

STATEMENT FROM THE TWENTY-SECOND AFRICAN CONTINENTAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (ACCOF-22)

11th September 2026, Cotonou, Benin

Summary

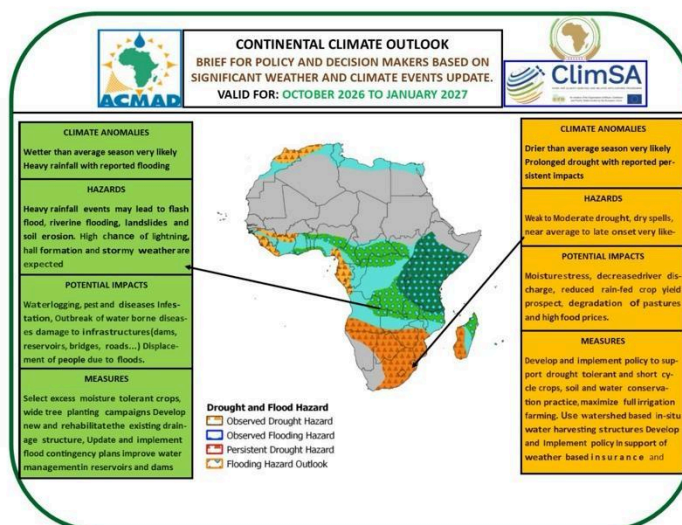
The upcoming season is marked by contrasting rainfall and temperature patterns across Africa. Above-average rainfall is projected for large parts of East and Southern Africa, as well as sections of West and Central Africa, while below-average conditions are expected in southern Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and parts of Madagascar. Onset of rains will be normal to late in eastern Africa and normal to early in southern Africa. Temperatures are forecast to be warmer than normal across most of the continent, with pronounced heat stretching from Mali through Sudan into southern Africa, underscoring heightened risks for agriculture, water resources, and health.

Key Climate Outlook for October 2026 - January 2027

☐ Rainfall Outlook

☐ October 2026 to January 2027 Season

- **Above normal rainfall** is expected over southern Ethiopia, eastern South Sudan, southern Somalia, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, northeastern Zambia, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique.
- **Normal to above normal rainfall** is expected northeastern and southern Ghana, northern Togo, northern Benin, central, and southern Nigeria, western to southeastern Cameroon, most of Central Africa Republic, northern Congo, western South Africa, northern and southern Democratic Republic of Congo, northeastern Angola, northern, and eastern Zambia, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique, northern Madagascar, as well as Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles Islands.
- **Normal rainfall** is expected over central Morocco, northeastern Algeria, most of Tunisia, northern Libya, northern Egypt, southern Guinea, central and southern Côte d'Ivoire, most parts of Ghana, Southern Nigeria, Central Benin, Central Togo; southern South Sudan, southern Cameroon, northern Central African Republic, northern and southern Congo, São Tomé and Príncipe, northern Angola, central Zambia, southern Malawi, central Mozambique, central to southeastern Madagascar.
- **Normal to below rainfall** is expected over northern Morocco, northwestern Algeria, northern Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Liberia, eastern Guinea, southeastern Nigeria, southwestern Cameroon, central to western Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, southern Congo, and northwestern Angola.



- **Below normal rainfall** is expected over southern Angola, northern and eastern Namibia, most parts of Botswana, southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, Eswatini, Lesotho, most parts of South Africa, and western, and southern Madagascar.

- Normal to late onset of rainfall is expected over most of the eastern parts of Africa and a normal to early onset is expected over the southern parts of Africa.

□ Temperature Outlook

During the upcoming October to December 2026 period, temperatures are expected to be **warmer than normal conditions** across most parts of Africa. Also, for the November 2026 to January 2027 season, warmer-than-normal conditions are expected, particularly over Mali, Algeria, Niger, Chad, Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe while **Near-Normal temperatures** are expected over the rest of the Continent.

NB: This outlook is relevant for seasonal timescales and for relatively large geographical areas. Local and month-to-month variations might occur as the OND 2026, and NDJ 2026/2027 season progress. Episodic extreme rainfall events led to flash floods are likely to occur even in areas where the probability of precipitation is near or below normal. Additionally, periods with dry spells may occur in areas where the probability of precipitation is expected to be above the climatological normal and vice versa.

The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) will provide continental climate updates, Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) updates tailored to their respective areas of responsibility, and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) detailed national and sub-national information, ensuring complementarity across scales.

Background

The twenty-second Climate Outlook Forum for the African Continent (ACCOF-22) was held from 08th to 11th September 2026, in Cotonou, Benin. This event was organized by the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), in collaboration with the African RCCs, and RCC-Networks.

The ACCOF strengthens climate services by coordinating African WMO-RCCs to regionalize global forecasts, harmonize tools and methods, and foster technical exchange and collaboration across the continent.

The forum responds directly to the urgency created by the looming El Niño event; it brings together climate service providers and users to jointly review, test and improve Users Interface Platforms (UIPs) so that the information reaching decision-makers ahead of and during the event is timely, relevant and actionable. This forum assessed the projected El Niño impacts, harmonized regional outlooks, shared lessons, and co-developed actionable climate services and early warnings tailored to vulnerable communities.

The forum focused on addressing the challenges posed by extreme weather events that result from climatic variability and change across the continent.

Global Forecasting Centres project that atmospheric circulation anomalies over the equatorial Pacific Ocean are consistent with El Niño, a climate phenomenon characterized by unusually warm sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific. El Niño is strengthening, with a greater than 90% chance of becoming a very strong event during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter 2026-27; While each episode is unique, Africa must urgently strengthen preparedness and mitigate impacts, especially across climate-sensitive sectors and among vulnerable groups such as children, women, and persons with disabilities.

The 22nd ACCOF analyzed the implications of the October to December (OND) 2026 and November 2026 to January 2027 (NDJ 2026/27) climate outlooks and proffered sector-specific advisories. This outlook provides guidance at continental scale. Regional and national interpretations should be informed by the corresponding RCC and NMHS products and updates. Local conditions may vary, and users are therefore encouraged to refer to their respective NMHSs for detailed national and sub-national climate information.

Methodology

For the seasonal climate outlook of October–December (OND) 2026 and November 2026–January 2027 (NDJ 2026/27), data and products from Global Producing Centres (GPCs) were collected and processed using statistical downscaling, based on forecasts initialized in August 2026.

Experts from all RCCs, reviewed observed and forecast sea surface temperature (SST) conditions across the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans, Mediterranean Sea, together with other global and regional climate drivers that influence rainfall evolution during the forecast seasons. These factors were evaluated using a combination of dynamical and statistical forecasting models.

According to the NOAA's Climate Prediction Centre, El Niño conditions are currently established, with maintaining an El Niño Advisory as of 8 September 2026. The sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are above average across the east-central and eastern Pacific Ocean. The atmospheric circulation anomalies over the equatorial Pacific Ocean are consistent with El Niño. El Niño is expected to strengthen, with a greater than 90% chance of a very strong event during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter 2026-27.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral, with forecasts suggesting a likely transition towards positive IOD conditions during the October to December season.

The outlook was developed using historical climate data, climate variability patterns, teleconnections, statistical downscaling techniques, outputs from dynamical prediction models, and expert interpretation.

During the session, the climate experts from RCCs, representing each Regional Economic Community (REC) and coordinated by ACMAD, evaluated the progress of the ongoing ENSO. The discussions were informed by inputs from the regional climate outlooks for the upcoming October-November-December 2026 and November-December-January 2026-27 seasons.

Climate Outlook October to December 2026

Based on the current ENSO status and forecast evolution of the influencing factors, as well as the evidence gathered from the analysis's tools discussed, the following trends are anticipated for the key parameters (precipitation and temperature) during the October to December 2026 and November to January 2026-27 seasons.

Rainfall: October to December 2026

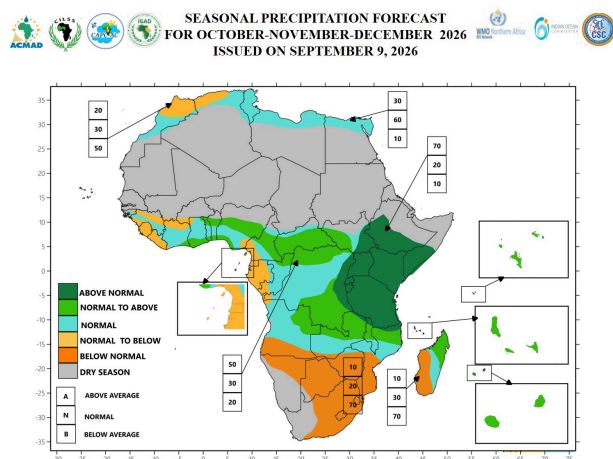


Figure 1. Probability forecast for precipitation in Africa from October to December 2026.

During October to December 2026 Season:

- ▣ **Above normal rainfall total** is expected over southern Ethiopia, eastern South Sudan, southern Somalia, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, northeastern Zambia, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique.
- ▣ **Normal to above to rainfall total** is expected northeastern, and southern Ghana, northern Togo, northern Benin, central, and southern Nigeria, western to southeastern Cameroon, most of Central Africa Republic, northern Congo, western South Africa, northern, and southern Democratic Republic of Congo, northeastern Angola, northern, and eastern Zambia, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique, northern Madagascar, as well as Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles Islands.
- ▣ **Normal rainfall total** is expected over central Morocco, northeastern Algeria, most of Tunisia, northern Libya, northern Egypt, southeastern Guinea, central to southern Cote d'Ivoire, most part of Ghana, southern South Sudan, southern Cameroon, northern Central Africa Republic, northern to southern Congo, Saotome et Principe, northern Angola, central Zambia, southern Malawi, central Mozambique, central to southeastern Madagascar.
- ▣ **Normal to below to rainfall total** is expected over northern Morocco, northwestern Algeria, northern Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Liberia, eastern Guinea, southeastern Nigeria, southwestern Cameroon, central to western Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, southern Congo, and northwestern Angola.
- ▣ **Below normal rainfall total** is expected over southern Angola, northern, and eastern Namibia, most part of Botswana, southern Zambia, Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, Eswatini, Lesotho, most parts of South Africa, western, and southern Madagascar.

Rainfall: November–January 2027

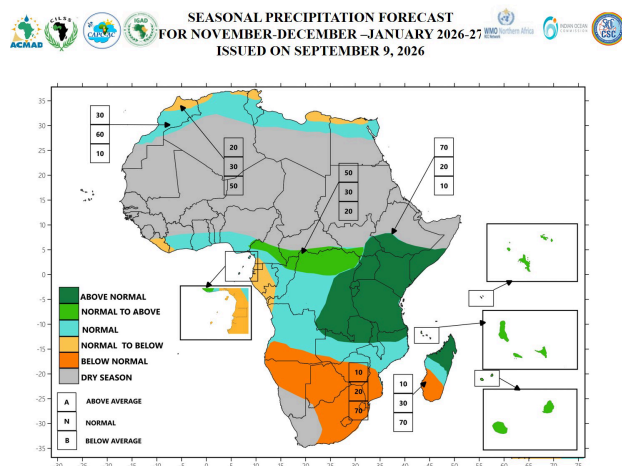


Figure 2. Probability forecast of precipitation across Africa for November 2026 to January 2027.

During November 2026 to January 2027 Season:

- **Above normal rainfall** is very likely over southern Ethiopia, southeastern South Sudan, southern Somalia, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, northern Zambia, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique, northern Madagascar.
- **Normal to above to rainfall** is expected over parts of Cameroon, southern Central Africa Republic, northern Congo, northern Democratic Republic, of Congo, and southern South Sudan.
- **Normal rainfall** is expected over central Morocco, northeastern Algeria, central, and southern Tunisia, parts of northern Libya, northern Egypt, southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, southern Nigeria, southern Cameroon, northeastern Gabon, northern to southern Congo, most part of Democratic Republic of Congo, Saotome et Principe, northern Angola, western, southern Zambia, southern Malawi, northern Zimbabwe, central Mozambique, central to southeastern Madagascar.
- **Normal to below to rainfall** is expected over extreme north of Morocco, northern Tunisia, northeastern Libya, northern Egypt, Liberia, southwestern Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, central to western Gabon, southern Congo.
- **Below normal rainfall** is expected over southern Angola, northern, and eastern Namibia, most part of Botswana, southwestern Zambia, most of part of Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, Eswatini, Lesotho, most parts of South Africa, and southern Madagascar.

Temperature: October 2026 – January 2027



SEASONAL TEMPERATURE FORECAST
FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2026
ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

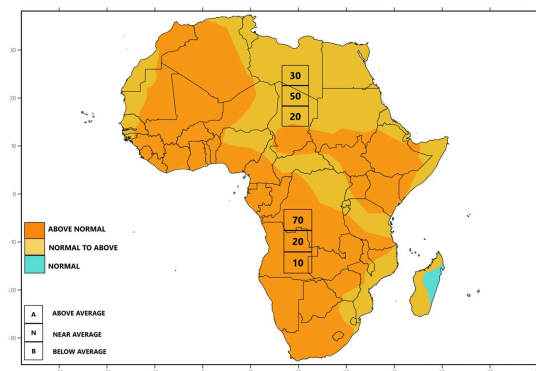


Figure 3. Probability forecast of temperature across Africa for October to December 2026.

Normal to above normal temperatures are expected over

most part of Africa, while normal temperatures are favored over central-Est Madagascar.



SEASONAL TEMPERATURE FORECAST
FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER-JANUARY 2026-27
ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

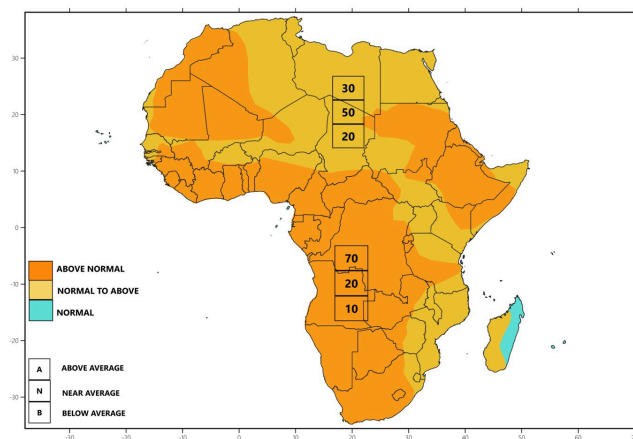


Figure 4. Probability forecast of temperature across Africa for November 2026 to January 2027.

Warmer-than-Normal conditions are expected across most parts of Africa, except over eastern Madagascar where it is expected normal condition.

Contributors

ACCOF-22 was organized by ACMAD, with the financial support from the EU Funded project ClimSA.

Participants at ACCOF-22 included representatives of the RCCs (ACMAD, AGRHYMET, CAPC-AC, ICPAC, RCC-Network North Africa, RCC-Network IOC, SADC-CSC) and the Benin Meteorological Agency. Other contributors were PAFO, IFRC, CILSS, IGAD, Africa CDC, RBM, GWP, Save the Children, Institut Pasteur, CICCOS, UNDRR, ABN, NECJOGHA, AUR-AU, Humanitarian, and NGOs, along with climate scientists and various experts from national, regional, and international institutions and organizations.

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