FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS NETWORK

Democratic Republic of Congo

Monthly Climate and Weather

19 June 2025

Highlights

- The **El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**-neutral conditions continued during May 2025. Near-average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) dominated over most of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The ENSO outlook anticipates ENSO-neutral is likely to continue with an 82% chance during June – August 2025 may continue into winter 2025-26.

- In May 2025, much of the DRC experienced above average **rainfall** ranging between 10 and 100 mm, with localized places also recording greater than 100 mm. Meanwhile, areas in the northwestern and northeastern provinces and localized places saw below average rainfall of 10-100 mm. In July, above average rainfall is favored in pocket areas in the northeastern region.

- The country recorded above average **maximum temperatures** (1-3°C), over many areas with the exception of areas in the west, central, and eastern provinces, which experienced near average maximum temperatures. Above average **minimum temperatures** (1-2°C) were recorded in parts of the southwest, southern and northeastern areas. Meanwhile, the remaining areas registered near average minimum temperatures. In July 2025, the DRC is likely to experience above average temperatures. The central and eastern regions are favored to have a greater than 50% probability of above average mean temperatures.

- The **Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)** analysis for May 2025 shows that parts of the northern, central, and western regions of the DRC experienced drier than average conditions. Wetter than average conditions were observed in parts of the central, eastern and southern regions. Meanwhile, near normal conditions were recorded in parts of the southern region and localized places across the country. The SPI forecast for DRC predicts drier than average conditions in the north, west, and central provinces, while central, eastern and southern regions may experience wetter than average conditions.

The FEWS NET Monthly Climate and Weather information bulletin is based on current weather and climate information and monthly and seasonal outlooks from the NOAA CPC. Information on crops, soil moisture, flooding, and evapotranspiration data were produced by FEWS NET, USGS, NASA and USDA. Various sources were used to assess impacts of extreme conditions. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov. Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov.

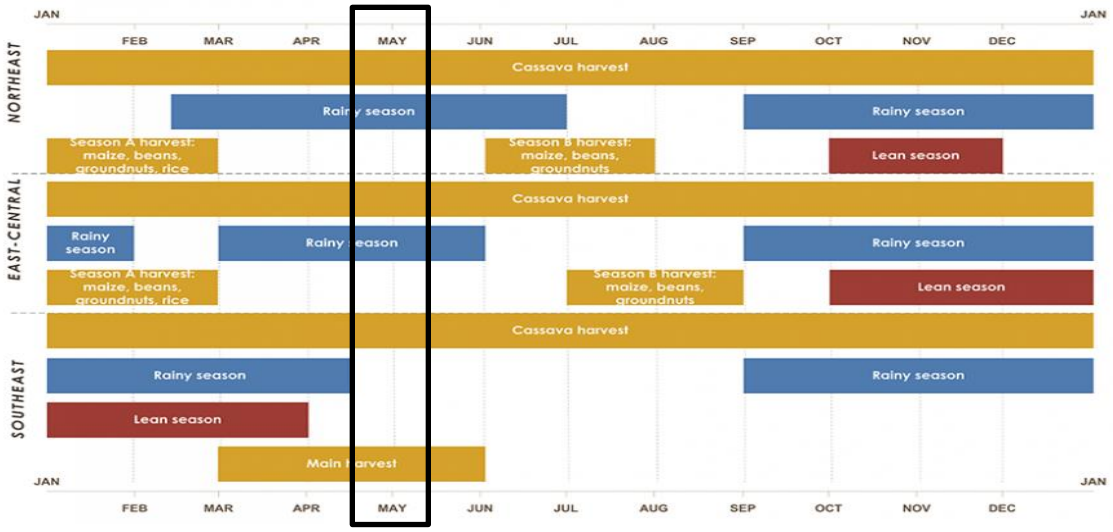


Figure 1: Seasonal calendar for DR Congo. **Source: FEWS NET**

Current Climate Modes and Teleconnections

- During May 2025, ENSO-neutral conditions continued, with near average SSTs across much of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Subsurface temperatures were near to above average, with above average subsurface ocean temperatures at depth in the central and western Pacific. For the month, low-level winds were easterly over the east-central Pacific, while upper-level winds were mostly near average across the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

- The ENSO outlook indicates that ENSO-Neutral is likely in the Northern Hemisphere summer 2025 (82% chance in June-August) and may continue into winter 2025-26, though confidence is lower (48% chance of Neutral and 41% chance of La Niña in November-January; **Fig. 2**). The latest update of the NOAA Climate Prediction Center's ENSO diagnostic discussion can be found here.

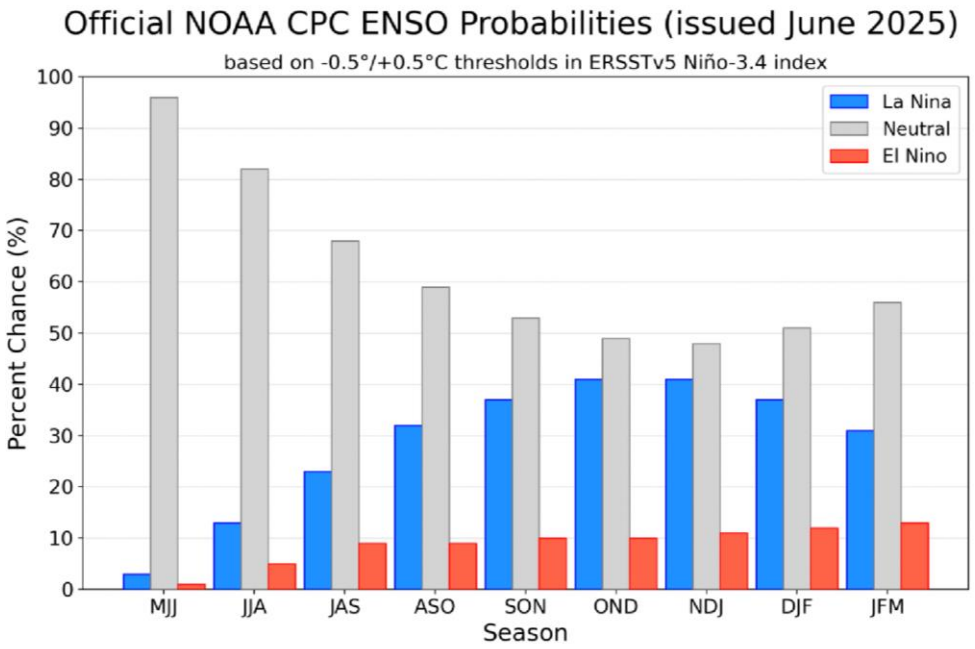


Figure 2: Official CPC ENSO probabilities outlook. **Source: NOAA/NCEP**

Extreme Events

- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 20,774 high-confidence fire alerts have been reported by VIIRS so far in 2025. In the last 4 weeks, the region with the most significant number of fire alerts was Nord-Kivu, with 86 fire alerts. This accounts for 1.1% of all alerts detected in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and is unusually high compared to the number of fires recorded during the same period since 2012.

- Over the past month, persistent insufficient rainfall has caused degraded vegetation conditions in northeastern DR Congo.

Rainfall/Precipitation

Past 3 months (March 2025 to May 2025):

- **Total:** For the past three months, much of the DRC has experienced extremely heavy rainfall (300-750 mm). Parts of the southern region, which include Haut-Lomami and Haut-Katanga provinces, recorded 100-300 mm of rainfall. The heaviest rainfall (>750 mm) was recorded in localized areas of the west and eastern provinces, including Kinshasa, Kongo-Central, Mai-Ndombe, Equateur, Tshopo, Nord-Kivu, and Sud-Kivu provinces (**Fig. 3a)**.

- **Anomalies:** Rainfall was above average by 10 to 100 mm in many areas of the DRC. Large rainfall surpluses reaching 200-300 mm were registered in the west, central, and eastern parts of the country. Localized places in the western region experienced significant rainfall surpluses of 300-500 mm. In contrast, the northeastern and parts of the

north-central regions experienced below average rainfall (10-100 mm). Parts of Bas-Uele, Haut-Uele, Tshopo, and Ituri provinces recorded severe rainfall deficits of 100-200 mm below average rainfall (**Fig. 3b**).

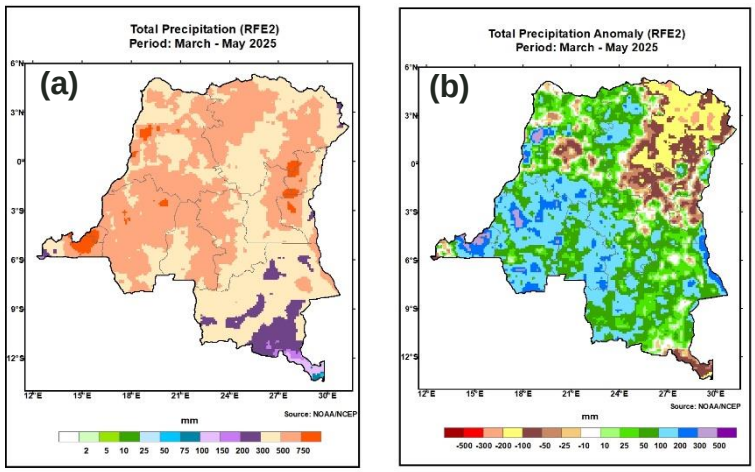


Figure 3: Spatial distribution for March 2025 – May 2025 (a) total precipitation and (b) total precipitation anomaly. **Source: NOAA/NCEP**

Past 1 Month (May 2025):

- **Totals:** The northern and central provinces of the DRC experienced extremely heavy rainfall, reaching between 100 and 300 mm and exceeding 300 mm in pocket areas over Kinshasa, Kongo-Central, Tshopo, Nord-Kivu, and Sud-Kivu provinces. Also, parts of the central and southern regions recorded 5-100 mm of rainfall (**Fig. 4a**).

- **Anomalies:** Much of the DRC experienced above average rainfall (10-100 mm), with large rainfall surpluses (100-200 mm) in localized places in Kinshasa, Kongo-Central, Sud-Kivu, and Tanganika provinces. In contrast, the northwestern, northeastern, and localized places in the central regions saw a rainfall deficit of 10-100 mm (**Fig. 4b**).

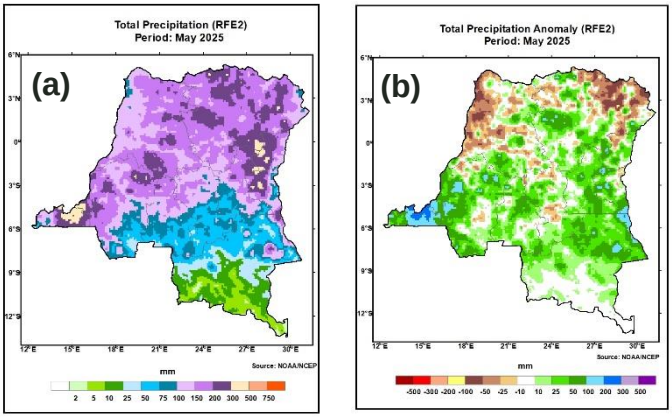


Figure 4: Spatial distribution for May 2025 (a) total precipitation and (b) total precipitation anomaly. **Source: NOAA/NCEP**

Monthly (July 2025) and Seasonal (July 2025 – September 2025) Forecasts:

- **Monthly:** In July, above average rainfall is favored in pocket areas in Bas-Uele, Haut-Uele, Tshopo, Ituri, Maniema, and Nord-Kivu provinces. In contrast, below average rainfall is expected in localized places in Equateur, Sud-Ubangi, Tshuapa, and Haut-Uele provinces (**Fig. 5a**).

- **Seasonal:** Above average rainfall is expected in pocket areas in much of Maniema, Sud-Kivu, the northern part of Tanganika, and pocket areas in Bas-Uele, Tshopo, Nord-Kivu, Sankuru, and Lomami provinces. Areas including much of Equateur, much of Tshuapa, eastern Mai-Ndombe, western Kasai, and pocket areas in Sud-Ubangi and Tshopo provinces are likely to receive below-average rainfall (**Fig. 5b**).

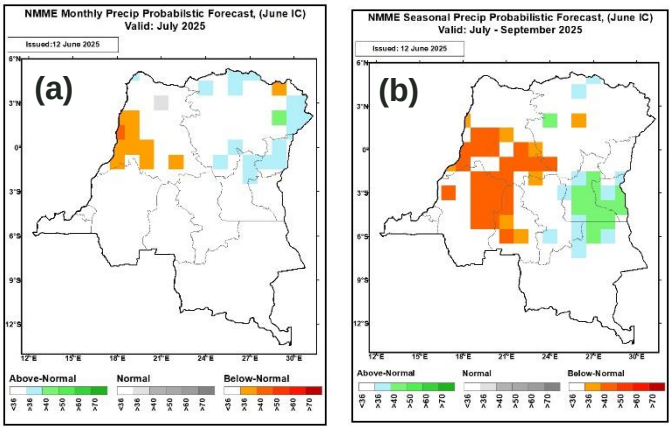


Figure 5: Rainfall forecast for (a) July 2025 and (b) July 2025 - September 2025. **Source: NOAA/NCEP**

Temperature

Past 3 months (March 2025 to May 2025):

- **Maximums:** Over the last three months, the DRC has experienced maximum temperatures ranging from 20 to 40°C. Most areas of the DRC recorded 1-3°C above average maximum temperatures. Part of the southern region, including eastern Lualaba, southern Haut-Lomami, southern Tanganika, and much of Haut-Katanga provinces, experienced below average maximum temperatures of 3°C. Meanwhile, near average maximum temperatures were observed in parts of the west, central, and northeastern regions (**Fig. 6a**).

- **Minimums:** The mean minimum temperatures in the DRC over the past three months were 20°C in most areas of the country and 15°C in parts of the east and southern regions. Near average minimum temperatures were recorded in much of the country, except in the northeastern region, and parts of the central and southern regions, which experienced slightly above average minimum temperatures of 1-2°C (**Fig. 6b)**.

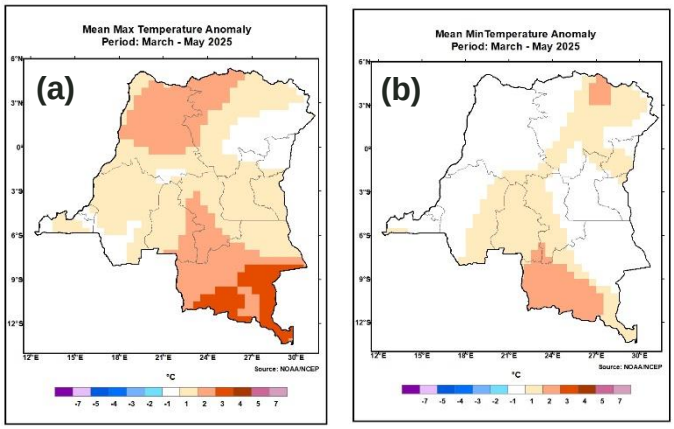


Figure 6: Spatial distribution for March 2025 – May 2025 (a) mean maximum temperature anomaly and (b) mean minimum temperature anomaly. **Source: NOAA/NCEP**

Past 1 Month (May 2025):

- **Maximums:** Mean maximum temperatures in the DRC ranged from 20°C to 40°C. Most areas of the DRC recorded 1-3°C above average maximum temperatures, although some regions in the west, central, and eastern areas experienced near average maximum temperatures. In addition, significant maximum temperatures of 3°C above average were recorded in eastern Lualaba, southern Haut-Lomami, southern Tanganika and much of Haut-Katanga provinces (**Fig. 7a**).

- **Minimums:** The mean minimum temperature over the past month in the DRC ranged from 10°C to 20°C. Parts of the eastern, southern, and southwestern regions recorded a mean minimum temperature of 10-15°C, while most areas in the northern and central regions recorded 20°C. Parts of the southwest, southern, and northeastern areas recorded

above average minimum temperatures of 1-2°C. Meanwhile, the remaining areas registered near average minimum temperatures (**Fig. 7b**).

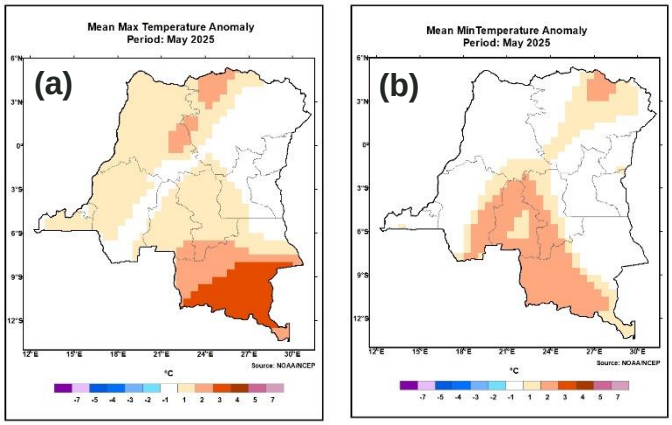


Figure 7: Spatial map for May 2025 (a) mean maximum temperature anomaly and (b) mean minimum temperature anomaly. **Source: NOAA/NCEP**

Monthly (July 2025) and Seasonal (July 2025 – September 2025) Forecasts:

- **Monthly:** In July 2025, the DRC is likely to experience above average temperatures. The central and eastern regions are favored to have a greater than 50% probability of above average mean temperatures **(Fig. 8a)**.

- **Seasonal:** Above average mean temperatures are expected in the DRC from July to September 2025. Most areas in the country are favored to have a greater than 50% probability of above-average mean temperatures (**Fig. 8b)**.

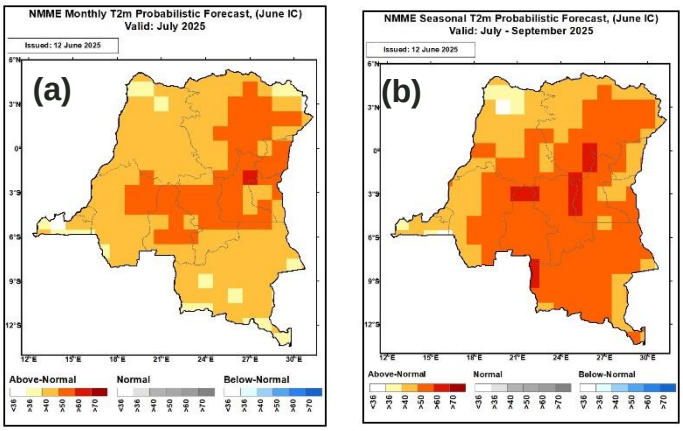


Figure 8: Spatial map for (a) July 2025 mean temperatures forecast and (b) July 2025 – September 2025 mean temperatures forecast. **Source: NOAA/NCEP**

Flooding and Areas of Inundation

- No flooding has been recorded in the past month.

Drought and Dryness

The Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) is used to characterize meteorological drought. SPI compares the precipitation over a specific period of time with the climatology from that same period. Therefore, the SPI values can be thought of as the number of standard deviations the observed anomaly deviates from the climatology. The 1-month SPI values are a good representation of the monthly precipitation anomaly as well as the soil moisture and vegetation health. The 3-month SPI values are a good representation of seasonal precipitation anomalies. The Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) is similar to the SPI, but it also takes evapotranspiration into account (and therefore the impact of temperatures on water demand).

Past 3 Months (March 2025 to May 2025):

- From March 2025 to May 2025, most areas in the DRC experienced drier than average conditions with SPI of 0.8-2.0 standard deviations below the mean. In contrast, near average to wetter than average conditions were observed in parts of the eastern and southern areas of the country **(Fig. 9a)**.

Past 1 Month (May 2025):

- In May 2025, parts of the north, central, and western regions of the DRC experienced drier than average conditions with SPI of 0.8-2.0 standard deviations below the mean. Wetter than average conditions were observed in parts of the central, eastern, and southern regions with SPI of 0.4-2.0 standard deviations above the mean. Near average conditions were observed in parts of the southern region and localized places across the country **(Fig. 9b)**.

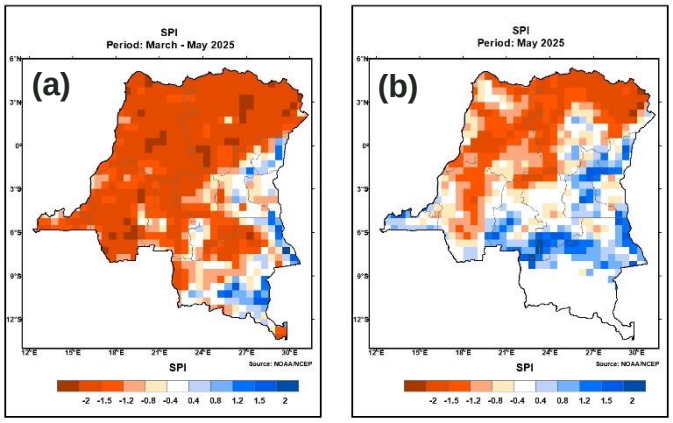


Figure 9: Spatial structure of Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) (a) March 2025 – May 2025 (b) May 2025. Source: NOAA/NCEP. **Source: NOAA/NCEP**

Current/Forecast (31 March 2025 to 28 June 2025):

- The SPI forecast indicates that drier than average conditions will occur in parts of the north, western, and central provinces. In contrast, parts of the central, eastern, and southern regions are expected to have wetter than average conditions. The southern part of Haut-Katanga province will likely experience an SPI of 2.0 standard deviations above the mean. Meanwhile, near average conditions are likely to occur in pocket areas across the country **(Fig. 10).**

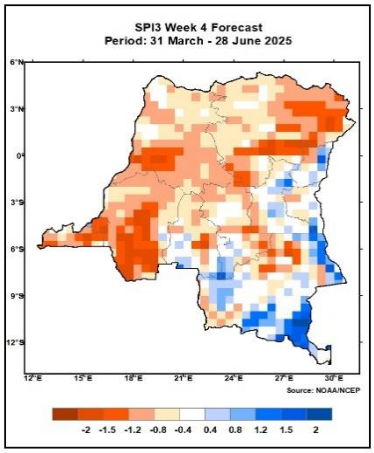


Figure 10: Spatial structure of SPI constructed from observations for 31 March 2025 to 31 May 2025 and a 4-week forecast ending on 28 June 2025. **Source: NOAA/NCEP**

Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI)

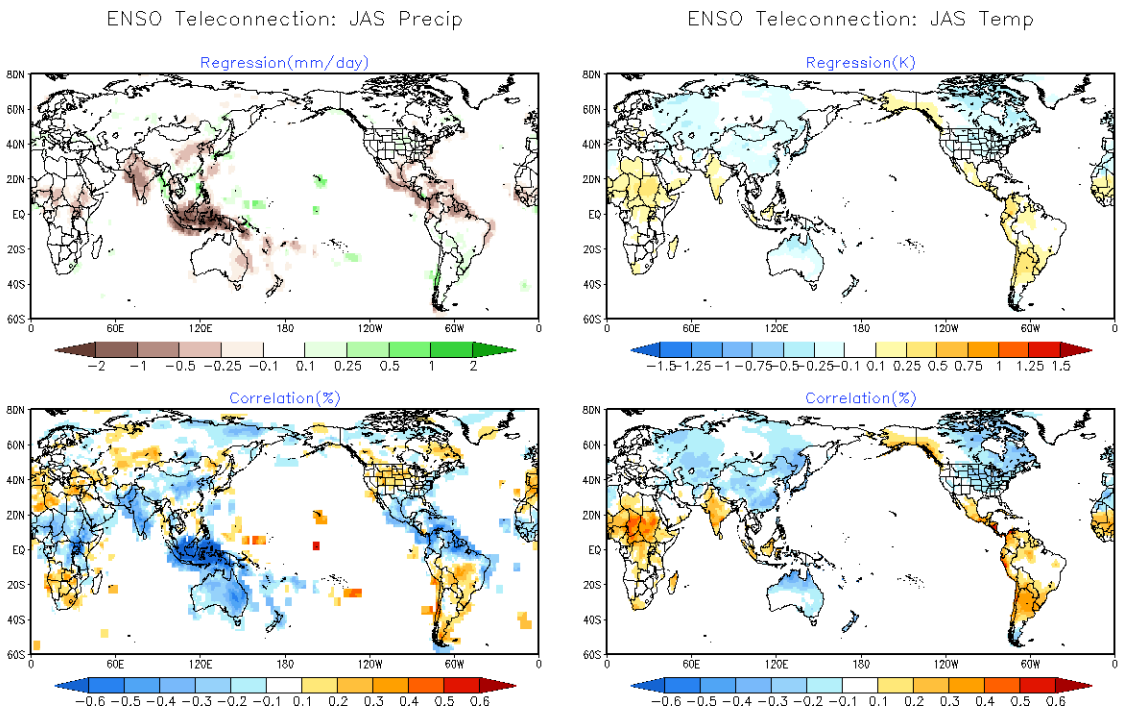
- Not Available

GEOGLAM Crop Monitor

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the harvest of second-season maize has been completed in central and southeastern regions, while main-season sorghum and second-season maize are still developing in other parts of the country. Despite erratic rainfall over the past month, overall crop conditions remain favorable. In the north and western regions, land preparation is in progress for the main season maize, with planting set to begin in June.

Additional Resources

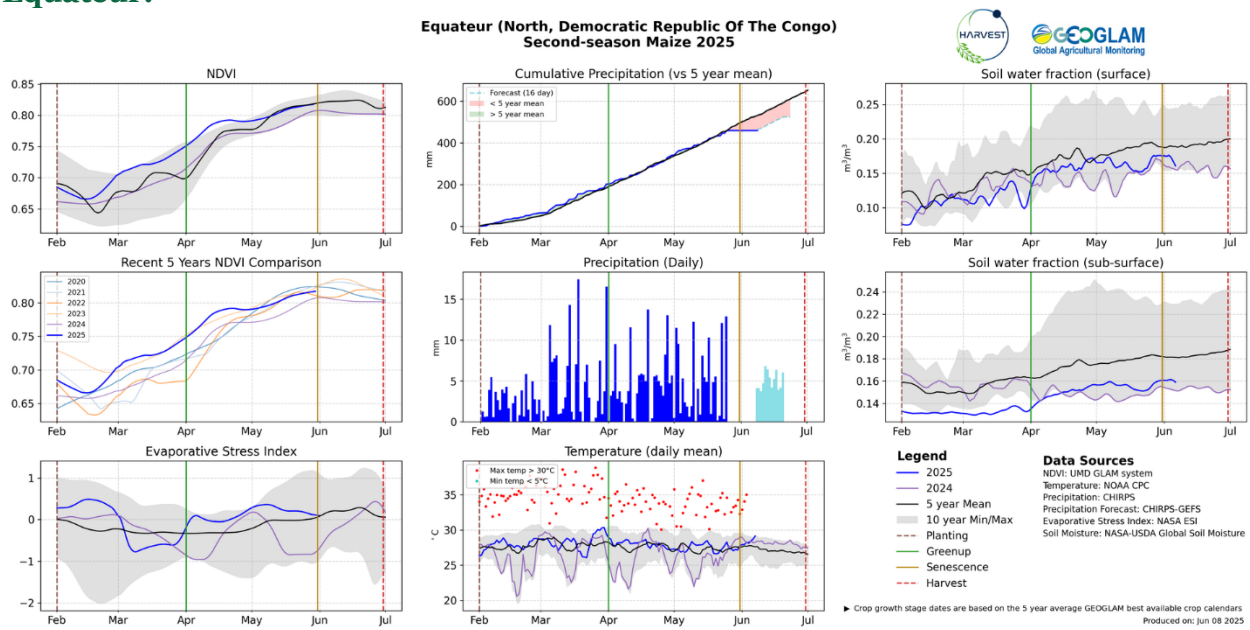
Annex



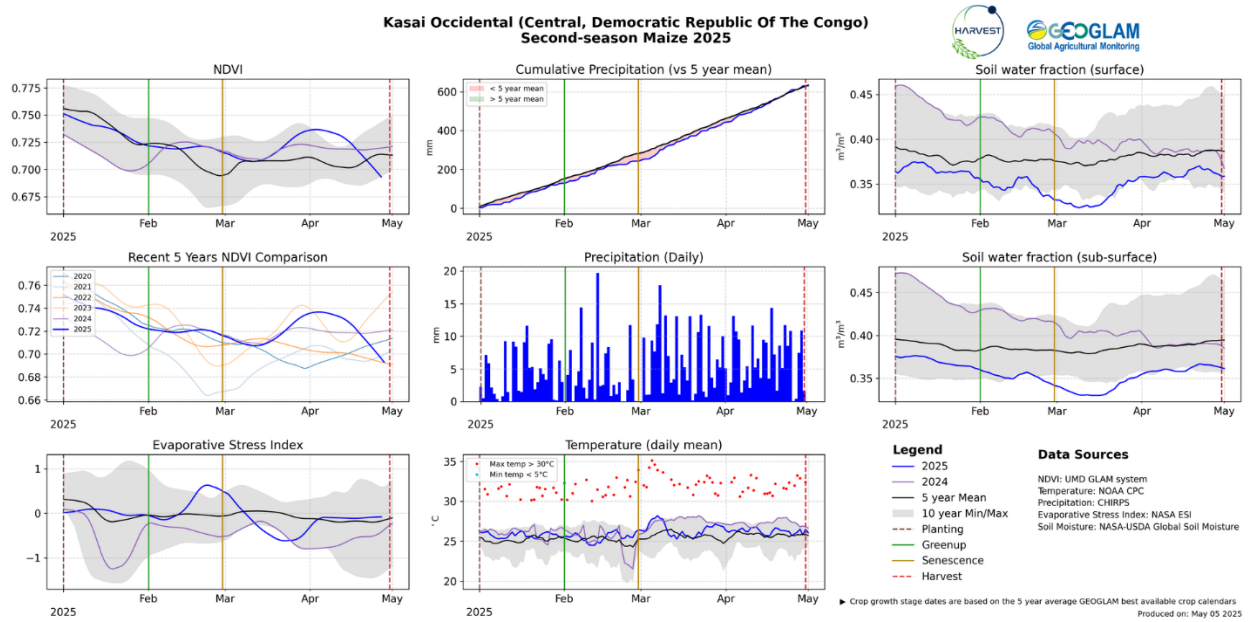
GEOGLAM Agro-meteorological Earth Observation Indicators:

Second-Season Maize

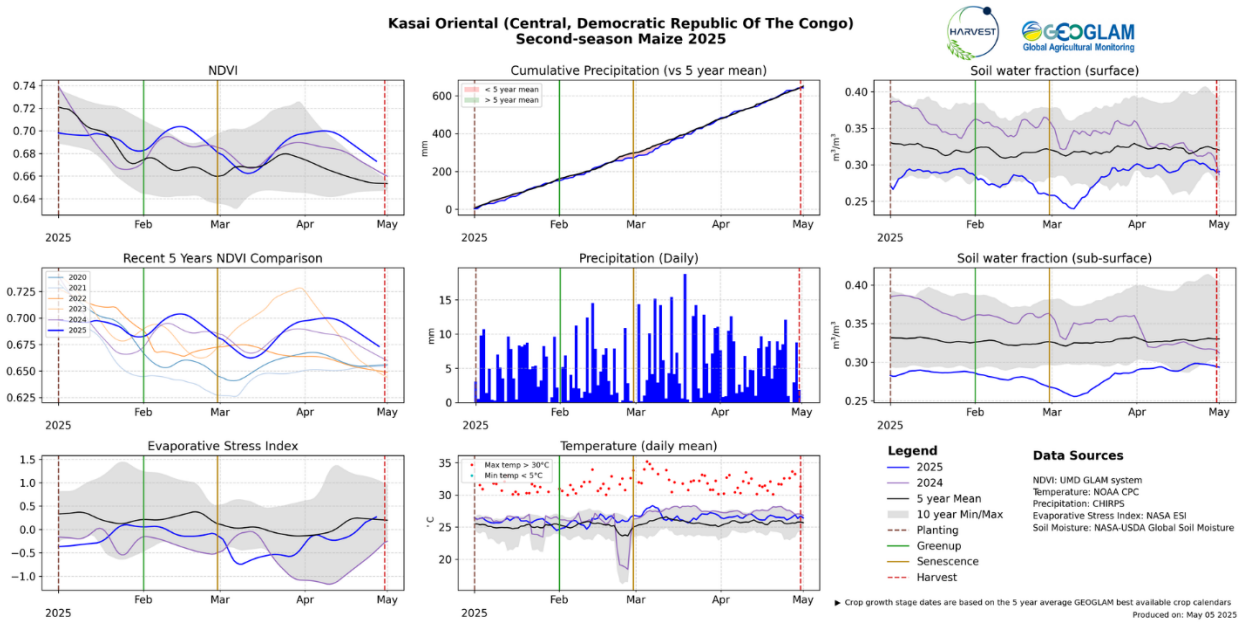
Equateur:



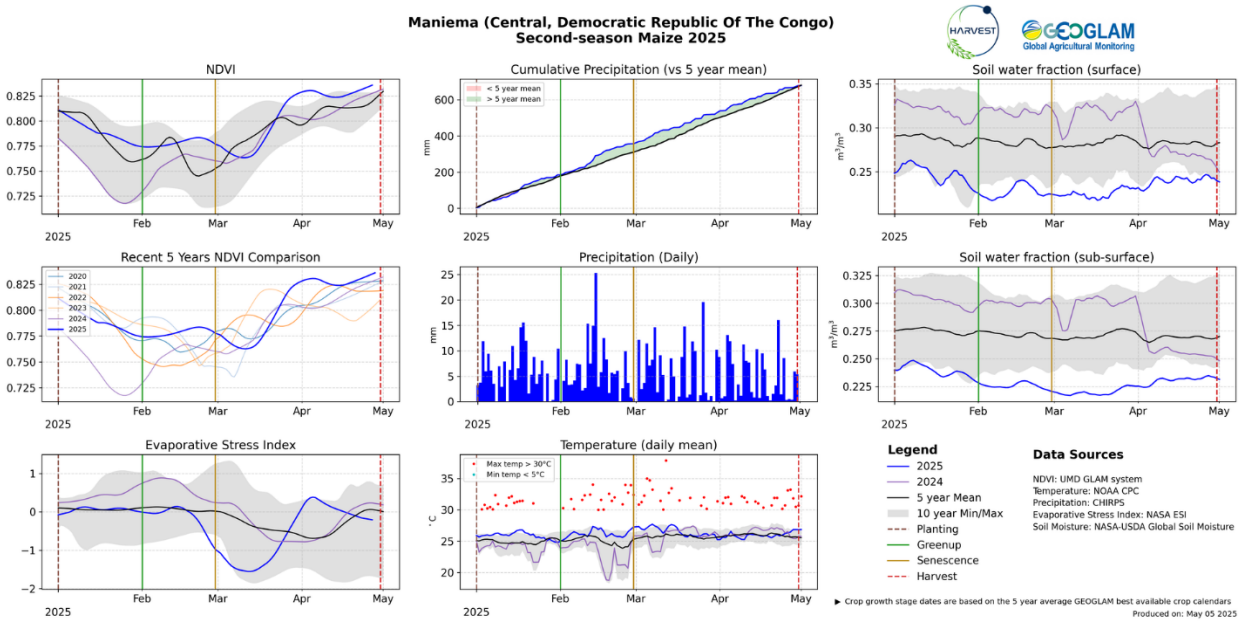
Kasai Occidental:



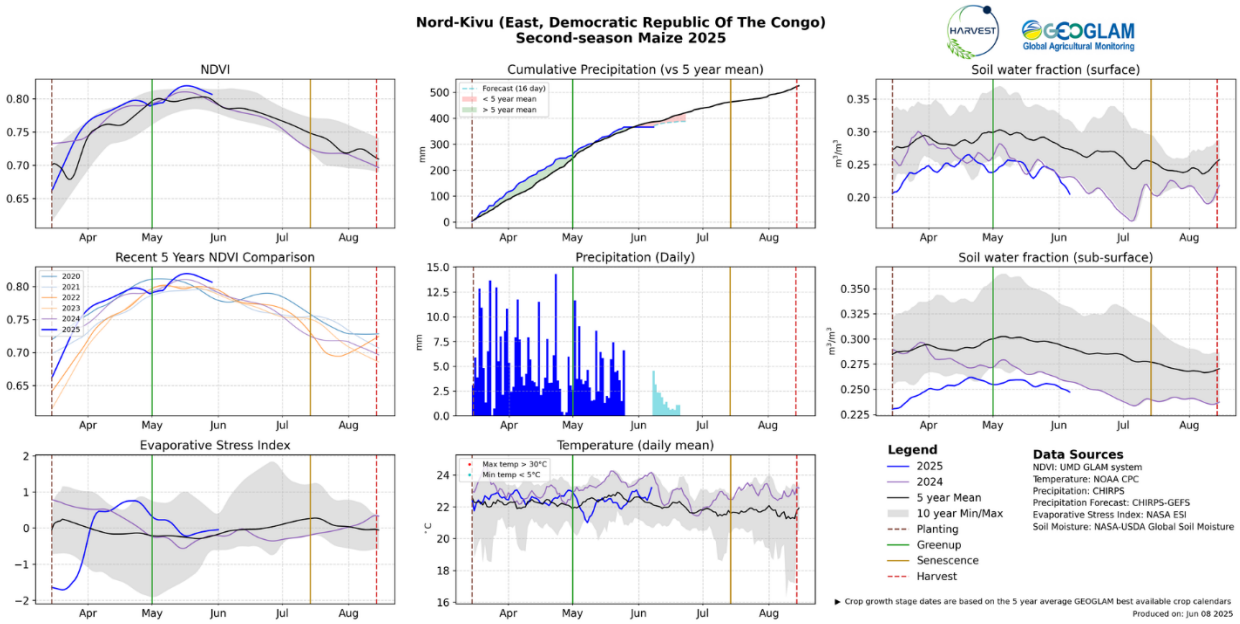
Kasai Oriental:



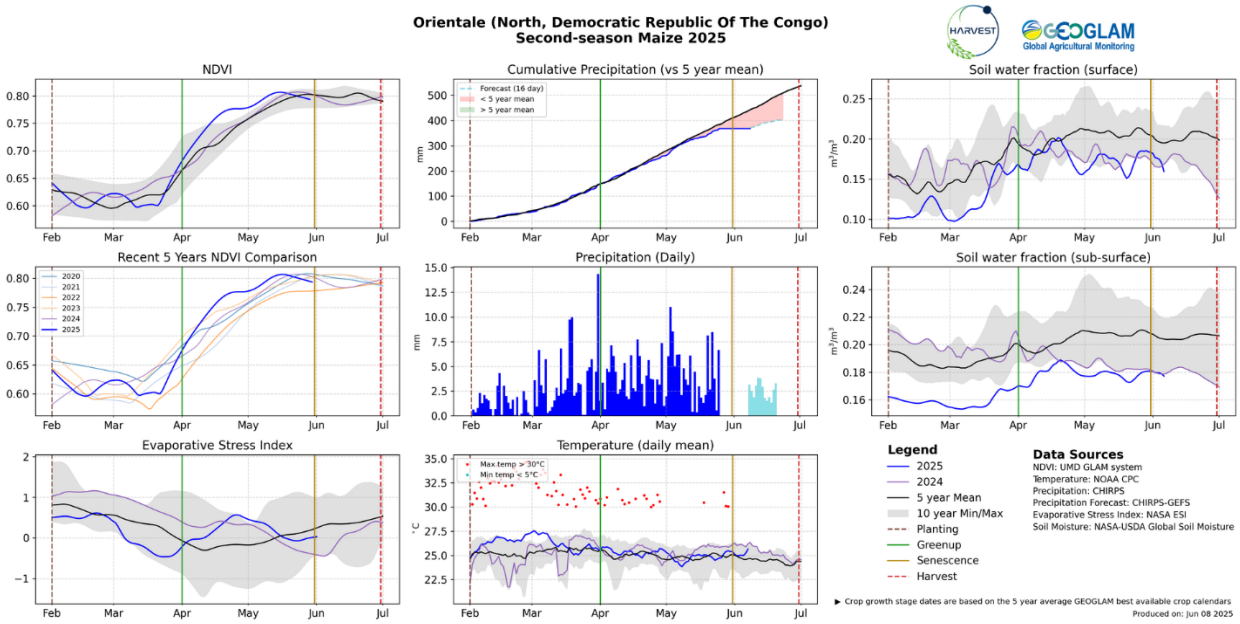
Maniema:



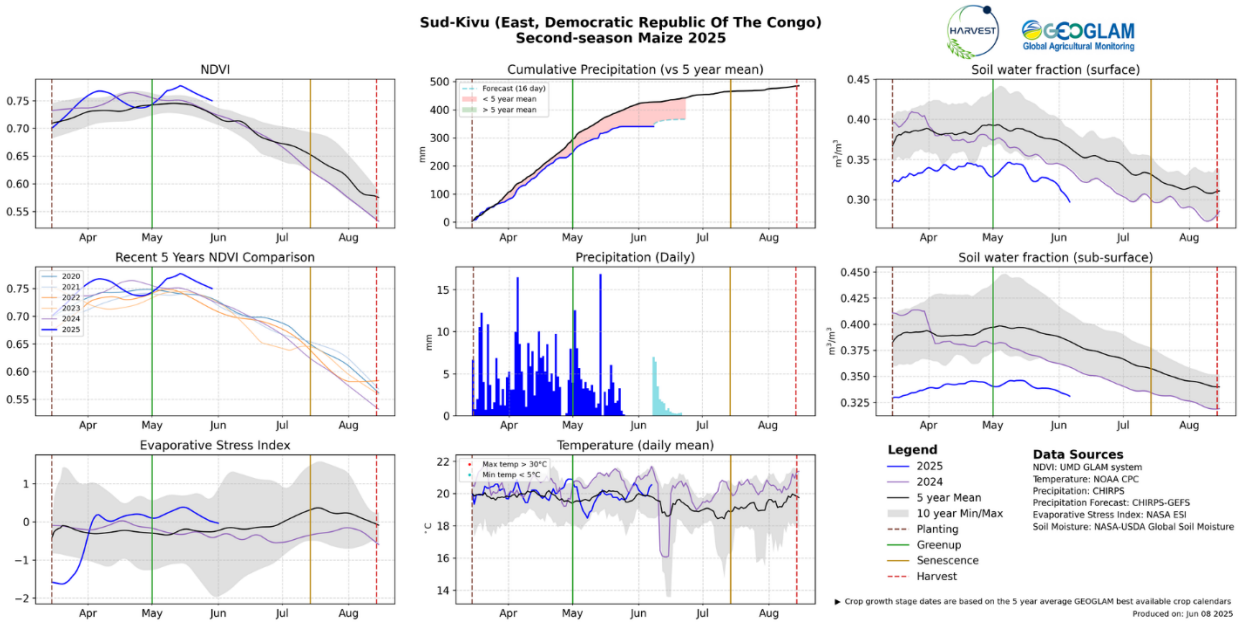
Nord-Kivu:



Orientale:



Sud-Kivu:


Sud-Kivu (East, Democratic Republic Of The Congo)
Second-season Maize 2025
HARVEST
GEOGLAM
Global Agricultural Monitoring
NDVI
Cumulative Precipitation (vs 5 year mean)
Forecast (16 day)
< 5 year mean
> 5 year mean
mm
Soil water fraction (surface)
m³/m³
Recent 5 Years NDVI Comparison
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
Precipitation (Daily)
Soil water fraction (sub-surface)
Evaporative Stress Index
Temperature (daily mean)
Max temp > 30°C
Min temp < 5°C
°C
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Legend
2025
2024
5 year Mean
10 year Min/Max
Planting
Greenup
Senescence
Harvest
Data Sources
NDVI: UMD GLAM system
Temperature: NOAA CPC
Precipitation: CHIRPS
Precipitation Forecast: CHIRPS-GEFS
Evaporative Stress Index: NASA ESI
Soil Moisture: NASA-USDA Global Soil Moisture
► Crop growth stage dates are based on the 5 year average GEOGLAM best available crop calendars
Produced on: Jun 08 2025