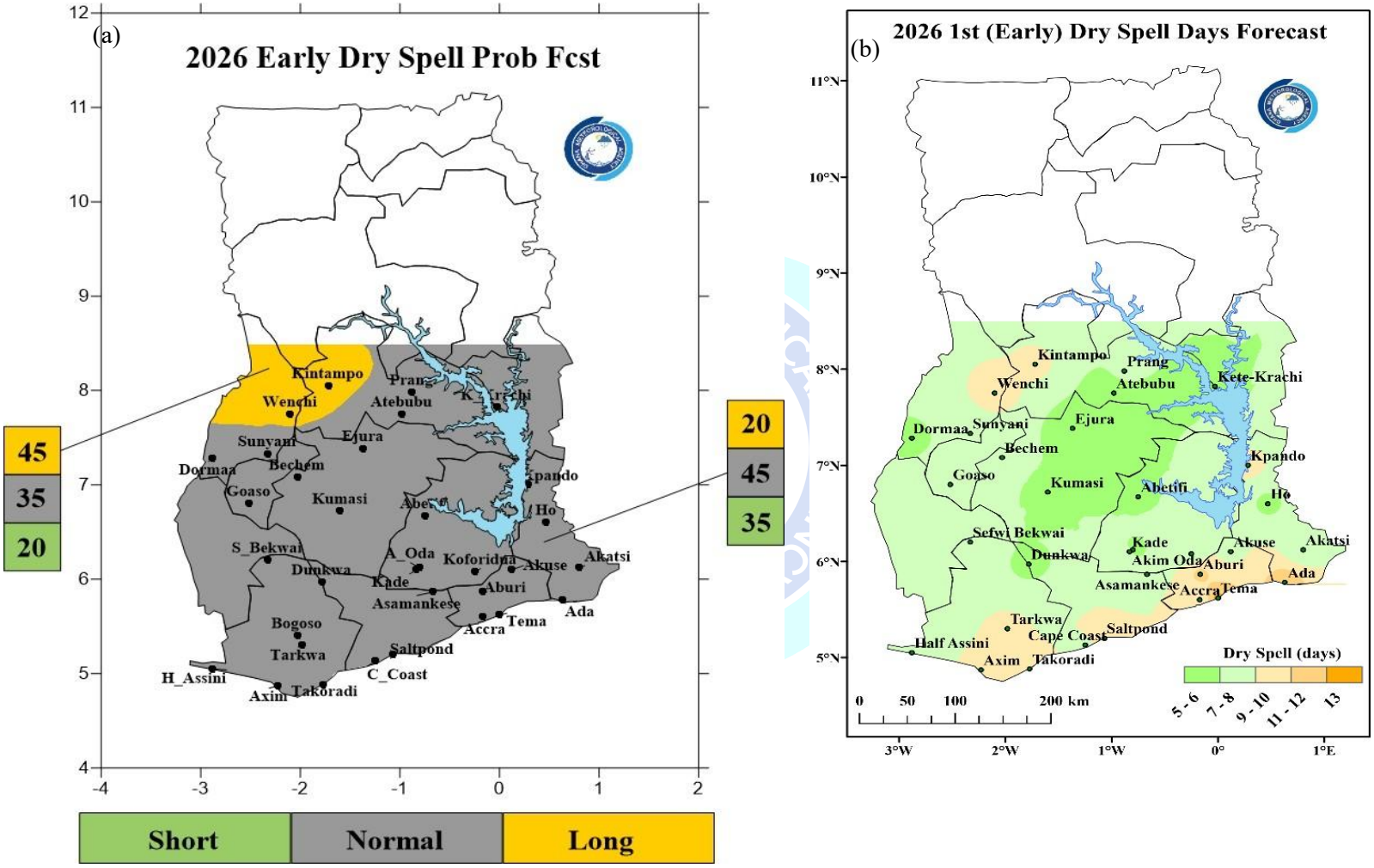

Figure 5: 4(a): Early Dry Spell Probability Map 2026 (b) Early Dry Spell Forecast Map 2026

Table 4. LTM of First Dry Spell Days and Forecast of First Dry Spell Days

ZONE	LTM of First Dry Spell (Days)	Forecast of First Dry Spell (Days)
Transition Zone	6-7	5-10
Forest Zone	6-10	6-11
West Coast	7-8	7-9
East Coast	10-13	9-13

NB: First (Early) Dry Spell is defined as the longest successive dry days during the first 50 days after the start of the season.

1.4 Second (Late) Dry Spell Days Forecast Maps for the 2026 Minor Season

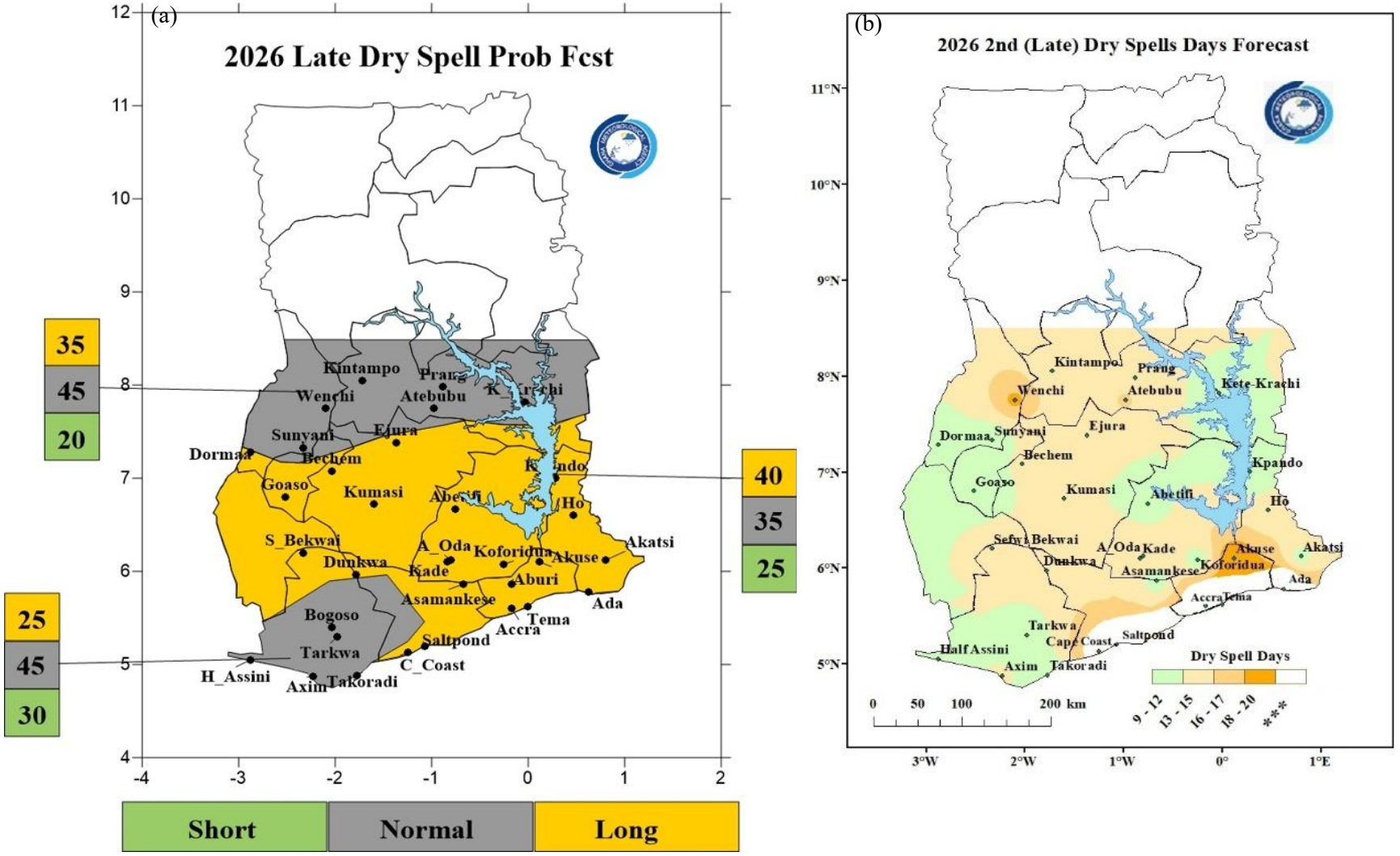

Figure 6: 5(a): Late Dry Spell Probability Map 2026 (b) Late Dry Spell Forecast Map 2026

Table 5. LTM for Second Dry Spell Days and Forecast of Second Dry Spell Days

ZONE	Normal of Late Spell (Days)	Forecast of Late Spell (Days)
Transition Zone	10-17	10-18
Forest Zone	9-16	9-20
West Coast	10-13	9-12
East Coast	11-14	NA

NB: Second Dry Spell is the longest successive dry days from the 51st day after the onset day to the end.

****** In the legend and the NA in Table 5.1 are explained as follows: all the stations on the East Coast except for Saltpond have a seasonal length of not more than 50 days during the 2026 SON, and since the 2nd dry spell kicks in after the first 50 days of the season, the season would have already ended for the East Coast.***

1.5 Forecast Maps for Cessation Dates for the 2026 Minor Season

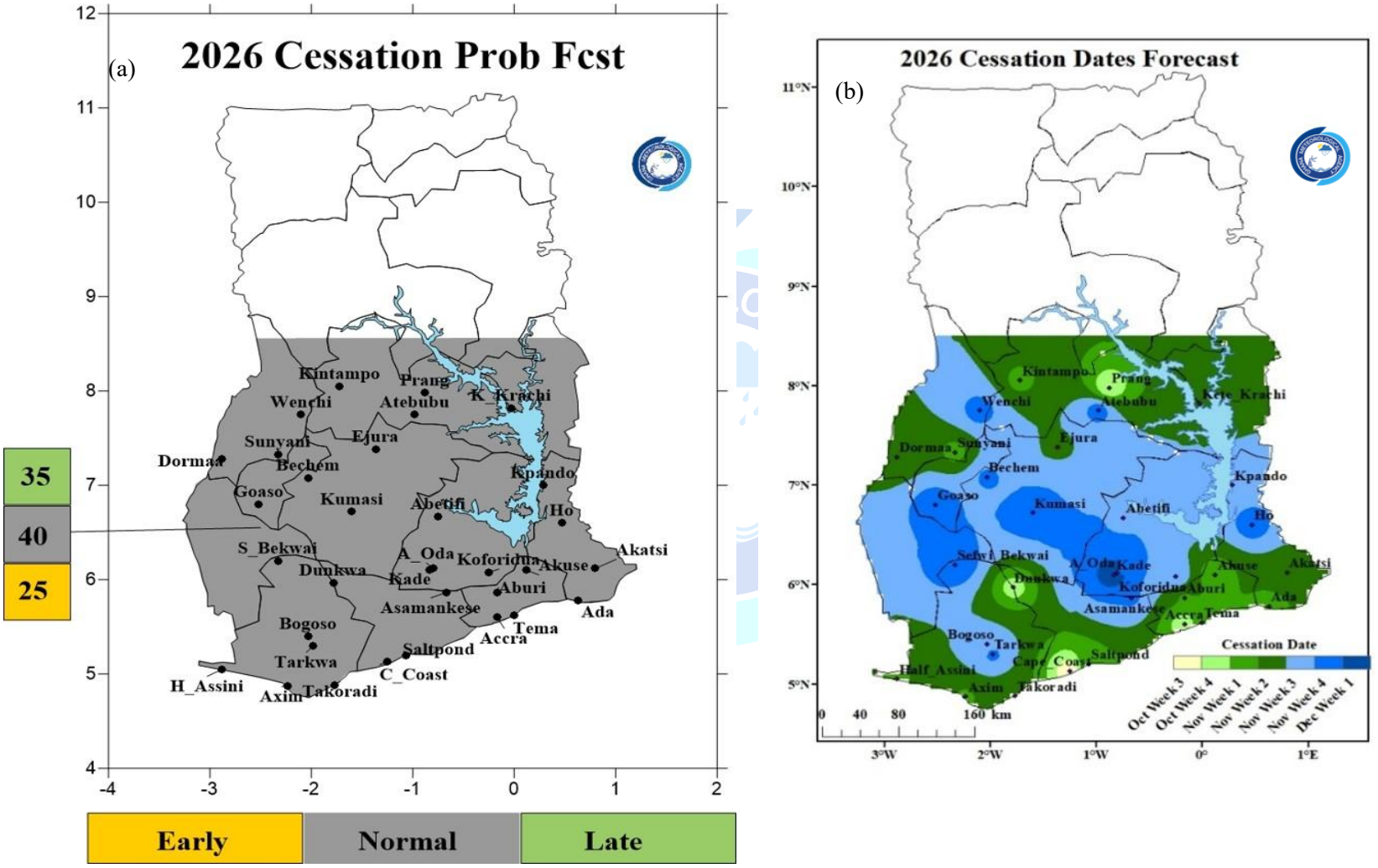

Figure 7: (a) Cessation Probability Forecast Map 2026 (b) Cessation Dates Forecast Map 2026

Table 6. Cessation Dates for 2026 Season & Long-Term Mean Cessation Dates

ZONE	Normal Cessation Dates	Forecast Cessation Dates
Transition Zone	1st Week of November – 3rd Week of November	4th Week of October – 3rd Week of November
Forest Zone	1st Week of November – 1st Week of December	2nd Week of November – 1st Week of December
West Coast	4th Week of October – 4th Week of November	3rd Week of November – 4th Week of November
East Coast	3rd Week of October – 4th Week of October	3rd Week of October – 4th Week of October

NB: Long-Term Mean (LTM) is the 30-year average condition of the given Zone from 1991-2020.

1.6 Length of Minor Rainfall Season Forecast Maps, 2026

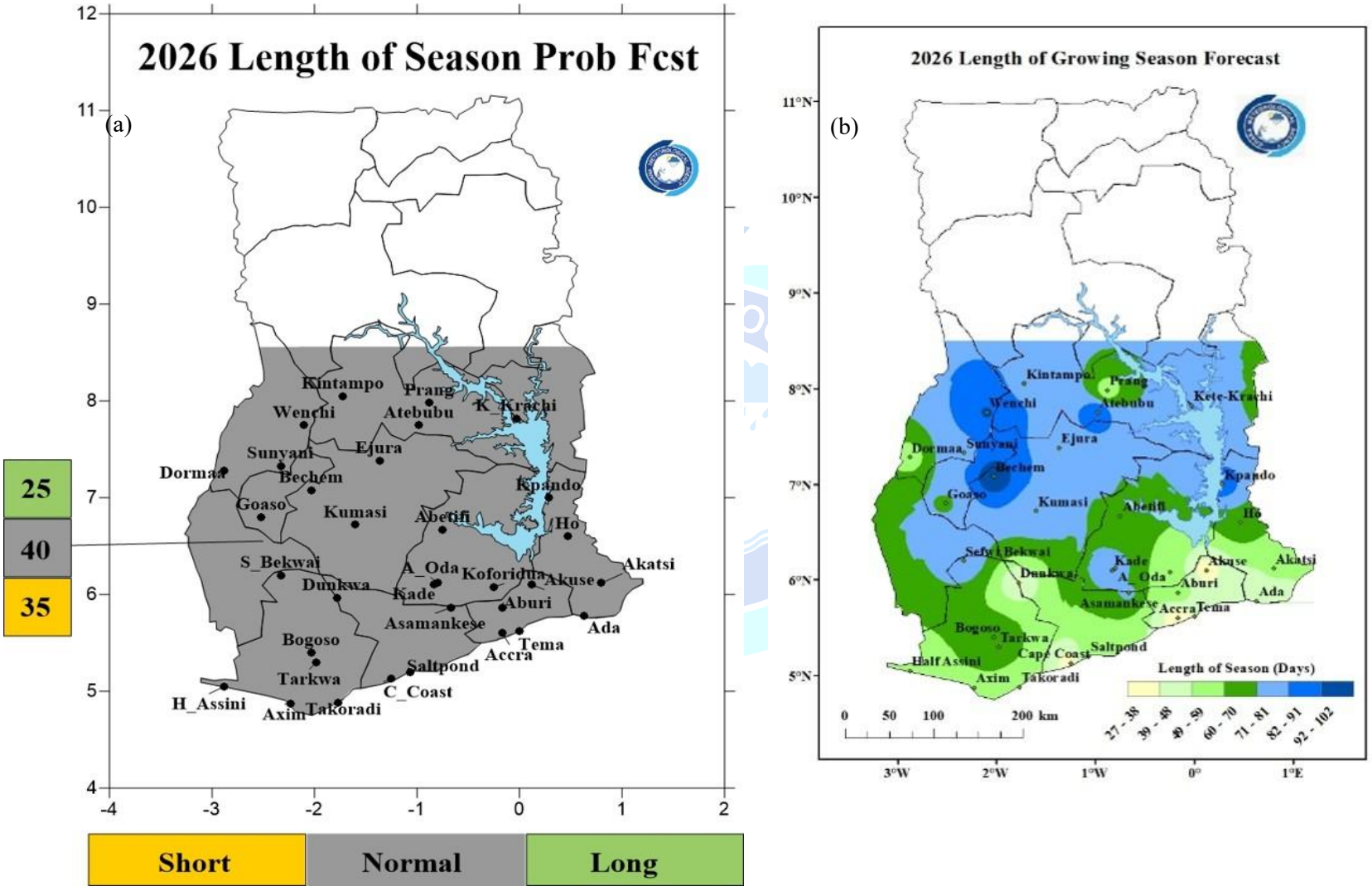

Figure 8: (a) Length of Season Prob Forecast Map 2026 (b) Length of Season Forecast Map,

Table 7. Forecast of Length of Rainfall Season and LTM for 2026 Season

ZONE	LTM (Days)	2026 Length of Season (Days)
Transition Zone	65-95	53-92
Forest Zone	65-100	31-102
West Coast	55-80	50-58
East Coast	30-45	27-56

1.7 Forecast Map for Average Temperature for the 2026 Minor Season

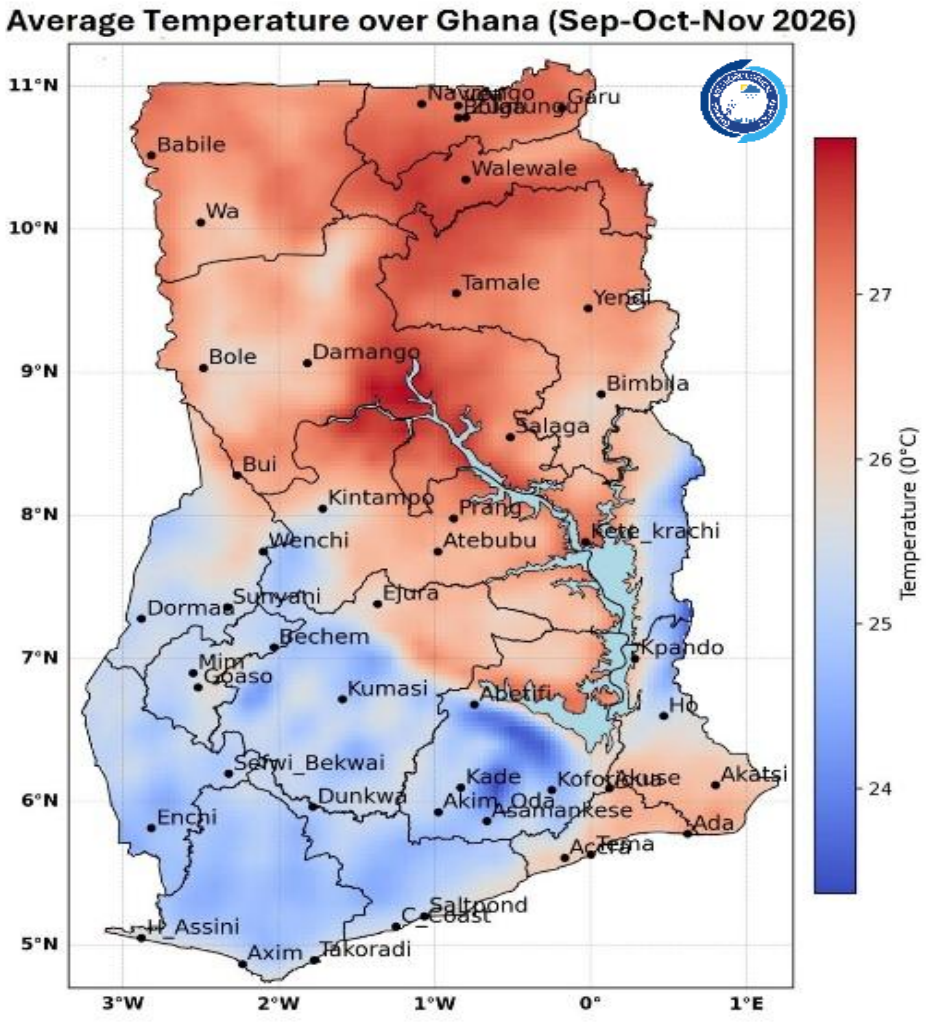

Figure 9: Average Temperature Forecast Map for 2026 minor season

SON Temperature Conditions

During the September–October–November (SON) 2026 season, **warmer-than-normal conditions are expected to prevail across most parts of Ghana**, consistent with the observed long-term warming trend associated with climate change. Mean seasonal temperatures are forecast to exceed **27°C** over much of the Northern and Transition Zones, while the Forest and Coastal Zones are expected to record average temperatures between **26°C and 27°C**.

Although the period coincides with the minor rainy season, temperatures are expected to remain relatively high, with humid conditions likely over the coastal and forest areas and enhanced daytime heating over locations experiencing prolonged dry spells. These conditions may increase evapotranspiration and soil moisture loss, particularly in areas receiving below-normal rainfall.

The expected above-normal temperatures may contribute to increased heat stress on people, crops and livestock, higher water demand, and greater energy consumption for cooling. They may also elevate the risk of bushfires in areas that experience extended dry conditions.

Users are advised to incorporate the expected temperature conditions into their planning and continue to monitor GMet's daily, weekly, monthly and sub-seasonal forecasts for updates throughout the season.

2.0 SUMMARY OF FORECAST FOR 2026 MINOR SEASON (SON)

2.1 Onset

A late to normal start of the rainfall season is forecasted for most places in the southern parts of Ghana during the minor rainfall season. However, a normal to early start of the season is forecasted in many places in the transition zone and the southern parts of the Western North Region.

2.2 Cumulative Rainfall Distribution

(a) September-October-November (SON)

Rainfall is expected to range from below normal to normal in most places in the different zones of the country. However, a few areas including **Bogoso**, **Tarkwa**, **Ho**, **Wa**, **Navrongo**, and surrounding communities are anticipated to experience normal to above-normal rainfall.

2.3 Dry Spells

(a) 1^{st} (Early) Dry Spell

Generally, normal to short dry spells are expected over most parts of southern Ghana. Places such as **Dunkwa, Kumasi, Ejura, Atebubu, Kete-Krachi, Sefwi Bekwai, Ho, Kpando** and their surrounding areas are expected to record an early dry spell lasting 5-6 days.

Wenchi, Kintampo, and their surrounding areas in the Transition Zone are expected to experience long dry spells. Along the East Coast, relatively longer dry spells of 9–13 days are expected, particularly over **Accra, Tema,** and **Ada**.

(b) 2^{nd} (Late) Dry Spell

Late to Normal dry spells are anticipated across the entire Southern Ghana during the late dry spell period. Spells ranging from 11 to 15 days are expected in places such as **Kintampo**, **Prang**, **Kumasi**, **Ejura, Akim Oda, and Kade. Axim, Tarkwa, Kpando, Takoradi, Sunyani, Sefwi Bekwai, Koforidua, Goaso,** and their respective neighboring communities are likely to record dry spells ranging from 8-10 days. The season will have ended for most places on the **East Coast**.

2.4 Cessation

Generally, cessation in the southern parts of the country is expected to be normal to late. In the transition zones, **Atebubu** is expected to be late, while **Prang** is expected to be early. Areas within the forest zones, such as **Kumasi, Bechem,** and **Akatsi,** are anticipated to be late, whereas **Akim Oda, Sunyani, Akuse, Kpando, Dunkwa,** and **Bogoso** are expected to record

an early cessation. Along the coast, **Axim** on the west coast is expected to be early. **Accra, Tema,** and **Saltpond** on the east coast are anticipated to be normal to late.

2.5 Length of Season

The entire **Southern sector** is expected to have a normal length of rainfall days. However, areas such as **Axim, Half Assini,** and their surroundings are expected to be shorter to normal

3.0 POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS -ADVISORIES

This SON season is generally characterized by shorter seasonal length. Based on the outcome of the forecast, most places are likely to have a delayed onset. There is a high probability that most places will experience normal to below normal cumulative rainfall with longer dry spells at the end of the rainfall season. The possible impacts expected to occur and the recommendations to decision makers, stakeholders, and the public in general are as follows:

In a few places such as the northern parts of the Volta Region and some forested areas in the Western Regions and the Central forest areas and other low-lying areas and/or swampy or waterways where we are likely to have:

- **Short dry spells to normal, above normal rainfall, and a normal length of season;** this may lead to **waterlogged soil**, **erosive runoff**, **flash flooding**, and **rapid filling of lowlands**, potentially disrupting transportation, economic activity, and access to healthcare.

  Risks include:
  - Floods
  - Crop and pasture damage
  - Loss of livestock and human life
  - Destruction of infrastructure (roads, power lines, markets, schools, health centers, religious sites, cemeteries)
  - Spread of waterborne and diarrheal diseases
  - Pest outbreaks (pests such as fall armyworms, weevils, whiteflies, aphids, etc.)
  - Landslides and river siltation
  - Post-harvest losses

In most places in the south of Ghana, especially in the Transition areas and the East Coast, where it is likely that we will experience **long dry spells, shorter season, and below-normal rainfall,** and others who do farm along water bodies and through irrigation, we are likely to have:

- Poor rainfall distribution
- Disrupted crop calendars
- Poor pasture growth

- Challenges in transhumance (limited grazing grounds, destruction of farms, loss of lives and livestock due to conflict)
- Outbreak of pests and diseases (fungal and bacterial diseases)
- Migration and abandonment of farms
- Crop failures, yield loss, food inflation and food crises

To mitigate and adapt to the Seasonal expectations, the following advisories are recommended.

a) Flood Risk

- Operationalize integrated monitoring and early warning systems for flood risk.
- Continuously improve disaster, hydrological and meteorological collaboration.
- Sensitize the populace in the exposed areas about the impending danger.
- The Municipal and Metropolitan Authorities and the National Disaster Management Organization are advised to put in place the necessary measures to ensure communities and livelihoods are safeguarded.
- Authorities should provide emergency/temporary sites for the victims and assist the homeless and vulnerable groups in society during this period.
- Ensure the Control/maintenance of dams and road infrastructure.
- Promote flood-tolerant crops.
- Maintain flood protection infrastructure
- Clean drainage systems
- Control livestock movement

b) Disease and Pest Risk

- Strengthen surveillance and early-warning systems for crop pests and diseases.
- Enhance monitoring and control of livestock diseases and pests.
- Promote timely pest and disease advisories for farmers.
- Intensify community sanitation and safe-water measures
- Vaccinate people and animals.
- Monitor and prevent pest outbreaks.

c) Long Dry Spell Risk

- Activate education and sensitization of the people on the likelihood of bush fires.
- Support water harvesting whenever it rains and ensures prudent use of available water
- Promote small-scale irrigation farming

- Use drought-tolerant crop varieties
- Adopt climate-smart farming practices
- Engage with national meteorological, hydrological and agricultural experts for information and advice to provide relief to affected areas.

General Recommendations

d) Transport and Public Safety

- Drivers are advised to refrain from driving through floodwater. Road users should be mindful when plying roads in flood-prone areas as flash floods are likely to occur, especially in urban areas and city centers.
- Light aircraft are advised to take the utmost care and avoid flying through deep convective clouds that are associated with severe turbulence and lightning, especially in the afternoon hours.
- Motorists should be mindful of fallen trees and objects on roads during or after a storm.

e) National/Local Authorities

Local authorities in areas where heavy rainfall is expected are advised to.

- Provide emergency/temporal sites for the victims.
- Ensure the control/maintenance of dams and road infrastructure
- Work hand in hand with the communities through the traditional leaders and local authorities (assembly members) to sensitize the populace on sustained community clean-up exercises and activities.
- Ensure enough food storage.
- Build the capacity of national health systems and national platforms for disaster risk management
- Collaborate with the Ghana Meteorological Agency, National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) and Health Services to disseminate warnings and create awareness on climate-related diseases.
- Strengthening the dissemination and communication of hydro-climatic information (including seasonal forecasts) and raising community awareness through radio, television, mobile phones, and information platforms for disaster risk reduction management.
- Monitor the quality of treatment of water and sanitation in towns and villages
- Improve agro-hydro-meteorological advisory services

f) General Public

- Continuously desilt drains, especially in front of our homes and shops, before and during the season.
- Monitor water quality and report any suspicions to the environmental offices of the assemblies or to the standard authority.
- People should move to higher ground in case they stay in flood-prone areas.

g) Health Sector – Facing the risk of diseases

In places where the rainy season is wetter, there are high levels of risk of Cholera, malaria, dengue fever, bilharzia (schistosomiasis), and diarrhea. To mitigate the development of germs and reduce the risk of water and airborne diseases, it is strongly recommended that:

- Public Education should be intensified through national platforms on disaster risk reduction such as the radio, tv, information vans, churches, mosques etc
- Dissemination of bulletins on climate-sensitive diseases.
- Prevent diseases by vaccinating people and animals.
- Set up stocks of mosquito-proofed nets, anti-malaria drugs
- Provision of mosquito nets, antimalarial drugs in affected areas.

h) Agriculture, Food Security and Livestock

- Invest in improved seed varieties and the development of yield enhancement techniques for both food crops and cash crops.
- Provide fertilizers (organic and mineral fertilizers).
- Increase vigilance against crop pests (e.g., armyworm and other pests).
- Monitor and follow the updates of these seasonal forecasts and the short- and medium-term forecasts produced and disseminated by the national meteorological and hydrological services.
- Focus on drought-tolerant crops and early maturing varieties for areas likely to experience water deficits.
- Strengthen monitoring of food and nutrition security in at-risk areas.
- Implement early warning systems to mitigate the impact of the long dry spells anticipated.

NB: This outlook should be used with the Daily, Weekly, Subseasonal, Monthly and regular updates issued by the Agency.

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