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# FEWS BULLETIN

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July 20

## CHAD

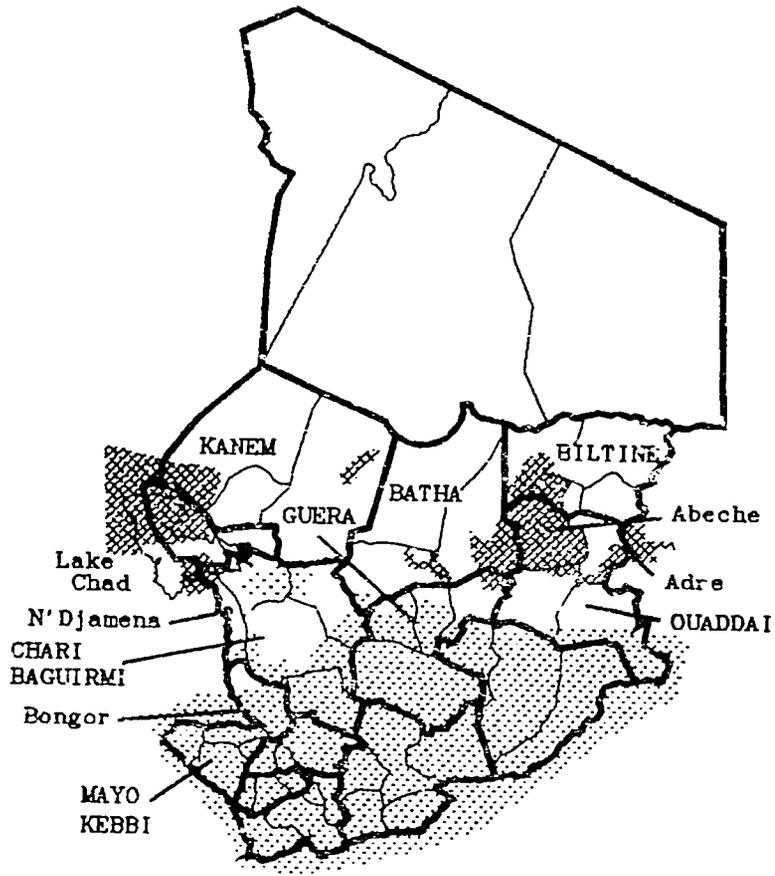
The Mission and FEWS/Chad have reported that there has been little rain in the Sahel from about June 11 through July 10, causing much stress to seedlings (planted following early rains in May). Across the Sahel this year, the rains have been moving north more slowly than usual. Since planting in Chad's Sahel can extend into mid-July, the situation does not yet appear acute. If the rains continue to fail, however, crops and pasturage in the northern Sahel will be greatly reduced. The reported decline in rainfall is reflected by satellite imagery, although the degree of decline cannot be determined. As of the 10th of July, there has been a definite decrease in vegetation levels in eastern Chad (Ouaddai and Biltine Prefectures, see attached map) from those seen before the rains began in early May. A second locus of decline is also visible within the Lake Chad boundaries. When comparing the July 10 satellite imagery with that of 1986, however, the current situation seems positive, except for scattered spots in the center of Ouaddai Prefecture, Lake Chad, and the extreme south (see map). Included in the areas which have declined since May are most of those targeted by AEDS as being especially vulnerable during 1987 (cf FEWS Chad Country Report 12). A further year of drought would deepen the vulnerability of their populations to food crisis. In contrast, the rainy season in the south (Chad's breadbasket) is progressing well, so that Chad could have a third bumper crop in a row while there is crop failure in its northern Sahel. Getting surplus crops from the south to these areas in the north has been a problem, however. If the rains do continue to fail, government purchase and/or transport of grains for sale or distribution in the north may be necessary early in 1988, or direct food aid if the first strategy is not practical.

## NIGER

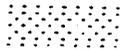
Recent weather reports from NOAA and Agrhymet indicate deficient rainfall in parts of Niger. As of July 10, both agencies noted the continued slow rise of the Inter-Tropical Front that has kept most frontal rainfall (and most grasshoppers) further south than normal, and a cumulative rainfall deficit of more than 50 mm in a generally agricultural area roughly bounded by Tillaberi, Niamey, Gaya, and Birni N'Konni (see shaded area on map). Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) satellite imagery do not show a particularly grave situation at this point. Only in Birni N'Gaoure are arrondissement-wide averages less than 1986. Specific areas showing comparatively less vegetative vigor include Pare W in the southwest, and the Gouibin Kaba wadi, north of Maradi. NDVI averages for the last 6 years indicate a relatively "normal" year so far. They show vegetation in most areas in Niger to be roughly as vigorous as in 1986 and 1984, and slightly more so than in 1985 (1985 and 1986 were record crop production years). Nevertheless, as the impact of the poor rains in the first 10 days of July would not yet be seen in the vegetation images, one can expect that the 2nd decade images and averages will show a drop in the vigor of the vegetation in these areas. The poor rains have already undoubtedly caused the loss of some of the first plantings in a limited number of areas in the southern fourth of the country. Given that 1985 and 1986 were good harvest years, it is unlikely that seed shortages are a factor, and these losses can be recouped by replanting, if the season continues better than it is at present. In these areas, and others to the north of these, the rains in the 2nd July decade are important for assuring a chance for a normal growing season. In summary, the situation is not yet acute, limited losses of plantings have occurred, the effective length of the growing season has been reduced, and a "normal" harvest is still possible.

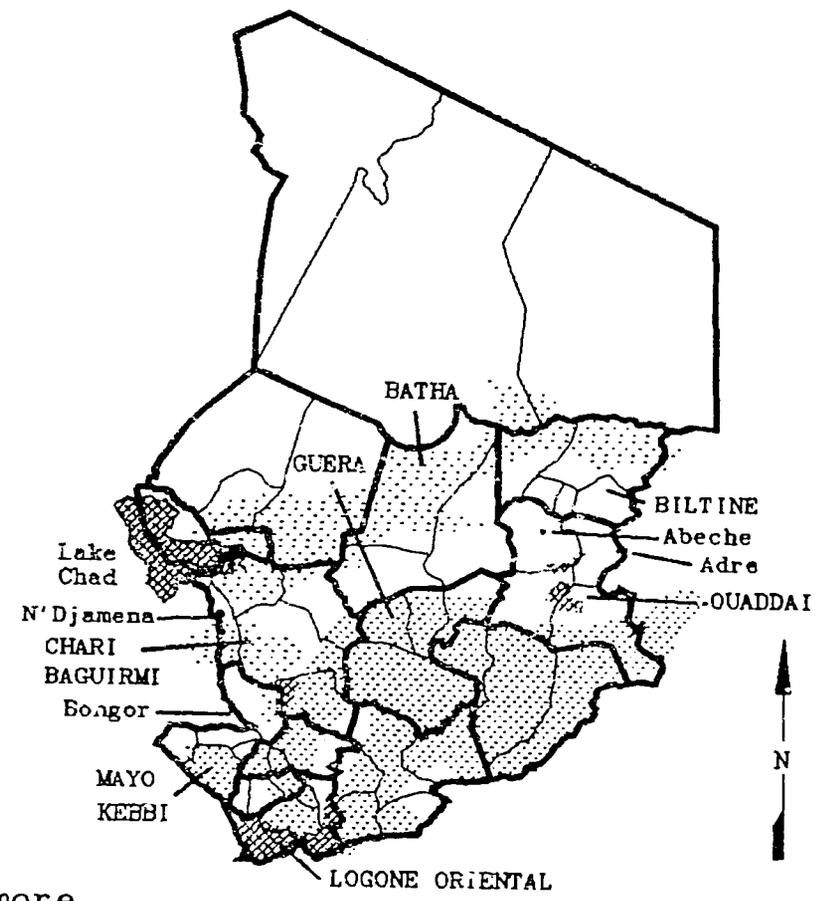
# Vegetation in Chad as of July 10, 1987

FEWS BULLETIN #1: CHAD



Overall Change  
Since Early  
May, 1987

-  Somewhat more vegetation
-  Definitely more vegetation
-  Definitely less vegetation



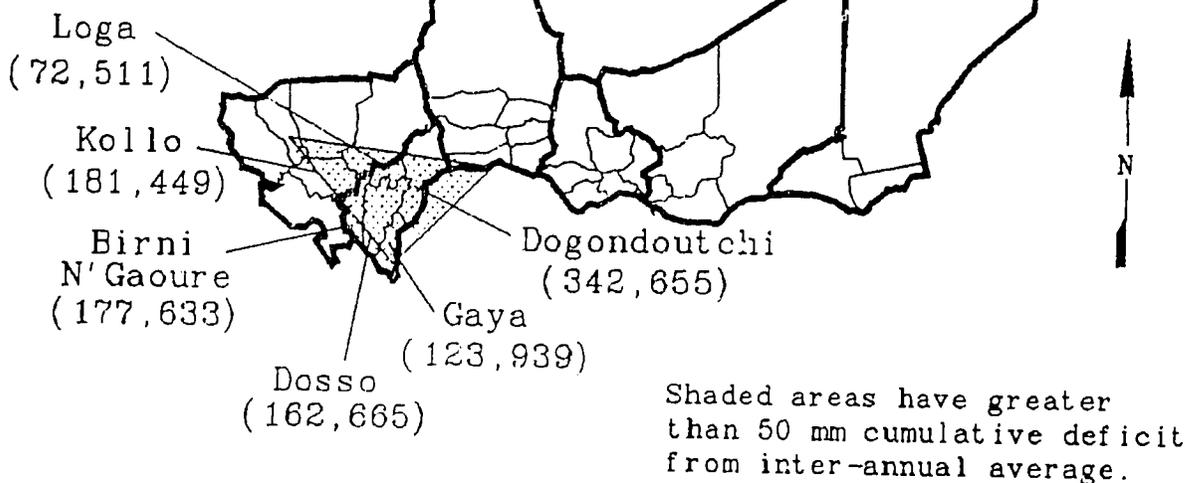
Comparison with  
July 10, 1986

Source: NOAA; NASA  
FEWS/PWA July 1987

## Delimiting the Dryness July 18th, 1987

### CUMULATIVE RAINFALL DEFICIT

Figures in parentheses show rural population affected in these areas.



### STATUS of VEGETATION

As of July 10, shaded areas were significantly less vigorous than in 1986.

