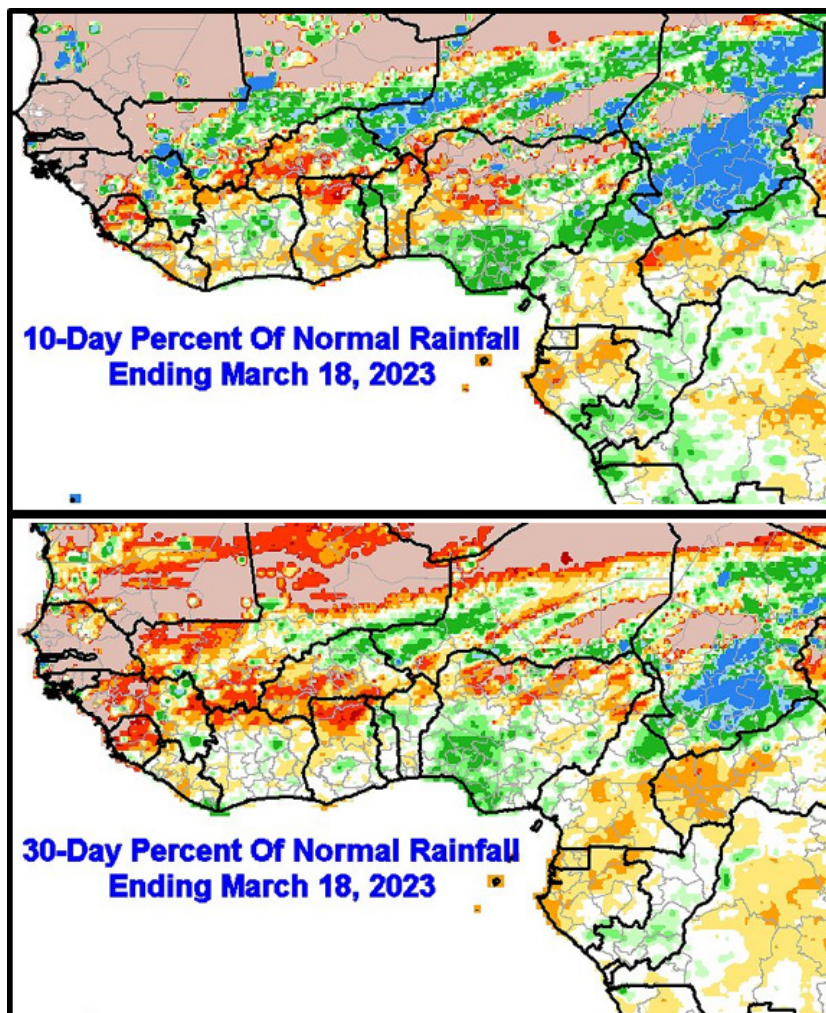


Warm and Rainy Conditions to Occur in West-Central Africa

By Scarlett Waters

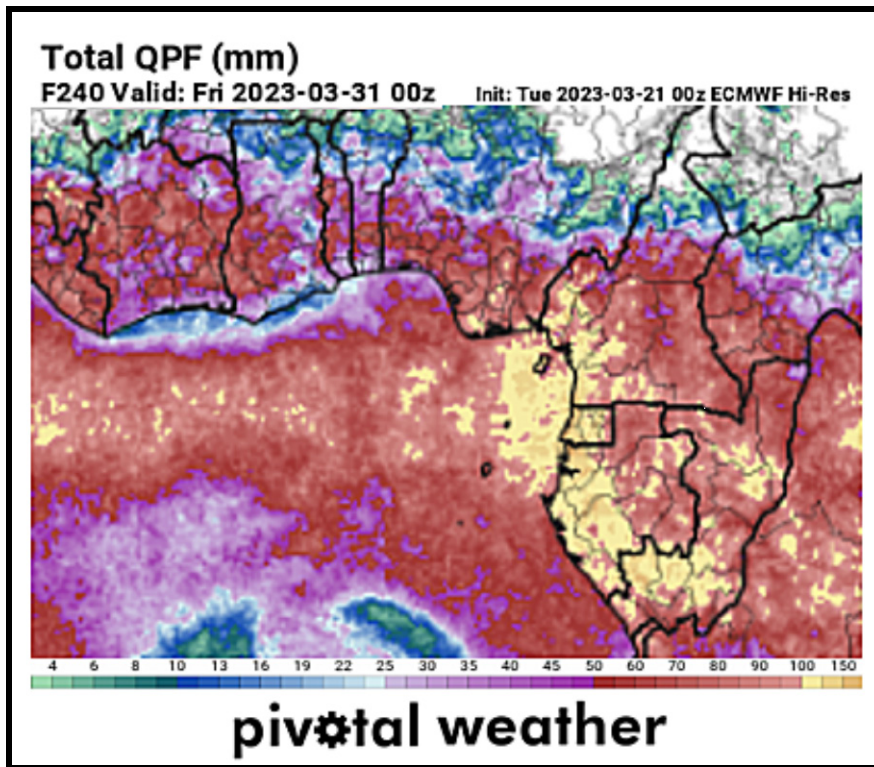
Kansas City, March 21 (World Weather Inc.) – *Slightly drier-than-average conditions have been developing in west-central African coffee and cocoa areas over the last 10 days. Bouts of rain are expected though the end of March that should lead to improved flowering, pod and cherry setting and general growth conditions. Daytime temperatures are expected to be largely in the mid to upper 90s Fahrenheit with lows in the mid-70s. Conditions are expected to be less than ideal for stimulating the best flowering and development conditions; however, significant damage to crops is not expected.*

In the last 10 days, areas along the west-central African coast have been slightly drier than average with southern Nigeria being wetter than average. Looking into the past 30 days, conditions overall have been closer to normal, mainly from southern Ivory Coast to Benin. *The recent drier than average conditions can be at least partially attributed to the recent ending of La Niña conditions which tends to cause lighter or more erratic rainfall in this area of the world.*



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Pop-up showers and thunderstorms are expected to continue from today into the first week of April. Between 2.00 and 5.70 inches of total rainfall is expected in key coffee and cocoa production areas from Ivory Coast to Nigeria and western Cameroon today through March 30 with higher amounts possible in some areas. Some of the greatest rain totals will be located near the Cameroon and Gabon coasts which will aid in reducing long term rainfall deficits in these areas. Rain totals beyond March 30 are not certain at this point in time. Daytime temperatures are largely expected to be in the mid to upper 90s Fahrenheit along the coast with lows in the mid-70s through the end of March.



The expected rainfall through the end of March will be beneficial for crops of all kinds including rice and sugarcane as well as coffee and cocoa; however, daytime temperatures constantly in the 90s may inhibit development of some crops. Temperatures will need to cool sometime in April to bring more ideal conditions for coffee and cocoa development. [Widespread crop damage due to heat and lower than average rain is not expected in the near future, though less that ideal conditions will continue.](#)

Rice and sugarcane produced in these same areas should also benefit from the improving conditions. Some of the rain will eventually shift north into cotton areas and that too will prove to be welcome and supportive of planting that usually occurs from April through June.

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