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# Seasonal forecast of the Agroclimatic characters in the Sahelo-Sudanian zone in CILSS/CEDEAO countries

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# Onset of the rainy season

## ❖ Sahelian countries with monomodal regime

Date after **MARCH 15**, a cumulative rainfall of at least **20 mm** recorded during **01 to 03 consecutive days** and without **dry spell exceeding 20 days** during the following **30 days**.

For stations **north of the 400 mm isohyet**, use **15 mm** recorded from **1 May** for **01 to 03 consecutive days**, without **dry episode exceeding 20 days** for the next **30 days**.

## ❖ Gulf of Guinea countries with monomodal regime

Starts from **MARCH 15**, a cumulative rainfall of at least **20 mm** recorded in **01 to 03 consecutive days** and without **dry spell of more than 10 days** within **30 days**.





# End of the rainy season

## ❖ Sahelian countries with a monomodal regime

Date after **September 1** (*September 15 for West Mali (West Bamako), Senegal, Mauritania, Gambia, Guinea Bissau*), when a soil capable to contain **70 mm of water** is **completely depleted** by a **daily evapotranspiration of 5 mm**.

## ❖ Northern part of Gulf of Guinea countries

From **1 October** when a soil capable of containing **70 mm of water** is **completely depleted** by a daily loss of **4 mm** do to evapotranspiration.





## Length of dry spells

### ❖ Dry spell at the start of the rainy season

It is the **longest number of consecutive dry days during the first 50 days** after the start date of the season.

### ❖ Dry spell at the end of the season

The **longest period without rainfall** towards the end of the season,

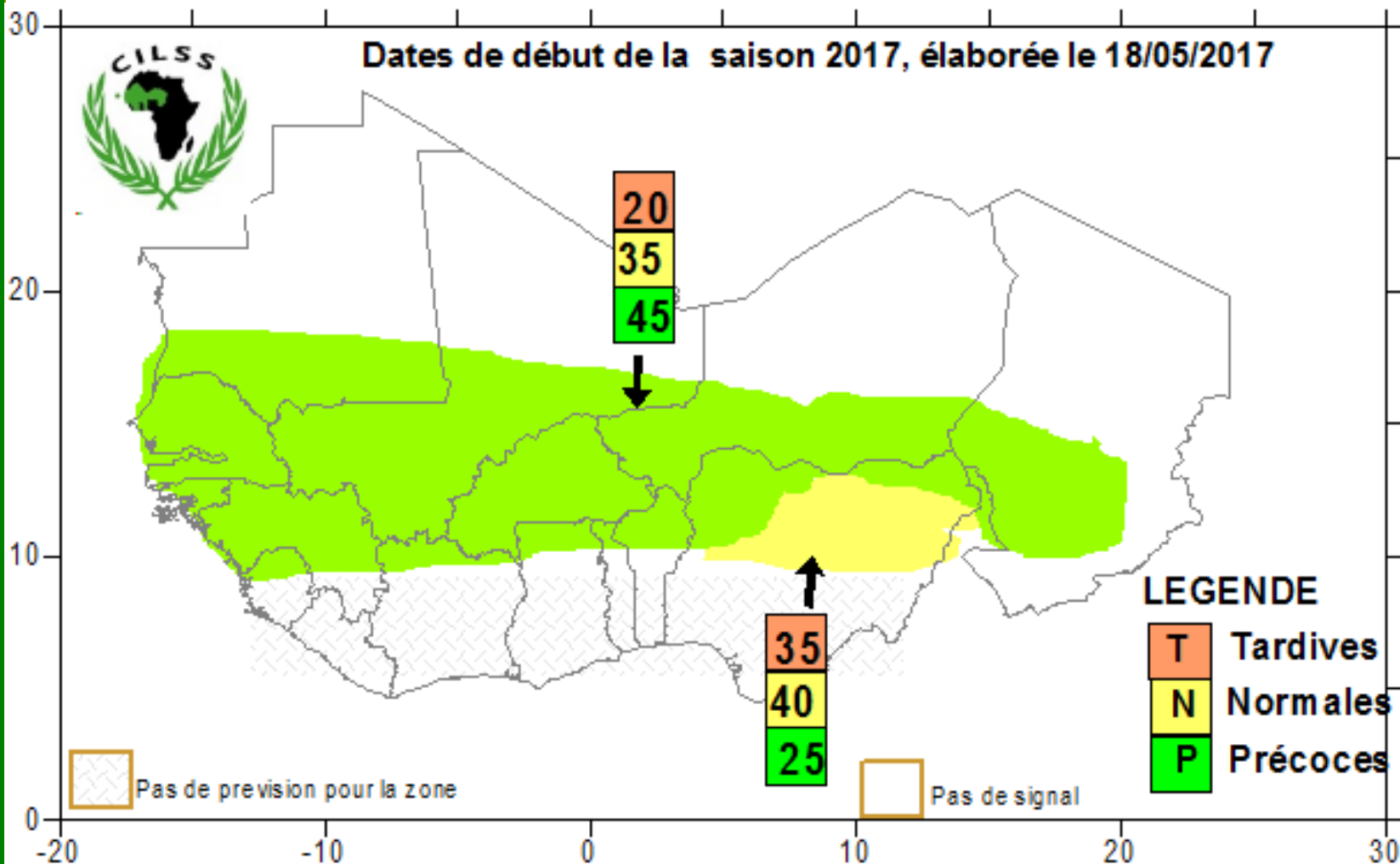
*This period take into account the critical stages of heading-flowering and maturation of the crops, is carried out from the 50th day after the date calculated from the beginning of the season until the end of the season.*





# Outlook on the onset dates

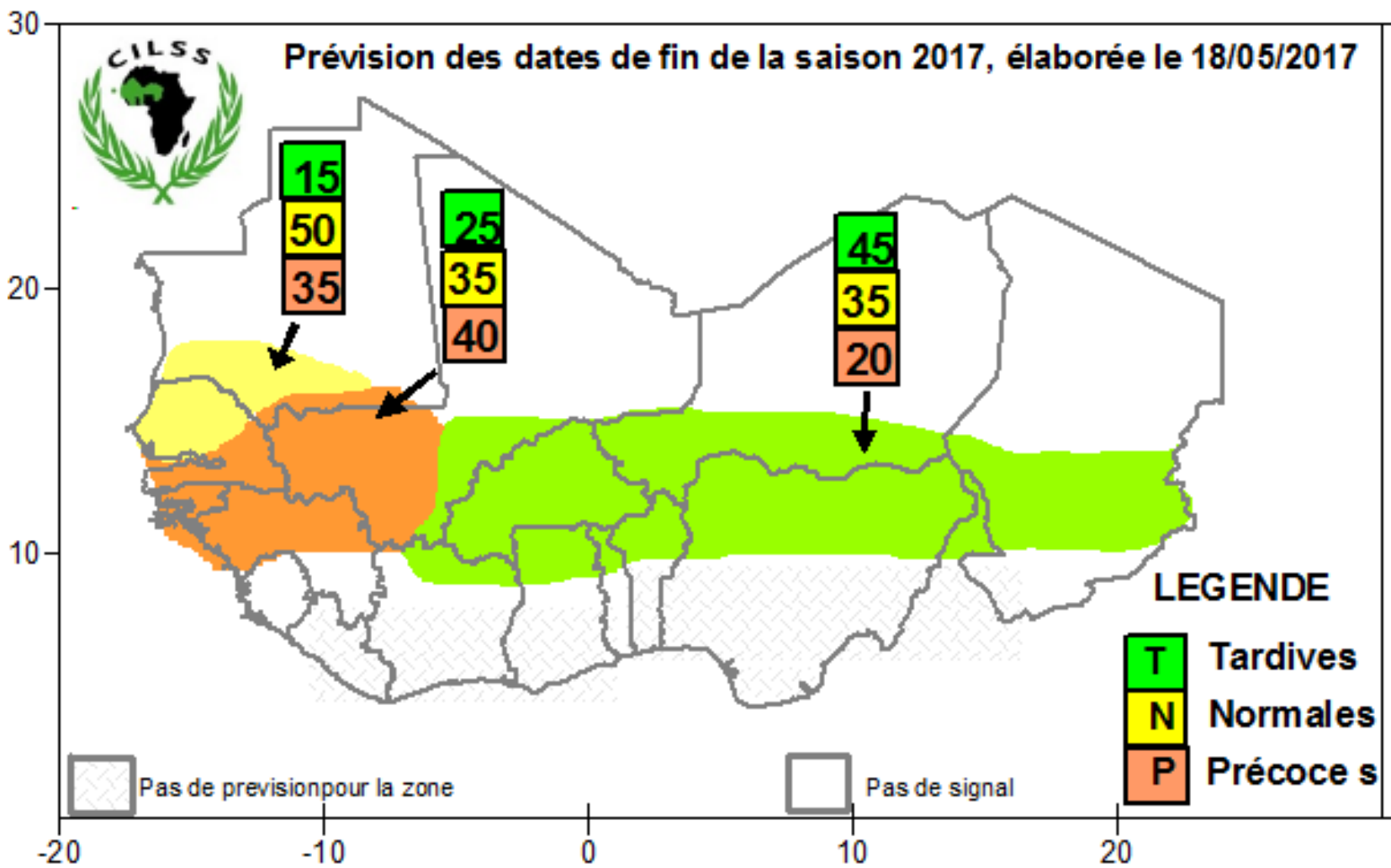
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# Outlook on the end season

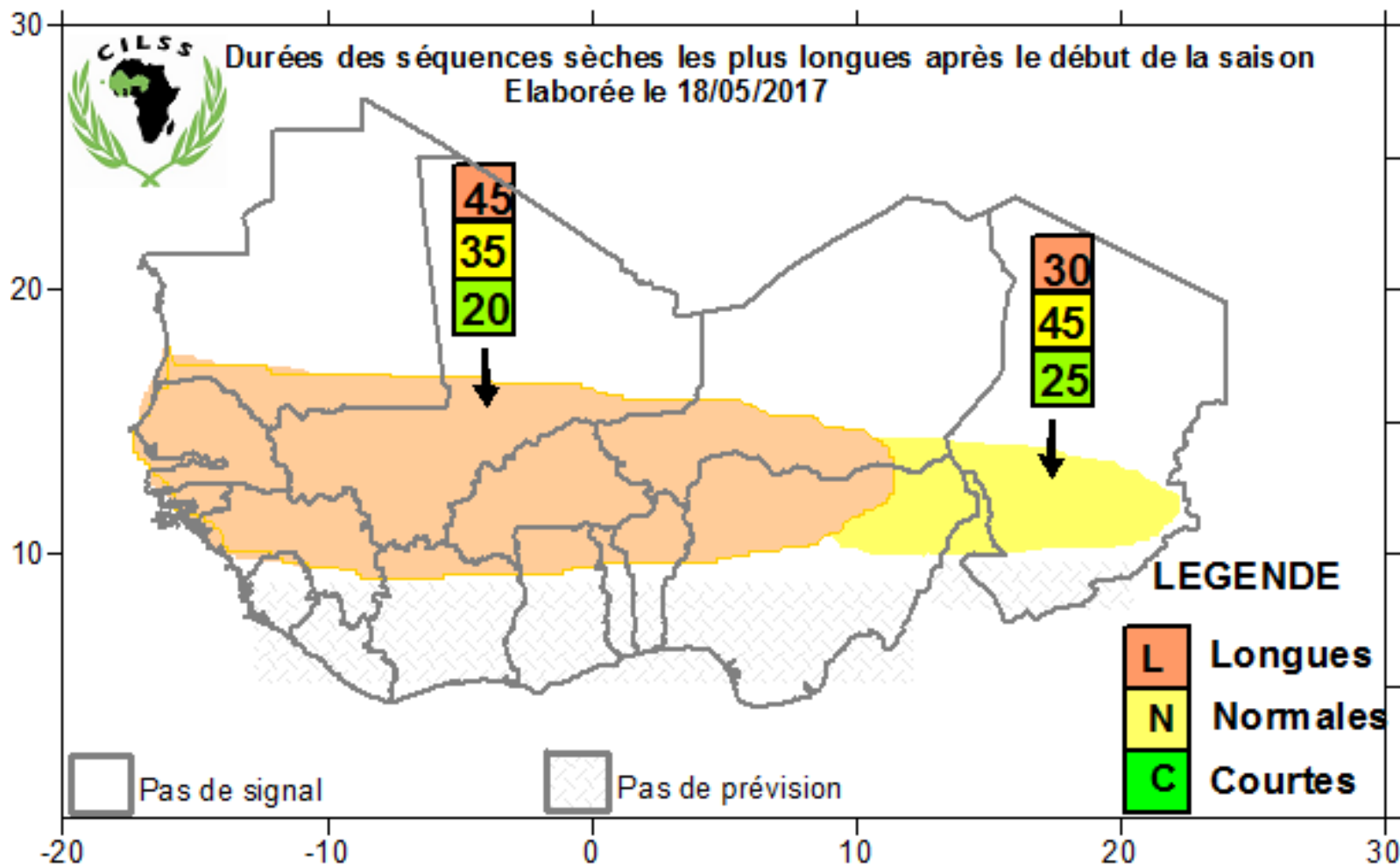
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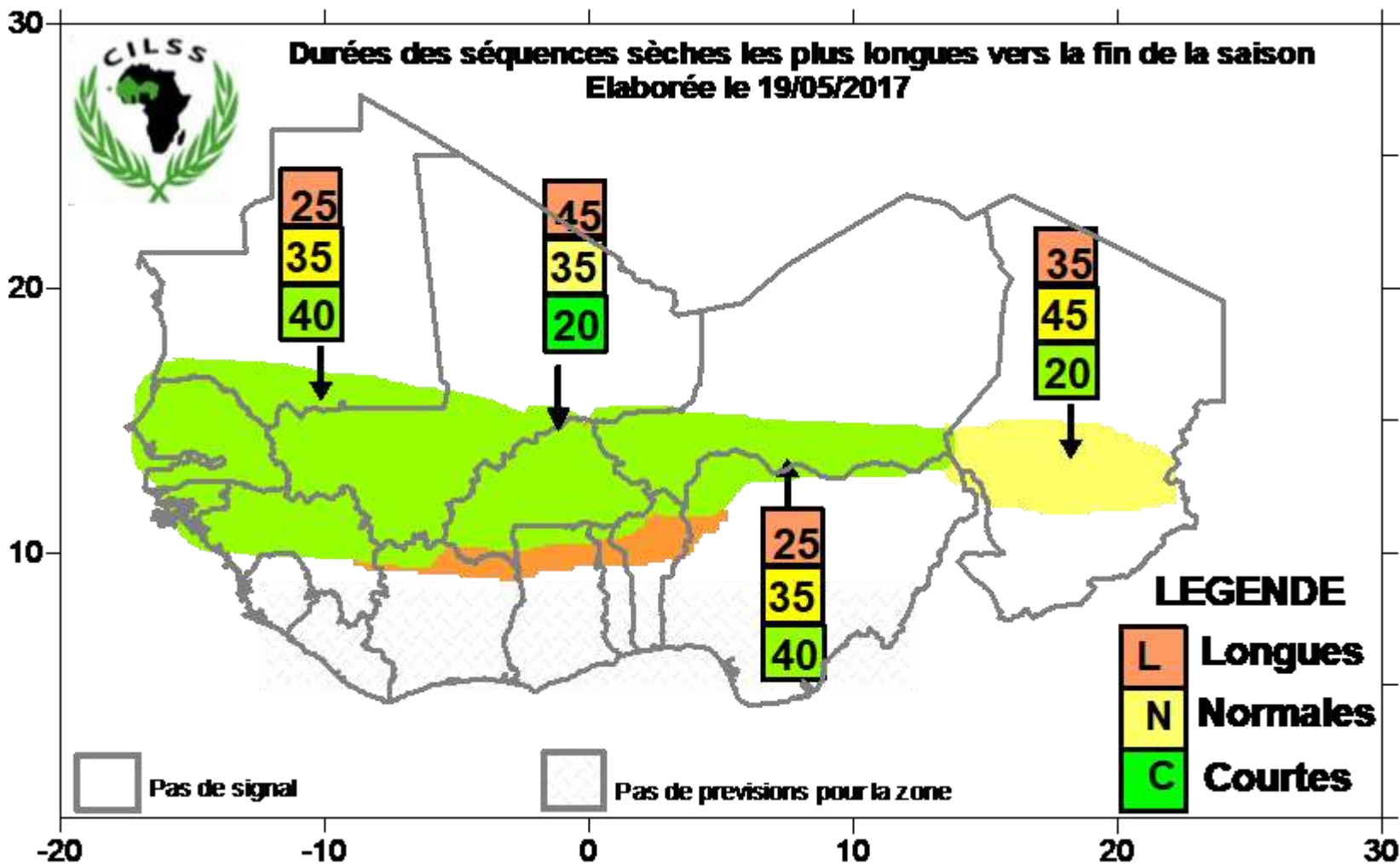
# Outlook on the dry spell at the beginning of the season

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# Outlook on the dry spell toward the end of the season



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# Summary

## Onset dates of the 2017 rain season

- **Early to Normal onset over most of the domain.**

## Length of dry spell at the beginning of the season

- **Long to normal in the western** (*Southern Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, most of Guinea, South Mali, Extreme Northern Cote d'Ivoire, du Ghana*), and **Central Sahel** (*Burkina Faso, Western and Central Niger, extreme northern Togo and Benin*).
- **Normal to long** in the extreme **eastern Niger and central Chad**





# Résumé

## Length of dry spell at the beginning of the season

- **Short to Normal** length over **part of western** (*Southern Mauritania, Western Mali, Guinea Bissau, and most of Northern Guinea*) and **Central Sahel** (*Southern Niger*)
- **Normal to longer** length over **Eastern Sahel** (*Central Chad*)
- **Long to Normal** length over **part of western Sahel** (*Burkina Faso, extreme eastern Mali, extreme Northern parts of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin*)

## Ending dates of the rainy season

- **Early to normal** of season over **western Sahel** (*Southern Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Western Mali, Guinea Bissau, Northern Guinea*)

**Late to Normal** over the **rest of the domain** (*stretching from Central Mali to Chad*)





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