

Drought risks and impact on water resources in part of northern Nigeria

OLUSEGUN ADEAGA

Department of Geography, University of Lagos, Nigeria
oadeaga@yahoo.com

Abstract Knowledge concerning various aspects of drought and water scarcity is required to predict and to articulate strategies to minimize the effects of future events. This paper investigates drought episodes in northern Nigeria using the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) for monthly rainfall standardization at temporal scales of 6 and 12 months. The region has been hit by droughts with maximum severity in the 1980s. The Sahel savannah is more prone to extreme drought with great magnitude while the Guinea and Sudan savannah are more prone to mild to moderate drought. Hence, there is a call for people-oriented national drought policies and preparedness.

Key words drought; northern Nigeria; rainfall; standardized precipitation index (SPI); recurrence interval