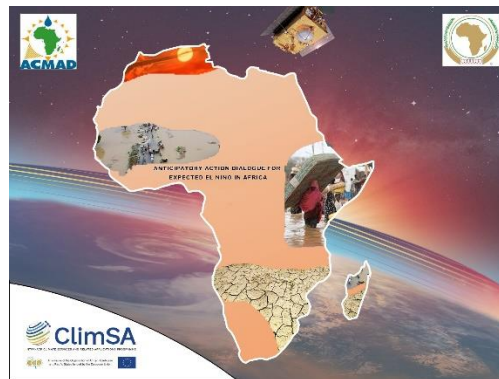
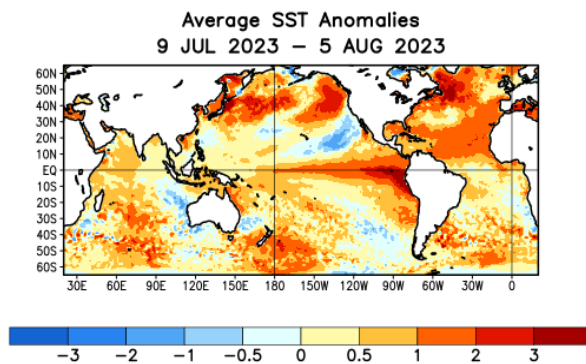


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANTICIPATING SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS: EL NIÑO'S ARRIVAL IN AFRICA

NIAMEY, NIGER – August 25, 2023 – The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) has issued an urgent call to action, stressing the need for heightened awareness, improved coordination, and enhanced information dissemination to facilitate emergency and preparatory measures in light of the impending El Niño phenomenon projected by meteorological experts.

El Niño, a weather phenomenon marked by Pacific Ocean warming interacting with atmospheric conditions, is poised to trigger a series of effects across Africa. These encompass an elevated risk of flooding in Eastern Africa, parching droughts in Southern Africa, as well as altered pathways and intensified formation of tropical cyclones in the South Western Indian Ocean.



On August 24, 2023, ACMAD orchestrated a high-level Anticipatory Action Dialogue Day, drawing participation from over 75 delegates, including representatives from the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Climate Centres (RCCs), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the UN Agency for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC).

The focal point of this event was to cultivate discourse and deepen comprehension among partners and stakeholders regarding crucial aspects linked to anticipated climate deviations. Deliberations encompassed matters of hazard identification, intensity monitoring, surveillance, predictive analysis, potential repercussions, risk evaluations, and formulation of measures for proactive responses.

Dr. Dioudonne Nsadisa Faka, a CLIMSA expert from the Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS), underscored the meeting's significance, noting, "This critical gathering heightens awareness and readies us for the impending impacts of El Niño."

Dr. André KAMGA, ACMAD's Director-General, expounded upon potential climatic scenarios, stating, "We anticipate a moderate to severe drought in Southern Africa and considerable rainfall, potentially culminating in floods in Eastern Africa." He also expressed optimism regarding ongoing anticipatory efforts, particularly in the Sahel region where heavy rainfall and flood incidents are already occurring, with special attention directed toward Eastern and Southern Africa.

Mr. MAHARAZOU Lamine, the IFRC representative, highlighted countries at heightened risk, including Eastern and Southern Africa, and delved into their comprehensive protocol for early-action planning. He emphasized, "IFRC is actively urging governments and essential stakeholders to initiate actions starting September, in anticipation of the forthcoming drought in Southern Africa."

Mrs. Benedetta DI CINTIO from UNOCHA stressed the vital need for support, stating, "We require ACMAD's assistance and cooperation from regional and national climate services to fortify our preparedness and early-action endeavors."

Mrs. Delali Sandra Kemeh from AUC commented on the multifaceted nature of the El Niño phenomenon, remarking, "Collaboration is imperative between the AUC Commission and its member states in alignment with their respective mandates." She further proposed the convening of a roundtable to augment budgets and encourage ministries to incorporate disaster preparedness and management into national development plans, while also suggesting that AUC provides financial backing to enhance member states' capacity for planning, preparation, and response.

As the dialogue drew to a close, ACMAD's Director-General affirmed their commitment, pledging, "We will join forces to enhance El Niño monitoring and ensure the prompt dissemination of updates."

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