



To observe, archive and understand Guyana's weather and climate and provide meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic services in support of Guyana's national needs and international obligations.

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Introduction: The Drought Monitoring Bulletin for May was prepared using the WMO recommended Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI). The maps represent the 1-month (May 2018), 3-month (March – May 2018), 6-month (December 2017 – May 2018) and 12-month (June 2017 – May 2018) SPIs respectively, showing various degrees of wetness and/or dryness across the country.

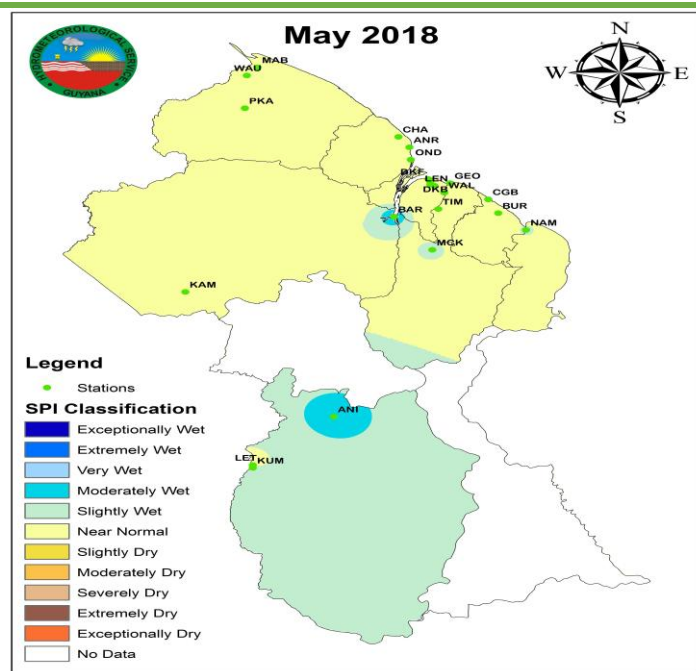


Fig.1: 1-Month Standardized Precipitation Index(SPI)

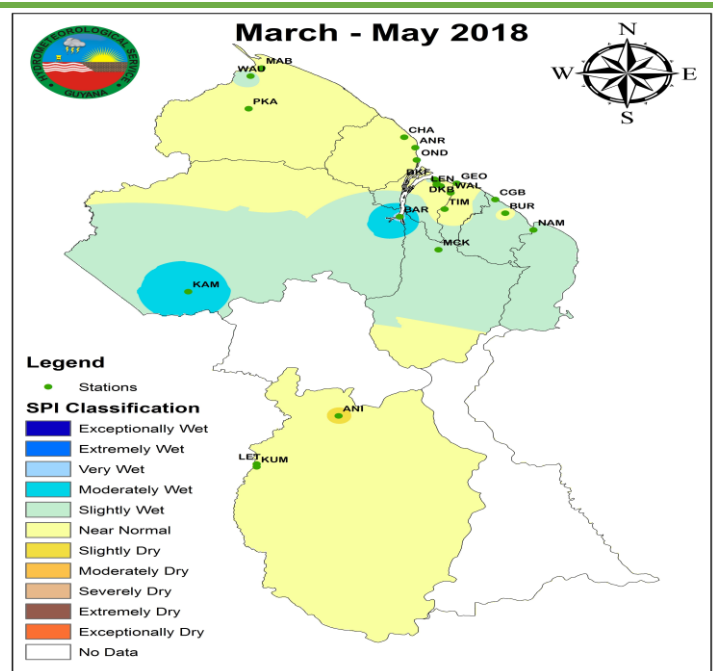


Fig.2: 3-Month Standardized Precipitation Index(SPI) (for agricultural drought-soil moisture)

OBSERVED FEATURES

The 1-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) analysis for May (Fig.1) shows that most of the stations analyzed experienced Near Normal conditions. In southern Guyana, Lethem was classified as Near Normal while Kumu experienced Slightly Wet conditions. Additionally, Kamarang, Wauna, New Amsterdam, Anna Regina, Onderneeming were some of the areas that observed Near Normal conditions. Bartica and Annai were the only stations to be classified as Moderately Wet for the month of May.

For the 3-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) (Fig. 2) all the stations analyzed ranged from Slightly Dry to Moderately Wet conditions. Lethem, Kumu, Charity, Anna Regina and Onderneeming were some of the stations that observed Near Normal conditions. While, McKenzie, Wauna, Cane Grove Back, and New Amsterdam were classified as Slightly Wet. Stations such as Kamarang and Bartica recorded Moderately Wet conditions. Based on the results obtained at the end of May with the exception of Annai, none of the stations analysed experienced soil moisture deficits over the three-month period.

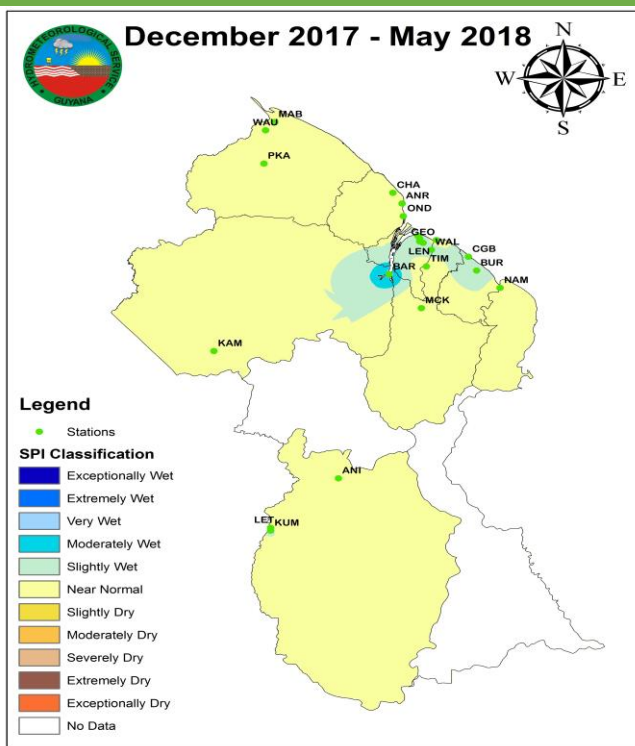


Fig.3: 6-Month Standardized Precipitation Index(SPI)

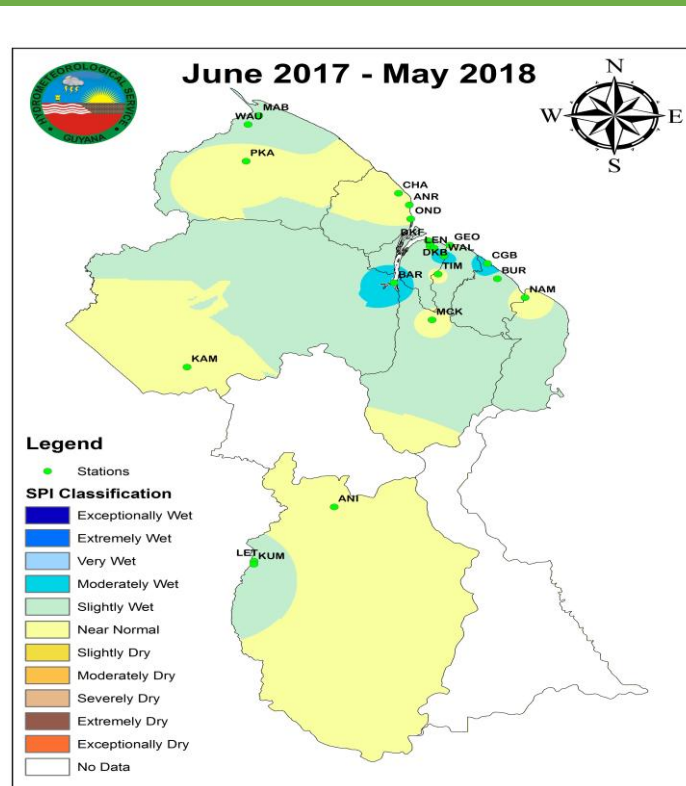


Fig.4: 12-Month Standardized Precipitation Index(SPI)

The 6-months cumulative rainfall (SPI) analysis (Fig. 3) showed the persistence of Near Normal to Moderately Wet conditions over most stations analyzed. Stations such as Burma, Georgetown, and Leonora recorded Slightly Wet conditions. Wauna, Mabaruma, Charity and Anna Regina were some of the stations classified as having Near Normal conditions for the period under review.

Based on the 12-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) analysis (Fig.4), all the areas analyzed ranged from Near Normal to Moderately Wet. DeKendren Back, Bartica and Cane Grove Back were some of the stations that experienced Moderately Wet conditions over the past year. As can be observed in the figure there has not been any severe rainfall deficits over the areas analyzed.

OUTLOOK FOR JUNE 2018

Both Northern and Southern Guyana are in their main rainfall season of 2018, therefore a gradual increase in wet spells (consecutive days with rainfall) over the coming weeks is expected. Thus, there is no drought concern presently for Guyana.

INTERPRETING THE SPI MAPS

For example, the 3-month SPI provides a comparison of the precipitation over a specific 3-month period with the precipitation totals from the same 3-month period for all the years included in the historical record. The same concept applies to the other timescales. Additionally, a 3-month SPI reflects short- and medium-term moisture conditions and provides a seasonal estimation of precipitation. In primary agricultural regions, a 3-month SPI might be more effective in highlighting available moisture conditions.

STATION ABBREVIATIONS

PKA-PORT KAITUMA	OND-ONDERNEEMING	DKF-DE KENDREN FRONT	ENM-ENMORE	BLR-BLAIRMONT	KAM-KAMARANG	ANI-ANNAI
WAU-WAUNA	UIV-UITVLUGT	LEN-LEONORA	TIM-TIMHERI	NAM-NEW AMSTERDAM	LET-LETHEM	EBI-EBINI
ANR-ANNA REGINA	DKB-DE KENDREN BACK	GEO-GEORGETOWN	CGB-CANE GROVE BACK	ALB-ALBION	KUM-KUMU	MCK-MCKENZIE
WAL-WALES	ROH-ROSE HALL	SKL-SKELDON	BUR-BURMA	MAB-MABURUMA	CHA-CHARITY	BAR-BARTICA

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