STATEMENT FROM THE TWENTY-FIRST AFRICAN CONTINENTAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (ACCOF-21)

19th June 2026, Lusaka, Zambia

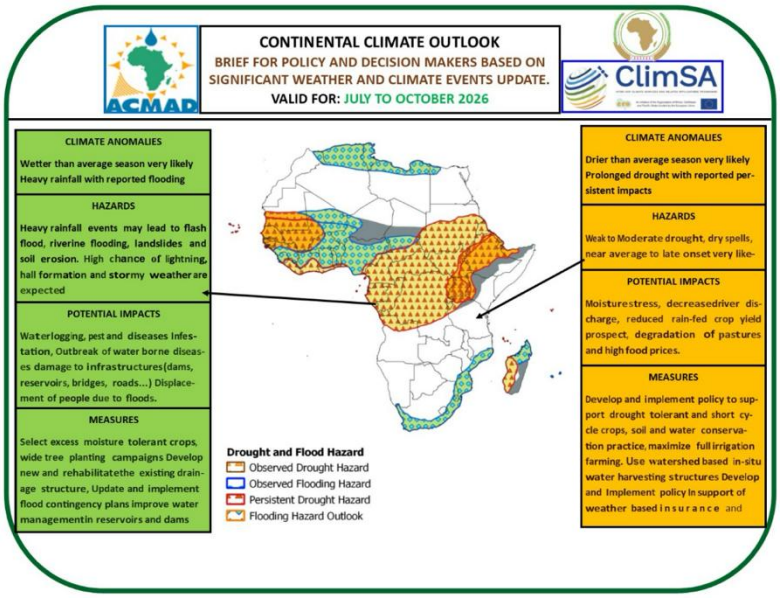
Summary Findings

Key Climate Outlook for July-October 2026

❑ **Rainfall Outlook**

➢ **July to September Season**

- **Below normal** is expected over western parts of Sahel, eastern Africa, Comoros and Seychelles Islands.
- **Normal to below normal rainfall** is expected over southern parts of Gulf of Guinea countries, most of central Africa, eastern Sahel and western parts of Madagascar.
- **Normal to above-normal rainfall** is expected over part of Northern Africa, central parts of West Africa, eastern coastal Southern Africa and northern Madagascar.
- **Above normal rainfall** is expected over Mauritius island.



➢ **August to September Season**

- **Below normal** is expected across western and central Sahel, parts of southern Nigeria and western south Cameroon.
- **Normal to below normal rainfall** is expected over parts of Cape Verde, central and eastern Africa, Comoros and Seychelles Islands.
- **Normal to above-normal rainfall** is expected over part of Northern Africa, across western equatorial Africa, central parts of West Africa, and eastern coastal Southern Africa
- **Above-normal rainfall** is expected over parts of the Horn of Africa and most of Madagascar

➢ Near-normal to above-normal rainfall is expected over northern parts of Africa, will be triggered by the localized nature of convective precipitation during this season, rainfall distribution may vary considerably across the North Africa region.

➢ Normal to late onset of rainfall is expected over most of the western parts of Africa and a normal to early onset is expected over the central parts of Africa.

❑ **Temperature Outlook**

During the upcoming July to October 2026 period, temperatures are expected to be **warmer than normal conditions** across most parts of Africa during July to September. Also, for the August to October seasons, warmer-than-normal conditions are expected, particularly along a central west-east and south-north belt extending across 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 in the rest of the Continent.

Background

The twenty-first Africa Climate Outlook Forum (ACCOF-21) held from 15th to 19th June 2026, in Lusaka, Zambia. This event was co-organized by the Africa Union Commission (AUC), the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD). ACCOF strengthens Africa's 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 focuses on addressing and mitigating the challenges posed by extreme weather events that result from climatic variability and change across the continent.

Global Forecasting Centres project a strong El Niño in late 2026, with peak intensity expected between October and December. Africa's Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) discussed the forecast of the event during a webinar session mid-May 2026. 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 21st ACCOF analyzed the implications of the July to September and August to October 2026 climate outlook and proffered sector-specific advisories. This outlook ought to guide continental and regional scales. Local conditions may vary and should be interpreted together with updates from Regional Climate Centres and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

ACMAD will continue to provide continental climate updates, while Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) will provide regional, national and sub-national updates.

Methodology

For the seasonal climate outlook of July, August, September, and October 2026, data and products from Global Producing Centres (GPCs) were collected and processed using statistical downscaling, based on forecasts initialized in June 2026.

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 Regional Climate Centers (RCCs), representing each Regional Economic Community (REC) and coordinated by the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), evaluated the progress of the ongoing ENSO. The discussions were fed by inputs from the regional climate outlooks for the upcoming July-August-September and August-September-October 2026 seasons.

- El Niño conditions are present, and the equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are above average across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. The atmospheric circulation anomalies over the equatorial Pacific Ocean are consistent with El Niño. El Niño conditions are expected to strengthen into the Northern Hemisphere winter 2026-27, consequently, climate extremes may become more likely across Africa. WMO and Global Producing Centres indicate a high likelihood of a strengthening El Niño event.
- Over the Atlantic basin: Tropical North Atlantic was characterized by neutral to warm conditions, and persistence of this condition is expected for the period April to July 2026.
- Tropical South Atlantic has been near to above average, neutral to warm conditions is very likely from April to July 2026.
- The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently in the neutral phase. However, models indicate a potential shift towards a positive IOD later in the year.

Climate Outlook July to September 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 July to October 2026 season particularly along a central west–east and south–north active rain belt extending across Mali, Algeria, Niger, Chad, Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia, Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe.

Rainfall: July to September 2026

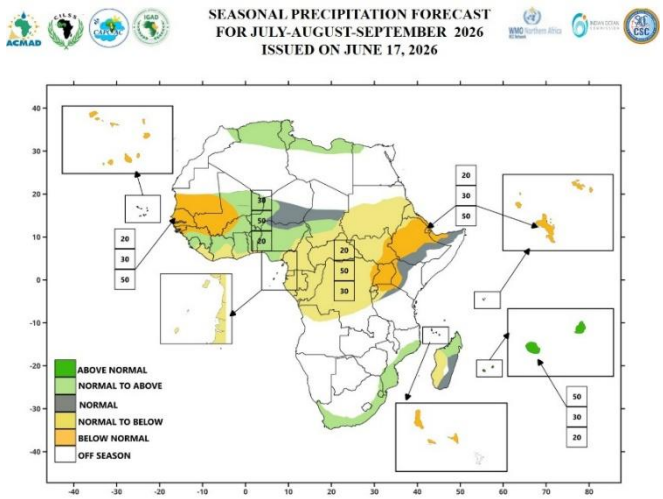


Figure 1. *Probability forecast for precipitation in Africa from July to September 2026. White shading indicates areas where JAS is typically a dry season.*

During July to September 2026 Season:

- ***Above normal rainfall*** *is expected over Mauritius*
- ***Normal to Above normal rainfall*** *is expected northern Algeria, Tunisia, northern Libya, northwestern Egypt, northern Mali, northwestern Niger, most of Burkina Faso, Southern Guinea, northern Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, much of Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, northern Cameroon, central Chad, eastern coastal Southern Africa, as well as northern Madagascar.*
- ***Normal to below normal rainfall*** *is expected over Liberia, southern parts of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, most of Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome y Principe, Gabon, Republic of Congo, southern Chad, Most of D.R.C, C.A.R, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, much of Sudan, parts of Eritrea and south western Madagascar.*
- ***Below normal rainfall*** *is expected over south Mauritania, Cape Verde, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, northern Guinea, southern Mali, across western Burkina Faso, Uganda, eastern South Sudan, western and northern Ethiopia, Djibouti, parts of Eritrea, Somalia, Comoros and Seychelles.*

Rainfall: August–October 2026

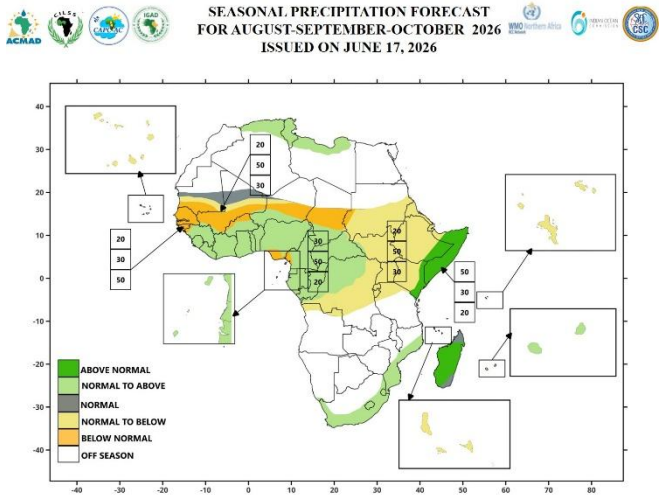


Figure 2. *Probability forecast of precipitation across Africa for August to October 2026. White shading indicates regions of off season.*

During August to October 2026 Season:

- ***Above normal rainfall*** *is very likely over eastern Ethiopia, Somalia, eastern Kenya, and most parts of Madagascar.*
- ***Normal to Above normal rainfall*** *is expected over northern Algeria, Tunisia, northern Libya, much of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, much of central and southern Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Southern Niger, much of Nigeria and Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome y Principe, Gabon, Republic of Congo, southern Chad, C.A.R, north-western DRC, eastern coastal Southern Africa, as well as over Mauritius island.*
- ***Normal to below normal rainfall*** *is expected over central and southern Sudan, South-Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, part of Somalia, much of Ethiopia and Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, north-western Tanzania, across south-western to north eastern D.R.C, Cape Verde, Comoros and Seychelles islands.*
- ***Below normal rainfall*** *is expected over southern Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, South Mali, across western Burkina Faso, central parts of Niger and Chad, part of western Sudan, parts of southern Nigeria and western south Cameroon.*

Temperature: July–October 2026

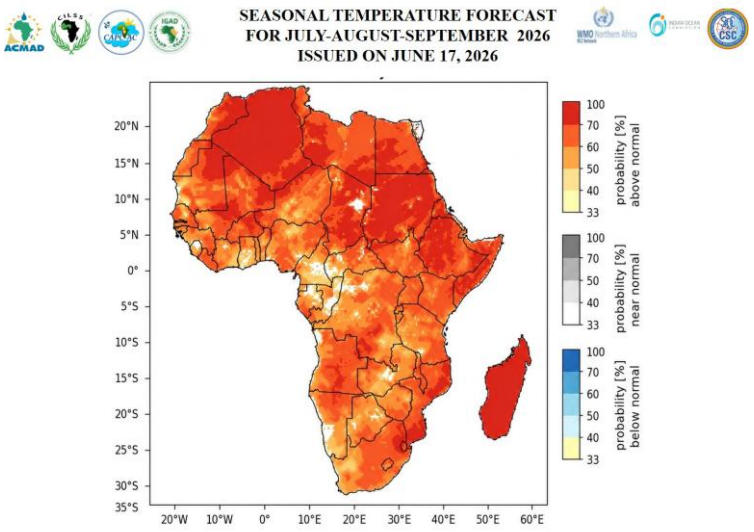


Figure 3. *Probability forecast of temperature across Africa for July to September 2026.*

Near Normal temperatures *expected in parts of Eastern and Southern Africa, while above-average temperatures are favored across much of the continent.*

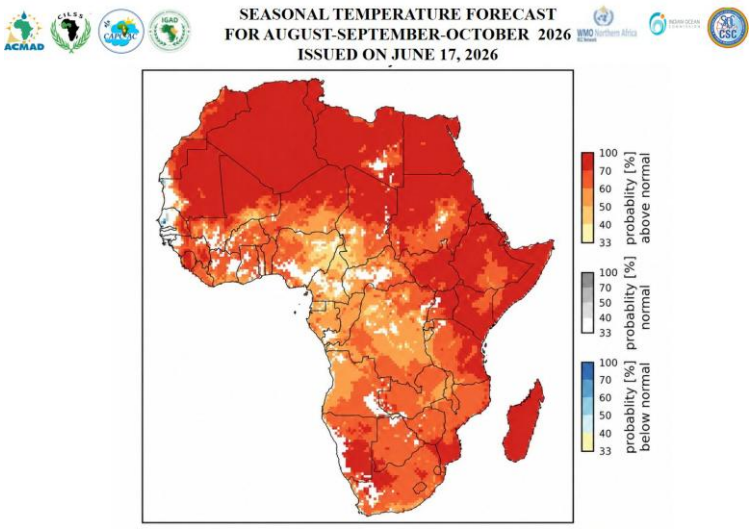


Figure 4. *Probability forecast of temperature across Africa for August to October 2026.*

Warmer-than-Normal conditions *are expected across most parts of Africa.*

Sectoral Impacts, Preparedness Actions and Advisories

Weather and climate significantly impact every sector of the economy and various aspects of human activities in Africa. The forecast conditions for the July-August-September (JAS) and August-September-October (ASO) periods will influence different sectors in unique ways and to varying degrees. Consequently, the responses required by end users will differ across sectors as followed:

Region	Forecast	Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigations / Adaptation Measures
North Africa	✓ **Normal to Above rainfall** ✓ **Above Normal temperature**	– Possibility of Flash Floods – Possibility of outbreak of Water Borne diseases – Possibility of dry spells – Erosion of arable land – Heat stroke, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, heat stress, preterm birth etc. – Respiratory diseases and direct injuries due to risk or bush fires	– Clear drainage; Activate AA protocols for floods; – Facilitate the movement of at-risk populations to safer, elevated areas – Strengthen early warning systems for flash floods – Maintain urban drainage systems – Manage energy demand during heat waves – Develop/Strengthen Heatwaves early warnings campaign and promotion of Early Action protocols – Raise awareness of forest fire risks in late summer – Develop/Strengthen the mobile Health care support system – Promotion of health and life insurance – Operationalize climate and health services – Maintaining access roads to make firefighting response easier in case of bush fire
West Africa	✓ **Normal to Above rainfall** ✓ **Above Normal temperature**	– Possibility of flooding events – Flash Floods leading to damage to roads, bridges, and critical infrastructure, disrupting transport and access to services – Flood risk with increased risk of water and vector borne diseases – Damage to health infrastructures and direct injuries	– Clear drainages, Activate AA protocols for floods, Facilitate the movement of at-risk populations to safer, elevated areas – Health care support – Promotion of health and life insurance – Operationalize climate and health services – Reinforcement of diseases surveillance
	✓ **Below Normal rainfall** ✓ **Above normal temperature**	– Drought- reduced crop yield – Prolonged dry spells – Reduced vector borne – Possibility of water borne disease outbreak – Possibility if isolated flash floods – Food insecurity leading to malnutrition and food shortage – Increase of infectious diseases outbreaks and respiratory diseases – Heatwaves	– Adapt the Agriculture Activities; – Promote drought-resistant crops;, – Drought-tolerant seed distribution – Borehole rehabilitation – Inform population on possibility of drought – Destock, stock feed, prevent resource-based conflict, – Activate AA protocol for droughts – Cash transfers for vulnerable households – Plan for alternative measures such as irrigation – Strengthen proactive measures in at-risk areas – Pre-position food and feed stocks – Strengthen cross-border coordination on water – Social protection schemes (Social cash transfer, school feeding programs) – appropriate – Increase of diseases surveillances – Promote tailored early warning services – – Manage energy demand during heat waves – Raise awareness of forest fire risks in late summer

Region	Forecast	Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigations / Adaptation Measures
Central Africa	✓ **Normal to Below normal rainfall**	– Risk of landslides in hilly areas – Pressure on urban water resources – Possible impacts on inland fisheries – Disease outbreak	– Continuously disseminate early warning information – Monitor areas at risk of landslides – Diversify agricultural practices – Strengthen integrated urban water management – Support the adaptation of fishing communities
Eastern Africa	✓ **Below Normal rainfall** ✓ **Above normal temperature**	– Isolated Flash Floods – Risk of agricultural drought due to the Kiremt rains – Decline in pastureland and stress on livestock – Risk of localized food insecurity – Increased pressure on shared water resources	– Adapt the Agriculture Activities, Inform population on possibility of drought – Destock, Stock feed, prevent resource-based conflict, Activate AA protocol for droughts – Strengthen proactive measures in at-risk areas – Pre-position food and feed stocks – Promote drought-resistant crops – Strengthen cross-border coordination on water
	✓ **Normal to Above rainfall** ✓ **Above normal temperature**	– Flood risk with increased risk of water and vector borne diseases – Damage to health infrastructures and direct injuries	– Activate AA protocols for floods; – Strengthen the Health care support system – Promotion of health and life insurance – Operationalize climate and health services – Reinforcement of diseases surveillance
Southern Africa and IOC	✓ **Normal to above normal rainfall**	– Isolated Flash Floods – Flood risk with increased risk of infectious diseases – Damage to health infrastructures and direct injuries	– Clear drainages, Sensitization of the communities – Nature based solutions – Promotion of health and life insurance – Operationalize climate and health services
	✓ **Normal to Below Normal for JAS rainfall**	– Extended dry spells – Increased risk of wildfires	– Inform population on possibility of drought for the October to December season – Manage existing water reserves carefully – Strengthen bushfire prevention and monitoring – Plan ahead for the next growing season – Support access to water for livestock watering

Contributors

ACCOF-21 was organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), with financial support from the ClimSA Programme.

Participants at ACCOF-21 included representatives of the RCCs (ACMAD, AGRHYMET, CAPC-AC, ICPAC, RCC-Network North Africa, RCC-Network IOC, SADC-CSC) and RECS across Africa (IGAD, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, IOC, SADC, UMA), ClimSA pilot countries (Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Uganda), and Zambia Meteorological Department. Other contributors were PAFO, IFRC, CILSS, IGAD, Africa CDC, RBM, APESS, Save the Children, Institut Pasteur, World Vision, IOM, UNDRR, GWP, ABN, NECJOGHA, AUR-AU, Humanitarian, and NGOs, along with climate scientists and various experts from national, regional, and international institutions and organizations.

The Forum

Partners/Projects

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